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THE FELIX

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

Friday 7th February, 1997
issue 1078

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

An American in London, Chrissa Duttinger explodes some English myths. Centre pages

Just who runs this place? Paul Squires looks at the College hierarchy to see whats under its stone. p7



In Something for the Weekend: a chance to get on TV, the bugs inside your stomach and the Vadic Society

Medics secure independence

KENT YIP

Medical students at St Mary's Hospital Medical School were celebrating this week after securing the future students' union's financial independence. During a question and answer session for medical students last Monday, Professor Alan Swanson, Deputy Rector of Imperial College, said that he saw no reason why the Student Union of the future Imperial College School of Medicine would not be funded separately from the main Union after the merger. Further backing came from their Dean Professor John Caldwell, who has written to Professor Swanson to urge him to have his promise officially noted.

Whilst at present the student unions of RSM, RCS and C&G are funded by Imperial College Union, that of St Mary's receives its subvention directly from the College. There has been fear that this practice may be abandoned after 1998, when the pre-clinical undergraduates will be taught in South Kensington. Such a move would have presented a severe financial blow to the future ICSM SU, who might receive only £15,000 from ICU. Currently, the combined subvention of the two medics' unions, St Mary's and CXWMS's, stands at £80,000.

At the meeting, Professor Swanson also stated that the College would not object to the medics entering their own teams in future BUSA competitions, and this would be a matter for the students concerned to sort out. The question as to whether the College would continue to fund the teams elicited the reply that no changes to the present system of

funding would be introduced. It was pointed out, however, that when making decisions on such matters one should consider how to get the best level of competition.

Questions concerning the shape to be taken by the crest of the future medical school, which will appear on the jersey of the various sport teams, were also posed. Again, it was promised by Professor Swanson that the College would back whatever the medics from the four constituent medical schools agree on.

After the merger, first year medics will be housed in halls of residence over at South Kensington. This has led to fears that Wilson House, which has always been a hall for medical students, will be opened up to students from other disciplines, and result in final year clinical students losing their priority when applying for rooms there. Professor Swanson assured the medics that all clinical finalists will still be given priority at Wilson House.

When asked to clarify the recent suggestions that residents of Wilson House may have their parking rights outside the house removed, Professor Swanson said that he was not aware of any such plan. He agreed that it would be unreasonable to remove the parking rights of clinical students, who have to undertake their training in many different locations around and outside London throughout the duration of their course. Professor Swanson also said that he saw no reason why residents of Wilson House should not be allowed to keep their belongings in their rooms for a nominal fee during **continued on page two**

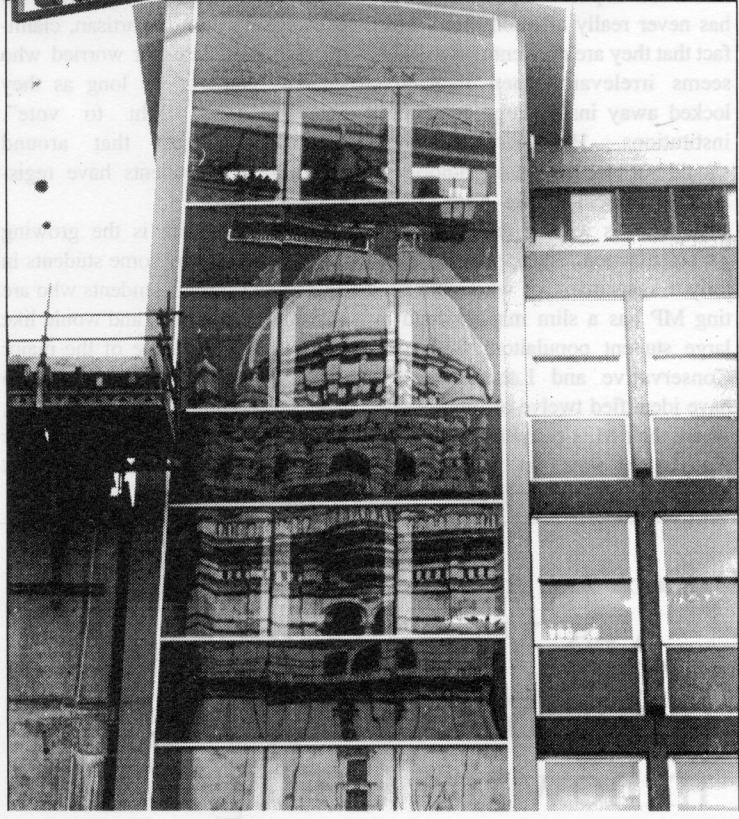


PHOTO: ALDOUS

Old and new. The Queen's Tower reflected in the new wing of the chemistry department. Alongside, newer still, is the concrete frame of the Biomedical Science building.

Students - Can't vote, won't vote?

MICHAEL ROBERTS

Students throughout the country appear to be waiving their right to vote, according to a recent article in *The Times*. Despite eligibility they appear not to wish to go to the ballots for three main reasons.

The first is that they fear that by registering with their local council they will become liable to pay Council Tax and cause further strain on already stretched grants and loans. Normally students are exempt from paying the tax but conflict arises for those who share a house or flat with someone receiving income support, such as unemployed recent

graduates. Those receiving benefits lose their council tax rebate when sharing with others not on income support, but the rules do not discriminate between students and non-students. Although the government plans to rectify the anomaly in April, this will be too late for those students not already registered, preventing them from voting in this general election.

The government states that registering to vote has no connection whatsoever with benefit assessments. However, the president of the National Union of Students, Douglas **continued on page two**

Student Votes

continued from front page

Trainer, maintains that despite this many students are under the impression that they would receive a Council Tax bill if they did register.

A second reason offered as to why almost 2 million young people neglected to vote in the last general election is apathy. Students who live in a world free from council tax and income tax feel detached from the rest of the voting population.

From birth until now, the particular flavour of political party in power has never really affected them. The fact that they are now entitled to vote seems irrelevant when they are locked away inside large academic institutions. However, students should not feel like a tiny minority - all the political parties accept that student votes will be crucial in the general election. The applies particularly to constituencies where the sitting MP has a slim majority and a large student population. Both the Conservative and Labour parties have identified twelve or more seats where their MPs could be ousted by the student vote. In fact, Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell was

reportedly so concerned about the student vote in his seat of Loughborough, despite a majority of almost 11,000, that he switched to the safer Charnwood. Luckily for incoming Kensington and Chelsea candidate, Alan Clark, the Conservative majority of over 30,000 is likely to swamp any vote by Imperial College students.

The recent 'Rock The Vote' campaign, supported by the NUS and various celebrities, was aimed to encourage students to vote. The NUS is careful to be non-partisan, claiming that they "are not worried who students vote for, as long as they exercise their right to vote". Estimates suggest that around 250,000 extra students have registered as a result.

The final reason is the growing doubt expressed by some students in 'the system'. Many students who are politically orientated, and would like to vote, feel that none of the major parties appear to represent students to their satisfaction. With this in mind, they would prefer to abstain rather than make a choice which represents a compromise.

End in sight for AUT pay dispute



PHOTO: ALDOUS

Fry up for the end is nigh! An official picket at last Autumn's one day strike providing breakfast relief for the demonstrators.

MATTHEW BENNETT

The end may be in sight for the long-running pay dispute between the Universities and Colleges Employers Association and eight trade unions, led by the Association of University Teachers, which threatened to disrupt exam and admissions procedures for universities in the United Kingdom later this year.

The dispute started in June 1996 with an offer of a pay rise to university teaching staff of 1.5%. This was rejected and in protest various boycotts initiated, including a boycott of the Teaching Quality Assessment exercise. When no agreement was reached, the AUT and seven other unions organised a joint strike which took place in November last year, closing many universities completely and shutting down many departments at IC.

Earlier this month, AUT members were balloted on whether they should take further action. The move would have meant that exams would not be marked and admissions procedures would be delayed, both of which were seen as very serious threats to the running of institutions. The ballot came back with a massive majority of over 75% voting to escalate the disruption to universities.

Union officials met with the employers on 30th January who offered a new pay deal of 2.9% for the next two years. After this meet-

ing, the first since June 1996, the AUT committee voted to advise members to accept the new pay arrangement. A ballot has been sent out to union members on whether to accept the offer. If the vote comes back 'yes' then all action against universities will be ended, and the pay offer formally accepted. If the vote is returned with a majority of members voting against the offer, then the action against universities will continue and possibly be stepped up.

One major concession to the unions has been the support from the universities Vice Chancellors and Principals for the formation of an independent Pay Review Body that would settle future pay disputes at a national level. This has been avoided by universities for some time, and was the major concession in the talks last Thursday, as the pay offer did not change substantially.

Imperial was always able to pay staff more, and had indeed budgeted for a pay rise of around 4% for its staff, but its hands were tied by the National bargaining rules. Some other universities or colleges may find it harder to increase the pay of existing staff, but some of the pressure was alleviated with an increase of funding for higher education in the November budget. Many had thought that there would be a cut in funding, which was why the first pay offer was so low.

Are You Interested in being Seriously Involved in how the College Halls are Run Next Year??!

Then Contact the Warden of the Hall you are interested in straightaway for an application to be a Re-App!!

If you feel that you have the desire and potential then make sure your completed application is received by 1 March 1997 at the latest. Don't delay and let the opportunity pass you by!!

Sabbatical election season kicks off



The sabbatical election season got off to a slow start this week with only two nominations being posted by the time *Felix* went to press. Papers for nominations for the sabbatical elections went up outside the Union Office in the Beit Quad Union Building on Monday morning and will remain up until 5.00pm Friday evening.

So far the only posts that have received nominations are Deputy

President (Finance & Services) and Felix Editor. 4th year mechanical engineer Duncan Tindall is fully signed up for the former, while third year physicist Jeremy Thomson is standing for the latter. To be eligible to stand, a candidate must be a full member of Imperial College Union, which all students at IC are, supported by twenty seconders and must find someone brave enough to propose them.

The other two positions open for election are President and Deputy President (Clubs and Societies).

Potentially, there is a fifth sabbatical recently established to cover the medical merger. Unlike the first four, this post is funded from external sources, such as the St Mary's old boys association, as is not elected by campus wide ballot. It is thought that this year may see the first sabbatical taken by a medical student.

Glaxo-Wellcome to pull out of research in UK

KATY NOLAN

Glaxo-Wellcome, a major funder of many research projects at UK universities, has signal its intention to shift more of its funding to overseas institutions. The company currently supplies nearly a quarter of all medical research funding in the UK

The company blames the poor research facilities at some universities as reasons for the switch and particularly the research environments. A spokesman for the company explained that UK universities "lack the environment where you could get full results."

He went on to place Glaxo-Wellcome as "an international organisation in an international industry." Thus, he concluded, Glaxo-Wellcome needed world-class research facilities. "We have to find our research science and technology in the best centres. Where we would hope that this would be in the United Kingdom, it is not a foregone conclusion" he said.

While it seems that many smaller universities may lose out, staff at Imperial College do not think that departments here will be affected by Glaxo Wellcome's actions. Dr David Chapman, Finance Administrator for the Biochemistry Department, commented "I don't think this will affect us as we have always had very close relations with Glaxo-Wellcome, and a lot of our students have placements with them. They were also a significant contributor to the £2.1 million cryoelectron microscope that is to be installed here. We work to follow the College's mission statement, and be a centre not just of national, but international excellence."



Shell Summer Travel Bursaries

for people who are going places

Are you planning to travel this summer?

If you are a University student not yet in your final year, Shell may want to give you £300, to help you on your way.

Interviews will be held in late April or May.

Why not complete an application form which can be obtained from your college?

The deadline for sending in application forms is 29th March.

Shell International Limited, Recruitment Division, Shell Centre, London, SE1 7NA.

Tel: 0171-934 3630

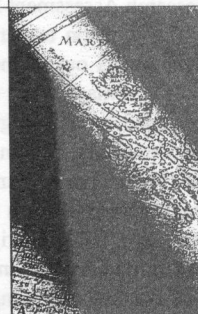




PHOTO: IVAN

Conservative Stephen Norris MP (left) having an informal chat with members of the Conservative Society on Wednesday. The MP spoke for an hour to a meeting of the society, covering topics such as the battle for the leadership of the Conservative Party and the Tory divisions on Europe.

Internet purchasing facilities to hit IC

VASKOR BASAK

A pilot run for purchasing equipment over the internet is soon to arrive for Imperial College members. The main intention of the service is to replace orders for college equipment to third party suppliers.

At the moment, there is only information concerning the purchase of personal computers. However, this is hoped to be expanded to include stationery, gas cylinders and chemical supplies, as well as printing and pho-

tocopying services all available over the internet. Full purchasing facilities are expected to be available after adequate security procedures have been implemented. Co-ordinators of the pilot state the advantages of the service to be speedier response for orders, cost savings for the college by the reduction of paperwork and easy access to the latest catalogue of products over the internet.

Speaking to *Felix*, Mr James Bayley, Procurement Systems

Officer, said that there would be no security risks involved in transactions across the internet, since Secure Socket Layers (SSL) and encryption techniques would be used, and the facilities would only be available from within the Imperial College computing network

Currently, only the Union Bookshop on the Sherfield walkway and the Kodak centre in the Electrical Engineering Department can receive orders over the internet.

Medics' independence

continued from front page

the Easter vacation, when rooms there are not going to be rent out.

The issue of top-up fees was also brought up. Professor Swanson assured all those present that the College has no plan to introduce such charges in the near future. He warned, however, there is the possibility that all institutions may be instructed to do so by the government. The earliest this can happen will be in 1998, after the new intakes have been informed of this in the new prospectus. However, no present students of the College will be affected. The suggestion that the College might start bringing in top-up fees just to keep itself on par with the rest of the so called "Ivy League" universities such as UCL, and LSE was strongly refuted by Professor Swanson, who said that they would only be forced to do so under financial pressure.

The medics' concern about their future was reflected by their high attendance at the session, which was generally felt to be productive. They were pleased to learn that the subvention of their future student union has been secured and the independence of their clubs and societies guaranteed.

Both aspects are seen as crucial in maintaining the sense of identity among the medics after the merger. The willingness of Professor Swanson to discuss matters further was welcome by all those who were present.

HEFCE cuts funding to low-rated departments

ALOK JHA

The Higher Education Funding Council for England has decided on the weightings it will use for the distribution of funds to universities and colleges for the coming year. A big difference this year will be that none of the £680m will be going to departments rated at 1 or 2 in the recent Research Assessment Exercise.

The decision to cut the low-rated departments out of the funding formula was made when the two bodies that used to fund higher education, the University Funding Council and the Polytechnics Funding Council were merged to form HEFCE a few years ago. HEFCE originally continued to fund departments rated at 1 or 2 so that they could improve their rating in time for the funding water-

shed. A spokesman from HEFCE said that any other way of doing things would have been 'unfair' on the old polytechnics which may not have had research departments of particularly high standards when they became universities. An additional fund was set up for this purpose, the Development Research (Dev-R), although this is now being phased out.

When asked whether not providing money to low-rated departments would leave them stranded and therefore not able to become a 'good' department, the HEFCE press officer, Philip Walker, stressed the need to be selective about its decisions due to their limited budget. He said that there was no point in spreading money thinly over all the universities

but instead to concentrate it on the ones that carried out the best research since that was the best way to benefit society. This view is echoed by Dr. Rodney Eastwood, finance planning officer at Imperial College, which was amongst the top-scoring colleges in the country. He said there was "no point in giving money to second best research" and that it would be better spent at "international" departments such as the ones at IC. As a result of the last RAE, Imperial would not be affected by HEFCE's decision.

The reaction from universities which didn't do so well last year has been critical, as expected. Although they cannot get much money from HEFCE, they are looking to a replacement for the Dev-R, the exact details of which have not

yet been worked out according to Philip Walker. The Times Higher Education Supplement quoted responses from some of these universities, among them the University of Luton and the University of Central Lancashire. They thought that the move by HEFCE was 'grossly unfair' and generally condemned the action.

HEFCE have floated the possibility that there may be new areas of research to take in to account in the future, but that would be considered nearer the time. It is possible that the new universities which may be undertaking the 'new areas' of research could then get more funding. Until then, the future of their research funding is not entirely certain.

**“ BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM TO
ME THAT TRADING
IS, IN ITSELF, AN ESSENTIAL
UNION ACTIVITY ”**

NOT EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE MAKES SENSE

TRADING IS VITAL TO ICU BECAUSE :

**WE PROVIDE A QUALITY INEXPENSIVE SERVICE TO YOU.
WE CAN REINVEST SURPLUS IN IMPROVING UNION SERVICES.
WE CAN MAINTAIN SOME LEVEL OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.**

iCU
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

YOUR UNION - RUN FOR YOU

Alan Clark, the new MP for K&C?

NEWSTEAM

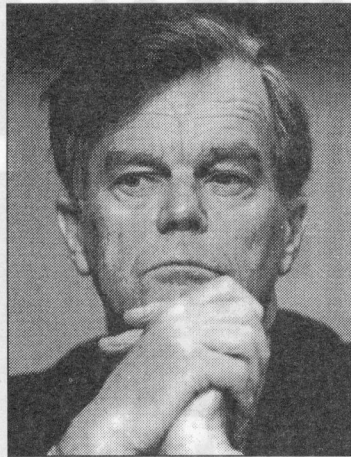
Thanks to the drunken antics of sitting MP Nicholas Scott, the Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association have been forced to select a new candidate for the imminent General Election. Faced with a maximum of three months in which to build up support and popularity, this clearly is a tough job for any replacement - although Sir Nicholas' large majority in 1992 provides a huge safety-net. Consequently, they have selected Alan Clark, a candidate whose very name brings instant recognition amongst the voters of SW7.

Mr Clark, infamous former Cabinet Minister and ardent Thatcherite, retired at the last election, despising the successors to Margaret Thatcher (whom he described as "the most attractive woman in politics"). However, having failed to secure a peerage, and seeing the prosecution case in the Arms to Iraq inquiry (in which he was heavily implicated) collapse, he has been chaffing at the bit to return

to the Commons. He unsuccessfully launched a bid to become the official candidate for the Newbury by-election in 1993, and has recently been scouting for possible seats for the forthcoming election - all without success.

Having finally found himself a candidature (and, considering the size of the majority which he defends, a virtually assured place in the next parliament) he promises to keep the spotlight on Kensington & Chelsea. His reputation, as an womaniser and impetuous radical kept him in the glare of publicity throughout the late eighties, and was well founded. His affairs were legendary, including one weekend when he slept with a high-court judge's wife and his daughter. His wife even admits to his having taken his girlfriend Christina on their honeymoon.

Alan Clark's career as a minister was no less colourful. Whilst a junior minister at the Department of Employment in 1985, he described the Third World in somewhat un-PC term "Bongo-Bongo land". His time



Eyes right. Alan Clark contemplating the future now he has secured the Conservative nomination for Kensington & Chelsea.

as Minister of Trade, from 1986 - 1989, included the Arms to Iraq dealings with Matrix Churchill, whom he advised to emphasise the general uses of machine tools, rather than their specific uses in Iraq. Even the normally quiet role of Minister of State for Defence took on a whole new life under Clark, thanks largely

to his dislike of NATO as a whole, his ardent nationalism, and the outbreak of the Gulf War.

However, Clark's appointment is also indicative of the current shift to the right in the Tory party, with Clark's politics far more reactionary than those of the more reserved Scott. Sir Nicholas was a confessed Europhile, lying on his party's more liberal left-wing, whereas Alan Clark has been described as a "radical reactionary British nationalist", and has spoken out in favour of protectionism and industrial intervention. He comes from a background to match these beliefs: his homes include Saltwood Castle and a chalet in the Alps, he has a passion for fast cars, and to pay his tax bill he was forced to sell one of his Turner's.

Although he is unlikely to find a place in the next government, his politics vary wildly, and his exploits make him a friend of any tabloid editor, Mr Clark does however have at least one thing in common with Nicky Scott - he already has two convictions for driving offences.

iCU Overseas Students Committee
Presents

International Night

28th February 1997

Sherfield Building,
Imperial College,
London

Tickets

Cultural Show, Food Fair & Disco - £10

Food Fair & Disco - £6

Available at Lunchtimes (12-2pm) in JCR

BARCLAYS

STA TRAVEL

College hierarchy made simple(r)

An everyday story of university folk

GOVERNING BODY

Composed of members nominated by various non-college organisations e.g. the Crown, University of London, Royal Society, Department of Education, Governments of Commonwealth Nations etc. Four members are elected by the College Teaching Staff. The Rector and Deans are members ex officio.

Chairman: Field Marshal The Lord Vincent



RECTOR

Sir Ronald Oxburgh KBE

Chief executor of the Governing Body. Preferred candidate proposed to the Governing Body by a Selection Committee formed by the Governing Body for the purpose. Appointed by the Body if approved. Must represent College on a world-wide stage. No absolute criteria for selection but should preferably be a scientist, engineer, medic etc. Normally holds the post until retirement.



DEPUTY RECTOR

Professor Alan Swanson

The Rector is often absent. The Deputy Rector performs some of his administrative duties in his absence, as well as handling matters concerned with Educational Quality.

PRO RECTOR

(Research Contracts)

Professor WA Wakeham



PRO RECTOR

(Resources)

Professor Glyn Davies

PRO RECTOR

(Medicine)

Professor Tim Clark

Also Dean of Imperial College School of Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute.

ALL PRO RECTORS

Appointed by the Governing Body on the recommendation of the Rector. Set terms exist, usually 3, 4, or 5 years.

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N A C A D E M I C S

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mike Hansen

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Dr Rodney Eastwood

DEAN OF RCS

Professor Michael Mingos

DEAN OF ST MARY'S

Professor John Caldwell

REGISTRY

Vernon McClure

Admissions
Careers Service
Student records

DIRECTOR OF ESTATES

Ian Caldwell

Estates Planning
Management
Security & Post
Operations
Catering and
Conference Service
Residences

Cash & Credit
Financial Services
Payroll & Payments

Planning
Management
Information
Services

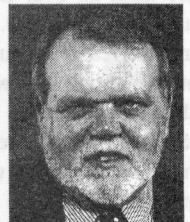
DEAN OF C&G

Professor Julia Higgins



DEAN OF RSM

Professor Rees Rawlings



ALL DEANS

Elected by the professors of the relevant Constituent College. The terms are for 3 years and Deans may not be re-elected. Must be professors in the relevant colleges.

A morass of various committees that have the day-to-day running of the College devolved to them. Of particular note are Management Planning Group, Estates Committee and the Finance Committee.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

The Rector recommends candidates to the Governing Body on the advice of the departments' teaching staff. Must be a professor in the relevant field. Terms are for five years. Not normally re-appointed but can be if required.

Academic Affairs Committee
Residences Committee
and others

Certain others are involved in the academic administration of the college who cannot easily be involved within the structure shown above. Among these are the College Tutors, bless 'em, who, I am told, are the unsung heroes of the College. Their job is basically to put things right when they go wrong. Then there are the many committees, appointed either by the Governing Body or the Rector, many of which, such as the Information Systems Strategy Committee, the Health and Safety Council and the Student Residences Committee, can have great impact on the lives of students and staff.

the students and staff

An American Dream

Chrissa Duttinger, a small-town girl in London, reveals an American perspective of Britain

This past summer, I worked in a resort with an entirely European staff. Since we were in New Hampshire, USA and I was one of two Americans working there, it was a cultural experience for me. I am a small-town girl from New York-New York the state, not the city. The state is full of small towns, abandoned mills, old industry, and mountains. I decided to get out of my small town and work away from home for the summer. New Hampshire is eight hours away from my house, so you could say I was a world away. People there were from all over Europe - France, Spain, and Russia to name a few. The British by far outnumbered the rest of us put together and I got my first taste of British culture before I ever crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

So I was a bit more prepared than some of my American comrades who came here with me. I knew that there were no marshmallow cereals in the supermarkets and that there were pubs on every corner. I was told, and shocked, that guns were completely illegal unless you were a hunter. Even as a sportsman, I was told, you are subject to random checks by the police force to ensure that you are keeping your weapon in proper conditions. One of the Bill of Rights in our Constitution guarantees citizens the right to bear arms. There are hand guns that are illegal, but anyone can own a basic rifle and under no circumstance can the police force check on it unless they have a warrant issued by a federal judge to look in your house. Perhaps that's why London is one of the safest cities in the world and why Washington, DC, my nation's capital, is the murder capital of the world. Never the less, I couldn't imagine living in a place where I was not allowed to own a weapon to protect myself and my home with. Americans are very protective of what is theirs.

Despite the advice and warnings, many things about Great Britain have surprised me. I was shocked when I went to the theatre with a friend and they searched her purse. In America, warrant-less searches are strictly against the law. I understand that they were doing it for our own safety. Many people are wary of the IRA - and with perfectly good reason. Yet it still unnerved me that a security guard could demand the right to search my belongings.

Americans have their myths of the British. On one particular occasion, I joined a conversation that several of my British friends were having. They were casually discussing their sexual experiences. What of the famed English reserve? These people were much more comfortable with sexuality than the average American. Our Puritan roots still lurk in us. They didn't seem to find anything embarrassing. Most Americans would be quite offended if you asked them questions about their sex lives unless you were quite close friends or drunk.

On the subject of drinking, my American friend and I were sure that our European friends would be able to drink us under the table. We were not disappointed. Many of them could easily down a six pack of beer and start a bottle of wine without any true infringement on their cognitive skills. Since drinking is illegal until you are 21 in the States, much of college culture is based on finding and consuming alcohol. So while university life in

Great Britain is based in the pubs, college life in America has unique staples such as the Fraternity party and the coveted fake IDs.

I have found that British students have heard of the viciousness of the American drinking laws. My English friend Paul lied about his age on his International Student ID card before going to America to ensure his access to alcohol in the states. My, I thought, perhaps the British aren't so different from us after all.

Fraternity parties, though, seem to remain for the most part, a mystery to the British.

If you've ever seen "Animal House" with John Belushi, you would have some idea, however glorified, about what a fraternity party is. Fraternity brothers throw large parties with a cover charge. After paying 4 or 5 dollars, (about 2 or 3 pounds), you are led down a dirt stairwell and into a basement that is packed with at least four times it's capacity of people. You are welcome to drink all the bad beer you can get, Milwaukee's Best, or "Beast", is the frat party keg of choice. It's very cheap. You do have to stand in line and push your way forward to get at enough beer. If you want to get drunk, the only way is to get a beer, then go back to the end of the line and drink it up while you wait to get to the front again. If you are lucky, the party swells to the upstairs and you can get out of the sweltering hole. After only two such experiences, I retired my fraternity party-going shoes. I am in the minority. For many American students, it is a weekly or bi-weekly experience. It is certainly nothing like the civilized drinking that goes on in the pubs.

Unless you have a fake ID or older friends, this is the only real access to alcohol. Freshman orientation weekends are full of "welcome" fraternity parties. New students heady with freedom flock to

them. Eager to meet people and enjoy their lack of rules, freshman and freshman forget every piece of advice ever given to them. On the upside, it is wonderful way to meet other people just as nervous as you. Unfortunately, many young girls end up drunker than they have ever been and do things they never wanted to do or were even forced to do.

Date rape, although certainly not the fault of Fraternity parties, is often linked to them. Date rape is a major problem of university life in America. So far, I have heard absolutely nothing about rape in this country. My British friends said that it isn't talked about very much at all and that the term date rape is not often used. In America, 1 out of 4 women are raped at some point in their life and the number is moving closer to one-third. There is no bureau on this campus which keeps any record of rape statistics on the campus or in the country. In the freshman orientation book, rape is briefly mentioned as a rare occurrence. I am shocked at the lack of interest in the subject in this country.

London is a marvelous city. It is inevitable that it be compared to New York City. The most obvious difference is the actual buildings. The buildings in New York rise to forever more, defying the earth they are built on and commanding the sky. In London, everything is smaller and closer to the ground. Well-kept buildings are intended to match their surroundings and blend in with the earth. New York is a planned city, looking like a grid, or a microchip as you fly high above it. It is difficult to get very lost in New York. Finding your way is the difficult part in London. This city is so confusing that one wrong turn can lead you astray for hours. Yet I am awed by the history that made it this way. London just grew up around itself. For hundreds and hundreds of years, London has been a growing city, always ahead of any type of city planning.

The underground system is wonderfully clean compared to the New York subway system. Yet it baffles me why in one of the largest metropolitan centers of the world, the tube closes at half past midnight. After dancing at a club in Soho, I had to wander around the city to find a bus that went my way. The trip home has taken me a couple of hours. Finally, a local showed that Trafalgar Square was the place to catch every bus and my travel time home has been cut in half. So the London Underground is cleaner and safer than the New York Subway, at least I don't have to wander the streets in New York to get home.

London does sleep. After 1 a.m., it is impossible to do much in this city. Excluding, of course, Soho and it's surrounding areas. This is the only area of London that I have found to be as lively as New York City.

There's a reason why New York is called "The City that Never Sleeps". At any time of the day or night, you can grocery shop or grab a beer at a bar. I had been under the impression that London would be much the same. What both cities do have in common is the diversity of people. The British seemed to be outnumbered here by immigrants as Americans in New York are outnumbered.

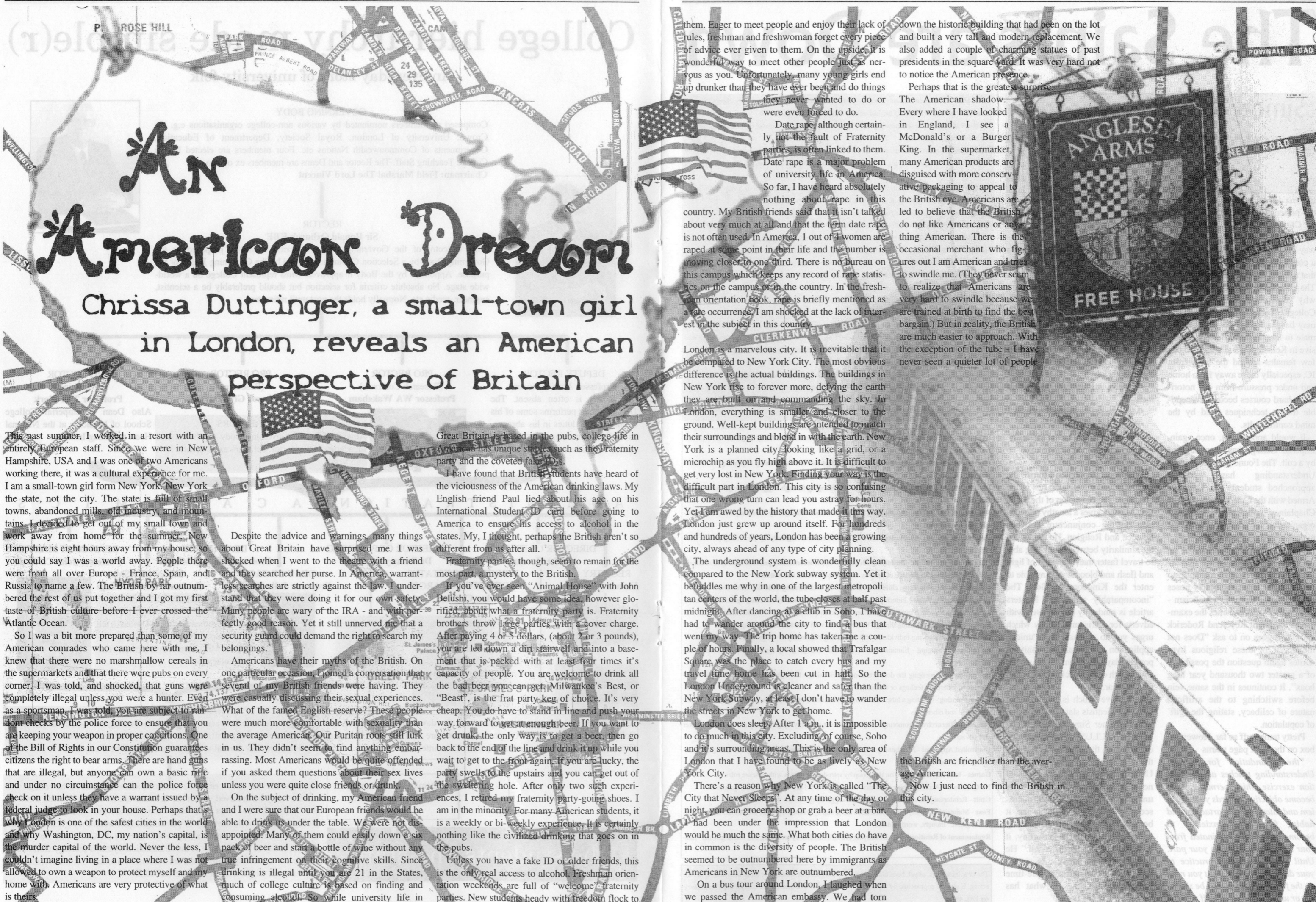
On a bus tour around London, I laughed when we passed the American embassy. We had torn

down the historic building that had been on the lot and built a very tall and modern replacement. We also added a couple of charming statues of past presidents in the square yard. It was very hard not to notice the American presence.

Perhaps that is the greatest surprise. The American shadow. Every where I have looked in England, I see a McDonald's or a Burger King. In the supermarket, many American products are disguised with more conservative packaging to appeal to the British eye. Americans are led to believe that the British do not like Americans or anything American. There is the occasional merchant who figures out I am American and tries to swindle me. (They never seem to realize that Americans are very hard to swindle because we are trained at birth to find the best bargain.) But in reality, the British are much easier to approach. With the exception of the tube - I have never seen a quieter lot of people

the British are friendlier than the average American.

Now I just need to find the British in this city.



The Saints are Down

Simon Wistow looks into a resurgence of cult activity on campus

In *Felix 1071* I wrote an article about the presence of the London Church of Christ on campus. Apparently they weren't very happy about the way I portrayed them. They also filed a complaint against the BBC saying that a recent program had defamed it. The complaint was not upheld. But why do cults target Imperial College? Tacky as it may seem it may have a lot to do with the 3:1 male to female ratio. Beer is expensive in Kensington and with precious few females around the boys from IC, especially those away from home and under pressure from our notoriously hard courses become susceptible to the techniques used by the mind control cults.

It would appear that, once again, Imperial College has been targeted by a cult. The Foundation for Human Understanding has recently approached students on Campus. Armed with the Cult's prospectus the Chaplaincy contacted a specialist organisation for advice on how best to deal with the situation.

The A4 pamphlet handed out by the FHU reads more like a Sunday Supplement advert than a manifesto on faith. The first page boldly poses the question "Roman Catholicism - just another Cult" and cites the example of the Right Reverend Roderick Wright. It goes on to ask "Does not the deceit of these religious hypocrites again question the possibility of a greater two thousand year long hoax". It continues in the same vein before switching to the artificial nature of celibacy, stating the 'gift' of copulation.

Pretty tame stuff so far. However a box on the front page warns

"the Foundation for Human Understanding teaches an observation exercise which permits you to become objective towards your problem and allows your heartaches, bad habits, fears and anxieties, to become completely eliminated from your life without effort on your part. Until you commit this practice to your daily life some of what you read on the following pages may be shocking or upsetting to you. But if you will

read calmly and with open mind, you may discover the key to the peace of mind for which you have been searching all your life."

It might as well say that it also helps you lose weight FAST, gets you ripped by Christmas and shows you how to bring a woman to orgasm every time and have her ache for more.

More gems in this surprisingly funny publication include the wonderfully informative "Understanding Sexuality". In this YOU can discover the reasons why:-

- Women are attracted to abusive men
- Men use sex to degrade women
- People become homosexuals
- The reasons for marital infidelity
- Men and women change roles
- Men feel guilty after sex

With great trepidation I turned the page and read through the rest of the brochure. The champion of the FHU, Roy Masters gives a lengthy dissertation on the conjuncture between Science and Religion. He points out the similarity between not being able to travel faster than the speed of light and flesh and blood not being able to enter the Kingdom of God. The "incomparably articulate" Masters article is randomly interspersed with adverts for Christianity today which urges you to purchase this "unique application of biblical Christianity to present day conditions" for a paltry £7 a month or the special price of £55 for one year.

In a move which is sure to make die hard scientists slap their forehead with a Homer Simpson like "Doh" our Roy EXCLUSIVELY reveals the existence of the smallest particle in the Universe: the orgitron. Unfortunately for scientists, they will never be able to see it because "it is unlikely that any electron microscope will ever be able to see it because it is so tiny as to be virtually undetectable; in fact it is so tiny, it practically doesn't exist at all." He also shows how "matter is simply pressurised 'crystallised' pre-time force flowing now in what has become a river of time".

Although all this may seem funny, there is a more serious side. As far as anybody except the cults themselves are concerned, cults are bad news. A cult is defined as:

Theological usage: (positive meaning) a style of worship and its associated rituals. This is the historical meaning of the word.

Sociological usage: (neutral meaning) a small religious group that exists in a state of tension with the predominant religion. Hindus might be considered a cult in North America; Christianity might be considered a cult in India.

General religious usage: (neutral meaning) a small, recently created religious group that is not a variant of an established religion. Often, it is headed by a single charismatic leader.

Evangelical Christian usage: (negative meaning) most Evangelicals would define as a cult any Christian religious group which does not accept the historical Christian doctrines (accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour, virgin birth, the Trinity, salvation through beliefs, etc.). The implication is that the cult's theology is invalid. They might consider the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), Unification Church and Jehovah's Witnesses to be cults. But they would not classify Wicca as such, because it is not Christian. The earliest use of this meaning of the word "Cult" is believed to be a 1938 book "The Chaos of the Cults" by W.B. Eerdmans.

Fundamentalist Christian usage: (negative meaning) Some Fundamentalists would accept the Evangelical definition of cult defined above. Others might brand any religious group (Christian or otherwise) which deviates from historical Christian belief as a cult. This definition would include the Mormon Church, Wicca, mainline and liberal Christian denominations, and all of the other religions of the world. Over 70% of humanity would belong to cults, by this definition.

Popular, media usage: (very negative meaning) a small, evil religious group, often with a single charismatic leader, which engages in brainwashing and other mind control techniques. Often used as a synonym for mind control cult or for doomsday cult. The earliest use of this meaning of the word is believed to have been in a 1965 book by Walter Martin "The Kingdom of the Cults" (revised and expanded in 1985).

Hypnosis - inducing a state of high suggestibility by hypnosis, often thinly disguised as relaxation or meditation

Peer Group Pressure - Suppressing doubt and resistance to new ideas by exploiting the need to belong

Love Bombing - Creating a sense of family and belonging through hugging, kissing, touching and flattery

Rejection of Old Values - Accelerating acceptance of new life-style by constantly denouncing former values and beliefs

Removal of privacy - Achieving loss of ability to evaluate logically by preventing private contemplation.

Time Sense Deprivation - Destroying ability to evaluate information, personal reactions, and body functions in relation to passage of time by removing all clocks and watches

Dis-inhibition - Encouraging child-like obedience by orchestrating child-like behaviour

Uncompromising Rules - Inducing regression and disorientation by soliciting agreement to seemingly simple rules which regulate mealtimes, bathroom breaks and use of medications.

Verbal Abuse - Desensitising through bombardment with foul and abusive language.

Dress Codes - Removing individuality by demanding conformity to the group dress code.

Chanting and Singing - Eliminating non-cult ideas through group repetition of mind-narrowing chants or phrases.

Confession - Encouraging the destruction of individual ego through confession of personal weaknesses and innermost feelings or doubts.

Finger Pointing - Creating a false sense of righteousness by pointing to the shortcomings of the outside world and other cults.

Faunting Hierarchy - Promoting acceptance of cult authority by promising advancement, power and salvation.

Controlled Approval - Maintaining vulnerability and confusion by alternately rewarding and punishing similar actions.

Games - Inducing dependence on the group by introducing games with obscure rules.

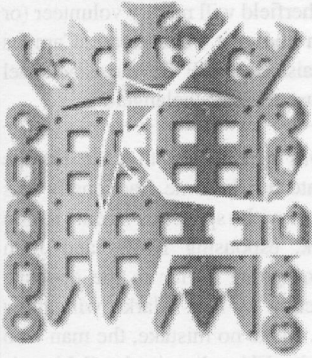
No Questions - Accomplishing automatic acceptance of beliefs by discouraging questions.

Guilt - Reinforcing the need for salvation by exaggerating the sins of former lifestyles

Fear - Maintaining loyalty and obedience to the group by threatening soul, life or limb to the slightest "negative" thought, word or deed.

Replacement of Relationships - Destroying pre-cult families by arranging cult marriages and "families".

The chaplaincy has, as yet, been unable to do anything and are waiting for more information before acting. If you are approached by these people or any other cult then please contact the Chaplaincy on Ext. 49600.



Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

Tony Blair had a rather uncomfortable interview last Monday. He was interviewed by Daphne Barak, little known over here, but a celebrity television personality on the other side of the pond. His problems stemmed from the immense similarity between Blair and Clinton, and the accusation that Blair had been cribbing ideas on policy and presentation from the American President. It seems that he was being led into the trap, for when he was asked what he thought of descriptions of himself as "the English Clinton" he replied that there were "obvious similarities" between them. "I think that American politics and British politics are very different, but some of the things are the same

that we're trying to do - putting education, welfare [and] tougher policy on crime high on the agenda and being very determined to make sure that our countries are outward-looking." He also denied being advised by George Stephanopoulos but emphasised again his close relations with the Democrats.

Since the debacle in 1992 when the Conservatives sent strategists and advisers to help the Republicans (many Tories were shocked by such obviously crass behaviour) the new Clinton administration has had decidedly cool relations with Britain, only warming in the last 18 months. Clinton is known to want to punish the Conservatives for their past behaviour and has quietly supported Labour during the past few years. The two men gave a show of closeness at Blair's visit to the White House last April when it was pointed out they are both Oxford-educated lawyers who married lawyers, with each pushing their respective parties towards the centre-ground. Since

Clinton's re-election, Labour officials have been privately hinting that senior Clinton advisers such as George Stephanopoulos may agree to help in the Labour campaign, in fact many of them have been keeping in close contact with the administration in recent years. This enthusiasm does not seem to be shared however, as many White House insiders believe that the relationship between the two leaders is not as close as Labour would like to think. This has made Blair's humbling American interview even more humiliating: it would be difficult for the President to have a great deal of respect for someone who is so desperately trying to be like him.

The interviewer, Daphne Barak, had been scathing about the Labour leader, saying that she knew as little about Blair after the interview as she did before. "Clinton is more than just a hair-do. What ever his mistakes, at least he has charisma. When I asked Tony Blair what he wanted to do, he kept saying he wanted change, but he

didn't seem to know what to change. There doesn't seem to be a message there. He may be any average politician but I don't see him as a leader." The same CBS programme emphasised other examples of Labour's imitation of the Democrats, describing him as "Tony Blinton". NBC got in on the act too, screening a cynical interview of him to coincide with CBS.

Although there is some substance to these accusations from the American media - Tony Blair cut his teeth on his plagiarism skills with Tory policies - Blair is probably more a victim of the Brit-bashing our American friends like to perform occasionally. John Major has certainly had his fair share with unflattering comparisons with Margaret Thatcher and the usual abuse from the strong Irish-American lobby. It is probably better for Blair to make these mistakes now, for a failed attempt to suck up to the Americans doesn't look good on any Prime Ministerial curriculum vitae.

All you need is love

Loose your lovelorn yearnings, release the burning passions of your soul. let the flames of desire scorch the printed page. Free your mind, and let the whirlwind of love whisk you away to a magical time of knights, white steeds, chivalry, and maidens in distress...

Bring your heartfelt missives to the Felix love office, or let them wing their way to us across the email ether to felix@ic.ac.uk before Tuesday evening, and we will eternalise your love in ink.

I shall deal with the very important business first. Due to a technical error last week, the thrust of my final point about Southside became a tad garbled. The piece as written implies that I am advocating the consumption of cream beers, such as Caffreys. Nothing could be further from the truth. These insidious creations are the bodily fluids of Beelzebub himself. Wouldn't touch them with a bargepole, mate. I was, of course, referring to the unsurpassed range of proper real ales on offer. I thought I better make that clear, lest anyone think I have taken leave of my senses (no sniggering at the back, thank you).

It would seem that the Library is the centre of attention once again for all the wrong reasons. First we had the water leak that knocked out the electrical supply to Sherfield. My dear friend Keith Reynolds, Head of Fire and Security, said that this presented no danger. No Danger? Did not the loss of power and subsequent battery exhaustion mean that the Chemistry explosion was not indicated in Sherfield? This is not the first time that his comments looks unnerving. A reassurance from Mr Reynolds usually leads me to assume the foetus

position under a stout table and pray for salvation. The other problem concerns the closure. This has understandably irritated our biological friends, coming as it does in their revision period. On a personal level, my degree of sympathy for them is slightly reduced by the racket I had to endure in the Library last summer caused not by the builders but said students; regular readers will remember that this prompted the mobile phone ban.

Nevertheless, they have a valid point. The initial excavation of the basement began the day after my final exams, but since mine were first, this affected a huge number of people. The whole project timing has been a shambles. While it would be naive to expect no inconvenience, the major works could have been organised a

little better. Exam dates are, give or take a day or two, written in stone. It is not therefore unreasonable to expect the boys and girls at Schal and College Estates to take them into account.

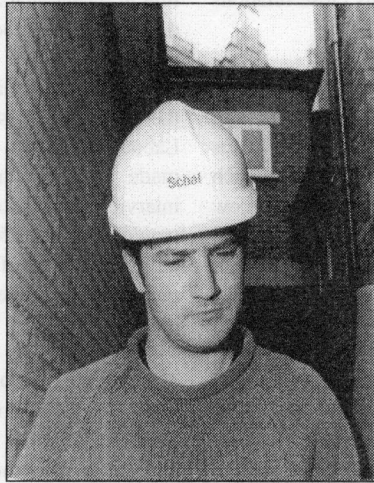
If the project had started a mere month earlier this would have coincided with Christmas, a slack period for the library. Surely one of the 200-plus people in Estates could have realised this (I deliberately include all of them, not just the management). Of Schal Project Mismanagement, I suppose this is par for the course. I don't know what they do in the bowels of Southside, but I fear that they are heeding my advice on the neighbouring bar a little too enthusiastically. I would love to know what their management fee is for all this, but suspect that no one

in Sherfield will readily volunteer (or even know) it. At this rate, Campus Renaissance will be more Michael Mouse than Michelangelo.

It was nice to see that the Europe debate has become fractionally less hazy, with speeches from Robin Cook, espousing EMU, and John Major going as far in the opposite direction as Ken Clarke will allow him. Make no mistake, the man who decides EU policy in the Cabinet is not the Prime Minister.

If the debate continues, the public will at last have some sort of choice on what could be the most important decision taken since the War. It also throws the Conservatives a lifeline. Every poll conducted indicates widespread public opposition to closer union, both here and abroad. Though most should be taken with a large pinch of the white stuff, the trend is clear. Parties so out of step with public opinion on major issues have two choices- change policy or move to the Opposition benches. The public realise that EMU is fatally flawed, albeit for reasons of varying validity. The Conservatives should stop beating about the bush, and if that means losing a chancellor, even a good one, so be it. The economy is at stake.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

The Weekly Poem

(supplied by PoetIC)

They

"Come", they said to you and me,
"We will protect you, help you see."
"Protect us from what?", said we.

"From a world of sin and degradation,
Torture sod humiliation,
Diseases, hatred, open sores,
Look at chew and see them pour
Their badness into humankind.
They capture them and make them blind
To goodness, joy and charity,
Happiness and sympathy,
Come along with us and we
Will clear your minds and help you see."

"Who are they?", said we.

"Who they are it matters not,
You'll find out if you are caught.
Come with us and you'll be safe
From their jealousy and hate.
You'll live with us and make new friends,
Your new-found joy will never end,
And we will live in purity,
Till badness dies and we are free."

You smiled at them and I could see,
Your mind was captured with their plea.
"I'm going with them, will you come?"
You asked we, but I had to run
Away from you, and down a road
That I chose, I and I alone,
And now I've found my destiny,
And I am happy, I am free.

Except...

I still love you, and you me,
But wore than friends we cannot be,
For I am one of them, it seems,
And I am bad, uncouth, unclean,
Unworthy of your precious love,
Not faithful (or not weak) enough,
But I know one thing to be true,
That they are chose that are not you.

By Keith

PoetIC 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 PoetIC, or are interested in attending our weekly meetings, contact Keith McNulty on ext 58610 or via k.mculty@ic.ac.uk

LETTERS TO FELIX

edited by David Roberts

Bookstore Tender question marks

Dear Mr Feakes,

In the Felix of 31st January, the article entitled 'Waterstone's on JANET' suggests that Waterstone's will be using the academic network JANET for commercial purposes via a campus connection. During the evaluation of the Bookstore tenders, the Centre was asked to specify under what conditions any of the bidders could access the campus network. The response was that anyone of them could have a connection to the campus network, but would then have to guarantee, in writing, not to try to access or use the JANET network. These are the terms under which, for example, STA the travel agents are allowed to use the campus network. If Waterstone's wish to use the Internet for commercial purposes from the College campus, then they will need to obtain a commercial connection from an Internet Service Provider.

Yours sincerely,
R J Hynds

this with them - after all, the library staff have been exposed to noise, dust, dirt, flooding, accidents and inconvenience since last Summer. We have always insisted that we must keep the Library open, but now the construction work demands that we close for certain periods. We cannot but accept this demand.

However, I can now tell you that library staff have volunteered for Sunday work to keep the Library open on the 9th of February (the Sunday before the exams) and the 16th of February (the mid Sunday of the closure period). We shall be open between 9.30am and 5.30pm. Only the basic Library Desks will be staffed but all the reading areas will be open. We would also like to encourage users to make use of the extra borrowing allowance, but ask them to return books as soon as possible so that others might use them. Finally, we welcome the students raising their concern about the building work. This will help us to fight against further disruptions. As for disasters - we would like to avoid them as much as you!

Yours sincerely,
Magda Czigany Director of Library Services

Get a Result....

Dear Felix,

I am writing to let you and all the students know that the Library considered very seriously how it could alleviate the hardship to be caused by the closure, for part of the day, during the next two weeks. We have also received the letter from the Biology students and wholly sympa-

Letters may be edited for length. The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.
Deadline for letters in Felix 1079 is Tuesday 11th February.
Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

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feature writers
sports reporters
illustrators
theatre reviewers
film reviewers
puzzle compilers
come in and see us in the corner of beit quad.



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

"...THOSE PESKY MEDICS"

'Medics secure independence' is a grand headline for a stirring story of triumph in the face of adversity. The medical students of St Mary's and Charing Cross medical schools have succeeded in ring-fencing up to £80,000 a year for the students' union of the Imperial College School of Medicine.

Unfortunately this is, and will be in the future, to the detriment of Imperial College students as a whole. Yet again St Mary's students have managed to force the agenda to meet their own selfish interests and in the process have deprived other students of funds for their activities.

The new medical school students union, as they envision it, will bring much duplication of the services and clubs provided and funded by Imperial College Union. ICU and the College have been neatly side-stepped by a room full of baying medical students and left in a much weaker position to face future demands by those students.

If it was simply a case of giving here where the College had taken away elsewhere, then some remuneration for the loss of social space in the new bio-medical science building might be justified. However, this possibly legitimate allocation of funds and the negotiations surrounding it have bypassed the College's stated medium of providing student services, ICU, and have therefore prioritised one section of students over another.

Duplication of the services provided by ICU is unnecessary and a waste of resources when money is already scarce. Duplication of the clubs and societies by the union is again, apart from sporting clubs

such as rugby and hockey that are already devolved to the Constituent College Unions, a wasteful and divisive use of funds. Nobody would deny the medical student's right to an identity, particularly one reinforced by sporting merit and achievement, but however vocal they may be, these students must be treated the same as other students at Imperial College.

The new ICSMSU will be a CCU of equal standing to the other three, slightly smaller than C&G and the RCS and bigger than the RSM. These CCUs run clubs similar to those that St Mary's and Charing Cross currently operate with a fifth of the subvention. Additionally, these CCUs are funded through ICU thus ensuring that the College's financial regulations are followed and allowing proper accounting of these funds to be maintained within the context of the student body as a whole.

I would question whether the medical students really have gained in the long run by sneakily extracting this concession from College. There is certainly a short term gain, for both ICSMSU and the College, but this move will only serve to help alienate these medical students from the rest of the College, which must be detrimental to the substance of this institution.

Ultimately, I can only say well done. Well done to St Mary's for securing their 'independence'. Well done to the College for ensuring future division on the campus.

OPERATIC SOCIETY

While I'm here, I feel that I ought to mention the excellent performance of 'Sweet Charity' by OpSoc I enjoyed this week. I would recommend it for an evening's enjoyment.

Produced for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board.
Printed by Imperial College Union Print Unit, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Telephone: 0171 594 8071
Copyright Felix 1997. Telephone/fax: 0171 594 8072. ISSN 1040-0711

NEWS: ROBIN; FEATURES: AFUA; ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS;
PUZZLES: DUNCAN; GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT: DAVID; WEB EDITOR: LEON;
PHOTOGRAPHY: ALDOUS, LING & IVAN; SPORT: SIMON AND MO;
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ELIMINATION *by Clansman*

- a) Visual price.
- b) Two synonyms.
- c) Floral resting place.
- d) Two anagrams.
- e) Rank separation.
- f) Two forming woodcutter.
- g) Vitality after hours.
- h) Two with board.
- i) Beachy fortress.
- j) Two with tree.
- k) Midweek residue?
- l) Two forming clear.
- m) Place a seat?
- n) Two making fruit.
- o) Hamlet's field?
- p) Two for place of purchase.
- q) Stopping is ok.
- r) Two with paper.
- s) Trick production.
- t) Two with water.

Eliminations: Simple really. Look at the statements on the left and try and find two words from the list on the right that match it.
Keep going, and you should find that you have eliminated all but one of the words.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Ash | 15. Sand | 29. Castle |
| 2. Bed | 16. Show | 30. Cherry |
| 3. Back | 17. Town | 31. Family |
| 4. Face | 18. Trip | 32. Flower |
| 5. Fall | 19. Went | 33. Ground |
| 6. File | 20. Bench | 34. Lumber |
| 7. Fine | 21. Berry | 35. Market |
| 8. Jack | 22. Black | 36. Parent |
| 9. Life | 23. Magic | 37. Rubber |
| 10. News | 24. Night | 38. Parking |
| 11. Newt | 25. Order | 39. Dividers |
| 12. Note | 26. Trans | 40. Sequence |
| 13. Park | 27. Value | 41. Wednesday |
| 14. Play | 28. White | |

Solutions to Issue 1076's Elimination:

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

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IC Birds draw with midgets in the Battle of the Babes

ICFB overcame their hangovers on Sunday morning to turn out against a petite, begrudging St George's team at Harlington. Let down badly by their Old Boy referee, they were off to a poor start as the opposition coach reluctantly took to the field. Despite finding themselves one bird and one goal down early on, spirits soared amongst the IC players as they bounded, yelling through the midfield. An energetic but fruitless period followed: Hege, Steph and Eleanor kept control in defence and determined midfield worded hard, but luckless strikers Maryam and Juliet "Baby" were thwarted by the charging dwarves. Captain Young?? fought back in best Scots "Braveheart" style and left plenty of

marks on defenders, if not on goal. It took opportunistic Mary's medic Ilyena to exploit the dopey George's goalie early in the second half and rouse the IC girls to greater efforts. Smooth play from Tracey "Coach" Williams and Ioanna, and all-round coverage from Helen saw IC with most of the possession but few chances on goal. Frenzied last-ditch bursts from St George's midfield stretched some desperate defending but the score remained even and a freezing Bente got little chance to display her goalkeeping skill. IC celebrated their point with a ball-signing session on the way home

ICWFC 1 - 1 St George's Medical School

Fourth team not perfect - shock

Despite winning, IC fourths cannot be happy with this performance which, to be honest, was dire (rear!) It was perhaps our worst performance of the season but at least three points were achieved to maintain our place at the top of our division. If we can play this badly yet still win, what will we achieve if we play well?

An own goal by Sion following poor play by 'keeper Stu meant we went one down. A scramble in the QM box led to another own goal but this time an equaliser for IC. Perhaps the turning point occurred when the QM striker missed an open net from five yards. This was unsurprisingly cheered by the 'keeper to such an extent that the said striker totally lost his confidence for the rest of the game.

Pete scored from a well worked

three-man move but yet again sloppy defending brought QM level. Just as time was running out David moved forward from defence and placed a twenty-five yard chip into the top corner to win the points for IC.

Despite the score, the game had been frankly poor from the team point of view. The defending was abysmal, the goalie was unwilling to claim any ball outside the six yard box, wasteful finishing from the strikers and worse from the midfield. Even in this mire of mediocrity, Sion managed to stand out with an own goal and a penalty blasted over the bar.

Let's hope that it will be Winsday in BUSA.

IC fourths 3 - 2 QMWC

Sport in brief

SNOOKER

Last Sunday Imperial played a friendly against BUSA championship hosts Warwick. After consecutive wins against Cardiff, Southampton and Bristol, IC were looking to keep up their red-hot form. For the A team Jon led the way, winning 5-0 and finishing one frame with a 60 clearance. Wins followed from Simon and Alex, contributing to a final 16-9 win.

For the B team Spike whitewashed his opponents 5-0 and with a 4-1 victory for Russell they cruised to a 13-7 win. With only a couple of weeks to go before the Nationals, IC are in good shape for the biggest tournament of the year.

RIFLE AND PISTOL SHOOTING

More competitors are still needed for the Courtman Shield rifle match (March 1st) however, as otherwise RCS are in severe danger of white-washing all the other CCU's. Furthermore, anyone is invited to take part in the Bell Target air rifle shoot (an old Black Country tradition) on Wednesday 12th February.

Enquires can be made at the range on Wednesdays and Saturdays about other forthcoming attractions.

Finally, we have a home match against Cambridge on Saturday as a warm-up for the Nationals, where we hope to make it into the medals after last year's fourth place.

THE LATEST SCORE

Felix's regular "external" sports column by the ever talented and good-looking Dave Robinson.

Earlier this week UEFA decided to back Germany as the European bid for the World Cup in 2006. Although it is FIFA that decides it is likely that they will be heavily influenced by the decision. The only other nation even interested is Brazil and the World Cup has been over the Atlantic since 1982. This all means that the most successful bid from Europe will probably win. The ruling authority seems to think it can decide who this will be.

England has the most money, best stadiums and also the most sporting players and crowds. The FA could easily strengthen our already substantial bid. Firstly they could alter it to one from the United Kingdom, this would give it the cosmopolitan air that they seem to want and not commit it to one country. Fixtures could be played at the new Hampden Park and Cardiff Arms Park Stadiums even if Wales and Scotland didn't qualify. The Welsh and Scottish authorities aren't exactly going to object since they have no chance of ever staging anything except from Rugby. Secondly they could state exactly how much cash is available and bugger the Bundesbank backwards, the Lotteries' coffers are overflowing and it has to go somewhere. Instead of letting Graham Kelly huff, they should be busily pointing out the progress of this countries game, the success of Euro '96 and the present dominance of our sides in Europe. We could reveal secret plans to allocate more tickets to our 'guests' from abroad, plans for hospitality of away fans and guarantees of cheap

seats at every game. I doubt UEFA will change their mind since the chairman of the decision committee and the chief secretary are both strangely German, but hopefully FIFA will see sense.

On the domestic scene, it is pleasing to see that Newcastle and Liverpool have yet again been relegated to also-rans unable to win anything, the only likely title challenge will come from Arsenal as the Red Devils romp to a third double. Stockport are a pretty solid bet for the cup, seeing how Middlesbrough struggled against Hednesford it is not beyond them to get to the final and surprise everyone by staking a place in Europe. The treatment given to this trophy is ludicrous, for all but the big four it is the most direct and easiest way into Europe and a first round tie with some plucky Swedish part-timers, yet no one seems to care till the quarter finals.

While our cricketers would improve their record by coming home, our Rugby team seem to be on their way to a crushing Grand Slam. Although initially uncertain our national side is going in the right direction, the killer instinct present in destroying Scotland has been sadly missing recently. They are expected to take the triple crown and the only true test will be against the French. My only uncertainty would be over the captaincy, Jack Rowell must now relegate one of his best two centres to the bench every game. However who can complain if we continue to win so well?

IC fifths beaten by peasants

On Saturday, IC fifths, down to ten players thanks to third team captain Pereira's lack of organisation, were defeated by King's fifths - who must surely be the ugliest team in the league.

The first half was even, despite Flossy's inch-perfect through-pass to the opposition centre forward, but the second half was pretty much one-

way traffic, resulting in an unfortunate loss to an unfortunate team.

Credit must go to Kublai, twenty-one last Sunday, playing up front by himself for much of the game, and to Steve, Dan, Gine and Mike who all worked hard.

IC fifths 0 - 3 King's fifths

An apology:

Sorry to the members of the ski team who's names were erroneously spelt in the report which appeared in the last issue.

The triumphant skiers' are actually:
Daniel Figueras-Nieto
Nick Hubsher
Xavier Grosliere.

FELIX SPORT

Grubby Miners on strike as The Slags heap on the humiliation

FOOTBALL

With the seconds glorious run of two wins stopped dead in its tracks by St Mary's on Wednesday, the signs looked ominous for our heroes. The opposition were the league leaders, Royal School of Mines, who had won nine out of ten thus far; two of our centre-halves were out due to exam stress; and our goalkeeper crisis was still unresolved. Everything pointed to a drubbing, but there are no easy matches against "The Slags."

Our most pressing problem was the lack of goalie (especially as RSM had sportingly sent home a spare keeper to prevent him playing for us) and so volunteers were asked for. With even the mighty Robo balking at this challenge, there was only one man brave enough to don the gloves of destiny for what was surely to be a siege of the IC goal. That man was Andy - about the shortest player there and someone who had never played in goal. Truly this was a day when he would have to dig deep and show the world his mettle.

The first twenty minutes confirmed that this was going to be a tough match. Our midfield was being pulled apart by the slick passing and movement of RSM. Solid defending from German and captain Steve could only stem the flow so much and the grubby miners managed several shots on goal. Each time, though, with the ball whistling through the air on an seemingly unstoppable course for the back of our net, from out of nowhere flew a blur of blue to intercept and disarm the missile. Andy was a revelation in goal - "inspired" doesn't really do his performance credit. With an uncanny knack of perfect positioning and Bostick gloves, a few extra inches in height and he could be playing for England.

Even with Andy's heroics, we were hard pushed to play a constructive part in the game. With the wind against us and the playing uphill there was a real sense that holding on until half time would be an achievement. This was not to be, however, as the miners broke and scored to go in leading at half time.

The second half started and sud-

denly we looked like a different team. RSM were still playing the ball around well, but now so were we. Good use of the full-backs Phil and Loz to bring the ball out from short goal kicks gave our play a cultured air that even the league leaders couldn't match. The equaliser came from a corner. Throughout the match the antics of the miner's 'keeper had us wondering how bad the one that had been sent home was, but from this one he excelled himself - standing watching in the middle of the goal as the ball sailed over his head to be smashed in at the far post by the mighty Robo.

The momentum of our play was taken away as RSM were awarded a very dubious penalty for one of their players lying on the floor and kicking the mighty Robo. The spot-kick was duly scored, but not by the player who placed the ball. Despite this illegality the referee let the goal stand and we were struggling again. More cat-like heroics from Andy couldn't stop a third goal, and it looked like it was all over.

Luckily it seemed that we had taken good notice of the article in the kit bag mag about coming from behind, and the passes started to be strung together. The miners seemed to be on strike as we piled forward, every member of the IC team wanting the ball to run with at their beleaguered defence. Felix's mid-season renaissance continued as he skinned the left back time and again and even Dave looked quite good as "The Slags" rallied for one of their gutsiest performances to date.

In the end RSM were more pounded into submission than pulled apart by slick passing, as we were twice quickest in a packed penalty area. First Martin scored his obligatory goal as their donkey of a keeper dropped the ball at his feet, and then Hajo managed to keep his head as all about him defenders were losing theirs' (German is getting more and more aggressive) to lob the ball from Loz's square pass.

The game ended with IC the moral victors, despite the points being shared.

IC IIs 3 - 3 RSM Is

Early celebrations (and downright arrogance) fail to halt Fencers charge

FENCING

Imperial College Men's and Women's First Drinking team won again. Unfortunately, the women, after seeing the men thrash the shit out of Nottingham, failed to match them for total domination of the game. What are we talking about? Why, fencing of course.

The Men's team consisted of our team captain, Master of Weapons Crazy Legs, Ray, Sebastian, Geezer, Babyface and Animal. Fights were dropped by Crazy Legs and Ray, leaving the score 7-2 to IC. Next came the foil, with wins for Crazy Legs, Ray and Babyface. 7-2 again. By this time the overall match was well won, so certain members of the team started getting a tiny bit merry before the match was over. Which

fool decided to put a bar in a sports centre? However, the epee was still won in a stunning final match win by Crazy Legs (again!).

The Women's team were Fire, Earth and Air (the men's team got through enough liquid to amply make up for the absence of water).

With all three women fencing both epee and foil, they put a good showing against a very strong opposition, to win six of their fights.

The next match for the men (who present an excellent chance of winning the BUSA team event) is against Manchester or Bradford, and with luck a full team will turn out as each round will be harder - so be their Tweedledum and Tweedledee (the foil twins).

RESULTS

MEN'S FOOTBALL

IC I 3 - 5 QMW I
IC II 3 - 3 RSM I
IC III 1 - 3 King's II
IC IV 3 - 2 QMWC V
IC V 0 - 3 King's V

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

IC 1 - 1 St George's Medical School
IC 0 - 3 LSE

FENCING

IC Men 19 - 8 Nottingham I
IC Women 6 - 12 Nottingham

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

IC I 1 - 0 Wolverhampton

MEN'S HOCKEY

IC II 1 - 17 Loughborough
IC III 0 - 6 Nottingham

SNOOKER

IC A 16 - 9 Warwick A
IC B 13 - 7 Warwick B