

# THE FELIX

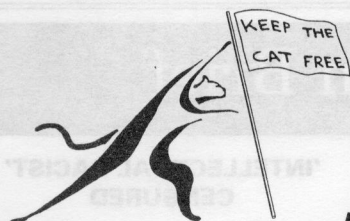
Friday 21th February 1997

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

Student Newspaper of Imperial College



est. 1949



**Sabbatical Elections 97:**  
the manifestoes are out.  
Read what this year's  
candidates promise you  
in return for your vote.



**In Something for  
the Weekend:**  
**David Bowie,  
Backpay and Julian  
Barnes. Rats!**

## Elec Eng realises true potential

### WILLIAM LORENZ

Last week, Imperial College's Electrical Engineering Department scored 24/24 in an HEFCE teaching quality assessment. Only one other EE department in the country has ever equalled this, the highest score ever achieved by any department at IC.

A team of assessors studied all the departments' teaching activities at both undergraduate and postgraduate level over a period of three days. They sat in on lectures and discussed aspects of the course with both lecturers and students.

Speaking to *Felix*, Dr J. Cozens, head of undergraduate teaching explained: "The assessors had a broad and detailed look at the department. They told us they had tried to get the students to criticise the department but had failed. This result will increase people's estimation of

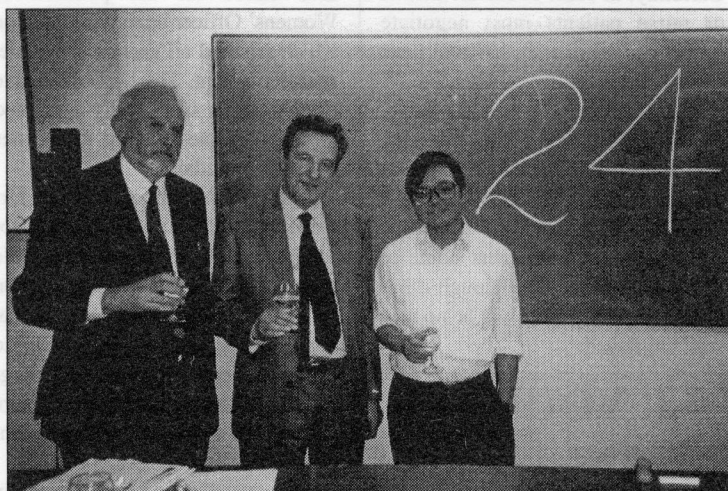


PHOTO: WILLIAM

**(From left to right) Professor R Spence, Dr J Cozens and Dr Cheung celebrate the perfect score the quality of our degrees."**

The HEFCE assessments are a relative innovation, having been introduced only two years ago. The assess-

sors have not yet been able to visit every UK University department. At the time of going to press, Only the following Imperial College depart-

ments have been assessed: Electrical Engineering (24 points), ISET (23 points), Chemical Engineering (22 points), and Civil Engineering with 21 points. Reassessment takes place approximately once every five years.

During the HEFCE exercise, each department is assessed against its own standards - whether it performs as well as it claims, and so no direct comparisons between institutions are possible. As a result, Essex University's EE Department scored the maximum 24 points while the equivalent department at Cambridge University received only 23. Thus, the rating does not necessarily reflect the quality of degree available.

Nevertheless, members of the Imperial College Electrical Engineering Department maintain that this award of top marks demonstrates the high standards prevalent among both staff and students.

## Dearing Inquiry visitors fail to educate

### NEWSTEAM

Four representatives from the Dearing Inquiry, set up to advise the government on the future of funding for Higher education, came to Imperial College Union on Tuesday to speak to students and gauge their views on funding solutions currently under discussion.

The four members of the inquiry present included former IC Rector, Sir Eric Ash, The current Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, the committee's student representative from Cardiff University, Simon Wright and finally, Sir William Stubbs, who described himself as "just trying to understand what goes on."

Sir Ronald Oxburgh began the

meeting with a comprehensive introduction. He explained that while primary and secondary education might be high on the agendas of all political parties, Higher education was not. Roughly one in three currently go on into HE, and if that number is to increase then so must the funding. In addition, many courses are becoming increasingly expensive to teach, especially at more prestigious universities. Sir Ronald stated: "One way or another, there is going to be pressure on funds."

The Dearing Inquiry, The Rector explained, was set up to address this perceived crisis in Universities, many of which believe they will be unable to continue to fulfil their

obligation to students if the situation does not improve. Among the options the inquiry hopes to put to the government is that students contribute towards the cost of their own higher education, either through larger student loans, or through a higher rate of income tax for graduates. Such a proposal, according to Sir Ronald, would have to be "...framed in such a way as to be acceptable to the student population. ...And have the minimum deterrent effect upon students seeking to enter university."

The Rector went on to draw comparisons between the British HE system and the command economies of former Eastern Bloc states, pointing out that the government decides how

many Universities there should be, how many students, and how much money is allocated for students on different courses. If money came to Universities via the students themselves, Sir Ronald claimed, then students would be significantly more empowered and would be guaranteed value for money, becoming the 'consumers' of the education system.

In addition to loans and a graduate tax, The Rector also briefly mentioned other schemes under consideration, such as the Labour Party's proposed 'Learning bank' in which fees would be partly met from a learning account set up for each child, and the French system, whereby students can

**continued on page four**

# Health centre delayed



PHOTO: ALDOUS

## KATY NOLAN

After a series of delays, college health services will finally move into their new Southside site in mid March.

The new centre was due to open last October, but complaints from students living above the site led to building works being delayed until after July. Ian Caldwell, IC's Director of Estates, explained: "No-one anticipated how much noise the work would transmit to the residences above. So, we decided to stop work until after the exams".

Since October a variety of problems, including the air conditioning system, have further prevented the building from opening. Chris Cooke,

Practice Manager at the centre, said of the delays "Construction difficulties covers a multitude of sins".

The existing health centre in Princes Gardens fails to meet regulations governing disabled access. Currently, in order to see the dentist or nurse patients must negotiate stairs. The new centre has will have lifts to all levels.

The finishing touches are being put to the building at the moment. The staff are expected to move in during 21-24th March. Mr Cooke has said "We can't wait". This new site will be the permanent home of the health centre and although it has a larger capacity there will be no new staff employed.

## WHERE WILL YOU BE LIVING IN 1997/98?

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONS

Where to live

Where to look

Deposits

Paying the rent

Contracts

Who to live with

Inventories

**ANSWERED!**

*A talk given by ULAO staff in association with the*

**TUESDAY 4TH MARCH**

**5.30 P.M.**

**ROOM 220, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

*Student Accommodation Office*

# News in Brief

## WOMENS' HONOUR DEFENDED

Natalia Thorn, Vice President of King's College Student Union, put forward a motion at the University of London Union General Union Council meeting on Monday to 'do away with the position of Womens' Officer as part of ULU's executive committee' with effect from the next election.

Ms Thorn's motion proposed that '...Women now hold an equal status with men' and that 'any issues specific to women in ULU ...can be handled with thorough competence by an "equal opportunities officer" and thus called for the position of Womens' Officer be replaced by one which covered all groups of people. At the moment, The ULU executive has no officer specifically appointed to address issues such as disabilities or racial prejudice.

An opposing motion was put forward by Paul Bates, ULU's VP for welfare and representation. He explained that Student Union Womens' Officers 'promote sexual equality' and that they were 'vital' to student unions. He went on to suggest that there should be a campaign to establish them at all colleges within the University of London.

The council voted for to maintain the post of Womens' Officer with a two-thirds majority.

## RCSU ELECTIONS

Hustings for the election of the executive committee of the Royal College of Science Union took place on Monday.

Standing for the post of President are Karl Stand (physics 3) and Charlie Joynt (maths 2). Physics dep rep Hooman Behnia failed to attain the proposer and fifteen seconds necessary to qualify for candidature.

Eric Watten and Rob Park (both Chemistry year 2) are jointly standing for the position of Vice-President, with Mo Mansoori (physics 1), Nick Swain (maths 3) and Poppy Buxton (physics 1) going for the posts of Honorary Secretary, Honorary Junior Treasurer and Academic Affairs Officer respectively.

As ever, new election is also standing for all posts.

Voting takes place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of February in all RCS departments. You will need your ICU card.

## 'INTELLECTUAL RACIST' CENSURED

A motion proposed by Damian Krushner, university councillor, at this week's ULU General Union Council sought to "...oppose any attempt by organisations or individuals within the University of London to give a platform" to Christopher Brand, an ex-lecturer at Edinburgh University. The motion alleged that Mr Brand was a 'pseudo-intellectual racist'.

Brand had proposed a motion at Cambridge University on the 23rd of January this year in which he promoted the idea that 'black people were inherently less intelligent than whites'. He also sought to deny the rights of Asians and Afro-Caribbean students to education and welfare.

The IC delegation at the meeting voted against the motion on the grounds of defending freedom of expression. Nevertheless, the motion was carried.

## PANE FINALLY DROPS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS

A serious accident was narrowly avoided last Thursday lunchtime, when a large pane of glass fell from the Civil Engineering building and smashed onto the road below.

College security acted quickly to cordon off the wide area of broken glass, in the access road connecting Dalby Court and Imperial College Road. High winds are widely believed to have dislodged the pane of glass, which measured approximately a metre square. Although the road was busy at the time, no-one was injured.

## ULU VP AIMS FOR MARS

Paul Bates, University of London Union vice-president (Welfare and Representation), has written to NASA to determine the possibility of his accompanying them on any future manned mission to Mars. This move follows a ULU mandate, expressing the desire of the London Union, as a student representative body, to further relations with extra-terrestrial beings.

Included in the Union's radical new policy is the explicit instruction that the Carpenters' hit, 'Calling occupants of interplanetary craft' be played at least once per day over the ULU building intercom.

So far, NASA have not responded.

# Heritage minister placed on defensive

**NEWSTEAM**

The Secretary of State for National Heritage, Virginia Bottomly, admitted on Wednesday in a speech to Imperial College's Conservative Society, that the Government is in a very difficult predicament and that "Small majorities are grim." Nevertheless Mrs Bottomley denied that recent deals with Ulster Unionists were evidence of the Government favouring one party over another.

The Member of Parliament for Surrey South West also denied knowing the "ins and outs" of the Conservative Party finances. She insisted that her party's sources of funding did not worry her and expressed "outrage" at the suggestion that donations to political parties should be declared.

Mrs Bottomley repeatedly insisted that the electorate does not understand "how straight government is", whether it be in dealings with the different parties in Northern Ireland or in accepting influence from foreign benefactors of the Conservative Party. She further expressed her



PHOTO: ALDOUS

**Mrs Bottomly leaving for an engagement with the Rector after speaking to a meeting of the Conservative Society.**

regret at the direction Parliament has taken following the Nolan Commission on standards in public life.

Just as the Conservative Society's previous speaker, Peter Lilley, refused to rule himself out of any future Conservative leadership battle, Virginia Bottomley did likewise albeit with considerably less vigour.

She chastised her Cabinet colleagues, who she believes are "auditioning for solo acts" in their attempts to position themselves in the run up for the expected leadership race after the next election.

With the recent introduction of the extra Wednesday draw, the Minister responsible for overseeing the Lottery and the distribution of its

millions resolutely defended it from attack. She insisted that the "average family spend" is no more than £2.50 and that there was no proof that charities or low income families were being adversely affected.

The former Secretary of State for Health expressed her gratitude to the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, for his support during her attempts to implement the Tomlinson Report on the merger of London hospitals. "For all the grief that I got about the changes in London, the science community was always behind me", she said, going on to reflect on her time in the Department of Health.

Whilst admitting that her current position involves such pleasurable activities as going to football matches, Arsenal versus Manchester United being the latest, Mrs Bottomley was reluctant to pinpoint the achievement of which she is most proud. Assisted by her Private Secretary, Mrs Bottomley eventually admitted that "putting in place the framework for the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television" was one of her greatest moments.

## Keep forgetting things...?

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continued from front page

repay hefty tuition fees through a period of employment with the government.

The meeting was then thrown open to discussion. The small audience of around 25 students, nearly all of whom were Union Officers, were encouraged to voice their opinions. Sir Ronald, acting as impromptu chairman, agreed with one suggestion that there might be too many new courses and Colleges in the UK, admitting "I think that some parts of the current system are very hard to justify."

One audience member asked the representatives of the committee whether they believed that, if students were asked to pay for their education, equality of opportunity could be maintained. Simon Wright pointed out that the current means of funding is already fundamentally unfair. Bright candidates from lower-income families are dissuaded from attending due to financial pressures, while less able students from wealthier families can receive an education subsidised by taxes from poorer parents. Sir Ronald added that scholarships could return to address the balance, enabling students from poorer families to study at prestigious institutions.

After a brief show of hands, it was

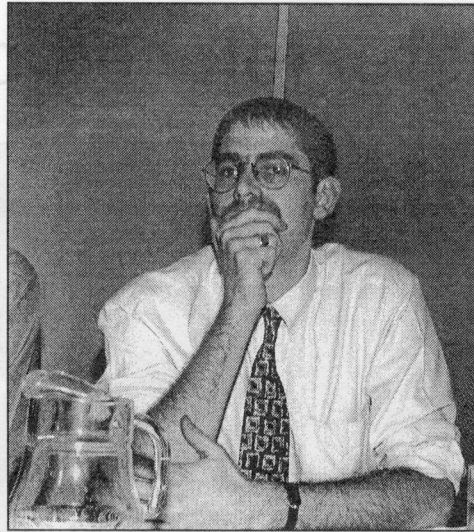


PHOTO: ROBIN

**Funding dilemma. Simon Wright, the Dearing Committee's student rep, ponders the fate of his comrades.**

quickly established that all those students present had been forced to take out a student loan. Medical students in particular suffer from high levels of debt. The Rector conceded that in America the pressing need to pay off large loans had seen a drift towards safe, lucrative subjects such as business and law. However, studies show that students still stand to gain significantly, through higher wages, from their higher education, and so should expect to shoulder some of the burden.

In response, some students claimed that the prospect of a more highly-paid job rarely figured in the decision of sixth-formers to study at university. They also expressed their dissatisfaction with the current loans system, and that they "...didn't know who would be running it in five years time." Piers Williams, ICU Deputy President for Finance and Services, accused the Inquiry of being 'pro-debt.'

To the dismay of many in the audience, Sir William did not pose the

crucial question; whether students would prefer larger loans or a graduate tax, until the end of the discussion. The general consensus was that a higher rate of income tax for graduates would be less painful for current students, and have fewer detrimental effects upon the number and subject choice of new candidates.

A graduate tax, however, fails to address a number of issues; it does not solve the problem of different institutions needing to charge their students more than others, and, as Sir Eric Ash pointed out, it is not always possible to define who is or is not a graduate.

Perhaps most crucially, a graduate tax cannot begin to raise large amounts of money until today's graduates constitute a significant fraction of the workforce. This may be several decades away, while the current expansion in HE requires immediate funding. The only solution may be to increase loans in the short term, and introduce 'top-up loans' for those students whose parent institutions decide to introduce top-up fees. At the same time, a graduate tax should be slowly phased in, with different subjects and Colleges attracting different rates.


The Dearing Inquiry on HE funding policy is not due to report its findings until after the election.

**ICU Overseas Students Committee**  
Presents .....

# International Night



**28th February 1997**

**Sherfield Building,  
Imperial College,  
London**



Keep forgetting things  
Don't forget to bring  
7.5 P.M. to 11 P.M.  
Cultural Show !!  
Food Fair !!  
Live Music !!

**Tickets**  
Cultural Show, Food Fair & Disco - £10  
Food Fair & Disco - £6  
Available at Lunchtimes (12-2pm) in JCR

**Union** *n.*; 1. the condition of being united, the condition of being united, the act of uniting or a conjunction formed by such an act.

An association, alliance or confederation of individuals or groups for a common purpose.

Agreement or harmony.

**Imperial College Union** *n.*; a students' union.

The main provider of services to the students of Imperial College.

The supplier of DaVinci's bar & catering, dBs, welfare and advice services, clubs & societies funding, the bookstore (for now !), newsagents, representation, ents, minibuses, Felix, the print unit, the union bar, admin. support, a new clubs & societies area etc, etc, etc, etc.....

An association driven by the needs and expectations of it's members.

**iCU**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

**serving your needs**

# Pepsi canned after Burma protest

**PAUL SQUIRES**

US snack giant Pepsi intends to withdraw completely from the Union of Myanmar (Burma) by 31st May, according to a statement issued by Oliver Wheeler, Pepsico's UK Head of Public Affairs.

In November last year, Third World First and several other student organisations in Europe and America informed Pepsi that they were considering instructing their members to boycott Pepsi's soft drinks. They were followed this year by the National Union of Students and ULU.

The student organisations cited Pepsi's continued presence in Burma, allegedly selling Cola in collaboration with the country's oppressive ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Last month, Pepsi relented and announced its intention to discontinue all operations in Burma. Although many of the student organisations supporting the boycott claimed a victory, Mr Wheeler was quick to refute their claims that Pepsi's decision was a result of their action. Speaking to *Felix*, Mr Wheeler went on to claim that the reasons behind the withdrawal could not be so easily expressed.

Pepsi's involvement with Burma began early this decade, when Aung Sun Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's National League for Democracy, appealed to foreign companies to invest in Burmese industry, believing that SLORC would soon restore the democratic constitution, suspended in 1988.

Pepsi was among those companies which responded to the call. To ensure effective distribution of its product in the long term, Pepsi must

secure a great deal of investment in a country's infrastructure and industry.

Essentially, all Pepsi soft drinks are produced at a single site in the United States, from where they are transported in concentrate form to the country of destination. There, the concentrates are diluted, carbonated bottled and labelled. This process is always carried out by a local firm,

SLORC and the Prime Minister, General Than Shwe.

According to Mr Wheeler, Pepsi made every effort to disengage its distribution network from the South-East Asian state, but were bound by a long-term contract with a Burmese bottling firm. To breach this contract would in turn be against international law.

concentrate remained the only form of trade between the two firms.

Despite these developments, in November Mr Wheeler received a communication from a number of student organisations threatening to boycott Pepsi and its products. Many of these threatened boycotts came into effect at the beginning of the year. In January, Pepsi re-examined US policy towards Burma and interpreted it to permit a breach of contract with the bottling firm. On January 15th, Mr Wheeler issued the following statement:

"Based on our assessment of the spirit of current US foreign policy we are completing our total disengagement from the Burmese market. Accordingly we have severed all relationships with our former franchise bottler, effective May 31st. The bottler in Burma is taking appropriate steps to ensure that all production and distribution of our products are ceased by May 31st 1997."

Whilst consistently denying that the disengagement came as a result of the boycotts, Mr Wheeler conceded that they may well have played a part in Pepsi's decision. The larger, federal student's unions such as ULU and the NUS constitute powerful buying groups and major consumers of Pepsi products. Last week, representatives of the University of London Union celebrated Pepsi's climbdown, and made a show of drinking Pepsi products at a General Union Council meeting. Although they remain bullish, some of the ULU executive admitted that their own protest actions may have been overshadowed by threats from influential American Universities, including Harvard.



**Pepsi: Squashed, by students.**

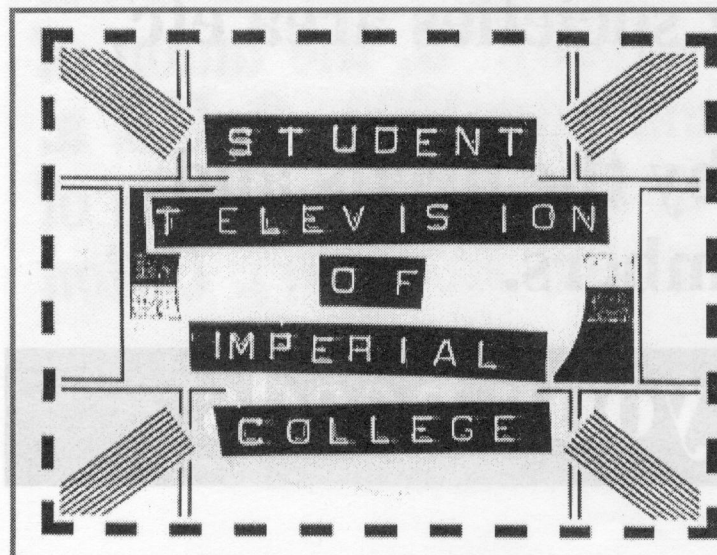
operating under an extended licencing agreement with Pepsi.

This method of distribution was adopted in Burma, and, in accordance with Suu Kyi's wishes, Pepsi was permitted to hold assets, employees and investments in Burma's usually closed regime.

However, as the chance to restore democracy in Burma faded, The former leader appealed to international companies with assets in Burma to withdraw their investments, seeing this as a way of exerting pressure on

In order to break the agreement, Pepsi needed US foreign policy towards Burma to permit, or at least appear to permit, the premature severance of contracts between US and Burmese companies. At the time of Suu Kyi's appeal, such a change in policy seemed unlikely.

As a result, Mr Wheeler claims, Pepsi tried to withdraw everything it could without actually breaking the contract. This included all investments, assets and employees. After April last year, shipments of cola



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**1:00 pm Wednesday 26th February**  
**STOIC studio, 3rd floor & left, Union building**



# SABBATICAL ELECTION MANIFESTOS

PAPERS ARE DOWN AND POSTERS ARE UP, SO IT'S TIME FOR THE SERIOUS CAMPAIGNING TO GET UNDERWAY...

ON THE NEXT THREE PAGES, THIS YEAR'S CANDIDATES EXPLAIN WHY THEY DESERVE YOUR VOTE.

## New Election

As an incumbent Sabbatical it falls to me the happy duty of championing the cause of Mr Election, since New himself cannot be here this evening.

New (or Ron, as he is sometimes known in other colleges), has been trying for years to get elected to any union post that he can. Unfortunately every time he meets with success the Returning Officer 'decides' to have a

new election. Dashed unfair on New, one might suggest, but it has been used in previous years as a vote against all candidates, a deliberate 'none of them are any good' as opposed to a 'dunno, not sure, abstain' kind of thing.

Not that New is particularly happy about this kind of thing - and will be trying particularly hard this year to

prove himself better than the other candidates - but due to his propensity to have victory snatched from him, and another election called, New does advise people voting for him to consider the hassle of re-opening nominations, and whether the candidates currently standing really are all crap, or might just about do.

More sagely, he'd also advise vot-

ing for people on a more than just the quality of their posters, getting a Union card so you can vote in the first place, getting your mother to help you with those sharp scissors and not putting too much salt on your food (it's bad for the hole in the greenhouse layer).

Oh, and for Christ's sake don't vote for X

## All Posts

## Sam Baker

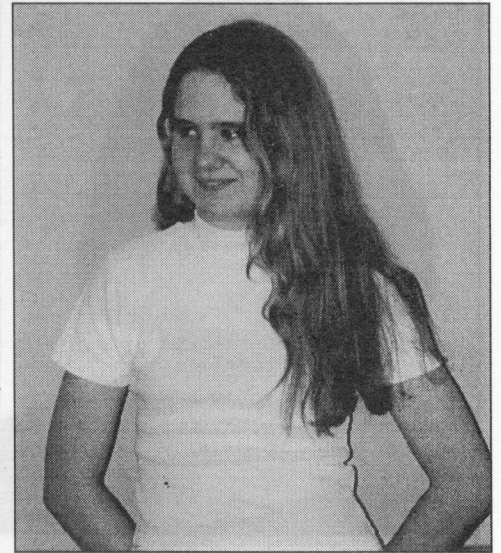
Coming from a varied background encompassing RCS Academic Affairs Officer, Dance club President and through sitting on ICU council, I am in an excellent position to appreciate from various perspectives the many issues facing the union in the year ahead. These are the continuation of ICU's retailing activities, the arrival of the first medical students on the South Kensington campus, the ongoing debate concerning student finances and the improvement of social, recreational and sporting facilities.

As president I will ensure that the students interests are served within any college proposals for changes to student areas and services. I feel that the union is in the best position to provide this and will continue to expand the trading activities. The arrival of the first medical students requires new attitudes from many areas, I will represent the wishes of both the new and current occupants of the South

Kensington campus in leading a union that is dedicated to working for all its members. On the issue of student finances I will convey the consensus opinion of the students to other bodies whilst retaining the independence and identity of ICU, giving a voice to the views of you the student. I fully support the efforts of removing red tape from the running of clubs & societies whilst increasing support and assistance in facilitating their activities.

It is vital to improve the communication channel and liaison between college and students. I am well suited to performing this task as I have had much experience in both dealing with college committees, working within a team and in leadership as part of the union positions I have held. Finally I would like to encourage you all to use your vote and have a say in the running of your union.

## President



## Omar Kheir

**No photo supplied**

Top-up fees. They seem to be weighing heavy on most students' minds. My solution to alleviate this potentially financial burden? Upgrade IC into a monumental amusement park and leisure complex to out-commercialise all others in time for the millennium. Think of it, imagine a revolving observation dough-nut riding up and down the Queen's Tower; an accelerated death slide from the top of Elec. Eng. plummeting twelve floors at near terminal velocity before delivering you gently to the brand new Beit Quad 'restaurant pavilion'; or even the enormous 'virtual university' suite in Computing, where you too can experience what it was like to attend university when students were 'granted' money, and used their time for more than just work.

The market for such a venture in the heart of London is obvious. Not only strategically situated within spitting distance of Hyde Park, the Natural

## President

History Museum, the Science Museum and the V&A, IC is the perfect site to develop our vision, as thousands of school children visit these fonts of knowledge every year. Viola!

Instead of bothering with the bureaucracy of planning permission, tendering the contracts, the local residents harassing the council, if a few brave soldiers of Imperial College Entertainment Complex Revolutionary Enterprise And Money, or ICE CREAM, volunteer to violate the Campus Renaissance architect's office, switch the blueprints and hope no one notices, our goal will soon become reality. Thank you, Comrades. All volunteers welcome. Solidarity, Brothers and Sisters.

PS If you wish to discuss further issues plighting the average IC student feel free to call on me in Southside Bar, anytime.

HUSTINGS ARE TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY IN DB'S AND WEDNESDAY 26TH AT ST MARY'S VOTING TAKES PLACE IN ALL DEPARTMENTS ON 3RD AND 4TH MARCH



## Smita Chaturvedi

## DP (Clubs & Socs)

I have accepted to propose Smita through my confidence in her to fulfil the position of DP C&S. With her prowess in IC hockey club, her ability to chair the ACC at short notice, and a wealth of other achievements in her life, I can only say that Smita is the only viable candidate in my mind, that shows the energy, drive and creativity required of successfully committing herself to the post. **Andrew Gilder**

Currently I am in my second year of Biochemistry. As captain of the IC ladies First XI hockey team, and being actively involved with the ACC, I have become very interested in the running of the Union. Taking a year out during my degree, as a sabbatical, the decisions I make and projects I undertake will also effect me as I still have a final year left at IC.

As DP my goals will be a little more realistic and less over ambitious. **However:**

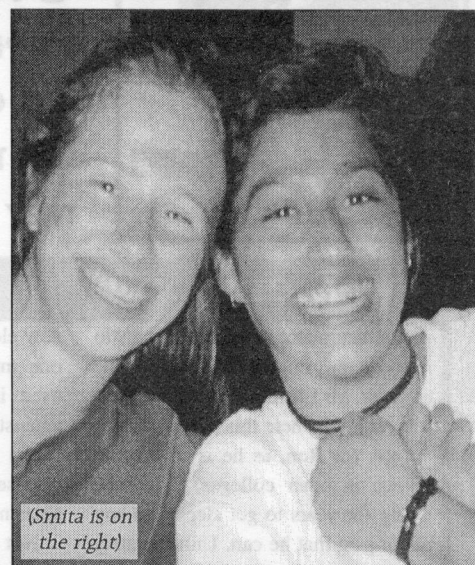
- With the merging of St Mary's and IC looming,

I will keep motivating clubs and societies to establish contacts with their St Mary's counterparts. I would like to organise a social sports day with St Mary's, encouraging (friendly) competition however still trying to create a feeling of unity.

- I aim to ensure the smooth running of the new Clubs and Societies Resource Centre, whose plans are now well underway. I feel the facilities it will provide will be highly beneficial to all.

- I feel it is necessary to improve the medical facilities at the sports ground. There should be help available whenever any sports team is using the grounds, and not only on Wednesdays.

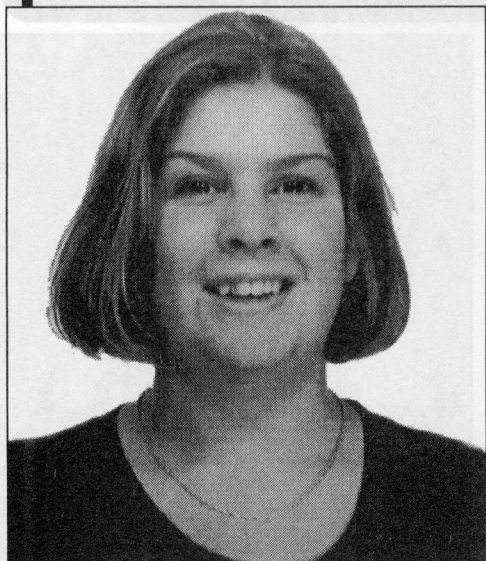
- Finally, I would like to promote the Arts throughout IC. International night being a great success, I would like to enhance the awareness of the social and



(Smita is on the right)

## Sarah Thomas

## DP (Clubs & Socs)



I'm Sarah Thomas, a 4th year Chemical Engineering student and I'm standing for Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). I believe I am a good candidate for the job since I am organised, friendly, approachable and I have experience of the way the Union works. During my time at Imperial I have been actively involved with the Hockey Club and have been President of the City and Guilds College Union, so I have witnessed first hand many of the problems a student club or society encounter both from the society member's vantage point and from a CCU/MSC level. As C&G President, I felt frustrated that I didn't have enough time to dedicate to the post. As a full time sabbatical, I believe I would have the time to achieve more and make a bigger difference. I have also been a member of many ICU committees and currently chair Union Council and Executive.

The integration of the medical students is a large ongoing issue which will become even more important next year as the date of their move on to the South Kensington campus gets closer. I would like to encourage communication between "overlapping" clubs but believe it is up to the individual clubs to decide whether they wish to integrate or remain separate.

I also believe that the Clubs & Societies Resource Centre, due to be built this Easter, has the potential to provide a wide range of services to the students. I would like to investigate this further.

I believe that I have got a lot out of the Union during my time at Imperial and see this as an opportunity to put something back and to help others benefit fully. I also believe I would enjoy the job and would do it well. **VOTE SARAH THOMAS FOR DP(C&S)**

## Jeremy Thomson

## Felix Editor

*Congratulations. You're reading a sabbatical election manifesto. You're better informed and more aware than 50% of the college population. Before I lose your attention, let's talk about the fun stuff...*

### ENTERTAIN

Music, theatre, the big screen, arts, books, clubs and more. Felix may be a student paper, but it produces up to the minute reviews to rival many nationals. I'll try to make this popular section more diverse and comprehensive.

*The apathetic among you may like to turn to the more light-hearted SFTW now, because the next part is serious...*

### INFORM

Great change is imminent at IC. Whole departments and campuses are shifting in the largest developments since the 1960s. There is opportunity, but also risk that the needs and wishes of the students and their union will be further marginalised. I believe

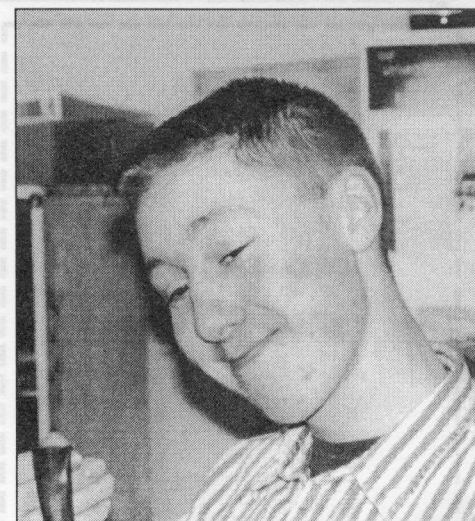
Felix has a duty to inform - so you know about the decisions that affect your life, and your opinions will be heard.

*If you've got this far, I suppose you really are interested. In that case...*

### INVOLVE

I want greater student involvement. Felix has a great deal to offer students directly. It provides opportunity for aspiring writers, photographers, designers, reviewers and columnists to see their work in print. It offers experience in finance, advertising, and research. It has excellent production facilities. It's a diverse social centre. Plus, it's the perfect place to eat your lunch-time curry.

*I'm not making any specific election pledges. Instead, I promise to do the job to the best of my ability so that you get what you want. I believe that I can succeed, but I need your help. Make it happen!*



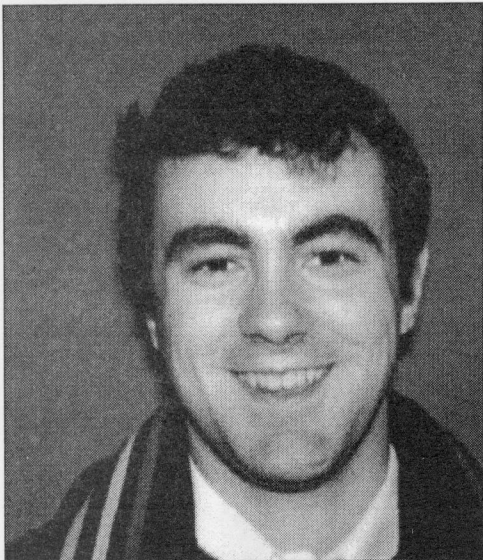
**Hustings are Tuesday 25th February in dB's and Wednesday 26th in St Mary's  
Voting takes place in all departments on 3rd and 4th March**





**DP (Finance & Services)**

**Rob Clark**



During my four years at Imperial I have noticed that there has been a steady decline in the numbers of students taking full advantage of all the available facilities offered by Imperial College Union. Many students automatically assume the Union will always be there to finance the clubs they join, and provide the services that they take for granted. The recent loss of the Union Book Store to Waterstones shows how quickly a Union trading outlet can be suddenly replaced, overturning many years hard work by staff and students committed to ensuring that the best possible service and widest range of stock are provided. I intend to stop this trend by strengthening the Union's trading position within College. Increasing awareness of exactly what the Union has to offer students, so that every member understands the need for a strong and financially independent Union is also a high priority.

The experience I have gained while running IC

Radio and being a member of Union Finance Committee, Publications Board and House Committee, puts me in a strong position to understand the Union finances. During the course of my degree I have also worked for an industrial research lab preparing laboratory test rigs and assisting in the tendering process for contracts. Additionally in the five months before Christmas of this year I was working as part of a scientific sales team with responsibilities for technical support, forecasting, market research and various other aspects of customer support and sales. I believe that over the last 4 years I have gained the experience to do the job of Deputy President (Finance and Services) well and I hope I will receive your support.

**DP (Finance & Service)**

**John Savery**

Over the past few days a number of people have asked me why do I want to do this job. Some have said I must be mad, for not wanting to take a well paid job immediately on graduation. I think it's more a case of ensuring that future students have the same opportunities that were open to me during my time here.

University is not just about doing a degree, it's also about enjoying yourself and making the most of the facilities and services you have on offer, funded by the Union.

I feel we need to make more students aware of the facilities run by their Student's Union, for them. It's not just the fact that they exist, but we need to ensure that they really are top quality. In 1998 students from St Mary's and Charring Cross medical schools will be studying on the South Kensington campus. This means that there will be an increase in the number of students using the facilities. The next

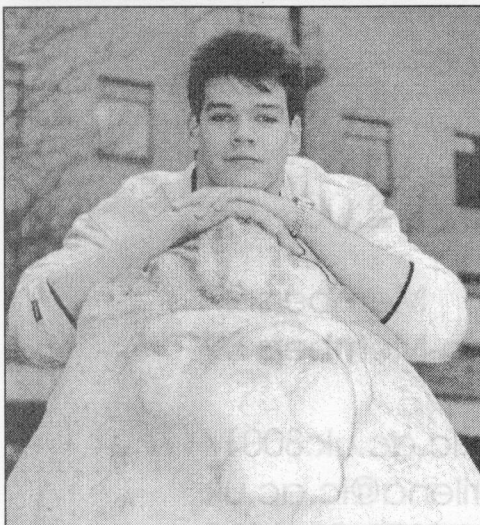
twelve months needs to be used to ensure that enough services exist to cope with the extra numbers. Anyone who was present in the Union when England played Italy last week will know how packed the place was. We cannot afford to sit back and hope it all just happens.

Of course there are societies that already exist on both campuses, funded by the respective unions. We need to ensure that when, and if, societies merge, that the same level of funding is available. It would be a tragedy if funding was to be cut on the basis that two societies doing similar activities is tantamount to duplication of services. I'm not saying that I'm against progress, more saying that we need to be careful over the next few years that we don't ✕



**DP (Finance & Service)**

**Duncan Tindall**



This year has been a difficult year for ICU, the low point being losing the Bookstore bid. This is now gone, but we need to pick ourselves up, and capitalise on the assets that we do run. The bookstore premises are still under our control, and I believe that using that space effectively is key to the Union's success in the future.

This year has seen a small working party (which I was part of) prepare long term plans for the shape of the Union Building in Beit Quad. I think it is vital that these proposals are carried forward next year, and we begin to implement them in preparation for the influx of new students following the arrival of the Medics on campus. This is an excellent opportunity for ICU to start a physical and ideological rebuild.

Throughout the merger, communication between ICU, the Medics and college will be of primary importance, but I believe that at the present it is the

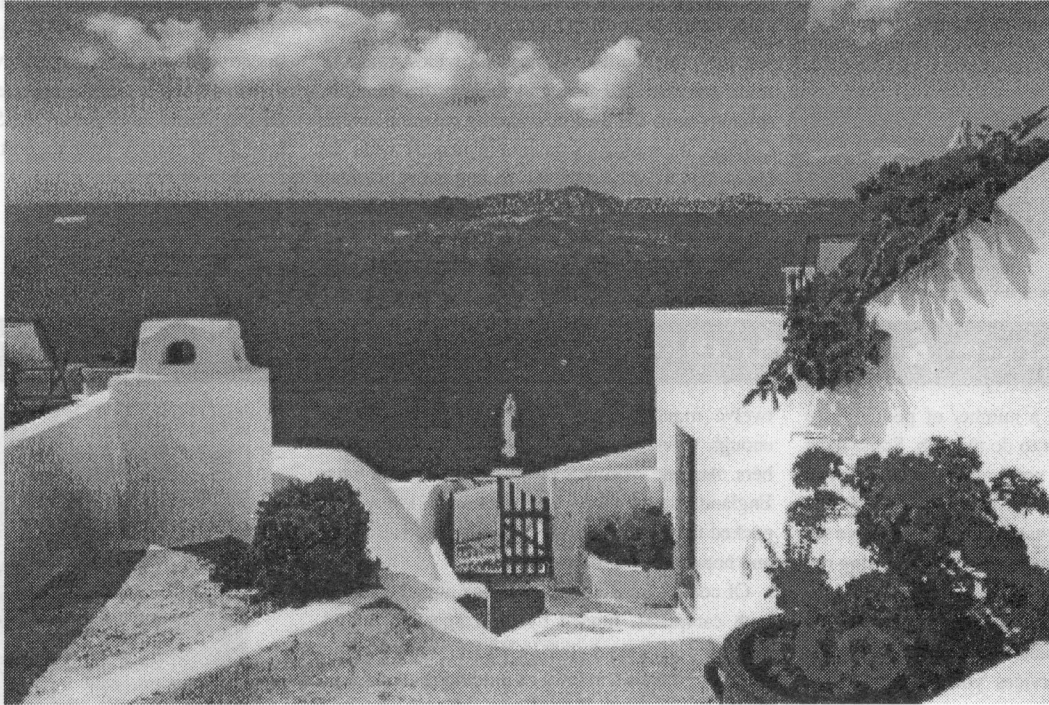
communication with the bulk of Student population that lets ICU down. The new clubs and societies room will be completed soon, and this is a prime opportunity to increase communication. If elected I would ensure that there was sufficient resources for clubs and societies to plan events. with records of previous event budgets, easy to understand guides to finances, and personal support readily accessible to all.

Whilst at IC I have been heavily involved with CCUs, have sat on Council for the past 2 years, ICU Exec. for the past year, and am this years ICU Transport Officer. This has given me a chance to learn how the finances of the Union work from several different perspectives, and in my opinion, more importantly an understanding of where problems and difficulties occur.



**Hustings are Tuesday 25th February in dB's and Wednesday 26th in St Mary's  
Voting takes place in all departments on 3rd and 4th March**

# The Imperial College Greek Evening



Saturday, 22 February

Venue - Senior Common Room (SCR)  
Sherfield Building  
Imperial College  
Exhibition Road, SW7

Time - Doors Open 20:00  
Food Served until 22:00  
Greek Music & Dance until 2:00

Members £3  
Non-Members £9

For Details -

<http://daedalus.ee.ic.ac.uk:8001/xanthopo@ic.ac.uk>, [marilena@ic.ac.uk](mailto:marilena@ic.ac.uk)  
or call Spiros at 0171-5946313

**Dr Eastwood, Director of Planning and Information Management Services. Hmm, sounds important. What is it?**

Well, Planning and Management Information Services is a new part of university administration, responsible for liaison with funding charities and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, HEFCE, and therefore for roughly 50 million pounds worth of grant that we get every year, and making sure that we maximise it. I am also in charge of running the resource allocations planning round, where each department is asked to supply their financial and resource requirements for the coming year. This is also a way of managing student numbers, because we are limited there. I should also mention the management information side, which is concerned with running the main administrative computer systems: finance, payroll, registry. We are also responsible for providing information at a high level for departments. We are developing a system whereby you could look at all the information held on a student from all the administrative departments or all the details about a particular department, group or even sub-group. For example, where their funding comes from, whether charities or research councils or industry, or the nationality of students and who pays their fees. Any student could see what we hold on them, though it would be fairly boring.

**How would you say that your job impacted on students?**

Well, I'm not involved with any of the students on a personal level, sadly, though I enjoy meeting students. I tend to get involved on populations of students, and the number of students in each department and the relationship between undergraduates and postgraduates.

**How long have you been at IC in your current position?**

I joined the College nine years ago, and became planning and information in August when I took on the information side.

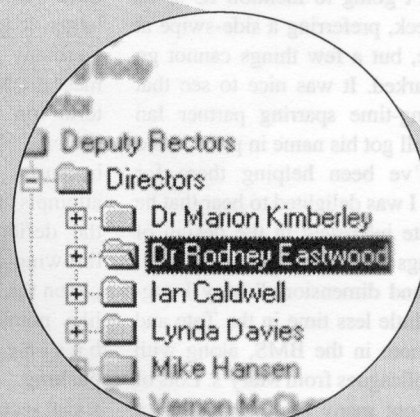
**What was your first job, how much were you paid and how long did you hold it?**

My first ever job was computer programmer at the Natural History Museum. I've been in SW7 for all my working life. I remember exactly how much I was paid, it was all the twos, £2,222. I was at the Natural History Museum for thirteen years in various jobs. I ended up as assistant to the director of the museum. This was at the time when they first introduced admission charges. **We can trace your hand in that can we?** Yes, though I was fairly junior and wasn't a prime mover, but I was responsible for writing it down, trying to make it look as attractive as possible in the short term.

**You must have seen some significant changes on the SW7 site during your time, could you yourself describe some?**

The greatest ones are still to come! Apart from all that going on out there [gestures at BMS site] the museums have development plans, and the Albert Hall has its Millennium redevelopment plan and the V&A have got its boiler house or whatever it's called now. It will be a bit of a building site until the millennium, and of course the Albert Memorial will lose its plastic coat. But going back, the most significant thing that I can recall happened just before I got here when the Natural

# Would the real Dr Rodney Eastwood please step forward...



Not in the immediate future. I mean one of the remaining independent medical institutions might, that is the Institute of Cancer Research, but they don't wish to at the moment, and we're not pushing them on it. However, we do now have a grade five History department, so we are therefore a normal university. A few years ago we did have some discussions on the subject of expanding, and before my time we were having discussions with Royal Holloway, but it didn't come to anything. **A couple of years ago there was talk of Imperial withdrawing from the University of London and awarding our own degrees, what has come of this?** You know we are having a new charter because of the medical mergers - the old one can't cope and that will give us the power to award our own degrees. We have no intention to at the moment, but the last charter lasted ninety years, who knows what's going to happen in nine years time let alone ninety years time? It is, if you look at it, rather ludicrous that the University of Westminster can award its own degrees but Imperial College, an institution of world-wide standing, cannot.

**Where were you born and brought up?**

Well, I was born in Croydon, south London, then in Surrey, and I lived there until I went to university, when I was 18. **So would you class yourself as a 'Londoner' perhaps?** I suppose so, though for seven years I lived in Newcastle where I went to university, and enjoyed it very much.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

I play music. Keyboard and Organ, cello at school and the viol which is a form of violin, and I sing.

**Could you describe an anecdote typical of you time as a student.**

It's not very typical, but when I was on a marine biology field course, (I study zoology at university), on the North Sea in March. The engine of the boat I was in stopped, and I was quite unwell for some time. The educational content of that particular field course was lost on me, and plenty of my colleagues I might add. My future field trips took in the beach side of things.

**Were you involved in any student clubs or societies?**

I was secretary of the biology club, and a lot of music, choir and so on.

**Succinctly as possible, how would you describe today's students?**

Um.. The ones at Imperial College are very interesting, and make a valuable contribution to the life of the College and will go on to make a very big contribution to society in general.

History Museum had a face lift. It was filthy dirty and you couldn't see the facade and now you can see this wonderful Waterhouse building with animals running up the columns.

**Building work aside, what image does the present College environment give you?**

I was involved in raising the money for that [the BMS building], so its nice to see it going ahead. However, the campus is not the most inspiring of places, though one would hope that people would be coming here because of the standard of its education, not its architecture. The walkway is really grim, grim and windy. The whole design of the place is actually flawed, east-west orientated buildings like the Sheffield building suffer from being a solar trap. If you are on the south side you fry in summer and freeze in winter, it hopeless. You get a huge solar gradient across the building which means that the north side and the walkway are freezing and generate a huge wind, the chill factor must be quite high.

**Do you foresee any other mergers or acquisitions?**

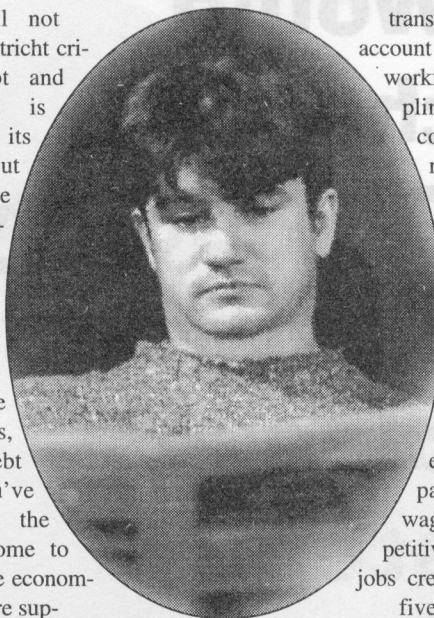
I wasn't going to mention IC at all this week, preferring a side-swipe at Europe, but a few things cannot go unremarked. It was nice to see that my long-time sparring partner Ian Caldwell got his name in print (mind you, I've been helping there for years). I was delighted to hear that he is "quite interested in the design of buildings and how they used their space and dimensions." May I suggest a little less time in the Tate and a bit more in the BMS, along with your colleagues from Mary's. Lots of space, not many uses. Speaking of buildings, my position on the Library closure has changed from indifference to anger. The first time in 12 months that I need to photocopy something there, and it's closed. Though we all should have known that the no closure policy was as likely as the SCR getting three Michelin stars, it is a shambles. I have tracked down Schal's fees to about £3million. Nice to know we've bought in real expertise.

As the European supply of spanners is gradually thrown into the EMU machine, it looks like one or two

have really hit the target. It appears that Germany will not meet the Maastricht criteria on debt and deficit. This is because its attempts to cut the deficit are throwing people on the dole like nobody's business, pushing up social security, reducing the tax receipts, increasing debt and, you've guessed it, the deficit. Welcome to Mickey Mouse economics, or as we are supposed to call it the 'social model'. This is the example that people say Britain should follow.

Fortunately, we aren't. As our unemployment falls, theirs rises. Our economy is growing, theirs is stagnating. German companies are

## Simon Baker

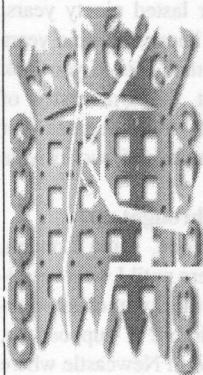


## Voice of Reason

investing heavily in Britain and even transferring here on account of the inflexible workforce and crippling employer costs in their native country. Our economy, described as the post-Thatcherite, post-ERM enterprise economy, is often labelled a sweat shop economy. We pay appalling wages to be competitive. All the new jobs created in the last five years aren't proper full-time positions but low-skill, part-time work. Not the case, I'm glad to say. The percentage of the workforce in temporary employment is lower here than in either France, Germany or Spain. Average take home pay here is significantly

higher here than in France or Spain and only £800 per year less than Germany. The reason is that taxes are significantly higher on the continent than here. Britain has been universally praised for the steps taken to restructure our economy in the 80s. The rest of Europe has yet to do this, and seems more concerned with playing politics with people's livelihoods in the name of federalism. We are best to avoid this like the plague. Let me say however, that before I give the government all the credit for this, it must be remembered that our recent economic success stems from the failure of our previous policy, namely membership of the ERM. Still, there is nothing wrong with serendipitous discoveries. And if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Oh and by the way, I read in IC Distorter that there are two Crown-appointed places on the Governing Body up for grabs, for which nominations are invited from staff and students. Lord Vincent, I know that you are an avid reader of my humble prose, and would like to say that I have space in my diary...



## Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

"Red tape makes poor swaddling" was the rather picturesque description Tuesday's Times leader gave to the problems couples face in adopting children. This followed a Government announcement that couples refused the chance to adopt a child will be able to appeal. Couples will be able to see the assessment report that led to their not being allowed to adopt, and the make-up of the panel who decides will allow for more 'lay' members, including someone who adopted or was adopted. People will only be allowed to remain on the adoption panel for up to six years, to prevent 'professional' panel members from controlling the system.

These new measures were sparked off by a number of well-publicised cases where couples were refused the chance to adopt children for ostensibly politically correct reasons: the most famous case was of Jim and Roma Lawrence, who were told they were not allowed to adopt a mixed-race child because of their apparent lack of understanding of racial

issues, despite Mrs Lawrence being born to an Asian family in Guyana. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, in announcing the plans, said "decisions about which parents are able to adopt children should reflect common-sense values that are widely shared throughout society, and shouldn't reflect the rather specialist and fashionable theories of a particular professional group [ie social workers]".

Although I know certain ministers enjoy every opportunity they have to stick the knife into social workers and political correctness, and that Dorrell is getting a say in any issue he can (he's going for the party leadership), I have to agree with what the Government is doing. So does the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) who said that "anything that makes adoption more open and accountable would be welcomed...". The BAAF also defended social workers, arguing that they act in the best interests of the child and it is natural that parents may feel aggrieved in being refused the chance to adopt, but that the child had to come first. I expect the majority of social workers are making a reasonable effort at a tortuously difficult job, and the moronic criteria some of their peers have been using has received the negative publicity

that tars them all with the same brush.

These new regulations have precipitated debate on the wider adoption issues: did you know only 400 children were formally adopted last year? Yet there are 55000 children in care - and their fate is not something we can be proud of - three-quarters of them leave with no qualifications and many end up in prison. There are plenty of couples wishing to adopt, with 20 applying for each child. Surely if even some of these were to adopt, the potential for giving thousands of children a better start in life, saving vast quantities of public money and making everyone happier all round would be enormous. However, I am informed by those who know better that many of these children are 'damaged' and therefore need expensive treatment and highly skilled social workers to nurture them. John Major's belief "that it is important for children to be brought up in the stability of a home rather than being institutionalised in children's homes or drifting between foster families" was described as "devastatingly banal" by an Independent columnist.

Personally, if I was given the choice between institution and adopted home, it wouldn't be a difficult one.

## The Weekly Poem

It is the stories that we tell ourselves that are to blame  
The future-maps, the hopes and expectations  
That are essential for the journey on  
For if a story mocks reality, the map is incorrect  
Our chosen path is treacherous,  
becomes a sheer cliff  
Then darkness falls and we are lost

And since reality is fixed  
Though we cling on, the story must be changed  
But first we need to route the culprit out  
Before we can replace and amend  
Yet here our mind, with many devious tricks  
Hides our precious dream and keeps us blind

But rescue comes externally  
Passing remarks that seem incongruous at first  
Are signposts to the paths that lead astray:  
Slowly our eyes are opened so that we may write  
New stories. These will lead us on  
New journeys to a gentler, richer place

If you would like to find out more about PoetIC contact Keith McNulty via [k.mculty@ic.ac.uk](mailto:k.mculty@ic.ac.uk)

## LETTERS TO FELIX

Dear Sir,

With regard to your editorial on 7th February. It is damaging to both parties when such poorly researched rubbish is published in your pages. After years of effort, progress is being made in relations between IC and ICSM at St Mary's. Calling us "those students", "pesky medics" and suggesting that something which would be of benefit to us would be "at the expense of IC students" is unpatriotic and confrontational.

The Student Union of the new Medical School will have to run that union on 5 separate sites. It will have to have a sabbatical president. It will have to have separate sports teams if it is to continue the tradition of competing in Medical School competitions (the UH cup). All these things will cost money, and are a cost unique to ICSM. The other CCUs have nothing similar.

Regardless of the rights or wrongs of closer social integration, these necessities mean that the level of funding will have to be different. Our fellow students currently based on the South Kensington campus will not notice the difference in their funding, because it will not decrease. Nor will our funding increase. We will have more students to cater for than ever before, and more sites than ever before on which to do it.

Please don't suggest that the submissions of SMHMSSU to the IC hierarchy were hasty or ill thought-out. They weren't. Prof Swanson didn't give in to "a room of baying medics", he saw the sense of our proposals. They are the best thing for IC.

With the merger approaching now in its physical sense, harmony and closer links are more important than ever. Reactionary reflex criticism of anything seen to be "good for Mary's" must stop. Medics are going to be a significant part of life at IC from 1998, making up 24% of the students. This is something we are all going to have to get used to. We should all be looking for what we have to gain from these closer links, not what we stand to lose. With Charing Cross about to join IC, what sort of impression does this in-fighting give to them?

For our part, we are committed to closer and more friendly links. Would that that were reciprocated by the rest of the students of IC.

*Yours faithfully,*

*Nick Jenkins, 1st year rep*

Your letter contains a lot of sense, something that is often missing in this debate. However, it also contains a lot of the usual St Mary's

propaganda, which leads me to suggest that it wasn't penned by yourself. For a fuller reply see the editorial.

*Dear Mr Feakes,*

The person who wrote against protest in *Felix* 1079 has got their facts very wrong. Changes in Law brought in by Conservative governments over the last 17 years have eroded the rights of the people in this country to such an extent that they are forced to break laws that did not exist before. Protest, often violent, has always been the driving force behind changes in legislation in this country since the Breach of the Peace Act of 1324. The authorities ignore reasoned argument and would never bow without pressure, this country has riots whereas others have revolutions, I know which I prefer. The Bill of Rights of 1689, though Statute Law over Britain and the European Community, has been ignored even otherwise the incumbents of the House of Commons would have all been hung for treason along with the lovers of Princess Di; so even politicians ignore the Law.

The two people killed at veal export protests were both protesters (one died of natural causes anyway) and by the thinking of the author appeared to deserve the consequences. Is this what he/she really intended to convey? With regard to trespass, it is not a criminal offence to trespass anywhere in this land although you could face civil litigation for damages caused by that trespass.

Finally, the largest number of deaths worldwide from E-coli were the result of eating McDonalds burgers (17 in the US, 2 in Sunderland) so is telling the truth really a thing that should be stifled by the improper use of libel law?

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Nicholas Royall*

**I am glad that you identified the 'pro' article as provocative. I would add that the CJA 1994 to makes trespass an offence.**

*Dear Alex,*

Re: Names of Union nights

Out of interest, how long do you think it will be before the Union call their Friday night "Naked girls getting off with each other"/"Four naked girls and one bloke"/"Cum-sucking lesbians"?

*Yours sincerely,*

*Sacha Manson-Smith.*

**Deadline for letters in Felix 1081 is Tuesday 25th February. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk**



# FELIX

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

### "I WOULD HAVE GOT AWAY WITH IT..."

Nick Jenkin's letter (this issue) and Nitisha Singh's letter (last issue) about my editorial in 7th February's *Felix* raise a number of points worth answering.

Firstly, I would counter Nick's claim about my editorial being unpatriotic with charges of hypocrisy. Secondly, with today's financial strictures, no source of funding is secure, so if the medical students receive a 'ring-fenced' amount of money, where are the inevitable cuts going to come? Other, non-ring-fenced, student funding perhaps?

Such favouritism is bound to increase resentment between medics and non-medics, which, I agree, we must work together to dispel. Nobody denies that the geography of the medical schools will incur increased costs for the various

unions, but the best and fairest way to disburse funds amongst student services and societies is through the existing mechanism, ie ICU. This will have the additional benefit of proper financial accountability to the union's members.

Finally, the only reflex criticism that occurs when St Mary's is in the news is by medical students' 'representatives' reacting to comment they see as detrimental to their 'cause'. Why these 'representatives' assume a victim complex every time there is any comment about them I have no idea, but it is definitely reactionary. We (by which I mean all non-medics) are not trying to put you (the medics) down; we simply are not that bothered. Any antipathy that does exist has been generated by St Mary's xenophobia, which is something the students of Charing Cross might do well to dwell upon.

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### Miscellaneous Mail

A huge quantity of incorrectly addressed internal mail is at present being received by the mail room. This will be held for one month only. If you are expecting mail that has not yet arrived, could you therefore go to Sheffield Room 174.

**In future, please address all mail with the name, address and department of the intended recipient.**

**Hustings  
Tuesday 25th  
18:00, dB's  
Wednesday 26th  
18:00, St Mary's**

**Academic Affairs  
half-day  
14:00, UDH  
Wednesday 26th**

# ELIMINATION *by Clansman*

- a) previous sheets?
- b) two synonyms
- c) arrow plank?
- d) two anagrams
- e) it occurs once a week
- f) two making athelet
- g) exceptional litigation
- h) two making baggage
- i) divide the hours?
- j) small untruth?
- k) two making football tradgedy
- l) two with do
- m) dark place of trade
- n) two forming contender
- o) blinding bulb
- p) two with up
- q) accompany boat
- r) two forming multicoloured semicircle
- s) flaming door!
- t) two making plane

### 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. air   | 15. goal | 29. black   |
| 2. ate   | 16. good | 30. board   |
| 3. bow   | 17. mate | 31. craft   |
| 4. day   | 18. nice | 32. flash   |
| 5. get   | 19. part | 33. light   |
| 6. imp   | 20. past | 34. lying   |
| 7. man   | 21. pram | 35. candid  |
| 8. nor   | 22. rain | 36. market  |
| 9. own   | 23. roar | 37. nation  |
| 10. sun  | 24. ruck | 38. papers  |
| 11. case | 25. sack | 39. sports  |
| 12. dart | 26. ship | 40. partner |
| 13. exit | 27. team | 41. special |
| 14. fire | 28. time |             |

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# THE LATEST SCORE

From *Felix's* sports pundit Dave Robinson.

OK I got my prediction wrong, but things aren't that bad, so did everyone else. Virtually every programme on air has gone through the motions of dredging up all the usual ideas - the fact is that Glenn Hoddle's England were not good enough for Italy on the night. We're not talking a Taylor scale disaster, just a fluke result, things are still moving forward, not rapidly declining as they were in 1993.

It was pretty amusing to hear the supposed experts blaming everything from influence of foreign players in our game to the amount of money amassed by our top clubs. What exactly are these supposed pundits talking about? When Man Utd leaked 14 goals in three games no one fundamentally questioned Alex Ferguson's youth policy or wrote off Peter Schmeichel as a poor keeper. Yet when England are pretty unlucky against one of the world's best sides at Wembley the entire team are cast off. If you believed the more outrageous sports writers Le Tissier wouldn't get another game for Southampton and Ian Walker and Sol Campbell would be dropped for eternity. I said last week that Ferdinand, Merson and Martyn should be in the side and I stand by what I said, but I don't pretend that I could do a better job than Hoddle. The fact is that Shearer struggled against his young marker and it was Le Tissier who got the space and consequently the chances. Campbell was always going to struggle in that defence and Pearce was marking Zola when the pass was made.

A certain Howard Wilkinson, the FA's Technical Director was heard to say that young players aren't getting the chance. Has this bloke been locked in his office since cocking up Leeds? The present sides fielded by teams such as Man Utd, Liverpool, Spurs, Chelsea, Leicester, Wimbledon and even Arsenal con-

tain exciting new talent. The exceptions to the rule are probably Newcastle and Middlesborough, but even at those clubs Darren Huckerby and Phil Stamp have caught the eye.

The growing gap between the perceived rich and poor was also regurgitated, surely the consistently good performances against richer teams by Wimbledon, Chesterfield, Stockport, Wrexham and Portsmouth suggest that the gap is only financial and that many of the smaller teams are better organised and play with more spirit. The examples of Millwall, Bournemouth, Brighton and other cash struck clubs are all very well, but that is due to bad management rather than uneven distribution of wealth. Small clubs can survive in the big time, Wimbledon in the Premier, Grimsby in the First (just) and sides run on a shoestring like Doncaster and Scarborough in the third prove that.

Mike Atherton pulled off his usual trick of putting in a world class performance in the last test of the winter to survive into the early stage of the summer, on the field for over four days solidly playing two near faultless innings. His ability to pull off escapes that Houdini would be proud of is near legendary, his 140 not out to save the test in South Africa last year confirmed his status as the world's most stubborn batsman on his day. He has now developed a knack of catapulting himself up the rankings in time for the summer home tests. The only other England player who really contributed was Robert Croft who was only thirty runs short with the bat of the cumulative total made by the other five members of England's elite batting club in the first innings. The considerable ease with which a teenager was able to polish off England's attack in both innings can only have dismayed the captain.

## Maashaallah for the Arabian knights

The long-awaited OSC five-a-side football tournament was won by the Arabic team in a thrilling final

against the Hellenic team which they won five-one. A full report next week in our bumper sports issue.

## Watch out, watch out, gunmen about

The Courtman Shield match has been moved to the eighth of March to allow the City and Guilds dream team to shoot for Great Britain, so you have put your name down for this make a note in your diary. The next match is this Saturday at Bisley

for the BUSF pistol championships so get to the sports centre early if you are in one of the teams. More clay pigeon shooting will take place around Easter and everyone (even non-members) are welcome. See the notices in the range when they go up.

## Romeos, Romeos, wherefore art thou Romeos?

Although the fourth's unbeaten run had seemed to last as long as the Hundred Years War it was inevitable that it would end. Halley's comet may only come round every eighty-one years but we shall return to conquer again as soon as Saturday in our next league match.

On the day after Valentine's day the cards were on the table for IC even before the kick-off. Missing six first team regulars [off swanning about with their girlfriends, the randoms - Sports Eds] and playing against fellow promotion contenders

we were always going to struggle. After taking an early lead through Lee, making his senior debut, IC were forced to weather a barrage of pressure. Queen Mary's twice hit the woodwork in the same attack before their equaliser, then the controversial winner was scored. With the referee's line of sight blocked the striker used his arm to control a bouncing ball and drilled it past the 'keeper.

In the second half we huffed and puffed but couldn't blow the Mary's defence down. Thanks to new boys Andy, Andy, Ivan, John and Lee.

## IC tennis aced wholeheartedly

Although a disappointment, on paper it seemed inevitable for the men's and ladies' teams. Nottingham are the number two seeds in the country after Loughborough. IC tennis team usually enjoys good success in the BUSA. the men's team has reached the quarter-finals in '93, '94 and '96. The record of the ladies' team is not so illustrious, as this is the first time in years the we have had one. Under the excellent captaincy of Caroling Wood, they have made a good start to the year.

The team was well prepared. Over the Christmas hols, IC had been training with the Warsaw University team at Queen's Club and Westway

sports centre - the return match after last year's unforgettable tour to Poland.

Team members for the ladies were Alesia, Caroline Wood, Kathy Shair and Dalia Fontes. For the men Florian Reinaud, Paraag Dave, Dan Gleich and Stuart Riley. Closest results were by Stuart 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 and Dan 6-7, 6-7.

It was a shame that Nottingham chose not to celebrate by sampling Caroline's well-prepared treats and ran off home (unsociable sods!).

The tennis team's plan is to play some friendly matches and organise a tour for the summer and new players are always welcome.

### RESULTS

#### MEN'S FOOTBALL

- IC I 7 - 2 UCL
- IC I 2 - 0 UCL
- IC II 1 - 3 St. Mary's
- IC II 3 - 3 IC IV
- IC IV 1 - 2 QMWC IV
- RSM II 4 - 1 KC Hospital

#### WOMEN'S HOCKEY

- RSM 1 - 3 KC II

#### MEN'S HOCKEY

- IC II 0 - 2 UCL II
- IC III 0 - 5 St. George's I
- IC III 0 - 7 Nottingham

#### MEN'S RUGBY

- IC II 32 - 12 Brunel II
- IC III 8 - 26 Humberside

#### FENCING

- IC I 22 - 5 Bradford I
- IC I 16 - 11 Oxford I

#### TENNIS

- IC Men's I 0 - 4 Nottingham I
- IC Women's I 0 - 4 Nottingham I

# FELIX SPORT

## IC swordsmen skewer Oxford

After a stunning win in Bradford against a team that was totally out-classed despite a severe lack of a third of the team. Mo "Animal" Mansoori was rumoured to still be in Bradford after not turning up to the match, after having travelled most of the way there. He also got to this week's a bit late. The Bradford match was won by the concentrated efforts of Nick "Manta Ray" Manton, Ed "Crazy Legs" Rysdale, Dave "Babyface" Hughes, "Wild Thing" Reuben, Phil "Perry" Miller and Thorsten "Sebastian" Meyer. This was no comparison in the level of difficulty to the match that was next - Oxford.

Last year's champions Oxford arrived at Imperial all bright-eyed and cheery to face the unbeaten men's fencing team. The first weapon fought was foil with Crazy Legs, Henry "Tweedledum" Morton and Dave "Tweedledee" Davidge. The overall score was 7 - 2 with Crazy Legs and Tweedledum losing a fight each. This was partially through Crazy Legs and Tweedledum trying to do impressive-looking hits - Crazy Legs failed to do a jump reverse flick hit to back, but who's perfect (certainly not Crazy Legs). A very good start though!

Next up the sabre team with the full turnout of Sebastian, Ray and Animal. Oxford put forward a very strong team consisting of Rentboy, the Rose and N-man. The match was closely fought with many individual fights going to 5-4. When the score was 4-4 in fights (only one left), Animal took on Rentboy in a final fight spectacular. Animal took an early lead of 4-0, but through non-electric judging and Animal's self-delusion of already having won, Rentboy equalised. At 4-4, Animal had to pull off something special and did so with a stunning parry-riposte to win the sabre. The sabre team had won again. The epee team had to win

two fights to complete the victory, could they do it?

The epee team consisted of Crazy Legs and Tweedledum (yes they fought again), and Nigel the "Old Geezer". After three fights the epeeists had won the overall match (nice one Eddie). After this the Oxford team seemed to be trying harder to prevent a total white-wash, but our fencers didn't seem to be trying too hard now the overall match was won. Tweedledum got injured and so had to be replaced by the epee reserve Perry who fenced well and destroyed the Oxford left-handed epeeist that had done quite well with the other two fencers. Unfortunately the overall epee was lost 5-4 in the last fight (hard luck Eddie).

As the overall score was 16-11 to IC, Crazy Legs (who just happens to be the only Mary's fencer on the team) was "We're the best team from IC 'cos we're still in BUSA," and after some consideration added, "The only other team that's decent is the Boat Club, they've probably got as many internationals as we have." IC's men's fencing team is now in the finals of the BUSA Team Cup, which is held in Birmingham in a couple of weeks time. We have all confidence in winning, as the match goes all the way to the final (which is contested on the Sunday), considering we met our hardest team yet we won by a considerable margin.

Special mentions go to Old Geezer who's the oldest on the team (and at the match) and still won his fights, and to Animal who's the youngest fencer on the team by a fair margin for winning the deciding fight in the sabre. A note of commiseration to Oxford who went home defeated and shame-faced for even thinking for a second that they could beat us. The sad fact is that they weren't that great at drinking either (the "black and white" game was an absolute mystery to them, never mind).

## ICy Snowmen keep their cool

The IC ski team gained another good result last Sunday at the King's Ski Club parallel slalom race.

Dan, Caitlin, Xavier, Nick and Paul fought off fierce competition in the first two rounds, winning every race to earn a place in the final

(ahead of Cambridge!) Despite a valiant attempt, the team were beaten into second place. This was an excellent performance considering that the winning team consisted mainly of English National team members - well done!

## IC runners embrace EC

As the sun crept up on Saturday fifteenth, the IC cross country club flickered into action. Yellow-arse [Alright there, Mr Arse! - Sports Eds] rejoiced about the perfect blue sky for half an hour, whilst others nursed their hangovers or cracked open another beverage. One hundred-and-fifty foreigners were left to sleep in the Southside Gym as we were prepared for the day's events.

Once again, the prestigious Hyde Park Relays were upon IC, causing havoc and nearly destruction for the weekend. facilities for the day were set up and registration started at eleven. In typical style, no-one showed up until half twelve where

clocked a time comparable to the age of the universe. They still beat Kings, which is what counts.

The Bristol team, having recently come second in the BUSA championships, captured the spirit of the day with outstanding times and yet a lighthearted approach. Oxford and Cambridge came second and third, with IC's A team nineteenth.

Afterwards teas were dished out and prizes presented. Everyone then proceeded with the consumption of much beer and a party. Boat racing was officiated in the union foyer, with Gaffer at the helm. following a minor indiscretion with a member of the Leeds team the aforementioned



upon chaos ensued. By one we had a field of six hundred competitors.

A minor catch was an unmarked course five minutes before the start. Emergency measures were taken with last-minute strategic positioning of parents/runners and flags enabling competitors to negotiate their way around the Serpentine.

Yellow-arse lead for the first mile (on his bike) clearing the course of obstructions (children/dogs/pedestrians). IC's Pony Tail impressively hurdled the carnage to lead the front runners. Unfortunately, this domination of the race was short lived, probably thanks to the influence of the Dutch team and debauchery in the bar on the previous three nights. Another factor was Gaffer missing his change-over (this is a relay race) having got carried away with himself in the loo. However, IC's ladies shone on the day, achieving the third best time for a team, with Jennie Cox topping her field with just over eleven minutes for a lap of the Serpentine. Our B team ironically were surpassed by the C team having

athlete was showered with at least three pints of beer. Events then became a bit hazy.

A student might consider this a normal series of events for a Saturday night, but the difference here is that this was organised by IC students for a race which is renowned throughout Europe's running community. None of this would have been possible without the help of the union, security, St Johns, RAG, marshals and the members of IC cross-country - thank you. The difficulty of organising one of the largest European student relays cannot be appreciated by observing the surface of the event, without the above people it would have been impossible.

Preparations for next year's event are already underway, as it is the fiftieth anniversary. There are hopes for an all-star team, indeed Seb Coe and David Moorcroft are two of the more famous runners to have raced here. Well done to everyone who helped or entered, this was an unforgettable experience.