

# FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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## Boat House Blues

BY LYNN BRAVEY

A multi-million pound development project has been planned at the Imperial College Boat House.

The Putney based development will provide improved training facilities and changing rooms, a larger area for the storage of the boats of Imperial College Boat Club, a workshop and a small hall of residence for students of IC.

The project has been given support by the College Governing Body and an appeal for funding to college Alumni, past rowers and industry is planned for the near future. The launch of the appeal is being held back until planning permission for the new building is received.

There has been a strong suggestion that the project will be receiving money from the Harlington Trust. The Trust has 2.5 million pounds that is held in a fund for students use. The money was originally raised from the extraction of gravel from the Harlington Sports Field.

Each year the Trustees are allowed to approve the spending of up to £50,000 on student based projects. For grants higher than £50,000, a proposal must receive approval from the Governing Body before any money can be released. Figures in the region of half a million pounds have been suggested to the Governing Body.

However, it has been reported that College authorities are only willing to approve up to £350,000. They hope that money for the venture will not need to

come out of the Harlington Trust Fund at all. Peter Mee, College Registrar, told FELIX that the College was, "Providing the support, in principle...to persuade people that this is a potentially successful venture."

Lucy Chothia, Imperial College Union (ICU) President and one of the Harlington trustees, is enthusiastic about the Union's decision to support the Boat Club plans. Speaking to FELIX she said: "The Boat Club do so well, they won bronze at the Commonwealth Games last year."

The decision to redevelop the boat house was made 'many years ago' according to Bill Mason, College Waterman. He told FELIX that the new facilities were desperately needed, one of the reasons being a 'big increase in women's rowing'. The current women's training area has been dubbed 'barbaric' by a member of the Governing Body.

Trouble may arise from the Putney Society, a conservation group that recognise the importance of an aesthetically pleasing landscape. College authorities currently need to convince the society that the new building will not look out of place with its surroundings. It is hoped that the building work will start in May next year.

Mr Mason will be taking sabbatical leave in the new year for 6 months following his appointment as Head Coach for the Great Britain Women's Squad. He stressed that although he would not be at the club when the appeal for funding was being launched he was 'definitely not leaving' as the club was 'his life'.



photo: Chris Berry

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP for Upper Bann, spoke on Wednesday at a meeting of Conservative Students, writes Rachel Walters. He talked in bleak terms of the unhelpful short-term prospects for Northern Ireland, saying, "the peace process is essentially bogus." Despite saying that there were 'causes for optimism' he spoke of the crucial period next Easter by when the IRA is said to expect major concessions from the British government. He predicted that the irreconcilable differences between the groups will become critical.

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A Belated Happy Birthday from everyone at FELIX to Sir Ronald Oxburgh, 60 years old last Wednesday.



# Imperial SE Asia

BY ANDY SINHARAY

Imperial College is considering assisting in the establishment of a science and technology institution in Thailand.

Though the Management School has had formal links with Singapore since 1987, a new proposal, set up by a former IC student, Dr Viphandh Roengpithya, is at a college-wide consultation stage, seeing whether it fits in with IC's objectives.

Dr Timothy Seller, Director of International and School's Liaison, said Thailand was "rapidly developing with enormous potential. I think that the person who has made the proposal is a good egg ... the idea is more philanthropic than commercial, but obviously it would have to make ends meet."

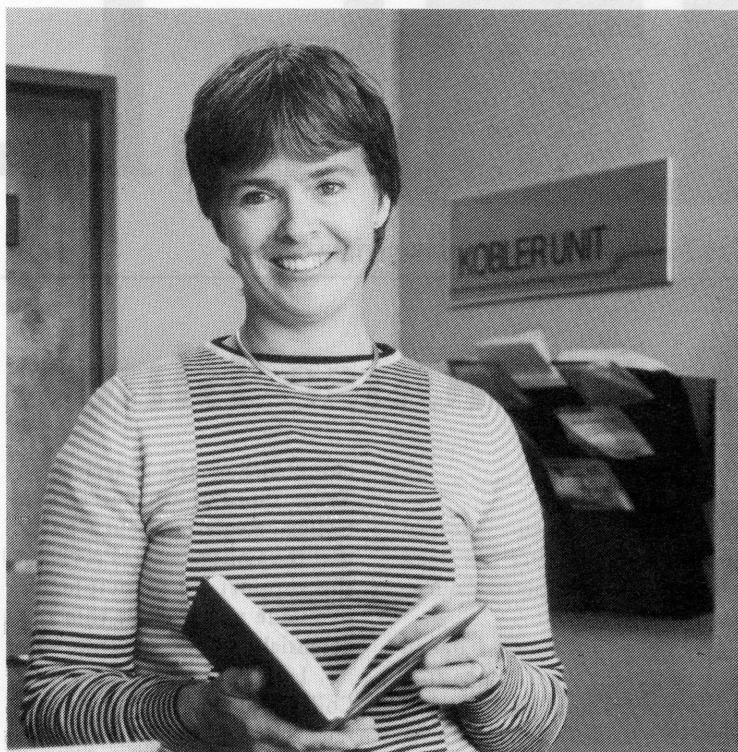
The idea has been around for some time and is being carefully considered. "The Imperial College alumni are very strong, we've got some big boys out there [who are] very prestigious people." He added that IC has already been involved with a few Thai universities, working on staff development projects, research links, and consulting schemes. "This initiative is the latest and largest ... this is the first really

concrete proposal that has come forward ... It's not a pie in the sky idea."

Whilst some members of staff, including heads of departments, were interested in the project, some had also expressed concern that involvement with a lesser institution would lead to a drop in standards. "We won't compromise our reputation," Sellers said.

Mr. Peter Mee, College Registrar, stressed that the future of the idea was dependant on the level of staff support for the project. "The Rector is seeking as wide a reaction as possible [to the idea] ... but it's still being talked about. It's a question of gauging enthusiasm", he said. As for the award of qualifications, it would not award IC degrees as "we don't award degrees anyway ... and there's no suggestion of the University of London being involved." The intention, he added, was to set up an institution whose standards mirrored that of IC, but the whole scheme is "not cut and dried ... it could be picked up, it could be dropped."

The minutes of the Board of Studies, which has been looking into the idea, are due to be published within the week.



Mrs Elaine Taylor, Administer in the Kobler Unit, died from cancer on October 16th.

She joined the college in January 1980, initially in the Department of Electrical Engineering and later of Computing. She worked for Professor Robert Spence, later for Professor Igor Aleksander (Foundation Kobler Professor of the management of Information Technology), subsequently became Head of Department's Secretary in Computing and finally moved to the centre Cognitive systems.

As Secretary to Professor Sayers, Dean of City and Guilds College 1984-88 and 19991-93, she became a great friend of the Union and of its officers, and was well known throughout the college. Her recent funeral in Salisbury was attended by a number of academic, technical, administrative and general staff and both past and present students and Union Officers, and there have been donations in her memory from several groups of College staff to Imperial Cancer Research - her chosen charity.

# Unleaded Chaos

BY MICHAEL LUDLAM

A Professor from Imperial College has run into a storm of criticism this week for the evidence he gave to a Commons Select Committee.

Professor Roger Perry, Head of the Centre of Environmental Control and Waste Management in the Civil Engineering Department, gave evidence at the Transport Select Committee. His department is funded by Octel, a company that sells lead additives for petrol. The report, released last week, called for a ban on super unleaded petrol and an

urgent inquiry into the use of unleaded petrol in cars not fitted with catalytic converters. It claimed that unleaded car fuel produces much higher levels of benzene than leaded.

When FELIX contacted Professor Perry he stated that all of his interests had been declared before the hearings had started. He was more evasive when asked about his involvement with Octel replying that he was, "not prepared to discuss that". He continued: "we have a college where sixty percent of our income comes from industry, research contracts and research

projects. Octel was one of them." FELIX spoke to Fiona Weir of Friends of the Earth who said that she didn't "think the transport committee should generally use advisers linked to commercial companies." Ms Weir stressed that if such links were unavoidable, then they should endeavour to get a balance of people with outside interests.

The chemical at the centre of this argument is benzene, a Class A genotoxic carcinogen. In order to increase the octane number, super unleaded contains more benzene, and more aromatics, which produce more benzene when burnt than normal leaded and unleaded petrol. This was deemed 'highly unacceptable' by Professor Perry

He added that the idea that super unleaded was a super green fuel was the 'biggest con of all time'.

It is widely accepted that super unleaded fuel should be banned. "We have no problems on a call for a ban on super unleaded", said Fiona Weir, "it makes a lot of sense."

FELIX tried to talk to Octel but they declined to comment. Fiona Weir said, "It is our view that the reason Octel is pushing this area is not primarily due to the UK debate, but because of their concern to protect sales of lead and lead additives in developing country markets."

Professor Perry's view is that lead should be eliminated from petrol and catalysts be used.



## Core Universities

BY ANDREW SMITH

A five university core within the Russell Group of eighteen elite institutions has been revealed this week.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, has admitted to FELIX that the Vice-Chancellors of the original Group of five universities, Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and

Warwick, do still 'occasionally' meet.

Speaking to FELIX, the Rector scoffed at continuing rumours that an Ivy League of British Universities is being planned.

Earlier this week, at the second meeting of the 'Aldwych Group' (student representatives of the universities invited to the Russell Group) some members

have questioned whether an Ivy League was 'morally acceptable'.

In contrast, Eric Forth MP, a Junior Government Education Minister, speaking this week at a NUS/ULU student question time, said that he had no problem which such a League. He continued by saying that it would be 'difficult to prevent' and suggested that an unofficial one currently exists.

Also discussed was top-up fees with Mr Forth insisting that they are not being considered by the Government. However, the Rector has said that he is not

opposed to the 'basic principle' of the fees. Admitting that they are 'highly undesirable', Sir Ronald has said that the College might be forced to consider top-up fees if it came to 'preserving College'. He sought to dampen immediate fears of such a move by insisting that he does not see fees as a possibility at present.

The Rector would not confirm whether any unofficial discussions of top-up fees at either the Russell Group or the Group of Five have taken place. He stressed that fees had not been an 'agenda item'.

## SOAS Clampdown

BY THE NEWS TEAM

After last week's ULU decision to ban all literature of the Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir, there has been a further incident at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Last Thursday at a meeting of the '1924 Committee' (SOAS's Muslim Society) Faisal Muhammad, Chairman of the Society and member of Hizb ut-Tahrir, paid tribute to the suicide bomber from the Hamas Islamic resistance movement,

whose attack on a bus in Tel-Aviv on 19th October killed 22 people. As a consequence the SOAS Management Committee released a statement on Monday evening stating that "no Speaker representing the views of Hizb ut-Tahrir, whether from within or outside the University, is permitted at future meetings of the 1924 Committee". The SOAS student body were not consulted about the ban and convened a general meeting yesterday to discuss the Union's policy on the issue. There was no

decision reached as FELIX went to press. Rumours that the Management Committee's decision will be revoked on the grounds that it is a breach of the right to the freedom of speech, have been leaked to FELIX.

This follows another incident which occurred at King's College. On Wednesday 26th October, a meeting of the so-called 'Culture Society' was planned. Following fears that there would be trouble if the meeting was allowed to commence, the Student's Union decided to cancel the meeting for that day. Despite this decision the organisers attempted to restage the meeting. A statement

by King's College Student Union said that "the disturbing atmosphere of the meeting led to the decision to call the Police". Around 45 police officers were involved in assisting King's College authorities to disperse the meeting. The fears of possible disruption were reportedly due to the official meeting that the King's Jewish Student Society was holding at the same time. King's sources claim members of the 'Culture Society' had threatened to attend and create a disruption. The Jewish Society's meeting was curtailed and the members were escorted, protected by the Police, off the premises.

## editorial

### Laser Trauma and Computer Centre Kindness

Welcome to the last bastion of the Luddite in the Cyberaged Technozone of IC (see *s-files* for details). This week the laser printer decided to add its own artistic embellishments as it printed. Its style was abstract – big black smears down the centre, presumably symbolic of its snail-trail progression through unending roads of pages. Anyway, I'll have no truck with anything post-Impressionist so its days were numbered. None of our usual experts knew how to fix it but the Computer Centre said they would try and so off it went.

But wait! No laser, no paper! No paper, no FELIX! Luckily, heroes emerged from the woodwork like glow-worms. Firstly Sam Michel in the Union lent us his 300dpi laser which produced a couple of pages

(thanks Sam!) before the Computer Centre phoned to say they could lend us a HP 4M! I think they deserve a big thank you, especially in light of the bad press they sometimes receive. Thanks particularly to Mr Spirling, for holding the broken machine overnight and Mr Brendan 'Bruce' Maguire for securing the loaned machine.

### Mixed Muses

I hope that some of you who usually skip the standby section will find time to read the Classic vs Pop article. The idea is at least a year old but the writers in question have finally torn themselves away from the countries they love to sojourn in another land. I thought the gig review worked better. Is there something inherently primal and therefore globally acquirable about pop? The opera review sometimes seems to have its tongue too much in its cheek to avoid betraying its lack of

knowledge. Does the greater depth of opera indicate a higher art form or just an art with an elaborate set of entry codes? At a gig, as Patrick saw, you are literally carried away.

### Loose Limbs

Having been accused of complacency by some after comments against police-bashing I made a few weeks ago I'd like to redress the balance by pointing out the latest idiocy to come from the Criminally unJustifiable Bill.

Although not directly related, the Independent today carried an article concerning the revised role of the Special Branch in Rusky-free and IRA-less Britain.

They are to redirect their surveillance efforts towards protesters, activists and 'public disorder'. I won't even bother shouting 'Police State'. Just: if that is what they are going to do with the spies then what are they going to do with army? Use them in the public arena too? It's the same thing and it scares me.

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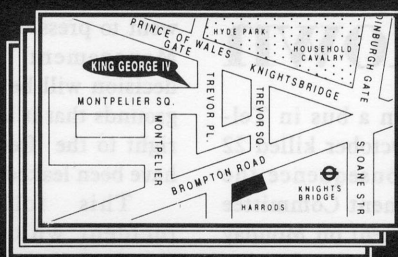
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## Questionnaire... CCU's in unison... News Response

### The Question?

I am sure that most of years 2 & 3 saw the pretty pink (for girls) questionnaire on sexual harassment that appeared in common rooms last year. What I would like to know is why the questionnaire was only for girls. I realise that, as a male student was expelled last year for this reason, it was a topic on many people's minds, but in this case our esteemed women's officer was a little misguided.

No one would deny that sexual harassment does exist and women can be especially vulnerable to unwanted sexual overtures. However, it is not women in general that suffer most from sexual harassment, it is shy people, those who feel they cannot confront their harasser, both male and female. I am deliberate discounting those women who view any contact with men with extreme prejudice. After all, if you look for something hard enough, you will at least find an approximation of it.

To be honest, I consider the sexual harassment of men by women to be far worse, as women will not admit that they are capable of going too far, they are less likely to be punished for their actions and male victims of harassment have to suffer in silence. Male students have no men's officer to go to and their friends, both male and female, are less likely to be supportive in these circumstances. At best, male victims should be flattered by the attention and, at worst, they are to consider it a minor nuisance.

Nor do I think that sexual harassment of women is widespread. In my experience, when women are uncommon, they are treated with deference, and what would forfeit any chance of a career for the sake of upsetting a woman? In my opinion, most male harassers are either obsessive and should be helped, not punished, or they genuinely have not realised that they are upsetting the object of their attentions. Before anyone reports someone for sexual harassment they should at least try to tell their harasser to stop. You never know, it might work. If Imperial College wants to be seen to be taking a stand on this issue, why is it only taking into consideration what may

even be a minority of victims of harassment? In my opinion, the survey was conducted in a sexist manner and was, quite frankly, insulting to the whole idea of feminism. If women are continually portrayed as helpless victims then we will always be treated as inferior or with kid gloves. Why should we be treated as second-rate members of society. In the same way, why should we have special treatment? Please, if there is going to be any more surveys of this type, can they be across the board.

**Anna  
Bio II**

*I thought much the same although I disagree with the implication that men 'suffer' equally with women. Several women I know have had problems: no men yet. Certainly, the only people to have been desperate enough to ever hassle me have been male. But your last comment is spot on. The 'victim' mentality seems to ghettoise many minorities and thus compounds the problem. What does everyone else think? Anyone fancy writing an article?*

### Thorny Matter

Dear Felix,

We would like to comment on the article on the front cover of Felix 1009, reporting on the RSM Freshers' Dinner. Two points in the article in particular attracted our attention; first, the reference to last year's accident in Evelyn Gardens, which was tactless and unnecessary, and second, the allegations of 'widespread spiking of drinks'.

Last year, as a result of the accident, the ICU president and CCU Presidents had several meetings with the Deputy Rector, as the college were concerned about 'institutionalised drinking' at Imperial. A set of guidelines were agreed on, which included advertising guidelines and conduct at events. The Presidents agreed that spiking of drinks would be outlawed at dinners, so that every person would be aware of exactly what they were drinking. At ALL Freshers' Dinners, the hosts made sure that the guidelines were followed, and anyone was free to stop alcohol consumption at any point they wished to. There was certainly not 'widespread spiking

of drinks' at the RSM dinner. This has been confirmed by the C&GCU President, the Mary's President, and the RCSU Vice-President who were present at the dinner. The article put the RSMU in a very bad light, and may well cause repercussions with College.

We all fully support the guidelines agreed by our predecessors, and will continue to make sure that they are adhered to at events in the future.

**Charlie Bell**  
RCSU President  
**Fiona Grandison**  
C&GCU President  
**Vinod Fernandez**  
RSMU President

*I have to disagree with your statement that the reference to last years article was 'tactless and unnecessary'. News articles should attempt to contextualise the subject and the comment was discretely placed at the bottom of the article. If the article has put the RSMU in a bad light then that is unfortunate but we must report the news as it comes to us. I personally support your stance on drink-spiking and trust you will continue to make every attempt to prevent it in the future.*

### Fundamental Mistakes

Dear Felix,  
Upon reading "Fundamental Differences" by David Cohen, I felt it was appropriate for the Islamic Society to comment about the contents of the article. I want to address two issues implied by the piece, namely the labelling of 'muslim activists' and in particular Hizb ut Tahrir as propagators of racist ideas and indirectly linking Imperial College Islamic Society with the named muslim organisation (I have deliberately not discussed the other concerns raised in the article, for the sake of brevity).

It is clear that the author is not well versed in Islam, for it is untenable for any muslim organisation to propagate racism, as such an attitude is in clear contradiction to the teachings of Islam.

Allah (the Lord and only God

Edited this week by Owain  
Bennallack, the Editor (!)

worthy of worship) says in His final revelation to mankind, the Quran "O Mankind! Indeed, we have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Verily, Allah is the all-knowing the all-..."

[Chapter 49 Verse 13]

Islam can never be accused of racism, as Allah clearly states the only criteria by which one person is better than another is by virtue of their belief in Allah and good actions. It may be surprising to note that during our 'Take a Look at Islam' week at the beginning of term, our guest speakers included an english speaker, two afro-caribbean speakers and a french speaker.

My second point is to clarify that the Islamic Society has no affiliation and nor is it a front for Hizb ut Tahrir. Both the Islamic Society and Hizb ut Tahrir consists of muslims, the bond in faith implies that we join and propagate whatever Islam deems to be good and therefore beneficial to society at large.

Finally, "Fundamental Differences", did not attempt to explain what and why are there fundamental differences between Islam and other ways of life, rather it attempted to paint a negative of 'muslim activist' and Islam in general. The Islamic Society has always been open to questions, dialogue and even debate concerning all aspects of life. However no-one can tolerate unfounded accusations.

Yours sincerely,

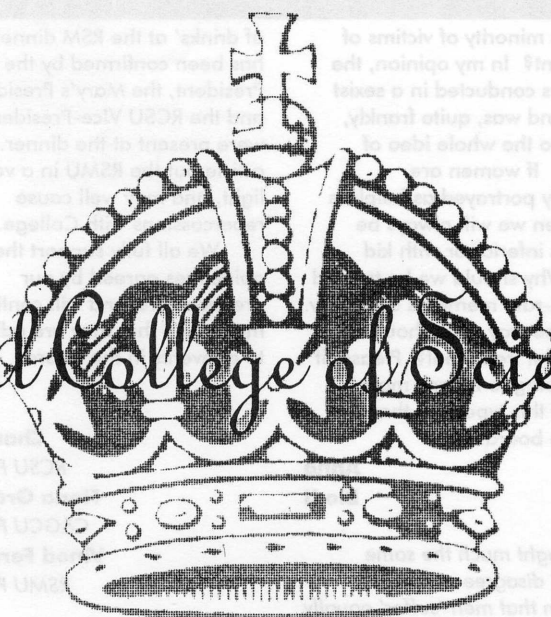
**Junaid Sheikh**  
Islamic Society Vice President

*Thank you for the feedback Junaid. To be brief, the article itself did not accuse anyone of racism: it reported that ULU have, however, passed a motion banning literature which breaks its constitution and that the Hizb ut Tahrir literature, in their opinion, does. The FELIX author's opinion and knowledge of Islam shouldn't be relevant. Your photocopy of your letter you submitted chopped off some text so I have had to include '[...]' rather than misquote the Quran.*

**Letters may be commented on by a guest editor whose opinions are not necessarily those of the editor and cut due to space restrictions.  
Deadline: Monday 6.00pm.**



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In cyberspace no-one can hear you type. And loneliness may be one of its greatest drawbacks to lovers of group experiences, members of communities and, well, lovers themselves. For what is the use, as Alice might ask, of a trip across the surface of Mars with stunning pictures but no conversations?

Species of group experience Virtual Reality (VR) are currently making advances on two fronts: in military simulations and in the entertainment industry. Neither, however, require that the user has anything but vile hatred for other humans who happen to be present. Human intercourse is even absent in the seemingly benign idea of cybercycling – using VR simulations to make your daily stint on an exercise bicycle more interesting. Wave to the virtual postman as you puff past! In the age of the office-at-home, when we can access the world from our living room, we're going to value shared experience more than ever.

Cybersociety is gone to stay, for in the virtual world you're on your own.

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#### Cyberlex

**Cyberspace:** notional "information realm" popularised (but not populated) by the author **William Gibson**. Used to refer to the dimension one enters when engaged in a virtual experience or when using the Internet.

**Immersive VR:** reality simulation where the user wears a head mounted display (usually consisting of two small screens plus a movement tracker) enabling them to look around, and sometimes move around, their environment using a glove or similar controller.

**Non immersive VR:** reality simulation which uses different techniques to produce a three dimensional image. Early examples include the red/green glasses used in *Jaws III*.

**Teledildonics:** the basis of computer sex, generally conceived as a bodysuit worn to "feel the touch" of a remote partner as transmitted via the ether. This is a long way in the future.



**The Emaginator** has recently fallen to earth in the Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus. Touted as "a white-knuckle experience merging fantasy and reality", this sleek cyber experience is the closest that some should get to vomit-inducing roller-coaster rides.

Punters descend to a pitch black room containing pods which tip and judder in synch with computer-generated images. The experience of accidentally falling through a black hole in a space ship is not one you might expect from an evening in the West End, but it's different.

★ *S-files* are offering a pair of free tickets for **The Emaginator** to the first six people who send a postcard to the Felix Office which says (hysterically, of course) "only the *S-files* can save us!"

#### VRcades: VR on offer in and around London

Name	Place	£	Object	Immersive?
Exo-Rex	Troc Basement	3	Fight your friends for freedom	Yes
Dactyl	Troc Funland	3	Shoot the screaming pterodactyl	Yes
Nightmare Channel	Science Museum	1	Drive the chunnel train	Yes
Tunnel	Troc Basement	3	See review	No
Emaginator	Watford Branch	0	Virtual kitchen simulation	Yes
British Gas				



Fourth Year Computing student **Michael de Luna's** six months in the Virtual Reality industry left him seriously enlightened.

Hilary forced some concrete facts out of him.



Have you used all the bizarre VR equipment you see in pictures?

I've used several head mounted displays, which use two screens to create stereo vision. Some of them still feel like wearing a shoebox with the shoes still in it, though. I had a go with the Dataglove, which enables you to pick up virtual objects while in **immersive VR**. I've also worn a datasuit – that was really, really embarrassing because it was made of tight lycra.

Do you think that VR will be as big as karaoke one day?

Yes. It's not as portable as karaoke, although there are people working on portable VR. But I do think that VR will become more widespread through entertainment.

What did you think of Lawnmower Man?

I thought it sucked big. The graphics were crap and it gave a very misconceived view of the capabilities of technology. There's an idea that VR sprang from the same people that were into mind-altering drugs in the 60's, and I get the impression that Steven King played on that in the story. I don't think you can expand your mind by being subjected to VR.

Will completely **immersive VR** one day mean a convincing alternative universe?

Yes, in the future. Considering they haven't invented a decent tactile feedback or olfactory technology yet, I think it'll be a long time before we even approach alternative reality.

#### Visionary

**William Gibson**

Non-geek Canadian author of genre-breaking novel "Neuromancer" published in 1982, Gibson enraged and fascinated technoworld with his look at the future through the eyes of a cyberpunk.

**Ivan Sutherland**

Combination visionary/genius, Sutherland more or less singlehandedly created the field of human-centred interactive computer graphics and invented the first head mounted display in 1965.

**Morton Heilig**

Cinematographer and inventor, Heilig approached VR in a search for better cinema rather than better simulation. His immersive VR installation "Sensorama" spirited the user to the streets of Brooklyn aboard a motorbike, complete with 3D picture, sound and engine effects.



## QUITE CONTRARY

Poor Jeffrey Archer – Although the honourable, clear skinned member of the Conservative party is positively rolling in it, artistically he is impoverished. After dicing with bankruptcy, Archer pinned his literary colours to the top of the Best-sellers list within the first two sentences of his 1976 debut, *Not a penny more, not a penny less*:

"Making a million legally has always been difficult." Now come, come Jeffrey: Insider dealing?

"Making a million illegally has always been a little easier." And here begins and endeth Archer's claim on literary respect.

Is money the motivating factor in the world of popular fiction? Are writers clutching their precious first manuscripts and bleating "I had Costner in mind," as they discuss screenplay rights with Hollywood moguls? Indeed as a friend embarked on the painful path to that first novel he reminded me that as "Grisham and Crichton are proving, it's plot and not characters that count." Undoubtedly true if you live in that creative sphere in which Roxette and Bad Boys Inc are proving that it's tits and arse and not music that counts.

Big bucks seem a factor for many, but what about those for

whom the receiver's bell doth not toll? For someone who won't slap on her first layer of foundation for less than ten grand, I very much doubt that Naomi Campbell's first novel will have much impact on her coffers. What about the good looking half of arena-packing Newman and Baddiel? Will Rob (or Robert as he now wishes to be known) Newman's debut *Dependence Day* see legions of adolescent girls and angst-ridden males laying seige to Waterstones? I don't think so.

So if it's not filthy lucre they're after, what are Naomi and Robert's game? Newman claims writing was always his vocation, stand-up comedy merely a sideline. But Campbell? Is she out to prove that regardless of whether or not the waif look is in vogue, she remains a well rounded supermodel? I don't imagine there is much more than meets the eye where Campbell is concerned. Except perhaps the ghost writer lurking in the shadows to transcribe her divine utterances.

Ghost writers eh? Arguments about whether the Bard was English or not pale into insignificance. The pressing concern becomes whether or not he ever slipped on the catwalk and flashed his knickers

Rahul

I was watching television, which is the prerogative of having no mates. An air stewardess asked this ungainly looking chap whether he liked boys or girls... sexually that is. He pondered

this, and said "I like football, but I don't play so I can't really call myself a footballer, and if you follow that argument through, I can't really call myself a heterosexual either."

Apathy in my eyes has gained something of a raw deal over the years. "Oh why are you so apathetic about everything?" they whinny; "Because we are all going to die irrespective of who had the tidiest bedroom Mother, do you honestly think that life is a steady procession towards some forceable goal that we should all try to achieve for the good of ourselves and the rest of humanity, or some sort of race in which we must all accumulate the most possessions before we die all fat and sweaty? she used the one reply that she would trot faithfully from the stables in such a situation. She started to talk religion, and my bruised and festering state of mind reels to

## THE DOCKER'S



FIST

the smell of incense and the clatter of communion bells to this day.

I have always resented religion, catholicism in particular, mainly due to its effect on my mental health, but when people

bandy words like sinister and pointless around in the same sentence, you know that they are talking about the Bible and Prayer-mat people. It's all a big excuse to cleanse the world of Kurds, or which ever socio-economic/ethnic group the oligarchy is currently using to distract the masses from the realms of fact, and their general incompetence. (Las Malvinas 1982). It is no coincidence that hatred and war follow religion around like fleas on a dog, and in terms of world peace and happiness I would suggest that everyone just stay in bed and forget about it. Be apathetic, because to that end you are unlikely to die in a hail of bullets. After all, what was the best way to avoid the chemical weapons menace and other general military hazards imposed on the soldiers in the gulf war? Not joining the Army was the obvious one.

Glyph

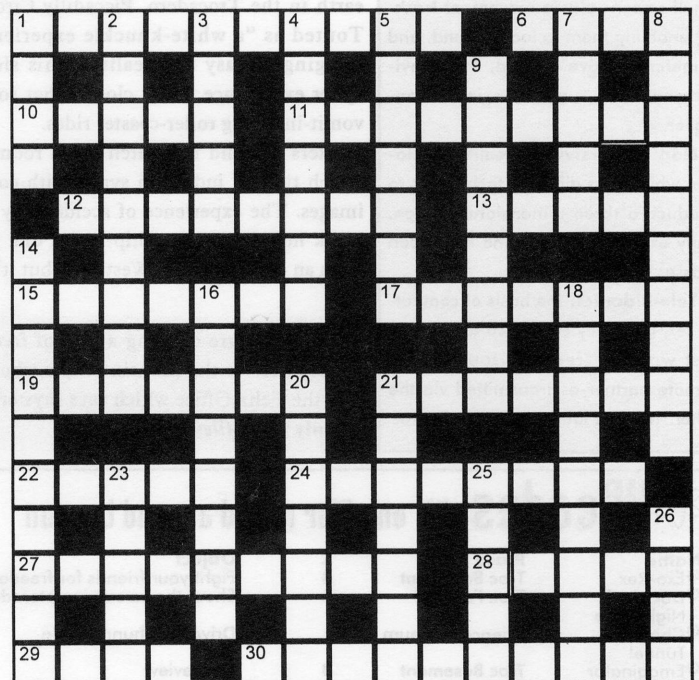
### Across

1. Secured – ram against the edges (10)
6. First of all, division does seem like sums (4)
10. A snake has firm support (5)
11. Last month, a speaker might have done some wallpapering (9)
12. The French forbid these last three Middle-Easterners (8)
13. I sort out body parts (5)
15. Inspires raises (7)
17. A noise results from an accumulation of rocks in front of a church (7)
19. Give love to bachelor and present watch (7)
21. Have to speak French for water at an estate (7)
22. Lightweight cat (5)
24. Require goat bile be cooked (8)
27. Ascertain and try to prevent a charge (9)
28. £1000 piano (5)
29. Redhead worker has a fit (4)
30. One thousand single people and nearly all are dispassionate (10)

### Down

1. Bill is to jump vertically (4)
2. Put up with showers? (9)
3. Doctor gets an arts degree for theatrical production (5)
4. Recovers from being embarrassed and seem upset (7)
5. Surpasses former favourites, we hear (7)
7. Discourage from a summer in France to hearten medic (5)
8. The quickest way to the top, honestly (8,2)
9. Standards of rice tea I brewed (8)
14. Shuffled, counter to official procedure (3,2,5)
16. Abstains in favour of teddies (9)
18. What the locomotive enthusiast does, and what he gets for overdoing it (9)
20. A little of what he got is mainly due to selfishness (7)
21. For example, cello arrangement at a school (7)
23. Anyway, it's off (3,2)
25. Pledges to Germany over a long time (5)
26. Hero is unemployed by the sound of it (4)

## Guest Crossword by Sphinx



## Martyn investigates the failure of British music.

However the so-called grunge explosion has burst out of a healthy U.S. scene and blown a gaping hole in the mainstream world-wide thus allowing in alternative bands. This has caused more innovative music to reach the numbed minds of the chart followers – the prime examples being **Nirvana** and **Pearl Jam**, and this will ultimately bring forth a healthier breeding scene for more overground experimentation. Could such a thing ever arise in Britain? It is doubtful as too many bands are concerned with recreating the past instead of looking to the future. Not to mention the British music press' preoccupation with the past and unhealthy disregard for what *could* be achieved...

Nevertheless the **Beatles** and **Rolling Stones**, who attained a high on untouchable world-wide status that will probably never again be accomplished, were a good enough starting point for innovation that never occurred, but they lead to a decline to present standards where copyists rule the headline. The punk movement took music by the ear and proceed to make one hell of a racket. It had a wonderful effect in Britain, but made little impact across the pond, although it undoubtedly inspired the U.S underground throughout the 1980's and resulted in the Hardcore as well as the New, and to a lesser extent, the No Wave scenes.

Anyhow back to the present day, the majority of current U.S. guitar bands were influenced by such '80's forerunners as **Sonic Youth**, **Hüsker Dü**, **REM** as well as our very own **Fall**, and bands such as **Nirvana** and **Pavement** pushed from what those bands were doing to develop to the present day where such boundaries are still being explored. Moreover back on British soil our crop of 'top talent' seem to have forgotten this, so we have the beginnings of a stunted scene where the progressive bands are left by the wayside and those lucky enough to be pushed (usually by 'indie' labels run by a major label eg Hi-Rise in reality Virgin to which both **S\*M\*A\*S\*H** and **These Animal Men** are signed notice who's been getting the interviews recently) are forerunners of a scene created by the music press for which the bands themselves should take little blame. This continual gaze into the past does nothing to encourage a healthy and vibrant U.K music scene.

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# the FOREIGN eye

Featuring excerpts from  
the soon-to-be-published  
**James's Hall Survival Guide**

I'm not British. That in itself is not surprising. The flight I took to get here spent many hours over the Atlantic Ocean. I guess that qualifies me as an overseas student. That too is not surprising. How does a foreigner adjust to the alien territory that all Brits take for granted? Perhaps this can be surprising. Take College Halls for example...

Freshers' week was weeks ago and the free supply of wine, cheese and crisps was fast running out. The financially painful and generally unhealthy diet of fast food was taking its toll. I was staying in a room in a hall of residence meant to be self-catering. That is, a kitchen to be shared with 22 other freshers who happened to be living on the same staircase with me.

The typical fresher has little or no cooking experience. I was no exception. The hall kitchen was quite a daunting room to master, let alone enter.

*"For those with no culinary background it is easy to be put off by rooms fitted with appliances which you are expected to use competently the first time. For this reason, the kitchen is one of the easiest places in which to make a complete idiot of oneself. The first hurdle is to enter the kitchen. Make up an excuse..."*

In I strode with some bread to toast. Luckily I timed it perfectly. The kitchen was vacant. The last thing I wanted to do was to negotiate the entire length of a floor occupied by one or more groups of Europeans, discussing unknown pop-groups, alien forms of recreation, or characters of some obscure soap.

In such situations anywhere you stood made you feel like you were obstructing someone from making some important

point on a topic you knew you'd never be able to understand. I was the only one in the kitchen. I felt safe.

*"Don't even attempt to master all the appliances all at once! Begin small and work your way up. Your first goal should be to successfully warm up a meal..."*

There were two ways to do this in most college hall kitchens: heat or nuke, the latter having the advantages of the brainless approach (just set timer and turn on microwave) and using less crockery.

Happily the College Hall starter leaflet gave reasonable enough directions for locating the nearest major supplier of packaged meals – J. Sainsbury's. Unfortunately the prices of microwavables was prohibitive. I'd be better off eating at the Union. The variety of meals that come in cans was most enlightening. I bought a saucepan and a can of beans and sausage to start off with. Right! I'm ready to cook!

Most freshers reach this level of competence easily – after burning a few extra layers of semi-edible lining onto their newly acquired saucepans.

*"Cooking raw food – although this requires a bit more time and skill the end result can be more satisfying and in the long run save money, especially if buying foods in bulk..."*

I wasn't prepared to make the 20-minute walk twice every day to buy fresh raw food, so buying in bulk for an entire week seemed like a wise decision. The load of meat and frozen veg made the return journey seem a lot longer than 20 minutes but I eventually managed to hobble up three flights of stairs to the kitchen. In all fairness I should

have had at least one-fifth of one shelf of freezer space. I soon learned that hall kitchens were anything but fair.

*"Before setting out to buy groceries always check that you have space in the fridge and freezer..."*

After rearranging the entire contents of the freezer I eventually fitted everything in. Few freshers took the care to maximise utilisation of available space. My Third World upbringing ensured that I was expert at this.

*"As students tend to carry out their resupply operations at similar times, any space you may find may not be there when you return. You'll need to reserve the space..."*

Packaging – cereal boxes, cardboard cases for microwave meals, boxes for fish fingers and burgers. Anything opaque and occupying lots of volume would do. It didn't matter if they were empty. That space was mine and rightly so.

Some students soon found out what I was doing when they moved the boxes around. To make the vacuous nature of the contents less obvious I switched to using frozen wet FELIX. A moist package of five or more issues frozen in the freezer had the same consistency of a frozen lump of meat. No one would even attempt to unwrap all the layers in the vain search for that rare commodity, freezer space.

Becoming master of the hall kitchen became easier with each passing day. Few college students reach the stage where they cook most of their meals from raw but I thought I had conquered the self-catering challenge. Later the hall kitchen was to get its revenge in the form of the Freezer Monster, aka Fridge Fairy. But that's another story...

By Adrian J. Chung





Cultural Yobbism? Not me. Opera only became popular with the rise of that most 1980s phenomenon, Essex men and yuppies. As Loadsamoney used to say. "Ah yeah, we love the op-er-ra. We put on arr penquin suits 'nd go to duff 'p the Pavarotti fans. Hulio Eyeglazi 'e's the best," For a clean living, indie loving cartoon icon like me, the closest I've got to opera was Queen's 'a night at the...'. Well until last week that is.

The first thing you notice about these opera people is that they are a different class from us indie-kids. The majority of the operatic moshers were dressed up to their eights in business suits, whilst those who I can only assume were the groupie crowd were replendent in djs or ball gowns. There was the odd mohican and piece of torn denim but I guess the orchestra get to wear what they like.

Second shock of the evening. We're in an all seater venue and there are big signs up which say 'the English National Opera advise patrons that stage diving is only permitted during the interval'. Oh, kill-joys how are we supposed to enjoy ourselves, by listening to the music or something? I start to air my feelings to the old soak next to me but he hushes me down in plummy tones.

What's happening now? Everyone has started to clap but as yet there is no-one on the stage. Maybe some famous rock god of old had just appeared in one of the boxes? Nope, apparently it was just that the conductor had arrived. Very strange. Clapping a man who doesn't even play an instrument. Next thing you know we'll be cheering the roadies as they set up the gear;

Momentary panic grips me as I reach the door. Are flares in or out? Will they let me in without a goatee? But all is well and seconds later I'm groping my way down the drab black corridors of the Astoria towards the cloakroom. Here's the first big shock. A pound? Outrageous. You'd think they'd be pleased to have my trendily unravelling Barbour motorcycle jacket gracing their racks.

The auditorium is painted black too. As we enter, an amplified flute breathes and sails magically over the PA; a good start. There are seats up in the circle but it's standing only down here in the stalls. The tangle of lighting gantries and drum kits on the stage is almost hidden by an opaque screen. Retro 70s slides are projected onto it, back to front and sometimes upside down as well.

The screen rises to reveal the opening three-piece, **Thurman**, who pogo and posture in the approved manner. But even their frantic, masturbatory slitherings up and down the fretboard make no difference

to the dense grey splurge roaring out of the speakers and up into my chest. I lift one foot and the sole tingles.

## *They're here for the perfect swoop of Sonya Madan's nose*

**Drugstore** are quieter and have more to say, but they're not on for as long. Singer Isabel woos the rebel teen faction, dragging on her fag and swigging from a wine bottle.

German pop from the PA, gusts of dry ice... and a half-hour wait for the main attraction. **Echobelly**'s first chords transform the crowd. For most of the first song I'm just trying to stay on my feet in the middle of the bouncing, swaying throng. It's impossible not to be carried away by the spirit of the congregation, tossed like a fleck of dust, splashed with a stained-glass ecstasy of light.

Flickering backlights freeze the waving arms, and a pair of feet flails into sight as the crowd-surfing starts. Next to me, someone strikes a match. A red spotlight glances onto one corner of the stage and through a veil of cigarette smoke I see the band's black guitarist glow, pulsing and fading like a hot coal.

If you haven't heard the songs before, this isn't a very good place to start. But no-one's here for the music any more. They're here for the

## Mensch und mosh

*A mix-up at the reviews desk sends tintin to The Magic Flute while patrick wood breaks sweat to the sound of next big thing Echobelly*

"well done 'pete the dog', you set up those guitar stands with the poise of a Pele".

I'm still feeling uncomfortably sitting in my plush seat as the curtain raises and out strides a topless figure with an obviously stuffed snake around his neck. With charming naivety he pretends that it is alive by wriggling its body. Of course while he does this he's singing about being attacked by a large snake, which is kind of appropriate in the circumstances. And then the whole event becomes a sort of cod-opera. Out come three overblown ugly sister types, decked out in mountainous blues dresses and beehives. Just a comic interlude? No, from then on there's enough winking, stage asiding, ribaldry and clichéd plotlines for this to be considered akin to 'Carry on Mozart'. It's true, opera is nothing more than a higher, if expensive, form of pantomime.

Onwards went the convoluted plot, which eventually ended up involving free-masons, evil rapists, true love and all that jazz. Did I enjoy it? Oh yes.

*The Magic Flute runs at the ENO, 0891 440 693, standby student tickets are £15*

perfect swoop of Sonya Madan's nose, her copper skin and copper-dyed hair. The dip and catch of her knowing voice is too often overlaid by a metallic sheet of noise. Last night all I wanted was to have my adolescence back. Today I'd settle for my hearing.





# Whole lotta Shakey goin' down

*DAHlings!! Arch-luvvies patrick and tintin schmooze their way through the Barbican's Bardfest.*

Illustration: Arran Froom



'Everybody's Shakespeare', a multimedia festival of all things Bardic, is taking over the Barbican Centre for most of November. The organisers have taken the 'everybody' pretty seriously, and are certainly trying to include people who don't actually like Shakespeare. There is a talk on Shakespeare's language buried among the workshops, exhibitions and free foyer events. But mostly there's no need to grapple with what for many people will be the biggest turn-off: the text. Even the plays to be performed during the festival – five acclaimed productions from abroad – will, with one exception, be performed in foreign translations, with surtitles.

Instead, the interactive sessions are based freely on Shakespearian characters and plots. The trouble is that to get to them you first have to interact with the Barbican Centre, which is in the process of renumbering all its floors. Hence the stalls floor is now known as 'level -1, formerly level 3'. You'd think there'd been an earthquake.

While the workshops are mainly for children and teens, anyone even remotely Shakespeare-literate will

enjoy 'Whose iambic pentameter is it anyway?', free in the foyer (Sat 12th Nov, 1.20-2.00pm, Sun 13th Nov, 12.30-1.15pm). Actors improvise on Shakespearian suggestions from the audience in scenes veering (as this sort of thing does) between the dire and the inspired. Lots of thees and thous, and a few props including a skull for the obligatory 'Alas poor Yorick' rip-off.

It's events like these that reveal the wider importance of Shakespeare today; not as a great writer but as part of our culture. When a corpulent (male) actor says "I'm up the duff, Romeo!", it has an extra dimension of humour because it's subverting a serious, established tradition we're all aware of. (And for an example of how this can work the other way, think of how many advertisers have invoked Shakespeare to add the impression of quality and depth to their products.)

This is something which a display in one of the Barbican foyers acknowledges when it says, "If Shakespeare hadn't existed, it would have been necessary to invent him." Which, indeed, is exactly what some people claim did happen. Sir Francis Bacon? Queen Elizabeth I? The latest computer-aided research has turned up a surprising new candidate for the authorship of Shakespeare's plays: find out who on level 0 at the Barbican Centre, until November 27th.

## How to be Bottom

There's more computer aided learning going on in the Concourse Gallery. 'Shakespeare's Bottom, a hands-on experience'? Some mistake, thinkest thou? But nay, 'tis merely that thou hast a filthy imagination, as this is the *Midsummer Night's Dream* interactive exhibition, more to do with Bottom the weaver than the Bard's behind. Dozens of computer programmes enable you to do things like produce music from Shakespearian instruments, cast a Puckish spell, design an Elizabethan newspaper and make up a poster for the play. (We try this one: out of the corner of my eye I see an enormous Shakespeare rampaging out of control across tintin's screen.) Unfortunately there's no facility for printing out your handiwork.

Mechanicals, rude and otherwise, can put together a miniature stage set, twang a dulcimer and conjure sound effects from an exotic selection of percussion instruments. We soothe our furrow'd brows with surf noises from an Amazonian rain-stick.

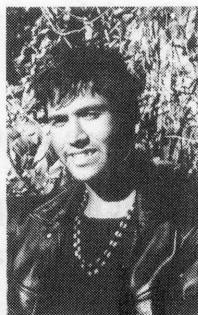
The part children seemed to be enjoying most was a curtain maze-cum-forest which they could rush in and out of dressed in green capes. I don't know how much it was teaching them about Shakespeare though. **F**

We asked a random selection of IC students if they'd ever been to a Shakespeare play, whether they could quote any of his lines, and if they thought that nowadays Shakespeare should give way to more contemporary writers.

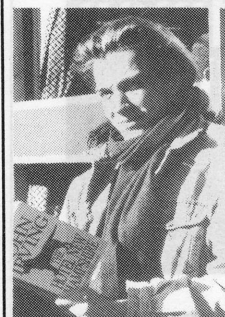
Pat Watson, Biochem PG, has seen *Macbeth* twice, "probably because I'm Scottish". Her quote was "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears," and she feels that Shakespeare is "still interesting from a literary and historical point of view".



Mohit Jain from Biochem III has seen *Macbeth*, *Julius Ceasar* and *Prospero's Books* ("a bit too way out"), and his quote was (altogether now) "To be or not to be, that is the question." "There are so many other good plays," he feels, "such as *Death of a Salesman*, which would



better acknowledge today's atmosphere."



Marc Stricker from Chem Eng is planning to see his first Shakespeare play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Artsoc soon. He gave us "Is this a dagger I see before me?", and he believes "we should keep up a little culture to stop degeneration – look at all the McDonald's and throw-away products".



Ilias Avdos, from Chem Eng III, came up with a quote from *Romeo and Juliet*, having been to see it on a school trip. "It was OK, a bit soppy; I could have done with a bit more action! I wouldn't go out of my way to see Shakespeare."

Photos: Patrick Wood



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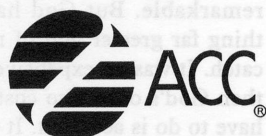
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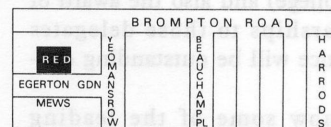
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## Who: Euro Youth

What: European Conference

Keys: Podium, Pan-European

### The 2nd Europe 2020 Pan-European Conference

The Society for European Youth received an official invitation by the Fontainebleau Youth Foundation, organisers of the very successful Europe 2020 Paneuropean Conference to form a delegation of 10 people and to represent Imperial College to the second "Europe 2020" conference, which will take place in the University of Oxford from March 18th to March 24th 1995. The conference has been described as "a podium for the Youth, a chance to take part in the shaping of policies which will affect our lives". It will include satellite events for the participants, such as a "Careers Fair" event with Europe-wide companies on the conference site (Jesus, Oriel and Wadham College) and also the award of valuable scholarships to those delegates whose performance will be outstanding during the week.

Up until now some of the leading Universities across Europe, like Munich and Heidelberg, Amsterdam (UvA), Barcelona (UPC), Dublin (Trinity College) etc. as well as Oxford and Cambridge have confirmed participation at the conference; the organisers await the confirmation of participation from Bocconi Univ. Milano and SciencesPo Paris.

If one wishes to attend the conference, he or she should meet the conditions for participation. The application consists of:

- 1) A letter and a personal c.v.
- 2) A supporting note from one's academic tutor or Dean of Faculty.
- 3) An essay of no more 1000 words, type-written and in English.

Applicants should discuss one of the following in their essays:

- 1) Representation of the Citizen; what part should democratic control play in European Institutions? A blueprint for the European Parliament.
- 2) Social Rights across Europe; how far can and should employment conditions be harmonised across the E.U.?
- 3) Europe and the U.S; Superpower rivalry or global partnership? How closely should Europe and the U.S. cooperate on global issues and how can this be managed?

The essays will be judged by an academic panel based in Oxford, who will recommend a list of candidates to be invited to the conference. If you are interested to know more about the structure of the conference and to apply, come to the meetings of the society for European Youth for more information. Don't worry about the subjects themselves. We will work together on this and make sure that

each and every one produces a good essay and application.

*The society meets every Thursday at 1:00 in ChemEng LT1.*

## Who: Christian

What: Topless Speaker?

Keys: Money, Scientism, Jesus

I usually go along to Rm 308 Huxley at 6.00pm on a Thursday. Unfortunately I was unable to make it on the 20th. I asked a friend what I missed. "Well, the speaker took his clothes off and gave away £50." After a more detailed enquiry I discovered he had stripped to the waist.

Being somewhat disbelieving I further investigated the situation. I checked with several other eye-witnesses, and was left with the option of believing them or finding some reason for not doing so. For example was there any reason for them not to tell the truth? But why did the speaker take his clothes off? What was the catch with the fifty quid? Apparently none.

I later discovered the analogy for which the situation served. The speaker was giving a talk about an extraordinary event with consequences of vast importance. This other event has far more evidence than Thursday night could afford. There were eye-witnesses over a period of forty days and at one time was witnessed by more than five hundred people at the same time. However it occurred nearly 2000 years ago. But the evidence is still overwhelming as it is so well documented.

"Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the new testament may be regarded as finally established" (quote from Sir. Frederic Kenyon, a leading scholar in this area.)

Sir William Ramsay is regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever to have lived. He observed the accuracy of the historical details of the writings of Luke and concluded "Luke is a historian of the first rank... This author should be placed along with the greatest of historians."

Nelson Glueck, a renowned archaeologist, made the remarkable statement "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

But what is this event that happened? That a man rose from the dead. And not any man, but Jesus. But who is Jesus? A prophet? A great moral teacher? God? C.S.Lewis put it like this:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a

madman or something worse... but let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

But doesn't science and scripture conflict? The most apparent conflict stems from making the Bible say things it really does not say and from "scientism" a philosophic interpretation of facts. These interpretations are distinct from the facts themselves. There is no such thing as total objectivity in science or in anything else due to the presuppositions people always make. There is no fundamental conflict between science and scripture. In fact science backs up scripture, but more often science gives us the know-how, but can not give us the know-why. The Bible does not purport to tell us the how of many things, but it clearly gives us the why's.

So why did the speaker give fifty quid away at Christian Union on Thursday? To illustrate a point. No one was willing to believe that it was true, due to being so remarkable. But God has offered us something far greater and of more value, with no catch. It was an expensive point to make, but then God's offer also cost him dearly. All we have to do is accept it. It is the offer of a new beginning, living life to the full the way God planned it. On Thursday, November 10th, come and hear a talk on "Life, the universe and everything" given by Gareth Williams, in room 308, Huxley, at 6pm to find out more about the answer to these why's. Come armed with questions!

## Who: Finance

What: Asset Management Grp.

Keys: Portfolio, Magazine

There is no doubt that a degree from Imperial College will greatly improve your chances in obtaining employment in industry. There are, however, a number of students at Imperial College taking scientific and engineering degrees with a view to working not in industry, but to entering the financial sector. It is for these students that the Asset Management Group will be of most interest.

The finance society is already well established at Imperial College and bridges the gap between the financial sector and students. It is an invaluable point of contact between real firms interested in Imperial College graduates and the students. It offers a host of useful events as well as a comprehensive magazine.

It is proposed that the Asset Management Group be a subsidiary of the Finance Society, targeting its members and using its links with the financial markets.

The aim of the asset management group is to increase awareness and knowledge of the investment markets and hence no previous knowledge is needed. All that is required is a genuine interest in the field.



(continued from previous page)

The objectives of the Asset Management Group are to gain and share knowledge, to demonstrate skills, interest and achievements to potential recruiter's, to encourage team work and communication between members of the group and to organise specialised events.

There will be five competing portfolios, each portfolio would be handled by a group comprising a portfolio manager and three or four analysts. They will be responsible following the markets and deciding how to invest the money. They will also produce a regular, concise but understandable report describing the current state of the markets and their effects on the portfolio.

Thus, members of the Group will not only have the first step on the path to understanding some of the investment tools and market factors affecting them, but by reading all the other reports will be able to gain an insight into the financial markets as a whole. This whole project is still in its early stages and so we would be eager to hear any suggestions from anyone who is interested.

For more information feel free to contact Michael Majdalany (Founder/Co-chairman) via the Computing III pigeon holes, or on email at mm2@doc, or Arif Vohra (Co-Chairman), Maths III pigeon holes or va2@doc via email.

## Who: Rag

What: Rag Events, Rag Week

Keys: Incentives, Dirty Disco

### Trick or Treat

Last weekend saw another event in the Rag calendar – Trick or Treating in Covent Garden. On Saturday morning an unusual sight greeted the tourists, as a group of raggies, many in fancy dress, headed out for a day collecting for SENSE. During the day we raised the staggering sum of £594 with the top collector winning a bottle of the spirit of his choice.

### Rag Week

Don't forget it is only 7 days until Rag Week. This is a whole ten days packed out with some great events including; a Comedy Night, a Rag Raid, The Dirty Disco, where the less you wear the less you pay to get in, a Slave Auction, Britain's Largest Independent Beer Festival, a Bungee Jump, Mixed Sex Rugby, the Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump and the Great Rag Bash.

### Fireworks

Tomorrow night we will be collecting at Battersea Park, the venue for one of the best Firework displays in London. This is a chance to collect a huge amount of money while having a good time – as well as the fireworks display there will also be a funfair and stalls selling all sorts of goodies. Anyone wanting to do this collection should meet at

the Rag Office tonight at 5.30pm.

### Incentives

Remember, all the money you collect goes towards our incentive scheme, which this year is as follows: £50 – IC Rag Mug; £150 '150 Club' T-Shirt; £500 – Rag Sweatshirt; £1000 – Rugby Shirt; £1500 – Engraved Pewter Tankard. The first incentives will arrive at next week's meeting, so get collecting!

If you're interested in any of the above, please come to today's Rag Meeting, at 1.10pm in the Ents Lounge, or come up to the Rag Office anytime.

## Who: Exploration

What: Tales of the Unexpected

Keys: Conservation, Caves

Exploration Society was founded to promote interest in exploration of all kinds: from adventure to science and from mountains to underwater. The society organises a series of lectures, this term there are four lectures planned; Ornithological (bird) expeditions (10/11), Underwater Ecology in St. Lucia (23/11), Canoeing in the Amazon (1/12) and Canoeing in the Cameroon (15/12). Next term we will have talks on Caving, Mountaineering and adventure cycling. All lectures start at 6.30pm and are held in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building.

Membership of the society is £3 which entitles you to free entry to your first lecture and 50p thereafter. We hold weekly meetings in southside upper lounge Monday 1pm. Contact Piers Rathbone Geology UG3 for details. Our first lecture is 'Going on a Conservation Expedition' with Michael Poulson in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Thursday 10th November at 6.30pm. Michael Poulson is currently Expeditions officer of Birdlife International, he has extensive experience of ornithological expeditions in the Philippines, Ecuador, North Atlantic, French Polynesia, North and South East Asia and the Middle East.

The lecture will cover the following topics; Birds and animals as indicators of biodiversity, priority areas for conservation, what is it like to be on an expedition, the roles of NGO's and results of expeditions for conservation.

## Who: Conservative

What: Introduction to Con Soc.

Keys: Archer, Heath, Hunt

Welcome to IC's branch of the World's oldest and most successful political party. The basic of our philosophy is simple and enduring – only we are prepared to take a long, hard and

unsentimental look at the abilities and role of government. We reject the obscure abstract theories of socialists that show no understanding of human nature and that seem to regard the outside world as an experimental laboratory for their ideas. Only we believe in a community of individuals able to keep their hard-earned money and choose how to spend it.

Our membership fee is just £3.00 and this will grant you free access to all of our speaker-meetings at Imperial College. Non-members may attend if they pay 50p for each event. This term we will be visited by our Vice-President Mr Matthew Carrington MP and the Euro-sceptic Sir Teddy Taylor MP. Next term we have Mr Iain Duncan-Smith MP of Lord Tebbit's former constituency, the original thinker Mrs Theresa Gorman MP, the Cabinet Minister Rt Hon David Hunt MBE MP and the brilliant orator Lord Archer. Also in the pipeline are Rt Hon Sr Edward Heath KG MBE MP and Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP both of whom need no introduction.

We also have a few visits planned to the Commons including a tour to see various Cabinet Ministers and drinks parties in Smith Square. Other social events include a Christmas Dinner Party and an Annual Dinner with a Cabinet Manager. Our meetings are held on Thursdays in the Southside Upper Lounge at 1.00pm. We welcome new committee members especially next term. Our newsletter "The Right Stuff" is open to contributors. See our posters or our main sherfield notice board for more details.

## Who: Film Soc

What: Films this week

Keys: Father, Hero, Hillbillies

### My Father the Hero

This week ICU Cinema and Filmsoc offer you the chance to savour the truly international side of the pictures. First up this week at 8pm on Wednesday the 9th, is My Father The Hero. This film first appeared as a 'little belter' of a French film called 'Mon pere c'est un hero'. Gerard Depardieu reprises his role of a father who ends up pretending that he and his daughter are in actual fact lovers. Here at Filmsoc we have heard of 'keeping it in the family' but with Gerard, it is possible to take things slightly too far.

### The Beverly Hillbillies

At 8pm on Thursday the 10th we give you the chance to see how the other half live by examining the lives of the filthy rich Americans living in Beverly Hills. We can all associate with wanting to be rich but when Erika Eleniak and family from the 'sticks' realise the ambition the antics start to become hilarious.





## creative urges and limbs

We've had a lot of recreated goulies recently. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was crucified into a post-modern love-blood story by the hamming talents of Francis Ford Coppola, Jack Nicholson lost the thread of werewolves in the truly horrible *Wolf* and now we have **Mary Shelly's Frankenstein**, courtesy of Kenneth Branagh.

As with Coppola's *Dracula* the invocation of the original author's name in the film's title is always cause for concern. To the general public it suggests that the book has been accurately translated to film and whilst Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* is broadly true to the original, Branagh can not resist the temptation to throw in a totally superfluous end scene which comes close to wrecking the whole film and certainly does inflict a great injury to the central ideal of the original. Branagh might say that he wanted to use Victor Frankenstein's love to Elizabeth as a balancing force to passion for his work but in the novel that patently isn't the case.

The film starts and ends on the ice-floes of the North Pole with the discovery of the raving Dr Frankenstein. Before dying he recounts his terrible story accompanied by the chilling howls of the creature he has created. You know the bare bones of the rest. The construction and animation of a creature, sown together using the raw materials of death and the newly discovered magick of electricity. "It lives" is the glorious cry which marks the fulfilment of Frankenstein's alchemical search. And amidst the boiling flasks and copper tubing Branagh's portrayal of Victor Frankenstein carries us on in the breathless imperative of results without responsibility.

For the creature, as played by Robert De Niro, the fact that "it lives" is the two pronged problem. When someone says 'Did you think it would thank for giving it this life?', Frankenstein can only gape. In the pivotal scene the creature questions Frankenstein in the wastes of an ice cave. When he asks "what am I?", you know it's something we've all failed to answer. As for the depth of, "do I have a soul?", like Frankenstein most of us wouldn't even attempt the question. For all its scars, gore and raging murder it's the creature which is offered to us as a conscience.

Indeed if there is a villain, it's Victor Frankenstein himself. He's

not so much driven by his unhallowed goal as defined by it. He throws all away, including his love for Elizabeth, to recreate life. The point, however, is made too forcefully, particularly in the end scene of total madness which twists the idea of the companion promised to the creature, into unnatural life in more ways than one. For all of Branagh's talk of love, his Frankenstein becomes insane, to the point of inhumanity, and there's little there of love. Against the power of Dr Frankenstein, Helena Bonham-Carter's Elizabeth can only be submissive. Ignorance of what her



husband-to-be has created, she finishes caught between the arms of a madman who has promised her his love and the hands of a creature who just wants her heart. As a heroine she's just a cipher, a fact which not even Bonham-Carter's mischievous use of raised eyebrows can change. As an icon of consequence Branagh's interpretation overplays her significance and that's the main reason this film teeters backwards from the edge of greatness. That said, it remains one of the year's compulsive releases.

The London Film Festival opens this year on 3rd November with the premier of **Mary Shelly's Frankenstein** but it doesn't stop there. Over the 17 days of the festival, some 180 films will be shown, one of which is reviewed next.

## THE MENU



As we start the London Film Festival cha-cha, *tintin* checks out how back to basics **Mary Shelly's Frankenstein** really is whilst Magpie watches **Loaded**.



This week's star turn is performed by Andrew Thomson of Computing 1. Take them away and give them a good spin.



It's album time. The *Hamster* washes his fur with special **shampoo**, *tintin* sniffs around the **smashing pumpkins'** bside/outtakes and *helen-louise* goes horticulturally **dodgy**.



A slow boat to Tripoli? Well *Fiona* goes down to the africa centre and the, eerrrr, charms of **Funkin' Pussy**. We have warned you.



*Patrick* wanders down to Sherfield and catches the dying embers of the RCA exhibition, **paper based**, in the ante-room

**Loaded** is a British and New Zealand film which follows seven youngsters' as they spend a weekend making a horror film in a country house.

As with most new ventures, the weekend starts with enthusiasm but slowly personal matters come to the surface. Then the horror film's script, inadvertently becomes a grapevine for some of the characters' intimate details, and so the weekend of intended filming comes close to being a battle ground.

At the end of the day's filming Lance, Danny Cunningham, offers the group acid to brighten up the atmosphere. As they start going down Lance, Neil (Oliver Milburn) and Lionel (Matthew Eggleton) go off to buy cigarettes and food. On their way back tragedy occurs when Neil intentionally drives straight into Lionel. Lance and Neil take Lionel's body back to the house where he is

presumed dead and in the panic the whole group decide to bury him in the forest.

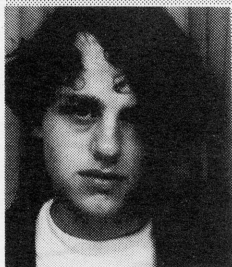
The next day begins with the question of what to do with Lionel. The majority agree that Neil should report the incident to the police but as Neil sorts out his story the rest decide to return Lionel's body to the scene of the accident. However they are unable to find the body. At this point the real film's events resembles the plot of the horror film they were making, and so the film ends with a continuous shot of something travelling across the forest.

The film's plot is clear cut and so few backdrops that nothing clutters the plot. Anna Campion, (sister of Piano fame Jane), has successfully captured the hazy atmosphere of the countryside and the way all the characters' deeply hidden emotions and personalities slowly come through to the surface. 3





## rotation



Andrew Thomson of DoC 1 leads us down the singles' path...

**sandladder** - descent ep

The flier for this limited release has the best description: honest. This is nearly unique these days in that it has an almost total lack of bullsh\*t.

**dub war** - mental ep

This band is really trying to integrate lots of different influences. Unfortunately it just hasn't worked for them.

**bandit queens** - miss dandys

The most perverse and original lyrics this week come from a female led indie band. Good guitars and nice B-sides make a reasonable single, but it just didn't come together for me.

**ash** - uncle pat

The single captures all the subtle ambience of the wall of guitar that Elastica/Oasis throw at you.

**tribute to nothing**

can't get up

No ideas, pathetic lyrics and they only sing during the loud bits to make sure you can't work out what they're going on about.

**silver** - make up

Nice cover. Fair but safe indie stuff. Distinctive sound, helped by the guitarist's sense of humour.



## tarty vegetable smoking

This is where pop should be at. **Shampoo's** 'we are shampoo' is cheap, nasty and shallow.

Pink cd spines, 'imaginative' album names and mindless hooks disguise a Blur/Suede/Pulp lyrical style; songs about romance - "tacky and cheap, now the cliché's complete" - the joys of travel - "throwing up your kebab, in the back seat of a taxi cab" - and handsome strangers - "skinny white thing, livin' in your own wet dream" - give the proverbial finger to Whitfield-esque dance in a big way - "...supermodels' suck, riot girls, diet girls, who really gives a ....".

In a month or so you'll loathe them with every inch of your soul, but till then you might as well enjoy a bit of fluff in your hifi once in a while. (**top poo**)

Outtakes, b-sides, sessions, I love them all if they come from the ground where the **smashing pumpkins** grow. You can even provide a stupid title, like 'pisces iscariot' and I'll go along for the ride. Yeah this album maybe just a filler of odds and ends as the pumpkins clean out their old drawers but that's doesn't mean it's not good.

I don't normally have a problem with this sort of venture anyway. Personally I thought that the Jesus and Mary Chain were as good on 'barbed wire kisses' as they were elsewhere. It's not a generally held idea but the opening line of 'sound of speed' proved it in my book.

And here on 'pisces iscariot', after the nominal opening track of 'soothe' which does that but nothing else, we are in territory

which is twinned to 'siamese dream'. In fact you get the feeling that many of the lead guitar sequences present could have been straight transplants from 'silver-f\*\*\*k'.

There are also songs which make you wonder why they're there at all. For instance why wasn't 'whir' grafted inbetween sweet, sweet' and 'luna' on 'siamese dream', to create a free-flow chill-out zone? Of course there might not be any particular reason and if there are that's why Billy Corgan heads the group.

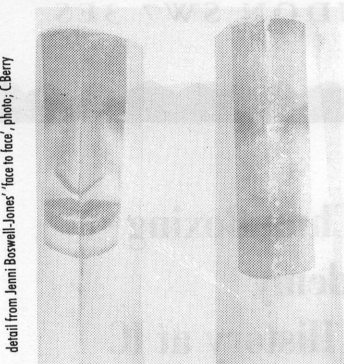
Still 'pisces iscariot' has more than just novelty value going for it. 'blew away' and 'girl named sandoz', for just two, should end up as treasured as 'spaceboy', 'rocket', 'snail' and the rest. (7)

'Homegrown' by **dodgy** is the second full-length album from a band who are always being praised by the nme [who? ed]. Although I've never heard any of their music before this, I now know why - amazingly, they are better than their hype.

Despite suffering from a worrying marijuana and computer-graphics obsession, which makes the inside cover look more like a rave flyer, they are definitely a rock band. The album kicks off with the jangly indie-pop of 'staying out for the summer' and continues into eleven sing-a-long songs (I kid you not - pick any track from the album and I promise you'll be able to hum along in harmony). If you have ever rapped your foot along the Lemonheads, early Aerosmith, the Beatles you'll love this seventies-tinged, laid-back, lazy rock 'n' roll. Retro, but not out of date. (9) ⑤



## folding



There's still time to catch the Royal College of Art Society's exhibition **Paper Based** in the Consort Gallery, Sherfield Building. More than two dozen artists are represented and the pictures range from pencil sketches to large-scale collages. The styles are pretty varied too, from eye-crossing abstracts to School of Athena trendy greetings cards.

Among the more unusual items are designs by Ray Bradley for stained glass at Southampton University and the Mean Fiddler. L J Wood's boy's head studies also stand out, their depiction of mutilated flesh recalling the war etchings of Otto Dix.

Among the abstracts, there are Brian de la Cour's queasy 'Necrosis' and three intriguing paintings by Jim Field. Best of all though, by a long brush-stroke, are the three gorgeous mixed-media abstracts by Clair Avery. 'Ice Shower', the exuberant 'Fresh Water Trail', and in particular the beautiful swirls and splodges of 'Player Bellota'. ⑤



## purring

The africa centre may not be the obvious choice of venue, but the **Funkin' Pussy** crowd have made it one of the (allegedly) hottest nights in town (could you resist the name?).

DJs Hooch, Chris Johns & (top man) Jasper the Vinyl Junkie entertain a 'cool' crowd whose intention is not social but serious dancing. The guys at the desks are deeply into the 'hot sh\*t' they play & if in need of entertainment, focus on the DJ box & see those boys move. Mm-mm. Not the place for the uninitiated or those who prefer up-tempo party funk, but real **p** (for pure) funk lovers need to be there. Only the untimidated need bother - the door policy here isn't rich in warm welcomes! The man-in-charge has 'No' as his favourite word and helpful isn't his middle name. But then, what does he care, he's running the cheapest Saturday night in town & he knows he's sexy.

Go, if you dare, see it, do it & most importantly, get the t-shirt (everybody loves that logo).

**Funkin' Pussy** runs from 10 to 3 each Saturday at 38 King St WC2 (Covent Garden). Drinks are priced from £2.70 for beers and soft drinks.

★ and now a plea. Any serious music lovers who want some clubbing freebies please come down to the FELIX office and see me especially about doing indie, hardcore techno and hip hop reviews. ⑤



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Wed 1.30-3.30pm

Fri 4.30-6.30pm or call 081 885 4126

詠春拳

## The Wing Chun Boxing Academy

### A decade of History at IC

Over the past 10 years we have done more than just teach self defence and martial arts. We pride ourselves in using our extraordinary skills to help the less fortunate people in life. Through our charity work performed here in the Union Gym we have had, the Lord Mayor of London, the Mayor of Westminster and the Mayor of Haringay attend and witness breathtaking feats and raising thousands of pounds for charity. Celebrities and VIP's have also walked the grounds of IC. Such to the extent that master Sifu Sofos was awarded "progress with humanity" by the Mayor of Haringay.

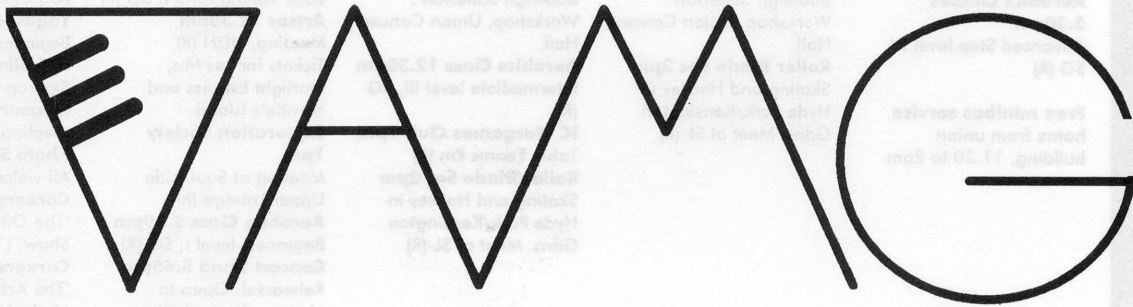
We have encouraged the growth of Scholarly work with our endless efforts to get students more aware, confident, and set a realistic approach in tackling their exams. We have also helped students through way of counselling how to deal with emotional upheaval and depression.

We have instructed "women self defence courses" free to students of IC, which again is in the pipeline. Look out for further details. Why not join a winning team, with a reputation of great spirit. We will endeavour to find you the road to spiritual enlightenment through the motions of Sofos Wing Chun. Kung Fu.

For further details come to classes at the Union Gym  
Wed 1.30-3.30pm

Fri 4.30-6.30pm or call 081 885 4126





## Asset Management Group

All submissions for the Seven Day Guide must be given in by 6pm on the Friday before the week of publication. (Not including those which have (R) at the end of the entries - the submissions will automatically entered for you)

Anyone with a serious interest in learning about the financial markets can apply. We are a newly formed society about to take on students interested in helping manage a phantom fund. If you would like to take part, contact:

Founder & Chairman : Michael Majdalany (Computing III, e-mail mmm2@doc.ic.ac.uk)

Co-chairman : Arif Vohra (Mathematics III, e-mail va2@doc.ic.ac.uk)







## Hockey

IC Men 1st vs RHBNC ☒

We flew into the lead when "Rent Boy" easily converted a third minute penalty. They equalised soon after, thanks to their NZ international, and there were many missed chances at both ends. The second half was a filthy affair and in the last ten minutes our chances of qualifying were lost when their international popped two more in. Our legs were too knackered to fight back.

IC Men 2nd vs RHBNC ☑

Following on from a convincing win against QMW in which James Cooper scored a hat-trick, IC came up against a strong Holloway side. Pressure in the second half led to a penalty flick which Toby Rolph converted. In the latter stages another flick was missed but IC held on for the win, qualifying for the next round.

IC Men 3rd vs RHBNC ☒

A glorious display of goals and glaring misses kept the bandwagon rolling for us.

Despite chances, neither team took advantage in the first half. This was helped by an excellent save by Stuart McTavish and solid defending by the back four. Overwhelming domination of the second half resulted in two goals for Richard Brunt, confirming our place in the knockout stage of the BUSA competition. Keep it up lads.

IC Indoor Men 1st vs Hounslow ☑

IC inspired by Captain Kim Jabbams leadership played hard to gain a lead, with goals from Mark Robertson and Chris Brock. Inevitably Hounslow scored, making it 2-1 at half-time, and levelled early in the second half. Chris slotted in another goal, but Hounslow equalised again. Chris scored, and frantic defending kept us in the lead for the last few minutes. Goal keeper Lee Maartensz, and central defenders Toby Rolph and Damon Dupont gave outstanding performances. But an excellent team effort enabled us to topple one of Hockey's finest.

## Rugby

IC 1st XV vs RHBNC ☒

The game started at a furious pace, with both teams keen to exploit any chances.

Early forward pressure by RHBNC was rewarded by a try. IC, incensed by this, advanced the ball well into RHBNC's territory. This was sustained until Mark Wishart finally broke the deadlock and scored.

In second half IC lost their attacking edge allowing RHBNC to pull away by capitalising on chances.

IC 2nd XV vs RHBNC ☑

After three near misses IC finally managed to secure a victory against RHBNC in a thrilling encounter.

Down 3-0 at half time and IC stormed into the second half. Tries by Simon Fuller and Jamil complemented by a penalty and 2 conversions by G. Williams saw IC through to a victory.

## Basketball ☑

IC Men vs QMW

We still haven't had a proper team practice and we didn't have a full team. Our guys were hungry and hung-over, and didn't appreciate QMW's cocky attitude in the changing room. So, we started off with a 10-0 lead and never really looked back. Once again our defence was lacking and we almost set a new team club record in fouls. Luckily, the referees didn't understand Greek, and we managed to control the game.

QMW were foolishly desperate and fell to pieces in the last minutes. This season looks bright, but we haven't played our best by far.

## Badminton ☑

IC Ladies vs RHBNC

Once again, in less than an hour, the IC Ladies Badminton squad obliterated the opposition to retain their 100% UAU record. With only LSE remaining they should top the league. The losing games were forgone to lack of court time. Well done girls!!

	Sport	IC Team	Score	Opposition
W	Badminton	Ladies	6 - 3	RHBNC
	Basketball	Men	85 - 76	QMW
I	Football	Ladies	2 - 0	Charing Cross
	Football	Men 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 - 1	QMWC 1 <sup>st</sup>
N	Hockey	Indoor Men	3 - 0	Old Creights
	Hockey	Indoor Men	4 - 3	Hounslow
N	Hockey	Men 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 - 0	RHBNC
	Hockey	Men 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 - 0	RHBNC
E	Rugby	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	17 - 8	RHBNC
	Rugby	RSM 1 <sup>st</sup>	36 - 10	RHBNC
R	Tennis	Men	4 - 2	RHBNC
	Ten Pin Bowling		6 - 4	Essex
S	Volleyball	Men	3 - 1	Brunel
	Volleyball	Men	3 - 1	UCL
L	Football	Ladies	0 - 3	RHBNC
	Hockey	Men 1 <sup>st</sup>	1 - 3	RHBNC
S	Hockey	Ladies 1 <sup>st</sup>	1 - 0	RHBNC
	Hockey	Ladies 2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 - 0	RHBNC
R	Netball	Ladies	17 - 22	RHBNC
	Rugby	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	5 - 16	RHBNC

## Football

IC vs Charing Cross /Westminster ☑

Initially we could not finish the runs and score. That was until Maryam passed to Eleanor who scored to put us in the lead. The beginning of the second half was inconclusive. Then on one corner, a defender from Charing Cross stuck her arm out at the ball in the box, giving the Dribblers a penalty. Helen took the shot, scored and we were 2-0 up! We recorded our first win of the season and secured a place in the 2nd round of the cup, though we don't have a specialist keeper. Thanks to those who played.

IC men 1st vs QMWC 1st ☑

We got off to a bad start, letting in a goal in the first five minutes and losing Ritch Craig after a clash of heads. The equaliser came when She Olambala battled his way through a defender, allowing Dan Lourdea to score. It wasn't until halfway through the second half that Imperial went ahead: a cross from Mike Jarvis was met by a header from Dan Lourdea. When QMW moved forward, the defence held tight. At the end, the result

didn't justify the performance but Imperial were happy as they maintain the only 100% record in the premiership.

## Netball ☒

IC Ladies vs RHBNC

The match was closely contested from the start. We were slow to gain momentum and they went ahead, but by the end of the third quarter we managed to get within 2 points of them. This was due to accurate shooting and tight defence. It was a very physical match with both teams fighting for possession (almost literally!). The real success was that we all kept our tempers, despite the lack of umpires.

## Ten Pin Bowling

IC vs Essex ☑

We kicked off to a superb start this season with a victory over Essex. After a shaky start the entire team rallied to a nail-biting last game victory. Special mentions go to Ben Wall who bowled a series of 530, Phil West for his moral boosting 221 and Rachel Tay for keeping up her usual excellent standard.