



Founded in 1949

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

No. 373

FRIDAY, 10th JANUARY, 1975

A GUILDED DAVEY !

IN THE early hours of Tuesday (7th January) morning an intrepid band of Guildsmen led by a person referring to himself as the DOCTOR executed the first and amazing mascot relieving stunt of 1975, by making off with Royal School of Mines mascot, Davey.

'....they left a calling card?'

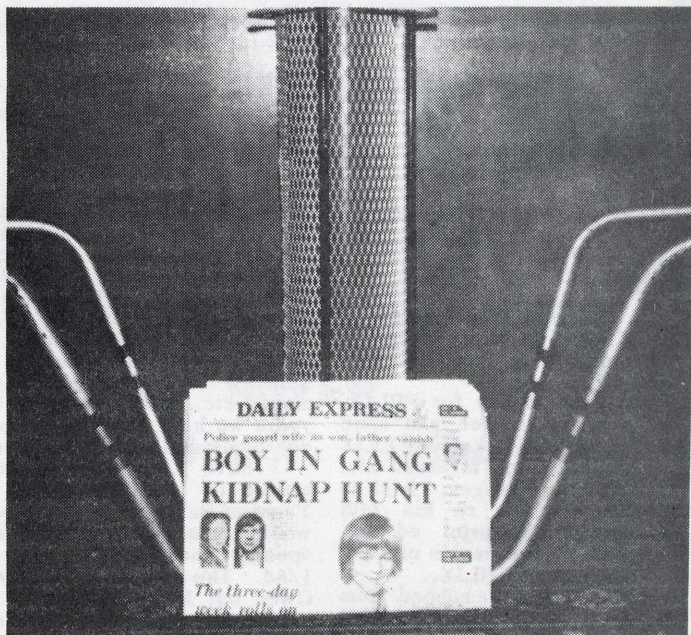
The extent of this commando styled mission may be judged by the fact that it took them three weeks to plan, prepare and carry out the operation, the principals involved being their 'locksmith' and 'heavy movement' departments. They had to go through some locked doors and a locked steel cabinet before being able to remove the sought after mascot. They achieved this entry without breaking any of the locks. In a truly great style, they left a calling card? (A Christmas card no less!).

'Ladies and gentlemen

A note entitled 'W.H.O. HAS DAVEY!' was sent to the 'Ladies and Gentlemen of City and Guilds College' by the DOCTOR. In it he gave an outline of what happened and till now a detailed account is not available. Suffice to say they will be demanding a ransom which 'will obviously go to a good charity'.

FELIX contacted John Mortimer, President of RSMU.

When asked about the disappearance of Davey his comment was 'I don't believe in rumour but I shall investigate'.



Right: A photograph of Davey in his new hideway together with Tuesday's 'Express'.

BEAVER BOTHER

Beaver, the LSE Student Newspaper, is in difficulties concerning a spoof advertisement placed in the November 12th issue, a report having been placed before the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The advert in question was printed as part of a full page which called for the Army's withdrawal from Northern Ireland. The advert was a spoof of a genuine army recruitment ad printed in the October 29th edition, using the same layout.

Selections include: as an 'Army Officer' you will have a good chance of becoming dead a lot sooner.you can always blame any mistakeson the workers, and shoot them.

A conservative member of the college, Robert Ingram, is reported to have sent copies to members of the Government and Shadow Cabinet as well as the DPP. Ministers are reported angry. The report of the DPP is awaited.

UNION ON HALLS Weeks Voluntary Levy

TREVOR PHILLIPS TOLD our reporter that: College is waiting for a report from the consultants who examined Weeks Hall. This is due during January. When the report comes it will be considered together with any strengthening schemes which may be necessary. Until then, College is not prepared, because of the risk, to allow any students to occupy the building.

Trevor considers we must wait for the report. When this becomes available Council and a UGM will be consulted on what the Union attitude should be.

THE UNION has issued a leaflet informing hall residents of the voluntary levy of 35p per week included in hall fees. The object of this levy is to raise money for the Student Additional Residence Fund. Despite it being Union policy to have a levy, Council agreed that students should be free to decide individually whether they wish to pay this levy.

Union has asked on a number of occasions that the levy be itemised separately on bills. This was agreed by College but apparent administrative difficulties have arisen which the

Union is trying to resolve.

It has been claimed by some students that the levy is entirely useless and an unnecessary financial burden, as at present rates of inflation the fund cannot be built up quickly enough ever to finance the building of a new hall, viz. the failure of the Northside project.

Union suggests that residents reserve payment until at the earliest, Monday, January 13th. It is believed the levy will have been discussed at last night's UGM.

EDITORIAL

Michael Williams

YET ANOTHER bumptious term grinds into motion. This one inevitably has to be less exuberant, less enthusiastic, less energetic than the first term, for now is the time that many students realise that their academic work is the fundamental reason why they are at IC in the first place. Now is the time to be devouring that back-log of problem sheets and finalising that project before writing it up. It's a pain, I know, but it is a necessary torture which we all have to go through.

But whilst many are resolved to pin their proverbial shoulder to the grindstone there are others with their minds on other things such as the contribution they feel they are capable of making to the Union year possibly as a member of the Union hierarchy.

Towards the end of this term some hardy souls will vie for the four Union posts which are elected by means of a college-wide ballot. The posts are the President, Deputy President, Hon. Secretary and the Editor of FELIX. All except the DP are sabbatical which means that the post becomes a full-time job for a year with no academic work. Each post is open to any full member of ICU with the exception that no sabbatical officer can stand for another sabbatical.

Now is the time to consider the possibility of standing not only for these posts but for each and every post that exists in this Union.

Do not be put off by those whose minds are already made up and who wish to publicise that fact.

Regarding the alleged attitude of the NUS to the IRA, does it not strike anyone at all odd that whilst vehemently denying that the NUS supported the IRA, Mr. John Randall the President, did not take any initiative whatsoever to condemn the recent IRA bombings? The opportunity for him to do so was there but he did not take it. Again one must express one's curiosity at the fact that much of the NUS policy on the Irish situation coincides with the aims of the IRA.

But before all the IC lefties jump up and throw their arid eloquence at me, let me just say that I'm not condemning John Randall - I'm just not taking the opportunity to support him.

LETTERS

Beit Hall,
Jan 6th, 1975.

Dear Sir,

In this year of high inflation it is nice to know there is something else free besides fresh air.

We used to pay for FELIX, yet now he is free and more handsome. Having known FELIX all his life, and followed him through many changes, I wish to congratulate you on his 25th anniversary colourful edition. I am still in possession of many old editions of FELIX.

After I was demobbed from the army at Christmas 1945, I came to Beit Hall in January 1946, as a porter. I was introduced to the cleaning staff, and six months later married one of them.

My wife started at Old Beit in 1926, and is still working at Beit Hall with me. We have been very happy working with the students, and shall miss them very much when we retire in the not-too-distant future. We have seen great changes in student dress, appearance, moods etc., but all through the years we have found them most courteous and respectful to us.

I have a mention in your article by Dave Salisbury '25 Years of Residence', John Owen would clean shoes for 6d. and sponge and press suits for 1/6d. The name is not John Owen but John Roden and 3d. a pair was charged for shoes, 2/6d. charged for pressed dinner suits.

Miss Sherwood who we worked with many years was a wonderful lady and a great asset to the smooth running of Beit Hall. She was much concerned with the welfare of the students, especially the girls.

Long live FELIX.

Yours sincerely,
J. Roden.

FELIX ©

Michael J. L. Williams
Editor

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Many thanks to Ian, Catherine, Julia and Sue.

Copy day for most articles, reviews etc. is the Friday before publication day. Articles can be accepted on the Monday and Tuesday following if space permits. Small ads can normally be accepted up until Tuesday.

01-589 5111 Ext. 2166

Int. 2881

PARKING

There are still people who have not collected their parking permits. If these are not collected before the end of January they will be forfeited and the places reallocated.

Kerslake
G.S. Allchurch
R. Snook
M. Stanley
Raz Nahan
M. Dezekowitz
K. Dunlop
I. Franklin
J. Williams
D. Woller
N. Ahmad
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EUU414C
9813 PH
MHA 787F
PGU 452L
GOU 748D
RAD 337G
PDD 880M
124 ENP
DKP 299K
EMK 361J

J.A. Gerrard.
Hon. Sec. ICU.

DUE TO A CHANGE IN PRINTING CONDITIONS,

THE FELIX COPY DEADLINE WILL NOW BE

MONDAY, 11.55AM

Booking of Union Rooms.

Any IC student may book a room for a function. To do this, either call in and see Jen in the Union Office or ring her (int.2232). There is no charge to ICU members, although a deposit may sometimes be required against damage, etc.

If you book a room, PLEASE read the form carefully before signing it. In some cases you may be asked to return later, when you'll be told whether or not the booking is accepted. If a deposit is required, you must pay it at least 24 hours before the event. A cheque would be required even earlier. Failure to pay the deposit in time will result in the cancellation of the booking.

Lastly, if you want to have a party, or any noisy event, going on late, you will be wasting your time applying for any day but Friday or Saturday. The best party room in College is the Quiet Room, Level 0, College Block. This room is sound proofed and can be booked through the Day Bookings Office in College Block.

UNION TELE RETURNS.

Welcome news for those who like a good pint with their viewing, is the opening of the new TV Room in the Union building. The room, on the third floor, next to the Snooker Room, is to be refurnished as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can enjoy the best tele, the best beer and the ex-best leather sofas in the College.

N.B. Access to the TV Room is via the main staircase only.

IF Only..

Katie McKinnon

A Discretionary Award? – It's A Dog's Life!

DOWN HERE in the little ol' mecca of South Ken., life is lived with that mean low down hound, goin' by the name of Discretion. He's related to what yer might call the Legal Beagle fam'ly – them that sticks their wet noses into everythin' wat don't concern 'em. Now this dawg is real mean, and when I say mean, I mean mean. Truth is, once pon a time he cut a pretty cute little figure for the folks round here, kinda way of life fer us I s'pose, but he sorta lost his green an' wrinkled appeal and now he looks just plain mangy. Why he was even nick-named Lucky fer a time on accounta once yer had that hound on yer tail, yer luck was in. Gals at IF recall when yer could live in near oppulence when Discretion was about but now that dawg don't give nuttin' away, he ain't nuttin' but bad luck. Course, he ain't mean ta everwan, just those that he don't fancy (which is plain near everwan I reckon), that's why he's called Discretion, see? He can just as easy bite the hand wat feeds him as the one he don't like the smell of. Pursonally, I put the blame on his ol' master LEA. Yer know, time was when Lea loved that dawg like he was his own, give him awl the best cuts

and saw that that critter was right properly fed, ev'n patted him in publik (and that did Lea's image no end o' good 'cos thar ain't nuttin' folks like so much as an animal-lover) but tragedy is that now Lea ain't got no time fer that dawg – too busy countin' his pennies I s'pose, ol' god gold has takin hold, yer might say, an' thrown hurlin' sterlin' right outta the winder, leavin' yer poor ol' Discretion with just the left-overs. Why that dawg is so hungry he chews great holes in folks' pockets. Course, as ever, it's us hilly-fillies here at IF wat are sufferin' the most, on accounta that hound is seekin' fer to get back at us. He's an-eyeln' up all our ankles just so's he can bite 'em. That dawg's meanness ain't gonna end fer a long time t'come.

Having grabbed your eyeballs by the scruff of the iris and brought them this far how about

FIONA CASSIDY, a second-year Mineswoman, came into the limelight towards the end of last term when, against very strong opposition, she was crowned as the IC Carnival Queen for this session. We wish her every future success.



Albert's Plum

(S. Ken. Stn.)

Cut Price 55p

3-course meal to
IC Students

(Discotheque till 3a.m.)

straightening your mouth and considering the very real problems posed by the Discretionary Award System? All grants of this nature are grossly unjust because as there is no national policy stipulating that LEA's should make such an award available in such and such a case, there can be no hard and fast rules regarding the award itself. Of course as it is left to the whim of the LEA, who under the present squeeze is rather obliged to follow the Government's example in cutting educational expenditure, one may imagine that discretionary awards are the first to be affected.

Many LEA's flatly refuse to offer discretionary awards to girls at IF and it seems that as this trend is catching on more and more potential applicants are looking elsewhere. At present there are 200 girls at IF as compared with 250 last year. Whilst one may argue that we are not entitled to an award as substantial as the university grant, one must point out that

the vast majority of girls at IF fulfill university entrance requirements.

It is undoubtedly true that because of its situation, because of the duration and the high standard of the course and a number of other combining factors, the Institut Francais is one of the most expensive courses of its type. However, by withdrawing or cutting back on financial aid to the students here, the LEA's are jeopardising the very existence of the Institut Francais, and consequently the quality of the future bi-lingual and multi-lingual secretary.

In a country currently riddled with economic crises and increasingly dependent on strong diplomatic and economic relations with abroad, it is essential that the LEA's cease to regard us as liabilities and look on us as the investments that we are, for international communication, which we at IF are dealing in, is at the very basis of our country's future survival.

P.G. AFFAIRS CORNER

Tom Abraham

TIME AND again, in conversations with postgraduates from a number of departments, I have been confronted with tales of complete disillusionment with their projects and supervisors. No postgraduate can openly complain about his project, because of his total dependance on the supervisor for the degree. The system is such that no matter what, the individual postgraduate is bound to lose. In spite of this, I feel that the postgraduate group should openly confront this issue. In doing so, I want to make it clear that we do not seek a confrontation with the academic staff. All we wish to do is to discuss ways and means of improving the existing system.

It has been suggested to me that a charter on postgraduate research work should be drawn up and presented to the college authorities. Presumably among the points that could be put forward are:

1. The total responsibility should rest with the supervisor for providing the student with a research subject.
2. A certain amount of preliminary research should have already been carried out to certify the feasibility of work on that topic.
3. The supervisor should keep in touch and be aware of the state of the student's research.
4. Possibly greater help should come from the technical staff in setting up the necessary apparatus.

Any such charter should be binding on both student and supervisor. The points raised here are mainly for discussion. The best way to tackle the issue would be for the initial discussion to be carried out at departmental groups level, with the IC postgraduate group discussing it at a general meeting sometime in the middle of the term — hopefully the final draft of the charter can be formulated at this meeting.

**Imperial College
Folk Song Club**

Wednesday, Jan. 15th

TROTTO

*Medieval and traditional
dance music on hammer
dulcimer, fiddle, rebec
and guitar.*

**Union Lower Refectory
7.30pm**

The question of whether the PG Affairs Officer (who is also chairman of the IC Postgraduate Group) should be a member of the Union exec or not, is finally coming up at the UGM. A number of postgraduates have complained to me about the lack of adequate representation within the Union, and some have been in favour of a 'go it alone' policy. I am totally opposed to this since I feel that we stand to gain a lot by working within the framework provided by ICU. However, the full benefits cannot and will not be felt unless postgraduates are willing to take a more active part in Union affairs. Although last year's Union executive tended to ignore postgraduates this year's exec have been more favourably disposed.

Now to write about something more interesting! Julia Dunning and the girls have been complaining about the way the fellows (namely the undergrads) treat them. I sympathise with their feelings and what's more, shall suggest a solution to their problems. The solution comes in the form of postgrads. They are more mature, more intelligent, more tolerant, more understanding, more affectionate, more perceptive, more loving and altogether more desirable creatures than undergrads. There are 1600 of them at IC, and although half of them are married or living with girlfriends, it still leaves 800 of them to choose from. So girls, ignore the undergraduate rabble, and start associating with real men.

Finally, the Christmas lunch was very well attended. My apologies to those who were turned away at the door. Our main event this term will be the Postgraduate dinner. This would be the first time we've had one, and depending on how successful it is, we could make it into an annual affair. I would like to end by thanking all those who helped make the Christmas lunch such a success, especially John Porter, Paul Newton, Phil Ryipon and Richard Upton, not forgetting MCP, Glen Tic, Frankie boy and all the other level sevenites.



Royal College of Science Union

request the pleasure of your company,
at it's regular function:

'Tuesday Night Out'

commencing on January 14th,
trips to skating rinks, bowls, cinemas,
plays, concerts, etc. will be arranged.
Specific information to be found on
posters and scattersheets.

Theta Rechristening Dinner

Thursday 13th February, 7.00p.m. for 7.30p.m.
in College Block.
Tickets £2.75, available from
the R.C.S.U. Office, or from
departmental representatives.

Bar Night.

Sunday 12th January, 8.00p.m. till closing time
in the Union Bar.
Darts, boat races, sing song.

T.M. & STUDENT LIFE

A student's life is good, but there is just one drawback — having to study. There are many possibilities open to us and also requirements which we have to fulfill. The main question is how to make full use of our own potential as students: How to find the best parties, the cheapest bars; to manage with the grant; and obviously how to succeed in exams with the least work possible.

So, what does all this have to do with Transcendental Meditation (TM)? From the experience of over 300 students who learnt the technique of TM in the last 3-4 years in IC and from the experience of over 8,000 students who have learnt TM from all over England, it seems that there are many benefits for students. And the proof is that more and more students are learning it, most of them because of a 'meditating' friend. What are the benefits? Mainly they fit into three categories: the mind, health and social life.

For the mind, it's found that after practising TM for 15-20 minutes twice a day, thinking ability and organisation of memory improve considerably. This means that one can learn things easily and in a short time. Students claim that as a result of practising TM, learning becomes such an automatic and spontaneous thing — they can concentrate without any real effort. (The technique is effortless and doesn't demand any concentration). These claims agree with the scientific research done on students which indicates: increased intelligence growth rate,

increased learning ability, improved academic performance etc.

The second type of benefit is in the field of health. IC meditators say that they are more relaxed, less ill and feel fresh and alert throughout the day. This enables them to enjoy the bar, parties, or just sitting quietly indoors and listening to music or watching TV.

The last category into which the benefits fall is social relationships. Meditators find that they feel better about themselves and therefore their attitude towards others improves. Not only do they find improvements in their relationships with their own college friends but also with members of the opposite sex (ask the girls who come to the TM Soc parties).

Celia and Rosalind, two beautiful girls who teach TM in the college, tell us from their experience that TM can be learnt by everyone. Celia told me: 'Anyone who can think can meditate' and according to her, the benefits are immediate and don't require years of practice.

For further information just drop in on one of the introductory talks. The next one is on Tuesday, January 14th, at 1p.m. in Elec. Eng. Room 406.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

No. 7

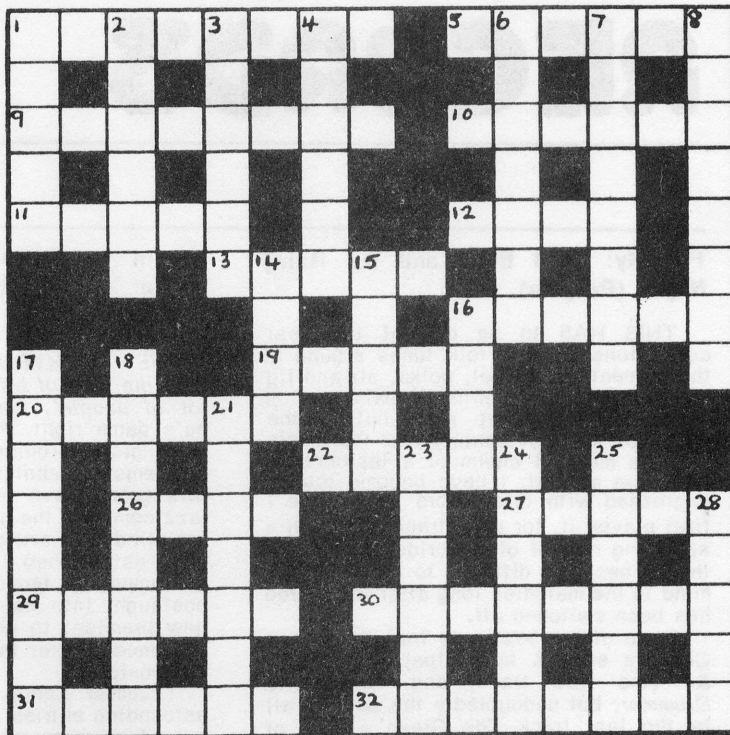
Xam

Across.

- 1 Propaganda on trees? (8)
5. As one team.... (6)
9.has about a hundred, our south-east resort will appear....(8)
10.to rouse a vigil before noon (6)
11. Have unfinished business: back to chaos (5)
12. Exist next to one Jack's plant (4)
13. Sounds like germanium could be made of stone! (5)
16. Excite a king by the river (6)
19. No jobs back in the club (5)
20. In June, Ed left - that's the point (6)
22. After morning, finish cure (5)
26. A short d-day back at the agency (4)
27. Work on twitch of the eye (5)
29. Wild - a drive! But it's changed (6)
30. I show fellow round American college accompanied by one member of the band (8)
31. Issued, only to fall into decay (6)
32. Judges look up - see back there (8)

Down

1. Tree god stands before church (5)
2. Niche into which a clove can be put (6)
3. Take off from the villa, unchallenged (6)
4. Examination on a coin (6)
6. Were any changes made? - it's just started (3,4)
7. Removed, changed, ate no tuck, certainly not cauliflower head (5,3)
8. Cats need peculiar entertainers (4)
14. Otherwise, Elsie will lose one (4)
15. Smarten and grow endless chdnt (5)
16. A French refusal soon (4)
17. Len's wild greeting has five hundred put in chains (8)
18. Gives back the others minerals (8)
21. First into Len's hears (7)
23. 'Make sure the river follows directions' (6)
24. Fish up at the river without source - it's easily managed (6)
25. Try to modify rivets (6)
28. Circular cake is solid - figures! (5)



Solution to Prize Crossword No.6

Across: 1. Bus shelter 6. Scamp
9. Bastille 15. Noose rope
16. Rancid 17. Storable 19. Eggpan
20. Prospector 21. Ireland 24. Grocers
25. Asgard 28. Big city 32. Ahoy
34. Drape 35. Plumb 36. Bloomer
38. Natal 41. Chapter 42. Teem
43. Amines 46. Twentyfifth
47. Anniversary 52. Braise 54. Owsn
57. Rotunda 58. Craft 61. Osseous
63. Spoke 64. Beret 65. Lief
66. Artemis 68. Yonder 70. Stonish
75. Shutter 78. Detraction 81. Morose
83. Emphatic 84. Egress 85. Uncertain
86. Threnody 87. Prate 88. Strengthen

Down: 1. Bunter 2. Sponger
3. Hierarchy 4. Loop 5. Emeers
7. Candela 8. Moist 10. Althing
11. Terse 12. Libya 13. Emenda
14. Eros 18. Probable 22. Lotto
23. Tridactyl 24. Guava 26. Spent it
27. Doubt 29. Cilia 30. Salami
31. Crush 33. Ova 35. Pore 37. Minerva
39. Towbars 40. Linus 44. Music
45. Devastate 48. Notable 49. Ignore
50. Abbot 51. Ogre 53. Exude
55. West side 56. Story 59. Roi
60. Fifth 62. Egret 65. London rag
67. Married 69. Neatest 71. Stomach
72. Aspect 73. Robust 74. Lennon
76. Upper 77. Twain 79. Tiger
80. Task 82. Ache

The winner of the 25th Anniversary Issue Prize Crossword is R. Garnett of Botany-2, who receives the special £5 prize.

£1 Winner will be drawn from the Editor's Hat at noon next Wednesday. The Editor's decision will be final.

Stanley --- "A STUDENT OF TODAY" --- BY RON APPLEBY





RECORDS

Jack Llewellyn

Planxty: Cold Blow and the Rainy Night (Polydor).

THIS HAS to be one of the best collections of Irish folk tunes around at the moment. Each reel, polka, air and jig have an enormous depth of character: the lyrics seem to step right out of the pages of the last century and the music has the magical charm of a leprechaun, little hat an' all. I have become totally engrossed with this record ever since I first played it, for each track has such a sparkling ring of olde worlde exuberance that it becomes difficult to close one's mind to the melodies long after the stereo has been switched off.

Some of the best cuts include *Johnny Cope* (a song & horn pipe), *Cold Blow &c* (the title track) and *The Little Drummer*; but undoubtedly the best of all is the last track *The Green Fields of Canada* which as an emigration song, is unusual in as much that the emigre appears to believe that he has done the right thing. It is slow, introspective and lyrically moving with the guitar playing a haunting melody supported by beautiful, almost indigenously Irish harmony.

Fleetwood Mac: Heroes Are Hard To Find (Reprise).

THIS IS Fleetwood Mac's first album since they decided to settle in Los Angeles permanently and although the advertising blurb says that it '...is more complex in its concept than anything they've done before', I fail to see how FM can be categorised as anything other than conventional.

However, there are definite signs that the band has set its sights on a broader scope as regards presentation. Several of the tracks try to break away from the old *intro-verse-chorus-verse-chorus-end* triteness and even drummer Mick Fleetwood showed us that he's capable of more than the usual thump-diddy-thump on tracks such as *Bad Loser* and *Safe Harbour*.

Melodically, the Mac have always been pretty strong and side two must rate as a triumph in anybody's books: *She's Changing Me*, *Silver Heels* and especially *Prove Your Love* shine through as the highlights of the album.

BOOKS

Richard Adams: Watership Down (Penguin).

THIS IS a beautiful book, destined to become a classic. Its story is beautifully told bringing the wonder of the English Countryside with its plants and animals to life with such vividness that you can almost smell the grass.

Taken on its simplest level the book is a fairy story concerning a group of rabbits who decide to leave their warren

Return to Forever featuring Chick Corea: Where Have I Known You Before (Polydor).

'WE STARTED *Return to Forever* with the idea of bringing good music to a lot of people', says Chick Corea. And he's damn right. After several years of hard graft, ironing out the inevitable problems of technique in elitist seclusion, this group have naturally fused into a jazz combo of the highest quality. Having satisfied their art-for-art's-sake ambitions and established their credentials in contemporary terms they kick off their onslaught into the world of jazz with a new premise: to communicate with their audiences rather than have them analyse the music.

Drummer Lenny White achieves some astounding entries — practically ghosting out of nowhere with a firm grip on the tempo whilst the almost legendary bassist Stanley Clarke continues substantiating his position as *Melody Maker*. Jazz bassist of 1974. The newest member of the group, Al DiMeola, emphasises his competence on the guitar and the big C himself shows just what keyboard virtuosity is all about.

Rarified improvisational fusion? *Bullsh.* This is a new slant on jazz. It's good.

Barclay James Harvest: Barclay James Harvest Live (Polydor).

BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST must be one of the few groups around who are capable of reproducing the excellence of a studio recording on a live recording, for try though I might, I could detect very few 'bum' notes and hardly any mismatch of instrumental tone-balance. Recording engineers can only do so much, so it is a tribute to BJH's professionalism that this double-album is so acoustically superb.

Several of the tracks (including *The Great 1974 Mining Disaster*, *Negative Earth*, *Paper Wings*, *For No One* and *Crazy City*) are taken from their last album *'Everyone is Everybody Else'*. However, if you prefer songs which are extended, extemporised and developed to the full as opposed to the clipped, commercial 3½ minute spiel then this album is definitely worth checking out.

Richard Waring

and undertake the hazardous journey to found a new colony. The adventures they have on the way, their success, their search for does, and the eventual outcome all follow naturally and believably.

On a higher level allegorical interpretations are possible. As an example, the way 'our heroes' act towards other rabbits they encounter mirrors human behaviour and ideals. Will those who behave in the most commendable manner win in the end? You'll have to read the book to find out.

Graham Central Station: Graham Central Station (Warner Bros).

THIS RECORD leaves me completely in two minds. After listening to the first side iron-willed determination was required in order to prevent the formation of a localised concentration of plastic somewhere in the region of Prince's Gardens. Nevertheless, side two was a revelation indeed: *'Tis Your Kind of Music* has a synthesiser introduction, played by the band's leader, Larry Graham, which shows a depth of maturity in the concept of 'funk'; and the final track, *Today*, provides one Herhall Happiness with the opportunity to demonstrate his confident expertise on the clarinet. These two tracks stand head and shoulders above the others, which might easily be construed as space-filling.

Storming the Southern States at the present time is all very well, but an album such as this, which is to be released prior to their British and European tour, should really have advertised the band's undoubted talents (after all, their roots are in Sly and the Family Stone and Billy Preston's band) on a broader spectrum and not present such banality as side one.

Osibisa: The Best of Osibisa (MCA).

Clearly designed as a sampler for listeners new to Osibisa rather than a collector's item, *The Best of Osibisa* is a collection of nine tracks from those Osibisa albums produced in 1971-72. The inimitable sound that is Osibisa shines through effortlessly with this highly representative selection.

However, 'criss-cross rhythms that explode with happiness' can become approximately painful after a while — the group never seem able to slow up at all. Most tracks incorporate a tempo which seems to be obligatorily fast-moving and one feels that their repertoire could do with just a small jab of melancholy at times.

Undoubtedly the best track is *'Beautiful Seven'* which uses thunderstorm sound effects at the beginning plus a superbly reverberating flute which is a stunning combination.

A good buy for those uninitiated to Osibisa.

All through the book nature is displayed with great accuracy, almost reverence. The style is in places almost documentary; I gained the impression I was reading a true history. Even the concept of rabbits communicating as though by speech seemed quite in place.

I say again: This is a beautifully written and intensely moving story which is held together right to the last word by a powerful imagination that seen forbids disbelief.

Continued on page 7

Robert Phillips (Ed.): Aspects of Alice (Penguin).

IF I were taking bets on it, I'd reckon that you had read *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* at some time in the past. You may have read them recently, but most probably you remember them from some time ago. Anyway, you'll know what I'm talking about, for no other books have had such a pervasive influence on the English idiom or played as great a part in convincing outsiders that the English are nuts. If you haven't read them recently, get hold of a copy and do it now, preferably after thumbing through a copy of *'Aspects of Alice'*. After all, did you on your first reading appreciate the pun when Alice is introduced to a leg of mutton? She immediately asks the Red Queen if she shall cut her a slice.

'Certainly not', answers the Red Queen, 'it isn't etiquette to cut anyone you've been introduced to'.

Aspects of Alice points out this and many more references to Victorian upbringing and childhood, gives in full the forgotten poems which Lewis Carroll

parodied, and throws a deal of light onto Charles L. Dodgson. It really is worth its weight in gold; not just for the spread and scope of the essays, the information presented and the carefully annotated notes, but for its intrinsic value as first class criticism.

The opinions of the various authors could not differ more widely, and range from whether the Alice books were really written by Mark Twain to analogies with the acid-taking experience. And in-between we find J.B. Priestley's caustic remarks on Humpty Dumpty. Walter de la Mare's careful and thought-provoking review, and stacks of conjectures from Freudian hang-ups, phallie and pigs to Don Quixote.

Personally I found myself most in agreement with R.L. Green in his sensible assessment of what Lewis Carroll was trying to do. As he says, extremely careful allegory is not the work of the subconscious mind, and although I would be the first to agree that there is much of C.L. Dodgson's life in Carroll, most of the attempts (and there have been so many) to relate Alice to anything are difficult to swallow the day after, however convincing they appear on the first reading.

Whole Earth Epilog (Penguin)

IF YOU have seen the *Last Whole Earth Catalog*, then you've seen the *Epilog*. The same format, another folksy story that I couldn't be bothered to read and a few rudies to shock the sort of people who like to give educational Christmas presents. As someone is quoted as asking: 'Are you guys the symptom or cure? Put it another way, there was nothing wrong with dinosaurs, was there?'.

Having said that, I must confess that there is a deal of useful information in the *Epilog* (like the *Catalog*), and that I enjoy just leafing through. Lots of ideas, which are what count, but still inevitably American stuff, so hard for us to get hold of without paying astronomical freight charges.

I hope that we aren't going to see an *Epilog* year (Too much, man), but it would be great to have an European version. Is Bath working on it?

One last injunction: don't be put off by the cover, get yourself a copy and keep it within reach because this is a book that you'll want to keep dipping into for a long time to come.

ENTS CONCERTS

SAT 11th **LEO SAYER**

1.20 ic adv 1.50 on door

TUES 14th **BLUES NITE**

50p adv 60p on door

SAT 18th **LINDISFARNE**

1.20 ic adv 1.40 on door

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM UNION OFFICE EVERY WEEKDAY LUNCHTIME.

IC STUDENT DISCOUNT ONLY GIVEN ON PRODUCTION OF REGISTRATION CARD
(2 TICKETS ONLY)

DISCO EVERY FRIDAY ONLY 10p
in union lower refectory 8-11-30pm

FILMS

THUR 9th **the mechanic evel knievel**

THUR 16th **triple echo the don is dead**

ALL FILMS SHOWN IN MECH. ENG. 220 AT 6-30pm

FELIX SPORT

GLIDING CLUB

OVER THE period of the Christmas vacation, the IC Gliding Club continued to function albeit in a somewhat bloated fashion.

At the home aerodrome of Lasham, a novices course was organised with the result that two more 'ab initio' pupils have joined the ranks of solo pilots (and thus qualified for the A/B certificate of the F.A.I.). Prior to the course, another pilot went solo, but as he already possessed a PPL (private pilots licence) for powered aircraft, one could hardly class him as a novice. Thanks are due to the instructors who gave their time to run the course.

Meanwhile, the so-called pundits, took the Skylark (No. 296) on an expedition to Scotland to hill and wave soar. Despite the fact that Christmas day was spent peering into the mirk with high winds and heavy rain lashing the clubhouse, some flying was done by all during the week. The Bishop

Hill at Portmoak provided several hours of hill soaring, and the northerly winds on Boxing day enabled some wave flying to be undertaken. Thanks are due to our hosts at Portmoak aerodrome who not only allowed us to fly 296, but also their Swallow and Pirat.

*

N.B. If you want any further information contact Nigel Leak, Aero. Eng. II (home tel 736 5388) or Steve Lloyd, Chem. Eng. PG, (GPO ext. 1933, int. 2610 or 3856).

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FELIX requires technical staff, reporters and writers. There are three reasons why you should work on FELIX, viz:

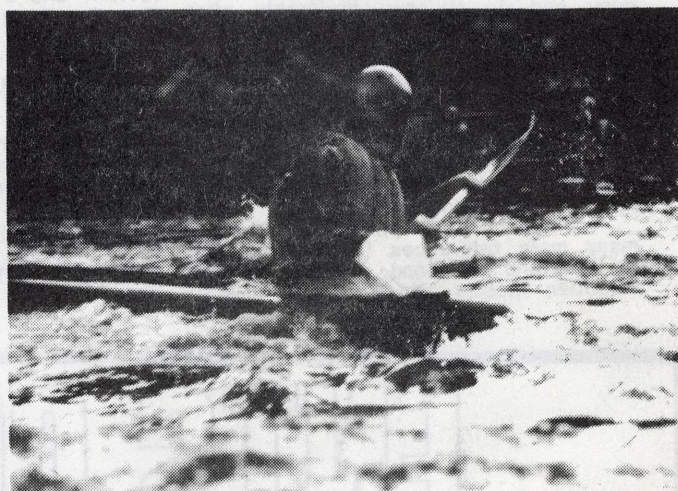
- (1) You are giving a service to the Union.
- (2) It will look good on your application form when you go for a job.
- (3) You will be joining a great bunch of guys and gals (oh, yes!).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

STOP PRESS

Whoops! We just remembered that in the New Year Honours list Professor Hugh Ford, FRS and head of Mech. Eng. received a knighthood. Also in Mech. Eng. visiting Professor McEwen together with Professor P.T. Matthews, head of Physics and Dean of RCS each received a CBE.

CANOE CLUB



OCTOBER 18th saw the Canoe Club set out on its first major trip of the term, the annual trip to the river Wye at Symonds Yat. We arrived at midnight, 2 hours ahead of schedule, and tried to find the grassiest bit of mud to pitch the tents on. Saturday morning, well before sunrise we arose and, after several hours of

hesitation, took to the water. We then paddled upstream to the roaring waters of Symonds Yat rapid (Grade I). Most of the day was spent introducing new members to the underwater view of the rapid. During Saturday night the river rose a foot or so and on Sunday the rate of capsizing had greatly increased. An overall capsizing rate of 75% was achieved.

On Saturday the 9th November, eleven canoes and ten people piled into a van and drove to Bedford for the Bedford Handicap Long Distance Race. We arrived early enough to give ourselves two hours to find the start. This turned out to be the most difficult part of the race, but we eventually located a group of wet looking canoeists listening to the course briefing. The race was started with the slowest boats (under-16 girls) off first and the fastest (Senior K2) leaving almost half an hour later. We all set off in our respective classes, through the new cut, to the first wier where two of the team had a quick swim. Much refreshed they carried on and a couple of wiers later found a scouts' canoe blocking a lock shute, forcing most people to portage. The race ended after two more wiers and a few more miles. Bob Joce won and Tim Perry came third in senior class 3 and Diana came second in Ladies slalom. The rest of the results are not yet available.

A week later we set off on our annual trip to the river Exe for the Exe Descent race. Avoiding the many (four) pile-ups on the way, we arrived at our lodgings and all of us piled into one bed. On Saturday morning we set off to inspect the course and pubs. Four people actually went canoeing, two of them having a pleasant dip while experimenting with rapids. The evening was spent in the pub and afterwards in our communal bed. On Sunday morning we wandered through a ploughed field to the start of the race which was just above Tiverton. Ten wiers, many rapids and nineteen miles later we found the finish. All the IC paddlers finished well up some finishing rather wetter than others. Bob Joce managed 7th, Tim Perry 10th and Dave Rosenthal 17th out of a record number of entries. The rest of the team finished in the top half of the field. J. Hubbard (Ex. Chem. Eng.) won the senior K2 class again. The ULU paddlers did not do so well and smashed one of their two boats in half.

The next important competition that IC paddlers are involved in is the British Universities Down River Race on the Dee. We wish them the best of luck.

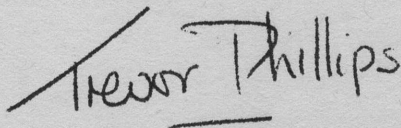
We still have a coaching session in the pool every Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00p.m. All are welcome.

THE VOLUNTARY LEVY

The original agreement by which the so - called "voluntary levy" was set up, has been discovered to be worded in such a way, that rather than 35 pence per week being paid to a particular fund by each occupant of Hall or House, as distinct from a rent payment, 35 pence of the rent paid is diverted to a fund for new building. That is to say, the weekly rent bill for a room in Southside is NOT £4.40, plus a levy of 35p., but it is £4.75, 35p. of which goes into a fund. Thus, it is clear that there is nothing "voluntary" about the levy.

Given this, there are at present, no grounds for the withholding of any part of this term's rent, and students who have not yet paid, are advised to do so.

Under the mandate of the UGM of 9th. Jan, I am now proceeding to terminate the agreement, so that no part of the rent bill is diverted to the purpose of building.

Trevor Phillips