Felix Editor's Report For Imperial College Union Council Meeting, 8 October 2007

By Tom Roberts - Felix Editor

Union Handbook

The Union Handbook was produced over the summer and sent out to all the incoming freshers. We decreased the font size and chopped out some of the less necessary stuff from last year's handbook to produce a leaner and less expensive booklet. So far the response has been positive apart from a single issue raised by one of the societies, which myself and Phil Power are dealing with.

Invoice Chasing

A number of companies that placed adverts in last year's Felix hadn't paid by the time I took over from the previous Felix Editor. The outstanding invoices dated back to 2006 and I have been contacting the advertisers in question, requesting payment finally. Felix is owed about £12,000 in advertising and so far I've managed to get about £7,500. The chase is ongoing and the cat is determined to catch all the mice.

Felix Newspaper

Three issues of Felix have been printed so far this term, two regular issues (1380 28/09/07, 1381 -05/10/07) and one Freshers' Special issue.

The Freshers' Special issue was distributed to halls, ready for when the new students arrived. Thanks to Kirsty and her team of minions for packing and getting the paper delivered.

The "proper" issues have been hefty ones, weighing in at 44 pages for the first issue and 36 pages for the second. Some of the staff have switched roles from last year and they have been accompanied by some new blood in the team. New sections include the Photography page, the How (Not) To... section, the Welfare page and Challenge the Sabbs should launch this Friday hopefully. If the non-Sabbatical Councillors think they're hard enough, bring it on.

The response has been positive to all the issues so far and I even have photographic proof of someone reading it.

Felix Website

I updated the website after the Freshers' Special issue was published and have done since then too. I'm intending to publish content on there when I can, but the process is time consuming.

Felix Finances

I'm keeping an open relationship with the Union staff and Sabbaticals about the financial situation with Felix. I've been working with Chris Larvin so that we're clear where Felix stands financially and we can avoid a repeat of last term when the newspaper's printing was halted.

Felix Office

I cleaned the office and vacuumed up lots of mice droppings over the summer. College has sent someone over to repaint part of the back room and hopefully the ceiling will be repaired soon too. The leaks have gone but the ceiling tiles still need replacing.

I.Science

The seventh issue of I,Science has been printed and looks lovely. The Editor-in-Chief is now Eddie Wawrzynczak. It's waiting in the office ready to be distributed in the next week or two. We've managed to get some advertising to help fund the publication too. Two more issues are planned for this academic year, one per term.

Guardian Student Media Awards

Felix submitted four entries for the awards panel to dissect this year, but the title of Student Newspaper of the Year will be handed over to another publication because this a category Felix didn't enter in. We're still waiting to hear back from the Guardian about nominations.