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Stories from the Streets of London: Getting to know the Homeless

f ii Jana Sterbak at the Serpentine

STUFF! Competitions and savings for students



FELIX

The student newspaper of Imperial College

Issue 1046
January 19th 1996

Medics threaten to block BMS planning bid

BY ALEX FEAKES

St Mary's Hospital students have called upon ICU to make a representation to Kensington and Chelsea Borough to try to block planning permission for the new Basic Medical Sciences building. They are continuing to raise objections over the small allocation for student social space in the new centre.

However, representatives of St Mary's, including President Sarah Edwards, said at Tuesday's Union Council meeting that they were keen to avoid antagonising the College by making an appearance at the planning meeting. She suggested that they should continue talking to College and build on the progress that they had already made toward better student facilities.

The medics are complaining about the reduction in the allocation of student space from well over 800m² in the original plans to little over 600m² now. Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, has said that he 'has difficulty

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PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

Piledriving! Contractors have begun to lay out foundations of the new structure, starting with a seven metre deep shaft.

Students unite against fees

BY ALEX FEAKES

A rallying cry for a day of student action was raised this week by the President of Durham University's Student Union, Emily Baldock.

In a letter sent to every university's union in the country, Miss Baldock urges students everywhere to oppose any move toward top-up fees by universities. The fees are proposed by some institutions as a means to claw back some of the money cut in last November's budget. The cuts commonly amount to about 7% of a university's income, and could mean up to £500 being sought from students.

The DSU's President goes on to say that the aim of the action day, scheduled for 29th February, is to 'establish a national campaign to get the recent budget cuts into the news and make the general public aware'. She has suggested various non antagonistic methods of achieving this, including organising demonstrations, collecting signatures for a petition from the public and lobbying the non-

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in summary



RCSU turfed out

The RCSU look likely to be moved on from their accommodation in the Biology department at the end month, perhaps before their new premises are ready.

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AUT fears job losses

The Association of University Teachers said that they were expecting job losses due to the cuts in next year's HEFCE funding. Universities are struggling to find money.

page 3

Rag comes clean

Rag Chairman, Jon Lambert, has finally revealed what everybody already knew: that Rag Week only made a fifth of last year's total. Mr Lambert blamed the weather.

page 4

RCSU anger over office move

BY ANDY SINHARAY

The Royal College of Science Union has been voicing concern over its move to the Civil Engineering Department. The old office was located at the back of the Old Chemistry Building, which is due to be demolished to make way for the new BMS block. A temporary office was set up in the Biology department before Christmas, but this must be vacated at the end of the month. They RCSU will then move to new offices, currently being prepared in Civ Eng.

The RCSU President, Mo Dulloo, said that initially the plans for the move had been well organised. "Estates figured out the plan last term, and the plans for the office [in Civ Eng] were pretty damn smart... on the whole it was good." However, he was concerned that College was proceeding very quickly with the development at the expense of full consultation with the RCSU.

Problems first surfaced over their Motor Club garage, in which their fire engine, Jez, is stored. "At that particular point in time, they assured us that Jez wouldn't have to be moved," Mo said, and added that on the last day of term, the college Fire Officer, Graham Cox, told them that they would be able to move the vehicle to a Chelsea garage in January.

Then on December 19th they were told that Jez would have to be moved the following day: "they pulled a fast one on us big time... It took a whole day with a dozen people, and at such short notice... it was fucking stupid." He added that some ex-students had taken the day off work to come and help out.

It has also emerged that during the Christmas Holiday, Deputy President (Finance & Services) Matt Crompton, was asked by the Estates Division to move the RCSU's equipment

out of storage in Southside, although they later relented on the grounds that there was nowhere else to put the equipment and that the storeroom would require "at least 12 man-days" to clear out.

The RCSU office is set to move out of its current premises at the end of the month. Initially uncertain of their office's new location, Mo said, "My impression is that we'll be homeless", though he has since learned that work at the Civ Eng site is progressing well and may be complete by the the time the RCSU office is required to move.

Talking to *Felix*, workers at



PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

An electrician putting the final touches to a fuse box in the new RCSU office.

the site were keen to complete the garage area by this Friday, and the office itself in a couple of weeks.

The RCSU President nevertheless remains angry with the manner in which the Estates Division have handled their move. He said, "We'll move, we'll move again, my concern is that we have a working office." He assured *Felix* that the RCSU's administration and organisation of events had been unaffected.

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Security deputy

Kenneth Weir, who took the job of Deputy Head of Security at the beginning of this term after Terry Briley had to take an extended leave of absence, has urged students who have lost property to check with them. Items waiting to be claimed are kept for three months before they are disposed of, and there is a lot of property yet to be claimed which will soon reach the disposal date.

Mr. Weir also stressed that lost swipe cards are liabilities until they are deactivated. He added that security should be informed at the earliest opportunity after losing one - if found, cards can easily be reactivated at security control.

Student survey

A student survey conducted at the beginning of last term could form the basis for how the South Kensington campus looks in a few years time. The survey questioned returning second year students on their opinions regarding various aspects of life at IC. The survey asked questions on the quality of the student accommodation, and the services provided around college.

The results of the questionnaire have been released to *Felix* and make interesting reading, the sample of approximately 700 students representing a return of 39% on the survey.

Although the majority thought that student rents in west London were too expensive, they were unwilling to share rooms in order to save money. However, most of the students wouldn't mind doing their own cleaning if it meant paying less rent, and most would want to live in halls again in their second year. 60 students even preferred not to clean their rooms at all!

The college catering service did not come in for as high praise as the halls, a considerable proportion having used neither

Basics nor Southside Bar. However, the ex-Linsteadians amongst the group wholeheartedly condemned the service in Linstead's dining room.

Clearly most students here keep their money under their beds, as a high proportion rated a bank as being the most important retail outlet to have on campus. Surely "that Bank"'s advertising can't have been so low-key? After the bank, a chemist and a Post Office were the most popular amenities.

Students were offered an incentive to reply to the questionnaire, in the form of a prize draw for a £25 gift voucher. *Felix* can reveal the winner as P Linkshwaran from Civ Eng. Congratulations, P.

IC Prof on TV

Professor Michael Rowan-Robinson of the Physics department was on television on Tuesday evening talking about the Hubble Space Telescope. The telescope had been left on for ten days pointing at the same place, and had caught an amazing 1500 galaxies on film. Professor Rowan-Robinson was called on to explain some of the features of the photograph, and its relevance to his research group's work.

Dropout rates up

National newspapers reported this week that student drop-out rates across the country were up by 10% on last year, and those leaving due to failed exams grew by 20%.

The main reason for the increase was said to be financial pressures, which forced students to work to raise extra cash and therefore spend less time on their studies.

It's... YOU!

Someone, somewhere at IC has won an awful lot of money (£90k) on the lottery. It seems that scientific method might be the best way to choose those numbers.

Fancy buying us all a pint?

Rag Chair owns up to poor Rag Week total

BY ANDY SINHARAY

IC Rag said this week that they raised £920 from last term's Rag Week. According to Rag Chair Jon Lambert, the RCSU Beer Festival broke even, and the Slave Auction, organised in conjunction with the C&G Union, raised £180, "despite there being none of the sabbaticals". The Pub Crawl raised £50 for Leukemia research. They also collected £690 from collections after concerts, which will go to breast cancer research, the deaf/blind charity Sense and Mencap. However the total was well down on last year's of more than £5000 (*Felix* 1011).

Although this year's top collector, Andy Southern, raised £362.71, Mr Lambert himself said that this time last year he had raised around £1000 by himself.

On being asked whether he

was disappointed with Rag's takings this year, he told *Felix*, "We've done as well as we could have under the circumstances due to a bad start last term, and being without a chair up to the

Beer Festival." He took over the Rag chair after the previous incumbent, Richard Willis, resigned amidst allegations of "bringing the Union into disrepute" for serving spirits at a Rag

event.

"All things considered, £920 is a very good total for a week." He added that there had been organisational problems with the Beer Festival. Attendance was lower than last year, due to a clash with a major sports event on the Wednesday afternoon. Jon did admit that a "bad press" may have helped cause this. "It went as well as could be expected," he insisted.

Forthcoming events include the City and Guilds Carnival and the Rag tour, where copies of the Ragmag will be sold at other universities. He stated that this year's edition was not as controversial as last year's, which provoked a storm over its notorious photographs of mutilated genitalia: "It doesn't have the pictures of last year but the humour is better... the shock factor isn't there."



PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

Rag Week: you were mad, you were silly, you might even have been part of it. But you didn't buy enough beer, did you?

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What do you do when you see someone homeless, lying in a doorway? Do you look away? Ignore them. Walk on by. When you hear them say, "Spare some change?" do you listen?

When they beg for money, you give them change, or you don't. It's as simple as that. You do, because you don't want to feel guilty. Or you don't: they'd only spend it on drink or drugs. Either way, you've walked past and they're forgotten, just another statistic in six hundred thousand.

I wanted to write this article to tell you about some of these people. So that you might get to know them. And then maybe afford them a little human dignity, and the right not to be ignored.

We do the "Soup Run" twice a week, taking hot drinks, food and blankets to homeless people at Lincoln's Inn Fields and down the Strand. There are regulars we see every week, and other people I've only met once, but little things about them stick in my mind: a man crossing the Kingsway with a chessboard - taking his move to a friend sleeping on the other side of the road; the bloke who told me about the merits of French prisons versus English ones; the man who showed me a photograph of the daughter he hadn't seen in five years, saying I looked just like her.

There's things that make you sad inside: a pregnant woman asking me for an aspirin; a man with bronchitis selling the Big Issue in the rain; a little old man sniffing glue from a dirty plastic bag; when he's high he runs round laughing maniacally. I can understand why, though: what else has he got? Sometimes drugs or alcohol are the only escape for many homeless people. I thought this man was about sixty, but I've talked to him when he's been sober, and he said he's only thirty one. That's such a cliché: being homeless ages you. But it's only clichés that come true on the streets.

There's a girl we've met several times, sitting in a doorway on the Strand. She's all alone except for her dog, and she looks about fifteen. There's the old man outside the post office on the Kingsway. He always seems cheerful and he loves his cups of tea. He looks like someone's grandad: he shouldn't be there, he should be at home, in the warm, with grandchildren around him, not sleeping on wet concrete, hoping his thermos flask doesn't get nicked.

There's people I've met who make me laugh so much: Paddy, with his hundred and one jokes with no punch lines; George and Chris who took the piss out of everybody: their concern for Nathan after his lobotomy operation was touching! I've been threat-

ening to chop off Chris's ponytail for ages, but if I did I don't think my hair would last much longer! I hadn't seen Chris since before the summer until I ran into him a few weeks ago: he was on the other side of a soup run, helping out. He's doing a NVQ now, and seems to have got himself sorted.

Then there's John, who warned us not to laugh at him when he turned up in a Santa suit. He's got multiple sclerosis: the first Santa I've met on crutches. He was collecting money for Great Ormond St. Hospital. We didn't know quite what to say when he gave us money for the soup run.

Every week we used to see this old man who slept down by the law courts. He was in the merchant navy during the war and he always kept us talking for ages about Faraday and magnetic mines. He'd had five or six wives in his time and he proposed to some of our volunteers! Once when we saw him, he said it was his 90th birthday - mind you the week after, he said it was his 91st! He always seemed really frail. He's been moved on now - there's building work where he used to sleep. I've no idea what's happened to him, and we've never seen him again.

Chris, who organised the soup run last year, but only comes occasionally now, turned up one week and was offered a cup of tea by some freshers who thought he was homeless. There's no difference between people with somewhere to live and people without: it could be anyone, it could be you, ten years down the line, a failed marriage or an alcohol problem. We meet a City & Guilds man most weeks on the Strand. He's old and deaf, but he knows his Fourier Transforms.

Not everyone's appreciative of what we do. People get fed up of the same cheap sandwiches dished out by charities and churches - we've had our food thrown back in our faces and told to fuck off. It's fair enough: people need a home not a cup of tea. I've never felt so powerless in my life as when someone asks me if I know anywhere they can stay tonight. All I can say is, the soup run's been the only time anyone has said "God Bless You" to me and really meant it.

Tales From the Doorways of London

by Cathy Dolbear

NO
HOUSE
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MONEY
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NO
HOUSE
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NO
JOB
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NO
MONEY
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NO
HOUSE
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NO
JOB

The equation of Homelessness:

HELP!

IC Community Action Group need volunteers, blankets and minibus drivers for the soup run. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 8:15pm, Weeks Hall: just turn up, or contact c.dolbear@ic

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Cruelty or Progress?

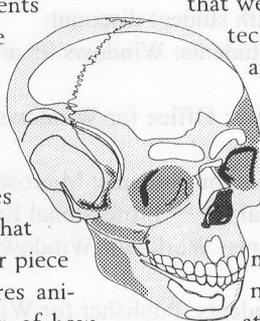
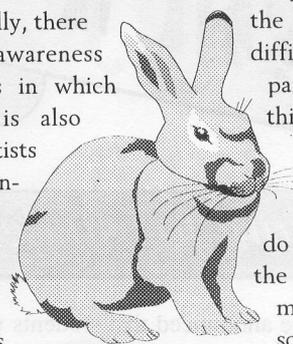
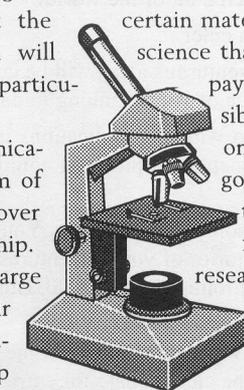
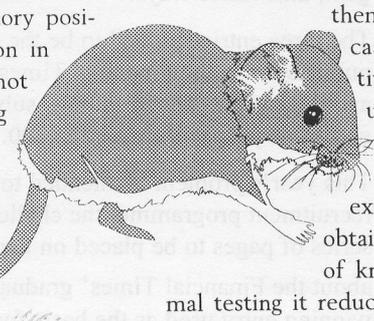
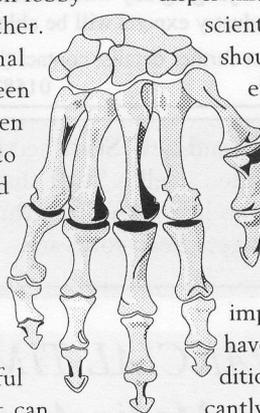
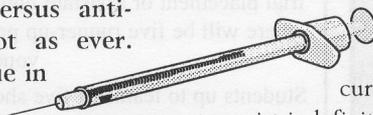
Felix examines the vivisection debate and wonders if either side knows what they're talking about.

The animal experiments versus anti-vivisection debate is as hot as ever. Since it became a major issue in the 1980s the lack of coherent communication between the two sides has meant that the ethical issues at the heart of the problem still have not been addressed in a clear-headed and useful way.

Scientists are often accused of being bad communicators in whatever field their research lies, but when this is compounded by a "siege mentality" brought on by threats and abuse from the anti-vivisection lobby they tend to clam up altogether. Scientists involved in animal research in labs which have been bombed or threatened are often unwilling or too frightened to speak about their research and why they feel that it is necessary. On the other side of the fence there is a very vocal anti-vivisection lobby many of whose more orthodox members think that all animal research is harmful, painful and unnecessary. Their argument can be very emotional with hard-hitting pictures which are shown to the public, while all that the science community can respond with are dry research papers.

This polarises the debate and is a self-perpetuating situation. Those opposed to animal testing often don't understand its motives or aims and all too often the scientists' response is to retreat from the public scene. This is a very unsatisfactory position and it has led to a situation in which the general public do not understand why animal testing should take place.

This is not an insurmountable problem, it is merely a lack of communication. The self-reinforcing cycle of mistrust can be broken. The easiest way to begin to do this is probably for the science community to become more open, and to spend more time and resources making its objectives clear. This would make a wider and more open debate possible and



thus there are grounds for hoping that the current polarisation will not persist indefinitely and that this particular problem can be resolved.

Beyond the problem of communication there exists the deeper problem of the actual ethical issue, the debate over necessity and benefits versus hardship. Here one frequently hears the charge that scientists care only about their work and don't spare any consideration for the animals involved. To help dispel this it has been suggested that future scientific papers relating to the subject should contain a section on any adverse effects of certain techniques on the animals thus helping future researchers to avoid the same mistakes. Additionally, there is an increasing awareness that the conditions in which animals are kept is also important. Many scientists have pointed out that conditions in labs are significantly better than in some livestock farms, and point to the all-too-frequent cases of abuse of animals kept as pets. Having said that, there is increasing evidence that for animals psychological and physical well-being it is better that they are kept in groups and not confined to a solitary existence.

With regard to the experiments themselves, in some cases alternatives may be used, but where no alternatives exist then given that obtaining a particular piece of knowledge requires animal testing it reduces to a question of how necessary is the research in question. This can be a very subjective matter; 'the necessity of the research is in the mind of the experimenter.'

It can sometimes be argued that research will lead to a cure for a particular disease or

that it is necessary to test the toxicity of a certain material, but it is often the nature of science that no such obvious or immediate pay-back exists. Indeed, it is not possible to do "good science" if one is only pursuing limited short-term goals in which science is reduced to the level of being just another form of investment. Often research is in pursuit of a more fundamental or general understanding which can be controversial enough when it consumes tax payers' money but when it involves animals, explaining the necessity of such research becomes a more complicated issue. Research with animals is on a different ethical level from other areas of science.

On a par with the difficulty of assessing the necessity of the research is the difficulty of measuring the amount of pain inflicted on the animal, and yet this is obviously very important in any discussion of benefits versus hardship. There are no objective criteria by which to do this; merely anthropomorphising the animal doesn't help, since what may make a human struggle and scream may render another animal motionless, as a natural tendency to hide stress and pain as a defence against predators.

There can be no strict formula, therefore, for determining whether or not a specific piece of research is justified and the best that we can probably do is to develop a technique to give both sides of the argument a fair hearing and then reach some kind of consensus. This will appear to be a very unsatisfactory solution to many not least because it leaves the issue open, but it would be a significant step towards an improvement. The current polarised situation must not be allowed to persist, not only since it is damaging to science but also because its emotional, confrontational nature frequently turns the issue into a shouting match and therefore leaves it unaddressed.

Think you could run a pub?
 (well do ya? PUNK?)
WHITBREAD INNS

Whitbread Inns, the leading managed pub retailing business in the UK, is sponsoring a nationwide competition to uncover talented students in the UK and find the business managers of the future. The prize for the winning team will be £3,000 (£1,500 of which must be used for education resources) and the opportunity for each team member to work for Whitbread Inns. The business will guarantee work experience plus an interview for a one-year industry placement or assistant house manager position. In addition, there will be five runner-up prizes of £500 Whitbread Leisure vouchers.

Students up to teams of five should put together a proposal for a new pub concept. The proposal should be considered as if the team were making a short presentation to a pub company to persuade them to invest in the idea. It should be presented on more than 4 to 5 sides of A4, and visuals can be included. Judges will be looking for feasibility, innovation, a high quality of research (yay!) and an understanding of the current pub retailing marketplace.

Entries should be submitted by a (friendly) lecturer. The closing date is 30 April 1996. The finalists will be notified in May and invited to a judging day where senior Whitbread managers plus other industry experts will be able to offer feedback on their entry. For further details, contact the Whitbread Education Dept. on 01582 396663.

Welcome to the brand-new **Stuff** section of Felix, which is chock-full of all the... well... stuff that we hear about. This week you'll find no less than three thrilling competitions to enter, and how to get cheap software - legally!

FINANCIAL TIMES Interactive Media Awards 1996

The Financial Times is running a new, annual competition aimed at full-time university students. Each year, the FT will be setting a new media-related problem, to be solved in as imaginative and original way as the technology towards which it is orientated allows. Through the annual Interactive Media Awards, the Financial Times hopes to promote the investigation of new technological areas, and to encourage their use in intelligent, innovative ways.

The three entries judged to be the best of those received will be published via the Financial Times' World Wide Web pages, and the entrant judged to have submitted the most impressive entry this year will receive £1000.

This year's problem is intended to tie in with the FT's graduate recruitment programme: the challenge is to design a page or series of pages to be placed on the WWW giving information about the Financial Times' graduate recruitment process. The winning entry used as the basis for a permanent graduate recruitment site linked to the FT's web pages.

For further details, see the FT Interactive Media Awards web site at <http://www.ft.com/jobs/awards.htm>, or contact Andrew Hunt on 0171 825 8420 or by e-mail at hunt.andrew@ft.com.

Microsoft® have announced that students will now be able to buy special reduced-price versions of their most popular software. According to Edna McKeelvey, Microsoft's marketing manager for education, this is because "Students need to be able to afford software to ensure they have access to the benefits of IT, in assisting their studies."

Specific products available with student discount:

- Microsoft® Windows® for Students: Windows 95 and Microsoft® Windows NT™
- Microsoft® Office for Students: Office for Windows 95 or Office for Mac
- Microsoft Development Tools for Students: Microsoft® Visual Basic® and Microsoft® Visual C++® Professional Edition
- Microsoft® Works for Students: Works for Windows 95 or Works for Macintosh
- Microsoft® Publisher for Students: Publisher for Windows 95.

The special packs should be available from all retailers, and will contain a form for the student's details. This will then be checked with the relevant institution and the software will be sent directly to the student's address. If only other software publishers would take a similar view...

Cheaper software for students

STUFF

fulfil your Wildest Dreams!

If you would rather trek across the deserts of China than trek to the bus stop, or if your idea of sampling a different culture is to live amongst the hill tribes of Papua New Guinea, rather than a particularly hot curry at the Taste of India - then you probably have a 'Wildest Dream.'

The Heineken Export 'Wildest Dreams' travel challenge aims to enable young men and women with a real thirst for adventure to realise their 'Wildest Dreams'. They're looking for young adventurers or explorers with a story to tell. Your plans need not be scientific or charitable, but they have got to stand out. They will be assessed by a panel of true experts so they really will have to impress - between us we've seen a bit of the world!

Any UK resident aged 18-35 can enter.

Only the most innovative and adventurous ideas will be considered, and they should be backed up with evidence of your planning to date.

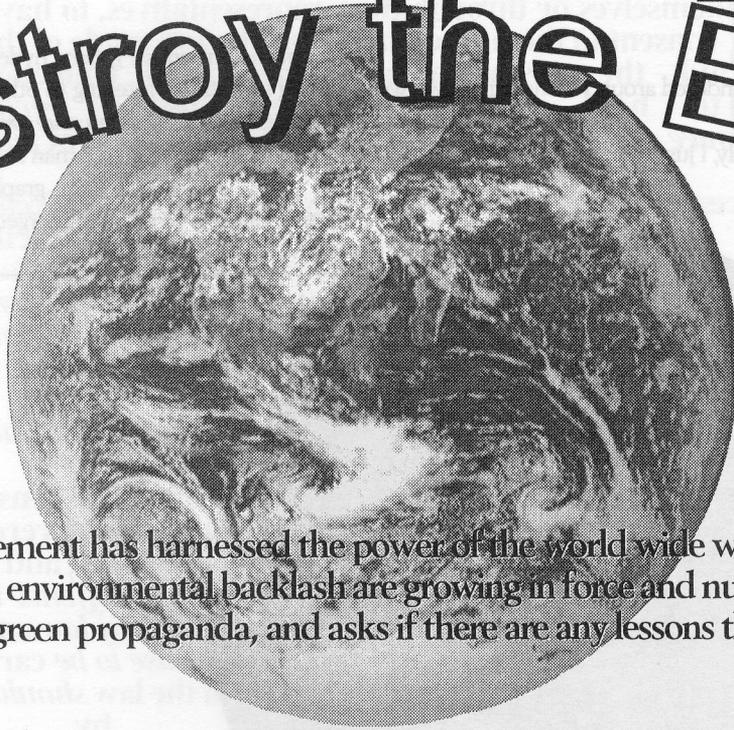
The amount of money awarded to winning applications is at the judges' discretion. It is possible that one exceptional proposal could receive the entire £25,000 bursary!

Of course, they're going to want something in return. You'll have to promise to give them initial rights to the stories of your adventures and you will have to spend the money on what you promised you would. But ultimately they're giving you free reign to fulfil your 'Wildest Dreams'.

Telephone the Heineken Export 'Wildest Dreams' hotline number below and they'll send you an entry form. The closing date for entries is 26 April 1996.

HOTLINE: 0171 231 5432

Destroy the Earth



The environmental movement has harnessed the power of the world wide web to spread the green gospel. But pages devoted to the environmental backlash are growing in force and number. This week *Insight* surfs the net in search of anti-green propaganda, and asks if there are any lessons the environmentalists can learn from them.

Seed your WWW search engine with the word "environment" and you will reap a rich harvest of greenery. Movements like Save the Earth are flooding the internet with heart-warming pro-environmental literature. But in direct opposition to this news groups like Pave the Earth (<http://k/internet/news/faq/archive/pave-the-earth.html>) are setting their own distinctly anti-green agenda. Pave the Earth has a single objective: to cover the entire surface of the planet in thick, black asphalt so that we can all amuse ourselves by driving round endlessly at reckless speeds whilst chugging beer and eating juicy burgers. (They also advocate covering the moon in chrome – for purely aesthetic reasons). Some of the positive advantages of paving the earth, they say, are the total depletion of natural resources and the extinction of all plant life and "critters" (except for cows, which will be cultivated underground to provide us with those all-important burgers). Governments have made noble but feeble efforts to pave the earth, they say, but freeways and interstates are just not good enough.

If this meat is too strong for your palate, try the self-proclaimed evil twin of Save the Earth, Destroy the Earth (<http://frodo.hiof.no/~gunnarh/adtefaq.html>). This is "the refuge of persons tired with today's rampant ecohysteria... a safe haven where you can cheerfully cry out that you like to spray CFC's about just for the hell of it, declare your love for the fur of some particularly rare animal, gloat over the extinction

of some miserable, unfit species, publish designs of innovative methods of messing up recycling operations and delight us all with ridiculous results of environmental thinking". People do so in their droves. Which all goes to show that there is plenty to access on your PC which is not at all PC. And it gets worse. People for the Extinction of Animals (<http://www.primenet.com/~srdrake/peafaq.html>) advocates the elimination of all the useless creatures the world could do without. (The threat is extended to that pesky environmental wacko neighbour of yours too). The basic objection to animals is that they get in the way and use up resources. Endangered species are particularly irritating. They are, in fact, a plain nuisance. The best course of action is to incinerate them and use the energy to generate electricity. At least then they will have had a moment of usefulness in their otherwise futile existences. People for the Extinction of Animals also has a lucrative sideline publishing recipes for making tasty dishes out of species on the brink of extinction.

Whilst newsgroups like this have their tongues planted firmly in their cheeks, there is an important lesson then greens can learn from them. What we have here is the start of a genuine backlash, an expression of disgust at the self right-

eousness and holier-than-thou attitude of much of the environmental protest movement and its sister organisations – animal rights extremists and vegetarians. As long as these movements remain associated with counter-culture they are exposing themselves to the powerful forces of reactionary conservative opinion. This is not to



"Endangered species are particularly irritating. They are, in fact, a plain nuisance."



Man the organiser : A satellite image of Kansas showing the grid system. All roads and boundaries run either north-south or east-west.

say that the environmental cause is not a just and important one, nor to deny that there is a place for radicalism within the movement. But the greens need to think hard about the way they are presenting themselves to the outside world or their actions could become entirely self-defeating.

X

Graham Lawton

"If that new building is up in 18 months time, I'll eat my hat. If that old building is down in 18 months..."

simon baker

Happy New Year! It's great to be back. As *Felix* reported last week, I have been on holiday for the last couple of weeks, and since most of you will have simply been lazing around over Christmas, I thought that it would be nice to tell you what wild and wacky things I got up to. Revision. Sleep. I knew you would be green with envy. Not everybody's idea of a 'holiday', but I'm not bitter. Speaking of the exams, I do hope the cheques didn't fall out of my answer booklets. I made them out to Cash, since I wasn't sure who got which questions...

Still, two exams and a bottle of paracetamol later, it's time to bang the world to rights. You leave the place for a few weeks and look what happens? The blue sign men have made a commando raid on the College after their initial foray last term and completely overwhelmed us. Does this mean a Royal Visit is imminent? Now don't get me wrong, they look very nice, but at what cost? When one considers the inevitable committees involved in choosing the design - I bet this project has been at least 10 years in the offing- and putting the damn things up, the total price of them would probably bale out a dozen Rag fiascoes or build some new Chemistry lectures theatres. Speaking of which...

The Portakabins arrived. The fence went up. Some signs went up. The fence was painted. Some signs went up. Arrows were painted on the road. Some signs went up. What is it about Imperial and bloody signs? Does Ian Caldwell have shares in the company that's supplying them? The public should be told. As for the new medical building, I understand that they still do not have planning permission. Dear reader, isn't it a funny old world? When Sherfield was being planned, permission was not granted and went



to appeal, before which we apparently sent the bulldozers in to rip down the glorious Imperial Institute. Now we have a building that looks like Blitz damage is waiting to be put right and we're playing it by the rules. We are a much more virtuous bunch at IC these days. And besides, 170 Queensgate is a tad more salubrious than Wormwood Scrubs. If that new building is up in 18 months time, I'll eat my hat. If that old building is

down in 18 months... One of the bones of contention seems to be the provision of social facilities for the medics. Having seen some of our dear colleagues from Mary's at the Management School Christmas dinner, I suspect this means that they are holding out for a boxing ring. The rest of the campus manage without enormous social provisions for individual departments, so why are they so special? You're not shy, are you? All we need is to boot a few paper shifters off the third floor of Sherfield and the problem is solved.

Among the unusually large number of good TV programmes on at Christmas was a brilliant documentary about the Royal Yacht Britannia on its last State visit to South Africa. Here we have one of the most powerful symbols of British prestige, projecting an enormously positive image to the world, that never fails to leave onlookers awestruck. And yet despite such obvious diplomatic and economic benefits, and a relatively low operating cost (£12million per year, which is 21 minutes of government spending), her future is in doubt, as is a replacement. How can the government allow such penny-pinching to jeopardise our public image? For God's sake, we are not a Third World country, and if we cannot afford such a relatively small sum, then do we really deserve the institution of monarchy?

theatre: resolution!

stephen and thalia

We often get so overwhelmed by the well known shows that we don't notice the interesting stuff happening on the sidelines. *Resolution* is a very big idea which hardly anyone knows about. A showcase for new dance companies or experimental work from here and abroad, with a different show each night, this a chance to experience contemporary dance of all kinds.

Stephen:

I'll begin at the end and proceed in an orderly fashion to the beginning. The last of Wednesday's three performances was *Subcutaneous Hallucination* by 4D. Five minutes of pure fun and a perfect ending to the night. The Isigi Company's *Scream!!!* was an emotional and very powerful piece of political expression, which brings me to my favourite performance, *Chiaroscuro* by Whoopee Stomp. If the second piece was thought provoking, then this was question provoking. Wow! Go and see them. Overall I've never experienced

such a wide range of reactions to a piece of performance.

Thalia:

The Dance Xchange Ensemble opened the evening with a piece about twins, shown mainly through 'mirror dancing'. Symmetry was hated, lost and embraced, but it all ended happily with a kiss after some violent hair-pulling. It would have benefited from being a bit tighter, though. They followed that with *Solo*, a group piece which involved a lot of enthusiastic women jumping up and down and fainting. I couldn't see a theme but their big grins caught on - I loved it.

The second company...? There is only so long a dancer can stand stock-still in a spotlight listening to a heart beat.

So all awards go to the last lot, Momentary Fusion. Their use of trapeze and ropes was brilliant. The last two girls were dancing in the air as if gravity didn't exist, falling and catching each other, eyes closed in mid air. I can't think how strong they must have been. My money's on this bunch if they enter *Gladiators*. Fab.

Resolution!
until 17th february
at the place
theatre, 17 dukes
road,
WC1H 9AB

details from the
box office on
0171 387 0031

kings cross or
euston tubes

student tickets £4

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album: the style council - the collection little jack home-y

The Cappuccino Kid steps from his white lam-bretta, feather cut highlights glinting in the Parisian sun. Merton Mick is already here - The Style Council are back in session. The Cappuccino Kid smiles. "Was that really us, Mick?"

You can understand the re-canonised modfather's doubts. In front of him are a collection of musical snaps from a period of musical re-invention, when he left the angry young man of The Jam behind, and replaced it with the white boy soul of The Style Council.

Like all reminders of the past there are good times and bad times, and this collection is a true mirror reflecting both. It starts well, with bursts of 'espresso pop' - short, bitter songs that leave you buzzing - and the sweet coated pills of "Speak Like a Child", "Long Hot Summer", and so on.



Unfortunately, the perfect French cut and loafers rapidly seem to become more important than songs and by side two, The Cappuccino Kid has lost his froth, and he and Merton Mick look doomed to a world of muso-soul and half-baked manifestoes.

Merton Mick smiles back, knowing that he and the kid have come through, and that for a time they had managed to produce intelligent, cosmopolitan pop, in a grey world. If only the record company hadn't got grubby and issued this album. He knows that 'The Singular Adventures of

The Style Council' served their memory better.

Merton Mick looks up but The Cappuccino Kid has gone, his mac under his arm, Fred Perry V-neck draped over his shoulder, heading for the street named "Re-assessed & Re-packaged."

(7) for the singles.

(3) for side 2.

album: korn - korn vik

Imagine the most harrowing thing you've ever seen or read. It could be a film, or a scene from a film (the rape scene in 'The Accused' is a good example), or maybe just a newspaper story so shocking in detail that you can't forget it. Now imagine if you could harness all the emotions that this film or story conjured up in you - the fears, the paranoia, the shame, the aggression and the fury - and put them to music. Actually, don't. Someone else has already done it for you. They're called Korn and their debut album is fear's very own soundtrack.

I suppose that this all sounds a little bit melodramatic. It probably is, but if you can manage to listen to all of this in one sitting without having to take a break to unscramble your senses then I'll be impressed. Perhaps things are best summed up by the closing track, 'Daddy'. As with all of Korn's music, the song is structured around a low, rum-

bling bass sound that never settles and consequently never allows you to settle. A menacing drumbeat and almost dissonant guitars break in, followed by Jonathan Davis' vocals. Ah yes, those vocals. Vocals that make the Sister of Mercy's Andrew Eldritch sound like a castrated wuss. Vocals that could sing 'Happy Days' and make it sound like the theme tune to your worst nightmare. Vocals that are agonised and pained as they rip into a detuned, guitar infested chorus that speaks of the unspeakable - child abuse: "I scream, no-one hears me, it hurts, not a lot... Mummy, why?"

It ends with minutes of tormented wails and sobbing and you're left feeling numb, helpless and wondering if it's all been a bad dream. This is not exactly the sort of music you want to relax to. But it is exactly the sort of music that you want to get disturbed to.

File under uneasy listening. (6)

album: various artists - goa trance 2 jim

I remember when Goa Trance was known as plain old 'Trance' but then naming a style of music after an exotic location does make it sound more interesting. 'Goa' is the buzzword in dance at the moment and so, of course, it leads to an excellent marketing opportunity. In this case, the bandwagon is used as an outlet for many tracks which sound as if they have been sitting in the record company vaults since 1994.

D.J. Cosmix & Etnica open the album, fol-

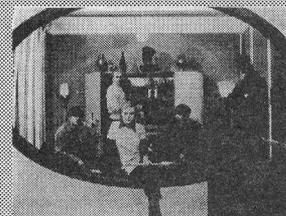
lowed by Tufaan. These first two tracks are excellent - there's a sense of urgency about them which is enough to get you quite excited about the night ahead. Transwave follow a similar line, while Syb Unity Network do a brooding number with a dark, staccato effect.

Unfortunately, the rest of the compilation sounds like an old Eat Static track, or is unoriginal, wibbly-wobbly, semi-ambient stuff. I'm sure that there are better Trance tracks out there than this lot, which is a shame because their inclusion means that this album is not much of a go-er (groan). (5)

singles: ason

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the cardigans - rise and shine
A pop song that is full of happiness and dripping with intricate melodies. Definitely a song to wake up to.



inaura - soap opera
This is a band to watch out for this year and this single is a better than average track that reaches for the fringes of pop.

shed seven - getting better
Brilliant new single from the self-proclaimed fathers of guitar-based Britpop. It doesn't break any new ground but surpasses any of the current Britpop brigade.

pavement - give it a day
This gets off to a promising start but never really fulfils its potential.



salt - honour me
They're from Sweden but they don't sound Swedish. A promising single that hints at a rebirth of 'grunge'.

longpigs - far
One of the few purveyors of real 'indie' music deliver the goods with this awe-inspiring, melodic production.

radiohead - street spirit (fade out)
Uncannily, this is the sixth single release from *Felix's* number one album of 1995. Nevertheless, Thom Yorke's haunting vocals create an inspired mood, tainted with despair.

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xii



listings

tindersticks + baby bird + high llamas + sparkdehorse - 19 jan - astoria - £8.50
 rocket from the crypt - 19 jan - la2 - £7
 ash + northern uproar + super furry animals + kenickie - 20 jan - astoria - £8.50
 billie ray martin - 20 jan - ministry of sound - £15
 teenage fanclub + flaming lips + drugstore + bis - 21 jan - astoria - £8.50
 tortoise + movietone - 21 jan - water rats - £3.50
 bluetones + cardigans + heavy stereo + fluffy - 22 jan - astoria - £8.50
 mary coughlan - 22 jan - jazz cafe - £12.50
 inaura + spacemaid + glasshouse - 23 jan - water rats - £3.50
 bjork - 25 jan - wembley arena - £14, £12.50
 anthrax - 25 jan - forum - £10
 the prisoners - 26 jan - forum - £8.50
 fairport convention - 27 jan - walthamstow assembly hall - £tbc
 d-influence - 27 jan - forum - £10
 gene - 28 jan - astoria - £tbc
 melissa etheridge - 30 jan - shep bush empire - £12.50
 dr. robert - 31 jan - garage - £tbc
 simply red - 2 to 5 feb - docklands arena - £25
 finn - 3 feb - shep bush empire - £12.50
 the ramones - 3 feb - brixton academy - £12.50
 mcaldmont - 7 feb - garage - £7
 nick heyward - 7 feb - dingwalls - £7
 northern uproar - 7 feb - garage - £8
 procol harum - 8 feb - barbi-can - £7.50 to £17.50
 maria mckee - 8 feb - garage - £8
 frank black + wannadies - 9 feb - astoria - £8.50
 mike flowers pops - 16 feb - forum - £10
 echobelly - 17 feb - forum - £8.50
 eric clapton - 18 to 20, 22 to 24, 26 to 28 feb, 1 to 3 mar - royal albert hall - £23.50, £18.50
 baby bird - 19 feb - dingwalls - £tbc

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gig: therapy? + joyrider vader



I arrived at Brixton Academy a little bit late to see Northern Irish quartet Joyrider, but what I did see was very promising. Their set was punchy, tight, and blessed with a raw edge that has been lacking in their singles to date. Those singles, three-minute rants that have charted the progress of a maturing band, were delivered tonight with the conviction that belongs to a band who obviously believe in their own talent. 'It Moved', erm, moved, while new single, 'Fabulae' was, erm, fabulous(!) Hopefully their debut album, 'Be Special', will be too...

It was soon afterwards that we learned of the riot outside and you could feel the tension rise in the crowd. This tension exploded into adulation

as Therapy? bounded on stage and straight into 'Epilepsy', the opening track from their last album, 'Infernal Love'.

Therapy? are one of the most exciting bands at the moment and they didn't disappoint live, playing a well-rounded set consisting of material that ranged from the hauntingly subversive 'Diane' to the techno-edged tension of 'Teethgrinder'.

The only criticism I do have is that the end of '30 Seconds' went on a bit too long - they could have played another song instead! Thankfully they remedied things by finishing with the old classics, 'Potato Junkie' and 'Screamager'. It was a fitting end to a fine gig and I left so happy (and knackered) that I wasn't even upset when I found Brixton tube station closed due to the riot.



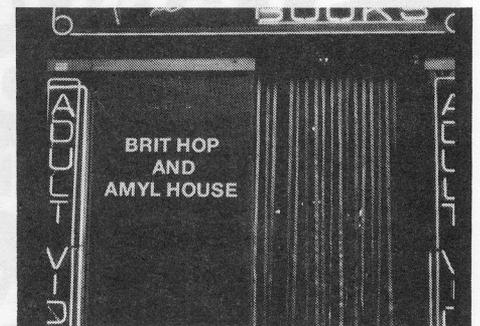
album: various artists - brithop and amyl house ian

This is a compilation of continuous mix dance music by a number of artists that includes Bomb The Bass, Renegade Soundwave and, of course, The Chemical Brothers, who have a hand in two of the tracks here. The opening track, 'What's That Sound?' and Depth Charge's 'Shoalin Buddha Finger' are among the outstanding tracks here while the classic, played to death, 'Leave Home' is here for completeness.

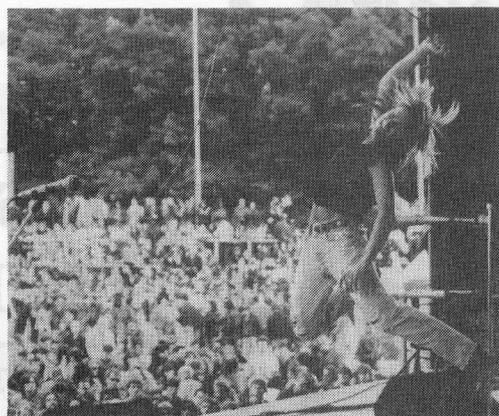
The compilation was apparently meant for 'all the party people' which sounds like a dubious reason for any kind of album. The music mixes are pretty interesting although the nature of the compilation means that it lacks the impact that it

might have. It's a bit like listening to a top 20 indie compilation.

Speaking as someone new to this, it will probably make a good introduction for those whose previous exposure is limited to 'Leave Home'. The more discerning listener will probably find all of this rather mundane after a while. A rather respectable (6).



album: mike peters - second generation vol. 1 vik



Oh yes, here at *Felix*, we like Mike Peters (I use the word, 'we', in its royal sense, you understand). Why do 'we' like him? Well, because he re-records and re-interprets old Alarm obscurities and releases the album through his fan club for £10.99; because the songs are fuelled by integrity and enjoyment and prove that you don't need an electric guitar to whip up a storm; because 'Elders and Folklore' is a masterful piece of humble Dylan-try; because 'What Kind of Hell' is the most potent, lyrically mature piece of punk rock you'll hear; because, all in all, the man makes simple music sound simply great.

Pick up the phone, call 01745-888911, and order your own copy. It may be 'Second Generation' but it's second to none. (8)

ICU Cinema £2

Imperial College or ULU students & staff.
Compulsory annual membership of 50p
(payable on first visit)

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Wednesday 24th January at 8.00pm

CANDYMAN 2

FAREWELL TO THE FLESH

Thursday 25th January at 8.00pm

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VILLA V SPURS

MON 22ND

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SUN 28TH

ARSENAL/SHEFF U

V

A.VILLA

on the BIG SCREEN

Da Vinci's
Café-bar

Da Vinci's
— Café-bar —

SAT 20TH JAN

FRANCE V ENGLAND

IRELAND V SCOTLAND

SAT 3RD FEB

ENGLAND V WALES

SCOTLAND V FRANCE

SAT 17TH FEB

FRANCE V IRELAND

WALES V SCOTLAND

LIVE ON THE

BIG SCREEN

celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington
0426 914666

dangerous minds
2.25, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40

goldeneye 4.05, 9.20

the horseman on the roof
3.50, 9.20

seven 3.40, 6.35, 9.30

showgirls
12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15

the american president
12.30, 3.10

tube; ken high street. £6.50,
£6, £3.50 before 5pm

mgm fulham road
0171 370 2636

seven 12.50, 3.35, 6.20, 9.15

leaving las vegas 1.30, 4,
6.30, 9

something to talk about 1.20,
3.50, 6.40, 9.10

babe 2, 4.10, 6.20, 8.30

aceventura 2, 4.30, 7.10,
9.40

tube; south ken then bus
£6, £3.50 students and
before 6pm

mgm chelsea
0171 325 5096

dangerous minds
1.40, 4.15, 6.55, 9.30

seven 12.50, 3.30, 6.20, 9.15

goldeneye
12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.05

showgirls 2.10, 5.45, 9.10

tube; sloane square then bus
£6, £3.50 students and
before 6

renoir 0171 837 8402

the white balloon

1.15, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.05

heavy 1.55, 4.10, 6.30, 8.50

tube; russell square
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50 stu-
dents

minema 0171 369 1723

angels and insects

3.30, 6.30, 8.45

tube; you can walk it
£6.50, £4 matinees

ica cinema
0171 930 3647

the kingdom part 1 6.20pm

the kingdom part 2 8.50pm

tube; charing cross, piccadil-
ly circus

£6.50, mondays £5

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film: something to talk about sarah turner

Well, this film seems to have had pretty good reviews on the whole. But I dare to be different: I disagree. In fact, I don't think its anything worth talking about at all.

Julia Roberts plays Grace, the Southern wife of Eddie (Dennis Quaid), who has a very annoying daughter (Haley Aull). (She's very similar to Hannah in Neighbours, if you watch that. I don't, honest.)

Grace's life falls apart when she finds out that Eddie is cheating on her. In one of the film's better scenes, in the middle of a women-only charity meeting, she blurts out, 'Could everyone else who has slept with my husband please put up their hand?'

She turns to her family for help, but gets no support from her overpowering and over unsympathetic father, who can only think of the effect his daughter's broken marriage is having on his

business. In fact, the only one who seems to care is her sister, who doesn't hesitate in letting Eddie know what she thinks of him!

After threatening to wreck almost every other marriage in town, and even poisoning her husband when he asks for forgiveness, Grace starts to rebuild her life. She then quits her job, goes back to college, and even finds herself a new man. But there is just one problem - she is still in love with Eddie.

There's not much sex, and little violence in the film which revolves around nothing more than a family and its horses. Only the bit of 'bad' language gives it an undeserved 15 certificate. Its also supposed to be funny, but I can't remember laughing much at all.

I agree with Xan Brooks, writing in The Big Issue. He describes the film as, '... a glossy, up-market soap opera - neat enough as it stands but, considering the quality on offer, nothing really to write home about.' And the ending is a real let down too!



film: the kingdom sandals

This was definitely the longest film I have seen, or am likely to see for a long while. The main reason is that *The Kingdom* was not designed as a film, but was originally shown on Danish TV as a sort of mini-series.

Set in an all-mod-cons hospital, it is a mixture of incompetence and malpractice from the doctors, couple with the paranormal and bizarre, starting form the cries of a child heard in a lift by the hospitals resident hypochondriac and spiritualist.

Most reviews therefore describe it as a cross between the X-Files and ER. This is however a rather limited description. Where you had Mulder and Scully, you have a nonagenarian spiritualist being reluctantly wheeled around by her son, a hospital porter who looks like he wants a

heart attack. As for the doctors, they all belong to a mason type lodge, into which is initiated the new head of neurosurgery, a very gruff Swede. He likes to spend evenings on the roof, praising the beauty of the Swedish nuclear power stations he sees through his binoculars, while cursing the Danes he has inexplicably decided to work for.

There are some down side to this film. It is pretty tiring reading subtitles for over four hours, though you can see the film in two parts. The use of hand held camera through out can also become a little too jerky. And the ICA should give people more leg room. However, overall a heartily recommended film for all those who like the bizarre and are not squeamish, and if anyone can get me a copy of the main theme track I would be eternally grateful!

FAME!

GLORY GOLF

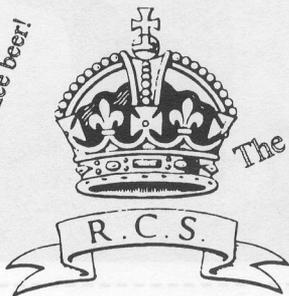
SEX!*

If you are a good golfer and can play to a reasonable handicap - contact Rachel Curran (lunchtimes in the Union Office) with your details to represent IC in a high level National Competition!

* No.

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Jazz & Funk Night

Band: "Zuluwah"

DJ: Jimmy G

Live Band
and DJ

Latin jazz, funk & requests

ICU Ents Lounge 9-12am

Thursday 25 January

Tariff: £1

R.O.A.R

The Daily Telegraph
**OPEN
 MIC
 AWARD**

STAND UP & BE COUNTED

The Daily Telegraph
**OPEN
 MIC
 AWARD**

Have you ever wanted to be famous? Do you think you could handle the pressures of lounging by a sun drenched LA pool while a team of lackeys bring you the finest champagne and silver platters bearing mountains of red M & M's? Do you like the idea of being chauffeured in an air conditioned limousine to your workplace and then, once there, arsing around like a manic five year old? Hmm... sounds as if you have all the qualities required to be of a stand-up comic. Now you can bypass the boring old hard graft part of the star process and leap straight into the snorting caviar and opening supermarkets bit. And when we say **you**, we mean just that. No matter your gender, age, colour, creed, sexual orientation, height, weight, social class, favourite football team or preferred brand of hot chocolate, you too can become an instant household name with the Open Mic Awards. Sound good? You bet it does.

So, how can you get involved? Well, first you need to write **ten minutes** of material. This may feature the kind of pithy one-liners you delight your many friends with at the local swimming baths or perhaps be a rambling monologue about your parents, the government, the meaning of life and the price of Wispa Golds. As long as its funny, we don't care.

Next, you have to take ten minutes of world beating material along to **The National Comedy Network** night at your Student Union or local comedy venue. There, you will be added to the list of hopefuls performing in the Open Mic spot and after a couple of M&M guzzling professionals have whipped the crowd into a frenzy, you'll step up to face the hardest judging panel on the planet your own drunken, foolish, hyper-critical mates.

This is where the **Open Mic Awards** really come into there own. By leaving the all important judging decision to the very people who pay to see live comedy, rather than a couple of clueless has-beens who think that Reeves & Mortimer are a firm of chartered accountants, the award manages to keep in touch with the taste of the general public and neatly side steps any kind of underhand comedy industry shenanigans.

Better still, the fact that **local people** will be assessing a local comedian means the Open Mic Award remains free of London bias. The most important thing about this contest is actual comic talent and with the 400 initial heats being held in 40 National Comedy Network Venues across the country, this gives the next **Harry Hill, Frank Skinner** or **Jenny Eclair** a chance to make a dent in both nation-wide and London comedy scene with their unique perspective.

Once past the opening stages, you'll join the other megastars-to-be in the May semi-finals. Once again, these are judged by the public and should you win through this round, you'll appear in the Grand Final, which is held in the last week of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and judged by the audience and a panel of celebrities.

After that lies stardom, untold wealth and the adoration of millions. Oh, and **£1000 prize money** and a booking on the National Comedy Network as a professional comedian. Winning this award will, in a very real sense, change your life. "Yes," confirms last year's champion, Julian Barratt, who's now making a healthy living as a stand-up, "The Open Mic Awards did change my life. Now get off my land, before I set the dogs on you." Julian is currently developing a new show for BBC Radio 1FM.

At the end of the day, of course, the decision lies with you. Do you want to spend the rest of your years sweating blood for **The Man at Megabucks PLC** for a mere handful of beans a week, or, like Julian Barratt and 17 year old 1994 finalist Daniel Kitson, do you fancy telling a couple of jokes in front of a bunch of supportive mates and then frittering your life away on such delirious pursuits as cavorting with supermodels and holidaying in far off climes?

You know what to do. (See Mark Home, ICU, for more information.)

friday
19
january

Rag Meeting
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Islamic Society
Friday Prayers
1pm. Southside Gym. (R)

Pakistan Society
3 - 5pm. Basketball practice in the union gym. Bring trainers! Contact Kashif, Aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

Fitness Club
5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics (R)

Ents
The first 1996 appearance of "The Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club". Tonight's act is "the nipple quiveringly funny"

CORKY AND THE JUICE PIGS

Their act involves music, sketch and improvisation, and they're described as 'Pop Culture Guerillas'. And it's FREE T-shirt time to the first twenty in.

Doors are 8pm, and it's £2.50 or £2. Then to follow, it's a night of aural pleasures with those glammy Pop Tarts, so get ready to dance your asses off to favourites past, present and future. Plus the Chill-out Lounge will be open, and this week it'll have a bar! Entry is £1 or free before 9pm or with an Entscard. Don't forget, you now need a Union card to guarantee admission. Union cards are available from the Union Office (funny enough). Bring along a photo and registration form (that red thing).

Don't forget that with the Open Mic Awards you have the chance to become a world famous comedian - see page 17.

friday

the
week
ahead

saturday
20
january

Gliding Club
Gliding at Lasham Airfield. (R)

Ents
5 Nations Rugby Live on the Big screen. France v England./ Ireland v Scotland. Davinci's from noon.

s a t u r d a y

Bust-a-Gut Comedy

Finally, Corky and The Juice Pigs are touring the universities of the UK. One can't help but wonder why they waited so long? We asked Sean Cullen, member of the group, to shed a little light on the subject:

"It comes down to fear really. I'm afraid of leaving the house. And I'm afraid of people coming into the house. Sometimes I sit weeping on the toilet, afraid to flush it for fear that it will break down and I'll have to call the plumber and the plumber will scare me."

Greg Neale had a different opinion:

"I am stupid and I don't like the idea of smart intelligent people looking at me. Also I'm a chronic bed wetter."

Phil Nichol was the only one who had a positive view about universities:

"I'm certain they exist. What form they might take is anyone's guess. Probably vaguely humanoid with a large cafeteria."

Although the Juice Pigs have opinions about colleges and universities in Britain, one thing is for certain, they will soon be visiting this one, bringing their own brand of surreal satire in a duffle bag woven of children's dreams. See them now before they drink the potion and become invisible.

Phil Nichol

Sean Cullen

Greg Neale



sunday
21
january

Gliding Club
Gliding at Lasham Airfield
Contact gliding@ic.ac.uk
Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)
Fitness Club
2pm. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

Ents
3pm Davinci's. Standing Room Only. Live big screen football - Aston Villa v. Tottenham Hotspur.

s u n d a y

Tamil Society

The International Tamil Society are holding their annual cultural event for the third time this year on the 26th of January at 7pm in Great Hall, Sherfield Building. Amongst the many programmes to be performed by talented artistes are Dance, Music and Drama. A brief description of the evening's performances is given below:

Karnatic Vocal - Classical Music

This is a form of singing normally praising the Lord or the Tamil Language and expresses one's feelings towards the piece being sung. It involves the interaction of the voice with instruments such as the violin and miruthangam.

Bharatha Natyam

The dance of the Tarnils is known as Bharatha Natyam. The word signifies 'Bha' for Bhavam (expression), 'Ra' for Raga (music), 'Tha' for Thalam (rhythm) and 'Natyam' (Dance). It was originally a temple dance and dates back to 2nd Century AD. Most of the themes for this dance are selected from Hindu mythology.

Drama - Santhathigal (Generations)

This describes a typical Tamil family like thousands of others who have fled their homeland Jaffia, Northern Sri Lanka since 1984. They have left behind their knowledge, culture, talents, dreams and come to a strange land under the title 'Refugees'. 'Generations' shows how one such family has adapted to life in the UK. This drama has proven to be a great success and is staged here for the Tamil Society for the sixth time!

Music Band - Chitralaya

A feast of eastern and western instruments will accompany the young and talented Tamil singers in the UK as they sing some of the most popular cinema songs.

A lot of effort has been put in by our members to make this event a great success.

We hope to send the money raised to the displaced people - especially children who are suffering from lack of medication and sanitation in the Northern province of Sri Lanka. You too can contribute. Tickets are available at the door and from all society members.

monday 22 january

Student Industrial Society

12 - 2pm. Tennis room, upstairs in Union. (R)

Fitness Club

12.30pm. Beginners body toning (45 mins)
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics
6.30pm. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

Jewish Society

12.15 - 1.15pm. Clubs Committee Room, top floor of the union building. **There really will be a Bagel Lunch this time** and a guest speaker, too.
For more information : jsoc@ic.ac.uk or SCC pigeon hole.

Ski Club

12.30 - 1.15 pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

ArtSoc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Union Dining Hall. Come and sign up for our many trips to Musicals. (R)

Concert Band

5.15pm. Great Hall, Sherfield. Any ability. (R)

Cross Country

5.00pm. Circuit training. Union gym. (R)

Squash Club Night

8 - 10pm. Sports Centre. (R)

IC 2nd Orchestra

7 - 9pm. Great Hall. All welcome. (R)

m o n d a y

Photographic Society

Exhibit your talent!

(sounds promising...)

On the 26 February we are having our Annual Photographic Exhibition at Imperial College, held in the anteroom of the Sherfield Building.

We are planning to show you our different contemporary ideas through our photographs. There will be a variety of photographs (black & white as well as colour) on display, incorporating a wide range of techniques.

It is a chance for you to see the world (literally) through our eyes!

For those of you who wish to exhibit photographs with us or just socialise, it is not late to join the photographic society. You can come and meet us in the Southside Lounge on Tuesdays at 1:00pm.

For more information, email nchadbom@ic.ac.uk or kal@doc.ic.ac.uk.

tuesday 23 january

Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Sir Leon Bagritt Centre. Level 1 Mech Eng. (R)

Afro-Carib Soc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Room G02, Materials dept, RSM. All welcome. (R)

IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

Audio Soc

1.00pm, Southside Lounge. Want to buy cheap CDs? Interested in borrowing high-end HiFi? We have it all... (R)

Photo Soc

1.00pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Come along and learn to juggle! Union Lounge.
More info : sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room, Union Building. (R)

icsf - Science Fiction

7pm in STOIC Studios: Babylon 5: The year is 2260...
<http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> (R)

IQ

7.30pm. Further Info: pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk or <http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/> (R)

Canoe Club

7pm. Beit Quad. All levels welcome, and free instruction. (R)

OpSoc Rehearsal

7.30pm. Sandy Wilson's The BoyFriend. UCH. (R)

ICCAg

8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

Ents

8pm Davincis. The ever-popular quiz night: Dan the man asks some impertinent questions - Bar Trivia - an easy way to WIN £50 or a crate of beer, and all you have to do is answer questions.

After Dark

8 - 11.30pm in the Ents Lounge. Admission is a mere £1 for a night of swing, hip-hop and jungle with the African Caribbean society. Definitely the way to celebrate winning the bar quiz.

t u e s d a y

wednesday 24 january

IC Sailing Club

12.15pm. Meet outside Southside, go sailing. (R)

Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk, 0171 352 9111 for details. (R)

Fitness Club

1.15pm. (R)

IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

Ents

Wild, debauched partying with the sports teams at Frolik! Definitely not for the squeamish! Free, and worth every penny. Bar 'til 12.

w e d n e s d a y

next
diary
deadline:
noon,
January
22nd

the
week
ahead

thursday

25

january

Yacht Club Meeting
12.30pm. Lecture Theatre 2, Physics. (R)

Fitness Club
12.30pm. Die Hard circuit training
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. (R)

Gliding Club
1pm. Aero 266. (R)

Mountaineering Club
7pm, Social, Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

Christian Union
6.30 - 7.45pm. SCR in the Union.
(Right above the bar). (R)

ICCAg
8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

Skate Soc
Night Skate - everyone welcome. Contact Alex a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk 0171 352 9111 (R)

RCS Ents
9pm - 12am. Ents lounge. Jazz and Funk night, live band & DJ. £1 (R)

Ents
Sophistication and small plastic animals at ICU Cocktail Night. Davinci's 5 - 11pm.

t h u r s d a y

Gliding Club

Snowed in at The 'Mynd...

As I looked round the bar of the Midland Gliding Club on our first night the place was certainly living up to its reputation. The evening had become an away meeting of the Circus Skills society when one of the locals produced a large bag of clubs, balls and diablos to entertain us after a day with no flying.

We rapidly adjusted to the fact that there would be no flying at all on this gliding trip - the snow and ice prevented our gliders from even getting up the hill to The Long Mynd airfield - they stayed at the bottom all week! Even the cars were hurriedly moved down when it was pointed out to us that they would have been snowed in for several days after we planned to leave.

The trip had seemed such a good idea last term..

After the success of our visit to the Midland Gliding Club last Easter our tales of sharing the landing area with sheep, flying beneath the clubhouse and midnight dunkings enthused the club with a desire to come back again. The locals parting comment at the time of "How about New Year?" sealed it.

Despite the poor weather and our buying up the local town's stock of toboggans some flying of sorts was done during the week - Matt managed to pass his Bronze "C" written paper. When he completes the bronze with a few more solo's he will be ready to fly cross country on his own...

New year itself was celebrated in style, with many of the locals walking up the hill for the party. Although the beer was discovered to be frozen (!) a heater was quickly applied so that we could see 1996 in in appropriate fashion. A good time was had, but when the water ran out the following morning (for the third time) we decided to quit while we were ahead! Anyone for an Easter trip?

Forthcoming Events:

On 20th January (tomorrow!) Bill Giles, BBC Weatherman, will be giving a talk at Lasham and ICGC will be running a minibus down there. Contact jhm@doc.ic.ac.uk if you want a place. Our annual dinner will also be this term - watch out for details.

As always, if you haven't had a go at this flying lark yet, and fancy a go, come to a Thursday meeting (Aero. 266, 1-2pm) or mail gliding@ic.ac.uk. See you soon!

friday

26

january

Rag Meeting
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Islamic Society
Friday Prayers
1pm. Southside Gym. (R)

Pakistan Society
3 - 5pm. Basketball practice in the union gym. Bring trainers! Contact Kashif, Aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

Fitness Club
5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics (R)

Ents
Flares, tanktops, action ! It's back and this time it intends to be badly dressed... Shaft. A night of 70's and 80's pop, disco and party tunes.

And to get you all in the mood, it's free entry to anyone in oxfam style bad taste funky and fab gear. So make a sequined effort! Upstairs UDH is The Cheesy Wotsits Easy Listening Lounge - chilling out with a difference, as the spirit of Mike Flowers takes us over. It's only £1 to get in, or free before 9pm, if you've got an entscard, or if you've dressed to distress. We particularly liked the ents manager's slinky red satin shirt as being an especially lovely little number.

f r i d a y

Careers Information

"Improve your interview skills - a session for postgraduates" is a short course for all on Wednesday 24th January in Huxley Room 343 from 2.00 - 4.00pm. Sign up in the Careers Office.

Milkround Closing Date Four is on Monday 22 January. Hand in your applications on the day by 4pm. Details of interviews are put up on the notice board outside the Careers Office a few days before the interview date.

Summer Vacation Training opportunities are now available on the database in the Careers Office. Apply to UROP for research opportunities.

For more information and careers advice come to the Careers Office, Room 310 Sherfield Building, which is open between 10am and 5.15pm Monday to Friday.

Paid Work Available

Student needed to set up rooms for morning classes, 7.30am - 8.30am Monday-Friday.

Contact Michelle in the Union Office, extension 48060.

Calling all Ex-Linsteadians

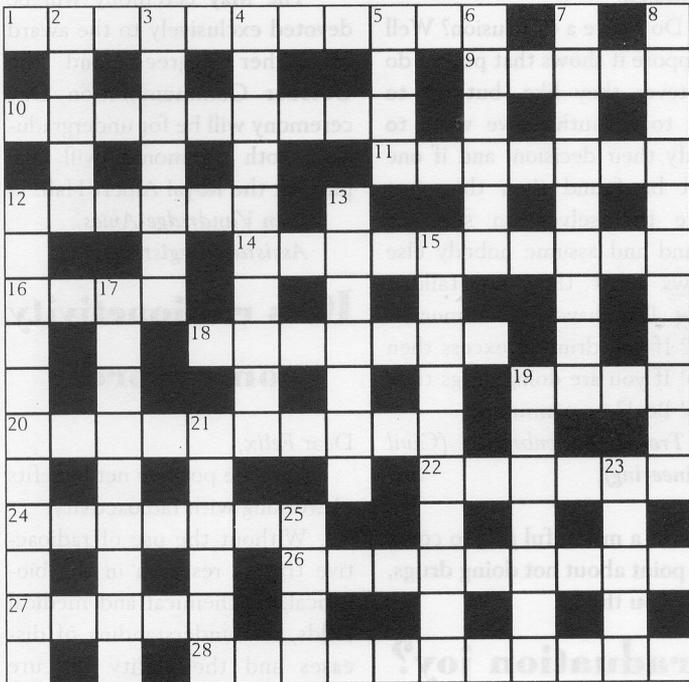
Ex-Linsteadian cards are now available from Richard Hamilton (subwarden). These will enable present residents to let you in during bar hours. To obtain one please phone the bar and ask for a re-app to let you in. Bring £1 and a passport photo with you.

Single Room to Let

£60 per week, in West Kensington. Phone Pauli on 0171 603 0543



Crossword by Catfish



Across:

- 1. Personality of TV chef is often colourful! (11)
- 9. Plants I'd left out in that state (5)
- 10. Turn in camera to add to a collection of memorabilia (9)
- 11. Looked at by South American country's journalist (7)
- 12. Colouring under the skin when it's beaten (6)
- 14. A song has time to take hold of makeshift settlement (6,4)
- 16. One's a bit disturbed for ages (4)
- 18. Take advantage of quiet summary (7)
- 19. Chase out with boot - I say! (4)
- 20. Expel from Hell and take over (10)
- 22. Church near the Vatican made of metal (6)
- 24. Releases and removes hair! (7)
- 26. Change one kind of gate into another? (9)
- 27. No difficulty learning to paint with it (5)
- 28. He stuffs the German into the back of a cab in the fog! (11)

Down:

- 2. Small fossil mentioned at dance (5)
- 3. Churchmen and copper have taxes to pay (7)
- 4. Makes certain to include upset colonel in pens (10)
- 5. Turns pale at the thought of an extra day (4)
- 6. Unravel after a loud disturbance (6)
- 7. Skip drink to play game (8)
- 8. Giving affection to intimate associate (4,2,5)
- 12. Russian ruler had to run to stay in one place? (3,3,5)
- 13. Moaners may become galley slaves! (7)
- 15. A swelling stomach is the principle thing, we hear (10)
- 17. Four points give brief insight to bulletin (9)
- 19. Greek character makes pies, turned over in layer (6)
- 21. Many get bad clout over spooky stuff! (6)
- 23. Spots the undercover agents! (5)
- 25. Filthy place is unknown by underground river (4)

The Finance Society's
 Asset Management Group
 announces
 the continuation of
 Dr Ivan Cohen's
 lunchtime talks on the
 "Wonderful World of
 Finance"

Thursday 25th January, 1pm
 1996 in Room 341, Huxley
 Building. All welcome.

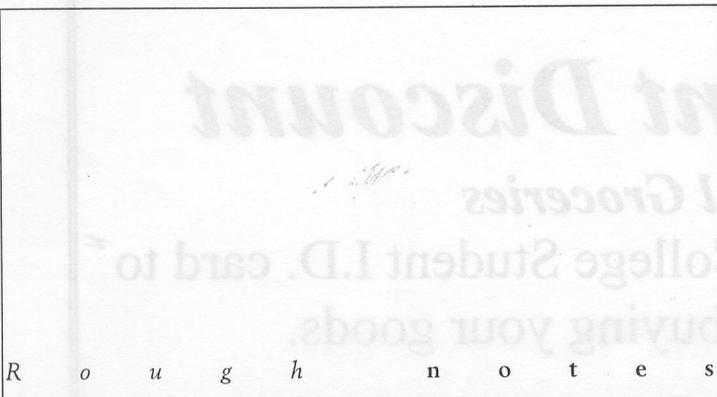
Wing Chun Kung Fu
 Demonstration

Wednesday 24th Jan 1996 1.30 pm

Come and witness this unique martial art that is fast becoming "the" martial art of the 90s. Fast - explosive - effective street fighting techniques that work. You have nothing to lose and every thing to gain, keep fit with a purpose and learn to defend yourself within 3 months.

Classes held on Wed 1.30 pm and Fri 5.30 pm Union Gym by renowned Kung Fu teacher Sifu Andrew Sofos.

First lesson will be free. See you on the 24th.



LETTERS TO FELIX:

EDITED BY ALEX FEAKES

Bully for him!

Dear Editor,

The Government of this country has recently gone to great lengths to inform us that British beef is safe to eat. The medical profession seem to be divided on this one, some say that they themselves steer clear (excuse the pun), others claim the evidence is insufficient to convince them that beef is unsafe. What does the public do? Largely, it ignores the Government and finds solace in agreement with some medical people and stop eating beef.

The Government of this country has recently informed us that it is safe to drink more alcohol than we have been. The medical profession seems unanimous on its disagreement with this statement and clearly tells us that it is a poison to the liver and

should not be drunk in anything like the quantities the Government now stipulates as safe. What does the public do? Largely, it ignores the medical people and finds solace in agreement with the Government and goes and gets pissed.

The Government of this country has recently reformed us of the dangers of taking drugs, even the popular youth drug ecstasy. The medical profession seems to wholeheartedly agree with this line. The police also strongly encourage abstention from drug taking, as the dangers to the user have been graphically highlighted, and the immoral activities that drug money funds are becoming more apparent. What does the public do? Well it seems divided on this one. Parents seem worried about drugs and try to educate their kids, but many young people ignore the Government and the

medical people and go out and get stoned.

Do I have a conclusion? Well I suppose it shows that people do whatever they like, but try to look to an authoritative voice to justify their decision, and if one can't be found then they just place themselves on superior ground and assume nobody else knows what they are talking about. Do I have a recommendation? If you drink in excess then stop! If you are doing drugs then stop! Beef? no comment!

Trevor Addenbrooke (Civil Engineering).

A bit of a mouthful just to come to a point about not doing drugs, don't you think?

Graduation joy?

Dear Rachel,

Just a note to let you know that contrary to the column 'News in Brief' in January 12th's *Felix*, the two graduation ceremonies planned for 1996 will be held on:

Wednesday, 1 May 1996,

Thursday, 24 October 1996.

The May ceremony will be devoted exclusively to the award of higher degrees, and the October Commemoration Day ceremony will be for undergraduates. Both ceremonies will take place at the Royal Albert Hall.

*John Vandridge-Ames,
Assistant Registrar.*

IC's radioactivity on record

Dear Felix,

RE: The positive net benefits of working with radioactivity.

Without the use of radioactive tracers research in the biological, biochemical and medical fields, our understanding of diseases and the ability to cure would be severely hampered. These can be used in minute amounts and they can be targeted to specific molecular sites. Radioactivity can also be used in hospitals as a cure in cancer treatments and as a diagnostic tool. Natural radioactivity is with all the time: it is present in the

Southside Shop

All Sandwiches 75p

after 5:00 p.m.

* * *

10% Student Discount

on General Groceries

Just show your Imperial College Student I.D. card to the cashier before buying your goods.

ground as uranium and thorium and it is in our bodies as potassium-40. If the use of radioactivity is potentially beneficial, how are we to regulate the resulting discharges of very small amounts into the environment?

Public concern arises from the current view that the radiation effects are linear down to the smallest dose and can be harmful. This must, however, be seen in perspective with other risks and with the perceived benefits. There are more data on the effects of radiation than for any other pollutant and this allows discharges to the environment to be strictly regulated. A risk assessment for the discharges must be made for the research before the regulator (HMIP) will issue an authorisation. Each discharge route must be assessed individually.

The safest means of disposal is storage of solid wastes (tissues, glassware etc), contaminated with short-lived activity, to allow the activity to disappear by decay. However for liquid waste, the safest approved disposal

route is by the drains since in this way the trace radioactivity is dispersed and diluted while it decays. Risk assessments might lead typically to an exposed individual receiving less than 1% of their average annual background dose. You might say that this is more than it should be, but do you worry when you travel from the Cotswolds to Aberdeen and increase your radiation dose by 300%? It is a matter of perspective and risk versus benefit.

Margaret Minski, IC Radiation Protection Advisor.

Yes, but what about the report in *Time Out*? You infer that IC has a licence to dispose of radioactive waste, but the College has denied dumping any. I think we should be told...

Letters may be edited for length. The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.
 Deadline for letters in *Felix* 1047: 6pm, Monday 22nd
 Please bring your union card for identification.

FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

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I was really pleased to get a phone call from Ian Caldwell's office first thing on Monday morning. We are now to meet up on a regular basis, and I shall endeavour to keep up to date with the state of play of the great Imperial house extension.

It's really hard to know what to make of it all: I feel I shouldn't say this, but it's quite possible that the Director of Estates is actually quite a reasonable man. That doesn't seem to be the current viewpoint of the St Mary's medics. But I can't help feeling that we're rather letting ourselves down, that our 'too little too late' protestations come over as being complaint for the sake of it. I wonder if we just sound faintly petulant, and whether the incoherent voice of the Imperial Student actually has any credibility at all.

We are in serious danger of having a real shortage of student facilities in a couple of years' time. College wanted to build a sizeable new area of social space in the Sherfield Building. It would have had bars, restaurants, and meeting rooms, as well as shops and welfare offices. Okay, so the location wasn't great, but quite frankly it would have been a sizeable improvement on sticking with the decidedly tatty run-

down facilities that we have at present. They are already unable to cope with the size of the present population, even before we have hoards of beery medics descending upon us.

The unspoken attitude amongst the College decision makers seems to be that they tried, and we rejected it, and that embarrassed them, and so we don't get another chance. Although that's quite clearly an unreasonable attitude, because they simply couldn't afford the 'Sherfield option', it really doesn't look likely that ICU will be able to expand in Beit Quad. The massive financial undertaking that is the current estates strategy quite simply has to be financed by revenue from conferences over the summer. Bedrooms equals cash - something of the order of £2000 per year per bed. So they simply cannot afford to sacrifice bedspaces in Beit Quad for the sake of a larger student bar. I think we should worry.

* * * * *

Who the hell was it who took my underwear from the Southside laundry over the weekend? I think you need help. Have you any idea how much Marks and Spencer are charging

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER
 MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE
 PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA HARRISON
 THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK PUZZLES: CATFISH
 SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK:
 MARK, TIM, AND BEN

THE
FELIX
WEEK

The indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

<p>monday, high noon clubs & societies articles deadline</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>monday 1.20pm reviewers' meeting</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>monday 6pm letters deadline</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>monday 6pm news meeting</p>	<p>tuesday noon arts meeting</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>tuesday 6pm features meeting</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>thursday night collating</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>friday morning another Felix hits the street...</p>
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FELIX SPORT

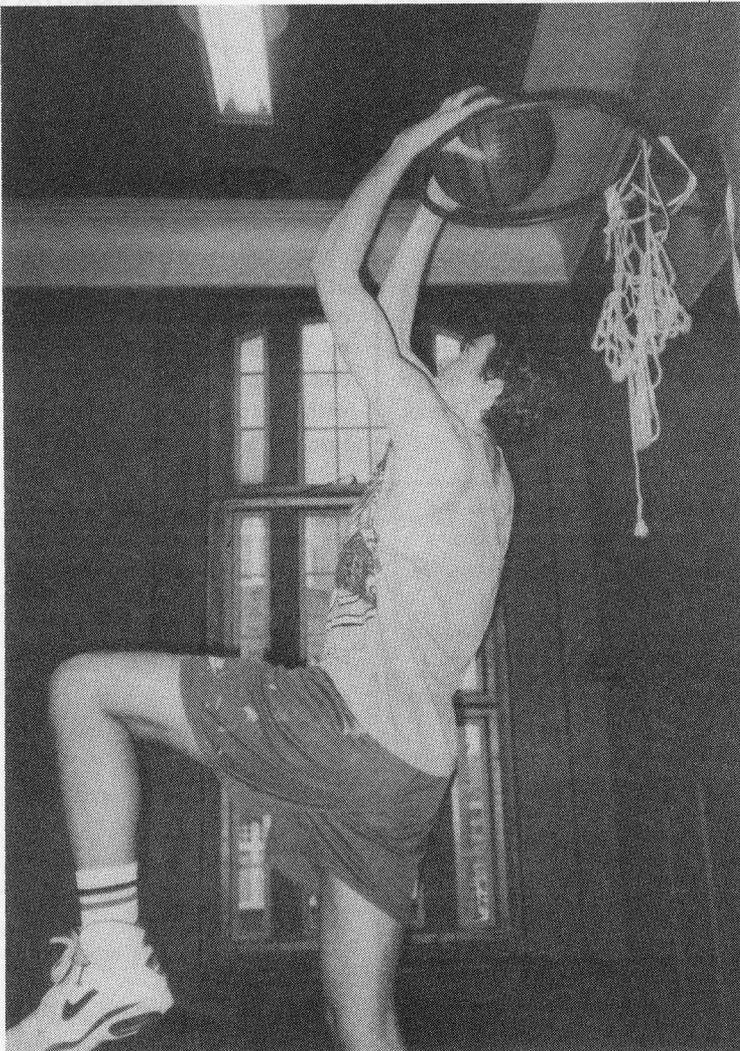
Italians storm OSC basketball

The joint Italian-Spanish team slaughtered all of the opposition in Saturday's first-round OSC basketball tournament.

The size of the Union gym limited teams to play only four a side, but the decaying backboards and rims did not stop the teams from enjoying the tournament. All the games were highly competitive and even aggressive at times.

The Italian-Thai game was finely balanced, with many successful outside shots from the Thais. But with the help of Alex Cinelli's re-direction and fancy moves, the Italians made an amazing come back and won. The Indians put up a brave fight, especially in their last game against the Italians who were by now unstoppable. Credit must also be given to the Mauritian attempt.

The Thai and Italian teams will now pass to the next round. The most interesting game may be the Italy-Greece game: both are strong teams, and although the Greeks have a little more experience, after this round's performance the Italians look capable of anything.



RSM footballers top league

RSM 1 3 - 3 RSM OLD BOYS

When the game eventually started we dominated the first half, with brilliant football and only excellent defence by the not so 'old' boys kept the score to 2-1. The second half saw a missed penalty (by Keith) and some tired legs. They capitalised and scored to give the game a deserved 3-3. We would like to thank the old boys for an enjoyable Sunday

RSM 1 4 - 2 QMW III

After being 1-0 down for sixty minutes, all of the team gave 120% to pull the game back to 4-2, with a hat-trick (Keith again), and one for Digger.

We dominated both halves and were the rightful winners, however QMW kept the game alive and certainly deserved more for their efforts.

RCS rugby success

RCS 1 13 - 0 ROYAL VETS

RCS win again! A combination of good scrummaging, especially in the second half and superb play by the three-quarters led to a half-time lead of 8-0 (try by Ben, penalty by Justin). Despite domination in the second half, in both possession and territory, several tries went begging, although Simon managed to ground one. Overall, the score did not reflect the pattern of the game... but we still won!

A big hand to John Savery at hooker (man of the match), and Hunter (Harvey) for his impressive Christmas pectorals.

Results

FOOTBALL

RSM 1 3 - 3 RSM OLD BOYS • RSM 1 4 - 2 QMW III

RUGBY

RCS 13 - 0 ROYAL VETS

BASKETBALL

MAURITIUS 8 - 24 ITALY • INDIA 14 - 20 THAILAND
 MAURITIUS 12 - 14 INDIA • ITALY 26 - 20 THAILAND
 MAURITIUS 14 - 32 THAILAND • ITALY 24 - 12 INDIA

HOCKEY

EVERY IC TEAM LOST. OOPS.

PLEASE REGALE THE SPORTS DESK WITH YOUR RESULTS, OR EVEN MATCH REPORTS
 ASAP ON WEDNESDAYS

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by

