



est. 1949

THE FELIX

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Student Newspaper of Imperial College



Turn to the centre pages to play our Fantasy Sabbatical League game with the opportunity to win a trip for two to Paris.



In Something for the Weekend: how to keep your New Year's resolutions and a preview of NME's Brat Awards.

Union launches awareness blitz

ROBIN RILEY

Student officers of Imperial College Union have set in motion a "major" campaign to address the loss of the on-campus bookstore tender.

ICU Council, the Union's chief policy-making body, held a two-hour meeting on Tuesday concerned almost exclusively with the fallout from the College's decision to award the tender to booksellers Waterstone's. The decision means that the Union will no longer be able to sell academic texts from its current Sheffield walkway site, and may have serious repercussions for the way the Union operates and the scope of its activities.

During the meeting, student representatives from clubs, societies, Constituent Colleges and academic departments discussed the problems facing the Union in the light of the loss of its largest trading outlet. They identified the principle challenge to be raising the Union's profile among IC's student population, and expressed fears that many students may be wholly or partially ignorant of the three key tenets of ICU's operation. Firstly, the wide range of free services, opportunities and activities that the Union provides; Secondly, the fact that campus facilities such as the bars, disco, bookstore and catering in Beit Quad are managed by the Union, and thirdly that the trading surplus from these outlets is used to fund the Union's other services and activities. By raising student awareness of these facts, the Union aims to increase its trading activity and, more importantly, mobilise a body of opinion in order to protect its existing outlets against further attack.

A variety of measures were suggested by members of the Council to tackle the problem, principally including a "petition of concern," consisting of a standard letter to be signed by students and presented to the Rector. Further actions may include the re-naming of all clubs and societies, to include the word 'Union'; IC boat club, for example, becoming ICU boat club. In addition, the Union may seek to 'brand' goods, services and events in order to remind students that profits from these outlets are reinvested in the College community. A campaign of posters and flyers around the campus, and of letters to College governors is already being brought into effect.

Council members fell short of convening a 'protest committee' or similar body, instead entrusting implementation of the new measures to ICU's Executive committee, normally responsible for the Union's day-to-day running.

Student officials present at the meeting conceded that there would be little to be gained from any campaign targeted directly at Waterstone's or the new store itself. Speaking to *Felix*, Piers Williams, ICU Deputy President for Finance and Services, admitted; "I don't think we're under any illusions as to the reversibility of the College's decision."

Although traditional means of student protest, such as a strike or boycott of the new store, are unlikely to be supported by Union officials, the staging of events to attract national media attention has not been ruled out.

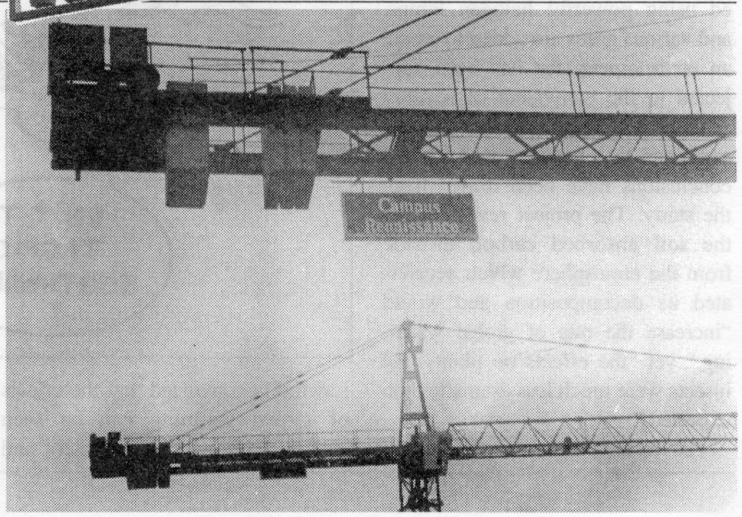


PHOTO: MATTHEW KEMPTON

Springtime: A pair of cranes spotted over the BMS site on Wednesday.

IC Reporter loses memory

College security procedures face renewed criticism this week following the theft on Monday night of £14,000 of computing equipment from Imperial College's Press and Publications Office. The PPO is responsible for the production of *IC Reporter*, the College's staff news-sheet.

Workers in the PPO have expressed fears that they may have been "blacklisted" by thieves as this is the third time in six months that they have been burgled, this latest incident putting the total loss at over £37,000. The thefts may lie behind delays in the release of the latest issue of the *Reporter*.

Some sources claim this burglary comes suspiciously soon after the circulation of new pages of the internal telephone directory last week. The same intruders may be responsible for all three break-ins and Security are investigating this alongside other possibilities.

Burglars forced the door of the 5th floor office, very near to the Rector's Suite, and removed three computers. Linda Davies, Head of Press, Publications and Public Relations at

IC, expressed her annoyance over the theft. "It's not only a waste of resources. It is extremely frustrating to be so disrupted, especially at this time of the year when we are really stretched" she said. PPO workers were temporarily barred from the office until police officers had taken fingerprints. However, when staff were forced to return on Wednesday due to work pressures, the Police had not yet arrived.

This incident has intensified calls for individual departments within the Sheffield Building to be protected by their own swipe card entry systems. The Rector's Suite already benefits from such a system.

Addressing the effectiveness of current security measures, Director of Estates Ian Caldwell admitted "...obviously Sheffield is not as secure as we might like... We are looking at options, methods of precaution, sensor detectors and security camera networks."

Mr Caldwell explained the difficulties of incorporating an open, working environment into a secure building and confessed; "odd bits of pilfering go on all the time"

IC Biosphere research into ecosystem

UMBAR SALEEM

International scientists have built a biosphere at Imperial College's Silwood Park research centre which will allow scientists to simulate conditions in the environment caused by pollution. For the past three years Professor John Lawton has been leading a research team investigating the effects of global warming on agriculture and animal life.

The biosphere has many eco-chambers where sunlight is simulated using powerful halogen lamps, and various gases are added to create an environment that has been subjected to the equivalent of seventy years of pollution. Professor Lawton explained that good as well as bad conclusions have been drawn from the study. The project revealed that the soil absorbed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which accelerated its decomposition and would "increase the rate of global warming," yet "the effects on plants and insects were much less dramatic than expected."

The results from the £1 million

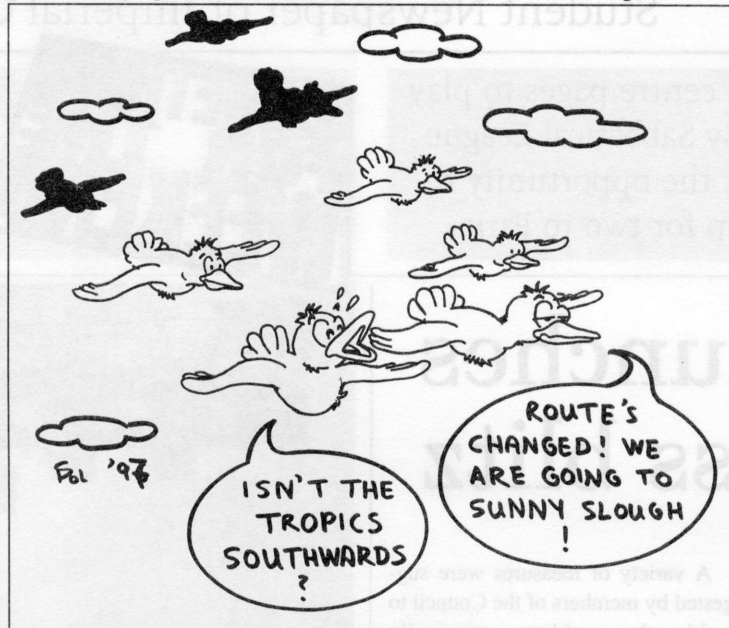
Ecotron experiment, to be published in April, will add new flavour to the debate on the long term effects of present day pollution. Professor

decreased rainfall over the past ten years. Even though it is difficult to make very accurate predictions, Dr Hefin Jones, also working at Silwood

change," he stated.

Some ecologists and climatologists also agree that recent anomalies observed by plant growers in Britain are an indication of very gradual changes taking place in the world's climate. For the first time ever, plants traditionally grown in warmer countries are surviving in Britain. We can now grow peppers, melons, bananas, French beans and outdoor cherry tomatoes. As a consequence of this, David Jeffery from Unwin's Seeds, Histon, warned that "Many of the vegetables now grown in the South of England may disappear in time." Vegetables such as sprouts, cabbage, runner beans and turnips are finding it harder to compete, possibly due to poisonous chemicals in the atmosphere which weaken the plants making them susceptible to disease.

This debate rages on. Climate changes that are attributed to pollution could be due to other factors. The Ecotron experiment is the first of its kind in the world and will be able to predict the consequences of humankind's actions today on the



Lawton is convinced that the effects of global warming can be seen already with warmer summers and

Park, is confident of the results. "There is now enough research data available to leave no doubt of the

Testing mad cows at St Mary's

KENT YIP

Professor John Collinge and his Prion Research Group at St Mary's Hospital Medical School may pave the way for developing a new test which allows early diagnosis of the new strain of CJD, according to the latest edition of the medical journal *The Lancet*.

At present, confirmation of the diagnosis of CJD can only be done in a post-mortem examination. Conducting a histological examination, an examination of the morphology of the cell, on brain tissues provides the only alternative. Beside the obvious risks involved in carrying out a brain biopsy to obtain the tissues, this method is also unreliable. Test on tissues from the tonsils, which can be removed under local anaesthetics by a relatively simple procedure, may bring new hope to clinicians in making a more confident diagnosis.

Previous attempts to employ antibodies for a similar purpose proved unsuccessful because there are not enough structural differences at the molecular level for the antibodies to distinguish between the normal prion protein, which is present in healthy individuals, and the abnormal prion

protein, which causes CJD. At St Mary's, an abnormal prion protein associated with the new strain of CJD has recently been identified in tonsil tissues. This finding is further supported by histological analyses of the tonsil tissues.

The new strain was discovered by the same group in October last year, and its resemblance to the protein that causes BSE is closer than any other previous strain. This reinforces the popular belief that the recent outbreak of CJD is caused by the consumption of BSE contaminated meat products. In contrast to classical CJD, the new variant arises in younger patients, affecting people under the age of 50, has a longer duration of illness and presents different pathologies.

The implication of the new test is profound. Symptoms of CJD, which include depression and sensory disturbance, are similar to other treatable degenerative diseases. Writing to *The Lancet*, Professor Collinge explained that if there were to be an epidemic of CJD, and if the new strain of CJD was indeed caused by BSE, early markers would be essential for differential diagnosis as the presenting features are non-specific.

Speaking to *Felix*, Andrew Hill, co-author of the letter published in *The Lancet*, stressed that at the moment the abnormal protein has only been identified in the tonsils of a dead patient. However, the protein responsible for scrapie, the equivalent of CJD in sheep, has been reported by a Dutch research group to present in the tonsils of infected sheep when they are still alive. In fact, it can be detected long before the occurrence of early symptoms.

The research group at St Mary's hope that samples of tonsil tissues from living patients suspected of CJD can be sent in from other hospitals to confirm their finding. The major difficulty in turning it into a routine clinical test would be the requirement of special containment laboratories, due to the highly infectious nature of the prion protein. He went on to explain that the same procedure might be of use in diagnosing other variants of CJD.

Currently, while only a small proportion of all the CJD cases are suspected to be linked to BSE, 15% are thought to have arisen as a result of genetic mutation with the majority occurring sporadically with no known cause.

Funding - RAE link

JACKIE SKEATE

Following the results of the national Research Assessment Exercise published last week, some universities have expressed uncertainty about the slightly different score system and its link with future HE research funding.

Imperial College was ranked fourth in the UK, with almost all departments receiving a score of 5 or 5* (on a scale of 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 5*). The results of the RAE are used to determine the levels of funding allocated to each department.

Despite the fact that College stands in a good position to be awarded more research funds overall than most other universities, there have been fears expressed that this may not be enough. Dr Rodney Eastwood from the Financial Planning department indicated that College "was expected to do at least as well as in 1992", but as yet, the amount of funding attached to different ratings is unknown, as the scoring system has changed since 1992, when departments were assessed on a scale running from 1-5.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England committee will meet next week to decide the basis on which funding is allocated.

50,000 REASONS WHY *YOU* WILL MISS THE *UNION* BOOKSTORE

**UNION BUDGETED SURPLUS FROM BOOK TRADING
96/97 INVESTED IN UNION SERVICES
£50 000**

**WATERSTONES BUDGETED INVESTMENT
IN UNION SERVICES
£0**

IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP.

But Now The Good News ..

ICU Still operates & supports

DaVinci's Bar & Catering, The Union Bar, dBs, the best value stationery shop, 158 Clubs & Societies, a free advice service, a welfare information programme, the biggest student Cinema in the country, an award - winning TV station, a radio station, the best value Printing & photocopying, successful sports clubs, the Commemoration Ball, 6 nights a week entertainments in the Union, Felix - the UK's only free in-house student paper, Phoenix, carnivals, minibus hire, live acts, the Bust-A-Gut Comedy club, room bookings, student training & development, functions & dinners, International Night, numerous cultural events, snooker rooms.....

and it all benefits *YOU* !

***i*CU**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

***your* Union services
run for *you***

Millennium bug comes to IC

MICHAEL ROBERTS

Forget Ebola, E-coli or any other lethal super-bug you may have heard of. In the cold, dark chambers of the computer support services at IC, conversations turn to the so-called "Millennium Bug", now made infamous through the media bombardment it has received in the past few months courtesy of most leading broadsheets.

The Millennium Bug is purported to arise due to the "dd/mm/yy" (day/month/year) date format used in many computer systems, whereby the date is displayed in a two digit format. Thus, the year 1997 appears

hire/rental) fines being charged for titles on loan over the new year, incorrect interest calculations on loans and savings and discrepancies in computerised company accounts.

Although this all sounds rather apocalyptic, the reality is rather less disastrous. Far fewer systems will be affected than the broadsheets would have us believe, since many computers do not calculate the date in the same way humans do. Rather, they store the date in terms of the number of seconds since a set date, in many cases 1971. The year 2000 should therefore have no effect on the computer's perception of the date.



as "97" and the year 2000 appears as "00". Computer systems using the two digit date format may be unable to cope with 2000 and beyond, recognising it as the year 1900 instead. This, it has been claimed, can lead to many faults and anomalies appearing in otherwise stable systems. These could, for example, include excessive library (or other

The real problems are more likely to arise in certain software packages, where the date is stored amongst other data, for example in a database. More simple systems would both display and store dates, held in accounts for example, as two digit numbers - producing the potential results mentioned. Many larger companies and organisations have already produced

reports and begun to check their systems. Sadly, it appears that smaller companies are more likely to suffer, since they do not have the financial or technical resources to draw from, in order to verify and adapt their systems if necessary.

Concerned at the potential implications on Imperial (and whether, more importantly, students living in

halls, could hope to see their rent accidentally waived), the bug is "certainly being discussed" by relevant authorities at IC. Apparently, the accounting package currently in use will "probably" be affected. However, this system is due to be replaced "around 1998" and any replacement will, by then, certainly be able to handle the year 2000.

Top-up fees threat

UMBAR SALEEM

The prospect of undergraduate students in the UK facing an annual charge of up to a £1,000 towards their college fees came closer after the Russell Group of top universities advised this month that some institutions would charge fees in the future.

At present, the government reimburses local education authorities for payment of university tuition fees, but this form of higher education funding may become a thing of the past. The Higher Education Funding Council for England awarded universities £3.1 billion for this academic year, a £0.4 billion decrease on 1995. With increasing numbers of students entering higher education each year, more universities are looking at top-up fees as a realistic option for obtaining necessary funds.

Imperial College had been reported in *The Sunday Times* to have been among those universities considering

top-up fees. The article stated that IC would mention top-up fees being charged in its 1998 prospectus. Dr Rodney Eastwood from the [Financial] Planning department denied this, insisting that "IC currently has no plans to introduce top-up fees." He also explained that if College did introduce such a charge, dependent on government funding, more mechanisms to offer students financial assistance, such as scholarships, awards and bursaries, would be introduced. Dr Eastwood also assured *Felix* that the financial status of prospective students would not affect their likelihood of gaining an offer.

Colleges that will be charging top-up fees are legally required to inform applicants prior to enrolment. The London School of Economics have already warned undergraduates in their prospectus that they reserve the right to charge fees for tuition.

Union proposes C & S Resource centre

PAUL SQUIRES

Imperial College Union is planning to build a new Clubs and Societies Resource Centre to make administration of Clubs and Societies more efficient. The new Centre is likely to be in a refurbished Senior Common Room, adjacent to the Union Office.

It is hoped that some of the money for the project will be provided by the Harlington Trust, a fund set up on the proceeds from gravel extraction on Imperial College's athletic ground at Harlington, near Heathrow. The Trust considers applications for funding of various projects such as this though in the past the fund has enabled the Union to purchase minibuses.

The reasoning behind the plans is

for the largely inadequate current facilities for clubs and societies be upgraded to meet ICU's new Health and Safety policy's standards. The policy requires ICU to undertake to provide first aid training for at least one member of each club and society. The policy also requires that External Activities forms be completed before any trip may proceed, that all potential hazards and dangers must be assessed beforehand and that group leaders be better trained and more experienced in general.

In order to meet such demands, the Union requires more efficient facilities. At present, only one computer in the Union office is permanently available for the use of clubs and societies. Departmental computing

facilities are inappropriate since they are primarily for academic usage and payment is required for print-outs of any material the club wishes to issue. The new Resource Centre, however, would contain many computers exclusively for clubs and societies.

Another reason for the plans is the change to the structure of the British University Sports Association's fixture listings. Previously inter-university sports tournaments were organised as block fixtures, in which universities would only play universities and hospitals only hospitals. The current BUSA system is a more complex league system, in which each institution has a ranking and fixtures are arranged accordingly, thus requiring a more efficient system for

such things as booking coaches for away matches. This side of administration is currently handled by the Deputy President for Clubs and Societies, Sarah Corneille, but bookings are often made by other Union officers, resulting in confusion. It is anticipated that the proposed Resource Centre would employ a full-time administrator to handle such administrative matters allowing Sarah Corneille to concentrate on her other duties.

Ms Corneille has high hopes for the plans; "It would both improve efficiency and bring different Clubs and Societies together more, hopefully breaking down the barriers and prejudices which sometimes exist between them."

EASTER VACATION EMPLOYMENT

**FROM :22nd MARCH 1997
UNTIL: 18th APRIL 1997**

Temporary Operation Co-ordinators required to provide a **FIRST CLASS** service to Accommodation and Conference guests within Imperial College.

- **Hours of work, Rotating Shifts of 07:00-15:30, 09:00-17:00, 15:00-23:30, 23:00-07:30,**
- **Working 5 days out of 7.**
- **Total of 40 hours per week.**
- **Hourly rate of £5.00 per hour-increased rates for night shift.**
- **Accommodation may be made available on request.**

No previous experience is required as full training will be given, but all candidates **must** be of smart appearance, numerate, accurate and have an **excellent** level of customer care.

Job description and Application Forms are available from:

David Mander
The Conference Office
Watt's Way
South Kensington
London SW7 1LU
0171 5949506

Interviews will be held week commencing 10th February.

Gun\$ or Bread?

Kelly Robinson looks into a recent Government policy on the vetting of Overseas students at UK universities.

A former Imperial College student is currently serving the first month of her twenty year sentence for her part in the Israeli Embassy bombing. Samar Alami graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering and proceeded to use the knowledge she acquired during her studies to wreak havoc in central London during November 1994.

This incident prompted Parliament to take swift action. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office implemented a voluntary agreement with universities to consider carefully applications for PhD and research placements from some overseas students.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, Mr Tim Boswell, MP, states that "...the Government attaches great importance to preventing the transfer of technology related to the development of mass destruction."

Institutions are now asked to volunteer details of the candidates' employment and academic background to the Government, along with information about their proposed course and its length. Universities are then advised of the risks involved in admitting a particular student, though the final decision is left to their discretion.

Only students from certain countries designated by our Government are subject to such vetting. The Government have stressed that the list is "subject to amendment in the light of changed circumstances." The success of this policy is still doubtful as only 78 students have been reported by universities since 1994.

As of this month, universities will have no choice as to whether to submit the details of such students to the Foreign Office. The morality of such a policy has been called into question by many, and the whole issue is a potential ethical minefield. This dilemma has particular resonance at IC, where over 30% of students come from overseas.

The majority of the students questioned, those from Britain and the

countries listed, see the vetting of students as both a violation of human rights and unfair. They feel that all people are equally capable of using knowledge to the greater good or indeed to the detriment of society. This being the case, it is not the Governments place to decide who is and who is not a caring enough person to study in this country.

Students from the countries involved feel they have been singled out and as left bewildered as to why their homelands and people considered irresponsible. This is especially so because of the elusive nature of the criteria used to compile the list of dangerous countries means that it is impossible to tell exactly why each individual country was pinpointed.

There are also those students who deem the process to be a necessary evil, which, if implemented correctly, could prevent the needless death of innocent civilians in the future. Amongst these students it is generally considered that, although the system may be unjust, it is preferable for one foreign student to suffer than to run the risk of letting he/she cause the death of others.

More again felt that the only fair way to set about monitoring students would be to ensure all students were included, thus increasing the likelihood of nipping any dark aspirations in the bud.

A small minority supported the policy whole-heartedly, stressing that those with nothing to hide should have no cause to object to it being implemented or to themselves being vetted.

Some members of the IC staff feel that the whole system is seriously

flawed. Dr Hassard, the Post Graduate Admissions Tutor in the Physics Department expressed concern over the Government's list of "risk" countries "...it requires amendment. Many of those on the list are signatories of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Dr Hassard believes a certain amount of racism is involved, with Britain making judgements as

to which countries are suitable to own nuclear weapons. He believes that Parliament needs to address the broader issues, with curbing the spread of nuclear materials taking priority.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, the Rector, has said that the policy serves the purpose of reassuring those universities which feel ill at ease with the whole subject. It is his belief that it is part of a much larger initiative by both the British and other governments.

The general consensus of opinion amongst those officials available to comment at the embassies involved is that the system is inherently wrong. The Israeli Embassy see it as an infringement of the human rights

of the individuals involved. It felt that the Government were unjust in their implementation of such a policy. There are however, no plans in progress to see this ruling repealed.

The situation raises a barrage of controversial issues and there are many questions which appear to be left unaddressed. Britain, for example, saw fit to sell a vast quantity of missiles and various other military dangerous articles to Iraq when the Government were aware that the Gulf war was imminent. Effectively, British soldiers

were killed by weapons sold to their enemy by their own country! How can such a country deem some countries worthy of nuclear weapons and others unworthy?

Why is it that Middle Eastern countries are allowed to buy weapons of mass destruction from Britain, but cannot be trusted to make their own using British know-how? Why is Pakistan black-listed, for example, as a country held firmly in the pocket of the United States, do they pose a serious threat to British, or indeed World, peace? The present political unrest in Pakistan may amount to a civil war - is this the reason why future Pakistani students are subject to Government vetting? If the answer is yes, why is it that students from other countries experiencing civil disturbances - for example Nigeria - are not also vetted?

Also, can it be fair to deny anyone education on the grounds of their ethnic background; is Britain in a position to make such judgements?

In addition to this the effectiveness of such a procedure must be called into question. Is it possible to judge the terrorist tendencies of potential students given only such surface details as academic and employment records, especially considering that a person applying for a post in a British University is highly unlikely to have a criminal record or to have been involved in any documented "affray".

The Government's fears regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons are not unfounded, however. In 1979 an Iraqi Post-Doctoral student, who had carried out research in IC's High Energy Physics group, returned to Iraq and established it's nuclear weapons programme. This is not the end of the story however; IC can still be linked to this nuclear programme which does provide a risk to the rest of the world; the current leader of this programme is also an ex-IC student!

In the light of such evidence, the last question posed by the vetting of certain students must be: Do we have a choice?

"Most research at IC is considered.. to be potentially dangerous knowledge."

COUNTRIES CURRENTLY ON THE VETTING "BLACKLIST":

Israel, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Cuba, Egypt and North Korea as well as Commonwealth members India and Pakistan.

**ZAGROS
JEANS**

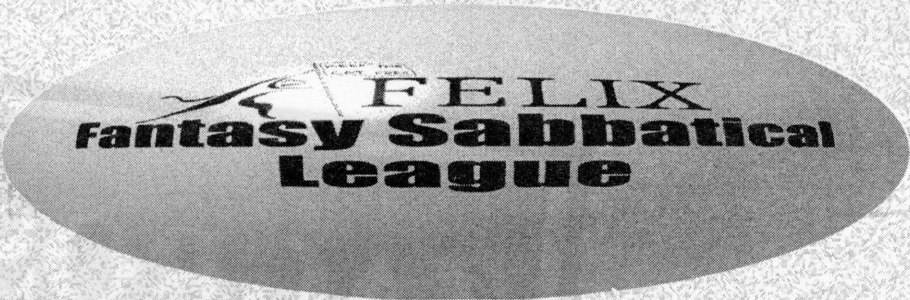
HAVE LANDED AT YOUR COLLEGE

10 Sony Walkmans to be won!

First 500 students to place an order will be entered into our prize draw

FREE Zagros T-shirt

for all students who place an order



FELIX Fantasy Sabbatical League

This year, for the first time, Felix brings you an unrivalled opportunity to share the success of next year's sabbaticals with Felix's Fantasy Sabbatical League™.

For those not in the know, each year Imperial College Union holds a campus wide ballot to elect new sabbatical officers. There are four sabbaticals at ICU: **President, Deputy President (Finance & Services), Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)** and **Felix Editor**. They hold their position for year while taking a break (a sabbatical) from their studies. During this time, each is ultimately responsible for running the services and performing the duties under their remit.

The sabbatical elections will take place in early March, however, the papers for nominations go up on February 3rd. Any full member of Imperial College Union may stand for any of the positions listed above. To be able to run for election, however, each nominee must have a proposer and twenty seconders, all of whom must also be full members of the Union. After the papers come down on February 14th, campaigning proper can start, and the 1996-97 sabbatical race can begin. If you have any queries about the elections or wish to find out more about any of the posts, contact the President, Eric Allsop, via the Union.

Now you too can join in the cut and thrust of the sabbatical race by playing Felix's Fantasy Sabbatical League™. Read on, and you could be a winner!

Prizes to be won!

To the winners, the spoils, to the losers, ignominy.

**First Prize: two return tickets to
Paris and a bottle of
Champagne**

Second Prize: £30 of music vouchers

Other prizes to be announced depending on stock

The aim of the game

The object of Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League™ is to predict the outcome of the 1997 ICU Sabbatical Elections. Using your skill and judgement, you must choose which four people you think will be elected to each of the four sabbatical positions, and which four will be runners-up (ie lose and come second). First and second place positions are simply determined by who wins most (and next most) votes in the eventual elections. To win, you will have to guess not only who will be elected, but also who is likely to stand for election.

Included opposite is a list of possible 'players.' These are people who currently hold positions on Council (the governing body of the Union) plus a few wildcards. They are the people closely involved with the Union whom we feel are most likely to stand for one of the four sabbatical positions. We have placed them in divisions, according to the seniority of their position within the Union, and assigned a points value to the players in each division. **THE POSITION OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE LEAGUE REFLECTS ONLY THEIR CURRENT STATUS WITHIN THE UNION; IT DOES NOT REPRESENT HIS/HER LIKELIHOOD OF STANDING OR BEING ELECTED.**

There are two other 'players'; you should enter 'New Election' as a second choice for a position if you think that only one candidate will stand for that post, or if you think people would rather vote for a new election than any of the candidates. If you think someone other than those included on our list will stand for a particular post, then include the 'None of the above' player in the relevant place on your team. You do not have to state who you think 'None of the above' will be. If 'New election' or 'None of the above' finishes in the place you have guessed, you score the same points as if you had guessed an actual individual's result.

Remember, you are strictly limited in the number of points you can spend on players, and so may not be able to field your first choice team... This is where the element of chance comes in; Good luck!

ACRONYM CHASER

AAO	Academic Affairs Officer
ACC	Athletic Clubs Committee
Dep Rep	Departmental Representative
ICCAG	Imperial College Community Action Group
OSC	Overseas Sub-Committee
Pub Board	Publications Board
SCAB	Social and Cultural Amusements Board
SCC	Social Clubs Committee
RCC	Recreational Clubs Committee
RSC	Refectory Services Committee

The small print

- The closing date for entries is 5.00pm, Monday 3rd February.
- Competition results will be determined using 1997 ICU Sabbatical election results, as confirmed by ICU elections committee.
- The highest-scoring entry, as calculated by Felix, will be the winner. In the unlikely event of a tie, the winner will be the entrant whose original team had the lowest combined points value. Failing this, the winner will be selected at random from those sharing the highest score.
- The competition is NOT open to the following groups of people:
 - All those listed as 'players' opposite.
 - Current sabbaticals.
 - The Felix staff.
 - Any unlisted 1997 sabbatical candidate.
 - Anyone who is not a UG, PG or member of staff at Imperial College.
 - Anyone acting on behalf of those above.
- The Felix Editor retains the right to declare the competition null and void at any time and to amend the rules without notice. Any change in rules will be published in Felix.
- The results of the competition, and the points value assigned to each player shall have no bearing whatsoever upon the results of the election. **Anyone suspected of contravening ICU sabbatical election rules, as laid down in the ICU constitution, may be subject to ICU disciplinary procedures.**

Name	Position	Code
Division I 9 pts each		
Sami Ansari	Mary's president	SA9
Mo Dullo	RCSU president	MD9
Omar Kheir	RSMU president	OK9
Gaurav Misra	C&G president	GM9
Sarah Thomas	Council chair	ST9
Division II 6 pts each		
Despina Crassa	OSC chair	DC6
Caroline Deetjen	ACC chair	CD6
Tom Galliford	Mary's VP (external)	TG6
Alan Geer	RCC chair	AG6
Jon Lambert	ICCAG chair	JL6
Robin Riley	Pub Board chair	RR6
John Savery	SCAB chair	JS6
Andy Southern	Rag chair	AS6
Sarah Waiman	SCC chair	SW6
Division III 4 pts each		
Mark Baker	Phoenix Co-editor	MB4
Samantha Baker	RCS AAO	SB4
Bry Bowden	RSM AAO	BB4
Paul Brown	Council Ordinary member	PB4
Cheryl Case	Silwood chair	CC4
Sarah Edwards	Council Ordinary member	SE4
Chris Ince	Council Ordinary member	CI4
Maria Ioannou	Felix news editor	MI4
John Sinner	Equal Ops. Officer	JS4
M K Keshtvar	PG group chair	MK4
Lloyd Kilford	Council Ordinary member	LK4
Pete Kirtley	Accommodation officer	PK4
W D Miles	Council Ordinary member	WM4
Oli Newman	C&G AAO	ON4
Afua Osei	Felix features editor	AO4
Hannah Pearson	Welfare officer	HP4
George Psomas	Council Ordinary member	GP4
Matt Szyndel	Council Ordinary member	MS4
Jeremy Thomson	Phoenix Co-editor	JT4
Duncan Tindall	Transport officer	DT4
Heather Whitney	Womens officer	HW4
Division IV 3 pts each		
Katie Armstrong	Mary's Dep. Rep.	KA3
Simon Baker	Voice of reason	SB3
Hooman Behinia	Physics Dep. Rep.	HB3
M S Bogui	ERE Dep. Rep.	MB3
Dee Clark	Pre-clinical Dep. Rep.	DC3
Rob Clarke	Ordinary member (RSC)	RC3
John Durrell	Former Council Chair	JD3
Anthony Jukes	Civ. Eng. Dep. Rep.	AJ3
D J Kieran	Chem eng Dep. Rep.	DK3
Penny Leech	Biology Dep. Rep.	PL3
Keiran McKenna	EEE Dep. Rep.	KM3
Debbie Middleton	Materials Dep. Rep.	DM3
Luke Morales	Ents. DJ	LM3
Louise Moran	Clinical Dep. Rep.	LO3
Jo Paice	Labour Club Chair	JP3
Simon Pain	Geology Dep. Rep.	SP3
Dan Plant	Mech eng Dep. Rep.	DP3
Alefina Rajkotwala	DoC Dep. Rep.	AR3
Richard Reeves	Management Dep. Rep.	RR3
David Robinson	Chem. Dep. Rep.	DR3
Abama Thiru	Biochem Dep. Rep.	AT3
Ben Tristan	ISE Dep. Rep.	BT3
Kate Weller	Aero Dep. Rep.	KW3
Division V 2 pts each		
New Election		NEW
None of the above		OTHER

How to play

- You have 35 points to spend on 8 'players' from the five divisions listed opposite; 2 players for each of the 4 sabbatical positions.
- You DO NOT have to spend all 35 points, but you MUST field 8 players.
- You cannot use any player more than once, with the exception of 'None of the above' and 'New election.' These two may not be used twice (i.e. as both first and second) for the same sabbatical position.
- When you have chosen your team, enter your choices in BLOCK CAPITALS in the correct boxes on the form provided. Add up the total value of your team (not to exceed 35) and enter this in the correct box.
- Fill in your Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League team name, and the rest of your details and hand your form in to the Felix office (Ground floor, North west corner of Beit Quad), or pop it in the internal mail addressed to "Felix".

Scoring

Your final score depends on how well your team matches with the eventual first and second place candidates, scoring as follows:

- 10 Pts** If your first choice player for any of the 4 positions wins first place in that position.
- 8 Pts** If your second choice player for any of the 4 positions wins second place in that position.
- 5 pts** If your first choice player for any of the 4 positions wins second place in that position
- OR:** If your second choice player for any of the 4 positions wins first place in that position.
- 2 pts** If your first OR second choice player for one position wins first OR second place in a DIFFERENT position. This does NOT apply to 'None of the above' or 'New election' players.

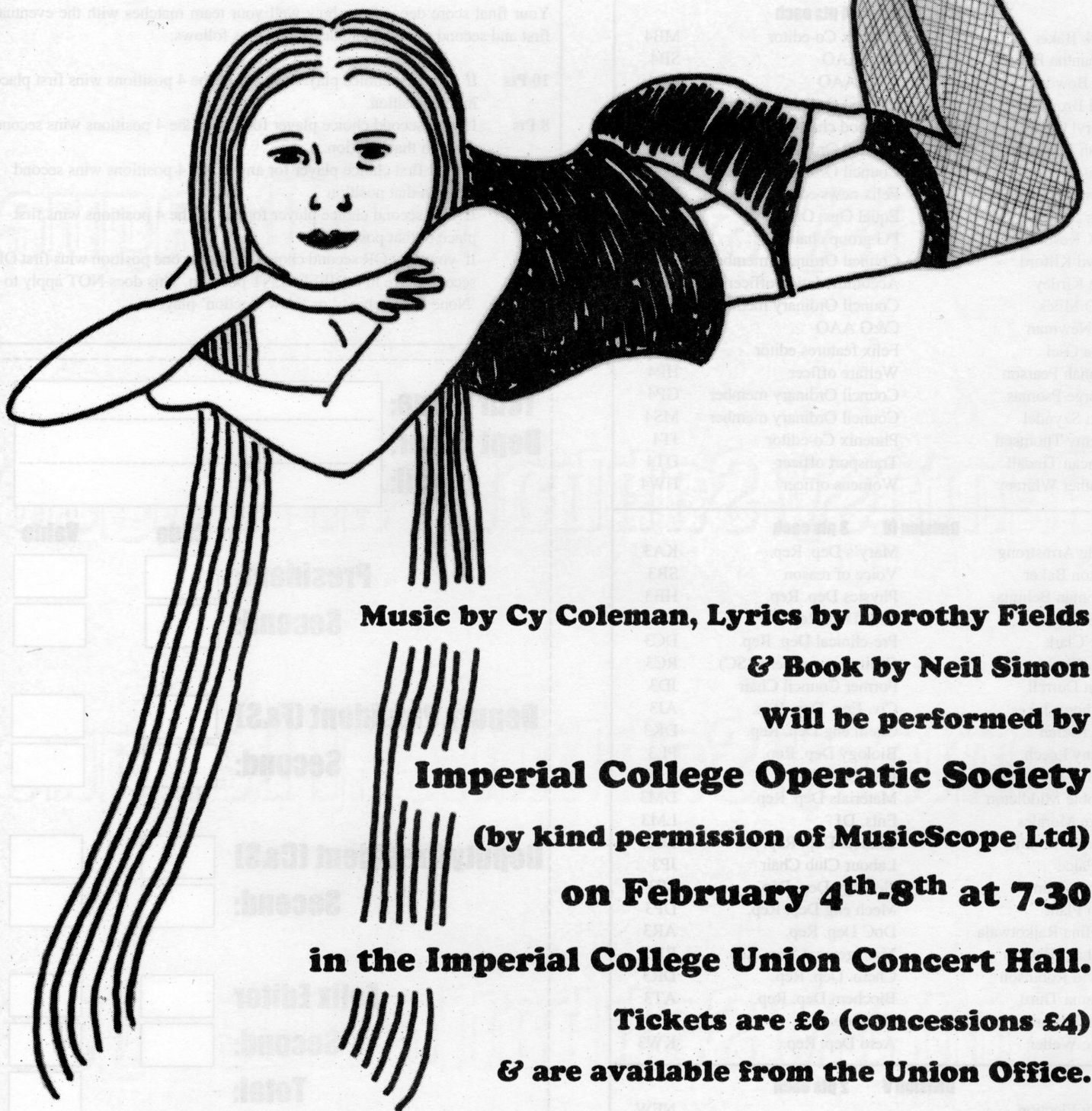
Your name:

Dept / Year:

E-mail:

	Code	Value
President:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deputy President (F&S)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deputy President (C&S)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Felix Editor	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total:		<input type="text"/>
Team name:	<input type="text"/>	

Sweet Charity



Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields

& Book by Neil Simon

Will be performed by

Imperial College Operatic Society

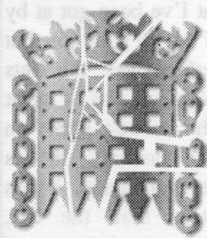
(by kind permission of MusicScope Ltd)

on February 4th-8th at 7.30

in the Imperial College Union Concert Hall.

Tickets are £6 (concessions £4)

& are available from the Union Office.



Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

Teaching unions broke a prolonged habit recently, praising Conservative education policy at the expense of Labour's 'nanny state' plans to demand half an hour's homework per night in primary schools and an hour and a half's worth per night in secondary schools. Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the NASUWT declared that "the Government's approach will commend itself more to the profession than the high-handed dictatorial 'we know best' approach from Tony Blair." A similar view was expressed by the NUT. The School's Minister, Robin Squire rather enjoyed the rare union support, criticising Labour's policy as "insulting teachers". Stealing thunder from Labour, Mr Squire also announced a £60,000 provision for 12 pilot projects for encouraging homework, including a 'homework hotline', saying that he agreed with Labour on the principle of homework, but that schools and teachers should have discretion in setting work. Alluding to Jack Straw's proposals for curfews and bedtimes, Mr Squire said that "a few months ago there was a suggestion from Jack Straw that children should be tucked in bed at a particular time. Presumably David Blunkett [the Shadow Education Secretary] would be going round checking they had done their homework first."

The three main political parties have been desperately scrambling over each other to convey themselves to the public as 'the party of education' ever since the Liberal Democrats committed themselves to raising tax to increase education spending by one billion pounds a year. The Government have done their level best to privatise schools in all but name, introducing the internal market and allowing increasing levels of selection. Since Tony Blair's proclamation at the party conference that his first three priorities were "education, education and education", Labour's contribution consisted of scrapping assisted places, and lots of hot air. This finally culminated in a White Paper promising a giant Education Act, to be passed early on in a Labour term, which would reverse much of the present Government's policy. There is less to be found on Labour's intentions with Higher Education: their main intentions are to replace the

loan/grant/parental contribution with a loan, saying rather patronisingly that students would be grateful for the increased simplicity of the system. Nor will any more favourable policies be found in the other parties' manifestos, the Conservatives for the main part keeping the status quo, and the Liberal Democrats' ten figure sum is to be spent on nursery and primary education. Sadly, there are few votes in Higher Education: the young don't vote and all the parties know it.

The renewed political emphasis on educational matters has been brought about by three factors: the constant embarrassment as Britain is shown again to have low academic standards on the international stage, the importance of a skilled workforce in an increasingly technological age and by far the most important for the politicians, the enormous potential for votes from people in their 30s and 40s with children at school, from which there is a high turnout at elections. Labour intend to build on the Government's campaign to increase the standards of the teaching profession with the creation of a General Teaching Council to promote professionalism and regulate discipline, and a new "advanced skills grade" to reward the best teachers who wish to stay in the profession. It seems Labour intend to address what I believe is one of the most serious problems with the teaching profession today, in that it still considers itself a 'workforce' that requires to be unionised, rather than a profession to which people can aspire to. When teachers are seen in the same professional light as doctors or lawyers, the powers that be, including the Government and parents, may treat them with the respect that many of them deserve.

The most worrying and contentious aspect of Labour's plans were excluded from Labour's weekend trumpeting of their new White Paper. The proposal followed standard Labour practice, which is to look more Tory than the Conservative Party, but with the slightest inspection of the document one can see the true Labour policies buried within. This is not to say that I think they're dire, but it would be nice for them to be honest about what they really want to do once in while! The issue at hand is the reinstatement of Local Education Authorities as the final arbiters in school matters - they will regain control of selection and spend-

ing. Plenty of legislation will be devoted to cosmetic changes, such as calling them 'Foundation Schools' rather than opt-out schools, and is this already drawing fire from parents one hand and left-wingers on the other, who justifiably say that the system will remain two-tier.

As with the usual vogue issues, there has been political point-scoring and misleading statistics as the parties vie for this juicy political opportunity. It seems Labour may have overreached themselves this time: union leaders do not find themselves condemning Labour whilst agreeing with Conservative policies very often. The Guardian had a leader praising Labour's policy - not a rare occurrence - using rather irrelevant statistics to back it up. According to them homework is a better indication of success than social class, justifying this with the fact that children who do lots of homework do well. Any sensible person can see that children who do lots of homework and students who study hard will be more

likely to succeed. The Conservatives are missing a an opportunity to take some credit for this: they have broken much of the "we're working class and proud of it" attitude that holds down people who consider themselves part of such a group and therefore unable to break out. It has shown that many people from poor backgrounds can succeed - indeed it used this very fact to devastating effect in the 1983 and 1987 election campaigns. There has been a culture change during these years of Conservative Government, and it is now assumed that people who do work hard may well be rewarded at the expense of those who don't. This is at the root of Conservative education policy. The Labour grass roots believe in opportunity for all, on an equal basis, which is not what their leadership is proposing. There may be a battle within a future Labour Government, with the leadership claiming that they're scrapping ideology, and the rank and file claiming they're more Tory than the Tories.

An Explanatory Sonnet

(for Simon Baker)

*In general, life's swell at IC,
Apart from the poems in Felix weekly,
Why should the writers seem so down at heart
When college is unalloyed joy from the start?
After all, there's no reason for whinges or moans,
Now we've got access to student loans.*

*Well, as students we're cheerful and uncomplicated,
Despair is passé and depression outdated.
But poems require a different view,
Most poets are miserable (and most poems too)
To succeed in this field angst you should nurse,
So would-be poets write disconsolate verse.*

*The moral I'm sure is easy to see,
We're only happy to a degree.
(or PhD, I suppose)*

Laura

PoetC is the creative writing society of Imperial College, and we are always happy to greet new members. If you would like to find out more about PoetC, or are interested in attending our weekly meetings, contact Keith McNulty on ext 58610 or via k.mculty@ic.ac.uk

Like shooting fish in a barrel. Such was my reaction to reading Friday's Felix and planning this week's column. I almost feel guilty about how easy this is to write. When you have quotes like 'College hasn't shot itself in the foot; just maybe shot the Union', one feels tempted to ignore the bookstore issue and pick something more challenging. My job is not to do the Union's bidding, nor anyone else for that matter, but I have to say that the bookstore tendering process leaves a soup^{on} to be desired. My concern is that we get a good bookstore and the College, and thus the taxpayer, gets a good deal. I must say that either Waterstone's or the Union would satisfy the former. The good deal question is not so clear cut.

Professor Alan Swanson, a key figure in the proceedings is on the record as saying 'another group of people might have made a different decision.' This does not fill me with confidence. A word to the wise, Alan: don't let the National Audit Office catch you using phrases like that, it makes them very twitchy. It implies a myriad of undesirable practices, most of which I shall refrain from mentioning since I rather fancy finishing my PhD. I'll play Devil's advocate and suggest that an auditor with a keen fiscal nose would say that this implies incompetence, a failure to select the bid that was indisputably in the best interests of the College/taxpayer. If a local council

did this, councillors could find themselves surcharged, as has happened on several occasions. It has also been stated by Prof Swanson that the College will make up the Union's loss. The lost profit is put at £70,000. The rent for the new bookstore is £60,000. In addition, IC will take 3% of gross sales. The current bookstore has a turnover of £1 million.

Allowing for some expansion in book sales and deduction of stationery and other lines not provided by Waterstone's, I would imagine the figure to be £0.9 to £1 million. Total take by College equals £85,000. Strip out the £70,000 pledged to the Union and you have £15,000 per year. A profit for the

College, you cry. Makes a pleasant change, you say. But let's not forget that you still have the Union bookstore, albeit not selling academic books, occupying a prime site on the walkway. Had ICU won, the College would have received £60,000 rent and presumably the cut of the sales. They would also have freed up a second retail site, ideal for the proposed transformation of the walkway.

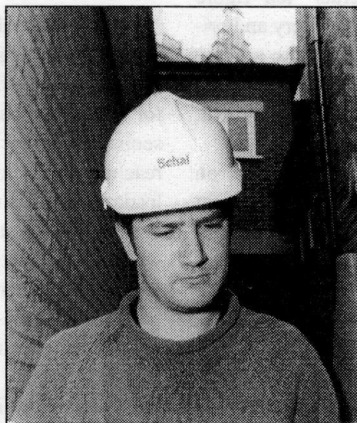
The College may well say that it doubted the Union's ability to cover the rent, but this ignores the broader remit that they have over Waterstone's. WH Smith, under their new chief executive Bill Cockburn, are anxious to boost margins and refocus a vast undisciplined product range group-wide. This is wholly

laudable- you wouldn't expect me to come out against the notion of shareholder value. This all means that you won't be buying your biros and Magnapads in the new bookstore. The Union, however, could sell anything incidental to academic texts, and the expanded premises and a little

more of the management

acumen that turned the existing outlet from a Sheffield-run loss-maker, for which you will never be forgiven, into a nice little earner, would easily enable this. Existing lines could be expanded and floorspace could be given to new products. Don't get me wrong, Waterstone's will offer a first-rate bookstore, like their other branches; the "powerful" IT investment is a bit of a mystery, though.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

Don't think that I've been got at by the Union. ICU does a good job, but is far from perfect. Yes, the Ents lounge refurbishment was a great success, but the money spent on DaVinci's was farcical. In its strivance to be democratic, it has more committees than the EU, which opens it up to the influence of people who like the sound of their own voice more than is helpful. Give the Sab's more power I say. On the positive side, it makes a lot of money for us through its trading activities, has a huge number of supported clubs and societies (too many some would say) and about the only weekly student newspaper in the country. Trying to 'shoot' it just as IC is about to expand seems very short-sighted, and a move that looks set to be a net cost to the College, precisely the opposite of what they were trying to achieve. They'll get it right one day, won't they?

This has all taken up more space than intended, so no time to mention the grant cheques fiasco, of which I was a victim, other than to question Tony Cullen's comment 'not least the students' being affected. Who else, for God's sake? I promise I shall get all political on you next week after far too long a gap. Oh, and for the final time, it is NOT compulsory to sleep with boys or wear stockings to be a Conservative MP. The subject is closed.

Personally Speaking....

Happiness is not a human condition. This is the big mistake people make. Television and other media try hard to convince us of the contrary, but I doubt there is one person reading this article that considers themselves truly happy with their lot. Whether it be discontentment with the course, trouble with relationships, crises of confidence in the way you look, dress or act, personal tragedy, illness, financial worries or whatever people find to disquiet themselves, happiness is at best a transitory experience, at worst a concept as alien as cheese and marmalade sandwiches.

One thing we tend to exchange for happiness is hope or optimism, failing that, psychological drugs of a more tangible form. But when that is gone, what is left? Do you hope for hope? It seems that the pessimists of the world have got it right; that's probably why they call themselves realists.

My theory on the Universe has been reinforced over the last few

weeks. It states that the Cartesian God is not one that can be viewed as good or bad, only indifferent. I believe that the way that physical reality fits together, interrelates, and indeed exists, can be seen as proof of some kind of creative and infinitely powerful force. The laws of the interactions between space/time and mass/energy are what creates and sustains the Universe; it is the creator of these laws to whom we should refer to as a God.

And there seems very strongly indeed that there is no part of these laws which relate to the human senses of justice, morality or happiness, and thus no innate justice, morality or happiness exists in the way the Universe works, only indifference.

But, because it is the human wont to expect, demand and strive for happiness, justice and goodness, we are necessarily going to be disappointed, as there is all too yawning a chasm between our desires and this grim reality.

Jonathon Trout has not got a girlfriend

FELIX needs:
news reporters
feature writers
sports editor
sports reporters
illustrators
designers
theatre reviewers
book reviewers
film reviewers
puzzle compilers
*come in and see
us in the corner
of beit quad.*



Social Clubs Committee Week

Well, it's approaching the end of January, and that means but one thing at IC. It's **SCC Week** and it's back this year, bigger, bolder and brighter than ever before. With more societies participating and more events organised, this is your opportunity to join all those societies you meant to, or just to get a chance to participate.

All week long there will be stalls in the JCR from 12-2. There you can pick up information about the clubs, their events, and meet those in charge. It's your chance to find out about subsidised trips to the theatre with **ArtSoc**, student tutoring with **Pimlico Connection**, collecting different bags with **BagSoc**, or learning about Indian culture with the **Vedic Society**.

There are other events during lunchtimes during the week as well. On Monday 20th January, at 1pm in the Concert Hall, is your chance to participate in the biggest issue of the moment. There is a **parliamentary-style debate** with representatives from **Labour** and **Conservative** parties on the future of education funding in the UK. IF you have ever had any questions that you were itching to ask, come along to **Jewish Society's "Ask the Rabbi"** question time on Monday at 12.30 in the Tennis Table Room. And if you want to go and see a show in the West End but were worried you can't afford it, go and see **ArtSoc** on Monday at 12.30 in the SCR.

On Wednesday, come along to the SCR at 12.30 for a talk entitled **"The Global Defence Market"** with a speaker from the **Campaign against the Arms Trade**, organised by **Third World First**. Do you feel you have your finger on the pulse? Do you know what makes people tick? Then come along to the **Marketing and Advertising** business game, run by **Procter and Gamble**, on Wednesday afternoon in the Ante Room in Sherfield. Make sure you visit **Industrial Society's** stall in the JCR on Tuesday and sign up soon because there are 50 places available and they will go fast!

In case you were at a loss for what to do in the evenings, some classic films will be shown this week in the Concert Hall at 7pm. Monday sees a welcome return for **"Grease"**. Drop in on Tuesday for Frank Herbert's **"Dune"**. Make sure you take plenty of handkerchiefs for **"Philadelphia"** on Wednesday. All shows cost £1 and are at 7pm. For a bit of a difference, on Wednesday night in the Brown Committee Room at 6pm there is a free showing of **"The Ten Commandments"**, an epic if ever there was one.

To end the week on a high note, on Thursday night in dB's there are a couple of **World Music DJs** playing, organised by **Sikh Society**. They will be playing a total range of music, from eastern and western cultures. Time to boogie on down to those bhangra, salsa and African beats! From 8-12, entry is £2. See you there!

SCC WEEK 20-24 Jan

Day	JCR	Concert Hall	Elsewhere
Monday	Bagsoc, ICSF	Grease, 7pm	Parliamentary Debate Concert Hall, 1pm
Tuesday	Abacus, Irish, Welsh, Tamil, Industrial	Dune, 7pm	Ten Commandments Brown CR, 6pm (wednesday)
Wednesday	Finance, ArtSoc, Jewish, PoetIC, IQ	Philadelphia, 7pm	P&G Business game Ante Room 2pm TWF Speaker, SCR, 12.30pm
Thursday	CathSoc, MethSoc, Islamic, Consoc, Labour		Party!!!! dB's, 8-12pm
Friday	Pimlico, TWF, SWSS, Sikh, Vedic		

LETTERS TO FELIX

replied to by David Roberts

Bookstore: too little,
too late

Dear Felix,

Like many other people I am deeply concerned about the effects that closing the ICU bookshop will have. I notice that the new Waterstones bookshop is to sell second-hand books... what will happen to the excellent second-hand bookshop which is run as a non-profit making service by staff in the physics department? I find it hard to believe that Waterstones would pay a student the cash value of a used textbook, and then sell it on for exactly the same price.

I am also concerned about the fate of the ICU newsagents - it has been mentioned that the new Waterstones will be the only retail outlet on campus allowed to sell books, but what about magazines, papers, greetings cards and stationery? If college authorities are genuinely concerned about minimising the losses to the Union, they will allow the Newsagents to expand into the "old" (at the moment, current) bookshop, and allow them to continue selling newspapers, magazines, snacks and chemist goods as at present, and allow them to extend their range to cover the stationery items and greetings cards currently sold by the bookshop. If Waterstones is to take over the newsagents as well, I for one would seriously consider a boycott. And I'm not a particularly political animal.

Yours sincerely,

Helen-Louise Windsor

Dear Mr Feakes,

How is it that your paper only reports important issues (ie. your recent mournful piece about the closure of the Union Bookstore) when they are dead and buried? Though it is generally made out that all us IC students are extremely apathetic, I, for one, would have protested very strongly against the tender of the bookstore going to someone other than our Union...but I didn't know. Surely, your job is to keep the student body of this college well-informed....in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Sorenson

(See editorial, right)

Dear Felix,

I'd like to express my concern at the reported closure of the Union Bookstore. I agree with the ICU centre pages (*Felix 1074*) "The First Nail in Your Union's Coffin?" I found this article to be a purely negative one however....the question is surely "How can we turn this around?" The Union will have my full support in actions opposing the closure.

Yours Sincerely,

George Constantinides

For once campus opinion would appear to be of one mind, with the closure of the Union Bookstore universally condemned. This strong feeling now needs to be turned into action, to ensure that other Union retail outlets - notably Da Vinci's and the Newsagents - do not befall the same fate, leaving Union funding totally at the discretion of College. After all, if you were trying to attract overseas students, would you rather spend money on refurbishing dB's or on prestige groups like the boatclub?

IQ needs you

Dear St Mary's,

The point of this letter is to sell ourselves to you and to get as many of you to come as possible. "Ourselves" are IQ (Imperial Queers), the lesbian gay and bisexual society at IC, and we'd like to see more of you medics. This term, we've got a speaker from Stonewall coming, and video evenings and nights out planned. You've already missed our pubcrawl, and last Tuesday we had a blinding party at dB's, with all the other London university gaysocs.

Our regular meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the charmingly titled Brown Committee Room, on the top floor of the Union (in Prince Consort Road). We know it's a hassle crossing the park, but there's a lot on offer over here.

Hope to see you and the rest of us together soon,

Steven and Karen

email: s.r.cook@ic.ac.uk

ka.yates@ic.ac.uk

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

Deadline for letters in Felix 1076 is Tuesday 20th January. Please bring some form of identification. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

BOOKSTORE COVERAGE

It was not my original intention to weight the content of last week's issue so heavily in favour of the events surrounding the Bookstore tender, but with the addition of the Union's advert it was unavoidable. However, it does seem to have elicited a response, not only from those whom have written letters, but also in a number of people who have approached members of the Union staff to express their sympathy.

In answer to Joseph Sorenson's point (see letter, left) that there should have been more coverage before, rather than after the event, I would say that it is easy to be wise with hindsight. This is something that ourselves at *Felix*, and the rest of the Union, should have pursued; highlighting the repercussions of not winning the tender (and the benefits of being successful), and generally raising the Union's members' awareness of what the Union actually does.

This obviously didn't happen. The Union's approach to the tender could be described as "play by their [the College's] rules, and hopefully they will make the right choice [ie, us]", though I should stress that I have no idea what their actual policy was, it merely seemed "softly, softly" (though again this could be with the benefit of hindsight). As for *Felix*, I can make the feeble excuse for the newsteam that the ongoing tender negotiations were not really 'news' as such. A new development or a shock revelation would have

merited column inches, but a dull report that "all is quiet on the Bookstore Front" would hardly have advanced *Felix*'s readers knowledge.

An investigative feature detailing the pros and cons of the tender process, what would happen if we won and what would happen if we lost would have been better. It would even have been interesting, perhaps. But, unfortunately the time has past and now the Union must be forward looking in its actions and trading activities.

One last word on this subject. All of those who say that they would have joined in any action that opposed the closure of the Bookstore, to what lengths would you have been prepared to go?

FANTASY SABBATICAL
LEAGUE

In the centre pages of this week's issue you may have noticed a bold feature entitled "Fantasy Sabbatical League" offering prizes to the those who can pick a winning combination of candidates in the forthcoming sabbatical elections (yes, it's that time of year again).

This is not a joke feature, as some people who have seen the concept thought. It is quite genuine, as are the prizes; I'm sitting here now occasionally thumbing the tickets. It is meant to be a fun competition though, similar to certain lesser games run in other newspapers. So go on, have a go, you might even win!

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NEWS: MARIA AND JACKIE; FEATURES: AFUA, PUZZLES: DUNCAN AND HIS MYSTERIOUS FRIEND; ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS; GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT:

DAVID; PHOTOGRAPHY: ALDOUS, LING AND MATHEW; SPORT: DAVID;

COLLATING LAST ISSUE: DAVID AND ROBIN

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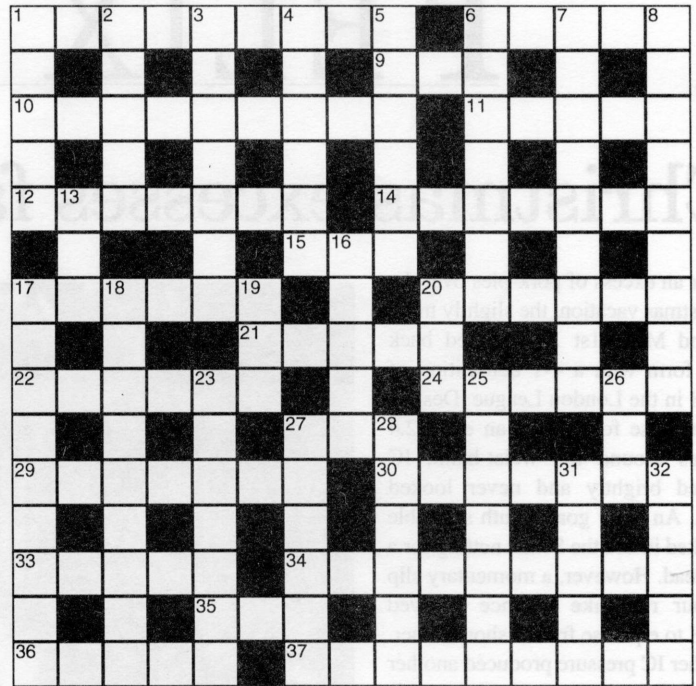
CROSSWORD BY MALICHO**Across:**

1. To trail strangely in my human state. (9)
6. Journeys in the Kalahari desert. (5)
9. In after a long time. (3)
10. Apish freedom-fighter? (9)
11. He's roped into drug-dealing. (5)
12. Throw alternatives into the sugar pots. (7)
14. Driving permit for Cecil around and about the north-east. (7)
15. Why, at the back of the Old Testament, is there a plaything? (3)
17. Arts and many floaters. (6)
20. Protect, fed up by the finish. (6)
21. Quiet! There's a man in the river! (5)
22. Time corroded iron was dependable. (6)
24. Confuse urge two times to be a drain. (6)
27. First class fifty - but will get worse. (3)
29. Those who lend money sound unsociable. (7)
30. Ruined chair in account of it being old. (7)
33. Racket riles Simon in shortage of primary enforcers. (5)
34. Police remove from their enquiries. (9)

35. Sepia, in other words, without a spring. (3)
36. Relatives are the butt of jibes. (5)
37. Doctor's process of discovering what's wrong. (9)

Down:

1. Journal at Imperial is enchanting. (5)
2. Clarinetists need these top journalists after religious education. (5)
3. Heathrow has an atmosphere left. (7)
4. Most lazy of the strange idealist who isn't first class. (6)
5. Annual is in fairly early in the term. (6)
6. Part of seed sounds revolution-ary. (7)
7. Reliable pen tended badly. (9)
8. Give all up, more definitely, about the tear. (9)
13. Noisy pair get some breathing space. (3)
16. It's alright, a private detective has found the antelope! (5)
17. "Is it a cat? A lion?" Question in the Mediterranean. (9)
18. Adult ion a mixed praise. (9)
19. MI6 agent. (3)
20. Perform gravity, you hound! (3)



23. Indefatigable without right leaves you unbounded. (7)
25. Ointment is a bit functionally-challenged. (7)
26. Back in time for record compa-

- ny. (1,1,1)
27. Take it per se. (2,4)
28. Thin layer up-ends animal. (6)
31. Collect a weight. (5)
32. A game about Nazi officer. (5)

The full solution to the Giant Christmas Prize Crossword will appear next week. Congratulations to the winner, Paul Timms, who receives a Collins College Dictionary. Please drop into the Felix office to collect your prize.

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FELIX SPORT

Christmas excesses fail to halt IC Hockey

After an excess of pork-pies over the Christmas vacation, the slightly more rotund Mens 1st XI rumbled back into form with a 4-1 demolition of UCH in the London League. Despite the adverse foggy, and an extra 2.4 inches around the waist-band, IC started brightly and never looked back. An early goal mouth scramble resulted in Sid the Sexist netting for a 1-0 lead. However, a momentary slip in our rock-like defence allowed UCH to equalise from a short corner. Further IC pressure produced another goal mouth epic, with Plasticman this time benefitting from UCH's defensive ineptitude. This lead was not further increased before the half-time break.

The second period began in much the same way as the first had ended, with constant IC pressure. UCH were unable to withstand our overwhelming attacking talent, and eventually folded. This allowed Indiana Jones, our minger-cum-ginger, to score his first goal for the College, courtesy of some sloppy defending and several deflections off his chest and chin.

There was no stopping the IC steam-train now. Chicken Bol was



determined that our supremacy should continue. So he swapped his stick for an axe and produced the worst tackle seen anywhere - far more suited to a Vinny Jones compilation video. Had it not been so Foggy, Basil (the bird behind the whistle) would surely have sent him for an early bath, but leniency was the result, and only a green card was produced. Undaunted, IC ravaged on, and despite several wasted chances, Rent Boy fired in for a fourth goal from a short corner.

The performance as a whole was impressive, with Porn-O always running around like a headless chicken, and the back four doing a sterling job. Mention must be made of Golden Boy for occasionally roaring into the opposition circle, a phenomenon usually seen only when retrieving stray balls during the warm-up.

Thanks to Basil for coming along to peer through the gloom, and 2.4 inches for deciding to watch a group of sheep molesters ahead of representing his College. Hopefully, he can fit us into his social calendar for future away fixtures.

Medals all round for IC fencing squad

Most of the ICFC fencing team travelled up to Nottingham last weekend looking for results in the individual championships. Last year IC fencers won a gold and a bronze and made two other finals. The first weapon was epee, in which we had Eddie Rysdale, Reuben Kalam, and Phil Miller competing. Eddie amazed everyone - including himself - beating two national level epeeists on his way to the final, which he lost 15-14. Saturday saw a strong men's team for IC, and again Eddie made the final, this time winning the gold medal with a 15-14 victory. Henry Morton was also a finalist. On the Sunday, IC was defending the men's sabre title, but this year could only manage one final place, thanks to Mo Mansoori, who ended up seventh. So overall we came out better than last year, with one gold, one silver and two other finalists.



Full Results:

Epee:	Eddie Rysdale	2nd
	Reuben Kalam	L32
	Phil Miller	L32
Foil:	Linda Little	L64
	Vivian Ting	L64
	Dave Davidge	11th
Sabre	Henry Morton	8th
	Eddie Rysdale	1st
	Thorsten Meyer	10th
	Eddie Rysdale	9th
	Mo Mansoori	7th

Sports Editor needed!

If you have some knowledge (and interest) in sport and are ready to give-up your Wednesday nights for *Felix*, then you are just the kind of person we're looking for - so why not drop into the office in the corner of Beit?

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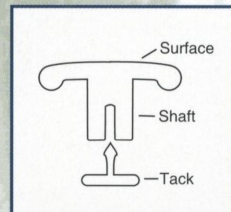
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