

The Albert Hall:
things that go bump
in the night

fii

dennis potter
blue
remembered
hills

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Virtual Stonehenge



FELIX

The student newspaper
of Imperial College

Issue 1057
May 17th 1996

IC still ranks 3rd in *Times* league

BY ANDREW SMITH

This morning's *Times* newspaper shows Imperial College retaining its historical third place in their annual league table of Britain's higher level institutions. With the *Times* using a number of different criteria in this year's scoring, Imperial has dropped further behind Cambridge and Oxford, now standing over 120 points adrift of the top two.

Once again both library spending and accommodation are the areas where Imperial suffers in comparison to Oxbridge. IC scores just 44 out of 100 in the library category, while one of its main rivals received maximum points. The accommodation ranking drags Imperial down even further, with a score of 34 being well behind those of both Oxford and Cambridge.

Commenting on the results Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, refused to draw comfort from Imperial's consistent third placing. 'I want us to be first' he said. But he emphasised the arbitrary nature

of the *Times* selection of criteria, saying that "we don't actually think that tables like these are very meaningful."

Justifying Imperial's poor showing when library funding levels are compared, the Rector suggested that IC's mix of subjects might be influencing the score. He insisted that College's library facilities are 'excellent', and suggested that the large number of scientific journals on the Internet might lessen spending requirements in comparison with those of universities specialising in the humanities.

Sir Ronald did not see any immediate prospect of improving IC's comparatively unfavourable record on the provision of accommodation for students. He acknowledged that 'the rents are high', despite the fact that college subsidises them, and that it is "hard to see any central London college being able to match Oxford or Cambridge."

This year's tables include official information from the

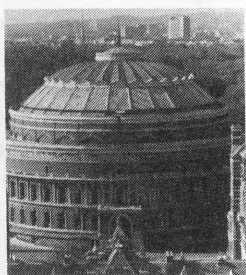
Continued on page three



PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

IC's contractors Schal International are set to begin sheet piling next week around the perimeter of the new Biomedical Sciences building. Having installed supporting structures to prevent any subsidence of the RCS I chemistry building adjacent to the site, they will dig out the site to a depth of 3.5 metres in preparation for excavating the new basement. Meanwhile, across the road excavation of the the new library basement is well underway. Expected to take ten weeks to complete, the drilling will provide extra archive storage space so that the top floors of the library can be decanted while building work for the extension takes place.

in summary



£40 million for Albert

The Albert Hall's chief executive, Patrick Deuchar, announced on Tuesday that the monument is set to receive £40 million from the National Lottery fund.

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Security guard dies

Imperial College staff are shocked after the sudden death of Sherfield Security guard Vic Turner. Vic died of a heart attack in the Senior Common Room on Tuesday.

page 3

Imperial on 'whitelist'

IC features highly in new revelations that suggest that developing countries are specifically targeting certain British universities which they feel are acceptable for their students.

page 2

IC favoured on overseas 'whitelist'

BY THE NEWS TEAM

IC's £13.8 million income from foreign students was put under the spotlight this week with the revelation that some countries are creating 'whitelists' of favoured British Colleges.

The Education Editor of *The Times*, John O'Leary, broke the story early this week. He confirmed to *Felix* that Imperial is on the exclusive list of colleges to whom Singapore will send medical students. It has also been confirmed that all Imperial's degrees are accepted by Singapore's Professional Engineering Board.

Prof Alan Swanson, Pro Rector (Educational Quality), suggested that Imperial's exalted position might in part be due to the long running activities of the College's International Office. Their efforts ensure that Imperial is represented at all major Recruitment Fairs that the British Council runs worldwide.

At present approximately 23% of Imperial's student population originate from abroad. Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka are the three best represented countries, with over six hundred students.

The Pro Rector defended the relatively high number of overseas students saying that "The international experience is part of why people come here." He suggests that the increase in overseas students is likely to continue with 30% being a "reasonable" upper figure.

This means that the valuable overseas income will continue to grow, potentially topping £20 million by the end of the decade. This was the first year that income from overseas students surpassed that from home students. With this significant source of money dependent on the approval of foreign governments, Prof Swanson admits that he would be concerned, "if we were crossed off anybody's list".

£40m Albert Hall windfall

BY NAT BARB

Popular science shows, sports events and a British Orchestra Week will feature in the new programme of the Royal Albert Hall, following its £40 million award from the National Lottery Fund.

Announcing the award on Tuesday, the Hall's Chief Executive, Patrick Deuchar, explained that the money will go towards a £58 million refurbishment project which will take around eight years to complete. "We want to restore and upgrade the fundamental fabric of this Grade I listed national monument for audiences and artists alike", he explained.

Mr Deuchar intends to balance the range of events at the Royal Albert Hall, but with the new facilities he hopes to be able to stage an additional 60 shows each year (at the moment there are just over 300). The original remit of the Hall was: "to promote the arts and the sciences", and talks are underway with the Science Museum to bring in science shows. This move follows the great success of the recent talk given by Stephen Hawking. Mr Deuchar is also considering expanding into sporting events such as gymnastics and basketball and also dance and opera.

This award represents yet



another massive lottery grant to a London institution, though Mr Deuchar though does not feel that only Londoners will benefit. He views the Albert Hall as "the nation's village hall", and envisages that events such as the proposed British Orchestra Week will bring all of Britain together.

Development work is already underway with the upgrading of seats in the balcony to dress circle standards resulting in the hall being shut for a month. The other most noticeable changes will be a pedestrian piazza right around the building, and a rebuilt South Porch which should match the other three grand entrances. A huge underground service yard beneath the South Steps will be constructed to remove traffic from around the building. Other plans include

the building of additional bars and restaurants to relieve the present overcrowding.

It is hoped that disruption due to the building works will be kept to a minimum with only two additional closures. The first will occur in 2001 to revamp the stage, with the other closure at the end of the works to clean the organ (at a cost of £2 million) and to refurbish the interior of the Hall. The £18 million balance between the cost of the project and the lottery grant will be met from Royal Albert Hall trading surpluses.

1996 is the Royal Albert Hall's 125th Anniversary. This £40 million 'birthday present' should allow it to maintain its image as one of the nation's most popular venues well into the next century.

News in brief

Unusual interest in AGM

Filling the ICU officer vacancies looks set to be a simpler task this year. As *Felix* went to press, the positions of transport officer and Haldane Book and Record Buyer were the only ones lacking candidates. The elections are due to take place at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 12.15pm today. The position of Council Chair is hotly contested, with both C&GU President, Sarah Thomas, and Vice President, Duncan Tindall, standing for the position

as well as the Royal College of Science Academic Affairs Officer, Matt Szyndel.

IC 'in hock to military'

Imperial has been singled out in figures released by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament investigating the extent of Ministry of Defence involvement in research contracts in London.

The report indicates that the vast majority of IC departments receive MoD funding, whose contracts are supposedly worth £7million to the university.

Alleging that London University is 'in hock to the military', CND also reveal that the American Government sponsor \$3.5million worth of military research.

Disciplinary

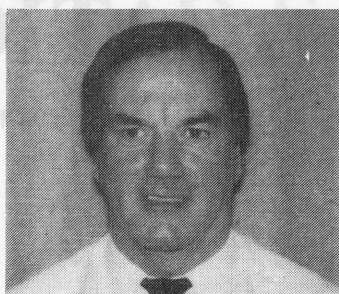
A Royal School of Mines student faces disciplinary action at a meeting with ICU licensees this morning. The student is alleged to have been violent and abusive to the ICU President, Sarah White, and a union steward on the evening of the City and Guilds' Carnival on 3 May.

Security mourn Vic Turner

Vic Turner, the well known and much respected Imperial College Security Supervisor, died suddenly in the early hours of Tuesday 14th May. It has been confirmed that he died of a heart attack despite the best attempts of his colleagues, Cathy and Terry, and an ambulance crew to revive him.

Starting work on Monday evening, he took his scheduled break in the early hours of Tuesday morning, going upstairs from his post in the Sherfield Building to the Senior Common Room. He was discovered when one of his colleagues later went to inform him that they were starting their rounds.

Vic had worked in College for fifteen years, and was much appreciated through his contact with staff and students. He started work as a Security Officer stationed in the Physics Department, later being transferred to Beit Quad where he



worked for over two years.

Vic then moved to the Sherfield Building, after being promoted to Assistant Deputy Supervisor, where he was to work for the next ten years. In May 1992 he was again promoted, this time to Shift Supervisor, under the new shift system that was then being implemented.

Originally trained as a butcher, serving an apprenticeship in Spitalfields Market, Vic ran his own shop before coming to Imperial College. His interests outside work centred on his family, to whom he was devoted, and his keen in passion for

gardening.

The tragedy is compounded by the fact that both his children work at Imperial: his daughter Mickie works in the Finance Department as Business Accounts Supervisor, and his son Jason works in the Postal Section of the Security Department. Jason is due to be married in just over two weeks time.

Vic's death came as a terrible shock to his friends and colleagues as he was only fifty six, and had always been extremely fit and active. His loss to both the Security Department and his friends throughout the College is keenly felt, known as he was for his forthright expression of views and his down to earth nature.

He is survived by his wife Pam, son and daughter. A book of condolences is available for signing at the security desk in Sherfield. His funeral is expected to take place early next week.

Continued from page one

government inspectorate charged with assessing the quality of teaching in Britain's universities. Course completion rates are not included this time, but the number of international students does constitute one of the nine criteria.

Imperial scored a maximum 100 in the ranking of staff-student ratios, with other high scores being achieved in categories measuring employment, research, and the number of first class degrees handed out. These figures pushed Imperial well ahead of their nearest challengers with LSE and UCL over fifty points behind.

John O'Leary, the Education Editor of *The Times*, suggested that this year's figures are not exactly comparable to last year's, due to the slight change in scoring criteria. He further went on to say that Imperial College might hope to narrow the gap next year when the results of this year's research assessment exercise are fully incorporated.

**Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine**

Humanities Programme

Open Day

Wednesday, 22 May 1996

12.00-14.00

**Rooms 313A and 313B,
Mechanical Engineering Building**

An opportunity to talk to the Humanities and Languages Teachers about the options available to you next year. Options include Philosophy I; Philosophy II; History of Science; Philosophy of Science; Ethics of Science & Technology; European History 1870 - 1989; History of Technology; Politics; History of Medicine; CSI: Practical; Art and Nature; Music and Ideas in the Nineteenth Century; Modern Literature and Drama; Humanities Essay; French; German; Italian; Spanish; Russian; and Japanese. Detailed course notes will be available for inspection to help students decide.

VACANCY

WARDEN

FALMOUTH-KEOGH HALL

Applications are invited for the position of Warden of Falmouth-Keogh Hall, which is available from September 1996.

Falmouth Keogh Hall, in Princes' Gardens, is a self-catering mixed hall of approximately 190 students, housed in single study bedrooms. The warden is responsible for the pastoral care of students and for maintaining discipline. In return, he/she receives rent-free accommodation in a self-contained flat.

The majority of Falmouth-Keogh residents are first-year undergraduates, with some post-graduates and more senior undergraduates.

Application forms and an information pack can be obtained from the Establishment Office, Personnel Division, Room 513, Sherfield Building, Tel. Ext. 45533 or 45532. Any non-undergraduate of the College may apply, but experience of pastoral care of students would be an advantage.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Wednesday 29th May 1996.

SUMMER VACATION EMPLOYMENT

FROM: 26 JUNE 1996

UNTIL: 30 SEPT 1996

Temporary Front Office Administrators required to provide a **FIRST CLASS** Reception, Cashier and Clerical Service to vacation guests within Imperial College.

* **Hours of Work: Rotating Shifts of 07:00-15:30, 15:00-23:30, 23:00- 07:30.**
Working 5 days out of 7.

* **Total of 38 hours per week.**

* **Hourly rate of £5.00 per hour - increased rates for night shift.**

* **Accommodation may be made available on request**

No Front Office experience is necessary as full training we will be given, but all candidates must be of smart appearance, numerate, accurate and have a good level of customer care.

Job Description and Application Forms are available from:

David Mander
The Conference Office
Watt's Way

South Kensington
London SW7 1LU
0171 59 49506

Interviews will be held in June

The Royal Albert Ghouls

If your staff were refusing to work late at night because they were afraid of ghosts, who would you call? **Ben Wilkins** talks to one of Britain's real ghostbusters

When Andrew Green arrived at The Royal Albert Hall early one evening, he brought his tape recorder with him. His task was, to say the least, unusual. If your building is infested with rats you call the exterminator; if your pipes are leaking, you call the plumber. But if your staff are being seriously spooked by ghostly apparitions, you call Andrew Green – Britain's top psychic investigator. Six weeks ago the management asked Green if he would come to The Royal Albert Hall and investigate some haunting problems they have been having. I arranged to meet him there last week to find out what he had discovered.

When I got to the Royal Albert Hall I was taken up to the Royal box and told to wait. From the best seats in the house, I scanned the Hall's cavernous interior hoping to see a paranormal patron. There were none. Then two film crews from CNN and CBS arrived along with some other reporters and photographers. At this point I began to have my doubts about being there. I wondered if this whole thing was just a bizarre invention by the press office to give The Royal Albert Hall some extra media attention.

But Green sounded genuine enough. He is a member of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) and since 1944 he has been investigating paranormal phenomena at a scientific level. He was once a scientist but has had a varied career, from lecturer to lifeguard. At 68, he now spends his time lecturing on psychic phenomena and solving other people's paranormal problems. Green has been ghost-busting all over the country and has written several books on the subject. Some of the more famous sites he has visited include The Old Bailey, and Hampton Court Palace.

While I was waiting for Green I got talking to Ian Blackburn, the Building director.

"There have been ghost stories for as long as the Hall has been here, but there is always a flurry of activity whenever there is building work going on. I first became aware of it when contractors started refusing to work in the basement late at night, complaining they had 'seen things'." Mr Blackburn didn't seem too taken in by this spooky activity but he did seem to know all the ghost stories.

He told me about Father Willis who constructed the original grand organ in the nineteenth century. The organ was revoiced in the 1920s but

in the course of the alterations workman ran screaming from the Hall, frightened away by Willis, a stooped figure in a black skull cap. Then there are the two giggling Victorian girls, often seen skipping through corridors late at night. The area they appear in is thought to be the former site of Gore House, where Count D'Orsay lived with his mistress Lady Blessington. One theory is that the two girls are her nieces – who had a reputation for cavorting in the basement. And during one of Jasper Carrot's performances the stage manager noticed a figure drift across the stage. The incident was logged in the duty manager's report but the identity of the mystery person was never established.

Back in the Royal box, Green had arrived, out of breath from climbing the stairs, with his wife

One of his most important instruments is a magnetic tape recorder. Green was involved in developing a magnetic tape system when he was working as a chemist and this is when he realized the potential for these materials to pick up static. He also uses a sensitive digital thermometer, and an ultra high frequency sound detector. Armed with his equipment and a keen eye for the eerie, our ghostbusting hero patrols haunted sites around Britain. Most of the cases he investigates are accountable but he says in about 25 per cent of cases things just don't add up.

"If one builds up a picture of the general concentration of malfunctions one can say well, OK, there is something possibly happening."

Andrew Green spent the night of 30th May patrolling The Royal Albert Hall, recording a running commentary as he went along. But when he played the tape back he realized that in the area below door six (where the two girls were seen) the static electricity was so intense that it had completely obliterated the sound recording. "A concentration of electricity for no apparent reason" was how he put it – and I think that was the closest he was going to get to saying 'ghost'.

On the same night, Green also recorded a remarkable change in temperature. According to his thermometer, it suddenly rose by 8 degrees celsius in 10 seconds. This was in a small area on the fourth floor of the building. Right above the grand organ.

Green seems fairly convinced that there are some unexplained phenomena occurring at the Royal Albert Hall. In his report

to the Chief Executive he will be saying as much. What they do about it is up to them, he says.

Green's investigations will not convince everybody of the existence of paranormal activity. True, his objectivity may be slightly deficient and his results have never been formally checked out, but at least he is making a competent attempt to measure psychic phenomena. His approach is rational and he often discusses his results with other scientific colleagues – many of them University Professors who attend SPR meetings in their spare time.

Did he convince me? Well he did invite me to go and visit him in Sussex. He said he wanted to show me all the haunted sites in his village. Perhaps I will go. Just out of curiosity.



Alan Green believes the Royal Albert Hall is Haunted

Nora – they are Britain's real life equivalent to Mulder and Scully. Green was certainly not the crackpot I had half expected. Something about him suggests he is very quick witted. He has an enthusiastic personality and he obviously enjoys talking about his work. I asked him if it is possible to detect and record a ghost.

"With a bit of difficulty" he says, "The alleged phenomena are usually visual. But it's impossible to produce a camera that will take a photograph of visual apparitions at the drop of a hat. Therefore one has to rely on electronic response units to detect other forms of paranormality. In other words, drops in temperature, concentration of electronic disparements, that sort of phenomena."

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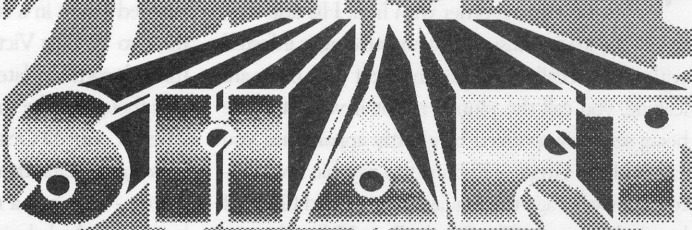
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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
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The Pleasance
Cabaret Bar
Box Office: 0131 650 2349
Doors: 8.00pm**

**SATURDAY 18th MAY
BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY GUILD
The Joke Joint
Box Office: 0121 472 1841
Doors: 8.30pm**

**THURSDAY 23rd MAY
THE ACADEMY
Cleveland Road,
Uxbridge
Box Office: 01895 813 504
Doors: 8.30pm**

**FRIDAY 24th MAY
IMPERIAL COLLEGE
UNION
Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club
Box Office: 0171 594 8068
Doors: 8.30pm**

**SATURDAY 25th MAY
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Doors: 7.00pm**

Tickets £2.50

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Renato

Guttuso

After painting *Crucifixion* in 1942, with its thinly veiled message showing the instruments of torture wrapped in a red flag, Renato Guttuso was accused of blasphemy and Bolshevism. He declared that "in this time of war and massacres... I want to paint the agony of Christ as a scene of today." Less than a year later he fled to Rome to join the Resistance. His allegorical versions of contemporary events that he painted whilst living under Fascism have made him one of the key figures in twentieth century Italian art.

Renato Guttuso

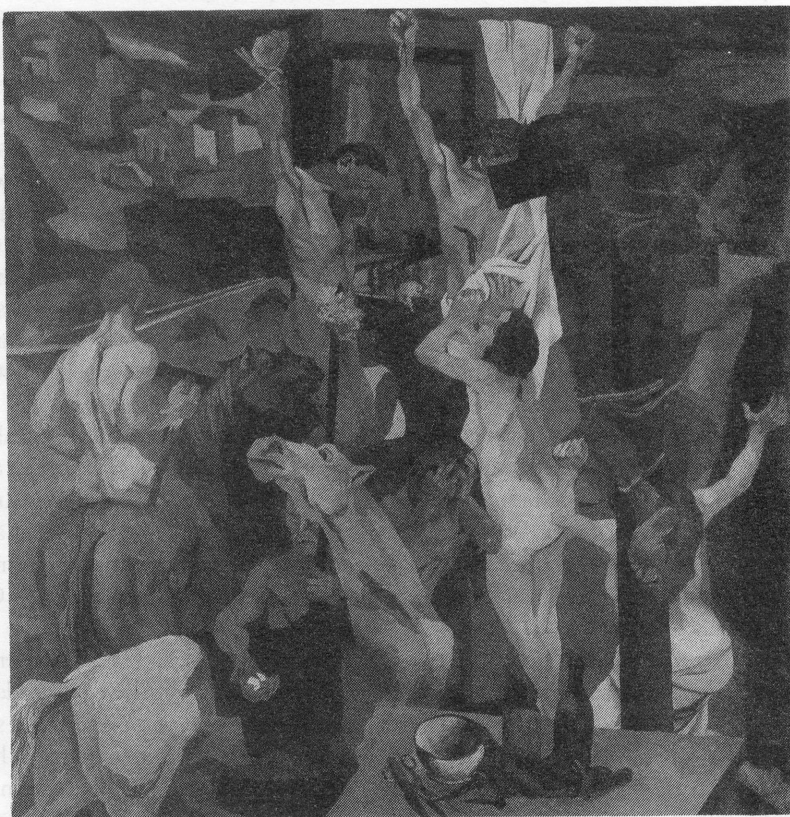
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exhibition: renato guttuso_{rachel}

column: simon baker

insight: virtual stonehenge_{jeanette goldblum}

album: ash - 1977_{vik}

album: bandulu - cornerstone_{paul}

album: baby d - deliverance_{max}

singles: mr happy

album: sleeper - the it girl_{nick}

gig: the wannadies_{jason}

album: everything but the girl - walking wounded_{max}

play: resurrection_{lucas}

play: blue remembered hills_{rys jaszek}

play: dangerous play_{adrian thurston -gordon}

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simon baker

Student wealth is, along with Military Intelligence and College Catering, high on the list of All Time Biggest Oxymorons. You get your grant/loan/money-for-the-kidney and before you're halfway through a loaf of bread from Southside Shop

(those of you who can afford such extravagance in the first place), the handle has been pulled on the fiscal toilet and it's gone round the U bend. But even though your bank statements contain more red ink than an essay on relativity by Gazza, spare a thought for poor old Dame Shirley Porter and her former colleagues at Westminster Council, who have just been surcharged for £31 million in the 'homes for votes' affair. Call me an old cynic, but it strikes me that her biggest crime was documenting what she did and doing it blatantly. It is widely acknowledged that Labour ran a campaign to 'build the Tories out of London' during the sixties, situating high rise, low quality housing to dilute the Conservative vote. The only difference, save for the much greater scale and subsequent social catastrophe, was that they never wrote down their actions. Porter's actions, if proved in the appeal, were undoubtedly wrong, but to suggest that this is the greatest misdemeanour in Local Government history is plainly ridiculous. I see that one of last week's lottery winners, Karl Compton, with £11 million in the bank, is looking for Miss Right. Shirley, he lives in Blackpool...

Last week's editorial on the state of IC's staff was both interesting and brave (God help you if you ever lose your swipe card, Rachel!) and links nicely with something that I have been meaning to say for a few weeks. Although the staff in Chemistry are genuinely a very cheerful and helpful bunch, despite some of the really dodgy undergraduates clogging up the place, there are some who are very rude and insolent. Some of the security staff (mainly those in the library) are very jovial, but others make you wonder if those grey uniforms are really faded black 1942 Stormtrooper outfits from the V&A collection.

One explanation for the apparent misery of the staff which can be immediately discounted is loneliness, at least in Sherfield. A week or so ago, twelve people were spotted in the Admissions Registry, a room the size of Wembley arena. Bad enough, you think, but when you see what they are actually doing, you lose all sympathy for the College in its treatment by the Government. A good number of Imperial students stay on to do postgraduate studies, for which one obviously has to fill in an application form. Naturally, we fill in a different form from outsiders, since they need to give more information. You might think it silly to have to write your A-Level grades on an internal application, and madness to name the institute where you expected to study. Au contraire, my friends, for if you want to do a PhD or



MSc at Imperial, you will be asked exactly that. The temptation to write Particle Physics with Crochet-ing at the Barnsley Institute of Advanced Needlework was nearly impossible to resist.

Having filled in this form, I received a letter from Registry a week later asking for references, which I don't need, and ten days from submission, this piece of paper had failed to make the short journey across the lawn to Chemistry. This unnecessary paper shifting, telling people who do not need to know information they already have, is a scandalous waste of time and money and symptomatic of the sheer pointlessness of huge swathes of Sherfield. I look forward to hearing the views of Registrar Nigel Wheatley on how he justifies the unnecessary use of College resources which merely serves to clog up a busy system. There are multi-nationals with smaller head offices than Sherfield and I dare say they run things better. If it were to be built now on the same scale, it would be so far down the government priority list that it would be competing with the plan to establish a Ministry of Silly Walks.

As most of you will now realise, the gates near Biochemistry are now locked at 11pm. The reason for this, we are told, is security, and I for one remember the huge gangs of armed raiders who have nightly terrorised the campus since the 1850s up until this new measure. Correct me if I am wrong, but most of the break-ins at Imperial have been in places where the closure of these gates would have not made a blind bit of difference, such as the enormous spate of computer thefts from the Huxley building. The major consequence of this action has been to force people who leave Southside wishing to get to Gloucester Road to trek along Prince Consort Road. If you must lock them, why not do it at midnight when most people will have left College, or soon you will end up with students impaled on the railings as they make a bid for freedom. And while I'm on the subject of these gates, I must take this opportunity to thank Ian Caldwell for the helpful signs now adorning said ironwork which state 'This is a temporary gate.' You have excelled yourself. This ranks as the most pointless sign, and hence greatest waste of money, I have ever seen. When is the 'This is a temporary sign' sign going up?

It is a shame that this week's column has been so negative about IC, but it's nice to report that one facet of the old girl consistently functions perfectly. I refer, of course, to Southside Bar, home to the finest and broadest range of ales in Christendom (and if that doesn't get me a free pint, nothing will). I have to report unacceptable behaviour by one of the punters, who asked for 'a pint of bitter'. Do you, when buying a car, ask for 'a red one'? You have sinned. May God have mercy on your wretched soul.

"You might think it silly to have to write your A-Level grades on an internal application, and madness to name the institute where you expected to study. Au contraire, my friends"

VIRTUAL STONEHENGE

JEANETTE
COULBOURN

Farmers need no longer complain when their land is invaded for the summer solstice. Thanks to the Virtual Stonehenge project it will soon be possible to visit the ancient site via the Internet. And as long as virtual farmers don't mind you walking across their virtual land there will be no need to call the virtual police.

Brian Bath of English Heritage is behind the project and sees a future which uses immersive VR technology. "Visitors will be able to don a headset and fly over the site and land within the stone circle. By virtually touching an object they will be given audio or multi-media like visual windows, displaying more textual and visual information". Features may eventually include 'tactile feedback gloves' enabling users to feel the texture of the stones. Smells, such as freshly cut grass, may also be integrated into the system allowing for a multi-sensory experience.

Two years ago English Heritage began a photogrammetric survey of Stonehenge with the aim of producing an accurate archive of every stone within 'The Henge'.

Photogrammetry has the unique ability of producing highly accurate three dimensional models from overlapping photographic images. The resulting 3-D computer models of every visible surface on each stone form the basis of virtual Stonehenge

and will be invaluable to any planned restoration work.

A Geographical Information System (GIS) is a powerful computer package for all kinds of geographic information. The Stonehenge GIS was created to bring together a variety of data that includes base maps, contour data, aerial photography, satellite imagery, road and landuse information and the recorded archaeology for the entire region. "Information on age and condition of artefacts can be accessed within the model using hypertext links", said Bath. "These links are locations within the VR landscape which can be clicked upon, presenting the user with additional information in the form of text, pictures and sounds."

The system uses what is known as 'fading-level-of-detail management'. "This means that as a viewer 'moves closer' to a particular stone other features leave his or her field of view", explained Bath. "The computer gradually displays a model of that stone in ever increasing detail."

This process could also be used to fade in models of the stones as they may have existed centuries ago. Eventually a complete virtual world may be created including moving day and night skies. The end product may not only be this virtual world but an entire virtual history.

inSci#ght°

album: ash - 1977_{vik}

The youth of today, what are they like? I mean, when I were a lad, you went to school, and if you were academically inclined you did your A-levels, went to university and then got a job. But not Ash. No, they decide to form a band when they're so young that they wouldn't know what a razor was if it came up and shaved all their hair off. Then they get signed whilst they're doing their A-levels and within a few months of finishing school they've had three top 20 singles, have been round the world getting hideously drunk and occasionally playing shows (if the photos adorning the inlay to this album are anything to go by), and have released a debut album to thousands of bated breaths all round the country. Sounds to me like someone somewhere's making a mockery of the education system...

Having said that, they may need those A-levels if they keep churning out albums like '1977'. Okay, so it starts off in supercharged fashion with the snotty, guitar thrash of 'Lose Control', followed by the singles 'Goldfinger' and 'Girl From

Mars'. However, from here on the only real points of interest are the other two singles, 'Kung Fu' and 'Angel Interceptor'. Filling in the cracks between these points and afterwards are a number of light-weight, immature stabs at maturity. 'I'd Give You Anything' consists of one riff (= one idea) recycled mercilessly. 'Gone The Dream' sounds like it's about to break into 'Live Forever' at the start (a crime so heinous that only a suitably torturous punishment will suffice; perhaps being locked in a room with said Oasis track on continuous loop would do it). 'Innocent Smile' has no hook, no chorus, no big guitars, and goes on and on and on, while 'Lost In You' is perfect plagiarism and comes across like a pre-pubescent version of Frank Sinatra's 'Strangers In The Night'. Does this sound bad enough yet?

A disappointment, then, and one only made less traumatic by the wonders of compact disc technology which enable me to skip to the five great tracks (and to be fair, they *are* great) here at will. I just hope that for Ash and their drunken antics it's not beer today, gone tomorrow. (6)

album: bandulu -

cornerstone_{paul}

This is the third Bandulu album and their first for a major label. Not that you'd know it, mind, since this release is as equally weird and unpredictable as their previous excursions. Success has made quite a habit of eluding North London's most eminent techno-heads, despite a number of nifty club records and an awesome live show. Unfortunately, this record is not going to help matters.

I'm not saying that it isn't any good. It's just that Bandulu refuse to compromise; to temper their dark, minimalist techno for the record buying public. Tunes are a big no-no with melodies so understated as to be almost unnoticeable. If you're a fan of bleepy, drifting, ambient techno-

scapes, then this is most definitely for you.

The opener, 'Selah', is the only remotely catchy track. It's dreamy, mood-evoking and just plain brilliant. 'Parasite' outdoes even the masterful Aphex Twin to deliver a smooth, deeply textured melody-less ambience. The rest of the album follows the usual Bandulu themes, namely strong dubby bass-lines with weird electronic rhythms gliding over the top.

Basically, this is an album which technoboffins will love. Your average techno fan, on the other hand, will love a few of the tracks but ultimately end up getting bored with the 'filler' ones. Technically this album is excellent, but if Bandulu are to achieve anything approaching the success of, say, Underworld, then they'll have to give us a few more hooks to hang on to. (7)

album: baby d -

deliverance_{max}

As the Jungle sound infiltrates more and more of mainstream music, (note, the recent miraculous resurrection of the career of Everything But The Girl), with anybody who's anybody name-checking Grooverider and Fabio, the time is right for bands to straddle the rapidly narrowing gulf between hard dance and mainstream sounds. As has been proven by their singles, 'Let Me Be Your Fantasy', 'So Pure' and 'I Need Your Loving', Baby D are one such band. Combining the underground elements of the jungle dance genre with full-on commerciality, they produce music that both club-goers and the masses alike can appreciate.

'Let Me Be Your Fantasy' was voted the all-time favourite dance record by Kiss FM listeners in 1994, prior to its release. This ensured that when it did hit the shops, it went to the top of the

charts. Subsequent singles have also been hits, although none have come close to attaining the success of the first. The main reason for this is that 'Let Me Be Your Fantasy' is undoubtedly one of the best commercial dance tracks of the past few years. As a consequence of this, the other singles, and indeed the other tracks on this album (which was originally released in March but is undergoing something of a 're-promotion'), are left lounging in its shadow.

Most of the songs do not veer too far from the already well-trodden formula path. There is some variation, with a hint of soul thrown in for good measure on 'Come Into My World' and 'Winds Of Love' (although both revert to what you might expect eventually).

This is definitely not an album for the Junglists amongst you, but will appeal to those who do enjoy a light sprinkling occasionally. What ever next, Goldie featuring Foster and Allen? (6)

singles: mr. happy

smashing pumpkins - tonight, tonight

Another superb single from the hugely popular 'Melon Collie And Infinite Sadness' album. The b-sides, however, are poor and you'd probably be better off getting the album instead.

pizzicato five - unzipped e.p.

Pizzicato Five are the new Shonen Knife, in that they have a female voice, they're Japanese and they can't write lyrics. The songs are sadly reminiscent of the Stock, Aitken and Waterman hit factory.



comet gain - say yes! to international socialism
Cool single from one of the newest Wiiiija signings. Their songs and their politics remind me a lot of Chumbawamba and the first track, 'Hiway', is pure pop magic.

whipping boy - twinkle
This is a re-release of Whipping Boy's debut single. They sound like an Irish band trying to be Mancunian but thankfully the result is surprisingly more enjoyable than that description makes it sound.

everclear - heartspark dollar-sign

Yet another politically correct American grunge/rock band. This track from their critically acclaimed album, 'Sparkle And Fade' is okay but it doesn't stand out from the crowd.



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more singles: mr. happy

audioweb - into my world
Audioweb incorporate soul and dance into their music and end up sounding like a Portishead/Nine Inch Nails hybrid in places. This single also includes a good 808 State mix.



the auteurs - kid's issue
The Auteurs seem to have changed to a much more industrial and experimental sound and have improved as a result. This e.p. is very diverse and even features a Beatles-esque song.

orange deluxe - brand new stone-age man/jupiter's eye
This song tries to sound like a mixture of Oasis' 'Wonderwall' and an REM song, but ends up sounding like a Live Aid charity record instead.



soundgarden - pretty noose
Soundgarden's first single from their forthcoming new album, and to be perfectly honest they don't seem to have evolved much since their last album. Very safe guitar noise.

showgirls - imposter
They look like Pulp, sound like Sleeper, and are probably going to be Britpop's next prodigal sons and daughters.



album: sleeper - the it girl^{nick}

The most attractive thing about Sleeper (apart from the gorgeous Louise Wener) is the fact that they appear to be firmly connected with reality. 'The It Girl' is a frank and, dare I say it, honest account of the stuff of everyday life. This annoys a fair few pretentious journalists who obviously believe that music should only be concerned with taking a vast amount of contraband and being involved in alcohol-fuelled, week long, multi-television smashing parties.

Of course that is not to say that Sleeper wouldn't do that sort of thing. It's just that when the lyric, "She smokes his cigarettes and bakes him cakes", blasts from the speakers on 'Lie Detector', you are not immediately reminded of someone staring at their navel. The whole album is full of this sly observation and no small measure of irony.

The second track 'Sale of the Century' (even you must have heard it by now, yes you, bloke at the back) fuses Louise's almost spoken lyrics with

buoyant guitars and not a little bitterness to provide a modern version of a playground taunt: "If I was crap then you were much worse". The energetic 'Dress Like Your Mother' is a track you could probably dance to, and provides the ultimate abuse in "You dress like your mother... Fifty years to go and it seems to me that you're dead already".

In comparison to the excellent lyrics it sometimes appears that band are lacking a little in the inspiration department. We trawl through a few musical styles but Sleeper appear to *be* Louise Wener rather than a discernably integrated band, and it is the bland musical landscape caused by this that drags the album down.

So, a stunning picture window on the ironies of the world, or a musical dud? A bit of both, I'm afraid, but 'The It Girl' makes you smile with its wit and for that I have to forgive it. Sleeper are a gorgeous, non-PC front girl with a drummer, a bass player and a guitarist, and with a little more passion, you never know, the journos might just love 'em. (7)

gig: the wannadies^{awson}

I arrived as the Garage doors opened and had my reservations about the turnout. There were so few people that I even managed to get a seat and table near the bar. Thankfully, people slowly filtered in through the support band's set (the excellent K's Choice) and by the time The Wannadies came on to a rapturous reception, I was standing in a packed venue full of adoring fans.

'New World Record' started it all off (this is becoming a bit of a habit), and the two songs which followed maintained the pogo-ing level of the crowd. What everyone really wanted, however, was 'You And Me Song', and the gradual chant of the song's "Ba...baba...baba.baba" chorus stretched across the hall until the band finally suc-

cumbed. They also played some new material which highlighted the usefulness of their lovely keyboardist (whose presence has been questioned by certain critics).

The crowd simply loved The Wannadies and their beautiful blend of Suede-style pop/rock, with its blissful harmonies and power chords. When their lead singer, who exuded a rock star aura, enquired if they were tired, the answer was predictable.

The band fittingly closed with 'Dying For More' but soon returned for an encore of two new songs from their forthcoming, still-being-written album. Screams for 'Everybody Loves Us' echoed in the air as The Wannadies walked off, but they chose not to play it. Perhaps they're just too modest.

album: everything but the girl - walking wounded^{bea}

I still remember the day I bought Massive Attack's 'Protection'. I got home, put it on and was utterly blown away by it! No other song had ever had quite the same effect on me and just thinking about Tracey Thorn's stunning vocals made me shiver. Her voice was vaguely familiar from the winsome, coffee-table angst of Everything But The Girl, but that duo still passed me by until Todd Terry's recent house re-working of 'Missing', a song which became their biggest hit and showed how well Tracey's voice was suited to dance-influenced beats. Then came the 'Walking Wounded' single...

Undoubtedly the highlight of this album, the title track is an absolute classic. The heart-rending lyrics are perfectly matched by their accompaniment of fractured beats, hard-edged samples and sumptuous, flowing strings. This is provided by Spring Heel Jack, first-rate exponents of the more laid-back style of drum 'n' bass. But this song is

not just another remix - EBTG have gone Junglist!

Well, not quite. There are a couple of acoustic ballads here, which are not really my scene but are still excellent and will appeal to the old fans. It is the break-beat tracks that really shine through, though. Ben Watt, the other half of EBTG, turns out strong melodies and his loops and breaks complement Tracey's astounding vocals to bring together a brilliant package.

Ironically, the weakest tune here is the Todd Terry remix of the new single, 'Wrong'. The finely poised original is ruined by a bland house re-working, a blatant attempt to cash in on 'Missing'. It even starts the same way!

Apart from that, this album is simply magnificent. It may be open to accusations of bandwagon-jumping from those who say that break-beats are everywhere, that everyone gets jungle re-mixes (even Terry Wogan!), that these re-mixes even sell air-fresheners and deodorants, and so on. However, this album is very much of its time, as well as being innovative, hauntingly moving, and a genuine classic.

My album of the year, and it's only May! (9)

IQ - Your GAY SOC
on 25th May

goes to... **BRIGHTON PRIDE**

...will you come too?

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gaysoe @ ic.ac.uk

ICU Cinema £2

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

CASINO

Sun 19th at 7.30pm

JUMANJI

WITHNAIL & I

Weds 22nd at 8.30pm

Thurs 23rd at 8pm



Weds 22nd at 6pm

Doors open 15 minutes before time stated.
ICU Cinema is no smoking but drinks from
Da Vinci's bar are welcome. E&OE; ROAR

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STA
STA TRAVEL

theatre: this week

national theatre, lyttleton
0171 928 2252 south bank
SE1, waterloo tube
blue remembered hills
wed 22nd 8.00pm £7.00 to
£17.50

bush theatre 0181 743
3388 shepherd's bush green,
W12
resurrection
8.00pm mon-sat,
£9.50, students £6

tristan bates theatre
0171 240 3940 the actors
centre, 1a tower street,
WC2
dangerous play
to sun 8.30pm and 3.30
(w/e), students £5.50

almeida 0171 359 4404
angel/highbury & islington
tubes, N1
tartuffe
8pm mon-sat, 4pm sat
from £6.50

tricycle theatre 0171 328
1000 whitehall, SW1
nuremberg: the war crimes
trial
mon - wed, fri 7.30pm,
from £7.50

lyric hammersmith 0181
741 2311 king st, W6
three sisters
mon - sat 7.30pm, £5-
£17.50

apollo shaftesbury 0171
494 5070 shaftesbury
avenue, W1
sylvia
mon - fri 8pm, sat 5pm and
8.15pm, £7 - £23.50

duke of york's 0171 836
5122 st martins lane, WC2
the changing room
mon - sat 7.30pm £5-£15

criterion theatre 0171 369
1747 piccadilly circus tube
the complete works of
william shakespeare
(abridged)
tue-sat 8pm £5.50-£20
standby for concs £10

play: resurrection - maureen lawrence

'Resurrection' is an examination of the relationship between two men: Dr Samuel Johnson and his black servant Francis Barber. Playing like a film-noir, it explores the intricate relationship between two extremes: white / black, life / death, domination / submission, past / future.

Essentially it revolves around a covert struggle for independence between the two men. The dynamically loving but platonic relationship is portrayed through role-reversals and role-switching particularly during the second act, when Barber is on his death-bed and is haunted by his visually real conscience. This is contrasted with the first-half which chronicles a feverish Johnson stumbling and mumbling in his hours of darkness



and this is juxtaposed with thematically linked flashbacks. The coherence of the recurring themes create a compelling dramatic focus.

Malcolm Rennie is superb as the haughty and humanitarian Johnson, and amazingly deft as various characters emanating from Barber's conscience. Almost as good is Tyrone Huggins as the servant who tolerates the impetuous child-like whims of Johnson with compassion and

without complaint, while also emotes volumes of suffering as the tortured soul at the end.

Writer Maureen Lawrence has borrowed her dramatic tools from Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and Bernard Shaw's 'St Joan', but this isn't overt plagiarism. 'Resurrection' is an innovative exploration touching on oft-used but interesting themes that makes thoroughly good theatre.

play: blue remembered hills - dennis potter

In light of the somewhat mixed reception of "Karaoke", it's timely that the National should revive one of Dennis Potter's best-loved pieces the 1979 "Blue Remembered Hills". Potter had developed a reputation for what could be termed uncompromising drama, mostly for television - "Brimstone and Treacle", "Pennies From Heaven", "The Singing Detective" - famous for explicit sex scenes, and a tendency for having his characters burst into song, seemingly at random. Neither feature here. Instead, we are returned to consider a recurring Potter theme - that of his own childhood in the south-west of England, sometime during the last war - and the discovery that the world is indeed a dark and sinister place.

We are in the company of seven seven-year olds in a fickle, fidgeting world of false bravado, Best Friends and that curiously twisted childhood reasoning. Are children in some way cru-

eller than the adults they become? "It is not the adult world writ small, childhood is the adult world writ large" explains Potter, and so the twist here is that the characters of the children are played by adults - a device which is at first purely comic, but becomes increasingly unsettling.

There's the bully, Peter, and his friend and sometime victim, Willie (played by Steve Coogan, aka Alan Partridge), thoughtful John and stuttering cowboy Raymond, galloping behind but never quite keeping up. The girls are less subtly drawn - Angela, the pretty one (already using this to her advantage), and Audrey, the plain one (seeing how this works against her). That just leaves tragic Donald, the outsider, playing with his matches...

The transformation of the stage into rolling hills and endless blue sky is itself childlike in execution, and provides humorous touches. The cast handle difficult roles generally well, and there are some genuinely hilarious moments.

But you just know Something Bad is going to happen.

play: dangerous play - andrew loudon

This is probably the closest most of us will get to hear a sensible discussion on the meaning of life as we know it. Man A (Nigel Langstone) and Man B (Ben Lemel) are well cast, and Andrew Loudon's carefully planned and thoughtful script make the play seem more improvised than it actually is.

The actors start out discussing topics such as atheism, political correctness, heaven and hell, proof of God and a variety of mind-stretching topics of conversation, gradually highlighting the differences between their two approaches to life. Music and song lighten the plights of the angelic

Man A and the satanic Man B to such an extent that they begin to really talk to each other in a meaningful way, out of mutual respect for their respective adversarial roles.

The beautifully lit and simple design (Tim Clark) sets the play in an indefinable living room. It could even be a pub!

Director Lucille O'Llanagan is usually more at home directing larger-than-life characters in a spectacular fashion, but this excursion into the seedier side of acting is dealt with highly creatively with her supremely deadly technique, the shock factor! You really find it quite hard to tell where the play starts and where it finishes because, like life, this play is full of surprises, some pleasant and some not!

friday
17
may

Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

1pm. Meeting in the shack. Top floor of union building. (R)

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. Bring trainers. Contact Kashif, Aeronautics II, k.ahmed-@ae.ic.ac.uk for more information. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

5-7pm. Union Gym, 2nd Floor ICU. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Southside Gym. Advanced Step Aerobics. (R)

Ents

Third World First Reggae Night. Live roots reggae from Sound Rebellion, plus DJs, Chill-out room, Carribean food and stalls £2, all proceeds to charity. 9-2am. Free before 9pm.

Free minibus service

Bus service leaves from in front of the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. See Beit Security for times. (R)

f r i d a y



**the
week
ahead**

saturday
18
may

Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. For more information contact gliding@ic.ac.uk. Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

Dramsoc

11-5pm. Bored with revision? Come and join in Dramsoc's weekend drama workshop with Forbidden Theatre Company, Chorus and Complicité, Melodrama, Physical Theatre. No experience necessary. Sign up on Dramsoc storeroom door or e-mail dramsoc@ic.

Ents

Standing Room only. England v Hungary / Rangers v Hearts. Live on Da Vinci's big screen. KO 3pm Bar from 1pm.

s a t u r d a y

YHA

While you were stuck in smoggy London dreaming of golden sands, blue skies, fresh air and suntans, the fell wanderers had the good sense to visit the Gower peninsula, and jolly good it was too. The views from our hostel, the old lifeboat station, were pretty spectacular, and the nearest beach was less than a stone's throw away. Anyway, on went the walking boots and we set out to discover a bit more of the coastline. The limestone cliffs were scaled in a variety of ways: the scramblers enjoyed themselves on all the pinnacles.

Resisting the temptations of umpteen fantastic viewpoints, we finally settled for lunch on the sand dunes of Rhossili beach, a huge expanse of sand, which was extensively rearranged by Dave. Those of us who had hoped to appear on TV in a 999 emergency were sadly disappointed when Dave emerged before his massive hole caved in. The hole was then used to good effect, housing Paul and Tim, whose heads we were good enough to leave unburied.

Following a long afternoon of stile crossing, all we were fit for in the evening was to collapse in the lounge and 'play' Trivial pursuit with no board, no counters and no dice.

Left: Youth Hostelling Association: sea, sand and sandcastles.

sunday
19
may

Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. (R)

Dramsoc

11-5pm. Weekend drama workshop. See Saturday's entry.

Wargames

1pm. Table Tennis room. (R)

Fitness Club

2pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

s u n d a y

TWF

Tonight, third world first come along to our night of Roots Reggae at the ICU, featuring live music from 'Sound Rebellion'. All proceeds will be going to Christian Aid's campaign against the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment programme in Jamaica. This follows Angela Stultz Crawlle's lecture in February on the subject.

In October, the IC Third World First group will be hosting a Basic Rights Conference. The focus of the event will be an examination of Oxfam's recent Basic Rights Campaign which has argued that all poverty stems from a denial of basic rights - including for example food, water and shelter.

OXFAM: Since the early 1980's the 'rights-based' approach integral to the UN system has come under attack from a variety of directions. From the Right, it has been argued that the only viable rights are those secured by consumers in the marketplace - a perspective which conveniently ignores the fact that poverty excludes millions of people from exercising 'market choices'. And from the Left and Right alike it has been argued that since limited resources make social and economic rights unattainable, they cannot be seen as rights at all. This is at once self-evidently true and irrelevant since the only existing obligation on governments is to secure that progressive attainment of social and economic rights 'to the maximum resources available'.

If you are interested in getting involved or simply airing your views at this event please contact Jon (x5976, j.parkinson@ic.ac.uk).

monday
20
may

Student Industrial Society

12 - 2pm. Table Tennis room, Union building. (R)

Fitness Club

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

Ski Club

5 - 5.45pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

ArtSoc

12.30 - 2.00pm. Union Dining Hall. Election buffet! Free food and prizes.

Concert Band

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

Cross Country

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

IC 2nd Orchestra

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

Methsoc

6pm. Prince's Gardens Ecumenical Group. Chaplaincy Office, Northside. (R)

Ents

8pm. A damn sight easier than University Challenge - Da Vinci's Bar Trivia. And you win £50 which is more use than some ugly trophy!

m o n d a y

icsf

As such, we only have a couple of events this term. The first is the creation of our annual magazine of fiction, articles and graphics. We really would like your material now, and the deadline for knowing what we are going to include (actual submission may be up to a week later) is next Friday, 24 May. For more info, see the web pages.

The other event will be a final book buy with any money we have left - so suggestions please. The library will be open only on Mondays and Fridays until the end of term, and throughout the summer on a request basis.

<http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/>

tuesday 21 may

Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Bagritt Centre, Mechanical Engineering. (R)

Yacht Club

12.30pm. Lecture theatre 2, Physics. (R)

African Caribbean Soc

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

IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

AudioSoc

1.00pm. Brown Committee Room. Want to buy cheap CDs? Interested in borrowing high-end Hi-Fi? We have it all! (R)

Photo Soc

1.00pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Ents Lounge. Contact sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk for details. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room. (R)

icsf

7pm in STOIC Studios. <http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> (R)

IQ

9.00pm. Union Bar. 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)

ICCAG

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

Ents

8pm. Da Vinci's. Bar Trivia - no Dan the Man, but still a chance to win £50!

After Dark

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

tuesday

wednesday 22 may

IC Sailing Club

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

Skate Society

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

Motorbike Club

12.45pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more details. (R)

Wargames

1pm Table Tennis room. (R)

Conservative Society

1pm Room 342 Mech. Eng. Sir Marcus Fox MP, Chairman 1922 Committee. (R)

Fitness Club

5 - 6pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate/Advanced step class. (R)

Squash Club

3.20 - 5.20pm. Sports centre. (R)

IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

1.30 - 3.30pm. Union Gym. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Chess Club

6.30pm. Brown Committee Room or Clubs Committee Room. (R)

Ents

7.30 KO. Standing Room Only. Ajax v Juventus. Live on Da Vinci's big screen. 9-12pm. Frolik! Free.

w e d n e s d a y

thursday 23 may

Fitness Club

12.30pm. Southside Gym. Die Hard circuit training. 5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. (R)

ConSoc

1pm. Southside. <http://www-su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/societies-scc/consoc/home.html> (R)

Gliding Club

1pm. Aeronautics 266. (R)

YHA

1pm Southside Lounge. "Take a walk on the wild side." (R)

Yoga Soc

6.15 - 7.45pm. Table tennis room. Beginners' Kunalini class. mpn@doc.ic, ex 48237. (R)

Christian Union

6.30 - 7.45pm. W2 in Bio. (R)

Mountaineering Club

7pm. Meeting in Southside. (R)

ICCAG

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

Skate Soc

Night skate - all welcome. Contact a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk for more details. (R)

Motorbike Club

7.45pm Southside. Rides in and around London. Any size and shape of bike welcome. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more details. (R)

Ents

12.45. Standing Room only. Lunchtime special - England v China. Live on Da Vinci's big screen.

t h u r s d a y

friday 24 may

Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

1pm. Top floor of ICU. (R)

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. For details contact Kashif, aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

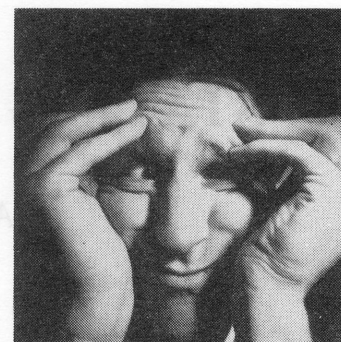
5-7pm. Union Gym. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

Ents

Another double header! **Daily Telegraph Open Mic Semi Final.** Thirteen new acts, plus Boothby Graffoe (*below*), making his final appearance on the network. Plus, if you bring a copy of the day's Telegraph you get a FREE bottle of Newcastle Brown! Tickets are on door for £2.50 (£2 with entscards) and you get free entry to *Shaft*: A lip-smackin', flare-wearing, disco-dancing extravaganza of 70's and 80's disco & pop. With the Trash Aesthetic crew of eclectic vinyl junkies taking over the chill-out room. £1 or free before 9pm.



f r i d a y

Don't buy Mein Kampf?

As you may well know, ICU provides a budget for the Haldane library to buy fiction books, music cassettes and CDs. I need your help... without requests, the ordering will be left largely to my discretion, which could be good or bad, depending on your penchant for D.H. Lawrence novels and 1970's Black Sabbath albums! If this is not to your satisfaction, let me have your recommendations. I'll consider anything reasonable, the more eclectic the better, but I reserve the

right to veto requests for Barry Manilow albums or copies of 'Mein Kampf' on the grounds of good taste.

Whether you enjoy a bit of Wayne County, or prefer giving it some smooth with Leicester based lothario Mark Morrison, I guarantee I'll do my best to see that everyone gets sorted out. So feel free to let me have your suggestions via the request forms in the library. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jon Wilkins

the
week
ahead

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When Saturday's gone

Nooman Haque live from St James Park.



In an ancient City a temple stands high above all other constructions. It is a place of ardent worship. Visible from almost anywhere, the people in the streets below this Citadel talk mainly of the battles that are fought each week inside the gates, where only a few privileged may watch. St. James' Park, Newcastle, home of the team that came second in the Premiership, has more parallels with the Parthenon than you may think.

In other cities, particularly Manchester, football has become a tradeable commodity – the activities on the pitch with Messrs. Giggs, Cantona et al are only one part of the entity that is Manchester United plc. The day cannot be far when their financial performance inspires Nick Leeson's, as much as their sporting performance inspired George Best's.

Their continued success is not, as everyone seems to think, a measure of their philosophy of investing in young local talent. If anything, Alex Ferguson is quicker on the draw with the company credit card than Kevin Keegan and, as witnessed by his goading of the Leeds players following their match with United, a cunning manipulator. Moreover in the North West, City and United vie for attention, with City winning on credibility because of their association with Oasis. Manchester is home of The soap and The failed Olympic bid. Manchester also has its music, which in the last fifteen years has provided acts like The Smiths, Take That and of course, Oasis. In Newcastle there is, a beer and quite literally, only ONE Newcastle United.

The difference between the two clubs is also matter of philosophy. In Newcastle, Sir John Hall has been successful because he realised that football is not a sport, but a religion. People conduct their lives in the shadow of St. James'

Park. It is the cause of debate and worship here. It's a life source, part of the substance that flows through every Geordie. Little else matters. Economic fortunes are tied to the Club's success – the bars of the Bigg Market were conspicuously empty on the night of the famous 4-3 defeat at Anfield earlier this year. Debate and argument the following day brought the City alive again. A quarter of a million philosophers sought out *a priori* reasons for that defeat, and then applied the fundamentals of empiricism in a vain attempt to reason the future. Alex Ferguson plays to realise a

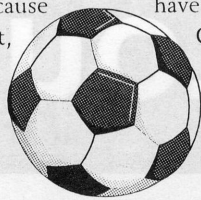
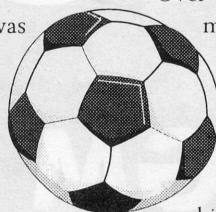


profit margin. His North Eastern nemesis apparently lays bare his soul every Saturday to fight for a way of life which he believes in passionately. Kevin Keegan is both hero and anti-hero. A maverick tempted off the golf course by John Hall, he may not be the most experienced person to manage a Premiership Club but experience doesn't matter in religion. Jesus was a carpenter, and Kevin Keegan's legendary status made him the ideal person to guide this club. One of the few players whose existence in the physical world is disproportional to the effect they have in it. He is metaphysical. Like George Best he has successfully transcended our world to become not a person, but a symbol in our

minds, of success, waste, sheer talent and hope. His physical embodiment is necessary only to communicate with his players and the media; otherwise he may as well exist as a disembodied being in a spatial and temporal existence beyond our conventional dimensions. We are in no position to argue with such a man. We cannot see what he sees. We cannot reason as he does. He knows more than us mortals can comprehend. We wailed when he sold Andrew Cole. We gnashed our teeth when £8 million left the coffers for Faustino Asprilla. And we will toy with failure if we even attempt to comprehend why he played the entirety of this season without a defence.

Keegan is committed to his attacking game. The game, which has been a joy to watch; that has made the Premiership the most exciting division in Europe; that will surely make the conventional but insipid 'long ball' and 'pass, move and defend' ideas think again. Flair and passion have been evident, especially in away games, where one sensed the zeal of proselytizing missionaries. Despite the failure of the team to win anything, his philosophy has surely won? Newcastle's physical loss was immediately apparent. A tragedy that was surely portentous in this City given its Greek parallels? But such things matter less here than in the boardrooms of Anfield and Old Trafford. Geordies know, as their Hellenic, equally hedonistic and opulent, but slightly more effete ancestors did, that physical victory is transient and irrelevant. Real victory comes in the immortalisation of ideas and thoughts that affect generations beyond our own. Over time the influence of thoughts are multiplied until embodied in subsequent actions. History tells us that the metaphysical scoreline was Greeks 2 Romans 0. Time will tell if their North Eastern descendants are equally persuasive with their philosophy. Either way, the fate of this club is written:

"Whatever may happen to you was prepared for you from all eternity" - Marcus Aurelius.



LETTERS TO FELIX

REPLIED TO BY ANDREW SMITH

credit control

Dear Rachel,
Issue 1056 dated 10 May 1996

The staff in this office are rather upset at the inaccurate accusations made in your editorial this week.

In the first place grant cheques are not issued by Finance Department, they are handled elsewhere in administration.

Secondly, Finance Staff are encouraged to treat students sympathetically. In most of the contacts that students have with us, we are in the unfortunate position of having to extract money from them and only occasionally do we have to hand money out to them. We all realise that students are not generally well-off and do not have a lot of cash to throw around, but in life one does have to pay one's debts and students are no excep-

tion to this rule. We try to ease the pain of it as much as we can. Politeness and helpfulness cost nothing except a little time, and while I have to admit that time is at a premium, I would be very upset if I heard any of my colleagues acting in the way described in your editorial.

I hope that you will find the space in your next editorial to acknowledge that you managed to mistake Finance Division for another one.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Devlin
Credit Controller
Finance Department

You are just too diplomatic by half, Brian. With regard to the issue of grant cheques - Rachel did mistake Finance for 'elsewhere in administration', as you so delicately put it, that elsewhere being Registry.

I'm glad to see, though that you basically agree with her that

the attitude that staff take when dealing with students is important. As you say 'Politeness and helpfulness cost nothing except a little time'. Now if only everybody in College acted on that!

student sacrifice

Dear Felix,

I read with great interest your editorial on Felix 1056 'Unhappy People'. Many recent issues lead me to think that students welfare has been sacrificed in the hands of college administration. It seems a common concept in Sherfield that decisions are made based on their objective/convenience/benefit; consideration for students are way down on their priority.

Cite the new May graduation as an example: it is indeed a good arrangement to reduce the length of the ceremony, but the invitation and announcement is quite poorly handled. Many invitations were allegedly sent out late, some graduates received the announcement only by the middle of

March. This is rather short notice for an event taking place on 1 May, and especially difficult for overseas students who make up a fair number of the postgraduate population. And, in view of these difficulties, there is no offer to the absentee to attend the October ceremony. (This should really be an exception rather than a rule. But considering effect of the late invitation (see Felix 1055 'New degree ceremony 'low key''), perhaps the College should consider a more flexible approach as a gesture of good will?)

Another example literally daunts on me when I walk pass the central library every morning: How can it be justified that construction work on the library extension has to start in May, when most of the students are using the library to prepare for their final exams? Is it not apparent that the noise level is a big nuisance to say the least?

Other examples include:

- The proposal of replacing the Union bookstore with one run by an outside business, thus replacing a Union service that has

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FIND THE ANSWERS

ICU AGM FRI 17TH MAY 12.15 ENTS LOUNGE

excellent record and also draws major income for ICU. (See Felix 1055 Letter to the Editor)

- The new measure under which all students are forced to use one single model of calculator, being decided without much consultation or consideration of alternatives.

- Last but not least, the Estate Department's suggestion to move the Union to Sherfield Building so that Beit Quad can be vacated for conference accommodation.

Some of the above had been reversed whilst the other are already in place, but they all point to the worry that students welfare does not have much priority when Sherfield comes to make policies that have great impact on students. Is there a communication breakdown, or our opinion simply breached? It is, after all, a university where students are a big part of the community and should never be pushed around like some second-class citizens. I believe it is up to us to fight for what is good for us and not just sit still and accept

mercy from others. It is our job to make our voices heard, and hopefully listened to, by the those up in the tower called Sherfield.

Eric Chan
Chemical Engineering

I could not agree with you more when you say that 'it is up to us to fight for what is good for us and not just sit still and accept mercy from other'. The problem though is that you are not given all the information with which to fight. For instance, I suspect that there was student involvement in taking decisions over calculators, but who knows - maybe somebody might like to inform us. Similarly allegations have been made about the May graduation ceremony, but since there has been no response from College - are they true? The point is that while those at the top may care, the rest of college does not.

Deadline for letters
in *Felix* 1058: midday,
Tuesday 21st May

FELIX

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my mother

My mother graduated last Saturday. She had spent six or so years sporadically doing things called TMA's for the Open university.

Her graduation ceremony was in Belfast's Queens' University Whitla Hall - a nice enough building in itself, but the sense of ceremony was somewhat marred when the various dignitaries and fellows walked in to the processional theme tune from *Star Wars*. Things had quietened down a bit in time for the guest speaker (Cedric Thornberry, fresh from mediations in Sarajevo). But by the time the Vice-Chancellor had come to speak, the Lord Mayor's Show had begun to parade outside, so his discourse was drowned out by Orangemen with bagpipes.

Afterwards, we went across the road in the drizzle for cups of tea in the QUB Students' Union, but when the guest of honour, the Vice Chancellor and their wives got stuck in the lift, it rather put a damper on things.

The first graduation ceremony I went to was my brother's, in Oxford. There was certainly no lack of pomp and tradition. But lengthy doses of Latin chanting, and presentations that were

decidedly reminiscent of Masonic ritual, aren't everyone's idea of the way to celebrate one's education. I did the crossword.

So, on reflection, I reckon I had the best deal. But I was still fairly jealous of my mother because she was so happy and so proud. There was no cynical, fatalistic, what-was-the-point-of-all-that-effort for her. She knew she had put in an enormous amount of work, and felt a real and genuine sense of achievement for it. I wonder why I never had that.

erratum?

I have been entirely overwhelmed by the response I have had to the editorial I wrote last week, chiefly because I had no idea so many people read it. I would like to apologise to the finance office: I assumed that student grants came under their jurisdiction, but apparently they are actually administered by the Registry division. I would also like to say a particular thank you to the staff in Registry who were so helpful with providing the information for the article on overseas students.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK AND CLAIRE SAMUEL

ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK: MARK, TIM, BEN, DAN, DAVE AND JEREMY

DELIVERING LAST WEEK: ALEX

FELIX WEEK

monday, high noon

clubs & societies

articles deadline

monday 1.20pm

reviewers'

meeting

monday 6pm

news meeting

tuesday noon

arts meeting

tuesday noon

letters deadline

tuesday 6pm

features meeting

thursday night

collating

friday morning

another Felix hits the
street...

Solution to this week's Crossword:
Across: 1. Belladonna, 6. Crop, 9. Mantra, 11. Rational, 13. Erector, 14. Ode, 15. Ear, 16. Atom, 18. Sky, 20. Absolve, 21. Alphas, 23. Elk, 25. Inch, 27. Aid, 28. Its, 29. Smarten, 31. Ambrosia, 33. Kakapo, 35. Earl, 36. Economical, Down: 1. Bomb, 2. Lanterns, 3. Air, 4. Norfolk, 5. All, 7. Random, 8. Pulverised, 10. Arch, 12. Insults, 15. Elasticate, 17. Placebo, 18. See, 19. Yak, 22. Stanzac, 24. Lumbago, 25. Isobar, 26. Trek, 30. Howl, 32. Sue, 34. Arm.

Crossword by Osiris

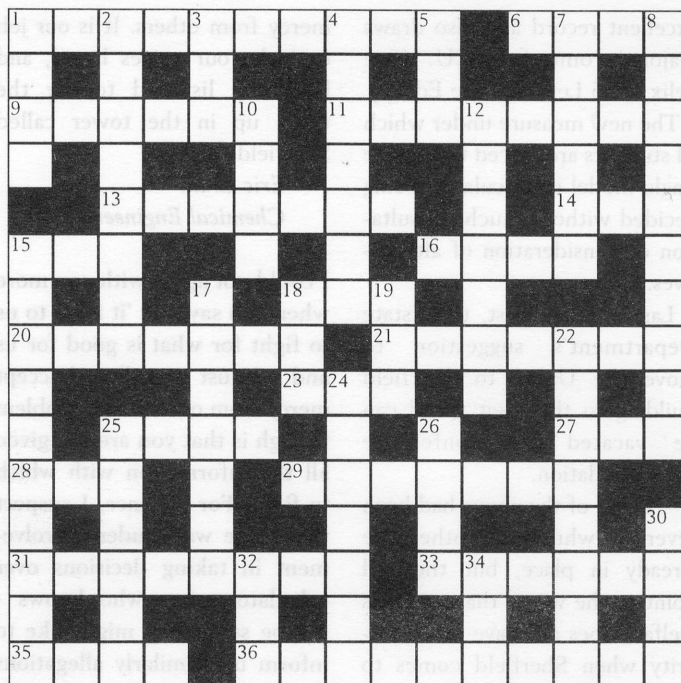
Across:

1. A beautiful girl's nightshade (10)
6. To cut the harvest (4)
9. Principle of bloke with devious cunning (6)
11. It is logical to be sparing in the distribution of Alfred (8)
13. Is the builder upright or what? (7)
14. Initially, an overdose of ecstasy can be poetic (3)
15. Organ found in the emergency room, we hear (3)
16. One Mr Thumb, who is very small (4)
18. Russian who's lost his horse is blue (3)
20. Forgive for getting the puzzle wrong? (7)
21. Famously strong men will map the world! (7)
23. The Spanish King's deer (3)
25. Distance in Chelsea? (4)
27. Help in the vista I'd been painting (3)
28. Doubts start but I'm flipping sure! (3)

29. Edify the abstract arts men (7)
31. Cup of divine drink is so abrim, a miracle! (8)
33. Parrot poo on the Post Office (6)
35. Lord is like the demented Lear (4)
36. A comical one is probably the expert on these matters (10)

Down:

1. Gringo drop-out could blow it all (4)
2. They brighten the northern ster-
nal fitting (8)
3. The IRA have a dreadful manner (3)
4. A county for discriminating
persons (7)
5. Back in a daft mood again (3)
7. Indiscriminatory, nearly mordant
sarcasm (6)
8. Destroyed by odd urge to deliver
pus (10)
10. Preeminent structure (4)
12. Teaches where whisky is made,
they said (7)
15. Make stretchy by property I
consumed (10)
17. Substitute for the dastardly



- copper with ebola (7)
18. Observe before a cutter (3)
19. A bovine conversation (3)
22. I hear Mr Collimore's pain is
like verse (8)
24. It's sore on the back when one's
dicky bottom is amost aglow (7)
25. Does the world standard pub

- feel a marked pressure? (6)
26. To start traveling requires
extensive knowledge of the journey
(4)
30. Cry not altogether whole (4)
32. A civil woman (3)
34. An organ from Jonathan
Aitken? (3)

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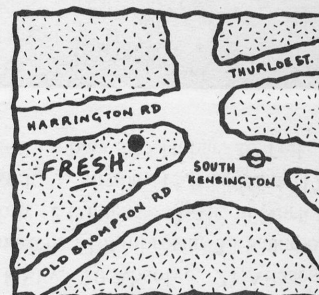
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