



est. 1949

THE FELIX

Friday 28th February, 1997
issue 1081

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

Student Newspaper of Imperial College



Sabbatical candidate interviews.

Find out what the candidates said when they were really under pressure. Centre pages.



Something for the Weekend says 'Take me to your leader'

New Election favourite after Kheir withdraws

NEWSTEAM

The result of next week's Imperial College Union Sabbatical Elections hangs in the balance today, following the shock withdrawal of one of the two Presidential candidates. Omar Kheir, considered by many as the favourite for the job, confirmed his withdrawal from the elections yesterday leaving Samantha Baker standing against 'New Election'.

Mr Kheir's withdrawal follows a series of rumours concerning his health and the pressures of his work as a postgraduate in the Electrical Engineering Department. Mr Kheir met Eric Allsop, the current ICU President, early yesterday morning to confirm his withdrawal from the sabbatical race.

At the time of going to press, Mr Kheir was unavailable for comment, but Mr Allsop later outlined some of the factors contributing to his decision. The former candidate has been ill for the last two weeks, and was only able to attend the College briefly to write his name on the nomination papers. This may explain the lack of a campus-wide poster campaign promoting Mr Kheir, as is traditional for ICU sabbatical candidates.

In addition, Mr Kheir's Electrical Engineering research team is reported to be facing a critical publication deadline for their work, in direct competition with other groups. Mr Kheir is believed to have been under severe pressure from his supervisor, with a suggestion that his PhD might be in jeopardy were he to devote too much time to his Presidential campaign.

As returning officer for the elections, Mr Allsop expressed regret concerning Omar's decision. He claimed to be "saddened by the lack of competition" in the race for the

post of Union President, which now sees Royal College of Science Academic Affairs Officer Samantha Baker as the single, uncontested candidate. Speaking to *Felix*, Miss Baker admitted "I still have to convince students that I'm the best candidate... I will continue campaigning as before."

Following this week's farcical hustings, and the lacklustre campaigning by some candidates, many students voting in Monday and Tuesday's election may choose to return 'New Election' for the position of President. Were this the case, nominations for President would be reopened, allowing new and potentially better candidates to stand. Although unusual, such a result seems increasingly likely as medical students at St Mary's Hospital Medical may choose to 'block vote' for a new election; It is believed that the medics had originally planned to vote for Mr Kheir, who now openly supports the re-opening of nominations. Many students at the South Kensington campus have similarly expressed their disaffection towards the candidates standing for all four posts.

Were the ICU Presidential elections to be re-held, a number of prospective candidates have hinted that they might stand. Robin Riley, ICU's Publications Board Chairman, is alleged to have signed a statement confirming his intention to run for the post. Another likely candidate may be Royal College of Science Union President, Mo Dullo. "At the moment I can't say anything" said Mr Dullo, but went on to say "Once a new election's certain, it will be an interesting contest with Robin."

A precedent for a new presidential election to be run was set in 1974 when the race was run four times.

Anger at hustings débâcle



NEWSTEAM

The low turnout for both of this week's sabbatical election hustings, on Tuesday in South Kensington and on Wednesday in St Mary's, with few impartial observers attending has once again demonstrated the lack of student interest in Union affairs.

Jeremy Thomson, standing unopposed for the position of Felix Editor, refused to be drawn regarding his plans for Felix next year, but highlighted his background as Arts Editor. He faced particular hostility from St Mary's over his ignorance regarding topical medical issues.

Next up were the two candidates standing for Deputy President (Clubs&Societies), Sarah Thomas and Smita Chaturvedi, who confirmed that they came from similar hockey backgrounds, and who managed to give similar answers to many of the questions. Ms Thomas' proposer got the biggest cheer of the night from the medics when she responded to a frontal flanking with "Let's face it, it's not the first time

that I've had cream on my tits and it won't be the last."

The post of Deputy President (Finance&Services) had three candidates, Rob Clark, John Savery and Duncan Tindall, whose manifestos and answers had strikingly few differences between them. One notable incident was Mr Clark's downing of eight pints in quick succession.

The two candidates for ICU President, Sam Baker and Omar Kheir, proved the most controversial with general incredulity at their flippant approach to the South Kensington hustings and their ignorance of serious issues.

At first event Sam proposed turning ICU into a brothel with Omar retorting with his wish to see a playpen in Beit Quad. After the second hustings Piers Williams, current DP(F&S) and co-ordinator of the New Election campaign, commented to Felix that he would have said more on behalf of New Election but felt that it wasn't needed as "all the other candidates seemed to be doing my job for me."

Professor Bryan Coles dies aged 71

JEREMY CLARKE

Bryan Randell Coles FRS, Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow of Solid State Physics from 1991 died suddenly on Monday at 2 am. Born in Cardiff in 1926, Bryan Coles attended Cardiff High School and achieved a first in Metallurgy from the University of Wales in 1947. He came to the Department of Physics at Imperial in 1950 as a lecturer in Metal Physics and a year later gained his D.Phil. from Jesus College, Oxford.

On leave from London in Pittsburgh, Professor Coles was the International Co-operation Administration Fellow at the Carnegie Institute for two years from 1954. Three years later, he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Physics at Imperial and then a Reader in Physics in 1962. Professor Coles spent the summers of 1962 and 1969 as a Visiting Professor at the University of California in San Diego. In October of 1966 he was appointed to the Chair of Solid State Physics at Imperial. Closely associated with both the planning and fur-

nishing of the new Physics building, the Blackett Laboratory, Professor Coles took a keen interest in the development of the College. Before being appointed Dean of the Royal College of Science from 1984-1986, he spent the end of 1983 as Hill Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota. From 1986-1991, Professor Coles was Pro-Rector of Imperial College and was then elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society, where he Chaired the Scientific Information Committee from 1993.

As Nevill Mott has said, Professor Coles had devoted his career to the experimental investigation of metallic alloys and their interpretation in the language of quantum mechanics. Not only this, but also his work in the field of spin glasses has resulted in world-wide renown. Professor Coles provided inspired leadership in all his work and warm hospitality to the many eminent people who visited him, and to the students taught by him over his years at Imperial. His inaugural lecture was received with praise and showed his facility with

language, an ability founded on his sense of humour and considerable knowledge of English Literature.

Professor Coles was a member, and frequently chairman, of many international committees, including the International Institute Laue-Langevin, the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board and was IUPAP representative for several years. He served on the Advisory Panel on Study Institutions, NATO Science Division, and was a member of the British National Committee on Physics. During 1955, Professor Coles married Merivan Robinson of St. Paul, Minnesota and leaves two sons. In his private life, Professor Coles pursued interests in natural history, mediaeval architecture and opera. Having retired at the beginning of the academic term 1991, he continued to take an active interest in both his work and the College itself, being Staff Orator from 1991-1993. His death is a considerable loss to both the College and the scientific world, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Dramsoc ripped-off?

NEWSTEAM

Recent attempts to publicise Dramsoc's upcoming production of Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* have run into difficulties after over forty posters were ripped off the Sheffield walkway notice boards. Speaking to *Felix* Mike Wyer, Dramsoc's publicity officer, described how an evening's work was mysteriously censored overnight.

With less than half a dozen posters remaining from the original fifty, speculation is rife as to why bizarre and possibly malicious attack occurred. Since the play deals with sex, violence, and gay relationships it has been suggested that homophobic tendencies may have taken offence. Dramsoc sources have denied allegation that they may have incited animosity from other Imperial College Union clubs or societies, and insist that they will be protesting to the Union.

Suggestions that this week's high winds may be responsible for the posters disappearance have been discounted by Dramsoc members.

WHERE WILL YOU BE LIVING IN 1997/98?

YOUR ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONS
ANSWERED!

Where to live

Where to
look

Contracts

Who to live
with

Deposits

Inventories

Paying the rent

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

UNION BAR WRECKED

The Royal School of Mines won the "bottle match" against the Cambourne School of Mines last Saturday. That evening, the Union bar was packed, and some of the fixtures sustained a significant amount of damage. Two tables were trashed, one with its top smashed, the other had its legs broken.

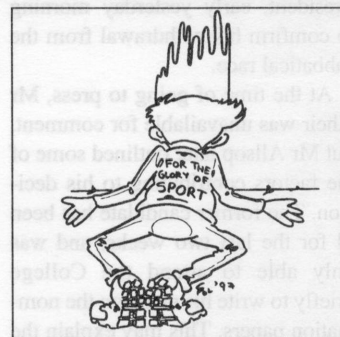
There was another incident when a large shield was pulled down from the wall, damaging the wall in the process.

Full Bottle-Match report next week

BAND BANNED

One of the bands that played in last week's "Abandon" were told to watch their behaviour if they wanted to play again at the Union. POG, the first band out of four to play on Friday night, were reprimanded after their lead singer pretended to light up a spliff on stage at the end of their performance.

Mark Horne, the Union Ents manager, explained, "We are currently applying for a public entertainments license, and we need to keep a snow-white clean reputation. The Union



has put a lot of money into this venture. The application itself cost about £4,000, as well as spending almost £100,000 on dBs to bring it up to standard. Our application is now being processed, and we are at the stage where we can be inspected at any time. A licensing officer may not have seen the joke. It would have been a pity for the behaviour of one person to have jeopardised all this with one childish gesture. It was a very silly thing to do."

The band insist that it was simply meant as a joke, and were surprised at the reaction they provoked.

However, Mark did concede, "It was a very good pretend spliff, though."

See letters, page seventeen

Piccocon 14



icSF piccocon

sunday
second
march
1997
ten am
eight pm
students
£ three
otherwise
£ eight

simon ings

Author of hothead city of the iron fish

nicholas royle

Author of saxophone dreams counterparts

imperial college science fiction

imperial college union beit quad prince consort road south kensington s w seven two b b

icsf@ic.ac.uk

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubsocs/scc/icsf/>

Tower cranes and scaffold mask the BMS site, but underneath, the building begins to take shape

NEWSTEAM

Despite difficulties with the winter frosts, the Bio-medical Sciences building will be on schedule for its internal fit out to start in June confidently predicts Schal Construction Manager, Phil Hilton. Fears that the work wouldn't meet the strict timing targets have been assuaged by rejigging of the work.

From the Queen's Lawn, the Bio-medical Science building is a cluster of concrete pillars and steel poles. Behind the scaffold facade, the site's 170 workers are currently laying the steel supports for the final two stories and completing the internal walls on the lower levels. Concrete laying was hindered by the weather and has subsequently overrun its schedule.

The next stage, the steel superstructure for the top two floors, has had to start without the concrete being finished. This, as explained by Schal's Site Manager Oliver Clarke, has necessitated the use of a third tower crane, making the BMS building "the biggest construction project in the capital." The extra crane,

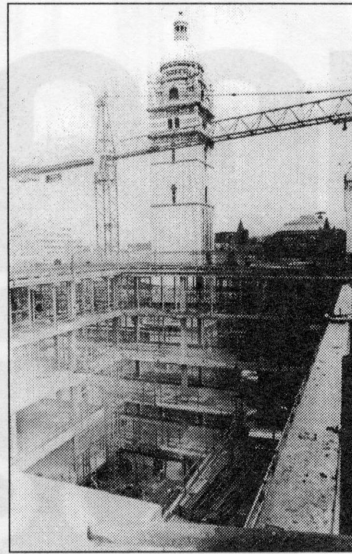


PHOTO: ALEX

The transformation over eight months of the BMS site. The central atrium which will bring light into the building's centre is now clearly visible. which is sited within a service duct, will be removed after the steel work is complete.

Even without the internal walls, the impressive size of the future laboratories, seminar rooms and lecture theatres can already be gauged. Mr

Hilton described the project as "challenging" with some unique features, particularly the central duct shaft which was "the biggest he had ever seen," and the central atrium that is designed to bring light into the centre of the block. The atrium, which will

have a clear roof, will have a glass divider between the first and second floors to prevent noise rising from the public lower floors to the research levels above. Reading and writing-up areas will be set aside adjoining the atrium, with communal 'social areas' on the northside of the building overlooking the Queen's Lawn. The ICSM Student's Union has been allocated space on the ground floor.

The library extension and the music and arts centre, the source of much acrimony in recent weeks (*Letters, Felix 1079*), is proceeding at a steady rate, with weather sealing on the fourth floor almost complete. John Downey, Schal's Library Site Manager, said that "noisy work had been restricted to between 10am and 2pm" to minimise the disturbance to staff and students.

Contrary to reports in *IC Reporter* that the music and arts centre's funding bid for Lottery funding had failed, Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, said that the application was being currently being put together for submission at the end of March.

ADVERTISEMENT

**Vote
Robert Clark**
For
Deputy President
(Finance & Services)

1

**A Vote For Your
Union's Future**

ICU Hustings in dB's 6pm on the 25th Feb.,
St Mary's Hustings in St Mary's Bar 6pm on the 26th Feb.
and Cross Campus Voting 10am to 5pm on the 3rd & 4th of March

ADVERTISEMENT

**IS YOUR DIET
WELL BALANCED?**

**ARE YOU
WORRIED ABOUT
YOUR HEALTH?**

**ARE YOU
CONSTANTLY
SNACKING?**

**IF YOUR ANSWER TO ANY OF
THESE IS YES, CALL US TO FIND
OUT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU**

(0958) 597628

MAKE YOUR MARK VOTE

**A MESSAGE SO SIMPLE EVEN
AN IC STUDENT WOULD UNDERSTAND**

Hustings : iCU dBs 25th Feb 6pm

SMHMSSU 26th Feb 6pm

Voting : All depts. Mon 3rd/Tues 4th

Results : DaVinci's Tues 4th

iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

It's Your Union - have your say

Are Imperial College students

The differences between the various Halls of Residence of Imperial College were recently brought to my attention. A resident of Fisher Hall commented to me that on a recent visit to Holbein Hall he had been amazed at the difference between the standards of repair. He gushed on about the mirrors, the pastel shaded walls and the up-lighting, then said: "God, they must be paying a fortune." This sounded like a challenge to me, so after a bit of wrangling I managed to get hold of all the rents for the halls (see table below).

Like me you'll probably have noticed that Holbein and Fisher Halls have the same prices, as do the halls in Prince's Gardens. But why should this be so? Why is Garden Hall cheaper than the rest of Prince's Gardens? Time for a quick call to the Accommodation Office. Sadly this was not too useful. Sharine Brown, the Residences Manager gave the new prices for halls next year. Those costing £47.53 are going up to £49.00 and the halls costing £58.31 will go up to £60.06, except Fisher which has been reduced to £53.13, but apart from that, nothing, nada, zip, zilch.

I was referred to Piers Williams on the grounds that she didn't "know enough about (the subject)" and "only wanted to deal with facts". Piers explained that this year the accommodation levels were being set by himself and the Union Accommodation Officer. They had duly traipsed round all the halls and set the levels accordingly.

Fisher Hall was apparently refurbished 7 years ago and Holbein, 3. These cosmetic renovations have justified an increase in rent. Speaking as someone who didn't get a choice into which hall I went into, I find it a little unfair that. Why should I be forced to pay £10 pw more than other residents in Evelyn Gardens for no noticeable difference? The rooms are generally accepted to be smaller and, to quote a visiting friend, "crap". Frankly speaking, the whole building is in a state of disrepair. I cannot actually recall having seen a wall with paint not discoloured and peeling off.

If Fisher is better than Southwell and Willis Jackson then I don't mind paying more but I REALLY object to paying as much as Prince's Gardens. What does Evelyn Gardens have compared to Southside? A shop? A Pizza place? A student bar? Proximity to college? Connections to the college Computer network? No. The only link to College is the single telephone line up to the main campus, but since the internal phones don't work with the ACC discount phone cards it is of no use.

Suitably riled, my partner and I

Simon Wistow and his cohorts of mackintosh-clad investigators turn their skills to Imperial's housing problem...



Welcome to my home

IC HALLS OF RESIDENCE WEEKLY RENT LEVELS: 1996-97			
HALL	SINGLE	TWIN	TRIPLE
Prince's Gardens			
Beit (old hostel)	£47.53		
Beit (new hostel)	£58.31		
Falmouth Keogh	£58.31		
Selkirk	£58.31		
Tizard	£58.31		
Weeks	£58.31		
Garden	£47.53	£33.32	£23.80
Linstead (catered)	£58.31+meals	£40.81+meals	
Evelyn Gardens			
Bernard Sunley	£47.53	£33.32	£23.80
Fisher	£58.31	£40.81	£23.80
Holbein	£58.31	£40.81	
Southwell	£47.53	£33.32	
Willis Jackson	£47.53	£33.32	
Postgraduate Halls			
Montpelier (upgraded)	£48.65		
Montpelier (non-upgraded)	£47.53		
Olave House	£56.49	£39.55	£28.28
Goldsmiths' House	£51.59	£36.33	
Clayponds Village			
Room A	£42.35		
Room B	£52.71		
Room C	£60.90		
Ensuite	£63.21		
Small bedsit	£79.17		
Medium bedsit	£107.52		
Wilson House			
Pre-clinical room	£49.28		
Clinical room	£48.23		
Extra nominal charges: Insurance: 7p per day; Washing machine hire: 21p per day			
Amenities: At the discretion of the hall warden, approximately £2 per week			

'acquired' a copy of the Confidential Strategy for the Future Development and Management of Student Residences. We began to skim read through it looking for juicy titbits to highlight....

Interestingly enough, the Powers that be seem to be aware of the problems, concerning Imperial's bedstock, as well they should. To quote the report, Imperial College is aware that the rents are high "relative to competitors, both London based and provincial". They also accept that IC halls offer "questionable value for money in certain residences where there is a severe maintenance backlog."

Back in 1993, however, an exhaustive plan to "overcome perceived competitive weaknesses in the physical condition of the residences and excessive variations in standards of maintenance between residences and increase value for money" was drawn up.

This resolved to "establish minimum acceptable and targeted standards for all student accommodation in terms of furnishings, equipment, decorative order, cleanliness and all round value for money, and ensure that all existing residence meet the minimum standard by the end of 1993/4 and targeted standards by 1995/6". Included in this is a "rolling programme of redecoration - three year internal cycle, five years external". Hmm, has this happened? First impressions say not.

On a more serious note, Fisher Hall (together with other halls in Evelyn Gardens) is under Leasehold for the next 50 years. Although the report resolved to begin negotiation with the relevant landlord for outright purchase, the report also highlights the College's relative lack of funds and inability to raise finance at acceptable rates. This may explain the discrepancy between the 'three year plan' and reality. Worryingly, they seem to be overly concerned that the poor condition of halls reduces their chances of "profitable disposal". In other words, they seem to give priority to getting halls in a condition fit to sell, rather than fit to live in. Furthermore, sections discussing the possibility of halls being forced to close if they could not meet Health and Safety standards (and forming suitable contingency plans) does nothing to inspire confidence in housing standards.

Through further acquisitive activities, we found ourselves in possession of the NUS Accommodation Costs Survey 1996/97, which covers private sector and university rents at all universities in the UK. The main findings were as follows:

•The average weekly costs across all types of institutional accommodation in 1996/97 was £48.37.

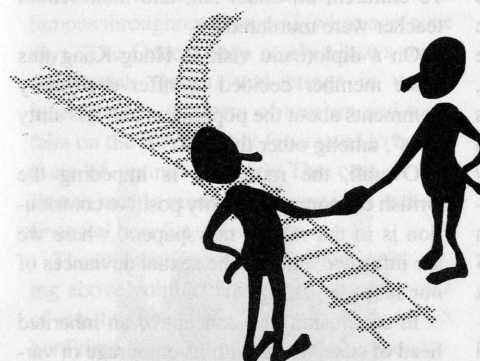
paying too much for their rent?



PHOTO: SIMON
The inviting interior of Fisher Hall's showers. Students share their daily ablutions with flakes of paint, mould and mushrooms.

- The average weekly rent for private accommodation in 1996/97 was £40.12.
- The average cost of institutional accommodation increased by 4.7% between 1995/96 and 1996/97 (actually Imperial only increased by 2.6%, hurrah).
- Average, non-institutional rents increased by 3.8% between 1995/96 and 1996/97.
- A student living in institutional accommodation in receipt of a full grant and student loan did, on average, spend 63% of their weekly income on rent.
- A student living in the private rented sector did, on average spend 52% of his/her weekly income on rent.

My conclusion is mixed. Imperial College is aware of the problems they face with their bedstock. Union input into accommodation charges may help matters. Given the exclusivity (read cost) of our Kensington location and the crippling lack of funds, things could be worse. On a more subjective note, however, there is a need to address the imbalance of rents charged within Imperial's halls. Perhaps some money should be spent on the residences that need sprucing up. After all, happy halls = happy students = happy uni!



TOGETHER AT LAST....

For
"One Stop Shopping"

Software Sales + The Computer Shop are combining

For advice on purchasing PCs, software, printers, hardware upgrades, consumables and accessories

come to

**CCS SHOP
Level 4**

**Mechanical Engineering Building
ext. 46953**

ccs-shop@ic.ac.uk

9.30am - 5.00pm (Wed 10.00am - 5.00pm)





Anti

Long to

The Queen has one very real power: to sack an unelected person can dismiss the elected

The monarchy is the last bastion of a wholly corrupt and murderous colonial history that should be removed, especially if Britain is determined to remain in the upper echelons of worldwide finance, industry and politics. Many countries in the world operate perfectly well without a monarchy, in fact they operate better! For example France and Germany, whose economies are thriving. There is no reason why Britain should not do the same.

The royals are paid monstrous amounts to act as upstanding citizens and yet this model family is awash with adultery, divorce and treachery. In short, if they wish to lead the sordid lives of their 'normal' subjects then they should be willing to receive the complementary pay cuts that their loyal subjects; nurses, doctors, teachers, university lecturers and all manner of public servants are continually having to endure. There is an alarming decline in funding for our Great Nation's education, NHS and military and yet insane amounts of money are being given to one family so they can galavant across the globe, ski holidays, and caribbean trips, thousands to lavish on designer clothing, not to mention the huge number of servants that they employ. It is absolutely ludicrous that illiteracy levels in Britain are among the highest in the developed world, that the queues on NHS waiting lists are insurmountable, that class sizes are ridiculously large and yet it is possible that £60 million may be spent on a royal yacht. Will you benefit from a royal yacht?

Some pro-royalists may argue that the Royal family brings in tourist revenue, yet today this is a laughable argument. London

thrives on it's unique culture and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

In addition, the monarchy perpetuates the survival of the notorious British class system which impedes the competitive viability of Britain as well as violating all humanitarian codes of conduct. In fact the monarchy is a symbol of upper class tyranny. One may argue that the monarchy is a diplomatic aid and a symbol of neutrality but the following statements made by the monarchy in recent years profess otherwise.

In reaction to the ban on handguns due to the horrific Dunblane affair one member of the monarchy, who shall remain unnamed, insisted that any actions to ban them were inappropriate, his reasoning, "If someone with a cricket bat went into a primary school and murdered children one would not suddenly seek to ban cricket bats." In Dunblane 16 children, all under six, and their school teacher were murdered.

On a diplomatic visit to Hong-Kong this same member decided to offer derogatory comments about the population and its "slitty eyes", among other things.

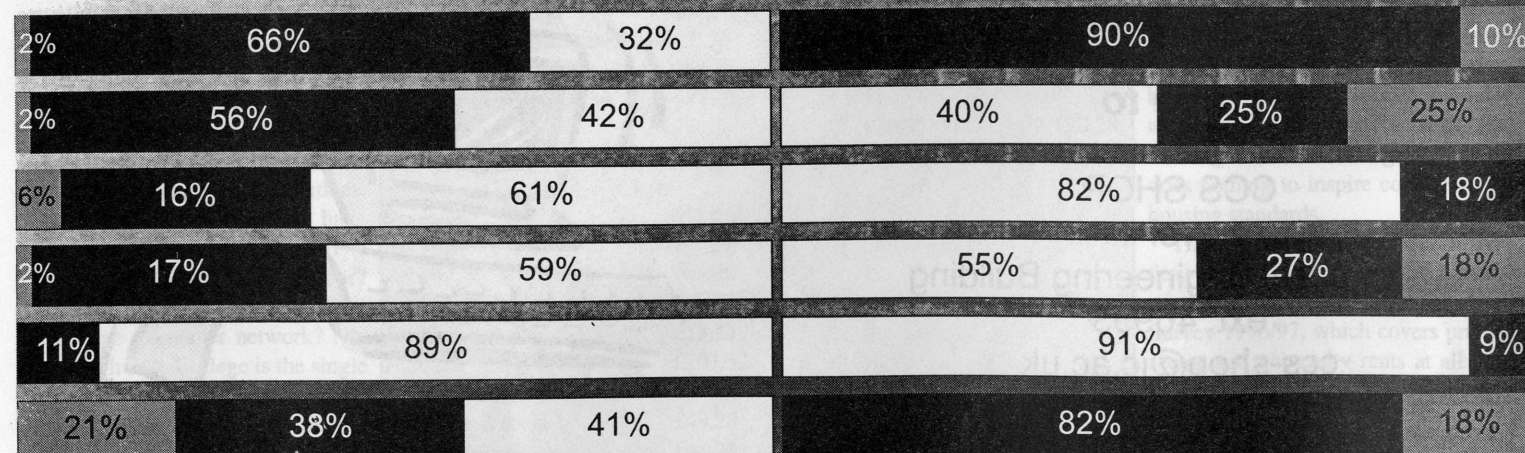
Overall, the monarchy is impeding the British economy, their only positive contribution is in the sale of newspapers, where we are informed daily of the sexual deviances of our succeeding King.

In conclusion, the concept of an inherited head of state, along with its entourage of various dukes, lords and squires is archaic and reprehensible. Britain should bravely enter the age of the millenium and abolish the monarchy.

Don't Know

Yes No

British citizens non-British citizens



rule over us?

a Prime Minister, last used in her name by the Governor-General of Australia. Is it right that Prime Minister, or is it an important balance necessary for the way our country is run?

Can you imagine it: The People's Republic of Britain? Oliver Cromwell called it the Commonwealth of England. There is little doubt that there is a lot wrong with the whole hereditary principle: the vast majority of the country, including a substantial number of left-wing Tory MPs believe in constitutional reform of the Lords, but the mainstream political parties all want the Queen to stay. Why?

Britain's constitution consists of a variety of documents, including the Magna Carta, The 1688 Bill of Rights, and common law and statute law. Claire Rayner said on the infamous and inarticulate Carlton debate that Britain needs a written constitution and elected House of Lords and no more monarchy. I can imagine nothing more boring and clinical than an off-the-shelf constitution and a President. We have an institution that has served us for over a thousand years, it is famous throughout the world (when someone says 'The Queen' they nearly always mean the British Queen) and brings in untold investment in the form of tourism and trade fairs on the Royal Yacht (estimated to be billions of pounds a year). The cost of this British icon is minute in comparison with the financial benefits we receive.

The monarch is a symbol of continuity, rising above politics. Her immense experience of constitutional affairs allows her to advise her Prime Ministers at their weekly meetings, something which ex-Prime Ministers of all political parties said they appreciated. Monarchs in all countries are acutely sensitive of their political neutrality, and their role

as head of state takes much of the pressure off the serving Prime Minister. Many observers say that the role and glamour of our monarch should be reduced to that of Scandinavian countries (a bicycling monarchy), but it is worth remembering that our Queen represents a country with a population greater than that of the monarchies of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Denmark and Belgium combined - why shouldn't they be more glamorous?

The Way Forward Group consists of the Queen, her immediate family, plus a few constitutional experts. They are always looking for ways to prepare the monarchy for the 21st century, including primogeniture (the first-born child inheriting rather than the first-born son), reducing the Civil List, reducing freebies and glamorous trips, paying tax, doing more charity work, improving Britain's image abroad (who would a foreign country rather have - Her Majesty or John Major?). Many of these changes have been implemented, and more are in the pipeline.

Many people argue that the behaviour of the Royal Family has shown that they are not fit to govern us. The press love nothing more than a story that combines royals and sex. The behaviour of past royals was appalling in comparison with the present and of elected politicians, and the public is not exactly exemplary.

The battle is not about the bad behaviour of a particular member (do note the Queen's behaviour has always been impeccable) but the institution as a whole. It should stay, for the benefit of the British public.

Pro

Survey Questions

1. Do you think the monarchy should be scrapped in favour of republic with a President of Britain?
2. Should the Sovereign's role in constitutional affairs be lessened, to something similar to the Scandinavian model?
3. Would you like to see a written constitution?
4. Do you think Charles should ascend to the throne?
5. Should female royals be given equal rights of succession?
6. Do you think that a parliamentary monarchy is the best form of government?

The monarchy has come under increasing attack during the past few years, with three failed marriages, adultery, public extravagance and internal wrangling inciting gleeful press coverage and further unpopularity. A recent survey say the number of people supporting a republic rose to a third of the population, the highest it has ever been. In Scotland a majority rejected a monarchy, and in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, republicanism is on the ascendant.

The monarchy has been around for over a thousand years, with England united under one Sovereign since the start of the reign of King Egbert in 802. The Sovereign plays an enormous if merely decorative role: we have a many royal regiments, a Royal Navy and a Royal Air Force, we have HM Prisons, HM Customs and of course HM Government. The Sovereign is head of the Commonwealth and Queen of many other countries including Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Proposed changes include writing a constitution, removing all hereditary elements from the state, removing the House of Lords and having a British President, in a similar model to other European countries. The Fabian Society suggested an elected House of Lords, and referendums every five years to see if the countries wished to retain the monarchy. Attention recently has focused on Carlton's televised public debate, where panellists were frequently shouted down by the jeering crowd. Some say the monarchy needs to be exposed to this and others decrying it as an obscenity. We conducted another small survey if IC opinion (results left), questions above.

SABBATICAL ELECTION INTERVIEWS



What do the candidates really think? Felix & IC Radio put the questions to them, so here are the results...

To hear the full interviews, tune into IC Radio on 999AM this evening at 6pm.

By Mark Baker and Chris Earls

Felix Editor

Jeremy Thomson

Questioned initially as to why he is standing for Felix Editor, Jeremy suggested that he is "the best person to do it, from the experience point of view." He stressed that he has been involved with Felix throughout his three years at IC and therefore knows "all the background to it." In addition to his experience Jeremy emphasised that with so many major issues due to be discussed in the coming year he is "someone who isn't afraid to mince their words."

Discussing this year's News pages and how he wishes to change them, Jeremy accepted that there may have been too much London news saying "It's very important that any news that's not in IC is directly relevant to students." He went on to say that while news of IC research may be important it must be realised that Felix "is not a College newspaper it's the student's newspaper."

As to the expression of political views in Felix, Jeremy insisted that although he has his own opinions, "it's not up to me to make Felix my political mouthpiece." He further expressed his wish to reunite the current two sections of Felix into a single A4 publication, insisting "We can get a lot more done, in the time, effort and money available."

With his extensive experience on the production and writing side of Felix, Jeremy was asked whether he felt that there are any areas where he needs training. He responded by conceding that most of the finance side would be new to him and that "I don't have much experience in advertising."

DP (Clubs & Societies)

Sarah Thomas

Apart from her experience in City & Guilds and ICU hockey, Sarah admitted that she has not been involved in other clubs and societies but suggested that this was not a problem. She highlighted her dual perspective both from an individual club member and from the organisation level as C&G President. With this and her current role as ICU Council Chair in mind she denied suggestions that she might be regarded as a hack, but pointed out that her experience has enabled her to "pick out the way things have been done wrongly in the past".

With communication featuring in both manifestoes Sarah suggested that she would like to see joint events between medics and those on the South Kensington campus to alleviate the current "animosity". She emphasised the Mary's involvement in the rugby club tours but had difficulty suggesting what other type of joint events she envisaged. She denied that "overlapping" clubs and societies should be forced to merged but that people should be encouraged to communi-

cate and "let them make their decisions."

As Council Chair Sarah suggested that it was difficult for her to say what she would have done differently to the current sabbatical team with regard to the bookstore tender but did say that "in retrospect maybe it should have been publicised a little more beforehand.". She said that "however much protesting we do it's not going to change, we have to accept the fact that we can't get it back."

Encouraging students to vote for her, Sarah said that her experience would enable her to "change the things that don't work and continue the things that do."

Smita Chaturvedi

With her limited experience in hockey and ACC, Samita denied that she did not have enough experience to do the job, and suggested that whatever she did not know at the start she would be able to pick up at the start of her sabbatical year. Samita accepted that the only direct experience she has of clubs, other than hockey, is of the Indian Society and being involved with "a few of the sports societies". She denied suggestions that she might favour sports clubs saying that "because they [arts societies] are so small I'd like to bring them out and promote them."

With regard to communication Samita suggested that joint social events would be a way to break down the existing rivalry between South Kensington and medical students. Samita agreed with her rival candidate that any mergers should not be forced saying "I really do think it's their decision". She did however admit that this might be to the detriment of the overall student body commenting that "Yeah maybe it will be a bit of a disadvantage", but denied that her position was due to electoral expedience.

With regard to the recent loss of the academic bookstore, Samita felt unable to offer an opinion on how the tender should have been handled differently. "I wasn't there, I'm not on Council or anything" she said before adding that "as far as I can see I wouldn't have changed much."

Questioned as to why students should vote for her she replied that "I'm very enthusiastic to do the job, I've got the energy and determination to do it well and would like to do it well."

DP (Finance & Services)

Duncan Tindall

Duncan revealed that he decided to stand a few weeks before papers went up because "it just seemed the right thing to do". He picked out communication as being an important issue, stating that as soon as sabbaticals are elected, the 50 students on council "are the only people that they see". He suggested that the new Clubs and Societies

Resource Centre would aid communication, and it would be "helping clubs to help themselves".

Duncan thought that he was "an approachable person" and that "people would find it easier to talk to me than some of the other sabbaticals of previous years". He thought that MSC and club treasurers would have an easier job "if they have previous examples" of Budget and 5 Year Plan submissions.

He claimed that we should ensure that "College knows the student populous wasn't happy with" losing the Bookstore, although he emphasised that it was "just one part of one of the Union's trading arms." He said that the loss could raise interest from the students and that "we have learnt a number of lessons" from the experience.

In defence of the current sabbaticals, he admitted that "it was a very difficult situation for the Union to be in" and that "whatever happened the sabbs would be blamed."

On the future of ICU Bookstore, Duncan made the point that "there will be more space for stationery, regalia and things like that". Finally he said that they would have to "think quite hard" about their options with the Bookstore.

Robert Clarke

Robert stated that he had "an ideal perspective" due to his experience in Industry. He also would like to see stronger communication, especially with academic staff, saying that "academic staff do tend to listen, far more than people give them credit for".

He pointed out that "its the average club treasurer who has to draw up the 5 Year Plan" and thus they should be given more help, particularly details of previous years' finances. He also suggested that the training given to "people like club treasurers is not significant enough".

Still on the topic of training, he felt that it could be expanded to teach MSC treasurers "how they can train their clubs to improve the input of 5YPs, budgets and costings." Robert stressed it was important for there to be "a general filtering down of information from the top," such as providing justification when 5YPs are cut.

Commenting on the loss of the Bookstore, Robert said that he felt "its a bit of a disgrace that we lost it". But as the contracts were signed all that could be done "is ensure that this type of thing never happens again". He recommended that there should be "some deep thought" into what the Union will use the current Bookstore site for. With regard to tenders, he claimed the Union has "got to be strident and actively chasing them".

He thought that the Union should seek to raise its profile "so that people understand why we needed the bookstore" and the importance of financial independence.

He proposed that ICU ought to make use of its "direct 1-1 contact with many members of staff" and warned that there was a risk that "Waterstones will stock a very limited range of high profile books."

John Savery

John started by drawing attention to his experience in SCAB, as Chair and Treasurer. He claimed that in the last year "things have improved significantly" in SCAB. He said that "the next big thing" would be the move of medical schools to the South Ken campus. He mentioned that it was "a bit worrying" that the new halls have not yet received planning permission, and that when Biology moves out of Beit Quad "there isn't going to be any building time" to expand ICU. Stressing that "the first year is going to be really hard work" due to the increased demand on space and services.

On the subject of communication, John stated that "MSC chairs get a hell of a lot of flak" and highlighted the need to "work together as a team."

To help clubs prepare 5YPs and budgets, he recommended that DP(F&S) should give more information on the previous year's submission, in particular why it was cut. He thought that "we need to be a lot more open in what we say and do."

Speaking about the Bookstore he said that no matter what is done "it's not going to win us it back." But we should "make students realise" what services ICU provides and how they can influence them.

ICU must advertise itself more, he claimed. If people had been better informed about the Bookstore "there would have been a lot more... gut feeling about it".

As to the future of the Bookstore, he said that we could "ask the student what they want ... on their campus", making the point that "nobody's asked that question yet."

President

Omar Kheir

Asked initially why he is standing for President, Omar emphasised the fact that he has "been here a long time", and of his experience "from the whole thing." He was unable however to suggest two things which he would do during his year in the post saying, "I can't tell you what I'm going to do. I couldn't honestly make any promises."

With the recent loss of the Union bookstore, Omar was pessimistic about College's assurance to refund lost profits commenting, "if they want to do something else they will and there's not much we can do about it." He also suggested that "people are making a lot of fuss over an issue I don't feel too strongly about" and that he doesn't see it as a "horrible loss."

Following his joke manifesto, Omar refuted suggestions that he is not a serious candidate insisting that he had been trying to "make an impact" and that "there are some subtle digs in my manifesto." He did admit though that there were irregularities with his nomination papers and that his proposer did not actually sign them, as required by the ICU Constitution.

On the issue of future education funding, Omar emphasised his personal preference for a form of graduate tax, and said that unless he is advised otherwise by IC students this would be his public line as President.

Commenting on why people should vote for him, Omar suggested that since he is a "people person", he expects support "simply because they know me or they've been recommended to vote for me."

Sam Baker

Pointing to her role as Academic Affairs Officer with the RCS and her position as Dance Club President, Sam suggested that she was a suitable candidate as she had "seen things from different angles." Questioned as to what she would do as President she responded that "you can't move mountains", but that if elected she would do her best to "represent all of the students at IC".

On the issue of the loss of the Union bookstore she felt that "there's nothing we can really do about that, we can just work on what we do have." Sam suggested that she would attempt to keep College to their commitment to make up lost profits by "liaising with College."

Asked about her limited experience, Sam admitted that "perhaps compared to Omar yes I've got a lot more limited range of experiences." She insisted however that her experience of Academic Affairs would do "nothing but help me".

Sam conceded that on the issue of future student funding, "I don't have a firm idea at all" but insisted that "I don't believe as President I should have." She emphasised that she would represent all IC students, but had difficulty saying how she would obtain a "consensus of opinion" on this matter.

People should vote for her because "I can do the job, I'm willing to do it", she said, adding that "I'm not just going for the people who know me, think I'm a great person, if they like what they see and believe I can do the job then they should vote for me."

Voting made simple

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) used in Imperial College Union elections is a more sophisticated, and some would say more complicated system, to the nationally used first past the post policy. STV allows students to specify not just their first choice of candidate, but also their second, third and fourth. In the interests of 'transparency' and in order to allow you to best use your vote, below is a short description of how it all works.

Filling out the ballot paper is clearly where it all starts, and the number of votes you get depends on the number of candidates. With a maximum of four choices in this year's elections you get to list your preference from 1 to 4, with your most favoured person getting a 1, the next a 2 etc. If you only have eyes for one candidate then you do not need to pick a 2,3 or 4, your vote is still valid. In this instance you should still however use a 1, rather than a tick or a cross.

When all the tens of thousands of ballot papers are collected initially only the 1s are considered and each candidate's first preference vote is counted. To win an ICU sabbatical election in the first round, a candidate needs to receive more than 50% of the valid votes. If one of the candidates has achieved this wonderful ideal, he is declared the winner and the count is finished.

If however, as is more likely, none of the possibles has managed to inspire such a level of support the second round of counting kicks in. The candidate with the least number of votes is now eliminated and his papers re-examined to consider his voters second preferences. All the 2s are now distributed to the remaining candidates and the totals recalculated.

This process continues until one candidate reaches the magical 50% figure. While this may seem a protracted system, counting is unlikely to take as long as one recent election in one of the UK's near neighbours where over seven days of counting was needed to elect one particular member of Parliament.

Just in case the above still sounds complicated here's an example of what might happen:

Imagine in an ideal world where the Spice Girls suddenly grew brains and were all studying at Imperial College. Being ambitious types they all decide to run for Imperial College Union President, opposed of course by the ubiquitous New Election.

Suppose having examined their policies in detail you reckon that the two Mels are on the ball but the rest are rather lacking in the ideas department you might decide to vote like this:

Mel C	1
Mel B	2
New Election	3
Emma	4
Victoria	5
Geri	6

All the votes are counted, with the highest turnout ever for an ICU election, and each candidate polls as follows:

Emma	3,000
Mel B	1,500
New Election	800
Mel C	700
Geri	600
Victoria	400
Spoilt Papers	100

A total of 7,100 people vote, but unfortunately 100 didn't read this advice and failed to fill in their ballot paper properly. This therefore leaves quota, or number votes needed for success, at $3,501$ or $(7,100 - 100) / 2 + 1$. Clearly Emma falls just short of the target so now Victoria's first preference vote is examined and her 2s are counted. Of the 400 papers, 300 have given Emma a 2, 50 have given Geri a 2 and another fifty only had eyes for Victoria. This leaves the recounted votes like this:

Emma	3,300
Mel B	1,500
New Election	800
Mel C	700
Geri	650
Spoilt Papers	100
Non Transferable	50

The new quota is now $3,301$ or $(7,100 - 100 - 50) / 2 + 1$, which Emma just misses. Next for the chop is Geri and her 600 1st preference and the 50 votes she got from Victoria are now examined for their respective 2s and 3s. These are then added to the previous figures and the totals are now as follows:

Emma	3,600
Mel B	1,500
Mel C	1,000
New Election	800
Spoilt Papers	100
Non Transferable	100

Emma has jumped her final hurdle and is duly elected as the President of Imperial College Union, to tumultuous applause.

Why vote?

"If you don't vote your testicles will fall off. It's a proven medical fact."

Well, maybe not, but this is you big chance to have a say in how the Union is run. It's **easy**. You don't have to sit on any boring committees, and it only takes a minute to do.

Whatever you do, the Union **does** affect you. So please take the time to vote.

How2 vote?

To Vote you will need an ICU membership card. If you don't yet have one, get it from the Union office (1st floor, Beit Quad).

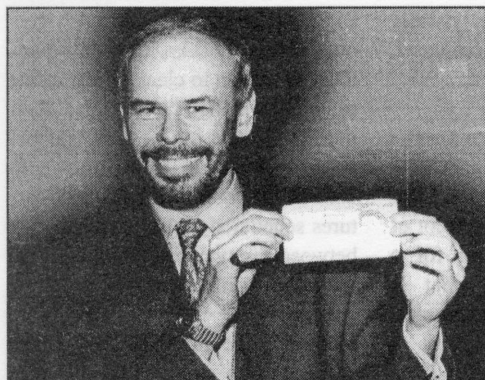
Voting takes place in departments and the Union on Mon 3rd and Tues 4th March.

For details of the voting system, see the article on the left.

Candidates all shite? Vote New Election.

Nominations will be re-opened, and other candidates may stand.

Remember, you can vote New Election for any post. Only that position will have another election.



What was your background before coming to Imperial College?

Well, I was brought up in Watford. At school I guess I was a scientist. I suppose the place to go was IC. But you wouldn't, nobody ever did, it was too close to home.

When I was in the lower sixth, my Chemistry master mentioned that he had received a bursary from Shell to go to university, so I thought well this sounds good and I wrote to all the big companies I had ever heard of saying I'm a bright kid, I want to go to university, will you pay me, and BP put me through university doing Economics and Chemistry. I ended up in Scotland, University of Stirling. Stirling spelt with an 'i'.

I was employed by BP until four years ago, that's twenty-two years, which was a ball. It was a lot of fun, but I guess I got a middle age crisis or something. The last ten years were nearly all overseas and I reached a point where I'd had enough. It was at that stage I thought well hang on, I don't want to be at Head Office in London, you know big offices, so that was when I started looking about leaving BP. Then I got a phonecall asking whether I would be interested in coming to IC and so it all sort of worked out and I ended up here after all, I'm delighted to say.

And what did you do within BP, was finance your area?

Well, when I graduated from the University of Stirling, I was smart enough, I'm glad to say, to realise that if I ever did want to leave BP a CV with University of Stirling on is not that great. It seemed smart to get an additional qualification, so I qualified as an accountant while I was in BP and then spent the next twenty years desperately trying not to be an accountant.

So you had obviously had enough after twenty-two years, but did you generally enjoy your time up until then?

Oh yes, it's a big fun place. If you're an accountant doing things with lots of money is always nice. I mean whether you're spending it or borrowing it, if it's got lots of zeros on the end, it's quite pleasant.

Interestingly, people have asked if it was difficult to come here after working for a multi-national oil company and the answer's no, not at all. The culture is actually, strange to say, not that dissimilar, IC is quite like BP in some ways, in that its numerate, I mean it's engineeringy based, it's international, clearly, and it has, what's the word, a confidence i.e. arrogance to the place because IC's good at what it does as is BP.

Would the real Mike Hansen please step forward...

Mike Hansen is Director of Finance at Imperial College. Glorified accountant or essential to the College's future?

What do actually do as the Director of Finance?

What do I do? Finance is a broad set, it goes from the making sure staff salaries are paid monthly through to making sure the electricity bills are paid otherwise the lights go out. Then there's the glamorous bit, dealing with the Executive Committee of the Governing Body and the Boarding Committee. It's a very varied job, in simple terms it's probably anything to do with money.

Do you socialise with the people you work with?

The place does suffer from the fact that it is in the centre of London and many of the staff commute. I probably socialise more than I have done with my work colleagues in former places I've worked but I don't spend all my time hanging out with the people I work with. One has different circles of friends in different places.

Do you worry about waste in your department? Do you attempt to cut the cost of running Finance?

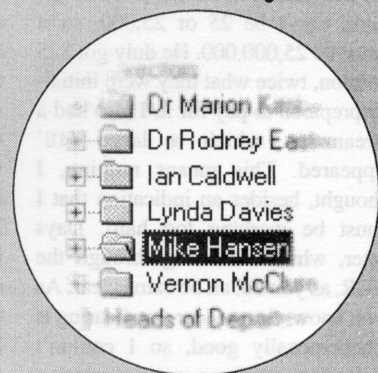
Not particularly Finance. Obviously we try and cut the cost of everything, whatever it is and it's always a trade off between cutting costs and keeping the services going. There are some things which are really easy wins, like buying your electricity cheaper. It would be difficult for me to do my job if my colleagues didn't think I was at least doing my bit on the efficiency front. I have a completely clear conscience on that front.

Your job is cost-cutting and being efficient?

Well, no, it's getting good value for money on the things I'm involved with whatever that happens to be and obviously, because I look at the numbers more than most, I'm able to do that.

Do you feel that the administrative staff really regard themselves as being here for the students and because of the students, or do they resent having to deal with the 'great unwashed'?

No, I have got a completely clear conscience on the attitude of my employees. What you don't see is the amount of crap they take from certain students, you don't see the verbal abuse, you don't see the stuff being thrown at them which happens. What probably annoys me more than anything about this place is an inference that for some reason because people are not directly academically



related, they are somehow less concerned about the well-being of College. It's interesting, when University Challenge was on and we were winning, it was a real buzz, people at the operational level were really proud in the pub to say I work at Imperial College.

"Last year, we ended up, 90 of us, at the top of Queen's Tower for a few beers."

If someone thinks they are not getting a reasonable service then they should complain, if they don't get satisfaction they should come and see me in

Room 442 or email me at m.hansen@ic.ac.uk. Fundamentally, I expect my people, and they know it and accept it, to provide a reasonable service. If it wasn't for the students and staff we wouldn't be here, the only reason we're here is to make the whole thing work.

Being on the Bookstore committee, why did you give Waterstones the tender?

I don't think it's fair to give my personal opinion because it was a committee decision. What I'm happy to say is that I have no doubt that our main concern was to get the best bookshop. Whether it was the right decision or not, some people believe the Union could have done better because of their commitment. I don't know but I'm absolutely sure that it was done in a completely fair and open-minded way and that the union was well-represented. It was difficult, if they'd done a really bum job it would have been easy but they didn't, they did a really good presentation. There was a difference of views, people had different standpoints but at the end of the day, I don't think that anybody would say that they didn't fully agree with the decision. I'll be very disappointed if we don't end up with a very good bookshop.

What do you do in your spare time?

It depends on the day I suppose. I do social running once a week with the City Hash House Harriers, I was pounding around Bayswater last night. We've run from the Southside bar on two or three occasions this year.

Have you ever run in the Marathon?

No, it's a drinking club with a running problem, real athletes needn't apply! We're not very serious. We start from the pub, run the circle back, and spend a few hours drinking. Last year we ended up, ninety of us, at the top of the Queen's Tower for a few beers.

Interview: Maria, Photo: Robin

Lord Grade, cigar smoking supremo and the TV moguls TV mogul, once had a dream. It was at the time that Jesus of Nazareth had been made, and Lew was trying to sell it to the American networks. One night he had a vision seeing a large '25'. This, he thought, must be the price of the film. Can't be 25 or 25,000, so it must be 25,000,000. He duly got \$25 million, twice what they were initially prepared to pay for it. I also had a dream in which a large '18' appeared. This means nothing, I thought, besides an indication that I must be working too hard. Days later, while wandering through the SCR, as you do, all became clear. As you know, dear reader, my hearing is phenomenally good, so I couldn't help but overhear a conversation about '18'. As with Lord Grade, it meant 18 million. It's the Sheffield budget for 1996/97.

As you can imagine my ears pricked up considerably at this stage. I caught the word 'Estates', this time from another part of the SCR. My head turned. Apparently, they expect to spend about £8 million in the coming year. Fair enough. Big department, lot of expenses, but also with a lot of income from the Halls of Residence. A lot indeed, about £695,000 from April to September or minus £215,000 after expenses, according to my indiscreet fellow diners. Still,

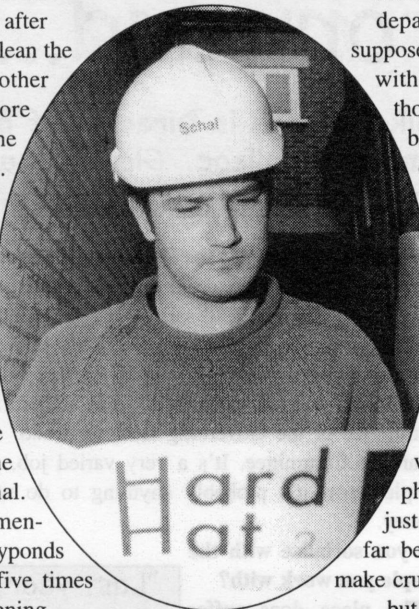
never mind, the planned expansion of conferencing will bring in the drachmas. Oh dear. It's the students that bankroll Estates, not conferencing which is a loss-maker, due to the already slapdash control of costs going for a Burton as IC kindly offer to employ every student who's not on holiday to look after the guests and clean the rooms. In other words, the more we build, the more we lose. Realising this, it seems that conferencing, the great white hope of IC and Campus Renaissance, is as safe a bet as a seaside donkey in the Grand National. They also mentioned that Clayponds spends almost five times more on gardening than security contracts, which I'm

sure will delight the residents. Walking by the BMS, someone shouted over the noise of concrete mixers that the communal areas, which were cut from 800 to 600 sq m have been further 'redesigned' to

consist of a coffee machine, possibly on the fourth floor. You seem upset, doctor?

I think I then heard Finance's name mentioned. I can't be certain, but I'm sure someone said £2.3 million. That

Simon Baker



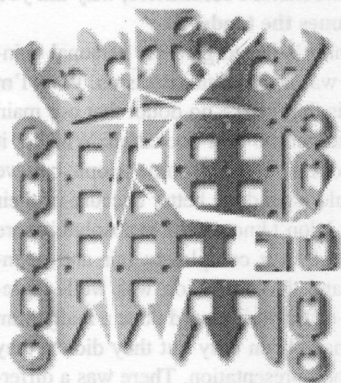
Voice of Reason

seems rather a lot of money spent for a department that is supposed to be careful with the cash, I thought. Still, it's a big university, lot of departments etc. Hmm. Nottingham University is about 60-70% the size of us. They have less than 10 people in their finance operation, whereas our phone book lists just over 100. Now far be it from me to make crude comparisons, but this looks a tad excessive. Perhaps Nottingham contract work out and if so, why don't we, since I doubt it could cost more than the current setup. Some careless soul on another table remarked that to ensure that proper checks are kept on spending, we spend nearly

£150,000 on internal audits. So rigorous are these checks, my own department has taken to cleaning the inside of windows that haven't had their outside cleaned for 30 years and ferrying students up to St Mary's in taxis so the poor dears can attend lectures scheduled with no consultation between the two. God help us if we didn't have an audit.

Registry's getting £2 million said someone on the walkway who should have known better. This seems rather excessive for a department that issues certificates and exam timetables. It's not short of staff, as I have said before, but for that to explain a budget of more than a couple of hundred thousand, they would need more people than could physically squeeze onto level 3. I just can't think where all that money goes - answers on a postcard.

In short, you learn a lot from pinning back the ears round here. It's all very well College constantly pleading poverty, but when details like this come to the fore, it is very difficult to have any sympathy. Academic departments are having to make genuine cuts, but Sheffield ploughs its merry furrow, stuck in the 1970s, oblivious to the real world. IC has an excellent Management School and a central management unaware of its teachings - Discuss.



Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

A programme depicting sexual abuse was broadcast on ITV this week. "No Child of Mine" - commissioned by Meridian Broadcasting - depicting the gradual fall of a kind but weak man into a pimp and abuser, with the ghouls of our nightmares reconciled with the family next door. Comments were mainly along the usual lines, that such things ought not to be shown on our screens.

One may ask: who makes these comments? Who is kindly deciding what the public ought and ought not to watch? Mainly it is journalists and backbench MPs, plus occasionally councillors and various pressure groups. These groups of people cer-

tainly don't spring out at me as being representative of the public as a whole: in fact each job requires someone with a big mouth and a willingness to use it.

A perfect example of this is Westminster City Council's decision a few months ago to ban JG Ballard's 'Crash', a film depicting fantasies about car crash victims, from screens within its area. The British Board for Film Classification had already given it an 18 Certificate, but Westminster used its legal right to ban it anyway, preventing a large number of West End cinemas from showing it. I can be more precise about who made this decision - it was a bunch of councillors, most of whom admitted not having seen the film ("but that is not the point" said one councillor) and were taking a wonderful opportunity to get themselves onto news programmes and newspaper pages with long tirades against the tide of filth and their brave defence of decency.

When listening to their speeches, I couldn't help be reminded of how

similar it sounded to dictatorial governments defending their right to censor news reports and opposing views. Both arguments stated that the State had to act for the common good in defiance of certain members of the public. Of course the good councillors aren't despots, but their censoring of a film that they hadn't seen, based on their own opinions, which were not in the least representative of the public's is dangerous and bad.

It is perfectly possible for a film to be shown only on cinema, or for more cuts to be made in a video version of a particular film. Natural Born Killers, a film of similar ill-repute, was shown on cinema, with cuts, and its release on video has been suspended indefinitely. The BBFC is publicly accountable for its actions, and this is the best compromise we can have between decency and undue censorship.

The media are another part of the problem: they are always willing to exaggerate and fan the flames when something comes out on television.

In nearly every report on such programmes, you will find a quote by Mary Whitehouse. All they have really done is phoned her up, saying there's a new revolting programme out and what does she think about it? Their tendency to give column inches to the people mentioned above just biases the argument and creates a bigger news story out of it, since plenty of people are always ready to jump on the bandwagon and publicise themselves before an election.

In any democracy freedom of choice of the individual is of paramount importance, with the authorities giving adults suitable guidance and allowing them to see what they wish. Britain has some of the strictest codes on television and video ratings, and they are unlikely to change given the influence of the censorship lobby on these issues.

Councils should be wary of using powers of censorship - the opinions of a whinging few should not be assumed to be those of the public at large.

Win a Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus with the Felix Prize Crossword *by Cobra*

Across:

1. This stable is broken with men in power. (13)
10. Pilot passes test with nothing to pay. (5)
11. Boat propulsion system said to be Italian. (5)
12. Make knot in confetti ends. (3)
14. Defensive gun tower for lathe bits. (6)
16. Repair the queen's handyman. (6)
17. Broken fit shed is moved. (7)
18. Need to scratch in armpit channel. (4)
20. Two elements show favouritism. (4)
21. Being well off, can afford a French calf fee. (9)
22. See with Oriental affirmative. (4)
23. Bridge-player finishes wine cask with a song. (4)
24. Odd red ink right for beer swiller. (7)
26. Ham and rind less egg mayonnaise is initially a basketball player. (6)
28. Outfit of clothes for oil platform is not in. (3-3)
30. Take credit backwards to hit

with. (3)

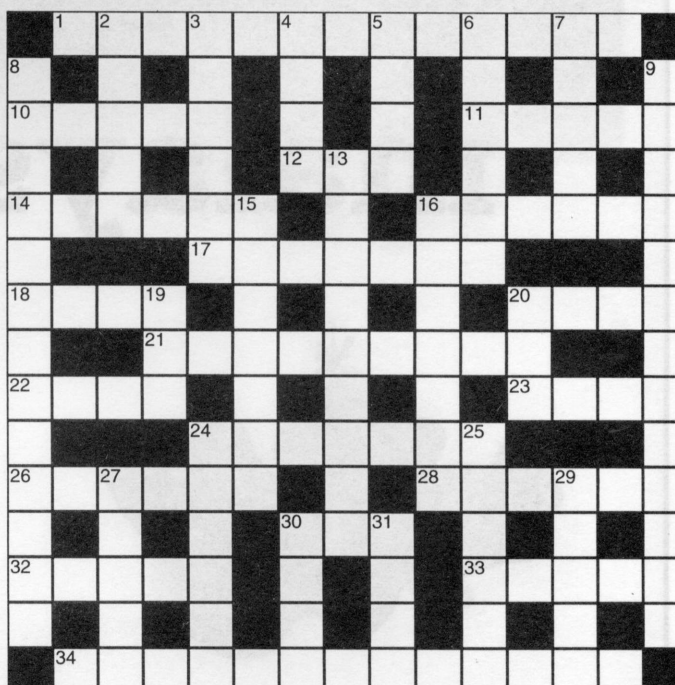
32. Young insect right in molten rock. (5)
33. Comic party. (5)
34. Religious male can sit backwards for tropical insect. (7,6)

Down:

2. Egyptian ambassador takes risk around winter sportsman. (5)
3. Use rag to clean up disputes. (6)
4. Composer losing sleep takes inventory. (4)
5. Bizarrely lose berry. (4)
6. Correct journalist is singled out. (6)
7. Wanderer is up hill. (5)
8. In hotel less riot over butterfly. (13)
9. Use protein tonics for looking inwards. (13)
13. Illness in fun line state. (9)
15. Film the company. (3,4)
16. Wander leisurely around, men read. (7)
19. He owns ash perhaps. (3)
20. Wager in drab ethnic bookmakers. (3)
24. Possibly decimal. (6)
25. Stupidly rob nib of pen for band

The winner of issue 1079's crossword competition was John Douglas of Maths II.

In our continuing series of crossword competitions, *Felix* in conjunction with Collins are adding a prize incentive to your Friday morning cerebral activity. On offer is a copy of a **Collins Gem Dictionary and Thesaurus** to the first correct entry out of the hat. Entries to the *Felix* Office by 2.00pm next Friday.



- of material. (6)
27. Steak is even less abundant. (5)
29. All right, a Greek letter can be an African animal! (5)
30. Vegetable can come in tube and packet. (4)
31. Public vehicle is not an American market. (4)

The weekly poem by PoetIC

THE FAINT SPICY SMELL OF YOUR FATHER'S CIGARS

By chance we met
Yesterday, after half a lifetime apart
And to my surprise
Deep love, long forgotten
Welled up, consuming me
And then, so clear in my memory
Was that faint spicy smell of your father's cigars

Do you remember how we met?
In the train compartment
Sitting in opposite corners
Faces not entirely unfamiliar
From our daily journeys home from school
I looking shyly into my window
Trying to decipher your intermittent reflection
Pretending not to notice that you were sketching me

And when we reached our destination
You followed me off the train, clutching your picture
Caught up with me, and awkwardly showed me your work
I was impressed by your courage
And when I inspected my portrait
I was strangely not embarrassed
By the dreadful regulation hat
And your several attempts at the snubby schoolgirl nose

And later when you took me out
Do you remember the slow walks home on dark Winter nights?
Along the muddy cinder track?
The wide black silence
The overgrown hedges with thistles and wet bramble leaves
The many halts when you would kiss me
And occasionally, the brief clattering of a lighted train
Passing through the cutting below?

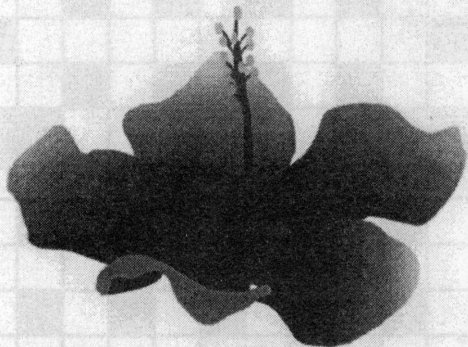
Do you remember
The night we saw the glow worm?
The brilliant sphere of glowing yellow light
Illuminating the blackness
It made you kiss me all the more
So secure, so certain

But as my cheek pressed against your shoulder
In a distant corner of my mind
I was waiting for something more
Uncertain, unsettling
Unknown, disturbing
And held there, tightly, against your coat
I was vaguely aware
Of that faint spicy smell of your father's cigars

If you would like to find out more about PoetIC contact Keith McNulty via
k.mculty@ic.ac.uk

Imperial College Malaysian Society presents

malaysian nite '97



Great Hall
8 March, 7.30pm

Tickets (£7 each) will be on sale on Monday to Wednesday (3,4,5th March) between 1-2pm at Ante Room

• FRESH HAIR SALON • the best student offer in london!



Call: 0171 823 8968

GET READY - GET FRESH!

CUT & BLOW DRY

BY OUR TOP STYLISTS

£14 LADIES

£12 MEN

Normal price £28!

**where to
find us!**

15A HARRINGTON ROAD,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON SW7 3ES

1 minute walk from

South Kensington Tube Station!!



Access, Visa, Mastercard, Cash, Cheques

LETTERS TO FELIX

POG are innocent?

Dear Felix,

POG, or Pretensions of Grandeur, stole the show at last Friday's band night. The support band attracted crowds in excess of 250 people, far more than the headline band Resident Waste.

The gig was marred, however, by an unfortunate incident with Mark Horne, Union Ents manager.

Andy Haynes, POG's singer, produced a tobacco cigarette shaped like a joint as a stage gag for one of the bands own songs, Hallucinogenic Haze. After lighting the alleged spliff he handed it down to the crowd. Commendably, Union stewards acted promptly and detained those who were smoking the fake reefer. However, once convinced it was only tobacco they let them go.

Mr Haynes acted swiftly to calm the situation, announcing the incident as a stage prank. After the gig though, Mr Horne banned POG from playing at Union events ever again.

Most are aware of the Union's drug policies, and the Stewards should be congratulated for their quick response and for their decision to let the situation pass, but is it right for POG to be punished for a stunt so trivial as this? After all Mr Horne has condoned comedians on Union comedy nights who not only joke about all types of drugs, but hand out free samples of legal hallucinogens.

Is it right for the Union to judge an obviously thriving culture, or should the world be more aware that it exists?

Adam Foster, President & CEO of SPOGA (Society for POG Awareness).

Disgusting husting

Dear Alex,

I am writing to express my severe disappointment at the performance of the candidates for ICU President shown at hustings this [Tuesday] evening. Having been one of the few people interested enough to attend I was offended at the lack of respect the candidates appear to have for Imperial College Union and those members who take an active role in the organisation of Union events.

Those of us who are heavily involved in Clubs and Societies realise how much influence the Union has on our ability to run our events. With the huge pressure on space in the Union building I find suggestions to turn the space due to be gained after Biology leave Beit Quad into either a brothel or a

playpen highly offensive. It is difficult enough to convince College to take our space problems seriously, what hope is there for us when presidential candidates don't take it seriously?

I was disgusted and outraged by the performance this evening and find it insulting that the candidates do not believe that they need to outline any ideas or answer any of the substantial questions regarding the future direction of the Union. Can either of the candidates possibly believe that those students who put long hours into their societies, and therefore the Union, would place it's future in their hands?

Disgusted of Opsoc,

Laurie Tweedale

Victoria Swerling.

Dodgy posters

Dear Felix,

Now I'm confused....I read the letter about Friday night names at the Union, and racked my brains about any lewdness or cheap innuendo & drew a blank. And lo & behold.. I found some of the posters that could be considered a bit dodgy .. & I'd just like to point out none of them are official Union posters - the big giveaway is there's no Union logo.

The Union does operate a policy of not producing publicity that may offend, and we would be very interested to hear of any posters that do cause any of our members offence.

Cheers

Mark Horne

Events & Marketing Manager.

The Referee's a

Dear Referee,

Due to your unforeseen adhesion to your boyfriend, we, the players of the IC 2nd XV, have been forced to concede the match to a team of limited and often negligible ability.

We thoroughly believe you should be hung, drawn and quartered.

If, and only if, this is done, we will be happy and believe our destiny will be fulfilled.

Yours,

ICRFC 2nd XV

(The letter is signed by the captain, J Harrison, and the other fifteen members of the squad.)

Letters may be edited for length.

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

Deadline for letters in Felix 1082 is Tuesday 4th March.

Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

WHAT DO YOU SAY AFTER YOU SAY HELLO? Communicating with others group

University life can be fun and stimulating, but many students find it tricky and lonely. Often students feel a sense of isolation - perhaps this is the first experience of living away from home. Making and keeping new friends can present a challenge.

This support group will consist of 6 - 8 students and will take place on 9 consecutive Thursdays between 5.30 and 7.00pm, beginning Thursday 24th April, with a brief initial interview for prospective participants on Monday 10th or Monday 17th March. The group will take place at Imperial College Health Centre and will be facilitated by David Allman who is a counsellor there. Participants will be expected to agree to a confidentiality contract. To arrange an initial interview, contact Liliane Carter at the Health Centre on extension 49381.

THE LEVERHULME TRUST

Grant Applications Compiler / Receptionist

Graduating Students looking for a short-term appointment may wish to apply

The Trust have a vacancy for someone to join their team dealing with applications for academic grants. The fixed-term contract would be for a maximum of 10 months with a four day week starting 26th August. Salary is set about £13,500 pa, *pro rata*. Applicants should have excellent English skills and typing skills of 60 wpm. Knowledge of Word 7 is highly desirable.

Would suit someone with office experience graduating this year. Hand-written applications with cv by 15th April to Ms S Herd, The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NR.

Cycle Coding

Anyone who cycles into Colleges cannot be unaware of the very real danger of having their bike stolen. To attempt to combat these thefts, the local Police have organised free cycle coding sessions.

Don't leave it until the last minute - get your cycle coded

Wednesday 5th March, 10-6

Thursday 6th March, 12 - 8

Postgraduate Scholarships and Awards

Closing dates are approaching for various awards for Postgraduate study at IC. However, they are limited in number and are applicable to specific courses and nationalities. For more details see Departmental notice boards or the Postgraduate prospectus.

Application forms from the Scholarships Office, Room 314, Sherfield Building

Exam Stress Workshops

Wednesday 5th March and Wednesday 12th March 1997, 3 - 4.30pm in the Health Centre

To take full advantage you are advised to attend both free workshops, which will be led by Psychotherapist Claudio Calvi. For bookings, ring Liliane Carter on (59)49381

After this week's hustings, confidence in the candidates for certain positions is not high. Would the real candidate please step forward.

Felix is 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, HAMISH AND MARIA; ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS; PUZZLES: DUNCAN; GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT: DAVID AND MARK; WEB EDITOR: LEON; PHOTOGRAPHY: LING AND ROBIN; SPORT: SIMON AND MO; COLLATING LAST ISSUE: DAVID AND MR COOPER, CHEERS!

Skiers have a (snow) ball

On Saturday evening, two football fans (Nick and Gilles) joined three other eager skiers (Cait, Ruffina and Dan) after the Man Utd-Chelsea game for a race at Hillingdon ski centre. This was the final stage of the Huskis race series, and the evening started with individual racing.

Gilles (Ginardelli's fellow countryman) had a quiet start as it was his first race since his accident. An excellent second run placed him tenth in his age group.

After a storming first run provisionally placed her first in her group, Ruffina had a bit of bad luck in the second and fell due to going into her inside edge. This also scuppered her chances of a high placing in the individual tables.

This wasn't to be the last of our bad luck. Cait, our star racer and favourite in the overall girls event, clipped a gate in her first run, spinning her through 180 degrees and destroying her chances. She however proved she was the best in her second run as she finished it in 13.49 secs,

some 0.55 ahead of the next competitor. Nick finished two good runs with a total time of 29.04, putting him second in his age group and ninth overall. Finally Dan had a good run with two of his best runs this season - his aggregate time of 29.26 placing him third in his group and fifth overall.

These results put IC in second place, behind Holloway. In the final event of the day, our true potential finally showed by winning the dual team slalom. Even though we had a tough draw we beat Holloway in the quarter-finals, leaving us Hillingdon in the semis. With a bit of luck and good planning we pressured one of their racers to miss a gate and qualified for the final.

In the final we triumphed gloriously due to the collective effort of the team, with some outstanding starting and racing by Gilles and from Cait who withstood the pressure of having the second best racer of the day on her tail.

The only thing left to say is that we truly kicked some butt!

Dream win for Arabian knights

By Saiful Alam

The long awaited OSC 5-a-side football tournament finally took place on Sunday 16th February. The event was sponsored by Sport and Leisure (aka - IC Sports Centre).

Only eight societies turned up with squads on the day, but the favourites were all there. Some of the others blamed the weekends' 'open-houses', parties and fiestas for their players' absences.

Two groups of four teams were drawn, and the top two from each were allowed to go on to play for the honours. The four others were fighting it out for pride.

Although there was some tension during the games - there were no major outbursts, as anticipated by the organisers. In general, the games

were played in good spirit.

It was a 'funny old tournament'. The Bangladeshi All Stars beat the Turkish Delights in the third place play-off even though the Turks thrashed the Bangladeshis in the qualifiers. Similarly, the High-flying Hellenics were unbeaten all day, but they were outplayed by the Arabian Knights when it mattered most - in the finals.

On behalf of the OSC I would like to thank Sport and Leisure for their support, Alex Neilsen for organising the event, and all the participants who made this event a success. There are plans for this making this tournament an annual event from here on. Finally, congratulations to the Arabic Society team - "maashaallah".

BUSA de-booster for fourths

A defeat in BUSA spells the end of a glorious run, but the fourths need to pick themselves up from this defeat and concentrate on the league.

It all went pear-shaped in the first few minutes when our keeper misjudged a routine shot, and then another defensive mistake put IC two down after only ten minutes.

In truth there was no way back from here against a strong Anglian side, but brave, or in hindsight foolish, substitutions gave IC a sniff. In

the second half we got it back to 2-1 and then 3-2, with the supremely gifted Morgan expertly finishing from a Nak pass, and a brilliant solo goal from Pete.

Pushing men forward in the final minutes and defensive errors meant that UEA secured the win. We were by no means disgraced, but if the mistakes by the captain and keeper had been cut-out it could have been oh so different.

ICFC IV 4 - 2 UEA IV

Rugby ref ruck-up

Well, we have some good news and some bad news. Good news - we won. Bad news - we lost! The referee! Where was he? This lack of an official referee resulted in us forfeiting the game and so we have now been knocked out of BUSA. True to the spirit of IC rugby we played anyway and the 32-12 scoreline in our favour was not enough to secure an official victory. All our efforts, and those of star full-back Chris went to waste. The bastard referee.

Uncontested scrums obviously worked in our favour as the more powerful forwards dominated in rucks and mauls and the backs ran rings round their opposite numbers. Peachy's passing simply defied logic (Julian "captain concrete" Harrison) again. Manny mulled, Peachy prattled on and Rob rampaged. Matt's play was much improved after his redemption at Church (or was it in the toilet?), but his second row compatriote James Weekes, well, need we say more [actually it would have helped! Sp. Ed.s]. Grandad Bryce

was as reliable as ever in his turbo-charged zimmer frame and Nippy finally "scored". Charlie "Snake Hips he prefers, Arse-bandit we prefer" had a close shave, but "Chat the cat" showed the Austin Healey in him (i.e. an old knackered car) whilst Keith, the 22 year old standoff-half that he is, worried about his grey hairs. Dave turned up - cheers. Kolone showed his "eau de" with serious runs and big pants. Yomi demonstrated his specialist scrum-half abilities. Bollocks! He tells me that he scored a try but it was slightly dubious. Nim "No Stud(s)" failed utterly in his attempts to get on the pitch because Manny and I [Rob "Fluffy, shaving foam on his head"] were just too good (well, fat). "Thanks" go to Trefor for very quiet support. Mo says Jasper is "well-fit."

All in all we had a great season, but finally I feel that I must sum up. Give us a C; give us a U; give us an N; give us a T. And what have you got ... the referee.

Wind-sock win shock for firsts

For once, IC first footballers arrived on time, and with a full team. After UCL's last pasting by us we expected them not to show, only to be disappointed when they turned up an hour late. Conditions left a lot to be desired with winds of at least one hundred km/h but IC played solidly in defence with some crunching fouls from Psycho. It was nil-nil at half time, when we were delighted to see our short strider/defender/keeper/boxer in the lovely red jacket, Tony.

This put the fear of God into UCL, forcing them to score a superb own goal. This was followed by a shotgun right foot from Dave, making up for his earlier one-on-one cock-up with the notorious UCL keeper. In remarkable conditions (Dicks playing, Jules and Tony on the pitch at full time, Chris Parsons in one piece and flashbacks of the '87 storms). So, another win for the firsts - no thanks to Donal who was shit.

ICFC I 2 - 0 UCL I

Fourths seconds away from blowing seconds away

With a free date in their busy schedule, IC II kindly agreed to play us, the fourths, in a friendly. The match was delayed while the less proud members of the fourths clamoured to get their autographs. When it got underway, it was clear that it was going to be the proverbial game of two halves, since the wind was so strong. Goal kicks barely reached the half-way line against the wind and with it reached the other penalty box.

But it was not so; after winning the toss the underdog fourths raced into a deserved three-nil half-time lead. Morgan scored with a "f*cking glorious" opening goal, again with a classy finish and completed his hat-trick on the stroke of half-time.

The story read quite differently

after the restart, with the seconds showing a bit of the class that we had done well to stifle this long. We held out until fifteen minutes before the end when a clever short corner totally outwitted our defence and their captain planted a glorious header in the back of our net. Minutes later our 'keeper was to blame - a punt upfield landed in the box and bounced right over the advancing Stu and into the net. As the end of the match drew nearer the seconds became more and more desperate as they looked to be completely humbled. It was not to be, though, as in the dying seconds their little striker nipped in to head in the equaliser. In the end the wind was the winner, Brian.

ICFC II 3 - 3 ICFC IV

THE LATEST SCORE

From *Felix's* sports pundit Dave Robinson.

Most of the teams involved in the Formula 1 World Championship must have been wetting themselves with expectation. The Williams team which had completely dominated the 1996 season was in turmoil. With Frank Williams, Patrick Head (Technical Director) and Adrian Newey (Designer) on a charge of the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the team were due to be distracted from the track. Added to this Adrian Newey began legal processes to extract himself from his contract allowing him to join McLaren, and the other half of the marriage that was Williams - Renault threatened to withdraw their supply of engines over the virtual sacking of World Champion Damon Hill.

Then a few weeks ago in William's new car, Jacques Villeneuve drove within one tenth of times set by teams that had been testing for a week. Williams with a new agreement with Renault began to look invincible as the new partnership of Villeneuve and Frenzen began to set blistering times for the rest of the week. More surprises were in store - everyone expected Schumacher to prevent the most substantial challenge to Villeneuve, however both the German and his team mate Eddie Irvine have struggled desperately to keep up with Coulthard's silver McLaren and Berger's new Benetton.

Usually the remaining teams have a set order with Jordan and Ligier making up the remaining places on the grid followed by a number of teams that never score any points. For the first time in years a thrilling season promises when the competition stretches beyond the top two teams. Damon Hill is determined to remain competitive, and Olivier Panis could yet win more races in an improved Ligier owned by Alain Prost. There are also a couple of new boys, Jackie Stewart's new tartan team with Rubens Barrichello still remain an unknown quantity but are

likely to provide a few surprises.

Somethings however will not change, just as the marshals thought the gravel traps were looking tops, Pedro Diniz and Ukyo Katayama in nice new cars will still be there destroy all that raking and write off a couple of hundred thousand pounds worth of car each race.

In the floodlit one day series down under, England and New Zealand are doing something strange. The cricket played is exciting crowds to riotous proportions. The stadiums are full of fans who are being entertained and the players seem to enjoy the game more. I'm not suggesting reducing tests in favour of one days, but given the empty stadiums and lack of interest in last summer's efforts, something has to improve. Surely an evening game at a floodlit Lord's with flashy kits and signature tunes would bring in the crowds against the Aussies. They could even play the national anthems and televise it to whip up a bit of nationalism.

On Tuesday evening New Zealand set a moderate target for England, Atherton and Knight then hit 50 of four and a half overs before all rounder Chris Harris took the hat trick of Atherton, Stewart and Hussain with three identical balls. England's erratic but exciting brand of kamikaze cricket then regained it's grasp with Thorpe knocking 60 quickly, there were run outs, dropped catches and skewed shots. As wickets tumbled Cork and Gough were left with two to score from the final ball, Gough missed with his attempt to put the ball into orbit but Cork was sprinting down the wicket only slightly slower than the ball and got the single to earn a draw. If England continue to perform then the second half of the winter will have been a commercial success, what remains to be seen is if this can be carried onto the pitch as Atherton attempts to take the Ashes for the first time I remember.

RSM hockey babes score

We've scored a goal (courtesy of Sarah). Finally. About bloody time. And they were second division and we're only third.

With the determined defending from Piv, the endless effort from Alex and Ros, the strong reliability of Squid and Estella, the astounding vocal support from Emma (she's

pretty good in goal too), and the co-operative work of Natalie, Akari, Selina and Sarah in attack - we deserved to score [And on the pitch? -Sports Eds].

I know everyone says that we're crap. But we're not. We're pretty damn good, actually. And we're getting better...

Gunners (nearly) shoot to the top in BUPC

Anyone awake on the morning of Saturday February the twenty-second would be forgiven for thinking that they had walked onto the set of "Night of the living dead." A group of pale, dishevelled creatures staggered, as if in a trance, descended on the sports centre. In fact this was merely members of the IC pistol squad trying to make the seven O'Clock start time for the British University Pistol Championships.

The IC rifle and pistol club was there this year and had high hopes to place well. Captain Rickee delivered us to Bisley just in time to begin the morning's shooting of small bore target pistol. We fell immediately behind, but were no demoralised as .22 is for girls anyway.

The afternoon saw some superb shooting of full bore revolvers by all teams involved. After a day dogged

by jamming guns and other technical problems, it was a credit to IC that all three teams still managed to finish in second place, yet again hammering our arch-rivals Cambridge (we're not afraid of them. Grrrrrrrrrr).

After this sterling performance and the night's revelries that followed, one would have thought that a Sunday lie in was in order. Instead, however, we all congregated in Hyde park (along with about twenty-five thousand others) for a sportsman's association march and rally to protest against the new gun legislation.

This was thoroughly groovy happening, only slightly marred by the extreme ugliness of the Oxford pistol team, the winners of the BUPC.

The next event in our calendar is the Courtman Shield on Saturday March the eighth. This is an intercollegiate rifle competition.



Shooters go on the pull

A dozen shooters went to Hawley in Kent to try their hands at clay pigeon shooting. After a brief introduction, the motley crew settled down to a twenty-five bird sporting layout (for the uninitiated: bird = clay pigeon; sporting layout = one way of positioning the clay pigeon launchers and timing of the "birds" being flung up in the air) followed by some skeet shooting (= another way of positioning the launchers - this time they come from the left and right simultaneously). The guns were as assorted as the shooters, ranging from a Russian hammer gun bought in a pub for £50 to Lawrence's £20 000 Purdey purchased for him at birth by his father. The scores were variable but the best of the day was by David the Hairdresser (special rates for students) closely followed by David

Childs, to a rather low score from Stavros.

Marcos Dakalakalakalakalakas suffered injuries to his trigger finger when he fell out of his pram while crying about French culture. Tea was taken in Dartford followed by beer in Southside where everyone was impressed by Lee's impression of a second-hand beer dispensing machine in an impromptu game of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" involving tomfoolery with belisha beacons.

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 make a note in your diary. 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.

FELIX SPORT

National triumph for pot-heads

After a good run of recent wins Imperial College Union's Snooker team set off for the BUSA Nationals in Warwick with high hopes. In the first day's singles tournament Alex, Jon and Vay all reached the last sixteen, but back problems forced Alex to pull out and posed a worry for the team event.. Vay narrowly lost his match, but Jon kept Imperial's flag

cruised through their first group stage; winning against Trinity College Carmarthen (8 - 0), Hull (7 - 1) and Southampton (7 - 1). In the next phase they again found the going easy with wins over Hull (7-1, again) and highly fancied UEA (6 - 2). By the next day Alex had recovered sufficiently to win a vital match to beat hosts Warwick 6 - 3 in the



flying with two more wins before losing in the semi-final to the eventual champion from UEA. In the B-team singles competition, Phil and Asif both progressed to the last sixteen, at which point Phil beat Asif, and with two further wins reached the final. Some fine all-round play from Phil Davies overwhelmed his Warwick opponent to be crowned National Champion.

In the B-team event, wins over Bristol (7 - 3) and Southampton (6 - 4) were not quite enough after a loss against Queen's Belfast (2 - 8) to allow IC to progress to the last four, cutting short a promising campaign for the team of Phil Davies, Russel Towers, Tim Dann, Kevin Camadoo and Asif Kassam. For the A-team the loss of Alex for the first day's competition was overcome as they

quarter-final. Next, Queen's provided a sterner test, but 2 - 0 wins by Simon and Vay and a final frame win by Alex put Imperial into their first ever final. Here, against Bristol they began well with a win by Vay over their No.1 and a 2 - 0 win by Simon. This left Imperial almost home and needing one more match for victory. This turned into a race between Spike and Jon to be first to win their match, with Jon eventually pipping Spike to clinch the title for Imperial. Thus, Imperial's A-team of Simon Baugh, Alex Robinson, Jon Fulcher, Vay Ly and Spike Milligan were crowned National Team Champions for the first time. The A-team win, combined with Phil's B-team singles triumph made Imperial the most successful University team at the Championships.

Fluffy fledglings fly far

Last weekend the IC Novice Squad raced at the Hammersmith Double Header. The course was from Chiswick to Hammersmith, and despite some rough and windy conditions all our crews performed very well. The men's novice A crew won their category by a minute and a half and obtained an impressive second

place overall. This was backed up by the men's B crew who came second in their category, and seventh in the whole race. The women's novice eight also raced and won their category, beating a Thames Tradesman crew and finishing fifteenth overall. A very impressive set of results for the novices.

Runners and riders rule relay

In an unprecedented amalgamation of the cross-country and cycling clubs, Gaffer (Demetrius) and Tazman (Tarik) took part in the infamous Evans Ghoulie Grind duathlon on Sunday. Waking up at five in the morning and forsaking their usual fine, hale and hearty breakfasts, the two athletes headed for Guildford in their souped-up yellow Fiesta, finding their way to the race by means of tailing a car with bikes on the back of it.

When the race began, Gaffer shot off to an early start, going on to tackle the three mile cross-country run

and only lost a few places. With an almost instantaneous change-over, Tazman hurtled down the first decent of the twelve and a half mile bike ride. However, soon the going got tough with the 1:7 climbs which give the race its name. After a storming and lung-busting ride, it was Gaffer's turn again to run the remaining two and a half miles of this gut-wrenching event. After a well deserved breakfast, the results came through and positioned the "IC Crew" as the 2nd relay team. With this encouraging performance the team aim to take the event by the balls next year.

Hull of a bad time for rugby lads

After a marathon five hour journey we reached Hull, which put the team off, except maybe Alasdair who found the Humber Bridge "exciting." After 45 minutes of traipsing through the most dismal town in the North, we eventually found the pitch thanks to Tom's unerring direction sense. The pitch was as muddy and undulating as the rest of Humberside.

From the kick-off our forwards showed their power and we camped in their territory until half-time, by which point we were leading 8 - 5 thanks to a try from Alasdair and a penalty from Paul. We were unlucky not to be further ahead, with a try disallowed.

After finding that Northerners could not afford oranges or water at

half-time [Oi watch it, Sports Ed.], we turned around to face what had suddenly become a very strong headwind. Disheartened that even the elements were against us, we started to lose our poise. Humberside took advantage and not even our strong running could save the match, denying us a place in the quarter-finals.

Retiring to the changing rooms (which incidentally were unlit), we were intrigued by the fact that in Hull, the women's rugby team use the men's showers. Unimpressed with the Hull RFC facilities we rejoined our storming coach drivers for the journey back to the Union. We apologise to Capital Coaches for what Gudmund did to the toilet.

ICRFC III vs Humberside RFC III

RESULTS

MEN'S FOOTBALL

IC I 2 - 0 LSE I

IC IV 6 - 1 UMDS II

IC IV 4 - 2 LSE V

IC V 5 - 0 BIRBECK (walkover)

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

IC II 2 - 2

MEN'S HOCKEY

IC I 0 - 3 QMW I

IC III 1 - 3 Royal Holloway

RSM VS CAMBOURNE SM

Football 2 - 0

Men's Hockey 1-1

Women's hockey 0 - 3

Rugby 18 - 5

Squash 2 - 3

Full report next week...