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# THE FELIX

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## Student Newspaper of Imperial College

**Access Funds:** Got a good excuse? You better had if you want to get your hands on this stash of cash. Centre pages.

**On the island of Kolombangra:** A reflection on a trip to the Solomon Islands. Page 10.



**In Something for the Weekend this week: girls and boys, the gender divide exploded?**

# Unions' strike success paralyses Imperial

**MATTHEW BENNETT AND MAEVE CAREY**

Although Imperial was not one of the most active colleges involved in Tuesday's strike, it would have been difficult to notice that virtually the whole of the College had been shut down. Few lectures and tutorials took place, most of which were taken by staff who were officially on strike, but who had decided to teach without receiving pay.

An estimated 600 technical and support staff joined the majority of the teaching staff striking over their proposed pay rise of 1.5%. The eventual outcome of the strike can not be known at present, but there was a feeling among those on the picket lines that the level of anger reflected by so many people from higher education striking at once must have a positive effect on the profile of Higher Education. Unfortunately, the strike coincided with a fire in the Channel Tunnel and the year's first snow, so national news coverage was brief at the best.

Many people, from technicians to lecturers braved the freezing wind and sleet to be outside Imperial as early as 7am. Strikers stood around in rather uneasy lines handing out leaflets and carrying placards; it was immediately obvious that these people were not used to striking, or taking any sort of action. No attempt was made to stop people from getting into the College, unlike at some institutions where post was prevented from getting in (though none was delivered within IC yesterday), or milkmen turned away.

Union leaders continued to emphasise the need for better staff pay, but those on the picket lines saw the occasion as one to express anger at the lack of funding for Higher



PHOTO: ALDUS

**Pickers distributing flyers explaining their cause to passer's by outside the main gates on Exhibition Road. Although the turn out by technicians, lecturers and other staff was good, demonstrators were disappointed by the lack of organised student support.**

Education as a whole, rather than simply staff pay. Speaking to *Felix*, picketers revealed a whole range of reasons as to why the strikes were taking place. For one man, a member of the MSF (Management, Science and Finance workers union), it seemed simply to be a case of "The majority of the union voted for a strike, and I'm a democrat." Many felt that the strike was not about their own pay, but about the quality of Higher Education, which was seen as suffering due to lack of funding and several commented that they were supporting the students too by their action.

One striker said "The whole of HE is screwed" due to Government cuts. He expressed feelings of demoralisation among workers over a system that forced workers to apply for grants to pay their own salary. The same man has been on short term contracts at IC for eight years, and is reluctantly leaving HE for a perma-

nent position in industry. Bryon Wilson, president of ICAUT (Imperial College Association of University Teachers) said that they were "leaning over backwards not to affect students too much" in their effort to get better pay for staff, which is seen as a way of raising moral and standards in Universities. Those on the picket line were more candid, pointing out that "students wouldn't think twice about missing lectures if they had been out on the piss" and did not feel that missing one day would affect them much. Some picketers expressed dismay that there were so many students coming in to College during the strike, a move that was felt to be contrary to the strike's aim. The majority of these students claimed to be at College to use the computer facilities.

Speaking to *Felix*, Caroline Fox, College's Head of Personnel, explained that while the College sup-

ported the unions' stance in principle, they were sticking to the nationwide position agreed by the CVCP to remain united to granting employees more than a 1.5% pay deal without further cash from the Government. Amongst strikers, the feeling was that the quality of teaching would fall if funds continued to be withdrawn, particularly with student numbers increasing. The state of outdated lab equipment was also seen as a major problem.

The major feeling was that losing one day's pay was an investment into the future of higher education. Campaigners felt that the less pay staff get, the less students get out of them.

The issue of where deducted staff pay will go has still not been resolved, as the number of strikers is not yet known. The AUT did ask universities to donate money to their student hardship funds, but while UCL, the University of East Anglia and Salford University have all pledged to do this, IC seems to have decided that to do this would be illegal, as the funds were allotted to staff pay.

The strike was timed to come after the beginning of term, to avoid disruption to Freshers settling in, but before next Tuesday's budget. The unions lobbied parliament at the beginning of the summer, and have been waiting since then to strike.

One picket claimed that a group of Japanese university vice chancellors had come to look at how the British university system was run. The date they chose? Tuesday 19 November.

As a follow up to the strike on Tuesday, the unions are proposing a "Boycott of Bureaucracy", to start from last Wednesday. This will involve targeting the teaching quality **continued on page two**



# Strike closes College



continued from front page  
assessments in the 'old' universities, which are seen as an "unwieldy" way of repeating other reports to determine "whether the provision of education is satisfactory or not". Union members will stop completing the necessary documentation for these assessments.

There are also threats of action against "examinations and assessment, or a slow down on student admissions". This action was voted for along with the strike vote, and was accepted with a far greater majority than the strike itself, so could have a huge impact.

## Corruption at Royal Holloway

### MATTHEW KEMPTON

Last Friday the editors of *Orbital*, Royal Holloway's student newspaper, burned copies in an incinerator and waved placards outside their union building. They were demonstrating against what they saw as the union censoring the paper to cover up corruption in the student union last year.

One of the main allegations related to vote rigging in last year's sabbatical elections. Most of the censored article was based on inside information from a third year student, Matthew Bricknell. He was education welfare assistant last year but resigned over the summer. He was then sacked from his job at the union bar and banned from the union altogether. The double page article was just going to print when Mr Bricknell retracted his statement, which consisted of letters and recorded interviews on tape. Although he had signed legal docu-

ments affirming his statement, solicitors acting on behalf of the Union and Mr Bricknell threatened to sue if the article went ahead. Siva Ganeshanandan the union's general secretary ordered the article to be ripped out of every paper. Last year the *Orbital* reported on elections for the position of general secretary, which Siva Ganeshanandan won. One candidate was banned from the union because the welfare officer said he was a racist and homophobe, the ban was later overturned. In the same elections the ballot box was found to contain 40 more votes than were registered.

A statement from *Orbital* said "We believe that the article we are being forced to withdraw is not only true, but just begins to uncover the extent of the irregularities and discrepancies which took place in the union in the last academic year". The statement went on to call for a full investigation.

## News in Brief

### 200 GIRLS : 1 BLOKE

Last Thursday, there was widespread disturbance at Wimbledon railway station, south-west London. A rioting, screaming, brawling crowd, entirely made up of roughly 200 schoolgirls caused chaos with a large scale fight.

Shopkeepers were forced to lock up and traffic was brought to a standstill as the scrap spilled onto the road. Passers-by were dragged into the fray completely at random. It was only with the arrival of Police officers waving truncheons that some semblance of order could be restored.

The fight had started when two girls, one from Ricards Lodge High School, the other from Ursuline High, had started to argue about one of the boys from Wimbledon College. It didn't take long for all their friends to join in, turning a personal argument into a screaming, kicking brawl.

"This lad at our school is going out with a girl from Ursuline, but another girl at Ricard Lodge fancies him. That's what the fight was all about," explained a pupil from Wimbledon College. Although there is a lot of bad feeling between these two schools, people were amazed that more than 200 girls would fight over one bloke.

A police officer remarked "You just don't expect this sort of thing between girls. This was a bloody riot."

### EAST MEETS WEST

A slightly late start did not detract from the "East Meets West" show last Tuesday. It turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable and well-organised event exuding colour, humour and energy.

As part of the Diwali celebrations set up by the Indian Society, it was decided that, in the light of the forthcoming merger between Imperial College and Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, the show would be staged in The Great Hall in Sherfield, and not at Charing Cross as it normally was.

The show was a sell-out, with over 700 people buying tickets. It was planned with charity in mind, with all the evening's proceeds going to the Leukaemia Research Fund and the Jaipur Limb appeal.

Two students, one a medic and the other from IC, did a good job as the comperes, who despite keeping up a derisory repartee, emphasised

that they were breaking new ground and "leading the way into the future."

The programme was varied, with traditional dances, fashion parades, singers and comedy sketches. The highlight of the night depended on what sex you were, with a selection of "professional models" for the boys and at least two toned torsos for the girls. The audience were keen to participate and the male comperes was asked at one point to "Come up here, sexy" by one particularly forthright lady.

The only dubious parts were the chronic hairdos, some very glum models, and the infinite thank-yous and goodbyes at the end.

The drummers rounded off the night with a rousing performance which got the audience in the mood for the after-show party, which finished at 1.30pm. Dinesh Dhoona, one of the choreographers, described the show as "the best ever. It was a dream come true."

Videotapes of the complete performance will soon be available from the Student Television of Imperial College.

### ULU COUNCIL

The second University of London Union Council of the year meeting saw a raft of motions presented for discussion by the ULU executive. On the table were a motion proposing a campaign against fees, one requiring the sabbaticals' support of ULU's International Night and a motion to pass the new ULU regulations.

Two contentious motions originally on the agenda were withdrawn at the last minute following early amendments and a change of mind by the motion's proposer. These were a paper on Student Maintenance proposed by ULU Welfare sabb Paul Bates, and a motion to ban clubs that used guns proposed by ULU LGB officer and IC student Jo Paice.

After much debate, all motions tabled were passed more or less without alteration. However, the motion on the campaign against fees had some specific points removed from the paper pertaining to the cause and effect of the implementation of top-up fees, whilst the motion on International Night was passed unscathed.

The Council saw the first public outing for newly elected part-time sabb Nick Dearden, who replaced Claire Lawrie as Vice-President for Finance and Services.



# Safety checks on site installed, but doubts remain

## MATHIEU RICHARD

Following the numerous recent incidents on the IC construction sites (*Felix* 1064), which have entered the College folklore, an independent audit commissioned to investigate has finally reported back.

Several new measures have now been implemented in order to guarantee the safety of the staff and students in response to the safety survey. The Director of Estates, Ian Caldwell, described this issue as "of paramount importance".

Following the last incident, Schal, the main contractor, has decided to establish a permanent Quality Manager on site, as well as a Safety Manager, whose responsibilities include a one-month review of the project. This emphasises the fact that all incidents have been proved to be due to "lapses in quality" and human error - for example, the cause for the

ceiling collapse in the library walkway at the beginning of term was the choice of too thin a wire for ceiling ties.

These new members of the Schal team are supposed to minimise the risks of something similar happening again by supervising the work of the different sub-contractors and enhancing the co-ordination of the teams. Schal has also started advanced training sessions to improve the sub-contractors' concern for safety, and to prepare the workmen more adequately for the specific problems raised by a construction project in an occupied environment like the College.

More recently, the report commissioned by Mr Caldwell from Waterman Safety Ltd about the safety of the installations on site has revealed a few faults in the overall disposition of basic requirements such as fire extinguishers, service

ladders etc., but has also suggested a couple of measures for the enhancement of the safety controls.

The weekly "disruption meetings," between the Imperial College Safety authorities and representatives of the construction firms, will now be chaired by the College Project Manager, Ian Frame, in order to plan the disruptions and possible hazards ahead more than was the case before. The purpose of these meetings, which have been held since the beginning of the realisation of the project is to avoid as much as possible any nuisances to the staff and students of the College.

Moreover, the College Safety Representative Ian Gillet now inspects the site weekly, also concentrating on the way the contractors' work affects the College more than on the effective technical quality of the precise work done. Thus, accord-

ing to Mr Gillet, both potential causes of incidents will be better mastered - the quality of the work in itself, and its direct implications on the everyday life of the College.

To the question of whether further accidents are still possible, Mr Caldwell confidently replied with an assured tone "We believe that what is in place should prevent other problems."

Nevertheless, the particular conditions in which the building work has to be done - on a functioning and crowded campus - are certainly still a potential source of incidents. Students are still wary of the works following the reports of safety breaches and dangerous constructions reported in previous *Felices*. "I still check the roof just outside the library before I go in" commented one regular user of the facility. "I hope it is all worth it in the end."

## Mars hopes crash and burn

Sunday, 17th November, saw the launch of the Mars-96 probe by Russia. It was the culmination of seven years work and £38.5 million pounds of funding. Despite high hopes and a successful launch the craft made an unexpected return to Earth after the fourth series of booster rockets failed to fire.

The spacecraft carried a multitude of instruments designed to explore Mars and find out more about the Red planet. It had sensors to measure seismic activity, magnetic fields, atmospheric pressure and many other variables, in order to help scientists determine whether or not microscopic life did once live on Mars.

Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, ordered emergency teams to be readied following a warning from the White House that the probe could crash land there. Luckily the probe crashed into the Pacific ocean. There are, however, fears of a radiation leak as the probe was carrying several canisters of high-grade plutonium, which powered the probe's generators. Russian scientists have claimed that they would have survived the crash intact.

Imperial College's Professor David Southwood, from the Space and Atmospheric Physics Group, developed specialist equipment for the craft.

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# Police exhibit charity streak in Rag stunt

## MARIA IOANNOU

Last Saturday saw the latest outing of the infamous Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump. This is the annual excuse for a small group of IC students to get their kit off and streak from Harrods to Beit Quad, all in the name of charity. This year, for the first time ever, the rag event managed to acquire a police escort.

By 9:15 am last Saturday, eight brave men had gathered in Beit Quad to psych themselves up for the ordeal that lay ahead. Last minute doubts over the route were dispelled by old hands who described those wishing to take a shorter run through the back streets of Knightsbridge as "girly wusses."

Following tradition, the intrepid band had already decided to go straight down Cromwell Road and then straight up Exhibition Road. Standing with just a few layers protecting them from the cold, several of the participants hoped that there would be several tourists around the museums that day, perhaps giving some insight as to the sort of people who gladly declote in public.

As the jump time of 10:00am neared, the excitement and nervousness of the jumpers rose. First-time streakers all (few do it twice), the journey toward Harrods was punctuated with nervous chatter and chilly breath, unsurprisingly for people just wearing their pants and jackets. It was now 9:50, with traffic from Hell, and there were hordes of impatient shoppers thronging the pavements outside Harrods and Knightsbridge Underground station.

To facilitate the 'mission', the minibus turned down a side road just before Harrods, allowing them time to whip off their knickers and struggle out of their jackets. At the pre-arranged signal, the door opened and they leaped out and started running

up the road towards the waiting crowds. Almost at once, startled onlookers began laughing and cheering, as the streakers became blobs of pink amongst the traffic. A group of onlookers began a rousing chorus of Rule Britannia.

These guys were instant celebrities."

"They ran along the opposite pavement, pedestrians clapping them as they went past, to the continued laughter and support of everyone on the other side of the road. As they ran past, the doors of Harrod's opened

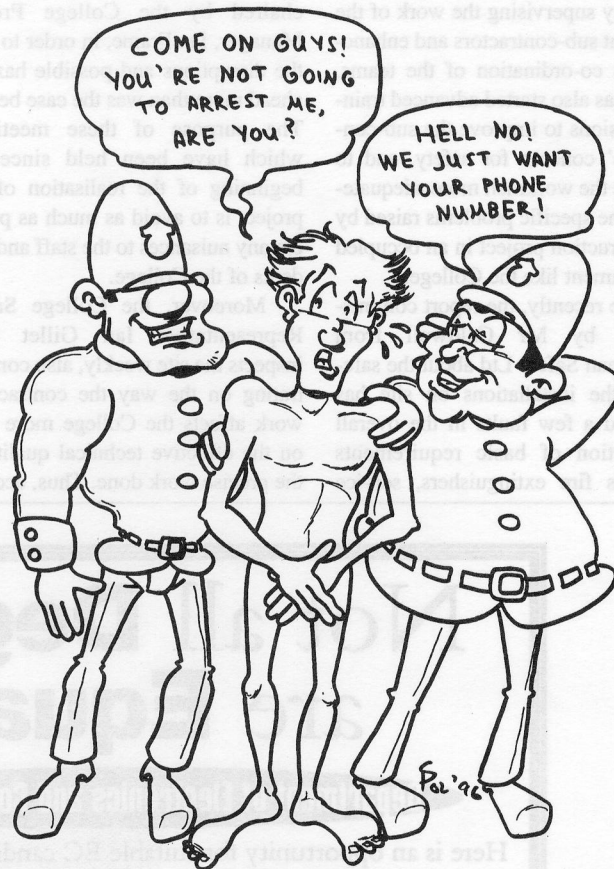
the Union Building. However, by the Victoria and Albert Museum, one of the runners was clearly lagging behind. He later claimed to have been running beyond his aerobic limit, but other observers said that a female pedestrian wanted his photograph.

Meanwhile, the others were jogging past the Natural History Museum, where there was someone selling the Big Issue. "Sorry, no change!" shouted one of the runners. At the corner of Exhibition Road and Prince Consort Road, the group paused to consider options. The majority chose to run a victory lap around the Albert Hall. The last runner was clearly in trouble, and decided to head back to the Union.

This laggard had one more piece of bad luck to befall him before he saw his trousers again. A mere twenty yards from the Union, while casually strolling past the Royal College of Music, the long arm of the law caught up with him. Watched by bemused spectators, including a *Felix* mole, a Police car pulled next to the perambulating nude and with an "Oi, you. Stop!" he was accosted by the boys in blue.

Satisfied that it was merely a student's stunt for charity and not some form of massive campaign of civil disobedience, the policemen accompanied the student back to the Rag office. Luckily, the police decided not to press charges, and didn't even take the details of the runner they caught, saying it was unfair to do anything to him just because he was the slowest. Showing a charity streak they commented that "women and children didn't want to see naked overweight blokes on the streets."

The event raised several hundred pounds for charity, and was generally reckoned to be a success by Rag Chair Andy Southern, with more people participating than in the past.



One of the crowd, positioned just by the Harrods entrance to Knightsbridge tube described what he saw: "They ran straight across the main road, and were generally greeted by applause and adulation from the crowd. The roads were packed, but the traffic all stopped to let them past. Taxis honked their horns, drivers waved, passengers stood up through sunroofs to get a better look

with exquisite timing. On the road, there was a double decker bus and the entire top deck were looking out of the window, waving and cheering. Not far behind the bus, a Police van was waiting, but it was trapped in the middle lane."

The route followed by the raggies took them along Knightsbridge on to Cromwell Road and right up Exhibition Road, and from there to

# Selkirk Hall experiences Tarantula trauma

## NEWSTEAM

A chance discovery has exposed a student at Selkirk Hall who has been keeping a tarantula in his bedroom since the beginning of term. The pet was discovered after a re-app found crickets, bred by the student to feed the spider, jumping around his shower cubicle.

According to insect experts, a full-grown tarantula can eat about 8-10 crickets per week. Unfortunately for

the student involved, some of these escaped. Other than the re-app, a number of Selkirk Hall students have reported seeing some of them, mostly in the area of staircase six. Some were spotted sitting in kitchen sinks, others lurking in the showers. The presence of these crickets led to the discovery of the tarantula.

When asked to comment on the situation, the Assistant Subwarden of Selkirk Hall remarked, "I really don't

think this is news, so I'm not going to be helpful." Dr. Hassard, the warden, was unavailable for comment.

The College position has always been that students are not allowed to keep pets while they are staying in halls of residence, so the heart-broken student was given 48 hours in which to get rid of his unwelcome pet. Unconfirmed rumours suggest that he took it to the Biology department to be looked after, leaving it in

the common room in the hope that some kind soul would take it in.

The Housekeeper of Selkirk, Mr Pappalardo, who had been away and was therefore unaware of this, expressed amazement at the tarantula and other wildlife. "It isn't as if a tarantula is easy to hide, not like a cat or a dog. Next we will be getting chimpanzees jumping up and down the galleries. This place isn't meant to be a zoo!"



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# Gardens of Enlightenment?

Simon Wistow and Michael Roberts are enlightened by reading IC's application for spondulicks from the Millenium Comission but have to ask....

Is it all worth it?

One of the first things people notice when they come to Imperial is that, frankly speaking, the architecture is as inspiring as a flat tire on a rainy night in Moss Side. Yes that is a clichéd complaint oft heard around the JCR (I'm not even going to mention the lack of women, whoops), but when I came to have my interview here I was very nearly put off by how ugly everything was. If Imperial didn't have such a good reputation then I would never have come. But (and the large cranes around the campus are a big hint) things are afoot to renovate the area and generally change our dear College into something we can be proud of.

The obvious improvements are, of course, the BMS building and the Library. Despite a few set-backs (and near deaths) these are at last under way. However the most important restructuring is yet to come.

The area around Dalby court is to be completely transformed and to help pay for the mammoth costs the College has put in a bid to the Millenium Comission. There is currently £300m being invested by the Government, the Lottery and private finance in the South Kensington area, but this project will be centered entirely around the the Civil Eng building and is composed of some, how shall we say this, interesting ideas.

The College wishes to remove the existing car and postal van parking spaces from Imperial College road and relocate them to a new, underground car park. This new, two level building will provide up to 200 spaces, and would allow parking for staff cars during the day, the Albert Hall at night and the various Museums at the weekend.

By removing vehicles from Imperial College road, the Queens Lawn would become more accessible and would be opened to the public, along with the Arts and Music Centre on top of the Library and the rest of Dalby Court, where "a sequence of revitalised spaces would be created... called The Gardens Of Enlightenment" (featuring the Shrub of Righteousness and the Tree of Universal Knowledge, perchance?

Who thinks these things up? Cheech and Chonch? David Ike? Neil from the Young Ones?).

Also on the cards is a new campus entrance at the the junction of Imperial College road and Exhibiton road which will include a link to a subway system, connecting the South Kensington Underground station, the Natural History Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum. After removing the traffic from Imperial College road, there are plans to build a tree lined avenue, which will be trimmed in the centre to allow light onto the piece de resistance - a rippling, undulating, canal with bridges across it. Apparently, "the form of the canal with its sinusoidal curves and the gravel avenue will contrast with the more formal layout of the Queens lawn, with its central water

**"If this development has public access, will it be up to Security to combat the inevitable rise in petty crime and the distinct possibility of vandalism and half-inching, or should it become the police's responsibility?"**

feature..."

"Central water feature?" I hear you cry? "there ain't no water on the Queens lawn". Ah, but this is all to change. French landscape architect, Alain Provost, is being brought in to create a kinetic art piece, using computer controlled fountain jets, which can be programmed to change height, duration and at night, colour and light.

To quote the Millenium application, "We will exploit this technology in an array of 100 or more jets, to provide sequences of aesthetic representations of the structure of the elements - orbiting electrons could, for example, be isolated, high thrown packets of water in transient, concentric shells, around a more stable nucleus of protons and neutrons. The periodic table itself could be represented on a large scale in the coloured paving of the fountain plaza." Eh?

The Queens lawn will be resolved to bring it onto the same height as

Imperial College road, making it the focal point along the east-west axis. This landscaping would create an open air café space in front of the Sherfield Building. A mixture of hard paving, grass and gravel will help to 'soften' the space. Above the Dalby Court car park, there will be an informal space, made either of timber decking or fine gravel. There will be trees in boxes surrounded by seating and screens to create smaller spaces and since the court is bounded in on the North by the Bessemer building, there are plans for an eight-metre-long geological map of the British Isles. This would be executed in stone, with each of the main geological units being represented by its own rock type. It would be surrounded by large shaped boulders, from classic geological sites. Are they crazy?

The estimated total cost? A snip at £6,000,000.00 of which the College anticipates half will be paid for by a grant from the Commission and half from revenue from the car park and otehr retail opportunities.

For once I cannot be accused of making all this up. I have, in my hands at this very moment, a copy of Dalby Court and Landscaping Milenium Lottery Application, a document prepared by Foster and Partners, the very expensive architecture company run by Sir Norman Foster. This nominally confidential document was supplied by a helpful source within College administration (it is howver in the public domain).

Even to the untrained eye this document is, to be frank, pants. It seems hurried and scappily put together, with a bit of wishy-washy landscaping-babble and some photos and diagrams to pad out space. This is our application to the Millenium commission. True, an attached memo

states that "if the bid makes the Commissions' initial long list, further detailed work will be required", but surely it is first impressions that count. How can the application be taken seriously if it is so poor? Especially when it is hidden among the hundreds of thousands of other applicants for Millenium money. Considering how much we are paying Sir Norm I think we should have a slightly more impressive document. And why is the document confidential? Don't we have a say in what is done?

I'm sure future freshers will enjoy searching for the few women at IC along the shady banks of our very own aqueous sine wave and, if they get lucky, sitting hand in hand, next to a tree in a enclosed space above a car park. The public can "ooh" and "ahh" at the splendid atomic fountain complete with orbiting electrons and large scale periodic table for amnesiac chemists.

Since the area will be public access, suitable drug dealers may even be on hand to enhance the 'Enlightening'. If this development has public access, whose jurisdiction will it fall under? Will it be up to Ken Weir and his present Security Force to combat the inevitable rise in petty crime and the distinct possibility of vandalism and half-inching, requiring College to employ more guards either internally or from an outside firm, or should it become the police's responsibility?

The whole project has potential and it would be nice to be able to look in the Imperial College prospectus for 1999/2000 and not cringe at the 60s concrete block style architecture but I think (and hey, I'm never outspoken) that maybe the students should have a little more input in to the whole shebang.

Also, if I was being cynical, I would say that maybe there are a few things more important that six thousand, thousand squids could be spent on (maybe renovating Evelyn gardens or rebuilding those buildings that were built in the 60s to last 20 years, for example). This could all be a moot point, though, because judging by our application, I wouldn't be surprised if we came away with nothing to spend.



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

WITH HUMAN-RIGHTS INCREASINGLY IN FOCUS, SANJAY SIKDAR INVESTIGATES THE WORK OF AMNESTY

As many of you will know, Amnesty International is the world's largest voluntary organisation dealing with human rights issues. You have probably seen their adverts in magazines portraying graphic examples of torture. This bears testament to the high profile Amnesty has. It has 1.1 million members spanning 150 countries and territories with 125,000 members residing in the British Isles. Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by a British Lawyer, Peter Benenson after he heard of human rights violations against two Portuguese prisoners. It is funded by members and through the public using strategic fund raising schemes.

Amnesty International mission statement is simple - to pursue the release of all prisoners of conscience. In other words, those incarcerated solely for their beliefs, colour, sex, religion, ethnic origin or religion and have not used or advocated violence. Amnesty International strives for fair and prompt trials of political prisoners, it opposes extrajudicial executions and sudden disappearances that take place in nations who blatantly contravene the concept of basic human rights. Amnesty is also totally against torture, degrading acts on prisoners and particularly the death penalty. This applies to political and non political prisoners alike because there is nothing more inhumane than to give a person the time of their death.

Historically, Amnesty International focused their energies into assisting political prisoners but now includes human rights abuses in its mandate. For instance, Amnesty fights for asylum seekers who are at risk of being deported only to become prisoners of conscience and face the full wrath of their captors. It is against abuses by opposition groups, prisoner killings, hostage taking and genocide such as the recent atrocities in Rwanda. The organisation is also concerned by people being forced out of their homelands for reasons of belief, religion, colour, ethnic origin and language and who have not retaliated in violence.

Amnesty International does not believe in criticising particular regimes, and ignores government ideology as long as there are no violations of human rights - that can

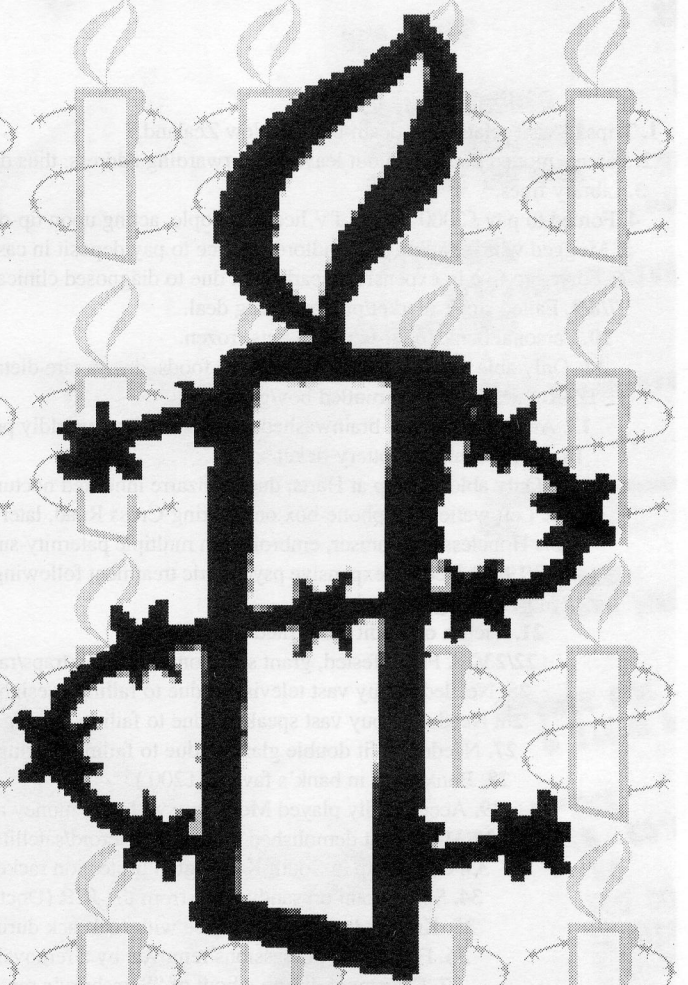
even occur in supposed democracies. Some might say that Amnesty meddles in the internal affairs of states, but surely the issue of human rights goes far beyond boundaries.

You may think that being a voluntary organisation Amnesty has no power to enforce their mandate but allow me to give you two examples. After hearing of a nine year old Ethiopian boy who had been imprisoned all his life along with his mother, children in Norway, sent drawings and cards to the Oslo office of Amnesty. These were all bundled up and forwarded to the President of Ethiopia, along with a message demanding the release of the two prisoners. Within five weeks mother and child were set free. In a second example, the President of Brazil was so distressed about Amnesty's campaign in Brazil that he vowed Brazil's human rights record would never be cited again in future reports. Clearly, the power of democracy can force even the most ruthless regimes into action.

There are several exciting events that have started now which may interest you. The "Amnesty International Christmas Raffle 1996" will take place on the 20th December (1st prize £3000, 2nd prize £1500, 3rd prize £500 and loads of runner-up prizes of vouchers for Amnesty catalogue goods, videos, tapes and CD's).

Amnesty International has long been associated with music well before the days of Live Aid. Amnesty, in collaboration with Miracle Music, has launched a competition, for budding songwriters. There are two categories: firstly a song written on any theme and secondly a song specifically to do with human rights. The first prize in both sections is £200 and a publishing contract, along with the use of a demo studio to record the song. Second and third prizes are amounts to £100 and £50 respectively plus a publishing contract. An ideal opportunity for you budding Noel Gallaghers or Kurt Cobains to make a positive statement.

Finally if you are going to attend the "Skunk Anansie UK Tour 1996" you will probably see Amnesty stalls. Raffles will take place including a boogie box signed by the band.



## AMNESTY NEEDS YOU

At the moment Amnesty is actively trying to recruit student members because they are thought to be active and very passionate in support of causes. If you wish to become a member you can ring the hotline telephone number (0891 445 999). Membership for students costs £7.50 a year.

Try out the following quiz to test your awareness of human rights:

1. Human rights violations occur in all political ideologies.
2. Torture is prohibited by the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. Prisoners have been tortured in one out of every three countries during the 90's.
4. A 17 year old can be executed in the US but not in Indonesia or Russia.
5. No innocent US citizens have been executed this century.
6. In the USA, those who kill blacks are just as likely to be executed as those who kill whites.
7. No western industrialised nation apart from the US again uses the death penalty.
8. Many citizens are silenced through "disappearances" by governments as a means of repression to avoid public criticism.
9. Amnesty International works tirelessly for the release of all political prisoners regardless of beliefs or actions.
10. Amnesty International got the Nobel Peace Prize for 1977 in supporting Human rights.

Answers:

1)True 2)True 3)True 4)True 5)False 6)False 7)True 8)True 9)False 10)True



# Access funds:

1. Trips to visit relative on death-bed (in New Zealand.)
2. Parents moved house without leaving a forwarding address, thus destitute.
3. Library fines.
4. Forced to pay £2000 fine to TV licence people, acting upon tip-off by hall cleaners.
5. Mugged whilst walking to landlord's office to pay deposit in cash.
6. Forced to live in expensive, nearby flat due to diagnosed clinical laziness (Doctor's certificate attached.)
- 7/8/9. Failed stock-market/property/drug deal.
10. Personal bank collapsed, all assets frozen.
11. Only able to eat extremely expensive foods, due to rare dietary condition (Doctor's certificate attached.)
12. Ripped off by disgruntled boy/girlfriend.
13. Abducted by cult, brainwashed into donating all worldly possessions to Krishna.
14. Failed multiple-lottery-ticket scam.
15. Only able to shop at Harts, due to bizarre inherited nocturnal sleeping patterns (Doctor's certificate attached.)
16. Left wallet in a phone-box on Charing-Cross Road, later detonated by the bomb squad.
17. Hopeless womaniser, embroiled in multiple paternity-suits.
- 18/19/20. Needed expensive psychiatric treatment following alien abduction/near miss by falling library ceiling/hypnosis during fresher's week.
21. Victim of credit card fraud.
- 22/23/24. Flat infested, grant spent on cockroach traps/rat poison/having the squatters evicted.
25. Needed to buy vast television, due to failing eyesight (Doctor's certificate attached.)
26. Needed to buy vast speakers, due to failing hearing (Doctor's certificate attached.)
27. Needed to fit double glazing, due to failing hearing of neighbours opposite.
28. Bank error in bank's favour (£200.)
29. Accidentally played Monopoly with real money and lost.
- 30/31/32. Flat demolished by falling asteroid/satellite/747.
33. Caught up in South Kensington protection racket (money needed urgently.)
34. Spent grant on sandwiches from the JCR (Doctor's certificate attached.)
35. Knocked over a Ming vase with rucksack during visit to the V&A.
36. Entirety of possessions removed by a removals firm calling at the wrong address.
37. Overspent during a bout of "Sainsbury's rewards point fever."
38. Grant cheque bounced.
- 39/40/41. Last year's access fund cheque eaten by dog/roommate/IC internal mail system.
42. Suffered blow on head causing amnesia, and thus incurred tuition fees re-learning how to speak, eat, integrate etc...
43. Personal accountant AWOL. Last communication received; a post-card from Rio de Janeiro carrying the only the message "It's all gone. Sorry." (photocopy attached.)
- 44/45. Donated student loan to donkey sanctuary/Kurt Cobain memorial fund.
46. Accidentally left the phone the off hook after calling a close friend in Hong Kong.
47. Can only wear silk, due to rare skin condition (Doctor's certificate attached.)
48. Forced to replace entire wardrobe following a grievous lapse of concentration in the launderette.
49. Grant spent on skin grafts following an accident in chemistry lab.
50. Grant spent on false limbs following an accident in the Mech Eng workshop.
51. Grant spent on a guide dog following an accident in the laser lab.
52. Gullible.
53. Prostitute's fees; a justifiable expenditure resulting from the disadvantageous male:female ratio (male applicants only.)
54. Bodyguard's fees; a justifiable expenditure resulting from the disadvantageous male:female ratio (female applicants only.)
- 55/56. Legal costs/Vet's bills resulting from bizarre sexual practices/preferences.
57. Forced to replace flatmate's microwave oven following failed suicide bid.
58. Toupee purchased to replace hair lost through financial stress.
59. Got married, had kids, settled down during the summer holidays.
60. Foolishly let slip PIN number to roommate whilst sleep-talking, hence bankrupt.
- 61/62. Compelled to buy suit for job interview/roommate's funeral.
63. Father, head of crumbling media empire, committed suicide by leaping from his private yacht, leaving one respon-

Roll-up, Roll-up, get out those loan agreements, photocopy those bank-statements, there are prizes to be won in IC's annual bullshitting contest... For today sees the deadline for applications for student Access funds. Originally intended as an allocation for those students undergoing particular financial hardship, today's falling grants and soaring living costs have produced a huge rise in the number of students applying to the fund. Although IC's budget for such hand-outs is larger than most, more fingers in the pie can only mean less pie per finger, and so the more deserving cases are inevitably losing out to those students willing to make financial gain by being economical with the truth. This has turned the applications procedure into something resembling a creative writing contest... Those individuals not fortunate enough to be blessed with missing limbs, debilitating illnesses or children are having to become increasingly inventive in order that their pleas be heard above the begging throng. To this end, and in keeping with the standards of journalistic integrity that our readers have come to expect, Felix has compiled a list of 101 tall tales, outrageous claims and abject lies with which to boost your chances of a windfall come the new year. Pens at the ready...

- sible for bad debts.
  64. Ploughed both grant and loan into top-secret personal research project (Nobel prize imminent.)
  65. Frequent trips to New York, Paris etc... for 'vital research purposes.'
  66. Squandered all available funds in a vain attempt to woo a particular member of the opposite sex.
  67. Cost of redecorating and refurbishing flat after third party...
  68. Fire...
  69. and Theft.
  70. Act of God (uninsured.)
  71. Terrible cook; can only eat out.
  72. Terrified of London, hence exorbitant travel expenses.
  73. Flat situated next to Bosphorus Kebab, entailing obvious increase in living costs.
  74. Flat situated far from Sainsbury's, entailing obvious increase in living costs.
  75. Member of Conservative Society (refused to cash grant cheque on principle.)
  76. Member of Socialist Worker Student Society (refused to open bank account on principle, hence unable to cash grant cheque.)
  77. Spent entire grant, loan and overdraft in a single day, following a premonition that the world was going to end (since proven false.)
  78. Forced to pay reparations after throwing up in numerous taxis.
  79. Driving lessons.
  80. Colour blind, hence unable to tell between different denominations of bank-note (Doctor's certificate attached.)
  - 81/82/83. Overdraft caused by addiction to cigarettes/crack-cocaine/Bosphorus mixed grills.
  84. Cats to support.
  85. Threats of violence from bank-manager.
  86. Chain-drinker.
  87. Failed bid to host next Olympic Games.
  88. Money vanished during holiday in the Bermuda triangle.
  89. Couldn't possibly wear last year's fashions (darling.)
  90. Somebody I know got £500 last year.
  91. National Insurance contributions.
  92. Negative equity.
  93. Invisibles.
  94. Overheads.
  95. Sundries and miscellany.
  96. I simply don't know where all the money went.
  97. Lost student loan in Nigerian investment portfolio hoax.
  - 98/99/100. You have to give me the money, I'm in the boat club/on the University Challenge team/a close personal friend of the Rector.
- ...And the least believable of all: **101**. Spent it on textbooks.

# your flexible friend



# ON THE ISLAND OF KOLUMBANGARA...

## *A voyage of discovery*

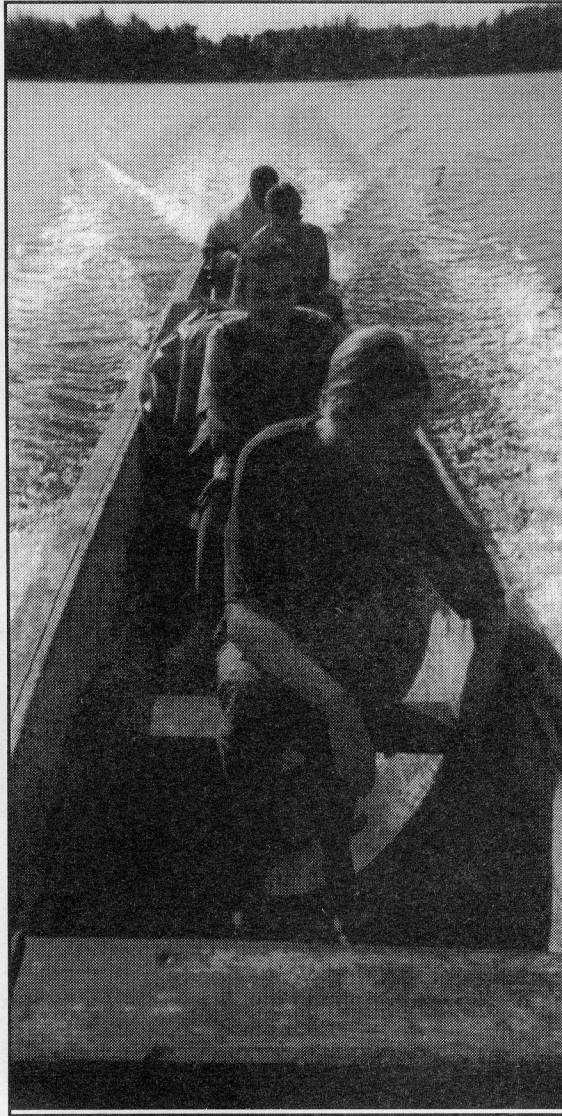
The rest of the intrepid expedition had gone to brave the mountains of Kolumbangara's interior (Kolumbangara is one of the Solomon Islands, in the Western Pacific), and I had been told, with all due subtlety, that as a mere girl, I would slow them down.

This left me at a loose end in a male dominated training camp - the envy my friends had shown when I told them I would be sharing my holiday with eighty 16 - 21 year old lads (and five Australian monks) proving to have been misplaced. So, I borrowed a dug out canoe and set out to sea. It was about 8 'o' clock, and the sun illuminated the rainbow of colours thrown out by the coral, living on the shallow seabed, easily visible through the crystal clear tropical water.

As I paddled on, following the shoreline around the mountainous tropical island, I passed a few palmleaf huts and an overwhelming number of half-dressed native children. A school of dolphins soon joined me, swimming in front of the canoe - but always keeping their distance. The Solomon islanders consider them a pest as they eat the precious tuna stocks, and the dolphins have learnt to stay out of spear's reach. Yet the dolphins stayed with the my canoe; leaping across its path as I continued my voyage, on around the island.

Following the coastline of this beautiful island, you begin to feel that you are no longer on the same planet as that inhabited by SW7 - the clear turquoise oceans, clean air and simple native ways of life are so far removed from the unstoppable pace of twentieth century living that we have all grown up with. Indeed, you easily begin to believe that some mythical shield protects this lonely paradise from the forces of change.

Yet all of a sudden, the reality of the modern world hits you smack in the face....



## *Strangers in paradise*

Though it is a cliché, it is unfortunately true that nowhere on earth is entirely perfect, and the bare patches on the mountain side stood out as a testament to the destructive power of the logging industry. The loggers are at the root of deep and bitter disputes between the island's community which reach right down to family level.

In the Solomon Islands, titles like "chief" are passed on mainly through the paternal line, and the chiefs are seen as caretakers of the land. But it is the woman who actually own the land, passed on through the maternal line. However, the logging companies had gone into the islands assuming that the land was owned by the chiefs. Consequently, they thought that they had obtained permission to log the forest. Unfortunately, as the the chiefs did not actually own the land many cases have gone to court. The matter of land rights and logging has led to feuds within families in a society where the sense of family is extremely strong and looking after your 'wantoks' (relations) is a social responsibility.

Although this system has many advantages - there are no beggars, and all the old and infirm are looked after by their families - it also has a system of strict taboos. A husband is not allowed to go to the bathroom if his wife's brothers are in the same house, and while climbing Mount Popamansu I was asked to keep my hair tied up, as the local giant took offense to long hair, and would "do your hair in" if he was angered.

Later, paddling along the coast of an idyllic island in the increasingly fierce sun, Mount Popamansu seemed less daunting, though other dangers exist for those in canoes.

Tararamanu, the Sea Devil, will only venture forth on clear moonlit nights when his anger spurs him to lightning strikes. Luckily, I was safe today - apart from a bad case of sunburn. **H**



At a loose end in the Solomon Islands



Time for a change this week, I think. You must be a shade fatigued by the relentless 'analysis' of Sherfield's activities, entirely justified as it is, of course. As for Ian Caldwell, even I am almost tinged with guilt, particularly since he is finally starting to act with financial prudence over the sale of Boathouse rubble to the alumni. Magnificent idea. If it worked for some hideous lump of concrete in Germany, think what we can get for lovely Putney bricks. I shall also resist the urge to mention a recent incident in the Student fees office, where a friend of mine was kept waiting for over five minutes, despite the presence of six staff when he entered the room, finally to be served by some chap whose essential work on a computer consisted of playing Chess. Perhaps Mike Hansen would care to take up the running on this one.

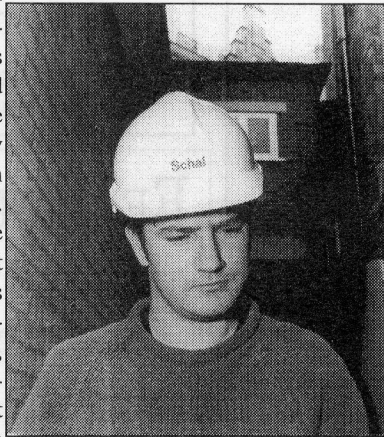
No, this week it's Europe.

Die-hard followers of this column will know that I am not the most ardent fan of the European Union. I have long held the belief that the

Single Market, which allies more closely with Britain's long standing adherence to free trade than with many of our continental partners, is very important. My problem is with the inexorable drive to harmonisation, integration and federalism. As the days go by, I can find more and more reasons why monetary union is fatally flawed. Aside from the pathetic point about tourists avoiding currency commission, not one watertight argument for it appears to have been put. The notion that economies as disparate as Germany and Portugal can be 'aligned' and 'converge', to be run under a single economic policy and interest rates is plainly absurd, a point which the

peoples of Europe, particularly Germany are beginning to see. How on earth can the Deutschmark retain all its value after 1999 if it becomes the Euro merged with currencies it has historically been stronger than?

## Simon Baker



## Voice of Reason

Britain, quite rightly, is not taking all this at face value. We are quite prepared to pick and choose policies that are beneficial to Britain, since we clearly don't share the Franco-German 'dream' of a united Europe. The recent working week fiasco is a perfect example. We secure an opt out from the Social Chapter, which contains the legislation, and so the European Commission decide to call it Health and Safety, which we can't

veto. This shows that the system is not working. Individual concerns are being swept away in the name of the greater good. Subsequently the only way that our voice can be heard is by scuppering major summits, which does little for the dignity of the EU. However, desperate situations call for desperate remedies. So much of recent EU policy is blatantly against Britain's best interests- fishing, agriculture, employment, transport and so on. It is time to renegotiate our position in the club, otherwise we will arrive at a situation where public opinion will jeopardise the benefits by calling for our exit, which is not as crazy as it sounds.

Finally, can I remind the Hockey Thirds that 'funny names' in your reports were funny and original at roughly the same time that Little and Large were. The sports team, devious swines that they are, only leave them in to make you look silly, so don't do it. 'Indian Carpet catalogue' indeed. But what happened to 'Swiss Cottage'?

## - in the course of duty -

At this point I must take a brief break from my academic extemporising to alert everyone that a great, perverse and repugnant injustice may soon be brought upon us all. For those of you who have not kept up with current affairs, certain people are attempting to ban the release of the film 'Crash'. Crash was made by David Cronenbourg, possibly the most vital, creative film maker alive today. It was based on the book by J. G. Ballard, the most profound, prophetic writer of the late twentieth century. The book tells the tale of certain normal individuals, and the manner in which their lives were irrevocably changed by their involvement in serious car crashes. Although I have not seen it (and possibly never will) there is no doubt in my mind that this film is one of the most beautiful, powerful and disturbing ever made. And yet, philistines such as Virginia Bottomley are attempting to prevent the public seeing it. Their claim: that it is sick, pornographic and brutal.

They are correct of course, it is sick, it is depraved, it is undeniably brutal and possibly pornographic, but that is no reason for not showing it - it is also a great, important work of art. Films such as Die Hard and Eraser are far more brutal and violent than this, and far lesser works of art, and they are shown and lauded at every turn. The crowds love them, they cheer at every decapitation and

mutilation. So, what is the problem with Crash? It is different because it is not enjoyable, it is not pleasant, it is wholly foul. This is because it exposes parts of the human psyche which the politicians prefer to brush under the carpet. They do not want to admit that humans might be by their very nature cruel, sexual beings, excited by violent, senseless death. They prefer to imagine that people can, and will, fit into the shroud of artificial normality that they have cast.

It is in a similar manner that certain psychological experiments (Milgram's obedience experiment and Zimbardo's prison simulation; I will not go into details here but they are described in any standard psychology textbook should you wish to look them up) have been branded unethical. The ostensible reasons for this are weak and largely irrelevant; the real reason for this branding was simply because they revealed the true brutality of the human mind.

So I say that Crash must be shown. In fact it should be shown everywhere; in cinemas, on television, in supermarkets, on giant public screens on street corners. It should be compulsory viewing at schools, it should be an essential part of every curriculum. Not just because it is an incredible work of art, but because it could prove to be the most revealing film ever made.

adfm

## THE WEEKLY POEM

supplied by PoetIC

### NIGHT TO DAY

Sinking into this murky depression,  
no control of one's powers  
and powers seem to be lost  
Bliss and happiness arriving abruptly  
then going away quietly  
in a simmering twilight  
Covers the ears  
making a sign of understanding...  
cars passing by seeking the buzz...  
It's night again.  
All the zeros join together  
to make for a new start,  
that won't begin,  
Nil  
You haven't got a stomach for this.  
It's all acting in a world that you dream upon.  
Just one slight breath changes it  
From night to day  
Dawn.  
Impatience and ruin  
Waking up, dancing, weaving their old pattern.  
Leaving information on where  
to begin again:  
Just a thought

Stelios

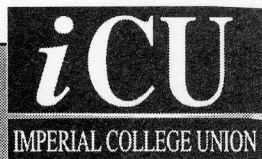
PoetIC is the creative writing society of Imperial College. The next PoetIC workshop will be on Monday 25th November at 5.30 in Room G21 of the RSM building. For more details contact Keith McNulty on ext 58610 (e-mail: k.mculty@ic.ac.uk).



# WARDEN

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### IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION STUDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

**POSITIONS VACANT:  
WOMEN'S OFFICER**

**TO BE ELECTED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.**

**FOR DETAILS OF POSITION, CONTACT THE PRESI-  
DENT ERIC ALLSOP VIA THE UNION OFFICE.**

## FELIX MEETINGS

monday 6:00pm

news, photography and features  
meeting

friday 1:30pm

music, film, art and theatre review  
meetings

## FELIX *needs:*

- a feature editor
  - feature writers
  - layout people
  - graphic designers
  - news reporters
  - music reviewers
  - theatre reviewers
  - film reviewers
  - puzzle compilers
- come in and see  
us in the corner  
of beit quad!  
training and  
freebies provided!*







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Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

### STRIKE ONE?

In a rare display of solidarity and action, the College was closed this week by the combined effect of technicians, manual workers and lecturers striking. The issues that have brought these disparate groups together are firstly money, and secondly the state of HE in Britain.

The level of anger amongst the pickets on Tuesday morning was running high. The weather for the occasion, freezing rain, sleet and snow, was perhaps suited to the miserable state of affairs that prompted the action. Higher education is in a mess, they said, through lack of fund-

ing, lack of attention, and lack of respect for the hundreds of thousands of students, workers and lecturers.

Nationwide, the day of action was startlingly successful, with all HE establishments affected. The AUT were early in claiming a majority of institutions more or less closed by the strike. In London, University College was closed, King's College severely under-staffed and many smaller colleges were also affected. At IC, nearly all 600 technical and support staff were on strike, as were a number of lecturers, and at least five departments were closed completely. However, despite calls by the

demonstrators to support their action, and an NUS policy to join the strike, picket lines were still breached by students, and lectures still took place. It would seem that a day off in passive support of a protest against cuts in HE funding - which ultimately affect all students - is less favourable than braving the cold and wet for a few understaffed lectures or a chance to use the internet. Are students here so laid-back that even a day in bed is too radical for them?

The day of protest unfortunately coincided with other equally important items of news, and was not really give the coverage it deserves. A

strike by HE personnel is rare - the last was over ten years ago - and therefore deserves good coverage. Academics are sensible people and would not go so far as to strike if they did not have a genuine grievance.

As the Rector said in his Commemoration Day speech, the Government has stated that there are no votes in HE. The implication is that we are a soft target for cuts. This week's action was a valiant effort to expose the complacency behind this stance. Let us all hope that next week's Budget reflects the views of the hundreds of thousands of voters affected by Higher Education cuts.

## LETTERS TO FELIX

### Clayponds talks back

Dear Editor,

For fear of this letter sounding a bit 'tit for tat', I shall be brief. I am of course referring to Danny Segal's response in last week's *Felix* to my previous letter concerning security at Clayponds.

In my letter I mentioned that I would like to see deadlocks fitted on our front doors and used the common room money as a possible means of funding this venture. Danny 'took issue' with my 'conclusion' that the most urgent upgrade was in the form of better locks for the front doors on the grounds that only one of the burglaries over the summer had involved entrance through a front door.

This seems to be a case of 'we're not going to spend money on this because there are other far weaker points that need dealing with first' ie he practically acknowledges that the general level of security is appalling. Well I'm sorry but the issue of deadlocks IS an important one, not least because one is unable to get private house and contents insurance at a sensible premium without such a lock. Instead one is forced to pay the high 'All Risks' cover offered by the College for any computers etc which should NOT be classified as 'All Risks' unless they are portable and you wish them to be covered when

out of your room.

The common room was merely an example of how College money is available for certain things but not for others. I'm not saying that people don't want one. After all, if somebody issues a questionnaire asking 'Would you like a jacuzzi and satellite TV installed in your home?', you're not going to say no are you?!

Yours sincerely,  
 Andrew Payne

### Result for sandwich campaign

Dear Mr Baker,

Thank you for taking up my campaign against QT. I really should have let John Foster write his own reply, but as he took the trouble to come and see me personally, and appeared not to have read *Felix* (and I am such a kind and uncynical person) I thought I would report what he said. I even let him see what I had written before I sent it to *Felix*, hence the use of the words "trading surplus" where I originally put "profits" and the bit about the Sandwich Shop having lower overheads. I thought I repeated the word "apparently" enough times that it should have been obvious I was merely reporting what Mr Foster said and did not necessarily believe it. I would like to know why the college charges its own catering department overheads

(I subsequently added this to my reply in *Felix*, together with the fact that I agreed with your earlier remark about budgets being used to cover things up, but it wasn't published).

Meanwhile, my letter has also been in IC Reporter and I have had only praise from my colleagues and other staff. Since I wrote my letter, Mr Foster has undertaken a QT customer survey. I am awaiting the results.

Linda Hart  
 Imperial College

Dear *Felix*,

It seems almost churlish to criticise the cheerful budget fodder supplied in Da Vinci's. Many over-worked academics punctuate their day with their fine coffee, and lunch time sees throngs of brassic students keeping mind and body united with their infallible curries.

But, as you've probably guessed, I'm going to criticise it anyway.

I have been concerned for some time about the immense quantities of polystyrene consumed. Every curry, meal, coffee, cake and even bread roll comes with its own quietly disturbing, disconcertingly white and utterly unbiodegradable plastic disk. Once a styrene object is created, it is never destroyed. No organism exists that can digest the stuff (though my flatmate's working on it) and most people are familiar with the poison-

nous, acrid fumes that are produced on combustion.

Also, there are direct health problems associated with consuming trace amounts of common plastics. New research is revealing that they contain chemicals capable of mimicking oestrogen and other sex hormones. In an age where fertility is dropping devastatingly fast, this should be a real concern. Polystyrene also releases free radicals (nasty) and can spoil the taste of the food.

Da Vinci's may not have the space and facilities to use real crockery, but alternatives exist. Waxed cardboard plates and bowls are available to almost any specification. In particular, there is no excuse for using polystyrene for cups; even McDonald's - the paradigm of materialistic wastefulness and social corruption - use paper vessels throughout.

It's time to take responsibly as consumers. We can't afford to treat our world as a dustbin any longer.

David Ross,  
 Mech Eng II

Letters may be edited for length.  
 The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.

**Deadline for letters in Felix 1071 is Monday 25th November. Please bring some form of identification. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk**



**BUILDING BLOCKS BY CLANSMAN AND COBRA**

Look at the example given below:

t  
at  
eat  
date  
stead

In getting from one word to the next, one letter is added and, when necessary, an anagram is done to form a new word. In the process, the words get longer and longer until the final word (in this case "stead") is reached. At each stage, the letters used *must* form a proper word. Using the example above as a basis, can you get from the starting letter to the final word in each of the puzzles given on the right? A list of rules is given to the right. Thanks to astra for the original idea.

Rules:

1. Add one letter and do an anagram of the letters (when and if necessary) to create a new word, and continue in this manner until the final word is obtained (the first letter and last word are given).
2. Proper nouns are allowed, but should be avoided if possible (all the puzzles in this edition can be completed without the use of proper nouns).
3. A word may not be converted into its immediate plural (e.g. in the example given, date may *not* be converted into dates). However, plurals *are* allowed if an anagram has taken place to make it (e.g. live --> veils). Adding an "s" is allowed if it does not create a plural (e.g. require --> requires).
4. No apostrophes or hyphenated words may be used.

5. Only words that are in common use in the English language may be used, so for example "psi" *can* be used as although it is strictly speaking Greek, it is in use, for example, in many science subjects.

Puzzle E:

e  
--  
---  
----  
-----  
assorted

Puzzle H:

a  
--  
---  
----  
-----  
charmers

Puzzle A:

a  
--  
---  
----  
-----  
reinstated

Puzzle C:

d  
--  
---  
----  
-----  
detonated

Puzzle F:

e  
--  
---  
----  
-----  
ailments

Puzzle I:

m  
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-----  
imagined

Puzzle B:

i  
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-----  
arresting

Puzzle D:

a  
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-----  
integral

Puzzle G:

a  
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-----  
reversal

Puzzle J:

n  
--  
---  
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-----  
sacking

**Solution to issue 1069's Elimination:**

a) (32,9); b) (7,14); c) (16,27); d) (21,30); e) (13,35); f) (29,22);  
g) (5,40); h) (36,39); i) (17,28); j) (11,4); k) (26,19); l) (23,15);  
m) (34,41); n) (33,3); o) (18,25); p) (1,12); q) (24,2); r) (8,10);  
s) (31,20), t) (37,6) .....leaving "customs" (38).

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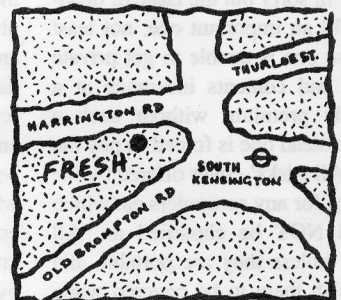
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## RSM FOOTBALL FIRSTS STORM THROUGH IN CUP

After receiving a bye in the first round, RSM Firsts started their cup venture in the second round against Charring Cross Firsts. It was going to be a good benchmark for us since the opposition plays in a league higher than ours.

The game started off with RSM having the better play. Ten minutes into the first half Johan was through on goal, only to be blatantly fouled. A clear professional foul, therefore deserving a red card. But the referee let the guilty player off. We did however get a free-kick in a dangerous position. Michael turned the ball around the wall, leaving the goalie no chance. We then forced a two-nil lead, following a magnificent individual effort from Si. After winning the ball, he easily passed three defenders and then chipped the goalie. Without question, this was

the goal of the season.

However, RSM then - whether out of compassion or merely lack of concentration - handed the opposition the initiative. Charring Cross did create some half-chances, but could not capitalise on their achievements until twenty minutes from time. Although Larson managed a touch, the ball could not be prevented from going in, to reward Charring Cross for their efforts.

Keith, in keeping with a long tradition of RSM attacking right-backs, restored the two goal lead. Johan then had a chance to add to the score-line, when we were awarded a penalty kick. However, he opted instead for a rather convincing impression of Gareth Southgate.

All in all, this was a good result,, thanks to a good combined performance from the entire team.

## FOOTBALL SECONDS OVERCOME BATTLING KING'S

The most important day of the season so far ended in glorious victory on and off the pitch for the IC Seconds.

With the league stage of the BUSA cup on a knife-edge, "IC Slags" needed a win to secure a place in the next round. A depleted IC side had lost 3-0 to King's last Saturday - today grit and determination were needed to ensure a return victory, and we showed both.

The first half was scrappy and sadly disrupted by a King's midfielder who was clearly there to foul, dive - and not much else. Unfortunately, with the referee struggling to maintain control German, our bruising Georgian defender, took matters into his own hands in an incident that earned both players involved a booking.

A rousing half-time speech from captain marvel Steve stirred our blood and within minutes we were on top thanks to our deadly duo up front. A through ball from the mighty Robo put Alex in to score, and this

was rapidly followed up when a deep cross let Martin head neatly back across goal and into the net. There then followed a period of consolidation with our back four of Blondie, Will, German and Phil "the pill" controlling play, and effectively blocking King's from taking any initiative.

A rare defensive lapse let King's pull one back and the game caught fire. Both sides put in a mighty effort but our class showed through as the ball was worked around their area to Felix, who produced a sensational strike into the top corner - rippling the net and breaking King's hearts. The game ended with the dismissal of their midfielder, whose conduct throughout the match was nothing short of disgraceful.

The victory was topped off in Southside bar later in the evening as the IC footballers faced up to IC rugby club in a seven-man boat race. Naturally, we emerged triumphant.

All in all, a great day for IC Seconds.

## IC BASKETBALL SECURES NUMBER ONE SPOT

### T MOURITIS

IC basketball Men's first team secured the first place in their group last week, after crushing the (not particularly strong) resistance of St George's Medical School. The difference in technical skills between the players of the two team, strengthened by the fact that St George's only came up with five players for the match is mirrored on the final score: an astonishing 105-28.

This would have been even bigger, if we didn't have to get out of the court as we were running out of time. The next match for the team will be an away play-off, probably against

King's college, later today. A victory will put IC through to the BUSA last 32.

If you would fancy watching a strong basketball match involving your university team, check our noticeboard for the details.

The Men's second team, unfortunately, paired their defeats, this time by QMW 2nd. The performance was much better than in the first match, but the result was fair, as QMW were stronger under the basket. Now the Seconds have five home matches in a row, and can perhaps change their luck and performance.

## MIXED FORTUNES FOR IC CROSS-COUNTRY

The latest fixture in this seasons cross-country championship saw both of IC's teams journeying to Wimbledon Common, where the men could only put in a sub-standard performance.

Good individual achievements were let down by "A pint of what?" Fishick. Gaffer, Ponytail and Three-Cubed put in great showings, finishing tenth, sixteenth and eighteenth respectively, but our "star runner" did not even bother to grace us with his presence.

In spite of coming in a car, the

women mustered the energy to dominate. Jennie won, again, and Maria put in a good run, despite this being her first race this year.

"Yellow-arse" finally managed to beat the guest seventy year-old runner, by kicking his Zimmerframe away. And where were the Flowerpot Men? - out looking for Wombles!

Yet another great day out was assured, however, thanks to the barmaid with the short skirt at the Grid Inn, who provided hours of entertainment.

## RESULTS

### FENCING

IC MEN 26 - 1 ROYAL HOLLOWAY  
IC WOMEN 2 - 16 ROYAL HOLLOWAY

### BASKETBALL

IC MEN 1ST 105 - 28 ST GEORGE'S  
IC MEN 2ND 70 - 94 QUEEN MARY 2ND

### FOOTBALL

IC 1ST 0 - 2 KING'S 1ST  
IC 1ST 0 - 3 ST MARY'S  
IC 2ND 3 - 1 KING'S 2ND  
IC 2ND 0 - 0 QUEEN MARY 2ND  
IC 3RD 3 - 7 KING'S 3RD  
IC 4TH 2 - 2 QUEEN MARY 4TH  
RSM 1ST 3 - 1 CHARRING CROSS

### RUGBY

IC 2ND 50 - 0 LSE  
IC 3RD 12 - 30 UCL  
IC WOMEN 10 - 0 BARTS

### HOCKEY

RSM XI 16 - 0 CHARING CROSS



# FELIX SPORT

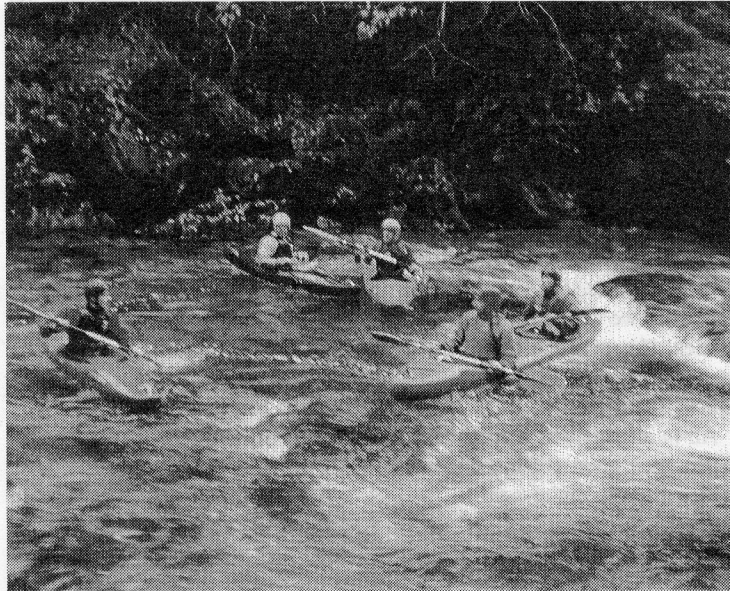
## Wales, swimming, and the meaning of 3°C

**MATTHEW GOODBODY**

On a traditional canoe club freshers trip there is a chance for the new members to attempt some simple white-water paddling. However, due to the lack of water in the preferred rivers, and the use of the new, seemingly indestructible, two seater teaching kayak our plans were altered.

After arriving early on Saturday morning we woke up early (honestly, we did) and set off for the Aber Glaslyn. After scraping and knocking down the top section, being fearless/stupid, we decided to attempt the gorge taking a beginner down in the two seater. A probe team was sent down first with all the usual probe beater problems. After they had shown us quite impressively where not to get stuck or pinned, and where to avoid three-boat pile-ups, we set off.

The two seater charged down the river (well, bounced might be more



accurate) and they managed to only come out and swim once, putting a big dent in the back which had mended itself by the next morning. Even the breaker (many pointed rocks) was negotiated superbly by a

brave and trusting beginner and Garth (acting like a fish for the third time this week).

Unfortunately the rest of us were not quite as impressive, going down backwards and swimming (OK, so it

was me who went swimming).

After all the excitement, it was back to the hut for chilli (of course) and lots of beer, thanks to Ross and the chocolate eating kip kid Drew, who procured us this banquet.

So to Sunday, and the middle section of the Conwy. Now back on a fairly sensible river, the beginners were taught the essential basics of paddling on a flowing river. They coped amazingly on a tough stretch of water, with an astoundingly low number of swims.

If the innane grins on everyone's faces afterwards is any indication, then fun was had by all, and we are all looking forward to our next trip.

Anyone interested in canoing can meet the canoe club at 7.15 on a Tuesday evening in Beit for a pool session. Our next river trip is to the River Dart next weekend. All standards are welcome.

## Strong performances all round for IC rugby

### IC MEN'S THIRD XV

The first-half of the game proved difficult. After conceding thirty points to UCL, the IC Thirds recollected their thoughts during the interval, and so dominated the second-half that UCL were unable to improve on their score.

With an aggressive return, IC showed their prowess as a well disciplined squad. Relentless tackling and recycling from the forwards unleashed the pace and swift handling of the backs. Little more than ten minutes into the match the back-row co-ordinated with the centres to put Toby Hoakin in for a converted try. A second try was sealed in the corner from another backrow manoeuvre minutes later.

With the spirit and pressure generated during the second-half, it was only a shame more points didn't come. In the end, the scoreline didn't reflect the effort that IC put in, with UCL taking the match by thirty points to twelve.

### IC MEN'S SECOND XV

**SERGE BLANCO**  
**FELIX RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**

Needing a victory to ensure progress into the play-offs in the BUSA national championships, IC Seconds produced a top notch performance, and demolished LSE to the tune of a massive (and almost unbelievable) margin of fifty (that's right, **fifty**) points to nil.

From the opening kickoff, IC made their intentions clear, with a seven phase sequence moving IC to the LSE tryline. Capitalising on the opportunity offered by a strike against the head, Darren Bryce bulldozed in to open the floodgates. Continuity was a major theme of the match, with the IC pack able to continuously recycle the ball and make further inroads into a beleaguered LSE defence.

Tries flowed thick and fast, with Michael Peachment, Dave Chatagy and Barry Richards making one each before half-time. The game was

sewn up by the interval with IC stretching the lead out of the Economists reach, rampaging to 31-0.

In the second-half IC kept up the pressure, and further tries followed for Kolone Yung (his fourth of the year), James Sopper and Michael Peachmont (with his second of the day). Fullback Justin Lee supplied five conversions, adding a further ten points to the rapidly swelling IC scoreline.

To be truthful, LSE never stood a chance, as IC systematically took them to the cleaners, as the scoreline so clearly demonstrates.

Skipper Julian Harrison was extremely satisfied with the team performance - though next weeks opponents will hopefully provide stiffer opposition.

The whole team then retired to Khan's for a well deserved victory meal, happy in the knowledge that glory is within their grasp.

### IC WOMEN'S XV

The driving rain did nothing to dampen IC's spirits in their first game of the season, against Barts. We hit them hard in the first ten minutes, with Sarah Waiman scoring a storming first try. The opposition began to fight back, but excellent defence work kept Barts at bay for the rest of the first-half.

After the break, IC began to fight back, with Petra delivering a second try to boost the winning margin to a convincing ten points, with the final score IC 10, Barts 0.

Everyone played well, especially the new girls. In particular, some superb flying tackles from Clare, and a formidable front row led by Mo, were key in this victory. The players of the match were Mo Bradley for the forwards, and Petra Vacas for the backs.

The team performance showed huge promise for the remainder of the season.