



Founded in 1949

Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

FREE!

No. 386

WEDNESDAY (Surprise, surprise), 30TH APRIL, 1975.

20 MORE RESIDENCE PLACES FOR WOMEN ---

SEX DISCRIMINATION?

VAT ERROR

IN 1973, Joseph Murray, Warden of the Allen Hall of Residence (University of Manchester) refused to charge VAT on guest room fees during termtime. The Government's VAT Commissioners disagreed with his attitude and took him to court. The resulting VAT Tribunal upheld the Warden's decision and ruled that no VAT is payable on guest room fees on a student area during termtime.

This came to light when the Deputy President, Ron Kill, was reading through the quarterly newsletter of the Association of College Wardens

in the absence of the Tizard Hall Warden, Dr Geoff Evans.

The legal reference for the case is 1 VATTR 33 1973 and it is clear that the case was contested in 1973. *The guests of students at IC, however, have been paying VAT on guest rooms throughout the session.* It is obvious that the College Block financial machinery has slipped up somewhere along the line. The College's popular 'VATman', Terry Dooris, left College at the end of last term so there is a state of confusion as to how this all happened.

Undertakings have been given that this unfortunate situation will be sorted out.

But in the meantime, all those who have been charged VAT on guest room fees are entitled to a refund.

College Block

Re-named

College Block, the administrative core of the college which was opened in December 1969 by the Queen, is to be re-named at last.

It is to be called "The Sherfield Building" in recognition of Lord Sherfield's services to the College as Chairman of the Governing Body from 1962-1974. One suspects that the College was waiting for a prominent College dignitary to either die or leave before any re-naming would take place, but that is just sheer speculation.

Additionally, the new hostel block which was completed at the College Field Station, Silwood Park, in February 1974 is to be named "William Penney Hall" in recognition of Lord Penney's long association with the College as a student, staff member and Rector from 1967-1973.

THE COLLEGE has decided to raise the proportion of women in residence (halls and houses) from 10.7% to 12.3%. This has resulted from the allocation of twenty of the thirty-nine new places, which will be available from next October, to women.

It is College policy to align percentage of women in residence with the percentage of women at the College. If this is to be the case, then on present figures there will have to be nearly 100 more women at IC next year, making a total of over 500. It appears that in recent years, a greater proportion of students have been women than the estimated figures on which the allocation of places was based. (Last year is being quoted as an exception since 10.7% of all residents in halls and houses were female whereas they only formed 10.1% of the College).

However it would seem that even allowing for this, an increase of 20-25% in the female contingent of the College is a major overestimation.

Lady Anne Thorne, the Senior Tutor for women, was approached by FELIX. On our suggestion that it would appear that women were clearly going to be given greater preference than men, she replied with three points: firstly, the number of women at College does have a general upwards trend; secondly, a high percentage of

women are freshers, who therefore tend to soak up a lot of places at the expense of second and third years; and thirdly; far more female than male PG's wish to have to rooms in residence so once again they would tend to soak up the women's allocation at the expense of the second and third years. Thus the admitted "overestimation" is to help out the second and third years.

The opponents of this scheme say that it is ill-planned and that it does not take into account many aspects of the residence situation. The point was made that women much prefer single rooms than double rooms (are fewer single rooms going to be available to men?) and that on the whole there is a far wider range of alternative accommodation facilities available for women than for men.

There seems to be a general feeling of disapproval amongst the men at IC and the Union did, in fact, oppose the move but to no avail.

When asked to comment, Bill Gerrard, the Warden of Mining House said "I feel a little disappointed that Lady Anne Thorne did not take the trouble to personally consult enough people on this matter. There are still some uncertainties as to how the scheme may be implemented in practical terms."

The final Union view on the matter was the expectation that the places will not all be filled next year. A request is to be made for letting men into the vacant rooms if this turns out to be the case.

RIZ IS THE NEW DP

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, Riz Shakir, currently the Features Editor of FELIX, was declared elected to the post of Deputy President of IC Union for the next academic session.

Despite the fact that there were two fully proposed candidates when the nomination papers came down on Monday, Mr Shakir was nevertheless declared elected when his

opponent, Graham Paterson, withdrew from the election.

The result has generally released sighs of relief from certain sectors of the Union who were convinced that if the election went to a ballot, it would certainly have been iniquitous and thus necessitated yet another election. The election is, of course, subject to ratification at the next UGM.

EDITORIAL

Michael Williams

THE FELIX pilot scheme of producing two issues per week is hereby initiated, but I have to emphasise that the idea is purely experimental and in no way reflects any kind of long term policy for FELIX. Indeed, if the scheme proves to be impracticable then it may be scrapped in favour of an eight-page weekly.

The idea behind the scheme is simple: producing a twelve page issue requires the collation ("putting together") of three sheets over 2,200 times. Now with exams in the offing, I feel that it is unreasonable to ask the non-sabbatical staff to give up four hours of revision time late on Thursday evening in order to collate FELIX. However, by producing two four-page issues a week (with the occasional eight-pager) the time-consuming task of collating is largely avoided.

That is the theory anyway. Fingers crossed on the practice!

A minor dissent has arisen over the reporting of the way in which the IC Union delegation voted on the Abortion Bill emergency motion at the NUS Llandudno conference recently. Since I was sitting at the Press table and not with the delegation for the whole of the conference I am unable to confirm either way. I was told of our delegation's voting in good faith by Mrs Gerrard, nevertheless Mr Payne insists that he voted for the motion and did not abstain. In light of Mr Payne's subsequent interest in the subject, I am prepared to accept that he did in fact vote for the motion. I apologise for any undue embarrassment which the conference report may have caused him.

LETTER

Broad Left Bashing

Physics
25th April, 1975

Dear Sir,
Your cynicism at the leadership proposed by the broad left at Llandudno in the Education motion is well founded. The disgraceful tactics of Al Stewart at Surrey were not the actions of an individual but the Policy of the broad left in practice and I fear will be nothing compared to the inactivity and sell-outs that will come from the broad left next year.

The complacency (as you term it) of the NUS executive is a conscious betrayal of the fight that students have to take up to defend their grants, housing and education facilities in a period of slump. The huge turn-outs at the NUS demos this year were a slap in the face for the broad left

who moan about C.O. apathy. There is no apathy today—only a vacuum of leadership. This cannot be filled by calls for more militancy, only by a fight for socialist policies which is conspicuous by its absence from the broad left motions.

It is no surprise that the WRP were the first to warn of the dangers of slump to the conference in opposition to the "boom-in-77" posturings of the IS's leading economist John Palmer of the Guardian and to warn that the Labour Party MP would betray *en masse* against the "Labour Lefts will fight" mouthings of the CP and the Broad left—where was the rush to support Eric Heffer?

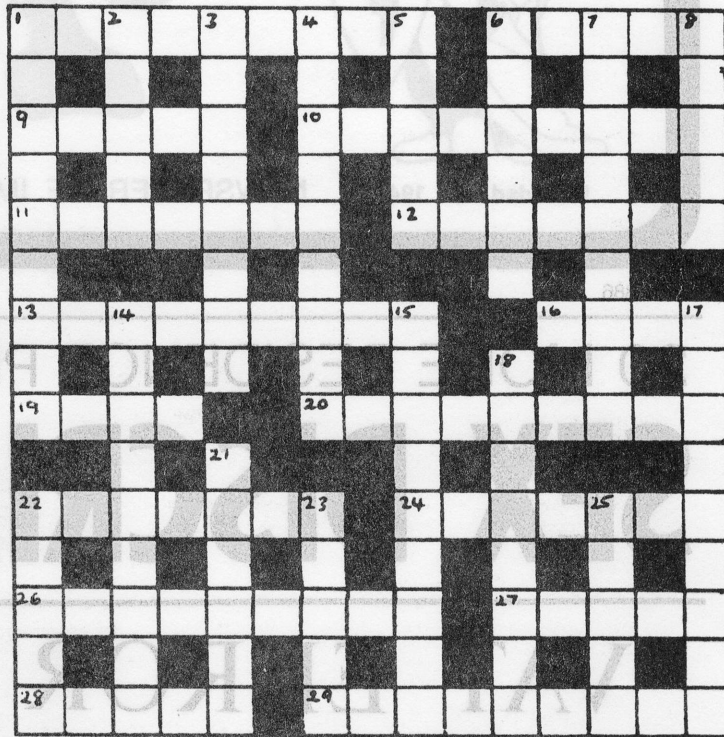
As for Trev Phillips' appeals to Vice-Chancellors to stop victimising students—they place him on the same cloud nine as you were before you discovered the bias of the capitalist press, except that in Phillips' case he knows all too well the waste of time of such diversionary appeals—he and the rest of the broad left will Prentice's most trusted lieutenants in the year to come.

Alasdair Campbell

PRIZE CROSSWORD

No.16

Xam



Across

1. Current footballer, a Scot, lives in and out of water(9).
6. Abstainer traps one in points dance(5).
9. Salt from iron I treasure(5).
10. Revered a creation of lab veneer(9).
11. Bird accepted the French right due to name(7).
12. It's springy 'til case is smashed(7).
13. Joins in and removes a bit (5,4).
16. A pile of paper is a bore(4).
19. Dip into liquid drab-coloured king(4).
20. Beliefs about people in buildings(9).
22. Regret engineers have code(7).
24. Visible intuition(7).
26. Holding on about shelter, no one retruns(9).
27. ---But a game in it is not appropriate(5).
28. Heads of lunatics, and certainly every youngster, full of holes(5).
29. Causes spasms in plant; let it stand back round(9).

Down

1. In the year before gallery, add 500 with comments(9).
2. To tip up a tube(5).
3. I'm not practical, putting fish before a roll(8).
4. I'm unchanging, putting metal before one insect(9).
5. Methodist, perhaps? Just for this occasion(5).
6. Pick one's way to step round his head(6).
7. We nine bet, when smashed, to be like the Goodies?(2,7).
8. The college type of drunkard(5).
14. Cattle twitch after degree of movement(9).
15. Ten back and forth round one in poles, one between posts (6,3).
17. Incorrectly announces condition in young girl(9).
18. Coming out and turning half-simple in din(8).
21. Finish in attempt to be with-it(6).
22. God, old city turns up in the country!(5).
23. Put out, I've upped and caught ... (5).
- 25... sneak on the lawn(5).

£1 Prize Crossword (No.16). Entries must reach the FELIX Office no later than noon next Wednesday. The winning solution will be drawn from the Editor's Hat. The Editor's decision will be final.

THETA SHIRTS

For Ladies and Gentlemen of RCS.

WEAR YOUR MASCOT ON YOUR CHEST!



Ricky's Boutique
RCSU Office



HON SEC

Policy Statement

Copies of this are available from the Union Office. It is a compilation of the policy (motions etc.) passed at Union meetings.

At the AGM on May 22nd the meeting will be asked to accept the document as a true and accurate record. This does not mean that you have to agree with the context of the policy, just that it agrees with the minutes. You can of course, at any Union meeting put forward a motion which will change the present policy.

Elections

There are still vacancies for some posts. Fill in a nomination paper or come to the Union Meeting on May 1st and put your name forward there. I have more details if anyone is interested.

Insurance

We have secured a policy for all students living in Hall, House, or Union Flats for next session. This covers you for up to £500 against theft by any means as well as fire etc. It also covers you against personal liability. The only catch is that each student in residence must pay £2 per year for the cover, the amount is payable with the first terms rent.

Social Colours

These are awarded annually at the AGM. If anyone wishes to nominate someone for an award, please send a note explaining your reasons to me in the Office before 14th May.

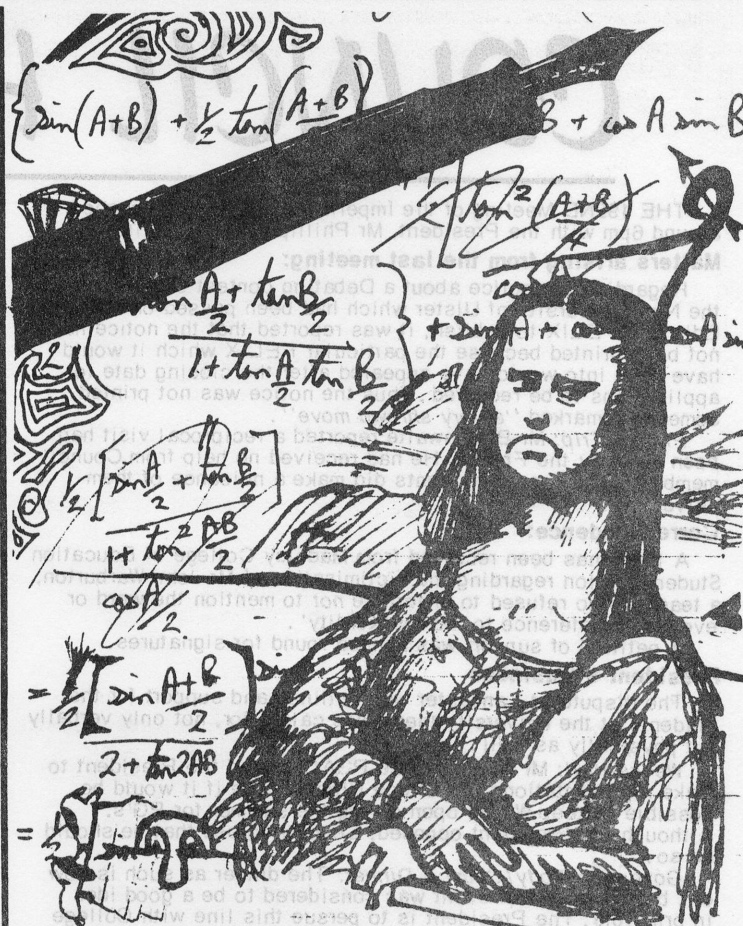
J.A. Gerrard

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Michael J.L. Williams
 Editor

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⇒ NIGHTLINE 581 2468
WHEN IT ALL GETS TOO MUCH

REVIEWS

RECORDS

James Wilkinson

The Radiophonic Workshop (BBC Records)

THIS RECORD of electronic music from the BBC Radiophonic Workshop is designed to entertain. In doing so it also demonstrates the whole range of electronic music from the production of the sounds similar to conventional instruments, through wierd drifting mood music (reminiscent of *Tangerine Dream's* work), to sound effects and other unholy noises. Each track is credited to an individual composer. My favourite is "Romanescan Rout" in which the stereo facility, sound effects, and music similar to that produced by conventional instruments are all merged to good effect.

An interesting album.

Hic

Roy Buchanan: Rescue Me (Polydor)

IN SOME circles Roy Buchanan is regarded as the new guitar-hero, though not necessarily agreeing with his assertion himself — and rightly so. On this album he displays an extensive, impressive control of his instrument with his blues upbringing always to the fore, and an imagination not far behind the technique. He produces streams of fluid guitar phrases as easily as a jagged staccato run from within a welter of

soulful brass and percussion (as on the track). All this however is marred by the use of tunes lagging 10 or 20 years behind the times, featuring such excessively drawn-out blues jams as "C.C. Ryder" and various numbers that should have been locked in the closet ages ago. Obsolete sounds do not sell records and Roy Buchanan's reputation should take a pounding for allowing such mediocrity to be released. This, his 4th album, might just as well be his 100th for all it's innovations. It stands simply as a replica of the other three. It's a pity that his roots are embedded in the overgrown soil of the past, because his ability could have made him an important musician. He has chosen his "metier" however and these days pure blues have very little to say.

BOOKS

Tom Abraham

David McLellan: Marx (Fontana)

NEITHER die-hard anti-communists nor committed marxists will find this book pleasant reading. McLellan tries to demystify the prophet Marx, and to some extent he succeeds. Contrary to popular belief Marx was more of a socio-economic analyst rather than a latter-day Jeremiah. His prolific writings, immense in scope, portray a highly intellectual mind attempting to grasp the essentials of human society and life. Marx's attempts to provide a cohesive and total image of humanity seems to have failed, because he was patently unable to draw all the different strands of his own philosophical, social and economic thought together. This task was left to his disciples who seemed only interested in grafting their own ideas onto the body of Marxist philosophy. However, one

interesting side effect has been the controversy about how much Marx was influenced by Hegelian philosophy. McLellan seems to side with the George Lukain school of thought in maintaining that both Marx's earlier and latter writings were influenced by Hegel's concept of man's "alienation". To some extent McLellan may be right, but one cannot help but suspect that as a Marxian scholar who is deeply involved in his subject, he is trying to project his own liberal humanist beliefs onto the marxist philosophy that he writes about.

Summer Vacation Accommodation 1975.

Accommodation will be available from 30th June - 16th September 1975 for Imperial College students and staff in the Halls of Residence, Student Houses and Student Union Flats (mainly shared rooms). Application forms can be obtained from the Residence Office, Room 161, College Block from 1st May. The closing date for submitting application forms will be Thursday, 15th May, 1975. Students at present in residence in a Hall, House or Student Union Flat who require accommodation for any period after the night of Saturday, 21st June, 1975 must apply as above.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IN EUROPE!

YOUTH RALLY FOR EUROPE

Come and hear:

The Rt Hon. Edward Heath M.P.
 Lord George-Brown
 The Rt Hon. David Steel M.P.



TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
 SUNDAY MAY 4th 3p.m.
 KEEP IC IN EUROPE!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

THE 192ND Meeting of the Imperial College Union opened around 6pm with the President, Mr Phillips, in the chair.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

Regarding the notice about a Debating contest organised by the New University of Ulster which had been passed on to the Editor of FELIX to publish, it was reported that the notice had not been printed because the particular FELIX which it would have gone into would have appeared after the closing date for applications to be received. Thus the notice was not printed. Someone remarked "a very shrewd move".

French Trip: Mr Branthwaite reported a reciprocal visit had been made by the French. He had received no help from Council members. The French students did make a nuisance of themselves.

Correspondence:

A letter has been received from Madeley College of Education Students Union regarding the victimisation of Mr John Warburton, a teacher who refused to undertake *not* to mention the word or even make reference to 'homosexuality'.

A petition of support was handed round for signatures.

President's Business

The dispute at Lancaster was outlined and support for the students at the university there was called for, not only verbally but physically as well.

Weeks Hall: Mr Abraham, the PGAO, asked the President to make representations in College Block to see if it would be possible to keep Weeks open during the summer for PG's. Although the President opposed, Council agreed that he should do so.

Governing Body/Council Dinner: The dinner as such is now off, but some sort of event was considered to be a good idea in principle. The President is to pursue this line with College Block with a view to organising some sort of function on June 20th.

Finance: The Union is to ask for a subvention of £82,330 (compared with £57,820). The claim amounts (with other income) to a per capita fee of £20.50 and is based on simply meeting increased costs.

Student Residence: The President reported that inflation is now so high that some college authorities intend to review hall rents *termly* instead of annually. He suggested if this were to be the case, then *grants* too should come under review *termly*. Mention was made of the 20 extra places which have been allocated to women and the fact that the Union opposed the move. It was suggested that a Working Party should be set up to con-

sider the workings of Hamlet Gardens.

Overseas Students: The following motion was presented and passed: "Council resolves to oppose the increases in view of its effect on students and especially overseas students. Council calls for the reps to take action to oppose the increases in Governing Body in the appropriate manner." The President of RSMU, Mr Mortimer, had proposed a 'delete all and insert' amendment asking for the matter to be taken to a UGM, but this was defeated.

Fellowships: It was reported that the Union can now nominate persons for election as a Fellow of Imperial College.

Joint-Council: It was recommended that this meeting should be structured as 1. Normal business. 2. Annual Reports. 3. Discussion papers. The meeting will start at 2.30pm. The Rector has been asked to attend the latter part of the meeting, which one member described as going "Down memory lane."

PG Conference: The PGAO gave a verbal report of this conference, the major topic of which concerned the status of PG's.

Hon. Sec.'s Business

Insurance: Concern was expressed that students might not be willing to pay the £2 that they are now expected to pay for full insurance coverage.

Reciprocal agreements: About 800 of these have been sent out and around 50 have been received back so far. One institution did not wish to be held liable. Their application was therefore rejected. It was determined that reciprocal agreements *do* extend to Life members.

Badminton Club: The Hon. Sec. is to approach College re: white lines on the Great Hall floor.

Registration Card: A new format was displayed and generally agreed upon. Next year it will contain a photograph.

Parking: Many cars have been reported parking in Union designated areas illegally. The matter is to be taken up at the Parking Committee.

Finance:

The financial statement was presented by Dr Weale. An item, the External Affairs Committee figure, was missing. The EAO said "I've been purged by the bureaucracy."

Deputy President's Business:

The DP reported that the clock on level ½ had been replaced. Someone pointed out that the clock had been removed. The DP's comment was "Who's bleedin' nicked it??"

Pots: There is to be a new shelf for pots in the Union Bar. There was inconclusive discussion on pots, defunct pots, number of pots, presence of personal pots.

Maintenance: There was a request to transfer £150 from the general account into this account. This was agreed.

Union Cleaning: The DP asked to spend £500 on cleaning the Union Building. Council approved.

College Safety Committee: Health & Safety at Work Act. The DP highlighted the fact that students are considered as neither employers nor employees. They feature in this legislation simply as members of the public. The important ramifications which stem from the Act were outlined. Council resolved to support the DP's view that there should be a College Safety Officer.

Publications Board Minutes:

Radio: Council agreed that ic radio could use the P.A. system in the Union and Southside for a trial period of one term. The Exec is to keep this constantly under review. The move to incorporate advertising, however, was rejected.

Student Residence Report:

Council agreed in principle to the setting-up of a Union Laundry, but felt that College should pay for it. The report on the Accommodation Conference was referred back on a vote by 11 votes to 10.

Campaigning Procedures:

The Hon. Sec. presented her paper which outlined various aspects of campaigning procedure (this refers to campaigning for the sabbatical posts and DP) which were thought to be desirable. There followed general discussion.

A.O.B.

The Student Residence Officer, Mr Salisbury, presented a motion concerning the selection procedure for residents in Hamlet Gardens. It called for a preservation of the present system of selection — apparently at the warden's personal discretion — for this year and then put down new rules and regulation next year. The motion was rejected.

The Editor of FELIX, Mr Williams, proposed that, in light of the time-wasting often associated with procedural motions being moved by reference to the numbering listed in standing orders, Council should in future refer to a procedural motion (or any standing order) by its content and *not* by its number. Council agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.20am (the guillotine having been suspended at 11pm).

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION GENERAL MEETING

May 1st 1pm

GREAT HALL

Motion: Third World



EMERGENCY UNION
MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE EEC
CONCERT HALL 1.00pm
THURSDAY MAY 8TH 1975
Should be fun!!

There are some rooms
available for the rest of the
session at Hamlet Gardens.
There are some single rooms
available also.

Apply to the Residence
Office, Room 161 College
Block, or to Mr S Crofton,
Mech Eng PG

STOP PRESS

Re: Deputy President's business in "Council Highlights" (this page). It is now understood that College maintenance workers have taken the clock from level ½ in the Union because the fixing of the clock was considered to be unsatisfactory. It is to be replaced in the near future "more than adequately affixed."