



Felix

Issue 987

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**A mum, three kids, a rival lover and
an elderly transvestite
Happy Families?**

Social Clubs Saved?

BY DECLAN CURRY
AND LYNN BRAVEY

Funding for social clubs and societies will be safeguarded under the Government's plans for reform of campus Student Unions, according to Conservative Party officials. The societies, which range from arts appreciation to science fiction, were facing a withdrawal of public subsidy under the original draft of the proposals published by the Education Secretary last July. But this week, the national chairman of Conservative Students, Tim Keavan, has confirmed that ministers will implement changes in the bill. These will save the societies from cash starvation, but put them under the direct financial control of universities.

Mr Keavan, in a radio interview, said that social societies will continue to receive public funding for their activities, with this money coming directly from colleges. This is a change from the Government's previous position where these 'non-core' activities would be forbidden from receiving taxpayers' money. Mr Keavan, denying a Government U-turn, said that these societies would now operate under the financial control of universities, "free of union influence". It is understood, however, that political and possibly religious societies will remain banned from receiving public funding.

"There is a fundamental misunderstanding of what the bill is going to do. It will change what the student union runs. The union will have no control. What we are doing is taking the money out of political hands and giving it directly to the societies," Mr Keavan told IC Radio.

Mr Keavan was unable to say where this public money would come from, but implied that it would be part of the "block grant" which each university already receives for its union. He angrily denied claims that the proposals were part of a money-saving exercise. "I will give you my assurance now, as Tim Boswell [the higher

Crossword Prize Presentation



The winners of the FELiX 3D Crossword Competition were presented with their prizes last Monday lunchtime in the FELiX office. From left to right: The mysterious Sphinx (clue editor), David (collecting for David Buckle who has since completed his PhD), Eleanor Corran (Overall Winner), Annie Matthewman (with beard?!), Suzanne Lewin, Ian Tinegate, Trevor Addenbrooke and Penguin (grid designer). Congratulations from the FELiX news team.

education minister] gave, that this is not a cost cutting exercise. Funding for social societies will absolutely, categorically not be cut. This is not my assurance – I have heard it directly and publicly from the ministers concerned."

Mr Keavan, who will also be interviewed by BBC1's 'On the Record' this Sunday, denied that the Government's plans were striking at the heart of students' social lives. "It is incredible when you hear the NUS [National Union of Students] saying that, without them, students won't be drinking in the bar or having fun playing sports or going to the theatre. It is incredible arrogance for the NUS to say that all student life revolves around them. It's absolute rubbish and when you look at the bill you will realise that funding is not going to be cut and more money will be spent on real student services and no money will be spent on silly little political hacks," he said. The NUS president, Lorna Fitzsimons, declined to comment when asked.

The proposed reforms are cur-

rently being discussed by the House of Lords. They have become the subject of a widespread revolt by Peers, who are alarmed at what they see as new powers given to the Education Secretary by the act.

In a mutiny of unprecedented scale, Lords from all parties have spoken out harshly against the bill, and Opposition Peers are predicting a Government defeat – despite a built-in Conservative majority in the Lords.

Lord Russell, Social Security spokesman for the Liberal Democrats and professor of history at King's College London, told IC Radio that the act was "one education bill too many". He added that the Government was planning a range of concessions to placate opponents.

He also said that the bill could be challenged in the European courts. His colleague, barrister Lord Lester, has already been reported as saying that the bill would infringe the European Declaration on Human Rights.

Any revolt in the Lords may be

matched by a similar rebellion in the House of Commons, with the former Higher Education minister, Robert Jackson MP, leading the opposition to the act.

Mr Keavan confirmed that the Government was "consulting with Peers who say they have doubts", adding that the Government wants the best bill for students.

Meanwhile, the Education Secretary, John Patten, has been the target of death threats from hard left organisations. Socialist Worker Student Societies in Oxford are reported to have told Mr Patten that he would leave a recent meeting "in a little black hearse".

This follows an event last year, after which Mr Patten complained of his constituency surgery being mobbed by "thugs" (*Felix* 983). He condemned the latest incident as an attempt to prevent free speech.

In another development, it has been announced that the renewal of Mr Patten's fellowship of Hertford College, Oxford, will be discussed at a meeting next month.

This month's UGM is today in the Ents Lounge at 1pm

Union Minibus Saga

BY MICHAEL INGRAM

After police investigations, it has become clear that a vehicle involved in a 'hit and run' incident over the Christmas holiday did not belong to Imperial College Union (ICU).

Police in Kent, called to the scene of the incident, reported it to the Union when their records showed that the vehicle was found to be registered to ICU (*Felix* 985).

The registration number of the vehicle corresponded to that of a Union minibus that had been involved in an accident last summer (*Felix* 974). The minibus had been written off and so its ownership had reverted to the insurers.

The insurance company sold the remains of the van to a salvage merchant. According to Kent CID, it was then sold at auction to a buyer who gave false details.

Unfortunately, these subsequent

owners of the van failed to register their purchase with the authorities, so officials could only trace it to the Union.

The damage to the minibus caused by the accident over the summer was extensive. It is said that the only part left undamaged was the footplate at the back. It seems most probable that the incident involved another vehicle using the registration plates of the written-off minibus.

Tube Penalties

BY MICHAEL INGRAM

London Underground is planning to introduce Penalty Fares of £10 in order to combat fare-dodging. The company has estimated that it loses up to £30 million a year to the cheats.

If approved by the Government, the penalties would come into effect from 3rd April 1994. They represent the latest step in London Underground's campaign to make sure everyone travelling on the system is carrying a valid ticket.

The proposed measures also include modernisation of ticket machines. In future, the machines will be able to give out change more often and will accept higher denomination notes.

Nick Agnew, the man responsible for introducing the scheme, commented: "We have to ask why honest people should subsidise those who deliberately...cheat the system."

St. Mary's Retirement

A formal apology has been given to Brian Lloyd Davies by the *Felix* News Team.

In a story last week we incorrectly stated that Mr Lloyd Davies had resigned from his post as the Secretary to the Delegacy at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He had in fact retired.

In a letter to *Felix*, Mr Lloyd Davies outlined the main points of his speech which we had incorrectly

printed. Mr Lloyd Davies said that last week's article was "such a travesty of the truth" that he felt forced to write the letter to "put the record straight".

In his farewell speech he included criticism of the 'administration', referring to the "second rate Government" and not the College as reported. Mr Lloyd Davies commented "I mentioned in particular the Government's petty and censor-

ial proposals for reform of Student Unions contained in the new Education Bill."

As copies of the speech were unavailable at the time, the article was based almost entirely upon informal interviews with members of College staff.

The reporter responsible expressed regret that the facts of the story were not checked.

The Regurgitator

*He Swallows Everyday Objects...
and Brings Them Back!!*

Stevie Starr



Fri 4th Feb

Tickets: £3 (advance) £3.50 (on the door)
£1 (for disco after the show 'til 2am)

available from the Union Office, numbers limited.

plus

atmosphere

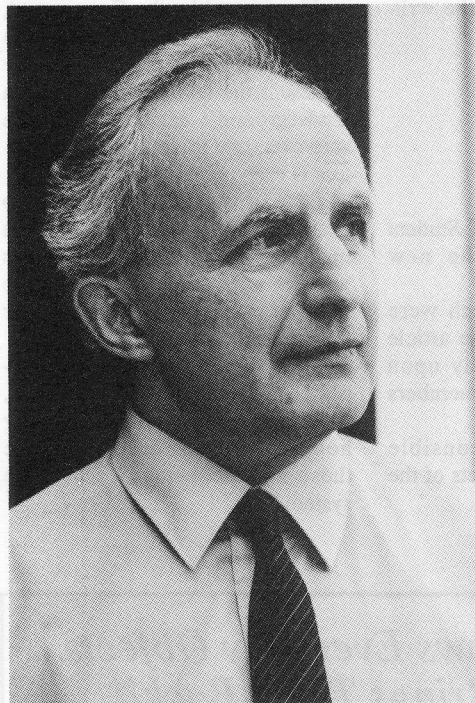
Bar 'til
1am

* Right of Admission Reserved * Details Subject to Change Without Notification *

No Need for Martyrs in the Master Class

There is life after your first degree – but problems too, says Don Adlington, Imperial College Student Counsellor in this, his second welfare article.

Advanced course students, from a student counsellor's perspective, are seen as a rather special population. Special in the sense that they are more immediately at risk when things go wrong than other student populations, such as undergraduates or research students.



Why is this so? What are the factors that make one-year advanced course students potentially vulnerable?

A common pattern of such courses at Imperial College (with a few exceptions) is two terms of intensive teaching culminating in examinations followed by a major piece of project work. Clearly, any disturbing life-event coinciding particularly with the heavy teaching component of the course, can have a quite disproportionate impact on a student's academic progress. An undergraduate or a research student dealing with exactly the same sort of problems may, other things being equal, be able to absorb a period of academic under-performance, simply because there is time to do so.

Many masters degree students have returned to University after an extended break from academic study, usually after a period of employment. It is not uncommon for people who have previously had a successful and buoyant academic experience at 'A' Level and at first degree level, to be very surprised at the extent to which they have slipped out of the academic mode and to find that the necessary adaptation is a good deal more hazardous than they had expected.

A high proportion of advanced course students are self-financing, and have taken on quite large debt commitments to pay college fees and

living expenses for a full twelve months. Occasionally students take on these extra debts before they have had the opportunity of clearing debts incurred while they were undergraduates. Older students, sometimes with onerous family obligations, have often given up well-paid work to come back to college, but find that state provision for the family is inadequate.

Students sometimes use Masters degree courses to vindicate something in their past. For example, someone who achieved a class of first degree lower than he/she had expected, or who had been disappointed at not obtaining admission to the University of their choice after 'A' Levels may well have, as a perfectly valid component of motive, a powerful need to prove something to him or herself. In these circumstances the prestige and standing of Imperial College can be highly seductive, but conversely the fear of failure can be very disturbing.

For a significant number of students returning to University after a protracted interval, a Masters course coincides with other major upheavals in life. It may indeed effectively be a vehicle for hopes and ambitions for the future which go well beyond the conventional notion of acquiring an extra qualification. This 'fresh-start' component motive is entirely valid and healthy in itself, but does imply that any worry about completing the course successfully carries an extra charge of anxiety.

Students on a Masters degree course are likely to be far less homogeneous than the average departmental undergraduate intake. People of different ages and background, from different countries, different disciplines and different universities. This sometimes means that peer-group support, or indeed the normal opportunities for friendship, are not so assured. This, and the pressure of work, may effectively exclude the student from a balanced social life.

any disturbing life-event ... can have a quite disproportionate impact on a student's academic progress.

This coincidence of short, highly intensive courses and a fair proportion of students with complex personal and family obligations (as well as complex motives), seems to me to give a certain urgency to dealing with problems if they arise. Masters degree students need to feel secure in the decision they have made, to feel an underlying confidence both that the course is

what they wanted when they enrolled and that they will be successful in it. It is, I think, normal to feel a certain reticence about 'asking for help'.

Postgraduate students, almost by definition, are coping, competent and successful people and it certainly goes against the grain to have to acknowledge that one is having difficulty. But once the little barrier of pride is overcome and there has been a proper dialogue with the right people, the rewards can be immediate and considerable. If, for example, one particular part of the course is proving worryingly difficult, there is a real danger that the anxiety will halo over on to other parts of the course unless the matter is properly discussed with academic staff. Students often perceive academic staff as being overwhelmingly busy – which may be objectively true – but it is also quite often a rationalisation for a fundamental reluctance to face up to potential trouble.

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So far as academic worries are concerned, the key people are the academic staff teaching the course. Every department in College has a Postgraduate Tutor, who has an overriding responsibility for the pastoral care of graduate students in just the same way that the Senior Tutor has for undergraduates. The College Tutors, Dr Gareth Jones in Physics and Dr Margaret Goodgame in Chemistry, have a College-wide responsibility of the same kind and may be approached directly.

However, there are other people in College on whom you can make demands – the Student Adviser in the Union (especially about any legal, financial, state benefit or Home Office problems), the doctors and nurses in the Health Centre, the Student Accommodation Office and myself. My work is entirely confidential. I can see people quickly, usually on the same day and I am paid to do nothing else but talk to students. I strongly believe that talking is very important in a crisis. It is a relief in itself to talk through one's anxieties – to share the worry if you like – in a safe place. It is a way of identifying problems clearly and it sometimes throws up new ideas for dealing with difficulties.

Don Adlington's office is at 15 Princes Gardens and his telephone extension is 3041.

The final article by Don Adlington will be in next week's issue

A Little Shop Of Horrors?

Phill Henry investigates the queer folk in the heart of Covent Garden.

I had gone to great pains to avoid black cats, ladders and elderly washerfolk, but on the day I went to meet Simon Patten of *Mysteries*, a Covent Garden occult shop, I was jinxed. Firstly, my dictaphone broke down. No problem, I thought. I borrowed a second. It too failed. Then my progress was further hampered by a security alert on the Northern Line.

When I finally got there, the first thing which struck me on entering was the perfume of exotic incenses. The slow, New Age music quietly playing added to the calm and slightly dreamy atmosphere. Although books take up a large part of the wall space, the shop exhibits many other delights for the enthusiastic or wilfully unwary consumers. Moonstones, crystals and colourful Tarot packs are stocked along with virgin inks and wax for spell casting and invocations. As I browsed I noticed a small vial containing a red liquid with 'Dragon's Blood' written on the label.

"It isn't real Dragon's Blood!" laughed Simon. "It is just a mixture of ingredients used by some people to perform their ceremonies."

Simon is quite obviously very enthusiastic about the whole occult scene. A likable and chatty man in his thirties, certainly not one to stand on ceremony, he completely lacked the immediate aura of mystery which I could not help expecting. Although tall with alert blue eyes, his manner was calm and laid back.

This is just as well. "We get people coming in who think that they have been cursed," he said. "Ninety nine times out of a hundred they are just imagining it. We calm them down, give a little reassurance and then they go away. Occasionally, we meet people who are genuinely harassed – they wake to find black, dead roosters hanging from their doorposts. Then it becomes a matter for the police."

I asked him about his more bizarre clientele and whether he gets Satanists prowling around. "Yeah. They dress in black robes and stare a lot," he said contorting his face to illustrate. "They are strange. We don't get them coming in very often. This is not the kind of place for an abject Satanist. But when they do come in, you can spot them a mile off."

"You would be surprised who comes in here. Sometimes we get witches walking in – they are just normal women who really dress the part. Other times we get Fundamental Christians protesting on our doorstep," he sighs. Nothing in the shop is anti-Christian. He goes to great lengths to explain that all world religions are catered for.

Witches and satanists are not the only customers. Indeed, I saw no black cloaked strangers staring disconcertingly at all. I asked him what the usual people who shop at *Mysteries* are like. "We get all sorts, though there is definitely a bias towards female customers; about 70 percent are female, I would say."

Since it was now approaching lunch time the

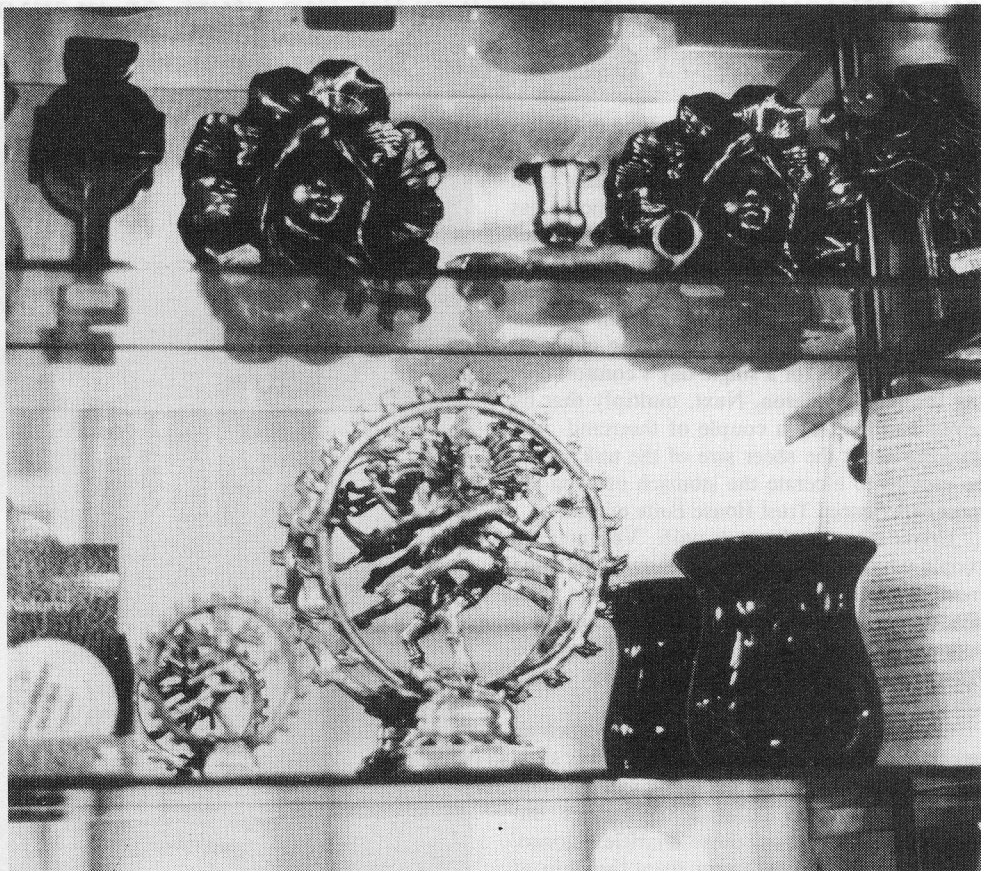


Photo: Ivan Chan

shop was filling up with power dressed women and city men in grey suits. Most of them were perusing books on psychology, mainly stress management and relationship improvement. These books are largely American and focus on down to Earth self-improvement programmes. "Californian hippy stuff," Simon disdainfully calls them, looking at the throng.

"New Age thinking has always been around," he explained. "But, thanks to the sixties and an even more recent revival, it has come to the fore."

Mysteries was founded in 1982, largely for no other reason than a gap in the market existed. Since then, there have been many other occultists who have set up shop in the West End. Despite this and the recession, Simon declares that sales have not dropped dramatically. It appears that New Age-ism is here to stay.

It is, perhaps, unsurprising that London has such a large magical industry since its history is full of ancient religions and secret sects. Many churches and other religious buildings are built on the sites of pagan temples. Few Londoners know that Westminster Abbey is constructed on the remains of a Druidic college or that St Paul's is built on an ancient Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter. Ley-lines, the supposed invisible lines of force joining sacred sites, traverse the city by the dozen making London one of the biggest junctions in the world.

"London has got a fairly good occult and

pagan scene with a reasonable number of discussion groups," Simon told me. A few yards away, in Neal's Yard, an office advertises all sorts of events from hypnotism weekends in Inverness to Tarot workshops in Acton Town.

The most popular books on sale are about astrology and Tarot reading. *Mysteries* has seized upon this public interest and offers a personal divination service. The Tarot reading service is performed by Simon himself. "I would not like to comment on the accuracy of my fortune telling," he said. However, he did tell me of his last attempt. "I suddenly said to the customer that they had spent the last six months in the African Jungle. It actually turned out to be the Indian Jungle but they were still impressed."

Spooky. Is he frightened by such unusual things? "No. I have never been frightened by anything which people would call supernatural."

"Magic is all around us," he says with a smile. "I shocked a friend when I told her that we all perform ritual magic now and then. Before we go out for a night 'on the pull' we often have a scented bath, put on our best clothes and maybe take a lucky charm. This is no different from the love rituals performed by pagans thousands of years ago."

I smiled that people still believed such superstition. Then, after buying my Sandalwood bath salts, rose incense and love talisman, I headed homewards.

Goodwill in the Season of Greed

You've probably forgotten Christmas now...too much food, telly and too many superfluous presents are hardly the stuff of memories. But volunteering for homeless helpers Crisis gave Shaun Joynson a yuletide to recall with pride.

When Jesus fed the five thousand, he got by on five loaves and a few fish. When, some 2,000 years later, the *Crisis* team tried the same trick with a smaller number of London's homeless gathered to celebrate his birthday, the logistics were a little more involved.

For an idea of the scale of the operation – feeding, clothing and sheltering London's homeless for seven days, start by working out what one person needs for a single day's comfort during the festive season. Next, multiply that by seven and then by a couple of thousand. Just thinking about the sheer size of the task would be enough to ulcerate the stomach of even the most experienced Trust House Forte executive.

Crisis manage the task with 'Volunteers', people who, in the season of goodwill, give the most important gift of all: their time. Three years ago, thoughts about the real nature of Christmas prompted me to become one such Volunteer. Nowadays, I could not think of spending Christmas any other way.

Crisis at Christmas started in 1986 when an important gap in the Christmas market was spotted. Throughout the year the needy and the lonely were helped by a multitude of charities. But then, come Christmas, these charities closed, casting hundreds overboard from the ship of merriment into the cold sea of London's streets. The strongest might manage to tread water, the weakest drowned.

Crisis began with a food run. Three years later, it opened its first Christmas shelter, gradually expanding to provide food, clothing and shelter for up to a thousand people a day during the Christmas period.

The 'Open Christmas' has grown each year. Some tub-thumping politicians may blame this on Government policies, but it is probably more likely that homelessness has always existed on this scale, but only now is it being realised. *Crisis* operates all the year round now, so the 'At Christmas' bit of the charity's name was dropped a couple of years ago.

During the 1993 'Open Christmas' (so-called because all in need, not just the homeless are welcome), the Times ran a feature comparing the Christmas of guests at the Lanesborough, London's most exclusive hotel with the guests at the *Crisis* centre, another exclusive but not nearly as expensive hotel in South East London.

I reckon that the guests at *Crisis* probably got the better deal. The Lanesborough guests might have walked in wearing expensive clothing, but



Photo: Andrew Johnston

when many of the *Crisis* guests who'd visited the clothing store left, they were able to favourably compare their clothes with those owned by the Rolls Royce driver. And, should any Londoner wonder why people sleeping in doorways are wearing expensive hiking boots, Gucci Loafers or Church's brogues, it's because as a former cobbler, I got great satisfaction from ensuring they got them while working on the *Crisis* footwear operation.

The first thing a *Crisis* Volunteer learns is that those people, whom Sir George Young might step over coming out of the opera, are humans with interesting stories to tell. Those who want to talk will and those who don't won't. Simple as that. One's psychic sense is quickly honed in such circumstances, with the extra sensory antenna soon letting you know who you can chat to, and who'll give you a mouthful of abuse or a right-hander if you so much as look at them.

I find the olde-worlde charm bit works best. The guest seeking information is greeted with a smile and a polite 'yes sir or madam'. And if one promises to do something for them, one has to stick to it, come hell or high water. It's no good

being all goody-goody and adopting compassionate poses with the guests because they can spot patronisation faster than they can spot a copper when they're out begging.

As our shift leaders always say, companionship is the best thing a volunteer can offer a *Crisis* guest. For fifty one weeks of the year they're out in all weathers, ignored, sneered at – even hated by some. So the chance of a good natter with a friendly face is looked forward to by some guests even more keenly than the lashings of hot food on offer.

Those 'good natters' reveal some interesting and sometimes harrowing secrets. However, though such revelations might make good reading, one has to remember that one has been adopted as a friend by someone usually friendless and so I always ensure that things I'm told by guests remain confidential.

I found myself worrying about the guests after my first shifts. Even now, the biggest difficulty I have is getting to sleep after a duty. One experiences a sort of buzz. Energy flows at a rapid rate around one's body, so much so that after that first duty ended around midnight, I marched from the *Crisis* site in South East London back to my home in Ealing, some fifteen miles and four hours away. When the buzzing stops, the switch between hyper-consciousness and oblivion is instantaneous. One sleeps round

Companionship is the best thing a volunteer can offer a Crisis guest

the clock until it's time to start again.

That's the down side of being a *Crisis* Volunteer. The up side is much greater, far longer lasting and often wrapped in some very humorous situations. One night, I was on the gate greeting the incoming guests. The rules of the Open Christmas are simple: no drink, no drugs, no weapons and no pets are to be brought onto the site. The vast majority of guests stick to these rules. Because a very tiny minority don't, the gatekeepers have to frisk visitors which, for diplomatic reasons, is best done by women.

One night, we turned a bottle of scotch out of one guy's pockets and a lively discussion ensued in which we had to tell the unfortunate fellow that he couldn't bring it inside with him.

Worried that it would be swiped if he hid it outside, he asked us to mind it. We couldn't. Volunteers can't look after guest's possessions, because they're regularly moved between jobs, so a temporary stalemate was reached – until the guest sorted the problem out for us.

Realising that he could not get in with the scotch ON him, but that he could with it IN him, he promptly unscrewed the cap and sank the lot in one go! As soon as the last drop had slid down his throat, he tottered through the gate in triumph, leaving me holding the empty bottle!

Then, there was the guest who was last to leave on the final day. This was a 'shouter', a harmless old soul who barked unintelligible abuse at any Volunteer who went near him. 'Shouters' are rarely violent, but kid gloves and a bit of inspiration are needed to deal with them. Enter Ted, a great, bearded bear of a Volunteer and a fine actor. "Don't look at him, just leave him to me," he told the knot of Volunteers who were gathering around.

Approaching the man, he got the same abuse as all the rest. So, adopting the same crouched pose as the man, he simply mirrored his gestures and shouted abuse back at him. It worked a treat. Within a few minutes, Volunteer and Guest hobbled out the door, each trying to out-eff and out-blind the other!

A night club bouncer could learn much from the way that *Crisis* staff handle the occasional punch-ups, which, it must be stressed, are no more frequent than those that might take place in any other 24-hour club with several hundred customers. Brawn counts for little when dealing with a fight that might be taking place between a drunk oblivious to pain and a mental patient who's inner turmoil keeps him fighting long after a sane person would stop. In those circumstances, brain power wins every time.

If one cannot talk about the guests' problems, what about their personalities? The media and the pundits may have their own views on the subject, but the best general description I've ever heard came from a guest during the wee small hours of a night shift. He was a true 'knight of the road' who admitted that, after twenty years of living out of a gunnysack as a merchant

sailor, he could not live in a home, even if he was offered Buckingham Palace.

There were, he surmised, three types of *Crisis* guest. The first was the 'temporarily down on their luck' ones. My first year at *Crisis* coincided with the recession beginning to bite in the building game and a good number of guests were chippies, sparkies and brickies – highly skilled craftsmen, who'd enjoyed past good times but were now suffering.

The next type were ones like himself: drifters and wanderers, those with an ingrained urge to keep moving. In many respects the drifters are the most interesting of the lot.

They tell some wonderfully funny stories about the people who have given them lifts over the years and have in their heads a knowledge of Britain's road network too vast to ever put onto a computer.

The final type are the saddest of all: the alcoholics, drug addicts and the mentally ill. The drug addicts and drinkers can only be helped when they decide to help themselves. The mentally ill though are a different story.

They have fallen through the gossamer thin net that the government insultingly calls 'Care In The Community'. I once used to work for a top Tory and my political sympathies still lie vaguely in that direction. That said, while working at *Crisis* I've seen enough to realise that 'Care in the Community' is proof positive that this government really does have a sense of humour. Actually, it's not a very funny policy, it's simply

a ridiculous one. It does not work at all and needs to be reversed el pronto.

If that sums up the guests, what sums up the volunteers? Is it their occupations? Not really, for one could stop a hundred people at random in Oxford Street and find the same job descriptions among a similar number of *Crisis* Volunteers. Is it their religion? No again, because for everyone who thinks they're there doing God's work, there is another who does not give a damn for faith of any kind. They all do it for different reasons which, for the most part, they prefer to keep to themselves.

When I get back to work, the inevitable stories about the Christmases of my workmates will start doing the rounds. No doubt people will ask me what I did in my holiday. It will be easy to tell them but difficult to explain the emotions behind it. This year, as my last shift came to an end, I was standing in the middle of the hall, recalling the time two Christmases ago, when I'd stood in the place spot and heard the strains of a guitar coming from a corner of the hall.

There were, he surmised, three types of Crisis guest...

Moving closer, I listened for a while to the sound of Ralph McTell's song, 'The Streets of London', being sung by the very people it was

about. Coming back to the present, I paused long enough to give a belated Christmas gift of a woolly hat I'd worn all week to the fourteen year-old homeless girl with enough personality to fill a tower block. She'd set her heart on it. Then I left, hoping that the sticking plasters I'd managed to apply to the wounded souls of some of the people I'd met this year would stay intact long enough to do some good.

Our thanks to Deborah Pack at Crisis for the provision of the photographs.



Photo: Andrew Johnston



Overseas Students Committee Page

OSC Five-A-Side Soccer Tournament

| Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Indian Malaysian French | Cypriot Iranian Mauritian | Pakistan Lebanese Japan | African Caribbean Sri Lankan Singapore |

| Results - Group 1 |
|--|
| Indian 6 - 2 Malaysian Malaysian 6 - 1 French French 2 - 10 Indian |

The Imperial College OSC Five-A-Side Soccer Tournament (OSC ST) started this week. Unfortunately only the first twelve teams to submit entry forms could be designated groups. The group games will be played over the next three weeks with semi-finals and finals taking place prior to International Night which is on the 4th March. The teams will be competing for the grand OSC ST trophy which was won last year by the Pakistan Society.

The matches will be played on the outdoor court at the Chelsea Sports Centre on Sydney Street.

The teams have been placed in the following groups as listed below. Each team will play

every other team in its group once and the top two teams from each group will go through to the quarter finals. Could teams bring down both a white and a coloured shirt for their matches.

Remember, teams must be at the Chelsea Sports Centre's outdoor football court by the time stated, otherwise you will be penalised.

Wednesday 2nd February

The games to be played are:

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| 3.00pm | Cypriot vs Iranian |
| 3.45pm | Iranian vs Mauritian |
| 4.30pm | Mauritian vs Cypriot |

Attention All OSC Chairs!

There will be a meeting for the Presidents of all constituent societies of the Overseas Students Committee on Monday 31st January at 1pm in the Senior Common Room, first floor (east staircase) of the Union Building.

It is very important that all Presidents attend.

IC Radio Programme Schedule

| DAY TIME | FRI 28th | SAT 29th | SUN 30th | MON 31st | TUE 1st | WED 2nd | THUR 3rd |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 8-9 | | | | | | | |
| 9-10 | MUSIC JAM | | | | | | |
| 10-11 | | | | | | | |
| 11-12 | | | | | | | |
| 12-1 | | | | | | | |
| 1-2 | | | THE LOFTY SHOW | | | | |
| 2-3 | | | | SAMRA & JEN | MUSIC | WED'DAY WEEK | MUSIC |
| 3-4 | | | | | JAM | AL'S SHOW | JAM |
| 4-5 | RICHARD SAW'S SHOW | TOP 40 ALBUM CHART | UK TOP 40 | | | | |
| 5-6 | | | | | BRYAN'S SHOW | | |
| 6-7 | KICK UP THE ARTS | | | MONDAY MELTDOWN | | RICHARD SAW'S SHOW | |
| 7-8 | ANDY'S SHOW | STEVE D'S SHOW | | MISSION IMPOSSIBLE | | | |
| 8-9 | | | | DOM & THE FAT BLOKE POSSE | | | TIM'S SHOW |
| 9-10 | S&M (IT'S ORGAS-MIC) | | ALEX'S SHOW | | BACK TO BASICS | PIERSTALKS HAMSTER | |
| 10-11 | | | | | | | |

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Alif Lam Mim

**These are Verses of the Wise Book
A Guide and Mercy to the Doers of Good**

**Those who establish regular Prayer
And give regular Charity
And have (in their hearts)
The assurance of the Hereafter**

**These are on (true) guidance
From their Lord; and these
Are the ones who will prosper.**

**But there are, among men
Those who purchase idle tales
Without knowledge (or meaning)
To mislead (men) from the Path of Allah
And throw ridicule (on the Path) :
For such there will be a humiliating Penalty.**

**When Our Signs are rehearsed
To such a one, he turns
Away in arrogance, as if there were deafness in
both his ears:
Announce to him a grievous penalty.**

**The Glorious Qur'an (Chapter Luqman ,1-7)
IMPERIAL COLLEGE ISLAMIC SOCIETY.**

Sex and Explosions

It's Monday night, it's David Bowie night. This week ICSF presents two videos projected for your further enjoyment in Chem Eng LT1. At 6pm, *The Hunger*, adapted from Whitley Streiber's novel of decaying vampires but probably more renowned for its bloodletting lesbian sex scenes (blatant advertising ploy, anyone?).

At 8pm we present Nicholas Roeg's multi-faceted *The Man Who Fell To Earth*, another book adaptation. Bowie stars this time as an alien come to Earth bearing great scientific knowledge in an attempt to save his dying planet. ET this certainly isn't as he is discovered by the government, indulges in surreal and totally gratuitous sex with a woman he met in a lift and slowly degenerates into a drunken alien sot.

Both films are free to ICSF members. Membership costs just £3 and gets you free entry to our video projected double bills, the chance to borrow over 3,000 books, videos and graphic novels from our library in the corner of Beit Quad and reduced entry to our 35mm presentations including your first film free.

On Tuesday at 7pm in the Concert Hall, we have the explosive SF action comedy *Demolition Man*. Tough cop Sylvester Stallone is in the 21st century, thawed out from a cryogenic sleep sentence (for a crime he did not commit) to combat a psychotic criminal who was also frozen in 1996. Stallone's character has to deal with a rampaging Wesley Snipes with a silly haircut, as well as contending with the new morals of 2036 society: no swearing, no smoking, no sex and everyone humming 'classic' advertising jingles. Nigel Hawthorne (of all people) also stars as the benevolent dictator of 'San Angeles'. Into a world where violence has been eradicated come some very big explosions, bringing with them a sense of irony more finely developed than in most Joel Silver productions. Things start exploding in the Concert Hall (second floor, Union Building) at 7pm.

Admission is £1.50 to ICSF members and £2 to non-members. Membership costs just £3 (details above) and includes your first film free.

Ban On Chewing Gum

No, there is not going to be any ban on chewing gum here and neither is there any proposal for such a move. The ban has, however, been put into force in Singapore. Surprise, surprise! But whereabouts is of this place called Singapore. Is it in China? No, though it's closer to China than it is to London. Singapore is just north of the Equator, at the southern tip of the Peninsular Malaysia. Being a tropical island country, it is a much warmer and sunnier place than London.

Little is known of the early history of Singapore. According to the colourful and vivid *Sejarah Melayu* 'Malay Annals', Singapore was supposedly discovered by a Malay ruler, Sir Tri Buana in the 13th Century. Caught in the storm



Chicago of the 1920s was not a nice place to be with gangsters and sudden death just around the corner. *Chicago*, the musical, has all of this plus a little bit more.

Chicago starts with Roxie Hart murdering her one night stand as he tries to walk out on her. She is then arrested after attempting to frame her husband and is kept in jail to await her trial. One of her fellow prisoners is Velma Kelly who is also waiting for her day in court where she will be charged with the murder of her husband and sister.

Both women are being defended by Billy Flynn, a lawyer of dubious reputation, who has never failed to get an acquittal for any of his women clients if given five thousand dollars. He does this by manipulating the media and then the jury.

In agreeing to represent Roxie he is forced to push Velma, currently Queen of the Chicago headlines off the front page. The battle for the front page and freedom has started.

Chicago is an amateur production but per-

formed in part with the slickness of a professional show. The set is very creative and used very effectively. The on-stage band, which has a very strong jazz sound to match the era, performs admirably. All the musical leads are excellent, especially Kirsty Bennett as Roxie Hart and Marlaine Anfelides as Velma Kelly. However, the big dance scenes are occasionally hampered by a lack of space.

All in all, an excellent, enjoyable and, in places, funny show.

Review by Steven Newhouse

There are only two days left to see Chicago.

It is showing tonight and tomorrow in the Great Hall. Doors open 7pm.

Tickets are £6 (concs £4) from the Imperial College Union Office.

at sea one day, he was forced to land on the island to seek refuge. On sighting an animal which he mistook for a lion, he decided to establish a settlement there which he aptly named Singapura ('The Lion City').

Modern Singapore was founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles, a Britain. Singapore became part of a British settlement and then a Crown Colony. It gained independence in 1965 and it was on its way to establishing itself in the international scene. (Are you still thinking about the chewing gum ban? It made headlines in the German papers.) Changi International Airport, voted best airport in the world, is a result of meticulous planning and hard work. The pace of

economic growth refuted doubts from the international community about the survival of a small country devoid of natural resources.

A cosmopolitan country, Singapore surprises many with the harmony between its various ethnic groups. While maintaining their own unique cultures amongst Western technology, the harmony has created a melting pot that merits the remark that it is a place 'where the East truly meets the west'.

Find out more about Singapore at the exhibition 'Swing Singapore'. It will be held in the Great Hall, Sherfield Building, from 9am to 5pm on 2nd February. See you there!

See *Demolition Man* for only £2 on Tuesday in the Concert Hall

The Infamous Bottle Match Is Back!

Come and bathe in the euphoria, as the Royal School of Mines RFC battles against Camborne School of Mines RFC for the 1994 Bottle Match, in what is the second oldest varsity match in the country! This highly prestigious event for players and spectators has a reputation for the activities through the tour.

Departure is on 25th February at 8.30am, returning at midnight on 26th February after the legendary post-match bar session.

The cost will be approximately £30 which will include travel and accommodation in the picturesque seaside town of Newquay, ideally situated near Camborne itself.

This event has been enjoyed by all who have gone on the trip and is by no means solely for the RSM. All IC students are welcome to take part in what is undoubtedly the most important sporting event on the IC calendar.

If you want to take part in this orgy of fun and excitement, sign up outside the RSMU Office (ask for directions if you don't know where it is).

Famous quotes from previous tours:

*'It was f***ing awesome' - an ex-chemist*

'Best weekend I've had in three years here' - Mr

R 'Chunky' Clemmy, infamous funster

'Match? What match...' - someone at the last bottle match.



Concerts, Collections and Condoms

In case you hadn't noticed, we are now into a New Year and that means that RAG is back with vengeance. Some of us even went to the National Rag Conference here in London while the rest of you were still recovering from your hangovers so we now have even more fun, outrageous events planned for you to take part in!

What would you rather do this weekend:

- Write up your lab report/essay that was due in last week or,
- Go on a trip somewhere interesting?

If the answer is b) then join us in Beds on Saturday. We are taking a minibus of fun-loving students on a Rag Raid in aid of WWF so if you go you could win juggling balls, a T-shirt or even a holiday to Egypt as these are their collecting incentives! If you would like to go then sign up at our meeting today in the Ents lounge at 1.10pm

In February we have the following things going on: On the 6th and 13th there will be a fierce battle taking place between C&G and the RCS, but its all for charity, mate! These are the dates of the CCU Challenge when on different days collectors from the different CCUs will be going to Covent Garden to compete for the prestigious title of 'Best Collecting CCU'. The proceeds will go to Turning Point who will be giving away a years supply of condoms as the prize for the top collector. For more details see us in the Rag Office.

Finally, for the moment anyway, we, along

with RCS are organising a Rag Tour which will start on the 18th February. This is a great opportunity for you to escape from London for the weekend and discover other parts of Britain whilst meeting and partying with other students from these places. The places we will be visiting include Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Keele and Birmingham and there may be more. There will be two minibuses going on this tour so there are plenty of spaces for those who want to go. If you would like to be part of this magical, mystery tour and it is open to anyone and is FREE, then come along to our meetings, or see us in the RAG Office, for more details.

Stop Press

We have just heard that the Forum Hotel have pulled out of the Sponsored Abseil on the 12th February so that won't be going ahead. However we are trying to organise another hotel where the event could be done on the 12th March. For Marie Stopes. For this the deposit will be £30 which will be refunded if you raise £50 in sponsorship money. If you signed up to do the abseil then please see us in the Rag Office or come to one of our meetings

Thats all for now, but don't worry, we shall be back, for even as I am writing this article there are more exciting, original events being planned for your amusement!

Men With Big Guns

When was the last time you fumbled around in the dark, sweating heavily, with twenty other people? Okay then, when was the last time it cost you only £4? Now you too can indulge in such pleasures courtesy of the Quasar Club (as in 'Quasar' the laser combat game if you're still confused).

We run fortnightly trips to the Ladbroke Grove Quasar Centre, where we spend two hours generally blasting the crap out of each other with laser guns (as you do) to score points. Obviously, there is a lot more to the game than this, but I can assure you that it is excellent fun, and the best way to find out more is to experience it yourself. We have already held two successful trips – the next is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd February and will cost a one-off reduced price of £3 per head instead of the usual £4.

So, if the idea of getting your hands on a solid 12 inches of laser weaponry appeals to you, be sure to attend our meeting on Monday 31st January at 12.30pm in the Brown Committee Room on Level 3 of the Union Building. We will give you all the sordid details of our laser-related activities, and you should feel free to ask us any questions you may have.

Enquiries may also be directed to Ozzy Mir or Neil Jackson at their respective E-Mail addresses miru@ph.ic.ac.uk and jcksnnrh@ph.ic.ac.uk.

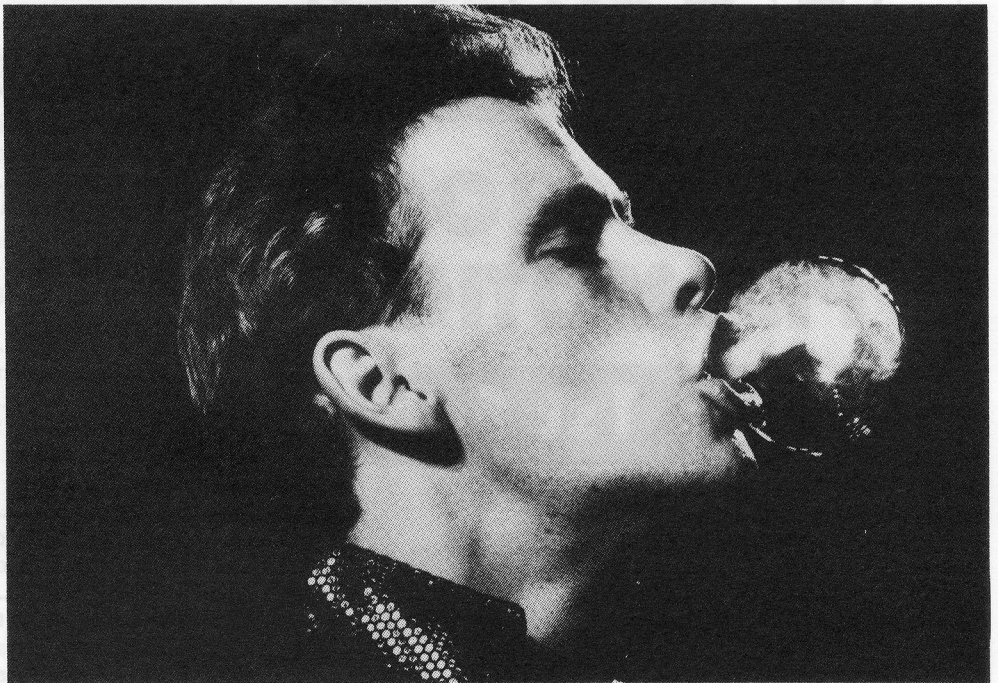
The diary lists many of the clubs' regular meetings and events

Bring It All Back - The Etiquette of Barfing

Ever bent over the porcelain temple and prayed to the great god of the toilet? Ever called for those two long lost brothers Ralph and Huey? Yes, I'm talking about that most basic of functions vomiting, barfing, the technicalour yawn...you see, there's this guy and he does it all the time. His name is Stevie Starr, and his trademark isn't downing fifteen pints of Guinness and then delivering his dinner all over the floor. He's a little more sophisticated than that, he'll devour anything from 10p pieces to Rubic Cube (he can even turn the sides in his stomach!) and bring them back.

Believe me, if you go and see this guy, make sure that your you've eaten a long time ago and your stomach is well and truly settled, if the actions don't get you, the sound will make your skin crawl. He recently appeared on the Emma Freud show on Radio One, and the gurgling wretching noise was a thing to witness. Stevie is a bit of an expert though so there's no need to worry, starting when he was only four years old, there have been a few years of practice to hone this rather peculiar talent. Among the stunts that Stevie performs, is swallowing a bowl of dry sugar followed by a glass of water, and (don't ask me how he does it) he brings the sugar back up completely dry. Now, that's what I call a party trick, imagine this guy in the sixth form!

If you want to witness his rather strange talents, he is coming to Imperial on Friday 4th February. He has appeared on TV and radio, and it isn't really surprising when you think that



there's no-one else out there who can do this type of thing. Considering what it must do to his stomach muscles that's probably not such a bad thing. He has been checked over by whole bus loads of doctors and the secret of his talent remains to be discovered.

It is quite a sight to behold, at the front of the stage, with some of the most disgusting noises

you have ever heard hanging in the air, to see him swallow everything in sight from a ring to a light bulb to a snooker ball. It is said that the only way men could appreciate the pain of childbirth is to pass out a bowling ball, perhaps Stevie Starr is going to be the closest the male population is ever going to get to that?

Women's Football

IC 1 - 6 London Hospital

By all rights the match should have been a blowout. Based on last term's results the score should have been 15-0, against! But we came out strong and surprised the other team, not to mention ourselves and were soon up 1-0, thanks to a great run by Paula who picked up the ball at the halfway line and carried it herself by the defence to the box and scored with a far post shot. London Hospital didn't know what to do - they only made it out of their own half once in the first twenty minutes. But they pulled themselves together and by halftime the score was 2-1.

We had the wind against us in the second half (not to mention our fitness, or lack thereof). Despite numerous goal scoring opportunities we began to feel the pressure of playing the top team in the league. By 35 minutes into the half we were down 4-1. London Hospital topped it off with two goals in the last ten minutes to make the final score 6-1, a respectable score given the opposition.

Anyone interested in playing Women's Football should contact Christine DeWolf via the Union pigeonholes.

Welsh Soc

Happy New Year, or should I say Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! After a fairly lively first term for this newly created Society, Welsh Soc is organising its future events. There will be the usual once a month (last Friday thereof) trip to the London Welsh Club. The next one will be on 28th January, meeting in Southside at 7.30pm.

On the 'overseas' front, the Society is planning a weekend in Brussels for the end of February (travelling overnight of course) and is also planning to attend the Welsh University Intercollegiate Eistedfed on the weekend of the 10th-12th February. This not only involves participating in the more cultural events but also in the 'Pub Eistedfed', at which I am sure we will do very well.

We are also hoping to be introduced to the Houses of Parliament by one of the Welsh MPs and will have a stall in the JCR in the forthcoming 'SCC Week'. Volunteers to run the stall are being sought. Finally, for those that would like to see a major sporting event, we will be going to see Wales vs Norway at Cardiff in March. Tickets will be on a first come first served basis so come along on Friday to put your name down. Contact Nefyn Jones, Elec Eng on 8138 or Krista Jones, Biophysics ext 6894.

A Credit To IC

UCL Seconds 2 - 1 IC Thirds

With more than slight apprehension, IC Thirds (London League Division 3) went into the London Cup Quarter Final to face an unbeaten UCL side, top of division 1 and cup favourites.

James Diss' Third XI battled bravely and a goalless first half saw a beautifully worked move on the left, revolving around the dazzling Roddy Hennis, ending with Richard Salter's flick cannoning into the UCL post. All seemed under control at the other end with Crispian Lord and Vice-Captain Ed Jenkins solid in defence, whilst the watchful Rob Franolie was quick to drive forwards for the midfield.

Mid-way through the second half UCL scored at the third attempt - twice being denied by man of the match Guy Williams. Guy continued to impress with a series of magnificent saves. Three minutes from time, IC levelled with a cannonball free kick delivered by Ed Jenkins turned in by the head of Richard Salter.

Super-sub Maddy came on for extra time, which ended with UCL snatching the winner three minutes from a penalty shoot-out with a deflected shot looping over a helpless Williams.

A credit to IC, the team was: Guy Williams, Ed Jenkins, Rob Franolie, Lawrence Stolworthy, Richard Craig, Crispian Lord, Roddy Hennis, Anthony Clerc, Peter Linney, Javier Madurga (Maddy), Richard Salter and James Diss.

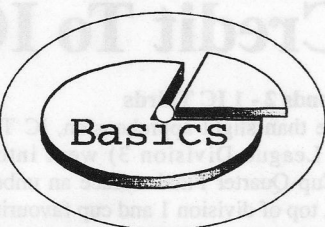
Da Vinci's

Café-bar

ORANJEBOOM PROMOTION

Tue 1st Feb

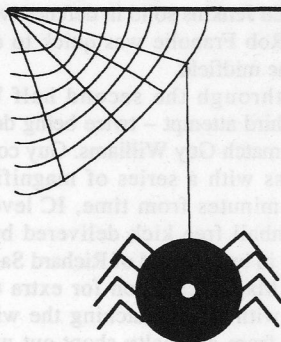
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**COBWEBS
DISCO**

Every Thursday & Friday Night
Has moved to the old Belushi's Pizza Bar
next to Southside Bar

diary

28th Jan - 3rd Feb

Friday 28th

Fencing Club Meeting.....12.00pm
Union Gym. All standards welcome.
Chess Club12.30pm
Table Tennis Room, Top Floor
Union Building. Regular Meeting.
Friday Prayers.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by
Islamic Society.
Rag Meeting.....1.10pm
Ents Lounge, Union Building.
IC Fitness Club.....5.30pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Gym. Step aerobics.
OpSoc Presents:
Chicago7.30pm
Great Hall, Sherfield Building. £6,
£4 Tickets from Union Office or cast.
WelshSoc Trip.....7.30pm
Meet Southside for trip to London-
Welsh Club. Tickets for Wales vs
Norway. Contact Nefyn Jones on
ext 8138 or Krista Jones on ext 6894.
Atmosphere.....8.00pm
Union Ents Lounge. Bar 'til 1am,
disco 'til 2am. Entrance £1.
Happy Hour.....8.00pm
Da Vinci's Bar, Union Building.
20% off all drinks. Bar 'til 1am
IC Radio:
S&M, It's Orgasmic.....9.00pm
Tune in to 999kHz AM. Don't miss
the next episode of *St Mary's - the
Ins and Outs of Doctors and
Nurses*

Saturday 29th

FilmSoc Presents:
Reservoir Dogs
.....5.00pm, 8.00pm, 11.00pm
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union
Building. All seats £1.50.
OpSoc Presents:
Chicago7.30pm
Great Hall, Sherfield Building. £6,
£4 Tickets from Union Office or cast.

Sunday 30th

Sunday Service.....10.30am
West London Chaplaincy presents
interdenominational worship and
teaching. Regular meeting.
**War Games & Roleplaying
Club**1.00pm
Table Tennis Room, Union
Building. Regular meeting.
IC Fitness Club.....2.00pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Gym. Step and Intermediate
aerobics.
CathSoc Talk.....8.00pm
More House, 53 Cromwell Road.
Clearvision Charity.

FilmSoc Presents:

Jamon Jamon8.00pm
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union
Building. All seats £1.50.

Monday 31st

Fencing Club Meeting.....12.00pm
Union Gym. All standards welcome.
Quasar Club Meeting.....12.30pm
Brown Committee Rm, top floor,
Union Building. All welcome.
ArtSoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union Dining Hall, Union Building.
IC Fitness Club.....5.30pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Gym. Beginners aerobics.
Dance Club.....5.30pm
Union Dining Hall, Union Building.
Chess Club6.00pm
Brown and Clubs Committee Rms.
ICSF Presents:
The Hunger6.00pm
**The Man Who Fell
To Earth**8.00pm
Chem Eng LT1, free to members,
membership £3.
Happy Hour7.00pm
20% off all drinks in Da Vinci's
Bar, Union Building.
Volleyball Club8.00pm
Kensington Leisure Centre,
Walmer Road. Men's training
session. Regular meeting.

Tuesday 1st

Yoga Society..12.00pm & 1.00pm
Southside Gym. New members
welcome.
CathSoc Mass12.00pm
Sir Leon Bagrit Centre, Level 1,
Mech Eng. Followed by lunch.
Ski Club Meeting.....12.30pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Upper Lounge.
Sailing Club Meeting12.30pm
Meeting in Southside Upper
Lounge. Regular meeting.
Yacht Club12.30pm
Meeting in room 101, Civ Eng.
**Liberal Democrat
Society Meeting**1.00pm
Every week in Southside Upper
Lounge.
Ents Meeting.....1.00pm
Ents/Rag Office above Traditional
Union Bar. Regular Meeting.
Boardsailing Meeting.....1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Info
from J Mayhew, Mech Eng.
Circus Skills5.00pm
Union Lounge. Regular meeting.
IC Fitness Club.....5.30pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Gym. Advanced aerobics.

BioSoc Lecture.....5.30pm
Chaos and Forecasting by Prof
Robert May, Biology Common Rm.
Dance Club.....6.00pm
Beginners class in the Junior
Common Room. Regular Meeting.
Girls Basketball6.00pm
Meet at Southside. Contact Julie on
ext 3681 or 071-584 0029, Rm. 25.
ICSF Presents:
Demolition Man.....7.00pm
Concert Hall. Members £1.50,
membership £3 (1st film free).
Da Vinci's Happy Hour ...7.00pm
20% off all drinks. Oranjeboom
promotion starts 8pm.
Mountaineering Meeting.....9.00pm
Regular meeting in Southside.

Wednesday 2nd

'Swing Singapore'9.00am
Exhibition by ICU Singapore
Society in the Great Hall, Sherfield
Building. Free Admission.
Parachute Club.....12.00pm
Table Tennis Room (top floor,
Union Building).
Quasar Club Outing.....1.00pm
Meet outside Physics Building on
Prince Consort Road. £3 per head.
**Third World First
Speaker Meeting**.....1.00pm
Biology W2, under Beit Arch.
*Third World Debt - The facts
behind the figures.* Talk by David
Woodward of the New Economics
Foundation.
**War Games & Roleplaying
Club**1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union
Building. Regular meeting.
Hoverclub1.00pm
Interested in building a hovercraft?
Meet at Southside Garages near
Southside Shop or E-Mail
j.bell@ee for more info. All
welcome.
IC Fitness Club.....1.15pm
Southside Gym. Intermediate/
Beginners aerobics.
Tenpin Bowling Club.....2.15pm
Meet in Aero Eng foyer for a trip
to Charrington Bowl, Tolworth.
Transport is provided.
**Singapore Society
Speaker Meeting**.....2.30pm
Read Theatre, Sherfield Building.
*Investment & Career
Opportunities in Singapore.*
OSC Football Tournament:
Cypriot vs Iranian.....3.00pm
Iranian vs Mauritian.....3.45pm
Mauritian vs Cypriot.....4.30pm
Chelsea Sports Centre's outdoor
football court on Sydney Street.

Flamenco Dancing.....6.00pm
Regular meeting in Union Lounge.
For more information contact
Pablo on 4999. Organised by the
Spanish Society.
Chess Club6.00pm
Regular meeting in Brown and
Clubs Committee Rooms.
Happy Hour7.00pm
Da Vinci's Bar. 20% off all drinks.
Bar extension 'til midnight.
Club Libido.....9.00pm
Union Lounge, Union Building.
Free entry. Goes on until 1am

Thursday 3rd

French Society12.00pm
Weekly meeting in Union Gym
(2nd Floor Union Building).
Spanish Society1.00pm
Southside Lounge. Regular
meeting.
**STOIC Lunchtime
News Training**1.00pm
Top floor of the Union Building.
Free to members. Non-members
£2.50.
ICYHA Club.....1.00pm
Regular meeting in Southside Upper
Lounge.
IC Fitness Club.....5.30pm
Regular meeting in Southside
Gym. Intermediate aerobics.
Girls Basketball6.00pm
Meet at South Kensington Station
or Fulham Cross School, Munster
Road at 7pm. See Tuesday's entry.
Christian Union.....6.00pm
Room 308, Huxley Building. All
fab bunnies welcome.
IC Choir Rehearsals.....6.15pm
Weekly meeting in Room 342,
Mech Eng building.
Tenpin Bowling Club6.15pm
Meet in Hollywood Bowl,
Tottenham Hale (Victoria line).
Happy Hour7.00pm
Da Vinci's, Union Building.
Cocktail night with wide selection
at low prices.
**IC Jazz Big Band
Meeting**7.00pm
Rehearsals in Table Tennis Room,
top floor. Union Building. Regular
meeting.
Dance Club.....7.00pm
Beginners Class in the Junior
Common Room, Sherfield
Building. Regular Meeting.
STOIC: 'Into the Night'
Training.....7.00pm
Top floor, Union Building. Free to
members. Non-members £2.50.

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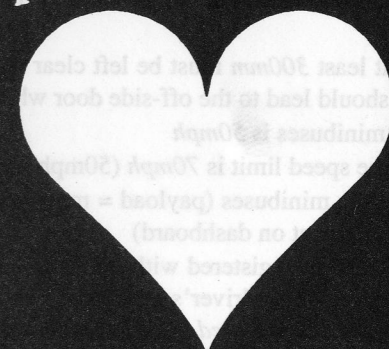


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The Cat's Tale

Alison shopped at Top Man.

A fact that only really sank in after ten minutes of besottedly trailing her through aisles of burgundy coloured shirts and novelty underwear. Yes I was surprised, but quietly confident that she knew what she was doing.

Alison, you see, could do no wrong. She was the girl with whom I shared views on the mismanagement of the economy, the rape of the National Health Service and the perversity of inner city degradation and homelessness. She was the girl who had asked *me* if I liked the Smiths, and what did *I* think of Billy Bragg? This was the girl that understood that the way to beat Big Jack's Irish strategy was to play two conventional wide wingers against the four four two system as it would tie up their full backs so much that they would never cross the halfway line. This was the girl that had heard of Fredrico Fellini. Yes, she was at least as boring and pretentious as me. The Ideal Woman.

Standing in the yak-fleece scarf section watching shop assistants stare down fourteen year old tie dye burglars, I realised for the first time that in this arena, our paths diverged to some significant degree. An explanation was required, and that little piece of Hercule Poirot that occupies some tiny corner of us all defrocked and waxed his mustache.

It was not a wind up, she was doing far too well. Sardonism (particularly in poetry I recall)

was not her strong suit. Neither was economics to blame, she never went out and her rent was cheap. It had to be some anti-possessionist socio-economic statement that was going way over my head.

My Paul Smith coat (which I had gone hungry for three months to buy) was now glowing scarlet as a hot poker, showing me up to be the rich possessionist Nazi that deep down inside I always knew I was. "Baby Killer! Baby Killer!" I could see the hate behind her eyes. It was like walking down the Falls Road whistling God Save the Queen.

My guilt was thankfully dispelled several days later when she christened one of my best friends 'Jumper Man'. The relief was blissful. Actually, 'Sharing eternal damnation down on the seventh level with Judas Iscariot and Claus Barbie' would have eased John McCarthy's torpid little volume off the hostage biography best-seller spot with the style and grace of Lord Tebbit onto any recently privatised company's board of directors. The real relief therefore was that she was at least as big a style fascist as the rest of us and worse, that she shopped at Top Man because she thought the clothes were worth buying.

Still, a girl as pretty as Alison could look reasonable in anything. And I'm certain that flowery dungarees will come back one day...

Glyph

Union Minibus Users' Update

During the Autumn term there was considerable media attention on the subject of minibus accidents. As a result of this, the ICU minibuses have come under close scrutiny. Meetings have taken place between ICU and the Director of the Safety Unit, Pro-Rector, and other senior College staff. ICU in the future will be purchasing 16 seat minibuses instead of the 13 and 17 seat minibuses we have at present. These will have forward facing seats and two small benches at the back with cloth trim and seat belts. Minibuses will have the Imperial College Students' Union and College crest on either side. We will aim to keep minibuses looking smart.

Past experience has taught us that we need a tightening up of our policy on damage claims. We will invoice persons responsible for damage and expect prompt payment so that minibuses can be repaired. Any damage that you notice should be reported immediately.

Failure to report damage that has occurred during rental period could lead to a life ban on driving the minibuses. Last year, one minibus had its steering badly damaged. This could have led to a serious accident. It was not reported by the person responsible and was only noticed two hours before the minibus was due to go abroad. Any minibus that has been damaged must not be

used until it has been inspected by the Transport Officer or a Sabbatical.

Last December, two members of the Union attended courses on Driver Assessment & Training, Fire & Evacuation, Minibuses & The Law. As a result of this and discussions with the Director of the Safety Unit, we have decided that as of the delivery of the new minibus we will be operating a NO SMOKING policy in all the minibuses. We have also changed the format of the minibus driver assessment (a.k.a. the van test), making it slightly longer.

Please tell us if and what you use from the first aid kits (you will not be charged) so that we can keep them topped up.

ICU minibuses are all operated under 'small bus permits'. This means that we are able to charge for usage. It also means that we have to obey certain regulations, such as The Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989 No. 1796, which states that if a minibus is parked on the public highway (i.e. not applicable when on campus, private drive, in a field etc) between sunset and sunrise the sidelights must be left on (not the interior light, which seems to be the craze at the moment). Once the sun has risen, though, please switch them off. It's also a good idea to fold in the door mirrors to save them getting lopped off.

P.S. Please remember to shut absolutely all of the windows and take all your belongings with you when you leave the minibuses. Lost property is (sometimes) kept behind the Union Office desk (for a short period of time).

Safety Notice To All Minibus Drivers

- all doors must be *unlocked* while the minibus is in use (for evacuation purposes)
- all passengers should have access to at least *two exits* from where they are sitting
- the front passenger bench seat *tips forward* to facilitate evacuation (catch on near-side)
- a gangway of at least *300mm* must be left clear to all the exits from the minibus (for rear doors this should lead to the off-side door which opens first)
- speed limit for minibuses is *50mph*
- on motorways the speed limit is *70mph* (50mph if towing)
- *do not overload* the minibuses (payload = maximum load of passengers + equipment, is printed on spec. sheet on dashboard)
- make sure you have re-registered with the Union and received a *green driver's card*. (If you still have a white driver's card come and see us a.s.a.p. with your driving license.) *You will not be allowed to drive without doing so*

Sabbatical reports for the UGM can be found on page 21

Book

The Transformed Cell (Unlocking the Mysteries of Cancer)

by Steven Rosenberg, PhD

For anyone who wants to know what research is all about and what can motivate someone to work fifteen hours a day all year long, then Steven Rosenberg's biography is the perfect book to read.

Steven Rosenberg is one of the most famous cancer researchers and surgeons working at the National Cancer Institute, which is a part of the National Institute of Health, in the States. His fight against this disease started 25 years ago. As a young surgeon, he encountered the case of a man who cured himself of a "terminal cancer". From this, he decided that it should be possible to stimulate the bodies own immune defence system to kill cancerous cells.

He spent the next 25 years of his life developing this idea (and he still does). The first step involved extracting tumours from patients, transplanting them into pigs, collecting the white cells produced in response by the pigs and injecting them into the patients. He then went on to culture white cells found in tumours with Interleukin 2 (a growth factor) and injected them into patients. The current research is based on gene therapy, where the gene for a tumour suppressing factor is inserted into the genome of the

patient.

In his biography he relates all the laboratory work by his team as well as the clinical trials. He takes the reader through not only the exaltation felt when an experiment works (we all know how uncommon this is!) or when a patient is responding to a drug, but also through the desperation and feeling of uselessness after the death of patients he had got to know. Although no cure has yet been found, he has obtained results that no other treatments have achieved.

But more than just the summary of his research, the book is the story of a team fighting against a disease and the everyday life of this quest for a cure.

For those who don't know anything about biology or biochemistry, don't let it worry you as all the scientific words are explained in basic words, so that anyone (anyone around College at least) can understand what he is going on about.

Add a slice of humour to all this every now and then and you get *The Transformed Cell*, a great book in all of its aspects.

The Frog

Published by: Phoenix

Price: £5.99

Book

Directory of Volunteering by Jan Brownfoot and Frances Wilks

If you are interested in working for a charity either voluntarily or full time then this is the book for you, as it includes both voluntary and employment opportunities.

The directory is a comprehensive guide to over 500 major voluntary organisations ranging from Help the Aged and NSPCC to the Family Planning Association and national association of City Farms. The book also includes museums, charity shops, law, counselling and holiday schemes. So if you are keen to do something good for nothing but a good feeling then this is the book for you.

The book is easy to use, having a clear layout and a helpful section on how to apply for voluntary jobs. There's lots of good advice as well.

I would recommend that you buy this book if you are very keen on working for charities or on a voluntary basis. If you are only slightly keen then have a look at someone else's copy (this one lives in the Rag Office).

Jane

Published by: Directory of social Change

Price: £7.95

Exhibition

My God Is Better Than Your God...

Just a few yards from College, something wierd is going on. Nobody knows what it's going to be, but they do know where. The Serpentine Gallery nestles in the heart of Hyde Park and beneath its picturesque and innocent facade is a veritable torture chamber of the most avant garde of modern art – last summer it made the headlines by showing Robert Gober's somewhat literally titled 'Genital Wallpaper'. For those who dare to venture beyond the comforting womb-like surrounds of College during their lunch hours, they will find a typically unusual display on show at the moment.

The first thing that you notice on entering is that nobody is looking at the paintings, but they are all watching the walls instead. This apparently bizarre phenomenon makes sense when you realise that the walls are the art. *Wall to Wall* is an exhibition by various artists who paint directly onto the spaces they occupy rather than using canvasses. The six artists on display here have each been provided with their own personal space with which they were free to do whatever they wished. What they wished to do proves to be rather obscure. The word 'challenging'

springs to mind...or perhaps 'challenged', conceptually challenged. What does it all mean?

Baumgarten has painted words on the walls of the central room, using the lantern in the ceiling as a central feature. The words them-selves seem unimportant, and possibly came from a Kodak brochure – but who knows?

Michael Craig-Martin (who once shocked the cultural tourists by declaring a glass of water to be an oak tree) has given the Serpentine Gallery another example of his latest one-man-bandwagon. He paints the walls in day-glo colours, blank sheets of lurid greens, purples and blues. Onto these are overlaid simplistic images of household objects – books, radiators, filing cabinets. Why? Niele Toroni has spent the last 27 years making regularly spaced marks on walls with a brush. He has done the same here.

Lawrence Weiner, on the other hand, writes sentences and equations. His wall says: *A ROPE (OF HEMP) + A CABLE (OF STEEL) + A THREAD (OF SILK) & BRAIDED (ALL TOGETHER)*.

The other two artists are women. Whilst the men have lapsed into their navel gazing obscuri-

ty, the women have gone the other way. They make obvious statements in obvious manners. Jessica Diamond's comment on Zen Buddhism could only be amusing to those who know nothing about Zen.

Barbara Kruger has painted every surface of her room with violent tirades of self-love and hatred. It deserves recognition just because of its arrogance but, apart from that, it is rather crass.

The difficulty with this exhibition is its ambiguousness. The art could easily be described as the most important work of the time, startlingly original and intellectual, whilst also being witty and challenging the everyday view of painting. However, it would be just as easy to describe it as a worthless waste of time. Unfortunately, just this once you'll have to decide for yourselves by making the oh-so-strenuous journey to the Serpentine Gallery, because the critic can't decide (although he does admit to liking the Weiner).

MA

Wall to Wall: 19th Jan – 27th Feb. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens. 10am – 6pm daily. Admission FREE!

There is a Singapore exhibition on 2nd February in the Great Hall

Opera

Xerxes

Nicholas Hytner's celebrated English National Opera production of Handel's *Xerxes* has returned to the Coliseum in a revival directed by Julia Hollander.

Xerxes was first performed at the Haymarket in London in 1738. The composer was already in the grip of his final illness, which explains the extensive borrowings from earlier works that are to be found in the opera. Nevertheless, the end result is an integrated work which uses the conventions of *opera seria* to tell a sophisticated and humorous comic story.

The plot consists of a very tangled web of love involving Xerxes, King of Persia, his brother Arsamenes and their passionate ardour for Romilda, the daughter of Ariodates, commander of Xerxes' army. Also involved are Atlanta (another daughter of Ariodates, secretly in love with Arsamenes), Elviro the facetious servant and Amastris, sole heiress to the neighbouring kingdom and betrothed to Xerxes.

Got that? Well, things are further complicated for the audience by the fact that, in line with common 18th century practice, the role of Arsamenes was written for a *castrato*, that is, a male soprano whose upper register was prolonged beyond puberty by castration. Nowadays such roles are usually assigned to women, but at



Christopher Robson as Arsamenes and Louise Winter as Xerxes (photo by Justin Pumfrey)

ENO the part of Arsamenes is sung with haunting beauty by counter-tenor Christopher Robson. Xerxes, on the other hand, is portrayed by a woman: Louise Winter admirably embodies the anguish of courting as 'all the ten thousand Grievs, Impatiences and Resentments, that render a Man unamiable in the Eyes of the Person whose Affection he solicits'. Outstanding among the other members of the cast is the Romilda of Yvonne Kenny who delivers with astonishing vivacity and agility.

The slow-moving first act is more than compensated for by the second and third acts, in

which the story and the true splendour of Handel's music unfurl between dramatic changes of set. The orchestra played magically for conductor Ivor Bolton, complementing the differing roles with beautiful precision. The marital fisticuffs in the final act are particularly entertaining, although Handel's comic genius was made apparent throughout the opera by ENO's thoroughly enjoyable production.

Rekha Nayak and Wu Xiao Dan

In rep at the London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES. Tube: Leicester Sq. Runs until February 24th. Box office (071) 836 3161.

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Cinema

Mrs Doubtfire

Starring: Robin Williams, Sally Field
Director: Chris Columbus

You've no doubt seen all the clips already and know that this film's selling point is Robin Williams in drag. Apparently, this is the only aspect that all film reviewers have been waiting in eager anticipation to see. Williams does indeed perform 'brilliantly', but that doesn't really tell you much about the film.

The film starts with the breakup of two parents: the impulsive, irresponsible father (Williams) and the precise career-woman mother (Field). Due to the father's unreliability, the court awards custody of the three kids to the mother. Williams, unable to face being separated from his kids, dresses as an old Scottish lady and gets a job as the children's new nanny, Mrs 'Doot-fire'. Apart from just dressing in drag he performs this incredible transformation with the aid of his brother, the make-up artist (convenient I know, but this is Hollywood).

The resulting make-over is spectacular and you easily find yourself forgetting that this nanny is actually the kids' father. I was a little sceptical before the film started as to how any kid wouldn't be able to recognise their own father, even if dressed up, but the transformation is so good you can believe it with ease.



Housework is such a drag

As you would expect, the comedy is rich and centred predominantly around Williams. Gags are sharp and the ideas fresh. However, the film could not have worked without a strong support; Sally Field is great as the wife and her woman-to-woman chats with the nanny are a joy not to be missed. The kids are also a boon to the film, all realistically showing their grievances at the parent's separation. The best of the three is the

youngest, portraying that blunt simplicity only found in a young child.

Even without the comedy this is a solid tale of a marriage breakup and the effect it can have on both the parents and the kids. The film's message looked like being a load of sloppy mush right up to the last, but salvaged itself with style and eloquence to make a real point.

Sphe

Cinema

HEAVEN

 EARTH

Starring: Hiep Thi Le, Tommy Lee Jones
Director: Oliver Stone

Films like *Platoon* and *Born On The Fourth Of July* have given Oliver Stone a reputation as a bit of a man's man. The portrayal of women in his movies has been at best questionable and at worst downright insulting. So cynics had good reason for concern when Stone announced his final Vietnam movie would be told from the viewpoint of a native woman. In *Heaven and Earth*, adapted from the true story of Le Ly Hayslip, the gruff, all-American director gets in touch with his feminine side.

Rural Vietnam, the early Fifties. A young girl stands in a paddy field with her parents, the landscape an oasis of calm and beauty. It is a land subjugated for a hundred generations; by the Chinese, the Japanese, and now by the French. None of this disturbs the continuity of the village, unchanged in a thousand years. Young Le Ly and her siblings have the sort of happiness only appreciated when gone.

Years pass and Le Ly watches her brothers go off to fight while her village becomes a war zone. Her life changes further when she joins the VeitCong. She ends up in immoral Saigon where she meets Sgt. Steve Butler. They marry and move to the US, but how well will Le Ly adapt to this alien culture?

Beautiful and moving, *Heaven and Earth* is the finest creation of a great film-maker. His politics aside, no-one can fault the visual perfection Stone has created here, handling the philosophical synchronicity of the plot with surprising subtlety (circularity and coming full circle are central to the narrative structure).

The film suffers from newcomer Hiep Thi Le's inexperience and too much time is spent on seemingly useless plot development, but the stunning performance of Tommy Lee Jones is above any criticism. He, along with the excellent Joan Chen and Haing Ngor who play Le Ly's parents, anchor the film and carry into our hearts. Tommy Lee Jones seems to get better every time I see him and hopefully this role will realise the full potential of his seemingly limitless talent.

Heaven and Earth is very much a woman's film in its emotional focus, but this should not deter men. Retelling America's most filmed nightmare from the other side provides a vivid contrast to Stone's other two Vietnam films and it deserves to be watched as part of a trilogy which now resonates with the director's new message: War produces no winners, only victims. Film students will devote pages to the eerie similarity of Le Ly and Ron Kovic, which is the greatest tribute Stone could ask for.

Tony



Le Ly is blindfolded and led away

Schwing!! Wayne's World 2 is reviewed next week

Imperial College Lebanese Society

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Album



Kristin Hersh

Hips and Makers

It's no surprise that the half-sisters who once comprised the Throwing Muses can handle themselves alone. Together they made grown up music, now apart both Tanya Donnelly and Kristin Hersh prove their childhood was not wasted. Yet where Donnelly's 'Star' is seen as a friendly open face feeding trees an'll, 'Hips and Makers' has quickly been cast as the dark side of the mirror, tense and twisted.

Certainly this is a sparse sounding album; acoustic guitar, cello and Kristin are as ornate as it gets. Another clichéd route opens up for us, remember her topless NME cover? It's a writer laying herself bare, exorcising her demons, blah-blahblah. So much of music journalism plays this game, true or false, just join the dots to pigeon-hole the artist. Yet even a cursory hearing of 'Hips and Makers' brings out so many flashes of brilliant phrase.

Words that sparkle, words that are not drenched in shadow ridden corners. String them together and wear them like a necklace. The centrepiece: "don't kill the god of sadness, just don't let her get you down". And this is where we see the living triumph. Unlike the tortured messiahs who glory that they can wallow, Kristin accepts and then overcomes. That's why this is worthy of your time and money. So I haven't mentioned the songs, firstly because I'm not sure what they all mean, but mainly because it doesn't matter. Kristin said she wasn't sure if this was the kind of material that's suitable to release because it's so personal to her. Still, we can grasp enough to know she cares and that's all you have to believe to make this album work.

To mention just one song, though, the title track comes out last, to calm our nerves and we'll end with it. It's not a feminist snarl, 'cos we all have hips and makers. We are all part of the sphere. Birth cycles death, rebirth continues. Don't go down, the joy is to keep dancing, the dance of life. Be extraordinary. (9)

Tintin

Album

Cell

Living Room

Cell first appeared in the UK on the back of rave reviews for their debut LP, 'Slo-Blo', a melancholy collection of songs about being alone. But touring with Sonic Youth saw them comprehensively upstaged by Pavement and the public's attention soon moved elsewhere.

A year and a half later their second album

arrives and, while still based around similar themes, the tone is altogether brighter. Guitars are allowed to rage occasionally and the vocals vary from the sorrowful norm. The overall sound comes across as some kind of Smashing Pumpkins/Dinosaur Jr. hybrid, but without quite reaching the high points of either.

Their existing fans will buy it and love it, but it's unlikely to significantly increase the band's support. (7)

Ridley Dash

Singles

When granny baked those apples pies, didn't you feel good? I saw you take the jug and pour out that hot steaming custard. And now look at yourself; not slept for a week, hair the consistency of emulsion, what a mess. Who's gonna make it all better? Swervedriver for one are leaving you to your doom. They're taking the 'Last Train to Satansville' (*Creation*). "So as this fagged out tinseltown waves so-long to the sun, I lay here calmly on my bed..." You what? Actually this is not really a good choice of single. It works better in the context of the rather cool 'Mezcal Head' album. Still it has the usual hallmarks; fuzzed up guitar, latent melody and the general in transit feel."

In a similar vein **Bloggers I*T*A** feel the need to 'Abandon Ship'. "It kicks off with swirling guitars amidst keyboard atmospherics, before launching into a funky section awash with big horns." Do I hear a music reviewer getting too near his edge?

Currently attracting some peachy cream media attention are the **Flamingos**. Their current release on *Rob's Records* is 'Original Colour/Inner City Blues'. "Everything about this record is smooth, right from the tickling piano intro on 'Original Colour'. This is a classy act and carries on the tradition of UK soul."

Eponymous single time comes thanks to **Renegade Soundwave** (*Mute*). "R.S. have regenerated with a new mask. Guitars and snatches of Serge Gainsbourg rub shoulders with their earlier dub stance and include remixes by Leftfield. Superb." And you can't say fairer than that.



Do you blame us if we're smitten? Kristin again.

Garage bandsters in our midst will rejoice that **Anna** have their 'Coming Down' EP falling out on *Free Records*. In that eversoclever way we have of reviewing records, a story is spun. "A self descriptive 4am swirl. So convincing, it'll be just as good at 6pm. And then on for some sleep..."

Well time to wash up all those hardening plates. Reviewers respectively were: **Vik, Vik, BEA, Camille** and **Camille** again. I'm Tintin.

"...never was a baritone, 'til you stepped in..." K.H. 'Teeth'

Elect Yourself!

Who are we electing and what do they do?

The sabbaticals are overly responsible for everything that happens inside ICU. They are responsible for our clubs and societies, the Union Bar, the Bookstore and the organisation as a whole. They are responsible for the academic representation inside College, for representing our views as students to those outside College, for staffing issues within the Union, for the *Felix* you are reading; in short if it happens through the Union, the sabbaticals are eventually responsible for it.

It is only with the sterling work that all the other student officers put in that our Union succeeds.

What posts are available?

The posts to be elected are the President, Deputy President (Finance & Services), Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and the Felix Editor & Print Unit Manager. These posts are sabbaticals. That means that if you are elected, you take a paid year from your studies. But before you get the idea of £20k salaries, each post is paid an equivalent of a postgraduate grant. What each job specifically entails will be gone into in more detail in next week's *Felix* with an article on and by each sabbatical.

Who can be elected?

The posts are open to all full members of Imperial College Union. If you are a student of IC on a full time course of study or research, then you are eligible. If you're a first year, a fourth year, on an MSc or a PhD, then you can stand for a sabbatical post.

How do you get elected?

Easy. In the middle of February, the nomination papers are put up in the Union Building. If you want to stand, you sign your name up; you need a person willing to propose you and twenty people who want to second you. The 'papers' stay up for two college weeks. After these two weeks, all the candidates proposed and fully seconded are in the race. Then the election starts. There are two weeks when the candidates campaign hard for your vote around College and then, crunch time – we decide who to elect for next year by voting. There are two days for voting and the results are known late into the evening of the second day.

When does this all happen?

The exact dates have yet to be set, but the provisional dates for the 1993-94 ICU sabbatical elections will be:

14th February *Papers Up, Nominations Open*
25th February *Papers Down, Nominations Close,*
14th March *First day of voting*
15th March *Second day of voting, results due late that evening*

Remember Four Easy Steps To Getting Elected:-

1. Sign up on the nomination papers, get yourself fully seconded and proposed.
2. Spend two weeks hot on the 'campaign trail'.
3. Spend a worried evening waiting for the result.
4. Celebration-cum-commiseration.

Want to know more?

Next week in *Felix*, there will be an full piece on each post and what it entails so keep your eyes peeled. If you want more in the mean time, just pop into the Union office and ask to see one of the sabbaticals. They can tell you all that you need to know.

UGM Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Reports:
 - (i) President
 - (ii) Deputy President (Finance and Services)
 - (iii) Deputy President (Clubs and Societies)
4. Executive Report
5. Reports from other Union Officers
6. Presentation: Student Representative Council
7. Any Other Business

UGM

(Union General Meeting)

Ents Lounge 1pm

Today, 28th January

iCU
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

What Have They Been Up To?

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Finance

The biggest thing happening in the fun world of money at the moment is budgets and five year plans. For those fortunate enough not to have anything to do with them, the budgets for each club or society's expenditure is set annually and five year plans are a way of planning for irregular items of expenditure. All this fun is going to be happening in a Union Finance Committee meeting near you in the near future. All club and society chairs/treasurers should get a budget claim for 94/95 to their sub-committee as soon as possible. Five year plan claims should find their way into my office by 14th February. Remember – no claim, no dosh. If anyone needs any help with preparing all this then the cheerful Finance Office staff and myself will be delighted to give a few words of advice (i.e. "you want how much?!").

Minibuses

We will (very soon) be buying a new minibus for the first time in a couple of years. This will bring the total back up to seven vans. Unlike the other six, this one will have forward facing seats, as recommended by the college Safety Director and lots of other safety-type gadgets so it should be the pretty safe. (We haven't worked out how to make the drivers safer yet, but we're thinking about it.) Subject to successful applications to various sources of funding, we may be getting another one to replace one of the older of our current ones.

Trading

The bar and catering side of things are ticking over reasonably, although not likely to exceed last year's excellent year. The Bookstore is still doing really well, showing that you can keep the prices down and be financially sound at the same time (British Telecom take note). The manager and staff deserve congratulations.

Sabbatical Elections

The elections for next year's set of hard working and dedicated sabbs are coming up and I for one am looking forward to them, as this time I don't have to spend the best part of a month being disgustingly nice to people. As far as I can tell, no-one seems to be interested in my job next year (is there something I should know?), but if anyone wants to know more about what I do, then please come in and see me in the Union Office. Remember – one of the perks of the job is getting to write a really interesting report to every UGM. That'll have people queuing up to do the job I'm sure.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Sport

I have received a limited response from the Sports Questionnaire, but I shall be tabulating what information I have and presenting it to College. There is a meeting with the Estates Division to discuss sport and the information I have received will form the basis of my response as to what students require from Sport and Sports Facilities.

The UAU national championships are progressing with only Mens' Winter Tennis and Mens' Squash left in the running from Imperial College. This year's results are somewhat disappointing and I will be looking into increasing the opportunity for sports teams to practice.

ULU Societies

I am currently involved in developing an inter-collegiate society cooperation programme. This is aimed at getting societies from different colleges to participate in activities together. A basic example would be an intercollegiate league for

Chess and Bridge, which currently does not exist. This will eventually provide the same kind of organisation as sports teams currently receive.

Society News

The Social Clubs Committee are currently planning a week of events to publicise what these types of societies have to offer. The programme will include films, a Brazilian Nite, stalls in the JCR and potential heated debate. Religious and political issues will form the centre of this week commencing 7th February.

The Operatic Society are in the middle of the performances of Chicago. The polished end product is a culmination of months of work and planning, all of which was done by IC students. The list of people involved is far too long to go into, but they all should be congratulated on their efforts. If any of you reading this report have not been to see Chicago, tonight and tomorrow are your final chances.

President

Election Fever

Watch out, there's an election about. Spring term, a time when a young student's thoughts turn to fun, laughter, sheep frolicking in meadows (speak for yourself) and elections. Yippee!

This is the term when we elect Union officers to run the Union and to represent us all in all walks of College life. The first set of elections coming up are the ICU Sabbatical elections. These are detailed on the opposite article.

Training

Once elected, our officers need training. This is an area which we as a Union have neglected in the past. For our student officers to be truly effective, we need to train them, to support them in their work. This term, along with other student officers, I am drawing up a full training programme for all Union Officers, from Club Chairs to Sabbaticals, from the Accommodation Officer to the Departmental Representatives. However this will cost money, quite a bit of money. There is some good news, this may be funded through Government Education Initiatives. If this works, it will set our Union on the road to being highly effective in its work for you, the students of Imperial College.

Reviews and Reorganisation

Last year, a review of the organisation of ICU led to the drafting of a new constitution for our Union, the document that sets out how we work. After being passed by the Union, it had to be approved by the Governors of College. They

could not pass it as it stood due to a number of points, some omissions and a need for clarity in some points. We have negotiated for it to be passed as a working document, allowing the Union's clubs and societies to run, ensuring all the Union's activities take place. In the mean time, the Executive have been working to answer the Governors' points and to make the constitution a more cohesive document for the Union. We are working on a new system of governing the Union, to make it more democratic and more accountable to us all. All the results should be reported today. This will help to make the activities and services of our Students' Union more relevant to everyone at Imperial.

Tuesdays

In a club? Want to practise sport at lunch times? Tuesdays has always been a time where a lot of student activity happens. In the last few years, the amount of time available seems to have been whittled away. The result? Our sports teams cannot train as much, not all clubs work as well. Along with Andrew Montgomery, ACC Chair, we are working to see what can be done on this and other sporting problems. More on this as it unfolds.

I hope to see you at the Union General Meeting, Friday 28th, 1pm, Ents Lounge. If anyone has anything they would like to discuss, please come and see me, Andy Wensley, in the Union Office.

Until Friday, amigos.

Editorial

If you've looked at the previous two pages, you will have noticed that there is another UGM happening today. Looking at the agenda, it looks as if it will be as fun-filled and interesting as ever!

Sorry for the touch of sarcasm, but the last three UGMs haven't exactly filled me with a burning desire to go to this one. I've spent the last term trying to be as enthusiastic about them as possible to as many people as possible, but I can only do so much. It's important that everyone goes along to them because they need to know what's been going on in the Union. But what happens when you get people to go and the meeting is as uninspiring as the last few? In short, they don't bother coming again.

Can it be that difficult to make them a bit more interesting? The UGM that sticks in my mind was the one where the Third World First Society put forward a motion to boycott Nestle products within the Union. They succeeded and it became policy for the Union and any of its trading outlets (Bar, Da Vinci's and the Bookstore) not to buy any Nestle products for the next three years. This may seem boring to you, but it prompted discussions and people could actually see that their decisions had changed the way the Union did things.

They could even be made fun (perish the thought!). A couple of years ago, a motion was proposed which, if passed, would have meant that the sabbaticals would have had to wear Thunderbirds costumes. Unfortunately, it never got as far as being discussed because someone called 'Quorum', but it sparked off interest in the UGM and people were actually turning up to it. I can't see the same level of interest being generated by a load of reports or a discussion about a new constitution.

But maybe the presentation on Student Representative Councils (SRCs) will spark off some debate. As far as I can make out (and I could be wrong), the idea is to replace UGMs with a smaller body of students. The last time anyone tried to do away with UGMs, the JCR was packed with people opposing it. It would be good to see a similar sort of response if this idea for SRCs goes any further than the presentation today.

But enough ranting about the Union (I've had enough people calling me a 'hack' recently). On a much lighter note, the 1000th edition of Felix is looming ever closer. It is due to come out on Friday 13th May. Sounds fated already, doesn't it?! Hopefully, it will be a commemorative issue of some description, but we are open to suggestions. If you have any ideas of what form it could take or what articles you would like to see in it, let us know.

Another piece of advanced warning: We are planning a travel special for March, so any articles on travel or work abroad or in this country will be gratefully received.

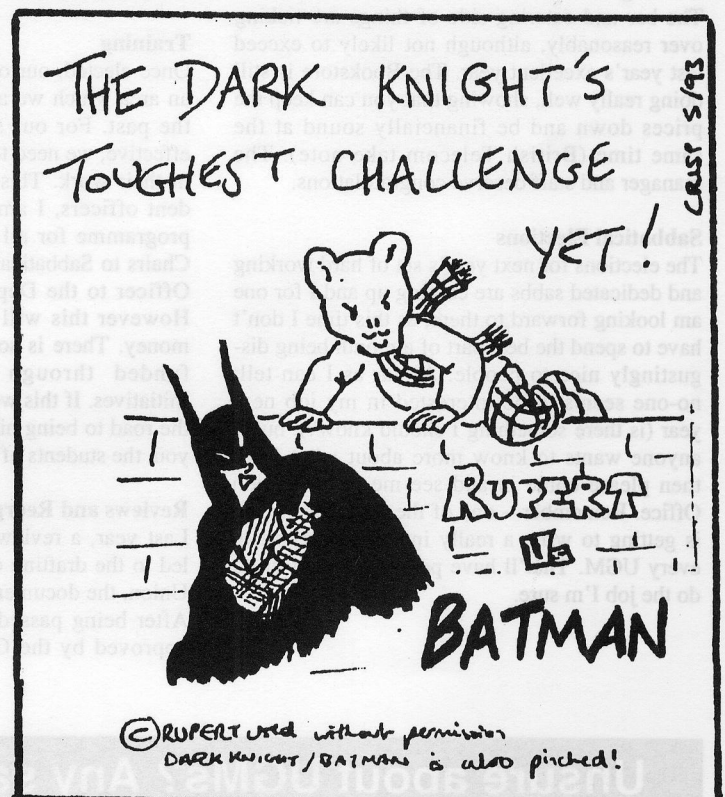
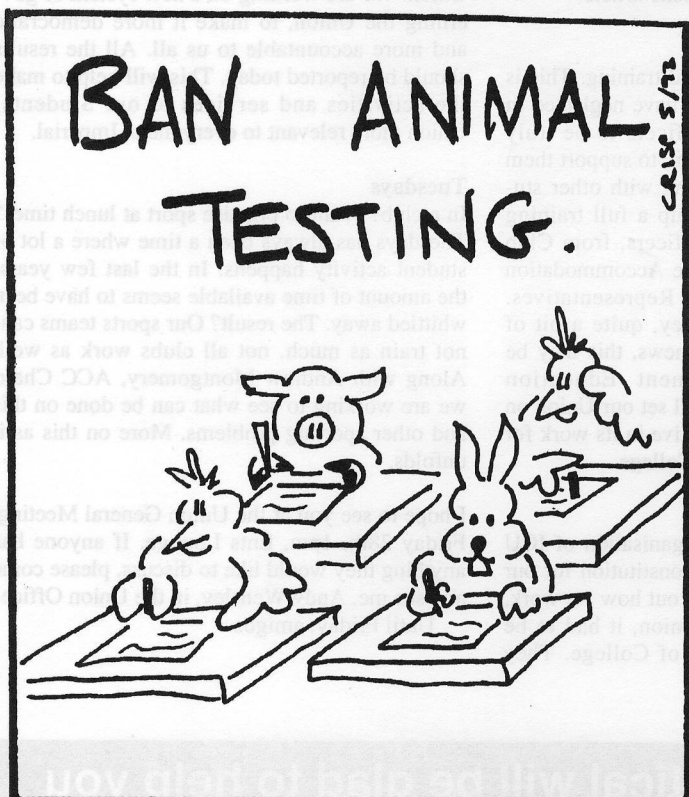
Letters To Felix

You must show your Union card when submitting a letter to be printed in Felix. Unless this has been checked, the letter will not be printed. Names will only be withheld from letters under extreme circumstances.

Valentine's Day Messages

A reminder that the Valentine Edition of Felix will be coming out on 11th February.

You can send a message to the love (or hate) of your life *free of charge* through Felix. Just make sure they are put into the Valentine pigeonhole in the Felix Office by 4th February.



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DARK KNIGHT/BATMAN is also pitched!

Was It Fact Or Was It Fiction?

Dear Beccy,

I was surprised to open last week's *Felix* and find out that I'd written a story ('Cat's Tale'). When I wrote it, I thought it was a factual article about a strange American book on 'How To Get Your Man' which I own, and about the effectiveness of some of the techniques it suggests.

Still, what do I know?

Cheers,

Rachel Bassett

Answers To Last Week's Crossword



CAREERS INFORMATION

Milkround Closing Date 5 is on Monday 31st January. Hand in your applications on the day before 4pm. Details of interviews are put up on the noticeboard outside the Careers Office a few days before the interview date. Another company has joined the Milkround: Standard Chartered Bank. The following companies have cancelled their visits: John Brown Engineers & Constructors, Atlas Wireline Services and Elf Enterprise. **Summer Vacation Training Opportunities** are now available on the new Database in the Careers Office. Apply to UROP for research opportunities.

Test Practice - Preparing For Psychometric Tests is a short course for all on Wednesday 2nd February in Huxley 344 from 2pm - 4pm. Sign up in the Careers Office, Rm 310, Sheffield, open from 10am to 5.15pm Monday to Friday. A Duty Careers Adviser is available for quick queries from 1pm-2pm daily.

The Munster Road Kitchen

by Samin Ishtiaq

Quite a few things can be said about the buildings at Imperial and not all of them would be complimentary. (In fact, one interesting ideal of mine would be to invite that Kirsty-whatsername woman from BBC2's 'The Late Show' and let her review IC's architecture.) But there is one good thing: at least some of the buildings are named after famous IC personalities.

Of course, the next problem is that not many people know anything about these 'famous IC personalities'. Ask an average IC undergrad who Beit was, and he/she will probably reply: "Err, aren't there 8 bits in a Beit?" So, here, exclusive to *Felix*, is 'Samin's Quick Biographies of Famous IC Personalities who are Remembered by IC as Building Names':

Haldane: Probably the most unusual IC personality, in that Haldane was a committed Marxist and believed that science and socialism could march on to solve all of mankind's problems. (His death in 1964 meant he didn't have to face the Prague Spring or the collapse of Soviet empire, so he died in 'unrevisionist' peace.) Haldane's interests lay in biochemistry and genetics and, in the true spirit of science, he would experiment on himself and his friends (obviously, he lost most of them as time went on). He suggested that, when colonising space, man should have a tail grafted onto his back, so as to lower his centre of gravity. Haldane's work during the Second World War on the physiological aspects of life in, and escape from, midget submarines was used by the Library's architects in designing the study cubicles.

Huxley: Not to be confused with Al Huxley the novelist, Sir J. Huxley the biologist, or P. Huxley my dentist. A medical doctor who taught

natural history at the Royal School of Mines in the late 1800s, Huxley is known for his thoughts on the place of science in society - all this most unlike the traditional image of a miner.

William Penney: Mathematician and A-bomb scientist. Worked at the Los Alamos Labs, New Mexico and supervised the testing of Britain's second A-bomb at Woomera, Australia [*where's that? - Ed*]. (Interesting to know whether members of IC's Environmental and Appropriate Technology Society and The Australia Society will attend lectures at the William Penney Labs.) He is probably one of the few IC researchers to have a playing field at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston named after him and to be made a Life Peer (Baron Penney of East Hendred [*and where's that? - Ed*]).

Beit: Err, aren't there 8 bits in a Beit?

There are, of course, far more 'famous IC personalities' than buildings. HG Wells (a famous school teacher) and IC's three Noble Laureates are still missing a block of concrete with their name on it.

An interesting question is how to get a building named after you. Obviously, you have to be dead. Death gives you respectability and Mrs Windsor can't come and take away your knighthood. (Remember the case of the 'Sir' Ronson Gallery at the Natural History Museum?) You should also have done something 'good', preferably for IC. So, while the Sir John Egan Aero Building does have a chance, I suppose the next building would probably be named after IC's late Director of Car Park Franchising.

Credits

- | | |
|--|---|
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| Books: Juliette Decock | |

Elimination *by Sphinx and Shark*

Eliminate two words from the right hand columns for each clue on the left. Which word is left over?

- a Not bloody complimentary !
- b Two homophones
- c Malicious revolution ?
- d Two suggesting United
- e A jolly psychic ?
- f "_____ is the soul of ____" (*Hamlet*)
- g Two synonyms
- h *Dubbel*
- i Two with field
- j Chance upon a drug fortune ?
- k Two anagrams
- l Rest the fingers on one hand ?
- m Two words going with circuit
- n Cerebral surf !
- o Two palindromes
- p Two going with white
- q Coolest way to fit a curve !
- r Two joining with public
- s Register the bread order ?
- t Two knots

- | | | | |
|----|--------|----|----------|
| 1 | Fee | 22 | Circle |
| 2 | Pot | 23 | Double |
| 3 | Wit | 24 | Granny |
| 4 | Call | 25 | Medium |
| 5 | Done | 26 | Reigns |
| 6 | Five | 27 | School |
| 7 | Luck | 28 | Singer |
| 8 | Open | 29 | Square |
| 9 | Reef | 30 | Weight |
| 10 | Roll | 31 | Brevity |
| 11 | Take | 32 | Vicious |
| 12 | Toot | 33 | Kingdom |
| 13 | Wait | 34 | Marshal |
| 14 | Wave | 35 | Nations |
| 15 | Well | 36 | Opinion |
| 16 | Brain | 37 | Playing |
| 17 | Civic | 38 | Wedding |
| 18 | Dutch | 39 | Academic |
| 19 | Happy | 40 | Elephant |
| 20 | Least | 41 | Training |
| 21 | Charge | | |



Cracking Cryptic Crosswords

Introduction

I don't mind telling you, this causes me some considerable degree of pain. Unveiling the secret world of cryptic clues is like publicly demonstrating the free-mason handshake – that's the one with the white pinny and the garden trowel, brother.

True, by following this crash-course in clue solving you'll miss out on the enjoyable process of teaching yourself. However the aim is to instruct our unenlightened readers on the types of clue that exist and then how to distinguish them from each other. One compensation for me is that in future I can stop insulting your intelligence with the easy clues that have appeared in crosswords past.

Although there are (unwritten) rules for solving cryptic clues, qualifiers like "nearly always" and "more often than not" are inevitable because making absolute statements about these clues is dangerous. It is safe to say one thing though: **clues need not mean what they say but they must say what they mean.** A good clue is written in such a way as to imply something completely different from – or irrelevant to – the intended answer.

A general rule of thumb is never to read the clue literally (*well, almost never*). Secondly,

remember that if you can solve the quick/coffee-time crossword puzzles then you can also solve cryptic clues. They always contain a straightforward definition or synonym of the answer (*well, almost always*). In fact most clues will contain two ways of getting the answer making them easier than quick crosswords! Follow these guidelines and you'll be armed with an effective arsenal of clue cracking techniques, dazzling the ignorant Philistines that never progressed from coffee-time clues.

So, what can you expect in this space in the weeks to come? In short – a Pandora's Box of hints and tips, illustrated with examples of types of clues previously printed in Felix. Bear in mind though, that although I will be isolating different clue types, *real life* clues will often be an amalgamation of two or more styles. If you have any sense, you'll hoard all the relevant Felices too so as not to give anyone else an advantage over you in the ensuing Easter 3D crossword. Mind your mind.

Lesson 1. Double Meanings

Many words have more than one meaning or can imply quite different things. For example 'DRAW' as a verb can mean to sketch, to pull or to tie (in a contest); as a noun it can also mean

a lottery. Therefore, a cryptic clue can be composed of two different meanings of the word 'DRAW' such as:

Design a tie (4) or Pull off the raffle (4)

The clue doesn't just have to contain two synonyms (one for each meaning). A synonym can be replaced by a brief description or implication of the word. Take the word 'TERM':

An 11-week condition (4)

Here are some I prepared earlier...

1. Disapproves of things (7)
2. Enjoy dressing (6)
3. Metal press (4)
4. Positive image slip (5)
5. Hurry to get some grass (4)
6. Arrive unarmed and own up (4,5)
7. Wire and paper (9)
8. Consider this a delicacy (5)
9. Undress a long thin one (5)
10. Smash the rest (5)

ANSWERS: 1. Objects; 2. Relish; 3. Iron; 4. Slide; 5. Rush; 6. Come clean; 7. Telegraph; 8. Treat; 9. Strip; 10. Break.