



# Felix



## NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

# Playing with fire

The fire alarms in Southside Halls continue to go off regularly, despite assurances from the Estates section that the problem has been reduced "almost to zero". The alarm sounded on both Sunday night and Monday night at the beginning of a week when many students have exams. Wardens are concerned that residents are effectively left without a fire alarm since, because of the large number of false alarms, residents are taking no notice of the alarm.

One Warden in Southside has already said that he doubts he could evacuate his Hall in the event of a real emergency. In addition many residents are furious that their sleep is being disturbed during the revision period.

The Estates Section claim that they are controlling the situation by monitoring false alarms, and replacing faulty smoke detectors each time they go off. But Mr W D Evans, Chief Engineer, was unaware on Wednesday that the alarm had gone off over the holiday weekend. It wasn't until FELIX contacted Estates that the contractor fitting the system was informed of the latest false alarms.

The problem arises from smoke detectors that are activated by fumes from toasters, said Mr Evans. "Students will make toast, and when they make toast they burn it," he added. Some residents were sceptical of this explanation since the alarms have regularly gone off between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00am.

The Estates section claim that they are informed by Sherfield security every time the alarm in Southside goes off. Fire Officer Bob Foggan then authorises replacement of the faulty detector by the contractors, Fire Alarm Clock Equipment (FACE) Ltd.

The new fire alarm system was installed by FACE more than two months ago to bring Southside into line with GLC fire regulations. The plans included the fitting of smoke detectors in communal areas and landings and it is largely, though not exclusively, these smoke detectors that have caused problems.

The original spate of false alarms more than a month ago, was attributed to "teething problems". On Wednesday, the Chief Engineer, Mr W D Evans, felt able to say that the problem is reduced to zero and that FACE are a good firm that have been used before and will be used again.

## Portrait

The Rector of Imperial College, Lord Flowers, is to have his portrait painted in June. This is to celebrate his 60th birthday in September.

Departments are being invited to contribute up to £250 each towards the cost of the painting, a birthday present to the Rector.

The distinguished artist Kyffin Williams RA OBE is to be commissioned to paint the Rector. It is thought that only two sittings will be necessary.

# Water Calamity!

The Chemistry New Building was left without power and lighting over the weekend and Bank Holiday. The main power cable was burnt through after water leaked from the seventh floor to the sub-basement.

Original fears that the interruption in supply would cause serious damage proved unfounded, and long term damage should be minimal.

It is thought that the flood was caused when a water tap vacuum pump burst. A large volume of

water then percolated its way through the building, fusing the power supply when ground level was reached.

The Central Stores department, which is situated in the basement of Chemistry, felt the full effect of the power failure. An electric sewage pump failed, and volumes of sewage started to build up in the stores. Workers from the Estates section cleared the sewage using brooms. They were unable to obtain gum-boots for the operation.

# College Chaos

Secretaries and library staff staged a lightning half-day strike yesterday in protest of a 3% pay offer. The staff, who are members of the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO), received strike instructions from national headquarters on Thursday morning.

Ms Marilyn Evers, NALGO Executive Committee member, said that a deputation was being

sent to see the Rector. They are demanding a pay increase of more than 3%, she said.

The strikers hoped to bring many offices around College to a standstill. It was up to individuals to strike or not, but wide-spread support was expected.

NALGO members picketed the gates of the College after meeting outside the Lyon Playfair Library at 12:00 noon yesterday.



NALGO members picketing the College main gates

## Right of Reply

Dear Pallab

It irked me no end when I realised that you were as guilty of some of the things you accused Gaynor of (Editorial, May 25). Did you, for instance, consult, or seek an opinion from Miss Gaynor about her alleged authoritarian ways? If not, why not? If you did then why didn't you include them.

I am aware of the right to reply facility you grant your readers—but surely if such serious allegations (most of which lacked substantiation) are made about a person (whom you admit to be conscientious and hard working) then the editor owes her a space within the editorial—especially since it is the editor who's made those allegations. She, unlike you Pallab dear, does not enjoy the privilege of writing a weekly column that is widely read. She unlike you is thus denied a platform from which to express her personal view publicly! (Incidentally, was the article merely one based on a personal view or was some sort of consensus tapped?)

In the light of what I've just said, don't you think some fair play is in order. Or will you choose to ignore my suggestion for Gaynor to be given editorial space next week and comments; after all, you have the power to determine what is printed and what isn't. Will you, I wonder, do a 'Gaynor' and thereby confirm my belief that all people in power are susceptible to accusations of authoritarianism—Miss Gaynor and you being no exceptions? I await the next issue with eagerness.

S G Aswani  
Man Sci PG

(How about it Gaynor? 400 words on 'Why I'm not a lousy President' by Monday-Ed.)

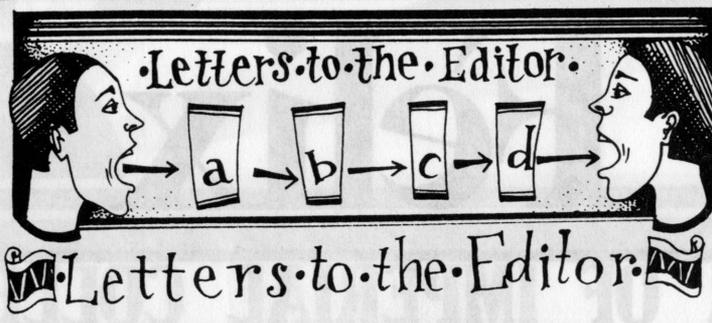
## Political Inaction

Dear Pallab

I would like to draw people's attention to one objection to the President's Report that was not covered in FELIX last week. This relates to the lack of activity in External Affairs.

I agree with the sentiments

John Sattaur  
Physics 3



expressed in last week's FELIX Editorial, that Gaynor Lewis has worked hard and conscientiously this year, whilst at the same time has run a closed Union and not taken an active part in the wider interests of student matters. The lack of commitment to External Affairs typifies this position.

In answer to this criticism at the AGM, she quoted her report saying that she did not stand on a "politically inclined platform" (sic) and that she regarded her duties within the warm confines of the Union Office as being of more importance, and more within her influence.

This non-political attitude is an excuse for inaction. The President should be elected on the grounds of his or her politics, as it is the *politics* of the President that determines the *policy* of the Union. Without policies, the Union's function is purely administrative, and could be done by a permanent member of staff. What is the point of electing secretaries?

I see external affairs as being one of the major political issues which will affect the whole of the educational system—IC included.

Neglecting duties in the wider issues of external affairs to concentrate solely on internal matters is surely a short-sighted policy. It leaves ICU isolated and inward looking, with no outside expression or influence other than through one or two hard working individuals. Pete Burt's tremendous contributions were surely overlooked when awarding higher Union honours.

Let's hope that next year's executive can be more dynamic, achieving more than good administrative work, and not remain *deaf* and closed to student opinions and ideas as typified by the UGM Chairman at the AGM.

## Jingoistic Shit-Stirrer

Dear Pallab

On the shoulders of Steve Marshall I march forth with my faithful pen at my side.

I write in response to Graham Brown's third glorious offering. An apparently standard defensive reply to last week's comments it proceeded to spout typically Conservative bullshit. There are, no doubt, Cuban backed forces in Africa and there have been massacres of innocent civilians (more notably in Afghanistan and El Salvador) in the cause of Soviet and American hegemony but this deliberate diversion of attention from the evils of apartheid leads me to ask Mr Brown...Are you a friend of Apartheid or simply a jingoistic shit-stirrer for President Reagan?

The Sun and Express are pleading for journalists with your talents. Please leave our letter columns for more objective comments and criticisms.

Yours objectively  
Andrew Causebrook

PS: I've run out of coffee!

## Harassment and Intimidation

Dear Pallab

In his letter to you (FELIX 674), Mr Burt (ICU External Affairs Officer) certainly dispelled any illusion he has tried to create of impartiality on the subject of NUS. He seems to assume that the two 'Union officers who were actually present at' NUS conference

must have seen every single incident that occurred there. How else can he justify his rather unpleasant implication that the undemocratic behaviour described by Mr Brown is a fabrication? As one of the Union officers Mr Burt places so much trust in was reported in last week's FELIX to have enjoyed 'eating, drinking, 'smoking' and screwing' at the conference, his premise is unlikely to say the least.

Furthermore he claims that a smear campaign against the NUS has recently been launched by the Federation of Conservative Students. This is not true, FCS and its members have *always* felt it their duty to keep ordinary students informed of inefficiencies and injustices that the NUS tries to hide beneath a facade of representativeness and democracy. As 40% of students voted conservative at the last general election, and as every member of FCS has joined of his own free will, FCS truly represents the interests of a larger proportion of students than does any other student organisation, including NUS (which is controlled by 'Clause Four' Marxists). Having talked to numerous FCS delegates who have been 'actually present' at NUS conferences, the stories of harassment and intimidation that Mr Brown tells are depressingly familiar.

ICU seems to take a very complacent attitude to the NUS: 'We're OK. We're out of that obnoxious, blatantly party political organisation. We can spend our money on student activities, and hold elections based on individual merit.' If Mr Burt had any sense of responsibility, he would spend some time helping less fortunate students from other colleges with their disaffiliation campaigns. Instead of this he buries his head in the sand and tries to cover up for his left wing chums in NUS.

Finally, I am glad to see that Mr Brown (Consoc Chairman-elect) is continuing the all important fight against Bolshevism at IC and wish him every success in doing so, especially as I am bored of it, and intend to do something else.

Yours sincerely  
Jonathan Gerson

PS: Offers of jobs, marriage, drinks etc gladly accepted.

## Confidence Trickster

A confidence trickster, posing as a student, obtained money from an IC postgraduate on Tuesday under false pretences.

The man, an African about 6ft tall, approached a number of students and said that he was destitute. He then offered a forwarding address in return for a 'loan' of cash. Union officers were suspicious when it became apparent that he had given different names and addresses to different students.

He also attempted to obtain cash from the Union Office, saying that he needed it for train fare.

Union President Gaynor Lewis warned students to be on their guard and on no account to part with any money if approached by this man.

## Missing!

Members of the College administration were shocked to notice the disappearance last month of Mr Alf Toft, Surveyor in the Estates section. One day he turned up for work as usual, the next day he was gone. Dismayed colleagues realised that he wasn't coming back when his office was cleared out by cleaning staff.

Speculation is also rife at the moment regarding Mr Don Clarke, Head of the Estates section. He is at a course in Reading at the moment; will he have a job to come back to when they've taught him to read?

## Departments are unsafe

An officer from the Health and Safety Inspectorate has been touring Imperial College over the last few days. Already she has served 'improvement notices' on two departments, informing them of unsafe working conditions or apparatus. The departments involved, Civil Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering, face substantial fines if they fail to carry out the necessary improvement work.

## Union sanctions against College

The IC Branch of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) resolved on Friday, at an emergency meeting, to take sanctions against the College.

The list of sanctions is not exhaustive, but include withdrawal of technicians from College committees, refusal to operate untested electrical equipment and refusal to cover for absence due to sickness or holidays.

The dispute arises from a disagreement over the Easter Holiday arrangements. Technical staff took what they thought was their proper entitlement, but in three departments such staff had their pay stopped for one day.

A delegation from ASTMS went to see Mr John Davidson, Personnel Secretary. He refused to consider refunding the staff pay until proper holiday arrangements were finalised. The

ASTMS refused to negotiate until members have their pay restored.

The staff who had pay docked were from just three departments: Elec Eng, Chem Eng and Geology. Departmental Superintendants in these departments were instructed by personnel to supply a list of those who took the holiday in question.

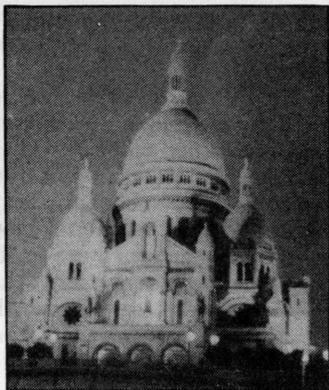
The College dealt with the situation by paying staff a negative amount of pay for the day concerned. ASTMS President, Harry Fairbrother, has responded by telling members to write cheques for negative amounts and send them to College.

The sanctions are likely to cause severe problems in certain departments, particularly where technicians operate vital electrical equipment. The ASTMS have pledged, however, that under no circumstances will their dispute affect examinations.

# free! DIRTY WEEKEND for two in

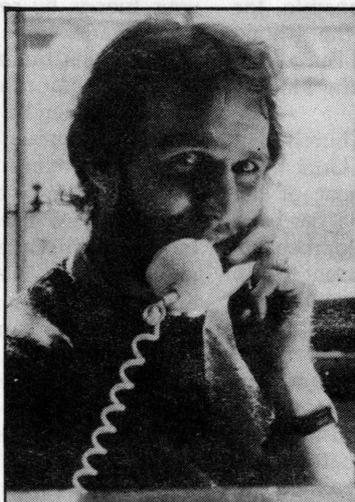
Yes, folks we've done it again! To get rid of those exam time blues, STA are giving away a weekend for two in Paris (nudge, nudge). All you need to do is answer these simple questions based loosely on travel and answer the questions that will appear in next week's FELIX. Details of how to enter will be given in next week's issue.

1. Surely you recognise this famous building. Or do you? Is it
  - a) The Taj Mahal, India
  - b) The Taj Mahal Restaurant, 184 Holland Park Avenue,
  - c) Sacre Coeur, Paris
  - d) Sacre Bleu, Mon Dieu!
  - e) The Fremantle Hotel.
2. Somewhere off the coast of South America there is a tiny island called San Felix where absolutely nothing ever happens. Which South American country does it belong to?
3. How much is it to fly to Singapore with the cheapest flight from STA?
4. Where would you go in Paris if you wanted a bit of...er...well...you know...hanky panky?
  - a) Le Sorbonne
  - b) Montmartre
  - c) Pigalle
  - d) Les Champs Elysées
  - e) Rue de Postcards
5. We all know there are 52 states in the USA. But which of them begin with 'O'?



# PARIS

donated by STA



6. This is Mark Fletcher, who is in charge of the STA Office in the JCR. But what is the name of his charming assistant?

7. And finally, you may have heard how frightfully useful an ISIC card is, and how you can get hold of one at the STA Office. But who is eligible to have one?

- a) Anyone under 26
- b) Any full time student
- c) Anyone under 35
- d) Any full time student under 30
- e) Anyone in possession of a kipper and a brick in a brown paper bag.

### THE SMALL PRINT (THE RULES)

Only full time students at IC may enter. The following shall not be eligible:  
FELIX staff  
Relatives and spouses of the above  
Jonathan Gerson

In the advent of a tie, the winner will be chosen at random from the correct entries. The staff refuse to accept bribes unless they are in excess of £100 and in used notes. The Editor's decision is final.



*All you ever wanted to  
know about*

# Wine

*Do you like a fruity nose? Or do you prefer a full body? Or do you just want a bit of sparkle in your otherwise lacklustre life? Whether you simply want to enjoy a good glass of wine or to impress your friends FELIX, in conjunction with Wine Tasting Society, gives you all the answers in this special wine feature.*

*"And God blessed Noah...and Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine and was drunken..."*

Genesis Ch 9

## A brief history

Wine is as old as the grape, and it was produced well before Homo Sapiens appeared. Wine producing yeasts which are naturally on the skin of a ripe grape, will if the skin becomes broken, turn the grapes sugar to alcohol. This is the essence of wine making, although larger scale production has many complications.

The human hand has been turned to wine making for a very long time. Wine was prepared in prehistoric Mesopotamia and in Egypt before 3000BC. The Old Testament mentions the wines of Syria and the fragrant wines of the Lebanon. Vines and wine making were probably introduced to France and Italy by the Greeks around 1000BC. The Romans, who must have been very fond of swilling the odd goblet, did their bit to spread viticulture. They were responsible for establishing the vineyards of the Rhone Valley, the Loire, Bordeaux and Burgundy, as well as planting vines along the Moselle and Rhine.

Through the Dark Ages the Church kept alive the art of wine making. Until fairly recently the church owned most of the greatest vineyards of Europe and it has been responsible for many of the developments in wine making which are still important today.

The characters of the wines produced in the various traditional regions of Europe have thus emerged gradually over the centuries. Perhaps by luck, perhaps by trial and error different grape varieties have been introduced and become standard for each area. There are now complicated laws enforcing these standards, aimed at protecting the consumer, but often succeeding only in confusing him or her. In contrast to this Californian and Australian vineyards were started in the nineteenth century and many new areas have been planted in the last fifty years. Here the choice

of vine has been a matter of judgement made with modern agricultural knowledge and in the light of European experience, with some delicious results.

Wine production today has been revolutionised by new scientific methods. The ability to monitor and control the chemical and physical changes that take place during fermentation has on the whole helped the wine maker to avoid producing really poor product. However, very often it will not be very good either. There seems to be a general trend towards producing vast quantities of pleasant wine which will neither offend nor excite anyone.

## Impressing your friends

You may not particularly wish to impress your friends by recognising a '71 Chateau Fonplegade or winning blind tasting competitions, but even so it is very useful to build up some small mental catalogue of wines. This can be started and expanded by tasting wine rather than just swallowing it. Of course one man's meat and all that is very true and tasting is a subjective exercise. The various terms used by wine drinkers are badly defined and tend to become increasingly so as the evening wears on. The important thing is to remember your own terms and judgements and to use them consistently.

Most wine comes straight out of the EEC wine lake, an endless blend from every overproducing vineyard in Europe and North Africa. This wine is best swallowed whilst thinking about something else, there is no need to look for delicate smells or subtle flavours. Well made wine is usually expensive, however with careful selection one can find interesting and delicious wines at a reasonable price. Good places for searching out such bargains include Majestic

Wine Warehouse (but you must buy at least 12 bottles), some of the large chains of off-licences (especially Oddbins) and some supermarket own label wines.

When buying a bottle of wine you have to rely on the information given on the label. Unfortunately there is undoubtedly a fair amount of fraudulent wine on sale in this country, and this is good reason for dealing with reputable wine merchants. Assuming the labelling is genuine, the amount and type of information given depends on the laws of the country of origin, the shipper, wine merchant and so on. It takes a little while to become familiar with even the more basic terms, but it is a fascinating and rewarding study. Fortunately it is becoming increasingly common to include back labels with fairly technical information in simple terms—these remove much of the guess work.

When you drink a bottle of wine, try to remember some things about it. Obviously it's important to be able to recognise the label again, it's not much use to know you drank some really delicious wine if you're not sure where it was from or who made it. When you pour some in your glass, look at the colour: red wine can vary from purple to deep amber. Generally the more purple the wine the younger it is, and it will become paler and browner with age. White wines may be green, gold or even amber, and they tend to gain colour with age.

The next thing to notice is the smell, or bouquet, of the wine. Smells can be very evocative, but are rather more difficult to quantify than colours. The bouquet is often characteristic of the grape varieties used in the wine, and some rather odd terminology has arisen in the cataloguing of these smells. Thus the tangy aroma of the shiraz grape has been described as 'sweaty saddle' and the pinot noir smells rather of boiled beetroot or cabbage.

To taste a wine it is necessary to take a good mouthful and swirl it around the mouth, so that all the tastebuds come in contact with it. It is often helpful to aerate the wine by drawing air into the mouth with an unsophisticated guzzling noise. Try to notice the balance or otherwise of the fruit and acids in the wine, the amount of mouth puckering tannin, the length of time the flavour lingers in the mouth, and anything distinctive which you might recognise again.

If your budget is as limited as mine, and I suspect that for most of you it is, then there are very few occasions when you can splash out on a very expensive bottle of wine. I don't believe that it is worth looking for a cheap bottle of claret, the contents are all too likely to be very disappointing. The same goes for many of the well known names, it is best to leave their delights until you can afford a decent example. In the meantime there are many lesser known wines to be inexpensively enjoyed.

**The Regions**

One region which provides very good value for money is Rioja in Northern Spain. Geographically this region is quite close to Bordeaux, and when phylloxera (an insect feeding on plant juices) arrived there in the 1870s many wine growers moved South to Rioja and started making wine. Phylloxera caught up with them in the end, and they went back to Bordeaux, leaving behind traditional French methods of wine production.

The grapes of Rioja are Tempranillo, Graciano, Mazuelo, Granacha, Viura and

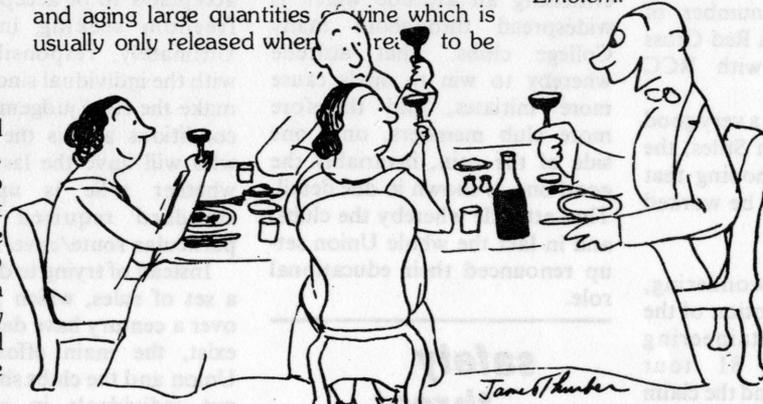
Malvaza, and there is some experimentation with French varieties. Where the old Bordeaux methods are practised the wines are aged for up to ten years in oak casks. This reduces their fruitiness, replacing it with a soft vanilla flavour from the oak. I found a pamphlet on Rioja wines which revealed the secrets of their production this way: "The first breeding of our wines takes place during the period the wine remains in American oak casks of 225lts, being afterwards bottled in the best conditions in order it may develop all its strength during the second breeding in the bottle; for this they must remain in horizontal position in a fresh, dark place with little oscillations of wetness and temperature."

Small independent producers are not allowed to market their wine as Rioja, and so the industry is dominated by the big 'bodegas'. Some of these have their own vineyards, others buy in the grapes, making and aging large quantities of wine which is usually only released when it is to be

drunk. Thus the names on bottles of Rioja are brand names rather than the names of growers or their properties. Bodegas Minga produce wine in the traditional way, the total vinification is carried out in wood. On the other hand Bodegas Olarra was built in 1972 and produces very good examples of the more modern style of wine from this region. Other names worth looking for include Frederico Paternina, Tondonia and Marqués de Cáceres. The wines should have a small label on the back with a map of Rioja and the word Crianza, Reserva or Gran Reserva. These indicate increasing maturation.

*If you would like more information on wine and wine tasting come along to any meeting of the Wine Tasting society (usually held at 6.00pm on Tuesdays). A recommended text on the choosing, buying and serving wine is Wine by Hugh Johnson published by Emblem.*

*Julia Newton-Howes*



*'It's a naive domestic burgundy without any breeding, but I think you'll be amused by its presumption.'*

**FALMOUTH KEOGH HALL**

**Appointment of Assistant Sub-Warden**

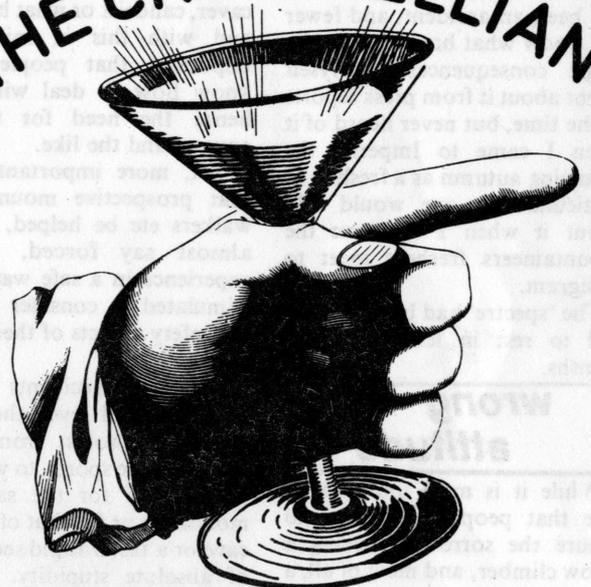
Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Subwarden of Falmouth Keogh Hall. The Hall has 190 residents (25% female, 75% male) and the essential duties of the post are to assist the Warden with the day to day running of the Hall. Rent-free accommodation is provided in the form of a study bedroom.

The post requires someone who can combine conscientious application, enthusiasm, initiative and a responsible outlook. The successful applicant will probably be a postgraduate, but others will be considered. Applications should be made in writing, detailing any relevant experience, to reach the Warden, Dr P W Jowitt, by Friday 22nd June.

**Southside Bar  
Friday 1 June**

**Introduction & June Guest Ale:  
Springfield Bitter 50p/pint  
& Disco  
& Live Music  
Buddy & the Bloodsuckers**

**THE CROMWELLIAN**



**COCKTAIL BAR**

Mon-Fri 6.00-11.00 Sat 8.00-11.00

**Happy Hour** 6.00-9.00  
**Monday Special** Cocktails £1.60 all night

**NIGHTCLUB** Tues-Sat 11.00-3am

Entrance to Night Club half price on presentation of Imperial College cards

Entrance on: 3 Cromwell Road, SW7. Tel: 584 7258

# THE LESSON OF '81

When well on my way to managing the incredible feat of reading through all the annual reports in one go (almost certainly a world record!) I came across the RCC report and there I was made to ponder by a seemingly innocent paragraph.

Under the heading 'Club Activities' mention was made of the 'Hazardous-rated' recreational clubs and of the praiseworthy scheme whereby these clubs were offered the chance to send a number of members on a British Red Cross First Aid Course with RCC paying the fees.

Now, I think this is a very good idea and I join Hugh Stiles, the RCC Chairman, in hoping that the same scheme can be worked next year.

Great!

What left me wondering, however, was the mention of the 'spectre of Mountaineering Club's Christmas 81 tour climbing accident', and the claim that a few safety policy documents "will finally lay (it) to rest". As it happens, I reckon that very few of those who came to Imperial since, know that there has been an accident, and fewer still know what happened or the tragic consequences. I myself learnt about it from press reports at the time, but never heard of it when I came to Imperial the following autumn as a fresher; in particular, no one would talk about it when I went on the Mountaineers freshers meet to Bosigran.

The 'spectre' had been quickly laid to rest in less than nine months.

## **wrong attitude**

While it is most understandable that people who had to endure the sorrow of seeing a fellow climber, and most of all, a friend, slowly die and not be able to help, would be reluctant to recall and talk to outsiders about those awful moments, the grief of which one cannot fully comprehend until one goes through the same ordeal, it certainly is a duty of all who are involved in such activities and who naturally are looked at by the novices as masters, to make people aware of the dangers involved.

*The Union Officer's annual reports were published last week. Here, Giovanni Vacago voices some of his misgivings about the RCC chairman's report and suggests how mountain safety can be improved*

Let me say here that I am not criticising anyone in particular, nor just the Mountaineering Club or its membership. I am criticising an attitude which is widespread throughout many College clubs. That attitude whereby to win to one's cause more initiates, and therefore more club members, only one side of the coin, invariably the good one, is shown in due detail. That attitude whereby the clubs, and in fact the whole Union set-up renounced their educational role.

## **safety threat**

Accidents can happen to even the most experienced and safety conscious mountaineer, walker, caver, canoeist or what have you, and with this in mind it is important that people should know how to deal with them, hence the need for first aid courses and the like.

Yet, more important still, is that prospective mountaineers, walkers etc be helped, I would almost say forced, to gain experience in a safe way and be stimulated to consider carefully the safety aspects of their chosen activity.

Whenever accidents happen, on a national level, there is an outcry of protest from people outside these sports, to whom the loss of life for the sake of a mountain, or for that of a deeper cave or a faster rapid seem a sign of absolute stupidity. At such times there is, invariably, a call for the imposition of rules on these sports: must this, must that. I imagine that even a climbing licence has been thought of.

## **beyond rules**

Yet, by their very nature, these sports are, and can only be, beyond rules.

It is questionable that the drawing of such a set of rules under the disguise of a 'safety policy document' will be either acceptable to or accepted by the freedom seeking individual. Ultimately, responsibility lies with the individual since s/he will make the final judgement on the conditions and is the only one who will have the last word on whether s/he is up to the standard required for that particular route/cave/rapid.

Instead of trying to design such a set of rules, which people for over a century have denied could exist, the main effort by the Union and the clubs should be to put individuals in a position where they are able to take such decisions knowledgeably and independently of outside pressures.

I am not suggesting that RCC safety policy documents, as they stand, try and enforce such a set of rules. I understand they only go as far as discouraging people from undertaking solo ventures, requiring them to state clearly what their plan for the day is and at what time they expect to come back and other things like these.

What I am saying is that these measures do not in fact go far enough towards preventing accidents, but one must admit that they make things easier should any trouble arise. I am also saying that the end of the line has been reached on that front and that if tomorrow another accident came to shake our consciences, no further restrictions should or could be imposed on 'hazardous' clubs.

Rather the emphasis must switch to education of the individual and we must act now, in order to prevent accidents, not tomorrow, in their wake; the life of a friend is too high a price for our learning.

The more experienced members should not only introduce the novices to the technical aspects of the sport, but also the problems involved and

how to surmount them; the novices should be also introduced to how to look after the club's and their own equipment (how much Union money is thrown away each year in replacing equipment that, if properly looked after, would last much longer!) and to the respect due to the environment one's activity brings in contact with; generally, they should be helped to learn to approach the sport with a well balanced attitude and to be able to say 'no, not today!'.

In High magazine (no 9, April-May 1983, p11) just after a party of two teachers and seven schoolboys fell some 800ft down a gully and two of them died, Vin Machin, a Mountaineering Instructor, was quoted to have said: "Climbers spend a lot of money on equipment and they make elaborate arrangements to get to the mountains for a weekend's climbing. They feel they *must* attempt their chosen climb even in poor conditions or even if there are too many people already on the climb."

## **cowardly decision?**

During a weekend trip to North Wales with the Scout and Guide Club last winter, a party of four amongst the most experienced climbers in the club turned back in the face of avalanche danger even from a climb rated at the easiest end of the scale. There was no sense of shame or failure, rather consciousness that the right decision had been taken, although a difficult one when one gets all the way from London to the foot of the climb for nothing.

How many others would have done the same?

How many more would have felt pressurised by the presence of others not to take a decision which might seem cowardly?

It is not being cowardly, it is being sane!

Let the Union and the clubs help people to take sane decisions, when these are called for.

Only then will we have learnt a lesson from the tragedy on that cold winter day in 1981.

*Giovanni Vacago*

# Philippines Support Group

While much publicity has been given to the situations in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Poland etc there does not seem to be a great deal of general knowledge about what is going on in the Philippines.

A meeting of the Philippines Support Group, chaired by Labour MP Tom Clarke, on 5 May outlined the situation of a country which has been under the dictatorship of President Marcos since 1972, when martial law was declared. Trade unions, student organisations and political parties were all banned and opposition was forced underground.

Since then, over 70,000 people have been detained as political prisoners, two thirds have been tortured and some have 'disappeared' in custody. Government troops have killed over 100,000 people, often by a means ironically known as 'salvaging', whereby the bodies are mutilated. After a recent demonstration the bodies of four students were found salvaged.

US military aid to Marcos in

1982 was \$140.1m, plus \$100m rental for US bases. This year the US have agreed to pay \$900m as rent for 22 American military bases in the Philippines, some of which store nuclear weapons.

While the Philippines is a 'rich' country, the economy is dominated by American, Japanese and European multinational companies, so 80% of the population live on or below the poverty line.

Wages are among the lowest in Asia, unemployment is 40% and hundreds of thousands are forced to leave the Philippines to look for work.

Opposition to the Marcos regime is led by the National Democratic Front in a revolutionary alliance; the major armed force within the NDF is the New Peoples Army which operates in 53 out of 73 provinces. The Moro National Liberation Front leads resistance in the Muslim Provinces. Opposition also comes in the form of trade unions, religious groups and a variety of political organisations openly campaign-

ing against the regime.

The Philippines Support Group is a solidarity organisation supporting the struggle of the Filipino people for national liberation. It works with NDF representatives in Europe to develop political and material support for the Filipinos, and campaigns particularly against the arms sales and military and economic aid to Marcos from the US, UK and others.

If you would like to find out more, or arrange for someone to speak at our college/university about the Philippines, please contact: The Philippines Support Group BM Box 758, London WC1 3XX.

What's  
On

friday

1320h Botany Common Room  
Yacht Club AGM.

1800h 53 Princes Gate opp Mech Eng  
Christian Union trip to hear Luis Palau speaking at QPR stadium. Leave at 18:30h. Everybody welcome.

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**BOOK  
SALE**

Lyon Playfair Library  
Wednesday 13 June  
from 2:00pm

## Small Ads

### FOR SALE

- **10 speed gents bike** in excellent condition, only £70. Phone 904 8936.
- **Bargain:** Viking Vision Racer 22½ inch frame, gents. Scott Heyhoe, DoC 1, Hux 437 or ring 373 4092.

### LOST & FOUND

- **Lost:** one silver dragonfly brooch, 3:00pm, Friday 25 June. Somewhere between Queens and Bot-Zoo. Eleanor Malcolm, Maths 1.
- **Lost:** one rubber chicken. If found please contact Andrew Healy Chem 1 (as Dr Young is missing it).
- **Back to School party,** JCR, 19 May. Lost: 1 grey woollen jumper. Found: 1 faun woollen jumpe. Any info contact Liz Clark, int 2757.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Yacht Club AGM** Bot Zoo Common Room, Friday 8 June, 1:20.
- **Teacher of Hatha Yoga/Keep Fit** to take group Monday and Thursday 12:30-1:30pm in Holland Club. Contact Sheryle 4101.
- **Accommodation** for next year. Two people required to share double room in mixed flat for 8 in Hamlet Gdns. Contact C Cole (Chem Eng 741 7095) or M Hudson (Mech Eng 748 3655).
- **Summer Accomodation** Flat for up to four people in Queensgate Terrace. Very close to College (100 yds approx). £25 per person per week. Available in July (Summer Vac). Apply Tom H Weeks Hall. Tel 589 9608 (Int 4241) Room 62 or 63.

● **Any club or society** wanting their mail forwarded during the summer holiday please contact Jen in the Union Office.

● **Brewing Society**—Contact the RCC Exec ASAP.

### PERSONAL

● **Holbein House:** For Marckington read Marchington Parble of the Carpenter: Matthew VII, 3 and Luke VI, 41.

● **Is it really safe** to leave Josie in charge of vice?

● **Definition of redundancy:** Being Josie's hairdresser.

● **I know that I can go through Customs** if I take Josie, but a jumper would be warmer, and a joke would be much more fun.

● **Civ Eng 2** must be the mathematicians in College—who else can do partial differential equations in one lecture?

● **Apologies to Willis Jackson** Micro Club—your article will go in next week.

● **Linda**—the light of my life, can we have another fashion show. Southwell is in turmoil over your pink dress.

● **Small ads** desperately wanted—good prices paid!

● **Can you teach French** to a beginner? If yes, in the evenings for 3 hours a week, ring Mustafa, Huxley Security, int 4199.

● **Has Duncan** been in the bath yet!—only in the nurses home!

● **Sooty I love you**—Mike.

● **Mike I love you**—Sooty.

● **Sooty I love you**—Sweep.

● **Sweep I love you**—Mike.

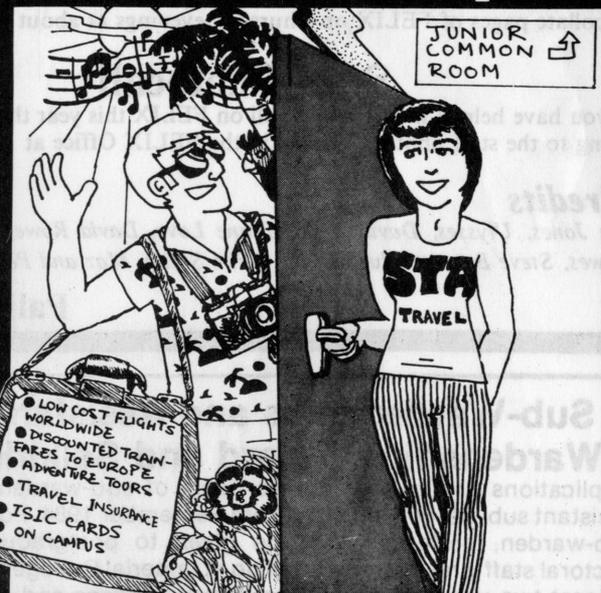
● **What does 'menage à trois'** mean?—Mike, Sooty and Sweep.

● **Who the hell's Sweep?**—Sooty and Mike.

● **What does 'menage à quatre'** mean?—Mike, Sooty, Sweep and Will.

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## Playing with Fire

There are bound to be a few teething troubles when a new fire alarm system is installed. False alarms and faulty detectors are to be expected in the first couple of weeks. However the newly installed fire alarm system in Southside are still going off spuriously *eight* weeks after they were first installed. This state of affairs would be irritating at the best of times, but is intolerable during the exam term. Not only is students' revision being disturbed but they are woken up at 2:00 or 3:00am in the morning when they have an exam that day.

Perhaps more worrying is the fact that since there are two or three false alarms per week no one is taking any notice when the alarms go off. If there is a fire in Southside it is going to be impossible to evacuate the building. The bungling and incompetence of the Estates section has become a tired joke around College. In this instance one would expect the matter to be treated with a little more seriousness when the lives of 300 Southside residents are at risk.

## Dirty Weekend

Do you fancy a free weekend for two in Paris after your exams? Well that's what you could win if you enter the FELIX/STA travel quiz (see page 3). All you have to do is answer the travel questions in this and next weeks' FELIX correctly and you could win a wonderful weekend in Paris.

## Help

As we enter the height of the exam period all activity has well and truly ground to a halt. There's hardly any news to report, the FELIX staff are busy with their exams and you dear readers have stopped writing articles, letters and even small ads. There are still two more issues of FELIX to go so if you know of any news (anything at all) or if you have finished your exams and can lend a hand on FELIX pop into the Office. Particularly required are people to collate pages of FELIX on Thursday evenings at about 8:30pm.

## Staff Photocall

If you have helped in any way at all on FELIX this year then please come along to the staff photocall today in the FELIX Office at 12:30pm.

## Credits

Jon Jones, Ulysses, David Jones, Diane Love, David Rowe, Julia Newton-Howes, Steve Barnett, Hugh Stiles, Mike Smith, Maz and Peter.

Pallab Ghosh

## Sub-Wardenships and Assistant Sub-Wardenships, Tizard and Selkirk Halls

Applications are invited for two posts of sub-warden and two of assistant sub-warden effective from September 1984. For the posts of sub-warden, preference will be given to postgraduate or post-doctoral staff who intend remaining at Imperial College for a period of at least two years. The function of sub-wardens and assistant sub-wardens is to assist the warden in the organisation of the halls and to take an active role in the promotion of social activities. The successful applicants will receive free accommodation. Applications with details of relevant experience and referees should be sent to Dr M H R Hutchinson, Tizard Hall, before 29 June 1984.



# ULYSSES

## The FELIX Car Rally

The FELIX Editor, Pallab Whow, has got a reputation as a scatterbrain. This was borne out by the events of last week.

He sent me five notes about the FELIX Car Rally, each stating the date of the Rally, the time of starting, the starting place, the maximum membership of each team and whether or not I needed a car. The five notes read as follows:

20 June, start 9:30, FELIX Office, maximum of four a team; car needed.

21 June, start 10:30, outside Mech Eng, maximum of two in a team; car not needed.

22 June, start 11:30, FELIX Office, maximum of six in a team, car not needed.

23 June, start 11:30, FELIX Office, maximum of three in a team, car not needed.

24 June, start 10:30, outside Huxley, maximum of five in a team, car needed.

When I questioned Zam about the FELIX Car Rally, she told me that each of the notes was right in two of its five details.

So, what are the details of the FELIX Car Rally? Good luck, everyone.

*Solutions, comments, criticisms to me at the FELIX Office by 1:00pm on Wednesday, please. £5, courtesy of Mend-a-Bike, for the randomly selected winner.*

## Last week's solution

It can be shown that a circle cut with  $n$  lines has a maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)+1$  pieces. Therefore, for  $n=6$ , there are a maximum of 22 pieces. Congratulations to the fourteen people who got it right, and the winner is G S Heyhoe of DoC1, who can collect the £5 cheque from the FELIX Office after 1:30pm on Monday.

