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THE FELIX

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Student Newspaper of Imperial College

The Aldwych Group - what's it all about? *Felix* steps onto the campaign trail and has a look at their recent history.

Your future in their hands? As America gives Bill Clinton a second chance, *Felix* looks back at the two candidates.

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

In this issue of **Something for the Weekend** the Spice Girls and Boyzone slug it out

Sir Ron requests the readies

KENT YIP

In his speech on Commemoration Day, the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, focused once again on the lack of funding in Higher Education. In particular, he pointed out hardship faced by staff whose earnings have been falling in real terms for over a decade, and expressed his fear that the quality of education was being threatened, even at the best institutions.

Figures published by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* gave a mixed picture to the financial scene at Imperial College. IC has always relied heavily upon funds from industry, commerce and public corporations. Last year was no exception with an income of £6,216,000 obtained from those sectors, ranking IC third overall, just below Cambridge.

Some people expressed concern that Cranfield University, which topped the table, made most of their money in areas specialised in by IC, namely aeronautical engineering, materials and biotechnology. Equally worrying was that despite the enormous amount of research carried out



Getting dressed up. Proud graduands try on their ceremonial robes before last Thursday's Commemoration Day celebrations.

at IC, the College had only been paid £218,000 for their intellectual property rights.

Endowments at other universities,

notably at the redbricks, which have strong associations with wealthy local families, made a substantial contribution to their overall income.

This did not appear to be the case at IC. The Rector's recent trip to Hong Kong, where he met up with IC alumni, had been described as "positive" by the PR officer, Lynda Davies, and the College hoped more support would come from that front in the future.

Due to the comparatively small number of students accommodated in halls of residence, the College received only £10 million in renting rooms and catering, compared to several times this for other institutions. The shortage of space also limited the income that could be generated from conferences. However, with the addition of the new BMS building on the campus, it was expected that the situation would improve.

Drawing attention to the achievements of the College's students, particularly the success enjoyed by Imperial College Boat Club this summer at the Henley Regatta, Sir Ron urged graduates to contribute enthusiastically to the funding for the refurbishment and extension of the boathouse. "I hope that anyone who feels able to help will not feel hesitant about letting me know."

To boycott or not to boycott...

NEWSTEAM

On Tuesday, Imperial College Union Council backed away from advocating an all out boycott of the planned new bookstore. A suggestion that IC students should avoid any bookstore that was not run by their Student's Union was brushed aside, with one sabbatical suggesting that the matter should not even be debated.

The Council did however resolve to seek "reparations" if the new bookstore, which will replace the current Walkway sited outlet, is run by an external organisation. The meeting also decided that the Union should oppose "top-up fees", but only in such a way as not to antagonise College administration.

Vacant positions on Council were

also open for nominations, with the Treasurer of the Athletics Clubs Committee being elected in his absence as a postgraduate member. The post of Welfare Officer remains unfilled despite attempts to find a candidate.

The Union's Disciplinary and Health and Safety policies received

continued on page 2

Inside

INTRUDERS IN HALLS

Security measures have been stepped up after men entered Holbein Hall, watched by several scared students from a kitchen, and escaped before they could be apprehended. Students are being warned to take greater care, ensuring they lock doors and windows after use.

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Security breach blamed on students

NEWSTEAM

Following a significant breach of hall security, students have been reminded not to let strangers into College residences and to alert Security if they see anyone suspicious. This comes in the wake of an incident on Sunday night in Evelyn Gardens when an intruder entered Holbein Hall despite high levels of security.

A man is believed to have gained entry by jumping the back garden wall and climbing in through the basement of house number 62, at around 11.45pm. He then proceeded to wander in and out of open student rooms unchallenged before exiting via an open ground floor window, leaving the back doors still on the latch.

A number of male students using a nearby hall kitchen noticed the intruder and turned off the light in

order to observe him without being seen. They were later able to provide College Security officials with a detailed description of the stranger, who was black, 6'3" tall, had tied-back dreadlocks and was wearing an orange T-shirt with a black jacket and jeans. The students had previously spotted a shorter black male, possibly an accomplice, acting suspiciously in the doorway of number 62 but were unable to give a fuller description.

As soon as they were notified, a security guard accompanied Mr Travis, the warden, in a hasty search of the building. By this time the trespassers had disappeared. Believing there might still be a threat to residents, the security officer remained in the darkened kitchen for some time but saw nothing unusual.

Uproar at Wilson House

MATT KEMPTON

Students at St Mary's Medical School are angry that non-medics have been given places in Wilson House. 10 empty rooms were advertised two weeks ago and all but two have now been taken up by IC students from South Kensington.

The root of this discontent can be traced back to last April, when clinical students started applying for place in the hall. First year clinical students were advised not to apply because their chance of success was thought to be slim, with priority going to finalists and freshers. Speaking to Felix, Bryan Clarke, the Warden of Wilson House, said the rooms had become available for a short period because some of the residents had travelled abroad to carry out the elective study that forms part of their course. He went on to point out that no medical students applied for the rooms after the advertisement had gone up.

Medical students, however, told a very different story. They argued that these spare rooms could have been foreseen and that they should have been offered to the first year clinical students. The rooms were not being sought after now because the displeased students had already found

alternative accommodation, for which they have to pay at least twice the rent of Wilson House.

Mr Clarke stoutly defended the allocation policy. It was his opinion that the availability of the rooms concerned could not be predicted as it depended on what options the students took. The medics, though, were not convinced that this was simply another bureaucratic cock up on the part of the College. Most of them saw this as a well orchestrated manouvre by IC to start introducing non-medics into Wilson House, and in doing so break an earlier promise that Wilson House would remain solely for clinical students after the merger in 1998.

Mr Clarke put up a brave face by saying, "The students feel threatened, I understand that." Clinical students starting their day at 6.30 am, and not finishing until 10.30 pm for full 48 weeks of their academic year on top of this, they need to do this for 48 weeks a year can have their life made easier by the College if they can kindly provide them with accommodation. The future could be more congested; with the formation of the new ICSM, there will be 320 students in a year, which is beyond the capacity of Wilson House.

Bookstore tender passed

continued from front page

their second reading with continued disquiet regarding some of their implications. ICU Council confirmed its decision to follow the model of the Conservative Party in allowing their Appeals Committee to increase penalties and fines imposed by a Union Disciplinary Committee.

The Health and Safety policy was amended to allow lists of students partaking in "External Activities" to be submitted two days prior to an event. Previous suggestions that lists should be provided seven days prior to an activity taking place received repeated objections. The Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) also conceded that names of students partaking in regular activities can be submitted on one occasion for a

number of events.

The Publicity Policy, facing its first reading following its withdrawal from the previous Council meeting, also came in for repeated attack. Some Council members had reservations about the instruction that all writing on both posters and flyers should be in the English language. This may prove especially difficult for Overseas Clubs and Societies whose logos contain words in a foreign language, and for those wishing to include the Imperial College logo in their publicity, as it contains Latin.

Constituent College Union officials combined to defeat most of the sabbatical officers in an amendment which will allow CCUs to control publicity relating to their Clubs and Societies.

News in Brief

EXTREMISM RETURNS

Extreme Islamic student group activity throughout London University is on the rise again after a lull of several months. Reports of fundamental activity at freshers' fairs and other union events have multiplied since the summer.

In order to evade University or Union jurisdiction, Islamic group members have been distributing leaflets just outside the entrance of King's College in London. The leaflets end with mobile phone numbers which are apparently untraceable. When questioned, the student leafleters admitted that they were not based at Kings but were from other London colleges.

The often controversial ideas of fundamentalist Muslims have caused problems in other universities in England as well, with an Islamic group in Liverpool University shut down after trying to ban the Jewish society.

This mirrors problems suffered by colleges in the past few years where such groups did not advertise in their own college but went to others to avoid being recognised. A statement from King's College Union stated "We find it important to protect our students from fundamentalism, especially the religious type. King's has had problems with such groups of all faiths in the past."

OXFAM FAST

At least one hundred and twenty people from Imperial College will be taking part in Oxfam's national Fast for Basic Rights on 15th November. This event is being held to raise awareness of poverty and human rights. In the UK, 14.1 million people live in poverty, and worldwide, 800 million do not have enough to eat. The fast involves people spending 24 hours without something that usually they take for granted, for example food or cigarettes. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Oxfam Campaign.

BIKE THIEF APPREHENDED

Last week, South Kensington police apprehended a young man in the process of stealing a bicycle near to College. At the moment, it is thought that he could be responsible for some of the numerous other bicycle thefts in the area, especially in and around campus. The police have detained him for further questioning.

TRAVEL WRITERS NEEDED

Exotic and unusual travel articles are needed for future issues of *Felix*. If you have interesting stories, reflections or experiences that you think would make a good feature and don't mind sharing them, then we want to hear from you!

you

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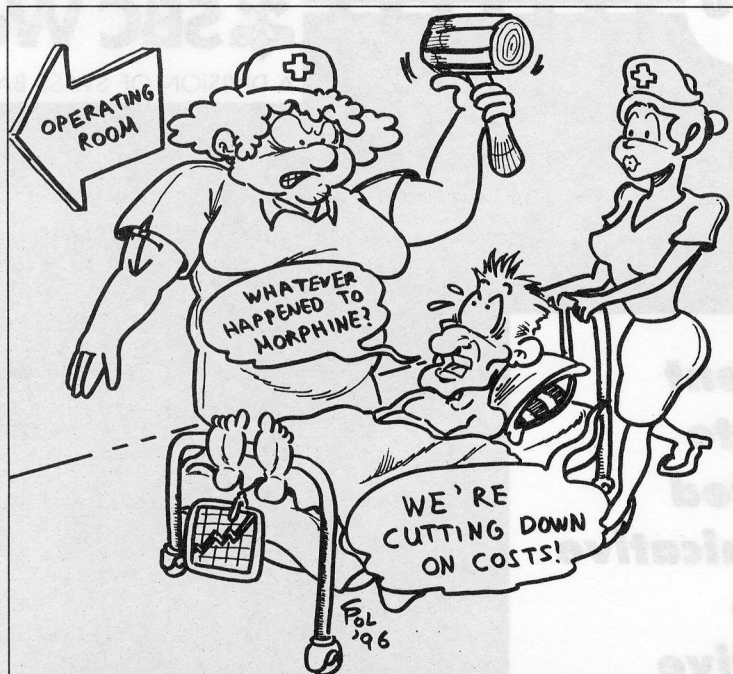
NHS funding crisis passes St Mary's by

MARIA IOANNOU

It looks set to be a hard winter for the National Health Service, with 36 Trust Hospitals in the red despite a statutory responsibility to break even. However, unlike several other London Trusts, St Mary's Hospital has carried over a surplus for the year.

Running up a total budget overspend of £34 million in the 1994-95 financial year, the individual trusts are under far more pressure than the health authorities to prevent such deficits. The health authorities are expected to be £118 million over their budget, with 63 of 99 having a deficit.

The Trust Hospitals who are suffering financial difficulties include The Royal National Orthopaedic (£3.4m), Royal United Hospital, Bath (£2.5m), Greenwich, South London (£2.8m), the Royal National Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital (£826,000) and Swindon and



Malborough (£500,000).

These deficits in Trust Hospitals may give rise to ward closures, operation cancellations, staff shortages

and longer waiting lists, with the hospitals trying desperately to wipe out their debts.

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State

for Health, made a bid for an additional £1.5 billion for the NHS budget at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday and came out with an extra £1.3 billion. The easy benevolence of this may be slightly undermined by the fact that John Major has recently renewed the Conservative manifesto commitment to spend more, in real terms, on the NHS every year. This is despite government attempts to cut the £286.2bn public spending bill by £4 billion to make way for tax cuts on the Budget on the 26th of November.

St Mary's Hospital Healthcare Trust has fortunately managed to stay within its budget limitations this year, whilst still providing an excellent service. However, sources at St Mary's could not confirm for how much longer the Trust's finances would stay in the black; despite the extra money acquired by the Health Secretary the NHS still faces a shortage of adequate funding.

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REUTERS PRESENTATION

at
Room 208,
Civil Engineering Building,
Imperial College
on
13th November
at 6.30pm

REUTERS 

The phenomenon known as

Aldwych

Amidst the confusion surrounding the imminent HE teachers' strike (FELIX 1067) Simon Wistow courts controversy once again by investigating.....

You may or may not have heard of the Russell group. For those of you that have; well done for keeping abreast of current affairs particularly those that involve dear old IC, for those of you that don't; here is a short synopsis.....

Half way through 1994 Sir Eric Ash (ex Rector of IC and now the Chief Executive of the Student Loans Company) met up in The Russell Hotel (hence the name, neat huh) with representatives from five other Universities namely Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick and UCL, to discuss ideas. These included breaking away from national pay bargaining so that they can offer higher salaries to attract top staff and opposing Government plans to share out limited research funding more evenly with polytechnics (that policy failed by the way). Other Universities were fearful that the Russell group would break away to form a superleague that would attract the best students and the most lucrative research contracts and the students were worried that all this talk about top-up fees would mean that only the rich could afford to go to the top Unis. The words 'Ivy League'

were bandied around and nobody really knew what was going on. The numbers in the group rose and, amongst others, the London School of Economics, Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh Universities joined. Then later in 1994 the LSE Students' Union initiated what it called the Aldwych Group to protect students' interests. They were set up as non-exclusive group of Student Unions to lobby the elitist movement in Higher Education (i.e. the Russell group). This is where we rejoin the story.....

A couple of Thursdays (the 24th) ago the Aldwych Group held a meeting at the University of Sheffield Students' Union. Amongst the things discussed was a formalisation of the Terms of Reference (which I can't get a copy of because our Student Union hasn't got it despite the fact that the meeting was two weeks ago), the so called 'Event' at Huddersfield university and the forthcoming 'National Shutdown' (the strike to you and me).

The 'Event' is apparently a rally/meeting which, I've heard through the grapevine, smells suspi-

ciously like a badly camouflaged Campaign for Free Education do. The members of the Group decided that they would not go although the chair did give them permission to attend if they wanted to.

It was also decided that during the strike (called for the 19th by the way, if you want to organise something) the ICU Staff would not be allowed to go on strike because, due to the fact that although they are paid by the College they are employed by the Union, this would be secondary action.

Scanning through my notes I can also see that there is going to be an Emergency budget meeting on Monday the 2nd of December at LSE to discuss any actions they might have for action around the time of the Budget and, on a slightly more interesting (but not much) note, a pre-Budget rally outside the Russell hotel and a post-Budget press conference.

It was decided that the Aldwych Group to go public and, to this extent, are planning to put a full page ad in *The Guardian* which will cost somewhere in the region of four and a half grand (about £288 for each of

the 26 constituent Unions) although this does not include spell checking (that was a joke by the way).

And that was about it really for the agenda. However it was revealed which Universities were going to charge top-up fees next year. Read on and thank god that you chose to come here. These universities are: Birmingham, UMIST, Manchester, Keele and Warwick. Also, LSE has decided that it will instigate a policy of top ups, though just not at the moment.

So it appears that the age of elitism is upon us once again. How soon before we end up with a system like that circa 1900 when only the rich could afford to get a decent education? Logically this can only decrease the value of our degrees and hasten a revival of the old-boys network. It will also mean added pressure in a not particularly friendly job market where it is already a necessity to have a degree to get a half way decent job. It will be interesting to see what the Aldwych group does to prevent this; whether it will lobby the participants to prevent it or sit back and indulge in some militant tub bashing.

Mystique of the sandwich maker's craft revealed

JACKIE SKEATE

An interesting letter appeared in *Felix* last week. No, I'm not talking about the numerous responses about activities cards. Nor am I concerned with the perfunctory missive from Mr Caldwell. I mean the one that begins with the wise words "I would like to bring to the attention of IC students the fact that the sandwiches sold in QT are of both poorer quality and higher price than the sandwiches sold outside the college."

Not that this is big news to the average student. Avocado, chicken and bacon sandwiches such as those sold in QT are regarded as a little bit poncy. After all, everyone knows that real students live exclusively off cigarettes, alcohol, chocolate, and the

occasional £1 curry. Only the true gourmets amongst them can be seen ambling down towards a certain shop along Gloucester Road after 4.00pm. But this letter is interesting nevertheless. It goes to highlight the very special place that the lunchtime sandwich has in the hearts and stomachs of the British people. Only a cultural heathen could stand resolutely by the unenlightened opinion that sandwiches are always stale, sticky, plasticky and overpriced. The price reflects the quality, and, as any true connoisseur knows, the staleness, stickiness and plasticness can only add to the experience. Worth a mention are the ones with an inch-thick liquid filling...bite into one, and the contents end up on the opposite wall.

It is also good if you find something that shouldn't be there when you take the first mouthful...top marks for wasps, needles, and dead rodents. Lower down the scale, points can be awarded for toenails, pubic hairs, and any unidentified bits of metal.

The fact that these are blatantly cheap substitutes for a proper filling leads me to wonder about just how much someone can get away with charging for two boring slices of bread, mayonnaise, and cold meat. Bearing in mind that a whole loaf of bread costs about 40p, making a slice cost roughly 4p at most, and that fillings like cheese, ham, and lettuce can be brought cheaply, implies that either only the finest ingredients, lovingly hand-prepared by highly-

skilled sandwich-making craftsmen can ever be used, or that there is a silently-acknowledged agreement by profit-hungry caterers to fix prices at an artificially high level. Having said that, however, College doesn't actually make a lot of money from catering, so maybe there is something else going on here. Maybe it's the aforementioned lovely plastic wrappings that are costing a phenomenal amount. Maybe buying lunch is even turning into a form of gambling, and that there are some lucky people out there who bite into their midday sandwich to discover a few pound coins along with a slice of ham and a few elderly lettuce leaves. If so, I'll keep visiting the JCR...one day, it could be me...

The future of the world

ON TUESDAY, THE US WENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL POLLS. BEFORE THE

DEWAYNE FRAZIER

The United States of America, as is Great Britain, is nearing an election for a leadership to embark upon the next millennium. Come November 5th, Americans must decide who serve as our president for the next four years.

In the United States, elections are more common than Manchester United victories (*sorry, this was written a few weeks ago*). In any given year there are between 120 and 130 thousand elections. Most of these elections are for local school boards, but still this has an overwhelming

effect on voter turnout. This is basically 60% turnout for most major elections, and 40% for mid-terms, in contrast to the UK, which has a regular 70% turnout.

The point is that Americans don't expect large turnouts, and I don't anticipate that this year will be drastically different.

The Democratic candidate is incumbent President Bill Clinton. Clinton is from the small community of Hope Arkansas, and prior to the presidency held the Governorship of Arkansas. His vice-presidential nominee is Al Gore of Tennessee.

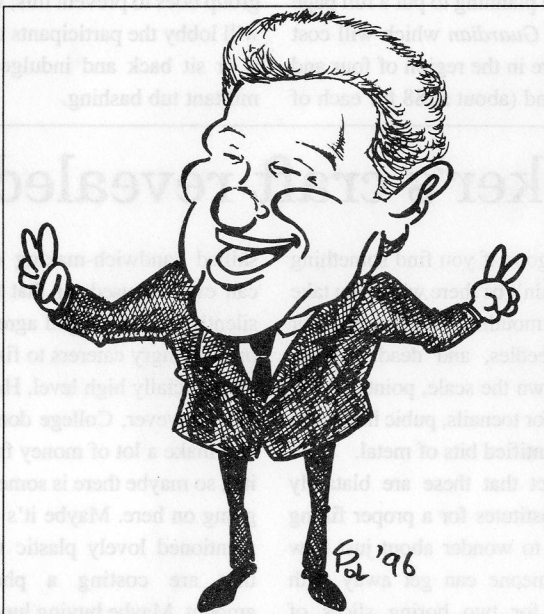
Bill Clinton - Democrat

What do Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John Fitzgerald Kennedy have in common with William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton? All three belong to America's party of the people, the Democrats.

he has realised his dreams. President Clinton's hometown holds strong symbolic significance as well. He truly is America's true visionary to lead us into the next century.

Clinton has worked hard to reform our welfare system, stop crime and restore education. He is a young charismatic leader, much like Tony Blair. He believes the only way to tackle the future is through common

Mr Clinton served as governor of Arkansas for eight years before his accession to the Presidency. His track record was excellent. Arkansas saw its job market flourish, and taxes



fall - and the US has been no different. You have to ask the question, as an American, are we better off than you were four years ago? Darn right we are!

unity. Mr Clinton knows that if we want to remain a world superpower, unity is key.

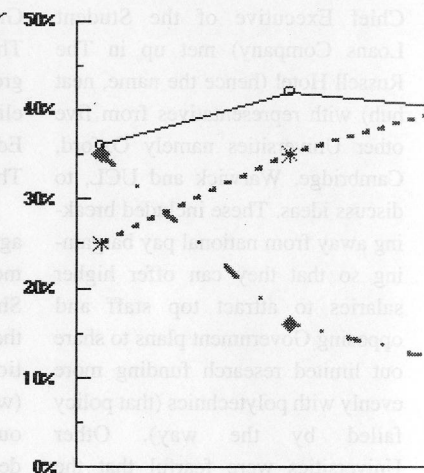
So, come November 5th, people will come out and vote for Bill Clinton in vast numbers. His works speak for him. Clinton is America's vision for the next millennium.

A definite down side to Clinton election campaign has been the attack upon his moral character due to the Whitewater investigation. Apparently having attended Oxford proves that he is highly intelligent.

The Republican candidate is former

Kansas senator Bob Dole. Formerly serving as majority leader in the US Senate, he resigned in order to devote complete effort to his election campaign. His running mate is Jack Kemp, from New York.

Dole\Clinton\Perot



	5/93	12/93
Bill Clinton	36%	42%
Bob Dole	25%	35%
Ross Perot	35%	16%

Ross Perot - Reform Party

DEWAYNE FRAZIER

Democrat & Republican - why do these words invoke cynicism in America today?

Nearly a decade ago, Ronald Reagan uttered these immortal words "The worst eleven words in the English Language are 'I am from the government, and I am here to help'". Why is America so tired of business as usual? Because gridlock and status quo doesn't work.

America is ready for change, and Ross Perot and his new Reform Party is here. Mr Perot is an accomplished millionaire. He is the embodiment of the American dream - A boy who worked hard and made his money through blood, sweat and tears.

Mr Perot has set an agenda to take

care of our \$6 000 000 000 000 debt. Mr Perot made an analogy I find very effective. He said that if you have a problem with a car, you don't call a plumber, you call a mechanic. Thus if you have problems with the economy you don't call for career politicians, you get an accomplished business man. Mr Perot will be able to remedy the problem of this national embarrassment that our generation is receiving from our parents.

Ross Perot is of good moral character and is an upstanding citizen. He would make an excellent leader that our generation could look up to. In a legacy of fallen heroes, Mr Perot will be a knight in shining armour.

is in your hands....

ELECTION FELIX ASKED OUR AMERICAN STUDENTS FOR THEIR OPINIONS

Mr Dole stands in the public eye as a citizen of good moral values. But in today's America, that that is definitely not enough. Dole is very conservative on social issues, and looks to re-establish the family, whereas

Clinton looks to redefine it. The problem with Mr Dole's campaign lies with his age. Lacking in charisma and energy, he is seen as a boring, stiff-collar businessman.

The newly coined "Reform" party is headed by Ross Perot. The party is showing very low in the polls, and looks not to be a force in US politics, as was the case in the 1992 election.

In the previous election, President Clinton captured only about 45% of the votes. If he was to capture under 50% again this would be a landmark in US political history - the first president in US political history to win

two elections without receiving a popular mandate.

Sadly enough we live in the age of mass media. Political figures live under microscopes and their every move is reported. Usually the bad is reported to vastly overshadow the good. I really feel that Americans are dissatisfied with the upcoming election. Due to media involvement, most campaigns are largely a battle of mud-slinging. When Americans want issues to be debated it never seems to happen. I think the best idea would be to shorten election campaigns, to make them similar to the length of

British campaigns. This - I hope - would allow less mud slinging, and more time spent debating.

The upcoming election looks to be strongly in favour of Bill Clinton, with analysis and polls alike showing a gap of 15 - 20%. Sadly enough, the disgust was summed up for me in a quote from a friend of mine, who, when asked who they would vote for replied "I guess for Clinton, as immoral as he is, I guess he's the best man for the presidency".

Lack of values or just reality?

Bob Dole - Republican

JENNY REISINGER

One of the most important issues in this year's presidential election has been government spending. Presently, the US deficit is around \$6 trillion. If the deficit isn't taken care of in the next ten years, the United States economy could face a complete fallout and Generation X will be left holding the bill.

Bob Dole and other key Republicans have presented several proposals that would help to reduce the deficit and balance the budget in the next seven years. Each proposal was vetoed by Bill Clinton who has continued to spend taxpayers' money.

Bill Clinton increased the taxes for the rich in the country. Unfortunately, that tax increase affected less than 5% of the United States population, hardly enough to make a difference in the country.

Bob Dole has presented a proposal which will cut taxes over the next several years and, at the same time, cut the budget deficit, by cutting enough government spending.

There are two distinct areas con-

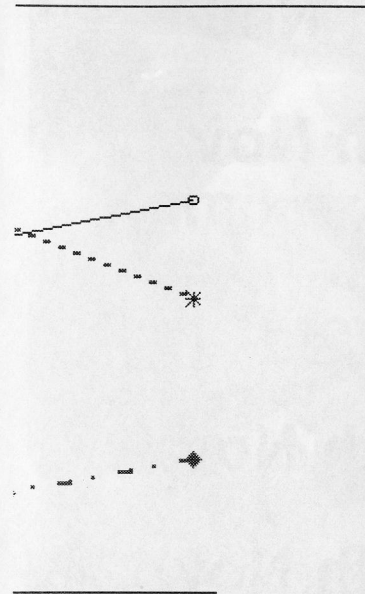
cerning money that will need to be looked at in the future if the government wants to get the budget and the deficit under control. First, the Republicans want to reform Social Security. After World War II, there were a huge number of births in the United States, most of whom will all be retiring around the same time. The system will not be able to handle the great number of retirees and

Secondly, Bill Clinton has promised welfare reform. Bill Clinton finally signed a welfare reform bill in the last six months. The welfare reform bill was written by Republicans.

Bill Clinton may be young and Bob Dole an old man but when it comes to policies affecting the young people of the United States, Bill Clinton acts as if he could care less about our generation.

Sure, some say Bob Dole is old fashioned. Bob Dole is old fashioned in the sense that he does what he says he will do. He realises there are problems in the country and instead of waiting for someone to fix them, he fixes them. Bill Clinton has done nothing to make the country I will inherit better.

The future for America will not be a bright one if things don't start to change now. Under Clinton, the only changes that have been made have been made by the Republicans in Congress. Perhaps its time to put the Republicans in the White House and see what happens. After all, things can only get better.



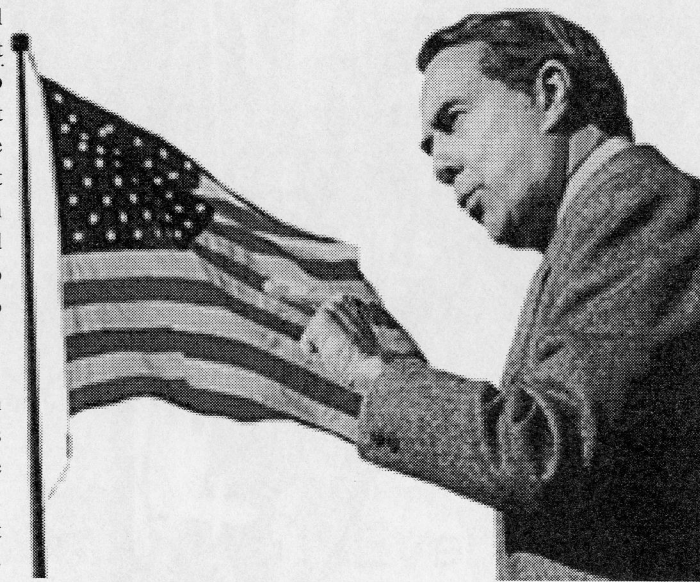
	15	1/96
%	44%	33%
%	33%	15%

RESULTS

In the end, it proved an easy victory, for Bill Clinton, who became the first Democrat in fifty years to retain the presidency.

Clinton swept across both the east and west coast, taking thirty-two states to Bob Dole's nineteen. The electoral college vote, based on the number of voters living in each state, was even more dramatically in Clinton's favour - he took 325 votes to Dole's 214. However, he still failed to take 50% of the popular vote - and with less than half of the electorate turning out, he may face questions over his mandate to govern.

He will also face stiff opposition from the continuing Republican majorities in the Senate and House.



Rag Week

Wed 13th Nov

Thu 14th Nov

Fri 15th Nov

Sat 16th Nov

Sun 17th Nov

Mon 18th Nov

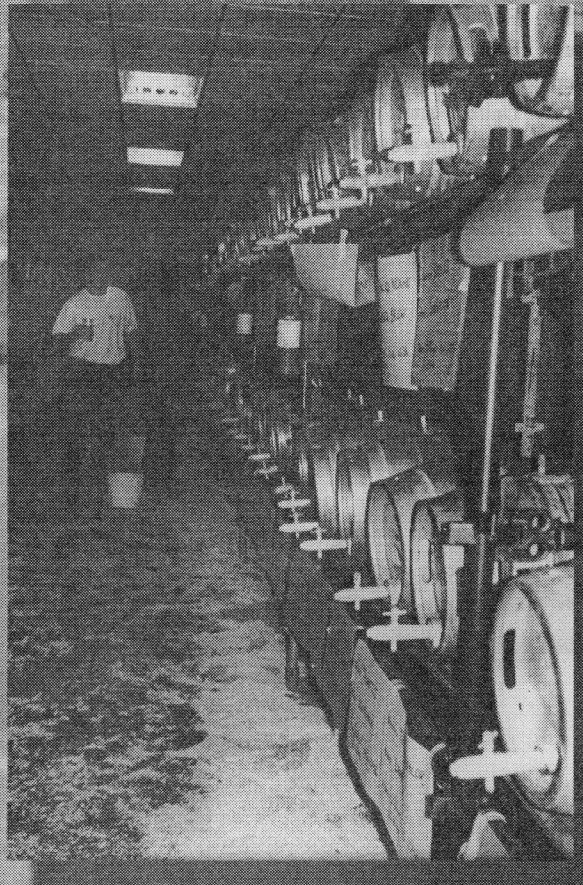
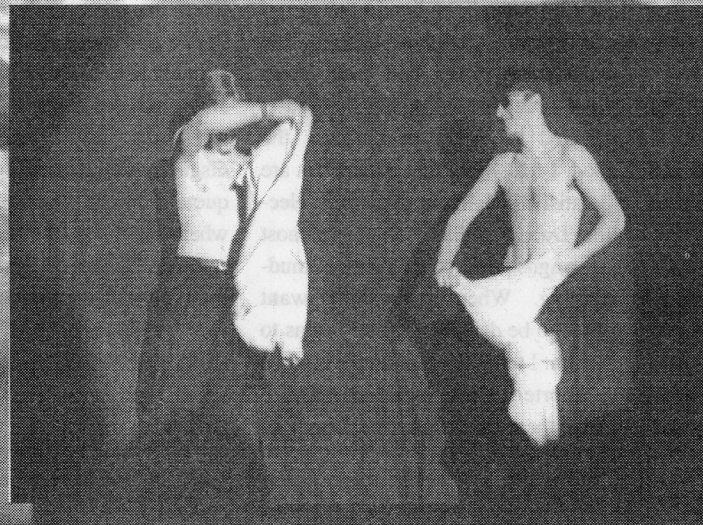
Tue 19th Nov

Wed 20th Nov

Thu 21st Nov

Fri 22nd Nov

All the time



Maid in

1996/97

ICU Beer Festival

Hangover Recovery Day

Slave Auction

Sponsored Nude
Kamikaze Parachute
Jump
Firewalking

London Tour (Raid)

Come and leave your
clothes with us at the
Union

Night in the Bar

Bungee Jump

Pub Crawl

Guilds Party

Hit Squad, O-grams,
Killer etc

Sherfield JCR

Anywhere quiet

Union Building

Somewhere Near

Queen's Lawn

Around & About

Union Building

Union Bar

Meet at the Union

Somewhere Near

Union Building

Everywhere

Heaven '97

CAREERS fair

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

WEDS. 13TH NOV.
11AM - 4PM

50 COMPANIES

**WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES,
POST-GRADUATES, & UNDERGRADUATES
ALL ON YOUR DOORSTEP.**

PLUS WORKSHOPS

THE GOOD CV GUIDE

FINDING A CAREER ON THE INTERNET

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUE

THE UNION BUILDING

iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

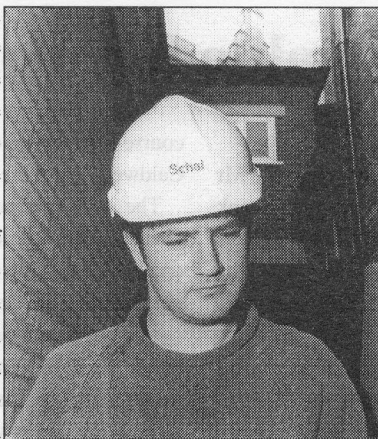
**another service provided
by your union**

Many moons ago, when I was in Linstead, a number of the inmates were most adept at the consumption of alcohol (not me, of course, I was a Horlicks and biccies man myself). The current crowd, it would appear, are destined for the stage. Some marvellous voice projection enabled me to catch the following snippets as I wandered through Princes Gardens last week. After carpeting Estates over Clayponds (don't excuse that pun, it was awful), it would appear that Security have been less than their usual flawless selves. As the residents continued their conversation, it emerged that the wardens had planned a fire drill a couple of weeks ago. Good idea, you say, it's a legal requirement. So the wardens pressed the relevant button, stood outside and awaited the half-asleep Linsteadians. And they waited. And they waited. For, dear reader, the alarm did not sound. Very serious, you say, someone should get a ticking off. Still they would soon get it fixed, these things

happen, and it could all be repeated the next day. Oh dear. Silent alarms again. Now you do not need to be a genius to work out what would have happened if there had been a real fire. Nor do you have to be Rumpole of the Bailey to realise the legal consequences. This fire alarm has been the subject of constant complaint since before I arrived here in 1993. It took years to install, caused untold disruption to students, often during exams, and now we find, like Basil Fawlty before us, that when we want use it, the damn thing doesn't work. The name of the Fire Officer Graham Cox was mentioned. I do

hope next week that he will tell me that this is untrue and I shouldn't worry my little head about it. Or maybe not.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

This on its own is very serious, but, in the word of a very unfunny man, there's more. The subject changed and talk of ambulances drifted down from the balcony. Apparently, a couple of Saturdays ago, someone had an asthma attack in Linstead Bar. Call Security, you cry, and so they did. Oh dear. The number was engaged. This is scandalous. What is the use of routing all emergency calls through College Security if they are left in limbo like this? When Security

are on top form, they make the Keystone Cops look like the Anti-Terrorist Squad.

Bit short of space this week, so the state of education in Britain will have to wait a while. So finally, it is a joy to say something wholly positive about this dear old place. I refer to last week's Commemoration day. Congratulations must go to my good friends in the College Registry, under the able leadership of Vernon McClure (I got it right this time!). We've not seen eye to eye in the past, but this time you came through with flying colours, and who cares if it was a week late. From start to finish, it was thoroughly enjoyable and the memorable occasion that one's graduation should be. The ball in the evening was also a stunning success and full marks to all involved in that. So to all you freshers out there, Uncle Simon says stick at that degree, because the finale is well worth waiting for.

Hey there! Fancy spending your next summer in Delaware?

Dela-where? I hear you say. Delaware, in the USA! Well, the UROP-Delaware Exchange Scheme allows you to do just that. Each year five IC students spend 8 week's doing research at the University of Delaware (UD). This is not only an excellent opportunity to pump up your CV by working overseas, but also to help those students facing the dilemma of staying on to do a PhD. or go and get a 'real' job, by giving them an idea of what research is all about. If you already know what you want to do then that's fine too, since you can still have tons of fun and experience the American way of life.

UD has a very different environment from that of IC. For a start, it's a campus-based university in the small city of Newark. UD's reputation mainly lies in their chemical engineering dept, partly due to the connections they have with DuPont. They rank 6th in the country. However, many of their other departments are also well respected and acknowledged in their fields of research. Newark itself does not have a sophisticated public transport system as London, but not to worry, UD kindly lends the IC students' cycles for the summer and provides cars for weekend travels.

From a financial perspective you will receive a total of \$2000. UD pro-

vides a stipend of \$1500 to live on, and a sponsoring company (usually Zeneca) contributes \$500 towards airfare. It's up to you how you spend your money. You can blow it all and end up using credit cards or even come back with \$700. However, you will be strongly advised to take out health insurance with an American company, for just over \$100, for the time you are there. This is just in case you happen to crack your knee during ice-skating or need the odd root canal. Believe us, American medical health services can be horrendously expensive. Although you can take out insurance with British companies, you will find you have to pay up front (as much as \$400) and claim the money back once you get home, which can put a strain on your budget. However, with the US company just show your certificate/documents and the hospital, etc, will be happy to claim the expenses on your behalf.

For the first 6 weeks you get on-campus self-catering accommodation, in student halls, for the bargain price of \$400. Here each IC student is paired up with a UD student who has kindly offered to be your roommate, and the two share a pretty decent sized room. If you end up liking each other, well then, that's a bonus. You also get to meet and hang out with other regular UD undergraduates,

who like yourselves will be doing research over the summer. The final two weeks involve homestay (for free) with an American family. This bit is particularly good since you get cooked meals and if you are really nice the host will let you have parties at their house!

This summer's five visiting scholars were Stephen Cavanagh (Civil UG4), Mohammed Matin (Mech. Eng. UG4), Zeenab Razak (Materials UG4), Kabilan Satyamoorthy (Biochem UG3) and Sonia Volny-Luraghi (Physics UG 4). Although we were doing research throughout the day, we were free to organise social activities for evenings and weekends with UD students. We spent the 4th of July weekend in Washington DC, camping in Gettysburg (the civil war battlefield), went to baseball games, day trips to New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore and the Beach, to name but a few.

Anyone interested in applying for the summer '97 scheme can get further information/application forms from the IC UROP office (Mech Eng 313C), or ask any one of the five IC-UD '96' students, and we would be happy to help. The deadline for applications is 13th November and interviews will be held on 20th November 1996. See you then! Good luck!

THE WEEKLY POEM

supplied by PoetIC

I'm Scared

I'm scared that you don't like me.
That I'm pushing you away,
And I'm too afraid to ask you,
Because I'm scared of what you'll say.

I'm scared of being lonely,
And I'm scared to look at you,
In case you look the other way,
I'm scared of what I'll do.

I'm scared of wanting this too much,
I'm scared to feel the way I do,
And I'm too afraid to say,
That I'm scared of losing you.

PoetIC is the creative writing society of Imperial College. Workshops are held every fortnight on a Monday and other events are held on alternate weeks. For more information, contact Keith McNulty PG Mathematics on k.mculty@ic.ac.uk or Ed Sexton on e.sexton@ic.ac.uk

LETTERS TO FELIX

replied to this week by David Roberts

Clayponds security - Residents demand value for money

Dear Editor,

As residents of Clayponds village we would like to air our personal views on the security problem and address some of the issues that Mr Caldwell raised in his letter last week.

The claim that Mr Caldwell and his colleagues are listening to the Clayponds community is true, but unfortunately it's going in one ear and out of the other. Take the recent meeting at Clayponds hospital, in our opinion an unmitigated farce (it's our recollection, as indeed Mr Caldwell states, that nothing was ruled out but equally nothing was ruled in (status quo?). In fact as far as we can remember every idea proposed from the floor met with a myriad of negative responses as to why that security measure would be wholly inappropriate for Clayponds. The two favourites were (1) bars on windows - obviously an excellent idea used on basement flats throughout London (2) deadlocks - likewise an excellent idea recommended by insurance companies and crime prevention officers. Remarks by Mr Caldwell about "Alcatraz" speak for themselves. The range of excuses for not fulfilling these measures beggared belief. In fact you'd wonder how the companies that sell them ever managed to stay in business if there were such great associated fire (and other) hazards.

We are fed up to the back teeth with the lack of vision, the short term reactionary measures, incompetence (keys?) and worst of all the blase attitude that seems to pervade i.e. a determined intruder will get in anyway so security investments are a waste of time. "Somebody has to pay for it" and we already are thank you very much, in the form of regular break-ins and soaring insurance premiums. The questionnaire was tantamount to an admission that security measures need to be taken but Estates aren't prepared to pay for them. Why else would you ask us if we would accept a rent rise to pay for

security upgrades'?

As for our new carpets Mr Caldwell, they're very nice thank you very much. You might be interested to know however, that the "old" carpets in our houses had years left in them, still there you go.

Lastly the dog patrols are a very good idea. Full marks to whoever thought of that one. However on the down side the guard appears to spend most of his time sat in his van and therefore it wouldn't take very long to work out his patrol pattern would it? Ever seen "The Great Escape"? Mr Caldwell also neglected to mention that these security patrols are at present, only a temporary measure. No prizes for guessing the innovative way in which this scheme will be financed if and when it becomes permanent.

Yours sincerely,
Adrian Bennett & Nick Stock

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Garden Hall, I have been worried to read in recent issues of *Felix* that dead-locks are considered to be a fire safety hazard, as all Garden Hall rooms are fitted with one. However, following recent fire drills the dead-locks posed no problems to escaping residents. I therefore wondered whether the safety of Clayponds residents is a higher priority than that of Garden Hall residents, or whether this is simply a case of double standards?

Yours faithfully,
A Cherrington

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Mr Caldwell's letter in last weeks *Felix* concerning the 'impressions' given about Clayponds security. As a long standing resident of the afore-mentioned establishment, I was rather insulted by some of the throw-away comments made in Mr Caldwell's letter. 'Some students even liked the new carpets!!' for instance. Well of

course we like the carpets. That, Mr Caldwell, is not the point.

The issue here, which you and Mr Daniels seem to gloss over at every opportunity, is one of priorities. I am not disputing the fact that some of the carpets were in need of replacement. However, if 160 grand can be found for this purpose, then 40 more seems a small price to pay for decent locks on front doors.

We have also heard through the grapevine that we are to get a common room costing in excess of £40000. I don't remember ever being consulted about this. If you tried asking ALL of the students where they think the money should be spent, locks or TV lounge, I think you might find the solution to your problems regarding the funding of security upgrades. You will of course tell me that both carpets and common room are from separate grants. Fine, well how about trying to raise some cash for security upgrades? I am able to break into my own house in under one minute without breaking any windows or door frames. If you would like a demonstration of this, I would be only too happy to oblige.

One last point, although there could be many more, what exactly are the 'fire-safety implications' of putting deadlocks on doors? Are you seriously trying to tell readers that your own residence, or for that matter virtually every other home in the country, is not fitted with a decent lock? Stop trying to fob us off with feeble excuses. Fulfil the College's obligations as landlord by making sure that we have British Standards approved deadlocks on the doors.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Payne

The residents (ie those who are paying for Clayponds to be run, secured, and covered in new carpet) would appear to be of one mind. Mr Caldwell (who is also paid by the students for that matter) please note.

Gun Lobby states the case for the defence

Dear Editor,

We are writing to correct the letter "Dunblane Answer" (*Felix* 1067). Whilst we respect the views of Richard Sandiford, his letter indicates a poor appreciation of the facts.

He should have re-read the article. It clearly explains that Lord Cullen's report concluded that a complete ban on handguns is a totally unnecessary step, and the proposals of his report would provide ample security in the future. The government seems to have forgotten what it means to govern, and has instead succumbed to the press induced hysteria that has rendered balanced argument impossible.

As to the point about the difficulty of pronouncing someone dangerous or safe, in cases where someone is seriously unbalanced, the person will not instantly collapse into such a state, but will reach this level after a more gradual loss of faculties. The law, bolstered by the proposals of the Cullen Report, and aided by the shooters themselves would deny access to firearms for anyone considered to be in anyway unsuitable. Whilst it is never possible to be completely sure about someone's mental state, those connected with shooting always favour caution, and will never give the benefit of the doubt.

Imperial College rifle and pistol club

But surely the law has always been intended to deny access to firearms from psychopaths - yet Thomas Hamilton still obtained a firearms licence. Of course, those who really want access to guns will always be able to obtain them illegally - but if Hamilton had been forced to break into a gun club or a armoury, it might have given the police a slightly higher chance of catching him before he murdered so many innocent children.

Letters may be edited for length.

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

Deadline for letters in Felix 1069 is Monday 11th November.

Please bring some form of identification. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

Dear Felix

Mr Foster, the Head of Catering and Conference Services has been to see me in person to answer my letter about sandwiches. He says that the Catering Department has to "pay its way" and any trading surplus is reinvested; for example, two new chiller cabinets will shortly be purchased for QT so that a wider range of goods can be displayed. Apparently the sandwiches cannot be sold any cheaper because of overheads and the requirement to meet stringent health and safety standards etc. There are now three different suppliers of

sandwiches, the cheapest at 99p (which now apparently includes egg mayonnaise, which I saw for £1.10 in QT last week).

Large companies like Boots can often afford to offer "loss leaders" and small shops like The Sandwich Shop on Gloucester Road, who make sandwiches on the premises, may have lower overheads. Mr Foster says that some sandwiches in the Students' Union are on sale at higher prices than in QT.

All I can suggest is that you shop around.

Linda Hart

CAREERS FAIR

On Wednesday the 13th of November ICU plays host to this year's Careers Fair. If you're already actively looking for a job, or you're just interested in what's on offer in the big wide world, then get on your smart clothes, and check out the fair.

There will be 41 companies attending, with vacancies in most areas from finance to systems analysis, via engineering and mathematics. This year we are proud to have three major European companies attending their first UK Careers Fair.

In addition to being able to meet the Companies in person, we are also

offering an opportunity to find a career online, with help from the World Careers Network, who will be in dBs. There will also be a stand representing the IC Careers Service in dBs, who will be able to offer you careers advice. The Careers Service will also be offering seminars on good interview technique and the best way to sell yourself using your CV.

The Fair runs from 11am - 4pm, and is open to undergraduates, graduates & postgraduates.

Don't leave your future to chance, opportunities are on your doorstep.



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

A MATTER OF POLICY

A number of points have arisen from last Tuesday's ICU Council Meeting which I feel deserve some attention.

Firstly, there is the matter of papers for Council meetings not being available in time. At present, and I must add that this has been the situation for some time, it is unfortunately the case that Council Members are only given the papers for a specific meeting at the start of that meeting. This only gives them a few minutes to peruse all the reports, minutes and motions that have been presented to Council, a function which is, fundamentally, the role of the Council. These motions are then passed, often with only perfunctory debate, when less hurried reading of the papers would allow members to raise valid and worthwhile points to be discussed and voted upon.

The current practice abrogates the role of Council, and thus invalidates the entire democratic representative process. The Council Members are there for a reason: to represent various sectors of the Imperial College student community on the "Sovereign Body of Imperial College Union." They ought to be given the opportunity to do this, and a step forward would be to issue the papers for such meetings in good time. If this was the case, then there would be much lesser cause for complaint when 'controversial', badly written or simply poor policies are passed by a confused and under-informed body.

Before I raise the next point, let me say that I, in common I'm sure with the majority of student opinion, do not particularly favour top-up fees as a method of relieving the funding

pressures on higher education institutions. However I do not share the view of the ICU's Student Representative Council that Imperial College Union needs a policy statement to this effect.

The motion to adopt such a policy presented to last Tuesday's Council (available from the Union Office if anyone is interested) contains much that is laudable and sensible, has valid supporting facts and figures and reaches impressive conclusions. It is however, entirely to no effect, and I suggest, sends the wrong signals to the wrong people. All of the instructions are already being followed by the sabbaticals, so why the need to mandate them to do so?

Furthermore, the motion is reactive rather than proactive, confirming established facts and measures already implemented, and comes only a few weeks before the next budget. There is nothing therein to instruct firm action, if that was the intent of the motion (which could be considered too little, too late in any case), and if it was not intended, what is the need for such a confirmatory piece of paper?

Restating established points, in a document that has the faint whiff of bandwagon about it, does not further the IC students' cause, and makes those who claim to represent them seem somewhat late and reactionary. Up to now, there hasn't been a need for a policy, and nothing new was presented here. If and when policy is needed with regard to taking action or spending money on such a cause, then a mandate would be needed. But until then, the current careful diplomacy, research and discussion would seem to serve rather better.

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Crossword by Cobra

Across:

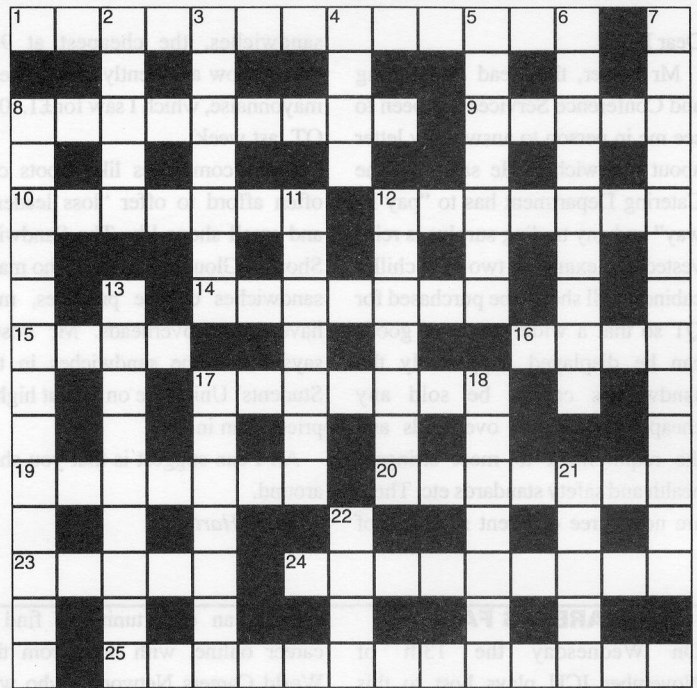
- 1. Vehicles first prepared water mammals for people in anoraks. (13)
- 8. Willing to change a table pad perhaps. (9)
- 9. In place of crushed dates. (5)
- 10. Helped what bad debt ate (7)
- 12. Tight spots can occur in awkward P.R. cases. (7)
- 14. Ten-legged month with a seed-case? (7)
- 15. Hit it on the head around a low score. (4)
- 16. Is the French land surrounded by water? (4)
- 17. Mythical creature would race him foolishly. (7)
- 19. Roast chicken because it is a pagan! (7)
- 20. Speech in which Horatio negotiated with Hamlet. (7)
- 23. Tony finds insect in front of its home. (5)
- 24. I tap a sink agitatedly for an Asian. (9)
- 25. Sun dims too red in order not to

be comprehended. (13)

Down:

- 2. Awe those lost in it. (5)
- 3. Bow head in gallery having made musical shorthand. (7)
- 4. Single child on first luxury yacht. (4)
- 5. Sure end after a fashion is guaranteed. (7)
- 6. Insomnia sufferer sees spell. (9)
- 7. Latin method of procedure. (5,8)
- 8. Chop Arabian and laugh perversely at fear of creepy-crawlies. (13)
- 11. Princess needs better tonic for her voice. (7)
- 12. Top man did eat more oddly. (7)
- 13. Fair realm rocked by loud noise. (4,5)
- 17. Short company changes to find parts of legion. (7)
- 18. Body in water rising as it gets bigger. (7)
- 21. Possessed on reflection about ten in a state. (5)
- 22. Motor with many in a deck. (4)

Solution to issue 1066's Elimination: a) (1,8); b) (15,22); c) (10,32); d) (17,30); e) (40,25); f) (7,9); g) (35,21); h) (16,23); i) (5,24); j) (20,41); k) (39,36); l) (29,31); m) (38,12); n) (18,28); o) (33,27); p) (19,3); q) (14,34); r) (2,4); s) (26,6); t) (11,13) ...leaving "weather" (37).



Solution to issue 1067's Crossword:

Across: 1. Partridge; 6. Stamp; 9. Nut; 10. Odd one out; 11. Edges; 12. Earthen; 14. Thinner; 15. Sly; 17. Per pro; 20. Resist; 21. Oomph; 22. Eunuch; 24. Obsess; 27. Zoo; 29. Inshore; 30. Servant; 33. Event; 34. Imitators; 35. Let; 36. Title; 37. Humiliate. **Down:** 1. Prose; 2. Rider; 3. Rancher; 4. Drowns; 5. Entity; 6. Sterile; 7. Argentine; 8. Pass rates; 13. Ace; 16. Limbo; 17. President; 18. Renascent; 19. Ooh; 20. Rho; 23. Chortle; 25. Bare all; 26. Sun; 27. Zenith; 28. Osmium; 31. Aroma; 32. Taste.

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**The Royal College of Science
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**12:00pm
'til LATE**

FELIX SPORT

IC Rugby - Comeback Kids leave it slightly too late

WILLIAM BEAUMONT
FELIX RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Egged on by a large vocal crowd, IC nearly stole a victory from under the noses of Royal Holloway. Just as in all the previous matches IC's superior fitness was clearly evident and once again the honour of the final score was ours. What's more is that this last 20 mins of barnstorming play was into a devilish wind which would have proved a serious test to any sides resolve. What is called for now is for the effort shown in the last quarter to be sustained for the entire

match - then the opposition will surely suffer. Plus points from the game were improvements in the lineout and defence.

A healthy fixture list sees IC embarking on a concentrated period of rugby, with forays into the Gutteridge League and Cup. Next week IC take on the medics of Royal Free, and on November 16th we play the old boys at Harlington.

Honour was bestowed on the club when Jack Pearl and Ollie Lyttleton were selected for the ULU squad. Congratulations all.

Seconds take on thirds in IC derby

The points were quick to flow. After five minutes, the threes capitalised on a twos breakdown and Tom completed a 15 man effort to overturn twos possession, scoring in the corner. A tad aggravated, the twos began a tough fight against humiliation. For the first-half, against the wind little progression poured forth, and the thirds showed strength and honourable work. Just before half-time a little luck was beset upon the seconds, with Kolone the ever reli-

able winger rectifying the balance.

The second half was slightly more disciplined, with an end to end battle for forty minutes. The only breakthrough came from The Viking, his first for IC. After a tremendous roar and an Icelandic muttering the play picked up to the standard expected of the seconds.

In summary, the final score was 10-5. The thirds played superbly, and the final score was unrepresentative of their effort.

Football fourths pick up the pieces

After last weeks disastrous Saturday, IC Fourth's were happy to draw three a piece, despite leading by two goals against a UCL team one division higher than themselves, and only goalkeeping errors and defensive blunders cost the team a vital three points which would have confirmed the team's position in the next round of the National Cup.

In the second game, also against a UCL side a league game against the UCL Fifth's, IC dissapointingly drew one-one, again after surrendering the lead. An off-form, under-strength team played poorly in the first-half, though as many chances were wasted in the second-half by our main strikers it must be seen as two points lost rather than one point gained.

Both games were very scrappy,

with Ken making many tackles which would not have been out of place on a rugby field. He was lucky not to have his name taken by the referee, to add to that of the keeper. Steve almost had an early bath for retaliation, after being assaulted by the right winger, but Sion Pale inflamed the situation further, by having a spat with a full-back who was built like a brick latrine, though he withdrew prematurely from the position, after only fifteen seconds.

Thankfully, there was Darren, Chris and Dimitri on Wednesday, and Pistol (never fires a blank) Pete on Saturday to score the goals and protect the innocent. Only a slightly controversial match-report this time, so roll on Wednesday....

Promising start for volleyball

This week of BUSA volleyball was a first for the newly formed female team of volleyball in IC. It implied a "do-what-we-can" attitude against a strong and well balanced side from UCL. But they take pride in their display; it was never over for UCL leading for a harsh scoreline in the second set. It ended up 15/11 15/3 - hopefully they can do better in the away match to be played in a fortnight.

For the boys, it was a bit easier; a two set to nil victory was well deserved after a close defeat last week. An impressive display in the attack (to quote the ref, "You played really well") made it really difficult for UCL to respond. The whistle blew with the score 15/11 15/9 - well done IC. Just one question remained; how was it that in four teams, out of forty players, there was only one Englishman, and he went to the French Lycee?

Winners from start to finish

What can I say? We were amazing, QMW were a quality team, but no match for the all conquering seconds. The first goal, by Rich Brunt, resulted from the usual IC pressure at the beginning of the game. IC pressed for a second goal, but it wouldn't come. QMW finally got their act together towards the end of the half. Luckily, their finish was appalling.

The second-half started with even more IC pressure, resulting in a knock in for Rich. The game then confined itself to the QMW half, as IC became very dominant as the opposition began to decompose.

After a few goal saving moves by the defence, IC again found their killer touch as Goran piledrived the ball into the back of the net. Bill did his customary clumsy tackle, flooring an opponent. But IC were so superior that QMW seemed to be playing like a bunch of art students.

RESULTS

RUGBY

IC 1ST 20 - 10 ROYAL HOLLOWAY

IC 2ND 10 - 5 IC 3RD

RSM 36 - 12 EALING POLICE

FOOTBALL

IC 4TH 3 - 3 UCL 4TH

IC 4TH 1 - 1 UCL 5TH

FENCING

IC WOMEN 12 - 6 UCL

VOLLEYBALL

IC WOMEN 0 - 2 UCL

IC MEN 2 - 0 UCL

HOCKEY

IC 2ND 3 - 0 QMW 2ND

IC LADIES 1ST 3 - 0 UCL

IC LADIES 2ND 0 - 7 UCL