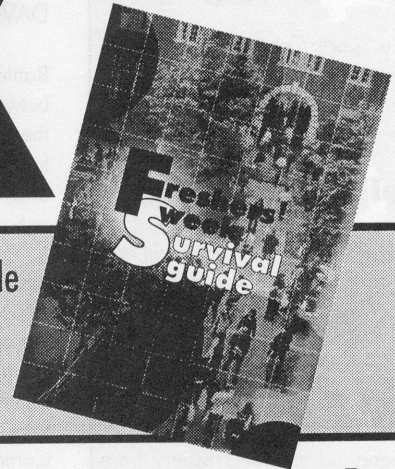


# FELIX

Album of the week:  
Supergrass  
Page 53



Your complete guide  
to Freshers Week  
Free Inside



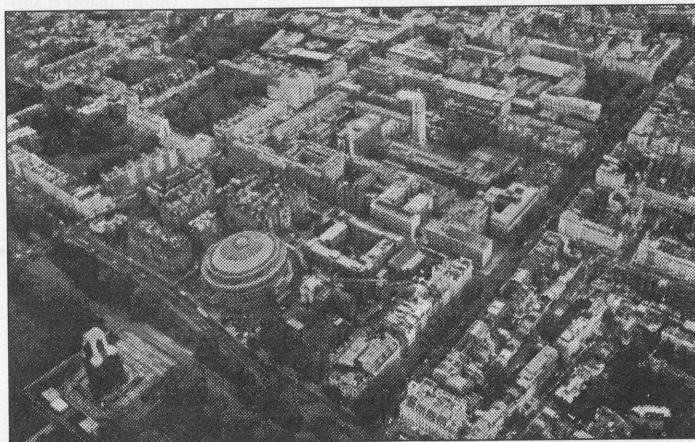
## Sports Centre plans thrown into doubt

DAVID ROBERTS

Proposals for Imperial's new Sports Centre faced a tough reception from local residents and councillors when they were put forward for planning approval last month.

Well in excess of a hundred local residents have submitted written objections, stating increased noise and traffic and the loss of light as their principle objections. Nonetheless, their decision is still far from certain either way - the planning committee has agreed to come on a site visit to get an idea of the project for themselves, before returning to make a final decision on October 14th.

Whilst the mixed support which the proposals faced was not entire-



Spot the space where you can fit a county standard sports hall...

Photo: Ed

ly encouraging, it hasn't dented the optimism of Frank Murray, IC's Sports and Leisure Manager, who has seen a constant stream of proposals ideas and sketches for the

new Centre drift across his desk over the last few years, before the current plan was decided upon. Speaking to Felix, Mr Murray admitted to being "quietly opti-

mistic". IC's Director of Estates, Ian Caldwell, was in similar mind, pointing out that "In Central London it's impossible to build anything without receiving a stack of objections".

If permission is granted, work will start early next summer on the year long building work which would see a seven court sports hall (suitable for basketball, badminton, five-a-side football, golf, archery etc) an 8m by 18m climbing wall, a dedicated aerobics gym, improved changing rooms and weights training facilities and a series of self-contained residential flats erected above the current Sports Centre site.

With a decision expected within the next fortnight, we'll keep you posted with all new developments.

## £36 000 loss to spell end for Summer Balls?

DAVID ROBERTS

Massive losses on last June's Summer Balls could result in the axe falling on these traditional end of year parties.

A total of £36 000 was lost on the two balls, with the "official" ICU Ball notching up a £14 000 debt, and the Med School Union Ball collapsing £22 000 into the red. Losses on both events were due to ticket sales failing to reach expectations, with the ICU Ball, held at Alexandra Palace on the last day of term,

selling only 1400 of a projected 1900 tickets.

As both balls had full ICU backing, having been organised by Union groups, ICU will now be faced with covering these losses from its own balance sheet. Whilst the Med School losses can be recovered from the remains of the old Medical School Union Reserves, finding sufficient cash to pay off the debt on the other ball may be more problematic. Indeed the Union may be forced to dip into its strategic reserves (built up by bar profits and designed to pay

for major capital projects) in order to cover the loss. This in turn will create further problems for those seeking to guarantee the necessary funding for next summer's expansion into the basements of Beit Quad which the money had been earmarked for.

One alternative source of income has come to light, however, as it is believed that certain senior members of College staff have offered to use IC to write-off the losses, in order to ensure that the Summer Ball continues. However, one proviso has allegedly

been set - that there is only one ball. In other words, there should be no more separate ICSM Balls. Rumour has it that as a result of this caveat the ICU President, Natasha Newton, has rejected the offer out of hand. Ms Newton is a medical student.

For now, however, the future of both Summer Balls would seem to be in some doubt, with the most likely outcome a smaller scale event organised by ICU's Events & Marketing Manager. We'll update you as soon as there are any developments.



## 4 Big Issue

The Sports Centre - essential history, past proposals, planning and information.

## 6 Anatomy

What Felix is, what it does and how to get involved, plus a rundown of what you'll be reading this year.

## 7 Get a job

Sound advice for Freshers from John Simpson, Director of IC's career service

## 8 Manifestos

Re-acquaint yourself with this year's sabbaticals, and find out what they've promised to do.



## 10 Union

Introduction to IC Med School Union, plus updates from the sabbaticals

## 12 Feedback

Kevin returns with the year's first MishMash, plus the editorial.

## 15 Competitions

Win one of five Young Persons Railcards or the new Sex Pistols Book.



## 16 Reviews

Supergrass, Ocean Colour Scene and Gomez versus GMT and Analyse This.

## 22 Sports & Societies

Discover the wonders of Exploration Society and the Student Pugwash Group.

# University quality control "farce"

DAVID ROBERTS

Battle lines are being drawn between the two biggest players in the Higher Education world over the format for the new Quality Assurance system, due to be introduced nationwide later this year.

In the middle sits the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the body responsible for assessing and reporting on the quality of teaching in all HE universities and colleges, which is in the process of drawing up plans to re-invent itself. To one side sits the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), the owners of the QAA, who are demanding that all judgements on teaching quality are made verbally. On the other side, the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) insists that numerical scores should be handed out to allow easy compromises to be made

between different institutions. They are believed to be backed by senior figures in the government who are keen to see standardised, media friendly, University League Tables constructed by the QAA.

Forced into a compromise, the QAA's latest plan is to split assessment up into three distinct areas (teaching & learning, student progression and learning resources) each of which would be based around a four point scale where each level is described in words rather than numbers. Unsurprisingly, the CVCP are less than impressed with this compromise, describing it as "numerical marking by the back door". The fact that the QAA plan to mark other areas, such as curriculum design and content using a simple pass or fail system has hardly helped to bridge the gap.

The second battleground is the

so-called "light touch" approach, whereby colleges and universities with a good track record in QAA audits would undergo simplistic "screening" to see if any further action were necessary. The CVCP fear that big name universities would automatically get an easy ride, despite the fact that some do not have an outstanding assessment history - Oxford and Cambridge, for example, have simply refused to let the QAA audit them in the past, whilst some universities with very good teaching records have performed poorly in the assessment due to their admin systems.

With the new system supposedly set to come on line next year (new departmental benchmark guidelines are due for release in March) a year of petty squabbling, power broking and painful negotiation seems certain.

## In Brief

### SABBATICAL CURSE LIFTED

Early in the summer it looked as if the so-called 'ICU Sabbatical Curse' (which has seen elected sabbaticals forced to resign due to failing exams in each of the last three years) was going to hit again, as Med School President Becky England failed her 2nd MB papers. This normally leads to being deemed to be in insufficient academic standard - which means you cannot pursue the sabbatical. However, she was fortunately allowed to resit the relevant exams and, having passed this time around, took up her post in mid September.

### SHOW ME THE MONEY

More money seems to be heading towards Imperial courtesy of the government's new Science Enterprise Challenge. Imperial has been selected as one of eight National Centres of Excellence and has been awarded £2 million to help "promote the importance of enterprise in science and technology". Experts will help to guide researchers from taking their ideas from conception to the market place and attempt to fos-

ter a more entrepreneurial attitude to engineering.

### BYELECTION LOOMS

A selection of Big names are gathering to fight it out for the conservative nomination for the Kensington and Chelsea byelection. The byelection comes about as a result of the death of Alan Clark during the summer, and must take place before Christmas. At present former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo is the hot favourite to be offered the nomination for the second safest Conservative seat in the country.

### ANOTHER ONE GETS AWAY

Southampton University has become the latest major Higher Education institution to quit the National Union of Students. They join UMIST and Imperial as the only major institutions in Britain not to be affiliated to the NUS - although the vast majority of Scottish institutions and some Oxbridge Colleges have also chosen not to join the national student body. However, as Southampton students union left through a debate and vote at a

union meeting, the NUS have denounced this as undemocratic and have forced Southampton to have a referendum in November to decide whether or not to confirm disaffiliation.

### STUDENTS STAY AT HOME

The number of new students choosing to live at home has risen dramatically, from 20.8% last year to 22.6% this year according to UCAS. Bizarrely, the figure rises to around 36% in Scotland but falls to 17% in Wales

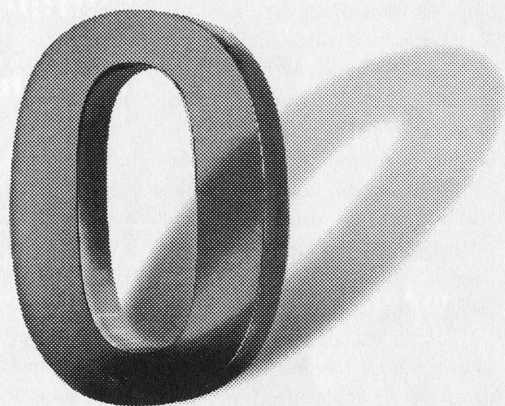
### CALL FOR PAY INQUIRY FOR LECTURERS

Lecturers attacked the government at the TUC Conference two weeks ago for their failure to address the problems of low pay and poor conditions on a national scale (government policy currently states that pay and conditions are up to the individual institution). The Association of University Teachers (AUT) called for a national inquiry on pay discrimination to assess the extent of the problem across the entire public sector.



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Or so you thought.**



**Thursday, 7 October 1999  
Firmwide Graduate  
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# The Sports Centre

For as long as anyone can remember, Imperial College has been trying to construct a new Sports Centre. Since the farce which led to the present building's current form (lack of planning permission for Halls to be built on top only became apparent after work on the Sports Centre had begun) it has been obvious that a larger, improved facility would be necessary to fully accommodate the needs of the College community.

For starters, running a series of smaller indoor facilities - the swimming pool, Southside Gym, the Weights room, the Union Gym etc is far less efficient than centralising into one new venue (a situation analogous to the sports ground issue). Consequently, major cost savings and service improvements could be made by building a new unitary sports centre.

Secondly, there simply isn't enough space at present. Although most clubs and societies can just about squeeze into the existing slots,

there's very little potential for a "Sport for All" ethos in which any random group of students have a decent chance of finding the facilities they're after. Moreover, the necessity for some clubs to travel a considerable distance just to find a suitable facility is hardly going to do wonders for participation levels.

OK, that's why it needs to be built - the next question is where...

Since the mid eighties, a constant stream of proposals, designs and planning applications have floated around the College and the local community, with a variety of sites, styles, costs and facilities on offer at one time or another - until finally it seems that we have something on the table which has the potential to move into practice. Indeed, one of the College's most powerful arguments is that they have - quite generally - tried to fit the Centre into every other open (or not so open) space on campus. This is, quite literally, the last option avail-

able...

The last major planning attempt came back in 1996. Having had proposals for a combined sports centre and halls development on top of the tennis courts next to Linstead turned down, College realised that the local residents had had enough of IC's trademark concrete block building motif, and would thus only give permission to something "in character". Consequently, the designers took a large lateral step and proposed sinking the entire centre - complete with a massive nine court hall - under Princes Gardens, possibly linking together the existing swimming pool with the tennis courts (and beyond). Indeed it was believed that the "Secret Garden" (Princes Gate Gardens, behind Weeks Hall) was initially bought to further this project. Although such a scheme might now seem very far etched, it's worth remembering that it was drawn up during the infancy of lottery funding, when huge piles

of money were thrown at suspect projects. Consequently, it was to possible to fund such a massive project.

This plan went to committee late in Autumn 1996 and, faced with around 270 objections from local residents - who cited unacceptable disruption during construction and increased traffic when the Centre reopened - it was flatly rejected...

And three years and a few other (less fully developed) plans down the line, here we are, awaiting the outcome of the latest round of planning discussions.

So what's the downside? Well, building a new Hall could mean the loss of Southside Gym (the timescale would fit in nicely with the Southside redevelopment and financing could, conceptually, be funded by the sale of one of IC's three sports grounds - although the senior staff involved all deny a direct link. Anyway, that's a discussion for another day...

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## Media Group Welcome

7pm, Monday October 11th, dBs

Multimedia presentations from IC Radio, stoic, Felix, Phoenix (Imperial's arts magazine), the Alternative Prospectus and ICU Web. Chairs and editors will also be on hand to offer help and advice. Plus... FREE BEER



# FELIX ANATOMY

## WHAT IS FELIX

Yes, of course Felix is the newspaper for students at Imperial, but more importantly it's the newspaper written by the students of Imperial too. It can only function with a broad base of writers, designers, photographers, reviewers, sub-editors and reporters drawn from across the College who pool their collective talents and knowledge to produce a publication to be proud of.

## NEWS

Think about it, if something's not reported in Felix, where else are students going to find out what's going on on campus? Consequently, it requires the full attention of a crack team of reporters and photographers to keep you up to date with what's going on in the Union, in the higher echelons of College, and in the local area. Willing volunteers to go undercover and infiltrate the inner workings of Sherfield are desperately sought.

## SPORT

This year's sports section should be bigger and better than ever. We're looking for a dedicated team of sports reporters and photographers to enjoy the expenses paid high-life of Harlington, Cobham and Teddington, covering as many of IC's major (and minor) fixtures over the coming season as is humanly possible. Interested? Come to the office and ask for Gus.

## REVIEWS

Encompassing every style of music, film, theatre, books, video, games (on all formats), art, museums, gigs and clubbing, there

## Where Are We?

Once again Felix has moved house, this time into a pair of salubrious portacabins situated in the campus' Latin Quarter (otherwise known as just off the road between Sherfield and Prince Consort Road, nestled between Physics and the liquid Nitrogen tank). We'll be living here for the next twelve months, until the shiny new Union Media Centre is finished in the basements of Beit. Until then, you can expect to find the editor (that'll be me) and a ever-changing collection of assorted sub-editors, writers, general hangers-on and squatters gathered around the playstation and/or computers (depending on the day of the week) at all hours of the day and night. Drop by if you're interested in writing and I'll offer you a coffee, a seat on the sofa and some very suspect advice about what you might like to do.

Then why not write about it. Got a burning issue you want to get off your chest and turn into a College wide debate? Then I know a good place to start. Seriously, if there's something you want to write about then just drop by and have a chat - 'no' isn't in the student editor's vocabulary.

## SCIENCE

Despite the fact that this is one of the world's leading Science, Technology and Medicine Institutions, recruiting a team of science writers always seems to be surprisingly problematic. Nonetheless, expect to see regular updates on every major movements, particularly those centred around Imperial, interspersed with the odd panicked re-write of last week's New Scientist cover story. Contributors are very much in demand.

## COLUMNS

Due to a sudden (and very unexpected) spurt of graduation and PhD completion on the part of last year's columnists now's the time for the more committed and/or opinionated of you to offer your services. Want to spout off every week about life, liberty, love etc etc? Or have your own space to uncover God knows what hidden secrets of the rich and famous? Then simply email felix@ic.ac.uk

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Any club or society can submit an article detailing recent activity, planned trips or speaker events. Just remember to give at least seven days notice if you really want your piece to go in a specific issue.

## Independence

Unlike some student newspapers, Felix benefits from guaranteed independence from both College and the Union (despite the fact that a large part of our income comes straight from ICU). Consequently, this allows reporters and columnists to give honest, unbiased views and explanations of all the big issues - we promote the Union wherever possible, but the interests of the students always have to come first. Similarly, the editor isn't directly responsible to the Union President (or indeed any of the sabbaticals) so Felix has the ability to stand alone as an independent entity.

## The Editor

Luckily for me (and hopefully for the quality of the finished product), Felix is run by a full time sabbatical editor. From now until the end of next July I'm being paid by the Union - in other words you - just to run Felix. So, if you don't think that I'm making a particularly good job of it, or if you disagree with something that I've printed please get in touch - I need feedback to do this job properly. I can be reached at editor.felix@ic.ac.uk, on (020 7 59) 48072 or alternatively I'm usually in the portacabins from 9 - 6 Monday to Friday. If you're unhappy with my reply then the next stage is to complain to the Media Group Chair, Chris Jackson (caj7@ic.ac.uk) who should be able to find a solution.

## FEATURES

must be something for you. Write a review, get some free stuff - it's a simple equation. In particular, games reviewers are currently in particularly short supply, so drop by or email felix@ic.ac.uk if you're interested.

An esoteric concept at best, features encompasses just about anything you care to name. Been on an amazing holiday that you want to tell the world about?



# Why don't you get a job?

John Simpson, Director of IC's Careers Service, explains why it pays to think ahead when it comes to finding a career.

Welcome to Imperial College. The next three or four years should be amongst the most interesting and enjoyable in your life, provided you make the most of the opportunities available at College. What follows should give you some ideas for your own self-development.

You can probably recall one of the significant steps in your life when you entered the sixth form or went to Sixth Form College. Coming to College is an even more significant step. You have more freedom, more independence and more opportunities to do your own thing and to succeed or fail. If you do not make some mistakes you will not have learnt anything, learning from one's own mistakes is an important part of experience, but don't waste time reinventing everything – build on the experience of others – take advice (it's usually free) – ignore some of it, test it out, accept or reject it.

You have already demonstrated some planning ability by passing A levels – or their equivalent – sufficiently well to be at College. How are you going to plan the next three, four or six years? And I'm not just talking about your academic studies, I'm talking about the start of the rest of your life.

What do you want to achieve this term? Making friends is usually high on most people's list. How? Join clubs and societies, attend meetings, take up a new sport, develop a new interest – any of these are likely to bring you into contact with like-minded students. And there's always the bar to prop up while speaking inspiration.

By the end of the summer term in your first year you are feeling the financial pressures – in other words, you're broke! So how about earning some good money in the long vacation. If you leave job hunting until the vacation starts you may be too late. All the interesting and lucrative jobs have

been filled already and you'll be lucky if the local council wants some grass cutting or the local garden centre needs a dirty pair of hands. It's well worthwhile doing some preliminary job hunting between Christmas and Easter. Call in at the IC Careers Service (room 310 Sheffield) where you will find information about Vacation Training, write to employers with your CV, call into some shops and hotels and see who's advertising in the local press.

Vacation jobs can be most informative. Ideally they give you the chance to try out some type of work or future employer in which you are interested. They give you experience in job hunting, letter writing and interviews, as well as a real insight into what it's like to work for a particular type of employer. Some even pay you quite well. Jobs abroad are popular and early applications are essential. Start by visiting the IC Careers Service, which has a good range of reference books and addresses.

At the start of the second year you raise your sights higher. Now is the time to test your skills in organising something – a social evening for your department, looking after the finances of a society or the fixtures of your team. That sounds far too much like hard work I hear you say. Yes, it does take some effort on your part but, generally speaking, the more effort you put into something the more enjoyment you will get out of it.

Committee work is an excellent preparation for life after College. You learn to set agendas, run meetings, agree actions, persuade other students to do things, work within budgets and end up with a successful event – a party, a visit, a play or a newspaper – just think how much effort went into producing this edition of Felix.

You should start thinking seriously about your future career before the end of the second year. Even if you haven't a clue what you

want to do, that's no excuse for delaying finding out about the possibilities. You are surrounded with sources of information – friends, family, tutors, careers advisors, libraries and the internet. Start looking. It may be a long process, but so is life, so it really is worth spending more time thinking about your career than planning your next holiday or weekend away.

The IC Careers Service is a good starting place. Pop in and speak to the information staff. Find out about 'Prospect (HE)', our computer driven careers guidance system – and all the information booklets and reference files. Have a look at some of the videos, attend some seminars on careers, get yourself sorted out.

The Milkround is in the spring term of your final year. This is when employers visit campuses to interview applicants or invite you to their London Offices. Christmas vacation courses are a popular way of finding out about careers such as marketing but only a few major recruiters run them and they are normally many times over subscribed.

Stop! I'm only a fresher – why are you telling me this? I'm telling you because you need to start planning your life now, don't just drift through College and emerge with a degree and nothing else. Of course a degree is important and should be your first priority, but it mustn't be your only priority.

In the meantime, enjoy yourself.

## Big Bike Ride

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# Sabbatical Manifestos

At the request of the new Union President, Felix reprints this year's sabbatical manifestoes as a reminder of what your representatives have promised to do in return for their £14 000 a year. However, political manifestoes are rarely written in plain English, so to make them easier to understand we've passed the text through Felix's state of the art Acme Read-Between-The-Lines-O-Meter™.

## ICU President Natasha Newton

300 words to say "more of the good, less of the bad", still, if people are willing to read this, here's what I think our Union's priorities should be.

*[translation]* I know that getting elected has nothing to do with manifesto promises...

### 1. Students

Every report the Union makes within itself and to the rest of the student body should start with what is being done for us students, how we will benefit.

*[translation]* I'll show you all how great I am.

### 2. Students

The objectives for all meetings should be,

1. students
2. students
3. students

4. money, college's opinion.... (give or take legality and other minor matters).

*[translation]* Put the students first. And second. And third. But we need to make some money. And

we have to do what College tell us.

Simple example, Union people should continue helping correct budgets. After all which students are helped if a club doesn't get its money.

*[translation]* But losing £36,000 on two summer ball is definitely in your interests...

### 3. Students

The facilities and activities of the Union are available to all of us and that needs to be communicated.

*[translation]* Please don't take away my sports ground...

Nah, s\*\*t, I appear to have mentioned communication, here we go, the standard unreal promises yet, year after year it barely gets better. But for what it's worth, here are my practical ideas in addition to the obvious email, Felix and the Union structure.

*[translation]* ERROR READING DATA ERROR ENGLISH NOT RECOGNISED INPUT ERROR

Keep it simple! Like....

The hardware: As accommodation officer, I am, at the moment, arranging modems and PCs for Wilson House and seeing college about internal IC lines. The same could happen in other outlying halls.

*[translation]* But none of my friends live in Evelyn Gardens, so they can walk into College.

The info: Every week a list of the meetings taking place and some contact details needs posting on all Union notice boards, in Felix and Stoic text. Then if there's something that may affect you, you have a chance to talk to the people involved and find out the outcome.

*[translation]* You won't want to get involved so I'll tell you what to do.

So thanks for reading and (this is the cheesy bit...sorry) remember, a vote for Tasha Newton is a vote for students coming first. Contact 0958 707 415

*[translation]* Help...too...many...jokes.

## Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) - Tim Traylor

Next year will be one of the most challenging years faced by the DP (C&S).

*[translation]* As I will have to clear up the mess last years DP(C&S) left, ad the one before, and the one before that etc. etc.

All clubs and societies are facing an upheaval of one kind or another.

*[translation]* Be it moving into portacabins or being forced to shut down as a result of not following Health & Safety regulations.

Many of the societies based in South Kensington will be acquiring new facilities courtesy of the Unions expansion into what was until recently the Biology department,

*[translation]* And the acquisition of a couple of sports fields courtesy of the College...best not to mention them though.

But probably the biggest cloud still hanging over the head of next years DP (C&S) will be the ICSM merger issue.

*[translation]* Bloody medics.

What with the ICSMRFC having shown themselves to be a force to be reckoned with it is now as imperative as ever that the unique identity of ICSM and ICU teams is preserved.

*[translation]* Especially as the ICU Rugby team kicked medical ass in the University of London Gutteridge Cup competition.

As a member of the ICU Hockey Club Exec and as a re-app (in a hall containing many medics)

*[translation]* Some of my friends are medics, honest...

I have been well placed over this past year to observe what you want from your clubs and societies. I believe that it is essential that next years DP (C&S) is someone with a great deal of knowledge concerning the merger and the position that most sporting clubs at Imperial will face over the next 18 months. Anybody taking over as DP (C&S) who doesn't have a firm background within a sporting club would

not have the ability to represent you and your Union appropriately to organisations such as BUSA and ULU.

*[translation]* Hockey, hockey, ra ra ra. Who cares about those other clubs anyway?

I believe that I have got the necessary grounding within the sporting fraternity to represent them well along with the desire to listen to and support the other clubs and societies. It is these qualities along with a passionate desire to do this job, and do it well, that would make me an excellent candidate for the job - so vote for me for DP (C&S)!

*[translation]* I believe I have acquired the necessary skills during my hockey career to communicate with the other sports sabbaticals in London during our drunken meetings, and to pull whatever random teenagers / ULU sports sabbaticals make themselves available to me... Anyone seen any seventeen year old girls?



## Deputy President (Finance & Services) - Ian Clifford

You may ask why you should vote for Ian Clifford.  
[translation] You've never heard of me and I have no real policies...

Firstly, I have experience of the Union finance system. As treasurer of the City & Guilds College Union I work with clubs & societies, assisting them with budgets, claims and unravelling red tape. I have faced the dreaded Union budgeting rounds and won.

[translation] The crowning glory of my two terms as C&G treasurer was the successful purchase of silly hats for our bar nights.

I have prepared the finances of the C&GU as a whole. I know how the Union runs from a club finance side as well as the services side.

[translation] The job title's got the word services in, so I'd better mention them somewhere.

Secondly, I have been a student at Imperial for five years and a member of several clubs including the Mountaineering Club, Pimlico Connection and the Catholic Society.

[translation] If you have any spare ropes, text books or crucifixes, please donate them to Ian Clifford c/o the Union Office. We have no money after buying the hats and purchasing sabbatical T-shirts.

I work in the Union Resource Centre, helping both students and union staff - I will be as approachable as a sabbatical like I am as a member of staff. Personal contact and interest is important in establishing a good working relationship.

[translation] And we all know how friendly the Union staff are

Next year I aim to:

- Increase communications & training with treasurers

[translation] You might be able to read the finance manual without falling asleep.

- Open up the union to more students

[translation] Don't know where we're going to put them though - we can't afford any more space.

- Reform funding, payments and standardise subsidies

[translation] Coincidentally giving more money to C&G, Mountaineering, Pimlico Connection, Catholic Society...

## Deputy President (Education & Welfare) - Kevin Butcher

Finally ICU has created a sabbatical responsible for education and welfare. I feel confident in taking on an undefined role and creating a job description - encompassing all aspects of education and welfare.

[translation] It was very kind of the Union to provide me with a "job description" and then for the president to take it away...

Since coming to Imperial as a postgraduate student I've been involved in the union: chair of Imperial Queers and SCC treasurer this year. Before Imperial I was involved with clubs of Oxford and Aberystwyth and was a volunteer for Oxford Nightline. This experience has given me the necessary motivation, listening skills, people skills, approachability and fair judgement required for DP (E&W).

[translation] Trust me, I'm fluffy enough for this job.

I have three main aims. Firstly I intend to work on the welfare committee's job description.

This will be in consultation with all the relevant Union and College committees (Accommodation, welfare, Academic Affairs, Student Development etc.) the current sabbs and various college officers (including the Pro-Rector for Educational Quality).

[translation] Come on, you have to vote for me - I know the names of all the College staff and everything.

Secondly I intend to ask as many of the E&W sabbs across the country about their role, their concerns and hopes. The first two would be completed before the new academic year.

[translation] I'll go on lots of expenses paid "fact finding" missions.

Thirdly, starting the new term with this base, I will consult as many students as possible. DP (E&W) will work best if as many people as possible are made aware of the education and welfare brief and it the job is tailored to the needs of the students. I would undertake a regular section

in Felix and the CCU papers.

[translation] I am the only sabbatical actually intending to get something done this year...

Awareness events (about two per term) will coincide with students experiences (eg accommodation week when students are thinking about housing, a sexual health week to coincide with World AIDS Day, a stress buster to coincide (as close as possible) with exams and a mental health week. I hope to convince CCU officers and the dep reps to ensure that student representation is fair and adequate across all departments.

[translation] Hopefully the CCU officers and dep reps won't be quite as useless as usual...

## Felix Editor - Dave Roberts

Felix is the primary source of information for students at Imperial, so it's vital that it presents enough material for students to reach their own opinions on key issues - whilst the reporting itself remains unbiased.

[translation] Felix is the primary source of scandal and manipulative articles at Imperial College. I will use subliminal messaging to get my views across. Your opinion means nothing.

To this end, I'll introduce regular in-depth features on the major student issues - like ULU, fees and College expansion - so that everyone has a chance to understand what's really going on. Proper dissemination of information also means proper distribution, so I'll ensure that Felix hits every campus on the same day, and appears on the web every week.

[translation] Because at Imperial we really care about ULU, fees, and College expansion. Bollocks more like.

Clubs and societies should have the oppor-

tunity to tell everyone what they do. Consequently, I'll provide space for every club to write reviews of events or preview upcoming activity. Similarly, sports coverage needs to be improved, with a dedicated team of reporters and photographers to cover matches at Harlington, Cobham and Teddington.

[translation] Look, see - I know the names of the sports grounds.

Finally, both ICU and the Constituent College Unions should be given space to report on their activities and justify themselves - thus making our representatives more accountable.

[translation] ICU and CCU's justifying themselves? I'll eat my copy first. Please, keep your bullshit down to a minimum of 100 words.

Felix is a club, and like any other at Imperial it must be open to all. As well as increased publicity (especially during Freshers Week) there needs to be more freedom for people to write occasional articles, features or short sto-

ries, rather than having to dedicate their lives to the newspaper.

[translation] I love Felix. I'm in the office all day, every day and every night. Come in and say hello and write something. Please. I'm desperate

I'll also have weekly meetings at St Mary's and Charing Cross, to ensure as wide a range of contributors as possible.

[translation] Because I need the medics to vote for me...RAH RAH TEDDINGTON

I believe that these changes are necessary to ensure that Felix maintains its role as the newspaper for the students and of the students, and having been involved for the best part of three years - as a writer, reviewer, Advertising Manager, Film Editor, and now Assistant Editor - I have the ability to put these changes into practice.

[translations] I write in very, very long sentences.



# ICSM Union

Each week we hand over a page to one of IC's four faculty unions, and this week it's the turn of the Sabbatical Med School Union President, Becky England, to explain who she is and what she does.

We are now welcoming our second intake of students into the relatively new site at IC. The new freshers should benefit from the input from last years first years enabling us to make life easier for them. Last year was a particularly hard year for all of our students within ICSM. Old were welcoming in the new whilst themselves becoming used to a new environment and medical school structure; and the freshers were not only dealing with the usual 'freshers nightmares' but also coping with being the first intake of a new course within a new building.

This year we have a relatively fresh students union, although some faces have not changed.... Jo Manson has taken the role of Vice President Internal Mary's, with Lizzie Robinson now Vice President External and Wade Gayed has become Education rep for Charing Cross. I myself have not been a direct member of the students' union although I was heavily involved in ICSM RAG Week 1999. The rest have all been involved with the organisation of various events and clubs throughout the Med School and I'm sure are going to do a fantastic job over the next year.

To begin we have our FRESH-ERS' WEEK, running from the 3rd to the 9th of October. Our Social Secretaries, Anna and Chewy, with the help of Susie (Treasurer), Marissa (Secretary), Alison (Clubs and Socs), Alia (VPI Charing Cross) and Jo; have put together

what looks to be a week of sheer fun and games, (not taking into account the morning after experiences awaiting any poor unfortunates). Details are given in the freshers' handbook and on posters around the campuses. On October 16th we are holding the ICSM Freshers' Ball at Chelsea Football Club, with a particular favourite of mine as the theme....."Austin Powers" (watch out for girls with weapons where you might not expect, boys, you'd better hold onto your mojo!). Tickets will be on sail at the major campuses when term begins.

Throughout the year we hope to hold all the traditional social events the Med School expects and also to add some more. Any ideas please send them in our direction! We intend to host the second ICSM Summer Ball in the first week of July, a firm date will be set in the near future; anyone interested in standing for Summer Ball chair should watch out for election info. going up in the first few weeks of term.

Clubs and Societies will, as always be an integral part of Med School life, with a club for 99% of peoples tastes. The Opera Society will be staging 'Crazy For you' in December, the Dramsoc I'm sure will be active at various points throughout the year and the multitude of music socs will be sure to make their presence felt. Sports continue to flourish at ICSM with our 1st Rugby team destined for Europe. For information on any of



the clubs either come along to the Freshers' Fair on Tuesday 5th October at the Alexander Fleming Building in the afternoon, or contact myself or the Clubs & Socs rep, Alison Ogilvie.

Throughout the coming year many issues close to the hearts of the medics will arise. The future of our clinical sites; the future of our sports grounds; the prospect of merger of the sports teams and the development of the new course and the repercussions on both the old and new students. The students' union aims to represent the students' views, and

therefore any input will be readily received.

As president (finally, after scraping through the nightmare of 2nd MB), I will be based primarily on the South Kensington Campus, in the Alexander Fleming Building (formerly the BMS). However, my plan, (subject to change!) is to spend Tuesday mornings at St Mary's, Wednesday mornings at Charing Cross and every second Thursday lunch time at The Chelsea and Westminster.

Please feel free to call with any queries, problems or general grumbles.

## Contacts

### President - Becky England

Mobile : 07713 741 003  
Office : 0171 594 8079  
Email: rebecca.england@ic.ac.uk

### Vice Presidents

VP (Internal) St Mary's - Jo Manson  
VP (Internal) Charing Cross - Alia Fammy  
VP (External) - Lizzie Robinson

### Officers

Clubs & Societies - Alison Ogilvie  
Treasurer - Susie Bloch  
Secretary - Marissa See



# The State of the Union

Hello, to all the new students, welcome back to all the old. Well, what a summer! To the Freshers, let me introduce the column. This is a weekly update of what the Union is up to, what we as your representatives are doing for you and quite often, why.

So, we've been busy, da Vinci's has had a big facelift and I hope you agree now looks tasty. It has been a constant battle as the demolition work going on in the rest of Beit has over spilled into this end of the building. Honestly, it was like a French farce at one point, cut water pipes setting off fire alarms, but then they cut through the electrics for the fire alarm!! You should have seen the size of the hole in the men's toilets ceiling!

By Natasha Newton, Imperial College Union President

Down to business. Let's start somewhere familiar, there have been some big changes in the shop this summer, sadly, we have lost some old friends, but we have gained two new permanent members, Andrew the floor manager and Daniel the System and stock clerk. Welcome gentlemen, we hope you survive Fresher's week!

The Health Centre. Progress indeed, the Union and the centre now have regular meetings to discuss problems our students, their patients, encounter. If you have a problem with them, you should talk direct to their Practice Manager in the first instance, but you can still come to us. During the summer iCU surveyed the other University

of London colleges with their own Health Centres to see how they compare to ours. We are now discussing these results with the Health Centre, who have taken a real interest.

In a big paper pushing exercise, we have extended and updated our reciprocal agreements so your Union card will gain you access to even more Universities than ever before. We have also done special deals for the students at Silwood that they will be able to go over to Royal Holloway to party.

As you will see, our sabbatical manifestos have been included in this issue if Felix, so, for the 3000 odd of you who didn't have a chance to vote for us, you can see

what we promised and if you don't like it....the next sabb elections are in February! Finally, as promised at hustings, I have a jar of free lollies on my desk and here is the list of the up and coming meetings for the week:

## - This Week's Union Meetings -

- Weds 6th October : MADSAC Union President meets college and the Health Centre for discussions re the service they provide etc.
- Thurs 7th October : ICU Exec The sabbs, CCU presidents and 4 members of council (to be elected 12th October) meet to discuss the week-to-week management of the Union.
- Fri 8th October : RCC Chairs and treasurers meeting.

## Welfare Update

By Kevin Butcher, Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

What's this all about, then? Well, with the creation of a new Education and Welfare Sabbatical - that's me - comes a greater promotion of the non-commercial services offered by ICU and the representation undertaken on your behalf. A full breakdown of the services available to you and the representation undertaken on your behalf can be found in the Student Handbook (available from the Union Reception). Important issues relating to you, within the Education & Welfare remit, will be aired here. So here goes.....

### • Meningitis

All first year students have been encouraged to get vaccinated for meningitis before arriving at College. However, two points need to be made:

Firstly, overseas students living in Halls are especially encouraged to visit IC Health Centre for a vaccination.

Secondly, the vaccination only protects against type C meningitis - which only represents 30% of meningitis cases reported in the UK. Therefore if you have been vaccinated but still have flu-like symptoms - please visit a doctor or call an ambulance to be safe and

ask a friend to look after you. Don't assume you can't have meningitis purely because you've been vaccinated - this is NOT the case.

If you have not been vaccinated and are worried then IC Health Centre will be able to advise and arrange for vaccination.

### • Student Support Scheme

First and second years are now funded via the Student Support Scheme, which includes means-tested help towards tuition fees. Under the new rules students have a deadline by which they must apply for support, otherwise they will not be eligible for any financial support in future years of study. The deadline is the end of the first term of their first year.

Even if you think you are not eligible for any help with your tuition fee you still need to apply. If you do not wish to take out any of the loan: apply, be assessed for support and then ask for £0. The Student Loans Company will then have your details and in future years you will be able to apply.

### • Welfare at Silwood Park

Over the summer the provision

of welfare facilities at Silwood were reviewed. Support links between Silwood and ICU are being strengthened and College has agreed provision for extra Counsellor time, allowing for a regular visit to Silwood by one of the College Counsellors. This is a good start to improved provision at Silwood.

### • Registry

The Academic Registrar, Vernon McClure, will be available in his office (339 Sherfield) on Mondays during term-time from 1.30pm to 2.00pm. No prior appointment is necessary. This is to discuss matters other than those you would raise with your Department or routine enquiries that the Registry can help with.

### • And finally...

Please feel free to contact Martin (the Union Advisor) or me with any questions or queries - you'll find my phone number and email address below. In particular, if you have questions or answers to problems you feel other students could benefit from, please get in touch and the problem and solution may well appear here in future editions.

## Essential Contacts

- Kevin Butcher -  
internal extension 58064  
dpew@ic.ac.uk

- Martin Thomson, Union Adviser -  
(020) 7594 8067  
m.m.thomson@ic.ac.uk

- Nightline -  
(020) 7631 0101

- IC Counsellors -  
(020) 7594 9430

- IC Tutors -  
(020) 7594 6430 / 6238

- IC Health Centre -  
(020) 7584 6301

- Samaritans -  
0345 909090

- AIDS Helpline -  
0800 567123

- Alcohol Helpline -  
0800 917 8282

- Alone in London -  
(020) 7278 4224

- Quitline -  
0800 002200



# FELIX

## ISSUE 1151

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Felix is produced for and on  
behalf of Imperial College  
Union Media Group and is  
printed at MCP Litho Limited,  
Units B2 & B3, Hatton Square,  
16 - 16a Baldwins Gardens,  
London EC1N 7RJ

Felix is a registered newspaper:  
ISSN 1040 - 0711  
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### MIND YOUR VAT

Towards the end of last term Basics, the Southside pizza place started to charge VAT to students purchasing food from there. Basics staff were instructed by their managers not to prompt students for proof of student identity, and to charge VAT if ID was not volunteered. Basics staff reported to Kevin that this change in procedure resulted in many students paying too much for their Pizza. Kevin warns students that they will be overcharged in this way by many outlets run by both the Union and College unless they actively wave their Union card at the person serving them.

### NOVELTY GREEN- HOUSE

Sir Norman Foster, architect of the BMS building had some problems with another of his projects, the German government building the Reichstag, completed shortly after our own greenhouse. Government officials were astonished when shortly after moving in they noticed that the roof was leaking. A spokesman for Foster responded to the complaint with the statement: "It was always the intention to allow

water in". This leaves Kevin wondering what architectural novelties may have been designed into the South Kensington building.

### VIDEOCONFERENCE MADNESS

The Great Hall is to be used for the RCS freshers' welcome, with the 'show' relayed to those who can

# Mish Mash

### A Mostly Harmless Column by Kevin, a random entity who knows nothing about nothing

not fit in by videoconferencing technology to the Pippard lecture theatre in Sherfield. Can someone find the prat who is obsessed with all this videoconferencing and videoteaching, and remote learning nonsense so we can shoot him. The Royal Geographical Society, which was used last year is a much more impressive venue, more importantly it also has the capacity

to hold all the students.

### NEW SABBATICALS...

Kevin judges any Union Officer by their behaviour, and suspects he will not be the only one unimpressed at sabbaticals abusing their new-found power to let their cronies into sold-out events for free. It is likely that the first time many impressionable first years see their sabbaticals will be when they are ushering their mates past them into packed fresher's week carnivals or comedy nights.

In Kevin's opinion Miss Newton is confident that she is suitably trendy, yet student-y enough to lead a Student's Union. Kevin expects her to be unconcerned with her image, believing that she has got the whole student thing sorted. Most of her time will be spent concentrating on the efficient running of her organisation. If she succeeds in proving herself capable of doing this, it will be useful to her later in life as today's medics are expected to be excellent managers as well as doctors.

The PopTarts are in the toaster, and lairing to go.

To comment or contribute:  
<http://come.to/mishmash>

# Feedback

### THE TEMPLATE

In the absence of any actual letters to publish this week, here's a handy guide to how to produce your own:

Dear David / Felix / Editor / Sir /  
Mr Roberts (circle one)

I am writing to express my: (circle)  
- amazement at the quality of your newspaper  
- annoyance over the absence of any real news and excessive level of coverage given over to reviews (music in particular) and sport  
- concern that my club's recent spectacular performances have not been reported in your magazine

- client's wishes that you no longer refer to her as a "brainless slapper with the IQ of a games teacher" within the pages of your publication  
- concern at the current level of your overdraft

Would you therefore please: (circle)  
- cash the enclosed cheque at once and buy yourself a slap up dinner. And get your hair cut.  
- sack your editorial staff at once and allow me and my friends to dictate the contents of your next issue  
- offer us a free advert, along with full uninterrupted reports of our next fixture across your front and back pages

- accept the enclosed injunction as proof of my clients seriousness in this matter  
- send my employers a cheque for £1500 by return of post, otherwise we will be forced to send debt collectors to your home address forthwith.

Yours ever, (circle)  
- Your Mum  
- Disgruntled, Linstead  
- Brian Greenhouse, chair of RCS Marbles Society.  
- Gerald Hathaway of Hathaway, Greene, Ross and Hathaway, Solicitors at Law.  
- The Manager, Midland Bank, South Kensington branch

The deadline for letters intended for publication is Wednesday 12 noon - drop into the portacabins or email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk). Letters may be edited for length but not grammar or spelling.



# ~~Editorial~~

Blimey. Having spent the summer reorganising my office I'd almost forgotten what a mad rush producing a weekly newspaper is. But, finally, it's done, and the first issue now sits in front of you. Apologies for the quality of this week's Felix - a publication like this thrives on a large base of reporters, writers, photographers, reviewers and sub-editors, but this issue was produced by a very limited staff. If you'd like to help to do better next week then you know where to come.

All things considered, it's been a very quiet summer on campus. None of the sabbaticals has terminally failed his or her exams (something that's happened every year since I've been here), there haven't been any entertaining cock-ups and no-one's been on strike. Oh well, we'll just have to hope things liven up now that you're all here - don't worry, there are still plenty of controversial issues that will have to be resolved before the end of the millennium.

## QUALITY CONTROL

Having sat through two years when the only topic of conversation in Higher Education has been the imposition of fees, the arrival of the first set of grant-less students has (temporarily at least) brought the discussion to a close. Although it will no doubt rear its head again later in the year - especially if no-one in HE can work out what to do about none payers (last year both UCL and Birkbeck gave in and reinstated their students after sit-in protests) and Scotland abolishes fees - the battle now seems to have switched to quality control.

Arguments between colleges and universities across the country and the Quality Assessment Agency seem set to continue until someone can sort out a sensible system - ie one that doesn't require a literal mountain of paperwork and a year's work in preparation, just to produce a meaningless points score. Moreover, until assessment becomes

compulsory you have to question the point of the entire exercise - at present Oxford and Cambridge simply refuse to take part.

Ultimately, however, the one benefit of the new funding system is that it gives you far more power over your department - after all, you are paying them to provide you with this education, so make sure you get what you want.

## MILLENNIUM FEVER

It's amazing how excited a nation can become over the 2000th anniversary of the birth that the majority of us don't even believe existed. Ignore anything else, all we're really doing here is celebrating the fact that next year's got lots of zeros in it. And is that worth spending the national debt of a few African countries on a dome (and then still getting charged £15 to get inside)? I'll leave that one to you to decide.

The bizarrest thing about the whole exercise is that no-one seems to be celebrating the last thousand years (I won't say millennium, for fear of a maths or physics student writing in to explain how the millennium doesn't start until 2001). Even the most liberal of poles are looking at the twentieth century - who's celebrating the other 900 years? Clearly what's missing is a snappy catchphrase that sums up pretty much the entirety of English history. Answers on a postcard please.

And finally, of course, there's the wonderful world of Y2K compliance. What's going to brake? Does anyone actually have a clue? If College's attitude is anything to go by, the answer would seem to be no - I'm informed that they're shutting down the campus, moving everyone who's still here into one hall and stocking up on tinned food. If one of the world's leading technology institutions can't solve all the problems beforehand then I'm very scared.

Dave

All complaints about Felix should be addressed to the Editor. If no satisfactory reply is received please contact the Media Group Chair.

# call -ing

# Christ -ians

make yourself @ home  
with others  
who know Him

## Welcome Meeting

Date: Wed 6 Oct

Time: 7 - 8:15pm

Venue: Civ Eng Room 101

Snacks will be provided

His People is a registered Christian Society on campus and we are part of a church. To find out more about us and if you can make yourself at home, join us at the welcome meeting

Contact: Lana ly297@ic.ac.uk or  
0181 748 7576 [www.ic.ac.uk/hispeople](http://www.ic.ac.uk/hispeople)

His People Christian Society



# HOW DOES THE PERSON WHO KNOWS ALL THE PUBS GET TO *KNOW* ALL THE PUBS?



## **FIELD CUP** THE PUB RUN



reengineering the  
way you think

City & Guilds College Union - ICU RAG  
Saturday 9th October 1999, ICU Building  
see posters for further details

ICU  
**RAG**



# Win a Young Person's Railcard or a copy of the new Sex Pistols Book

As any conscientious traveller knows, rail is the way to go. Coach may be slightly cheaper and there's much to be said for last minute air fares, but trains have a tendency towards speed and comfort, and, whatever bad comedians may say, are a damn sight more reliable. What could be more useful to the average student, therefore, than a Young Persons Railcard? Not only does the Young Persons Railcard offer one third off all standard rail fares in Great Britain, but it also offers savings on the other essentials of a student lifestyle.

To buy a Young Persons Railcard and take

advantage of all these amazing offers, all you need to do is go down to your local Student Travel Office or BR station with a passport photo, an application form and proof that you are aged under 26 or a full time student. Oh, and the trifling sum of £18, which will entitle you to a full twelve months of discounted rail travel.

Somewhere above I seem to remember asking the question "what could possibly be better than a Young Person's Railcard?". And, of course, the answer is simple: a free one. Thanks to some very kind PR people, there is no need

to pay your £18, as they have kindly offered up five railcards for us to give away to Felix readers. However, we're not just going to hand these things out to the first five random punters who walk in off the street. Oh no - that would be too easy. No, we're going to force you to exercise that thing you keep between your ears. And I don't mean your nose. No, you're going to have to exercise your grey matter, and answer the following question:

**If I were travelling directly to Inverness, which London station would I use?**

Send answers to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk) with the subject header 'Railcard Comp' before Wednesday evening, along with up-to-date contact details, so that Railcards can be sent directly to the winners, with the mi

The first five names out of the virtual hat will win themselves a railcard. As ever, the competition is open to all staff and students of the College (although, of course, in this case you'll need to be under 26 to be able to accept the prize). Felix staff, their families and significant others are not eligible. No cash alternative will be offered. Correspondence will not be entered into. The Editor's decision is final.

And so to prize #2. Think late seventies, think punk and the Sex Pistols. Ingrained in the psyche of a generation, they were the group that genuinely brought no talent and an inability to sing to the masses - and British popular music hasn't looked back since. Now, Paul Burgess and Alan Parker (an illustrator and a writer for NME respectively) have teamed up to write *Satellite*, "the definitive story of the Sex Pistols", covering the memorabilia, locations, photography and fashion surrounding the Pistols' rise to iconic status.

To get your hands on a free copy, just email the answer to the following question to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk), with the subject header 'Book Comp' before it gets too dark out on Wednesday evening:

**Name the Sex Pistols original line-up**

All winners will be notified by email and their names will be printed in next week's edition.



## The Islamic Society warmly welcomes all freshers to Imperial College

The Islamic society is one of the largest and dynamic societies at Imperial College catering for students from all over the world.

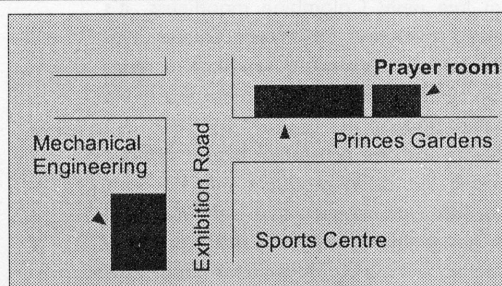
The society is well established in organising social activities, topical discussions, exhibitions and seminars. Additionally for Muslims we provide very good prayer facilities and iftar during the month of Ramadan.

Some upcoming events organised by the society this year are:

*The Islamic Awareness Week*  
*The Big Event '99.*

Come and visit us at the freshers' fair for a friendly chat and your free freshers' pack. Or pop into the prayer room on the 2nd or 3rd of October.

The Prayer room is situated in the basement of 9 Prince's Gardens



islamic society  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

For further information contact Rizwan Jafri (President) [rizwan.jafri@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rizwan.jafri@ic.ac.uk)





## Gomez

### Liquid Skin



**L**iquid skin's the funky stuff that you can stick on to your fingers for protection when you know that they're going to get ripped to shreds by some brutal and unforgiving guitar strings. It's also an appropriate title to attach to the Gomez sound. While each track is distinctive and different in its own right, there's an overall sonic appearance that's hard not to notice. It's this fluidity that is *Liquid Skin's* strongest selling point.

Following up on *Bring it On* was never going to be easy - massive sales and critical success based around a very distinctive and idiosyncratic sound is a hard act to follow, especially as the originality naturally seems to vanish when you move into second album territory. Nonetheless, *Liquid Skin* holds to the same values that made *Bring it On* a classic, and whilst the outcome might not be on quite the same plane, it's still nice to see that chart success and massive earnings haven't dented Gomez's proudly lo-tech sound.

The beginning is signalled by *Hangover*, a mediocre start that isn't disappointing in that it serves as a gentle ripple of what's to follow. *Revolutionary Kind* plods on and builds itself up much in the same way *Whippin' Piccadilly* did

on *Bring It On*, albeit in a less eclectic way. It's certainly one that's easy for audiences to march along to. The first of a few aural waves then reaches a peak with the first single off the album and probably the first to be named after your previous album. Or was it the other way around?

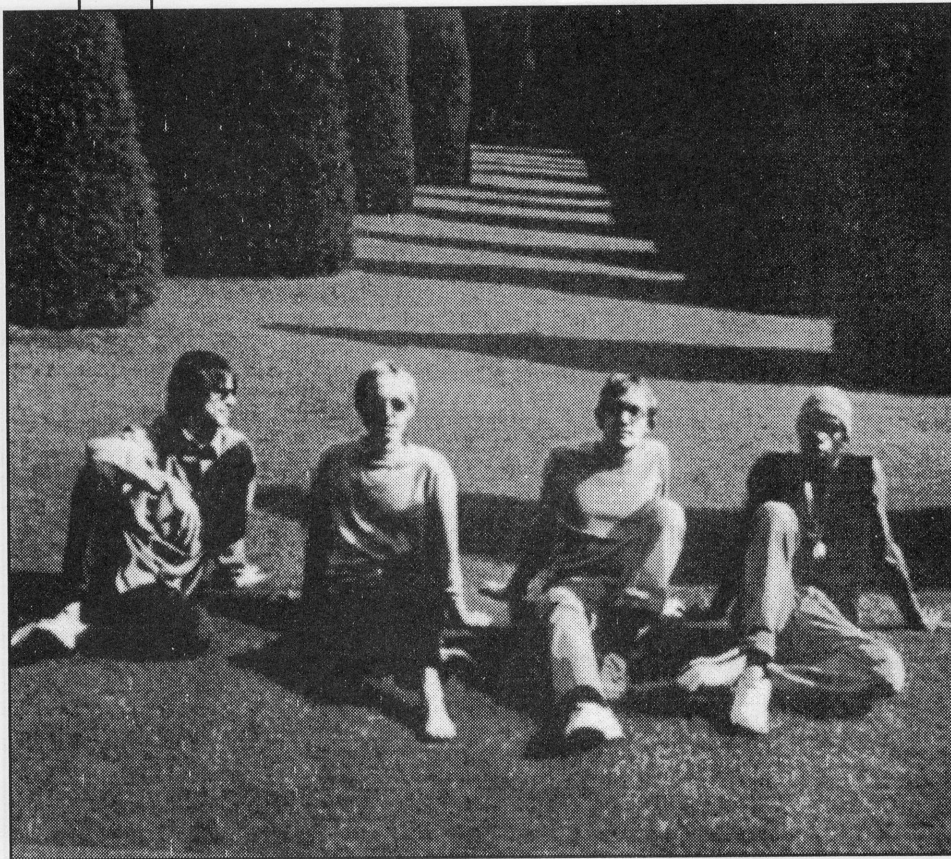
The musical high point is *Rosalita*, a charming and addictive acoustic ballad. "You've lost your patience. I see myself sink in your estimation. Just please talk to me. I won't portray myself so pitifully," are lines that make more sense and have more relevance to me than "You say it best when you say nothing at all." *Blue Moon Rising* sees the tide go out under cover of darkness. Atmospheric and filled with a kind of late night Colombian moodiness, it's seductively attractive. *Las Vegas Dealer* then heralds the band sounding like they're really enjoying themselves and I think that this is the key to their appeal.

They're like the proverbial bigger brother. The young kid could graduate with honours, land a job with respect and shed-loads of dough but whenever there's a party or family get-together, it's big brother with his happy existence that everyone seems to like and want to

have a chat with. Gomez may not be heavyweight players but they have a warm charisma about them that makes you want to keep on listening. You can take Gomez or you can cut them out. You don't have to have a clue of what they're on about. You could dismiss *Liquid Skin* as *Bring It On Again*. But me, I'll try anything twice.

Dennis





## Ocean Colour Scene One for the Modern



**D**id you hear *Profit in Peace* during the holidays? Chances are that you did. However, it's conceivable that you didn't given that it's release was as low key as a re-app on the Saturday now gone, when cars were jamming into Prince's Gardens and all manner of luggage was flowing towards the various Hall entrances. Strange that, since musically it was quite radio-friendly - foot stampingly alive and a military rhythm signalling that they are ready to start marching (already) round the UK live circuit once again. Lyrically, however, set against the backdrop of recent events in East Timor and yet another mass-murdering teenage shoot-out in the US, "There's no profit in peace, boys, so you must fight some more," probably leaves too sour a taste in some people's mouths.

*One From The Modern* is recognised by many as their third album (except those that are either extremely early followers or particularly pedantic musical know-it-alls) and it's not half bad. That's not to say that it's half good, though. There are a few utterly unmemorable... ..or is it im-memorable? Anyway, there are a few completely forgettable

tracks, with *No One At All* and *Families* being notably good examples of album fodder. There's no immediate impact like the *Riverboat Song* riff (see TFI Friday) or *Hundred Mile High City* (see Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels) but if you're looking for something akin to a Craddock guitar rush, then the opening of *July* will easily suffice - surely it's already whirling round the BBC as a new contender for the Goal of the Month signature tune.

The rant-driven *I Am The News* is an obvious single. The gorgeously simple *Step By Step* is a less obvious choice. Not least because it may be mistaken for a New Kids On The Block cover. *Jane She Got Excavated* and *I Won't Get Grazed* are understated quality songs. The problem, though, is that I can't spot any 'moments'. No major riff exhibition. No emotion-filled acoustic ballad anthem. Perhaps these moments will reveal themselves with time. Too often, though, the more we wait the more disappointed we become. And when there's a fair few other options out there - just look across these pages for examples - who wants to wait?

Dennis.



## Supergrass Supergrass



**Y**ou don't know it yet but you've been waiting for this album. You've sampled the cheeky absurdity of *Pumping On Your Stereo* and experienced the shotgun chorus of *Moving*. And although this should have been a warning shot that something fairly special was to follow, there were other things going on that diverted your attention. Well it's time you got back in the swing of things, so sit up, sharpen your pencil and start taking some notes. Point 1: Supergrass have released their third album. Point 2: It's the best album this year so far.

If *In It For The Money* saw some sort of transition from bum-fluff pop artists to serious musicians, then *Supergrass* reinforces double-fold the fact that this transition is well and truly complete. This is the sound of a band hitting its peak.

The singles have been fantastic. *What Went Wrong (In Your Head)* will probably join them, as the initial singing of the title line is the one of the most memorable moments of the album. Varied and proud, contemplative (*Mama & Papa*) and sometimes sloganeering-ly silly (*Jesus Came From Outta Space*), Supergrass have created a piece of work that holds itself up with impeccable balance. The kids aren't just alright; they're outstanding!

Dennis





## GMT

**Starring :** Alec Newman, Chitwell Ejiofor, Steve John Shepherd, Hinda Hicks  
**Director :** John Strickland



**T**ake *The Commitments* and replace soul with 'experimental jazz jungle' (that's how they describe it in the movie, and I can't think of anything more appropriate). Now remove the easy going Irish settings and genial characters and replace with modern day South East London and a mixed bag of junkies, egomaniacs, wasting no-hopers and a smattering of good apples. Finally adjust the level and the style of the comedy to correspond to this new setting. And, hopefully, what you're left with shouldn't be a million miles away from the pitch for *GMT*.

Like all the best low budget British movies, the cast is packed with unknowns alongside the occasional recognised face which provokes an automatic "what the hell are they doing there" response. In this case, that response will undoubtedly apply to the musical cameos on show, with Hinda Hicks arriving as the groups vocalist around half way through the movie, and Mercury Music Prize winner Talvin Singh putting in a strangely out of place appearance in the last few minutes. Hardly A list, admittedly, but a clear pointer to the real strength of the movie - it's music. Jazz jungle may well not be your thing

(is it anybody's?) but the haunting, all enveloping soundtrack is hard to forget or dismiss easily. Moreover, as the body of the cast consists entirely of newcomers you're allowed to believe that the actors themselves are performing in front of you (indeed that may well be the truth). Consequently, the traditional fairytale ride from obscurity to massive live sets and album deals is surprisingly believable and realistic, avoiding the extremely cliched approach that you automatically expect with movies of this type.

And so to the movie itself. Half-a-dozen kids from varying South London backgrounds (lone junkie parents, broke-but-loving parents, the rich kid, the token black guy...) finish school intent on making it big. A few years later we rejoin them, a little older, not much wiser, and not much further through their careers. However, the realisation that life is catching up with them - and ultimately a tragic accident - spur them into action, resulting in the usual selection of making up, braking up, fights and arguments. And as they slide in and out of the protective environment of the group (and the friendships inextricably linked to it) so their lives come together or fall

apart.

It's certainly different to most other gritty Brit flicks you've seen recently, embodying an interesting attempt to revive the musical (given a decent marketing campaign based around the soundtrack album it might just work) yet it's also fairly predictable and generic. The stories might be told in a different way, but they're still the same stories. The characters weave in and out of each others lives in a neatly orchestrated way, yet their individual destinies are never really in doubt. And of course, this being a band movie, there's only really one possible ending...

So what's left? A very well made movie for sure. The cast probably aren't destined for great things (musical cameos aside), but the director certainly has potential. *GMT* certainly has the ability to immerse you in a form of music which you probably wouldn't normally go out of your way to listen to - and whilst that may ultimately be it's downfall at the box office, it does great credit to the director. Yet ultimately this just leaves you looking for a great movie to go alongside the soundtrack and, sadly, that's what *GMT* squarely refuses to deliver.





## Analyze This

**Starring :** Robert de Niro, Bill Crystal, Lisa Kudrow  
**Director :** Harold Ramis



**R**obert De Niro's status as a screen icon is long since assured - there must be countless student households around the world adorned with the manically grinning image of Travis Bickle inquiring if we are, rather unwisely, looking at him. However, it seems that the fire in the belly of the youthful De Niro responsible for his intense screen presence has dwindled to barely a smolder, as he seems content to phone in performances in pretty undemanding (and very lucrative) roles and scarpers with a fat cheque. Why else did he bother with *Wag the Dog* or *Ronin*? Bobby fans will rejoice, then, as *Analyze This* features the man in top form - albeit in a slightly unexpected role.

Though his best known performances should be filed under painstaking method realism, he has occasionally strayed into the realm of comedy, notably with the hilarious *Midnight Run*. His latest film finds him aiming for laughs once again, though trading heavily on his image as everyone's favourite mafia hard man.

He plays Paul Vitti, head of a New York crime family and a man used to inspiring fear in his friends and enemies alike. Not really a

nervous introspective candidate for psychoanalysis, but when the pressure of outmaneuvering his rival mobsters begins to cause anxiety attacks, he is forced to seek the help of a psychiatrist. The reluctant shrink, Dr Ben Sobel (played by an in form Billy Crystal) rapidly has to get used to his new patient's habit of turning up with a bodyguard and a gun rather than an appointment, and very soon his private life is affected. Most notably, his fiancée (Lisa Kudrow, offering up a performance which could probably have been cobbled together from a selection of *Friends* episodes) certainly isn't too keen on Ben consorting with members of the criminal underworld.

Crucially, the on screen pairing of De Niro and Crystal is a huge success, both expertly handling the one liners along with the development of their unusual doctor/patient relationship. This is the work of two masters of their craft hitting top form and bouncing off each other - and thus the result is never in doubt. Though the plot looks a little flimsy at times, the jokes are the sort which make you laugh out loud - and isn't that the most effective form of therapy?

Simon

# ODEON

## Competition Analyze This

**N**ew to London? Then you will soon find out how expensive the cinema is on weekends. But fear not! The kind people at the Kensington Odeon (at the far end of High Stree Kensington - the No 9, 10 and 49 buses stop right outside) have teamed up with us to give away five pairs of tickets to see *Analyze This* for free.

To win a pair of tickets, all you have to do is work out the answer to the following simple question:

**How many Oscars has Robert De Niro won and what were they for?**

Email your answer to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk). Entries must arrive before midday next Wednesday (the 6th). Winners names will be printed in next week's edition of Felix.

## Reviewers wanted

Have you read the reviews and thought 'I can do better than that!?' Then prove it. Call into the Felix office and ask for Helen.



## FELIX

S

Saturday

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Sunday

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Monday

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Tuesday

N

Wednesday

## EVENTS

**Rugby World Cup**  
England v Italy live in da Vinci's from 5pm.

**Welcome Night**  
8pm - 1am (midnight bar). Giveaways, chill out room and dance floor. Free entry to all and sundry.

**Live Football**  
Watch Chelsea take on Man U in dBs or da Vinci's. Kick off 4pm

**Jazz Night**  
Gerry LeStrange trio live in dBs from 8-10:30pm, with cocktail bar. Free entry.

**Freshers Ball**  
The Union goes retro, with Carwash and The Bikini Beach Band, plus laserquest, Tha' Bomb, cocktails and Sony givaways. 9pm - 2am (1am bar). Entry £7 (free with Entscard).

**Comedy**  
Al Murray live on stage from 8pm. £6 (free with Entscard)

**STA Trivia**  
Win £50 or a crate of lager. Starts pm.

**Bfree**  
Alcohol free ents. 8pm.

**Common People**  
Traditional Wenesday night fayre in dBs from 9pm - 1am (midnight bar). £1 (free with Entscard)

**OSC Disco**  
Overseas Societe Welcome disco. Free tickets at Freshers Fair.

## CLUBS

Want to see your clubs details listed here? All you have to do is email the date, venue and time of your meetings or events to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk). Don't forget to indicate whether it's a weekly event or a one-off.

**Freshers Fair**  
250-odd clubs plus two dozen companies pitch their stall and try to lure you into their shadowy world. Across the South Ken campus from 2pm - full maps and details in supplementary section

**Sports Trials**  
Hockey, football and rugby players gather in Beit Quad at midday for first training and trials session of the year. Turn up for your free introduction to the windswept delights of Harlington.

## Music

**Ronnie Scott's Charity Gala**  
A quality line-up assembles at the Barbican. Very pricey - check for returns.

**The Beta Band**  
How little is there on this week? So little that this is probably the best on offer. Hammersmith Palais, £12.50

**Bryan Adams**  
Wembley Arena plays host to yet another evening of lift music classics. Tickets from £25

## Film

**Analyze This**  
De Niro and Crystal return to form with this tale of a mafia hitman and his shrink. It's not hard to guess who plays who.

**Go**  
One of the year's most highly praised movies consists of three inter-linked tales, directed by Doug "Swingers" Liman.

**Election**  
Mathew Broderick and Reece Witherspoon star in this acclaimed tale of a no-morals high school brat and her teacher.

**South Park**  
If you love South Park enough to actually be able to sit through an hour-and-a-half of Kenny, Cartman et al, you'll love it.

**Eyes Wide Shut**  
Sadly, not up to anything you'd expect - no Kubrick genius, no Cruise charisma and, shockingly, no porn. A real shame.

## TV

**Match of the Day**  
BBC1, 10:30pm  
Somehow, despite no live football and no Des, the BBC still have the best coverage...

**Chelsea v Man U**  
Sky Sports, 4pm  
It's Chelsea's last chance to stop United wrapping up the title by Christmas.

**Jerry Springer UK**  
Jerry visits London and offers a few lessons in the art of insightment to riot and street fighting.

**The Mark Thomas Product**  
Channel 4, 11:05pm  
Mr Thomas returns to scare the hell out of 'the establishment'.

**Ally McBeal**  
Channel 4, 10pm  
Is there any chance of a character who could be described as "normal"? No.

## Arts

**Designing in the Digital Age**  
Particularly well suited to IC students as it's both geeky and at the V&A. Free to students.

**Candide**  
Three hours of musical Voltaire? I think I'll pass on that one. High quality National Theatre production, £10 -15.

**Post Impressions**  
Surely a show at the British Library entitled "The art of the stamp" can't possibly be missed? Unsurprisingly free.

**Gumboots**  
Six guys from Soweto dancing like cray were a smash at Edinburgh. Now they're at the Lyric Theatre. £10.

**Alfred Hitchcock & Contemporary Art**  
The Museum of Modern Art's new show, described as "tedious" by Time Out. £1.50

D

Thursday

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Friday

Y

Next Week

**Cabaret**  
Hugh Lennon and hypnodog. 8pm, dBs. Tickets £3.

**Bfree**  
Alcohol free ents in the Concert Hall.

**Cocktail Night**  
8-11pm, da Vinci's.

**Freshers Carnival**  
'Carnival of the Bizarre' with fire eaters, snake charmers etc, plus serious tunes in the Concert Hall, casino in the gym, karaoke in the UDH and cheese in dBs. 9pm - 2am. £7 (free with entscard).

Standard Union line-up gets underway, with ents nights on Saturday, Wednesday and Friday, plus the STA bar quiz on Tuesday and the traditional cocktails on Thursday night. Check next week's listings for full details.

Full programme of sports and societies activity gets underway - contact your club chair / captain.

Full fixtures for the new season will (ULU and BUSA permitting) appear in next week's Felix.

**Netaid**  
Tomorrow sees Wembley host the London leg of the "biggest charity event ever". £35 well spent.

**The Haunting**  
Quite possibly the least scary horror movie made in the nineties. But then what do you expect from the director of Speed 2?

**The General's Daughter**  
Well made (if disturbing) potboiler starring an in-form John Travolta, James Woods and Madeline Stowe.

**American Pie**  
Massive in the Sttes, largely because it manages to find a whole new level of lowest common denominator. Sick.

**The Sopranos**  
Channel 4, 10pm  
Cruelly overlooked by the Emmys, it's still one of the most innovative shows around.

**Buffy**  
Sky One, 8pm  
How does something with Doctor Who style special effects manage to do so well?

Sport, sport & more sport courtesy of the Rugby World Cup, countless football competitions and lots of US sport on C5.

**Der Rosenkavalier**  
Jonathan Miller's reworks Strauss' bitter-sweet comic opera at the ENO. Thurs & Mon 6:30. £2.50 - £50.

**Van Dyck**  
Royal Academy shows are always impressive and well organised, and for once it's not too pricey. £5.40

New seasons across the board as galleries and theatres gear up for their millenium runs. Expect much Y2K inspired nonsense to be unveiled.

## Tasting Notes

## Week One : The Basics

Welcome to the first in a new series of Felix cooking columns. I'm going to attempt the impossible - to provide something for everyone. Cooking really is easy. To prove the point, this column will build up slowly, reaching a full roast before Christmas.

For most cooking, you only need a few simple rules. In the Basic Skill section I intend to cover a small step along the way each week. The Meal Suggestion will then give instructions for making a whole meal, without using anything beyond the skills covered so far. For the more adventurous, there will also be an Advanced Tip containing an interesting idea or technique.

## The Basic Skill

## Boiling Water

To start off, this is a really basic but very important skill. First, a few words about pans. Obviously, the main distinction is between non-stick and ordinary. For the novice, non-stick is probably the best choice, although there are some things which are difficult to do with a non-stick pan (eg achieving a good golden brown finish). The other important characteristic is the thickness of the base - in general, pans should have a moderately thick base.

Controlling the temperature under a pan is one of the most important skills to learn. If the heat is too great, food will burn, or cook unevenly. If the heat is too low, you may not get the food hot enough for the desired effect. The key to most tasks is to vary the temperature.

When boiling a pan of water, start by turning the heat up as far as possible. Loads of heat is required at first to raise the temperature of the water. As a general rule, you should never turn the heat so high that gas flames or an electric glow are visible round the edge of the pan. When the water is boiling, add the food you want to boil. You will still need to heat the pan fairly hard, because now the food needs to be raised in temperature. At the point where the water is boiling, with the food in the pan, you will need to lower the tem-

perature, so that amount of heat applied matches the heat which is being lost. In this way the pan will boil gently, without so much evaporation that the pan may boil dry.

## Meal Suggestion

## Pasta with Pesto

Pasta is great. It is easy to cook, full of energy, and can be really cheap - and you don't necessarily have to make a complex sauce to go with it. Pesto is the general name for a paste, made with olive oil, garlic, and either hard cheese or nuts. You can buy a basic green basil pesto in a jar, from supermarkets. Many shops also sell red pesto, which has added tomato. You can mix pesto straight in with pasta, for a good value, tasty meal.

Boil the pasta as described above, adding a pinch of salt to the water. After the pasta has been cooked for the time specified on the packet, drain the pan. If possible, add some butter of olive oil to the pan, and mix into the pasta. Finally, simply stir in about a tablespoon per person of pesto.

## Advanced Tip

## Rosemary and Stilton Pesto

Rosemary and stilton combine really well in a pesto which is ideal with for pasta, stuffing mushrooms, or ticking under the skin of chicken breasts. Making pesto is great fun - I'm sure there are scientific ways of doing it, but I normally just shove all the ingredients in a blender. Just be careful not to over-blend the stilton.

It is ideal to use one of those mini food processors, or a hand blender with an enclosed attachment. For two people, blend the following, until smooth:

50g Pine Kernels (or Cashews)  
3 tablespoons Olive Oil  
1 large chopped garlic clove  
a small clump of fresh rosemary  
a few drops of lemon juice  
salt and pepper

To finish, chop 60g of stilton into small chunks, then add to the pesto. Blend for a further 10 seconds.



# Exploation Society

## FRISBEE 99

Nigel Thacker and Simon Hicks led their first major expedition this summer to Pakistan with four other IC students. What follows is their report of a very successful venture.

Diarrhoea, altitude, food poisoning, iodine, blizzards, glaciers, big rivers; summer must have arrived and many have found themselves yet again on Expedition. And so it was for the six of us as we set off into Pakistan.

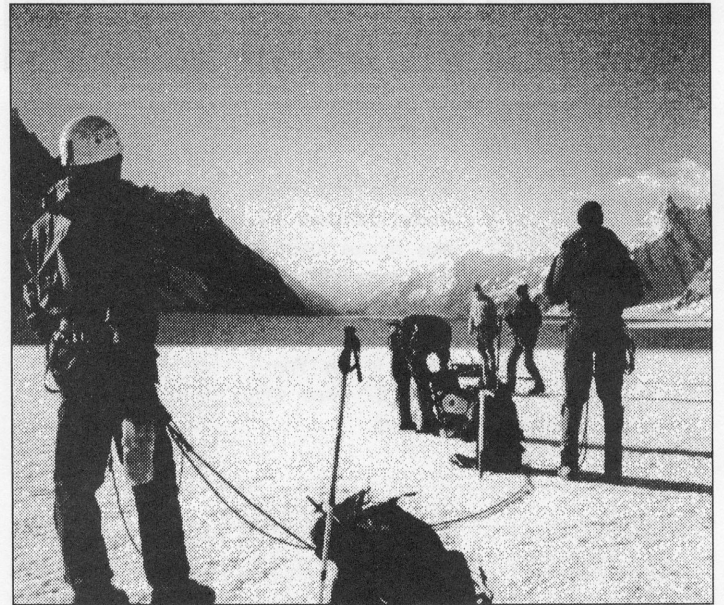
Everything went well on our departure from London, and Islamabad soon loomed upon us; we realised how much faith we had put in our Tour Agents; we hoped they would be there!

At 3am our first move took us to a small hotel in Rawalpindi, the older city neighbouring Islamabad. Here our guide recommended we wait till the following morning to catch the forty minute flight up to Skardu, but no! We were far too keen. Wait twenty four hours in one place! Did they think we were mad? Perhaps fat lazy Americans? No, we were young eager students and certainly weren't going to stand still for a day. Instead we managed to negotiate a bus for immediate departure upon the twenty five hour drive at 35 centigrade along

the Karakoram Highway. I think we were doubly chuffed not to have to pay extra for this success.

Twenty eight hours later, and probably as many litres in sweat, we arrived in Skardu. The scenery had been quite fantastic with sheer drops of 1000m, to be found only in the greater ranges, and we felt we had got to know the country a little. Still, after fifty hours in transit our eager-student outlook was flagging, and we were perhaps beginning to join the American camp. Indeed our next hotel was full of exactly the aforementioned Americans, and we fitted in fine.

The trek (which interestingly is always interchangeable for "adventurous walk") went well, covering amazingly chaotic ice fields before emerging onto the 'ice highway' of the Biafo Glacier. We had opted to allow plenty of time so as to be able to climb some mountains en-route. Our dreams had been of long snow covered ridges that we could ascend, perhaps ice-axe in one hand, to our glory at maybe 7,000m. Instead we found many rock spires and sheer faces that perhaps could be climbed by Britain's best climbers; we would have to give it a few years. Despite this discovery we were pleased to make several ascents



up to 5882m, claiming one unclimbed peak as "Frisbee Brakk".

Kayaking was a huge success too with two major rivers, the Shyok and the Hushe being paddled and swam in large sections. The water was very fast - perhaps 30 mph in places - and proved very painful to those who swam. One epic ended in us losing a boat and paddle, though the boat was later recovered and we carried a spare paddle.

Other highlights of the trip involved scenic toilet sites, almost killing Hicksy (a large falling ice-block grazed his helmet) and the revelation that our staff had been threatened with the sack should our group complain. Surprisingly high standards followed!

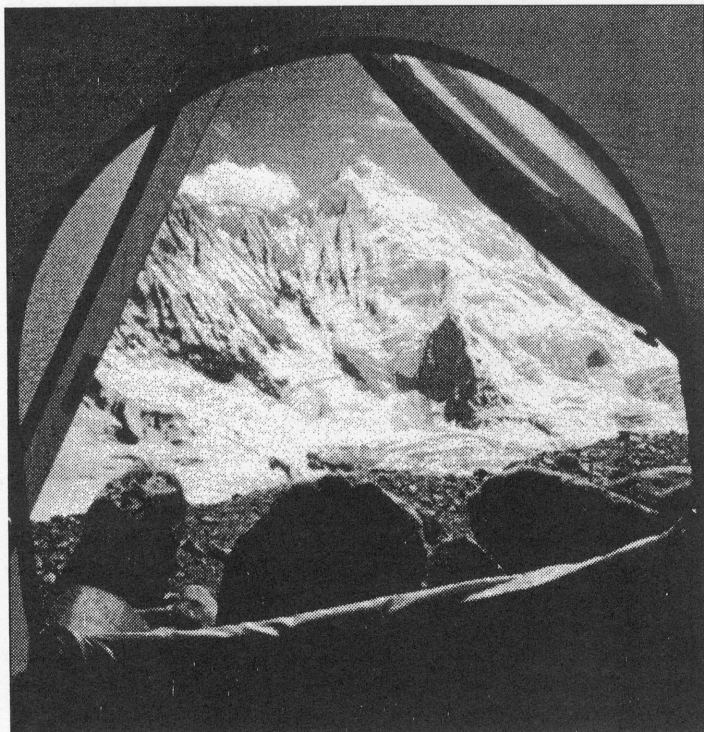
My final message from this expedition would be that if you want to do something, DO IT!! Had we followed the well meant, pre-departure advice from the many 'experts' we spoke to we should not have visited Pakistan this year (Fabrizio's friends had been shot at point blank out there last year), we would certainly not climb anything (Rob had had extensive experience in the area and knew it was all too technical), the porters would surely con us (an inevitable aspect of the diffi-

cult people in the area) and as for canoes, huh!, don't even bother putting them on the plane (every river will be stoppered to 15m and lethal). Of course none of these problems proved too hard to overcome, and with a little determination any expedition can happen, and ours did.

Many thanks to Cascade Designs for water filters and Therm-a-Rests, Dalloz Fall Protection for Troll and Grivel climbing gear, and Bridgedale 2000 for supplying the team with socks.

The expedition was approved by Imperial College's Exploration Board, the Dorset Expeditionary Society, and the Young Explorers' Trust of the Royal Geographical Society.

To find out how to join a suitable expedition or lead your own, come along to the Exploration Society's Introductory talk on Thursday 14 October at 12:30, venue TBA. Speakers include Prof. Bob Shroter from ICs exploration board, and Shane Winsor from the Royal Geographical Society, both giving practical advice on planning and funding your venture. If you are unable to attend, or would like more information about the society's other lectures, please contact Nigel at [nigel.thacker@ic.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.thacker@ic.ac.uk).



To place an article about your society  
contact David Roberts at [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).



## Pugwash

Pugwash is a well-known international organisation ([www.pugwash.org](http://www.pugwash.org)), concerned with global problems and social and ethical issues. It encourages scientists and engineers to take responsibility for their actions. Pugwash and its president Joseph Rotblat received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 for their efforts towards nuclear disarmament. The Student Pugwash group is guided by the goals and principles of "The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs". It is concerned about the social impact of science and seeks ways to prevent its misuse. It is also concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeks co-operative solutions to global problems, and thereby tries to avert the imminent threats to civilisation.

The IC Student Pugwash group aims to raise the awareness of our responsibility to help to

reduce and, when possible, to eliminate the actual and potential harmful effects of the scientific and technological research and development. We are organising events such as lectures, discussions, workshops and seminars in areas like arms control, disarmament (particularly weapons of mass destruction), sustainable environment and other ethical issues. Nobel Peace laureate Joseph Rotblat will give the inaugural lecture, and workshops on the following topics are envisaged: military research at IC, alternative careers, information warfare, environmental issues, international security, arms export, and ethics in science.

For more information on the ICU Pugwash group, or if you would like to get involved with our work, please contact Carsten Rohr at [c.rohr@ic.ac.uk](mailto:c.rohr@ic.ac.uk) or check out our website at [www.su.ic.ac.uk/pugwash](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/pugwash).

## Womens Football

Women's football at IC is about fun, competition and team work. We welcome anyone, no matter what your nationality, discipline or ability, and strive to accommodate any enthusiastic player.

The team competes in the University of London league and cup competition on Sundays, and in the national British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) competition on Wednesday afternoons. Last year we reached the quarter finals of the BUSA competition, and the year before we lost on penalties in the semi-final of the ULU cup. Alongside the main competitions are a range of five-a-side tournaments arranged by other Universities which we also compete in.

Moreover, we hope to do even better this year with the influx of more medical and off-campus students into what was previously a purely Imperial team.

We train once a week on Monday nights with a qualified football

coach to prepare for the games. Wednesday nights are when the women's team gets together in the bar to talk tactics and encourage team building through our shared love of beer. We are also keen to maintain relations with the men's club - we have joint Christmas and Annual Dinners, where we get together to reminisce about the seasons highs and lows.

So, when your course gets you down, and stress is at an all time high, share the burden and take it out on some other university on the football pitch. If you love football, fun and frolics, join the womens football club and enhance your time at Imperial College.

For more information on the club find us at the Freshers Fair (you'll find our stall in the MDH), turn up for training at midday on Wednesday, or contact this year's captain, Anne Kerr, at [anne.kerr@ic.ac.uk](mailto:anne.kerr@ic.ac.uk). Results, fixtures and loads more useful info can also be found on our website: [www.su.ic.ac.uk/ladiesfootball](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/ladiesfootball).

**Da Vinci's**  
— Café bar —

**WEEKEND**

**SPORTS SPECIAL**

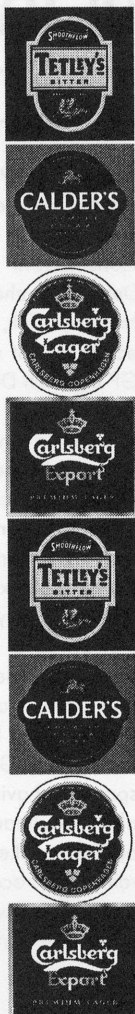
**SATURDAY 2ND 5PM**  
**RUGBY WORLD CUP**  
**ENGLAND**  
**V**  
**ITALY**

**PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN CALDERS & TETLEYS POLO SHIRTS ALL AFTERNOON**

**SUNDAY 3RD 4PM**  
**CHELSEA**  
**V**  
**MAN U**

**PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN CARLSBERG & CARLSBERG EXPORT POLO SHIRTS ALL AFTERNOON**

**ICU THE ONLY PLACE FOR BIG SCREEN SPORT**



ICU Ents wants to entertain you  
**SAT OCT. 2ND**  
**9-1**

**FREE WELCOME NIGHT**

**4 bars, including cocktail bar, classic tunes in dBs & chill out room PLUS "AMERICAN PIE" FREEBIES**

**ICU** ICU IS YOUR UNION  
ALL PROFITS ARE REINVESTED IN STUDENT SERVICES



# SPORT

## Welcome to the Wide World of Sport

In true newspaper style, this back page is reserved for the most elegant, dynamic, perceptive reporting emerging from Imperial College. Yes, it's the sport pages, and this year you can expect to see the results of Imperial's finest clubs churning their way through whatever the mediocre University of London teams can throw (or kick, hit, pass) at them. Again.

The British Universities Sports

Association competition kicks off on Wednesday 13th October with our Men's Fencing looking to defend their BUSA Championship title from the likes of Oxford and Loughborough. Men's Volleyball may go one better this year to clinch the title after reaching the finals last year. In the University of London leagues, Men's Football are looking to do the double again, while the Ladies team are

still searching for their first title in any competition. Whatever your sport, Felix will bring you the latest results, match reports and team information on Monday mornings, for your lecture time reading pleasure.

Match reports (in plain English, on paper, not scrawled illegibly on the back of a beer mat) are always welcome on a Wednesday night. We're also

looking for eager sports reporters, pundits, statisticians and photographers, so if you fancy yourself as the next John Motson, Barry Davies, Trevor Brooking or Murray Walker (potential Jimmy Hill's need not apply) and want to experience the combined excitement of live sport and an expense account drop into the office or email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).

## United stride away while challengers falter at first

### Football

Oh dear. Once again United are going to walk away with everything, aren't they. What looked like being a relatively open season - a three horse race at the very least - looks like a fairly safe bet already. The Premiership would seem to be in serious danger of turning into the Scottish Premier, with United only having to turn up to walk away with the silverware, at least until Arsenal can recapture their trademark stinginess and arrogance, Chelsea can learn a little consistency, Leeds can afford a couple of truly world class players or Liverpool can afford to buy the other half of the coaching manual (the section on defence wouldn't go amiss).

All we can really hope for now is for something nasty to happen to David Beckham, thus putting him out for the rest of the season and sparing us having to hear the words "this is definitely Beckham territory" every time the opposition concede a free kick in their own half. Mean-

while they're almost certainly going to be the only British team making any progress in Europe (unless Bobby Robson's magic reaches new heights or Spurs get lucky and Ginola starts showing off). Oh well, at least United can't win the Cup this season...

Further down the division's, however, there's a much more interesting challenge in progress. I'm talking about the eternal quest to achieve the holy grail of League Football. After years of the Third Division effectively blocking any promotion into the League, using stadium quality as their justification, all the big Conference teams now have grounds that would do the League proud. Consequently, four or five years after first winning the Conference, Stevenage finally look like they've got a decent chance of moving up into the heady world of "real football". The fact that it might be at the expense of Orient just makes it even sweeter...

## Hakkinen nudges ahead of Irvine in race for title

### Formula One

As the 1998/99 season draws to a climax, the scene is set for a dramatic finish to both the Drivers and Constructors competitions. Defending champion, Finn Mika Hakkinen, 31, clinched a vital two points at last weekend's European GP in which Damon Hill ended his disappointing season in a fitting manner in an accident involving Jarno Trulli and Rubens Barrichello on the first corner. The Nurburgring in Germany made for an exciting, action packed race with a first place jinx striking four times. Winner Johnny Herbert took a first Stewart-Ford GP win after title challengers Heinz-Harald Frentzen and David Coulthard retired in a race plagued by inclement weather. Italian Giancarlo Fisichella spun out having taken first place after Coulthard locked up after opting to take his chances in the rain. In a race which saw Ferrari perform the worst pit stop of the season, leaving Eddie Irvine lan-

guishing just outside a points position, the retirement of Jacques Villeneuve created a new battle between Irvine and Hakkinen for 6th position - and a much needed championship point. Hakkinen sprung into action despite racing half-heartedly for much of the race following the strategy mistakes originating from the McLaren engineers. Hakkinen's first overtaking attempt saw him run off the track, but a later mistake by Irvine as the pressure built up allowed the Finn to take 6th position with three laps to go.

With two races to go, Hakkinen now leads the drivers championship by 62pts to Irvine's 60pts, with Heinz-Harald Frentzen surely out of the running in third on 50pts. The action now moves to Malaysia and Japan with all the potential for an incredibly dramatic finish - it just remains to be seen how vital those two points turn out to be.