



est. 1949

# THE FELIX

Friday 18th October, 1996

issue 1065

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

**Sports Reports page 15**  
Find out how the rugby and hockey teams did in their first matches of the season.

Feeling alright, everything OK? On page 6 Don Adlington, the Student advisor, talks about what to do if it all goes wrong.



**In Something for the Weekend: Fetishes, Hurricanes, Nirvana, Dragonheart and a 2for1 internet offer**

## Sadness over closure of 'excellent' Montpelier Hall

**ANDREW SMITH**

College's only dedicated postgraduate Hall of Residence is to close in September 1997 with the loss of 75 beds. At a time of increasing pressure on College bed spaces, senior academics have expressed concern that the accommodation of postgraduate freshers may drop in priority.

Montpelier Hall, originally built as a nurse's hostel for what is now the Lanesborough Hotel, is suffering from increasing dilapidation, and College's Management Planning Group decided that its closure could no longer be delayed. The decision whether to sell or renovate it, with minimum estimates for the latter option running at £600,000, will be taken by MPG before Christmas.

Dr Richard Clarke, warden of Montpelier, expressed sadness that what he views as an 'excellent hall' should be closed. While the sale of the Knightsbridge property has been on the cards for some time, Dr Clarke suggested that the disappearance of seventy five beds would still be 'a great loss'.

Despite the small rooms, for which the hall is notorious, the warden insisted that the large recreational area makes Montpelier 'a very sociable place'. Dr Clarke also points to the fact that it was purpose built as a hostel, as a reason to keep Montpelier within the College portfolio.

Nick Black, College's Estates  
**continued on page two**

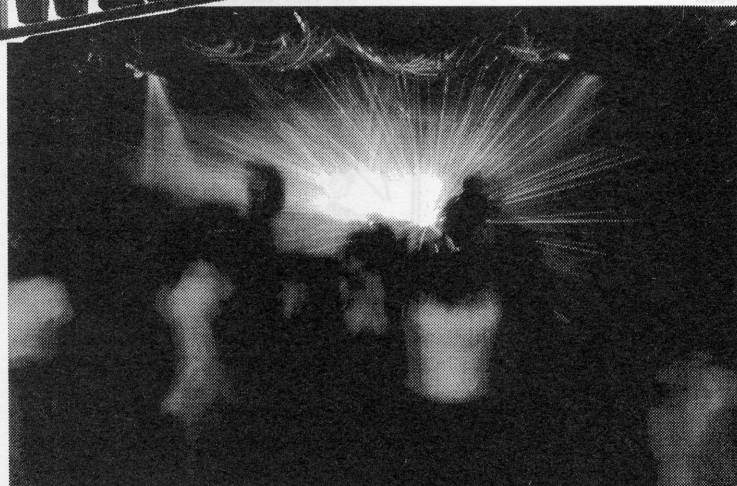


PHOTO: ROBIN RILEY

The first week of the new term has been a complete success with an enormous response to all the Freshers' events. The Friday night 'Freshers' Carnival' (scene of the laser show above) was no exception with tickets being sold out by Thursday lunchtime. This was the first carnival ever to do so.

Takings at Da Vinci's bar reached record levels with substantial amounts being spent over the course of the evening. "People arrived earlier and stayed the distance", observed Mark Horne, the Union Events and Marketing Manager. Southside also had a good night, the bar being described as 'teeming'. The new dB's ents lounge has been hailed as a most worthwhile addition to the facilities the Ents crew have to work with. "A better venue to host better events" commented Mark. "The capacity of the Union has expanded over the last year and possible plans to open other areas of the building are in the pipeline." Sarah Ewen

## Beercan potshot alarms Mews residents

**MARIA IOANNOU**

Local residents were shocked and amazed this week after their preferred quiet life was shattered by the casual ballistics of a Southside guest. A drunken reveller was observed throwing a full can of beer into one of the exclusive mews houses behind Southside.

The can was thrown from the top floor of Tizard Hall and crashed

through the front room window of a house in Princes Gate Mews at about midnight, breaking two panes of glass and terrifying the resident, who was present in the room.

The Warden of Tizard Hall, Dr. John Hassard, spoke of his horror saying "...it could have killed someone... a terrible thing to have happened."

Friday night's occurrence was not

an isolated incident and in the past some residents have asked for the windows to be boarded up or netted, but this would be in breach of fire regulations and cannot be done. The resident in question was, as Dr. Hassard puts it, "incredibly polite and understanding considering the circumstances". He is known to have said "...we were all students once"

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## Inside

### LIBRARY TENDER

The tendering process for the new bookstore, to be situated within the new library developments, starts today with the official unveiling of College invitation for tenders. **page 4**

### ULU ELECTION RESULTS

The University of London Union has at last found a replacement for the post of Vice-President. **page 4**

### FULL COUNCIL FOR ICU

ICUs Council line up is almost complete after elections held at its first meeting of the year. **page 3**

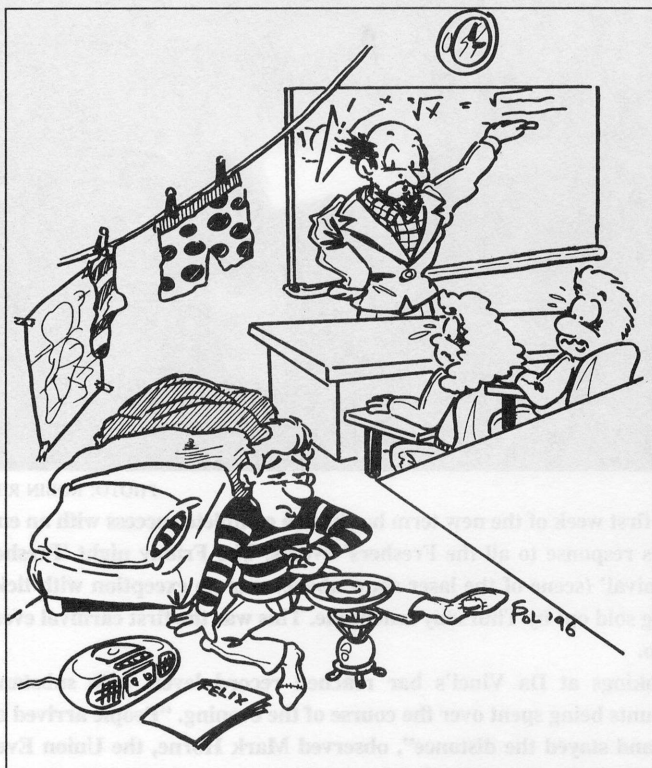


**continued from frontpage**

Manager, warns that a commitment to renovate the hall could reach far beyond the £600,000 initial estimate as more problems may be found in the fabric of the seventeenth century building. While Mr Black agreed that Montpelier is a popular hall and does 'work well', he dismissed the 'College myth' that it had to be used as hostel accommodation. 'There are no restrictions on the use of the building as far as I am aware', insisting that his examination of the property deeds revealed no 'legal obligations'.

to purchasing the prime site. In 1991 when Montpelier was officially up for sale suggestions were made that college was looking for around £12m.

With recent safety problems at other college sites, the 'integrity' of could have influenced the decision to empty the property. Accidents over the Summer with sash windows crashing down on cleaning staff are but one example of the problems experienced with the hall, originally built in 1865. Concerns over leaking guttering and the ancient wiring in the hall have all contributed to the



It was originally intended that Montpelier should be sold to finance the purchase of Claypods, College's housing estate in West London, but the late 80's property crash precluded the previous attempt at selling the hall. While Mr Black insists that no effort has been made to market the property again, a steady stream of developers have approached the College with a view

September 1997 closure deadline.

Despite the obvious need to provide a better standard of accommodation, the housing of seventy five postgraduates freshers will clearly be difficult. Despite College gaining an increase in their UL Intercollegiate Hall allocation, the deficit of conveniently located beds will not be rectified until the opening of the planned Prince's Gardens Halls.

## Beer-can thugs face disciplinary

**continued from frontpage**

though he was surprised and worried that so dangerous a stunt had taken place.

The student was not a resident at Southside, being "...a friend-of-a-friend" and so will not have to face a resident's tribunal. The student will, however, be facing a disciplinary hearing, where it will be decided

what action is to be taken. A disciplinary committee consists of the two senior tutors, two members of the Imperial College Union Council, a clerk from Registry and a dean of one of the constituent colleges as chair. Severe action may be taken by the College, "being drunk is certainly not an excuse" commented Dr Hassard.

# News in Brief

**DANGEROUS CYCLISTS**

Belgravia Police Station has received a flurry of complaints from members of the public recently, concerning students cycling on pavements in the campus area.

PC Coleman warns students and members of staff at IC that it is an offence under council bye-laws to ride on the footpaths and pavements. In the interest of safety he recommends that students should use the road instead - that is what it's for. If anyone is unhappy riding their bicycle on the road they should push it along the pavement instead. Any IC personnel or student caught riding on the pavement will be reported and liable for prosecution. If the police do not deal with the incident, then Imperial College will discipline the person(s) involved.

In addition to cyclists, rollerbladers are increasingly becoming a problem on campus. Non-slip surfaces have been laid on several steps as a trial to prevent people rollerblading on the walkways, said Bill Oldridge, from the Estates division.

"We are looking at alternatives, as the trial has not been as successful as had been hoped. Rollerbladers are a potentially serious problem; security staff have been abused, and bladers are injuring themselves. They are a danger to themselves as well as others, and College has a duty to protect people from them" he added.

**RON SEALED OUT IN ALL WEATHERS**

The Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, was rendered temporarily unable to leave the college on Wednesday following a problem with his security clearance.

The Rector's chauffeur-driven car was reportedly denied access at the Callendar Road entrance when the driver's swipe card failed to raise the automatic barrier. One security source commented that due to a computer error the car may not have been registered as leaving the campus, and so been prevented from re-entering. Another blamed "loose wiring" in the card-reader.

**LIBRARY FIRE ALARMS SAWN THROUGH**

There was some question as to the safety of summer users of the Imperial College Library when, due

to necessary building works, some adaptations were made to the Library fire alarm systems.

Problems with rewiring meant that in certain areas alternative procedures had to be introduced. However, the Library staff, Fire Officer and Fire Alarm Engineer were fully aware of the situation at all times. All problems have now been dealt with and the Library is again able to function without the worry of additional fire risks.

**CAMPUS CAMPING**

In a scene reminiscent of the last night at the proms, IC undergrads have resorted to sleeping rough in an attempt to snap up the few remaining spaces in halls.

It appears that this year a relatively large number of students have not been allocated accommodation in College residences despite rumours that suggest that rooms are lying empty in halls.

On October 5th, the first weekend of this term, Students ignored requests to wait until Sunday before queuing at the Accommodation office in Prince's gardens and were found to be waiting on the steps in order to be at the head of the queue the next morning. However, during the middle of the night security guards moved the slumbering students away as "they constituted a fire risk". Ken Weir, Chief Security Officer, was unaware of the incident until informed by *Felix*, although later several students reported it, and is making his own investigation.

**BIKE CODING**

Those of you who haven't had your bike confiscated for riding on the pavements can take it along to the ante-room in the Sherfield Building to have it marked with your post code for security. Police will be offering this service free of charge on October 28th, 29th and 30th. More information will be available closer to Monday 28th.

It might well be worth taking advantage of this service, as parts have been stolen from eight different bikes since the beginning of term. Security have advised that the safest place for bikes is on the RSM walkway, which is covered by four separate CCTV cameras. To date, nothing has been stolen from this area.



# Judo session enlivens Elections

## KENT YIP

Imperial College Union's Council line is almost complete after elections held at its first meeting of the year. Two officers and seven ordinary members were elected at the meeting last Tuesday, but the last minute withdrawal of candidate Emma Dedman still leaves the position of Welfare Officer unfilled.

Heather Whitney, the sole candidate for the post of Womens' Officer, was unanimously elected. Her intention to organise self defence classes for women and to set up specialist library on women's issues in the Union office were warmly welcome by the voters. The post of Transport Officer was likewise taken up by Duncan Tindall after a relatively uneventful speech.

The two ordinary member positions reserved for freshers were filled by Lloyd Kilford and Savas George. In his speech, Lloyd, a maths and computing student, announced that he found committee meetings "inter-

esting". He also has plans to convert the top room in the Queen's Tower into an observatory, and to raise the profile of the second hand book shop in the Physics department.

Meanwhile, the less than lukewarm enthusiasm of postgraduates to take a more active role in the running of Council meant that nobody was proposed before the start of the meeting. Paul Brown, former Transport Officer and current head of IC Radio, eventually "volunteered" for the position. Confronted with the problem of finding a partner to take up the remaining PG post, Paul remained optimistic, highlighting the large number of postgraduates currently involved in the running of clubs and societies.

With medics from St. Mary's taking their usual active role in events, eight candidates stood for the remaining four ordinary member positions. These elections saw their number on the Council increase from four to six with Sarah Edwards, the

former President of St Mary's Hospital Medical School Student's Union, and WD Miles, elected as ordinary members with the greatest number of votes. In their absence, for academic reasons, current president of Mary's SU, Sami Ansari spoke on their behalf.

Rob Park's bid for election was hampered by a suspicion that he had eaten all the pies during his time on the Refectory Services Committee. Hannah Pearson, a third year Chemical Engineering student, and Matt Szyndel, a fourth year Physics student, were however eventually elected.

Duncan Tindall, John Lambert, Tom Gallaford and Caroline Deetjen were elected from the Council to the Executive Committee of the Union. Duncan Tindall, the only one of the candidates to be interrogated, faced a barrage of questions on how he would deal with the problems of lack of space in the BMS building and the consequential overload on current

facilities.

Three proposed Union policy documents also saw their first reading at the Council meeting, with all but one making it through. A number of flaws and omissions resulted in the ICU Publicity Policy being withdrawn for reworking.

The new Clubs and Societies Safety Policy, written over the Summer by Sarah Corneille, faced even more opposition. Debate focused on the extensive new conditions placed on off-campus activities. These include a requirement that seven days notice must be given to the Deputy President Clubs and Societies (DP C&S) 'before any trip can proceed'.

Also debated was the proposed Disciplinary Policy, which will allow the Appeals procedure to impose increased penalties on students. Council members eventually agreed unanimously to this measure, as the Judo session proceeding in the room above added to the excitement.

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## New VP for ULU after GUC ducks election rules

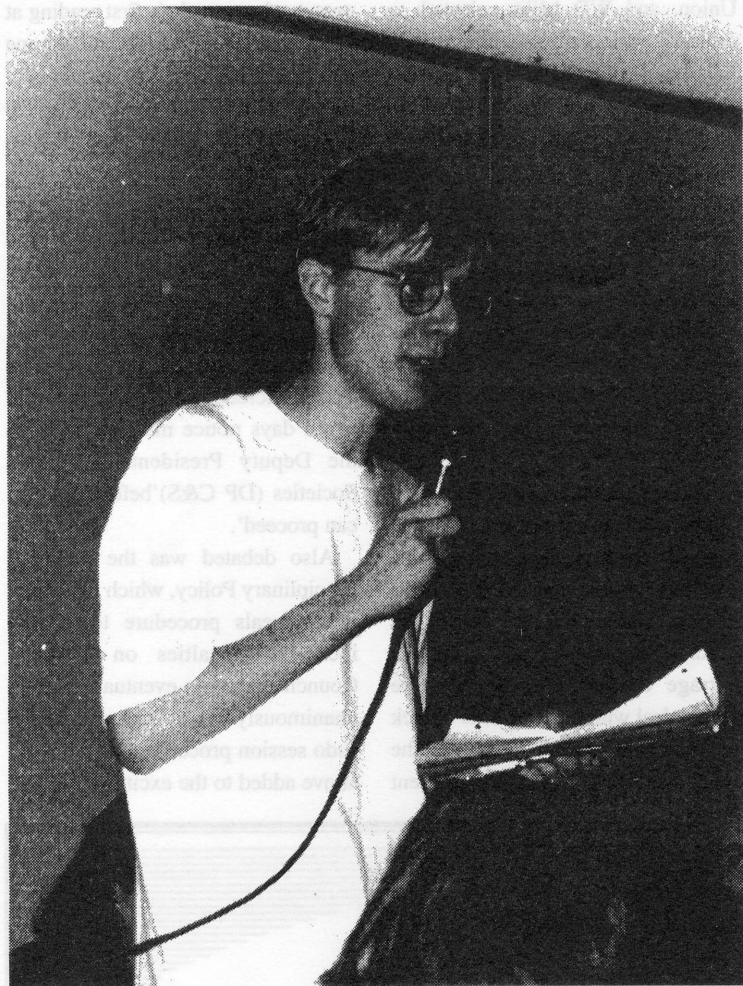


PHOTO: PIERIS WILLIAMS

**Successful Vice-Presidential candidate Nick Dearden during his election address. Mr Dearden will take over the Finance and Services portfolio from retiring sabbatical Claire Lawrie.**

### MARIA IOANNOU

The University of London Union has at last found a replacement for the post of Vice-President. The resignation of the previous incumbent, Claire Lawrie, at the beginning of September caused some dismay to the three remaining sabbaticals, who have had to take on extra duties whilst organising the election for her successor.

Monday's elections, the first General Union Council of the year, have ended this period of uncertainty with Nick Dearden, a Masters student from University College London, being elected to the post. However, Mr Dearden's election has not been trouble-free.

It was thought that he might be barred from standing after giving a pre-election address to *Felix* (*Felix* 1064), a breach of electoral rules. After the Elections Committee

sought, and found, a precedent in 1992, where the GUC dismissed a similar allegation, it was decided to allow Mr Dearden to run. Mr Dearden's close links with Ms Lawrie were also questioned, though the Elections Committee have since made it clear that it would have only posed a problem if Ms Lawrie had actually nominated him.

The only other candidate, Ben Hughes, decided to withdraw due to heavy academic commitments.

Sarah White, the ULU President, told *Felix* that she and the rest of the ULU staff were "very pleased" with the result and looking forward to the year ahead. Ms White will be training Nick Dearden, who starts on Monday, in his role as Vice-President responsible for Finance and Services, and it is hoped that ULU will soon be running smoothly.

## Bookstore tender begins

### ANDREW SMITH

The tendering process for the new bookstore, to be situated within the new library developments, starts today with the official unveiling of College invitation for tenders. Just six organisations are being invited to bid for the site with College insisting that money alone will not be the deciding factor.

Nick Black, College's Estates Manager, looks forward to the establishment of 'an academic bookshop of the highest quality'. Imperial College Union faces stiff competition from Blackwells, Waterstones, Dillons, WH Smiths and Foyles in the race to provide IC students with textbooks. Mr Black has confirmed that when the new shop opens next Easter, the current ICU bookstore on the walkway will no longer be allowed to handle academic books.

The Estates Manager, who took part in the Rector's Ad-hoc Advisory Group on the new Bookstore, insists that College is 'very happy with the current ICU bookstore', but suggests

that their current location is not ideal. He maintains that the winning bid 'should be run to the best advantage of the College community'.

With this in mind ICU President Eric Allsop argues that all profits of book sales should be kept within the College community. He points out that all revenue from ICU outlets goes into improving facilities within the campus. Mr Allsop gives the recent refurbishment of the Ents Lounge to become dB's, using £40,000 of bookstore profits, as a prime example.

Bids will be received in early November with the screening and interview process being conducted by a panel lead by the Dean of Imperial College School of Medicine at The NHLI, Prof Clarke. His group will include Prof Alan Swanson, Pro-Rector Educational Quality, Mike Hansen, Director of Finance, Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates and Magda Czigany, Director of Library Services. Prof Swanson will appoint one student to also sit on the panel.

## Universitas 21

### KENT YIP

A new international organisation of super-institutions, known as "Universitas 21", will be formed early next year. The idea was initiated by the University of Melbourne in Australia, and is scheduled to be in place by March.

British Universities provisionally signed up to be members include Birmingham, Nottingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The new grouping has been described as "a network of universities that share similar interest" primarily aiming to exchange information, students, and share their resources. All members of the group are from Commonwealth nations. Moreover, they must also be research based, multi-disciplinary, and have a medical school.

Closer to home, there has been no move by Imperial College to join this particular group, though it already belongs to several international organisations. One of these, "Caesar", co-ordinates all the leading engineering colleges in Europe and was previously chaired by Prof Holmes of the Civil Engineering Department.

## Charing Cross suicides

Charing Cross Hospital, whose medical school is scheduled to become part of Imperial College in 1998, is under investigation after a report in *Time Out* exposed a number of recent suicides. Delays of up to five hours have been reported in the admission of patients to the hospital's casualty department, often leading to psychiatric patients causing themselves damage.

One female patient gave up waiting and proceeded to take a taxi to London Bridge where she jumped off, her body being found ten days later.

Under the former management, psychiatric patients were not abandoned to wait in casualty. Private security contractors, introduced in 1992, have been criticised for not being allowed to help patients in crisis situations such as these.

With three other suicide cases in the past year, one where a man jumped from the top floor of the hospital, it has been admitted that a 'tower block is obviously inappropriate for psychiatric patients.'





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# Surviving Imperial College

*Study difficulties and what to do about them, as explained by the student counsellor Don Adlington.*

Given the entry qualification demanded of students coming to Imperial College, it is very unlikely that anyone will be admitted who is not capable of working at degree level, and ultimately of attaining a degree. In some respects undergraduates are already experts at study and at examination preparation by the time they arrive here. Despite this it is not at all uncommon for students to discover that their previous experience of systematic learning does not, apparently, guarantee a smooth transition to successful study at university. The study skills and learning habits which brought success at GCSE and 'A' levels may prove to be inadequate or invalid at university, and academic work, for the first time perhaps, becomes a problem. Strikingly, this is at least as likely to happen to the person with outstandingly good 'A' level grades as to anyone else, but it is always a thoroughly demoralising experience and needs to be identified and dealt with urgently. A few points that seem to me to be important:

Usually when first-year undergraduates have academic difficulties, it has more to do with the sheer volume and unrelenting nature of the work-load, rather than the intellectual level of the work. Students whose habit has been to work in short intensive bursts prior to examinations, and who have not been used to sustained, week in, week out effort, may well find themselves in difficulty quite quickly.

Learning is an interactive process that demands time, energy and commitment. Effective learning cannot be done passively e.g. by half-heartedly reading through lecture notes or handouts. Responding to problem sheets, or group interaction in class, for example, will be immeasurably more fruitful.

Thinking is intrinsically difficult, and, for most of us, a vaguely unwelcome activity, at least initially. Because it's difficult, we have an in-built tendency to skirt round it. For many people the problem is breaking into it i.e. starting. We think of other

important but less demanding things to do instead, like writing letters, washing-up, shopping.

University students sometimes run into difficulties because for the first time the work they do, (or don't do), is determined by minute to minute decisions as to how they use their time. The immediate moral constraints of the expectations of one's family, or of sixth form teachers are no longer there. There is an enhanced emphasis on self-motivation.

It sometimes takes a little time to find a proper balance between the demands of work and those of other competing interests, all of which may well be the normal healthy expression of a full student life. The management of time, informed by a recognition that invidious choices sometimes have to be made, is a skill that must be acquired if it isn't there already. I am occasionally surprised by students having no apparent conception of the scale of the task they have taken on, regarding the odd hour's work in the evening as a major concession. Studying for a degree at university is a full time job, and is probably the hardest job that most of us ever do. It inevitably involves trading in or postponing other desirable ends.

All the psychological literature on learning emphasises the importance of reward, and the notion that reward is central to effective learning holds good over a very wide spectrum of activity related to successful study at university. At the macro level - the fundamental motives for going for a degree at all - it is crucial. The rewards of prestige, of economic security, of the excitement of understanding one's subject at a deeper level, of fulfilling the expectations of family and teachers, are obvious ones. If these things are not valued sufficiently, the resilience and buoyancy which are necessary to overcome contingent difficulties will be undermined, and the student will falter.

That learning must be rewarding is also true in the more detailed day to

day sense. When a student is having difficulty with work, he or she is denied the vital reward of understanding, which may, remarkably quickly - depress confidence and overflow on to other areas of study. It is this close identification of the emotional state of confidence and buoyancy with successful ongoing study, and the converse identification of intellectual defeat with depressiveness and subsequent academic collapse, which lends such urgency to dealing with the problem.

What do you do if you become worried about your work?

Be pragmatic. If your work habits seem not to be effective, change them. For example, if you find it difficult to work much in the evenings, getting up early and doing a couple of hours before coming into college. If you find it all too easy to be distracted working in your room, try working in the library instead. Don't spend hour after hour staring blankly at notes, text-book, problemsheets. Break away for a short time - have a cup of coffee - walk around for a bit - stand on your head in the corner if it helps - then try again.

Break down your work into small tasks (which is really just another way of saying develop a system for study) and put a limit on what you're going to do, and how long you're going to spend on it. An ad hoc, disorganised approach to work may have suited you before, but if the evidence is that it is not adequate now then change the way you do things, and feel confident that you are capable of changing.

Talk to your personal tutor. If for any reason you prefer not to do this, make an appointment to see your senior tutor, who you can see independently and without any disloyalty or discourtesy to your personal tutor. If your work or attendance falls off badly, your senior tutor may well send for you, but on the whole academic staff are tolerant of a less than perfect performance from students, recognising that people have differ-

ent levels of competence and different rates of playing themselves into their degree course. It is entirely possible therefore, for you to become seriously worried about your work before it becomes obvious to anyone else, and the onus is on you to initiate discussion about it with those best fitted to help you.

By all means have a look in libraries and book-shops for books on study skills and study problems - you may well find something helpful and certainly it can't do any harm. There is also a very short booklet available in college called "Study Matters" which seems to me both thoughtful and relevant. Ask your senior tutor or departmental office for a copy.

Come to see me. I am easily available, and my work is entirely confidential. I won't, for example, talk to your department behind your back. Your time at university is precious - it is also finite - and there may be important practical reasons for talking around anxieties about work sooner rather than later. For one thing the flood of new material being thrown at you is likely to be relentless, and this can induce a very nasty feeling of panic if for some reason you are struggling to keep going. For another thing timing may be critically important should there be some question of transferring to another course, department, or university.








A final word. No-one on the college staff derives satisfaction from students' academic distress. Departments are adequately resourced to contain the full complement of their first-year intake right the way through to final graduation. There is no requirement for a standard "failure rate". On the contrary there is a great concern that students who are not working well should be identified early enough for real help to be given, and the key to that, quite often, is the student's willingness to acknowledge the problem. Think about it.

Don Adlington works on the first floor of 15 Princes Gardens: His telephone extension is 49430.



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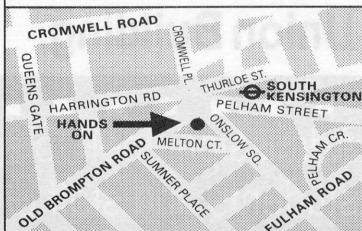
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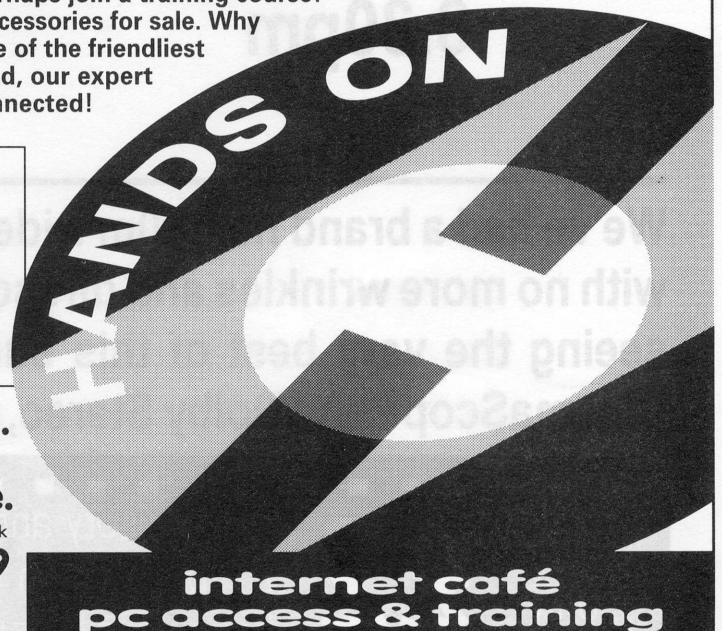
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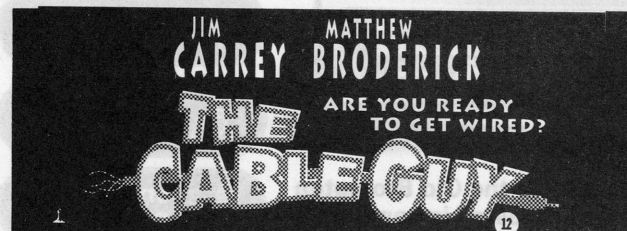


**ICU Cinema** *Presents ...*

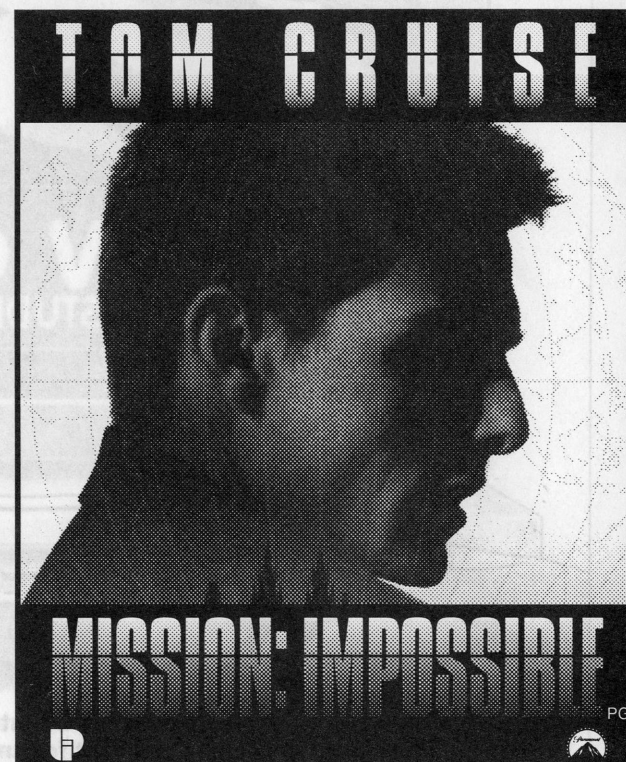
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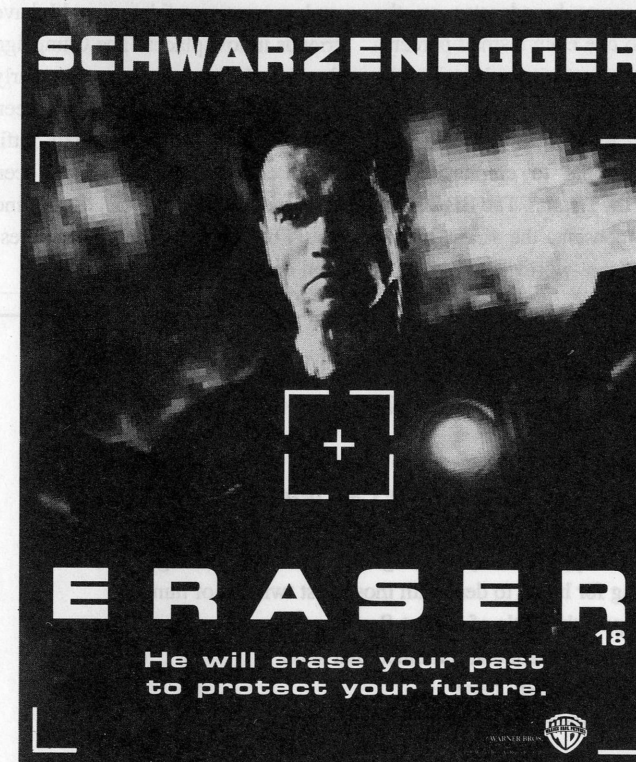
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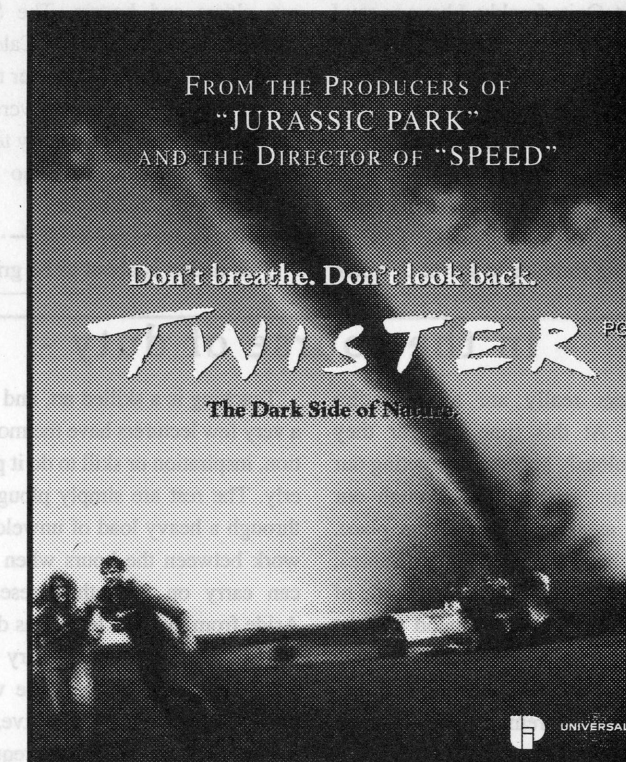


STA TRAVEL

# SPECTACULAR



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Sat 26th, 6pm



Sat 26th, 8.30pm  
Sun 27th, 6pm

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email: [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@ic.ac.uk)

E&OE, ROAR



## Simon Baker - Voice of Reason

Firstly, Mr Caldwell, Robin Riley is not a pseudonym of mine. Much as I would love to take credit for the excellent article on Campus Renaissance (Campus Destruction, more like), I must congratulate the man responsible. Apart from the odd crane crashing into Chemistry, the BMS project does appear to be proceeding well, save for the natty red and yellow barrier outside the site entrance that has been up and down more often than a whore's drawers.

The real concern is the Library project. Quite frankly, I have to say I told you so when I heard about the bulldozer almost crashing through the roof. We have read about large, heavy chunks of metal falling off cranes, and if this were to happen over the Library roof, the consequences of huge metal javelins plunging through to Level 2 would

be terrible. Leaving the building open over the summer was risky if not foolhardy, even though there weren't that many people around. Having seen the cavalier attitude of the contractors on that site, safety clearly is not a major consideration.

As any chemist at IC knows, one has to comply with all manner of safety requirements before undertaking any work. As they also realise, this is not really in the name of safety, but an example of what is known in the trade as 'covering the arses' of our elders and betters. The Schal managers and indeed Ian Caldwell himself might care to consider this. I accept that moron crane drivers etc. are not your fault, but you try telling the HSE that you have no legal responsibility whatsoever.

-----  
This nation is about to be gripped

by the greatest threat to our way of life since the 1940s. Not monetary union; we'll have that bit of nonsense dispatched soon enough. Not instability in the Middle East; a couple of Cruise missiles and Bob's your uncle. This is far, far more serious. I have read that Desmond Lynam's contract with the BBC ends in December, and Sky have made him an enormous offer. The consequences of this are too terrible to contemplate. Des is not simply a consummate professional; he is the greatest sports broadcaster on the planet. To cite even a small percentage of the great man's triumphs would fill a year's *Felices*, but one only has to mention the aborted Grand National to emphasise the genius of the Lynam. The BBC is, by common consent, the finest broadcaster in the world and sport is

arguably its strongest department. It has already lost football, some cricket and Formula 1. To lose the Guv'nor would be unthinkable. We must unite to stop this. Write to John Birt, petition your MP, chain yourself to TV Centre. Des must stay!

-----  
Nice to see that the wait for the first ULU balls-up of the season has not been a long one. A resignation and it's still only October. Fair enough, since it was for personal reasons, but it was almost inevitable that the replacement candidate would have friends in low places. The Campaign for Free Education is a particularly distasteful organisation that has been hijacked by every extreme left outfit in the country, and has rightly been disowned by the rest of ULU. Mind you, I hope he's elected. The expression on Ghassan Karrian's face...

### - in the course of duty -

Freshers really are a disgusting breed. At this time of year they miraculously appear, obstructing our corridors and barging through our doors as if they owned the place. They have no redeeming features; they are sallow of skin and crude of tongue, and stagger around without even a hint of politeness, leaving only the scent of alcohol and nervousness to remind you of their unhealthy existence. You can imagine them at night crawling back to their purposefully scruffy rooms at the end of a pathetic night out, fumbling drunkenly under their bedclothes to alleviate the knowledge that the woman they were drunkenly eyeing up still won't be interested tomorrow. Freshers however can be excused. They will learn in the end.

But there is another breed of undesirable at Imperial who is far more insidious; I am talking about the lecturer. They are proud and well paid, but in the main they are completely useless. OK, so there are a few exceptions worthy of respect, but the grand majority are totally unqualified to stand up and teach anything to anyone, let alone teach a complex subject to a large group of people. They will mumble, hesitate and ramble, they will read their notes word for word in a grim monotone, they may attempt a few feeble jokes, but it is rare that any student leaves the lecture theatre any the wiser.

Teaching is a skilled art, and only a very few lecturers have the motivation, inspiration or skill to do it properly. The rest are simply ploughing through a heavy load of unwelcome work between the hours when they can carry on with their research. Aside from that, the lecture as delivered has become unnecessary anyway. They date from a time when books were rare and expensive, and the only way to transfer the required information to a large collection of students was by dictation. Now, with photocopiers, and wordprocessors, this is an outdated and pointless methodology. It would be far better to simply provide the students with printed notes and exercise sheets and allow them to field any questions during tutorial time. This would free both the lecturers and the students to get on with the work they want to do, rather than forcing everybody to waste valuable hours sitting through a painful daily charade. This is not to say that lectures have no role at all, they do - but it is one of inspiration, rather than information.

Lecturers should utilise their time to encourage thought and discussion, to promote the excitement of the students and to pass on their passion about their subject. That is what lectures should be for; but how many do this? Very few. The rest are too incompetent to cope or too lazy to try.

adjm

### THE WEEKLY POEM

supplied by PoetiC

#### The Cat Poem

Standing, alone in the kitchen, I see through the window  
The cat, stepping neatly up the garden path, tail held high  
Heading for home to deal with those first twinges of hunger  
I anticipate the rattle of the cat-flap  
Then sink into sadness, reminded that soon  
The other door will bang  
Signalling the other homecoming

For I know that, as always, I will wait  
Standing alone in the kitchen  
Longing for a tender look....even a kiss as in the movies  
But he will stay apart as long as possible  
Moving about in the next room, in his private angry hell  
And when he does come in to seek his food  
Keep me at bay with trivial sharp rebuke

But now the delicious moment  
The cat caresses my leg with his soft and silky head  
Then, after having eaten, leaves

And I am filled with admiration  
That he can take the care he needs then go  
And also I am filled with gratitude -  
I brushed against another living soul

Anne

This poem taken from *A Selection of Member's Poetry*, published by PoetiC, the society for creative writing at Imperial College.

PoetiC welcomes new members. If you would like more details about PoetiC, please contact the publicity officer Keith McNulty on k.mculty@ic.ac.uk, or the chairman Ed Sexton on e.sexton@ic.ac.uk



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a series of Workshops on major development campaigns

a gathering of all the London Third World First Groups

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad

Sat 19th Oct, 10.30 am - 5 pm

## FREE REGISTRATION

### Programme:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>10.30</b> | <b>Registration</b>   |
| <b>11.00</b> | <b>Welcome and Introduction</b>   |
| <b>11.30</b> | <b>Morning Workshops:</b>   |
|              | <i>The effect on education of structural adjustment in developing countries (World University service)</i>                                |
|              | <i>The Fair Trade Campaign 'Consumer Power: Taste It' (Third World First)</i>   |
|              | <i>Third World Debt: 'Ethical Update' on the major UK banks (LAMB)</i>  |
| <b>12.30</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| <b>2.00</b>  | <b>Introduction</b>   |
| <b>2.15</b>  | <b>Afternoon Workshops:</b>   |
|              | <i>Ban Landmines Campaign (UK Working Group on Landmines)</i>   |
|              | <i>The Ogoni people of Nigeria: exploitation by a multinational corporation (Ogoni Peoples Association)</i>                               |
| <b>3.15</b>  | <b>Tea</b>  |
| <b>3.30</b>  | <b>The Burma Campaign - Representatives from the Burma Action Group and international journalists will talk on the democracy movement</b> |



## LETTERS TO FELIX

replied to this week by Jonathan Trout

### Mr C replies...

Dear Mr Baker,

I enjoy reading your column and I hope it does not upset you too much if I often agree with it.

You commented that you feel the JCR is a disgrace, I could add to this the Walkway Southside Gym .. indeed the list is too long. We share an aspiration to provide decent facilities for our students. The new dB's, where Estates and ICU worked closely together, is an example of what can be achieved. The obvious problem is money, at a time when Government is cutting back University funding. The good news is that we are developing plans to improve the facilities in Sherfield. Watch this space!

Kind regards.

Your sincerely

I Caldwell

Dear Mr Riley

I would obviously like to comment on your article in last week's Felix. Firstly, the safety of staff, students and the public is of paramount importance, and secondly, yes I have spent much of the last week in meetings and on site - much of this has been related to the construction projects and reviewing these with Schal.

Your article quite rightly raises concerns, some of which relate to the state of the construction industry itself. The industry has come through the worst recession I have known and many firms are indeed financially weak. Before contractors are appointed, they are subjected to financial, quality and health and safety checks to try to select firms in which we have confidence. Bank guarantees and performance bonds are used where appropriate.

Neither Schal or ourselves are happy at the number of incidents that have happened on site. Following the ceiling collapse I arranged for an immediate investigation into the reasons behind it. An inspection of the other new ceilings was also carried out (which were of a different construction and all quite safe). The main reason for the collapse was indeed the supply and use of the wrong wire for the ceiling ties. Measures have been put in place as follows:

- Schal have based a Safety

Manager on site for the next month to carry out a thorough review of both the BMS and Libraries project.

- Schal are adding to their team with a Quality Manager on site.

- I have also commissioned an independent review from Waterman Safety Limited whose report is due in about 2 weeks.

We are therefore doing a considerable amount to ensure that quality control and health and safety management is as good as can be. In doing so, we can reassure students and staff that their health and safety is a top priority.

Finally I'm not 41!

Yours sincerely

I Caldwell

### BOOKSTORE LECTURE

At the invitation of ICU Bookstore, Prof P Atkins (author of Chemistry texts with Oxford University Press) will be giving a lecture entitled, 'The Book, The Disc and The Future' on **Monday 21st October** at 6.15 pm. The venue is the Clore Lecture Theatre. Tickets are available free of charge from the Bookstore.

### Network corrections

Dear Mr Feakes,

In The Felix of 11th. of October under the News in Brief heading there was a section on networking connections in the Beit Hall in which you mention the Centre for Computing Services. Since the section showed some confusion as to the role of the Centre in the networking of student rooms in Halls of Residence may I set the record straight?

The Centre is not responsible for networking within any of the Halls of Residence. If rooms are to be wired up then this must be either funded by the College or achieved by the Wardens/College Residences. As currently defined and funded the Centre's role is to install a network connection to the basement of each building on campus. So far we have not been funded by the College to do this for Halls of Residence, but we have managed to create a student network on the South Kensington campus linking them, from internal resources. We have also provided network hubs for Weekes Hall (a joint pilot project with the Estates Division to provide data and telephone outlets in each room) and a terminal concentrator for each of

Falmouth/Keogh and Selkirk/Tizard halls. The Union and Felix are on the network because the Centre put considerable effort and some equipment into extending the network to the Beit Quadrangle. It must be said that the Beit Quadrangle is a particularly difficult area in which to install network wiring, and I'm sure that any problems in the Old or New Hostels are due to this.

Finally the Centre is not empowered to make judgements about the use students may make of campus network facilities. That is an academic issue which is decided by the College and the departments. When such decision are made the Centre takes all reasonable steps to see that

the rules are observed and will report to the department (or in serious cases to the College) any students transgressing those rules.

Yours sincerely,

RJ Hynds

Centre for Computing Services

### Schal? Schwa?

Dear Felix,

Your catalogue of building disasters here at IC has prompted me to ask this question: If there is an accident here at IC, who will be held responsible, and what action will be taken? More importantly, will any action be taken before an accident occurs?

D Goodwin, Comp I

**Reports that all students are to be issued hard hats with their library cards are as yet unconfirmed.**

### Good clean fun?

Dear Alex,

While there is much in the article "Humans: 1, Animals: 0 A philosophy by Jonathan Trout" that I accept and agree with, there are some points that I take extreme exception to.

I accept that Man is the ultimate predator, and Man's ability to breed.

rear and kill some lower animals for food is simply a function of his superior intelligence. I don't have any problems with vivisection. Some major medical advances could not have been made without it. What I disagree with is the notion that hunting animals for sport is "a bloody good laugh" or that hare-coursing and badger-gassing are "good, clean fun". What sort of sick-minded individual thinks that an animal in distress is "good, plain, old-fashioned hilarious"?

If Mr Trout thinks that visiting schools with mad cows would have playgrounds ringing with laughter, then he has no conception of how disturbed and frightened children could be by such a distressing display.

If Mr Trout considers that clubbing a blind-folded donkey, or throwing a goat from a castle parapet etc, etc, is treating animals "with the contempt they deserve", then I suggest that he gets to know me by sight because, should he be foolish enough to vocalise such ideas within earshot of me then, with a name like Trout, I would be sorely tempted to shove a 6 inch, barbed hook through the roof of his mouth (let's face it, it wouldn't damage his intelligence), attach a line to it, and hoist him from one of the many cranes currently to be found on campus. Now THAT would be fucking hilarious!

Mr Trout should remember that what MOST distinguishes Man from all the other predators on the planet, is his predilection with killing his own kind - for fun!

Ken Pritchard, Biochem II.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the "philosophical" article by Jonathan Trout. I am no animal rights activist, but I can only feel sympathy for the writer's warped state of mind and his runaway humanistic ego. Honestly, I am surprised that he did not go further to encourage human cannibalism, since it is along his line of argument.

He writes "If a cow could corral, feed and breed me, I would take my straw hat off to him on the way to the abattoir. As the hammer swung down on my thick, hairy, stupid enough to be caught and branded head I would marvel at the genius of my slaughter-



rhetoric, because I will certainly like to see the writer exuding that same spirit should the fateful day come. Surely, getting on his knees to beg for a quick and painless death is beneath him.

Assuming that there really exists a distinct line between humans and animals, is the ability to feel compassion a distinguishing factor? If that is so, maybe the writer should be opposing the persecution of his own kind.

Yours

Soh Kinn Yeow

EEE 2.

Dear Sir,

In reply to Jonathan Trout's "Humans: 1 Animals: 0" (Issue 1064): and what a neat little manifesto it was too. However it all seemed to hinge on the argument that more intelligent being, have the right to exercise their blood lust as they see fit. Without wishing to be sensationalist, this kind of argument has led to genocide in the past and whereas Mr.Trout may be clear on where he divides animals and homo sapiens, other people are not so sure.

As for his claims that animal suffering is "a bloody good laugh", that's entirely subjective; but I doubt that the sight of an abattoir worker shovelling offal in ten hour shifts would strike him as anything but sad. The fact is that the farming practices of our ancestors bear no relation to the sick practices carried out today.

"(Humans) build and destroy because they can conceive of doing so" is a banal and pointless statement. The fact that humans conceive discernment and compassion is far more important.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr R Coupland.

Really, I'm disappointed with you all. Petty personal insults and death threats are far below the level of debate I hoped for in writing this article. Aside from this, I was most bemused to find that having written it makes me a cannibalistic, genocidal, sick-minded and warped supremacist. With the fairly obvious exception of these three letters, the response has been overwhelmingly positive to the piece, it having been seen as a refreshing change from the usual "oh poor fluffy bunnies" approach. Hypocrisy is rife in the

area of animal rights, and it was my aim to provoke reasoned argument by taking an admittedly extreme but thoroughly self-consistent stance.

It also seems to me that I am being branded as being without compassion. This is untrue - I do feel compassion, it is just that I believe that we should look after our own race before we start with others. While there are humans dying of starvation, or being persecuted for their beliefs I find it contemptible that our energies should be devoted to the welfare of lesser species. Who has the right to tell us otherwise?

Finally, I'd like to state that I believe one of the major criteria that separates homo sapiens from the animals is the ability to have a sense of humour.

No animals were harmed during the writing of this reply. Except a few squirrels. Cheers - JT.

## The effective library

Dear All,

The Higher Education Funding Councils, have set up a working party which produced a report entitled: the Effective Academic Library. The report recommends a vast range of measures libraries should take to assess their effectiveness and economy. One measure requires us to count the number of users on specified sample days and the number of items they consulted during their visit. The first sample days are Monday and Thursday, 21 and 24 October, followed by 11 and 14 November.

Special notices will be put up in all the libraries informing users and telling them what to do (eg reshelving books or journals they used). I would be grateful for your understanding and co-operation. On all other days in the libraries, will be their usual effective selves.

Magda Czigan,  
Director of Library Services

Letters may be edited for length.  
The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1066 is Monday 21st October. Please bring some form of identification.

Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

## MONTPELIER HALL

Another week, another issue, and one without the recurrent problems of the first two thankfully. However, another issue has indeed risen with the condemning of Montpelier Hall, a decision that seems to have taken many people by surprise.

Although the Hall has been up for sale before, and the announcement comes some time before the Hall will close, the problem of meeting the College commitment to house all first year students looks even tougher. To the best of my knowledge, there has been no proposal as to where to put next year's first year postgrads. Will the extra entitlement in the intercollegiate halls be enough? Will the postgrads be close enough to South Kensington for them to want to live there?

## SAFETY HELMETS FOR ALL?

It would seem that all this talk of doom and gloom and Biblical style raining of bit of concrete from the heavens has worried some newcomers to the college (see D Goodwin's letter, left).

This is perhaps adding unnecessarily to the burden on Freshers. They already have had to stand in more lines and sign more forms than the mightiest beauracracy could wish for, and now perhaps they must queue up again for a little chit to exchange for a safety helmet.

The campus is coming quite a dangerous place already without more queues to trip over and the neccessity for firmer head gear.

## TROUT ON THE HOOK

I was happy to see some of the

responses to Jonathon Trout's article in last week's *Felix*, particularly some of the reasoned answers to his points. I am not sure what petty and personal insults Jon took from the replies, but I hope the irony can be appreciated by all concerned.

This subject is emotive to many people, and spawns frustration for those on both side of the debate. Articles such as Jon's can help to 'break the ice' and perhaps initiate something more meaningful.

Perhaps contrary to Jon's opinion, it would seem that Ken Pritchard has at least a dry wit.

## SUCH A NICE MAN

And I mustn't forget to thank the chap in CCS who kindly sold us a vital cable even though the shop was shut. Unfortunately, in the end the cable had the wrong fitting and we had to make do with what we already had, but we appreciated the effort.

## APOLOGIES

Some of you may have received Felixes without staples last week. Our apologies - the collating machine is, ahem, unreliable.

## LASTLY..

My apologies to Mr Nick Dearden for mixing him up with Mr Ben Hughes last week.

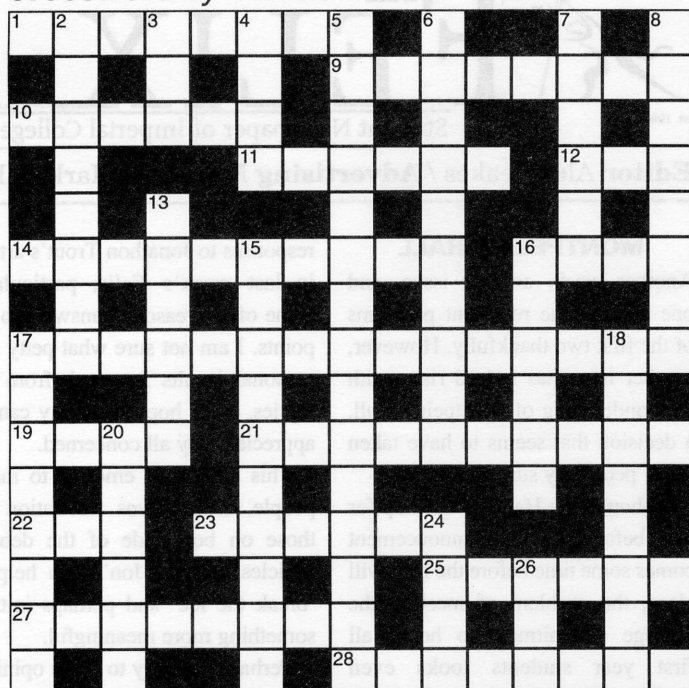
Don't forget our e-mail address for letters, felix@ic.ac.uk. This should make it a lot easier for you to contact us. Also do take time to have a look at our new website, which will be steadily expanded and improved over the next few weeks. The URL is <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>. Enjoy!

NEWS: ANDREW DORMAN-SMITH AND THE NEWSTEAM, FEATURES: MARK BAKER, PUZZLES: DUNCAN ROBERTSON, ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS, GRAPHICS: MARK, CHRIS AND DAVID, PHOTOS: WILL, WEI AND ROBIN  
COLLATING LAST WEEK: ALISON, STEVE, TOM, MARIA, SARAH, MARK, JON AND HIS MATES, ALEX (NOT ME), ROBIN AND ANDY. TA MUCHLY TO ALL.

Produced for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board  
Printed by Imperial College Union Print Unit by Andy and Jeremy, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Telephone/fax: 0171 594 8072  
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## Crossword by Clansman



## Solution to issue 1064's Elimination:

a) Tube map (13,2); b) Sure, Shore (12,25); c) Wishing Well (40,14); d) Wine bottle (15,31); e) Vocal chords (29,32); f) Wagon, Rubber (35,30); g) Grave-yard (21,16); h) Golf, Sailing (7,37); i) Blank face (17,5); j) Like, Relish (9,34); k) Bar-gain (1,6); l) Evil, Live (4,10); m) Lamp-shade (8,24); n) Mobile phone (33,23); o) Grain store (20,26); p) Bread-knife (18,22); q) Student Union (38,28); r) Top, Track (3,27); s) Imperial College (41,36); t) Drain-pipe (19,11)...leaving "totally" (39).

## Across:

1. Bug had company up in arms about affliction to the throat. (3,5)
9. Gas took it easy having been captured. (8)
10. Many glow disconcertedly? I found jungle boy! (6)
12. Doctor that wrecks his operation first. (3)
14. Sarcastic joke about caging clay? (7,3)
16. Bright thought results in calming rabid eagle. (4)
17. British upper-class idling unruly before Southern commander introduces extra tasks yield first money-lending organisation. (8,7)
19. Close to being in fine area? (4)
21. Put toilet in as Eastern Turk yowls initially about car problem! (1,5,4)
22. Foreign Office bridge-player is the enemy! (3)
23. Lose the lead when not on time for operation. (3,3)
25. Bold about first official yacht from ex-pupil. (3,3)
27. Note the French weight in a cable-message. (8)
28. The Spanish measure sent awry by atmospheric forces! (8)

## Down:

2. A fight youths organise underground primarily does not concern me! (5,3)
3. Toothed wheel found in geriatric ogre! (3)
4. Metal goes up after universal segment? (4)
5. Enjoying oneself by erratically avoiding hog meat! (6,1,4,4)
6. Excavate notes of debt after Public Relations officer becomes enormous! (10)
7. Holy man indebted to that which was hidden away. (6)
8. Vary coda by mistake before the recommendation of a policy. (8)
13. Lip about the French river support. (6)
15. Frail man all at sea about mother in creature home! (6,4)
16. Imbeciles I would number around end of August recess! (6)
17. Improves sick-pay? (8)
18. Traitor able to rotate anorak? (8)
20. Mature cast-off is ancient! (3,3)
24. Stick to man from Eastern Europe. (4)
26. Party eye-opener is an animal! (3)

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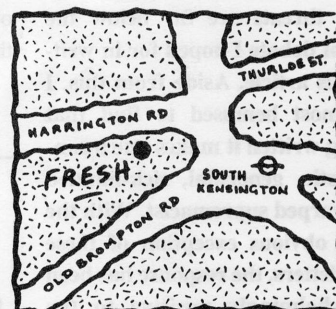
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# FELIX SPORT

## Late rally not enough to save 1st XV

**N STORMER-SMITH**  
**FELIX RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**

ICRFC kicked off their 96-97 season with a keenly contested encounter against Queen Mary and Westfield. The summer's rustiness was evident in the first half as QMW opened up a 22-0 lead despite some valiant and courageous defence by the whole IC team.

The IC tryline was under constant pressure, and to the credit of the whole team, the defence was breached only three times. Come the second half the IC machine started to crank into gear. QMW then found themselves under the cosh as IC started to swarm.

Pressure was converted into points as newcomer prop, Rob Gare, thundered over for the try. The conversion being supplied by returning outside half Gareth Williams. Despite dominating for long periods, further

points were proving elusive to come by. However, IC played to the end and as an epic three-minute period of play resulted in Paul Hardcastle touching down for the last score of the match. Result 25-12.

In the day's second game, IC's 2nd XV went down 24-0 against QMW's 2nds. The third team open their campaign this weekend, with a match against St Mary's on Saturday. All support is welcome.

Warm thanks being extended to the IC Ladies, who hopefully pitched up a few pointers for their on and off the field activities.

This early season setback shouldn't deter IC from success in the near future. New faces, old hands and an abundance of skill and class under the guidance of professional coach Kevin Bell (Richmond) should weld this IC team into a formidable unit - capable of tackling anyone.

### RESULTS

#### MENS HOCKEY

IC 1ST XI 8 - 2 ROYAL FREE 1ST XI

IC 2ND XI 2 - 0 ROYAL FREE 2ND XI

IC 3RD XI 1 - 0 ROYAL FREE 3RD XI

#### LADIES HOCKEY

IC 1ST XI 0 - 1 QUEEN MARY AND WESTFIELD

IC 2ND XI 0 - 7 ROYAL HOLLOWAY

#### MENS RUGBY

IC 1ST XV 12 - 25 QUEEN MARY AND WESTFIELD 1ST

IC 2ND XV 0 - 24 QUEEN MARY WESTFIELD 2ND XV

## Hockey Firsts strike against Royal Free...

This amazing collection of brilliant players selected to play - honourably - for the IC Firsts waltzed all over Royal Free Hospital. Two hat tricks (Kabadii and Plasticman) ensured a glittering performance in only our second game of this very promising season. We were playing so well, that even Johnny Fartpants scored from 2.4 inches, and that sweeper, Chicken Boil was in the hunt for goals. The final result of 8-2 was a poor reflection on the evident quality difference.

Pubo boss kept a clear head as Rent Boy remained exceptionally calm when converting a slick short-corner combination. Mr T was solid as ever as pressure on him increased

during the game. This pressure (amounting to several kilopascals - we are scientists after all), finally got to our ginger goalie Tim, Red Helmet, conceding two easy goals late in the game.

Indiana had obviously enjoyed his Freshers' week too much to be effective, in fact, he was crap, as was Sid the Sexist, alias give-me-the-ball-and-let-me-try-and-dummy-the-whole-opposition-and-score-myself.

Goldenboy is still refusing to square any balls, as was Porn-o refusing to stay wide (Yann got Fu\*\*ing wide). "This team has the potential to score on a regular basis." opined Rent Boy.

## ...as do the Seconds...

IC 2nds continued their winning run this season with a 2-0 victory over St Bartholemew Hospital.

As usual the game started like a house on fire, with fouls aplenty. Eventually, Rab forced a short corner, which our captain Goran flicked into the top corner of the net to the raucous cheers of the team. An improvement for goals from short corners over last season when we got none. Anyway, lots of attacking play from both sides followed, but IC was superior and we held out till half-time.

The second half started unlike the first, no fouls but butchery all over

the place. After some Barts' pressure and near misses, IC strode up the pitch with ineffable ease and Shaggy smashed a ball against the keeper's body.

Some IC pressure followed and a confusion between the umpires and the players involved a retaken IC freehit. Taken it was, played about with consummate ease before Richard Brut, who was feeling a need for young boys, smashed the ball into the net. More Barts' pressure followed before the end of the game, but we won, they lost, so roll on IC Hockey.

## ...and the Thirds

After a tentative start, the 3rds Animals came roaring into life after a penalty flick from pudding at 10 minutes.

It was felt by many that the scoreline did not reflect the depth, quality and general dominance of the rampant IC side, whose stalwart defence

often threatened to overwhelm the medical opposition.

Clinical passes and impenetrable defensive work are fast becoming a hallmark of this promising 3rd's side, and they can only build on the solid foundations laid against St Barts.



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at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London, W1**

We will also be holding a workshop to discuss how to answer business cases in an interview on:

**Wednesday, 13 November 1996  
at 3:00 p.m.**

**74 St. James's Street, London, SW1**

### London Office opportunities for undergraduates and British masters candidates

We invite you to our presentation on:

**Thursday, 14 November 1996  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Pippard Lecture Theatre,  
Sherfield Building, Imperial College**

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND BROCHURES ARE  
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