

The
Students'
Newspaper
at Imperial
College

Issue
1102

17
December
1997

FEATURE

Was Darwin
wrong?

FIENDISH

Huge crossword

DIVERSIONS

Pick up your
free supplement

Council Votes for Single Entry... Just

ANDREW OFORI

Controversy raged last week at a packed council meeting, which discussed whether IC and its Medical Schools should enter BUSA (British University Sports Association) as a single body or separately.

In the past few weeks there has been a significant campaign to decide before BUSA forces a joint entry upon Imperial College.

Presently, IC and the IC School Of Medicine (ICSM) enter BUSA event separately. However St. Mary's

medics compete for IC teams which currently flouts BUSA regulations, where students are only eligible to play for the institution with which they are registered; there is no specific dispensation for med-

ical schools. Due to the unique position of London institutions, BUSA have turned a blind eye to the situation until now. Other London colleges have merged with

the subject.

Katie Armstrong, the ICSMU president submitted a motion which proposed that St. Mary's and Charing Cross make up one

entry, IC being the other. This would mean medics could no longer represent IC, and she claimed that this would further the accessibility of university sport. Former ICU president Eric Allsop tabled an opposing motion for single-entry from 1998, IC and ICSM entering as one.

Medics claimed single-entry would result in fewer students being able to

represent their colleges. The ICSM-SU president stressed that universities have battled hard to keep Wednesday afternoons free for sport countrywide, and therefore

continued on page two



Hands up: Council votes last Tuesday. Photo: Ivan Chan

their affiliated medical schools and may now find themselves in the same predicament. This made Tuesday's decision particularly significant as it was likely to be the line the University of London adopts on

ULU Under Fire Over Fees

TONY OFORI

The University of London Union (ULU) is under attack from several London colleges who claim their subscription fee is too high. The student unions of IC, the London School of Economics, King's and Queen Mary & Westfield Colleges all believe that their membership fee is not justified by their usage of ULU facilities.

"Screw you" were the words used by the King's College student paper *Roar* in reply to the 1% discount off their ULU subscription offered by the committee. Rob Clark, ICU's Deputy President (Finance & Services) questions whether ULU provide "value for money" and believes that "the current situation can be improved".

ULU is situated in Malet Street where they provide a range of services and facilities ranging from

student representation to bars and sports halls. This year the ICU bill for ULU was in excess of £90,000, a sum chosen after a survey conducted three years ago. It is thought that the figures obtained in this survey are no longer applicable and a new one should be conducted by an independent body; however nothing has changed as yet. An indication of the inaccuracy of the survey is the underestimate of 46% ULU usage attributed to the closest college, University College London.

The tone of *Roar* over the last month suggests that King's College London (KCL) is incensed by ULU's unwillingness to reduce their £108,000 bill. They believe their own facilities reduce the expected demand on ULU by KCL students, and if a compromise is not reached they may consider disaffiliation. Such a step could possibly lead to ULU collapsing. KCL are still nego-

tiating with ULU, but *Roar* are calling for a referendum on membership. They have also accused ULU of underhand tactics in their handling of the dispute, claiming that the committee are blackmailing the biggest student paper in Europe, *London Student*, to "keep quiet on the issue", and threatening to remove KCL sports teams from ULU unless a deal is signed.

Despite the claims of unfairness, Siva Ganeshanandan, President of ULU, holds that value for money is being provided, and he believes KCL will not pull out of ULU. The discussions currently taking place between KCL and ULU could prove pivotal to the future of the latter, so ULU have to tread carefully. At the moment ICU does not consider their own condition a crisis but a source said they do think that something needs to be done.



Sporting Decision

continued from page one

that as many chances as possible for competitive sport should be presented to the students through BUSA activities. She accepted that single-entry is inevitable, but dual entry was preferable until the merger was fully established. The medics felt BUSA recognises "the sporting history of the Medical Schools" and accept dual-entry regardless of St. Mary's combined status.

Eric Allsop presented the single-entry proposal by suggesting that IC needs to enter the best possible teams in a nationwide

gle-entry would 'disenfranchise' the medics, and could result in less medical participation in IC sport, dual-entry being appropriate. It was announced that, by a twenty to eighteen majority (two abstentions), the council had voted for single-entry. The meeting closed after the motion's formal acceptance, sparking an indignant exodus of medics from the Union Dining Hall.

Eric Allsop hoped that the decision would "build bridges". ICU's worry is that the failure of ICSM to merge with IC entirely on their own terms will cause great division at a



The Rugby 4th team soon found new fixtures. Cartoon: Stavros

sporting forum, and cited the example of the joint IC-ICSM fencing team who became national champions. He pointed out how medical schools outside London enter under their parent institutions and claimed it was unlikely that BUSA would allow a double entry. The former president suggested that the St. Mary's teams need not be disbanded instead playing in numerous other London and medical competitions. This scheme was ridiculed by medics for the impossibility of its logistics. This year the medics separated from the team and consequently the team was severely weakened, and is now only ranked mid-league. It was claimed that dual-entry could only result in the suffering or even loss of sporting teams at both institutions.

The debate raged for an hour and numerous facets of the situation were explored. Andy Heeps summed up by conceding that current ICSM students would never really be IC students and that sin-

gle-entry would 'disenfranchise' the medics, and could result in less medical participation in IC sport, dual-entry being appropriate. It was announced that, by a twenty to eighteen majority (two abstentions), the council had voted for single-entry. The meeting closed after the motion's formal acceptance, sparking an indignant exodus of medics from the Union Dining Hall.

Eric Allsop hoped that the decision would "build bridges". ICU's worry is that the failure of ICSM to merge with IC entirely on their own terms will cause great division at a

time when each institute is carefully identifying its role within the newly combined college. It was hoped that this meeting would end a decade-old issue but Ms Armstrong commented afterwards "there should be a decision made by college referendum". Felix have heard she intends to open the issue to a general vote by IC students: This must first be supported by a 450-signature petition.

The IC Rugby Club held a meeting for the IC players so they can assess the club's view and then confer with their St. Mary's counterparts. If there is general disagreement, it has been suggested that a council Emergency General Meeting will be called. This will allow union members to vote for a resolution that could usurp the council's original decision.

Andy Heeps commented that there were other mechanisms for students to make their voices heard.



Lights bring Christmas cheer to capital. Photo: Froggy

Top Scoring Chemistry Student Dies

ANDY SINHARAY

Staff and students alike have reacted with shock to the death of a student in the department of Chemistry, who is thought to have committed suicide.

Dr. David Widdowson, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Chemistry, told Felix that a report had been submitted to the Coroner. "He was killed in an accident on the tube at Putney...it's not officially suicide until the coroner says so." Describing the student as "a ninety per center", said he had been "very quiet and reserved, rather intense, very studious... I think he was a bit of a loner." He had just returned from a year in industry, and although his year, in the United States, had not gone as intended, Dr. Widdowson believes that this "was a symptom, not a cause" of the student's problems. "I think he'd started to have a problem earlier on... we'd thought he'd been

okay, [being] near the top of the class...he was a very bright chap, it was a shock for everyone." The student, who is from abroad, died when his parents were visiting him in London.

Helen-Louise Windsor, a chemistry postgraduate and RCSU President remembers the deceased. "He was very very quiet. I can't say I was a close friend of his, I'm not sure if he had any close friends - he kept himself to himself. I remember speaking to him just before the elections [and]...hearing that he'd been having problems with his year away. It affected me quite a lot when he died." Dr. David Hayward, Senior Tutor in the Department of Chemistry, told Felix, "I was shocked, and very sad that it happened. He was one of the brightest students in his year."

As Felix was going to press an official inquest was believed to be underway at Fulham Coroner's Court.



IC "Heretic" Dies on NASA Project

ANDY SINHARAY

Professor Eric Laithwaite, Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering, died last month. He was 76.

Born in Lancashire, Prof Laithwaite was best known as one of Britain's first 'media engineers' for his work in heavy electrical engineering, principally on the linear motor. As one of IC's most prolific academics - he had made around 300 publications - Prof. Laithwaite was known to television viewers in the 1950's and later designed the world's first magnetic levitation trains. He left Imperial after 22 years in 1986 and continued his work at Sussex University, though not without first causing controversy; the scientific establishment was stunned when he demonstrated gyroscopic devices that appeared to defy gravity at a lecture at the Royal Institution.

Prof. Bob Spence of the Electrical Engineering Department, told Felix that "I knew him very well... I knew he was a brilliant innovator." However, Prof. Spence felt that Prof. Laithwaite's departure from IC had been sensationalised by the media, *The Times* in particular saying that Laithwaite had left five years than he actually did, "pretty much in disgrace." Prof. Spence points out that Laithwaite was made a Fellow of Imperial College (FIC) some years after his departure "so the college valued him...



Professor Eric Laithwaite FIC, 1921 - 1997.

Photo: Neville Miles

I think he may have found Sussex University more convenient being closer to home."

As regards his work on gyroscopes, he told Felix, "It was a significant part of what he did... he was an extrovert, and said things [to school-children] like 'You shouldn't believe everything your physics teacher tells you'... We need peo-

ple like that." In 1994 the BBC screened a documentary on his gyroscope work; the series was called *Heretics*. "We need people like that," Prof Spence added, going on to say that Prof Laithwaite would always be remembered as one of the three who made their mark on the Electrical Engineering Department, the other two being Dennis Gabor, Nobel laureate, and Colin Cherry, professor of telecommunications.

Despite extensive work in the field of electric linear motors, many believe that his career was harmed by the gyroscope work which flew in the face of accepted wisdom; some believe that he would have become a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society had he not upset the establishment. Felix has learned that as recently as 1994, a student, working on gyroscopes as part of his Aeronautics course, was pointedly told by one of his lecturers not to pursue further inquiries into Laithwaite's work.

Although a controversial character, the force of Laithwaite's other work and his personality will remain undimmed. "I was terribly sad," one of Laithwaite's associates said, "I met him in September; he was a wonderful storyteller." Prof. Spence described him as "outstanding". He was working on a linear motor-based launch project for NASA when he died.

**Interviews will
be held here
on Wednesday
13th January
1998.**

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HURRICANE HITS IC

DJ with the Beastie Boys and renowned MC in his own right, DJ Hurricane breezed into IC Radio's Southside studios to perform a live set last Monday 8 December. The 40-minute show mainly featured classic old-skool hip-hop tracks with freestyling from the Hurra and his crew.

For those of you who missed the live broadcast, the whole programme will be repeated, preceded by "Calm before the Storm," a portrait of DJ Hurricane presented by IC Radio's own DJ Upi. To hear the show tune to 999AM, or listen directly in the JCR or kitchens in Southside, at 5pm tomorrow (Thursday 18 December). IC Radio warns: "It'll blow you away!"

Photo: Alik

Hash Stash Bash

ED SEXTON

Seven first year IC students were caught smoking cannabis last month by security guards. The incident occurred on Wednesday 27 November in a room in Beit Hall, where the students were found to be in possession of a small amount of the drug. Only five of the students were actually Beit Hall residents; the other two students were apparently guests from other halls.

All seven students have since been individually interviewed by Ken Weir, the head of College Security, and are to go before a Hall Tribunal today. Andy Heeps, ICU President, will be present at the hearing. The tribunal has the power either to fine the students or to expel them from their Halls. The matter can also be referred to a

College Disciplinary, which has the power to expel students from College. This, however, seems unlikely to happen in this case.

According to the statement given to security by the students said, there had been an impromptu decision to buy the drugs, which were worth about £10, and that they had purchased them from the Covent Garden area of the West End. This has been the first college offence any of the students involved have committed.

The incident was apparently reported to the police, who preferred to let College deal with the matter internally.

In an unrelated incident, two students were caught in similar circumstances in Linstead Hall last week. It is not yet known what action will be taken against them.

News in Brief...

MANAGER COMES OUT OF HIS SHELL

On Tuesday 9 December, Tim Luca came to IC to talk to students about career opportunities in Shell. Mr Luca, who graduated from Imperial College in 1979 with Masters in Petroleum Engineering, described Shell as the second best-known brand name in the world, with around 60 oil refineries. He admitted that pressure from environmental groups has been put on Shell, mentioning the Towing Troll, which is the biggest man-made structure ever to be moved across the face of the earth, and the Brent Spar. He also talked about tensions between Shell UK and Shell Germany. He said that as a consequence of European and American distrust of Shell, they now talk to people and ask for help in improving the brand image. When questioned about their activities in Nigeria, he called the deaths "sad" and described Nigeria as a "difficult working environment". He blamed the Nigerian Government for lines bursting and oil spills, as they had cancelled maintenance programmes for being too expensive. The ultimate resolution for the problems would be for Shell to pull out, but he felt that another company with lower standards would take over, he claimed.

FIRE LEAVES STUDENTS COLD

The residents of Beit Hall were evacuated last week, after a note stuck on a door was set alight. Security evacuated the building after the alarm went off in the night, forcing students to huddle in Beit Quad in their dressing gowns. To further exacerbate the situation, security guards then refused to let anyone back into the building until the culprit owned up. After ten minutes of waiting outdoors Rob Clarke, DP (F&S), used his keys to allow the residents into the Union Building. At this point Security relented and the irate students returned to the hall.

KING'S BEHEADED

The Union General Manager of Kings College London (part of London University) has been suspended on full pay pending investigations into 'financial irregularities'. Tom Belton, Vice President and editor of the KCLSU student newspaper, *Roar*, apologised for being "cagey" about the incident, but told Felix that no other details could be divulged until the enquiry concludes.

SOAS SUCCESS

The occupation of the School of Oriental and African Studies' library by students (Felix 1101) has ended. Protesters voted last Tuesday to accept a deal which promised over 500 more student passes to the main Senate House collection, giving a total of 1000 passes between 2500 students. The vote was held in an emergency general meeting of the student union, and the deal was arbitrated by a representative from the AUT. The agreement also provided an amnesty for the protesters and extended opening hours. The committee also pledged to investigate further into the current system of library passes.

Currently, each London University college has to pay £70 to Senate House for every student wishing to use the collection, which although extensive, does not contain many scientific texts. Imperial College students wishing to obtain a ticket should enquire in the library.

MORE BEER FOR YOUR MONEY

Pub landlords could soon be forced to serve a full pint of beer and cider if a bill currently in Parliament is successful. Under the measure, oversize glasses with a line marking a pint would become standard. At present, bars are only required to serve nineteen fluid ounces of liquid (a pint is twenty fluid ounces), after pressure from brewers scuppered a similar bill two years ago. The *Weights and Measures; Beer and Cider* bill will receive its second reading on 16 January.

GET HOME THIS CHRISTMAS WITHOUT GETTING STUFFED

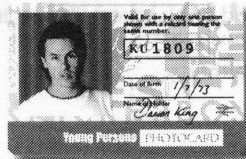
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Letters to Felix...

CRUDE RESPONSE

Dear Felix,

After reading the disturbing article, "Crude on Campus", in last week's edition, I feel compelled to write and express my support for Roger Geffen in speaking out about something which concerns and frightens me, especially as a potential employee of an oil company. I am constantly worried that Imperial structures its courses, particularly in engineering subjects, on the specific needs of individual companies. I speak as a student of chemical engineering where most weeks we receive visits and presentations from companies seeking recruits for vacation work and full time postgraduate employment. How many of us, though, actually stop to think what we potentially sacrifice ethically when we apply for, and accept, positions within these companies? Certainly the prospect of a high salary is a powerful incentive, but surely we should be probing to discover any undisclosed policies that there may be?

I strongly urge anyone who feels the same way to find out as much information as possible about sources of funding within their department and employer's backgrounds. If these allegations are true, can Imperial really afford to be associated with these companies?

3rd year student,
Dept. of Chemical Engineering

RAVING MAD

To the sex-mad raving loony
(your words' not mine)

There is only one place that fits the description you made:

Hombres,
Wale Street,
off Oxford Street
All the London cabbies' know it and medics (and their guests') get in free.

yours faithfully,
Anon

INCREDIBLE - A COMPLIMENT

Dear Jeremy

Indeed the quality of Felix seems to be improving by the week! I particularly appreciate the

weekly feature and many of the arts reviews are well written. The latter are so good that I often want to go and see a play; as for taking the mickey out of the Turner Prize Exhibition, encourage Clare to write more of such stuff.

Finally, I'd like to comment on the news item on page 2 (Imperial students fall victim to commen). This story sounds all too familiar to me: about 18 months ago I was approached by a young woman, claiming to be a tourist who had also lost all her belongings and would I give her some money for her fare. I was not convinced that her story was true and instinctively said 'no'. I think the moral is that all of us should be cautious: it is not just men in smart suits who con others into departing with their money.

Please keep up the good work.
Trijntje Ytsma
(Humanities and UROP
Secretary, although the above are my private views)

TAKE A DEEP BREATH, HERE WE GO...

Dear Felix

My word, a controversial feature (issue 1100) Well done! If it makes people think about what they believe and why they believe it then it is no bad thing. Having said that it does seem that Matteo Floris is confused about what he believes. Does he believe (as so many do) that the Bible is old hat, suitable only for the credulous and those born before the enlightenment, or does he think that the Bible can provide some of the answers along with the scriptures of all the other world religions? It is not clear which view is being promoted. He also vociferously rejects the Catholic church of the Middle Ages, whilst implying that the church of today is exactly the same. It is most defiantly not!

Much is made of the renaissance (aka the enlightenment and

the age of reason). However people carefully forget that the theological reformation preceded and overlapped with it. The reformation put very simply was a time during which the philosophers and theologians of the day discovered what the scriptures (i.e. the Bible) have to say about the Creator God, and the relationship that he has with his creation, namely humanity. Before, during and after this time the Catholic Church remained focused on the supposedly higher spiritual issues, and had accepted the idea that what is natural is somehow evil. With the reformation came the Christian understanding that in the beginning God had created all things, and that all things had been "good", though this goodness had been spoiled by humanities rebellion against God. This belief is in a God who has created a universe that is not part of his essence, but is permeated with his presence. It means that Christianity gives a certainty of objective reality, and of cause and effect, a certainty that is strong enough to build on. Indeed Galileo was not trying to disprove the existence of God. He with other early scientists (Copernicus, Faraday and Francis Bacon to name but a few) shared the same outlook of Christianity in believing there is a reasonable God who had created a reasonable universe; and thus man, by use of his reason could find out the universe's form.

Therefore when Galileo observed the planets and the moons of Jupiter, he was doing it within the bounds of his Christian faith, as a reasoning, reasonable creation of a reasonable Creator God. The reaction of the "Holy Inquisition" was as much against those scientists who dared to observe Gods creation as it really was. It must also be borne in mind that the Catholic Church had control over vast areas of land and huge numbers of people, they were a thoroughly corrupt bunch who had an intellectual, and superstitious hold over even the educated population. They achieved this by

Chemistry Computer Meltdown

...the computer system in the chemistry department has crashed, leaving students unable to access their data. The department is currently working to restore the system and has advised students to save their work frequently to avoid data loss.

Mine's a large one

...a large diamond has been discovered in a mine in South Africa. The diamond is estimated to be the largest ever found and is currently being appraised by experts.

Library Annexed by SOAS Students

...the library at SOAS has been annexed by students, who have taken over the building and are using it as a meeting place. The university has issued a statement condemning the action and has asked students to return to their classes.

FELIX

Issue 1102

17 December 1997

www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix

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Road, London, SW7 2BB.
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48086, external: 0171 594 8086.
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

Felix is produced for and on behalf
of Imperial College Union
Publication Board.

Felix is a registered newspaper
ISSN 1040 - 0711

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Printed at the Imperial College
Union Print Unit, Belt Quad,
Prince Consort Road, London,
SW7 2BB. Tel: 0171 594 8071.
Email: printunit@ic.ac.uk.

Credits:
Editor: Jeremy Thomson
Advertising Manager:
David Roberts
News: Jiten Patel, Maria Ioannou,
Andy Sinharay, Paul Dias
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Deadline for letters is 6pm Tuesday. Letters may be edited for length, but will not be altered or corrected in any other way. Letters may be signed or anonymous, but please show your swipe card when submitting them.



deception and secrecy, maintaining amongst most people the belief that the church had a monopoly on Biblical wisdom and truth, sustaining this through the insistence that Latin was the only possible language in which one could read the Scriptures. By persecuting the "heretical" theologians and scientists they were trying to maintain the status quo to protect their own interests (i.e. power and wealth), God hardly had a look-in in their considerations. The reformation provided the impetus for many changes, without which we would not be able to study in the way that we can now.

By ignoring the reformation, Matteo Floris has failed to understand the motivation of people like Galileo. He believed in a Relational, Creator God, a God of the "First Cause", the proof he needed was all around him in nature (it still is), and in the Bible. Galileo therefore didn't have to waste time asking un-answerable questions, such as "Why?", but could get on with much more relevant questions such as "How?". Today, as a Christian in science I (and plenty of others) believe that the answer to "why?" is the same as it was 400 million years ago, never mind just 400. This means that I can study and ask the "how?" questions based on the certainty that God was there in the beginning, that he is here now, and that he will continue to be there in the future.

Richard Stunt
MSc Immunology, RPMS

CHARLIE BAITING

Dear Felix

Following the ICU Council meeting on Tuesday night it is obvious that DP for Clubs and Societies Charlie Joynt has gone against his election manifesto, no longer expressing support for dual entry to BUSA. He has shown that he is not a man of his word and I hereby, and I stress that this is my personal opinion, call for him to resign.

Chris Solberg,
ICUAFC First Team Captain

Dear Felix

I was disappointed yesterday at IC Council (9 Dec), when the issue of BUSA entry was discussed, to discover the U-turn in Charlie Joynt's (DP C&S) opinion of the whole matter. Having sat through the three ICU Hustings at St Mary's, Charing Cross and South Kensington to listen to Charlie agreeing to back dual entry in to

BUSA I find it unbelievable that he openly advocated single entry at this council meeting. Had I, and I imagine ICSM realised that he was, in fact lying to us (a common ploy he must have picked up from past ICU sabbatical presidents) I don't believe he would have received any of our votes.

He is a fortunate man that to be removed from his position there needs to be a two-thirds majority vote at IC Council. If there was any other way to remove Mr Joynt from his position without going through this farcical committee, I believe he would soon be without a job. He may at this point wish to reconsider his position on the ICU Exec.

Yours sincerely
Louise Moran, St Mary's

Dear Sir,

The result that decided the 'single-entry' policy in to BUSA was an extremely tight one - by 20 to 18 with 2 abstentions (basically exactly 50% wanted to follow this course) and now due to the decisions of 20 people there will no longer be medical teams playing at Imperial from the start of the next academic year.

The council is there to represent the views of all the students at Imperial and yet midway through the discussions one member of the council was heard to comment that, 'this is just another case of medics wanting there own way'. This was not about medics versus non-medics, this was about making sure that everyone at Imperial who wants to play competitive sport, against other universities, was able to do so on a Wednesday afternoon. Now whatever the great emperor Eric Allsop (I thought he was no longer President) says about this matter of numbers the fact remains that there are now twelve to fifteen teams of footballers, seven to eight teams of rugby players, and about fourteen teams of hockey players (men and women) and yet Eric, in his ultimate wisdom, is sure that all those who don't get to play in the THREE teams entering BUSA on a Wednesday will get games elsewhere. I for one will not be applying for the position of fixture secretary in any of these clubs next year.

Sport at university is for everyone, it is not just for the elite who will bring so called good publicity to the college and so push us further up the league tables. I don't care if we are not good enough to beat Loughborough and Nottingham as separate teams, but I do care that everyone who wants to, from a fourth team footballer at IC to a

third-team netballer at St. Mary's, gets the chance to play competitive, inter-university sport at Imperial. I find the fact that this elitist proposal was put forward by hardly the greatest sportsman ever particularly galling.

As to the argument that it will raise the standards, in most sports this is just absolute crap, because in most sports Imperial or Imperial Medics are considerably better than the other. For example the standard of the first XV will not be raised at all because not one single non-medical will get in the team. On the other hand, no squash player from St Mary's, and possibly from Charing Cross, will get in the squash team at Imperial which is of an extremely high standard. In most cases it is like merging Manchester United and Scunthorpe and hoping for an increase in the standard of play from the best eleven players. It just isn't going to happen.

To finish, I find it mildly ironic that the lasting legacy of Eric Allsop, who seemed to always push for unity and co-operation between the non-medics and medics at Imperial, will be to create a divide and level of animosity that hasn't been seen since I arrived two and a half years ago, and probably a long time before that. And to all those

on council who believe that this is 'one up' for the non-medics, believe me, we haven't even started yet.

Yours
Oliver Warren, ICSM

REFERENDUM?

Dear Felix,

I writing to thank all the people who attended ICU Council on Tues 9th December. It is refreshing to see people taking an interest in ICU affairs.

The debate was a good one with valid arguments on both sides, which was reflected in the voting. However, I feel as this is such an important issue for all Imperial College students they should all directly have a say in the decision. This would be most appropriately approached in the form of a college wide referendum. Most importantly this would give the sports players a chance to help decide their own fate rather than a committee were only approx. 30% had ever played a BUSA match. Do you have any comments?

Yours sincerely
Katie Armstrong
President, ICSM Students' Union

FRESH
HAIR SALON

15a Harrington Road
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We're trying to organise a massive summer ball for Imperial at Alexandra Palace but the Union will only back us if we have the support of students. So, if you're interested in dressing up for a big party with a slap-up meal, booze and a top band then contact us as soon as possible. There'll be a big name sponsor so you'll have the opportunity to 'network' too. The cost will be approximately forty quid.

To support the ball either:

Drop a note in the box in the union office with your name, department and email address, or write to us as summerball@hotmail.com. For more information, look at www-students.doc.ic.ac.uk/~wefs/ball

Make it happen!

PHOENIX 98/99

Imperial College Union's annual Arts Magazine is looking for contributions of all kinds - design, admin, writers, artists, web authors, musicians. Whatever you have to give, contact the editor, Peter, at peter.mcgladdery@ic.ac.uk

FOOD PRICES AND VAT - 1997

The College regrets that an agreement between HM Customs & Excise and The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), whereby staff and other non-students were exempt from paying VAT in predominantly student outlets, has recently been withdrawn.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL APPLY WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 1998

VAT will be charged on all products in all of the following areas UNLESS proof of student status can be shown:

Main Dining Hall (Quicks and The Diner)
JCR Breakfast Bar
JCR Curry Bar
Basics Pizzeria
Management School Coffee Bar
Charing Cross campus Snack Bar
Silwood Park Tea Bar

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY VAT IN THE ABOVE OUTLETS PROVIDED THAT THEY SHOW THE APPROPRIATE PROOF OF STATUS

Proof of status will be regarded as:
either an ICU Student Union Card or an IC Student 'Swipe' Card.

Prices and VAT arrangements in all other outlets (including those accepting IDTJs) remain unchanged besides the following exceptions:

- VAT exemption will also be available to students purchasing hot food from QT snack bar on production of the appropriate proof of status.
- All sales from Huxley Coffee Bar will be VAT inclusive (staff only outlet)

Notices will be displayed in all areas but please note that NO REFUNDS will be made after payment for goods.

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help a giant retailer understand what drives its businesses; used system dynamics to model the flows of orders following liberalisation of the electricity market; optimised the cost of meeting government regulations by using genetic algorithms; designed a database for international customer benchmarking; designed, built and ran the financial model whose results led the regulator to turn one utility sector on its head.

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GenCom



The General Committee is the policy-making body of the RCSU - like ICU Council. Tomorrow (Thursday) marks the most important GenCom for years. Motions on the table include "A view for the 21st century" (a motion proposing radical changes to the Union structure) and "Social representation of the membership" (a motion on departmental society responsibility). All members of the RCSU are invited to attend, and delegates from the other CCUs are welcome provided they notify us of their intention to visit in advance. Papers are available from the RCS Union office in Unwin Road (between Civ Eng and Mech Eng). The meeting will take place from 5.15pm in the Union Table Tennis Room, 3rd floor, ICU.

Preparations for the RCSU Annual Dinner are also under way. It will be held on Friday 6th March 1998 and tickets are on sale now.

SEE THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC

Totally

free!

Felix has fifteen free tickets to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and guests, including Monserrat Caballe, Sir Simon Rattle, the Labeque Sisters, and Andrea Bocelli, play the Albert Hall TODAY. The concert is in aid of the Elton John Aids Foundation, and the bespectacled crooner will be in attendance. First fifteen into the office get the tickets!

THE FELIX

WEEK*

MONDAY

Arts Meeting - 1pm. For all interested in exhibitions and theatre
Features Meeting - 1pm. If you want to write or layout features, take photographs, or just have an idea, come along. For all types.

Books - 1pm.

TUESDAY

Film Meeting - 12 noon.
News Meeting - 1pm. For all writers and researchers

Photography Meeting - 5pm
All photographers please attend

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Madness all day 9am - 3am. Not recommended for the uninitiated.

FRIDAY

News meeting - 12.30pm.
Editorial Board - 1pm. Informal committee meeting for all major contributors. All welcome to observe and join in.
Music Meeting - 1.30pm. For all music reviewers.

* Not this week, though.

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Editorial

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Hall drug busts are a regular event at IC; the security team periodically catching some unfortunate who has set off their smoke alarm or turned up their stereo too far. To the credit of the halls and the College, a big deal is rarely made of such incidents. But what business is it of theirs at all? Hall residents are essentially tenants (they certainly pay enough) and their room is their home. Why, then, aren't they treated as such? Southside residents have to suffer cleaners barging into their room at half-nine every day with barely a knock. In Linstead Hall, the cleaners have been used as spies by the housekeeper so that every minor misdemeanor and transgression of the 'rules' can be dealt with in a suitably humiliating way. Since last week's fire alarm, security guards have been patrolling the corridors of Beit Hall several times a night.

I firmly believe that people may do whatever they please so long as they don't bother anyone else in the process. No part of college has police powers; yet they are continually 'disciplining' students not only for infringing college rules, but also for perceived transgressions of the law, whether genuine or not.

Many students use drugs on IC property, and only a tiny fraction are caught. It's about time residence staff and the security team treated hall occupants with the respect and privacy they deserve.

U - TO?

Have you ever been to ULU? Do you know where it is? Do you even know what it stands for? No? Then it won't mean much to you that Imperial College Union spends nearly £100,000 annually to allow IC students access to it. Why? What does it provide? The answer is catering, discos, stationary sales, a student newspaper, a swimming pool and some shops. In short, the University of London Union provides some of the services of ICU, at considerable expense, several miles from college. A bargain if I ever saw one.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS?

In these days of political correctness, I have to tread carefully to avoid sidelining minorities of one type or another. As such, I am going to take the bull by the horns and address what I am sure is the majority; Merry Atheists' day of normality, and a happy new year!

Small Ads

For Sale

17" PC monitor with manuals etc. Screen needs refocussing, but is fine for games etc. £30. Contact the Felix Office for more info.

Found

A large black 'Oxbridge style' cycle, apparently abandoned near Beit Quad. Contact jf.thomson@ic.ac.uk.

ZERO seeks part-time bicycle riders to service our prestigious customer base.
andrea@mcmail.com

Wanted - Blankets

Community Action Group are collection blankets for distribution to

London's homeless. If you have any to donate, contact CAG at community.action@ic.ac.uk

Real Ale Society

ICU now has a reformed real ale society. Anyone interested in home brewing, the brewing industry, caring for and keeping real ale or just plain socialising, contact us on beer@ic.ac.uk

Wanted - PC pentium processor, motherboard and RAM, together or separate. Call Paul on 0171 259 2301



I know that you all love my in-depth dissections of the burning issues that face mankind, but this week is so packed, I am forced to be brief, which will make a nice change. Normal service will be resumed next year. My partner in crime, Mr Common, penned a few words on electoral reform, a subject which, as he said, is in the news at the moment. Young Mr Blair has charged Lord Jenkins, the 'veteran liberal' (obviously not the Lord Jenkins who was Labour Chancellor from 1967 - 70 and split to form the SDP, Hamish), with investigating alternatives. Frankly, when it comes to voting systems, I am of the opinion that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' No system is perfect, but the great merit of first-past-the-post is its transparency. Proportional representation inevitably lapses into backroom deal-brokering, resulting in the wholesale distortion of party manifestoes with scant regard to what people supported. Our system is very old, untrendy and un-'New Labour, New Britain', but it has served us well. Most opposition to it seems to stem more from disdain of those it elects rather than the means of their victory. Constitutional meddling is the last

refuge of the ideologically bankrupt and should be avoided without good reason.

Roger Geffen enlightened and entertained the masses with his piece on the oil industry last week, and I feel I should say something by way of balance. Sir Ron is a director of Shell, serving on the Remuneration and Succession committee, for which he received £21,391 last year. And why not? It is beneficial to have our lords and masters exposed to organisations that are run properly, in the hope that a little rubs off on the administrative basket-case that is Sheffield. The question about the behaviour of oil companies in the Third World is a little more complicated. Nigeria is 'governed' by an extremely distasteful military junta, which has done nothing but damage the interests of the country. This is where the real problems lie. Shell operate in a virtually lawless environment, and this absence of reg-

ulation may lead them to overstep the mark, encouraged by the regime eager for the dollars that stem from their activities. If Shell protest too much, they run the risk of having their assets nationalised, as happened to BP in the Middle East. The best way to improve the situation is for the Nigerian people

to overthrow their leaders, something which we should encourage as far as is possible.

As you all know, I have always been fulsome in my praise of College Security. This marvellous band of men and

women gallantly protect us from the preying hoards of SW7, and also issue swipe cards, which brings me to my point. Don't lose them kids. It takes 10 days to get a replacement and, were it not for generosity of the boys and girls in grey, I would have been in the brown smelly stuff. Keep up the good work. You can call the dogs off now, thanks.

The integration of the medical schools marches on relentlessly, producing the odd casualty along the way. This week saw the disappearance of the Secretary to the Imperial College School of Medicine, Dr Julian Axe. The unfortunately named medic has been deemed unnecessary by our chums in Sheffield. This College ain't big enough for two Secretaries, it would seem. Commiserations to Dr Axe, as he joins the very select group of people rationalised in a merger that should have seen hundreds seeking alternative positions. While on the subject of the merger, it is nice to see that this year the BMS is graced by some Christmas trees...

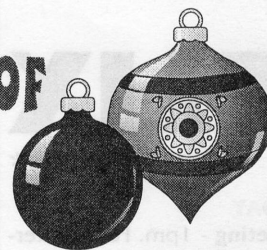
Finally, word reaches me of a jamboree at Alexandra Palace planned for this summer by the Union. They want to know if you think it's a goer. As you are all very busy, let me speak for all College members. Marvellous idea. Ally Pally is a great venue, and it's about time that we showed those ULU chappies that little old Imperial can organise a good bash. Well, folks, that's yer lot. Have a great Christmas, have a mince pie on me as you watch Her Majesty, and see you next year.

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt

**CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN A LOAD OF
SHOW SOMEONE YOU CARE.....**

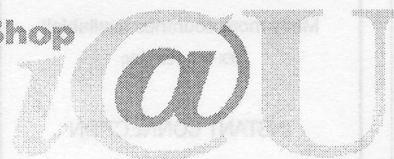


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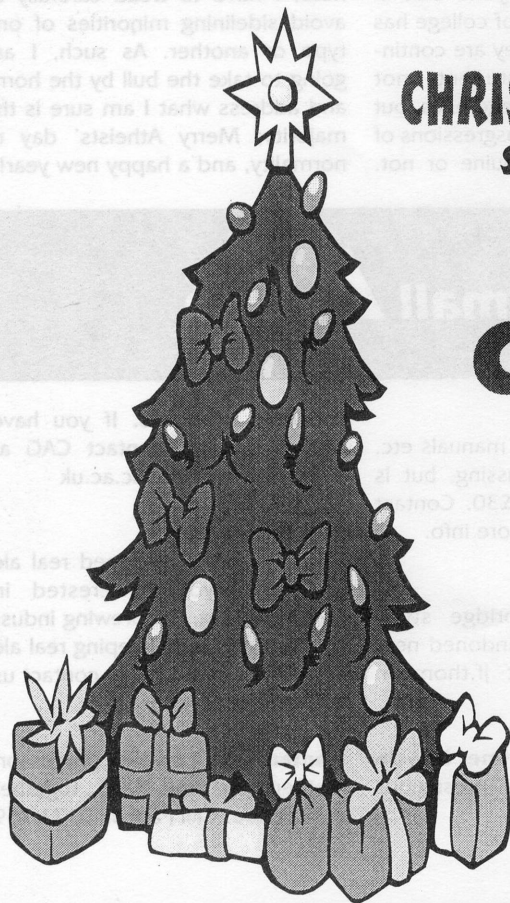
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Burning Water

CHRISTMAS SPECTACLE

So, folks, it's time for the big one. It's Christmas, you've just had exams, your folks are on at you, no money, basically it's time to chill out. And what better way than by cooking the Big Pig Out as per my stress-free directions. Ma and Pa will be gob-smacked. I've decided to do away with the turkey business. Frankly, even if prepared really well, turkey is dull. It gums your mouth up and you have to waste good booze washing it down. So I've gone for the venison option. Sorry if I've offended any turkey-philes out there. Sorry. Not. However, most of the trad trimmings are there as well as kedgerree, a fishy brekky dish. Here's the menu:

Kedgerree

Bisque aux Huitres
Quartier de Chevreuil Roti
Legumes Varies

Pouding de Noel

You will need these ingredients:

- 1 fully equipped kitchen (i.e. an average real home kitchen+minibar)

Kedgerree:

- 1lb smoked haddock
- 1/4lb rice
- 2 hard-boiled eggs

Oyster soup:

- 1 dozen oysters, preferably fresh
- 2 pt fish stock
- 1/4 pt cream
- 1/2 glass white wine (shouldn't be too difficult to find at this time of year)

Brandy butter:

- 3oz butter
- 6oz icing sugar
- 1 tbl brandy

Main meal:

- 1 haunch (leg and loin) of venison
- 2 lb potatoes
- 2 lb Jerusalem artichokes
- couple of onions
- 2 lb brussels sprouts
- a dozen mini-sausages
- a dozen rashers of streaky bacon
- the Christmas pudding you made in September (you did-

n't? Better go and buy one, then)

And here is madness without method:

The night before- Open the oysters and add the liquid to the fish stock. Bring the stock to a simmer, cut the oysters in half and cover with the cream. Melt 1oz butter in a large pan, stir in 3 tbl of flour and then slowly add the fish stock and the glass of wine. Simmer for 1/2 hour, season and add a little lemon juice and nutmeg. Remove from the heat and stir in the cream, oysters and an egg yolk. Chill as quickly as possible.

Boil the haddock in just enough milk to cover it. First bring the milk to the boil, put the fish in and then keep the milk just boiling for 6-7 minutes. Drain and cool. Cook the rice in the usual way. Cool and place in fridge.

For the brandy butter, cream the butter and sugar together (basically mix them up and then whisk with a fork until the mixture goes pale). Work the brandy into the mixture and store in the fridge.

Have a night-cap, go to bed and dream of Santa.

On the Day 7am - Get up, have a peek at the presents on the way to the kitchen. Put the kettle on. For the kedgerree, cut the whites of the eggs into strips, crush the yolks into a dry paste and flake the haddock into small pieces. Make some tea and take a cup up to everybody.

Melt 2oz butter in a large pan, add the fish, rice, egg whites, some salt, pepper and cayenne pepper and til until hot. Get everybody out of bed. Delicious odours should help.

Put the kedgerree onto a warm plate, pat it into a pyramid (well, why not) and sprinkle the egg yolks on top. Serve as hot as possible with lots of tea.

T- 4 hours -Heat the oven up to 350°F, 160°C, Gas Mark 4. Make a stiff dough with about a mug full of flour and some water. Brush the joint with lots of butter or dripping, spread the dough over it and wrap with a large piece of grease-proof paper.

Have a fag and a glass of sherry.

T-90 minutes - Warm up a large pan of water (that has a large

lid to go with it), peel the spuds and place them in the boiling water for 10 minutes. Drain well, season with plenty of salt, pepper and herbs, sprinkle with oil, put the lid on and give the pan a vigorous shake to "roughen" the spuds.

Take the roast out of the oven, remove the paper and dough, sprinkle with a couple of tablespoonfuls of flour, baste copiously with hot butter, add the potatoes and onions to the baking tin and put back in the oven.

T- 60 minutes - Time to start on the sprouts. Remove any 'orrible outer leaves and cut a cross on the bottom of each stalk. Place in some cold water containing 1/2 tsp of salt for every pint of water. Leave them to soak for 10 minutes, no more.

T- 40 mins - Roll the sausages up in the streaky bacon, skewering each with one of those lovely cocktail sticks to stop the bacon unrolling. Pop them into the oven in a separate dish.

T- 30 mins - Melt a large knob of butter in a pan, put the sprouts in and gently fry them over a low heat. When the outer leaves are browned, pour in about 1/2 inch of water and 1/2 tsp of salt, bring to the boil and simmer for around 10 minutes.

At the same time, heat up a pan of salted water with a tbl of vinegar. When this boils, put the Jerusalem artichokes in and simmer for 20 minutes

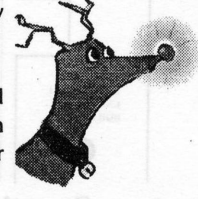
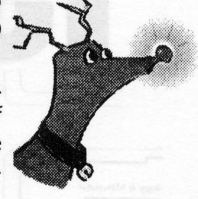
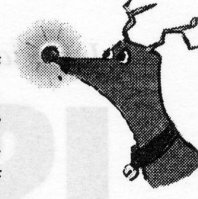
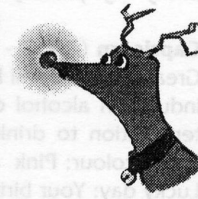
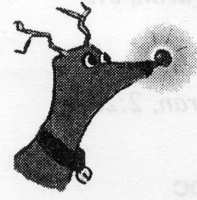
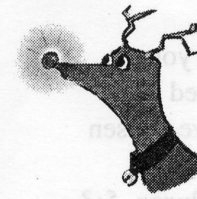
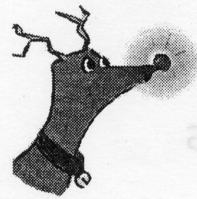
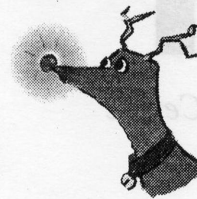
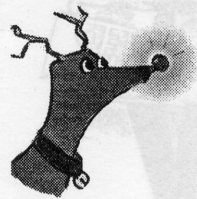
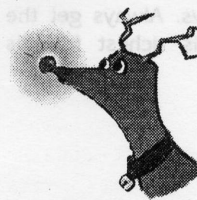
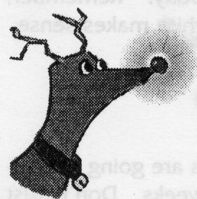
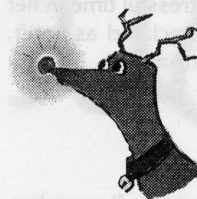
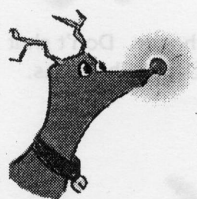
T- 10 mins - Heat up the oyster soup as rapidly as possible without bringing to the boil.

Blast off - Turn the oven off, drain the brussels and artichokes. The rest is waiter service which I know nothing about so I won't bother.

By now you should have realised that you have forgotten to steam the pudding. Ah well eh? Better stick it in the microwave.

Good Luck!

Antoine.



**Sagittarius** (23/11 - 23/12)

Past relationships may well come back to haunt you, and great feelings of guilt may ensue. Fear not! The other party no longer cares about your miserable

little life.

Lucky colour: Grey

Lucky day: January 9th

Capricorn (24/12 - 20/1)

Great pressure will be placed upon you to over-indulge in alcohol during this time. Resist the temptation to drink until you are hospitalised.

Lucky colour: Pink

Lucky day: Your birthday

Aquarius (21/1 - 18/2)

People will demand a lot from you over this period. Tell them to talk to your invisible friend. You may never see them again, or find out what they want.

Lucky colour: Diamond

Lucky day: January 1st

Pisces (19/2 - 20/3)

This will be a stressful time for you. Relatives will demand a lot from you. Don't worry about them, they're just jealous of your amazing brain, and ability to do everything except sing.

Lucky colour: Sapphire

Lucky day: Tuesdays

Aries (21/3 - 20/4)

Your gerbil may well turn on you over the holiday. Remember that the season of goodwill to all men extends to small furry rodents, so don't kill the horrid little rat-a-like.

Lucky colour: Emerald

Lucky day: January 2nd

Cancer (22/6 - 22/7)

Be nicer to a small blonde with dyed black roots. She is going to be amazingly famous, powerful and influential one day, so watch out. You know it makes sense.

Lucky colour: Verdigris

Lucky day: December 30th

Leo (23/7 - 23/8)

It's always hard to adjust to change. Don't shut your eyes to possibility of socks at Christmas.

Lucky colour: Purple

Lucky day: December 16th

Virgo (24/8 - 22/9)

Be nice to your sister at this stressful time in her life. Chocolate is always appreciated as a gift, especially when it's not Christmas.

Lucky colour: Blue

Lucky day: December 21st

Libra (23/9 - 23/10)

Cuddle a giant cockroach today. Remember, not everything in black and white makes sense.

Lucky colour: Tarten

Lucky day: December 29th

Scorpio (24/10 - 22/11)

Really fab and fantastic things are going to happen to you in the next few weeks. Don't trust barmen with ginger eyebrows. Always get the young man's name and his richest friend's phone number.

Lucky colour: Orange

Lucky day: Everyday

Horoscopes with Jessica Rabbit

Taurus (21/4 - 21/5)

Radical changes will occur during the next year.

Be afraid, be very afraid. Never trust men with blue teeth and orange eyelashes.

Lucky colour: Blonde

Lucky day: January 7th

Gemini (22/5 - 21/6)

Never trust people with wooden teeth. Remember, the truth is out there, but the lies are in your head.

Lucky colour: Crimson

Lucky day: January 4th

Imperial College Union

ISLAMIC SOCIETY

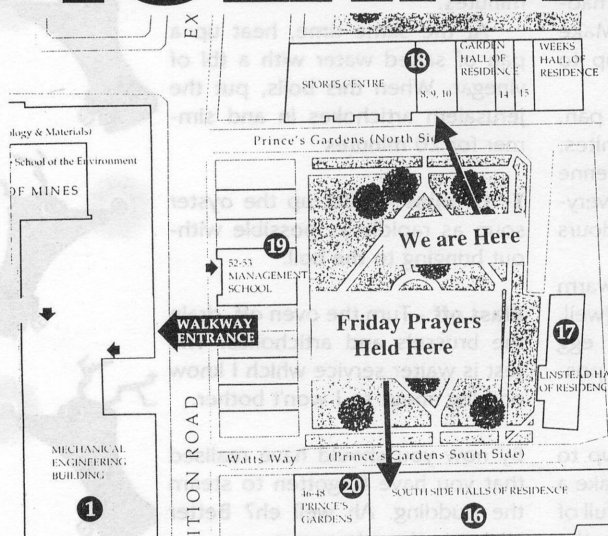
9 Princes Gardens, near the Sports Centre

- Five Times Daily Prayers
- Friday Prayers at Southside Gym
- Weekly Talks on various issues on Mon, Wed & Thu

Allaah (S.W.T.) says: "This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you **Islam** as your religion"

Quran, 5:3

Allaah (S.W.T.) says: "Guard **Strictly** the (five obligatory prayers) prayers..." *Quran, 2:238*



**Sporting Activities held including
Football, Cricket*, Squash & Badminton**

* Cricket at Lords Cricket Ground every Friday evening

For more information contact Harris on h.bokhari@ic.ac.uk

Visit us on the Web Page: <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs+socs/social/Islamic+Soc>



Politics was a different business in the sixteenth century. Then power lied in the hands of the very much unelected aristocracy and church authorities, with king in control. Political opponents of the king could well find their heads on the block. One such example was Cardinal Wolsey, whose court was reputed to be grander than Henry VIII's itself. Wolsey was one of the most influential men of the time, until he fell out of favour with the king, his timely death probably saving him from a more public and humiliating one.

How interesting then that our Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, decided to compare himself with Wolsey, as the benevolent and powerful lord, overseeing his fellow colleagues' work. This was an after-dinner joke, but has been taken aboard by his 'fellow colleagues' as accurately summing up his behaviour. One Cabinet Minister said "since May he has been lording it, acting like a medieval lord chancellor who only has to report to King Tony above everyone else". He was taken in for a little chat at Number 10, and was apparently given a friendly ticking-off. He has known the Prime Minister for over twenty years, so it was likely that it would have been more 'ticking-off' and not a 'bollocking'. One minister said "his wings have been clipped a little. There have been some informal complaints and I understand Tony has had a friendly word in his ear. Because of their relationship, it won't be a telling-off."

Some may now be wondering what is the Lord Chancellor, and what is he doing in the Cabinet. The Lord Chancellor is one of the oldest positions

in government, and he is effectively the Speaker of the House of Lords. A lawyer or judge would usually hold the post, which is on appointment by the Prime Minister. As it is always a peer, the position is effectively unelected. He is also the direct boss of the Lord Chief Justice (the senior criminal judge) and the Master of the Rolls (the senior civil judge). Essentially he runs the country's legal system. Such an appointment is abomination to those who believe in the separation between government and judi-

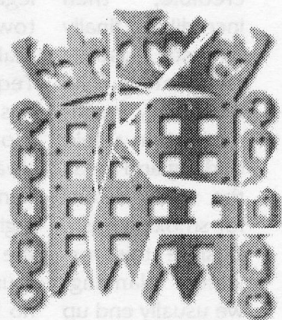
The problem with Lord Irvine, the present incumbent, is partly due to his inexperience in politics. Lord Simon, the businessman parachuted into a government position by the Prime Minister, had similar problems with not appreciating the subtler points of politics. One of Lairg's allies recommended to him that he curb his "intimidating intellect" and show "a little more tact". "He is new to politics, and is finding out that you can sometimes achieve more by taking people with you than by being rude to them."

present wife Alison, who left her previous husband Donald Dewar, the present Secretary of State for Scotland, for him in 1970. Mr Dewar never married again, and the two men have not spoken since.

I would not want to go into too great a character assassination of someone I never met, especially in my last column before Christmas, but Irvine's behaviour is at best good news for column inches. With all the reform of Government and Parliament that Labour are intending to

introduce, a position such as that of Lord Chancellor is increasingly hard to justify, even though it has served its purpose well enough so far (in the same way as the House of Lords). We may treat Irvine as an intelligent but politically naive man, whose power is at least constricted - he

knows he can never be given any other Government portfolio - and to give him credit his performance in his job is widely respected, but it also known that he has received his job because he was already in the Lords and was the Prime Minister's old friend. He needs now to demonstrate that he can be more sensitive to his own colleagues' and the public's concerns, for at the end of the day we all employ him as Lord Chancellor, not his old friend Tony.



Hamish Common

Westminster Eye

ciary. Practically all new constitutions for countries enact this separation, yet our system keeps it. It has worked for the meantime because each holder of the post has seen it as his duty to keep out of the political limelight and run his own department effectively. It has meant that the post is the linchpin between the government and judiciary, without one affecting the other. Occasionally problems arise, such as when a Conservative Lord Chancellor rebuked judges for ruling against the Government, something which they are perfectly entitled to do (it is incidentally, almost impossible to remove a judge - it requires an Act of Parliament - this is so that they can speak their mind without fear of reprisal, as is done in the US Supreme Court, where judges can also not be sacked).

One might wonder if this wasn't a fairly basic principle of management, which one may have picked up before reaching one of the highest appointments in the Land, but never mind. Other examples of either his ignorance or contempt of the political reality was his £650,000 refurbishment of his own residence in the Lords, the money coming out of the generous pocket of the taxpayer. Irvine's response to public knowledge of his £59,000 wallpapering bill (part of the refurbishment) was that "my successors and public will thank me for this". This prompted a Guardian columnist to print his personal office phone number, inviting readers to congratulate him on his kindness to us all. One of the sadder tales concerning Lairg, where his past has very much caught up with him, was his



Thought for the Holiday

Text by Our Kid, illustration by Ian

PART 1: CHRISTMAS

I used to love Christmas when I was a child. As the weather turned cold, myself and my sister would stare, unblinking, out of the back of the car on the way to school, scouring the front rooms of Liverpool in the hope of being the first to spot the twinkle of a Christmas tree. School would finish; carols were sung unanimously; the blissful excitement would mount, as the great day drew closer. Christmas Eve was a nightmare, and on occasion we had to be drugged with whisky-spiked coffee, just to get us to sleep. We would wake up at six in the morning, tear the wrapping from our presents, and then proceed through gloating, the my-presents-are-better-than-yours phase, shouted arguments, fighting and usually tears. Without a doubt, the zenith of the tiny tot's calendar. For our unfortunate and harassed parents, however, the day had not yet begun.

People say that the spirit of Christmas deteriorates as one gets older, but it is only recently that I have really begun to appreciate the scale of the problem. Any parent who claims that Christmas is worth the gargantuan effort of proper celebration is one of two things: an optimist, or a Prozac fancier.

With a bit of luck, it should be the best part of a decade before I am called upon to increase the population of this Orb, and already the costs of old Chrimbo are threatening to outweigh the benefits. (Such cynicism in one so young...) People seem not to understand that I don't have any money any more. I got some dirty looks last year when some people opened their presents, even though my bank balance was looking quite anorexic. (An argument is raging in Oxford, because there is a faction who believe that the official Dictionary definition of a student should be "student (n.) a penniless wretch." Personally, I'd agree.) Merely getting out of bed earlier than lunch time was also a serious stumbling block. I managed to wend my way over the road to the champagne breakfast that some friends were bravely staging, and found my bacon charred beyond all recognition, my eggs looking particularly sorry for themselves, and the champagne... well, the buggers drank it all before I got there.

Christmas trees always provide

endless hours of fun. They are evil; just another of Mother Nature's amusing anecdotes. I have been known, in my role as a budding designer, to waste hours decorating the tree; sticking myself with its porcupine-sharp spines; falling face-first into the branches whilst trying to install the traditional fairy and testing the lights above and beyond British Standard BS546546654654356765, to find that they extinguish themselves within five minutes of being draped over the smegging shrub.

I would then come downstairs in the morning to find that some talentless, taste-starved monkey had completely butchered it. "I thought we'd try a more minimalist tree this year. It's very fashionable, you know. Someone at IKEA told me. You don't mind, do you?"

The twenty-fifth of December does have a few things to be said in its favour. This only applies to the Christmas dinner if you have not endured twelve hours of culinary contortion making it. Preparing a turkey requires surgical accuracy far in advance of ICSM's very best, and cooking it all is a piece of chemical co-ordination never seen in the Perkin organic lab. After these exertions, I am tired, incapable of conversation (some might say an improvement), and really not hungry at all, preferring to sleep face down in the gravy while everyone else thoroughly enjoys themselves.

So the only redeeming feature of Christmas, it seems, is the reason for celebrating it in the first place. A lot of Christians are likely to be reaching for the Basilidon Bond at this point, so let me say this; anyone who believes that the real message of Christmas has been lost in the modern age is thoroughly deluded. No. It seems to me that worship is the only part of Christmas still worth having.

PART 2: NEW YEAR

If Christmas is the province of children, then New Year is an adult pursuit. If you can remember your first genuine New Year party then you didn't celebrate it properly. It is a very good job that people don't start the New Year as they mean to go on, for the simple reason that they would then spend the rest of the year in the gutter, pondering the mysteries of life with their own bodily fluids.

The perennial process is the same. "Where are we going this year?" There then follows a waterfall of ideas; at first credible, then incredible, finally fantastic, usually culminating in somebody wanting to sit in a field of dung and break the world record for smoking hash. Despite this forward planning, we usually end up buying a ticket on Christmas Eve for the only club that still has vacancies.

There's usually a shopping trip involved, too. Last year, full of enthusiasm, I spent four hours sauntering round the city looking for the greatest and most chic shirt mankind has ever seen, rendering me absolutely irresistible to whoever I chose. In the end I went back home and wore the shirt I bought the year before. Yes, the one that is banned in sixteen countries for being a taste catastrophe.

Plans are currently afoot to update car registrations twice annually, rather than just in August, to spread showrooms' business more evenly throughout the year. It requires only a small extension of thought to realise that if nobody drank on New Year, all the breweries would call in the receiver. New Year owes everything to a measly two atoms of carbon, a pathetic one of oxygen, and a remarkably minimalistic six atoms of hydrogen.

So the fun starts, usually in the pub, and always far more early

than can really be considered sensible. From here on in, things start to go wrong. Step one is usually someone forgetting their ticket for the club. For the last two years it has been me, and I have felt like a right monkey, I can tell you. In a cruel reworking of alphabetical order, Club follows Pub, and everyone realises that their "just one more" strategy has led to their blood streams being credited with three pints, a rum and coke, and six double vodkas, at some sadist's insistence. Somebody is also usually asleep on the table, and by the end of the evening, they are probably very glad. At least they will find it quite easy to get home again.

Already a long way over the legal limit, a taxi gets everyone into town. Here, again, somebody makes a serious error. Bar Ca Va? Tequila for 80p a shot? Everybody has heard of the European butter mountains. Fewer people are aware of the salt and lemon mountains, which are dealt cheaply to night clubs on the black market for the New Year. This is why, after four tequilas, my mouth now has no lining, and the concept of taste no longer has any meaning.

So we reach the club, tired and already in a state where the bouncers are unsure whether to let me in or not; they think I am some sort of lunatic as I search all my pockets twice before I locate the more-important-than-life-itself ticket. One of us gets chucked out before we're even inside. Everyone piles immediately into the toilet. We drink, we dance, we make complete fools of ourselves. A friend of mine tries to chat up a table. The bar is a scrum, but we drive with the strength of prop forwards, even though we have had quite enough already.

Then the moment arrives, and suddenly everyone is my friend. I chat to complete strangers like I have known them all my life. People like myself, who have come to laugh, to celebrate; to have a good time. All the misfortune of the old year, all the bad times, gone in an instant, as something criminally cheesy shoots out of the gargantuan loudspeakers.

And then... well, I can't really remember very well. I have a vague memory of...long blonde hair? A girl called Emma?

Without a doubt, the greatest night of the calendar. Merry Christmas, kids, and I'll see you all in the New Year. I'll have to get home first, though...

Happy Christmas little children...





Simon Baker sums up the spangly, expensive and sick-making world of Christmas Television

KILL

As many of you old lags know, my opinions are not confined to politics and Sherfield. At this time of year, I like to save you the price of a paper by telling you what you should be watching this Christmas. You know you can trust me. It comes as no surprise that yet again the BBC have wiped the floor with the opposition. The big films in Radio Times are all on BBC1, namely **Clear and Present Danger** (9.30pm, 23 December), **The Naked Gun 3 1/2: The Final Insult** (9pm, Christmas Eve), **The Flintstones** (4.10pm, Christmas Day), **The Mask** (6.50pm, Christmas Eve), **True Lies** (10.15pm, Boxing Day) and **Forrest Gump** (9.00pm, New Year's Day). All fairly good films and well worth watching, even if you have probably seen them all before. Elsewhere, there are some absolute gems. The Beeb are having a series of Carry On films, though some would argue they do every Christmas. **Don't Lose Your Head** (11.40pm, 22 December), **Loving** (1.10am, Christmas Day), **Girls** (1.20am, Boxing Day), **Again Doctor** (11.40pm, 27 December), the superb **Up the Khyber** (11.45pm, 30 December), **at Your Convenience** (1.00am, New Year's Eve), **Abroad** (12.55am, New Year's Day) and **Behind** (11.50pm, 2 January). Not the optimum selection, but a few corkers all the same.

For as many years as I can remember, *The Italian Job* has been shown on Christmas Eve. Disastrously, it does not feature anywhere in the terrestrial schedules. Some comfort can be derived from **Zulu** (BBC2, 5.45pm, 29 December), which gave birth to the immortal words, 'Don't chuck those bloody spears at me.' Continuing the military theme, **The Bridge On The River Kwai** (BBC2, 9.10pm, 20 December) is quite superb. The number of all-time greats is fairly high this year, and provides a good opportunity to fill in the odd gap in one's knowledge. The epic **Gone With The Wind** (C5, 7.10pm, Boxing Day) may have been on a hundred times before, but remains timeless, as does the Ealing comedy **Kind Hearts and Coronets** (C4, 5.30pm, Christmas Day). Also

YOUR

on Christmas Day is **Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory** (BBC1, 11.05am), which hasn't been on for years. Compulsory viewing applies to **The Return of The Pink Panther** (ITV, 3.05pm, 29 December), a veritable *tour de farce* due solely to the incomparable Peter Sellers. James Stewart is, unsurprisingly, the subject of many tributes, but the best must be a screening of **Mr Smith Goes to Washington** (BBC2, 10.05am, 29th December). As part of the Growing Up with 4 season, which lasts for



two weeks, Channel 4 are showing **Last Tango in Paris** (11.00pm, New Year's Day), famous for its creative use of dairy products. Finally, if, like me, you have not seen **Shallow Grave** (C4, 11.05pm, 27th December), now is your chance.

I quite expected Channel 5 to go for broke with their Christmas scheduling given their lacklustre performance to date, but sadly they have not. The only possible success could be **Night Fever: Abba Special** (7.00pm, Christmas Day), but elsewhere it is just a tale of woe. Whoever gave one hour to **The Tim Vine Christmas Present** (7.00pm, Christmas Eve) has clearly never seen this man's work.

TELLY

'Tim Vine offers his comic views on the season.' OK, that's filled 30 seconds, what about the rest? Far, far worse must be **Vanessa Feltz's Day with Neil and Christine Hamilton** (8.00pm, 30 December). Has this man not suffered enough? (**No, Ed**). Elsewhere, things are looking much better.

The BBC has a full range of Christmas Specials, featuring among others **Shooting Stars** (BBC2, 9.00pm, 22 September), **Harry Enfield & Christmas Chums** (BBC1, 10.15pm, Christmas Eve), **The Two Ronnies** (BBC1, 2.15pm, Christmas Day), **One Foot in the Grave** (BBC1, 8.00pm, Christmas Day), **Men Behaving Badly** (BBC1, 10.20pm, Christmas Day), **They Think It's All Over** (BBC1, 11.05pm, Christmas Day), **Steptoe and Son** (BBC2, 10.10pm, Boxing Day) and **The Armistice Party Bucket** (BBC2, 10.25pm, 2 January). Some of you may have missed last year's stunningly good **Only Fools and Horses**, but fear not, since it is going to be repeated on Fridays, the first episode being on 2 January at 7.55pm. ITV have **Dame Edna Kisses It Better** (9.00pm, Boxing Day), **An Evening with Spike Milligan** (10.00pm, New Year's Day) and **Frankie Howerd at His Tittermost** (12.45am, New Year's Day), which is brilliant. Channel 4 has, of course, a **Rory Bremner Special** (10.30pm, 30 December), preceded by a one-off comedy, **Mr White Goes to Westminster** (9.00pm, 30 December) about an anti-sleaze MP. The cast looks pretty good, so it's worth a look. Away from comedy, there a host of good programmes. Not surprisingly, there are a few Bond-related bits, including **Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond** (C4, 10.15pm, 28 December) and **Shirley Bassey: This is My Life** (BBC1, 10.05pm, 2 January). There is also a look at **The Making of Tomorrow Never Dies** (ITV, 12.30pm, Boxing Day), though past experience shows that such programmes rarely do the film concerned justice.

Well, that's yer lot, boys and girls. All in all, not a bad season's television, which should fill in the gaps between sleeping and eating. Have a good Christmas and, if you have exams early in January, you have my sympathy. Happy New Year.



"The evolutionary record leaks like a sieve... The general scientific world has been bamboozled into believing that evolution has been proved. Nothing could be further from the truth."
(Sir Fred Hoyle, Evolutionist, astronomer and mathematician)

"Preconceptions have led evidence by the nose in the study of fossil man... Judged by the amount of evidence upon which it is based, the study of fossil man (palaeoanthropology) hardly deserved to be more than a sub-discipline of palaeontology or anthropology. The entire hominid collection known today would barely cover a billiard table."
(John Reader, anthropologist)

"The main problem in reconstructing the origins of man is lack of fossil evidence: all there is could be displayed on a dinner-table"
(New Scientist magazine, 1982)

Do time, matter and genetic mistakes make a world? Is that all we are?

Did you know that not one theory about evolution has ever been scientifically proven? If your response to this is along the lines of "The evidence for evolution proves that it is true - there's no other way!" then perhaps you are in fact responding to the overwhelming presence of evolution teaching in the media, and educational arena, rather than the actual scientific evidence. Sounds harsh? Read the quotes

mutations (misleadingly termed "natural selection" - they deny without a thought the existence of a Selector).

The alternative to the unproved theory of evolution is that we are here by design. And if by design, there must be a designer. There is no third option.

"The spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible ... The only alternative to spontaneous generation is to believe in a single, primary act of supernatural

closed system decay over time to a less complex and lower energy state; and the genetic evidence that genetic mutations are known to be almost always harmful and destructive. Most importantly, there is no scientific evidence of such evolutionary changes.

Considering that not one trace of the assumed vast primeval chemical soup has been found anywhere in the bedrock of the earth, and that not one of the hundreds of billions of assumed "missing links" - intermediate species -

Creationism over Evolution?

alongside this article.

Incredible? Why? There is nothing unscientific about a theory of origins which includes creation and a Designer. The scientific evidence, in fact, supports this theory the most, believe it or not! It is only hostility towards God, not any actual scientific evidence in favour of evolution, that has led most scientists to believe evolution, instead of accepting its only alternative - special creation by God. A thinking woman or man should not ignore scientific evidence just because it contradicts the atheistic world view. Atheism is religion, not science.

Alternative science is a scientific world view that challenges what we have been told to accept without questioning, all our lives. It is about origins and evidence and thinking for yourself. It is science without any religious prejudice whatsoever.

Darwinism, the most common theory of evolution, claims that every single feature of the animal and plant world was caused by random accumulated genetic copying errors ("mutations") - personified, almost deified as "Chance" - and random destruction of individuals within a group which have "bad"

creation. There is no third position." (Dr. George Wald, Harvard's Nobel Prize-winning biologist).

The following evolutionist scientist was driven (most reluctantly, he says) to the conclusion that, on the mathematical probabilities alone, Darwinian evolution has not occurred and that many organs in nature simply could not have evolved. He went on to say:

"We must go further than this and admit that the only acceptable alternative is creation. I know that this is an anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it." (Professor Lipson, The Institute of Physics)

Over assumed vast amounts of time, traditional evolutionary science tells us that an amoeba in some "primeval soup" became a man, a woman, a whale, a cactus, a bird, a butterfly and everything else we can see, while simultaneously remaining as an amoeba all that time. All this theoretical speculation flies in the face of the observed laws of science: the law of entropy (The second law of thermodynamics) that all things in a

has been found in 150 years of scouring the planet. It is clear that this the theory of evolution in fact extremely fragile in terms of scientific grounding.

When you examine for yourself some quoted "proofs" of evolution, you find that the bird Archaeopteryx was not an intermediate at all, but is acknowledged to be a true bird and capable of excellent flight. Likewise, the individuals of the imaginary horse sequence all occur in the fossil record at the same level - the same "time" - and therefore did not evolve. With the assumed human evolution, the Australopithecines are now widely considered to be only large apes; the Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals were identical to you and me (they just had larger brain capacities than us, and often suffered from scurvy, rickets, arthritis and syphilis, causing deformities to their skeletal features).

Thousands of PhD and Masters scientist around the world today support the alternative theory of a special Creator; one such is Dr. Duane T. Gish. The following is a shortened version of a lecture he gives at universities around the world.

"In 1961 the German chemist



Professor Schildknecht undertook an investigation of the Bombardier Beetle (Brachinus) and found that it has two glands which produce a liquid mixture; two connected storage chambers; two combustion chambers; and two external tubes which can be aimed like flexible guns in the tail of a bomber.

When analysed, the stored liquid was found to contain 10% hydroquinone and 23% hydrogen peroxide. Now, this is an explosive-reaction mixture; if you or I mixed these two chemicals, the

You see, he didn't need the inhibitor until he mixed up the chemicals. When he mixed up the chemicals he blew himself up. So he could not pass the information down to his offspring because he did not have any offspring. So there's no way to pass down this information. But let's assume he invents the inhibitor.

Now, is this a tremendous evolutionary success? No, not quite. Because now he has just got the two chemicals and the inhibitor. And he stores them. He's got to

say. Now, here we are. We have the two chemicals, the storage chambers, the inhibitor, the anti-inhibitor, and the combustion chambers. We're all set.

No, not quite. In fact, the beetle has got to have everything timed right. He has to have the right communication network.

Imagine: he's got that chemical and he squirts it into the combustion chambers and his friend comes up and Boom! It goes off in his friend's face! No, he's got to know just when to send the signal.

Darwin's theory of the evolution of species is one widely accepted as factual.

Wes Hinsley reminds us that it is only a theory, after all...

mixture would explode in our faces. But this beetle adds an inhibitor which prevents the explosion. And then, when an enemy approaches him, he squirts this solution into the two combustion tubes and - just at the right moment - he adds an anti-inhibitor and Boom! It explodes in the face of his enemy.

How did the beetle work this out by evolution. Let's assume that millions of years ago, there was this little beetle. Let's call him Beetle Bailey. And one day his mum and dad gave him a chemistry set for his birthday, and so, down in the basement laboratory, he was experimenting. He mixed the solution of hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide - and Boom! He blew himself up and was splattered all around the walls of the laboratory and that was the end of Beetle Bailey.

Well, for hundreds of thousands of generations, millions of years, these beetles were mixing up hydrogen peroxide and hydroquinone and blowing themselves up. Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! For thousands of generations.

Then, for some strange reason, one of them invents the inhibitor.

have a storage chamber too. Let's assume that somehow it did. He has it, and he mixes his chemicals and what do they do? Nothing. The mixture just sits there and corrodes his innards. This also continues for thousands of generations, millions of years.

Now, he did not need an anti-inhibitor until he had an inhibitor. And he didn't need the inhibitor until he had the chemicals. But, let's assume that one of these little beetles invents an anti-inhibitor. Tremendous evolutionary triumph? No. Completely fatal. You see, all he's got is the storage chambers. He mixes up the chemicals, adds the inhibitor, then the anti-inhibitor - and Boom! Gone again! So, Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! For thousands of generations, millions of years, he blew himself up yet again.

You see, he must have combustion chambers. But he doesn't need the combustion chambers until he's got the two chemicals, the inhibitor and the anti-inhibitor. So, why would he invent the combustion chambers, except by hindsight?

Well, somehow, for some reason, it finally came about, let us

He's got to have the communication network. He's got to know when he's threatened. He's got to know who is an enemy and who is not. And he's got to have everything complete from the start. Complete from the start.

Such a complex and interdependent defence system could not possibly have evolved in the bombardier beetle. It is plain that this creature could not have designed or created its own organs or systems and that random genetic copying errors (i.e. evolution) could not possibly have created it. Just by being, this little beetle demands a Creator.

Perhaps the theory for evolution that you may have seen, be it from the media, museums, or even universities and schools, isn't quite so 'scientific' as it is claimed to be. Perhaps there is another theory, most often ridiculed, which is in fact based more on our scientific knowledge that you might think. Is it time to change your thinking?

Wes Hinsley

"I still think, to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favour of special creation."
(Professor E.J.H. Corner, Cambridge University)

"I really do think that people have been so brain-washed into believing that evolution is a proven fact rather than one possible interpretation of the facts (which is a very different matter), that they are extremely surprised to find a practising scientist who at least appears to be intelligent espousing the cause of the Biblical account."

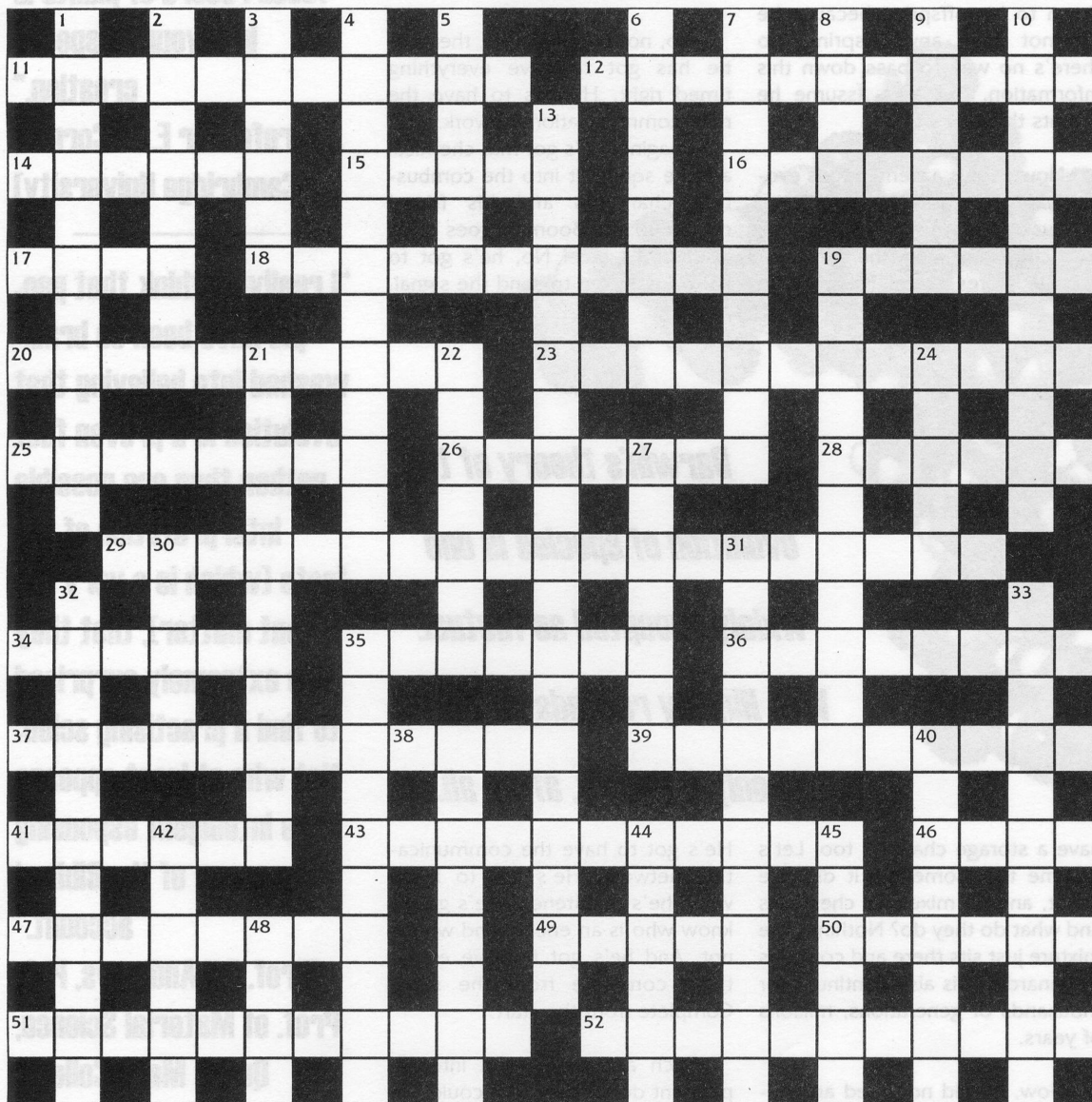
(Prof. E.H. Andrews, PhD, Prof. of Material Science, Queen Mary College, London University)

"(Evolution is) a theory universally accepted, not because it can be proved by logical, coherent evidence, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible."
(D.H. Watson, biologist, joint discoverer of the double-helix structure of DNA).



Jumbo Christmas Cryptic

By Ed



ACROSS

- 11 Label on the writing instrument? It runs the army! (3,8)
12 Novel time vigil (3,5,3)
14 He met rain in a rupture (6)
15 A Southern area of London is not straight (5)
16 Our Ed, without a science degree, is hidden (8)
17 Letter reveals Ben mixed tea (4)
18 A god, with right grip, controls pet (1,3,7)
19 Picture drawn with soft colour (6)
20 Omit banter about plant (10)
23 To make unable eat tic in a cap, perhaps (12)
25 Al likes fresh cod left outdoors (8)
26 Road has elevated manner (7)
28 Ice and rot can give sexual desire?! (6)
29 Faking pose, perhaps after Ian, means it is less forceful (2,1,6,2,8)

- 34 Paint messy meal in French (6)
35 With first two bloodworms in me, Trevor left in fear (7)
36 Sounds a bit like underdog has the final piece (8)
37 Puppet is an uninteresting character (6,6)
39 Her most is ten, around the lowest! (10)
41 PS Eastern yacht reduced in spirit (6)
43 Secretary has low quality charges, but holds attractions (11)
46 Dress is Gordon's own (4)
47 Tim turns around by one door and is less important (8)
49 Vary nothing to make eggs! (5)
50 Birds are afraid (6)
51 Lame suction, perhaps, but it gives a sound! (7,4)
52 Sling forty-nine and one into a troubled submission (11)

DOWN

- 1 Dairy product spins snacks (6,5)
2 Exposed company is mine (8)
3 Ana and Karen left in Turkey (6)
4 Chap concerned with urban social life (3-5-4)
5 A catch with Harry could mean damp smoke! (6)
6 Concerning civil state (8)
7 Top gray physicist left troubled by layout (10)
8 They are trees, as agreed (4)
9 Produces subjects (6)
10 Mess up manic retake to be sure (4,7)
13 Comb one country after a successful top blend (1,7,11)
19 Compact wound (11)
21 Embers distort spear into a likeness (11)
22 Halt before French summer does a runner (7)
24 Norse god has Northern plant (5)
27 Film genre with a direction (7)

- 30 French name, after Christ, for wanderer (5)
31 Cry 'eel is lost', possibly in separate liquid (12)
32 United Nations trick us 'cos I messed up while asleep (11)
33 Cat will express pain concerning tree (5,6)
35 Saint back to regard man for therapies (10)
38 Out of four movements my first smile is almost phoney! (8)
40 Fighter talks loudly to those on the move (8)
42 Twice is Catholic in great danger (6)
44 Cut pea badly for vessel (6)
45 Intense quintet hide decoration (6)
48 A pitcher that is slightly open (4)

BE A PUZZLER

Volunteers needed to produce crosswords and other puzzles for publication in Felix. Your chance to amuse and frustrate the entire college! Call us on 58072, email felix@ic.ac.uk or just bring something into the office.

ANSWERS TO 1101

Across: 3 Away, 4 Skids, 7 Nerves, 10 Sorcerers, 11 Enui, 12 Glitterati, 15 Amyl, 16 Lo, 19 Oscar, 21 Gin, 23 Set, 24 Mitre, 25 Or, 27 Site, 28 In As Much As, 33 Inert, 34 Sunstroke, 35 Unison, 36 Elite, 37 Dias

Down: 1 Angel, 2 Transmits, 3 As, 5 Karma, 6 Derail, 8 Epiglottis, 9 Ache, 10 Ski, 13 Tarot, 14 Regression, 17 Opal, 18 Logo, 20 Cymru, 22 Northeast, 26 Ritual, 29 Asset, 30 Mire, 31 Hoe, 32 Atone, 35 Us

Mystery Prize to be won

First correct entry drawn out of the box on at the beginning of next term morning wins a great prize. Drop entries into Felix or send them in internal mail. Last week's winner was Erik Parker of Maths II. Your prize awaits.



"I can't get no sleep."

**Methought I heard a voice cry,
"Sleep no more."
(William Shakespeare.)**

Recently I've had a bit of trouble getting to sleep. This isn't to be taken too lightly. Sleep is probably the most important operation that we as humans have to perform. It is essential to our being. Some even say that it is actually our *raison d'être*. When I was younger, I lived in Glasgow and had what can only be described as an utter nutter for a doctor. He said that sleep was everyone's natural state and when we woke up, all we do is prepare for sleep: Food helps us sustain our sleep. Ablutions are carried out so as not to disrupt sleep. Even the acquisition of knowledge is just the collection of materials for dreams to be made out of. This is obviously rubbish (or is it?) but it would be unwise to underestimate the tremendous power of sleep. In a way you could say it's like sex; it's taken for granted until it is absent!

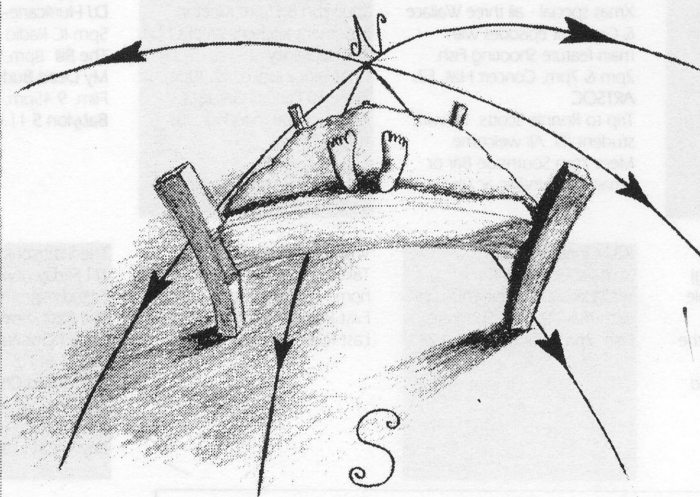
I used to think an insomniac was someone who never slept at all! It was someone who'd been magically blessed, or even cursed, with a lifetime of consciousness. In fact, insomnia is a very broad term and is simply defined as "to experience difficulties with the process of sleep." There are three different types. Type A: Difficulty in going to sleep. Type B: Disturbed sleep. Type C: Early morning arousal. This last type may sound like

"In a way you could say it's like sex; it's taken for granted until it is absent."

fun but believe me, it's not what you think! I'm a Type A myself. Sometimes when it comes to the time when I should really think about going to sleep, I'm wide-awake. I end up just wasting time till the early hours of the morning: writing songs, reading books, watching amusing late night TV, sometimes I might even do a bit of work. 3am starts approaching and I start to feel tired and eventually I nod off.

Be-Beep! Be-Beep! Be-Beep! The alarm goes off at half-seven. I feel heavy-limbed and very tired. I struggle to keep my eyes open before lunchtime (although lectures may play a part in this factor) but by the afternoon I'm fine. And when it comes to around midnight I'm feeling quite

refreshed and awake when I know that I should be tired. The problem here is my biological clock and I have been told that all I have to do is force myself to go to sleep at the appropriate time. This appropriate time varies from individual to individual. On average we get about seven hours sleep when we would probably like eight or more. However, usually we only actually need about six and a half. This being the case, I should be forcing myself to sleep by one in the



morning. That's all very well but how do I do that? An uncle of mine always has a small glass of hot milk and whisky before he goes to bed and it seems to do the trick for him. Another solution comes from a nineteenth century doctor: "A very efficacious method of procuring sleep after lying awake for some time is to take in a small quantity of food, for example, a biscuit. This stimulates the digestive organs, draws the excessive blood from the brain into the abdomen and speedy sleep is the result." Also in the nineteenth century, it was believed that strong magnetic currents streamed between the two poles and by positioning the bed due north and south, you would receive the benefits of these charges through sleep. Charles Dickens was apparently a devotee of this theory.

In the end, though, the answer is whatever works for you. However, if you do have prob-

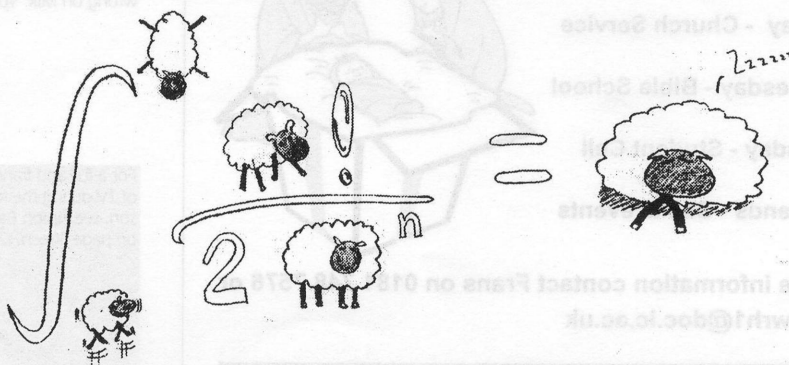
lems sleeping, there are plenty of general suggestions for a better night's sleep. You can control both your external and internal environment. For example, do you get to sleep quicker with a small light on or do you have to have total darkness? Does coffee make you drowsy or does it wake you up? You can control your mental state. Sometimes the source of sleepless nights is emotional stress (Or is it the other way round?) so offloading worries by writing them down before you go to bed is a very good idea. This is actually what I do now and I find that I can get to sleep much quicker when I haven't got anything on my mind. Try and get into a regular sleep pattern. I appreciate that this is impossible once the weekend arrives but good sleepers are regular sleepers who have their biological clocks running efficiently. Use your imagination. This is possibly the most powerful method of all. If you find yourself worrying about future difficulties and caught in a "vicious circle of thoughts" then try to remember a time when you were happy or the last time you found something hilariously funny. You will now be in a better state to relax and therefore sleep. Finally, if all else fails, bore yourself to sleep. We've all

heard of counting sheep but try recalling those mind-numbing integration rules. When your brain is given the choice of this or sleep, you'll find that it soon surrenders to the daily lapse of

"An uncle of mine always has a small glass of hot milk and whisky before he goes to bed and it seems to do the trick for him."

consciousness.

So. Sleep. It takes up about a third of our lives. It accompanies both the beginning and the end of our day. A relaxing night in the sack can sometimes mean the difference between a good and a bad day. Sleep is the drug that we are all dependent upon. Occasionally better than sex and definitely less tiring. Choose life? Choose sleep! Good night.



Words by Dennis.

Illustrations by Matt Wright.



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

Union Christmas Lunch
£3.25/£3.75 (with pudding)
Veggie option also available
XS
Pop & mainstream dance in
dB's. 9pm-1am (midnight bar)
Free B4 11/50p after

Union Christmas Lunch
£3.25/£3.75 (with pudding)
Veggie option also available
Cocktail Night
DaVinci's from 5pm

Union Christmas Lunch
£3.25/£3.75 (with pudding)
Veggie option also available
Christmas Carnival
Seasonal extravaganza in the
Union Building, 8pm-2am
Tickets £6/£5 with entcard

club & soc
events

Singapore Society
High Commissioner's Tea
Reception
Arte Room, 3.30pm

ICU Cinema
Xmas special - all three Wallace
& Grommit episodes with
main feature Shooting Fish.
2pm & 7pm, Concert Hall, £2.
ARTSOC
Trip to Ronnie Scotts. £8 with
student ID. All welcome.
Meet 7pm Southside Bar or
email a.parkin@ic.ac.uk.

ICU Cinema
Xmas special - all three
Wallace & Grommit episodes
with main feature Shooting
Fish. 7pm, Concert Hall, £2.

club & soc
regulars

Women's Minibus Service
First Run - Midnight,
Last Run - Closing Time.
Rifle & Pistol Club
Join and shoot 1pm-6pm
IC Chaplaincy
College communion, 12 noon
Chaplaincy, 10 Prince's Gardens.
Chess Club
Meeting, 7pm - 10.30 pm, Brown
Committee Room, Union level 3.

Community Action Group
Soup run 8.15pm Meet in
basement kitchen, Weeks Hall
IC Chaplaincy
Chaplaincy lunch, 12.30pm-
2pm, 10 Princes Gardens.
RAG General meeting, dBs
stage

Women's Minibus Service
Takes lone female students
home in safety all over London.
First Run - Midnight,
Last Run - Closing Time.

radio
& TV

Countdown 4.30pm, C4
Star Trek: The Next Gen
6pm, BBC2
Tomorrow's World
7pm, BBC1
Leopard: A Wildlife Special
8pm, BBC1
Ab Fab 9.30pm BBC1
The X Files 10.15pm BBC1
Beautiful Thing Film 10.30, C4

Scoopy Doo 3.50pm, ITV
DJ Hurricane-Live!
5pm IC Radio - 999 AM
The Bill 8pm, ITV
My Dead Buddy
Film, 9.45pm, C4
Babylon 5 11.05pm, C4.

The Simpsons 6pm, BBC2
TFI Friday 6pm, C4
Friends 9pm, C4
The Fast Show 9.30pm, BBC2
Have I Got News For You
10pm, BBC2
Father Ted Christmas Special
10.30pm C4. I see what you
mean, Ted.
Baywatch Late 3.20am, ITV

Gladiators 6.25, ITV
Rockmania 3.15am, ITV
Followed by the Chart Show.
Eddie Izzard 9pm, C4

The Making of Hercules
11.10pm, ITV
Jack Dee's Sunday Service
10pm, ITV
Safe
Film, 11.45pm.
Movie Watch
12.40am, C4

Ant & Dec's Jordie Christmas
5.50pm C4.
Equinox
The story of what went
wrong on MIR. 9pm, C4.

For a full and frank discussion
of TV during the festive sea-
son, see Simon Baker's feature
on page fifteen. Enjoy.

music

MIDLAND '97: Paul Weller
Battersea Power Station, £tbc.
The old man plays, sings and
manages to avoid the
Fashion Police again

Machine Head
Astoria, £10.
Tim Rose
12 Bar Club, £6.50.
MIDLAND '97: Paul Weller
Battersea Power Station,
£19.50.
Björn Again
Shepherds Bush Empire,
£13.50. (til 21st)

No-one interesting or obscure
enough to mention....

Cradle Of Filth
LA2, £8.50
MIDLAND '97 BOOTLEG
BLITZ: Bootleg Beatles,
T.Rextasy, U2our plus more
Battersea Power Station,
£12.50
Buzzcocks
Mean Fiddler, £12.

Buju Banton + Morgan
Heritage + Jahmali
Brixton Academy, £17.50.
Shakatak
Ronnie Scotts, £10.
MIDLAND '97: Wet Wet Wet
Battersea Power Station,
£22.50.

Indigo Subspace
Rock Garden, £5
Music Editors a-go-go!!!

Happy Christmas, everyone!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

HIS PEOPLE
STUDENT MINISTRIES

"For God so loved the world that He gave
His only Son, that whoever believes in Him
will not perish but have everlasting life"

See you in the new term.

We welcome anyone to any of our events
which are as follows:

- Sunday - Church Service
- Wednesday - Bible School
- Thursday - Student Cell
- Weekends - Social events



For more information contact Frans on 0181 748 7576 or
Wes on wrh1@doc.ic.ac.uk

wed 17

thr 18

fri 19

sat 20

sun 21

mon 22

tues 23



film

Tomorrow Never Dies
 UCI Whiteleys
 £6.60, £4.00 <5pm M-F,
 £4.00 <3pm Sa&Su
 12.40, 1.10, 3.25, 3.55, 6.10,
 8.55, 9.25

ma vie en rose
 Swiss Centre
 1.10, 3.00, 5.10, 7.00, 9.00

Under The Skin
 Metro
 (£4 students)
 2.00, 4.15, 6.30, 8.45

To be honest, we don't really know what's going to be on yet. But you're big and ugly enough to find out yourself. Or you could just watch televi-

arts

Mat Collishaw
 Until Dec 19, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm.
 Lisson, 52-54 Bell Street, NW1
 (0171 724 2739) Edgware Road tube. Free

Turner Prize Exhibition
 Go and see that sixty minute silence.
 Tate Gallery, Millbank.
 Tube: Piccadilly. £1.50
 Also, the Tate permanent collection, an excellent modern collection. Free.

Victorian Fairy Painting
 It's all about sex, trust me, I know.
 Royal Academy, Piccadilly, daily until Feb 8.
 £4.50 students.

Objects of Desire
 A roundup of the century's best still life.
 Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre. Tube: Waterloo.
 Open daily 10am - 6pm.
 Price: £5, £3.50 students.

Mat Collishaw
 Very difficult to say what this exhibition is about, but it is amusing, in-your-face and worth seeing.
 Lisson Gallery, 52 Bell St, NW1. Tube Edgware. Open 10am - 5pm Mon - Sat. Ends 19 December.

Bruce Webber
 An enormous mish-mash of glamour photography spanning years. Excellent.
 National Portrait Gallery, St Martins Place, WC2. Tube: Charing Cross. Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm. £5, £4 students.
 Also showing: the John Kobal Photographic Awards.

RIBA Architectural Awards
 66 Portland Place, W1. Tube: Oxford Circus. 8am - 6pm. Free. Plus a chance to stock up your collection of BJA back copies from their excellent book shop.

clubbing

Swerve @ Velvet Rooms
 Charring Cross Rd, WC2
 Upfront D&B, Resident Fabio £6 / £4 student
 10pm-2.30am Info: 0171 734 4687

Global Rhythm @ Mars
 Sutton Rd. W1. House 'n' Garage. £6. 10pm-2am Info: 0171 439 4655

Ultimate B.A.S.E@ Velvet Rooms
 Charring Cross Rd. WC2
 Hard House 'n' Funky Techno. £6. 10pm-2am Info: 0171 734 4687

Rude @ Chinnerys
 Southend-on-Sea, Marine Parade. A Night of Underground House 'n' Garage £3 b4 11pm £4 after, £1.50 a bottle. 9pm-2am. Info: 01268 757069
Various Breakbeat nights@ Bar Rumba W1
 £5 b4 11pm, £8 after 9pm-4am. Info 0171 287 6933

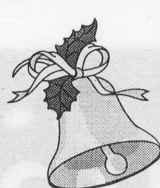
Jackpot Christmas Party @ Subterania Ladbroke Grove, W10. Progressive House. £10 b4 12pm £12 after. 10pm-3am Info 0181 960 4590
Strawberry Sundae @ The Coliseum. 9 Elms Lane, SW8 Underground House & UK Garage. £10 b4 11pm £15, £10 students. 10pm-6am. Info: 171 735 5590

Sunflowers@ Aquanum Old Street
 House & Back to 93/94 (pool & jacuzzi). Free b4 10am £5 nus/ £7. 9am-6pm Info: 0171 7299779
Earth Tribe @ Fridge Bar Town Hall Parade, Brixton. SW2 Drum 'n' Bass. Free all night. 8pm-12.30am Info: 0171 326 5100

CHRISTMAS EVE HOT TIP
 24th December

Sex Wax @ Fridge Bar
 Town Hall Parade, Brixton Underground Garage, Happy Jaxx & Rampin' Richard. Free All Night 9pm-2am Info: 0171 326 5100.

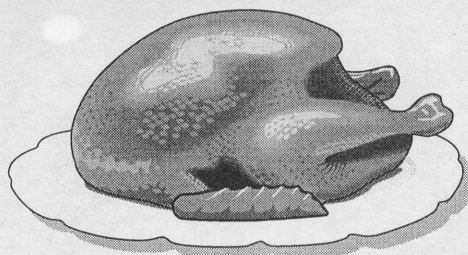
NEW YEAR'S EVE HOT TIP
Essential @ The Palace. Alexandra Palace. Tube: Wood Green. 3 Arenas, Covering Big Beat, Drum 'n' Bass and everything else Black Grape, Chemical Brothers, Adam F, Roni Size, Herbalizer, LTJ Bukem and to many more. £39. 8pm-6am Info: 0891 230 190



Pa Vinci's
 Café-bar



GET STUFFED !



WEDS 16TH - FRI 19TH

**ROAST TURKEY
 CHRISTMAS DINNER**

£3.25/£3.75 (with dessert)

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

**Curries from dBs only
 on these dates**

ICUF
 Friday December 19th

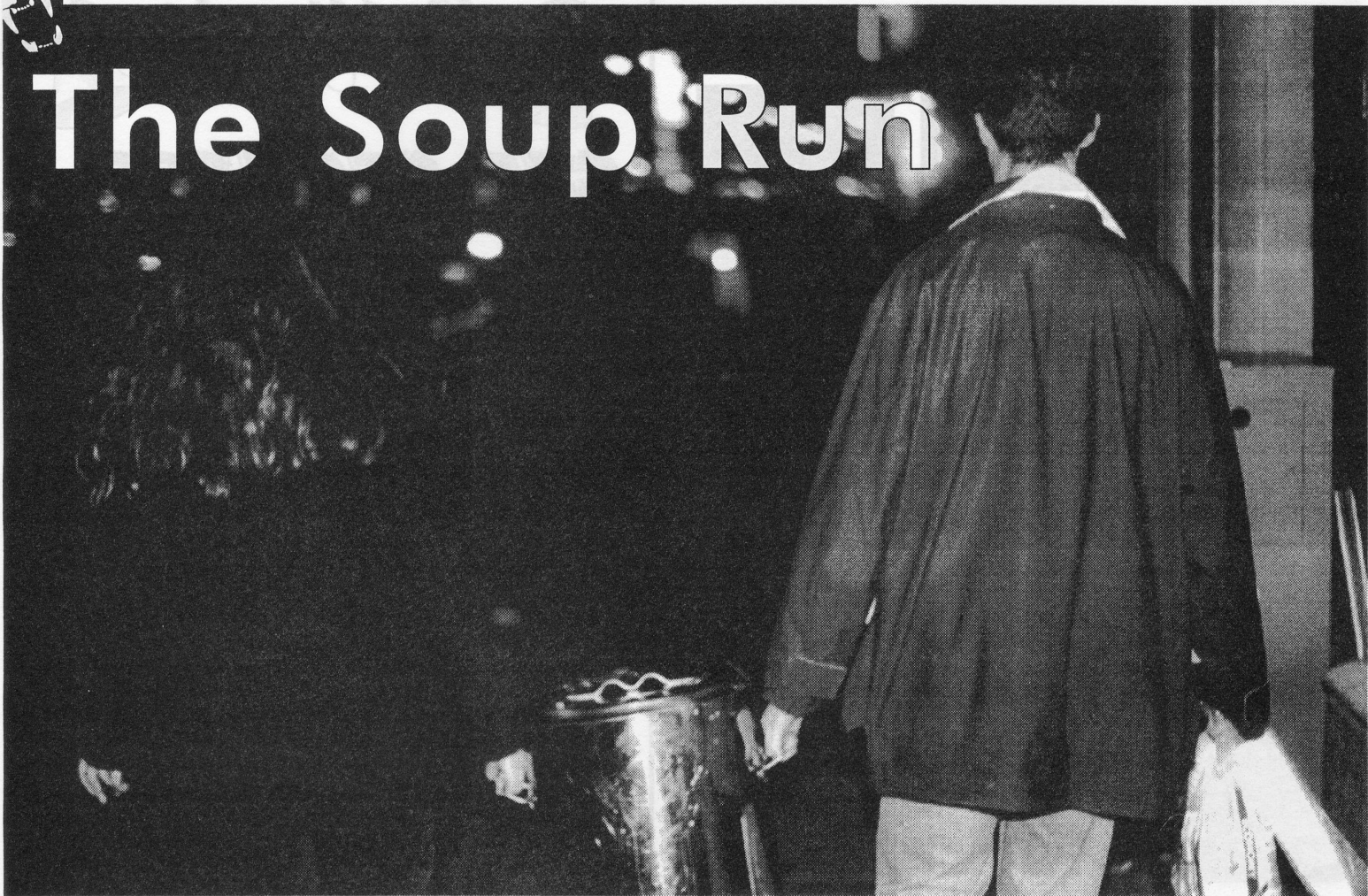
**CHRISTMAS
 CARNIVAL**
 FRI DECEMBER 19TH

**Your Country
 expects.....
 so dress the
 part - prizes for
 the best Bonds
 & Bond Girls**

Shaken not stirred



The Soup Run



It is a fact that the law courts, the fine temples of justice, are adjacent to the food distribution point for the homeless.

Whilst barristers clad in wig and gown and debate through the evening, a collection of shabby vans gather outside to hand out food. A small group congregates under the street lamps, some sipping hot chocolate, while others making jokes about students. Somewhere in the distance the siren of a police car can be heard, suddenly a taxi pulls round the corner, then flashes past into the night. This is another evening and another soup run.

The IC soup run is poorly named, as it involves neither soup nor physical exertion. Rather volunteers gather each Tuesday and Thursday evening, in the laundry of Weeks Hall to prepare tea, hot chocolate and sandwiches. Most weeks a mini-bus transports the volunteers, urns and sandwiches into central London; although on occasions no drivers can be found, so the pilgrimage is made on the tube.

The first stop is Lincoln's Inn Fields, which is known for the law courts and the headquarters of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. However it is known amongst the homeless community as a food distribution point, where various charitable ventures hand out their cargo. The people who assemble there are from many walks of life. Some are on shore leave from their ship, others looking for work in London, most will be sleep-

ing on the street. Generally it is easy to strike up conversation, lamenting the weather or mocking the excuse of a van we travel in. Some folk prefer to remain silent, others are vocal. Whilst the barristers attempt to sway the jury, the gathering outside mumbles on.



Subsequently the party moves on to the Strand, where people are preparing their blankets and some already curled up for warmth. The urn of hot chocolate is carried up and down the length of the street, together with the remaining food. The IC group is known by a number of the people on the Strand and greetings exchanged. An encounter with an old acquaintance brings good news; he is now housed in Camberwell, as opposed to a theatre doorway. He still sells the Big Issue, but his clean-shaven appearance and new shoes say it all. Then there is the old boy from Imperial College, sitting on a pile of empty bread crates. Each week he politely enquires which college we are from; Royal College of Science, City & Guilds or Royal School of Mines. Each week we tell him and then he proceeds to tell us of his time as an engineering lecturer. He is deaf on account of an aircraft accident in the Second

World War and at some point his house was confiscated through some incident with the communists. Nobody is sure why.

The Strand is witness to every aspect of life. The diners from Simpsons mingle with the audience for 'Chicago', the Savoy welcomes new guests in limousines, via their rear entrance. The neighboring Shell-Mex building accommodates a few dozen people under the supporting arches. Very occasionally a cynic questions our presence, claiming that we know nothing about the streets and are engaging in self-gratification. Whilst it is true that few of us have any comprehension of the hardships on the street, our modest offerings are appreciated by the majority and hence the activity is worthwhile. Whether the activity is self-gratifying or not, is a personal issue for each volunteer.

Around 11pm the bus returns to Weeks hall and the volunteers disperse.

The soup run begins at 8.15pm in the Weeks hall basement, every Tuesday and Thursday during term time. There are other projects run by ICU Community Action Group. For information on these and the next soup run, view our home page at www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubsocs/.

The soup run needs blankets during the winter. If you have spare ones please email us, community.action@ic.ac.uk



Fast Cars, Women and Fighting Mud

Halloween Rally Report

In the early hours of the 6th December, the country lanes around Hatfield and Stevenage echoed to the sounds raw exhaust notes as the C&G Motorclub 'Halloween Rally' took place. The best attended rally in over a year and a half was also the most disastrous.

Of the six entrants, two had accidents. Myself and Brian Aldred left the flew off the road and dropped 4 foot into a ploughed field. We escaped with minimal damage to the car. Nick Collett and Justin Folet fared less well, taking out paving, concrete posts, a fence and damaging a tree before parking their MR2 across a ditch. A lifting truck was called in to extricate them.

The rally was stopped at half way, and Hilary and Austin Jones were declared winners. Once again

the winning formula was a slow car, a female driver and competent navigation. Big cars and big boys it seems, make for big trouble. In an event in which the principal challenge is navigation, treating the night as an all out rally does not pay. Still, we all need to learn, don't we? And all who had accidents are treating it as a growing experience.

The next twelve-car rally seems likely to be set on 6 February 1998, around the same area. This rally will be notable as it signals a new era in the C&G Motorclub, as we join forces with other clubs around the south east to make for a fuller entry list. Anyone interested in doing 12 Car Rallies should mail motor-club@ic.ac.uk or pop into the C&G Union Office in Rm 340.

Wing Chun

Way of the Charitable Fist

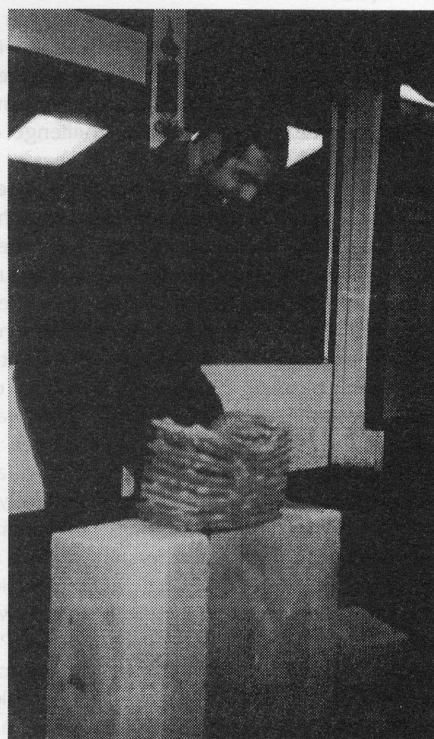
On 30 of November, in the Great Hall, the Wing Chun Academy put on a charity show entitled "Hazardous Encounters".

The performance began with our teacher, Sifli Andrew, going against 5 of the senior instructors. After being sent hurtling in various directions across the stage, each in turn attacked Andrew with a real knife, a broken bottle, and, more dangerously, a baseball bat. The assailants were all of course "disarmed" and "neutralized",

compliments **"Tiles don't hit back" said Mr Lee. But they're still bloody hard.**

Andrew will take part in the "Wing Chun Spice Girls", Jay and Judith entered. Both had to cope with the knife attacks of Stephen. If anyone was wondering why he was wearing all the padding, our Spice Women made it abundantly clear. One can only hope that no mugger is unfortunate enough to fall upon either of these two lethal ladies... After breaking tiles and free fighting on the Wing Chun round table, Andrew starred in the Grand Finale. Currently the holder of the world record for the number of times the wooden man has been struck in

two minutes, Andrew performed on the wooden man to the music of Riverdance. Andrew has been teaching at IC for 11 years, during which he has put together many shows and charity events. This show was probably one of the most spontaneous, with only 8 days of training beforehand. It attracted over 160 people, most of whom were friends and family of students in the academy, and £830 was raised on the night. MI proceeds went directly to Whizz-Kidz, a charity for non-mobile children. On the 13th of



February, Andrew will take part in the Whizz-Kidz

Himalayan Challenge, raising money for disabled children by trekking through the Himalayas. He has already pledged to raise £3,000, which is the cost of an electric wheelchair. If you are interested in helping out with the charity, or in joining the Wing Chun Academy, please feel welcome to come join us at training on Wednesdays at 1:30, and Fridays at 5:00 in the Union Gym.

Rugby

C&G v RCSRFC

Sparkes Cup

As predicted, we stuffed them. Yet again the charging rhino of C&G bulldozed their way to victory. But, to be fair to the scientists, they put up a great fight and the game was played in an admirable spirit. Dave 'Jabba the Hut' Partridge showed that despite his bulk he can in fact be mobile and handling the ball isn't that difficult after all. Tries were scored by Nipples, Lionel, Jimbob and Chris 'who?' Dickinson converted one of them. A fine result. RCS may improve further next year but I'm sure we can handle them. Thanks to all who turned up and please turn out next Wednesday for a game. Sparkes Cup here we come.

C&G 17 - 0 RCS

Hockey

ICHC III v UCH I

Picture the scene. Early afternoon on the plains of the Serengeti. The sun beats down as naive, carefree "UCH" gazelles graze, unaware of their grizzly fate awaiting them. But what's this? Across the horizon come the pride of the ICU Hockey Club 3rd team. Initially the wary gazelles got a whiff of our scent (especially Skank's socks) and scored the first point in the encounter by running for the nearest watering hole.

The brave lions switched tactics and attacked downwind as a whole we pounced.

Our first goal went straight for the jugular. Our second stripped them of any skin and the 3rd one ripped their hearts out.

ICHC III 4 - 2 UCH I

Jiu Jitsu Japes

The recently formed Imperial College Jiu Jitsu Club entered its first competition last weekend with some success. Sensei Nicola Brown took a team of three competitors of varying grade to the two day national event held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, where they won a bronze and a silver medal.

These were the first awards

gained by the club which was formed only at the beginning of this term and accordingly are considered quite an achievement.

The club training times are Thursday 7.30 to 9.30pm and Sunday 4 to 6.30pm in the Union gym. For further info e-mail Matthew.Gibbin@ic.ac.uk.



ICAFC brings about world peace

Editorial

ICAFC V v RFH II

IC Fiftths are a match for any team when they are playing at their best, and today we were superb. IC had 5 corners in the first few minutes but miserably failed to do anything with them. Then, halfway through the first half, IC won a free kick, and pushed forward. The free kick was taken and went straight to RFH, who put it forward to their attacker. With most of IC's defence up for the free kick, the attacker swept up the pitch, shimmed round our keeper and put the ball in the back of the net. The second half began with IC pushing forward, and Simon ran himself ragged and proved to be an inspiration to the rest of the team. Rapidly, IC's hard work culminated in a goalmouth scramble where Andy Mackey scored his first goal. With the teams level, the pace was stepped up again. Credit must go to the defence for stopping the RFH attackers in their tracks. When Simon picked up a cross and powered it into RFH's net, IC knew they could win this match. RFH's lack of discipline showed through with their frustration at the solid defence and midfield and they were gutted when the Referee blew the final whistle.

ICAFC V 2 - 1 RFH II

ICAFC II v St Bart's I

The last game of 1997, and defender Jesse's last game ever for IC as he turns his back on the grey of South Kensington for the grey of Seattle. It was obvious from the start that Bart's were compact and had the commitment to go in hard for every challenge - this was not going to be easy. With honours even from the early exchanges, the balance of the match was tipped in our favour as a superb corner was nearly headed through the net by top scorer Pistol Pete. The game was hard but dominated by an IC team that looked, to the amazement of everyone, organized and in control. There was little of the usual panic under pressure that has been our downfall thus far. Jag fitted in seamlessly and tackled with bite. The central defensive partnership of Rob and Loz was strong, at left-back "Big" Jesse magnificent in his swansong game. In the second half Pistol Pete and Martin continued to cause problems and Patrick looked at home in the centre of the park. Si D was booked for the first time in his career. There were a few scares toward the end but yet again we were rescued by the lightning reactions of keeper Chris Barlow. The match was sealed three minutes from the end by debutant Simon.

Good luck Jesse!

ICAFC II 2 - 0 St Bart's I

ICAFC IV v UCH II

It was a superb performance which gave the Fourths another victory. We are playing like the Accrington Stanley team of 1891, adopting the revolutionary 4-4-2 system. From the offset we used our Alpine downhill skills to bombard their defence and it wasn't long before Dazzler netted his first. Nice ball from Perez. Another one of boring Darren's one on ones put us two up. Then Perez scored a tap in from 25 yards. Special mention should go to the defence- Andy Swift, strong but delicate with his balls spreading 'em wide, and Elliot who played despite a bad case of VD. Everyone was a lot stronger than their opponents and we out-battled them all, despite their spoiling tactics. They scored a good goal before half-time, but that only improved our resolve. Dave was nearly sent off, but managed to escape with a booking. We scored one last goal to make the last ten minutes a formality, Paul to Darren to Ryan and back to Darren... GOAL and a hat-trick to Daz. Splendid.

4 IC IV v 1 UCH II

So, cats and kittens, another term of gorgeousness from the demigods that are the IC sportsmen and women. It is not without regret that I have to inform you that as of next term there will be an as-yet unknown new sport-editor. I have finally bowed to the pressures of work and the desire to spend my Wednesday evenings in Southside mesmerized by alcohol and pretty Welsh girls. Jake has finally renounced the use of his legs and has expressed a desire to spend the rest of eternity in a fantasy world centred around the cosy womb-substitute of his bed.

The good news is that the opportunity is there for a youthful and ambitious newcomer to Felix to take up the sport-editor's baton and put in their leg in the great journalistic re-ly. In the words of Camelot "How big can our bonuses possibly be?" [Shurely "It could be you?" - Jake]. No special talents are needed (although a love of poor quality puns is an advantage) and full training will be given on the DTP package used and you may even be made the odd cup of coffee/tea by the esteemed editor. This is a chance to give something back to the college and to shamelessly plug your favourite sport to the detriment of all others. Anyone at all interested should come into the Felix office (it's in Beit Quad - follow the sign) and say "I am interested in being sports editor" and you will be showered with adulation and applause.

Merry Christmas each and every one of you. Free Nelson Mandela!

Si and Jake.

Gun Fun

Saturday saw the Rifle and Pistol Club take its first visit to the great outdoors for rifle shooting on the Siberia Ranges at Bisley. Our mission: target rifle shooting at 200yds and "classic" service rifles at 100 yds.

Everyone had the opportunity to try out different rifles of various vintages ranging from a .577" 1858 Naval pattern Enfield muzzle loading percussion rifle to a modern 7.62mm aperture sighted target rifle. The afternoon saw the competitive element of the day take on a festive flavour with some Snap Shooting and a Turkey Shoot. The Snap Shooting is done with the classic service rifles and consisted

of 5 exposures. Top scorers were Jacob Thorne and Dan Carr. The Turkey Shoot consisted of 3 shots at a paper turkey. Best score was posted by John McCartney and Simon Parton. The aggregate best score was by Dan Carr. Thanks must go to Andrew Eldridge for his unselfish efforts in coaching, and to Nick for those boiled sweets but unconvincing chat up line.

The last Wednesday of term will see a novelty shoot for both rifle and bow in the range, so drop in and give it a go.

ARE YOUR TEAM'S
RESULTS AND
REPORTS HERE?

If not, why
not?

Hand in or email your reports
(felix@ic.ac.uk) as soon as you
can after the match for instant
fame!

Results

Hockey

RSM Ladies 6 - 0 King's 3rds
IC 3rds 4 - 2 UCH 1sts

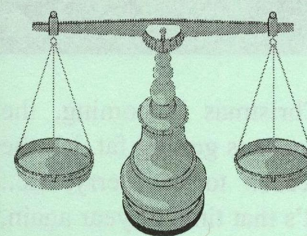
Football

IC 2nds 2 - 1 QMW 3rds
IC 2nds 2 - 0 St Bart's 1sts

Rugby

C&G 17 - 0 RCS

ICU WELFARE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCING THE WELFARE COMMITTEE

Hands up everyone who knew we existed.

Well, if you didn't know that there is a Union Welfare Committee, you do now.

The committee consists of the Welfare-related Union Officers, representatives from each of the Constituent College Unions, the Union Adviser, and the Sabbs.

We're the people in the Union who are here specifically to try to ensure you make it through your degree alive and intact (that's why I thought you might like to know of our existence).

Watch out for Welfare Week next term, and "Check Your Bits Day" on February 14th... and I hope you're all still wearing your red ribbons from World Aids Day.

We are contactable via the Student Union Office / Constituent College Unions, so if you want to speak to any of us - come find us!

We are :

Anne Ovens
ICU Welfare Officer

Hannah Pearson
ICU Equal Opportunities Officer

Lucy Jane Davis
ICU Women's Officer
(and RPMS Welfare rep)

Lloyd Kilford
ICU Accommodation Officer

Selina Viganaya-Pavan
C&G Welfare rep.

Sally Fisher
RSM Welfare rep.

Rufina Emo
RCS Welfare rep.

Tamsin,
Oliver Warren
St Mary's Welfare reps
Tasha Newton
St Mary's
Accommodation rep.

Ruth Enskat
Joe
Caroline
Charing Cross Welfare
reps

FANCY AN ALL-NIGHTER ?

Ever spent the night with 49 other people at the same time?

If this has been a bit of a fantasy of yours, or if you just like the sound of it, we've got the perfect excuse.

Join us in raising money for **Shelter** (the National Campaign for Homeless People), and highlighting the plight of the homeless, in the sponsored "Sleep"-in on **Saturday 7th February 1998** (Saturday before Accommodation Week). If you're serious about getting involved, sign up in the ICU Clubs and Societies Resource Centre, and get all your friends to sponsor you to stay awake all night (only blankets for comfort and no Pro-Plus allowed!) for a good cause.

There are only 50 places available (due to physical space restrictions), so please, only sign up if you're going to go through with it.

WELFARE/ ACCOMMODATION WEEK

MONDAY 9TH TO FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 1998

By Tasha Newton.

The theme this year (with no reference to any "complete farce" in particular) is accommodation. Some of the things to look out for during the week include : A Welfare-themed Tuesday night Quiz.

Exhibitions across the 4 main campuses.

Recommended Lists for Letting Agents (not that any could be bad !!)

The IC guide to London Rent Prices

Information about other areas of Welfare, from your friendly Welfare Committee.

And your chance to win £50 in our **HOUSE OF HORROR** competition...

We need your worst stories about places you've lived in during your time at Uni. In Halls, flats or houses... grumpy landlords, 'roach infestations ceiling collapse... any true stories past or current are submissible. We'd love to display photos if you have them, too. Entries can be submitted any time between now and **Weds. 4th February**.

Please send your entries to the Welfare Committee c/o Imperial College Union Office.

THE DEMON DRINK

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, it's the season to be merry, etc.. It's that time of year again, when there are lots of parties to go to, lots of drinks to be drunk, and a lot of people get very merry. Unfortunately lots of people, especially at this time of year, get too merry. Drunk-driving incidents always peak around Christmas - no big surprise why. OK, so a lot of students don't get the opportunity to drive, so it doesn't matter if they're getting more drunk, (and more often) than usual.

Or does it? Christmas-time is a great excuse to go out and get beered-up, but how often does anyone think about the consequences?

OK, I know most of you think you've heard it all before, but in the hope of making some of you think, here goes again...

Drinking alcohol is a fun thing to do and if you choose not to drink too much you should be safe, and have a good time (unless you get hurt by someone else who has been drinking too much). But what happens if you do drink too much? It isn't really much of a surprise that young people often have their early (and later!!) sexual experiences when under the influence of alcohol, nor that a lot of pregnancies in young people occur as a result of having unprotected sex whilst drunk. How many young people wake up in their first police cell with a hangover? It's also really important not to mix drink-

ing with other legal or illegal drugs.

If you mix alcohol with other depressant drugs you risk falling into a coma. Fun. If you are then sick in your sleep you can choke on your own vomit and die of asphyxiation. Even more fun. No, really.

Some other fun facts about alcohol that you may or may not know, but probably don't really think about :

-Alcohol reaches the BRAIN within 5 minutes of being swallowed.

-Alcohol is a DEPRESSED drug that slows down the activity of the brain - you only THINK that you can study better after a drink - it's an illusion.

- Eating before drinking slows down the rate at which alcohol has its effects.

- Fizzy drinks increase the speed at which alcohol is absorbed into the body.

-Alcohol affects women more quickly than it does men, and the effects last longer, so don't go trying to compete with the lads, girls. It's not sensible, and you'll probably regret it - especially if you wake up to find a particularly dodgy specimen in your bed!

- The lighter your body weight the greater the effects of alcohol (part of the reason why it affects women more - the rest is due to percentage of water in the body - men have a greater percentage which dilutes the alcohol more).

- There is no safe limit for drinking and driving. Even at the legal limit, young drivers are five times more likely to have

an accident than non-drinkers.

- Alcohol affects our sense of right or wrong BEFORE it affects our co-ordination - think about that police cell, or that moose you pulled when you were off your face last weekend.

- 18-24 year olds are the heaviest drinkers in the population.

- men who drink regularly at unsafe levels risk impotence and infertility. (Although that might be a good thing in some cases!)

- People often say that alcohol makes them feel sexy - members of the opposite sex may disagree.

- Alcohol is loaded with calories so it can make you FAT. How sexy do you feel with that huge beer-belly?

- People who drink too much in an evening may still be over the legal limit for driving the next morning.

- It takes the liver one hour to break down one unit of alcohol.

- There are 2 'cures' for hangovers:

1. TIME
2. Don't drink enough to have one in the first place

A short quiz to help you decide if your drinking is becoming a problem

1. Do you drink because you have problems? or to face up to a stressful situation?
2. Do you drink when you get mad at other people, your friends or parents?
3. Do you often prefer to drink alone, rather than with others?
4. Are you starting to get low marks? Are you

skiving off college?

5. Do you ever try to stop drinking, or drink less and fail?

6. Have you begun to drink in the morning before college?

7. Do you gulp down your drinks as if to satisfy a great thirst?

8. Do you ever have black-outs, or periods of time you cannot account for when drinking?

9. Do you avoid being honest with others about your drinking?

10. Do you ever get into trouble when you are drinking?

11. Do you often get drunk when you drink, even if you don't mean to?

12. Do you think it admirable to be able to hold your drink?

Your answers to these questions are your own business, but if you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, maybe it's time you took a serious look at what drink might be doing to you.

Think about it - it's easy to dismiss the effects of alcohol by putting it in the "it'll never happen to me" category. But think about that accident in the lab after lunchtime drinking (or the test you didn't do so well in), the lectures missed, exams failed, relationships broken and arguments caused by the so-called "sociability" of alcohol.

OK, lecture over now - Have a Merry Christmas everyone, enjoy yourselves, but try and be sensible.

FEEL YOURSELF

BOYS...

I'm worried about your Balls.

No, seriously. I am. When was the last time you checked your testicles?

No - not to see if they are still there, but to check for early warning signs of tumours. Indeed, it may be a relevant question to ask - have you ever checked yourself?

You should. men of your age (from 16 to 35 years old) are in the group at highest risk of having testicular cancer - and it's a killer.

GIRLS...

I haven't forgotten you... Therefore, don't forget yourselves. you need to remember (or start) to check your breasts regularly. You also need the advice of a health-care professional to organise cervical smear tests for yourselves. We all know it's not fun, but it's better than dying of a potentially curable disease.

If you don't know how - find out. Don't wait 'till it's too late. It could kill you.

Get in touch with the Health Centre, or your G.P. By Lucy Jane Davis, ICU Women's Officer

Nursery subvention

There is a means-tested subvention available to student's who have a child at the Imperial College Day nursery.

To apply, please obtain a form from **Tony Cullen, Student Finance Office, Sherfield 334**. (The subvention can not be put towards alternative child-care costs).

Renewing your Visa

International students must obtain and complete an application form FLR(S) ***before*** their current leave to remain expires if they need to extend their student visas.

The completed form, along with the required documentation should be posted or taken in person to the Home Office in Croydon. The Home Office have a new faster postal system in operation which is intended to deal with 'straightforward' applications within two weeks. Writing-up students who are no longer registered should use a form FLR(O), and extend as a visitor. Application forms and further information is available from the Union Adviser.

International students and part-time working

Students from outside the EEA (student visa holders) must obtain permission from a jobcentre/department of employment office before undertaking any paid or unpaid work. The Jobcentre will expect the job to have been advertised either (possibly in the jobcentre itself) before they will consider your application. They can only give permission if they are satisfied that there are no people in the local labour market who would be likely to take the job if offered to them. There are exceptions for post-graduate students who wish to do teaching or demonstration work up to a maximum of 6 hours per week.

GAS SAFETY

Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal. If you have gas appliances in your accommodation, your landlord is legally required to obtain a gas safety certificate. If you have any reason to suspect that your appliances are unsafe, you must get them inspected as soon as possible.

If your landlord refuses to arrange this, your local Environmental health officer may be able to make her/him. For further information, contact the Health and Safety Executive gas safety line on **0800 300 363**. Leaflets are available in the Union reception.

SHOPPING WARNING

Beware of bogus 'Auctions' held in shops promising high value electrical goods at extremely cheap prices (these usually spring up on Oxford Street). What usually happens is that the auctioneer quickly "auctions" a variety of valuable goods but also sells some cheaper items in between.

Usually, the buyer hands over his money to be given a black bin liner containing the cheaper item. Attempts to get money refunded are either ignored or can lead to threats of violence. Also beware of street sellers (again, commonly on Oxford and Regent Street) selling cheap "stolen" gold chains, cheap perfume, videos or CDs. All are almost certain to be fake. If I may roll out the old cliché... if something appears to be too good to be true it probably is.

ICU WELFARE SERVICES

In addition to this newsletter, and a range of Welfare related events, the Welfare Committee is also responsible for the Women's Minibus Service, which takes female students home safely after Union Events. This FREE service operates for your benefit, please use it.

New College Counsellor

Just a reminder that David Allman took over as College Counsellor in the summer. Students with personal problems (for example, feelings of depression, stress, anxiety) should contact David to arrange a discussion. His extension is 49430.

Practical, legal or any other general requests for information (including contact details of specialised voluntary agencies) should be directed to Martin Thomson, the Union adviser (x. 48067). All enquiries are dealt with in confidence.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

Martin Thomson
Imperial College Union
Advice Service.
Telephone ext. 48067 or
48060 to make an
appointment.
email:
m.m.thomson@ic.ac.uk

Housing

Problems with Private
Housing should be discussed
initially with Martin. If you
are facing illegal eviction on
harassment outside of office
hours then you should con-
tact your local police station
or try the Shelter Londonline
on **0800 446 441** (which is
open 24 hours)

Gas safety Line

Advice and information on
Gas safety and carbon
monoxide issues.
0800 300 363

Looking for accommodation:

College Accommodation
Office: ext. **49444**
University of London
Database on the WWW:
<http://195.194.143.24/accom/>
(Ignore the password
request)

Loot on the Web:
<http://www.loot.com>

Rape and sexual assault

Rape Crisis Centre **0171 837
1600**
Women Against Rape **0171
837 7509**

Both of the above
organisations can help
women who have been raped.

Please remember that
Personal Attack alarms are
available from the Union
Reception in Beit Quad.

Health

Imperial College Health
Centre: Enquiries ext. **49375**.
Emergencies **0171 594444**

Family Planning.

Brook Advisory Centre (fam-
ily planning, suspected preg-
nancy): **0171 617 8000** (24
hour helpline)

0171 713 9000 (for details of
your nearest centre)
Family Planning Association:
(family planning, suspected
pregnancy) **0171 837 5432**
(for details of local clinics
and services)

Sexual Health

Genito-Urinary Clinics (sex-
ually transmitted diseases)
Charing Cross Hospital
GUM, Fulham Palace Road,
W6. **0181 846 1567**. No
appointment needed. Free
confidential advice, condoms.
St. Stephen's Clinic, 5th
Floor, 369 Fulham Road (next
to Chelsea & Westminster
Hospital) **0181 846 6181**.
Again, no appointment need-
ed. Full confidentiality
assured.

Terence Higgins Trust
(Advice, support and infor-
mation relating to H.I.V. and
A.I.D.S.): Helpline on **0171
242 1010**, Legal Line on
0171 405 2381. Website:
<http://www.tht.org.uk>

Meningitis

Meningitis Association
01454 493344 (24 hour sup-
port and information line)

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual

'Acceptance' Helpline and
Support Group for Parents of
Lesbians and Gay Men.
01795 661463.

Gay Legal Advice Service, 2
Greycoat Place, London
SW1 1SB. **0171 976 0480**
(Mon-Friday 7pm-10pm)

Imperial Queers. Imperial
College Union Society for
gay, lesbian and bisexual
students and staff providing
support, a safe space and an
excellent social scene.
Contact: Kevin Butcher,
k.butcher@ic.ac.uk,
Telephone **0171 5945314**. IQ

website:<http://pink.ic.ac.uk/IQ>

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
0171 253 2043

PACE **0171 263 6200**
(Counselling for lesbian, gay
and bisexual people)

Drugs

Alcohol

Alcohol Concern **0171 928
7377**

Alcoholics Anonymous **0171
352 3001**
Drinkline: **0345 320202**

Smoking/Tobacco

QUIT- The charity that helps
people stop smoking
0171 487 3000 (Telephone
helpline 9.30am-5.30pm)

Other substances

Release **0171 603 8654**
Release provides information
on drugs, including legal
advice.

Hungerford Project
(Information and drop in
centre), 32a Wardour Street,
W1V 3HJ

Women

Rights of Women, 52- 54
Featherstone Street, EC1Y
8RT. **0171 251 6577**
(free legal advice)

Women against Sexual
Harassment, 312 The
Chandlery, 50 Westminster
Bridge Road, SE1 7QY.
0171 721 7593

Women's health **0171 251
6580**
(Helpline, Mon, Weds-Fri
10am-4pm)

Independent information and
resource centre for all issues
involving women's health.

Women's Therapy Centre
0171 263 6200 (10.00am-
12.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm
Mon-Fri)
provides low-cost psy-
chotherapy for women

People with Disabilities

Dyslexia Institute Ltd, 133
Gresham Road, Staines,
Middx TW18 2AJ. **01784
463851**

Imperial College Disabilities
officer
Loretto O' Callaghan. 324
Sherfield. Telephone ext.
48935

SKILL: National Bureau for
Students with Disabilities.
336 Brixton Road, SW9
7AA. **0171 274 0565**

Royal National Institute for
the Blind (RNIB), 224 Great
Portland Street, London
W1N 6AA. Tel: **0171 388
1266** (Offers a student sup-
port service)

Royal National Institute for
Deaf People (RNID), 19-23
Featherstone Street, London
EC1Y 8SL. Tel: **0171 296
8000**. Minicom: **0171 296
8001**

The RSI Association
Chapel House
152 High Street
Yiewsley
West Drayton
UB7 7BE
Tel/Fax: **01895 431134**

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis
(ME) Association
Stanhope House, High Street,
Stanford Le Hope, Essex.
SS17 0HA. Tel: **01375
642466**

Personal Problems/ depression

Nightline **0171 631 0101**.
Helpline open from 6pm to
8am every night.

The Samaritans. **0345 909090**
(national 24 hour helpline).
Confidential service.

David Allman, Imperial
College Counsellor. ext.
49430