

the morning after
the night before:
freshers' ball relived

fii "I fully understand Chirac's wish
to conduct the tests in a deserted
area... why not Eurodisney?"

just not cricket:
IC teams play Brunel,
with woeful results



FELIX

The student newspaper of
Imperial College

Issue 1036
October 13th 1995

Rag Man Awash with Free Spirit

BY ALEX FEAKES

IC Rag Chair, Richard Willis, is facing a union disciplinary committee after giving out free whisky and vodka at the club's meeting last Friday.

College security were alerted after a fresher was found incapacitated from alcohol on the Sherfield walkway last Friday afternoon. The first year biochemist had been attending the Rag Freshers' event in the Union Ents Lounge at lunchtime, where free shots of spirits were being offered as incentives to get involved.

The fresher was found by the newly appointed Project Manager of Estates, Ian Frame, in a 'barely conscious state' outside the Bookshop. Mr Frame, concerned for the young man's health, alerted security, and the fresher was subsequently escorted to the Health Centre in Princes Gardens. After examination, the Health Centre were satisfied that he was in no danger and contacted Mr Willis with regards to the incident.

The Rector has been made aware of the incident, and has also received a copy of the security report. Concern at the levels of student drinking are

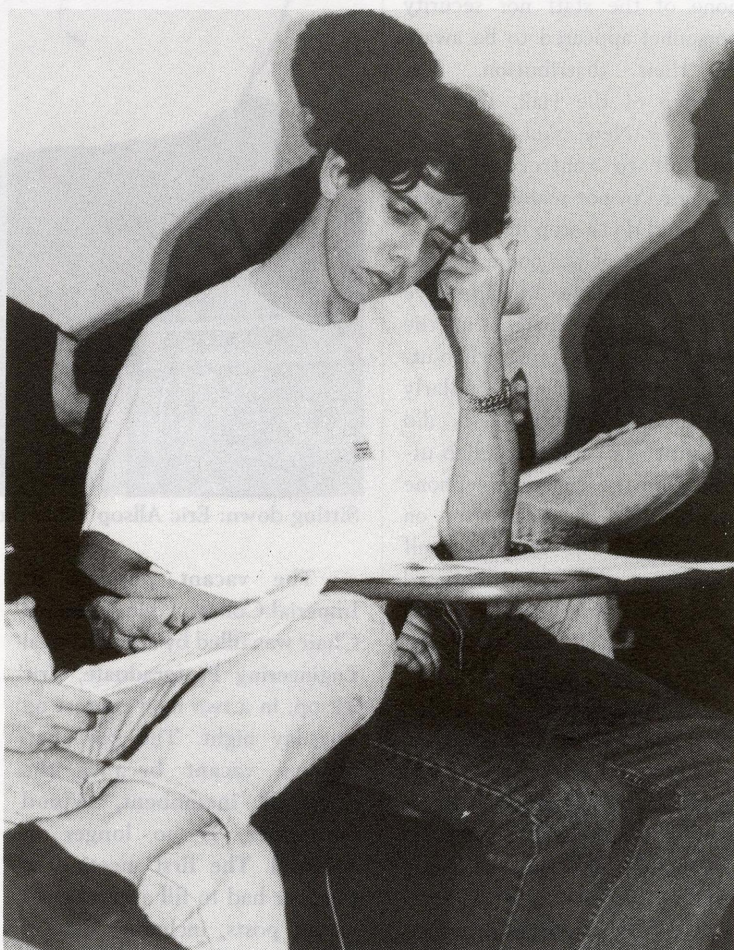


Photo: William Lorenz

In control of one's faculties: Richard Willis at Tuesday's council.

increasing across college in the wake of a spate of media reports in which Imperial College has been mentioned explicitly at

least once.

The Rag Freshers' Meeting was just a short 20 minute gathering to introduce freshers to

the Rag idea. As an incentive, drinks were offered to prospective raggies, a common practice for freshers' events, and one endorsed by the Union. Unusually in this case, the drinks offered where strong spirits such as vodka and whisky, not the normal beer or wine. The spirits were bought off campus and consumed at lunchtime, just a few days after the Union stated that it did not approve of lunchtime drink promotions.

Concern has been expressed as to how the fresher got into such a state, especially as the people at the meeting were limited to two shots of spirits, one at the beginning and one at the end. One person said that the fresher had been acquiring drinks throughout the meeting, and that Mr Willis, seeing the fresher was the worse for drink at the end of the meeting, advised him not to have another. The fresher was later seen buying a pint of strong cider in Da Vinci's, before being taken to the JCR 'to find a coffee' by a friend. When they were on the walkway, near to the JCR, the first year collapsed, and his friend went to find help. One

continued on page 2

in summary



Eric Allsop is New Council Chair

Summer fears that the main decision making body of ICU would start the new year without a chairman were allayed on Tuesday when Eric Allsop was

overwhelmingly voted in as council chair. Much of the first meeting was spent in heated discussion of the proposed union move to Sherfield. **Page 2**

Accommodation Worries

IC students are increasingly becoming victims of unscrupulous letting agents. One group say they lost £350 to a leaser they cannot trace. **Page 3**

Hizb-ut-Tahrir

Strike Again

BY ANDY SINHARAY

An extremist Islamic group who were caught illegally exhibiting at Freshers' Fair last week appears to have struck again.

It is believed that Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a group entirely separate from IC's own Islamic Society, have been attempting to distribute unsolicited leaflets through departmental pigeon holes as well as putting leaflets under students' doors in Prince's Gardens. Reports have reached *Felix* of literature being placed in the departments of Physics and Aeronautics, issued by what calls itself the "Hizb-ut-Tahrir Cultural Committee", although it is unclear whether or not IC students are responsible.

One orthodox Muslim student who did not wish to be identified, seemed to have taken the law into his own hands and disposed of some of the literature himself having seen it in his department. He said that the majority of Muslims distance themselves from Hizb-ut-Tahrir "and it's quite common to see people go up to them... and ask what they're doing and why."

However, he seemed surprised at the apparent tameness of the literature itself; "They've never been that quiet before... they've been quite open about what they do." Set up in the 1950s the group, which claims to have been continually misrepresented, has been widely accused of being anti-semitic,

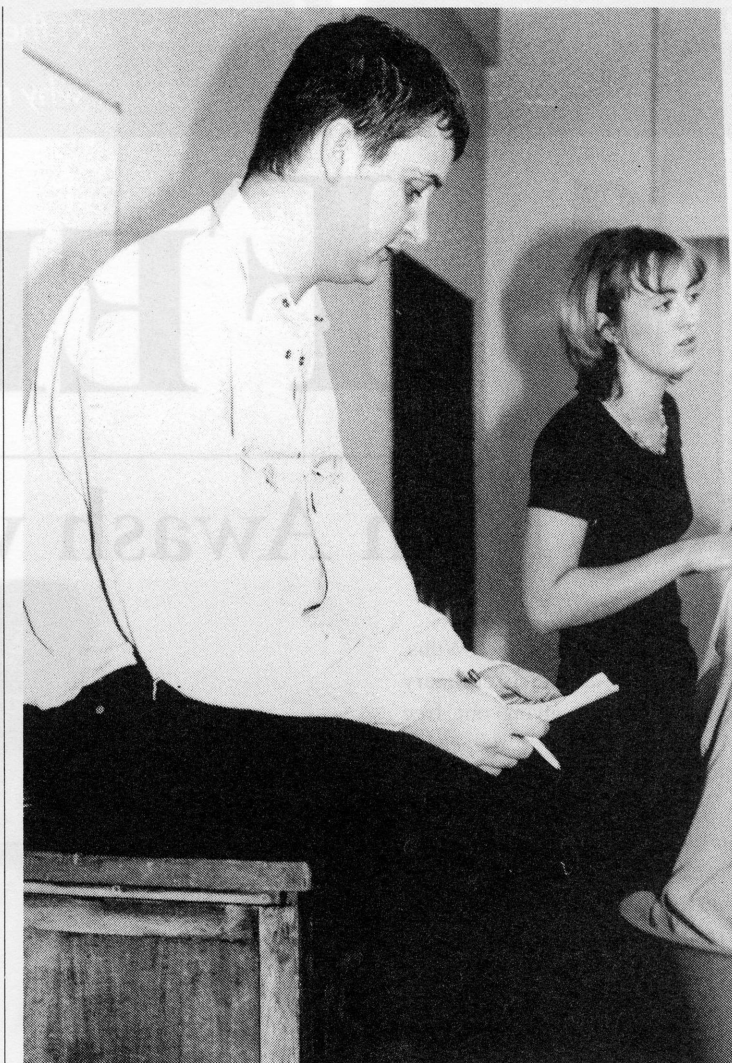
sexist and homophobic.

The student went on to theorise that some young male Muslims were drawn to the group not so much due to its ideology as its notoriety.

Other students reported the unsolicited delivery of leaflets at Falmouth-Keogh Hall, though none of the staff nor security personnel appeared to be aware of their distribution. The Warden of the Hall, Professor Geoffrey New, said, "It's very difficult to control. If it's a student I'm not really sure what we could do to stop it."

Though it has come to light that more orthodox Muslims have had leaflet campaigns in the Prince's Gardens area, Hizb-ut-Tahrir have been similarly distributing material. *Felix* did attempt to contact Hizb-ut-Tahrir on the contact telephone number that had been given on the leaflet. The number itself turned out to be a switchboard extension of a company which had said it didn't have knowledge of any religious groups.

Hizb-ut-Tahrir were particularly active last academic year when their behaviour was condemned by London Colleges including KCL, SOAS, and the University of London Union itself, which consequently banned them from its premises. On Wednesday Brunel University shut down its own union's Islamic Society as it had been so overrun with Hizb-ut-Tahrir members.



Sitting down: Eric Allsop takes the chair

Photo: William Lorenz

The vacant position of Imperial College Union Council Chair was filled by a Mechanical Engineering Postgraduate, Eric Allsop, in a two man contest on Tuesday night. The post had become vacant because the intended incumbent, Vinod Fernandez, is no longer at Imperial. The first meeting of the year had to fill a number of vacant posts, including that of Women's Officer.

After considerable difficulties were experienced in the election of the four Ordinary Members, the bulk of the

meeting was taken up with talk of the proposed Union move to Sherfield. The mood of Council was clearly hostile to any relocation away from Beit Quad, with many questioning the practicality of cohabitation with the administration.

Following protracted, and often heated discussion, Council unanimously agreed to back ICU's approach of arguing for the best facilities in a possible Sherfield-based Union, while campaigning for the extension of the existing base in Beit Quad.

continued from page 1

raggie said that 'He didn't seem any worse than many other people get throughout the year.'

A spokesman for Rag said that Mr Willis had been very careful about obtaining permission for the event, especially with regard to the funds for the drinks. He had

raised the matter at a Union Finance Committee, and received assurances there, and later from Matt Crompton, Dep. Pres. Finance and Services, that the idea was acceptable 'assuming that he was aware of the licensing rules'. When Mr Willis inquired at the bar in order to get the spirits, he was told to

get them from an off-license.

Responsibility for the incident is confused, with a letter from Security seemingly absolving Richard Willis from blame, saying that 'every effort was made to ensure that new students were not encouraged to over-indulge,' and that his actions following the event were 'highly

commendable'. However, Matt Crompton stated in a memorandum that he held it to be, 'the responsibility of the society concerned to control the quantity and ensure that people do not have too much to drink...I think that it is the responsibility of Rag to ensure that they didn't drink to excess.'

Rowing Row

BY TOM

Controversy still surrounds the proposed extension of Imperial College rowing club's boat house.

The club hopes to receive planning permission for the £1 million project in November, but after five years of planning and nine months of consultation, local residents are still unhappy with the scheme.

Sports and Leisure Manager Frank Murray insists that the extension is a vital upgrade of facilities that have remained more or less unchanged for the last sixty years. When it was built in 1937, the designers did not see the need to include women's shower rooms, or indoor training facilities.

However, neighbours of the Putney Embankment site claim that the expansion will destroy the character of the local area. "College is bending over backwards to accommodate local residents wishes," Mr Murray said. He claimed that consultations with those affected have resulted in 6 - 7 changes and modifications to the plans.

Bill Mason, Boat Club Coach says that they have a water tight case for the spend. Imperial College rowers have won just about every major competition in the last few years.

Tim Townend, Deputy President (C&S) was unsympathetic to the locals' complaints: "If they live on a river, what do they expect," he said.



News in brief

BY JEREMY CLARKE
AND MARK

Accommodation fears

Fears have been expressed that Imperial College students are increasing becoming victims of unscrupulous letting agents, who illegally charge for 'hidden' costs when letting flats and houses. Students, often in a rush to secure a place to live before term starts, are being forced to pay for charges such as 'holding deposits' and 'handling fees'.

One group of students put down a deposit of £350 on a house in Willisden, expecting to move in from the end of September. However, on arriving, they discovered that the present tenants would not be moving out until November, leaving them without accommodation for the new term. The agent, Kevin Begoo, disappeared leaving no contact address, and without one the students cannot take out a court order to retrieve their money. They are anxious to trace him

and ask anyone with information of his whereabouts to contact k.m.jones@ic.ac.uk.

Pat Harvey, Residents' Assistant at the Student Accommodation Office (SAO) told *Felix* that although deposits are sometimes difficult to reclaim, the specific problems of the students mentioned had not occurred before. Answering the charge that the SAO is meant to vet agents, she said that the it has insufficient funds and staff to actively assess the names it provides, so no guarantee of suitability can be given. Nevertheless, the Office and the Union advisor will act upon complaints made against any of the names on the lists.

The Union Advisor, Minever Kavlak, suggests that although many agents are "charging fees for 'holding deposits', 'administrative fees' and 'inventory fees'", students should be prepared to challenge such fees. She recommends that if the amounts charged seem excessive, then they should be reported to

the local Trading Standards Officer. She also advises that a complete inventory should be carried out with a witness, and this inventory be given to the agent or landlord. "Holding deposits are not good practice and should be challenged" she says, "nor can agents charge for your details."

Further advice is available from the Housing Rights Guide which can be obtained from the Union or the SAO.

Beit Manoeuvres

Ian Caldwell and Ian Frame of the Estates Division have called for better communication with Imperial College Union (ICU) over the proposed move of the union offices. The four ICU sabbatical officers met the estates directors on Monday after a letter from the ICU executive to the department and articles in *Felix* emphasised the concerns of the student body.

In an amicable yet frank meeting, Mr Caldwell emphasised that Estates had the union's best interests at heart. Tim Townend, Deputy President, expressed concern that alternative proposals to

expand the student facilities in their current Beit Quad location had not been considered.

On Tuesday night the Student Council voted to back a request to the College from the executive. This requests funds to help study the viability of ICU's plans for Beit. Sarah White, ICU President explained the plans to move the Union offices and Felix to the front of Beit Quad, with the Bar and the Lounge enlarging into the freed-up space on the ground floor. The rest of Beit could then be developed for conferences, and the extra students could be accommodated.

Sarah reiterated her scepticism of the proposed plans to move. It would be "...like a sports centre in the middle of Sherfield" and at odds with student's interests, she said. Dr. Eastwood, Director of Planning, put it that the feasibility study had managed to make an amalgamation of the Union and a cut down administration workable in the building.

The plans stem from an idea suggested by architects Sir Norman Foster and Partners that the college lacked 'a heart', and

60/1

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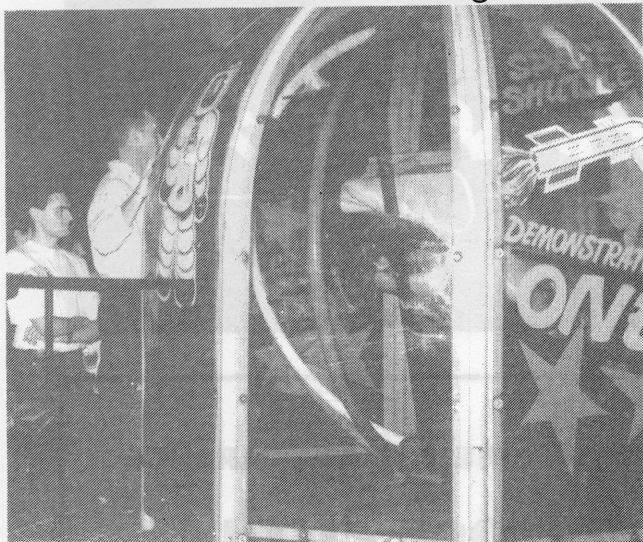
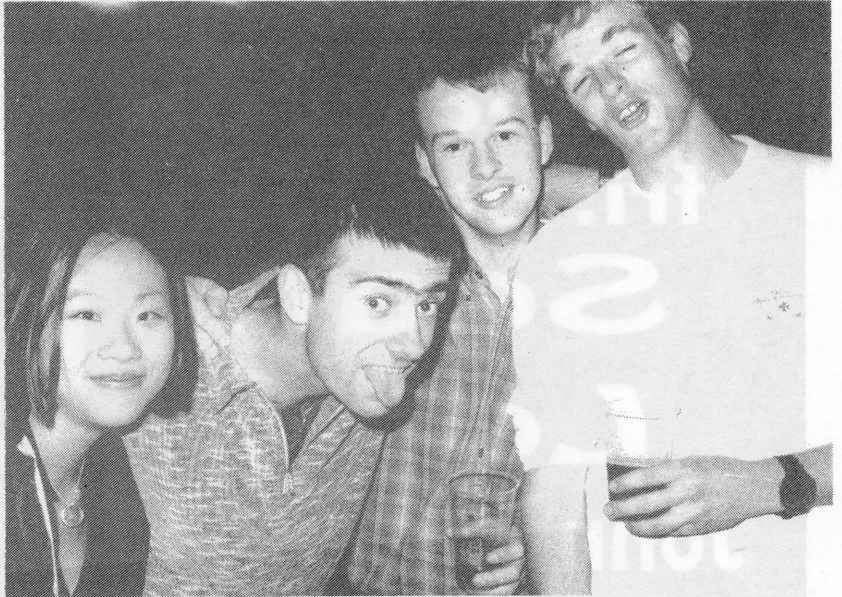
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Fresh faced

On Monday night fire alarms were set off by the ents lounge smoke machine and the union was evacuated an hour before closing.

On Wednesday everyone had to sit on the floor when too many turned up to see the comedy. Later a window was smashed in the ents lounge.



On Friday night every gents' toilet in the building blocked.

"Write something nice about freshers' week," Ents manager Mark Horne said.

"Whatever, the people had a good time and you can't ask for much more than that". Vik Bansal was at the Freshers' Ball:

Okay, I admit it. I wasn't there for college acid jazz type outfit Bandicoot. You can blame another gig on the other side of London for that.

What I can say is that when I saw Bandicoot in the union a few months ago I was startled by their musical cohesion and expert playing. By all accounts, tonight they way surpassed that performance, not least due to the introduction of some fine female vocals. Yessir, creative ability need not be hampered by doing a science degree. Is

Imperial College about to have another Queen on its hands?!

And just to prove that college bands rule okay, the next band in the Ents Lounge, Metropolis, paled in comparison with their brand of jazz. Average and not particularly inspirational, there's not a lot else to say.

And so to upstairs and the ever-popular Whirl-y-gig. First up are Earthquake who didn't so much as violently shake the dancefloor as gently rock it with their soothing dub sounds. Fine as a get-the-drunk-people-in-the-mood type of thing. And in the mood they most certainly were for final live act of the night, Astralasia. Astralasia had done their homework. Get a scantily clad female dancer at the front of the stage and you know you're on a winner at most places. Do it at Imperial and 76% of the audience will profess love and babble on about hav-



ing the lady's babies.

Cynicism aside, they gave everyone what they wanted (musically, you understand). Pumping beats and swirling keyboard sounds combined to get people attempting their best impressions at directing aeroplanes. Or maybe they were practising being air hostesses.

Whatever, the people had a good time and you can't ask for much more than that.



Photos: Diana Harrison

BUST-A-GUT
comedy club

fri. oct 13th

Sean

Lock

John Fothergill
free T-shirts to

1st 50 in.

£2.50/£2 (entscard)

8pm

cocktail

night

EVERY

thursday

PaVinci's
—Café bar—

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PaVinci's
—Café bar—

bar
trivia

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MY LIFE STORY

plus classic pop & indie
with

POP TARTS

admission £1/free (ENTSCARD)

icU
HYPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

The FELIX questionnaire: Colin what are you doing here? Smith

1. How do you get to work?

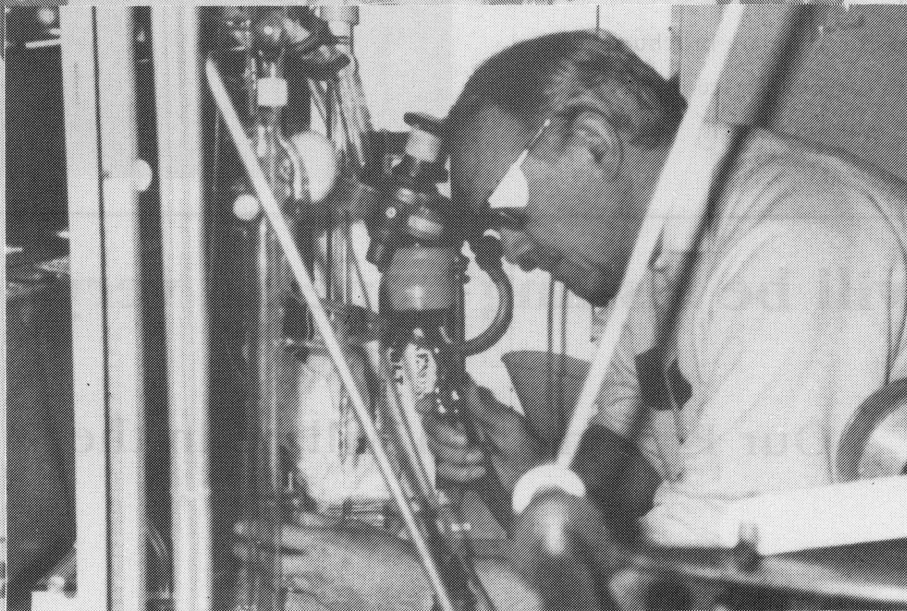
I am driven to work by a liveried driver every morning and evening

2. When was the last time you were late?

Only yesterday - the coach was delayed by heavy traffic on the M4 and there were roadworks at Hammersmith. I live in Reading and my journey time can be between 1 and 3 hours depending on circumstances.

3. What are you doing here?

Running the Glassblowing Service of Imperial College. It's a skilled job, with a ten year apprenticeship. There used to be a glassblower in each department, but we're the only ones now. It's like a small business, though we don't make any profit. Paperwork gets in the way of efficiency: that's progress. And if we had someone to do the admin, that would be another salary.



4. What do you keep on the wall of your workplace?

Paint.

5. Do you get paid enough?

Pass.

6. What do you have for lunch?

Eating is confined to Breakfast and an evening bite. Very occasionally I have a meal at lunchtime.

7. What takes up most of your time?

Paperwork - either processing payments, estimates and ordering stock - seems to consume at least 50% of my time. You need forms to get forms here. There are rooms with monsters in holding the

rubber stamps in this place. I spend a lot of time designing, too: everything that comes in is done to the individual's specifications, and I redesign it so that it can be made of glass. We don't make anything that they could buy elsewhere. This still leaves time for some glass blowing.

8. What do you find most depressing about IC?

Two main areas, the first is the poor communications between administration and the rest of the College. This is so noticeable, especially in the past few years with so many changes being implemented. The second is the considerable waste of money which one continually hears about. Overall I suppose it is the obvious lack of adequate administration which is responsible for this.

But it's not all negative: One of the joys of working in college is meeting young people. It stops you getting old. Also I meet people from all

over the world, that's a nice aspect of the job. We speak at least 10 languages now, including rubbish. It's not every job your workforce changes every year.

9. Will you still be here in five year's time?

Having survived 32 years I feel able to cope with the next five, but the answer to that question is not in my hands.

10. What will make you come into work tomorrow?

I enjoy glass blowing. There aren't many places

you can practice now and still be paid. I'm told if I stick at it long enough I'll get the hang of it.

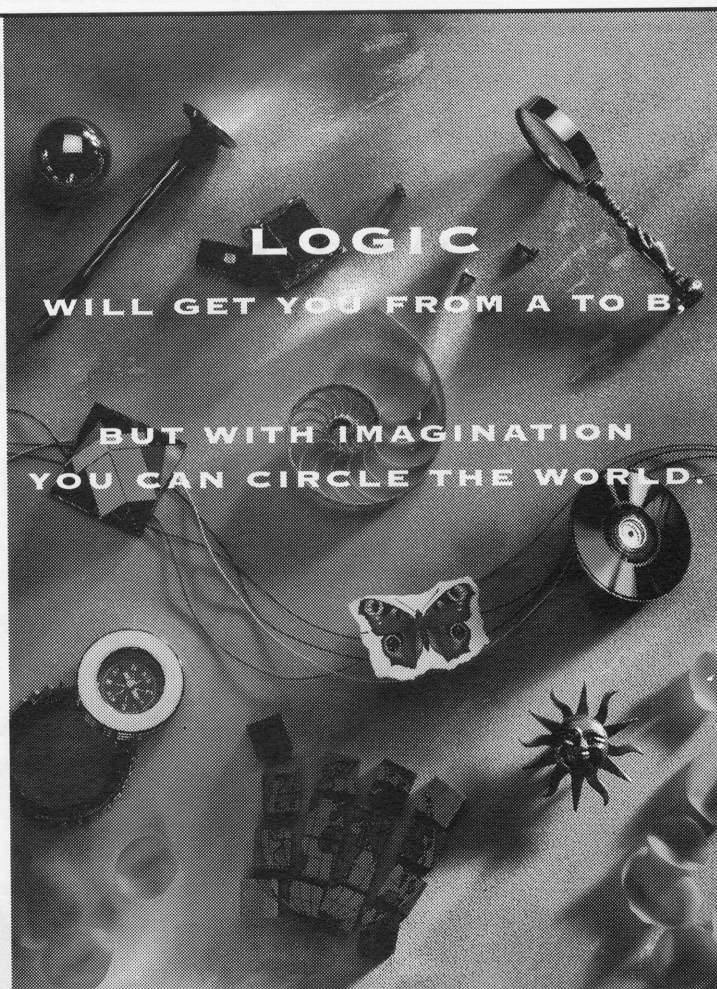
"We speak at least 10 languages now, including rubbish."

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fi

Paper

works on paper - andreas vogt - consort gallery, sherfield building - 9 oct to 5 nov - free



album:cast - all change _{mat}	viii
album:garbage - garbage _{vik}	x
album:straw donkey - carter usm _{davros, c. dick}	xi
book:a son of the circus - john irving _{tintin}	xii
comment:simon baker	xiii
columnner:michael ludlam	xiiii
exhibition:works on paper - andreas vogt _{mark baker & jeremy}	xv
food:coast _{leon brocard}	xvi
film:land of freedom _{tintin}	
film:species _{tintin}	
gig:levellers + prophets of da city _{vik}	
insight:quantum socks _{ben wilkins}	
singles: _{vik}	
travel:onward, mr fogg! _{james madden}	

food: coast leon brocard

This place was a car salesroom before the restaurant took over, and it shows. The front of the restaurant consists of five large glass panels, each with a letter of 'coast' inscribed upon it. Once you've found the entrance (the pane on the left) you enter a large room covered with tables. Another room lies below, but it is smaller and darker - while I was there a couple decided not to dine here, rather than having to eat downstairs. My tip is to dress elegantly and book early if you want a table.

Once you're seated, you can pursue the menu. Good luck! The cook is English but well travelled, the waiter informed us. The dishes are supposedly Californian, but seem rather international. All the dishes are over complicated (and too expensive), as you might expect for this month's fashionable restaurant.

We ordered (I recommend the Chablis Brocard, no. 23 (*top choice - Ed*)) and received our first courses within minutes. Francois (one of my companions) had chosen duck ravigolis, which he found exquisite, though I thought it a tad rich. Martine (my other companion) had declined the first course, while I went for a

'Bavaois of Goat's Cheese with Salad'. It was fairly large and rich. I would have preferred the cheese warm and a smaller portion. Overall the dish was well balanced and nice.

Waiting for the main course, we amused ourselves by working out where the waiters would sit people. It seemed that people in jackets were given the nice room, whereas those in trainers and jeans or young people were placed below.

The main course arrived in good time. Francois had chosen 'Baked Cod with Polenta Pont-Neuf' which turned out to be cod and polenta chips. A definite success. Martine enjoyed her 'Lamb with Harissa sauce and Couscous'. I had 'Soup Noodles with Duck', which was disappointing. The duck was perfect, but the soup and noodles were bland.

Unfortunately, the only dessert I was willing to try, 'Rhubarb with Custard' had been replaced with 'Creme Brulee', so we quickly paid the bill and left.

In all, rather disappointing for an in restaurant, especially as there are no lunch menus. I wouldn't go back here, though Tatler and Fay Mashler would disagree.

columner Michael Ludlam

column about columns...

Arghhh, yes its yet another column. Front page, back page, opinion page. Whatever publication you pick up, they seem to get everywhere. With so many of them I am getting a little saturated. It is almost enough to get to the point where I say, "Don't you just hate all these columns? Don't you just hate all these columnists?" It is because they

are all over the place, that you can hardly move for yet another new set. With everybody into it, this, the latest to be desired fashion, the competition is immense. It's almost enough to make you sick. It is certainly starting to make me sick. That each columnist is trying desperately trying to out do each other. Like we have started a race. It is this burgeoning I am starting to dislike. An industry of busy workers cantering away at their typewriters, turning

through all these words. All hoping to be first.

I am not here to rant. I have had too much of that for me to imitate it polly-style. I dislike it, I am so wary of it. I have read so much bad opinion; factless, black and white, rushed opinion, I want no more.

I squirm too from those who have made it to the fold of paid columnists. Maybe its those pictures next to their work. You know those little snapshot pictures of smiling handsome people, looking either hip and trendy or extremely sophisticated.

Far more hip, trendy, cool and sexy than I could ever be, with a level of sophistication and elegance than I could only dream of. Maybe this is why we all want to be column writers. Then we could all be perfect people with perfect ideas, just like them.

I think though that it is just that I am bored by their nice little anecdotes of good little middle class life. The idea that these people are far more worthy for our attention than

anyone else, so that they get a whole page to themselves. That we should listen to them because they think that we should listen to them. The whole elitist academic thing which is so unnecessary. The fact that they often fail to say anything at all, that they persistently will not commit themselves to any idea or put their neck out for anything. Dare they say anything which is foolish which they might have to retract in six months time. All they can do is suggest. Am I to think that they are clever or not serious for not standing to their corner?

So here I am - I have slagged off both those 'rushed columns' and 'sophisticated columns'. Many would consider this one of my own diatribes, here I am trying to be sophisticated and all I end up doing is joining the queue marked "rant." That is not my intention. Truly it is not. With me writing a column, the irony has not escaped me. Perhaps it is because the subject is very heartfelt for me. Perhaps because I love opinion, I breathe opinion, I love people who have opinion in their blood. Good opinion is worth its weight in gold. And all I want is to read good opinion. That's all.

coast:

26b albermarle st
mayfair

0171 495 5999

tube; hyde park corner,
or walk

expect to pay £20 to £25 per
person.

tip; don't ask them about the
linquini!



competition:

a peugeot rad formula 18 gear-
bike, 5 pairs of bauer skate
attack inlines as worn by
Princess Di and Nigel
Dempster, and loads of tea
reputed to soothe the diges-
tion are the prizes in the lat-
est beatwax competition. To
enter answer these highly
taxing questions:

1. Which part of the body
does Twinings peppermint
tea help to soothe?
2. How many gears does the
aforementioned bike have?
3. Name two famous people
seen rollerblading.

Now complete the irritating
tiebreaker in the customary
20 words:

I'd rather have a cup of
Twinings tea than.....

Answering 'a kick in the head' is
unlikely to win.

Now obtain an artistic postcard,
transcribe your answers to it along-
side your address, phone number
and the words 'Imperial College is
Great' and give it to us. That's all.

X

simon baker

Well, another year at Imperial has just begun, and the new inmates have arrived—three years with early release for bad exam results. I shan't waste much time regaling freshers with lots of 'useful tips' that you have probably already heard. However, dear reader, one piece of advice deserves to be repeated. Many of you new, anti-establishment, free spirits may be used to referring to the local constabulary as pigs, the filth etc. That's fine by me, you naughty children, but do remember that those fine, upstanding gentlemen in red police cars are all known as, 'Sir'. I shall say no more.

A surprisingly large amount of news seems to be floating around College even at this early point in the term. Reports of excessive drinking have not escaped me, and I am somewhat concerned. True, Imperial does have a number of serious drink problems. Firstly, it takes an eternity to get served in Southside bar (although it's always worth the wait), and secondly, the beer in the Union is reminiscent of the yellow liquid often found in the South Ken. subway. More seriously, as long as bar staff exercise their right to refuse service to people who are clearly on the verge of unconsciousness, we will not have a problem.

Drinking is not the only activity which is being watched. The JCR now has a blanket 'No Smoking' ban, and in the process has exhausted world supplies of signs to indicate this. As a passive 10-a-day man, I shall be forced to start buying my own if people ever take any notice.

Also, religious fundamentalism again seems to have reared its ugly head in the guise of Hizb-ut-Tahrir. Whilst no reasonable person would question the right to free speech, such extreme

views have no place in a democracy, a system alien to many of the organisation's members.

In the world beyond SW7, much media interest has concentrated on the shenanigans of our gallic cousins in the Muroroa Atoll. Although the whole need for these test looks a little questionable (and I'm as pro-nuclear as the next man), given the software now produced by the Americas to model such events, I fully understand Jacques Chirac's wish to conduct the tests in an ostensibly deserted area, where there is little chance of affecting humans. In which case, why not explode the devices in Disney Land, Paris? That way, the coral reefs of the South Pacific are not threatened, and if radiation levels were to become dangerous, the existence of mutant animals would go unnoticed in a place solely inhabited by six foot high mice and ducks. As far as the boycott of French products is

As a passive 10-a-day man, I shall be forced to start buying my own if people ever take any notice.

concerned, I can honestly say that I haven't bought a single bottle of vintage champagne since the whole sorry saga began.

Closer to home, the party conference season will have finished by the time you read this. Socialists can again walk freely in Brighton, and the Liberal Democrats will return to maintaining their pivotal position in the political wilderness. As for the Conservatives, this year's conference will effectively be the first part of their election campaign. It would be wrong to suggest that their chances of forming the next government are similar to Lord Sutch's as a result of the Blair effect.

Any party can be hugely popular if it attacks everybody else without burdening itself with such sordid things as policies and commitments. Time will tell if the British electorate can be persuaded by arguments so thin as to be non-existent.

book: a son of the circus- john irving^{tintin}

Perhaps the best measure of John Irving's skill as a writer is that he manages to involve so many complex characters in the 830 pages of his latest novel, *A Son of the Circus*, without losing either the plot or the reader.

Loosely based around the 'whoisit?' of an Indian serial killer, Irving's hero (a Canadian orthopaedic surgeon come Bollywood script-writer; born in Bombay but belonging nowhere and incidentally called Farrokh Daruwala) lands in India for his usual five-yearly visit. So what to do? Farrokh used to bleed dwarfs from the circus to try and find the genetic cause of their condition (but that's become a bit of a fading hobby now), so he waits to see how violent the reaction to his new Inspector Dhar film is, forgets to tell his 'adopted' son that he has an identical twin

and further forgets to tell his 'adopted' son that his twin is a Jesuit missionary who will land in Bombay at some point in the next two days. He also goes to his club only to find that there's been a murder on the ninth green.

In-between we go back in time, to the start of Indian's most brutal and bizarre serial murders, which coincidentally also led to the marriage of a Bombay police inspector, the start of Dr. Daruwala's writing career and his conversion to a particularly low form of Anglicanism.

Maybe you're getting the picture. *A Son of the Circus* slips back and forth in time, mixing its characters' backgrounds and then bringing them into focus again. And it all comes complete with Irving's wry, absurd sense of humour.

Despite, and because of, its length too (by the end you're wishing for just one more chapter) *A Son of the Circus* is a real joy to read.

"a son of the circus

slips back and forth in time, mixing its characters' backgrounds and then bringing them into focus again. And it all comes complete with Irving's wry, absurd sense of humour."

“something strange is afoot.”

The Experts Own Up – They Don’t Understand It Either

If you find all this quantum business baffling, you are in good company. The nobel prize winning physicist Richard Feynman once wrote:-

“...I think I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics.”

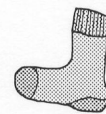
And he ought to know! Another founder of modern physics, Murrey Gell-Mann says:-

“All of modern physics is governed by that magnificent and thoroughly confusing discipline called quantum mechanics invented more than fifty years ago. It has survived all the tests. We suppose it is exactly correct. Nobody understands it but we all know how to use it and how to apply it to problems: and so we have all learned to live with the fact nobody can understand it.”

It seems this pragmatic approach is universal. So it really is true – nobody at Imperial College

and acceptance amongst the scientific community. Could it be that socks are quantum objects and are quantum mechanically tunnelling from one washing machine to another somewhere else in the universe?

Flynn is convinced this is the case and although quantum sock theory may be hard to accept, the evidence he puts forward is compelling:



Socks disappear from inside washing machines. This statement is so blatantly true it hardly needs proving. However, if you doubt it just check your collection of socks. It is almost certain that some socks do not form pairs, showing conclusively that some are missing.



Socks can also appear inside washing machines. This is not so clear to the casual observer, but yet again a quick check of your sock collection should soon convince you. You are bound to find at least one odd sock that is not yours. You did not buy it and you were never given it. The sock just appeared one day.



Clearly the spontaneous creation and destruction of socks inside a washing machine would violate all conservation laws, especially sock parity, and the conversion of the mass of the sock into energy would certainly play havoc with a low temperature wash.

So if socks cannot be spontaneously created or destroyed, the only explanation is that socks tunnel between machines. Already this term, there have been several reports from IC students of likely tunnelling events. After losing a woollen sock during a wash at a local launderette, Valentina Cvord (Mech Eng) said “I noticed it straight away, I definitely had the pair before they went into the machine.” And only last week mining student Sophie Dowson lost two socks (not a pair) in one wash! “I couldn’t believe it, they had just vanished – I am devastated.” she said.

Since the probability of tunnelling depends on the width of the barrier, It is likely that most sock tunnelling will occur between machines which are in close proximity. Readers are urged, therefore, to try their own quantum sock experiments and report back on their results.

And anyone who finds my green Paddington Bear sock turning up in their machine should contact *insight* urgently.

Ben Wilkins

xii

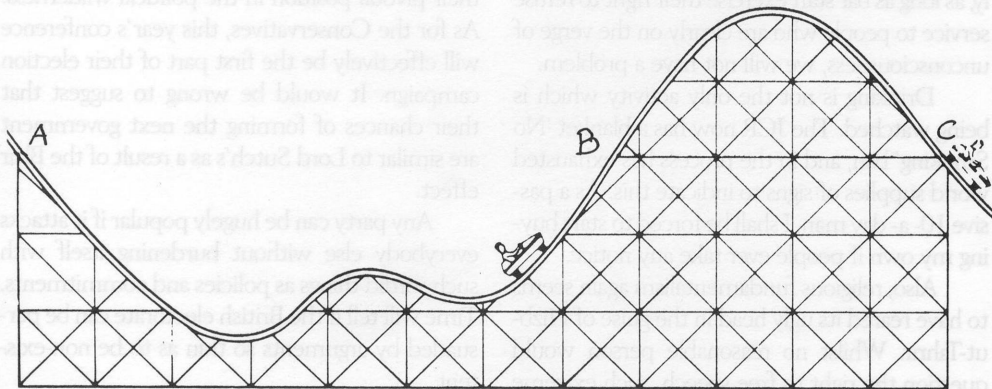
Science that is out of the ordinary, eyebrow raising and slightly over the edge: this week *insight* exposes some disturbing truths about one of science’s most coveted theories- Quantum Physics. Could it possibly be true that there is not a single lecturer on campus who understands it? *Insight* investigates.

And, thanks to some unusual investigative journalism, we are close to solving a mystery which has puzzled scientists and philosophers alike throughout this century: Where do all the odd socks go?

The Mysterious World of the Quantum

Quantum physics, arguably the most successful theory ever, is also the most bizzare. For example, according to some quantum theories:

- All particles (electrons, atoms, tennis balls) behave like waves and vice versa.
- Every time someone makes a decision anywhere in the universe, the whole universe splits into two.



The Quantum Rollercoaster

- Quantum objects can momentarily break the law of conservation of energy.

The startling consequence of this is that quantum objects can quickly sneak across a region which is illegal energetically...

Conservation of energy says that a carriage starting from rest at A could never get further than point B. In quantum theory, on the other hand, there is a chance that the carriage could “tunnel” through the “forbidden” region between B and C and emerge at C.

For a real rollercoaster, this quantum tunnelling is extremely unlikely! However, for quantum particles such as electrons it is very common. Many devices in common use, such as the scanning tunnelling microscope and the tunnel diode are based on this phenomenon.

or anywhere else for that matter really understands quantum physics.

Strange Things are Afoot – Quantum Sock Theory.

By the time you have been at Imperial for a couple of terms it is (un)likely you will have had to do some laundry. If so, you may have witnessed a strange phenomenon – the random disappearance of socks from washing machines.

Insight has come to the amazing conclusion that what we are witnessing here is a quantum effect occurring on a large scale in the everyday world.

Quantum sock theory was first proposed earlier this year by Matthew Flynn (Physics World May 1995 p72) and is rapidly gaining credence

listings:^{ahead}

sleepers + 60ft dolls + wannadies - 13 oct - shep bush empire - £8 **underworld** 13 oct - forum - £10 **therapy?** 13 oct - brixton academy - £10 **echobelly** 14 oct - shep bush empire - £8.50 **ash** 15 oct - astoria - £7.50 **pulp** all sold out **dream** 20 oct - shep bush empire - £12 **the connells** + high llamas - 20 oct - mean fiddler - £6 **marion** 20 oct - astoria - £6 **boy george** 21 oct - shep bush empire - £15 **union festival: billy brag** + **bhundu boys** + **hank wangford** + more - 21 oct - burgess park - free **hawkwind** + back to the planet + **utah saints** - 21 oct - brixton academy - £15 **boo radleys** + **electrafixion** - 22 oct - shep bush empire - £9 **cypress hill** 23 oct - brixton academy - £12.50 **the fall** 23 oct - la2 - £10 **alanis morissette** 23 oct - shep bush empire - £8.50 **billie ray martin** 23 & 24 oct - jazz cafe **duffy** + **tiny munroe** + **longpigs** + **pusherman** - 24 oct - la2 - £8 **mother earth** 26 oct - la2 - £7 **peter dinklage** 26 oct - shep bush empire - £12.50 **transglobal underground** 27 oct - astoria - £7.50 **cast** 27 oct - astoria - £7 **squeeze** 27 oct - albert hall - £13.50 **menswear** 27 oct - shep bush empire - £8 **mike scott** 28 oct - shep bush empire - £11 **john mclaughlin** 29 oct - royal fest hall - £10-25 **big country** 2 nov - hammersmith apollo - £12.50 **zucchero** 2 nov - shep bush empire - £13.50 **motorhead** 2 nov - forum £12.50 **capercaillie** 3 nov - shep bush empire - £10.50 **the wildhearts** 3 nov - brixton academy - £10 **buffalo tom** 4 nov - shep bush empire - £8.50 **radiohead** + **strangelove** - 4 nov - brixton academy - £9 **oasis** 5 nov - earls court - £14 **foo fighters** 14 & 15 nov - brixton academy - £9 **chumbawumba** 18 nov - forum - £8.50 **carter usm** 24 nov - shep bush empire - £9.50 **pulp** 21 dec - brixton academy - £9.50

handy hint - to avoid irritating £2-3 'booking fees' try to buy your tickets from the venue or ULU (malet street) in cash.

album:all change - cast^{mat}

It's just about five and a half years since 'There She Goes' the La's contribution to the annals of unforgettable 'popular' records of our time. John, their lead singer and his current band Cast, have now released their debut album 'All Change'. It is easy to draw similarities between the two bands. Both bands hail from Liverpool and the vocal styles are somewhat akin, it being the same bloke singing. Both have a touch of retro in their style, but the real difference is that whereas the La's, despite their great moments, produced an awful lot of tat, the same cannot be said of their prodigies. From listening to the album, a live set and seeing them perform I can honestly say I haven't heard a bad Cast song.

Cast have given themselves and their album great publicity by releasing two of the best songs this year in 'Fine Time' followed by 'Alright'. Both are uncritically beautiful songs every bit as good

as the revered 'There She Goes'. These two releases have alone highlighted Cast's originality as songsmiths at a time when most of the music emanating from the North West of England is a dour bland cacophony of Oasis-esque Mancunian drivel (whether from Manchester or not). It seemed improbable that for the other ten tracks it could live up to their singles but happily I was wrong. The album is fairly diverse in style but every song is highly listenable, and none are album fillers slung on to make up running time. Among the tracks are 'Walkaway', a beautiful ballad displaying sensitivity and brilliant vocal tone in the Scouse accent. In 'Sandstorm' guitar, voice and bass intermingle flawlessly, and in 'Promised Land', 'Mankind', and 'History' they have a triplet of potential hits to follow 'Alright'. So long as their material doesn't dry up, we can expect great things from them.

In summary - you'd be a fool not to buy this album. (9)

album:garbage - garbage^{vik}

Ho, ho, ho. What a wonderfully ironic band name. How I'd love to be able to tell you that the whole thing has backfired and they are, in actual fact, a load of garbage. Unfortunately, you can't always manage to get things your own way, although Butch Vig (he who produced Nirvana's 'Nevermind', Smashing Pumpkins' 'Siamese Dream' and Soul Asylum's 'Let your dim light shine', and is now drummer and creative force behind this lot) is doing a pretty good job of doing just that.

Opener 'Super-vixen' sets the pace with layered guitars, all manner of loops and rhythmic sound effects and the allur-

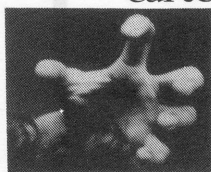
ing vocals of ex-Goodbye Mr. Mackenzie and Angelfish lassie, Shirley Manson. If you're looking for a reference point then try Curve with no pretence and plenty of tunes. But that does not do justice to Garbage. This album is flawed but different, conventional yet ready to take a chance, from the blatantly melodic but darkly, menacing tones of 'Only happy when it rains', through the plain scary industrial guitar pop of 'Vow', to the closing number, 'Milk', which manages to achieve the sexy, claustrophobic sound that Portishead probably never will.

As debut albums go, impressive. As albums from failed musicians-turned producers-turned musicians again go, even more impressive. (7)



album:straw donkey -

carter usm^{davros. c. dick}



Jim Bob:- "O.K. Fruitbat, this is the plan. We release a BEST OF album. A compilation of our loudest, proudest moments and then we take it back to the kids....do a university tour."

Great idea, one problem. The kids grew up. Angst ridden student protagonist become Price-Waterhouse lapdogs, usurped by FreE loving trance hippies whose mothers know more about the meaning of the word revolution. The college circuit is no longer a breeding ground

for indie kids, and the fact that Carter usm sell out on these tours is a bit worrying. So do Abba tribute bands and Gary Glitter.

Yes of course this is a good album, ultimately because of the earlier pearls of wisdom 'Bloodsport for All', 'Sheriff Fatman' and the like. As for the new single 'Born on the 5th of November' poignant lyrics, great! 'Sheriff' at half speed. Hmmm.

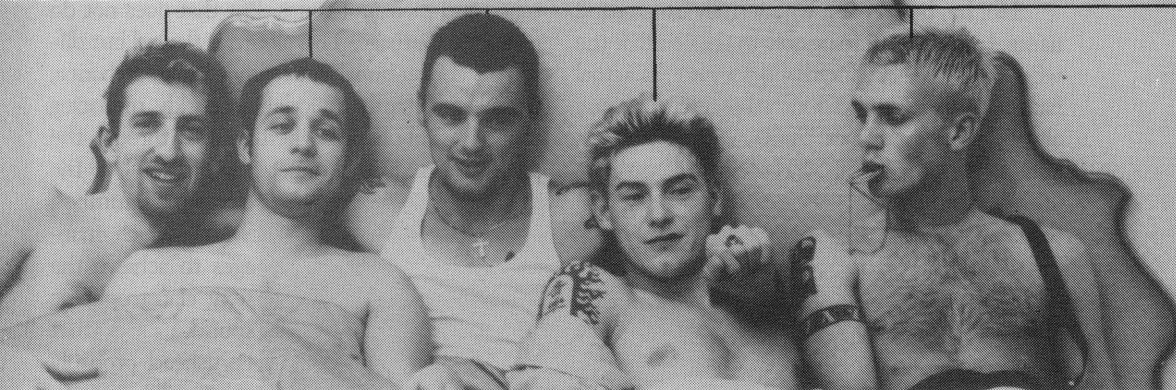
And yes of course we need bands as eloquent as Carter, Billy Brag, Elvis Costello, Crass, 25th of May etc. but don't expect them to change the world for you. Oh, I forgot, you don't, do you. Anyone for a job in accounting? (7)

gig:levellers + prophets of da city - brixton^{vik}

I suppose you could say that Prophets of Da City are important. Important because they look like being the first ghetto-grown South African act to make an impact outside their troubled but ever progressing homeland. And yet, live at least, their music comes across as startlingly unimportant. The traditional African influences are lost amidst the standard hip-hop beats and over the top rapping, while two mid-stage breakdancers serve to accentuate the frailties of the live performance rather than adding an interesting visual dimension. Still, it's pretty impressive that they manage to get half of the white, middle class teenage crowd shouting, "Ho!", even if the reality of it is total absurdity. And as for the retarded speech about the Criminal Justice Bill and how "every government in the world is trying to f*** with people"- well, I guess that explains what they were doing supporting The Levellers.

Ah yes, The Levellers. Let it be said that I have never liked those veteran crusties.

Okay, I'll be the first to admit that they put on a good show. They perform newies from 'Zeitgeist', oldies from 'A Weapon called the word', and middle-aged ones from 'Levellin' the Land' and 'The Levellers' with zest and an inspiring passion. No, to me their problem lies in their stubborn adherence to their pseudo-revolutionary ideals. Their new T-shirts talk about anarchy and how "anyone who lays their hand upon me to govern me is a monster, a tyrant, and I declare them my enemy", or something. Their songs talk about non-conformity to the police, to society, to anyone but yourself. And yet this show embodies all the best points of a stadium rock show. There are thousands of people singing and moving to the same songs, expertly co-ordinated lights that complement the music, and changes in stage backdrop. Fine, but don't pretend that this is anything different. The Levellers are making pots of cash singing, "There's only one way of life, and that's your own, that's your own." Tell that to the 4000 'individuals' who were all singing it in unison and choke on the irony.



singles:^{vik}

ash - angel interceptor

A bit of a disappointment but only because their previous singles have been such wonderfully tuneful adrenaline rushes. This one sounds like it was written in between two of their A-level classes. Oh well, nobody's perfect.

wild colour - dreams

Inspiring and innovative chart dance music. Yeah, and I just passed a lie detector test too.

finn - suffer never

The brothers Neil and Tim, of Crowded House fame, combine their respective talents to strange but rather good effect.

With haunting music and understated vocals this could even be Pearl Jam in one of the more introspective moments.

emf - afro king

A child's voice is heard saying at the start, "That's not a king. It's only a queen with a moustache." Well, 'Afro King' isn't a good song. It's only a bad one with cheesy lyrics ("Get into it. Get out of it. If you're up to it, get down to it.") and a fine line in being rather irritating.

heavy stereo - smiler

Excuse me lads. If I wanted to listen to awful '70s glam rock then I would have gone to a Gary Glitter concert.

kevin salem - will

This is more like it. Integrity, attitude and a cracking tune from a guy who's played with the likes of Yo La Tengo.

boy george - same thing in reverse

A jaunty and fiddle-filled defence of homosexuality. "It's the same thing in reverse, nothing better, nothing worse." Well, I wouldn't know.

louchie lou and michie one - free

"I'm free, nothing can stop me. I'm free, no chains to hold me" Might I suggest that you're not free from making meaningless, fernacho, 'songs'. Go back to the cover versions girls.

60 ft. dolls - pig valentine

A three-minute burst of Jam-my, energy-bristled attitude and a killer chorus. If they can fill an album with this stuff then they're onto a winner.

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xiii

celluloid guide: this week

film: land and freedom tintin

odeon kensington
0426 914666
tube; ken high street. £6.50,
£6, £3.50 before 5pm
pocohontas 1, 3.15, 5.30,
7.45
cold fever 10, 12.15
(sat/sun)
while you were sleeping
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45, 12.15
(fri/sat)
forget paris 2, 4.30, 7, 9.30,
12 (fri/sat)
the net 1.40, 4.20, 7, 9.40,
11.45 (fri/sat)
braveheart fri/sat: 12.45,
4.25, 8.05, from sun: 1.25,
4.05, 8.45
apollo 13 12, 3.05, 6.10,
9.15, 12.20 (fri/sat)

mgm fulham road
0171 370 2636
tube; south ken then bus
£6, £3.50 students and
before 6pm
assassins 12.30, 3.20, 6.10,
9.05
apollo 13 12.20, 3.20, 6.10,
9.20
the usual suspects 1.40,
4.10, 7, 9.40
carrington 1.10, 4.15, 7,
9.40
the bridges... 12.30, 3.25,
6.20, 9.20

mgm chelsea
0171 325 5096
tube; slone square then bus
£6, £3.50 students and before 6
species 1.40, 4.25, 6.55, 9.35
pocohontas 12.35, 2.25, 4.15,
6.10, 8
forget paris 9.50
the net 1, 3.40, 6.40, 9.20
braveheart 12.50, 4.30, 8.15

renoir 0171 837 8402
tube; russell square
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50 stu-
dents
carrington 1, 3.30, 6, 8.30
land and freedom 1.40, 4,
6.20, 8.45

minema 0171 369 1723
tube; you can walk it
£6.50, £4 matinees
burnt by the sun 6, 8.35

prince charles
0171 437 8181
tube; leicester square
£2 all seats
loads of different films - look in
TimeOut (we did...)

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This is the kind of film that comes with affirmations like "powerful" and "moving" pasted on to it. One man's story of the Spanish Civil War comes complete with politics and a bit of romance thrown in for good measure too. And it's not a bad film either. The only problem is the one that is director Ken Loach's trademark. He's a political film-maker and despite the fact that this film is ostensibly about the stifling of the trade union and anarchistic militias by the communists, he has to get contemporary as well.

The film starts with ambulance men running up a tower block staircase in Liverpool. The camera ignores them, focussing instead on the graffiti behind. The NF and BNP slogans are

stark; warning us that Loach is trying to make a statement. And he certainly does. It's just a shame that in order to do so the film has been to given such a clumsy plot structure. To bring the story 'up to date' Loach tells it as the granddaughter reads the letters that were sent back home.

But back to the story. David (*Ian Hart*) leaves England an unemployed communist ready to fight fascism. In Spain he joins up with a trade union militia, fights in couple of skirmishes and tries to lie back and forget Blighty. And throughout it's the small-scaleness of the action which is impressive. The sixteen strong militia use ancient rifles, only throw the odd

grenade and survive on a diet of bread and beans. Land and Freedom is no Braveheart.

Yet their idyll is slowly broken by the growing power of international Stalinism. It gets the militia new rifles but with them also come uniforms, discipline and orders. The dream is over and in the climatic 'final battle scene' the militia are forced to surrender at gun point by their own side.

Back in the Nineties, David is buried and his granddaughter gives the workers' salute like it means something now. So does Land and Freedom end, as a good film spoilt by good intentions.



film: species tintin

It takes about ten seconds of the opening credits to realise that Species is going to be a distinctly second rate Alien(s) rip-off.

that the audience care about is the way a very three dimensional *Natasha Henstridge* will leap out of the screen. She, of course, is a megababe and the only reason for the film's existence.

The plot is sketchy in the extreme - all you'll want to know is that Henstridge is an super metabolised alien who has a burning desire to reproduce (much to the delight of the male population of LA and the audience). Unfortunately for the 'hit' team sent to hunt her down, her offspring will develop so quickly it will be sexually mature in a matter of days. An obvious problem if it turns out to be male. Still, thankfully for the audience, our alien is a gorgeous, pouting, 'bonking and killing machine' who takes her clothes off and kills people with monotonous regularity.

And with equal monotony the 'hit' team follow a couple of steps behind, talking in hushed and stereotypical cliques.

So all in all Species is an appalling film without any redeeming features. I'm sure that it will do very well.



The first clue is the way the title letters come together in backlit luminous green and the second is the way the name of "Giger - designer" leaps out of the screen. Not that many of the audience will care in the least. The only thing

Our first port of call was Caracas, Venezuela

by virtue of the cheap flight that we bought to South America.

This is a developed country waiting to happen. It has all the resources: from its huge oil reserves along the tropical Orinoco delta to its rich supply of mineral deposits present in the temperate cord of the Andes that marks the end of that mountain chain in the west of the country. Several factors have conspired to halt its development and in typical South

Simon Bolivar who liberated the country from the Spanish in 1819. As a result, today in the Venezuelan reckoning of the order of things there comes Almighty God then Simon Bolivar El Libertador, and then everybody else. Every settlement from the smallest hamlet to the largest cities centre around a *Plaza Bolivar*. It was from Ciudad Bolivar that we visited Angel Falls, the highest free falling water fall in the world at 979m (16 times the height of Niagara). It is simply amazing. By the time the water reaches the bottom it is a fine spray, broken up by its own fall, and in the jungle hundreds of metres away you are showered. We toured the country further with the time

we had left
and it was

American fashion, these include corruption, economic mismanagement (like setting the petrol price at 5pence per gallon) and no doubt a generous helping of meddling from their neighbours on the North American continent.

Venezuela also has large stretches of coastline on the Caribbean Sea that few people, save the Venezuelans, know about - indeed they market themselves to foreigners as the Caribbean's best kept secret - well now you know. Anyway, we weren't long in heading for these beaches and we soon realised that the tourist board marketing boys weren't far off... actually I think Cadbury's may have filmed the odd Bounty advert here, and by the looks of it they had left some of the leading female parts behind!

After a week of these beaches I was a rich shade of crimson and I decided that I should pull myself (and my melanomas) away from it all in order to investigate the interior of the country. We started with a journey down to the Orinoco and its one bridge in the entire country at Ciudad Bolivar. This city is named after



not so much the country that stood out so much as its people, their customs and quirks. I thought I had never met such a friendly nation of people (though other South

American countries would prove similar). For example, you don't ask them anything without first saying 'hello' and 'good day' (a habit that earned me strange looks in shops back home) and sometimes your original question is forgotten amidst the ensuing conversation. They also make you smile; like if they don't allow you on a bus if you are wearing shorts or how they don't sell stamps in a post office, stupid! or how they would rather answer you half asked question with a 'Yes' than listen to the rest of it.

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I think they may have filmed the odd bounty advert here

The Venezuelan embassy is on the corner of Exhibition road and Cromwell Road.

xvi

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Sailing

The exams were finally over and the Sailing Club were frantically trying to lose their hangovers before going to the International 24hr Race in Coleraine, N. Ireland. The club have participated in the oldest 24hr race, since it's inception.

After the crossing we had time to see the sights. First up was a visit to the Giants Causeway followed by a visit to the Old Bushmill Distillery. Tony had spent months preparing for this moment by reading the 'Bluffers Guide to Whiskey'. Paul used an alternative method to become a connoisseur by sampling all the whiskies, too many times each!

About 24 hours after leaving IC we arrived at Coleraine Yacht Club to be greeted by the exceeding hospitable members who gave us food and served us real Guinness! Much drink flowed and James was under great pressure to start the Karaoke off, which he did after Chris and Ben, to form, by all accounts, an appalling trio. James couldn't focus on the words, Ben couldn't sing and Chris turned the microphone off! We finalised team names with the old boys upstarts were much more original with Team "That's what my ex-girlfriend used to say."

The drinking continued well into the night until the Commodore-elect, having been voted in on the basis that he would be

very friendly to everyone, thought it would be rude not to go to talk to a girl from Bradford Uni. After making his move, 13 unsubtle comments were shouted across the room as he was chatting to her, causing him to make a sharp exit!

It was 12pm Saturday morning as the Rude Boys crossed the start line in a reasonable position for Team "Ex-Girlfriend" only to ground on a sand bank shortly after. They managed to extricate themselves from this nasty situation only to find everyone else on the horizon. Never mind 23 hours 50 minutes to go!



James and Sarah swapped with the Rude Boys after a few hours. Sarah, never having stepped in a dinghy before, soon worked out what bit of string to pull and when to pull it and all was going well until James capsized. Sarah coped admirably well but the deck of the boat was still an inch under the water after righting. The next leg of the race was spent bailing out as fast as possible to avoid becoming a submarine!

The results were posted hourly and Team "Ex-Girlfriend" were around 7th while Team "Old Farts" were a place or two higher

as it got dark. The wind dropped as night fell and then the 'Fireflies' came into their own, sailing well up to their handicap. Those that weren't sailing took advantage of the Barbie and disco.

The night shift was a nightmare! Getting woken up at 2am to be told that you have to vacate your lovely warm sleeping bag for the cold water was tough. However, James and Tony took some beers with them and jumped into the Team "Ex-Girlfriend" boat.

Martin, Alan and Paul all put in sterling performances for the same team with no big upsets. The final shift was sailed by Chris and

James and they were the second boat over the line, finishing to a standing ovation. After the handicap adjustment, Team "Ex-Girlfriend" ended the race in a respectable 6th place. Ben collected a decent trophy for Team "Old Farts". Team "Ex-Girlfriend" got nice pens as consolation prizes.

Ben Chromedome and some fellow Team "Ex-Girlfriend" members went for a breath of fresh air on deck on the ferry and they were rewarded with the sight of a seagull dumping right on Ben's advancing forehead. Laugh? We nearly cried!

The cost of all this fun? A tenner. You want to come next year, you fancy learning to sail or just want to take a boat out? Find us in Southside Upper Lounge every Tuesday lunchtime or e-mail: sailing@ic.ac.uk! (You could be just in time for a quality bar and disco night!)

the week ahead

oct 14th

OpSoc Freshers' Event

The Triumph of the Scarlet Pimpernel
9am Rehearsals. All welcome.

Rag

Monopoly around London
10am Beit Quad
Teams of four – six.

oct 15th

Y.H.A. Freshers' Walk

Meet 9am South Ken tube station.
Walk around the South Downs.

Alternatively

Sleep off your hangover all morning.
3pm Get up and make bacon sandwiches.
Yum Yum.

saturday sunday

monday tuesday wednesday

ArtSoc

12.30pm Union Dining Hall
Regular meeting. Come and sign up for the many trips to musicals, plays, ballet, opera, etc.

C & G Motor Club

Freshers' buffet.
7.30pm Ents Lounge
Free beer and scalextrics.

OpSoc Perform

The Triumph of the Scarlet Pimpernel
8.00pm Union Concert Hall
After show party.

Conservative Society

Debate on the future of Conservatism
1pm Mech Eng 748

Photographic Society

1pm Southside lounge.

Gliding Club

Regular meeting
1pm Aero 266, contact gliding@ic.ac.uk

IQ

Regular meeting
7.30pm Brown Committee Room
(see below)

Conservative Society

Bernard Jenkins M.P.
1pm Mech Eng 748

Photographic Society

2pm Darkroom lessons.

Rollerblade Society

12:15pm Southside Upper Lounge
Meeting followed by Hockey in Hyde park (weather dependent).

Wargames & Roleplaying Society

1pm Table Tennis Room

oct 16th oct 17th oct 18th

IQ

For students who are gay, lesbian or bisexual this is an exciting time of change, chances and opportunities.

But you have to be able to pluck up courage and use those opportunities. If you are a gay student in London you have a lot going for you, but there are people who find it hard to come to terms with their feelings, and who worry about how the world will view them. This is "coming out" and it takes courage, strength and time.

So if you are gay or lesbian, and trying to come out, then now that you have arrived here, you have an opportunity to take full advantage of all that the capital has to offer to the gay man or lesbian. There are plenty of people around who want to help you turn your three years into a period of excitement and discovery! Just take a walk around Soho on a Saturday night for example, and you will see hundreds of liberated, free people.

No-one pretends that there won't be some people who aren't on our side, but you shouldn't let them stop you from enjoying yourself and meeting people.

What is important is that you take control of your own life and make your own decisions. London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard on 0171 837 7324 where they have details of pubs, clubs and groups where you can meet all kinds of gay people. Another good contact is IQ - Imperial Queers - the society for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. It meets every Tuesday at 7:30 in the Brown Committee room, ICU.

Contact IQ at pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk or <http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/>.

Spanish Society

'The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.' Well, here in the Imperial College Spanish Society we hispanophiles discuss many other things: from where to get the cheapest 'chorizo' in London to the Spanish football league - usually at our regular meetings but really anywhere where a large enough group

of us gather. So if at all interested come along and join in! Now, you might think, "But I don't speak Spanish and I might feel a bit out of place... well come to our first Fiesta this year, on Saturday 21st, 8.30pm, Ents lounge for £2.50. There will be lots of Sangria. For more information, drop us a note in our pigeon hole in the union or contact Takeshi Martinez, physics UG 3 (std.martinez@ic.ac.uk)

Ents

Well, that's us just about recovered from the excesses of Freshers Week, & here we are ready to tell you all about the week ahead.

TONIGHT..

The first of our "BUST-A-GUT" Comedy season, & we promise there'll be enough chairs to go round this time. Kicking off this year's season are John Fothergill, & the off beat genius of Sean Lock, a cult comic in the making. Due to problems with our sponsors we can't offer the 1st 50 in a free bottle of Newcastle Brown, but to make up for it they can have a T-shirt instead, 'cos we love you so much. Doors open at 8pm, & tickets are £2.50 or £2 if with an Entscard.

Of course, if you just want to dance the night away you can start your weekend with a "Climax", with a bar 'til 1am, & sounds 'til 2am. Free if you're here before 9pm, or if you've got an Entscard.

SUN 15th - Spend the day chilling out. DaVinci's opens at 1pm & you can get a top quality Sunday Dinner for £3. Then watch Sheff. Weds. v Middlesboro' on the big screen, & spend the evening enjoying the Powder Keg Real Ale Festival.

MON 16th - Live big screen football from Standing Room Only, with Wimbledon v West Ham.

TUES 17th - Use your brains to outwit our resident quizmaster, Dan, & win yourself a crate of beer in the process. Watch out for the special prizes.

WEDS. 18th - Dance away the midweek blues or celebrate your sporting successes with "FROLIK" - a night of bouncy sounds for party people. Best of all it's a bit of an OJ-totally free but not entirely innocent.

THURS 19th - Get slinky & sophisticated at the best value Cocktail Night in London, & it's right on your doorstep. Watch out for weekly specials, & if you just want to pose there are non-alcoholic cocktails available.

FRI 20th - I'd try & get used to this - the promised chart dance & handbag night has been replaced with "Pop Tarts" - a night of mainstream indie & student pop classics, with a very special guest appearance from one of London's top bands "MY LIFE STORY". For those of you not au fait with the Melody Maker faves, we're talking a 10 piece Britpop extravaganza, that are sex on a stick live. Since they normally play to 600 people in London, this is a very special show, & guaranteed to sell out at just £1 a ticket!

Investment Banking Careers

How does outstanding talent stand out? It's all in the presentation.

Global investment banking is an increasingly complex business. A business in which only the most highly motivated and intellectually gifted individuals will succeed.

NatWest Markets, the corporate and investment banking arm of NatWest Group, is one of the largest and best capitalised international banks – with over 5,900 staff in 22 countries and total assets exceeding £76 billion.

We recruit the most outstanding graduates and we make the most of their exceptional talents. We believe that our Graduate Training and Development Programmes are truly world class. Tailored to match the strengths and ambitions of the individual, these programmes are geared towards careers in the following areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Investment Banking | ■ Equity Securities |
| ■ Corporate Finance | ■ Investment Management |
| ■ Banking & Specialised Finance | ■ Trading Risk |
| ■ Ventures | ■ Credit Risk |
| ■ Capital Markets | ■ IT |
| ■ Treasury | ■ Operations |

If you believe you have the outstanding ability our business demands, we look forward to meeting you at our presentation at:

The Board Room, Level 11, NatWest Markets, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on Thursday 19th October at 6.30pm.

Please book in advance with the Careers Service to secure your place.



NATWEST MARKETS
Corporate & Investment Banking

oct 19th

Yacht Club
Regular meeting
1pm Phys LT 2

Conservative Society
Regular meeting
1pm Southside Upper Lounge

Lord Archer
6pm Tory HQ

IC Youth Hostel Association
Regular Meeting
1pm Southside Upper Lounge.

Mountaineering Club
7pm Southside Upper Lounge.
Regular social meeting,
all welcome!

Next diary deadline: noon, October 16th

oct 20th

Rag Meeting
Regular meeting
1.10pm Ents Lounge

Pop Tarts
A night of mainstream indie & student pop
classics, featuring "MY LIFE STORY"
ICU – £1 a ticket
(see ents guide on page 19)

Careers Survey 1996

High Fliers Research Limited is conducting a survey, sponsored by The Independent, of 25 universities around the United Kingdom to evaluate the graduate recruitment programs of major companies. We are looking for a manager to organise and coordinate our activities in Imperial College. The position lasts from October to late March, and the performance of its duties should take no more than one day a week. The salary for this position is £800 (£400 in the autumn and £400 in the spring).

If interested, please send CV and cover letter to High Fliers Research Ltd, PO Box 442, Cambridge CB3 9EQ or fax them on 01233 575 431 by 16th October 1995.

Cheap Washing Machine Wanted

Help! I'm drowning under a pile of stinking laundry! Rescue me with your washing machine. Contact Jeremy at the Felix office or on 0171 820 3574.

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Caving Club

After twenty four hours of solid driving down to Slovenia we were about ready to stretch our legs a little by climbing up a mountain. It took several days to transport all our equipment and most of our food for six weeks up to 1500m and all the essential items for a comfortable base and safe caving on a plateau at 1800m. Then the real work could begin.

The purpose of the expedition was to find, explore and survey new caves. Our camp was located on the Migovec plateau, a wilderness of broken limestone, shake holes and dwarf pine. The area has, in theory, one of the best potentials for depth of caves in Europe, yet the local caving club JSPDT had insufficient human resources to give it the attention it deserved. With close support from JSPDT, Imperial College Cavers moved in, this year a team of approximately ten people with a range of caving experience.

We started by going head first, bottoms up into every promising entrance we stumbled across and then marking them for future exploration. There were literally hundreds of potential caves. The plateau, roughly 1 x 1/2 km in size, was heavily pitted with shakeholes, tunnels and shafts, large and small (but generally tight and sharp). Even working in small teams this took several days and a sacrifice of shredding t-shirts for the cause. We had some hints as to which entrances were likely to lead into a cave system. Four club members had visited the plateau when it had laid under several metres of snow. They had fallen down, marked and recorded the coordinates of more than 50 snow chimneys which allowed the cave below to 'breathe'. Finding the small splodges of paint, however, in this limestone jungle was no easy task. Those breathing holes that were relocated turned out to be no bigger than a

fist, and although we spent a week moving and splitting boulders and chipping away at bedrock with hammers and chisels, the entrances kept chocking with rubble. To our disappointment all our digging efforts came to nothing.

In the meantime though there had been some success. Four caves on the edge of the mountain had started to show real promise, including one called 'Julians Panties'. A chilling breeze draughting from its entrance lead us to believe that the void beyond had huge volume, and the odds were 10 to 1 that it was over 1000m deep!

Another cave aptly known as 'Torn T-shirt' had been explored and surveyed to a depth of 80m during Slovenia '94 and was thought too tight to continue deeper. Two pushes revealed a parallel vertical shaft and an impassably tight pitch head from which a thrown rock would bounce around for seconds below.

Time was passing, and after three weeks of work on the mountain, wholemeal chappattis, bean curry and loose stools, our caving clothing was in tatters. Unlike Yorkshire caves which are smooth from water and decades of human impact, Slovenian caves are generally tight and sharp. Although our minds were strong and our enthusiasm was high, our bodies were weak. A weekly trek was made down the mountain for a much needed wash and a group headed off for a weekend in Trieste, Italy, to the nearest caving supplier and to find a whole load of

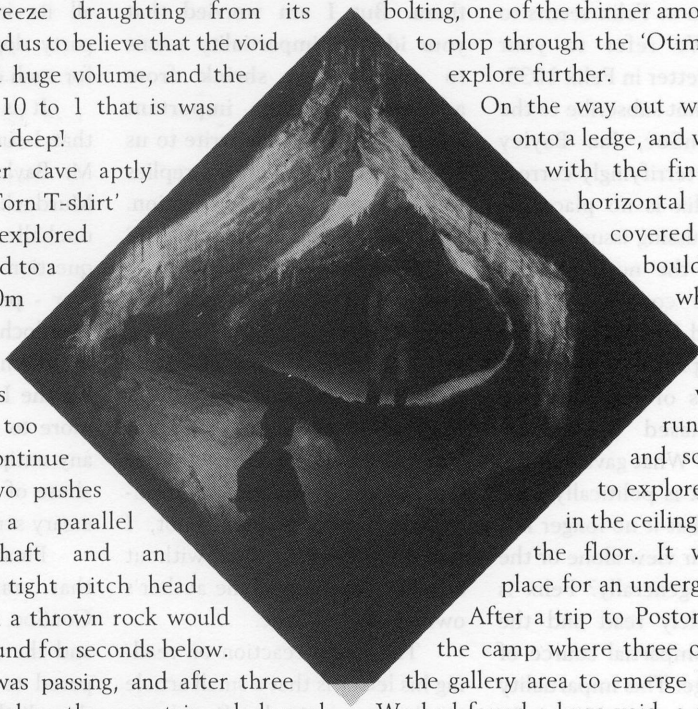
babes on the beach.

Back at camp, we got down to pushing the leads. 'Torn T' is a difficult cave to push. It starts with a tight entrance rift, then a long tight rift with difficult navigation, involving tricky free climbs. Tackle bags of rope and tools often needed to be passed forward, and equipment frequently got caught on cave walls. It takes about three hours to get this far, and with many hours of chiselling and bolting, one of the thinner among us was able to plop through the 'Otimisqueeze' and explore further.

On the way out we swang over onto a ledge, and were delighted with the find. It was a horizontal dry gallery covered with black boulders under which there was sand. In places there was fresh running water and scores of ways to explore - great avens in the ceiling and pitches in the floor. It was the ideal place for an underground camp.

After a trip to Postonia, we set up the camp where three of us explored the gallery area to emerge late next day. We had found a huge void, a stone dropped from which took four seconds to hit the floor. We rejoiced! After putting in a number of bolts we hit the end of the rope. We connected two more ropes to the end and descended but were still dangling in free space. Believing the floor to be another 15m down, we attached another rope. It wasn't enough, the end hung about 20m from the floor! This was our last rope and our last day of caving...

We'll be back next year!



Stop Smoking Group

The next Stop Smoking group will start on Wednesday 8th November at 12:15pm. Each meeting will last for an hour and there will be 4 more weekly meetings, making 5 altogether. The groups are often small, maximum 10 people, and are open to all students and staff of IC.

For further details contact Margaret Reddoch on extension 49393 / 49375.

Careers Information

There are two Careers Talks this coming week in the Clore Lecture Theatre (Huxley

LT 213) at 1 - 1.50pm.

Tuesday 17th October: "The First Interview" by Peter Johnston, Manager Human Resources at Mobil Oil Company.

Thursday 19th October: "Environmental Careers" by Professor Nigel Bell of ICCET. All students are welcome to attend. No need to book - just turn up.

"Make your Application Succeed - how to deal with application forms" is an Interactive Workshop run on Wednesday 18th October from 2 - 4pm in Huxley Room 344. Sign up in the Careers Office.

For information and advice come to the Careers Office, Room 310 Sheffield - open from 10am to 5:15pm Monday to Friday.

The Friends of IC

Present a repeat of "Camels, Horses and Committees: How are design and function related?" by Professor Robert Schroter (of Biological Mechanics in the Centre for Biological and Medical Systems). This lecture focuses mainly on the problems faced by animals coping with extremes of climatic heat. He will also report on his recent work in Atlanta and Badminton, on stress and climatic effects on supreme athletes taking part in the forthcoming Olympic Games. Students and Staff are invited to attend this free lecture on 17th October, 6:30pm in the Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building.

LETTERS TO FELIX: REPLIED TO THIS WEEK BY JEREMY

Irrational FELIX or Barmy Bayley?

Dear Editor,

We are writing to express fear over the apparent direction that journalism at Felix seems to be taking. We refer to your response to a letter in Felix 1035. Whilst we do not subscribe to the views of ConSoc, Ian Bayley appears to be terrifyingly correct in saying "Felix is no place for rationally discussing issues of the day - Hence the need for our society." The concern is that Imperial could be losing its only source of impartial information into the abyss of sensationalist, politically biased journalism. Your reply of "What gave you the idea that Felix is politically neutral" implies that it no longer is.

Is this your view alone or the view of Felix generally? Felix is the most widely read and the only serious, impartial source of news in College. This impartiality now appear under threat. As there is no alternative to Felix it should be impartial. To reject Felix is to starve oneself of college news.

Undoubtedly, views should be expressed, but its place should be in editorial and opinion columns. Our chief worry is news reporting will be affected by what appears to be Felix's new policy.

Please do not turn the news pages of Felix into an arena for political mudslinging.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Asfaw, Chem II

James Fox, CivEng II

Alan Mole, Aero II

Faisal Nazir, Physics II

Please be assured that our news pages will remain as high quality as we can manage, and free from spin. This is how it works - we are funded by the Union, but we are free to say what we want, hence the 'Keep Felix Free' business. Our prima-

ry objective is to consider the majority of the students - but not necessarily by agreeing with them. But I am worried that your idea of impartiality seems to suggest we shrink from addressing highly important issues, even if people write to us about them. The editor's replies to letters are an opinion section. Oh, and there's always the IC Reporter.

Dear Rachel

Having read last week's Felix (from cover to cover obviously!) I came across the somewhat petulant letter by the ever reactionary Ian Bayley. His lecture of misinformed nonsense could not, I felt, be allowed to stand without a full questioning of the author's own version of logic.

The initial reaction on reading his letter is that a small article in the 'news in brief' column could not quite be described as a 'voracious campaign' or 'hysteria' as Mr Bayley so delicately puts it. Some might suggest that it could be the ConSoc chair who is trying to hype the issue in an attempt to gain publicity with a new band of freshers - but then I couldn't possibly suggest that he would be so mercenary.

As far as I can remember from the original small article, your newspaper was not even suggesting that Mr Murdoch should be defended, merely pointing out that ICU could be laying themselves open to legal action by allowing such articles to appear in their web pages. Whatever Mr Bayley may say, the Web pages still come under the Union's control and as far as I am aware, he has not yet been declared an expert on the legalities of the Web page liability.

I do hope that although you state that, while taking a line on certain issues, i.e. not being completely politically 'neutral', your

newspaper will remain a place for rationally and impartially discussing the 'issues of the day'. The thought that ConSoc, with all its inherent prejudices and party dogma, could be a refuge for such discussion is frightening.

It is with some trepidation that I find myself agreeing with Mr Bayley on the fact that Mr Murdoch does wield enormous unchallenged power. I would question the background to his fear - perhaps the fact that Mr Murdoch's titles seem to be easing themselves towards supporting the Labour Party might have more to do with his views, than any antipathy to the idea of the abuse of power without the necessary scrutiny.

Finally, could I point out that rather than hindering ConSoc, your reporter's article and the fact that you were prepared to print their reply, have done little damage to the society - as few other groups have been the topic of conversation within one week of the start of term.

Name retained.

Exactly.

Food Fight?

Dear Sir/Madam

The rank and file staff in the Catering department are outraged at the insulting comments made by John Foster, Catering Manager.

Who exactly are the staff who "currently enjoy high wages and long holidays"? It is a fact that those employed in the catering industry are poorly paid.

If the sickness rate among staff is high, surely he needs to address this issue, and perhaps improve working conditions. There is no doubt that such crass comments do little to improve

morale.

Take heed, Mr Foster. A bad workman always blames his tools.

Yours faithfully,

The overpaid & constantly holidaying catering staff.

I've been on caterers' wages myself: they were the lowest.

There must be something awry with the management if they can make such hopeless losses even with underpaid staff and a captive market.

To all IC International Students

Now that you've all more or less settled down, it's time to get you informed about what the OSC is and what it does to keep you happy. OSC or "Overseas Students Committee" deals with all the international students of Imperial College (EC and Occasional students included). The OSC is a Major SubCommittee of Imperial College Union and deals with the 37% of the student population that is of non-British origin. Imperial College is one of the most multicultural academic institutions in the world. OSC is the umbrella committee for the foreign student societies, which currently number 24. The OSC organises events such as food fairs, International week, discos and inter-society sporting events. It also organises international night. This is the largest event of Imperial College that occurs in the second term and attracts more than a thousand spectators every year. It includes cultural shows and displays of various countries, food fairs, disco, live bands and more fun than you could possibly imagine.

OSC also takes an active part in all Union decisions, protects and promotes the interests of international students in the College and finances the running of all the individual national societies.

Naturally, all this takes a lot of work, and many more people than just the members of the executive committee take part voluntarily.

The executive committee has one post empty from last term's elections. There is also a new post being created. So, the two posts available to fill are: Honorary Junior Treasurer (to work along side current treasurer) : financial control of the OSC, budgeting of events, budgets of the overseas societies, adviser to the Chair. Honorary Secretary : organises meetings, is in charge of passing information to and from the overseas societies, event organising, minute keeping and other duties. Both of the above posts require a fair amount of dedication. The duties are flexible and all of the people in the executive committee share jobs and cooperate.

The elections will be held on Wednesday 18th October in Mech Eng L.T. 220 at 13:00. Anyone can stand, fresher to postgraduate, as long as they have a proposer and a seconder. Each proposer will have the right to speak for three minutes and each candidate will be able to give a short speech for a maximum of five minutes. Please turn up on the day and have with you your swipe card (or other form of college ID).

It is essential that every foreign student comes at least to vote, because the wrong people to take the decisions for you...

Gaurav Misra, OSC Chair

**Letters may be commented on by a guest editor whose opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.
Deadline: Mon 6pm**

THE FELIX WEEK

*the indispensable
guide for Felix
contributors and
helpers*

monday, high noon

clubs & societies

articles deadline

monday 1:20pm

reviewers'

meeting

monday 6pm

letters deadline

monday 6pm

news meeting

wednesday 1pm

features meeting

thursday night

collating

friday morning

another Felix

hits the street...

FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

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ADVERTISING MANAGER WEI LEE

Well, it's been enlightening, my first freshers' week. Yes, I know I was meant to go to it when I started University, but somehow it never really quite happened. And by the time I had been here a year I didn't have a particularly large desire to explore Imperial's Students Union in all its glory. So it's been a learning experience for me too, listening to all the first years' discuss the new experience with enthusiasm, while those later on degrade it all with cynicism.

Sitting over a coffee in the JCR, and one of them sums it all up: "The union's crap". And no-one has any doubt what he's trying to say. It's not "I tried to get some legal advice and found the support unforthcoming." Nor is it "I tried to hire out a minibus and couldn't."

Imperial College Union is judged on Wednesday and Friday nights. And if you don't have a riotous evening, then clearly "The union is shite."

At first I thought it was the people. Maybe no-one's getting the stimulating conversation they crave. And let's face it, there are individuals at this col-

lege of ours that make Beavis and Butthead look like epigrammatic sophisticates. There are people who would make you want to sprint out and buy a gallon of emulsion merely so you could slap it on a wall and watch it dry rather than engage in a millisecond's conversation. But that's not the real problem. Oh no.

To appreciate Imperial College Union at it's finest you have to be sitting in an office round the back of the entertainment's lounge editing news stories on a Wednesday night. And while the heavily laden bass makes the teaspoons rattle on the sink you have to ask yourself *WHY* they are playing the remix of the Bee Gee's 'Staying Alive' *AGAIN*. There must be a reason. Surely. Why, every time, is it the tackiest of dance music, with 'Parklife' as the penultimate song?

I have yet to meet anyone who does anything other than pour scorn on the music they play here, and that includes the ents manager.

This does not seem to make a great deal of sense.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES AND JEREMY CLARKE

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN AND DIANA HARRISON

SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

f/i: JEREMY

EVERYTHING ELSE: MARK BAKER

COLLATING LAST WEEK:

MARK BAKER, TIM STCLAIR, JEREMY

DELIVERING:

CHRIS INCE

Hockey and Rugby Provide Embarrassment Against Brunel

The first major set of fixtures for the year saw IC's hockey and rugby teams comprehensively humiliated in matches against Brunel, with only the ladies' hockey 2nds' pulling off a victory. "We were robbed," claimed Rachel Curran, speaking of the hockey ladies 1st's defeat.

Tim Townend, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), described the rugby performance as 'embarrassing', declaring that it was quite a relief to leave the field to spend the rest of the day in hospital with the 2nd row and flanker who had a broken cheekbone and misplaced a kneecap. Clearly it was a successful afternoon, boys.

RESULTS

HOCKEY VS BRUNEL:

MEN'S 1ST	0 - 4
MEN'S 2ND	1 - 3
MEN'S 3RD	1 - 6
LADIES 1ST	2 - 3
LADIES 2ND	4 - 0

RUGBY VS BRUNEL:

MEN'S 1ST	7 - 35
MEN'S 2ND	5 - 31
MEN'S 3RD	10 - 10

Parking Permits

These are the vehicles allocated Student Parking Permits. Permits can be collected from Monday 16th October onwards from the Union Office, 1st Floor, Union Building, Beit Quad. You must bring with you your Union Card or Swipe Card, proof of address and a medical certificate if necessary. A £5.00 deposit will be required.

F215 NBL K965 YPD C932 NRD L616 JPB RPL 857X, JOHN BOYLDON, HVA 132, K68 BWD, E566 PEC, D790 NUB, M299MOK, M195 GAC, STEPHEN PEEL, G939 WLN, N257 JGH, D808 KUB, YVONNE THOM, LGP 662P, D360 JMC, F463 RHY, F597 RPJ, K799 EYY, EBE-TZ-73, J787 KKO, G594 TYF, M440 LYV, H335 TGJ, CHARLOTTE CHAPMAN, E740 WGP, D596 EHP, MSH2 XFL, SPU 280W, C940 LEW, H46 JTF, D683 MKX, D771 TWM, B498 BGN, F729 STW, L866 XLF, E356 JLM, H679 JPG, MIL 261V, G247 WLH, M335 CFB, E608 VTH, G939 BUS, D56 HHV, F695 LBW*, F306 CTX*, E558 KLX, F179 LPM, E103 TEX, J462 MCW*, G462 MGN*, F921 JVU, A618 NTT, E358 CKX, JASON CHEUNG, PE 5320, K32 OGA, H423 EMJ, G43 UAV*, H41 BMK

* Must produce a medical certificate.

Applications from the Clayponds Estate have been referred back to the Warden. If you were not successful in your application, you may appeal against the decision. A form will be available from Monday for you to add any additional information that you feel is relevant. Please note though that since the majority of permits are now allocated, the number left for appeals is small. The appeals committee's decision will be final.

Free Cinema Tickets!

Did you know that our screen is wider than at all the local commercial cinemas?

FilmSoc has the cheapest tickets in London and all the best films, shown to professional standard in Dolby Stereo on a 10m wide screen, and alcoholic drinks from the bar are welcome.

Why go anywhere else?

SUPPORTED BY STA TRAVEL, IMPERIAL COLLEGE TEL: 0171 581 8882



STA TRAVEL

free film for freshers at filmsoc

Produce this voucher at any FilmSoc showing in exchange for free admission. Fill in your name and department below for a chance to win £100 of STA Travel gift vouchers!

name _____ dept _____

Terms and conditions

1. Offer only open to first year students (bring your union card).
2. Offer ends 31st October 1995.
3. Voucher only valid at FilmSoc shows.
4. Only one voucher per person. Normal ticket price £2.
5. Seats not bookable in advance with this voucher.
6. See other publicity for show dates and times.

The best value film entertainment in London!