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THE FELIX

Friday 4th October, 1996
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<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Freshers' Fair info and maps inside

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Don't forget to pick up your copy of Something for the Weekend!

Lucky escape for library users

ROBIN RILEY

The lives of IC students were endangered yesterday during a potentially fatal roof collapse outside the main library.

At almost exactly 4pm, the ceiling which overhangs the library's front entrance came away, falling some 3 metres onto the walkway below. The concrete and steel section, measuring 5 by 6 meters and weighing an estimated 4 tons, missed a workman and a female student leaving the library "by literally three inches" according to one eyewitness. "It would definitely have killed anyone underneath it," said another.

Within a few minutes, site managers from both IC Estates and Schal Project management had arrived at the scene, and hastily organised a team of workmen to remove the shattered ribbon-lathe construction. Efforts to bring in further equipment, and to isolate the scene of the incident, were hampered by the arrival of several dozen onlookers.

Eventually seven men were together able to roll the huge roof section up into a cylinder, ready for its subsequent removal.

Mr Ian Gillet, a College safety representative, was one of the few site managers present willing to speak to *Felix*. Speaking under strain soon after the incident, he admitted "I have no explanation at this time. Clearly there will be a full investigation... I have notified the Health and Safety directorate, and Ian Caldwell

is on his way." Mr Gillet went on to confirm that to the best of his knowledge no-one had been injured, but nervously joked that someone had "felt a draught down the back of his neck as it fell."

At the time of going to press, security officials had established a wide cordon around the site of the collapse and a mini-digger was being employed to clear away the debris.

The reason for the collapse is unclear, and is likely to remain so until the completion of the site engineers' investigations. If the ceiling was not being worked on directly at the time of the accident, then the failure must have been caused by the alterations being carried out elsewhere in the building, namely the addition of two extra floors on the top of the library. It is also unclear why students were permitted to walk beneath the ceiling if it was unsafe.

This is the first major accident since the beginning of construction works on the library extension and the BMS building. Occurring as early as it does within IC's proposed ten-year "Campus renaissance," due to be completed in 2007, this incident raises serious questions as to whether safety can be maintained when crowded construction projects overlap or face tight schedules.

This accident must be considered a lucky escape, not only for those involved but also for the officials administrating the works.

Ents Lounge transformed

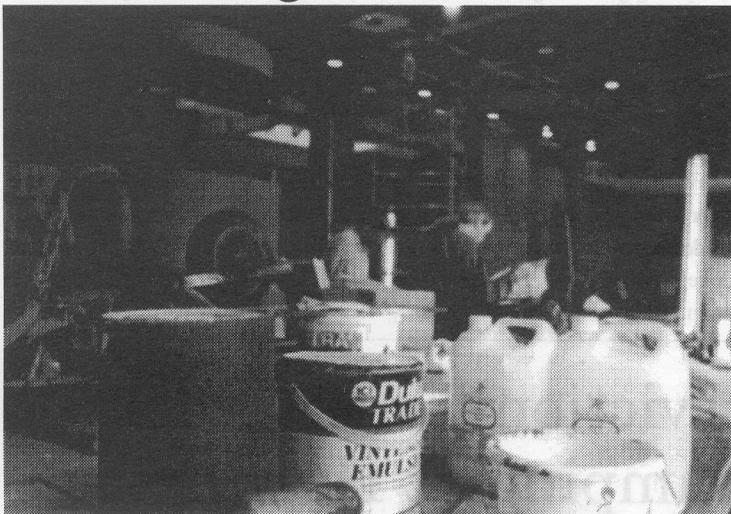


PHOTO: IVAN CHAN

The Union Building summer refurbishment came to conclusion this week with the opening of the new entertainments lounge, dBs. The £0.1M project was just completed in time, despite last minute finishing and system testing on Friday morning.

The previous incarnation of the lounge, a dull and dingy room painted dark blue, had been on the Union's 'must-do' list for some time. "It was like a Sixth Form Disco," commented ICU's Events and Marketing Manager, Mark Horne. "It was a real dump. We had problems with bands not being able to fit all their equipment in, and the visibility was appalling." The new look venue, renamed 'dBs', received high praise from returning students, most remarking that it was a significant improvement.

Plans for the refurbishment were drawn up by the Union in liaison with Mary Marsh and Alan Spehnyak from the College CAD Office. The new disco set up got the thumbs up from passers by, but one commented

that the room was "a bit primary" in its decor.

Funding for the work was taken from the Union's Strategic Development Reserve, a pool of money set aside from profits made by the Union's bars and the Bookstore. This is the first such project to use the reserve since it was set up two years ago. Other projects in the pipeline include a Clubs and Societies Resource Centre and a refurbishment of the Union Office.

Inside

TRAVELLER BLUES

In a summer devoid of much incident, Imperial College's sports ground saw more than its fair share of drama. August saw an invasion of the sportsground by a group of thirty traveller caravans. **page 2**

MONDEX AT EXETER

The electronic cash system Mondex has implemented at Exeter University. IC adopt a 'wait-and-see' policy. **news in brief page 2**

Evelyn Gardens summer assault

Summer accommodation guests in Evelyn Gardens nearly initiated an international incident when they tangled with a French IC student staying in Hall. The circumstances around the incident are not clear, though an assault on a minor is believed to have occurred.

The guests, dancers in the annual Royal Tournament at Earls Court, had been staying in the Halls for a week before Police were called in to investigate allegations of an assault on a young girl. The girl claimed that she was struck by the student whilst she was using the telephone.

When interviewed by the Police, the student stated a number of complaints against the dance troupe, many of which were backed up by other residents in the Halls. Local residents too had been writing to the College complaining of late night football matches, loud discos, property

being covered with eggs and flour and general rowdiness. Students complained of food being stolen from fridges, loud parties and general rudeness from the guests.

This particular incident started just after midnight on the Friday when the student was awoken by the girl using the phone. He asked her to keep it down, but received some verbal abuse in return to which the student responded by striking the girl. However, later that night, adult members of the dance group threatened the student and assaulted him in retaliation. Again the Police were called, but did not take any action at that time.

As the Police were involved, the College stepped in to discipline the student. Upon consultation with IC Security and the Police, he escaped with a strongly worded warning.

Eviction for travellers camping at Harlington

In a summer devoid of much incident, Imperial College's sports ground at Harlington saw more than its fair share of drama. August saw an invasion of the sportsground by a group of thirty traveller caravans. The southern portion of the ground, where the travellers camped, is currently undergoing preparations for gravel extraction.

The southern half of the site, just off the M4 motorway near Heathrow, has not been in use for a year while survey for the aggregate extraction was undertaken. Fearing for the safety of College staff, on-site contractors and the travellers themselves, the College undertook to have the travellers removed from the site.

By August 7th, a court order under the High Court Rules Act was obtained to evict the group. A few days later bailiffs, supported by Police, moved the travellers on. To protect the northern half of the site, which contains the clubhouse and groundsman's residence, a security



Map of the site showing the sports ground. The travellers accessed the southern half of the ground via a public footpath to the west. All entrances to field have now been blocked.

firm has been contracted to patrol the pitches and grounds with both men and dogs.

News in Brief

NEW SOLUTIONS REFORMED

The pressure group New Solutions, the brain-child of ex-ULU President Ghassan Karrian, has been reformed to fight the introduction of top-up fees in British Universities. The group originally convened to fight the NUS policy for returning student grants to 1979 levels.

ICU THE ONLY BAR WITH GUINNESS?

Imperial College Union could be the only students' union in the country to have Guinness on tap in their bar after the NUS buying group, NUS Services, failed to reach an agreement with Guinness plc. ICU is unaffiliated to the NUS, and thus unaffected by the move.

Stout drinkers in other universities and colleges are being advised to switched to Murphy's.

ROLLERBLADE-FREE CAMPUS

Ken Weir, Head of Security, has advised staff and students not allow rollerbladers into College buildings. The campus has been a popular site for in-line skaters to attempt jumps and blading down steps. However, there have been a few incidents of people being hurt in collisions with bladers. Mr Weir added that Rollerblading is not allowed anywhere on campus, and students travelling to College by blades are asked to remove them before entering buildings.

On a related note, Mr Weir called for extra vigilance from those with motorcycles, as there has been a great deal of damage to motor bikes over the summer. He suggests that anybody seeing any damage on their bike should report it immediately to security.

MONDEX GO-AHEAD FOR EXETER

The University of Exeter has become the first in Britain to introduce the Mondex system of smart-card money transfers and identity cards.

The scheme, backed by Nat West will give students just one card for Union membership, library facilities, access, voting, use in the campus shops and can even be used as a phonecard. The cards have been

introduced with support from all sectors of Exeter's Uni-versity community. Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, said that he was "intrigued by the possibilities of the Mondex cashless purse." Charlie Offer, Communications Officer of Exeter's Guild of Students stated "We welcome the new Mondex card and anticipate its success. It is a welcome development for students."

As an incentive for students at Exeter, Nat West has charged each card with £2 credit, and the bank hopes to expand the scheme to other Universities. Imperial College has studied the Mondex system but in the words of Estates Director Ian Caldwell "we want to learn from Exeter's experience."

CLAMPDOWN ON COMPUTER MISUSE

Following a year full of computer problems and computer misuse, students are being advised not to abuse the privileges that they enjoy with the College's computer network. The handbook issued by the Centre for Computer Services has the full list of conditions and regulations regarding computer use.

In a warning issued by the College, students would face severe disciplinary proceedings if the facilities were misused. The warning goes on to state several examples where students, of both post-graduate and undergraduate level have been expelled from College for computer misuse involving racial and sexual abuse.

HALDANE LIBRARY AUTUMN COLLECTION

The Haldane Librarian, Janet Smith, has invited students to come and investigate the Haldane Library's Autumn collection of humanities and music material. The Haldane Collection occupies the same building as the main library. It has a wide range of fiction and audio materials as well as periodicals and daily newspapers.

Each term, the collection is expanded; recent additions to the range include CDs and musical scores. There is also a programme of cultural events in store, which will be publicised in Felix.

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Grim Days

The long, cold winter.

Unlike anarchism, higher education takes action in winter. During this term there will be far reaching changes as the cash runs out. Honorable traditions of free education and well funded universities have withered and died. Students will voice their discontent at the universities and the universities may call strikes to protest against the government. So where did the trouble start?

Students lose out.

Until 1994, student grants had been frozen (effectively a drop of 3-5% per year), and the difference was made up with a student loan. However, policy changed and the grant started to tumble. This year the two are equal (See graph). Little action has been taken, partly because the body supposed to represent students, the NUS, was in disarray. The NUS insisted that grants and benefits be restored to 1979 levels - a demand impossible for the government to fulfill.

Universities lose out.

The money handed out to universities, although increasing, was not sufficient to cover rising student numbers. Last year Imperial College effectively had its entire budget cut by 0.7%. Worse still, the funding body Higher Education Funding Council for

England warned that the grant would be frozen in 1998. However, few people were prepared for the drastic action the government was to take in the November budget.

Government go too far?

Kenneth Clarke revealed in his 1995 budget that capital funding (ie. funding for buildings and resources) would be cut by 31% for 1996 and 63% by 1998. This represents a loss of £2 million for Imperial College alone! £500 less funding for every student.

The missing money had been transferred to junior and secondary schools, and the education minister claimed that the shortfall could be made up from private investment. For many universities, this was too much.

University heads take action.

The council of Vice Chancellors and Principles (CVCP) met to decide what action to take. The funding shortfall had to be made up from somewhere, or standards could not be maintained, so they decided to threaten the government with the introduction of top-up fees. These are charges charged directly to the student by their college. This plan ended any hope of continued free education.

U-turn.

As expected, the Cabinet was swift to

respond, voicing strong opposition to top-up fees. What they advised instead was to reduce student intake - the exact opposite of the policy so far. The Conservative party, who had been 'committed' to increasing student population, reversed their decision when just 30% of the target was attained.

They also reminded universities that they would be fined if their intake dropped below the agreed minimum.

Students take action.

Unimpressed with the inaction of the NUS, many university union presidents collaborated to form a pressure group known as the Aldwych Group. They sent formal complaints to the CVCP and attempted to organise a national day of protest.

Student Loans Company kicked around.

The SLC had been a real black eye for the government - allegations of corruption, poor management and bad debt repayment were big problems - even though just 40% of eligible student took out their loan. Plans to privatise the government body were in trouble - no one was interested in investing in a company that is guaranteed to lose money. The 'big four' banks officially refused part ownership in a two-track system in December 1995.

S Ahead.

Jeremy Thomson

Meanwhile, back at home...

In February 1996, IC's Pro-Rector Alan Swanson revealed that top-up fees were under consideration. These could prove devastating to the students - around £1000 per year would probably be needed to make a significant difference; money that could not be afforded by students. Prof Swanson answered these claims of discrimination against poorer families by suggesting that the American system where well off families pay more and poorer students received scholarships would work.

Just a week later, the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh told Felix that "IC has no intention of charging a £300 fee - it would achieve almost nothing for the College."

NUS gets real.

Guided by a student union group 'New Solutions' the NUS finally abandoned their student grant demands at their March conference. Admitting that living costs will have to be met by students, they decided on a policy of

loans paid back under the National Insurance system after graduation.

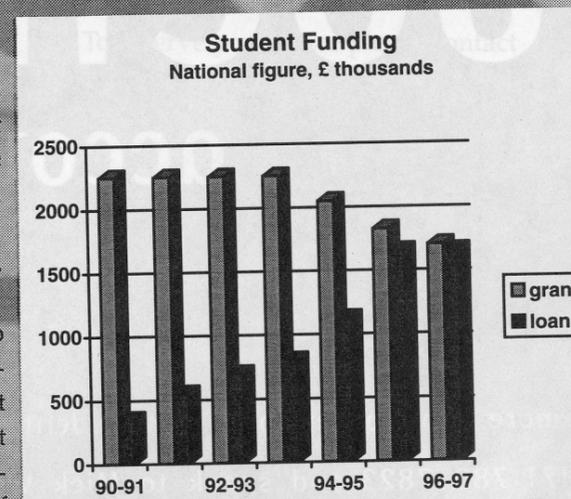
One of the principle instigators of the New Solutions group, the then University of London Union President Ghassan Karrian, left his job to become a Labour party spin doctor.

Surprisingly, the Labour party soon publicised a strikingly similar idea - loans paid back with NI over 20 years, but only when the graduand was earning more than the national average wage.

The argument heats up...

The high tension between the universities

and the cabinet was exacerbated when the Higher Education Minister Eric Forth told colleges that "I do not think that there is a direct causal relationship between more spent and the quality of the output.", at an academic quality conference in March. David Watson, the Director of the University of Brighton and chairman of HEFCE Quality Assessment replied that "Presumably, if you spend fuck all, you get absolutely perfect standards."



Daring Ron Sent in.

In March, the Tories sent their favourite Higher Education problem solver, Sir Ron Dearing, to investigate the whole situation. The report is expected to take twelve months, and current evidence indicates that it will be a far reaching study. Unfortunately, people have become reluctant to make decisions before the report is published, allowing the problems to worsen.

Students lose out more.

A recent study by high street banks

has confirmed fears that student debt is worsening. The figures released in July showed that the average annual borrowing rose to £1982 from £1502 last year.

Several colleges have opted to introduce top up fees for next year. The University of Huddersfield has fixed their rate at £1000 per year. LSE looks likely to install them, with a minimum charge of £850, as does Birmingham.

Imperial College's closest relation, London University, has signalled its support for them in. Fortunately our Rector remains opposed to them.

In their most recent meeting, the CVCP considered charging students the **entire** tuition cost in advance. The move was intended to frighten the government and force action. It seems to be working.

It comes to strikes.

The Association of University Teachers and other lecturers' unions, are currently considering a series of strikes in November.

These protest members would probably result in a complete shut-down in undergraduate teaching.

Grim Days ahead.

There is no doubt that university education will get more expensive, and student poverty and debt still more dire. The number of places will fall, and damaging conflicts between authorities may permanently harm relations.

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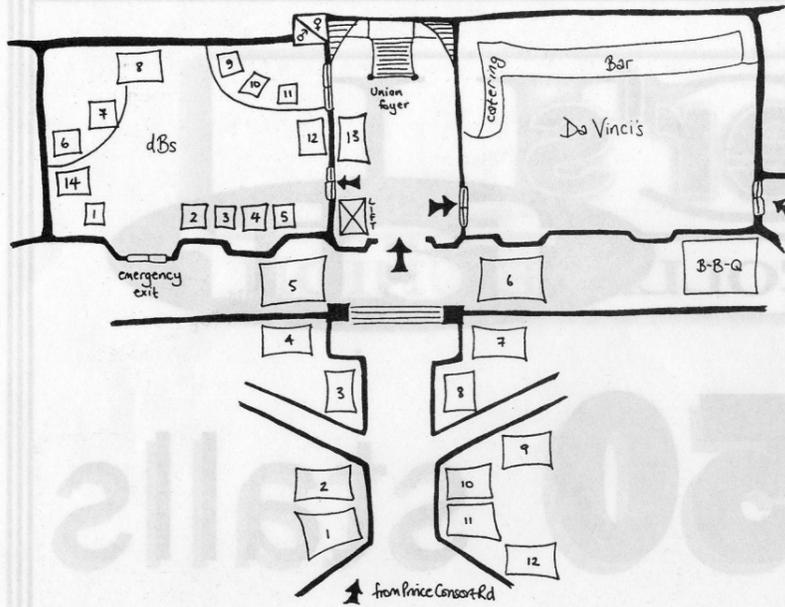
and get loads of

GIVEAWAYS AND FREEBIES

**Tuesday 8th
October
2.30 - 5.30 pm**

be there

**In the Union building, Sherfield building,
Junior Common Room, Main Dining Hall and
the Queen's Lawn**



dBs

1. Tory Reform Group
2. Billiards and Snooker
3. Oxfam
4. Wine Tasting
5. Bag Soc
6. ICCAG
7. Pimlico Connection
8. Ents
9. IQ
10. Industrial Soc
11. Nightline
12. Film Soc
13. ACC
14. Finance Society

Beit Quad

1. Wing Chun
2. S&G Outdoor Club
3. Mountaineering
4. Circus Skills
5. Felix
6. Caving
7. YHA
8. Ladies Rugby
9. RCS Rugby
10. IC Rugby
11. C&G Rugby
12. RSM Rugby

Main Dining Hall

1. Basket Ball
2. Cricket
3. Cycling
4. Cross Country
5. Dance
6. Fitness
7. Badminton
8. RSM footie

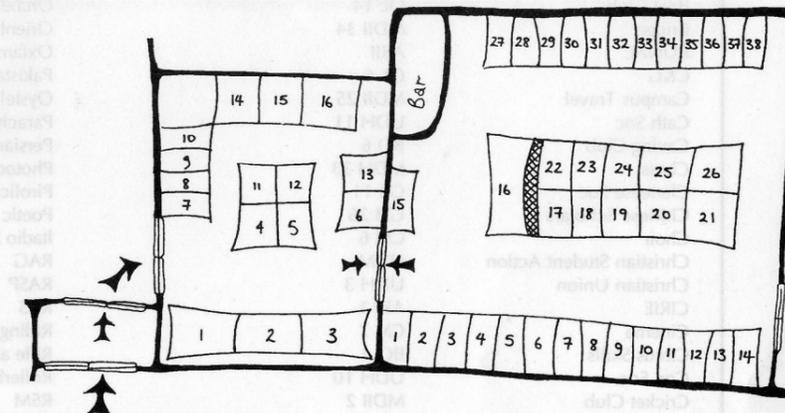
9. Leo Soc
10. Orienteerin
11. Riding Club
12. Ski Club
13. Squash
14. Volleyball
15. Netball
16. Football (ladies and mens)
17. IC Computer Sales
18. Living Marxism
19. Sports Centre

20. ULU RNU
21. ULU ATC
22. Worlds Right International Youth Project
23. Rifle and Pistol
24. Swimming and Water Polo
25. Campus Travel
26. ULU OTC
27. Ten Pin Bowling

28. Weights
29. Micro Computer
30. War Games
31. Doc Soc
32. Parachute
33. Chess
34. Bridge
35. Islamic Soc
36. Photographic
37. Radio Modellers
38. Yacht

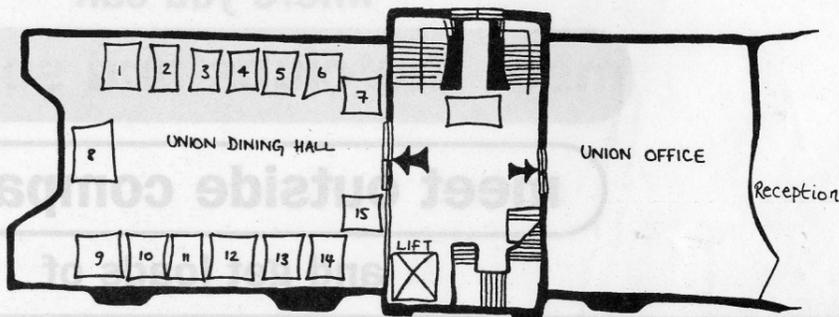
Ante-room

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Artist-in-residence | 10. Oystel Communications |
| 2. Time Out | 11. BUNAC |
| 3. STA Travel | 12. Financial Times |
| 4. Barclays | 13. CIEE |
| 5. Lloyds | 14. Guardian |
| 6. RASP! | 15. Endsleigh |
| 7. Antonville | 16. Nat West |
| 8. St Johns | |
| 9. Sci-Tech | |



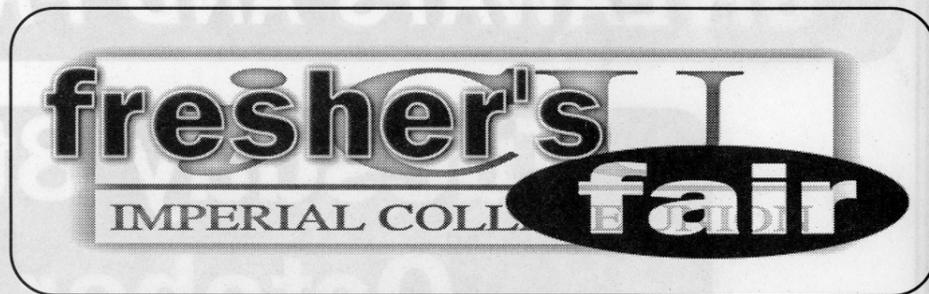
Union Gym

1. Shaolin Kung Fu
2. Table Tennis
3. Shotokai Karate
4. Yoga
5. Fencing
6. Judo
7. Kung Fu
8. Nippon Kendo



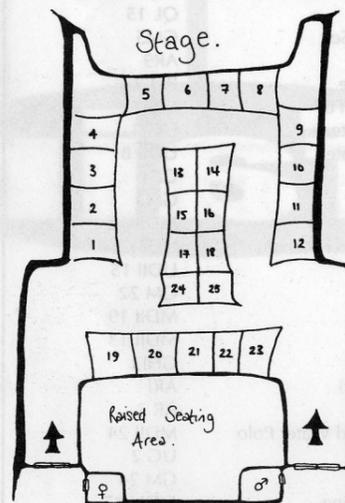
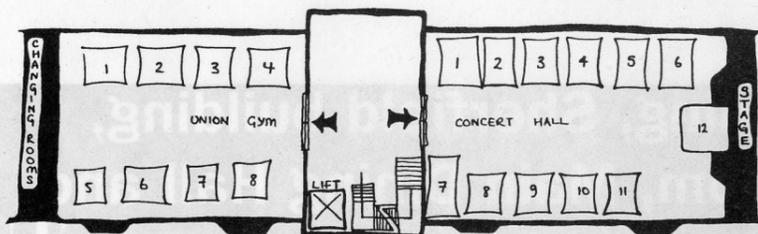
Concert Hall

1. Live Jazz
2. Poet IC
3. Jazz and Rock
4. Orchestra
5. Jazz Dance
6. Choir
7. Cinema
8. OpSoc
9. Sci-fi
10. Theatre West End
11. Jazz Big Band
12. DramSoc
13. Transcendental Meditation



Union Dining Hall

1. Christian Student
2. Third World First
3. Christian Union
4. Methodist Soc
5. Jewish Soc
6. Welsh Soc
7. International Tamil
8. Shotokan Karate
- 9.
10. Conservative Soc
11. Catholic Soc
12. Labour Soc
13. ADT 4th World
14. Socialist Worker Student Soc
15. Socrates
16. University of London Union

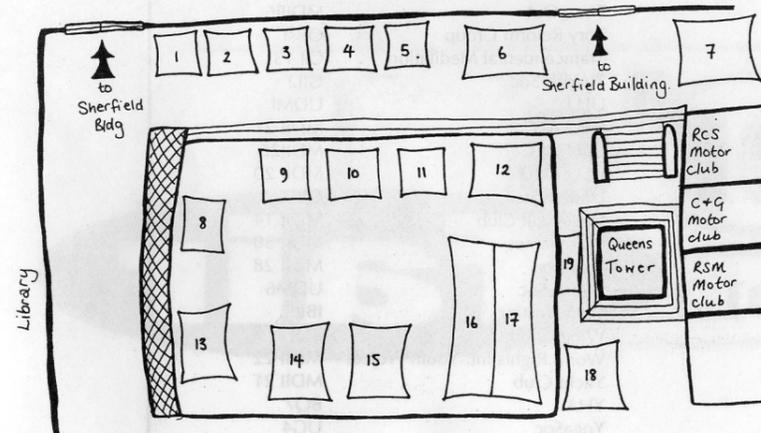


Great Hall

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Malaysian | 14. Kensington Committee of Friendship |
| 2. Turkish | 15. Benelux |
| 3. Singapore | 16. Friends of Palestine |
| 4. Sikh Soc | 17. Iranian |
| 5. Scandanavian | 18. Italian |
| 6. Hellenic | 19. Japanese |
| 7. Pakistan | 20. Lebanese |
| 8. Mauritian | 21. Persian Gulf |
| 9. Indian | 22. Spanish |
| 10. Cypriot | 23. Taiwan |
| 11. Chinese | 24. Thai |
| 12. Afro-Caribbean | 25. Chinese Scholars |

Queen's Lawn

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. His Peoples Min | 11. Exploration |
| 2. Roller Blading | 12. RSM Union |
| 3. Underwater | 13. RAG |
| 4. Lawn Tennis | 14. Baot |
| 5. Motor Bike | 15. Sailing |
| 6. C&G Union | 16. Gliding |
| 7. RCS Union | 17. Hand Gliding |
| 8. Astro Soc | 18. Golf |
| 9. Board Sailing | 19. IC Radio |
| 10. Hockey | |



Freshers Fair list

ACC	dBs13	LeoSoc	MDI19
ADT 4th World	UDIII3	Live Jazz	CM1
African Carribean Society	GM 12	Living Marxism	MDII 1 8
Amateur Radio	Union 3rd Floor	Lloyds	AR 5
Antonville Ltd	AR 7	Malaysian	GII1
Artist in Residence	ARI	Mauritian Soc	GM8
Asno Soc	QL II	Methodist Soc	UDH 4
Audio Society	3rd Floor Union	Micro Computer	MDH 29
Badminton	MDII7	Motor Bike	QL5
Bag Soc	SBs 5	Mountaineering	MQ 3
Barclays	AR 4	Nat-West	AR 1
Basketball	MDM 1	Netball	MDH 15
Benelux	GM 15	Nightline	OBS II
Billiards and Snooker	OBS 2	Nippon Kenso	UG 11
Board Sailing	QL9	Qsoc	CM1
Boat Club	QL 14	Orchestra	CM 4
Bridge	MDII 34	Orienteering	MDII 10
BUNAC	ARII	Oxfam	SBs3
C&G	QL 6	Pakistan Society	GM 6
Campus Travel	MDII 25	Oystel communication	AR 10
Cath Soc	UDH 11	Parachute	MDH 32
Caving Club	BQ 6	Persian Gulf	GM 23
Chess	MDH 33	Photoaraphic	MDII 36
Claneese Soc	GB 11	Pirlico Connection	OBS 7
Chiriese Scholars	GH 26	Poetic	CH 2
Choir	CM 6	Itadio Modellers	MDII 37
Christian Student Action	UDMI	RAG	QL 13
Christian Union	UDH 3	RASP	AR 6
CIRIE	ARI3	RCS	QL7
Cinema	CM 7	Riding Club	MDII 11
Circus Skills	BQ 4	Rifle and Pistol	MDII 23
Con Soc	UDH 10	Rollerblading	QL 2
Cricket Club	MDII 2	RSM	QL 12
Cross Country and Athletics	MDII 4	RSM Football	MDII 11
Cycling	MDII 3	Rugby (Ladies)	BQ 8
Cypriot Soc	GM 10	Rsgby(IC/RCS/C&G/RSM)	BQ 10/9/11/12
Dance Club	MDII 5	Sailing Club	QL 15
DocSoc	MDII31	ScandinavianSoc	GM5
DramaSoc	CHI2	SciTech	AR9
Endsleigh	AR 15	Scout & Guide	BQ 2
Ents	OBS1	Shaolin Kung Fu	UG1
Exploration	QL 11	Shotokai Karate	UG 3
FELIX	BQ 5	Shotokan Karate	UDII 8
Fencing	UG5	Sikh Soc	GII4
FilmSoc	dlls12	SingaporeSoc	GM3
Finance Soc	OBS 14	Ski Club	MDII 12
Financial Times	AR 12	Socialist Worker Student	UDM 14
Fitness Club	MDH 6	Socrates	UDII 15
Football	MDII 16	Spanish	GM 22
Football (Womens)	MDII 16	Sports Centre	MDII 19
Friends of Palestine	GM 16	Squash	MDII 13
Gliding	QLI6	Sri Lankan	GHI3
Golf	QE 18	St Johns (ULU)	ARI
Guardian	AR 14	STA Travel	AR 3
Hang Gliding & Para Gliding	QL 17	Swimming and Water Polo	MDII 24
Hellenic	GM 7	Table Tennis	UG 2
His Peoples Min	QL 1	Taiwan	GM 24
Hockey Club	QL 10	Ten Pin Bowling	MDH 27
IC Computer Sales	MDII 17	Thai	GM 25
IC Radio	QL 19	Theatre Weal End	CII 10
ICCAG	OBS 6	Third World First	UDII 2
ICSci-Fi	CM 9	Time Out	AR 2
IndianSoc	GII9	Time Out	MDIII6
Industrial	OBS 10	Tory Reform Group	OBS1
Inlematorsal Tamil	UDII 7	Tramcendental Meditation	CII 13
IQ	SBs9	Turkish Soc	GII2
Iranian	GII17	ULU	UDMI
Islamic Society	MDII 35	ULU ATC	MDII 21
Italian	GII18	ULU OTC	MDII26
Japanese	GM 19	ULU RNU	MDII 20
Jazz and Rock	CII 3	Underwater	QL 3
Jazz Big Band	CII 11	Volleyball Club	MDII 14
Jazz Dance	CII 5	War Games	MDII 30
Jewish	UDII 5	Weights	MDII 28
Judo	UG6	Welsh Soc	UDM6
Kensigton Comm. of Friendship	GM 14	Wine Tasting	IBit
KungFu	UG7	Wing Chun	BQ1
Labour	UDII 12	World Rights Int. Youtn Project	MDII 22
Lawn Tennis	QL 4	Yacht Club	MDII 21
Lebanese	GM 21	YHA	BQ7
Lebanese	GH21	YogaSoc	UG4

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simon baker

Well hello there. You can't keep a good man down, and sure enough, Felix lost some of its best staff last year, so you're stuck with me. Ah, the modesty. Ah, be buggered. No sooner had I graduated than I felt a hand on my shoulder and heard a voice telling me that early release had been revoked, sentencing me to three more years. Of course to a large number of you this means nothing. Not a reflection on my prose, but because many of you have just arrived at Imperial fresh out of school.

The prospect of embarking on a degree course should not daunt you, and to help matters, Uncle Simon will offer you the benefit of his experience. Firstly, don't let the size of the place worry you. As a result of a project solely for your benefit, Imperial now has so many signs that even Mark Thatcher could not lose his way. Secondly, always talk to your fellow students, occasionally talk to computers. With computing students, form your own opinions.

Finally, since you will find yourself on a fairly tight budget, it's very important to shop around for gro-

ceries and suchlike. Southside Shop may not be quite the cheapest in the area. In fact, I always found a little corner shop down the road could beat them on price. It's on Brompton Road near Knightsbridge tube. Loads of green and gold. You can't miss it. (You think I'm joking!)

In the world beyond South Ken, we are in the middle of the party conference season. Currently Labour are doing their stuff, wooing the voters with their policies on... Ah, we've got a problem. Tony Blair has shown that the way to achieve huge popularity is to slag off the opposition and not commit yourself on anything, a bit like when you crash your car. Unfortunately, somebody somewhere before the next election is going to want to know what the hell New Labour is and what it plans to do. Empty phrases on taxation, social security and constitutional reform will not persuade any floating voters to back the party and highlight the leadership's mortal fear of offending anyone south of Watford Gap. Time will tell how durable that smile is when the real picture emerges.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES ON THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

**WELFARE OFFICER
WOMEN'S OFFICER
TRANSPORT OFFICER**

These posts will be elected at the first full Council Meeting of the year, at 18:00 on Tuesday 15th October in the Union Dining Hall (opposite the Union Office), the nominations having closed at 18:00 on this day. All full members of the Union are entitled to vote. For more information about these posts, see the President in the Union Office.

Eight Ordinary Members will be elected to Council at this meeting. Two of these must be first years and two postgraduates, any full members of the Union may stand

HUMANITIES PROGRAMME

EVENING LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Humanities Programme is once again offering an exciting programme of evening classes beginning in October. As last year, classes for all College students and staff are available at elementary, intermediate and advanced levels in *French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Japanese*; and at elementary and intermediate levels in *Russian and Mandarin Chinese*. **In addition this year, elementary courses in Arabic and in Mandarin for Cantonese speakers are being introduced.**

For the four main European languages there is a wide range of lower level classes in each language, as well as some higher level study on specific evenings. *Japanese* classes take place on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons; *Russian* on Tuesday evenings; *Mandarin* on Monday evenings; *Mandarin for Cantonese speakers* and *Arabic* on Thursday evenings.

All classes are held once a week, and courses last for two terms. The fees are £60 for European languages (1.5 hours a week) and £80 for Oriental languages (2 hours a week).

Classes start in the week beginning 21st October. Details are available in Rooms 327 and 313C (Humanities), Mech Eng. Those wishing to enroll should come between 1.30 and 5.30pm, or attend a special advice and enrolment session at 5-7 pm on Thursday 17th October. Additionally, English classes for overseas students are provided free to College members, and also to their spouses at a small charge. Registration and English test at the beginning of the second week of term.

CONSTABLE - DEBUSSY - MARX

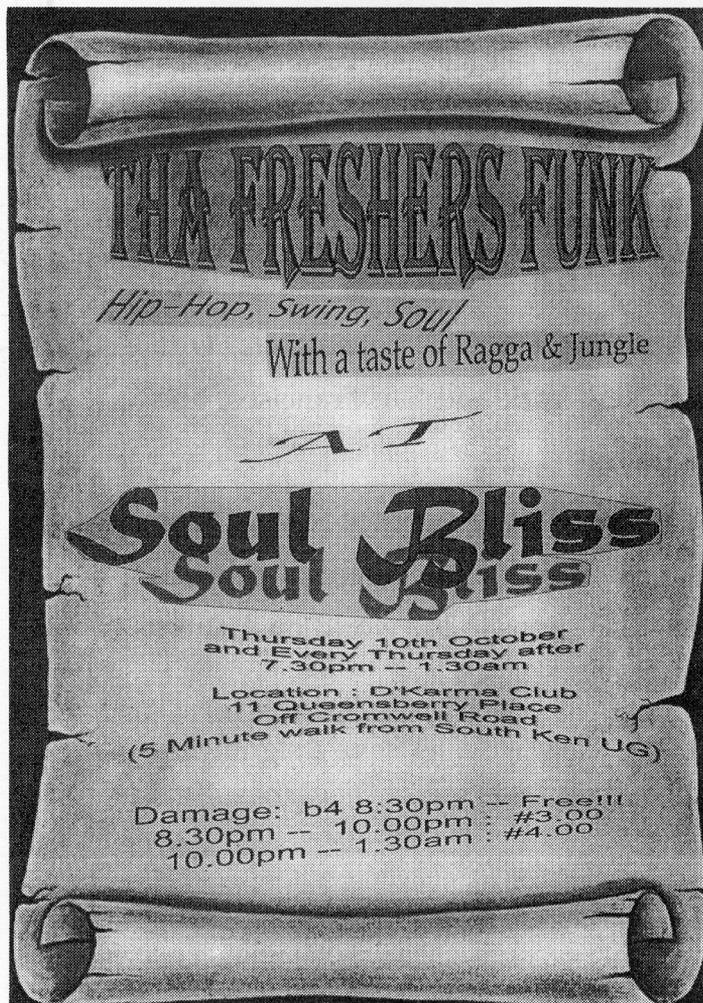
Three exciting new courses are on offer this Autumn as part of the Humanities programme. Be one of the first to enroll.

Music: Mr Roderick Swanston, the well known broadcaster from the Royal College of Music, will examine how ideas influenced some significant musical works in the nineteenth century, and how a knowledge of this can add to the understanding of both of the individual pieces of music and the development of nineteenth century cultural history. First lecture, 12 noon Friday 11th October.

Philosophy: Mr Keith Barret's popular Philosophy course can now be followed by Philosophy II where you will have the opportunity of studying in depth some works of the highest intellectual quality and seminal importance as reference points of contemporary thought. First lecture 12 noon, Friday 11th October.

Art: Dr Maurice Davies' course will explore ways in which artists 'see' nature and will teach you ways of looking at and thinking about art, especially British landscape painting. Dr Davies, who is an expert on Turner, has lectured at Cambridge, UCL, the Tate Gallery, and the National Gallery. First lecture, 12 noon Monday 14th October.

Full details of all Humanities courses can be obtained from the Humanities General Office, 313C Mech Eng. Timetables and venues will be displayed in departments and on the Humanities notice board.





THE FELIX

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

Welcome to the new year, and our first issue. You will have hopefully picked up the new Felix supplement, Something for the Weekend, which should come out each week alongside Felix. Don't forget to pick it up. It will contain all the listings and reviews and features that used to appear in Felix. Hope you like it.

It has been a summer full of upheavals, both in the local environment around the campus and

in wider terms concerning student and Higher Education funding. There is enough building work going on around SW7 to save Ove Arup from bankruptcy. Everyone is getting Millennium fever. I just hope that everything will be finished in time.

Which brings me to dBs, the Union's new venue. It looks great, a massive improvement. The refurbishment involved a lot of structural work, which was very nearly late and certainly had a

wider effect than perhaps was intended. I shall say nothing other than "thank-you" to the college electricians who restored power to our collating machine in the nick of time.

Moving from the physical to the fiscal, education funding is yet again in the news. The CVCP's decision to try and make up their funding shortfall from students is fraught with dangers, and could be interpreted by the more cynical as a shot across the bows of the

Government.

One would hope that students wouldn't be caught between the universities and the Treasury in a battle over funding. Students have their own, admittedly related, problems with money and are increasingly suffering from financial difficulties.

If the massive turn-out at the Union's recent training day for part-time staff is anything to go by, then for students, there are indeed grim days ahead.

LETTERS TO FELIX

Careers planning advice

Dear Fresher,
Welcome to Imperial College. The next three or four years should be among the most interesting and enjoyable of your life, provided you make the most of the opportunities available at College. This letter aims to give you some idea for your own self-development.

You can probably recall one of the significant steps in your life when you entered the sixth form or went to sixth form college. Coming to College is an even more significant step. You have more freedom, more independence and more opportunities to do our own thing and to succeed or fail. If you do not make some mistakes you will not have learned anything, learning from one's own mistakes is an important part of experience.

You have already demonstrated some planning ability by passing 'A' levels - or their equivalent - sufficiently well to be at College. How are you going to plan the next three, four or six years? And I'm

not talking just about your academic studies, I'm talking about the start of the rest of your life.

What do you want to achieve this term? Making friends is usually high on most people's list. How? Join clubs and societies, attend meetings, take up a new sport, develop a new interest - any of these are likely to bring you into contact with like minded students.

How about earning some good money in the long vacation? It's well worthwhile doing some preliminary job hunting between Christmas and Easter. Call in at the IC Careers Service (Room 310, Sherfield Building) where you will find information about Vacation Training, write to employers with your CV, call in to some local shops and hotels and see who's advertising in the local press.

Vac jobs give you experience in job hunting, letter writing and interviews, as well as a real insight into what it's like to work for a particular type of employer. Some

even pay you quite well. Jobs abroad are popular and early applications are essential.

You should start thinking seriously about your future career before the end of the second year. Even if you haven't a clue what you want to do, that's no excuse for delaying finding out about the possibilities. You are surrounded with sources of information - friends, family, tutors, careers advisers, libraries. Start looking.

The IC Careers Service is a good starting place. Pop in and speak to the information staff. Find out about "PROSPECT (HE)" - our computer careers guidance system - and all the information booklets and reference files. Have a look at some of the videos, attend some seminars on careers, get yourself sorted out.

The Milkround is in the spring term of your final year. This is when employers visit campuses to interview applicants or invite you to their London Offices

Christmas vacation courses are a popular way of finding out about careers such as marketing but only a few major recruiters run them and they are normally over-subscribed many times.

You may be thinking "Stop! I'm only a fresher - why are you telling me all this?"

I'm telling you because you need to start planning your life now, don't just drift through College and merge with a degree and nothing else. Of course a degree is important and must be your first priority, but not your only priority.

In the meantime, enjoy yourself.

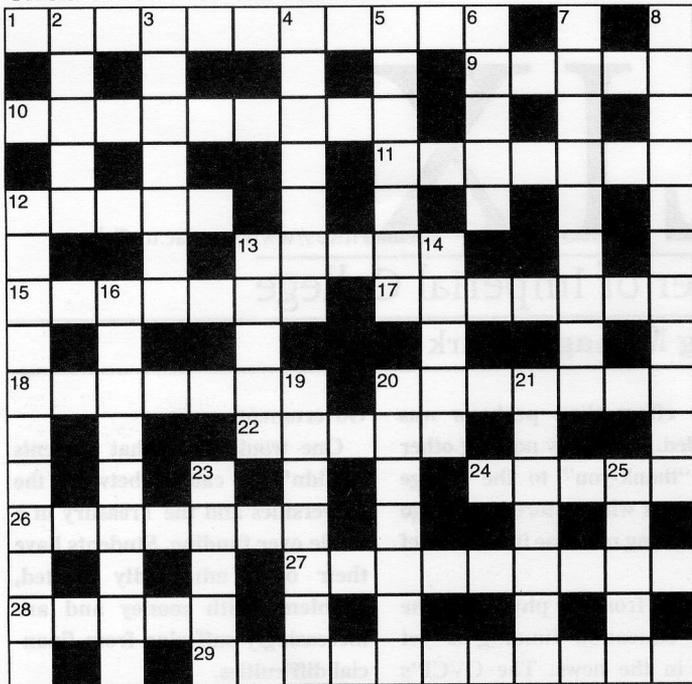
John Simpson, Director, IC Careers Service

Letters may be edited for length.

The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1064 is Monday 7th October. Please bring some form of identification.

CROSSWORD BY CLANSMAN



This one shouldn't be too difficult for those of you who regularly do this column. The solution to the crossword will appear next week. In the meantime, if there are any budding crossword makers who would like to submit crosswords or eliminations for future editions of Felix, please get in touch with me either through the Felix Office (by putting a note in the Puzzles pigeonhole) or by e-mailing me on d.i.robertson@ic.ac.uk so that I can arrange to meet you and to have a look at some of your work!
Clansman.

Across:

- 1. Piece of kitchen equipment gets the booby prize! (6,5)
- 9. German car has nothing in terms of sound. (5)
- 10. Pillow chief is supported. (9)
- 11. High rank clone he messed with! (7)
- 12. Constellation hunter. (5)
- 13. River missing the penultimate magnificent number? (5)
- 15. A bad person is the Italian - married a Norwegian after Eastern five! (4,3)
- 17. Book painting showing that the dead strangely pity church. (7)
- 18. Outdo ninety-nine Armenians? Liberal is up to date! (7)
- 20. Cold region of South Spain and Portugal. (7)
- 22. Currently batting - but fails to gain victory. (2,3)
- 24. Nation is in turmoil. (5)
- 26. Prehistoric animal mother has a married doctor to help first! (7)
- 27. Tree that is always unripe? (9)
- 28. No United Nations church has weight. (5)
- 29. Woman Hitler detested because of relationship by marriage! (6-2-3)

Down:

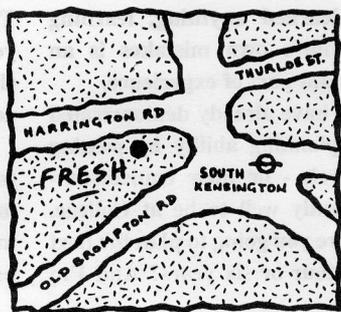
- 2. No party has universal right to smell! (5)
- 3. Poor-quality pie sold will wreak havoc. (7)
- 4. Southern article about race for old Muslim? (7)
- 5. Told to give command to chief. (7)
- 6. Unconcerned church has no tortilla chip! (5)
- 7. Strange barrister, perhaps. Delay word inordinately. (3,6)
- 8. Use a cliché having chosen a pair to dismantle. (4,1,6)
- 12. Astronaut is ecstatic! (4,3,4)
- 13. Evil being seated by article? (5)
- 14. Enter briefly with Northern Ireland needle? Quite the opposite! (3,2)
- 16. Execute utensil? (9)
- 19. Little warmth in swallow he attained from aviary. (3,4)
- 20. Wrong-doing church has scripture lesson to be honest! (7)
- 21. Sign up with Eastern National Trust. Hesitation at home! (5,2)
- 23. Child measure is a type of pole. (5)
- 25. Greek character gives the thanks. (5)

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Climate gets the better of hockey team in Barbados

(But win, lose or draw, there's always the beach bar)

It was a dark and stormy night in the deepest depths of the Union Bar. There was an atmosphere of sobriety. Suddenly, a spark turned to a full blown dream - the Barbados tour was born in all of its splendour and glory. For once, the teams' acted on their drunken ideas and after several months of hard work and headaches by 'Cantona' and a select few others, we headed off to Heathrow on our way to Barbados.

By some miracle we arrived in Bridgetown airport on time after a few rounds of 'lager, lager, lager' on the plane. Suddenly we were hit with what turned into somewhat of a problem - the heat. The raw and delicate maidens and gentlemen of the British Isles were not used to the soaring temperatures and wide skies of their new location. A certain amount of getting used to the environment was required. A little bit of relaxation before those all important hockey and football tournaments.

Except that all that seems to be



The ladies hockey team getting it together before one of their matches in the Banks Beer International Hockey Festival. Unfortunately for the team, the heat and humidity played havoc with their training schedule.

International Hockey Festival.

Our first week was spent acclimatising. We struggled with sightseeing, sunbathing and adjusting socially. The thought of playing sport in the heat was frightening so we avoid-

ed there were at least fifteen European sides and other American and South American teams. The atmosphere was ecstatic. Well there aren't many teams that have been privileged to play at the legendary Kensington Oval (even if they weren't playing cricket).

The opening ceremony was vibrant and colourful (mainly due to the sunburn) as it turned out to be the beginning of a spectacular sporting fest for the Hockey teams. Jane and Smita represented Imperial College in the Festival Eleven in the Barbados International side, and several of the squad did their bit for the Festival by umpiring throughout the Tournament. It wasn't quite the Olympics, but we performed on par with the British side at Atlanta (minus Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent).

With no Hillary Rose or Susan Mason in sight, the balls kept ending up in the back of our net, and without Calum Giles the twenty four year old super sub from Havant, we only scored on rare occasion. We did, however become the most popular team in the festival because throughout the losses, we kept the smiling faces and the fighting spirit going.

The footie lads had arranged several friendly fixtures vs Barbados

sides and like the hockey, were not as successful as they would have hoped. Unfortunately amidst the heat and dehydration, during the last fifteen minutes, the oppositions forwards frequently passed the previously rock solid defence (on more than one occasion).

All in all, the score line did not represent the enthusiasm, commitment and sex appeal of the teams. We worked hard and played harder but unfortunately, the heat and humidity got the better of all of us. The tour was enjoyed by all as was the island. We saw and appreciated as much as was possible in two weeks.

We would like to thank all those who supported the tour and would like to say that with your continued support, teams will be able to represent the College and Union with greater success in the future.

Special thanks to: Peter Mee, Chris Oakley, Liz and Linda from PR, Simon Goodall. Lorraine in registry, Timmy T., Jane Hoyle and all of the staff in the Union.

The team would also like to say a big Cheers to Rachael for being a star and organising everything.

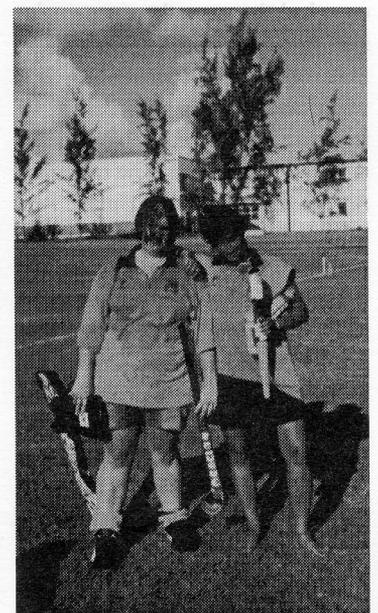


The mens football team posing before the scoreboard of the Kensington Oval. Co-incidentally, the board shows the team's aggregate score over their tour, but they got a good result against the Aston ladies.

remembered is sun, sea, sand... oh and a few aches and bruises from the hockey, football and beer which is after all what we were there for. Of course, we represented Great Britain along with four other British Universities and had it not been so hot, humid and hungover, we could have done well at the Banks Beer

ed physical activity as best we could. Although the footie lads did manage a bit of play away from home with our British counterparts (footie lads 0 - Aston girls 5)

There were many nations represented in the Banks Hockey festival, and though most of the teams were from the various Caribbean islands,



An exhausted pair prop each other up after a particularly tiring match

FELIX SPORT

summer sports report

Remember Barbados?
The hockey and football
teams relive their summer
tour on page 15

Imperial wins the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley

Imperial College Boat Club and its alumni rowing club, Queen's Tower, won British rowing's premier event when they carried off the Grand Challenge Cup at this year's Henley Royal Regatta.

The Grand win, the first ever in the club's history, was the highlight of the 1996 regatta. To win, the crew had to beat two national lightweight eights - Germany and Holland. (the German team went on to take gold at the World Championships in Strathclyde, Scotland). The Saturday race against the Germans was more nerve wracking for the crew, as crew member Martin Kettle explained: "We've been nervous all week, but we got it right off the start and used our extra weight really well. We had a crew push at the barrier (the first distance marker on the course) and took another length."

By the finish IC and QT had three and a half lengths. In the final the crew had the same the same explosive start and slipped quickly away from the Dutch, opening up clear water and making their point by returning the fastest time of the regatta at the finish. The crew contained IC students Richard Dunn, Pete Wilson, Simon Dennis, Louis Attrill, Luka Grubor, with Jim Goodwin at the helm. This unit was backed up by the experience of QT members Simon Wall, Martin Kettle and David Gillard.

This crew's Henley win was Martin MacElroy's second win as coach in as many years. Charing Cross Medic Simon Wall summed up MacElroy's contribution: "There was a lot of strength and experience in the crew, but Martin focused the power. The Grand was his dream, and he made it a reality."

The Grand eight were joined by three other IC/QT crews on finals



PHOTO: JOHN SHORE

The victorious team with their trophies. IC beat a number of international sides on their way to the title, but were pipped by an American team in the separate Temple Challenge Cup.

day - the most entries of any club.

The Wyfold cup was won by Queen's Tower, who came from behind to beat a polished Molesey Crew by three quarters of a length. The agony of the defeat was too much for the Molesey bowman who fell out of the boat at the end of the race, completely exhausted.

The Temple Challenge Cup, for college and university eights, had its entry requirements toughened this year, in an attempt to prevent Imperial College and Oxford Brookes teams from dominating the event. However, the IC crew overcame stiff opposition from the University of London's freshman crew, who had already been selected amidst controversy as the Great Britain representatives for the Under 23 World Championships. By the time the crews had finished, the selectors may have been pondering

the wisdom of their earlier judgement - the IC crew beat UL by three quarters of a length to take them into the final.

The final of the Temple was against an undefeated Yale University USA freshmen crew. Yale had looked strong all week from off the start and once more led from the beginning, never letting IC back into the race despite a determined last charge along the enclosures. The morning showdown against UL had clearly taken its toll. However, many of the young crew will be back this year, and will build and capitalise on their great progress last year.

The fourth Imperial College crew to race on Sunday, a composite quad sculls crew with Leander, were beaten in the semi finals of the Mother Cup by their counterparts, the German Under 23 quad.

IC team win gold for Britain at World Championships

At the Under 23 World Championships, held in Belgium a week after Henley, an all IC coxless four, containing three winners from the grand eight, refocused their efforts under the guidance of Martin MacElroy. Their commitment was rewarded in a storming finish in their final to snatch the gold medal by 0.04 of a second from Romania.

The IC/Leander quad scull missed qualification for their final in Belgium by less than 1 second, after a technical glitch with 500m to go. They did however win their B final convincingly, recording a time that would have contested medals in the A final.