

est. 1949

THE FELIX

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Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

In Something for the Weekend: win a £2000 computer with Yahoo!

Student's suicide "bewildering"

MARIA IOANNOU AND MATTHEW KEMPTON

College has been shaken by the death of third year Biochemistry student, Richard Parker, who committed suicide on the last day of term before the Christmas break. Parker, a biochemistry student on a year in industry, died in circumstances that have been described as "bewildering."

Parker went to a business lunch in his Department, which ended at around 5pm. Reports suggest that he was drinking during the dinner, but not to excess. He then made his way to Evelyn Gardens and entered Southwell Hall of residence.

At around 6pm, Mr Parker set off the fire alarms in houses 55 and 56. He then evacuated students from the building, claiming he was the Senior

Fire Officer for halls of residence. Subwardens, also in the process of evacuating the students, did not recognise Parker and so, suspecting that he was responsible for breaking the alarm glasses, escorted him from the building and placed him in charge of the security guard on duty. However, the security guard, whom residents claim was clearly drunk, released him.

Mr Parker then reentered Southwell Hall, this time with a subwarden from Bernard Sunley. Again he claimed he was a fire officer and insisted on flashing his College swipecard to prove it. Students who recognised him from the first time, alerted a subwarden who escorted Mr Parker to Southwell Hall's warden, Dr Ken Young.

continued on page two

Union outlines retail site ideas

PAUL SQUIRES

The Union is currently discussing plans to restore some of the revenue it will lose when Waterstone's Booksellers takes over its trade in academic texts. The Union's profile amongst its members is also under review.

Suggestions for new services to replace the trade in academic texts are varied. The Union will retain the building currently known as Bookstore, since Waterstone's will have a new site in the library building, and most of the suggestions are concerned with what to do with the building when it ceases to sell academic texts. Piers Williams Deputy President (Finance and Services) says there will be no trade in books of any kind, academic or otherwise, since they could not compete with Waterstone's in this field.

Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, has been assigned to deal with the various "administrative" consequences of the recent decision to award the bookstore tender to Waterstone's. Talking on the subject of the Union's retail sites, he stated

that the College are "not opposed to the Union trading", refuting recent reports that the Rector had declared that the Union should not be allowed to trade in a commercial sense.

The most realistic suggestions are those of expanding the store's existing trade in college regalia and stationery, and of transferring the trade in newspapers and magazines from the newsagent across the Walkway to the store in order to allow the newsagent greater space for confectionery. More adventurous ideas include a film-developing service, as in some other universities, video rental, as used to happen at IC, a shop similar to Southside shop for the sale of a limited range of groceries, and even a cafe bar.

Mr Caldwell added that the current bookstore site could be redeveloped as "some fairly sensible [trading] activity" with the College's blessing. On competition between the various service providers on campus, he commented "It's good to have two people running these services... It keeps each other on their toes."

continued on page four

Leaky library's power cut



NEWSTEAM

Rain water leaking through the Library roof late on Wednesday evening caused a localised power cut in the main library and Sherfield buildings, triggering an emergency evacuation of College buildings.

All alarms on the College main site sounded at around 10 o'clock on Wednesday precipitating a general evacuation. Speaking to *Felix*, Keith Reynolds, Head of Security, ascribed the power failure to "Water leaking through the floors of the library and shorting out the distribution box." Peter Wray, Electrical Supervisor in the Estates Division confirmed that

rain water had flooded the mains riser in the library and "blown out" the power intake.

Areas affected by the power cut include the north side of the library, the NatWest branch on level two of Sherfield and all corridor lights and fire alarms in the Sherfield building. Mr Wray commented that, electricaly speaking, "you couldn't pick out anything worse to have happened." He also said that there was a "lot of damage" in the building.

Library staff expect that the northern half of the library building will not be fully open until Monday.

full story next week

Bewildering death

continued from front page

Dr Young questioned Mr Parker but he refused to admit to smashing the fire alarms. He did accept that he wasn't a fire officer, however. Questioning went on for about an hour, until the warden decided that no further progress would be made that night. "It continually seemed that he was either going to walk out or lash out" commented the warden, who noted that Mr Parker seemed drunk. Dr Young eventually sent him home telling him the matter would be kept 'in house' if he returned in the morning to sort things out.

Richard Parker was escorted out of the hall by the warden and walked to his girlfriend's house in nearby Edith Road. Also a student at Imperial College, his girlfriend left Parker in the flat soon after they arrived to return to Southwell in order to retrieve his jacket and glasses. Mr Parker had been particularly upset about leaving these items behind and insisted that she fetch them. Whilst there, she talked to the Warden, commenting that he was acting "way out of character". She was clearly worried though not overly concerned and

after chatting with the Warden for about half an hour, went back to her flat.

On her return, she found Mr Parker had hung himself whilst she was out. He had left a rambling suicide note in which his apology for the havoc he had caused in Southwell seemed to be his only major concern.

Dr Chapman, of the Biochemistry Department, expressing his sadness at the death of Richard Parker said "...a fine student, it came completely out of the blue." The company he was working for this year have informed College that they will not only miss him as a person, but also miss his professional contributions "...he was doing an excellent job in the lab." All third year biochemists were informed of Richard Parker's death and many of his friends have had the opportunity to talk about their loss with members of staff. Dr Chapman talking about suicide in general said "one is one too many."

It has been left to the jury at the inquest, which takes place on the 13th February, to determine the reasons for Richard Parker's actions, though speculation is rife.

Funding bonanza for IC

MATHIEU RICHARD

The Research Council science budget for 1997/1998, released recently, denotes a clear intention to support the implementation of specific key projects, as reported in *Felix 1075*.

This is particularly apparent for research into BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or "mad cow disease") and related diseases, which has received an earmarked £17 million from this year's budget, bringing the total allocation for work on this domain to £30 million over three years.

The Imperial College School of Medicine, one of the leading institutions for investigation into these diseases, will be especially affected by this programme. As part of the project of research on the implications of the transmissibility of spongiform encephalopathies, around £1 million will be allocated to Imperial College researcher John Collinge and his team. Their mission will be to explore the human prion diseases - the diseases of the same family as the BSE- and especially the Creutzfeldt-Jacob syndrome. Dr Rodney Eastwood, from the Financial Planning department, views this allocation as an appreciable but logical recognition of the "excellent, 1st-class work" accomplished by Professor Collinge, who is "making good progress in this difficult and delicate area".

As to the attributions to other fields of research, Dr Eastwood

remarks that very little change has been made with respect to the previous budget: "The money allocated to the Research Councils is more or less what there is at present, plus a few small increases", especially for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (plus £5 million) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (plus £8 million).

The distribution of these sums is not expected to change much either, with a significant majority of the allocations (around 75% for the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council) going, as before, to the most productive departments - the same which obtained grades 5 or 5* at the RAE. If the Royal Society's position was followed, research funds should even be attributed more selectively as in the past. However, the Planning Office of Imperial College expects very similar allocations for its departments as in the previous years.

This budget has been generally welcomed positively by most research councils, seeing it as a guarantee of stability and effectiveness in British research. Yet some executives have expressed deep concerns as to whether the funding, including these allocations, will be sufficient to support all the high-quality project initiatives which will be presented in the next few years to the Research Councils.

Vaccine cure-all claims are "misleading" says researcher

KENT YIP

A *Sunday Times* article published on 12th January this year under the headline "Vaccine Could Cure All Allergies At A Stroke" has been described as "misleading" by Dr Charlotte Hetzel, a co-worker in the project headed by Professor Jonathan Lamb.

Currently three million people in this country are thought to be allergic to house mites, tiny creatures found in most domestic furniture. The vaccine concerned aims to immunise people against allergic reactions to house dust mites. It works by redirecting the immune pathway undertaken by white cells on presentation with the protein secreted by house dust mites which triggers the allergic

response in the first place.

This may potentially be achieved by introducing the white cells to an altered version of the protein early on in life. A strain of genetically engineered, non-pathogenic species of myobacteria can be used to deliver the vaccine into the body.

The results obtained so far in experimental models are promising. The project is still at the laboratory stage, and whilst its clinical potential has been recognised, no vaccine for clinical trial has yet been prepared. In view of this, the suggestion in the *Sunday Times* article that the three million people who are allergic to house dust mites will benefit immediately from this work may seem over optimistic.

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Lilley lulls the masses

ANDREW SMITH

Peter Lilley MP, the Secretary of State for Social Security, visited a meeting of the Imperial College Conservative Society last Wednesday.

In an uninspired speech, he denied that his party's divisions are any worse than those of the Labour Party. He also insisted that he had failed to notice the Tory infighting exposed by Teresa Gorman's recent attempt to force a referendum on the European Union. Ms Gorman, the maverick MP for Billericay, tabled the motion to hold a nationwide vote under the Ten Minute Rule. He also spoke of his plans to trim the expenditure of the Department for Social Security, (which accounts for a third of all government expenditure), and now supports twice the number of people as it did in 1979, when the Conservative Party first came to power.

With a third of this budget being spent on pensions, control of this sector is crucial to overall stability, and Mr Lilley emphasised his "success" in persuading two-thirds of those eligible for state pensions to "opt-out" and use private sector companies. He added that the UK is in the best position of any European country to deal with the world-wide problem of ageing populations, pointing out that "We've invested £600 billion to pay

for pensions, which is more than the rest of Europe put together."

Mr Lilley, Member of Parliament for St Albans, defended his attempts to cut the money spent on housing support for young people, single parents and asylum seekers, insisting that the measures did have a significant effect on his overall spending.

It appeared that the Secretary of State's proudest achievement is in cutting benefit fraud, claiming that since his appointment in 1992 his department has saved £1.5bn, with another £3bn to come. Mr Lilley emphasised that none of his predecessors had established a way of analysing the level of fraud, but that "We invented a system to measure it."

He expressed the opinion that it had been, and would continue to be successful at measuring fraud, allowing it to be better combated. The telephone hotline for benefit cheats, "Squeal on a rat", was cited as a particular example of successful anti-fraud campaigning.

Turning to the current political situation, the diminutive Minister admitted that his party had "done our best



St Albans MP Peter Lilley in jubilant mood. He refused to deny that he would be a Conservative Party leadership candidate after the General Election.

to shoot ourselves in the foot from time to time." Ignoring suggestions

that the recent Private Member's Motion on the EU had once again emphasised divisions, Mr Lilley expressed his hope that "that is all behind us", and pointed to a group of "50 Labour MPs led by Denzil Davies" with similarly Eurosceptic views.

With the Labour Party pledging to keep to Conservative spending plans, if elected at the next General Election, the Minister denounced Gordon Brown's promises as "not credible". Mr Lilley admitted that his preferred General Election date is 1 May, but the possibility of a Labour victory does not appear to overly worry the MP with a majority of 16,404. Speaking exclusively to *Felix* after the meeting Mr Lilley refused to deny that he would be a candidate for the Conservative Party leadership in the event of John Major's resignation.

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Campus plan holds few surprises

MATTHEW BENNETT

The new Imperial College plan summary for 1995/96 to 1998/99 contains few surprises, with emphasis placed on development of interdisciplinary research centres and the continuing of the "Campus Renaissance" scheme to improve the South Kensington site.

The plan is a revised version of one produced two years ago, and sets out the main objectives for college-wide affairs, and covers the integration of the four medical schools into the college, campus changes, curriculum changes and the budgeting objectives as well as general aims of the college.

The creation of the Imperial College School of Medicine is seen as a major event, and a way of exploiting the "wealth of clinical opportunity in the associated hospitals, and the technological and scientific expertise available in other parts of the college." The merging of medical, scientific and technological aspects are "expected to lead to significant advances", and this is one of the main reasons that multidisciplinary research centres are being set up.

Few changes in the courses or curriculum offered are envisaged, but the plan does refer to the increased demand for graduates to have "scientific and technical communication skills" and "professional development courses" are sited as an area for growth.

The plan also recognises the



ARTISTS IMPRESSION BY SIMON JONES

An artists impression of how the new Arts and Music centre will look.

"existing strengths in music and arts amongst students and staff" and pledges that the new music and arts centre, to be situated on the top floor of the new library, will "extend the breadth of educational and cultural opportunities available to the college's wider internal and external communities". An Arts and Music centre had been planned for a number of years following a bequest from a former professor, Nevil Blyth. This would have funded the building of music practice rooms on the top of the present library. The money was insufficient to fund the plans, which were shelved for a time, until the Campus Renaissance project required the extension of the library and allowed a Lottery bid to be staged.

This was seen as the perfect opportunity to offset some of the costs of extending the top floor for the arts

centre, as the necessary cranes and building works would already be in place. The Arts and Music centre is to be the subject of one of at least three National Lottery grants for Estates, with the facilities required for an excellent range of arts facilities, practice rooms and recital spaces as well as public access (required for the Lottery money) costing in the region of £2.3million. The building extension itself will cost £1.6million. Sources in the Estates Division suggested that the public access to the Sherfield building would also need to be improved, at a possible cost of £1.3million.

Other objectives set out in the plan include the conversion of the Beit Quadrangle Biology buildings into halls of residences and the building of two completely new halls in Princes' gardens. The plan stresses that opportunities to increase the

number of rooms will only be pursued "at a cost that students can afford". Sports facilities are also covered, with the boathouse singled out for mention, but the South Kensington sports facilities are also under redevelopment with plans for another Lottery grant well advanced.

The plan also includes details of the changes to the Queen's lawn area, with landscaping for improved looks, access and usability, and as a "public focus for college", as detailed in *Felix 1071*. These plans are the subject of a further lottery grant. Budget plans include continued self-financing to protect against "unpredictable changes in external circumstances".

The proportion of women in college is also set for increase, with an increase from 18% to 27% over the last 10 years, and a target of at least 35% by the year 2000 envisaged.

New bookstore plans drawn up

continued from front page

In a parallel move with the retail discussions, one of the main areas under review is Union publicity. Many people are unaware of how major a role the Union plays in the life of the College, and how many of the services on campus are run by the Union. In order to remedy this a number of proposals have been put forward for raising the Union's profile. It has been suggested that a photo board containing photographs of the Union staff and sabbaticals with explanations of the jobs they do be put up in the Union to show people which jobs are done by whom. There may also be an introduction party for wardens in Halls of Residence so that the Union's message gets to the first people freshers come into contact with. There may

even be an Union sandwich and pizza delivery service to the different departments on campus.

The main publicity idea, however, is that all posters, letters and leaflets carry the Union logo, as well as that all Union catering and recreation services display prominent signs reminding people that they are run by the Union. Students also need to be made aware that their clubs and societies could not exist were it not for the Union. Messages to this effect will be put on all posters and advertisements issued by the clubs, and many clubs will be required to adjust their name and livery to include the ICU acronym or the phrase "...supported by Imperial College Union".

The Union also aims to convey the message to the College that they both have (in theory) the same objective;

giving students as good a quality of life as possible, and therefore that they should work together a lot more than they appear at present to be doing. "I think it's unfortunate that the College and the Union have differing views about what constitutes the good of the students," says Mr Williams, "The Union believes that we can best serve students and the college community in general by trading and thereby gaining a degree of financial autonomy from the whims of Higher Education budgets, as well as tailoring our services to suit students' needs." Mr Williams voiced the

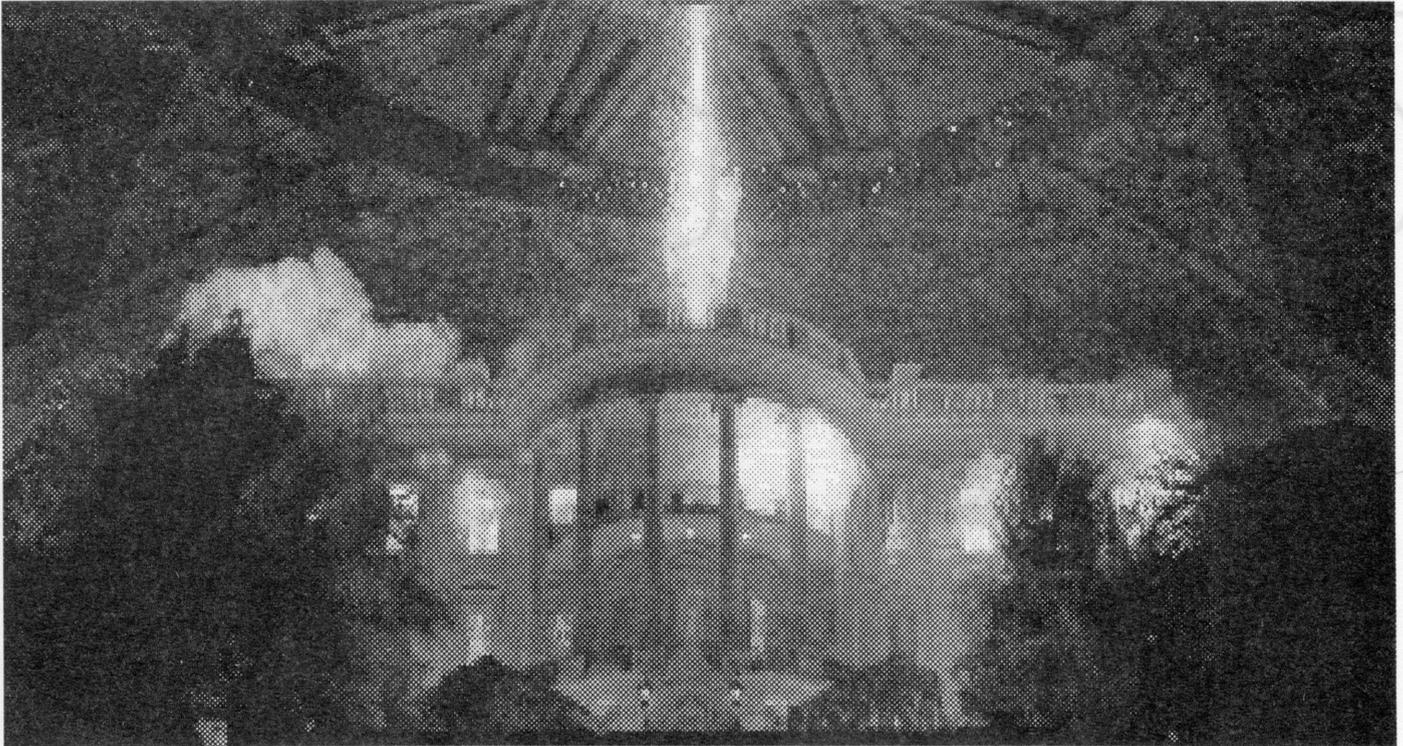


An artists impression of the present Union bookstore in the future. Plans for the site include expansion into the available space and converting the site

opinion that the College, judged by its actions, often shows that it does not share this view.

Whatever happens the store will have to be refurbished to allow it to pursue a different trade, resulting in it closing for a fortnight, likely to be during the Easter vacation to minimise disruption of services.

DEPENDENCE DAY



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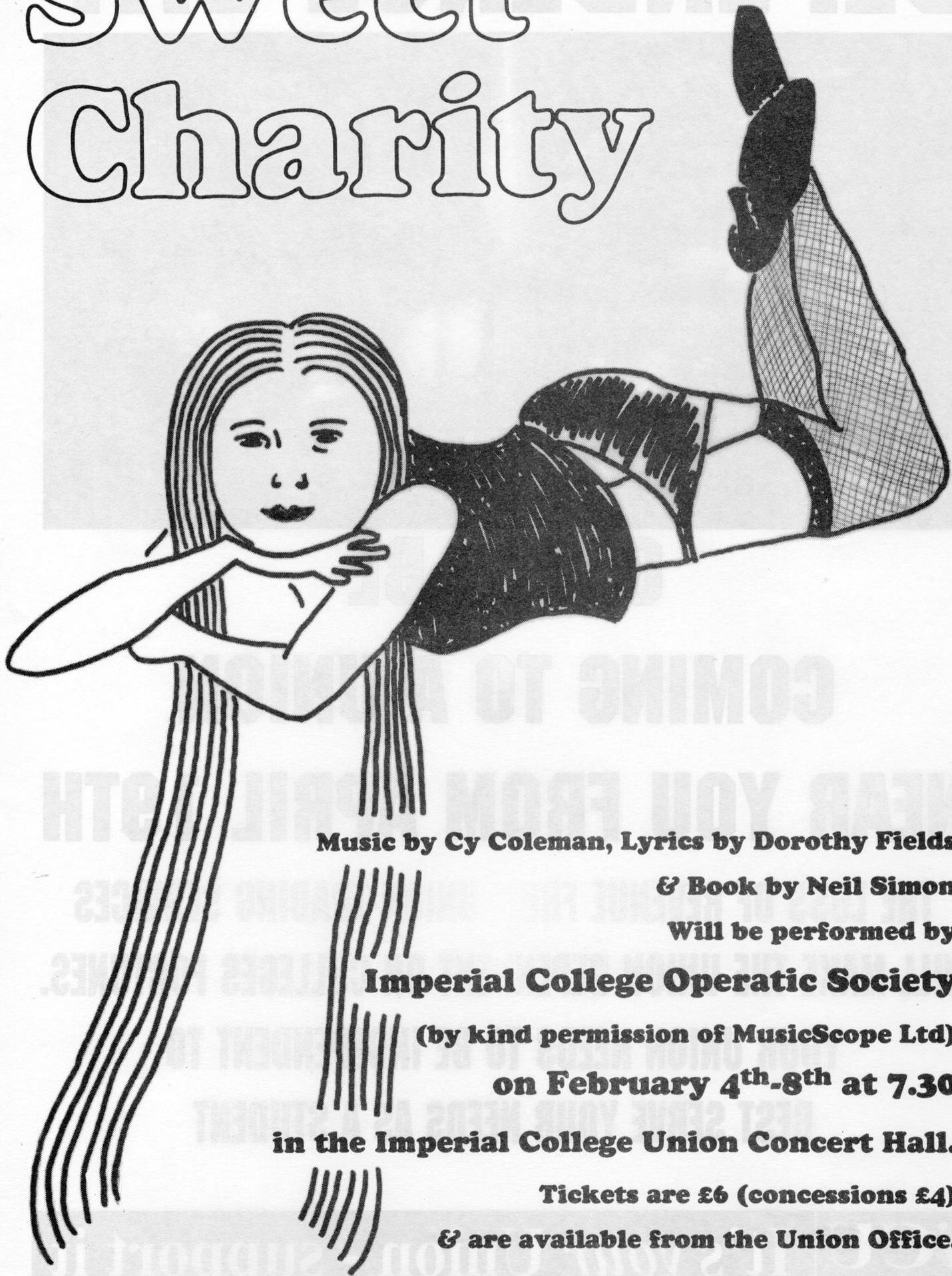
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Graduate tax, top-up fees, vouchers, levies, income contingent loans..... Everyone agrees something needs to be done about student finances - but what? Simon Wistow investigates.....

In an effort to redress the imbalance in student funding created by the Government in recent years, the NUS have proposed a system of graduate taxation. The scheme was one of many detailed in ‘Funding Our Future’, a policy statement produced by them and described as:

“a hypothecated tax ... levied on graduates and which is used to fund post-16 education. This would subsidise both maintenance and part of tuition fees. Maintenance may continue through the existing grant system. Alternatively, a student could pay a proportion of tuition and maintenance up front and hence not be liable for Graduate Tax”

However the tax fared well in an assessment based upon whether the schemes would widen access of higher education, alleviate student hardship, fund further education students, fund part-time students and enhance quality of educational objectives.

Graduates who are able would pay a percentage on Income Tax or National Insurance, related to income, throughout their working lives. Graduates would, therefore, pay higher rates of Income Tax or National Insurance than non graduates. Graduates would only start paying once they had earned a certain amount. It could be repaid by a flat rate, for example 1p in the pound of income tax paid, irrespective of tax banding, or a proportional rate dependant on income.

The cost to students would only arise after graduation, in Income Tax or National Insurance accruing indefinitely throughout the graduates working life. However, as the actual amount repaid would be based on income, students could not know in advance how much they would end up repaying, the eventual cost to students depending upon a number of factors (for example, their future income, tax bands under incoming governments and the length of their working lives).

The advantages of this system are fairly obvious; reducing the disin-

centive to enter higher education (with repayment dependant on future earnings not current economic situation), and clearly applying fairly and equally to every student. It would also provide additional funds for expansion. As a calculable figure this would allow funding councils and institutions to plan more effectively for future expansion.

The disadvantages of such a scheme are equally obvious. Students would not know how much they might end-up repaying, and there is no control over repayments because they are taken at source. More importantly, because graduates pay over their working lives some will actually end up repaying far more than the cost of their higher education. Furthermore, the suggestion that the well-off might be able to opt out by paying their maintenance and tuition up front raises the question of whether the scheme should be made compulsory.

The NUS and the Labour party have voiced their approval of the scheme and David Blunkett, the Shadow Minister for Education, revealed that Labour would seek private sponsorship for a £2.4 billion per-year loan system. He has however admitted that students are likely to pay a higher rate of interest on loans for living costs under a Labour government as they will repay over twenty years through National Insurance contributions.

It seems a fair and just system (assuming that the days when a free education was expected, not just prayed for, are long gone). It acts as an incentive to work at your degree and only taxes those that have made use of the system. There will always be the argument that it will discourage people from going to the more expensive universities (like IC), but in this market led age it might even persuade universities to price themselves aggressively. Market competition has lowered the cost of crossing the Channel or making phone calls, so maybe we can see cut price degrees in the future.



Options for Change

Maintain the status quo

Keep the present systems of grants and loans

Use of the Tax system

A general increase of Income Tax could be used to fund adequate student support, and increased funding for higher and further education. Either taxation levels or tax bands could be altered, or spending priorities changed.

A Maintenance Income Contingent Loan

A loan system towards maintenance, whereby repayment is based on a level of earnings. Students borrow a loan to pay for maintenance. This would differ from the present system of student loans as it would be flexible and repayments would be related to future income. Repayment of the debt generated by the loan could then be collected through the present National Insurance or Income Tax systems. (As with the present Loans system, it is assumed that the repayment interest rate will not reflect the full market rate).

A Fee Income Contingent Loan

Roughly the same as the Maintenance Loan but based upon the premise that, in addition, students would repay a proportion of their tuition fees.

Top Up Fees

I'm not even going to mention these despicable creatures.

Vouchers

Much the same as the new nursery vouchers. Each individual is allocated a number of post-16 education vouchers throughout their lifetime.

Employers Levy

Employers would pay an additional increment on their National Insurance contributions - so employing a student would directly cost them more, thus suggesting the possibility that employers would actually favour experienced (ie. older) non-graduates, rather than fresh, shiny faced, college leavers.



Felix brings you an unrivalled opportunity to share the success of next year's sabbaticals with **Felix's Fantasy Sabbatical League™**. Now you too can join in the cut and thrust of the sabbatical race by playing **Felix's Fantasy Sabbatical League™**. Read on, and you could be a winner! Remember, this is not a hoax!



The aim of the game

The object of Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League™ is to predict the outcome of the 1997 ICU Sabbatical Elections. Using your skill and judgement, you must choose which four people you think will be elected to each of the four sabbatical positions, and which four will be runners-up (ie lose and come second). First and second place positions are simply determined by who wins most votes in the eventual elections. To win, you will have to guess not only who will be elected, but also who is likely to stand for election.

Included opposite is a list of possible 'players.' These are people who currently hold positions on Council (the governing body of the Union) plus a few wildcards. They are the people closely involved with the Union whom we feel are most likely to stand for one of the four sabbatical positions. We have placed them in divisions, according to the seniority of their position within the Union, and assigned a points value to the players in each division. **THE POSITION OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE LEAGUE REFLECTS ONLY THEIR CURRENT STATUS WITHIN THE UNION; IT DOES NOT REPRESENT HIS/HER LIKELIHOOD OF STANDING OR BEING ELECTED.**

There are two other 'players'; you should enter 'New Election' as a second choice for a position if you think that only one candidate will stand for that post, or if you think people would rather vote for a new election than any of the candidates. If you think someone other than those included on our list will stand for a particular post, then include the 'None of the above' player in the relevant place on your team. You do not have to state who you think 'None of the above' will be. If 'New election' or 'None of the above' finishes in the place you have guessed, you score the same points as if you had guessed an actual individual's result.

Remember, you are strictly limited in the number of points you can spend on players, and so may not be able to field your first choice team... This is where the element of chance comes in. Good luck!

First Prize:

Two return tickets to Paris and a bottle of Champagne

Sabbaticals? What Sabbaticals?

For those not in the know, each year Imperial College Union holds a campus-wide ballot to elect new sabbatical officers.

There are four sabbaticals elected by campus-wide ballot at ICU: **President**, **Deputy President (Finance & Services)**, **Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)** and **Felix Editor**. They hold their position for year while taking a break (a sabbatical) from their studies. During this time, each is ultimately responsible for running the services and performing the duties under their remit. These people are your representatives in many different areas, whether attending college committees on academic affairs or being responsible for the finances of the Union and the many clubs and societies which you may belong to.

For example, the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) in charge of the running of the many clubs and societies of the Union as well as health and safety and representing the Union (and you) on college committees, among other duties. Thus, even if you are the Caving Club chairman implementing H&S policy or just an ordinary member of the International Tamil Society, the DP (C&S) looks after your interests.

This year's sabbatical elections will take place in early March. However, the papers for nominations go up on February 3rd for two College weeks. Any full member of Imperial College Union may stand for any of the positions listed above. To be able to run for election, however, each nominee must have a proposer and twenty seconders, all of whom must also be full members of the Union. After the papers come down on February 14th, campaigning proper can start, and the 1996-97 sabbatical race can begin.

If you have any queries about the elections or wish to find out more about any of the posts, contact the President, Eric Allsop, via the Union Office, or speak to the present incumbents.

The small print

- The closing date for entries is 5.00pm, Monday 3rd February. **ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.**
- Competition results will be determined using 1997 ICU Sabbatical election results, as confirmed by ICU elections committee.
- The highest-scoring entry, as calculated by Felix, will be the winner. In the unlikely event of a tie, the winner will be the entrant whose original team had the lowest combined points value. Failing this, the winner will be selected at random from those sharing the highest score.
- The competition is NOT open to the following groups of people:
 - All those listed as 'players' opposite.
 - Current sabbaticals.
 - The Felix staff.
 - Any unlisted 1997 sabbatical candidate.
 - Anyone who is not a UG, PG or member of staff at Imperial College.
 - Anyone acting on behalf of those above.
- The Felix Editor retains the right to declare the competition null and void at any time and to amend the rules without notice. Any change in rules will be published in Felix.
- The results of the competition, and the points value assigned to each player shall have no bearing whatsoever upon the results of the election. **Anyone suspected of contravening ICU sabbatical election rules, as laid down in the ICU constitution, may be subject to ICU disciplinary procedures.**

Name	Position	Code
Division I 9 pts each		
Sami Ansari	Mary's president	SA9
Mo Dullo	RCSU president	MD9
Omar Kheir	RSMU president	OK9
Gaurav Misra	C&G president	GM9
Sarah Thomas	Council chair	ST9
Division II 6 pts each		
Despina Crassa	OSC chair	DC6
Caroline Deetjen	ACC chair	CD6
Tom Galliford	Mary's VP (external)	TG6
Alan Geer	RCC chair	AG6
Jon Lambert	ICCAG chair	JL6
Robin Riley	Pub Board chair	RR6
John Savery	SCAB chair	JS6
Andy Southern	Rag chair	AS6
Sarah Waiman	SCC chair	SW6
Division III 4 pts each		
Mark Baker	Phoenix Co-editor	MB4
Samantha Baker	RCS AAO	SB4
Bry Bowden	RSM AAO	BB4
Paul Brown	Council Ordinary member	PB4
Cheryl Case	Silwood chair	CC4
Sarah Edwards	Council Ordinary member	SE4
Chris Ince	Council Ordinary member	CI4
Maria Ioannou	Felix news editor	MI4
John Sinner	Equal Ops. Officer	JS4
M K Keshavar	PG group chair	MK4
Lloyd Kilford	Council Ordinary member	LK4
Pete Kirtley	Accommodation officer	PK4
W D Miles	Council Ordinary member	WM4
Oli Newman	C&G AAO	ON4
Afua Osei	Felix features editor	AO4
Hannah Pearson	Welfare officer	HP4
George Psomas	Council Ordinary member	GP4
Matt Szyndel	Council Ordinary member	MS4
Jeremy Thomson	Phoenix Co-editor	JT4
Duncan Tindall	Transport officer	DT4
Heather Whitney	Womens officer	HW4
Division IV 3 pts each		
Katie Armstrong	Mary's Dep. Rep.	KA3
Simon Baker	Voice of reason	SB3
Hooman Behinia	Physics Dep. Rep.	HB3
M S Bogui	ERE Dep. Rep.	MB3
Dee Clark	Pre-clinical Dep. Rep.	DC3
Rob Clarke	IC Radio	RC3
John Durrell	Former Council Chair	JD3
Anthony Jukes	Civ. Eng. Dep. Rep.	AJ3
D J Kieran	Chem eng Dep. Rep.	DK3
Penny Leech	Biology Dep. Rep.	PL3
Keiran McKenna	EEE Dep. Rep.	KM3
Debbie Middleton	Materials Dep. Rep.	DM3
Luke Morales	Ents. DJ	LM3
Louise Moran	Clinical Dep. Rep.	LO3
Jo Paice	Labour Club Chair	JP3
Simon Pain	Geology Dep. Rep.	SP3
Dan Plant	Mech eng Dep. Rep.	DP3
Alefina Rajkotwala	DoC Dep. Rep.	AR3
Richard Reeves	Management Dep. Rep.	RR3
David Robinson	Chem. Dep. Rep.	DR3
Abama Thiru	Biochem Dep. Rep.	AT3
Ben Tristan	ISE Dep. Rep.	BT3
Kate Weller	Aero Dep. Rep.	KW3
Division V 2 pts each		
New Election		NEW
None of the above		OTHER

How to play

- You have 35 points to spend on 8 'players' from the five divisions listed opposite; 2 players for each of the 4 sabbatical positions.
- You DO NOT have to spend all 35 points, but you MUST field 8 players.
- You cannot use any player more than once, with the exception of 'None of the above' and 'New election.' These two may not be used twice (i.e. as both first and second) for the same sabbatical position.
- When you have chosen your team, enter your choices in BLOCK CAPITALS in the correct boxes on the form provided. Add up the total value of your team (not to exceed 35) and enter this in the correct box.
- Fill in your Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League team name, and the rest of your details and hand your form in to the Felix office (Ground floor, North west corner of Beit Quad), or pop it in the internal mail addressed to "Felix".

Scoring

Your final score depends on how well your team matches with the eventual first and second place candidates, scoring as follows:

- 10 Pts** If your first choice player for any of the 4 positions wins first place in that position.
- 8 Pts** If your second choice player for any of the 4 positions wins second place in that position.
- 5 pts** If your first choice player for any of the 4 positions wins second place in that position
- OR:** If your second choice player for any of the 4 positions wins first place in that position.
- 2 pts** If your first OR second choice player for one position wins first OR second place in a DIFFERENT position. This does NOT apply to 'None of the above' or 'New election' players.

Your name: _____
Dept / Year: _____
E-mail: _____

	Code	Value
President:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deputy President (F&S)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deputy President (C&S)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Felix Editor	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Second:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total:		<input type="text"/>
Team name:	<input type="text"/>	

A Bunch of Poofsters

by IQ's Karen Yates

A recent survey showed that 80% of homophobic men were turned on by an erotic video of two men together. So, are they really homophobic, or just afraid of their own sexuality?

It has been suggested that Imperial is a bad place to be gay. However, this attitude is closer to an outdated stereotype than the truth. There is homophobia here (as there is everywhere), but it does seem to have decreased from what it once was. Even last year, as soon as any IQ poster went up, it was torn down, it was almost a race between the posterer and the bigot to see who could get to the end of the walkway first! This year our posters have remained up longer although this is not a plea to the first homophobic twat to start removing our posters again! Blatant homophobia is now frowned upon, so insults have now become more underhand and bitchy. Homophobia can take many

forms, from indirect comments behind the back to direct "queer bashing". A person coming out can destroy their employment opportunities, have their family turn against them and be subject to mental and physical abuse.

In the USA, gay adolescents are two or three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers.

Slightly closer to home, a ULU student in an intercollegiate hall was forced to move out because people stopped talking to him and everytime he went to the bathroom, everyone walked out. Last term IQ received a piece of hate mail through the post. The content of the message said

something to the effect of "Hello you dirty maggots". It was sent to every ULU lgb society.

Some people are homophobic due to the fact that they have a low self esteem, they need to find a minority group that they feel superior to. Stereotypes are formed of the people within these minorities. In this way gay men are tarty, camp and should be doing art, therefore, there should be none here. Lesbians should be shaven headed mechanics with attitude problems. These stereotypes are ingrained into people's consciousness to the extent that young gay people can assume all other lgb's are like this and become frightened that they are not, and so stay closeted. However, as more people come out, they realise these are just stereotypes and that they have no need to live up to (or indeed down to) this media induced image.

So far, I think I have implied that homophobes and biphobes are largely ignorant and straight - however, there is another group equally as likely to be biphobic as the hetero-

sexual community. To some, in this group, bisexuals are traitors to the cause, people who haven't made up their minds to be gay because they are too keen on keeping their "heterosexual privilege". On this issue, the gay community are as guilty as their heterosexual counterparts. Bisexuals, in no way gain a heterosexual privilege, closeted gays and bis do, but once a bisexual is out, they are subject to queer bashing, taunts, loss of job, loss of family... sound familiar so far? Far from having "the best of both worlds", bisexuals are subject to suspicion by both the gay and straight communities.

According to a survey by the University of California, those least likely to be homophobic are:

- * politically liberal
- * young
- * highly educated
- * female
- * know a lgb person

One step forward, two steps back

Gays, lesbians and bisexuals have been around for a long time and, in a sense, we have moved backwards in our behaviour towards them.

In 2500BC a married couple were buried in Egypt. The only difference between this tomb and any other tomb of a married couple was that both the people in this tomb were male. There is also evidence that in the past the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches sanctioned and even sanctified unions like marriage between members of the same sex.

It is only relatively recently that problems have occurred, the proposed change in the law in Hawaii allowing same-sex marriage resulting in a right-wing blackmail campaign against the state.

Discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals is allowed by law. There is no law that states that employers should not employ somebody because of their sexuality as there is with sex or race. It is up to

Many of the arguments against gays, lesbians and bisexuals can be easily countered, I have listed some of the most common ones:

1) Sex with members of the same sex is unnatural.

About 80% of the world's population are heterosexual, therefore to them, yes, same sex relations are unnatural. However, equally unnatural is a sexual relationship with a member of the opposite sex for a gay person.

2) Homosexuals recruit young people

Almost all heterosexuals do not abuse children - the same is true for gay people. My aunt used to think that all gay people were paedophiles, then she found out about me... She has since decided that although I am not a paedophile so her original idea was wrong, I must fit into the stereotypes, coming out as lesbian to your aunt is a good way to avoid grotty perfume for Christmas!

3) The Bible condemns same sex relations.

The original Hebrew scriptures seem only to condemn homosexual rape and both heterosexual and homosexual prostitution. It says nothing of homosexual feeling. The writings of St Paul are believed to be mainly personal opinion as he also condemned women even speaking in church. Many churches teach that people should love the homosexual but hate homosexuality, unfortunately some people end up hating both.

individual employers to decide on their equal opportunities policy on this issue. An equal opportunities policy, such as IC's, that only takes "appropriate provisions in relation to age, disability and sexual preferences

within the law" should, in time be improved so that it is made clear that the best person for the job gets the job regardless of who they are.

One step at a time brings us closer to a fair and equal system....

IQ is here for you

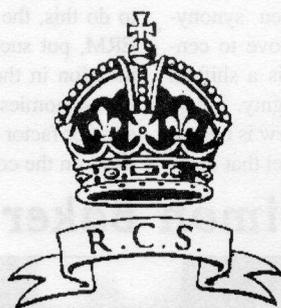
Although this article may seem at first to be depressing we have come a long way towards eradicating homophobia and biphobia.

IQ could not have existed just a few years ago. It is important to note that the majority of people are very open minded and, frankly, do not care what you are as long as you are happy. There is however still a lot of work to be done until we reach the point where a homo/bisexual can come out to their parents without fear, perhaps, eventually there will be no need to even come out.

IQ is a friendly group where gays, lesbians and bisexuals can meet. IQ meets every Tuesday at 7.30 in the Brown Committee Room. We can be contacted via the pigeon holes in the union office or by e-mail to ka.yates@ic.ac.uk or s.r.cook@ic.ac.uk

Contact Numbers:

National Lesbian and Gay Switchboard (0171) 837 7324
National Bisexual Helpline (0181) 569 7500 10.30am - 12.30pm



Royal College Of Science Union

Annual Dinner 1997

To be held on Friday 21st February

At The Kensington Hilton

*The night includes a drink reception,
three course meal, coffee, port, live
band and disco. There will also be
a private bar until 2am.*

Ticket Price £39.00

Tickets can be purchased from the RCU office

For better or worse, the level of debate on Europe seems to be at an all-time high. Much of this can be attributed to the clowns in the Referendum Party, but making this a major campaign issue is highly beneficial at such an important time in the development of the EU. And from where I am standing, if things aren't sorted out tout de suite, we are in dire trouble, dear reader.

Some say that Britain seeks only narrow self-interest in Europe, compared to France and Germany that are in it for the common good. Where Britain differs from our continental partners is in the fact that our people and our politicians are far more closely aligned in their views on the future of Europe. You may imagine that the people of Germany are fanatically Euro-enthusiastic. A recent survey found that a majority of Germans want a referendum on the single currency. The Maastricht Treaty only scraped through in France and Denmark. Our portrayal as being Eurosceptic is one that everyone in the country should be proud of, whether they agree with the stance or not. For a country's leaders to be so out of touch with public opinion on constitutional matters is a perilous situation.

Monetary union is, of course, the hot potato at the moment. Money and power have always been synonymous. Therefore, any move to centralise monetary policy is a shift in power and thus sovereignty. Or so you would think. This view is unique to Britain. The French feel that monetary, and ultimately political, union will increase their sovereignty by giving them influence over other countries, totally ignoring the consequent loss of control over their own affairs. The Germans, however, are desperate to cede sovereignty in order that, once and for all, they cease to be seen as a threat to Europe. Less high-mindedly, Germany, given her economic might (albeit declining) in Europe, realises that exercising control over her partners economies allows her to protect the competitiveness of German industry by preventing all the old dodgy ruses such as devaluation or

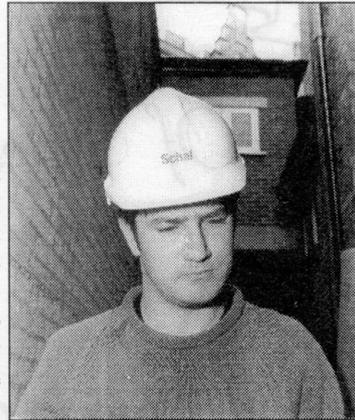
inflation brought about by slack monetary policy. The early attempt to do this, the apocalyptically awful ERM, put such emphasis on killing inflation in the 80s without reforming economies, as we did, that it was a major factor in the high unemployment on the continent.

Now the ERM is to grow into EMU (an odd bird, invariably seen with Rod Hull's arm up its nether regions, that stands a cat in hell's chance of ever getting off the ground). Had Lady Thatcher not ousted Ted Heath, this may have already happened; the original plan was for monetary union by 1980, a point he omitted to mention when we signed up in 1973. Convergence is the name of the game for EMU, namely if you wish to have a single currency, it would be prudent to ensure that all the participating economies were in economic sync on growth, inflation and debt, for example. Oh dear. The

tricks, fiddles and fudges done to achieve this have been incredible. The French have nobbled pension funds, the Dutch have sold gold like nobody's business and the Italians have sold everything that wasn't nailed down. On the face of it not even Germany should be allowed into EMU, on account of national debt. If these rules, less than perfect in any case, are bent to the point of cracking, the resulting currency will be fatally flawed. We are best to steer well clear of such a farrago.

Even if the rules were rigidly obeyed and genuine efforts were made to meet them, rather than the shameless attempts to shoehorn economies into EMU in 1999, the benefits seem illusory. People talk of not having to change money in Europe and the huge assistance to business. What they forget are interest rates. We shall end up with rates too high in one place and too low elsewhere, leading to problems in both cases. It's difficult to get the whole of Britain at the same point in the economic cycle, let alone Germany and Portugal. The EU should stay as a single market. Move towards a federal Europe, of which this is the key step, and there will be blood on the walls. Again.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

FELIX needs:
news reporters
feature writers
photographers
book reviewers
researchers
sports reporters
illustrators
music reviewers
designers
theatre reviewers
film reviewers
puzzle compilers
*come in and see
us in the corner
of beit quad.*



Three Milk Bottles for the Embassy to the Sultanate of Oman

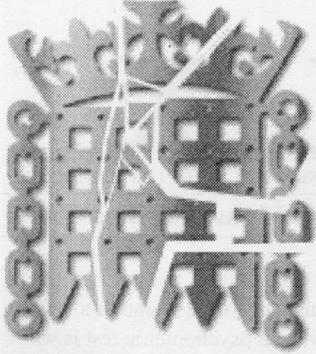
(supplied by PoetIC)

*Every morning, coming out of the ground
Amidst the rush of nigh-colliding bodies,
To meet the trivial daily run
Of spectral insufficiencies,
At a brisklike pace, that looks so full of purpose,
My mind, though, will meander through the greyness,
As, walking past the embassies I notice
A Merc that's marked "ET" - quaint numberplates -
Or as I cross the road, so circumspect,
Three bottles of white milk, there on a sill
Of stone, next to a pillar made of stone -
The lifelessness intrigues me. What's therein,
Concealed within the dull, beige, mortared bricks?
Whose is this solitary sign of life:
Three bottles of white milk? - Strange reverie...
Beyond the embassy, the sultanate,
I trudge on like the rest, into the wheel.*

Iannis Deschamps

PoetIC is the creative writing society of Imperial College, and we are always happy to greet new members. If you would like to find out more about PoetIC, or are interested in attending our weekly meetings, contact Keith McNulty on ext 58610 or via k.mculty@ic.ac.uk

Westminster Eye - Hamish Common



spokesman, Jack Straw, who in desperately trying to outmanoeuvre Howard on all crime-related affairs found himself having to support even the most moronic of crime bills - there have been more Criminal and Police Bills in the last seven years than in the last sixty.

It is heartening to see that the Opposition can occasionally do its job properly, and put the defence of our civil rights above a quick electoral buck. The potential ramifications of the Bill were serious: since the last Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made certain forms of trespass illegal, the surveillance of road protesters would have been made lawful under this Act. The free admission by a number of Chief Constables that the powers would be used covertly to bug defendants and their lawyers in the middle of a criminal trial is quite horrifying, let alone the fact that anyone seeking legal advice from the same lawyer is likely to have their conversations taped

for good measure. The current draft (even with Opposition amendments) left the police so much scope to define "serious" crime that they could have justified bugging anyone daring to cross their path. Their eager support for an outside commissioner to scrutinise their decisions suggests just how toothless this watchdog could have been.

So what is the solution to all this? Mr Howard's was obvious: all power to the police - and on the off-chance that they make a mistake, the Surveillance Commissioner will be there to pick up the pieces. From Mr Howard's almost daily scribbles in various national newspapers, it appears that his main problems with judges granting the power to bug premises would be that it would take too long and that "the police would be inhibited". This is the whole point. Judges already have a role in deciding whether sensitive material held by doctors or journalists can be searched, and such a system can eas-

ily be extended to cover bugging. The judiciary is there to safeguard us from rampant legislators. Allowing judges the right to clear bugging operations has the support of almost all affected parties, would be in line with present practice, and even has the backing of Liberty, the civil rights organisation. As one Conservative peer said: "this new power is one step down a slippery path".

The solution to Mr Howard's problems was found for him by the Lords, when Labour and the Lib Dems united to throw out this key part of the Bill. Although the Commons could attempt to bypass the Lords, their wafer-thin majority means Labour could defeat it and then call a vote of no confidence in the Government, possibly precipitating a General Election. With the Government popularity at its present level, and Mr Howard's own marginal seat in the Commons, I doubt he'll be taking the risk.

The Daily Mail was on excellent form last Friday, carrying a front page story decrying Jack Straw as the "Man of Straw" for 'backing down' to his own party's demands for tougher opposition to the Police Bill, recently ravaged in the Lords. The Bill would have given statutory legal powers to senior police officers to bug and burgle premises in search for evidence when investigating serious crime. This managed to unite the entire judiciary, most of the Lords and the entire media against him. Civil rights groups threw fits. The only support Michael Howard had was that of the Labour Home Affairs

Wing Chun Kung Fu

DEMONSTRATION

1.30pm

Wed 29th January
Union Gym

**Learn a martial art that
may one day save your life**

Solutions to the Christmas Giant Prize Crossword

Across:

1. Children In Need, 7. Against The Wall, 13. Nut, 14. United Nations, 18. Awe, 21. Sir, 22. Appoint, 24. Lithuania, 25. History, 26. She, 28. Nestling, 30. Antennas, 32. Amen, 33. Urgent, 34. Eon, 35. Street, 37. Retina, 40. Troops, 41. Dents, 42. Ego, 43. Montana, 44. Sou, 45. Dearer, 46. Let, 47. Estimated, 48. Bill, 49. Crybaby, 51. Ouch, 54. Unite, 56. Person, 59. Allophones, 62. Choir, 64. Ape, 68. Nothing's gonna change my love for you, 69. And, 71. Egret, 72. Hand in hand, 76. Denser, 78. Plane, 80. Erie, 85. Takeoff, 87. Last, 88. Preordain, 89. Men, 91. Denote, 92. Low, 94. Squalor, 95. Goo, 96. Anima, 97. Ocelot, 98. Seabed, 101. Noosed, 103. Two, 105. Agnate, 107. Leer, 108. Hindered, 111. Geotherm, 112. Air, 114. Picture, 115. Orang-utan, 116. Snuffle, 118. New, 119. Eat, 120. Latin scholars, 123. Pro, 124. Lord of the Rings, 125. Michael Jackson*

Down:

1. Caught on the hop, 2. ICI, 3. Doe, 4. Integer, 5. Noon, 6. Out of the frying pan into the fire, 8. Gnat, 9. Sultan, 10. Eminent, 11. Assassination, 12. Larger than life, 15. Totem pole, 16. Darkness, 17. Saints, 19. Elf, 20. Luge, 23. No-interest, 27. Gentle Ben, 29. Garotte, 30. Art, 31. Ton, 33. Unduly, 36. Trend, 38. Ideal, 39. Ampere, 46. Lac, 49. Colonies, 50. Bah, 52. Hachure, 53. Essay, 55. Box-lid, 56. Proven, 57. Riff-raff, 58. Outride, 60. Poster, 61. Odours, 63. Lot, 64. Aha, 65. End, 66. Peche, 67. Sod, 70. English Channel, 73. Neatening, 74. Ice, 75. Learn the Lesson, 76. Discus thrower, 77. Errors, 79. London town, 81. Run, 82. Cobra, 83. Hangdog, 84. Litre, 86. Oblate, 90. Elemental, 93. Woolwich, 99. Ear, 100. Bid, 102. Damsel, 104. Ontario, 106. Trainee, 109. Edge, 110. Entree, 113. One, 116. Stag, 117. Itch, 121. Ore, 122. Ads

LETTERS TO FELIX

replied to by David Roberts

Bookstore saga
rumbles on

Dear Felix,

Your editorial in *Felix 1075* on the bookstore situation asks "to what lengths would you have been prepared to go". I ask what lengths can the Union go to now? There are several good book shops in Kensington High Street, and a great deal accessible by public transport in central London. Since the only unique feature of Waterstones (IC) appears to be books, is there any real need to use it at all? A sufficient lack of customers would obviously cause any outside firm to pull out eventually.

The choice of who runs the bookstore makes little practical difference to me personally. In particular I have always regarded Waterstones as one of the better book shops. It seems that the union might have been hard done by, and I wonder how much it wants to fight further.

Yours sincerely,

E.J.Hutton

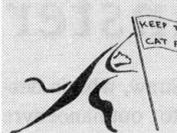
This attitude - which basically amounts to a boycott of the new Waterstone's in all but name - has already been suggested by many, and certainly would be a clear way to force the College's hand. However, for this plan to be successful the vast majority of IC students would need to shun the new bookstore, and, quite frankly, with exams imminent and gaps in lecture notes looming large, the compulsion to finally buy some course texts may prove stronger than principles.

Yet, to be able to exercise any real power over College, the Union needs the power to believably threaten action - even if none is taken. If the Rector had truly believed that the Union had the power to organise an effective boycott (or any other effective protest for that matter) then this decision would never have been made in the first place. The threat of action is a far more potent weapon than any single act.

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

Deadline for letters in *Felix 1077* is Tuesday 27th January. Please bring some form of identification. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

You've missed it! Go back to the centre pages for you chance to win a trip to Paris.

FELIX

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

A GOOD CAREER MOVE

Like many of Imperial's students who are coming to the end of their final year here, I am engaged in a long, drawn out struggle to discover what it is that I shall be doing after the summer is over. The options are quite varied, and the yawning chasm that is the end of conventional education is quite wide. It is a daunting task, yet also quite a rewarding one.

The selection process established by many companies over a great number of years of interview and intake often becomes as revealing to the applicant as to the employer. Complex and wordy forms designed to eke the best example of your cunning in group situations or your finest hour of leadership make you think about what you have actually done in the twenty or so years previously.

Never before has there been an opportunity to find out what makes

you tick (unless you are already a regular on the psychiatrist's couch) as when a psychometric test is wafted under your nose. These crafty documents aim to find out your true personality by asking lots of similar comparative questions (just in case you are cheating). Just as valuable is the post-rejection analysis of why your application failed, if you can face talking to that particular company again.

Not everyone, of course, rushes to find themselves a career or even a job. Further study, 'travelling' or a deliberate spell of unemployment also occupy the "what are you doing now" files of graduates. Whatever it may be that you end up doing, the end of your final year and the slide into 'the real world' can be a major occasion.

Now, however, I open another brochure and fill in another form with little snippets from my past.

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COLLATING LAST ISSUE: ALL ANDY'S LITTLE HELPERS

MOUNTBATTEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE ALBERT HALL

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

DUE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY SURROUNDING THIS EVENT, A NUMBER OF ROADS WILL BE CLOSED FOR PARKING AND WAITING PURPOSES IN THE ALBERT HALL AREA FOR THE PERIOD NOTED ABOVE. PARKING AND THE LEAVING OF BICYCLES WILL BE RESTRICTED IN THE FOLLOWING ROADS:

**PRINCE CONSORT ROAD,
BREMNER ROAD,
KENSINGTON GORE (INC ALBERT HALL MAN-
SIONS),
JAY MEWS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
PC CLIVE COLEMAN AT BELGRAVIA POLICE STATION
ON 0171 730 1212**

ELIMINATION *by Clansman*

- a) See sign?
- b) Two synonyms
- c) Glass that is obvious?
- d) Two homes
- e) Examiner's implement?
- f) Two anagrams
- g) Hit an army?
- h) Two making undergarment
- i) Round and nasty
- j) Two with leg
- k) Hot exit
- l) Two making treatment plan
- m) Celtic soup?
- n) Two making road
- o) Place of justice?
- p) Two for place of construction
- q) Hide anorak
- r) Two with man
- s) Plastic holder
- t) Two forming rural residence

Eliminations: Simple really. Look at the statements on the left and try and find two words from the list on the right that match it. Keep going, and you should find that you have eliminated all but one of the words.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------|
| 1. age | 15. board | 29. notice |
| 2. bag | 16. broth | 30. scotch |
| 3. den | 17. clear | 31. street |
| 4. pen | 18. force | 32. strike |
| 5. bond | 19. house | 33. string |
| 6. care | 20. paste | 34. warren |
| 7. fair | 21. animal | 35. wooden |
| 8. farm | 22. circle | 36. carrier |
| 9. fire | 23. escape | 37. crystal |
| 10. hole | 24. ground | 38. ellipse |
| 11. less | 25. health | 39. leather |
| 12. oval | 26. jacket | 40. vicious |
| 13. site | 27. lamina | 41. building |
| 14. vest | 28. marker | |

Solutions to Last Week's Crossword:

Across: 1. Mortality, 6. Rides, 9. Era, 10. Doper, 12. Castors, 14. Licence, 15. Toy, 17. Crafts, 20. Defend, 21. Piano, 22. Trusty, 24. Gutter, 27. Ali, 29. Loaners, 30. Archaic, 33. Noise, 34. Eliminate, 35. Spa, 36. Aunts, 37. Diagnosis
Down: 1. Magic, 2. Reeds, 3. Airport, 4. Idlest, 5. Yearly, 6. Radicle, 7. Dependent, 8. Surrender, 13. Air, 16. Okapi, 17. Catalonia, 18. Adulation, 19. Spy, 20. Dog, 23. Tireless, 25. Uncion, 26. EMI, 27. As read, 28. Lamina, 31. Amass, 32. Chess

The Felix Prize Crossword returns next week

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FELIX SPORT

Poetic muse but IC still lose

The football seconds' early season optimism for a quick return to the top flight has been slowly ebbing away since late November when a slump in form and fortune replaced the zeal and steel, three meals and John Peel.

Keen to stop the rot hot-shot, shut-up shop and have a pot at goal, IC arrived in Enfield. Poor directions and no landmark erections meant we were fifteen minutes late, started with eight but didn't hesitate to show we're actually great!

After a couple more mins

We had a full team,

Lean mean with teeth that gleam.

Young Dave returned from the grave,

A tireless work-slave,

Played like he'd been at a rave.

*Hardcore Hajo: Midfield mover,
Had hands like a Hoover.*

*He went in goal and filled the hole
Left by keeper Ste*

Nursing his bad knee

He made a sure start with cat-like instincts that prompted the RFH skip

to quip, "Shoot from anywhere, chums!" Not that they had much chances - they were pants and first half we towered, RFH cowered, we showered their penalty area with crossed, shots, thumps, thwacks and kzumps. Nothing like this had been seen since the Luftwaffe carpet-bombed the Eastend. It even prompted fleet-footed Felix to offer an apology for "(his) country's behaviour in the war" as he gleefully swerved past another set of nail-like studs.

Nil-nil at half time hadn't done us justice. Perhaps scoring five in the second half would. It didn't happen. That ageless comic who writes the scripts of football matches served up another howler.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

We found ourselves three down and quite literally chasing the game. It was a bridge too far and despite a poacher's goal be Martin after good penetration by Jamie it was too late. Darkness fell upon the land and we trudged wearily home.

Pigs roasted by C & G

In C&G's maiden match of '97 the boys proved that their Christmas holiday fitness programme had truly paid off. Our most brilliant play came in the first half when Forest Gate Police station's "substantial" pack were overwhelmed by a fitter and keener side. The black and red of C&G dominated the breakdowns and our backs who'd had their share of Weetabix converted possession to points. Dave Gul's inspired interception added a glowing five points to his two earlier penalty conversions.

Jim Sopper added insult to injury when he proved by way of a weaving deceptive run down the sideline that the police "fitness exam" was no more than a farce. Our backs continued to dominate play as Chris Mutter, strapping lad that he is, drew three men to hand Jim another try. The half time whistle came with the police wishing they'd stayed undercover.

The second half was disappointing for C&G who struggled in the forwards against the sheer obesity of the oppo's pack which was now

being projected downhill. Despite three lard-over scrum tries by the "Couchon" we offered up one of the best combination tries of this year as our pack drove left and right for Chris to deliver a delightful run around try under the posts. Stick 'em on a spit and roast them on open fire. Overall a resounding success.

RESULTS

MEN'S HOCKEY
RSM 1 - 2 KING'S COLLEGE II

MEN'S RUGBY
RCS 47 - 10 UCL
C&G 30 - 25 FOREST GATE POLICE

WOMEN'S RUGBY
IC VIRGINS 5 - 44 ROYAL VETS

MEN'S FOOTBALL
IC 1ST 1 - 3 ROYAL HOLLOWAY 1ST
IC 2ND 1 - 3 ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL
IC 2ND 5 - 4 GOLDSMITH'S 2ND
IC 3RD 2 - 2 LSE 3RD

SNOOKER
IC A 11 - 9 BRISTOL A
IC B 8 - 11 BRISTOL B

Uncensored full bore action at Bisley with the IC shooters

The first trip of the year to Bisley, the home of full-bore rifle shooting was held on Saturday the 19th of January. Twelve intrepid shooters set off for what was for most of them their first taste of outdoor rifle and long range pistol shooting.

The morning consisted of shooting target rifle at 100 yards and practice one of the long range pistol course of fire. This is two sighting shots followed by two series of five shots in thirty seconds. This is done with a large calibre pistol such as a 44 magnum loaded to the limits of safety to get the bullet there as fast as possible. Despite this some reasonable groups were attained which bodes well for our attempt to defeat Oxford and reclaim the Howe Cup before the government prevents us from holding the competition again.

Lunch was at the local chip shop and the afternoon's shooting was rifle at 200 yards and some clay pigeon shooting. This gave people the opportunity to try out an 1894 Winchester underlever rifle (John Wayne fantasist) and Lawrence could at last use his shotgun, purchased ten years ago from Purdey for £8000 but never fired before. A good time was had by all.

The next full-bore rifle trip will be (hopefully) at 300 and 500 yards for the Courtman Shield, and inter-CCU competition and a day out to a clay-shooting ground for some much-needed tuition. Both of these are planned for February, so keep your eye on the notice board. Enquiries for membership may be made to the range (in the sports centre) on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Glorious defeat for IC Virgins

Despite a slow first 10 minutes, the weeks of line-out practice paid off for the Virgins, when Ellen caught an excellent throw in with the superb lifting help from Mo and Lucy. There followed a series of quick penalties by Sarah C., Becky and Ellen leading to an "International style" try from Becky. Some experimentation with varying the number of forwards in the line-out proved to confuse the not-so-cunning Vets. Some exceptional passing by the backs ensured that the Vets worked hard for their points. And despite a dis appointing score of Virgins 5 - Royal Vets 44, it as agreed that it

was the Virgins finest display of skills and fitness yet. Everyone showed great improvement, and team confidence has been boosted greatly before our next match.

Back of the match goes to Clare for her vicious tackles. Forward(s) of the Match goes to Sue and Mo because they both had great attitude, tonnes of stamina and speed, and corking aggression. Player of the Match undoubtedly goes to Becky for her well "sexy" try!!! Loads of sympathy to Shuggy who only got to enjoy 20 minutes of the game before being damaged making a storming tackle.

Christmas comes late for Cross-Country's Benny Boy

A fantastic performance from Benny-Boy secured another victory for IC's mens' team. Jennie, with her graceful flowing strides, won the womens' race as usual, with Bethan, Dawn, Ruth and Christina coming fourth, fifth, eleventh and fifteenth respectively. Gaffer improved on his positions with eighth place and Fishy Fishick finished a lethargic thirteenth. Gut-retching hill sessions

and agonising circuits through the autumn proved their worth with excellent results especially from the B team.

A special mention should go to Yellow-Arse whose poor excuse for not turning up was he was writing a love-letter to his ex-girlfriend. He's got more chance of winning the next league race than getting her back. [Good luck Mr Arse - Sports Eds]