

2
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1998

FLUX

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Issue
1120

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

London Transport Announces Student Discount

Ali Campbell

A major breakthrough has been made which will benefit many London-based students, as London Transport announces substantial student discounts on tube and bus services.

The new Student Photocard, which was officially launched on 21 September, allows full-time students between the ages of 18 and 24 attending any London school or college a 30 percent discount on period Bus Passes and LT Travelcards valid for one month or more.

This announcement comes after years of lobbying by the NUS (National Union of Students), ULU (University of London Union) and other College unions across the capital, and follows a trial of the 'card at Queen Mary and Westfield

College in 1996. Matt Hyde, President of ULU, commented: "We're pretty pleased... it's obviously a major breakthrough,"

before adding: "It's a bit of a coup to have a student campaign bear fruit."

According to Mr. Hyde, London Transport had proved reluctant to proceed with the new discount after the pilot scheme, and there followed consultations with many individuals and

organisations, including candidates for the post of Mayor of London. He explained that attempts had been made as far back as the early 1980s to negotiate a deal of this nature, describing the bureaucratic process as "... like changing the direction of a big ship."

He also voiced his disappointment that the deal has not been made available to mature students: "I am vociferously opposed to the 18-24 age limit... there is still work to do on the

mature students' side."

The provision of this card is also welcome news for ULU itself, as some have felt that the services provided to its members do not justify the £91 000 per year membership fee. The ULU President, when presented with this question, suggested that ULU's success in this matter should be interpreted as an indication of good things to come. David Hellard, President of ICU, confessed that "...it shows what can be achieved if ULU is fully exploited." He also outlined his concern about the age restrictions imposed by London Transport, drawing attention to a "potential massive loss", but hopes that the agreement might be re-evaluated in the future.

In the meantime, application forms are available for the new card in the Imperial College Union Office.



The new card, and ULU President Matt Hyde, who helped negotiate the deal with London Transport

The Summer of Discontent?

Resignations over the summer holidays have caused difficulties for student organisations throughout Imperial, leaving ICU, two Constituent College Unions (CCUs) and RAG without vital committee members.

Adam Cherrington, who was elected as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) last Spring, has been forced to resign after failing his Biology second year exams. The news was announced early in the summer, leaving ICU without a key sabbatical officer during freshers' week for the second year running.

Meanwhile both Katy Nolan (RCSU President) and Hamish Common (C&GU President) have also stepped down for academic reasons. Miss Nolan made the decision after changing from a four year to a three year course, while Mr Common failed his second year earlier this month. In a worrying development for

RAG, which organises several events during the Autumn term, Rob Park (RAG Chair) has left Imperial, and is believed to have started a new course at QMW. Dave Wharton, who stepped down as Deputy President (Finance & Services) Elect last term, has also been forced to leave the college, and is now studying at University College.

Thus once again the first term will be taken up with a round of elections. Students interested in standing for either CCU Presidency should contact the CCU office concerned. Dave Hellard, ICU President, has set the timetable for electing a new DP(C&S): Nomination papers will go up on Monday 12 October, hustings will take place between Monday 2 and Wednesday 4 November, with voting in all departments on Monday 9 and

Continued on page 2

Fifth Sabbatical for ICU

ICU is to have a fifth sabbatical officer, starting in the academic year 1999 - 2000. The new officer's self-explanatory title will be Deputy President (Education & Welfare). The decision brings ICU in line with other London colleges, many of whom already have sabbatical officers concerned with welfare.

The decision was announced by Imperial's Governing Body after a meeting in July. ICU has been trying for some time to get approval for the fifth sabbatical: Dave Hellard, ICU President, explained that it "took a lot of justification... but was vital". He was quick to praise his predecessor, Andy Heeps, who was responsible for much of the negotiation on college committees; "we take our hats off to Andy". Elections for the post will be held along with the other sabbatical elections in the Spring term.

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Beware Meningitis

Meningitis epidemics have struck a number of universities over the last few years. Dr. Irene Weinreb, of Imperial College Health Centre, outlines the possible risks facing IC students

That start of the academic year is a time that heralds a range of emotions for the university community. Unfortunately it also heralds one of the optimum times for outbreaks of meningitis.

Meningitis means inflammation of the meninges, the outer linings of the brain and spinal cord. This inflammation is usually caused by infection: Both bacteria and viruses can cause meningitis, but it is the bacteria which are more deadly. Unfortunately in the early stages of the disease it is not easy to distinguish which of the two is the causal agent.

Early symptoms mimic flu or a hang-over and may progress to severe headaches, vomiting, a very high temperature, a dislike of bright lights, neck stiffness, joint pains, drowsiness and confusion. Bacterial meningitis is characterised by the appearance of a distinctive

rash that does not fade on pressure. This may initially resemble small pin-pricks before progressing to larger areas of 'bruising'. The 'tumbler test' is useful in observing this symptom; if a glass is firmly pressed against the affected skin, and the rash is still visible through the glass, medical help must be sought immediately. Anyone concerned about themselves or their friends should contact IC's Health Centre or their own GP - look out for your mate.

The fatalities at other universities in previous years have been caused by a complication called Meningococcal Septicaemia, a disease 15 to 19 year olds are particularly at risk from. The peak time of year for occurrences is at the beginning of the winter.

Transmission of bacterial meningitis requires close physical contact, as the

bacteria cannot survive outside the body for very long. In most people the bacteria will not invade the blood stream and little disease develops, but in a small fraction of cases invasive disease will follow after infection.

Every student in Imperial College halls of residence, except Claypods, has received a leaflet on meningitis in their medical registration pack. On each noticeboard in each hall bedroom is a 'credit card' sized description of the symptoms. Be aware. Be vigilant. Look out for your friends.

IC Health Centre, Prince's
Gardens x49375



Issue 1120

2 October 1998

Editor: Ed Sexton

Assistant Editor: Ali Campbell

Music Editor: Jason Ramanathan
News: Ali Campbell & Ed Sexton

Games Editor: Mark Baker

Thanks goes to Phil Rowland, Ali Campbell, Mark Baker and Iain McNaught - without you this issue wouldn't have happened.

Usually this space would have the names of all the sub-editors involved with Felix, but we are missing Arts, Features and Sports editors, to name a few. Interested? You know where to come.

The House that Schal Built

Once again summer brought out the builders, as construction sites sprung up around college. Unsurprisingly many of the building projects are taking longer than anticipated, but it looks like most of the essential work will be finished by the first Monday of term. The new Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Building will open at the start of term, although exactly what state of readiness it will be in remains unclear. Rumours of dark rooms constructed next to windows, ceilings built too low for electron microscopes and suchlike have been circulating for much of the summer. The real test will come in the next week, when teaching begins in the new building: hopefully the paint in the lecture theatres will be dry by then.

The Junior Common Room (JCR) will also open in time for registration on Monday, as will the snack bar QTs. ICU's part of the new JCR, however, will not be ready for another two weeks. At the time Felix went to press the exact cause of the delay was unknown, but we are sure that it is merely coincidence that the only part of the JCR incomplete is the Union's... watch this space.

On a happier note the renovation

and extension of dB's, ICU's main entertainment venue, will be ready for the events of freshers' week. The project has been behind schedule, increasing pressure on the Ents staff who have been waiting for the builders to leave. Mark Horne, Ents and Marketing Manager, doggedly commented "we'll be up and running whatever". The freshers' ball and carnival are also to be blessed by a mention on Zoe Ball's Radio 1 breakfast show, so make sure you tune in next Monday and Friday.

5th Sabb

Continued from front page

Tuesday 10 November. This election will be the first since the arrival of medical students at the South Kensington campus, which could affect the legendary 'block vote' attributed to the medical campuses in previous years. Anyone interested in standing for the sabbatical position should talk to Dave Hellard or Chris Ince, DP(F&S).

IC Cricketers Stump Royal Holloway

The farcical challenge by Royal Holloway to Imperial's victory in the University of London League Cricket Cup has finally been settled in Imperial's favour at a ULU committee meeting. The original dispute centred around one of Imperial's players, Imran Khan, who was in the first team. Mr Khan is a medical student, which led to Royal Holloway complaining that he was not eligible to play for Imperial College teams, as Imperial College School of Medicine was not recognised as part of Imperial College by ULU until this term (see Felix 1119).

The issue was laid to rest when Charlie Joynt, then Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), produced Mr Khan's IC swipe card at the meeting. This was enough to persuade those present that Imperial had not broken ULU regulations and should be allowed to keep the cup. Ironically the first team beat Royal Holloway by four wickets, while Mr Khan scored just one run, making the debate seem somewhat academic. Let's hope Imperial's cricketers can repeat that performance in this year's competition.

Inside the Freshers' Guide

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In brief...

Britons Abroad

What do a marijuana leaf, chilli-fried worms, petrified moose droppings and a blade of grass from Ramsey Street all have in common? According to a recent survey these are some of the more unusual souvenirs that globe-trotting students will be bringing home as a reminder of their summer abroad.

Some of the more bizarre souvenirs included a dried llama foetus from Peru, bullet casings and grenade outers from a volcano in Rwanda and a camel dung ashtray.

The survey, conducted by Visa International and STA Travel, revealed some remarkable facts about how British backpackers spend their money: Backpackers biggest worries were losing money, luggage or their passport, with very few being concerned with local customs, etiquette or language barriers.

Holsten Bier Fest

It has been confirmed that the annual Holsten Bier Fest will again take place in Battersea Park later this month. The Bier Fest aims to recreate the atmosphere of an authentic German Oktoberfest, with two pint steins, German food and tribute bands.

Music at the Bier Fest will include 'The Real Abba Gold', 'The Cheeky Monkees' and 'The Sound of the Bee Gees'. Forty thousand people are expected to attend this year's event, consuming more than a quarter of a million pints of Holsten Export.

The Bier Fest runs from 12 October to 1 November. Tickets cost from £3 to £7 and can be booked by phoning 0171 344 0044.

MCC Admits Women

Marylebone Cricket Club, one of the most influential forces in world cricket, has finally voted to accept female members, after a 211-year binge of male exclusivity.

The announcement was made this week, following a 69 percent majority 'yes' vote amongst the MCC's members. As well as providing sexual equality, this move also allows MCC access to much-needed National Lottery grants, which were previously unavailable.

£4.5 million will be made available to the club, a sum which was withheld

by the Sports Council on the grounds that MCC did not accept men and women on the same terms.

Despite an eighteen-year waiting list, the MCC are confident that there will be female members by the turn of the millennium.

Medics Have a Ball

Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School Students' Union (CXWMSU) appear to have been somewhat careless in the organisation of their summer ball at the end of last term. According to one source the event made a loss of more than £40,000, although the exact figure could not be confirmed as Felix went to print. Dave Hellard, ICU President, explained that the matter was under investigation but could not comment further. A more detailed report will appear in Felix in the next few weeks.

Russel Group Again

The Russel group, an association of leading research-led universities of which Imperial is a member, has unveiled plans for a scheme by which postgraduate students on Masters courses would be able to transfer their studies without hindrance between establishments adjudged to be of a comparable standard. The system might lead to a 'gold standard' post-graduate qualification. The move has been attacked as elitist snobbish by universities excluded from the plans. A vice-chancellor of a university in the Russel group said 'What the group is seeking to move towards is a general acceptance that a credit achieved at one university automatically entitles a student to move to another university'. Sceptics fear it will be a step in the wrong direction, re-establishing a divide between established universities and former polytechnics at a time when integration and common ground is being sought.

Oxford Union President Expelled

Ali Campbell

The president of Oxford University's students union has been expelled from her studies, following allegations that she cheated in an examination, according to an article in the Times newspaper.

The piece, which appeared in the 9th September edition of the publication, details an investigation into the conduct of Katherine Rainwood, 22, who is said to have used "unfair means" in her final year examinations.

Rainwood was reading politics, philosophy and economics at St. Hilda's College, and was allowed to sit the examination in a separate room from other finalists, due to her claim that she was suffering from a wrist injury.

The protagonist was provided with

supervision for the exam, and allowed to type answers into her own personal computer. The suspicion of the authorities was aroused when the president allegedly downloaded and submitted an essay she had composed previously.

The ex-president began her studies at St. Hilda's reading chemistry, but subsequently changed her course at the end of the first year. She was involved initially with the Oxford Union debating society, but quickly became interested in the Union proper, and rose to be elected as its president in June. She resigned two days later, telling friends that her decision to quit was based on "personal reasons".

Miss Rainwood is said to be appealing against the decision.

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Hurricane Georges

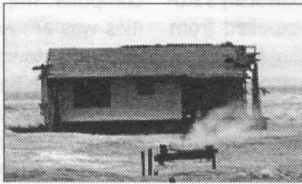
Hurricane Georges has continued to devastate southern parts of the United States of America, prompting President Clinton to declare them disaster areas.

by Ali Campbell

The winds, gusting at speeds of almost 170 miles per hour, have caused severe damage in Florida, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. The President's decision to announce a state of emergency makes government funds available to finance badly-hit areas of these states.

Although the hurricane has now been downgraded to "tropical storm" status, it has already caused massive damage and loss of life in regions of the Caribbean, killing an estimated minimum of 300 people. Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been seriously affected, where 90 percent of crops, including banana plantations, have been destroyed. Other areas ravaged by the wind and torrential rain include Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Georges is merely one of a number of hurricanes currently whirling across the Atlantic Ocean, but seems likely to be the most dangerous. The three other tropical weather systems - Jeanne, Ivan and Karl - are believed to be weakening



as they approach civilisation.

As well as the fatalities and financial damage left behind in the wake of such hurricanes, there exists growing scientific evidence suggesting that these storms may contribute to global warming. One theory states that the winds transfer carbon dioxide from the oceans into the atmosphere, although the annual quantity of gas released in this way is a mere one-twelfth that introduced by humans.

It is also believed by some that scientific methods could be used to divert and break up hurricanes; suggestions include the suspension of mirrors in space to warm the nearby ocean, or deployment of soot into the air local to the storm, which should change air temperature by absorbing infra-red radiation. With some research, techniques such as these might be employed to reduce the phenomenal damage caused by the likes of Georges.

Malaysia in crisis

In the past few weeks civil unrest in Malaysia has grown to the point of bloodshed, as the economic crisis in South East Asia deepens. Last year Felix featured several articles on the student-led revolution in Indonesia. Will we see a similar uprising in Malaysia, or is Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad determined to keep power at any cost? We examine how the stakes have been raised this month...

by Ed Sexton

As with many of its neighbours, the economic turmoil in Malaysia is affecting more than just share prices. Economic hardship has led to an increase in anti-government feelings, which are being released in demonstrations on the streets. At the centre of it all are two men; Dr Mahathir, Malaysia's seventy-two year old Prime Minister who has held power for sixteen years, and Anwar Ibrahim who, until this month, had been his deputy for five years.

While Anwar Ibrahim has advised economic caution, spending time abroad attempting to reassure Western governments and thus boost confidence in Malaysia's economy, Dr Mahathir has publicly denounced foreign speculators, as well as restricting freedom of speech and assembly in his country. Whether or not Western investors are to blame for Malaysia's troubles, Dr Mahathir was never going to win favours in the international debating chambers. Meanwhile Anwar Ibrahim has, rightly or wrongly, been portrayed as the hero of Malaysia. The Malaysian people had found a voice.



Clearly the Prime Minister and his deputy were not going to work together for long. On 2 September Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from his office by Dr Mahathir. He immediately started leading the campaign against Dr Mahathir and his supporters, until he was arrested on 20 September. Under the internal security act he can be detained without a trial. This week he has been charged with corruption and having 'unnatural' homosexual relations. Meanwhile 80 of his supporters have been arrested during an anti-government demonstration in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, in which the police used batons and electric prods to break up the crowds. They will be charged with "gathering without a licence", as there is currently a ban on organised meetings involving more than four people. Dr Mahathir has said that Anwar Ibrahim will not be released unless the demonstrations stop and calm returns to the streets, which seems unlikely given recent events. The question is, who will make the next move?

Omagh - a personal view

by Jean Sinclair

Until Saturday 15th August, the summer of 1998 in Northern Ireland was dominated by appalling weather and low level rumblings around the marching season and the stand-off at Drumcree. "Low level rumblings" included considerable violence, including the deaths of three young boys in an arson attack on their home in Ballymoney, destruction of cars and buses and bonfires blocking streets. Such events may not be low level in some countries, but are considered low level by people who live here.

Such events are low level compared to what happened on Saturday 15th August 1998. At 3.10pm, a bomb exploded in the county town of Omagh in County Tyrone. It exploded in the area where people had been evacuated from the Court House, in response to a coded telephone bomb warning. Rapidly, casualty numbers grew: 12 dead, then 21, 26 by next morning, 28 by mid-day, over 220 injured, 6 hospitals involved. Local and national TV and radio changed their

schedules. Local radio played a vital role in summoning emergency staff, as telephone lines were brought down and the mobile phone networks closed down except for designated emergency numbers. While the response to the death of Princess Diana seemed to me to be totally over the top, response here seemed so appropriate. Leaders of all political and religious groups made statements of sadness and condemnation. Government ministers commented, many from holidays in Europe and began to return.

On a personal level: Just the day before, as part of my research into chemical incidents and health in Northern Ireland, I met with a consultant in the Accident and Emergency Department of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast and a pharmacist who heads the local poisons unit, also on the RVH site. The consultant showed me the chemical decontamination bay and the green chequered file entitled "The Disaster Plan of

the Royal Victoria Hospital". The plan ends with the words "It is our wish that it may not be overly used." I got the impression that he didn't expect the plan would be implemented again in response to acts of terrorism - for a release of chemicals, multiple vehicle pile-up, plane crash, perhaps, but not a bomb. Just over 24 hours, the RVH was yet again treating victims of terrorism.

Over lunch, the pharmacist and I talked about local news and TV services. The generally high standard is let down only by the dire "Town Challenge", like 1970s "It's a Knockout", which nobody admits to watching. Many Northern Ireland people are "news junkies", actually watching avidly local news broadcasts which contain important stories. Local news here is not like "across the water" in England, Wales or Scotland, where it is largely trivial, where members of the public are invited to be "Newsmakers", perhaps to fill time, perhaps to promote community involvement. She explained

how one year a planned item on storing chemicals and drugs safely out of children's reach was filmed and ready to be shown on Monday. A major event occurred on Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday, and Thursday. By Friday, the poisons information staff had given up hope, and missed the screening.

On Sunday morning, I walked to post a letter. Coming up behind an elderly man, he spoke as I drew level: "Twenty six dead", then continued with great sadness and weariness, mentioning the women, some pregnant, children, babies who were killed and injured. "Makes you ashamed to be Irish" he said. All I could think of was to say that not all Irish people do things like that. Perhaps the only constructive thing I could do was stay - not get on the first plane back. Finally, he headed into a Mace shop, out of the drizzle, adding a comment about the wet summer.



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Jikishin Ju-Jitsu Club

After recent successes in inter-club championships, the Imperial Ju-Jitsu Club (IJJC) members are preparing for the Jikishin Nationals in October. There are various forms of competition Ju-Jitsu, such as random attacks, sparring and groundwork, and IJJC are looking to enter at least one competitor in each category.

Ju-Jitsu is a traditional Japanese martial art that provides a practical system of self defence adaptable to people of any shape, size, age and sex. Competition work is not compulsory, but members are helped to train for contests should they wish to enter. There are many other

seminars, training courses and social events available to club members throughout the year, and generally the philosophy of the IJJC club is to be friendly and welcoming, whilst members concentrate hard on their training.

<http://icstar5.ph.ic.ac.uk/~gbus/jujitsu.html>

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 Graeme Busfield
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Pimlico Connection

As many of you may be aware, the Pimlico Connection student tutoring scheme has been placing students as tutors in local primary and secondary schools for the past 23 years. For a couple of hours every Wednesday, tutors assist with science, maths, and technology classes.

We also send several students to local after-school homework clubs. If you are looking for a challenge that is both rewarding and enjoyable, then come to one of our non-committal training sessions:
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Wednesday 7 Oct 2.30-4.30
 G.02 Goldsmiths Building (Royal School of Mines)
Thursday 8 Oct 5.30-7.30
 Room 536 Blackett Laboratory (Physics)
Monday 12 Oct 5.30-7.30
 Room 536 Blackett Laboratory
Tuesday 13 Oct 6.00-8.00
 3rd Floor Seminar Room, Admin Building, St. Mary's
Wednesday 14 Oct 2.30-4.30
 G.02 Goldsmiths Building
Thursday 15 Oct 5.30-7.30
 536 Blackett Laboratory

Attention all BIDS Users!

BIDS to ATHENS Username change

Your BIDS username and password expired on the 31st of August. However, you should have received your ATHENS username and password by email, with the following subject heading:

ATHENS Personal Account created

This may be used to access all BIDS and NISS services
 Your ATHENS username will normally be a variant of your Imperial College email login name.

Eg: icljbloggs

However, your password will NOT automatically be your email password. For security reasons you are advised to change your ATHENS password as soon as possible after receiving it by email.

We recommend that you do not change it to your College email password. To change your password, go to <http://admin.athens.ac.uk/personal.athtml>
 Please contact your Department/Campus Librarian if you need further assistance.

Private Accommodation Office

A new Private Accommodation office has opened in the basement of 15, Prince's Gardens offering a wide range of services to help you find accommodation in the private sector. We will be open from **9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday**. A full-time assistant is already in post and we will be appointing a full-time Private Housing Officer shortly. The services provided include lists of private accommodation (updated every Tuesday) and the University of London accommodation lists (updated every Wednesday). There are also notice boards advertising various other types of accommodation. Regular services include lists of estate agents who deal with students, hostel information, hotel information, short term accommodation information, and guidelines to average

rental and living costs. In addition, we can let you have information about your rights as tenants.

There are also some new services on offer! There's a room especially provided for students' use, which includes access to the University of London lists on the Internet (2 computers) as well as access to a 'phone (only for use with an ACC card - application forms available at the Office). There is also space for students to read through the lists and friendly advice on how to use the information available.

We're here to help, so feel free to come and see us if you have any questions. You can also call us on **0171-594 9428 (Int. 49428)** or e-mail us at a.colquhoun@ic.ac.uk. Ask for either Anna or Chantal.

Access to the SCR

Access to the Senior Common Room (SCR) from 5 October is restricted to PhD students and staff only. Undergraduates and postgraduates on taught courses should now use the Junior Common Room (JCR) and the Main Dining Hall except for pre-booked special functions.

Students from Southwell Hall Last Year

There is a large amount of unclaimed mail in the hall. Please collect it by 16 October - after this date it will be thrown away.

Microsoft Needs Students

Microsoft is looking for a small number of second year students from around the country to get involved with their Student Brand Manager programme. The programme is open to all second year students interested in IT and marketing. Ownership of a PC and a passion for

using it is essential but the technical expertise of how it all works is not. Interested students should look at www.microsoft.com/uk/education for more details. The closing date for applications is 21 October 1998.

Office assistant required

Office assistant required on part-time basis (flexible hours) for local estate agency.
 Usual office work, good typing essential as well as good telephone manner. Please contact Farnaz or Anna on
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Postgraduate Maths Help Desk

e-mail: g.stephenson@ic.ac.uk
 Tel: (0171 59) 48533
 URL: www.ma.ic.ac.uk/mathematics_advice_centre.html

Farewell Print Unit

The first major announcement is that Felix will be published on Mondays from now on. This is because we must now use external printers, since the Union Print Unit has been closed down, and unfortunately they are not as quick (and probably not as good) as dear Andy Thompson. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Andy all the best in his future music career - anyone not going to the Freshers' Carnival could do worse than the Water Rats, Gray's Inn Road, Kings Cross that Friday night.

first time round. Which brings me on to the age-old problem of student apathy. There is going to be an election in a few weeks time in which YOU, the students, are the electorate. We wouldn't have a fifth sabbatical or cheaper travelcards if it wasn't for Union officers, at ICU and elsewhere, fighting for students. YOU choose these sabbaticals, YOU vote for them: Their job is to represent YOU. Remember that when Monday 9 November arrives.

Let's get stuck in...

The BMS has been a nightmare from start to not-quite-finished. It was never going to be ready on time; we all knew this, some of us even dared say it, but now the proof is before our eyes. Sure, it is a very nice building (especially the glass lifts) and, yes, teaching will start in it on time. Talk to the people who have to work there, however, and you'll get a different picture. 'The great move' will certainly be remembered, if only for its appalling organisation. I should know - I was waiting half the summer for the Biology Common Room to be vacant so I could set up the new Felix office. Biology are still moving.

OI, you! Yes, you! Read this!

It has been a summer of mixed blessings for Imperial students. The announcement of a new education and welfare sabbatical, along with London Transport's decision to provide discounts on travelcards, are both important developments, if long overdue. The freshers among you, however, are probably more concerned with tuition fees and how you are going to afford three or more years in London. Meanwhile old hacks will be wondering if we will ever get a full complement of sabbaticals and Union officers

My old department and I thus share one thing in common - we've both been treated with utter contempt by the Estates Division. I dare say that statement will prompt replies from the higher ranks of Biology, but we know what the people on the ground are saying. I am also aware that many of the problems can be blamed on the contractors. I have other reasons for my opinions, however. My story is as follows: It is now 8.30am on a cold and damp Wednesday morning, I have two hours to finish this first issue, and I haven't slept for a good day or two. A week ago I was not in the slightest bit confident, which I took as a good sign. I had barely started the layout and staff were failing their exams like, well, Union officers. Advertising was coming in as if Geri Spice was my business manager, yet actual articles were sparser than firsts in Aero Eng. Then, one particularly stressful evening, I was informed that the new office was only 'temporary accommodation'. I knew that - Felix is only here for a year or two. 'No no no - very temporary.' How temporary, exactly? 'As in November temporary. As in Estates want the room back.' Fortunately they changed their minds, but I'm still tempted to charge them for two dented filing cabinets.

Not to be outdone, the next day they tried to stop the Union using the

Great Hall for badminton. Fortunately they couldn't ignore a prior minuted agreement guaranteeing the Union's use of the Hall (although they obviously did at first). I've been hearing (presumably unfounded) rumours about flowerbeds, car parking spaces and daffodils worth their weight in gold. It's going to be one of those years. Still, I'm an open minded man, and the letters page is always there for your comments...

What else?

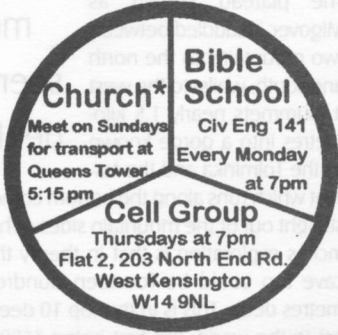
Nothing really. Believe it or not, there was a lot of news. News writers, however, are somewhat harder to come by. The final emergency-ad-to-fill-space for the news pages came courtesy of London Electricity Board, who decided to cut all power to Beit from midnight Tuesday until 4am Wednesday. The first I knew of it was when security came round at 11.55pm. Hence I had to come back at 4.30am this morning to finish this oh-so-memorable first issue. So forgive me if it's not up to expectations. If you've got ideas, you know where to come. I'm out of them and off to bed. And whoever is responsible for choosing last night to make emergency repairs, stay out of my way... Ed

This space is sponsored by London Electricity Board. Thank you for your generosity

ICU HIS PEOPLE CHRISTIAN SOCIETY THE BUZZ ON CAMPUS On behalf of everyone at His People, welcome to Imperial College. To make you feel at home we offer a hive of activities. So 'bee' there!!! To tantalise you, some examples of events are as follows: VISITS TO EXOTIC PLACES... SCRUMPTIOUS CUISINE... SPORT... MIND STRETCHING... FOOD FOR THE SPIRIT ... Church* Bible School Cell Group



Fulfilling YOUR Destiny with His People



* For church we meet at the I.C. Medical Campus, Hammersmith W6 in the Reynolds Building, St. Dunstons Rd. Starts at 6pm.



The Cavemen of IC?

Imperial College Caving Club are held in high regard by caving circles worldwide for their expeditions into previously unexplored subterranean Slovenia. In Summer 1998, they returned once more to the dark depths. Jan Evetts describes the pitfalls...

Most people will never undertake an expedition in their lifetime, because expeditions are for only the elite, and certainly not for students. Most people will never put themselves in an unfamiliar position, outside of normal everyday experience, so that the only reliable guide that they have is themselves, because that is for the fearless (or the mad!). And least likely of all, nobody is going to wake up one day and discover something! What I would just like to say is: bollocks. This year twenty members and ex-members of Imperial College went to Slovenia (formerly Yugoslavia) and did just that. Six weeks were spent living on a plateau at eighteen hundred metres, surviving on dried food and rain-water, whilst exploring a cave one thousand metres deep, and sometimes spending three days underground at a time.

The Area

Exploration by cavers from IC has focused on a plateau at eighteen hundred metres above sea level on the southern edge of a region known as the Juliske Alps (Julian Alps). The Juliske Alps run from the dolomites in Northern Italy, through north-west Slovenia (roughly south-west) and are about one hundred miles long. It is a stunning area: the mountains rise abruptly from three hundred metres to two thousand metres. The limestone of which they are made has been forced up from beneath the sea over millions of years and the action of water, eroding deep gorges and valleys, has also created huge underground cave systems. In 1995 and 1996 these caves were eventually broken into by members of IC caving club. The plateau known as Migovec is saddled between two mountains to the north and south, whilst to the west it plunges nearly 1.5 kilometres into a gorge known as the Tolminka and the torrent which runs along the bottom comes straight out of the mountain sides. What incites exploration is that in theory the cave too could be fourteen hundred metres deep. This is in the top 10 deepest in the world, the first being 1600m and the deepest found by a British team.



The Logistics

Preparation for such an expedition starts early, contacting sponsors for dried food, chocolate bars and money. Before leaving London a Union minibus is loaded with all our equipment; the journey to Slovenia is a non-stop twenty-four hour drive. Migovec is at eighteen hundred metres and access to the cave has to be easy for exploration to be efficient. This means living, sleeping and having all equipment near the entrance. Unfortunately the highest road goes to a village at only eight hundred metres. This village, Tolminske Ravne, is our low level base camp. For the first six days equipment is carried to the top camp. It's a hard, three hour climb, but the best way to prepare for four weeks of equally hard caving. The top camp or bivi is a large depression on the plateau straddled by a rock bridge. The bivi is the living area for the expedition; all the food, cooking equipment and caving kit is stored there - we lack only two essen-

This was big: I could make out a floor, maybe forty metres down, but my helmet light seemed suddenly feeble.

tials: water and electricity. Electricity is obtained from solar panels, whilst rain-water is collected from tarpaulins which are hung across the bivi. Tents are pitched on the hard ground nearby.

History of the Expedition

Exploration on Migovec was started nearly twenty-five years ago by the local caving club. They found a cave five hundred metres deep that ended in a huge cavern eighty metres high and one hundred metres wide. They named it Galactica, whilst the cave was given the glorious title M16. Expeditions from France and England explored the area but found little more. In 1994 the head of the local club replied to an enquiry from a member of IC about possible sites for exploration in the area. Migovec was mentioned; in 1994 and 95 the area was recced and explored again. Little was found except for several tight caves. One named Torn T-Shirt was proving particularly grim, but it was pushed and pushed, not to an end, but through increasingly challenging squeezes. The breakthrough came late on in 1995, the last grim squeeze. The Nutcracker in Torn - T was passed and an impressive horizontal passage two hundred metres long greeted the weary explorers. It was intersected by large shafts and offered numerous routes for exploration. Opti-

mistically, it was named Level 1. In 1996 the excited cavers returned and almost immediately found Level 2, a passage of epic proportions. Level 2 immediately showed many similarities to Level 1: horizontal, and intersected with shafts, but on a much bigger scale. The really big shafts had to be traversed around. Level 2 ran east to west: to the west it grew in size until it was twenty-five to thirty metres high and fifteen metres wide. In 1997 a small passage at the west end of Level 2 led to a large pit; it was the start of the vertical stuff! From minus three hundred metres at Level 2 the cave dropped, in a series of stunning shafts, to minus seven hundred metres, and beyond.

Pushing in Sistem Migovec In 1998

My first pushing trip (a caving trip when you are exploring a new cave passage) was in Sistem Migovec, in Slovenia, and the situation was comical to say the least. I was also quite nervous because it was the first time I had hammered in a bolt. (When caving with rope the rope obviously must be tied to something; either around a convenient rock, or more commonly to a bolt which must be man-



consists of one knot ("bowline-on-the-bight") positioned where you want the rope to hang from, and two loops of rope that go up from the knot with an angle between them of less than 45 degrees. These are fixed to the bolts.

"Seems okay to me, you're ready to go then..."

I nodded, picked up the remaining coil of about forty metres of rope, double-checked there was a knot in the end (I didn't want to abseil off the rope), leaned over the slit and dropped it. You could hear it whistle through the air, and then there was a 'thud' as the rope was pulled taut. I leaned over to check it was hanging freely and then set about attaching my descender to the rope. Slowly, I eased my weight onto the newly-placed bolts until I was hanging off the rope. (The bolts held, of course.) Cautiously I inched down the rope, dropping through the slit. The start was a bit tight but then I slowly emerged into the top of a large shaft. Looking down through my feet I could see nothing but empty space and the rope snaking away into the darkness. This was big: I could make out a

floor, maybe forty metres down, but my helmet light seemed suddenly feeble. "It's quite big!" I yelled excitedly to my partner. "I am going on down..."

I descended slowly for another ten feet, then stopped. I suddenly felt a lot smaller and a lot less confident as I stared into the dark pit beneath my feet. It dawned on me that the 'floor' I had seen was a mere ledge, perhaps only 10ft wide, and certainly not the bottom. At the ledge the pit was oblong in shape, at least fifteen metres long and ten metres wide. "Jesus Christ, it's huge and it goes on down," I shouted. I swung around, looking for a rock to pick off the walls. I then dropped it into the black hole by the ledge; it fell for three or four seconds, indicating a pitch between sixty and eighty metres deep.

You don't become an experienced expedition caver by caving a lot; you just have to do a first expedition, and that's the big step. If you are interested (and it is definitely worthwhile) get in contact with the Caving Club, or come and see us at Freshers' Fair.

ually hammered into the wall of the cave). I then intended to trust my life to this bolt while I abseiled into the unknown. I stood at the bottom of a circular shaft (about 15ft wide and 25ft high) with my legs straddled across a slit in the floor about 6ft long and 2ft wide. I also had a descender (a device used to go down ropes at a controlled speed) attached to a rope in case I slipped and fell.

"The next step is to decide where to put the bolts. They need to be high, otherwise it proves too awkward for the next person to get his descender on the rope. The rock has to be strong, otherwise the bolt may pop... you don't want that; the surface needs to be flat, and the bolt must go in exactly perpendicular to the surface, otherwise it won't be able to go in fully, and you won't be able to tie the rope to it. Finally, and this is most important of all, the rope must hang freely from the bolt otherwise it will rub on the rock and snap. Happy? So you know what to do. You'll have to excuse me now, I need to go and have a shit. Don't worry, it's not that difficult, and anyway I'll be right behind you!"

Before I started hammering, I used

the back-up light on my helmet to illuminate the slit beneath my feet. I could see it was about four feet long, going down vertically. After that it seemed to open up, but the beam of light failed to pierce the darkness beyond. I was quite nervous and had that sort-of-empty sensation in my stomach. I knew that once the bolts were in and the rope was tied I was going to have to go down; the anticipation of what I might find was almost frightening. Hammering a bolt into solid rock is quite tiring and whilst resting I knocked a rock down the slit. It clattered down the hole and then there was silence for 1 second... 2 seconds... 3 seconds... bang! How deep was it? Forty-five metres, maybe? I carried on bolting, while trying not to think about it too much. In the meantime my partner, the much more experienced half of our duo, was just finishing his business and hiding the evidence in a plastic bag.

"Have you finished yet?"

"Nearly," I replied, as I finished attaching the rope to the bolts. He came over and checked my rigging and the bolts; the set-up was now a classic Y-hang. This



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QT SNACK BAR

The Q.T. snack bar has changed location to the front of the JCR, adjacent to the walk way.

Come have a look at our new home, for that's all that has changed!

Present this article during the first week of term and receive a free can of coke with any purchase over £1.

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“Can We Live Without God?”



LT Jeyachandran

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Having a Masters degree in Structural Engineering LT was a Chief Engineer for the Government of India before resigning to join an organisation as an International Speaker, addressing the above mentioned subjects.

Grab your lunch and join us next to the Main Dining Hall

Date: 12th October
Time: 12:30pm

Venue: The Ante Room
(Next to Main dining hall)

For further details of the event contact Phindile Masangane at: p.masangane@ic.ac.uk or 0171 610 2252

iCU His People Society

**ICU is proud to announce the opening
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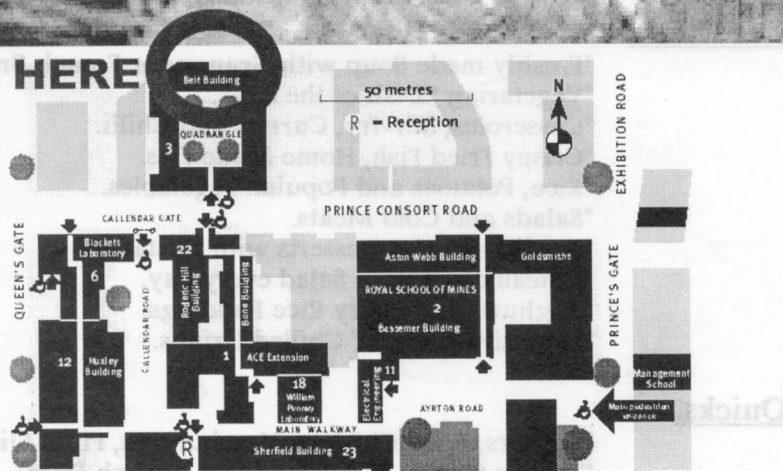
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Served from 12.00 until 2.00 p.m.
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Thought for the Day

Opportunity Knocks

I spent a good fifteen hours this summer doing something at which, I have to admit, I am quite good. This activity, for those of you who are interested, did not include vomiting up my own bedroom wall; nor did it involve the repeated consumption of pints of opaque ale (I have given up this particular vice, as the aforementioned act of decoration was murder to clean off). Sadly, as those of you who read my gubbins last year will accurately have predicted, it was not an activity of a sexual nature either. You could not really describe it as leisure, but the fact that I was doing it at all is, I suppose, indicative of one of the best aspects of Imperial College.

The pastime in question was the proof-reading of a section of the shiny, new (and thankfully very far from being a black, depressing, ring-bound Gotham City hulk) ICU Student Handbook. With no promise of personal gain, I was the one superhero who could save an embarrassing violation of the print deadline, armed only with a packet of chewing gum, a new haircut, and a thoroughly anal desire to see the laws of modern English upheld. A friend in need is a sucker indeed, though, as I discovered after staring at computer screens for so long that my contact lenses stuck to my eyes like clingfilm, or a month-old boiled sweet in the pocket of an old man's raincoat.

While I could sit here for hours and ruminate on the turns of fate which left me clutching a pen and a section of computer printout at two in the morning, I feel that this would alienate busy freshers, who in turn feel that they should be in the bar. It was upon reading this seminal version of the Handbook, though,

that I realised something; an aspect of life at Imperial College which is vital to so many students, and yet completely neglected by so many others - Clubs and Societies.

The fact of the matter is that clubs offer not only an opportunity for enthusiasts and hobbyists of all walks of life to satisfy their passions, but also provide an extremely open and useful social structure. All your friends have failed the year? You've been dumped by your girlfriend? Spontaneously decided you hate all your drinking chums? The solution is to make new acquaintances fast, and clubs and societies, bless their hearts, offer a fine channel for doing just this.

My personal experience of these shady cults stretches no further than Publications Board-run Imperial College Radio and the Union rag that you are reading right now. (I did once have a look at STOIC, Student Television of Imperial College, but Robin Riley scared me away). This does not change the fact that I have made a lot of fine friends, enjoyed writing and making a fool of myself on the radio on Thursday nights, and not least, learned new skills. Before I came to IC I had completely neglected literary composition, heartlessly sacrificing it for the joys of maths and physics, and leaving it behind as just one part of the heady memories of GCSE. Worse still, I had



This is me, shortly before the bedroom wall incident. You'll be glad to know that I've discarded this foul practice to take up journalism full-time, or at least until a load of freshers take my place.

never heard of Technics 1210 turntables. After two years of study avoidance, I am more pleased with what I write than ever before (despite utter apathy from you lot, and worse still from certain Felix staff), have social confidence that I only dreamed of when I was at school, and can even do a fairly competent spinback. I've also gained desktop publishing skills, which, let's face it, will be useful on my CV. (As you may be able to tell from the new logo, Bezier curves are the Felix flavour of the month. We like QuarkXPress 4.02....)

My message should now be clear, but it applies to freshers and hacks alike; when the drinking becomes boring, the drugs don't work, or

the cold showers are no longer having the desired effect, you can't really lose by giving it a try. Freshers' Fair will be coming up soon; shake off the hangover, get out the sunglasses, fill your pockets with corporate freebies, and get involved. You might even like to introduce yourself to the new Felix editor: I give you Ed Sexton, and believe me; he could do with a hand.

Finally, and I've saved this point until last, because it is pretty irrelevant, Thought for the Day is still going. You may remember that it was all set to be crucified at Golgotha, but it seems that it had enough sense to shout "I'm Brian!" before anyone else could think of it. Jammy sod. Anyway, if I do have to write for the whole year, you lot might as well give me some feedback. To date, I have received one letter, and that wasn't a terribly interesting one. Surely some of you must find me extremely annoying. Ah, come on. You're not even trying.

Ali Campbell

London nightline

0171 631 0101

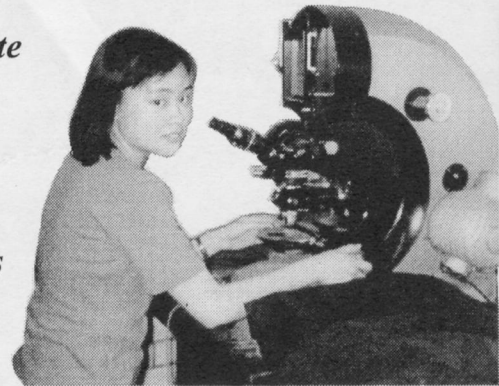
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STEVIE STARR

The regurgitator

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ABANDON

3 college bands

icu concert hall. 8pm. Free

fridayninth

fresherscarnival

Acid Jazz night with guest Djs

Live music from torino & parlour talk

POP TARTS

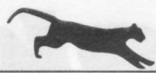
With giant bouncy castle & bucking bronco

Chill out room and cocktail bar

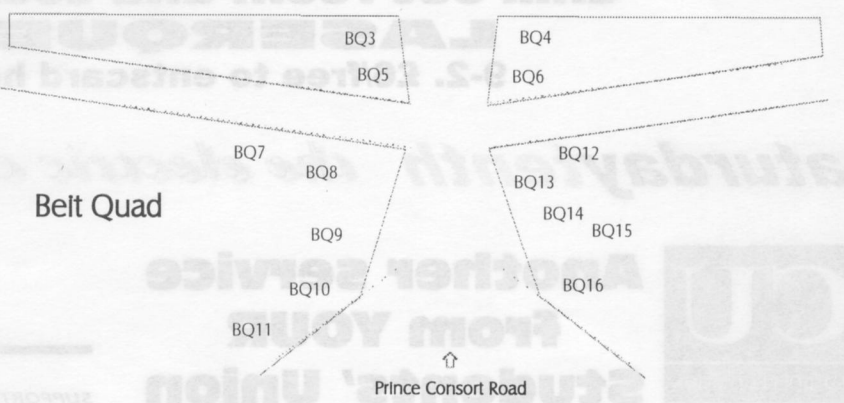
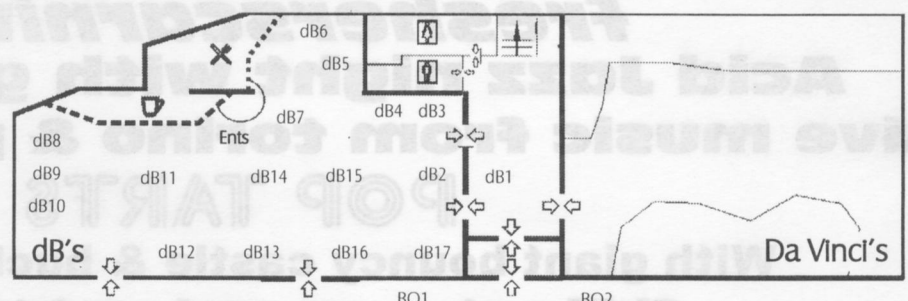
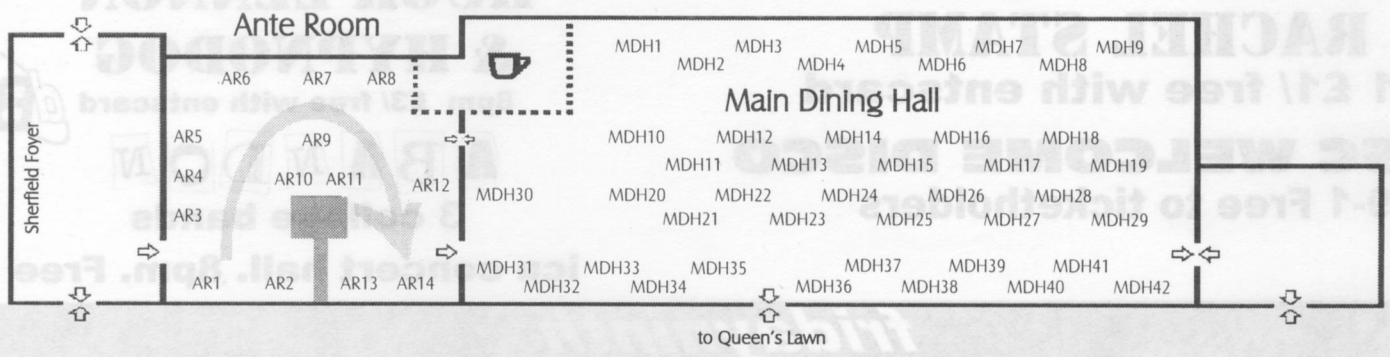
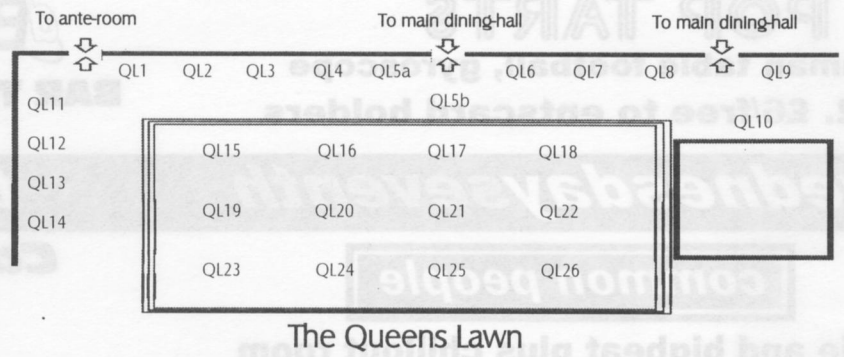
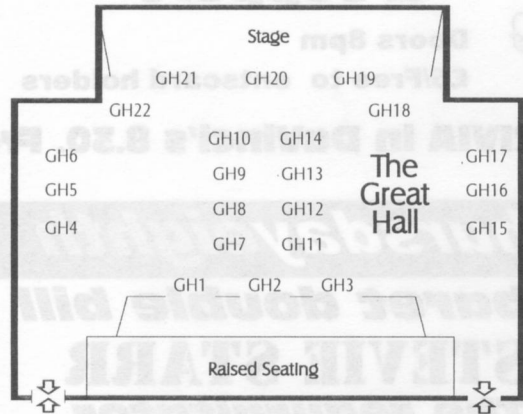
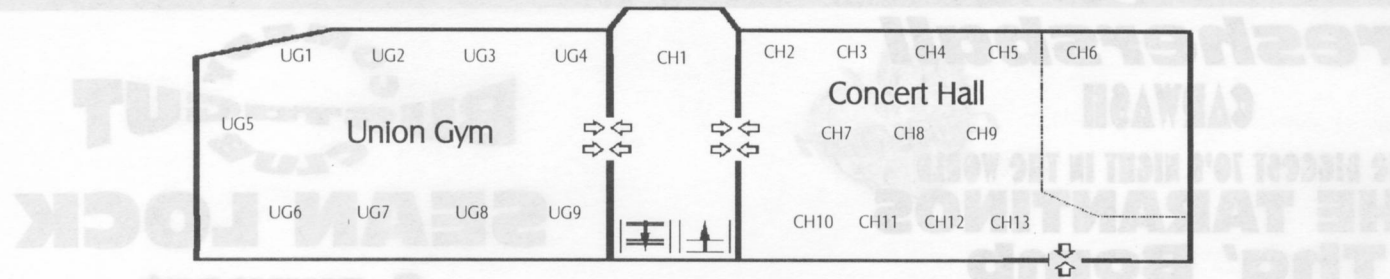
LASERQUEST

9-2. £6/free to entscard holders

saturdaytenth *the electric café* **dBs. 8-12. Free**



Your guide to the Freshers' Fair



Freshers' Fair takes place on Tuesday 6th October, and provides an opportunity for students to meet representatives from any of IC's clubs and societies. There are a lot of clubs to choose from, but it is worth looking round as many as possible to see what takes your fancy.

There will also be various banks, recruitment agencies and other corporate representatives who will be eager to speak with you and provide information.

If you are searching for a particular society, refer to the index given opposite. The six locations may be found as follows:

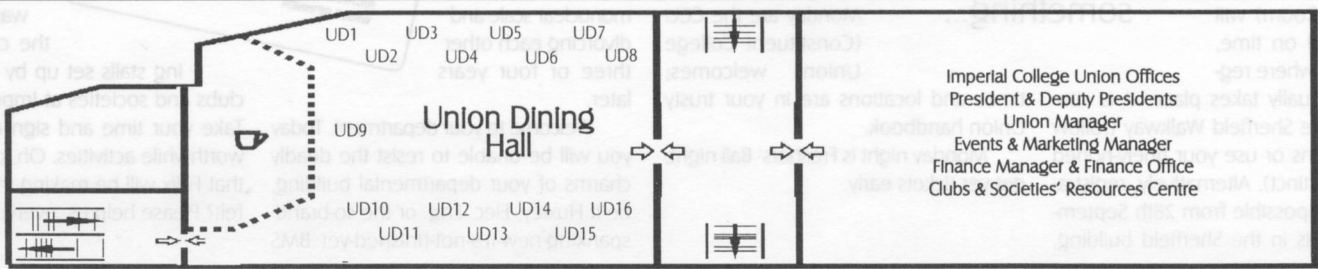
- db's - ground floor, Union building
- Union Dining Hall - first floor, Union building
- Union Gym and Concert Hall - second floor, Union Building
- Main Dining Hall and Ante Room - level one, Sherfield Building
- Great Hall - level two, Sherfield Building



Abacus	UD15	IC Chaplaincy	DB1	Sailing	QL 23
ACC Telecom	DB15	IC Radio	QL 10	Scandinavian Society	GH 4
Afro-Caribbean	MDH2	Imperial College Union	MDH30	Sci Tech	GH 14
Amateur Radio/Hamsoc	DB11	Indian Society	GH 1	Science Fiction (ICUSF)	BQ11
Amnesty International	MDH4	Industrial	DB3	Scout & Guide	QL 6
Arabic	UD2	International Tamil	UD1	Shaolin Kung Fu	UG8
Arts Appreciation	MDH11	IQ	UD8	Shotokhan Karate	UG9
Association Football	MDH10	Iranian	DB5	Sikh	DB12
Audio	CH5	Islamic	UD13	Singapore	MDH31
Badminton Club	GH 2	Italian	MDH40	Skate Club	QL 7
Bangladesh Society	GH 3	Japanese	UD7	Skiing	MDH29
Barclays Bank	AR11	Jazz & Rock	CH11	Socialist Worker Students' Society	UD14
Basketball	MDH15	Jazz Big Band	MDH35	Spanish	DB10
Billiards & Snooker	UD16	Jewish	DB14	Spiritual Arts Society	GH 19
Boardsailing	QL 1	Ju Jitsu	UG2	Sporting Motorcycle	QL 9
Boat	QL 24	Judo	UG3	Squash Club	MDH28
Book	MDH6	Junior Enterprise Society	BQ8	Sri Lankan Society	GH 17
Bridge	MDH13	Karate Do Shotokai	UG4	St Johns Ambulance (Links)	QL 8
BUNAC	AR1	Kensington Committee of Friendship	CH13	STA Travel	AR2
C&G exec	QL 11	Korean	UD12	STOIC (Student Television of IC)	BQ1
C&G Rugby	BQ15	Kung Fu	UG5	Survival	DB4
C.I.E.E.	GH 8	Labour	GH 10	Swimming & Waterpolo	GH 7
Campus Travel	DB13	Ladies Football	MDH21	Table Tennis	CH10
Canoe	BQ9	Ladies Rugby	BQ16	Tai - ji	UG6
Catholic	MDH19	Latin American	AR10	Taiwanese Society	GH 11
Caving	BQ5	Lawn Tennis	QL 21	Ten Pin Bowling	MDH27
Chess	MDH12	Lebanese	MDH42	Thai	CH8
Chinese	UD9	Leonardo Fine Arts	GH 22	The Financial Times	AR4
Choir	CH9	Live Jazz	GH 15	The Times	AR14
Christian Union	BQ4	London Nightline	CH12	Third World First	GH 16
Christian Union	GH 18	Malaysian	MDH41	Time Out Magazine	AR9
Cinema (FilmSoc)	CH7	Mauritian	UD11	Tintavision	MDH33
Circus Skills	BQ7	Methodist	UD3	Turkish	DB9
Community Action Group	MDH16	Micro Computer	MDH7	UL Air Squadron	MDH5
Conservative	UD5	Midland Bank	AR5	UL Officer Training Corps	MDH14
Cricket	QL 19	Mountaineering	QL 3	UL Royal Naval Unit	MDH25
Cross Country & Athletics	QL 5a	Mustek	DB7	Underwater	QL 5b
CIS Travel	GH 12	NatWest Bank	AR8	Unihoc	QL 16
Cycling	QL 2	Netball	GH 13	University of London Union	BQ10
Cypriot	MDH17	Occupational Health Unit	GH 21	Vodafone	AR7
Dance Club	GH 9	Operatic	CH3	Volleyball	MDH26
DOCSOC	MDH9	Orchestra	CH2	Wado Ryu Karate	UG7
Dramatic Society	CH6	Orienteering	MDH39	Wargames	MDH24
Drugs Information Service	MDH3	Origami	MDH38	Waterstones	CH1
English National Opera	UD4	Pakistan	DB2	Weights	MDH23
Environmental	BQ6	Parachute	QL 14	Wine Tasting	UD10
Erasmus	DB8	Persian Gulf	MDH37	Wing Chun	UG1
Exploration	MDH18	Photographic	DB17	Yacht	QL 25
Felix (Student Newspaper)	BQ3	Pimlico Connection	MDH34	Yoga	GH 20
Fellwanderers	QL 4	Primus	MDH36		
Fencing	BQ2	Quiz	DB6		
Finance	AR6	Radio Modellers	QL 18		
Fitness	DB16	Radio Rentals	MDH20		
French	UD6	Rag	AR12		
Friends of Palestine	MDH1	RCS exec	QL 12		
German	AR13	RCS Rugby	BQ13		
Gliding	QL 26	Real Ale	MDH22		
Golf	QL 17	Riding	QL 20		
Hang-Gliding & Para-Gliding	QL 22	Rifle & Pistol	MDH32		
Hellenic	CH4	Royal Bank of Scotland	AR3		
His People Ministries	GH 5	RSM exec	QL 13		
Hockey	QL 15	RSM Rugby	BQ12		
IC CCS Shop	MDH8	Rugby	BQ14		

Key to Stall Codes:

- AR - Ante Room
- BQ - Beit Quad
- CH - Concert Hall
- dB - dB's (Entertainments Lounge)
- GH - Great Hall
- MDH - Main Dining Hall
- QL - Queens Lawn
- UD - Union Dining Hall
- UG - Union Gym





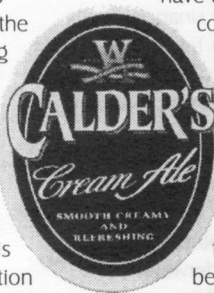
Ali Campbell explains the perils facing freshers in their first few days...

Fresher. You're a very busy person, right? I imagine you've located the bar, found a cash machine and are now well positioned to get absolutely plastered. I know you've also spotted someone living on your landing, three doors down, of whom you'd quite like carnal knowledge. Well, the grim reality is that in four weeks' time you'll be in lectures, and the object of your affection will be in bed with someone else. Your best bet is to read the following carefully, ignore any cynicism which might have escaped the editor's eagle eye, and enjoy Freshers' Week while you are still footloose, fancy free, and most importantly, in credit.

Saturday 3rd October

Warp Six

With a bit of luck, it is now Saturday and you're reading this while sitting on your bed, watching your parents pack your stuff away neatly in the wardrobe and considering approaching the Hall warden to get a transfer to a single room, following the discovery of some half-digested food in your room-mate's bed. Many of you will be feeling a bit anxious right now; this is extremely common. The solution is simple. Get out of your room as quickly as possible, find some people who don't look too weird, and with your head and your wallet held high, plot a



course for the bar. Warp six. Make an effort to get to know the re-apps; they have a duty to make you feel welcome and, between pints, will tell you everything you might want to know (albeit in a decreasingly sober fashion, I'm afraid). In two hours' time you will be wondering what you were worried about. One piece of advice that might be worth remembering when you are staggering back upstairs is the following: the landings will all look the same. Think hard before getting your keys out, or you might make your first enemy.

Monday 5th October

Complaining mass

You say you already know what a queue is? What was that? You're accusing me of being condescending? Sorry, my friend, but I have been here two years already. I know what queues really are.

The first endless line to join is the registration queue: this complaining mass of students will materialise from 9:30 onwards. The latest opinion from our esteemed editor is that the JCR (Junior Common Room) will be finished on time, and this is where registration usually takes place. It is situated off the Sheffield Walkway (follow map or signs or use your finely-honed homing instinct). Alternatively, registration is also possible from 28th September onwards in the Sheffield building,

level 3 (the Registry). You will be given a worthless-looking piece of paper, but do not be deceived: if nothing else, you need it to get at the cheap Union beer. Take this document to the Union with some passport photographs and demand an ICU card. You can also get a ULU (University of London Union) card at this opportunity, although you will need another photo. Also happening on Monday are the CCU (Constituent College Union) welcomes; times and locations are in your trusty Union handbook. Monday night is Freshers' Ball night; get yer tickets early.

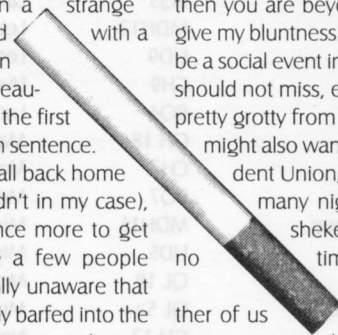
queue (kju:.) (n.) 1. a line of people, vehicles etc., waiting for something...

Sunday 4th October

Tears before bedtime

Sunday can be a bad day. The experience of waking up in a strange environment coupled with a colossal hangover can make even the most beautiful morning seem like the first few hours of a life prison sentence. If a tearful telephone call back home doesn't help (and it didn't in my case), then the solution is once more to get out. There should be a few people around who are blissfully unaware that it was you who copiously barfed into the sink on your landing, so round up a posse and have a wander around the local area. (If spending your parents'

hard-earned cash doesn't cheer you up, then you are beyond help, if you'll forgive my bluntness.) There will most likely be a social event in Hall today, which you should not miss, even if you are feeling pretty grotty from the night before. You might also want to check out the Student Union; you will be spending many nights and quite a few shekels there, and there's no time like the present. Oh, and let neither of us pretend you aren't going to get drunk again tonight. Try to keep your clothes on this time.



Tuesday 6th October

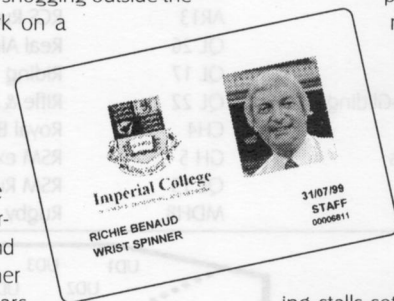
Photographer

It's possible, and does not require a terrific stretch of the imagination, to think of Freshers' Week as one long party. Fledgling student, meet your department. After this initial introduction, these two are seen to be snogging outside the toilets, will embark on a love-hate relationship, get married and will be together long after the party has finished, before arguing on a thermonuclear scale and divorcing each other three or four years later.

Welcome to your department. Today you will be unable to resist the deadly charms of your departmental building, be it Huxley, Elec. Eng. or the so-brand-spanking-new-it's-not-finished-yet BMS

building. Your hungover visage will be preserved by a sadistic photographer and branded onto a swipecard. If all this humility proves insufficient, you will also be subjected to a plethora of departmental meetings.

Still, never mind. Tuesday afternoon is Freshers' Fair time: let's hope for a nice sunny day. Old hands and new alike will wander around the campus, visiting stalls set up by many of the clubs and societies at Imperial College. Take your time and sign up for a few worthwhile activities. Oh, did I mention that Felix will be making their presence felt? Please help us; everybody's failed.





Give us a job, Guv'nor!

Welcome to Imperial College. The next three or four years should be among the most interesting and enjoyable in your life, provided you make the most of the opportunities available at the College. This letter aims to give you some ideas for your own self-development.

Coming to university is a significant step. You have more freedom, more independence and more opportunities to do your own thing, to succeed or fail, than you will have had at school. If you do not make some mistakes you will not have learnt anything; learning from one's mistakes is an important part of experience. Build on the experience of others - take advice (it's usually free) - ignore some of it, test it out, accept or reject it.

You have already demonstrated some planning ability by passing 'A' levels, or their equivalent. How are you going to plan the next three, four or more years? And I'm not talking just about your academic studies: I'm talking about the start of the rest of your life.

What do you want to achieve this term? Making friends is usually high on most people's list. How? Join clubs and societies, attend meetings, take up a new sport, develop a new interest - any of these are likely to bring you into contact with like minded students. And there's always the bar to prop up while seeking inspiration.

By the end of the summer term in

your first year you are going to be feeling financial pressure - in other words you'll be broke! So how about

earning some good money in the long vacation. If you leave job hunting until the holiday starts you may be too late. All the interesting and lucrative jobs will have been filled already and you will be lucky if the local council wants some grass cutting or the garden centre needs a spare pair of hands. It's well worthwhile doing some preliminary job hunting between Christmas and Easter. Call

John Simpson, Director of Imperial College's Careers Service, welcomes you to Imperial and reminds us why we are really here...

in at the IC Careers Service (Room 310, Sheffield Building) where you will find information about Vacation Training, write to employers with your CV, call in to some local shops and hotels and see who's advertising in the local press. Holiday jobs can be most informative. Ideally they give you the chance to try out work or a future employer in which you are interested. They give you experience in job hunting, letter writing and interviews, as well as a real insight into what it's like to work for an employer. Some even pay quite well. Jobs abroad are popular and early applications are essential. Start by visiting the IC Careers Service which has a good range of reference books and

test your skills in organising something - a social evening for your department, looking after the finances of a society or being fixtures secretary of your team. "That sounds too much like hard work!" I hear you say. Yes, it does take some effort on your part but generally speaking the more effort you put into something the more enjoyment you will get out of it.

Committee work is excellent preparation for life after College. You learn to set agendas, run meetings, agree actions, persuade other students to do things, work within budgets and end up with a successful event - a party, a visit, a play or a newspaper; think how much effort went into producing this edition of Felix. **[You can stop that right there - Ed]**

You should start thinking seriously about your future career before the end of the second year. Even if you haven't a clue what you want to do, that's no excuse for delaying finding out about the possibilities. You are surrounded with sources of information - friends, family, tutors, careers advisers, libraries, the internet. Start looking. It may be a long

addresses.

At the start of the second year you will raise your sights higher. Now is the time to

process but it really is worth spending time thinking about your career, then planning your next weekend or holiday.

The IC Careers Service is a good starting place. Pop in and speak to the information staff. Find out about 'Prospect (HE)' - our computer careers guidance system - and all the information booklets and reference files. Have a look at some of the videos, attend some seminars or careers, get yourself sorted out.

The Milkround is in the spring term of your final year. This is when employers visit campuses to interview applicants or invite you to their London Offices.

Christmas vacation courses are a popular way of finding out about careers such as marketing but only a few major recruiters run them and they are normally over-subscribed many times. "Stop! I'm only a fresher - why are you telling me all this?" I'm telling you because you need to start planning your life now; don't just drift through College and emerge with a degree and nothing else. Of course a degree is important and must be your first priority, but not your only priority.

In the meantime, enjoy yourself.

**John Simpson
Director
IC Careers Service**

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Gradunet give their opinion on how to run your student days and, surprise surprise, they can help

As a certain cockney charmer might have said "not a lot of people know this", but the first and second year are as important to your job prospects as the third year. When writing your CV you will soon realise that a vivid imagination is the most important weapon in your job hunting armoury. "Fixing the lock on the bike shed" becomes "I was secretary of the Mountain Bike Club" whilst "going to the cinema" makes you "vice-president of the student film society".

The average student recruiter goes through thousands of CVs and application forms and soon learns to decipher these coded messages. You need to learn how to pierce even the most experienced recruiter's cynicism, and land the job of a lifetime.

First Term

Join the societies that are really of interest to you. Join a society that you will still want to be a member of in three years' time, because by then you will have achieved **responsibility** and your CV will show **determination and staying power**.

Second Term

It's time to turn your attention to the summer. It makes sense to take advantage of those long summer holidays and travel the world. It's time to show your **planning and execution** skills. Save up, get a part time job to earn enough money to go somewhere. As a student there are loads of great flight deals, and there are plenty of places where a small income goes a long way. Work overseas can give

you a small income and plenty of new friends. Even if it goes horribly wrong you can show your future employer what **brilliant improvisation** skills you have.

Third Term

Now that you have the summer all planned you can relax and concentrate on your academic work. After all, no amount of extra curricular activity is going to make a poor degree look better.

Second Year and Onwards

You return from the summer with your **horizons broadened**, ready for the challenges of the second year. You should be helping at the Freshers' Fair and learning about **presentation** skills. Start thinking about **work experience**.

To make your CV glow red hot apply for work experience with a **blue-chip company** (e.g. Mars, Ford and Unilever).

In your third year you will start applying for jobs in earnest. Gradunet can help, with details of the brochure and application form of 100 companies available online. Send off CVs, fill in application forms, attend recruitment fairs and get yourself to some interviews. If finals are approaching and you still haven't got a job lined up, concentrate on your academic work - a 2:1 will improve your chances of getting a job enormously.

If none of this advice works, try using the words in bold on your CV.



Business as usual on site

Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated. You (the denizens of Sheffield) thought I'd gone. Fat chance. They still haven't found a decent columnist, which means you're stuck with me, though this year will be my last. I say this now, because I feel I owe it to my dear friend Lynda Davies, the redoubtable Head of PR. She was filled with emotion, I am told, when she found out that I was staying here to do a PhD, so it only seems fair to break the news early. So, in the words of a famous philosopher, nice to see you, to see you nice. Welcome back, or welcome for the first time. Though people come and go, this year is different, since we now have the new School of Medicine. Given the warmth of feeling that exists between St Mary's and the South Ken campus, we can be assured of interesting times, particularly on Friday nights in the Union, though I suspect that some of our medical friends will visit said establishment as often as Mary Whitehouse frequents the Raymond Revue Bar.

Since my middle name is Peter and not Originality, I shall start by offering the traditional advice and wisdom to you, the freshers. First and foremost, those funny red police cars. If you are new to London, you may well be confused. No need. All the policeman in such vehicles helpfully have the same name, which is Sir. Lovely blokes, but not the best audience for student humour. Secondly, you may have heard - and your parents feared - that universities are a hotbed of sexual activity, where a bit of slap and tickle is even more assured than in the Oval Office. Imperial, on the other hand, adopts the moral high ground, believing that sex before graduation is a sin. In the exceptionally unlikely event that you should need the requisite protection, bear in mind that the machines on campus have not yet been converted to decimal coinage. Finally, we come to alcohol. Ignoring for the moment the inevitable rubbish someone will spout this week on the subject of 'institutionalised' drinking, it is better to consider quality, not quantity. Imperial offers two drinking venues, the Union and Southside. The former is a great place to spend a drunken evening, especially in Freshers' Week, sipping vodka or Jack Daniels. If you're dying for a good pint however, avoid it like the plague and head to Southside Bar in Princes Gardens. It gives me no pleasure to bemoan the state of the Union's beer for the umpteenth time, but

while it stays like it is, I shall not sleep from mental fight etc. All in all, you have chosen well. Imperial is a fantastic place to be a student, if a little on the pricey side. That statement, as you will

'Imperial... adopts the moral high ground, believing that sex before graduation is a sin.'

soon learn, is on a par with 'Imelda Marcos had quite a few shoes.'

This year is also notable because it marks the introduction of tuition fees.

Lambasted by the NUS, who said that it would lead to a massive drop in university applications (it didn't), it will be interesting to see if students' minds are more focussed on the end result of their three years here. Without wishing to sound like an old git, this is no bad thing, since the job market is no bowl of cherries. That said, there are two ways to get a good degree from Imperial. The first is to spend all your time locked in your room reading every book ever published on or around your course. By this method, of course, any fool could get a First in anything, but be rendered totally unemployable. The challenge is to come out with the right result, but have a bloody good look at this thing called life. Having been there and done that, I would recommend the latter strategy. As for the whole debt thing, keep it in perspective. A regular table at the Savoy Grill is probably off the cards, but remember that the banks will believe the most ludicrous old guff given in support of an overdraft application. Christ, they even gave me one.

Last year, at the behest of the then editor, I gave a beginner's guide to the institutions of Imperial, explaining places such as the Sheffield Building, the administrative centre. You may be thinking that is not the correct way to spell Sheffield, or possibly 'why the Hell is he talking about a building full of paper pushers?' Ah, the naïveté of youth. For this building possesses dark forces from which you will not escape, as any old lag will tell you. The latest edict from on high in the Estates Division concerns a bit of build-

ing work near the library. All the lovely block paving and car park spaces have been removed, a path has been laid and what, to the untrained eye, looks like a flower bed is under construction. Of course, it couldn't pos-

Hall. I had the pleasure of residing there over the summer because the Dorchester was full. The state of repair is poor to say the least, but before the Suite Five dwellers write in, let me explain. I acknowledge that everything cannot be done immediately, and where the builders have been sent in, the results are impressive. However, it is both annoying

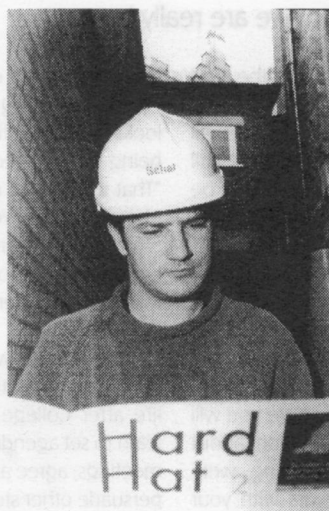
'...not even Imperial would sacrifice a row of parking for a few daffodils...'

sibly be a flower bed, because not even Imperial would sacrifice a row of parking for a few daffodils, when the money could have been better spent on re-re-refur-

bishing 170 Queens Gate. Whatever the final outcome, this is a monstrous waste of money, when one considers the state of some of the Halls, for example Fisher

and depressing when one sees the manner in which maintenance has been carried out in Fisher and, I presume, elsewhere. Walls touched up with paint that even Stevie Wonder would consider a poor match, polyfilla slapped in the general direction of cracks and a disgraceful mess left wherever the 'tradesmen' have been. When money is spent, it is given to contractors who are woefully incompetent by a department that clearly couldn't care less about buildings which, if they play their cards right, they will never have the misfortune to visit. Looks like this year will be business as usual.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

BMS "CAFE"

The BMS "CAFE" is situated on the ground floor of the new BMS Building, with 120 seats and facing the Queen's lawn.

Open from 8.30am to 5.30pm Mon - Fri

There are assorted products e.g. filled Panini's, French patisseries and New Covent Garden soups as well as sandwiches and drinks.

Look out for the opening of the BMS "CAFE".

Present this article during the first week of term and exchange it for a FREE can of coke with any purchase.

Albums

THE BOO RADLEYS

Kingsize ★★★



The Boo Radleys are one of those unlucky ex-Brit-pop bands. You know, the ones who had the misfortune to be around when the music press coined the term: a bracket which allowed a few bands to sell a lot of records in a very short time, only to fall into obscurity when the genre died. In the aftermath of this holocaust, a few guitar groups survived, scavenging for sales amongst the rubble, pursued by fascist techno hordes brandishing sequencers, computers and vinyl. The 'Radleys, stripped of the irritatingly chirpy sugar-rush that inspired *Wake Up Boo!*, strode boldly on to release an album entitled *C'mon Kids*, and showed that the true survivors of that fateful summer were the ones who could adapt, evolve and innovate. Can they do it again?

Not quite. After the complex punk explosion of that previous album, their new offering, *Kingsize*, comes as something of a confusing disappointment. Can this be the same band who created the energetic, starburst rock of *C'mon Kids*, *What's in the Box?*, and *Meltin's Worm?* In places, they sound for all the world like Oasis, or, worse still, Dodgy. Bloody hell. Where is the creative sparkle, the raw energy, the clashing and cli-

mactic guitar?

But the most irritating facet of this record is its latent potential - not all the songs are middling, insubstantial pop sludge. Martin Carr, misguided though he seems to be, is ultimately too good a songsmith to abandon his album completely. The two openers, *Blue Room in Archway* and *The Old Newsstand at Hamilton Square* are fine tracks, tantalising the listener with complex arrangements and pop suss. *Monuments For a Dead Century* is beautiful, fragile and mellow; *High as Monkeys* is haunting, tuneful and impeccably constructed, and if the Boo Radleys must pretend it is still 1995, *Comb Your Hair* reminds us of those good times.

It's not bad. If Oasis had released this, I would have been pleasantly surprised. But there's just one filler track too many, and the 'Radleys can do much better. Wake up, Boo, and smell the coffee. **M**

Ali Campbell

U.N.K.L.E.

Psyence Fiction ★★★★★

Already heralded as the album of the decade by some critics and full of singers any other album would die for, UNKLE's debut will have to knock the listener out with brilliance just to avoid disappointment. Or else what chance does it have of going beyond expectations?

Almost the entire album is very dark or depressing, which is not that surprising when you have Yorke and Ashcroft guesting on it. It starts off with *Guns Blazing* and the effect Shadow and Lavelle have on the album are immediate. An uninspiring rap is saved by some good sampling and mixing and a strong bass. Shadow manages to produce the track well enough so that if there were no rapping over the top, it wouldn't matter that much and might even be preferable.

The guitar of the title track *Unkle* then kicks in and doesn't alter through the song, but is just given different environments to live in. The phrase background music springs to mind, either that or a master class in how to DJ.

Inevitably UNKLE will be compared to Massive Attack and from listening to the main *Bloodsatin* you can hear why. They've even incorporated former Massive Attack arranger Will Malone for Ashcroft's track. Massive Attack have been almost unique for so long that anyone else nearing their territory will inevitably come under their label, even if there is a vast difference.

Ashcroft has proved on *Urban Hymns* that he can sing and gel with

beat driven tracks, look no further than *This Time*. *Lonely Soul* almost works, but the beats seem to just miss a true fit. It's not until the orchestra takes over that the song seems at rest and gets the real depth that it wants to achieve.

Why *Nursery Rhyme* was ever put on this album, I don't know. Having stated the sound of the album, it then tries to conquer all arenas. *Nursery Rhyme* is a tuneless track led by heavy guitar, in which you couldn't even hope to hear any of the brilliance of Shadow or Lavelle.

Thankfully *Celestial Annihilation* saves us. A track with a bass line that could be in any sci-fi film is again kept alive by the production and the years that the album took to bring together are easily accounted for.

The end track *Rabbit In Your Head Lights* puts UNKLE a step above their competition. Sure, it's hard to go wrong when you've got Yorke, but the bareness and simplicity of this track adds to its beauty and impact, where adding anything more would take it away. The eerie piano is perfect and Yorke's voice adds to the song's sound of desperation.

The contrast in tracks reveals the real talent of UNKLE. Throughout, whatever you think of a song, you can't blame the production. For the few lesser songs on the album it's more a case of a good sculptor working with bad clay. It's not revolutionary in any way, more, what's been done before, but far better. **M**

David H.

SHERYL CROW

The Globe Sessions ★★★

It's that third album that everyone supposedly always talks about. Most demand a change of direction, or a subtle change of emphasis, but where does Sheryl have to go?

When you think of Sheryl at her best the songs that spring to mind: *If It Makes You Happy*, *All I Wanna Do* and *Winding Road* have all allowed her voice to reach its full capacity in range and strength and have been upbeat or pacy. Sadly she seems to have forgotten this part of her music, sobering up into her late twenties. Her native America now shines through more noticeably than before; country music has taken over.

Fans won't be disappointed. She delivers a mellow, well balanced album, but manages to fall back into the label of just typical female guitar music, her voice being the only difference.

If you liked her first single from the album *Favourite Mistake* or presently wearing a cowboy hat with matching snakeskin boots, then the album suits you down to the ground. The easiest way to describe it is as an album with no singles. One of the only really mind stopping songs is *The Difficult Kind*. It starts much the same as the others, but has a harmony in the chorus that rips your heart apart. It's worth listening to the whole album just for that line; Andrew Lloyd Webber would be jealous.

Sheryl Crow in her last two albums managed to bridge the gap between country and western and pop music, bringing a new attitude to the British

charts. Sadly she seems to have forgotten why she was so successful and copped out with far easier and consequently more drab songs. There are some typical Sheryl songs on the album for example *Crash and Burn*, when her voice is allowed to let rip, but these moments are few and far between. It's not a bad album and anyone who liked the last two will inevitably like this one, but it's just such a waste when someone capable of so much cops out with an easy album; what next, an album of love ballads? **M**

David H.





ALBUM

DELAKOTA

Psyence Fiction ★★★½



Firstly you have to say that this album is chilled...with an adequate helping of bluesy funk thrown in for good measure.

They've got a name which would lead the uninitiated to assume they're part of some US scene but they actually hail from England. Their influences tend to lie quite heavily with US blues but there are helpings of British baggy cool that still don't sound outdated even now. The Charlatans playing only groove laden numbers would be a pretty close description.

The opening track *C'mon Cincinnati* exudes 70s American cool and contains an intensely catchy looping guitar line with an equally laidback vocal, 'C'mon man....' sampled over the top. This track was released over the summer and if you missed it you should seriously think about giving it a listen on this album when you can. The other single off the album is a stark contrast. *The Rock* is ambient and bluesy at the same time with its cascading guitar line cycling over the simple melody and yes yet again it is mellow and laidback. However even though the album is laidback to the extreme it does not bore, instead it sends you on a grooved out journey.

One of the few tracks that actually lets the album down is *Too Tough*, with the whole groove effect taken a step too far, leading it past any sense of tunefulness and into a grinding dreary mish mash of noise. At times you could scarily mistake parts of songs for Reef but thankfully these lapses don't tend to last very long and you're soon graced with more top quality meanderings in 90s blues. It's a bit of a coincidence that two

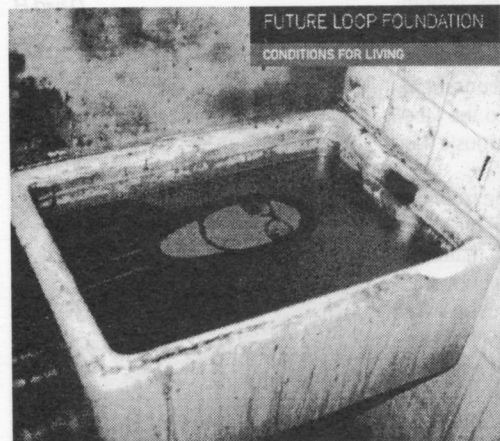
blues based bands have come to the fore this summer, namely Delakota and Gomez (yes the one who won the Mercury Music Prize, and most people still can't understand how and why). Delakota are Gomez's more energetic brothers and they don't sing with intensely irritating smoker's growls.

Gospel influences are evident on *555*, while *Stealy* starts off with a Black Grape type of riff (almost Reef like!) and some cheesy scartchin' thrown in and ambles into a grooved out instrumental. The whole attitude of don't give a f**k that runs through the entire album is summed up in the acoustic strum along *Hook Line And Sinker* where they sing 'Sing a simple song until something complicated comes along' and guess what something complicated never comes along in the life of Delakota. **M**

Jason

FUTURE LOOP FOUNDATION

Conditions For Living ★★★★★



If you want the best underground music, you can't do much better than Planet Dog. They seem to have an unnerving habit of only backing good artists and good music, and Future Loop Foundation's second album is no exception. If you've ever listened to drum 'n' bass in a club and thought "this style's good, but where can you go with it?" then Mark Barrott may have the answer.

The ten-minute title track starts you off with a traditional drum 'n' bass beat, the kind that starts fingers and toes tapping, before transforming into the slower and more industrial sound of *Remote Viewing* via the one minute ambience of *33:45*. Several tracks on this album are slow and moody, noticeably *Exit Rush* and *Praha*.

It doesn't last for long, however, as more attacking beats can be found in *Karma* and *Conditions for living*. Between these ambient and dance tracks there are a couple of really innovative tunes. *Omerta* combines strings, gentle vocals and a range samples, producing 11 minutes of great ambient drum 'n' bass. Towards the end it gathers momentum and bass before moving on to the 150bpm beats of *Year hex*.

The end of *Exit Rush*, signalled by seagulls and a distinct mellowing out of the album, brings on the imaginative *Moog Rd*. This tune really is the stuff of club chill out rooms spent lying on a cushion staring at the UV lights. It is relaxing yet uplifting, fast but somehow still

chilled, and has great little tunes that you will want to skip back to on your CD player.

So are there any reasons you shouldn't buy this album? Well, yes. Firstly, you have to like drum 'n' bass to like Future Loop Foundation. If you fancy something a bit different but aren't really in to harsh beats over 130bpm, forget it. Having said that, this album has a lot of variation and takes the music beyond its original club setting. Definitely an album for chilling, with maybe the occasional dance across the carpet thrown in. **M**

Ed

ALBUM

MANSUN

Six ★★



If you want the definition of a concept album then go no further, just give *Six* a listen and all your questions will be answered. The first track, the title track, is a bizarre medley of three songs rolled into one, in a way similar to Radiohead's immense epic *Paranoid Android* but of a distinctly third rate quality.

The entire album is full of purposely dischordant and disjointed bits of music that sound like an attempt at impersonating the Cardiacs but still trying to remain accessible. They have moved away from their previous debut album, *Attack of the Grey Lantern*, (also a concept album) which contained a few easy

to spot singles while this one has about two in total. It won't come as a surprise that these tracks are the two that have been released so far, *Legacy* and *Being a Girl*.

Another quirk of the album is that mansun have decided to make it in two parts which are joined together with an interlude. Why? is the first question you ask yourself, maybe they're showing off their originality....hmmm. There is a whole mix of styles playing around, ranging from dichordant punk in *Cancer* and the use of a harpsichord on the interlude track with an opera singer drafted in to sing over the top.

The whole mood is pretty bleak and

the album's depressiveness really shows on *Negative*, which is all about looking downwards and 'seeing negative', while another track is titled *Anti Everything*. Need I go on? Although *Six* is a few leaps away from *Attack of...* the quirky meaningless lyrics are still present and the straight up pop of songs like *Taxloss* has been removed from their song base. 80s goth (The Mission and The Cure) influence them on songs such as *Special/Blown It* while they take a trip into psychedelia on *Television*.

If you're expecting the same as *Attack of...* then don't, and don't be deceived by *Legacy* (the first single from *Six*). It doesn't sound anything like the rest of the album....let me warn you now. This could one of those albums that grow on you after a zillion listens but the problem is after about enduring three you just won't have the will power to listen anymore. And I actually liked their first offering....well maybe it's the difficult album cliché that everyone talks about....hmmm. **M**

Jason

REVIEWERS WANTED

Think you're a budding John Peel? Would you like to review some music for Felix, and see your words of aural wisdom in print? Simply drop into the office, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk, or come and visit us at Freshers' Fair. The very best part is... you get to keep the CDs you review! Need we say more?

SINGLES

Annie Christian - *The Other Way*

Annie Christian have the energy level of the Supernaturals meet the Boo Radleys. Their music's loud, but seems to be turned down to just the right volume. The strong lead guitar dictates the tune of the song, having a similar chorus. It's a song that nearly everyone will like, but no-one will be motivated enough to buy it.

Sheryl Crow - *Favourite Mistake*

Disappointing from Crow. It starts harmlessly enough, but leads to a near drone of a chorus, that fails to produce any feelings. Too slow, too small a range of notes, but I'm sure it's good to sleep to.

Purescence - *Traffic Jam In Memory Lane*

The lead singer's voice is distinctive, conjuring notes with the shakes of an opera singer. They obviously have the talent as a band and would probably be great live, but to achieve anything they need to think about getting a decent song.

Scarfo - *A Year From Monday*

This song has a definite journey. The male singer has a very 'femme' softness to his voice and his use of minors through the song really adds to its atmosphere, but just when you want the chorus to take off, it does the predictable, easiest route. Still quite good though.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOOON

Asian Dub Foundation - *Naxalite*

At last the single with that cheeky guitar tune has come out (Um...it did come out - *Music Ed*) It went down a storm at the mercury awards and as a single it doesn't fail to deliver. With five versions on the single it's worth buying even if you already have the album.

Tin Star - *Viva*

With an electronic baseline comparable to Mission Impossible and a reincarnated Michael Hutchinson singer you can't go that far wrong. Get FatBoy Slim in to make a real dance remix and you could have a club hit on your hands.

McAlmont - *Honey*

Lionel Richie better watch his back. McAlmont could quite easily steel the masses of people still pining for him with this song. It may be more modern, but lacks the real style (if I can use that word) that real pop/soul singers possess.

The Beautiful South - *Perfect 10*

Considering the kind of music the BS have been spouting lately, this tune is surprisingly good. The bass is so good and dare I say funky that everything else can just fall into place by itself. And what's the Elvis impression about? Who cares I like it

Six By Seven - *For You*

A good verse, echoed by the guitar, but an average singer, who doesn't seem capable of any emotion. The chorus sounds like many I've heard before, it's more a question of which band did it first. **M**

David H.



Line dancing at the union

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Canoe Club make a big splash

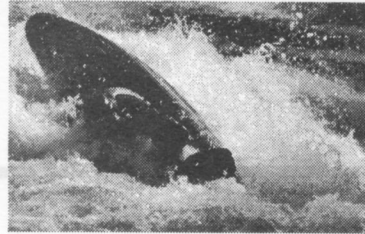
Phil Manfield

While most members of the canoe club are off travelling the world or paying off their overdrafts during the summer, those of us still here at College try to get out on the water from time to time. The heavy rain last weekend meant that the Thames was still high on Monday afternoon; an afternoon's white water is far more fun than one in the lab.

Our usual playspot is Hurley weir on



the Thames. Some great white water blasts through the sluice gates and forms some big surf waves, so that talented



boaters can pull the full range of spins, cartwheels, retendoes, bandits and other cunning stunts, and the not-so-talented can get their earwax hydraulically removed.

"Useless" Rob made a typical start by leaving most of his kit behind at College but, showing an admirable determination to get cold, he elected to go canoeing anyway, without the comforts of a wetsuit or dry-top. He was soon showing his true colours (hypothermic blue) as he repeatedly fell out of his boat and swam around the weir pool, with Instructor Garth on rescue duty. Those of us who had remembered that rivers are cold, and brought plenty of warm gear, had a great afternoon playing on the waves.

The canoe club is one of the most active outdoor clubs in College. Everyone is welcome, from the complete beginner to the hardened white-water addict. We own a full range of boats and kit for members to use, and have several qualified instructors in the club. Throughout the year, we run trips to rivers around the country. We also have weekly pool sessions, where we can teach beginners in the warm. For more information, come to any pool session (Tuesday evenings, meet 7pm in Beit Quad or 7.30pm at the sports centre) or email slappers@ic.ac.uk.

Seems the football club had a good holiday

Stuart Cook & Andy Swift

Dear Felix,

I am writing on behalf of the ICU Association Football Club to thank everyone who helped with the successful summer football tour to the Al Garve, Portugal this summer. In particular we greatly appreciated the generous financial help given by the Harlington Trust and Imperial College Union as well as the support given by Frank Murray, Neil O'Shaughnessy at the Union and, of course, the tireless effort given by the former Union President Andy Heeps.

On the pitch we won 2 of our 4 games, losing the other two games narrowly 1-0 and 2-1. Credit must be given to Dan Perreria who managed to score an own-goal in each of those two games! Thanks also to tour captain Darren Boland who did a sterling job. Off the pitch everyone had a great time especially that, perhaps against the odds, nobody was deported!

On a separate note if you wish to join the AFC please come along to our stall at the Fresher's Fair, sign up then come along to the trials on the first Wednesday and Saturday of term.

Attention all sports teams and their captains!

If you are a member of one of IC's esteemed sports squads, and you fancy publicising your Olympian exploits In Felix, send us your sport reports (either in person or by email to felix@ic.ac.uk) absolutely no later than Wednesday 8pm (for publication the following Monday).

Sports Editor Wanted

If any of you lot fancy the fame of laying out the Felix sports page for each week, don't hesitate to get in touch...

Yes, we know!

We're perfectly aware that the sport is supposed to be on the back page. It's just not been our week...

Another great summer for ICU Gliding Club

Andy Holmes

The gliding club continued flying all through the summer break again this year and, despite poor weather, we had loads of fun and some great flying.

The summer started with a week-long course at Lasham airfield in July, during which two of our pilots flew solo for the first time. Only the thought of how expensive the round would be with ten people on the course, and two instructors, reduced the size of their grins!

Although there were reasonable thermals in July, the weather improved greatly in August and, on Saturday 15th, club captain Andy Holmes flew a 350

kilometre cross-country with an instructor in 496 - the club's training glider. This is the longest distance flown by this glider in 1998, and the flight took them from Lasham airfield (near Basingstoke) to Shobdon airfield (near Hereford) and back to Lasham in 4 hours 30 minutes. The flight started with a tow to 2000 feet behind a powerful Piper Pawnee tow-plane, release over Lasham, and circling in thermal lift to climb high (up to over 4000

feet at some points). They then flew in a straight line towards the intended goal, gradually losing height until they had to climb in a thermal once more.

Later in August, Andy attended a cross-country course at Lasham airfield, in order to be cleared to fly away from the airfield by himself. During the course, Andy completed his Silver badge with a first solo cross-country flight from

Lasham to Old Sarum airfield, near Salisbury (54 km).

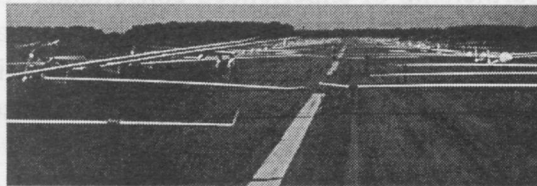
Completing the Silver badge allowed Andy to enter the British Junior Gliding Championships in one of the gliding club's single seat gliders, 296. Although one solo cross-country was hardly enough to prepare him for this competition, Andy enjoyed himself and learned quickly, and by the end of the week he had covered 260km on a day when a 300km

task was set, and completed the 240km task on the last day of the competition. For both of these flights, Andy was airborne for over six hours!

Andy isn't the only keen pilot in the club however. An ex-IC student directed the competition. Another ex-student came second, after having won the competition last year. IC students have also been members of the British team for

European and International events. ICU Gliding Club has a long history of training people from their first flight to international level, and it seems that this trend will continue. Do you want to be part of this success story?

The gliding club flies all year round, and offers trial flights for those who want to try it before they join the club. Courses and tours to other gliding clubs (and sometimes other countries!) are often arranged. If you want to find out more about a sport which allows you to travel long distances, using only your newfound understanding of nature's energy, then contact us. If you want to learn to fly at less than a tenth of the price of power flying, contact us. Even if you just want to fly some aerobatics, please contact us. We're here to provide a cheap introduction to gliding for anyone who wants to try it. See us at the Freshers' Fair or contact me on andrew.holmes@ic.ac.uk.



The competition grid on the main runway at Lasham airfield

European Computer Trade Show '98

London Olympia ★★



ECTS is the chance for all the developers in Europe to get together, see what everyone else has done, and get royally drunk.

This year was both a success and a disappointment. More people and media types attended the show than ever before, the show itself was larger, and the Sony party was amazing, complete with a concert from Pulp. However, the quality of games being shown was appalling.

Absentees included **Electronic Arts** and **Sega**, who were showing their unfinished Dreamcast hardware to a select few at a nearby hotel. Rumours of a Sonic title at launch continue...

Sony had three main titles to back: *Spyro* - a Mario-a-like with excellent graphics; *Medieval* - an off-beat platformer with a reanimated knight as the main character, and the eagerly awaited PAL conversion of *Tekken 3*. Round 1... Fight!

Nintendo was displaying its many forthcoming games. The most popular (and promising) was certainly *Zelda: Ocarina of Time* which was surrounded by a constant crowd of spectators. *F:Zero* was very disappointing, with featureless polygonal tracks and low detail cars.

Eidos had the most impressive stand, helped along by a certain Ms Croft putting in an appearance for the cameras (pictured right). Despite the publicity, *Tomb Raider III* looked like another formulaic zombie.

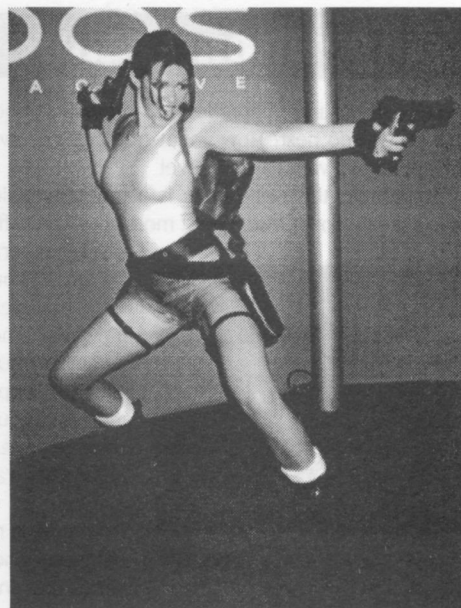
Infogrammes impressed many with its voxel-based game *Outcast* which, although slow, looked outstanding.

It's clear that in the PC market, everyone is expecting 3D graphics cards to be installed. In fact, all of the games looked very similar due to their reliance on accelerated hardware. One that did stand out from the crowd was *Descent III*, if only for a lovely 'water-hitting-the-windscreen' effect.

Konami had me queueing for ages to see a six minute video of *Metal Gear Solid*, then have a quick go on the game itself. This continues to look amazing, and I can't wait to get it home.

Lego had an interesting PC control system on show, and a virtual lego set. Personally, I can't see the point.

The **BBC** was pushing its Teletubbies licence - apparently it will be an educational title to help children speak.



No irony there, then.

Most amusing bits of the show: a guy with the nametag "Mr N. E. Body"; the students who snuck in disguised in their dad's suits, who then stood out like a sore thumb; the 300 billion button joystick that "accurately models the real controllers in an F-15" and last but not least, the guy with the nametag "Tariq Aziz, Iraqi Foreign Minister".

Mark Baker

Nightlong

Trecision work in progress

The year is 2099. Governments are powerless, and the world is controlled by massive corporations. You play Joshua Reeve, a private detective working on a dangerous case for his old friend, the city governor. Spicing up your life is Eva Tompson, the "beautiful, intelligent and very elegant" owner of the Free Climax Nightclub.

Nightlong is a futuristic detective thriller with pre-rendered graphics, 'jaw-dropping' FMV and a gritty, 30-something lead character.

If that sounds a little too familiar, then you'd be forgiven for mistaking *Nightlong* for Westwood Studio's

Bladerunner, adapted from the legendary sci-fi film. Comparisons are inevitable, although the Italian development team are keen to distance themselves from accusations of plagiarism. "From our point of view, the two games share almost nothing," claims the eight-year old developer. "Our mood is not 'Noir' but takes inspiration from the classic cyber-punk novels by William Gibson. And we have also a completely different approach to puzzles, which are not just 'evidence retrieval', but involve more complex and challenging tasks. Our 3D characters look definitely less 'blocky'. We approached the adventure genre in a more traditional fashion, because we really wanted the story to nail you to your chair."

The game certainly looks wonderful, and is sure to raise the already high



graphical standard for point-and-click adventures. What remains to be seen is whether Trecision can create a game that is truly immersive, or just another FMV-laden turkey.

Mark Baker

Lavish rendered scenery fills *Nightlong*'s three CD-ROMs.

Buck Bumble (N64)

Ubisoft ★★★★★

Good Nintendo games are in danger of losing their endangered status, with a good, new platformer and at last a decent racing game; the third bus in the

row is *Buck Bumble*. OK, because it is an N64 game you have to endure a sickly sweet story. This time you play the role of the only cybernetic, genetically enhanced, and surgically-messed-about with bee fighting off the alien mutant insectoids and preventing total destruction of little cutie earth insects (though the loss of wasps should be considered acceptable losses). So it's a simple case of finding the enemy and making sure

it ends up on the floor with its legs in the air - not all that taxing really. Where it is really good is in its graphics especially its fast-moving colourful 3D backgrounds. OK, so it might look a little like *Lylat Wars* all range mode but after a few minutes of dodging the stems of the mini-jungle, *Lylat* is a distant memory. Also with its 20 multiple missions and a few hidden bits, coupled with the 2 player mode which is actually playable,

it should hold interest. In fact the only problem I had with the game was the Nintendo 64's graphics fogging, but given the option between fogging, pop-up and spending £1000 on a decent PC system I'll accept it this once.

Gary Smith



Competition Feature

You've beaten Quake 2, bored with Command & Conquer clones, and sick of Mario. What do you do next? How about creating your own PlayStation game? Sounds impossible? Not with a Net Yaroze!

Put simply, the Net Yaroze is a programmable PlayStation - the bedroom coder's dream come true. Whilst most of us can't afford thousands of pounds for a development kit, the Yaroze retails for a mere £230. You will need something to plug it into, however. A telly and a PC are required, and some experience of 'C' programming is certainly useful too. The 'Net' bit of the Net Yaroze is supplied by an exclusive web site and newsgroups. Yaroze members have a free web page to show off their games, or to help other Yarozers (as they are fondly known).

The main restriction of the Net Yaroze is that there is no access to the CD, so all of a game's data and code must be squeezed into the teeny 2Mb of memory in the PlayStation (less than in most graphics cards these days, but that's progress for you). Whilst the supplied software is adequate, those who prefer a fancy integrated development environment can pick up a copy of CodeWarrior for an extra £90.

Members who want to show off their games can enter the 'fame game' competition. Winners' games are published on the Official PlayStation Magazine demo disc, and they get twenty copies to give to friends. There's also a Net Yaroze category in the Games Developer's UK competition, with a top prize of £5000.

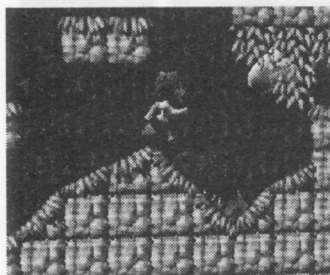
But most people will get the Net Yaroze to try their hand at game programming. Several Yaroze owners have now gone on to get jobs in the games industry. Scott Evans, now working at top UK developers Codemasters, said "The people who buy a Net Yaroze get to learn how to program one of the best games consoles around today. If you can put on your CV you have got PlayStation programming experience you will have a greater chance of getting interviews."

Universities and Colleges are now using the Yaroze as a basis for courses in computer games. Middlesex University even offers a three day introduction to Net Yaroze programming.

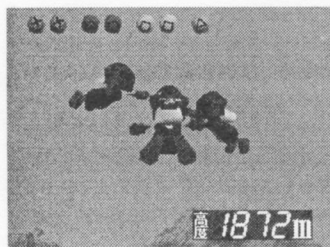
As for myself, I bought my Yaroze last summer, and the experience of programming a real console was an invaluable aid in getting my job at Sony Computer Entertainment Europe. Of course, the degree in Computing from Imperial probably had something to do with it too!

For full details, see the Net Yaroze website at <http://www.scee.sony.co.uk/yarinfo/index.html>.

To celebrate the recent price drop of the Net Yaroze to £230, we've got an exclusive Net Yaroze t-shirt to give away. Simply email felix@ic.ac.uk with the answer to the following question: What is the prize in the Net Yaroze Fame Game competition? The lucky winner's name (and any other dirt we can dig up on them) will be printed in the next issue of Felix.



Gas Girl



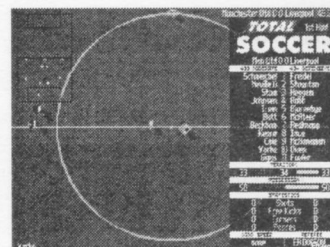
Air Bob



Stonegate



Come Baa



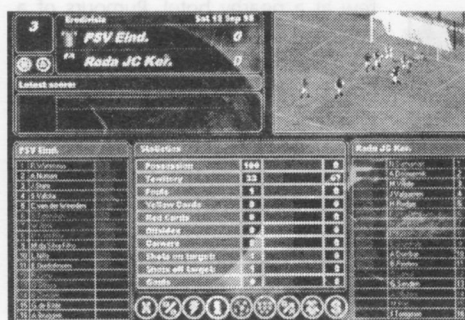
Total Soccer

World Football Manager (PC)

Ubisoft ★★★1/2

Football management games: written by fanatics for fanatics. They are dull, dull, dull. Usually, with little help, you are left to assemble a team which will struggle not to lose its first 20 games. The current king, Championship Manager 2, fits this rule perfectly. So perhaps World Football Manager is the game to drag this genre into the 90's and actually provide us less fanatical footballers something fun to play with.

So we start with the obligatory big name on the cover. Big Fat Ron's seal of approval isn't the best of adverts for football, either on sex appeal or football credibility stakes - one league, one FA Cup and lots of near-relegation misses doesn't really inspire confidence. At least it's better than having Alex Ferguson's scowling mug. If Ron puts you off your dinner you can always hide the CD case, and luckily the game is much prettier by far. The graphics are clear and while you might not get 30 frames per second with polygons flying about the screen, at least you can navigate between any two screens with a minimum of mouse clicks (say bye to hundreds of menus). You still have your train-spotting statistics and your hundreds of options to play with: scouts, squads, training programs, man to man marking - possibly enough to keep you occupied for a week between the simulated games (if you really don't have a life outside your darkened den). Those with a life might find the two best features to be the interactive help and the fact that the footballers actually seem to have a life off the field. Midfielders with tendencies to put their feet through plate glass windows and fight other players' sisters are all possibilities (hint: don't buy N. Wheelan).



Enough options to please even Stato

So if you like football, don't mind Ron's face and want a management game with slightly more humour than Championship Manager 2, this is the one to go for. If you love Championship Manager for its useful statistics, I'd advise more daylight.

Gary Smith

Videogame top 20 chart

All formats

- | | | | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | ● | Tekken 3 | Namco/Sony | PS |
| 2 | NE | F1 World Grand Prix | Nintendo | N64 |
| 3 | ● | TOCA Touring Car Championship | Psat./Codemasters | PC,PS |
| 4 | ● | Colin McRae Rally | Codemasters | PS |
| 5 | ● | Premier Manager 98 | Gremlin | PC, PS |
| 6 | ● | Tomb Raider 2 | Eidos Interactive | PC, PS |
| 7 | ● | Gran Turismo | Sony | PS |
| 8 | ● | World Cup 98 | EA Sports | PC, PS, GA, N64 |
| 9 | ● | WWF: Warzone | Acclaim | PS, N64,GA |
| 10 | ● | Tomb Raider | Pstatinum/Eidos | PC, PS, SA |
| 11 | ● | Banjo-Kazooie | Nintendo | N64 |
| 12 | ● | ISS 98 | Konami | N64 |
| 13 | ● | Crash Bandicoot | Psat./Sony | PS |
| 14 | ● | Commandos: Behind Enemy Lines | Eidos | PC |
| 15 | ● | Resident Evil 2 | Virgin | PS |
| 16 | ● | V Rally | Psat./Infogrames | PS, GA |
| 17 | ● | Tekken 2 | Psat./Sony./Namco | PS |
| 18 | ● | Die Hard Trilogy | Psat./EA/Fox | PC, PS, SA |
| 19 | ● | Grand Theft Auto | DMA/Take 2 | PC, PS |
| 20 | ● | Rayman | Psat./Ubi Soft | PC, PS, SA |

Mark Baker

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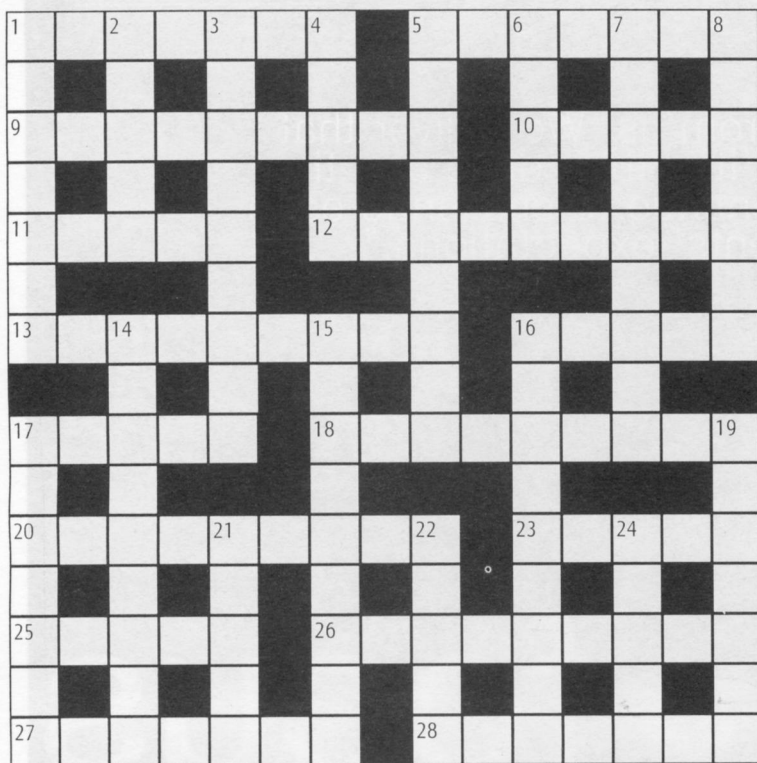
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



Across

Down

1 Mad stun explosion leaves no waste. (7)

5 Unconnected pap or so relevant? (7)

9 Always active on spot when mixing with no French. (2,3-4)

10 Serves us his food. (5)

11 In the Pleistocene were more recent finds. (5)

12 Sniggering sound around a broken cart, it pains us. (9)

13 Underworld put somewhere else. (9)

16 This mathematician has a forked tongue. (5)

17 Flags, we hear, full of air?

18 Slut, I do ye in an unrefreshing way. (9)

20 Mr yes nods diagnosing conditions. (9)

23 Plucky dialect? (5)

25 No memory? A character. (5)

26 Ralph and Fred might mingle with a voter on a bicycle? (9)

27 In the net, Hick gets duck cooked here? (7)

28 It gases out those who hate OAPs. (7)

1 Cause of death belonged to medic. (7)

2 Part of body chopped up is new. (5)

3 He makes a hole for apes? (9)

4 This groove contains no Tchaikovsky. (5)

5 Gave a hand cleaning up a dead pulp. (9)

6 Tires of exam, again! (5)

7 Set of rules in jobs helps deliver. (9)

8 We risk a mix-up being seen on the piste. (7)

14 Most convincing way to joke, say, about rector's first name. (9)

15 Moggy has morning on Scottish isle getting to Hull we hear. (9)

16 Hello sailor! (4,5)

17 It's thick grass, and some slut's put foot in it. (7)

19 Live foods perhaps give rosy gut. (7)

21 Get through to soldiers with muddled tea. (5)

22 Capital! First person in so far, we hear. (5)

24 A pound to time singers. (5)

CAPTION COMPETITION



In a struggle to keep on filling up those endless empty pages, Felix is launching its very own caption competition. For the first week, we present you with this rare and expensive picture of outgoing ICU President Andrew Heeps, and one recently elected David Hellard, the new boy. We can freely tell you that the picture was taken at last year's Summer Ball, but the question is: what sweet nothings were whispered between the pair while this photograph was being taken?

If you think you have an idea, bring your entry into the new Felix office, which these days is located in the south-east corner of Beit Quad. The best entry, in the opinion of the editor, will see his or her caption printed in Felix and admired by thousands. Sorry, we don't have any real prizes.

wants you...

If you are interested in any aspect of student journalism, Felix wants to hear from you. We need news writers; columnists; sports reporters; photographers; layout gurus; cartoonists; feature writers; arts, music, film, book, theatre and computer game reviewers and people who can fix our network of ailing computers.

If you would like a slightly more challenging task, there are the posts of Features, Arts, Books, Film and News sub-editors going begging, and these provide valuable experience in many aspects of journalism, as well as being extremely satisfying.

So please make our lives that little bit easier; email us on felix@ic.ac.uk, drop into the office in the south-east corner of Beit Quad, or sign up at Freshers' Fair. We hope to see you soon.