



THE FELIX

Friday 11th October, 1996
issue 1064

est. 1949

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

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

**Humans 1
Animals 0**
Have we won the evolutionary race?
Jon Trout explores.

Have a go at our *Daily Telegraph* Summer of Sport crossword and win a £25 sports voucher.



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

ULU resigned to Autumn chaos

ALEX FEAKES

The University of London Union's academic year got off to a poor start when one of its student sabbatical officers resigned before any of the College terms had begun.

Claire Lawrie, responsible for Finance and Services at ULU, tendered her resignation at the beginning of September. The departure of Ms Lawrie, mainly for family reasons, has left her duties to be shared out between the three remaining sabbaticals, in particular President Sarah White (President of Imperial College Union last year). Speaking to *Felix*, an undeterred Ms White promised that "...the service we provide has not been affected..."

Although the extra workload is considerable and seventy to eighty hour weeks have been reported, so far no extra pay has been negotiated. Ms White's appearance at Tuesday's Imperial College Union Freshers Fair was marked by a number of organisational errors, interpreted by some observers as a sign of the increased workload taking its toll.

In addition, the search for a replacement has been a source of dissent among ULU regulars. Under the University of London Union's constitution, a free and fair by-election must be held as soon as possible for any vacant post. However, *Felix* has received unconfirmed reports that the post would be handled by a part-time non-student member of staff and, more recently, that one of the nominees for the post has admitted to being 'managed' by Ms Lawrie herself.

A by-election has been scheduled



PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

ULU candidate Ben Hughes embarrassed under fire. Questions remain due to his endorsement and "management" by the previous incumbent.

for Monday 14th October, this being the first General Union Council of the year. Each college in London sends delegates to GUC, the sovereign body of ULU. By the close of nominations, only two candidates had been fully proposed and seconded. The first, Ben Hughes a self-declared nominee of Ms Lawrie, is a Masters student from University College London but knows Ms Lawrie from his BA studies at the London School of Economics. The second, who only just beat the deadline for the nominations, is a student

from Royal Holloway and Bedford New College in south London.

Speaking to *Felix*, Mr Hughes expanded on his plans for ULU, were he to be elected to the post of Vice-President for Finance and Services, stating that his main aim would be to increase accountability of the Union. He made particular mention of the finances of the organisation which, he claims, are often only given cursory notice and just 'rubber stamped' by GUC. His previous experience of office includes being a GUC delegate for LSE for two years as well as

working with Ms Lawrie over the summer on a finance manual.

Mr Hughes readily conceded that Ms Lawrie had suggested he run for the job, and named her as his "campaign manager". This point in particular has been questioned by observers with reference to the legitimacy of an election where one candidate is so clearly favoured. Mr Hughes went on to admit support for the now discredited 'Campaign for Free Education' (CfE), an NUS splinter group determined to reverse the recent change of policy by the NUS executive to a more realistic approach to student grants and higher education funding.

When pressed, Mr Hughes revealed that although he would follow any mandate given to him by GUC, he would prefer join the campaigners at the CfE demonstration picketing the NUS Services conference, being hosted by ULU next month. A statement by ULU confirmed they will play "no role whatsoever in this gathering of banner-wavers."

New Solutions, CfE battle page 2

Inside

OVER BUDGET

NatWest Bank warns parents that it takes more money that they think to put their children through college.

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Three Imperial College Union Officer posts are up for elections as well as eight ordinary members.

New Solutions Attacked by CfE

NEWSTEAM

The University of London Union, the original birthplace of the recently reformed New Solution group (Felix 1063), is to be disrupted in the latest battle with the Campaign for free Education (CfE). The 20 November is the date set for the CfE's march which will start from ULU buildings in Malet Street, central London.

Paul Bates, Vice-President of ULU, is keen to distance his organisation from the proceedings. In a letter written to all University of London colleges, Mr Bates insists that "ULU is playing no role whatsoever in this gathering of banner-wavers."

Mr Bates went on to say that "Their protest is no more than a provocative one - it was at ULU last year that New Solutions began the campaign for change in NUS". With the 're-convening' of New Solutions

to fight 'top-up fees' it appears that the CfE wish to embarrass ULU.

While Sarah White, last year's Imperial College Union President, was heavily involved in New Solutions this year's President, Eric Allsop, is more reticent. He says that although the CfE are "a load of Trots" whom "no one will ever take seriously", he has not got involved in New Solutions and is unlikely to do so in the future.

Mr Allsop questions whether New Solutions have got carried away with their success last year and whether they are the right sort of group to counter 'top-up fees'. He feels that that this issue will have to be dealt with on an individual basis, since it is not a matter of lobbying government, and he does not see how a 'discussion group' can influence the decisions of individual institutions.

News in Brief

SOUTHSIDE CASUALTY

A potentially lethal cocktail of drink and drugs led to a serious incident in Southside bar last Monday night. After drinking alcohol on top of prescribed anti-depressants a Chemistry PhD student collapsed in the popular bar at around 9:30pm. The bar staff were quick to react and move her from the extremely crowded basement area with an ambulance arriving at the scene just minutes later.

The girl's parents were contacted by the College Security and taken to the hospital, where it is understood that she had her stomach pumped. The postgraduate student has now fully recovered from her ordeal. It is also understood that she had only consumed three drinks that night, and had showed no signs of distress before her sudden collapse. A full security report is due to be completed early next week and it is likely that no blame will be attributed to Southside bar staff.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

National Westminster Bank have warned parents of the escalating cost of sending their children to University. A study of families throughout the UK found that whilst parents believed that it would cost them around £5,500 to send their children on a three year degree course, the true figure is nearer £12,000. David McLean, Head of Personal Banking Services, Nat West UK, said: "Parents are significantly underestimating the total cost of their child's education at university, which is reinforced by over-optimistic perceptions on how much their son or daughter might borrow. If provision is made early enough and plans are made for the financial burden that lies ahead, parents can avoid sleepwalking into a nasty surprise either for themselves or their children."

BOATCLUB GETS GO AHEAD

Planning permission for the development and expansion of the Imperial College boathouse at Putney was given the go-ahead at the second

hearing of the local borough planning committee during the Summer vacation. The amended proposal, prepared by the architects Troughton McAslan, was approved by a 12:2 majority. The earlier proposal had been opposed by David Mellor, the local Member of Parliament.

This positive decision comes at a time when Bill Mason picks up the reigns at the club after a sabbatical with the Great Britain women's squad at the Atlanta Olympics. "Bill's women" finished seventh at the Games, but not before they had recorded the third fastest time in history for any women's crew over 2000 metres.

BEIT HALL INTERNET ACTIVITIES

The internet connections in Beit Hall have hit further trouble this week as College Residences do not approve of the wiring. This means that all the wires in the Old Hostel must be checked and relayed.

Difficulties have also arisen in meeting the demand for the facility in the New Hostel, which faces onto Prince Consort Road. The Old Hostel was connected by running wires directly from terminals in the Union, but there are no connections close enough to make installations in the New Hostel in this way.

The current internet facilities in student rooms raises questions about the College's strict policies on computer usage which are difficult to implement in the privacy of student bedrooms. Gerdjan Baker, who is one of the subwardens in Beit Hall and is involved in the installations, suggests that while a student may be able to download a pornographic picture in ten minutes magazines can be bought off the top shelf at local newsagents containing twenty such pictures.

There are no current plans to extend the internet facilities to other Imperial College Halls of Residence. The Centre for Computer Services is apparently reluctant to finance such projects due to concerns regarding computer misuse and the temptation for students to spend too much time 'surfing the net' at the expense of the college studies.

Monday 14th October

FREE

Barn Dance

8.00pm



Ante Room - Sherfield Building

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60/1

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ICU Elections

ANDREW SMITH

With less than one week of the new college year completed Union elections are already in sight with an unprecedented three Imperial College Union Officer positions up for grabs. The Transport, Welfare and Women's Officer positions are due to be filled early next week with just one candidate standing for each of the jobs.

The eight ordinary members of Council, elected by the students rather than being ex-officio members, are also due to be chosen on Tuesday, at the first Council meeting of the year. Two of these members must be first year students and another two must be postgraduate students. As Felix went to press the postgraduate positions were the only ones which had not provoked any interest.

The Transport Officer post is being sought by Duncan Tindall, Civil Engineering, who at the end of last year failed in his attempt to become Council Chair. Mr Tindall is fully seconded but it appears that his former seconder has withdrawn his support, with his name being crossed of the Election Papers. The only candidate for Transport Officer also faces the difficulty of not having been a Minibus Driver for two years. Union sources were unable to confirm whether this is a requirement for the position and whether Mr Tindall

would be ineligible for election.

Heather Whitney is the only candidate for of Women's Officer, a position which has become vacant with the resignation of last year's elected student. She is understood to be spending a year in Sweden despite having previously been elected Women's Officer. Ms Whitney, Biology Dept., is proposed by Neil Mothew and is fully seconded.

The sole candidate for the position of Welfare Officer is Emma Dedman from the Physics Department. This election is necessary as the previously elected candidate, Anne Ovens, must take a year out and retake exams in June 1997. Ms Dedman is proposed by Paolo Cuomo from Elec Eng, and is also fully seconded.

The candidates for Ordinary Members of the Council include some familiar names with Royal College of Science Union current and former officers, Rob Park and Matt Szyndel standing for election. Mr Park is the current RCSU Hon Sec and Mr Szyndel is the former RCSU Academic Affairs Officer. Both candidates have proposers and are likely to be fully seconded by the time elections start. With nominations staying open until Tuesday evening, and as all college students are eligible to vote more candidates are expected to make their intentions known closer to the election date.

Successful fair for 'Active' Freshers



PHOTO: WEI LEE

Members of the Circus Skills Society Showing off their moves at Tuesday's Freshers' Fair.

The Imperial College Union Fresher's Fair, held last Tuesday throughout college, proved a great success with a huge turnout attracted by more than a hundred stands.

Sarah Corneille, ICU Vice-President Clubs and Societies, expressed satisfaction saying "I think that things went as smoothly as could be expected. We seem to have quite an active bunch of freshers this year."

Neither Living Marxism or the Tory Reform Group were to be found amongst the stands in a change to the published list of exhibitors. The only note of discord on Tuesday afternoon was provided by an extremist Muslim group. They were forced to leave the Queen's Lawn by Union stewards and the Sheffield walkway area by College Security after handing out a leaflet espousing their fanatical views.

Stripper acts for C&G freshers

JONATHAN TROUT AND ANDREW SMITH

A male and female stripper upset the usually staid atmosphere of the City and Guilds Union Freshers' welcome held at the Royal Geographical Society last Monday. Sir Ronald Oxburgh's speech was followed by the stage show which is believed to have cost just £50.00.

To the wide eyed bemusement of the assembled freshers the pair of strippers got up on the stage, did their act and disappeared. The C&G Union are believed to have organised the display.

Margaret Goodgame, Senior Tutor to the College and one of the digni-

taries present during the official welcome of freshers, described the antics as 'awful'. She said that students should not have to put up with displays such as that witnessed on Monday, and that it is likely that some students would have found it 'unpleasant and upsetting'.

While Dr Goodgame has not received any complaints about the show put on by C&G, she suggest that this may be due to students being too shy to come forward. The Senior Tutor does not see any way in which the Union could be disciplined since they did not break any specific rules.

Professor Julia Higgins, Dean of the C&G, denied that she was con-

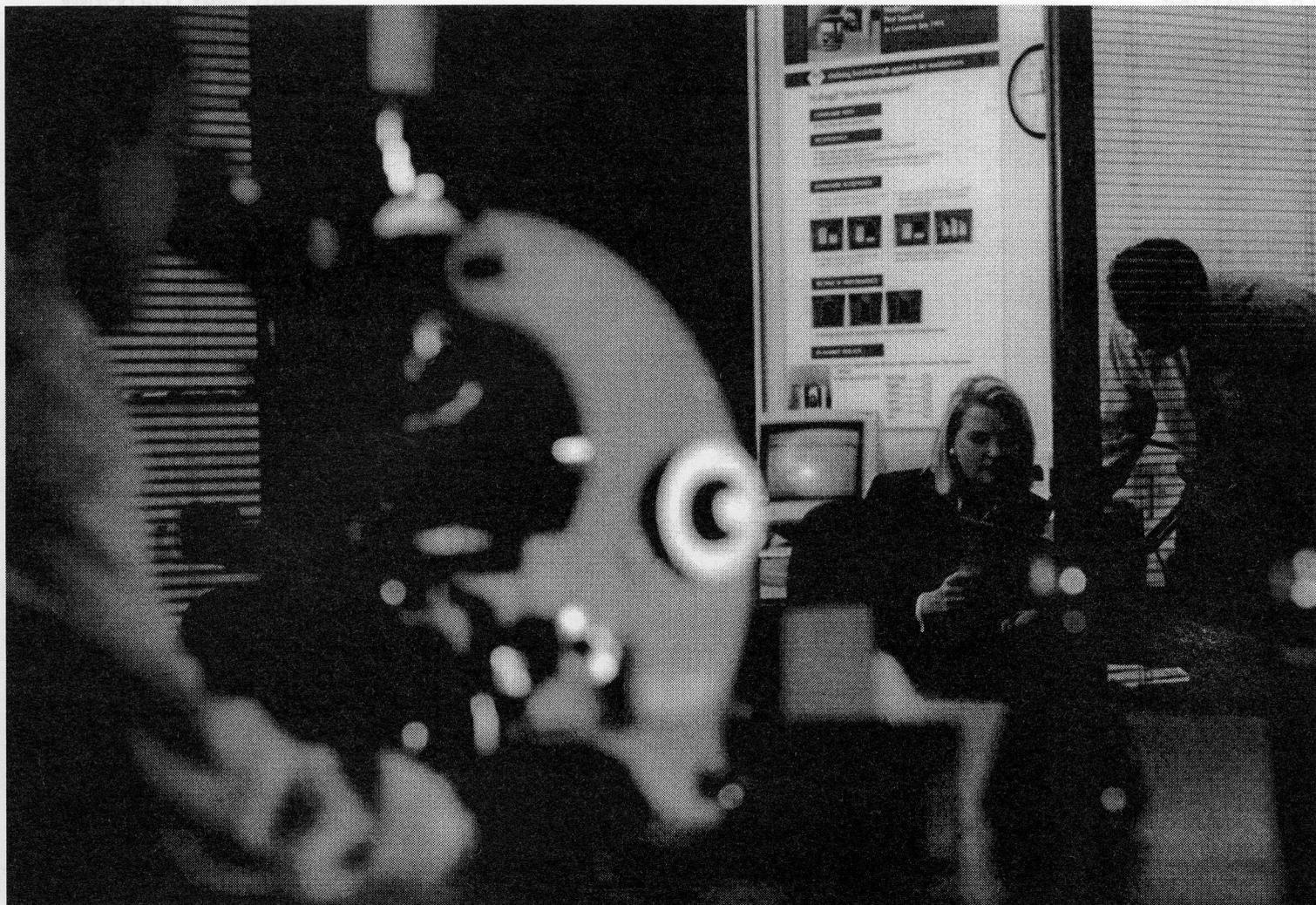
cerned by the events saying, "I am not aware that there was any problem with what may have occurred." The events took place after she and the other dignitaries had left the stage. Dr Gareth Jones, College's other Senior Tutors, who was also present prior to the display was not so dismissive of the strippers.

Dr Jones said that he was "very disturbed to hear that this occurred". He expressed anger at the event, which he was unaware was planned to follow the 'formal session'. It is understood that The Royal Geographical Society is also unhappy about the change of program. While they have received a letter of

apology from the City and Guilds Union President, Guarav Misra, no decision has been made with regard to future events.

IC Union President Eric Allsop commented: "I had heard rumours that such a stunt might take place, and had advised C&GU that this would probably be a mistake, although how they present themselves to the student body is ultimately their decision."

Mo Dulloo, Royal College of Science Union President, indicated that his organisation had no need for such displays saying that "we used simple interactive techniques to keep the crowd going."



Procter and Gamble Applications - Closing Dates 1996-1997

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Vacation Work for Penultimate Year. Life Scientist	29th October
Christmas Courses in R&D Management for final year	29th October
Postgraduate and undergraduate scientists and engineers	
Milk round applications	13th January 1997

Product Supply (Manufacturing)

Internship	31st October
Christmas courses in Product Supply Management	31st October

All application forms are available from departmental careers advisors and the careers services. The completed forms should be forwarded to the careers service, who will co-ordinate interview dates directly.

Procter & Gamble
The fast track to responsibility

A philosophy by Jonathan Trout

Humans: 1

Animals: 0

There comes a time in every man's life when he has to stand up and be counted. There I was, minding my own business walking through Newcastle's Eldon Square when I was accosted by a joyless animal rights activist yelling at me about the terrible plight of some mangy kittens in a lab and some badly looked after veal in a crate. I told him, quite to his dissatisfaction, to piss off. Allow me to explain:

The Western relationship to animals in the later part of the twentieth century is based on guilt. If we eat them, first we must determine how were they treated, how they were slaughtered, are they organic, are they free-range, are they from a stress-free environment? Frankly I don't give a shit. Many of the people eating would struggle to match the lifestyle and health of what is put before them on their plate. OK, if it makes my cutlet taste any better, give it the occasional breath of fresh air. If my steak will be leaner, let them stretch their legs. If it won't drive up the price of my pork chop you can put the pig in a hammock and fix it a Pina Colada for all I care. Just don't ask me to shed a tear for Daisy as I'm tucking into my cowpie.

I have no guilt, don't try to make me feel guilty. Whats to be guilty about? Are we not at the top of the food chain? Our ancestors used all their ingenuity, guile and cunning to husband edible beasts so that they didn't have to charge around a forest all day with a spear. They selected and bred the fattest, stupidest and tastiest creatures to simplify the process of sinking their teeth into something dead and appetising. How dare we throw this achievement back in their faces? We eat meat because

we are the smartest predators. If a cow could corral, feed and breed me, I would take my straw hat off to him on the way to the abattoir. As the hammer swung down on my thick, hairy, stupid-enough-to-be-caught-and-branded head I would marvel at the genius of my slaughterers.

But no. We aren't allowed to say that. We aren't allowed to think that. Animals are our friends, so much so they are kind enough to share with us the bounty of their bloodstreams. Rabies, Weills disease, typhoid, malaria. Tigers kill their keepers, dogs maul their owners, cats shit all over the house, pigeons have the unabashed gall to actually shit on us. How lucky we are to have them as our little pals.

Earwigs crawl in your ears, bees fly up your nose, and there is even a fish in South American lakes that will swim up a man's stream of urine into his penis, lock itself in with spikes and bloody well live there. God bless them, every one.

We aren't allowed even to think that animals are there for our entertainment either. How dare we hunt foxes? The farmer's friend, the ramblers' companion. Filthy? Diseased? Predatory? Not the fox, surely? Spurring on horses over field and fell, totally against their own will, forcing hounds to tear the fox to pieces at gunpoint, most probably causing them serious emotional trauma (requiring therapy, no doubt).

What's wrong with us? Nothing, that's what. Want to know why people hunt animals? Because its a bloody good laugh, that's why. Harmless traditional pastimes like

hare-coursing and badger-gassing – pursuits that livened up many a rural gathering – have been wiped from the agenda of good clean fun. Let's face it, an animal in distress is just good plain, old-fashioned hilarious. I just wish that they'd made more of BSE. If they'd chosen, say, a dozen particularly mad cows, boss-eyed, dribbling wobbly legged ones and toured the country, it'd have been a sell out. Visiting schools with the stumbling, frothing animals would have been, I imagine, particularly rewarding. One can almost hear the peals of children's laughter ringing through playground up and down the land.

Luckily there are still parts of the world where animals are treated with the contempt they deserve. In Perigord the geese get what's coming to them in no uncertain terms. The French, an admirably unsentimental bunch when it comes to animals, nail the live goose to the floor and proceed to stuff the bird with buckets of corn, until the animal quite literally

explodes. A vile practice? Barbaric? If you like. One taste of the resultant liver of said goose, however, and the expression "Too

fucking bad" springs readily to mind.

Spain, of course, is always worth a visit for the bull-fighting, but there are festivals also, which may offend, where one can beat a blindfolded donkey with a club, stone a blinded ass, throw a goat from a castle parapet or simply kick the heads off chickens buried up to their necks in sand. Ask your travel agent for details.

Vivisection. Now there's a topic always bound to drive a few rational, caring libertarians into mindless, baby-maiming terrorists. The most vociferous opponents of vivisection, like my friend in Newcastle, are only

distinguishable from animals in having worse teeth and the ability to walk on two legs. Just. The louder they bay that animals have the same rights as humans, the more we realise that what they mean is "I was bullied at school and my only friend is a hamster". I am tempted to say here that these people should be pitied rather than ridiculed. But I won't, they should be injected with powerful isotopes and have Geiger counters sewn into their necks, studied under laboratory conditions and then, when they cease to serve any useful purpose, they should be stamped to death. Vivisection is medically valid, and while the image of a rabbit in Hot Cherry lip gloss is a little absurd... hell no, sorry, no remorse, why shouldn't cosmetics be tested on them too? Come to that, why don't they test pencils on animals? And housebricks? Cassette tape, spiral bound notebooks, coat-hangers? They're animals! What are they going to do? Revolt? Complain to their MP? Why shouldn't a monkey have its eyes put out to ensure my shampoo doesn't sting? A lot of very sick people are kept from abducting and torturing small children by their valuable work in vivisection. Let us not forget that.

Humans read and write. They build and destroy because they can conceive of doing so. They philosophise. They have faith. They have reason. If anyone tries to tell you that a chimpanzee pushing a stick into an anthill to eat ants is an achievement on a par with the launch of a space shuttle, that person is an idiot. If the chimp could really think it'd use the stick to pick its teeth whilst it dialled for an ant pizza from Domino. If man is vicious and crass it is because he deserves to be. You know it's true. We evolved better and faster than anything else.

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IC construction projects:

Robin Riley decides to follow up a few strange telephone calls...

This Monday, the *Felix* office received a telephone call from a 'College health and safety representative.' If that sounds a rather hazy description, it's because he asked us not to name him. We'll call him Mr A. Mr A. had called to comment upon the article in *Felix* last week concerning the roof collapse outside the library... not to deny it, but to praise it. He also had a few things he'd like me to jot down, and put me onto a friend of his, whom for simplicity's sake we'll call Mr B. I called Mr B. on Wednesday, and discovered he was part of the College's finance division. He had some things he wanted to get off his chest, and also wished to remain anonymous. Sensing my intrigue, Mr B. suggested that for more specific details I contact a certain Mr C from the College's Estates division. He [that is, Mr B.] also suggested that I shouldn't tell him [that is, Mr C.] that it was he [that is, Mr B.] that had given me his [that is, Mr C's] extension number, or that I had spoken to anyone else [Mr A, that is.]

Messrs. A and B had called to express concern at the level of safety among the tangled web of construction sites around College. They had also called to express concern at the level of concern among the tangled web of staff around College at the level of safety among the tangled web of construction sites around College.

Confused? So was I. Was this some bizarre bureaucratic fantasy, the product of one of the many diseased minds lurking within the Sherfield building? No... All three are real people. Mr A. and Mr B. will remain anonymous, and those aren't their initials. Mr C, meanwhile, is our dear friend, Ian Caldwell, much maligned director of Estates and broadly responsible for the development, refurbishing and maintenance of buildings on campus...

I'm not entirely sure whether to treat the testimonies of Mr A and Mr

B as brave moral crusades on behalf of their colleagues, unsubstantiated gossip or rants against no-one in particular, but between them they described no less than five (yes, five) serious breaches of safety having occurred on College sites in the last six months. So here they are for you all to peruse. Admittedly, there's a small difference between a straight 'list' of five incidents and a 'top five countdown' of incidents, so I'm

summer it turned the wrong way and crashed into the Chemistry building. Mr A. actually tried to play this one down, claiming the crane only "brushed against the side of the building." I wasn't particularly convinced that cranes and buildings can merely 'brush' against each other, and so was protected from the shock by a healthy shell of cynicism when Mr B. added this was no isolated incident, but in fact "quite common."



sorry if I slip into that sort of writing at any point. If that's what you'd prefer, however, then try humming the old 'Top of the pops' theme as you read the next section...

Firstly, some facts about the largest of the two cranes on the BMS building construction site... It's 61 meters tall, it's stabilised by blocks of concrete weighing a total of 100 tonnes, it's provided by a company called Hewden Stuart, and over the

Secondly, anyone watching the top of the main library over the summer will have seen two mini-dozers, being used for clearing the roof in preparation for the two new 'greenhouse' glass-clad storeys. Not to be outdone by the cranes, one of the dozers was moving debris when the roof beneath it partially gave way, dropping large chunks of concrete into the library below. According to Mr A, the dozer itself very nearly fol-

lowed. An investigation revealed that the beams of the roof were timber and not concrete as first thought, and that the driver would have to dye the rest of the seat brown to match. The incident was officially recorded as 'dangerous' but library staff were assured that there would be no further problems with any part of the roof. Oops.

Straight in at number three... My sources were slightly at odds over the specifics, but to cut a long story short the small pins which hold the large pins which hold the block and tackle on one of the cranes were left off. This caused the block and tackle to fall. Neither Mr A. nor Mr B. would hazard a guess as to how far it fell, but both agreed it was far enough to snap the steel cables and leave a considerable dent in Franklin Road, behind the science museum. According to Mr B, the accident occurred during maintenance when the block and tackle should have been on the ground. Mr A. remarked how anyone standing below would have been 'lucky' enough to be hit by a block and tackle weighing only 1 tonne... had it happened slightly earlier they would also have been hit by a concrete load weighing around 4 tonnes. Both of my sources grew very excited when they spoke of this accident, how it was extremely significant and had led to a high-level Health and Safety Executive investigation, which may result in design changes in cranes of this type.

The fourth incident is rapidly becoming an IC legend. Due to a breakdown of hand signals between engineers directing operations from the ground, a crane carrying several tonnes of steel reinforcing rods accidentally put them through the window of a computer room in the Chemistry building. Both Mr A. and Mr B. told me with glee that there were four people in the room at the time, but I prefer Mr B's version where a student left his chair just a

more difficult than ABC.

few seconds before the space above it was filled with steel. Did I mention who provided the cranes? Oh yes... It was Hewden Stuart.

The final blunder you should already be familiar with; namely the deciduous concrete above the walkway outside the library. This gets top billing because it was the nearest we got to actually killing anybody. After last week's somewhat hurried report, I can now confirm that no-one was injured, everyone involved has calmed down and that the collapse was probably caused by the wrong gauge of steel reinforcement having been used in the roof. According to Ian Gillet, the Health and Safety Executive have been informed, but don't appear to be planning an investigation.

Both conspirators admitted that this was the incident that had spurred them into speaking out. Mr A. commented: "The odds are stacking up against them... I know they're working in a crowded environment but if incidents and accidents continue at this rate, somebody's going to get seriously hurt."

Mr B. added "I think that a lot of people in the college are very worried... there are serious accidents waiting to happen."

That's as far as they would go, leaving me with only one option... My notes prepared and ready for a fight, I nervously dialled the number I had been given for the mysterious Mr C. Ian Caldwell's secretary answered;

"He's on site at the moment. Why don't you call back tomorrow?"

Call back I did. Several times in fact. Charming and patient though she was, the director of Estates' secretary was unable to bring him to the phone. Her responses to my frequent calls included:

"He's in a meeting."

"He's still in a meeting; his meetings are stacking up." [presumably like planes at Heathrow.]

"He's just disappeared into Suite Five." [the rector's offices.]

"I don't know where he is... I sup-

pose that's not a very good thing for a secretary to say, really." And finally, with genuine concern:

chance to reply... maybe he really is that busy. The point of this article is not to make College's director of



The proposed library extension will be permanently concealed by the cunning use of trees.

"Sorry... I'm beginning to think he's hiding from me."

True, I ought to have persisted, and it isn't fair to criticise the elusive Mr Caldwell without giving him a

Estates the scapegoat for student gripes, as has been a trend for *Felix* in the recent past. In fact, Both Mr A. and Mr B. expressed fullest confidence in the College administration. This isn't particularly that surprising

'The fourth incident is rapidly becoming an IC legend.'



People that build greenhouses shouldn't throw stones.

considering they're both part of it, but remember; the information they gave was freely volunteered.

Mr A. refused to be drawn as to who was responsible for the problems, but Mr B. had no hesitation in laying the blame firmly at the feet of the contractors:

"Schal [the main contractors for the works] are charging IC the top rate, and they are a top company, but the site helmets I've seen are a dead give-away that cheaper firms are being used for much of the labour." He explained that Schal Construction Management use different sub-contractors for the different aspects of the work... These sub-contractors then use a variety of smaller firms, which in turn employ agencies who actually hire the site workers. By the time the agencies, smaller firms, sub-contractors and Schal have creamed off their profit, the College is not getting value for money. In addition, although College's Finance division performs credit checks to protect IC in the case of a contractor going out of business, some of these smaller firms may be extremely prone to bankruptcy, especially over the duration of large projects such as the Campus Renaissance. Mr B. also warned that, as a result of this hierarchy, there were breakdowns of communication and "...a prevalence of lower-end labour." Thus, no matter how hard College (or indeed Schal) try to maintain safety standards, accidents will continue to happen...

I called Schal Construction Management twice on two different numbers, pretending to be two different people, but was twice referred back to Estates division. As a result, I have no reply from them to the comments made by Messrs. A and B. Nor do I have any real confirmation of the incidents they describe. So who do we believe? And who has the power to improve the safety of our campus?

Mr Caldwell is 41, but his secretary was unable to confirm this.

Simon Baker - Voice of Reason

Now that Imperial is firing on at least three cylinders, it is inevitable that the old *causes celebres* should come to the fore. For those new to South Ken, the biggest of these is Campus Renaissance, the master plan to turn IC into Europe's largest building site, now that the Channel Tunnel is finished. It is a little known fact Anderson Consulting rally their new recruits in Chicago to the strains of 'Simply the Best.' Presumably Schal International will fire up their contractors' spirits with Lulu's 1969 Eurovision entry 'Boom Bang-A-Bang', following last week's little incident. When I first heard about 'something falling from the library', I thought it was a bit serious. Having read that the falling chunk weighed four tonnes and almost hit someone, I am staggered at the seemingly bla-

tant negligence of persons involved in this project. The possible consequences of such an accident had it happened this week are obvious. Without wishing to pre-empt the inquiry, the College or Schal must be expecting to be moved several fathoms down the Christmas card list of the Health and Safety Executive. For my dear friend Ian Caldwell, this is probably not how he wanted the year to start.

However, having managed to avoid the C word last week to the surprise of regular readers, I must genuinely congratulate him on his letter in that thunderer of the press IC Reporter, proving that his reticence in replying to attacks in the media are only limited to this esteemed publication. In Distorter, he said, of the Sheffield

Committee rooms (there must be thousands of them, given the way they 'work' in that building) that 'their condition has been subject to criticism and they were, frankly a disgrace to the College...the condition of such facilities is noted by visitors to the College and it is therefore essential that they should be of a reasonable standard.' I have never seen this key facility, but I'll take his word for it. He is, of course, right about public perception. In view of this I have invited our Chancellor, the Princess Royal, to have a BLT with me in the JCR, safe in the knowledge that she walks in the footsteps of architects, builders and decorators. The JCR is, by virtue of its proximity to the walkway, seen by a lot of important people. It is 'frankly a disgrace to the College.' I know that stu-

dents are no more than a necessary evil, but since most open days include a visit to this tatty dump, it could prove highly counter-productive in recruiting more affluent students should fees become the norm (ooh, bit of politics, ladies and gentlemen).

No time to mention the Conservative shenanigans. I seem to have got as much stick about Lord McAlpine and Neil Hamilton as the party chairman. I shall end on a lighter note. Ever keen to give you, dear reader, value for money, may I suggest you slip on your dancing shoes and head on down to Voyager at The Complex this or any Friday. One of me all time favourite techno clubs of all time, mate. Not 'arf.

PERSONAL ADDICTIONS:

"I'M ONLY WATCHING IT BECAUSE IT'S ON"

If you are anything like me then you may well have experienced daytime television. You know the feeling, sitting in your dressing gown with a cup of tea and a fag, lazing around your flat watching Richard and Judy. Why? What purpose does daytime television serve? Take, for example, Rikki Lake. You may or may not have seen Rikki's show but, in a nutshell, average Americans go on the show to share their problems with the entire nation in an attempt to make themselves feel better. Obviously when I say average American I mean an overweight twenty year old girl, with twelve children who has just overcome her drug addiction with the help of her counsellor. What makes these people want to tell several million people, that they have never met, their entire life story on a low quality daytime show? Who knows, but with show themes like "Overweight lesbian couples who have been abducted by aliens and forced into weight loss programmes", it makes you wonder where they come from.

I only happen to occasionally stumble across these daytime oddities, but what about the audiences? From what I have seen they are all old women who have just stepped in from the cold and been roped into it by a studio executive, with a couple of people from racial minorities thrown in for good measure. Even with a bizarre audience and an even more bizarre choice of topics these programmes seem to get more popular by the minute, with a new version springing up every thirty seconds, ranging from serious discussion about today's cutting social issues, including several on-camera fights between feuding second cousins, to twenty year old college drop-outs who wanted to say thanks to their mums, with appropriate tears streaming from Rikki/Oprah/Vanessa's face (Delete as appropriate). Then, just when I thought that these programmes were only made in America and bought up by the BBC to fill space, up pops Esther, and another hour of off-peak viewing has bitten the dust, which I will, of course, watch to the bitter end.

THE WEEKLY POEM

supplied by PoetiC

Invaders

They arrived unheard.
A few words were spoken;
a token glance.
They danced on a Sunday,
when all were asleep;
danced in the deep of a 2D screen.
The scene? Afternoon.
A distant tune slept on the breeze:
A key turn a lock,
the clock ticked to three.
The cartoon on TV
came to an end.
They pretended to play,
with sound circuits dead:
Just a dying day;
no more was said.
Waiting for a coin, maybe two,
they gave no clues, no inspiration;
just cheap imitations of a dead desire.
A ship caught fire near a neutron star.
A game of pool, a barren bar
with deserted stools.
A half finished half... distant laughter.
Insistent in the 40 watt shadows,
they squatted low, watching the room,
through the gloom flashing over and over
PLAYER 1 INSERT COIN GAME OVER

This poem taken from A Selection of Member's Poetry, published by PoetiC, the society for creative writing at Imperial College.

PoetiC welcomes new members. If you would like more details about PoetiC, please contact the publicity officer Keith McNulty on k.mcnulty@ic.ac.uk or the chairman Ed Sexton on e.sexton@ic.ac.uk

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An application form is also available via our Internet Home Page: <http://www.sbil.co.uk>

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ICU ENTERTAINMENTS

AS FROM TONIGHT, 11TH OCTOBER, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT FRIDAYS, UNION CARDS WILL BE NEEDED FOR ACCESS TO ENTERTAINMENTS IN THE UNION

LEVERHULME TRUST INDIVIDUAL AWARDS 1997

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The Leverhulme Trust is offering three different individual awards: Study Abroad Studentships, Emeritus Fellowships and Research Fellowships and Grants. Applications are welcome from all subject areas.

There are approximately 20 Study Abroad Studentships available for all areas except the UK and the USA. The award consists of £11,410 per annum and return air fares. (Form SAS2)

There are approximately 35 Emeritus Fellowships available. The maximum award available is £15,500. (Form F6)

There are approximately 75 Fellowships and Grants available to individuals in aid of original research. These awards are not available simply as replacement for past support from other sources. The maximum award available is £15,500. (Form F2)

Further details and application forms can be obtained from The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter lane, London EC4A1NR.

CAREERS INFORMATION

Final year undergraduates and postgraduates should receive, in the first week of term, a personal copy of the Careers Choice programme which includes details of Event, Careers Talks, Interactive Workshops, Employer presentations and the Milkround. Spare copies are available in the Careers Service.

CAREERS TALKS

There are two Careers Talks this week in the Clore Lecture Theatre - LT 213 Huxley at 1pm to 1.50pm. No booking is necessary, just turn up.

Tuesday 8th October. "Introducing the Careers Service" by John Simpson, Director, IC Careers Service.

Thursday 10th October. "Graduate Study in the USA" by Dr David Stuckey, a former US Scholar and now in Chemical Engineering.

Warning - Although there may be more vacancies in 1997, the competition will still be severe.

Advice - Apply early, visit the Careers Service and use the Milkround. For further information come to the Careers Service, Room 310 Sherfield - phone extension 48024 - open from 10 am to 5.15 pm Monday to Friday.

Internet - View the Careers Service Homepage on:

<http://www.ad.ic.ac.uk/registry/careers/index.htm>.

ICU COUNCIL MEETING

The first Council meeting of the year will be on tue 15th october at 1800 in the Union dining hall. it is extremely important that all ICU Officers and representatives attend. During this meeting there will also be elections for the following position Transport Officer, Welfare Officer, Women's Officer, 8 ordinary members to council (2 first year and 2 PG), 4 ordinary members to the Executive, 2 ordinary members to the Union Finance Committee, 4 ordinary members to the Refectory Services Committee and 3 ordinary members to the House Committee. All members of the Union are entitled, and invited, to attend.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS IN THE READ THEATRE THURSDAYS 1PM

Now is the time to enter into your calendar the concerts which will be given in term time between 17 October and 13 March. Alternatively, contact Ainslee Rutledge (e-mail a.rutledge) who will then stimulate you electronically before each performance.

Last year we heard music written during the past 400 years, up to the present, by more than 50 composers. The range will be similarly wide this season. The IC concerts, which were launched in 1950 by Harold Allan of Physics and David Tombs of Electrical Engineering, have 'talent-spotted' several now world-famous artists, some of whom still visit us after 20 years and more. Bernard Roberts, who gave the 700th concert in 1981 will be with us on 28 November try his recent pair of CDs on the Nimbus label of all of Hindemith's piano music.

Apart from the sufficient condition of enjoying it, there are many other benefits from regularly listening to music in this tradition. The value of musical therapy is well-established and recent studies, reported in Nature and elsewhere, show that musical experience and training of young children cross-fertilise other mental skills. This has yet to be established objectively at university level (and surely the musical IC community would be ideal for such a study) but is a pretty good bet.

It seems likely that verbal communication can be improved through effects on stresses and pitches in speech patterns. It certainly also helps to increase attention span, counteracting the unfortunate influence of modern media.

The standards of dedication and

intellectual intensity set by professional musicians, particularly as soloists or in small groups, are exemplary even for those who work in disciplines as demanding as science and technology.

Thus music appeals to a much wider social spectrum than most other art forms; it is the most universal of the arts and provides a viewpoint of social, political and technical history in the West over the last four centuries (since, say, the birth of Galileo in 1564).

Most classical music is strongly structured in rhythm and melody, a feature which new listeners can find daunting. Sometimes the structures are quite complicated and sometimes even intentionally concealed (most notoriously in some works of Alban Berg which took fifty years to decipher fully). It is important to know that it is not necessary to recognise the structures explicitly; the subconscious can recognise them subliminally. If you wish to explore further the structure of a particular piece, you could try the Haldane Library's excellent music collection of compact discs, tapes, books and scores.

It does take time.

The choice between Classic FM and Radio 3 is often settled in the minds of individual listeners by the wish to hear live performances. Live televised performances give the opportunity for enhanced immediacy, but there is actually no substitute for being there, to witness creation in the raw.

Be there for the Mühlfeld Trio playing the Brahms Clarinet Trio on 17 October and give the other hemisphere of your brain a break! Contact Ainslee Rutledge NOW.



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

arse

It's not been a good week for me really (I'm not Alex, I'm Mark... Alex is currently panicking so I'm filling in). Firstly I got the 'IC Cold & Cough' that's topping the misery-charts currently. This has knackered me totally, and thus I've been forced to bed at the early time of before 11pm every night this week.

more arse

This is probably a good thing though, as collating has hit critical mass; the collating machine is broken, and won't be fixed until next week. As for SftW, the printing went wrong and so the pages are in a somewhat random order. Sorry about that.

even more arse

So now I'm probably not going to get to bed until 5am, if that. Why? Because we've got to hand collate the 32 page SFTW, and so far there are only 5 of us doing it. There are about 5000 copies of SFTW, on 8 pages... so that's far too many bits of paper each. Don't be suprised if you're reading this next Wednesday.

but it's not all bad

No, really. My timetable's quite good this year - except for Friday, when I start at 9am and finish at 6pm. However, there's a compulsory group project soon, and the groups are assigned by the lecturers, so we don't get to choose ourselves. You might not think that's really so bad, but I'm doing computing, so most of my fellow Comp3'ers are rather sad

anorak types (sorry to the rest that aren't).

relief

Right, I've stopped panicking now, and I have reached that strange stage of calm that follows the sudden dawn of realisation that a sleepness night lies ahead.

This is Alex again, and not Mark, by the way and as you may have gathered, it has been a rather difficult week. Exploding collating machines isn't the half of it. Freshers' Fair, the start of lectures for the Felix regulars, the late nights, the wine, women and song, and the absolute deadlines.

As elaborated elsewhere in this publication, there have been a number of Health and Safety problems around College recently This has rightly concerned a number of staff and students alike, particularly when areas such as the library have been subject to gross oversights in construction.

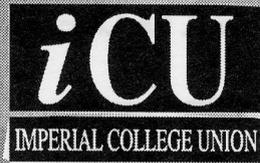
Although accidents and errors are bound to happen in projects as large as the Bio-medical Sciences building and the Library refurbishment, as far as possible those areas that are heavily used should not be a risk to those who use them. This applies equally to sloppy concreting as to cutting through a fire alarm cable.

Do 'accidents waiting to happen' have to happen before suitable precautions or latent preventative action is taken? Are the checks on standards and safety that College abide by being as stringently followed by those it entrusts with keeping them? Accidents shouldn't happen before we find out.

NEWS: ANDREW DORMAN SMITH AND SONIA, FEATURES: JON TROUT AND ROBIN RILEY, PUZZLES: DUNCAN ROBERTSON, ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT: MARK, HELPFULNESS: VIK, WEI AND SARAH COLLATING LAST WEEK: JEREMY, MARK, WEI, ROBIN, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO'S NAMES ESCAPE ME FOR THE MOMENT.

Produced for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board
 Printed by Imperial College Union Print Unit by Andy and Jeremy, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Telephone/fax: 0171 594 8072
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Elimination by Clansman

- a) Subterranean Guide?
- b) Two homonyms.
- c) Water holder hoping for the best!
- d) Two for drinks holder.
- e) Spoken notes?
- f) Two with band.
- g) Unhappy garden.
- h) Two sports.
- i) Unreadable expression.
- j) Two synonyms.
- k) Two forming a good offer!
- l) Two anagrams.
- m) Light covering?
- n) Two for transportable communicator.
- o) Meal hoard.
- p) Two making kitchen utensil.
- q) Youth organisation.
- r) Two with side.
- s) Place of learning!
- t) Two making water chute?

- 1. bar
- 2. map
- 3. top
- 4. evil
- 5. face
- 6. gain
- 7. golf
- 8. lamp
- 9. like
- 10. live
- 11. pipe
- 12. sure
- 13. tube
- 14. well
- 15. wine
- 16. yard
- 17. blank
- 18. bread
- 19. drain
- 20. grain
- 21. grave

- 22. knife
- 23. phone
- 24. shade
- 25. shore
- 26. store
- 27. track
- 28. union
- 29. vocal
- 30. wagon
- 31. bottle
- 32. chords
- 33. mobile
- 34. relish
- 35. rubber
- 36. college
- 37. sailing
- 38. student
- 39. totally
- 40. wishing
- 41. imperial

Eliminations: Simple really. Look at the statements above and try and find two words from the list on the right that match it.

Keep going, and you should find that you have eliminated all but one of the words.

Solution to issue 1063's Crossword:

Across: 1. Wooden Spoon; 9. Audio; 10. Bolstered; 11. Echelon; 12. Orion; 13. Seven; 15. Evil Man; 17. Diptych; 18. Topical; 20. Siberia; 22. No Win; 24. State; 26. Mammoth; 27. Evergreen; 28. Ounce; 29. Mother-in-law. **Down:** 2. Odour; 3. Despoil; 4. Saracen; 5. Ordered; 6. Nacho; 7. Odd Lawyer; 8. Coin A Phrase; 12. Over The Moon; 13. Satan; 14. Nip In; 16. Implement; 19. Low Heat; 20. Sincere; 21. Enter In; 23. Totem; 25. Theta.

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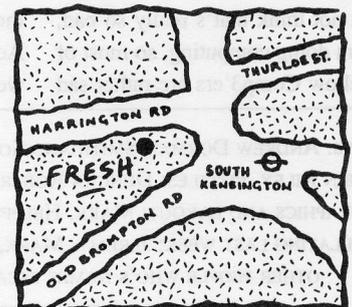
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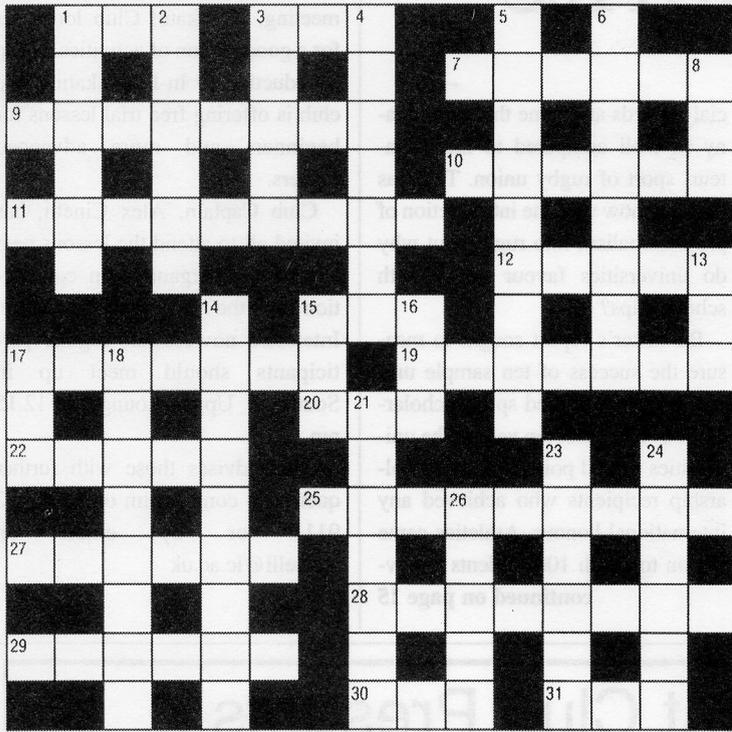
continued from backpage

ing international honours. Sixty eight of these came from one university, Loughborough, which is famous for its sporting scholars. Rugby itself came second with a massive 86 students achieving international fame, which equates to nearly 6 international sides. Football came way down on the list with only nine students representing their country at

international level. This demonstrates the lowly position of football. Now that rugby has gone professional, the future of sport in universities at elite level looks less secure. The helping hand attitude from so many institutions could well change in the medium term, with the emphasis shifting attention to the financial rewards away from students' studies. Imperial College itself is one of the

few higher education institutions that do not offer sports scholarships to students. However, this doesn't seem to have an affect on the success of some college sports, most notably the boat club, but then the College's tradition of excellence has led them to build on this success with financial backing and world class facilities for the club. This has had the result, though, of producing a shortfall of

funding for the other college sports. This year, for the first time, sports teams may benefit from money put aside for coaching, thus allowing them to compete more effectively in interuniversity sport. But an inability to attract young sportsmen and women may well make these efforts in vain.
Written with the help of Charles Randall of the Daily Telegraph.



The Daily Telegraph

Sports Crossword

Felix has teamed up with the *Daily Telegraph* to bring you the opportunity to test your knowledge of summer sport and win yourselves a £25 Sports voucher and three runners-up prizes of a *Daily Telegraph* T-shirt.

All you have to do is rack your brains over the crossword on the left, get your solutions to Felix by Monday 21st October, and the winner will be announced in the following issue. The first correct entry drawn out of a hat or other similar receptacle will win a sports voucher for £25. The first three runners up will receive an exclusive *Daily Telegraph* T-shirt. We might be able to find some other stuff for the next couple of runners up.

Rules of entry:

Competition open to all members of Imperial College except those involved in Felix. Entries to be marked 'Telegraph Sports Crossword'. Entries to arrive no later than 2.00 pm Monday 21st October, entries after this time will not be accepted, except at the editor's discretion. Winners will be notified through Felix, so if you enter, don't forget to read the next issue.

ACROSS

1. ____, Weir an Olympic discus thrower or Holness, presenter of Blockbusters (3)
2. Abbreviation for the country which boasts Greg Norman, Shane Warne and Mark Bosnich (3)
7. Women's 100m Olympic Champion (6)
9. Scottish mum and former World Champion, 16th in the Olympic women's marathon. (8)
10. Patrik at football, Gerhard in motor racing (6)
11. Where Alan Shearer went for £15 million (9)
12. Marathon stars run on them, Tour de France cyclists ride on them (5)
15. The governing body of Tennis (1,1,1)
17. Formula One cars driven by Rubens Barichello and Martin Brundle this season (7)
19. Delivery perfected by Anil Kumble and Mushtaq Ahmed or film starring Paul Hogan and a dolphin (7)
20. This sport's governing body held its Olympic trials in Birmingham in June(1,1,1)
22. Golf shot out of a bunker (5)
25. 1996 Formula One champion? (5,4)
27. Yachting class in which Britian's Shirley Robertson finished fourth in Atlanta; what premier league clubs strive to qualify for each season (6)
28. Spurs and England Euro 96 star (8)
29. Double winners Manchester United are know as the Red ____ (6)
30. Nickname for basketball star Michael Jordan; completely missed the ball in golf (3)
31. South African who was runner-up in the Open Championship at Royal Lytham (3)

DOWN

1. German tennis star who had to retire from Wimbledon with a wrist injury (6)
2. Martin Offiah became one when he moved to London from Wigan in July (6)
3. ____, Fraser; Middlesex and England cricketer (5)
4. Sleeveless vest worn by athletes (7)
5. Man who cheered up gliding Sunderland to promotion form Division One in May (5,4)
6. Arsenal and Holland striker (8)
8. Prefix for Alf Ramsey, Stanley Matthews, and Richard Hadlee but not Geoff Boycott (3)
13. Abbreviation for Surrey or Surinam (3)
14. Olympic sport played in the pool (5,4)
15. National body whose Olympic trials were held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield (1,1,1)
16. Football authority who threatened strike action this summer (1,1,1)
17. Gazza fractured this once and had to were a protective mask (3)
18. Rower who entered the Olympic record books in Atlanta witha fourth successive gold (8)
21. Birmingham, site of Olympic football action this summer, is in this US state (7)
23. Surrey and England batsman (6)
24. Collective name for some of the Olympic yachts at Atlanta (6)
26. What England's Gary Neville is to his brother Phillip (5)

FELIX SPORT

summer sports report

Bannister's report shows rugby favourite

Sir Roger Bannister's report on university elite sport has shown that despite the encroachment of Association Football into our everyday lives, on the university pitches, Rugby Union Football still rules.

This disparity in favour between the two goes further than pure preference on the part of undergraduates, it even extends to sponsorships and scholarships and the funding of the sports generally. Using the 1995-96 season as a benchmark, Sir Roger's investigations show that football figures very little in universities thinking and is not proving as popular as

rugby union amongst students.

These findings are borne out in the figures. There are very few graduates who now play Premiership football, while the top rugby union clubs have teams littered with graduates and students. Similarly, though a few undergraduates play semi-professional football at weekends, and there are a few ex-school boy registrations about, many more undergraduates play rugby union for their local or home clubs, as well as for their university or college.

This position may seem strange when one considers the huge finan-

cial rewards and fame that accompany football compared to the 'amateur' sport of rugby union. This has changed now with the introduction of professionalism into rugby, but why do universities favour rugby with scholarships?

Bannister's report sought to measure the success of ten sample universities who offered sports scholarships over the last ten years. The universities scored points for any scholarship recipients who achieved any international honour. Athletics came out on top with 100 students receive-

continued on page 15

Skate club's free trial lessons

After being inundated with interest at Freshers' Fair and at the first club meeting, IC Skate! Club looks set for a good season of activities. As an introduction to In-Line skating, the club is offering free trial lessons for beginners and more advanced bladers.

Club Captain, Alex Cinelli, has invited all to attend the lessons next Wednesday, organised in conjunction with the London Blade Centre. Interested novices and regular participants should meet up in Southside Upper Lounge at 12.15 pm.

Alex advises those with further queries to contact him on 0171 352 9111 or by email on a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk

Imperial College Boat Club Presents...

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INTRODUCTION PARTY

SATURDAY 12TH

OCTOBER 9PM

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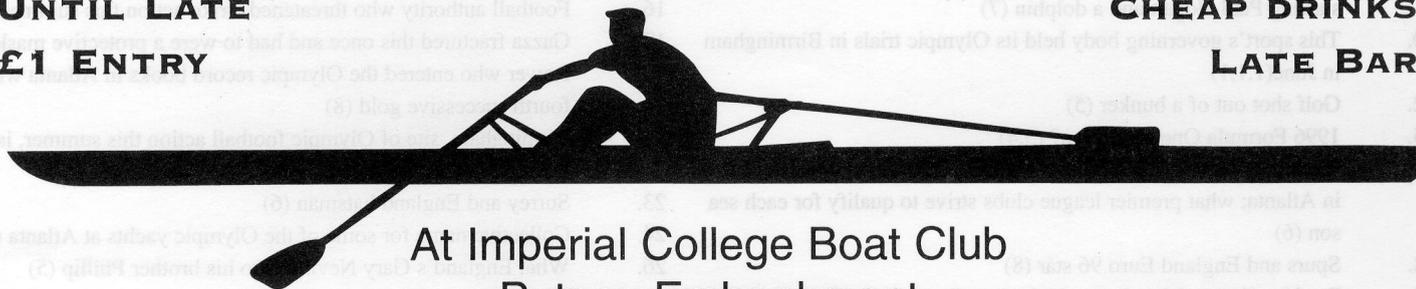
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Putney Embankment

Take bus no.14 or Tube to Putney Bridge. Cross bridge, turn right along the riverfront, we're the last boat club on the left.
Late minibus returning to College.

Further enquiries can be addressed to Jules Davenport, Aero 2, e-mail j.daven@ic.ac.uk

IMPERIAL COLLEGE ISLAMIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

WHY ISLAM?

BY A.R.GREEN (INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER)

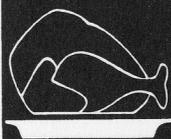
Why is Islam the fastest growing religion in the world?
Why is it the focus of so much media attention?

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INDIAN CUISINE



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Check out our home page at <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubsocs/soc/islamiel/index.htm>