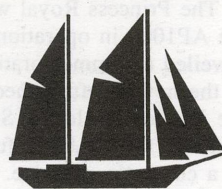
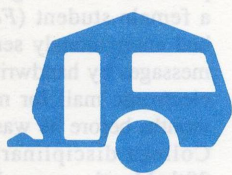




Felix

Issue 1001

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**If you plan to travel this summer,
some of this week's articles may help
you decide how and where to go.**

Royal Visits to Imperial College



Computing student Rafal Lukawiecki discusses his work with Princess Anne

BY PATRICK WOOD

The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, opened the Imperial College/Fujitsu Parallel Computing Research Centre in the Huxley Building on Tuesday 24th May.

The Japanese electronics giant Fujitsu, in its first such collaboration with an academic institution, has donated an AP1000 parallel machine to the College. The AP1000, located in the Department of Computing, is available to research groups throughout Europe via the SuperJANET network. Access will be free to registered

users, who will share all software developed on the machine. Areas of research in which the AP1000 is already being used include chaos, virtual reality and artificial life simulation. The new machine is also available for use in relevant undergraduate projects.

The Princess Royal was shown the AP1000 in operation and then unveiled a commemorative plaque in the newly refurbished foyer of the Huxley Building. Some have criticised the £60,000 refurbishment as a cosmetic exercise. Professor John Darlington, Director of the Centre, defended the decision. "It was pretty dowdy...a depressing

place to enter," he said. "You've got to refurbish the infrastructure sooner or later and it does lift the morale of people working here."

A second royal visit took place two days later. Prince Andrew attended one of the talks given in the Huxley Building as part of the seminar 'Is Life Becoming Hard?'. The lectures dealt with topics common to both the physical and biological sciences, such as neural networks. The seminar, jointly sponsored by Imperial College and SEMA Group plc, was one of the events taking place to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

Drop In University Funding

BY LYNN BRAVEY

University funding has been slashed by 25% per student over the past four years, according to a report from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP).

The report, published on 20th May, warned that standards of teaching were bound to be affected by this reduction in funding per student. They also forecast that funding will fall by a further 14% over the next three years. The

authors feel that the resultant shortfall, estimated at around £2 billion, "has already impaired the quality of the student experience because of larger teaching groups...[and] less spent on library books".

The CVCP want to enter into discussions with the Government about a new funding system able to deliver both expansion and quality in higher education. CVCP Chairman, Dr Kenneth Edwards, said: "To invest in universities is to invest in the future...demand for

university education and research is rising fast and will not abate. The Government should recognise that the universities are one of the UK's success stories. How long will the Government continue to risk the quality which underlies that success?"

In the past ten years, the proportion of school-leavers going to university has risen from one in five to almost one in three, but Government funding has not kept up pace with this growth.

First Year Student Expelled

BY SIMON SHAW

A Physics student has been expelled from Imperial College after breaching the conditions under which he was temporarily suspended.

Ronnie Wong, a first year Physics undergraduate, was suspended from College for harassing a female student (*Felix 996*). He had anonymously sent the woman messages by handwritten notes and electronic mail for more than two months before he was identified. A College disciplinary hearing on 29th March suspended Mr Wong until the next academic year and banned him from his victim's hall of residence.

Just over a month later, Mr Wong was spotted in the woman's hall of residence by three students who alerted College Security. A second College disciplinary hearing was held on 16th May at which it was decided to expel him. Mr Wong appealed to the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, but the decision of the hearing was upheld.

College Security have put up warning posters around College bearing a photograph of Mr Wong. If he is sighted in College, Sheffield Security should be notified directly on extension 3372.

Record Breaker

The world record for the furthest distance flown by a paper aeroplane was broken at the International Paper Plane Tournament on Saturday 19th May.

Flight Refuelling Ltd broke the record with a flight of 203ft 4in. Imperial College's team came 9th in the competition, with a flight distance of 86ft 4in.

The team from the Aeronautics department were: Martin Ng, Anand Mantri and Manish Sinha. The team also had lecturer Dr Morrison advising.

Journalist's Rights Violated

BY LYNN BRAVEY

A former *Felix* Editor is to have his case heard in the European Court of Human Rights after he was fined £5,000 for refusing to reveal his sources.

Bill Goodwin (27) was *Felix* Editor in the academic year 1988-89. He went to work as a trainee reporter for *The Engineer* where he received confidential financial information about Tetra Ltd, a computer company. He was told over the phone by an informant that the company was in financial trouble and was urgently seeking a large loan.

Mr Goodwin contacted a senior executive of Tetra Ltd about the information. The company then obtained an injunction preventing publication of the story. It claimed that the information had been stolen from its offices and might be passed on to customers or competitors, threatening the jobs of 400 employees and the company's survival.

Tetra Ltd wanted to take action against the informant but were unable to as Mr Goodwin refused to

reveal the person's identity, even when the High Court ordered him to in November 1989. Mr Goodwin was later fined £5,000 for contempt of court, which he felt was a breach of his freedom of expression. At the time, he told *Felix* that, although he had faced a possible 12 year jail sentence, he had not been imprisoned "because of the publicity". His case was later thrown out of the court of appeal and discarded by the House of Lords without a hearing.

However, it was revealed last Wednesday that The European Commission of Human Rights is to refer the case to the European Court of Human Rights after ruling that the British Government violated the reporter's rights. If the court agrees with this ruling, Britain will be forced to provide stronger protection for journalists under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act.

In a ruling that the Government had violated article 10 of the Convention of Human Rights the Commission said: "[We] consider that the protection of the sources from which journalists derive information is an essential means of

enabling the press to perform its important function of 'public watchdog' in a democratic society."

The Commission felt that, as the matter was not one affecting national security, there was no justification in ordering Mr Goodwin to identify his source. They also decided that the company's claim that 400 jobs would be lost as a result of the information being made public was unsubstantiated and that it had not suffered any of the harm predicted.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC for Mr Goodwin said: "This decision is important because it is the first time... [the Commission] has accepted that the right to freedom of expression must extend to protect people who disclose newsworthy information to journalists. Our contempt law fails to give journalists the protection they need to tell the public the truth."

Mr Goodwin told *Felix* that he is hoping for a favourable ruling, saying: "As part of a settlement, I would ask the Government to change the law... Britain is very backward [in contempt law] compared to other European countries."

Soup Run In Peril

BY LYNN BRAVEY

The future of the Soup Run is in doubt due to a lack of minibus drivers.

The Soup Run is organised by the Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCA) and offers food to London's homeless.

Despite placing adverts in *Felix* requesting more volunteer drivers, none have come forward.

The current minibus driver leaves at the end of this term, leaving the volunteers without transport. They need people over 21 with a current driving licence who are willing to take the Imperial College Union minibus driver test.

ICCA operate the Soup Run every Thursday evening, leaving Weeks Hall at 9pm.

Imperial Enters The Big League

BY LYNN BRAVEY

Imperial College is once more in the top three in *The Times* University League tables.

This is the second year that *The Times* has published tables ranking all British Universities. It has also printed the criteria on which the league table was based.

Although Imperial College has come third in the overall league, it has been placed at the top of four of these criteria tables. Imperial

College held the pole position in Government supported research, staff with PhDs, contract research and the number of students attaining first class honours.

In an interview with *Felix* Dr Rodney Eastwood, Deputy Managing Director of Imperial College, questioned the reliability of the tables saying that although they are "good publicity", the College could not "put a lot of credence on it".

The league was not all good

news. The College came a poor 37th in the student accommodation league, with only 40% of students living in accommodation provided by College. Institutions rating high in this category offer housing for over 70% of their students.

Imperial College also fared badly on drop out rates (40th, with 10% of students not completing their degrees) and graduate employment (59th, with 13% of graduates still unemployed six months after graduation).

Teaching Awards

BY MIKE INGRAM

Imperial College is to present new Teaching Awards to staff at the Commemoration Day in October.

The Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, has initiated the setting up of a scheme to raise the profile of teaching within the College. A provisional plan for the awards has been developed by the Pro-Rector,

John Archer, and discussed by the Board of Undergraduate Studies.

The staff/student committees and heads of each department will choose the recipient of their 'Excellence in Teaching' award on the grounds of who has made the most outstanding contribution to undergraduate teaching in the department.

The names of winners, along

with supporting citations, will be submitted to an adjudicating committee (including student representatives) who will choose the recipients of the 'Teaching Fellow of 1994' awards in science, engineering and medicine. These awards, including cash prizes of £1000, will be presented at the Commemoration Day ceremony in October.

St Mary's Union Election Results

The results of the St Mary's Union officer elections are as follows:

President

Dave Adams	48
Will Man	86
Claire Moloney	150
New Election	76
Spoilt Papers	7

Vice President (External Affairs)

Davina Hansen	124
Rahul Joshi	128
Peter Kalu	54
Brett Segal	39
New Election	10
Spoilt Papers	12

Vice President (Internal Affairs)

Nishani Amerasinghe	205
Shankar Sridharam	88
New Election	57
Spoilt Papers	7

The deadline for articles is 5pm, Friday

Moneyless in Malaysia...

The jewel of South East Asia, a chaotic jungle of dreams, skyscrapers and, err, jungles. But just how easy is it to 'go east'?

Having one day decided that I was going to do more with possibly my last summer vacation, the next step was deciding what? So, after much searching for a bolt of lightning that was willing to hit me, the answer came to me in simple mathematical terms:

Little money + a reluctance to rob a bank to provide it = go stay with a friend

After all, what are friends for? So, after much twisting of arms, I managed to find a few who were willing to accommodate me. As luck would have it, a sizeable number of them lived in lands of the three s's and instantly my mind was made up, Malaysia and Singapore. However, in the back of my mind was still a small problem: money, or the lack of it to be more precise. Deliverance came in the form of a travel bursary from Shell; so X amounts of gratitude to Peter Ashford and the crew for their assistance.

Getting to Malaysia is fairly easy, but I would recommend using a plane. Just follow these basic procedures and you should be alright:

- i) *You part with your money.*
- ii) *For this, you get some sheets of paper (nicely coloured if you're lucky).*
- iii) *Go to the airport and give this to anybody you can find wearing a gratuitous amount of make-up and with a demented smile on their face.*
- iv) *Exchange your pieces of paper for an altogether less spectacular one.*
- v) *Use this new piece of paper to get on the plane of your choice.*
- vi) *If this seems complicated to you, stay at home.*

On a more serious note, with a bit of hunting around the less glamorous travel agents, you should be able to find a decently priced ticket (around £400 return) but don't expect any luxuries like a guaranteed seat. It didn't happen to me, but many friends have turned up to the airport on the day of their flight only to be told that there wasn't one. But, in the words of Trevor the Wise (a used car salesman): "You only get what you pay for, mate."

Now, with any luck you should arrive at Subang International in Kuala Lumpur brimming with eagerness. A lot of time and money has gone into the airport and it shows. Unfortunately, I didn't have much time to kill as there was a large number of suspicious individuals on my plane who had that illegal immigrant look in their eyes. I proceeded with haste to immigration before the siege set in.

As I waved a fond farewell to the nice customs men and walked out into Malaysia, it hit me. Although I had lived in other tropical countries, that was quite a while ago and Mr Heat along with Mr Humidity take vindictive pleasure in making one suffer. This is one

place where deodorant sales are never down. Loose, thin, baggy clothes are highly advisable, but don't dress to shock otherwise you'll soon get that 'I'm a tourist and look it' feeling. Whatever you do don't go in with your size 12 Dr Martins, the Union Jack displayed from the majority of your surface area shouting "Ere we go, ere we go". People will just think your mad, which is probably very plausible.

I spent the first week in and around Kuala Lumpur. My friend lived some distance from the city centre which meant a bus journey. Now, to be a bus driver in Kuala Lumpur you have to be two things. The first is to have no immediate relatives and the second is to be certified as being a few sandwiches short of a picnic. If you're into near death experiences then this is the ultimate.

Skyscrapers battle it out for supremacy while the traditional shops and stalls in between sit back and watch it all happen.

Dragging myself around on the first day was an effort; stops at the nearest watering hole were a frequent occurrence. However, the sheer atmosphere of the place soon made up for it. The whole city is a contrast of the old with the new. Skyscrapers battle it out for supremacy while the traditional shops and stalls in between sit back and watch it all happen. If you've got money, this is as good a place as any to spend it. The good was cheap so, taking full advantage of this, I tried to sample as much of it as possible.

After seeing most of the touristy things with embarrassing camera in tow for validation of tourist status, it was time to move on. I had to get to Muar on the east coast so so I made my way down to the bus garage to see if they could solve my problem. Most fortunate was I as my translator informed me that the next bus was leaving in ten minutes and I had better get my butt down there now if I wanted to catch it. Proceeding without delay I boarded the bus while simultaneously thanking my friend. A few minutes later and we were off into the wild blue yonder until we hit major traffic at which point I decided to fall asleep.

I awoke when the bus driver decided to turn on his radio. That wasn't too bad but then someone decided he wanted to try out his new UB40 album which he handed to the bus driver to play at full volume. So, for the next hour my ears were tortured by such lyrics as "Every hour of every day I'm yearning more". Anyway, that's what it sounded like and I was damn relieved when the bus driver had enough and turned it off.



Arriving in Muar I was greeted by no-one. It's not a very big town and I was soon inviting strange looks. Grabbing the nearest telephone I phoned my friend who apparently had decided to play football knowing full well that I was coming. His kind parents took pity on me and picked me up instead.

Muar is pretty unspectacular compared to Kuala Lumpur but it was good to get some peace and quiet. Hence, most of the time was spent eating, sleeping and watching TV. Time soon passed by and it was time to move on to Singapore which meant another of those dreaded bus rides.

This time the stereo was not the problem, there wasn't one. There also was no suspension so sitting on the seat for more than five seconds was a considerable problem. This went on all the way to Johor Bahru, over the causeway and into Singapore and, after a while, I was so fed up that I just didn't care anymore.

Reaching Singapore I didn't really have a definite place to stay. All I knew was that I was supposed to meet another in my long list of contacts at some place which was far from concrete. Fortunately, he had arranged for me to stay at John's (yet another contact) house and very kindly drove me down there. Being the dope he was, he dropped me off at the wrong place. After an hour of waiting there, I decided that something was amiss. I then had to go through the long process of finding a phone. Sorting out the mess took another hour and this was all at around 11 o'clock at night when I finally reached a bed and slept.

Next morning, I awoke to find John had prepared a full itinerary and was eager to get going. He is one of the best tour guides I have ever met and would be glad to write a reference to this effect any day. Off we set to Haw Par Villa which was a sort of Chinese Mythology theme park – a good place to sit under a tree and watch it all happen. There were a lot more tourists here than in Malaysia, so I felt a little more at ease. After that, we checked out the town which is a shoppers' utopia. Anything you want (well, just about) you can find in the sprawl of malls and markets. The transport system was excellent, as well with their equivalent of the tube (called the MRT, Mass Rapid Transport) having a good range over the island.

All too soon it was time to go. I had to get back up to Kuala Lumpur to catch my flight out which meant yet another bus ride. This time they showed a video, but it was in Cantonese which didn't help things at all, so I slept. After only seven hours I was back in

Exhaustion comes quickly to the 'public transport' in such a hot and humid climate

Kuala Lumpur and signalled a parting gesture to travelling on buses in general.

Flying back, I reflected on my experiences. Both Malaysia and Singapore are diverse places to visit and you'll undoubtedly find yourself wishing you could stay longer. Travel and food are cheap along with just about anything else you want to buy. People are warm and friendly but maybe that's just because they've been sitting in the sun too long.

*There also was no suspension
so sitting on the seat for
more than five seconds was a
considerable problem.*

If you do decide to go to either of these places, a visit to one of the respective tourist boards would be a very wise move (even Trevor would approve). Don't forget those injections, otherwise you might find yourself coming back with more than just that very loud T-shirt and a lovely bunch of coconuts, so don't say I didn't warn you. Finally, next year is visit Malaysia year so get up, get out and go, go, go.

P.S. If you want further information about visiting Malaysia or Singapore, don't ask me but go and find someone or something who knows what he's talking about.

Riazul Islam

An Education In Itself

So, you have itchy feet but you can't afford the time to work your way around the world? Well, there is an alternative, as Martin Greenacre reports...

I've finally made it! What I read in the UCCA Handbook (as it was then) all those years ago has now been realised. 'Civil Engineering with a Year in Continental Europe' has now become reality for me as I arrive at the 'Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule' in Aachen.

560 students attended the introductory lecture for Civil Engineers. It was said straight away, not only by the academic but also by the student from the departmental society, that over half of the assembled students would either fail or drop out before the end of the degree. 'Degree' is perhaps the wrong word, as what they call the 'Diplom' here is totally different to what we would understand as a degree.

No interviews take place. All you need is a good enough average on leaving school. To study in Aachen you need quite a bit of luck as well. That is, there is a massive accommodation problem here and finding somewhere to live has a lot to do with good fortune. The table tennis room in one of the halls was used as emergency accommodation for the first month of term! Thankfully, as exchange students, we get special treatment from the accommodation office here, paying slightly over the odds for the privilege. I'm not complaining, however, as the rent is still under half of that in London.

The student year is structured as two semesters. This year, lectures ran from 11th October to 11th February and from 11th April to 8th July. The time between lecture periods is called holiday, which is code for 'exam time'. So, if you're lucky you could get no holiday at all. That rarely happens as the German students choose which exams to do on the basis of the exam dates. They must eventually do all the exams but, at most, they sit two at a time and make sure that they have at least two weeks between them and usually a couple of weeks of actual holiday as well.

The word 'exam' takes on a whole new meaning in this country. They call them 'Klausers' and they are hard! In Civil Engineering each Klausur examines material from at least two lecture courses and the associated coursework assignments. The assignments and exam questions are usually design-related which means taking the relevant Standards (DINs, as they are called here) into examinations and being able to work with them...quickly. Just imagine – a five hour open-book exam, examining one and a half years of lecture and coursework material! Come back Imperial – all is forgiven!

In some respects the departments are similar to those in England. The academics are all heavily involved in research which, in the end, largely contributes to the reputation of individual departments. Teaching methods and standards vary from subject to subject. Some lectures are musts and some are right-offs. One thing I remembered from working in England

last summer was something a senior engineer once said to me: 90% of what you learn at university you forget and never have to use again during your career. This ties in with a quote that I read recently: "The soul and spirit of education is that habit of mind which remains when a student has completely forgotten everything he has been taught" – Professor Sir Charles Inglis. That situation is exactly the same in Germany.

You can't move for bars and night clubs . . . you could easily spend the week going to parties

From this point of view, the English system has an advantage: at least we only spend four years at most at University, whereas the Germans take an average of six to seven years to complete their course before they finally start as practising engineers. They spend an extra year in school, too. If you add that on to at least a year of compulsory military service (or it's equivalent), they don't usually finish until 27 or 28 years of age. That's why, when a student moves into a hall of residence, he/she really makes it home; it gets painted, carpeted and furnished completely afresh. Understandable, I suppose, if you're going to be there for seven years! I would estimate that, for an average German student, the actual time they have free of lectures or exams during the year is about two and a half months.

Aachen itself is a great place to be as a student. There are 230,000 people in this town and a quarter of them are students. You can't move for bars, restaurants, night clubs and cinemas! You could quite easily spend the whole week going to parties; there are always several going on. At this time of the year, the beginning of the semester, relatively little study is going on and certainly nobody is breaking their back over books! If I'd been at Imperial College this year, I would already have done six coursework assignments, with another ten to be in by Christmas! (OK, a slight exaggeration perhaps!) This does even itself out, as I will still be pen-pushing in August and September next year. Trying to explain this to my Local Education Authority in terms of extra grant for extra weeks is pretty tricky.

Money is another difference between the two systems. We may moan about the Government freezing the grant and

A French Eye On Imperial College

After one year as an exchange student under the ERASMUS scheme, I would like to write a few remarks about Imperial College and my experiences of this year.

First, let me present myself. I am a physicist and I have followed a mixture of courses in second and third year physics courses in the Physics department.

Then, what? Well, about your courses. The physics courses are much less theoretical than in France, except for a few lecturers where they probably are the best I ever had. In general, you do what we call 'Physics With Hands'. It is an alternative which has its good and bad points.

One thing I noticed about the exams is that the mark you get seems to correspond to how well you have learned by heart the lecture notes. But you get the same problem everywhere. It is hard to take an exam which will show your understanding of physical phenomena. Fortunately, the comprehensive papers (I did not take them but I had a look) are made to complete your degree in this way. It is missing in France.

Now, I must admit, it is quite hard to make friends with you British. Is it my fault? Maybe, but I found lots of friends among European (except English) and Asian people. You are said to have the personality of people living on an isolated island. I think it seems quite true, for geographical as well as 'behavioural' reasons. However, lots of effort is made to open this university up to the wild world: all your clubs and societies, every exchange scheme, Felix itself that I have read for a year more or less regularly, tend to prove it.

Now, some of you are going to say: "If he didn't like it, he should have stayed at home!" Well, first, I could not have known before coming and second, I think that being there opens your mind and develops your own personality.

Finally, my last words will go to every person who is going to spend a year or more away from London and/or their home. Do it if you can afford it! Nothing will replace this experience in your life! And try to enjoy yourself where you go (I did with the IC Dance Club).

Axel Pieuchot

introducing the student loan system, but the latter is the norm in the rest of Europe. In the last two months I've met people from all over Europe and the vast majority of them have to repay all or part of the money they get from their respective governments.

Just imagine – a five hour open-book exam, examining one and a half years of lecture and coursework material!

The starting salaries for engineers is significantly higher in Germany. You can reckon on an absolute minimum of £20,000. I suppose this reflects the slightly higher cost of living and a longer time at university, with a qualification in the MSc/PhD class on leaving. It's not really an issue at the moment anyway because it is getting so difficult to get a job full stop! Unemployment among graduates is on the up in Germany, according to an article in 'Der Spiegel' recently. Luckily that problem is still a few lectures and a couple of Klausers away from me. You never know, it might all be different by then (ha ha!).

On the clubs and societies front there seems to be a predominance of sport. Everybody seems to keep fit regularly and you can certainly find a club for every sport under the sun

here. There are at least three student choirs and symphony orchestras, as well as brass and jazz bands. There are also foreign student societies, although the percentage of foreign students is not as high as at Imperial College. Things like debating societies is something there isn't so much of here, which is perhaps surprising as German students are certainly opinionated enough.

The male/female ratio is where RWTH Aachen really falls down. I'm not sure of the overall figure but, in Mechanical Engineering for example, which is the biggest department here, it is about 3% female. That department alone has about as many students as the whole of Imperial College. Because the proportion of students here is relatively high, the imbalance between men and women is something you notice almost immediately. It is still significantly harder for women to get into engineering and sciences in Germany.

The Germans are certainly living up to their reputation of being thorough. This system of university education doesn't let you skim over any subject area that is even remotely connected with any particular discipline; they examine you on everything! If anything, they are trying to shorten the Diplom at the moment. RWTH Aachen has just tried to get approval for a new examination system but it was turned down by local government on the basis of the course being too long. We will see. In the meantime we carry on with what we've got.

Martin Greenacre
November 1993, Aachen.

The Great Summer Getaway...

As the great summer vacation looms ever nearer, thoughts turn from exams and college work to relaxing in the sun and travelling to far off places like India, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and America.

If you are graduating this year, you may decide that you are going to take that year out between leaving education and entering the working world. One of the best ways to spend this time is taking a trip around the world.

The first thing to do when you have decided to take that round-the-world trip is to plan where you want to go. Buy or borrow copies of good travel books, such as the 'Lonely Planet' or 'Rough Guide' publications. You will find that there will be a book or section on most major travel destinations in the world. These provide invaluable information about sights, customs, travel within countries, accommodation, places to eat and so on.

Having established the areas of the world you wish to visit, the next step is to plan the actual route. The most important thing to remember here is that to make use of a round-the-world ticket, you must always travel in the same direction; no back-tracking is allowed.

Travel is one of life's great educators. How can you possibly expect to really know a place until you have spent some time there? Struggling with a phrase book to be understood in Latin America; trying to get onto the next train out of Cairo for five days; working in a restaurant in Sydney; driving across America.

The experience and knowledge that you gain by travelling is never wasted and the memories are pure magic.

Lorraine Pater, STA Travel

For more details and information on round the world travel, drop into STA Travel on the Sherfield Walkway and have a chat to the people there.

As June approaches, a students' thoughts turn to the great British summertime and how best to avoid it.

If you are short of ideas of what to do for the next three months, read on . . .

Europe by Rail And Road



Rail travel is still a popular way of exploring Europe and the time-honoured Inter-Rail card is good value for touring around. This 'go as you please' pass is available to all travellers under 26 who normally live in the UK or who have been UK residents for at least six months before departure. A pass valid for the whole of Europe costs £249. Alternatively, if you want to explore just one part of Europe, there is the new zonal Inter-Rail pass. There are seven different zones to choose from:

1. Republic of Ireland
2. Norway, Sweden, Finland
3. Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark
4. Czech & Slovak republics, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia
5. France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg
6. Spain, Portugal, Morocco
7. Italy, Greece, Turkey, Slovenia

A one-zone pass costs £179 for 15 days; two zones costs £209 for one month; three zones costs £229 for one month.



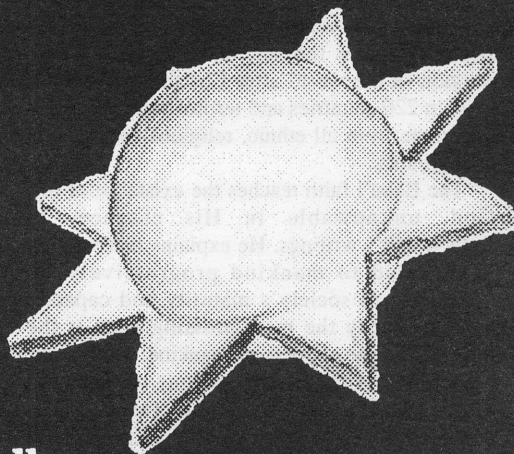
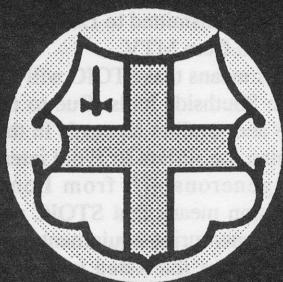
If you don't fancy the train, why not explore Europe by coach? Eurolines have created 15 exciting explorer routes designed to enable you to see as much of Europe for as little as possible. Each ticket is valid for six months and you can stay as long as you like in each location. Simply book the first journey in the UK and the rest in the city of departure at least 48 hours in advance. Choose from the following routes:

London-Dublin-Galway-Cork-London	£57
London-Brussels-Paris-London	£70
London-Amsterdam-Paris-London	£74
London-Paris-Amsterdam-Brussels-London	£80
London-Budapest-Prague-London	£109
London-Amsterdam-Copenhagen-Paris-London	£125
London-Brussels-Vienna-Bratislava-London	£129
London-Copenhagen-Gothenburg-Hamburg-London	£132
London-Brussels-Warsaw-Amsterdam-London	£136
London-Amsterdam-Krakow-Brussels-London	£136
London-Frankfurt-Munich-Berlin-Hamburg-London	£136
London-Frankfurt-Budapest-Vienna-Brussels-London	£140
London-Paris-Barcelona-Amsterdam-London	£163
London-Amsterdam-Barcelona-Rome-Paris-London	£212
London-Munich-Barcelona-Rome-Paris-London	£230

Both Inter-Rail cards and Eurolines coach tickets are available from ULU Travel, level 2, Sherfield Building.

STA Travel can be found on the Sherfield Walkway

**City & Guilds College Union in association with
IC Halls of Residence present**



**Saturday
18th June
7pm-2am**

at Silwood Park Manor House

**The Imperial College
Summer**

Ball

In February we said that the 43rd Annual Engineers' Dinner & Dance was going to be the best party you've ever been to. This is going to be the biggest party you've ever been to. With up to a thousand people transported free to the Silwood Park Manor House and grounds, you're going to have access to the biggest selection of entertainments and activities provided at an Imperial College event.

Music is provided by KAISO, the Caribbean Experience and TOOT-N-SKAMEN, giving you a taste of 'Madness', who are supported by two College bands

With full-size 18 car DODGEMS, four different INFLATABLES and FAIRGROUND STALLS we re-create the funfair atmosphere

Take a break and be entertained by MAGICIANS, CARICATURISTS, TAROT CARD & PALM READING

Standard Price

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Special Hall Rate

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(Participating Halls only)

Add to your BARBEQUE meal with free FRUIT and SOFT DRINKS from stalls spread throughout the grounds

The DISCO runs all evening in the Manor House and swaps over to the marquee following the bands to traverse the midnight hour...

... and you only need cash for the bar and snack stalls. Everything else is absolutely FREE.

DRESS TO IMPRESS. Tickets on sale from NOW until WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE from City & Guilds College Union, Room 340, Mechanical Engineering, from participating Halls of Residence or IC Union Office, Beit Quad.

Declaration of the Bab STOIC

On Monday 23rd May 1994 over 6 million Baha'is across the world celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab. The Bab was a young Persian man from the city of Shiraz in Iran and He declared to be the forerunner of One who was expected by all major world religions. His progressive teachings caused a lot of uprisings in Persia which eventually lead to His martyrdom in 1850 along with many of His growing band of followers.

In 1863, Baha'u'llah publicly declared that He was the Promised One of all Ages, foretold by the Bab. This was a title in Arabic which means 'The Glory of God'. He indicated that His Teachings were but the latest chapter of God's unfolding message for mankind and that it complemented that of previous prophets of God such as Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha and Krishna. He stressed that the time had come to pursue the common goal of unifying mankind.

His adherents are called Baha'is and are members of the Baha'i Faith. The government and clergy in Persia opposed Baha'u'llah's rising influence and fame. Consequently, He was banished throughout the Turkish Empire over the following 40 years until He passed away, near the city of Akka, in 1892. It is recounted in many historical documents that over 20,000 of the Bab's followers were martyred and later many of Baha'u'llah's followers suffered the same fate.

Despite the fact that the Baha'i Faith is only

150 years old, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica it is the second most widespread religion in the world after Christianity. Baha'is exist in 220 countries and territories of the world and come from all ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

The Baha'i faith teaches the existence of one God, unknowable in His essence. In Baha'u'llah's writings, He explains that religion is revealed to mankind progressively, in proportion to society's maturity and capacity and that today the most pressing need is the principle of the oneness of mankind. All people, regardless of their race, colour, or religion belong to the same human family. He said: "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

In addition, there are many social teachings associated with His Revelation. Some Baha'i principles include the equality of men and women, the abolition of all forms of prejudice, the independent investigation of the truth and the harmony between science and religion.

Currently, there is no single Baha'i leader. In fact the Baha'i Faith has no clergy. However, it does have governing bodies on local, national and international levels elected through secret ballot. The international governing body of the Baha'i Faith, the Universal House of Justice, is based in Haifa, Israel at a short distance from the resting place of the Bab.

Varqa Khadem

Last weekend, the STOIC network was extended to near its former glory days. A test card was transmitted to Linstead Hall along with the sound from MTV.

This means that STOIC will soon be on air to all the Southside halls. Due to numerous cable, video and satellite channels in the halls, STOIC is tuning the system to avoid interference.

A generous gift from London Weekend Television means that STOIC now has suitable test and measuring equipment to work with.

If you are interested in helping, please ring us on our new numbers: 48104 or 071 594 8104.

Victory

Imperial College claimed a double victory at the Chiswick Regatta last weekend, the latest in a long line of Boat Club successes.

This time it was the turn of the women's crews for glory, beating the University College Hospital crew by seven lengths in the final of the Novice Coxed Four category. The same crew, with one substitution, claimed another win over Thames Tradesmen Rowing Club by one length in the Senior Three Coxed Fours.

These are the first wins of the summer for IC Boat Club and undoubtedly the first of many.

GILBERT'S

2 Exhibition Road

London SW7

Telephone 071 589 8947

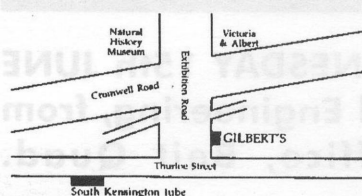
Happy Hour

6 - 7pm, Mon - Fri

Enjoy a free glass of wine or beer on your first visit to your nearest and nicest local restaurant!

We serve good bottled beers and wines by the glass with home-cooked food.

Snack menu available.



Bring this advertisement with you.

Student Accommodation Office

Vacancies in College Residences as at 23/5/94

Ref	Hall	Type	Sex	UG/PG	From	Licence
1.	Bernard Sunley	Twin	M	UG	Now	38-Week
2.	Fisher	Twin	M/F	UG	Now	38-Week
3.	Garden	Twin	F	UG	Now	38-Week
4.	Holbein	Twin	M	UG	Now	38-Week
5.	Olave	Twin	M/F	PG	Now	BES Let
6.	Southwell	Twin	M	UG	Now	34-Week
7.	Southwell Flat	Twin	F	UG	Now	38-Week
8.	Willis Jackson	Twin	M	UG	Now	34-Week
9.	Bernard Sunley	Triple	M	UG	Now	34-Week
10.	Clayponds	Singles	M/F	UG/PG	Now	BES Let
11.	Earls Court	Single	M/F	PG	Now	51-Week
12.	Garden	Single	M	UG	Now	38-Week
13.	Penthouse	Single	F	UG	Now	38-Week
14.	Linstead	Single	M/F	UG	13/6/94	34-Week
15.	Falmouth Keogh	Single	M/F	UG	14/6/94	38-Week
16.	Falmouth Keogh	Single	M/F	UG	20/6/94	34-Week
17.	Falmouth Keogh	Single	M/F	PG	27/6/94	51-Week

**For further information, please call in at
Ground Floor, 15 Princes Gardens
Summer vacation accommodation available in Beit Old
Hostel between the 27th June and 23rd Sept**

Coming Soon To FilmSoc . . .

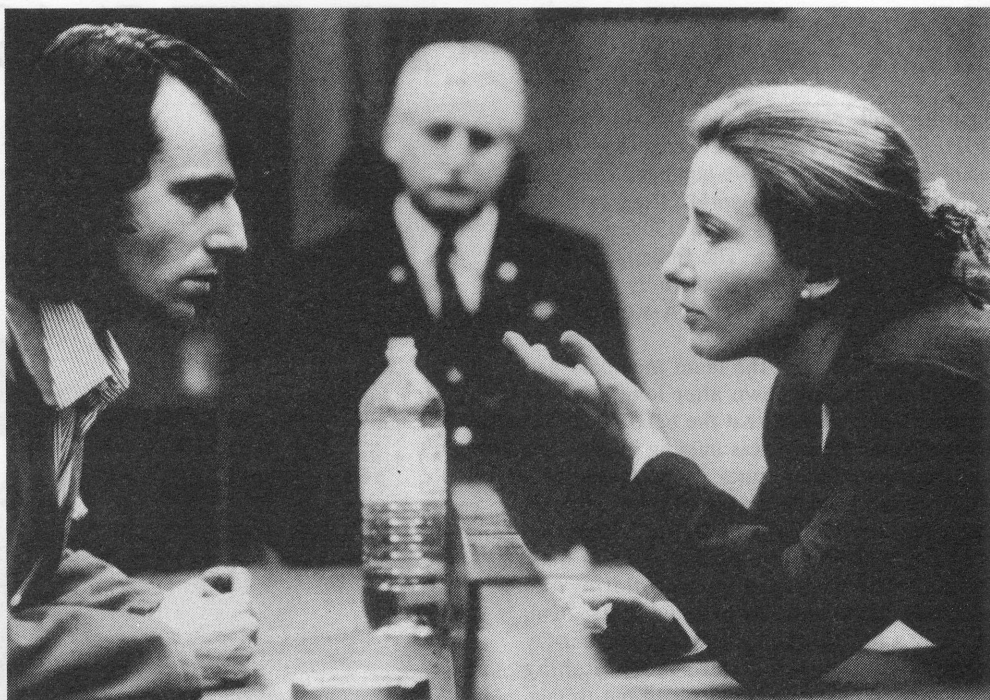
Imperial College Film Society has 32 different films which we will be showing over the course of nearly 50 performances during the last five weeks of this term.

Highlights include *In The Name of The Father*, *The Age Of Innocence*, *Shadowlands*, *Carlito's Way* and *The Piano*.

Tickets will cost £1.80 and are available from the Union Office, a week in advance, or from the ICU Cinema 'Box Office' before any of the film showings.

If you buy any five tickets (for five different films) you'll only pay the price of four. (*This offer is not available for tickets bought from the Union Office.*)

Look out for the posters, adverts in *Felix* or telephone ext 3527 for further details.



In The Name Of The Father will be shown at ICU Cinema on 11th, 12th and 13th June

IC Boat Club: Spent In Ghent

Over the weekend, 7th and 8th May, the Boat Club competed at Ghent International Regatta in Belgium. Many top British and European clubs were in attendance, including the University of London, the Great Britain Junior Squad, the Belgian National Squad, and several Dutch and French top clubs. In addition to these were the South African, Argentinian, and Chilean national teams. This ensured that the racing was of the highest standard; frequently the open titles winner's were of Olympic final class, indeed the Belgian coxless pair came fourth at last year's World Championships.

IC Boat Club, arriving in the midst of finals, quickly found their feet and acquitted themselves admirably with four titles from the weekend, significantly out-performing all other domestic clubs.

On the Saturday, the 1st VII, racing in small boats, showed their ability to stay with the top-class crews when they narrowly failed to have two pairs, from three, in the five boat final, despite recording the second and third fastest times in their tough heats. However, the hastily-thrown together combination of Ben Poulton and Luka Grubor showed true grit and overcame exam-induced fatigue to finish second, very close behind a Dutch national pair.

In another tough heat, the top men's coxless four were nudged out of the final by the Belgian and South African fours, whilst the second four were slightly further down. Dan Forster, in a single scull, failed to make the final in a very high-class event.

In the eights, IC women, troubled with

injury, continued their run of success with a comfortable win over their school-girl opponents in a two-boat final. In contrast, the young and inexperienced men's second eight had a 'baptism of fire' final, pitched against the South Africans, Belgians, and a strong Dutch student crew from Amsterdam. In a close battle between all four crews, the IC boys missed the bronze by a whisker, whilst still overlapping the winner.

Sunday saw a bit more luck on IC's side with the second men's coxless four recovering from a poor race the previous day to dominate the final of under-23 fours and to walk off with an impressive trophy. Again the top men's four encountered their bogey-crews in the form of the South Africans and the Belgians in their heat and yet again failed to qualify for the final.

In the under-23 pairs, Martin Kettle and Ace Green made up for missing Saturday's final by cruising home well ahead of the cosmopolitan field in a very quick time. The women's eight, in their straight final, could not match the crisp bladework of a Thames Tradesmen crew, who dominated the race from the outset, leaving the girls in their wash. The men's eight enjoyed the feel of controlling their final race from start to finish, boosting their morale.

After an exhausting weekend, IC showed great promise for the summer regatta season. Various crews will be competing at these top domestic events as well as major international ones such as Duisberg and Paris in the near future, before descending on Henley in July.

Zimbabwe Tour For IC Rugby

For the first time in the history of Imperial College sport a tour is being organised to Zimbabwe. IC Rugby Football Club 1st XV will leave on the 26th June to spend two weeks playing various clubs and regional sides around Harare, including Zimbabwe University 1st XV, returning on 10th July.

As well as playing rugby and strengthening links with the University of Zimbabwe, we hope to meet up with 75 IC alumni who now live out there, with the aim of organising a reception or dinner which would take place during our stay in Zimbabwe.

The squad will consist of about 18 players, who have all played for Imperial College this year. The responsibility for the selection of this squad will rest with next season's Captain, Tim Townend (Mech Eng 1) and Andrew Montgomery, ICRFC Honorary Secretary and ACC Chairman.

For most of the players in the squad, this will be their first trip to Africa and so they will be looking forward to seeing and experiencing a very different country and culture at first hand.

If anyone has any reliable contacts in or around Harare, who would be able to provide two or three players with accommodation or could possibly help with any other aspect of the tour please contact Matt Anstead (Mech Eng 1), tel 071 727 6031 (late or early).

Yacht Club – EDHEC 1994

Saturday 16th April saw the start of the 26th EDHEC student regatta, a week long yacht racing event. More than two hundred boats from Universities all over the world participated and the event was held in Les Sables D'Olonne on the Atlantic coast of France. The Imperial College Yacht Club was represented there by a team of eight, led by skipper Thor Askeland and helmsman Tim Parsons.

The previous day, the team members had arrived in the small town after long hours of travelling, only to find that the boat which had been hired for the race was missing its rig! Yes, it's that big tree trunk stuck in the middle of a sailing boat...basically it's what makes the boat move. Morale was not at its best as we listened to our invaluable native guide and team mate Anthony Duyck skillfully negotiating the necessary repairs with the boat charterers. "Oui, oui, only a few hours," they assured us. Sunday morning came and we were still watching helplessly as the other boats sailed out to take advantage of the last practice day.

On Monday morning the racing began and, with our boat, repaired we set sail proudly flying the College flag, the biggest in the fleet and the envy of all the other teams. The next two days saw us slowly but steadily gaining positions in our class division. The going was tough in the ocean waves, especially for our bowman Matt Crossman taking the worst of the weather.

Wednesday evening and, after numerous delays due to slackening winds, the fleet left port for the toughest and most demanding race of the week: the overnight regatta. The sun had already set as our boat neared the first mark while the temperature dropped and the wind picked up. Good tactics and navigation put us in the leading group of our class halfway through the night but luck was not coming our way. At 2am, all the onboard instruments and lights shut down due to



a faulty battery. The problem was solved by rewiring the engine battery but not before we had sailed for an hour with only a compass bearing to guide us. The race continued as the shifts took turns in the forbidding conditions, sustained only by the continuous supply of hot soups and coffee from the galley. The boat was pushed to the limit in the ten hour long upwind leg amidst cries of: "She can't take much more of this cap'n!"

At the second mark the wind played some bad tricks on us and we lost some positions in the leading pack. After more than twenty hours sailing we crossed the finish line in 14th place.

Surprises were still on their way when, on Friday night, two of the crew, Anthony and

Carlo, returned to the boat slightly intoxicated from a party and were heard remarking:

"Where's our flag gone?"

"What flag?"

"Oops!"

The following morning we realised that our flag had become the trophy of an unknown sea scavenger. The same day, while rounding a mark, shouts and scraping sounds from the stern of our boat warned us that another boat was impolitely trying to climb into our cockpit! Our protest was discarded for a technical glitch but the crew made it in one piece to an incredible farewell party that evening; A+ for the organisers.

Our final position was 20th out of the 37 boats in our class and in the top 40 out of the 245 teams overall. We are extremely grateful for the help of the IC Trust, the Marketing Department, and Mr Vernon McClure for making it all possible! The crew members who worked tirelessly include Natalie Chiang, Rick Bilby, Carlo Contaldi, Anthony Duyck, Neil Chamberlain, Matt Crossman, and Emmanuel Omont. Next year we hope to improve our position even more!



Annual Dinner

IF you would like to go sailing this Summer..

IF you want to sail / race next year...

IF you can tell great sailing stories (lies)...

IF you will be in the UK in the next year...

Join Us!

Friday 3rd June

Contact Maria Moratis, mm4@doc,
or Yacht Club Pigeonhole

The deadline for articles is Friday, 5pm

diary

3rd – 9th April

Friday 3rd

Fencing Club Meeting12.00pm
Union Gym. All standards welcome.

Chess Club.....12.30pm
Table Tennis Room, top floor of the Union Building.

Friday Prayers1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by Islamic Society.

Rag Meeting1.10pm
Ents Lounge, Union Building.

**West London Chaplaincy
.....2.30pm-4.30pm**
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

Wing Chun Kung Fu4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

IC Fitness Club5.30pm
Step aerobics in Southside Gym.

Atmosphere8.00pm
Union Lounge.

Saturday 4th

FilmSoc Presents:

Reservoir Dogs8.00pm

Reservoir Dogs11.00pm

ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. £1.80 each.

Sunday 5th

War Games & Roleplaying Club.....1.00pm
Table Tennis Room, Union Building. Please be prompt.

IC Fitness Club2.00pm
Southside Gym. Intermediate and step aerobics.

FilmSoc Presents:

Mrs Doubtfire8.00pm

ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

Monday 6th

Fencing Club Meeting12.00pm
Union Gym. All standards welcome.

ArtSoc Meeting12.30pm
Union Dining Hall, Union Building.

**West London Chaplaincy
.....2.30pm-4.30pm**
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

IC Fitness Club5.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners aerobics.

Dance Club5.30pm
Union Dining Hall, first floor, Union Building.

Leonardo (Fine Arts) Society6.00pm
Civ Eng 101. £4 staff membership, £2 students. £2 per class (2 hours).

Chess Club.....6.00pm
Brown and Clubs Committee Rms.

St Mary's Volleyball7.00pm
Wilson House Recreational Centre.

Tuesday 7th

CathSoc Mass.....12.00pm
Sir Leon Bagrit Centre, Level 1, Mech Eng. Followed by lunch.

Yoga Society12.15pm
Southside Gym. New members welcome.

Food For Thought.....12.30pm
A weekly diet of discussion and talks. Food for stomachs, too. In the Committee Rms, Sherfield (317a/317b/318). Run by the Chaplaincy.

Ski Club Meeting12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.

Sailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.

Yacht Club12.30pm
Meeting in Southside TV Lounge.

Liberal Democrat Society Meeting1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge.

Ents Meeting1.00pm
Ents/Rag Office above Traditional Union Bar.

Boardsailing Meeting1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. More information from J. Mayhew, through Mech Eng pigeonholes.

Circus Skills5.00pm
Union Lounge.

IC Fitness Club5.30pm
Advanced aerobics. Southside Gym.

St Mary's Netball5.30pm
Wilson House Recreation Centre, Sussex Gardens, Paddington

Dance Club6.00pm
Beginners class in the JCR.

Caving Club Meeting8.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge.

Mountaineering Meeting9.00pm
In Southside.

Wednesday 8th

Parachute Club12.00pm
Table Tennis Room. top floor of the Union Building.

Labour Club Meeting.....12.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge.

War Games & Roleplaying..1.00pm
Brown Committee Room, top floor of the Union Building.

Hoverclub1.00pm
Build a hovercraft. Southside Garage near Southside Shop or E-Mail j.bell@ee.

IC Fitness Club1.15pm
Southside Gym. Intermediate/Beginners aerobics.

Wing Chun Kung Fu1.30pm
Union Gym, Union Building.

Tenpin Bowling Club.....2.15pm
Aero Eng foyer for trip to Charlington Bowl. Transport provided.

**West London Chaplaincy
.....2.30pm-4.30pm**
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

Flamenco Dancing6.00pm
Union Lounge. More info: Pablo on 4999. Organised by the Spanish Soc.

Chess Club.....6.00pm
Brown and Clubs Committee Rooms, top floor of the Union Building.

St Mary's Women's Waterpolo.....6.00pm
Medical School Swimming Pool.

FilmSoc Presents:

The Three Musketeers6.00pm

The Three Musketeers8.30pm

ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

Club Libido9.00pm
Union Lounge, Union Building.

IC Radio Presents:

The Indie Hamster9.00pm

Two hours of innane witterings and indie sounds. 999kHz AM around College.

Thursday 9th

French Society12.00pm
Union Gym.

Spanish Society1.00pm
Southside Lounge.

STOIC Lunchtime News Training.....1.00pm
STOIC Studio, Union Building. Members free, non-members £2.50.

ICYHA Club.....1.00pm
Southside Lounge.

Fitness Club.....5.30pm
Southside Gym. Intermediate aerobics.

Christian Union6.00pm
Room 308, Huxley Building.

FilmSoc Presents:

Cool Runnings6.00pm

Cool Runnings8.30pm

ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. £1.80.

IC Choir Rehearsals6.15pm
Room 342, Mech Eng.

Tenpin Bowling Club6.15pm
Meet in Hollywood Bowl, Tottenham Hale (Victoria line).

IC Jazz Big Band Meeting.....7.00pm
Rehearsals in Table Tennis Room, top floor of the Union Building.

Dance Club7.00pm
Beginners Class in the Junior Common Room, Sherfield Building.

STOIC: 'Into the Night' Training.....7.00pm
STOIC Studio, top floor of the Union Building. Members free, non-members £2.50.

Cocktail Night8.00pm
Da Vinci's Bar, Union Building.

FilmSoc Presents:

A Bronx Tale8.00pm

ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

ICCAG Soup Run8.30pm
Meet in the basement of Weeks Hall to distribute food and drink to the homeless. Contact Polly Griffiths, Biology UG1 for more info.

IC Radio Presents:

James Ambient9.00pm

Two hours of ambient music on 999kHz AM around College.

Opera

Peter Grimes



Hildegard Bechtler's elemental set for ENO's *Peter Grimes* (Photo: Clive Barda)

The penultimate scene from English National Opera's *Peter Grimes*, with its frighteningly raw focus on a man's descent into insanity, numbs the senses. Never has anything in an opera house so immediately disturbed me. We have a truly chilling assumption of the title role by Philip Langridge, returning to it in this revival of Tim Albery's darkly stylistic 1991 production of Benjamin Britten's first operatic masterpiece. Langridge employs his hauntingly beautiful voice to magnificent effect, with none of the mannerisms that can distort the character into a raging bear (*à la* Vickers) or whining academic (Pears on the composer's own recording). Every syllable is projected with crystalline accuracy –

absolutely sensational!

Working to reinforce this achievement in the pit was the dynamic David Atherton. Although the score may have been stripped of some of its lyrical gloss, what was revealed was something more elemental and disconcertingly truthful.

Despite a few reservations about the rest of the cast (Janice Cairns' Ellen was surely a miscalculation) I cannot imagine many finer examples of live theatre.

Iqyy

In rep at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane WC2N 071 836 3161. Tube: Leicester Square. Tickets from £8. Runs until 30th June.

Theatre

The Broken Heart

The play, although the publicity would have you believe otherwise, is in no way a 'sexual tragedy'; it is more along the lines of a tragedy of love. In the manner of many age old plays it provides an insight into a royal court; through the trappings of an enforced marriage which divides a loving couple. The Royal court in this case is the ancient Greek court of Sparta.

There is little comedy in the play, although a clever performance by Simon Treves, as a Spartan lord lusting after the beautiful Penthea, provides small doses of humour reminiscent of Rowan Atkinson's *Blackadder* with the facial expressions of John Cleese. Zoë Aldrich, although extremely good looking, gives a

particularly weak performance in the difficult role as the Princess Calantha, but Tom Bowles overshadows all with an extremely strong performance as Orgilus, around whom the plot is cleverly woven.

The relatively star-studded cast of the Triptych Theatre Company manage to pull off this performance of the oft forgotten Jacobean masterpiece very well. It remains to be seen how the Royal Shakespeare Company perform this play later on this year.

Jimbo

Lyric Studio, Kings St, Hammersmith. 081 741 8701. Tube: Hammersmith. Tickets £7 (£5 concs, 1hr before). Runs until 11th June.

Theatre

Falling Over England

Julian Mitchell's *Falling Over England* reveals the hidden cracks of the 'stiff upper lip' English culture which we know so well. The plot follows half a century of the Cowpers, a well-to-do family unable to escape from what, in the end, only seems inevitable. The ageing Harry Cowper, competently played by James Laurenson, stands – and finally hobbles – like a metaphor for post-war England itself...declining.

Harry's son, Matt (Daniel Betts), cannot stray from following in his father's footsteps which lead him to the very same English middle-class conservatism he once dreaded. James Laurenson again plays the ageing Cowper as if to hammer home this point. Charlotte Cornwell likewise plays mother and grandmother and she does this with equal proficiency, but in the end there are simply too many actors playing too many different, but incredibly similar, roles.

Falling Over England made me dizzy. But it let me down gently.

LEM

Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10. 081 858 7755. Train: Greenwich. Tickets from £9.50.

Theatre

Uncle Silas

If you enjoy melodrama, I believe this is the play for you. Unfortunately I don't.

Uncle Silas, the book by Joseph Le Fanu, is a thriller set in the Victorian ages. In the play, we see a girl tell her life story. Maud, played by Anne Marie Duff, is a delicate girl and her life collapses around her when her father dies. In his will, he leaves Maud a huge fortune but until she reaches the age of twenty-one, she must live with her uncle. However, if she dies in the meantime, the great fortune will be handed to the poverty-stricken Uncle Silas. Unfortunately, her thoughts are clouded as she is enchanted by the mystique and rumour surrounding her uncle.

This thriller has no real thrills until the last five minutes. It does have its moments like when the governess, played by Sam Cox, comes out with humorous one-liners in a peculiar French accent. I must also give credit to Paul Dart, the set designer, who moulds the stage to great effect.

Jack

Lyric Hammersmith, Kings St, Hammersmith. 081 741 2311. Tube: Hammersmith. Tickets from £7.50. Runs until 11th June.

Spirit Of The *Psalms*



IC Choir's line-up for last term's Verdi Requiem (Photo: Neville Miles)

Around 250 people gathered in the Great Hall last Friday evening to hear this term's performance by the College Choir. The summer term's concerts seem to have a habit of being underattended as compared with the other terms' (last term the hall was full to its 600 capacity) – and I don't believe *everybody* was hard at work revising all evening! On the other hand the Choir was also somewhat smaller than usual (even for a summer term), with only 65 singers on the platform. Their orchestra was also smaller than normal, which at least gave the choir some chance of being heard!

The first item on the menu was Blow's

Awake, awake my lyre. Almost everything from this period seems to work well only with the comparatively small forces that are now the norm for their performance, and although the Choir was smaller than its usual size, it still felt too much for this particular piece. In addition, they seemed to have only just learned the notes in time and hence not concentrated sufficiently on feeling the music and understanding what had to be communicated to the audience. Eric Brown, the Choir's musical director, had elected to use a tenor soloist (the score leaves the voice part of the soloist to the performers' discretion), but Philip Dennis's sound, with its

overenthusiastic vibrato, really didn't fit in with the very pure, young sound of the Choir.

In addition to his famous B minor setting of the Mass, Bach wrote four 'short' settings consisting of just a *Kyrie* and *Gloria*; the second item of the concert was the G minor one of these. Eric again succumbed to the temptation he always has when conducting Bach, to take almost everything at speeds approaching the cataleptic. This is a shame, because all these settings benefit from the injection of a little life, which the singers and players just couldn't do within the bounds of the tempo set by the conductor. Among the three soloists, the countertenor William Purefoy was a revelation. The tendency of countertenors to 'hoot' just wasn't there and the purity of his tone had many female members of the Choir going weak at the knees!

After the interval, we heard the second of Bach's six motets, *Der Geist hilft*. Over half of this piece requires the choir to split into two, four-part choirs, which is a brave thing to do with a choir of this size and type (this is an entirely unauditioned choir). However, it kept together with only a few hints of nervousness and once they reached the single-choir section that finishes the work they sounded much more assured.

The best had been very much saved until the last, however. The members of the Choir really seemed to be enjoying themselves in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and, although not every note was perfect, the spirit really communicated itself to the audience. William Purefoy, the countertenor soloist, was again superb and the orchestra for the most part acquitted themselves well (the most audible exception being the cello solo in the middle movement...).

Overall, this was not the best concert ever given by IC Choir, but the Bernstein made up for a multitude of sins and among the soloists we were certainly given a name to remember in William Purefoy.

Chris Purvis

Star Winds

A fortnight ago in the Great Hall an audience of about 350 people witnessed the musical offering for this term from Imperial College Symphony Orchestra (ICSO) and their conductor, Richard Dickins. In the second term they performed Mahler's demanding Fifth Symphony; this term they opted for a programme of more popular works.

The concert began with the suite from Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*. The performance certainly conjured up images of dancing swans but needed more enthusiasm – the final waltz lacked 'oomph' and the tempo of the first scene was a little slow. Nonetheless, the whole orchestra played taut rhythms, bringing out the syncopation in the score to great effect and produced a coherent sound. However, the plaudits in this work go to the woodwind section who consistently demonstrated very fine playing.

In particular, oboist Andrew Miller exhibited great feeling in the plaintive opening melody, skilfully accompanied by harpist Catrin Morris-Jones.

The second work, Richard Strauss's Second Horn Concerto, turned the spotlight on one of the orchestra's six horn players, Paul Gowling. He shows a lot of potential as a soloist (he has already performed at the South Bank and next term begins a postgraduate course at the RCM) although he could have produced a more expressive tone. A few of the virtuosic passages weren't always clearly articulated but there were remarkably few obviously wrong notes. The orchestra's strings sometimes failed to get to grips with the taxing score but not sufficiently to mar the performance.

After the interval we saw the welcome return of Butterworth to ICSO's repertoire. Two years ago they played the rhapsody *A Shropshire Lad* and in Friday's concert they performed the orchestral idyll *The Banks Of Green Willow*. Folksongs form the core of this work and the

strings managed to sustain a lyrical sound throughout. Once again the woodwind added colour to the performance with some fine solos.

The big finale to the concert was provided by music from John Williams' memorable score to the film *Star Wars*. In this work it was the turn of the brass and percussion to show their mettle, notably in the well-known fanfare at the beginning of the first movement. The strings, in their big themes, produced a warm rounded tone; indeed, in this work the whole orchestra seemed to pull together much better. Richard Dickins also showed great exuberance, bouncing on his podium during the climaxes.

The second movement, 'Princess Leia', consisted of a series of well-played solos on horn, flute and violins and the third movement, 'Little People', allowed us to hear the distinctive rustic sound of the cor anglais in Adam Poole's solos.

The players and audience enjoyed the concert and ICSO can be proud of another high-standard performance.

James White

What is it like to spend a year in Europe? See pages 6 & 7

Singles

Lush - *'Hypocrite ep'*: The ep opens with the infectious Breeders style rock and ends with ambient business on 'Undertow'. The other two tracks are more typical of the band but *Lush* are getting experimental and getting more unpredictable and interesting. *Ridley Dash*

Lush - *'Desire Lines ep'*: *Lush* return, their first track pure pre-ambient Slowdive, the last One Dove to the note. In between are two classic tunes, jingling mellowness laced with sparkling, fluted high vocals. Worth the wait. *The Pear*

Blur - *'To The End'*: From the wonderful 'Parklife' LP, a wonderful ballad of delightfully intimate proportions featuring wonderful backing vocals by the wonderful Lactitia of the wonderful Stereolab; a wonderful record. Wonderful. *Guy* (does this man need a rest? - ed)

Magnapop - *'Lay It Down'*: *Magnapop* return with another slice of their invigorating punk pop from the 'Hot Boxing' album. Linda Hopper's lively vocals are still the best thing about this band and keep them ahead of the pack. *Ridley*

Baby Chaos - *'Golden Tooth'*: Four golden tracks from the golden foursome who continue to sustain a hectic pace on and off the record. This is probably their most developed yet. The third track, 'No Way', a wonderful romp akin to Smashing Pumpkins. Stars. *The Pear*

Therapy? - *'Die Laughing'*: One of the highlight cuts of the recent 'Troublegum', this sees Andy Cairns don his best Bob Mould hat to deliver a delectable Sugar-y composition. *Vik*

Album



Sheep on Drugs On Drugs

The very title sounds as if it is in some desperate way trying to shock someone...anyone, but if that were the case it would sadly fail. Despite the drug-infatuated lyrics present in most songs, the *Sheep* seem to deal more with the problems of drugs - as in 'Slap Happy' and 'Slim Jim' with its call of "speed kills, but I'm too young to die" - as well as those of life in the 1990s.

Examples of such are 'Chasing Dreams' telling the tale of mis-spent youth and "killing time with car crime", the fairly self evident 'Slow Suicide' or the musical interludes such as 'Beefcake' or 'Clucking' which contain everyday noises reflecting urban decay. The combination of such lyrics with a twisted hybrid techno brings a new view, as well as responsibility, to the e'd up ravers which has up until now been disregarded.

Nevertheless, the *Sheep* have not lost their view that life is a party as the first single 'Let The Good Times Roll' shows. It's just that there's more than one way to enjoy yourself. (7) **Bratt A.**

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Album



God

Anatomy of Addiction

Is this post-modernism? *God* draw on a true variety of influences: the rigidly structured clang of industrial music, the mindless scream of thrash metal, the sprawling repetition of ambient house and, most notably, the melodic instrumental freedom of jazz. Indeed, the lineup of the group is impressively varied with saxophones, double bass and even a viola augmenting the usual two guitars, bass and drums. They slip easily from crunchy metal riffing through complex percussive rhythms to squiggling free jazz saxophones/feedback excursions and back again, but never do the seams become intrusive. This music is at once brutal and atonal yet subtle, complex, accessible and melodic. The best moments are breathtaking in their spiky beauty, while the worst occur when the guitars outweigh everything else, resulting in a new, improved form of death-metal drudgery.

In a world of retro-rock, *God* are very special. Post-modernism was never this fresh. (9) **Guy**

Album

Frank Black

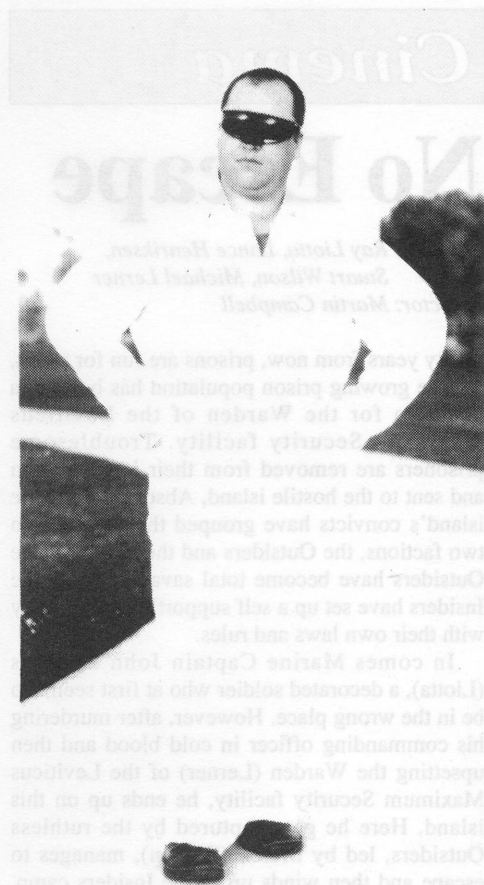
Teenager Of The Year

"Now virtually everyone's singing a popular song, but I still believe in the excellent joys of punk" was what I heard, first minute, first track. Funny how you get things wrong. But attention to detail is a *Frank Black* trademark. Sadly for the retrojaded greasers of the NME 'revival', *Mr Black* is still playing his own game and I just misheard. Yeah well, anyone could mistake 'punk' for 'pong'. *Frank* remains on another level from the mortals below the majestic sweep of his feverish imagination.

I bore you with my mistakes because this album is choked full of all the musical double entendres from a careerist who has matured into an art form. He spends our time trying to persuade us that he can really tell one end of a joke from a serious idea, whilst remaining perilously close to them both. Teenager of the year or a more elderly, rather rotund figure currently modelling a white boilersuit? And that's just the album's title. One step back and one step forward, getting nowhere, still in motion.

'Whatever Happened to Pong?' takes the intro-page from 'Bossonova' before skidding firmly away with a burst of shiny harmonica into solo territory. It's a harbinger of what's to come on the remaining 21 shots which make up this double album. Whereas most people crumple under the freedom offered by that format, especially outside the confines of a live or greatest hits cobble-together, *Frank* just strides around in all directions (at once). Yet for all his bustle, these are well worn tracks.

The technocratic shimmer emitted by 'Abstract Plain', the hinting of 'Fazer Eyes' and the fully wired up circuit boards of 'White Noise Maker' have always been obvious in his work. Clever word plays like 'Calistan' and 'Thalassocracy' are evidence of intelligence rattling round inside a corny synthetic fur-lined skull. (The latter incidentally being invented from the root 'thalassic' – of seas, esp. small or inland.) And the sheer straight down the highway laughing grace of 'Speedy Marie' and 'Pure Denizens of the Citizens Band' show that even rock clichés can swing in *Frank's* pants.



A boy worried about his growing acne problem and failure to get a girlfriend?
Post-anx spread never sounded so young.

That he fetches and doppelgängs unintentionally between the weirdest collection of groups is another turn-up from a man who has launched more than his share of youthful guitar based ambition. 'Abstract Plain' follows Nirvana, 'Thalassocracy' is more than a bit of the Dead Kennedys, 'Superabound' comes with streaks of Dylan and if 'The Vanishing Spires' doesn't bring back the late night creepy groove of Serge Gainsbourg's 'Je t'aime moi non plus' then Charlotte G had a stable childhood.

Still like Andy Warhol's repetition of multifarious screen prints which made art out of the ordinary, the way *Frank Black* makes off fast with our commonsense is all his own. Before too long it's hard to believe I ever had any. The little people at the bottom of the garden agree. (8)

Tintin

Album

Nova Mob

Nova Mob

First, I admit that I know Grant Hart as *not* Bob Mould from Hüsker Dü; but, after all, it's only post Sugar that they weren't both simply Hüskerites. Grant's released a solo album and this is the *Mob's* second, but I'm going to compare him to Minneapolis' Heroes. It's

summer and the tatty charade is falling down...

We start with the vibrant 'Old Empire'. Surging Sugar style joy gives way to the dubiously titled 'Shoot Your Way To Freedom'. Drugs, guns, metaphysical seizing of the day, who knows? The second excellent song is 'Little Miss Information' which has Grant at his punning best. He unshockingly now plays guitar, bassist Tom plays melodic lines, the lead plays guitar solos and the drummer loves his cymbals as someone in a band with a grunge-drum-

godfather should. He slows down for 'Puzzles', a lyrical lament, it is the first track to *fall* to the album's wayward charm.

This album just isn't remarkable. The songs turn irritating as quickly as they hook you in. At least, the best live band of the year needs you to turn the volume up. It sounds like a transistor radio and reminds me of Bon Jovi. It's late May and I want Don and 'The Boys of Summer'. Just because you're a legend doesn't let you get away with music any less special. (6) **Owain**

You won't be frightened of the real thing after the show

Cinema

No Escape

Starring: Ray Liotta, Lance Henriksen, Stuart Wilson, Michael Lerner
Director: Martin Campbell

Thirty years from now, prisons are run for profit, but the growing prison population has become a problem for the Warden of the Leviticus Maximum Security facility. Troublesome prisoners are removed from their incarceration and sent to the hostile island, Absolom. Here the island's convicts have grouped themselves into two factions, the Outsiders and the Insiders. The Outsiders have become total savages, while the Insiders have set up a self supporting community with their own laws and rules.

In comes Marine Captain John Robbins (Liotta), a decorated soldier who at first seems to be in the wrong place. However, after murdering his commanding officer in cold blood and then upsetting the Warden (Lerner) of the Leviticus Maximum Security facility, he ends up on this island. Here he gets captured by the ruthless Outsiders, led by Marek (Wilson), manages to escape and then winds up in the Insiders camp, led by a man just called Father (Henriksen). However, as the Outsiders have a tendency to raid the Insiders' camp, this story turns into the underdogs beating the overwhelming number of Outsiders with the help of the reluctant Captain Robbins.

A subplot revolves around Father trying to tell the world about this prison island which



Robbins (Liotta) seriously annoys the Warden (Lerner)

doesn't exist to the outside world. In the attempt to expose the Warden's illegal activities, Father relies on the skills of Dysart (Jack Shepherd), an invaluable inventor, to build a boat that will sneak past the Warden's security measures.

There is an interesting performance from Stuart Wilson: his character, Marek, sadistically finds humour in outrageous acts of cruelty and violence and often portrays himself as the island's concierge. In the Insiders' camp there are some unusual characters: the junkman, who scavenges the objects washed up on the shore; the Irish moonshiner, played by Don Henderson; and the colony's perfect host, who has a fastidious nature of cleanliness.

The action scenes are fast paced and numerous throughout the film, though there is a look into some of the convicts' darker sides and their reasons for being imprisoned.

The American main players you've seen before, but the supporting cast is made up of English actors that you may recognise from television. Becoming more popular in action films is the adversary stereotyped as the English bad guy. In the case Wilson is ruthless but still carries a touch of aristocracy.

Maggie

Out today. Odeon Kensington, Kensington High Street. £6, £6.50 (£3.50 before 5pm).

Theatre

White Nights

This is a tragic love story set in St Petersburg about how an introvert falls in love with the woman of his dreams, Nastenka, played by Anna Barkan (alias Nadia from Eastenders). When they first meet, they tell their life-stories: the one of the sheltered Nastenka and the one of the introvert who feels saddened by his life because he is left to make friends with the city of St Petersburg. The poetic charm of this lonely man steals her heart for a slender moment until her lover from her past comes back to fulfil his promise to marry her.

There are only three members in the cast, but I felt that no holes were left unfilled. David Axel, who plays the introvert, has the sympathy of the audience despite the character's eccentric ideas about life. Anna Barkan debuts with this play and does well, although there were a few moments of hesitation. Her naïve and confused

Nastenka worked but, unfortunately, her Russian accent did not help very much.

The play was funny in a few parts. However, there were places where the play did not run as smoothly as it should, which may be because of the translation from the Russian original.

This is the first offering from Charika to attempt to adapt Dostoyevsky's *White Nights*. It asked questions about the way we love one another and whether the briefest of moments with the one you love is all you need. Don't get me wrong, it doesn't deal with these situations, but it brings them out to be thought about once more. The play isn't enlightening or flashy but it does well for a small production.

Jack

New End Theatre, 27 New End. 071 794 0022. Tube: Hampstead. Tickets: £5.50-£9.50 (concs except Sat £5.50). Ends 19th June.



Anna Barkan and David Axel in White Nights

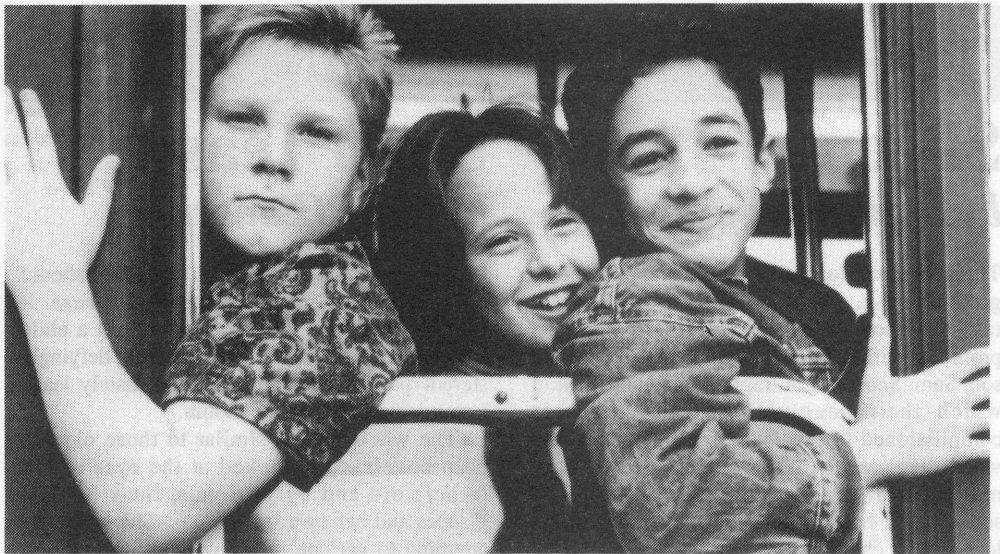
Cinema

Rookie Of The Year

Starring: Thomas Ian Nicholas, Gary Busey, Patrick LaBrecque, Daniel Stern
Director: Daniel Stern

Daniel Stern, probably best known as the tall burglar in the *Home Alone* series, makes his directorial debut with *Rookie Of The Year*, a light-hearted yarn about a boy who gets to play baseball for the Chicago Cubs. The plot is suitably unbelievable: ten year old Henry Rowengarter is a normal American kid with a normal mum and normal friends. I think we've all been here before. Then, surprise! Something weird happens. He falls while trying to catch a baseball at school and breaks his arm; it doesn't heal properly and he finds he has the amazing ability to throw things very very fast. Cue all manner of japes as the young lad goes to the major leagues, where he is inspired by has-been player Gary Busey and learns all about life.

While not the most original debut in cinema history, *Rookie Of The Year* is nevertheless an immensely enjoyable experience and Stern shows that he has learned much from the comic geniuses he has worked with in his time. Some of the peripheral humour may be lost on British



First class leg room isn't what it used to be!

audiences, I suspect. For example, many of the players were real and the game can at times be hard to follow; "Come on guys, it's the bottom of the ninth and the bases are loaded!" doesn't really mean that much to me. But, after *Major League* and *A League Of Their Own*, I knew enough to follow who was winning.

Anyway, all sport movies are the same and this one has more than enough going for it to retain your interest, not least the cameo role Stern gives himself as an accident prone batting coach. Once again all of the young leads are excellent, proving that there are loads of good child actors out there for less than \$6m a movie.

The whole tone of the movie is amusing and

the implausible situation is handled with such skill and humour that you find yourself almost believing it. It is refreshing to see that Hollywood can still produce such carefree pieces of fluff in such a professional manner; one is reminded immediately of the worst excesses of movies such as *Curly Sue* and *Can't Buy Me Love* as examples of how it shouldn't be done. Anyway, well worth £3.50 of anybody's money. It's better than going to class isn't it?

Tony Grew

Out already. Odeon Kensington £6, £6.50 (£3.50 before 5pm). UCI Whiteleys £5, £5.75 (£3.50 before 3pm).

Cinema

Look Who's Talking Now!

Starring: Kirstie Alley, John Travolta, Lysette Anthony
Director: Tom Ropelewski

They really shouldn't have bothered making this sequel. Apparently, it was because *Look Who's Talking* and *Look Who's Talking Too* made so much money. I can't see this one doing as well, they've pushed the idea a little too far this time.

This time round, instead of the children giving the accompanying dialogue (which can't be heard by anyone but the audience), two dogs are the stars of the show.

The film still centres around the Ubriacco family: James, Mollie, Mikey and Julie. Set around Christmas, life is pretty hectic and to top it all, the family manage to acquire two dogs. Daphne is a very well-to-do poodle who sounds just like Diane Keaton and Rocks is a stray who is blessed with the vocal chords of Danny DeVito.

The story so far: James (Travolta) has found prosperity working as a private pilot for Samantha (Anthony), the glamorous president of

an international cosmetics firm. Mollie (Alley), meanwhile is having to look after the kids while working as an elf in a department store.

Now, Mikey wants a dog for Christmas and kicks up a real fuss until, in an attempt to pacify him, James rescues a stray dog from the pound. At the same time, Samantha leaves her very poodle with the family, claiming she is unable to look after it any more. This leaves Mollie in a distressing situation: two big dogs, two kids and a husband that is constantly away from home, flying around the world with another woman.

Just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, Samantha demands that James flies her to the middle of nowhere on Christmas Eve, leaving Mollie to explain why Daddy can't be home for Christmas. They do live happily ever after, though, in typical Hollywood style.

You'd probably enjoy this film if you were a kid of about eight, but I'd suggest giving it a miss.

Toot & Magpie

Out already. MGM Trocadero £7 (Mon £4, Tue-Fri £4 before 6pm).



Making a million from talking animals

Book

Sheep

by Simon Maginn

This is Simon Maginn's first novel and it shows great promise. *Sheep* is a graphically horrific tale story about an enterprising builder, James, a promising artist, Adèle, and their seven year old son, Sam. Soon after a tragic holiday accident in which their daughter drowns, James is commissioned to repair an ancient, farmhouse which lies near the cliffs in west Wales. They move into it, in the hope that a change of scenery will help them come to terms with the loss of their child.

Shortly after they move into the farmhouse, Adèle's paintings become more macabre and James uncovers some strange bones whilst digging in the garden during the course of the renovations. The neighbours slowly tell them what they know about the previous occupants of the house; of drug-crazed parties, murder and incarceration. Then Sam has a fit and sees something that links the past and present in a shocking way.

I liked it. The story is written in a lazy style which fools the reader into becoming complacent and is entwined with descriptive and graphic accounts of slaughter and decay. It works well, drawing you to the characters and making you experience the horror, pain and fear that they go through when the chilling truth is revealed. The climax is startling and yet magnificently glorified. If *Sheep* is an example of the books to follow, Simon Maginn should soon be a best-seller.

Ian T

Published by: Corgi

Price: £4.99

Book

Strip Tease

by Carl Hiaasen

People who think feminism is redundant should open their eyes and then read *Strip Tease*. It follows Erin, who is 'stripping to fight a child custody case', through a series of death defyingly stereotypical encounters which ultimately leave a sour, acidic taste in the mouth.

The whole feel is similar to those old sex pulp novels: 'She looked at the eyes of her fathers old and ugly friends, their lustfull glances and her own lush beauty. She would do anything to get out, anything.' Get dressed and get a job perhaps?

I'd love to give away the plot to 'wreck' the book but, alas, Hiaasen has neglected to provide one. Basically, Erin and her friends discuss the problems of bouncing cleavage when dancing, decide that they have no choice but to wrestle in vegetable oil for twenty quid and are lusted after by every male in the book. This kind of rubbish does neither men nor women any good. If you want to read about sex read Henry Miller's once banned *Tropic of Cancer* which is blunt, brutal, misogynist and honest. Hiaasen can't get away with *Ice Cream Girl*, so he makes Erin a noble, virtuoso new-woman struggling to cope with naughty, lustful men by becoming a sex object. The final insult is when Erin decides that enough is enough and so lures her enemy (and the FBI) into the middle of a field to falsely 'cry rape'; the old male fear and the most dangerous myth to stick into this trash. I notice I have failed to make clear that *Strip Tease* is marketed as a light hearted comedy thriller. Some people need to be shown why feminism is still a verb.

Owain

Published by: Macmillan

Price: £14.99 (Hardback)

Book

The City

James Herbert

Illustrated by Ian Miller

First things first. This is not a book that is going to tax you or make you think. In fact, it would be possible to read this book whilst attempting to write a Gaussian elimination program in Pascal, talking to a few friends and playing computer games simultaneously. If you wanted to sit down and read it from start to finish then it would take you approximately fifteen minutes, generously allowing time to make a cup of tea in there somewhere. However, it is not possible to 'read' it as there are roughly three phrases for every eight pictures, of which one might be a spoken word.

Most people have heard of the adage: 'A picture tells a thousand words'. In this book, the pictures need to. Luckily, the pictures are of a reasonable quality and give the book some credibility. Unfortunately, when the pictures are weighed against B-movie speech such as, "Roast in Hell, you sick obscenity" there is no match.

Now, onto the story line. A warrior-type hero figure goes into a city which rats now dominate with lots of big guns and weapons to find his previous girlfriend/wife/mistress (the book didn't say much about anything). That was the storyline. The ending is as startling as accidentally brushing against a weak, battery powered electric fence and the plot is not original. For £8.99, you have to really like the pictures to buy it – but why buy it when you can read it in the shop anyway.

Ian T

Published by: Pan Books

Price: £8.99

Book

Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now

by Maya Angelou

I knew Maya Angelou as a poet who wrote 'Come. And Be My Baby', one of the poems on the underground. Of course she's far more than a poet, not least being an important figure in black women's literature and even having the dubious pleasure of writing President Clinton's inaugural poem.

Her new book is a small collection of short essays – autobiographical, honest, proud in the face of mounting odds and occasionally cloying in moralistic tone. Sometimes this can be quite infuriating, even though you think she may be

right. Yet Maya does bare her teeth, too. The public crudeness of entertainers is linked to the corporate indulgence of the Romans at the Colosseum in the chapter headed 'Brutality Is Definitely Not Acceptable'. Here, she is harsh in her condemnation, but the whole is so strict.

Most of the figures who live between her pages play out little pieces of life, the classic one being 'New Directions' where a single mother makes a future for herself and her children with determination and acumen. So we all travel the road of life, taking what directions seem best.

The least travelled path is not valid in itself, but only if we choose to follow it. I guess that contentment is to be happy with what you've got.

If Maya Angelou gently reminds us that we are not all we should be, maybe she is telling us we need to lose some baggage so that our journey will be smoother and the final destination sweeter.

Tintin

Published by: Virago

Price: £9.99 (Hardback)

Book Sale No Pleasing Some People

Dear Beccy,

I thought that you might like to know that planning for the second-hand book shop is going ahead, but unfortunately the shop will not be completed this academic year. So that students do not lose out while the negotiations proceed, the Union is organising a book fair.

This will consist of two days this term (provisionally the 17th and 22nd June) when the major text books from each course will be bought. It will be followed by two days at the start of the next academic year when the books will be sold. The books will be the recommended texts provided by the academic staff to the Union book shop. A list of these books and the price the Union will pay for them will be published in *Felix* closer to the dates of the sales.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Chothia, Chem 3

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Dear Beccy,

Firstly, thank you for printing my last letter and even extracting quotes so accurately that typing errors were preserved. Such diligence could be warmly applauded if both you and the News Editor had not both made similar mistakes in reply. As to the replies themselves, the 'significance of the comment' on submission is valid. A letter for issue 998 was not printed and the only conceivable reason was that it was not on disk. The real point of the letter sadly appears to have been missed, namely the lack of news and dirge of features. The News Editor, a man who must be kept about as busy as the Finland Mountain Rescue Service, said quite rightly that 'students have a right to know what is going on in the Union and the College and it is *Felix* policy to try and keep them informed'. Either Imperial is the dumbest place in the universe or he is saying one thing and doing the complete opposite. How on earth do you expect to 'keep [the students] informed' with such scant news coverage? This week we had seven news items and an apology that shows that what little filters through to the page is often badly researched.

Surely it must be possible to assign a few more of your contributors to reporting what goes on here rather than resorting to the most blatant space-fillers imaginable, like the dire, one and half page article on the *Times* Crossword Championships. Not really the cutting edge of

radical student journalism is it, Beccy? For God's sake, what is happening? I thought for a minute it was a brilliant spoof, but alas not. It certainly deserves space, but nowhere near as much as it had. If a copy of this issue ever leaks out of College, IC will be the laughing stock of the British University system. I know in the past you said that you were 'trying to produce a *Felix* with which there is something for everybody', but this is ridiculous. Or perhaps I've missed the hoards of professional crossworders around here.

We are constantly reminded that, rightly, you are the Editor. You decide what goes in. You decide the format and the style, but not in splendid isolation from the views of the students. You yourself have admitted that 'a common complaint is that there are too many reviews', but have done absolutely nothing about it. The only reason for the lack of change must be your own intransigence. There are plenty of contributors – start commissioning a more balanced range of material. How about telling us what's going on at ULU and the other colleges? If we had more than one College newspaper here, such a view would be acceptable. Given its monopoly, *Felix* must remain responsive to student needs and requests. It's time to tear down the turrets on the ivory tower that is the *Felix* office.

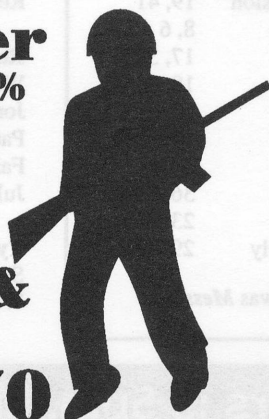
Simon Baker, Chem 1

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Editorial

Firstly, I guess I ought to explain what happened last week. We had planned to bring out a *Felix* similar to this one with all the regular articles to accompany the special 1000th edition. Unfortunately, the litho (the machine which prints *Felix*) broke down. We'd printed about a third of the magazine, but there was no way that the litho could have been repaired in time to finish it. We decided that the best option was to carry all the articles forward and include them in this issue. Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by this.

Simon Baker really does seem to have a bee in his bonnet about the state of *Felix* at the moment. To be honest, I really don't have the inclination to reply. I'll just be saying the same things over and over again. One thing I will say is in defence of the comments about the features. Every single feature isn't supposed to be interesting to every single person. I don't think you have to be an avid crossworder to read an article about a crossword competition. Would you need to have been on holiday to Malaysia to read the article about it in this issue? I don't think so. The articles are written to inform people about something they maybe don't already know. If you aren't interested, then you don't have to read them.

Anyway, why has it taken Mr Baker so long to put pen to paper and complain. He's put up with *Felix* for two terms (over 20 issues) without bothering to say anything. Now, all of a sudden, he is demanding changes. This is the hardest time to change things with everyone in the middle of exams.

As for the letter he supposedly submitted for issue 998, I have no recollection of it. It certainly would not have been withheld just

because it wasn't on a disk. What I want to know is where are the 5,000 copies of the letter and the box of pritt sticks which Mr Baker promised would accompany his next letter?

Why is it that the College can see fit to invest £60,000 in refurbishing the Huxley foyer for a royal visit, when the money could easily have been used to do something towards upgrading student accommodation. I'm sure the money could have been invested in making improvements. Ask anyone who lives in a hall of residence and they'll be able to rattle off a great long list of things that need changing. I know that a common complaint is a lack of space in fridges and freezers. How many fridges could you buy with £60,000? What about the lack of common room facilities in the Evelyn Gardens halls? Couldn't the money could have been put towards doing something about that? Maybe someone should invite someone from the Royal Family to look round the halls of residence. It seems to be the only way to get any improvements done.

With this new-style Huxley foyer it seems that the table which used to sit in front of the pillar is deemed too unsightly to be put back. The leaves us with a bit of a problem with where to leave the copies of *Felix* on a Friday morning. Last week we were told that we couldn't leave them anywhere in the nice new foyer. It seems to be the most sensible place as a lot of people use that entrance for maths, physics and computing. It's not as if the copies stay there very long anyway; most of them are gone by about 11 o'clock. If anyone's got any suggestions of a suitable place to leave them, I'd love to know.

Free Speech

Dear Beccy,

It has been implied by several correspondents in the last two issues of *Felix* (998/999) that I am a bigot who is incapable of accepting a multi-cultural society. It has also been said that I am guilty of not answering points raised in previous letters.

Firstly, may I say that I am a very strong believer in free speech for ALL and try to live my life as much 'live and let live' as possible. This is why I felt the need to write to *Felix* in the first place concerning the attempted intimidation of RSMU officers by IC Islam Soc. Secondly, may I say that I agree with much of what other correspondents have said about freedom. However, it is they that have been guilty of not answering my points.

All along, I have been drawing attention to the 'all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others' attitude of Islam Soc. I have still had no response that makes me think that they really do believe in the freedom they so openly abuse.

To the Chairman and Officers of Islam Soc, I would ask two questions:

Would you agree with me, that the death threat against Salman Rushdie is a blatant attack on his personal freedom and is illegal?

Secondly, if you agree that it is illegal, would you publicly state in this publication that you renounce the fatwa as such?

To the UFC, I would say, if Islam Soc do not renounce the death threat and incitement to murder, how can you justify funding them as a Union society?

I look forward to receiving the answers to my questions.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony France, Civ Eng III

SUBWARDEN VACANCY AT Linstead Hall

A lively and responsible postgraduate student or research assistant is required for the position of Subwarden in Linstead Hall.

The work involves social, administrative and disciplinary skills. Application forms are available from the student accommodation office and should be sent to the Warden along with two references and a single A4 sheet outlining your reasons for applying and relevant qualities.

The applications should reach the Warden by 10th June.

Answers to the last Elimination

a	Food, Smoker	11, 33
b	Spanish Fly	35, 1
c	Jet, Death	2, 24
d	Past Tense	14, 30
e	Navy, Whale	13, 31
f	High Five	12, 9
g	Fingers, Village	34, 37
h	Short Term	28, 16
i	Plate, Cardinal	26, 39
j	Flag Down	10, 7
k	Break, Intermission	19, 41
l	Drop Dead	8, 6
m	Wear, Where	17, 32
n	Work Out	18, 3
o	Cares, Races	20, 27
p	Piggy-Bank	25, 5
q	Tit, Peep	4, 15
r	Suicide, Creed	36, 22
s	Cross Check	23, 21
t	Synod, Assembly	29, 38

The word left over was *Messages*

Credits

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Mike Ingram
Simon Shaw
Owain Bennallack
Tim St Clair
Patrick Wood

The deadline for letters is 5pm, Monday

Art Thanks

Dear Beccy,

The Annual Staff Student Exhibition in the Consort Gallery opened on Wednesday 18th May and ends on 17th June. A lot of hard work went on behind and on the scene in order to make it possible. This is a thank you letter to:

Judith Richards for all her encouragement and confidence in LeoSoc and for lending us Frances Bone. A very special thanks to Mithila, Yoon, Ola, Angela and Mehul (even with exams impending) and Pradeep L for all their hard work and help especially on the days leading up to the exhibition preview.

Dan T for coping with the publicity and posters so well, Mehul's father for sorting out the invitations, Anjum, Aneesha, Meilin S, Susan B, Shemara, Aneurin, Diego, Dan K, Louisa S, Gwenllian GR, Shan, Peter K, Claire G, Marcus A, Hourrig and Margaret (from RCA), Rebecca Walters and Mark Z, Mark S, Zoë, Siow Chong, Preetha, Tanya J, Caroline, Dave C, Shilpi, Owain, Shamimabi and Sheila for all their spontaneous help and selfless support. Eric Stables, Ainslie Rutledge and Pat Kerridge in Humanities, Charles and Abigail at the Union. Mr Parsons and Mr Livermore for coping at such short notice with shifting and electrical problems, Sally Taylor and Lesley Meyers in Catering and Security and, of course, LeoSoc.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all 43 artists who took part this year without whom there wouldn't have been an exhibition.

Yours sincerely,

Huma Islam, Comp 2

Spouting Innane Witterings

Dear Beccy

Regarding recent incessant rantings over The Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie, the price of fish and the meaning of the universe... (Felix999).

YES. You are free to spout your innane drivelings to your hearts content under British law.

CORRECT. OK, yes there is no provision in British law for prosecution for blasphemy other than that directed at the Christian Faith.

BUT (ton moon) there's no provision for prosecution of blasphemy against the Christian faith in Islamic countries and I am not free to spout my innane witterings to my hearts content under Islamic law. Their penalties against blasphemy are somewhat more stringent than ours (which, I would note, no judge worth his pickle would use anyway). The fact is no-one

here really gives a flying toss in the nineties and if it wasn't for annoying little twerps like Arash and Yasser no-one would have read the sodding book.

In defence of your editorial I must direct Simon's gaze no further than the front cover, by far a better candidate for a vacuosity award '94, with such immortal faces as 'Who Needs Melody Maker with NME's like us' (vom) and 'A UGM today? Where?! / In The Ents Lounge at 1 o'clock. Come on! We don't want to miss it!' (sic), the latter also getting top grades in the extraneous punctuality of the decade and probably contributed greatly to the lack of attendance at our hallowed Union meetings. Declining standards? What standards. Roll on the holocaust.

Piers Williams (Chem 1)

Jon (Bruce) Jansen (Mech 1)

Does someone you know deserve recognition for their work in IC Union?

Nominations for ICU Social Colours are now open. Do you know someone involved in a Union activity (a club or society or an officer) who has given more than is expected within their job? If you think they deserve to have their time and effort recognised, drop your nomination off at the Union Office, 1st floor, Union Building, before 12pm on 10th June. You can nominate any number of people for Social Colours if you think that they deserve them.

Your nomination should include the reason why the individual should receive the award as well as their name and department. Once the deadline for nominations has closed (12pm, 10th June), all of the nominations received will be considered by the Colours Committee. The results will be published in *Felix*.

Remember, you have until 12pm, 10th June to send your nominations for ICU Social Colours.

THE MAGPIE PROJECT

Vacancy for Laboratory Assistant IV

The MAGPIE project in the physics department is the largest pulsed power current generator in Europe.

Its 1.6 million ampere current from a 2 million Volt supply will be used in the quest for nuclear fusion and white dwarf star densities.

The job will be unglamorous, primarily being gofering, form filling, telephoning, cleaning and manual labour with a small well motivated team.

The applicant will be enthusiastic, intelligent and trained in Physics or Engineering. Pay will be via a UROP student bursary.

Applications to be received by Friday 10th June. The contract begins the 20th June and lasts 8 weeks.

Contact:

Dr James Bayley
Plasma Physics Group
x 6887 / 47650
or x 6872

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday 17th June, 1pm
Union Lounge**

**Please submit all motions to ICU Office,
Beit Quad by 6pm, Friday 10th June**

Elimination *by Sphinx*

Eliminate two words from the right hand columns for each clue on the left. Then have a bit of a sing-song. Which word is left over?

a	Two antonyms	1	Ben	22	Heavy
b	Exhibitionist who terminates production?	2	Bib	23	Image
c	Two seas	3	Box	24	Jelly
d	"Civilisation is a _____ between _____ and catastrophe." (H G Wells)	4	Dry	25	Level
e	Two palindromes	5	Off	26	Light
f	Track intersection	6	Bass	27	Shelf
g	Two suggesting Royal	7	Cells	28	Stock
h	Top quality	8	Dead	29	Straw
i	Two homophones	9	Flaw	30	Tenet
j	Joint space	10	Last	31	Bucket
k	Two words going with big	11	Over	32	Maiden
l	The camel's back-breaker	12	Race	33	Mirror
m	Two anagrams	13	Rate	34	Office
n	Reflection	14	Room	35	Yellow
o	Two going with ice	15	Show	36	Glazing
p	Sells tickets for the fight?	16	Time	37	Society
q	Two with double	17	Brief	38	Crossing
r	No score for the virgin?	18	Elbow	39	Laughing
s	Two joining with grey	19	First	40	Squirrel
t	Ridiculed Oxo?	20	Flesh	41	Education
		21	Floor		

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These flights must be booked and paid for by 15th June 1994

Imperial College, Sherfield Building, London SW7

ABTA IATA



WHEREVER YOU'RE BOUND, WE'RE BOUND TO HAVE BEEN.

STA TRAVEL

FELIX
The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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