



Felix

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

ICU In Sudden Action Shock

The Union will be holding an Emergency General Meeting to discuss the future of the JCR, next Friday. The meeting, which will take place at 12.30pm in the JCR, has been convened to gauge student opinion on a boycott of the QT snack bar.

The Union are unhappy about the College's decision to backtrack on its plans to swap the JCR with the Sherfield Refectory — a move which took place in the light of an unexpected increase in the number of students using refectories. They are particularly concerned that College has not taken the Union's

viewpoint seriously, and that requests for compensation for the loss of space in the JCR have been ignored. It is now unlikely that students will be allowed to use the SCR given the staff's opposition to the conversion of the SCR into a refectory.

A boycott is likely to have a serious effect on the refectory income; currently the snack bar has a turnover of £1700 per day, with weekly staff costs of £1200. Union Deputy President, Jackie Peirce believes that a boycott would give the Union leverage to claim greater

control of the JCR bar. "Unless we kick them where it hurts — in the wallet — the College will continue to ignore us," she said.

Following an open meeting last term, the Rector, Professor Eric Ash has suggested that the Senior Common Room should not be converted into a refectory for students and staff, as had been proposed. In a letter delivered to the heads of department Professor Ash said that salads should be served in the SCR for staff only, and added, "We will not introduce grills and with them the possibility of students

joining us." Instead the Rector proposes that grills be served from the Sherfield Refectory.

In addition the Rector has suggested that the staff make use of common rooms in the departments. An 'SCR Coffee Club' would be created to encourage academics to tour the coffee rooms and to promote social intercourse.

The Academic Staff Assembly is currently draughting a questionnaire to gauge the opinions of the academic staff on the SCR problem.

ICU To Defend ULU

Imperial College Union is to support the ULU day of action on January 27th. A motion in support of the day of action was proposed by Mark Harman, ICCND Chair, and unanimously accepted.

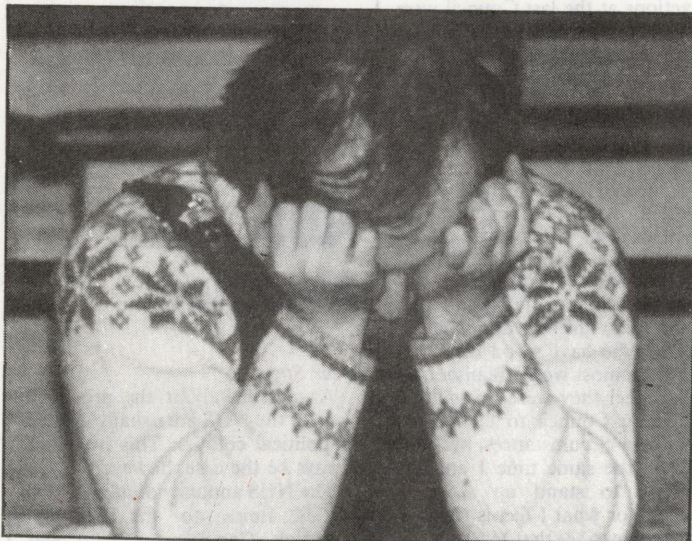
Speaking at the UGM, ULU Vice President (Services) Linda O'Leary said that the University Grants Committee wrote to the University of London last May to inform them of the proposed cuts. The cuts will affect the Central University facilities, of which Ms Leary singled out ULU and the library as some of the most important services that would be cut, although the allocation of the cuts has not yet been made clear by Senate House.

Although ICU has many facilities, those at ULU are also used by many IC students. Ms O'Leary outlined the ULU campaign, noting that 15% of IC students had signed the petition against the cuts, and told those present about the postcard campaign that is being mounted against the UGC. A motion has been passed through Senate, objecting to the cuts, and the

day of action is being held the day before the matter is raised at court.

ICU President Christine Taig, reported that the College Unions

would support the students' action and it was agreed that the Exec should investigate ways of protesting.



ICU Hon Sec Dave Colley: Grief stricken at not being mentioned on the front page

South Africa Talk

A representative from the South African Embassy will present a talk entitled "South Africa The Future" for the Conservative Society on Tuesday. The talk, which will take place in room 139 of the Huxley Building, is expected to attract protests and demonstrations from ULU, Socialist Society, and Anti Apartheid Society.

Consoc Chairman, David Burbage said that Con Soc's aim was to provide a platform to enable students to hear the South African Government's point of view. "We don't necessarily agree or condone his point of view" he explained.

IC Union has refused to ensure the safety of the representative and the Executive are understood to be unhappy about the apparent secrecy which has surrounded the visit. Union President Christine Taig told FELIX "I wash my hands of anything that might happen" and pointed out that the Union is not obliged to look after the representative, as the meeting is being held in College, not Union premises.

Report Defended

Dear David,

I would like to defend Mark Cottle's report of the last Council in FELIX. As Council Chair I was in the best position to judge what prompted Ian Howgate's protest. It was my ruling that minutes of sub-committees of Council cannot be referred back. Mr Howgate suggested that the Academic Affairs Officer's report should be referred back. There was no AAO's report submitted to Council so I assumed that Mr Howgate was talking about the minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee. It amazes me that Mr Howgate cannot distinguish between minutes and a report. Council minutes cannot be referred back because Council is meant to discuss the decisions made by its sub-committees. If one refers back to the minutes it means Council can't discuss what is being done in its name for a month. Council is not meant to discuss the accuracy of minutes.

Mr Howgate's walk out showed a complete lack of understanding of the way council works. If Mr Howgate disagrees with the decisions I make about the running of Council, he can challenge my ruling. This means that had the majority of Council wanted sub-committee minutes referred back it could have happened. I am more than willing to explain how Council works to Mr Howgate or anyone else.

There also seems to be some silly idea that all minutes, reports etc should be circulated a week in advance. Ideally they should, but often sub-committee meetings take place less than a week before Council. Council's most important job is to control finance. The committee that advises Council on this, Union Finance Committee (UFC), meets three days before Council. Finance decisions have to be noted by Council almost immediately if Council is to have a chance to alter UFC's decision. It would be stupid for Council to consider UFC's decisions about a month after they were taken. In addition, the minutes for the last minutes were not produced because Dave Colley was ill.

I could criticise other statements made by Mr Howgate, Mr Seymour and Mr Brandon but I won't because I'm sure that you are already bored with what seems like petty bitching. Perhaps people should consider promoting the Union rather than bitching in FELIX. Bitching just makes the Union look stupid.

Yours
D Hugh Southey
Council Chair

Howgate Bombarded

Dear Dave,

I feel it has reached the point where I have undergone about as much bombardment as it is possible to take. Therefore, if anyone is interested, I would like to point out the actual reasons why I left the last meeting of Union Council. As has been pointed out by certain members of that committee, papers (which number around 20 sides of A4) were handed out on the day of that meeting. Approximately 50% of these were available on entry, the result was that representatives could not consult their constituencies about the information included, look into problems more deeply or personally research anything; in some cases the papers could not even be read. This was the second time in succession that this had occurred; I work very hard as Dep Rep and have better things to do than waste time (around 3 hours) turning over pieces of paper that I have not had time to read. For Council to pass this literature without proper discussion makes Council a 'farce', which was my point at the time. Very few Dep Reps even turn up to council, as they believe it achieves little of relevance to their constituency, and if information upon council is of such a limited extent as has been the case at the last two meetings I must agree with my absent colleagues. I was wrong to leave the council at that stage as I should have stood up for my principles. I have learned this lesson and have realised how much the truth can be distorted in one's absence. Nevertheless council have decided in my absence to improve the distribution of papers.

As for electioneering I happily admit that I am likely to stand for President this term, but to suggest my actions at the last Council were carried out with this intent is a joke; this was a gut-reaction to a situation which at the time appalled me. I would like to say that I did not 'attack' anyone, I feel Chas Jackson, (Publicity Officer) has done a good job so far, but that he is not supported enough and suggested ways he might help himself deal with his workload, he himself said at a later date, he did not feel he had been slagged off. My actions were not an attack on Hugh Southey, who I feel has done well, or the exec. who have stood up for us better than most would realise. I do however feel they were mis-guided in allowing Council to take place under these circumstances, but that is all. At the same time I am not frightened to stand up alone if necessary for what I feel is right.

I am sorry to see that Mark Cottle has decided to leave his job unfinished and hope his

replacement is enthusiastic; I look forward to working with whoever it may be as most Council should do, for this is where our strength lies, squabbling and petty accusations act only to aid our enemies.

The only advice I wish to give Pete Wilson is that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Yours, Ian Howgate

In Defence

Dear Dave,

Referring to the article titled "Shallow Policy of Electioneers" in Felix No 758 (page 2), I would like to point out some of the facts the writer of this article failed to see.

Most suggestions (attacks?) need not be considered as personal at all, especially regarding people holding Union posts. Now as for Mr Chas Jackson, unless he has a publicity team, I would conclude that he does all the "smooth running" of publicity as a one-man team (alone). I am sure most people would agree with my understanding of Ian Howgate's suggestion, i.e. a committee would function much better than Chas "alone", isn't that obvious to you Mr Wilson? That could also cut down the time Chas spends making and distributing posters, at the expense of his valuable study time. In addition, that would also provide Mr Jackson with enough time to spend on designing good quality posters, and surprise surprise, the committee would do the distribution for him!

Lastly, I won't be surprised in the least, if you Mr Wilson, don't - "Vote Howgate for President - the man who sets up committees," because they are personal attacks on other students (?). Don't forget that if we can reduce the amount of work done by an individual, there could be a much better chance to get people "out of goodwill," who can offer best services to the Union, and hence that may keep Ian Howgate and you happy!!

Yours faithfully,
Abby Amustila Materials II

NUS And Abortion

Dear Sir,

Arguments about the pros and cons of the NUS are usually draped in political colours. This need not always be the case, however.

The NUS annually donates £1000 of its funds to the National Abortion Campaign (NAC) and actively supports its policies which include:

a) Introduction of legislation which would allow anyone, including non-medical persons, to perform abortions.

b) Abortion on demand up to birth with no medical or legal restrictions.

You don't have to be vehemently against abortion to acknowledge the extremity of such policies, if only in the fact that they would pose a severe health hazard to women procuring abortions from untrained people, or even carrying it out themselves.

Moreover, among the aims of the NAC, is that "all anti-abortion doctors holding positions in which they can directly or indirectly obstruct a woman seeking an abortion are to be removed from such posts". This seems to deny the right of conscientious objection to any pro-life doctors as well as to some of the 27,000 medical students within the NUS. There are pro-life students on both sides of the political divide, as I witnessed when I attended a pro-life student vigil near "Little Ben" at Victoria Station at the end of last term (see "feminists turn against abortion" - Daily Telegraph, December 23rd). Indeed, such students will stand for executive posts on the NUS at the Easter Conference in March. They may not get very far, but they will show that you don't have to be a rabid fascist to have disagreements with the NUS.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Kapusta
Chairman, IC Positive Alternatives to Abortion Society (PATA)

Token Wacky Letter

Dear Dave,

After the flood of letters last week regarding Ian R.M. Howgate (henceforth I.R.M.H.) I think it is time to inform you of the actual state of affairs. There is no I.R.M.H. publicity machine, there is, however an organisation which people might assume to fulfill its duties - the committee to elect I.R.M.H. As yet the committee's activities have been covert although some suspicious souls have begun to detect its existence.

All I can say at present is that if people think this powerful undercover organisation's activities to date have been ruthless they should wait and see what happens when it comes into the open.

Yours,
David Lowrie,
Chairman,
Committee to Elect (A.A.O)

Letters continued on page 4

Felix

JCR

The JCR issue has been a major discussion topic between Union representatives and College for several weeks, but it was not until yesterday that the matter was discussed at any length in a UGM. Yet the plans for the JCR are significant ones for ICU, and for all IC students. It may well be that the majority of students would prefer to see the QT snack bar continue providing fast food in the JCR, rather than a better deal for ICU from the Sherfield organisation. A survey and next week's EGM will decide. I know that the Exec must find it discouraging to have their arguments rejected at College Committees, but at the same time it is responsibly to ensure that they report fully to the student body. Many of those present yesterday clearly knew only a fraction of the JCR story until Jackie's timely "Does anybody care?" prompted a reasonable discussion session. It is easy for students to be almost oblivious of what even a diligent Exec are doing.

Dream Ticket

This week, as last, FELIX has printed a selection of letters concerning the ICU Council story which we ran in the Christmas issue. As far as it is possible we try to ensure that the news coverage is unbiased and objective; there are those who say this makes FELIX rather dull, and that it is, after all, only a student rag. Need we therefore be so contentious when writing news? I am pleased that so many correspondents argue that the news should be fair and accurate, but the flood of letters has been something of an over-reaction. It is only possible to report events as you see them, and peoples' impressions will also vary, particularly in emotional situations. Too much of what we have received has been penned by people who write before they think, and has only been included because I welcome criticism of FELIX. I am not going to allow another marathon exchange of letters, however, or let the paper be used as a publicity vehicle for sabbatical candidates, real or imaginary. No further correspondence on this subject will be printed.

FELIX

There will be a staff meeting today at 12.30pm. All welcome.

The office will be closed for most of Monday and Tuesday of next week, whilst we receive training on the new typesetter. Please deliver all articles and classified entries between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. I will not be available at other times.

Tory Wet During Big Freeze



Mr Jim Prior MP addressed a group of about 100 students on the "Economic facts of life" on Tuesday of this week. Mr Prior, who is at the end of a political career which includes Secretary of State for Employment and Minister for Northern Ireland in the Thatcher and Heath governments, made a speech most notable for not toeing the party line. He criticised both major political parties, and the current system of government based on confrontation, adding that Britain's problems could not be solved by the policies of either the left or the right.

Mr Prior is currently trying to improve the British manufacturing industry, both in his role as Chairman of the GEC and as a member of parliament. He said that Britain must accept changes in the running of Parliament, in order to seek a greater degree of agreement between political parties, and thus avoiding the damaging changes caused by changing governments.

Credits

Thanks to Jim Clayden, Chris Edwards, Bill Goodwin, Chris Martin, Nigel Whitfield, Judith Hackney, Pippa Salmon, Dave Burns, Dave Williams, Chas Jackson, Adrian Johnson, Mark Cottle, Aaron Kotcheff, Liz Holford, Douglas Earle, Hugh Southey, Dave Parry, several people from RCSU, Steve Shackell. Special thanks and welcome to Rose Atkins.

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The Greatest Scoop Ever

Asbestos was removed from the Computing Department and shed near the old Chemistry building over the Christmas holidays. Mr David Price, of the College Safety Section, described the removal as "normal". There is a large amount of asbestos even in the more modern College buildings, although no more has been added since the EEC directive made imports illegal. The asbestos is removed only when it becomes a health hazard, since to remove it all at once would cost the equivalent of a whole department's funding, he explained.

The Health and Safety Executive and the Factories Inspectorate are notified in regard to all asbestos removal and about one in four jobs are inspected. Removing asbestos is a very time consuming and detailed operation, said Mr Price, describing the procedure which involves sealing the area in a plastic sheeting tent and lowering the pressure inside the tent to ensure no asbestos fibres escape. There are no asbestos removals being carried out at present.



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Article Amended

Dear Dave,

I wonder who changed the title of my article and added the short introduction to it in the Xmas issue of Felix without my knowing or approving these changes.

If it is the author of the C.U. article on p. 24 of the same issue, may I note the following:

a) My article carried my signature and the heading "Opinion" simply because it was (before the addition) my opinion. Just in case some Christians (like myself) disagree with some of the views expressed in the C.U. article mentioned above (e.g. that the gospels are "historical biography"), could the author please sign his work in the future so that it is clear that he also expresses his personal views?

b) In the added introduction the use of the word "pacifist" is wrong.

c) I realise that all parties involved in what I write about here have acted out of the best of motives. It is not my intention to cause bad feelings or disqualify their work in any way whatsoever.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Moutoussis
Physics III

Editor's Note

The opinion article which Mr Moutoussis wrote was printed exactly as it was delivered to FELIX, via a member of the Christian Union. It was submitted with a number of other articles from the CU, not all of which were used in the Christmas FELIX. It is FELIX policy not to edit or amend any opinion article or letter without the permission of the author; this is normally requested only if there is a shortage of space and an over-long article needs to be cut. The only exception is that FELIX reserves the right to select the title for any article; the title under which this opinion appeared was not altered in any significant manner from the one suggested.

Christine's Piece

What is a university for?

Most of us came to Imperial College expecting to learn something. Some of us even expected to be taught, as well as having the opportunity to find out for ourselves. Disillusionment came quickly sometimes, "Imperial is really a research establishment" is one of the phrases I've heard most often whilst talking to undergraduates in all departments - "academics promoted on the basis of papers published, irrespective of their teaching abilities".

Well it seems at last that teaching performance is to be taken seriously in considering lecturers for promotion. In a time of falling applications when undergraduate quotas still need to be filled, a college like Imperial can't afford to base its reputation purely on research. Academic staff need to be "good value all round"—even though the winning of lucrative research contracts becomes even more important.

The College has made a firm commitment to Taking Teaching into Account....to this end, a sub-group of the College's Undergraduate Studies Committee—is trying to establish a College-wide system of teaching evaluation. Part of this evaluation will be based on a standard questionnaire for all undergraduates to fill in about all their lecturers; this questionnaire will be having a 'pilot run' in some departments soon. If you're in one of the years chosen to take part take some time over it as it's got to be one of the most positive steps towards taking teaching seriously at this College—a small step maybe, but it's a start. Should the scheme be extended to taught MSc students? Should PhD students have the chance to comment formally about their supervisors?

Power Politics and Intrigue

Council, the "managing body" of IC Union, meets next Monday, 19th January, at 6.15pm in the Union Senior Common Room. Any IC students who's interested in how Council works/how boring it really is/how the hopeful sabbatical candidates REALLY perform in all those committee meetings is more than welcome to attend. You can EVEN ask for speaking rights if you can no longer restrain your excitement and feel you HAVE to join in. Maybe we'll see you there.

By the way, hardly anyone has come to see me about becoming next year's president (*A very interesting sentence—is the President trying to tell us something?—Ed*). What, does this mean you don't trust me??

Love you all
Christine

Union Bar Events

Tonight

Videos:Down and Out In Beverly Hills,
Brewster's Millions

Saturday

Band and Disco in the Lounge

Sunday

Videos Mr Men (Vol 4)
Transylvania 6-5000

Monday

Videos ...The Rocky Horror Picture Show
(Matches supplied)

Tuesday

Happy Hour 7.00-8.30
Videos in Lounge



**WEST LONDON
NIGHTLINE
581 2468**

West London Nightline is always looking for good listeners. If you can give up one night every three weeks for a good cause, then why not volunteer? Training sessions are being held every Wednesday evening during January. If you're interested, then phone 581 2468 or internal 6789 after 6pm any evening to find out more

All Residence invoices/queries should now be directed to Dave Parry in Room 403a Sherfield, internal 3110

Lunchtime/Evening staff required for Belushi's Pizza Bar. Contact Roger Pownall, Southside

EVENING WORK

Student interested in arms-control and disarmament for assistance with research.

Involves creation of microcomputer database (no experience needed) from media clippings, parliamentary reports, etc.

Union Bar rates. Contact Dr J Legget, Room 2.20 RSM, Int 5567

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UGM

sketch

The first Union General Meeting of 1987 saw another disappointing turnout, much to the shagrin of Hon Sec Dave Colley. Dave was slightly over-optimistic in his estimation of attendance after last week's FELIX faux pas advertising FREE beer at the meeting. He asked Colley to set out 200 extra chairs in order to seat the hoards in addition to the 288 fixed chairs. Obviously nobody reads FELIX because less than 100 managed to make it. Where were the thousands? Quite obviously stuck in a snow drift somewhere, or eating QT burgers.

President Christine Taig reported on her long talks with Assistant College Secretary, Michael Arthur, her long talks with the Rector, and her long talks with just about everybody else who is anybody. She also hinted at more rent rises if 200 places are taken on in Evelyn

Where were all the thousands?

Gardens. Talking of the "amazing opportunity" of gaining more basic accommodation, she proclaimed that she had a "gut feeling that it was worth the subsidy" and that "we should go for it".

After Christine's question and answer session, the meeting was graced by an exhibition of modern technology when Mines President Rob Perry's personal portable telephone rang with a call for External Affairs Officer, Mark



It's for you-oo. . . MC phone home

Cottle (successor was elected later on in the meeting with his best mate and drinking buddy, Adrian 'Jelly' Johnson winning by a narrow margin).

This interlude was short-lived and voices were raised during Deputy President Jackie Peirce's report to the meeting. Eric the Rector sent a letter to all Heads of Departments saying that the decision to alter the JCR has been passed despite the Union's protestations. This has upset Ms Peirce after the long wranglings over the ownership of the QT Burger Bar and its encroachment into Union Space. Jackie threw the debate open to the floor with "does anybody really care about the JCR and QT?" The discussion was polarised between the militants who wanted to take over QT (and even the entire College

Refectory system) and those who didn't seem to care about the loss of Union revenue describing Union moves as "sour grapes" because QT was making so much money. The debate rages on after a motion proposed by Steve Mercer to hold an emergency general meeting in the JCR one lunchtime was passed. It is reckoned generally that this meeting will surely be quorate even if half the people are only there to eat QT burgers. By this time the meeting became well bogged down by procedure. RCS President Simon Singh proposed that an opinion poll should be carried out by the Executive to discover the general consensus of the student body about the JCR, and whether a week-long boycott would be supported. More amendments were proposed which were defeated but the final notion

was passed leaving everybody unsure of what was actually going to happen.

During Hon Sec Dave Colley's report the old chestnut of Linstead Locks was raised again with College inertia being blamed for the gap of two years between the master key being stolen and the locks finally being changed. Welfare Officer, Tom Melliar-Smith, cynically proclaimed that Colley were only prepared to change the locks after belongings were stolen from guests of the Summer Accommodation Centre. Estimations of when this will be occurring ranged from the official line of "within a month" to Tom's guess at by the Summer Term.

The guest speaker, Lynda O'Leary from ULU, gained cat-calls from her audience but very little verbal support for her calls for physical campaigning against ULU cuts of 50%. The most favorable suggestion was that of ULU's postcard campaign — "basically signing lots of postcards and dumping them on the Chairman's doorstep". She also suggested a library work-in: "you don't actually have to do any work. Just say that you're occupying it because you like libraries".

After the ULU motion was

"does anybody really care?"

passed and the election had taken place, local hero Simon Boshier proposed holding a 24 hour work-in, as suggested by the Rector this time last year, to a large amount of general derision from the rest of the 50 or so people left in the hall at 2.25pm. It was of course worth laying a bet on the fact that John Ranson would once again call "quorum" when it reached a Boshier motion. Simon has to be almost as popular as a QT burger!

MEGABRAIN

Perusing the beverages on offer at the Annual Piestazyenoot Beer Festival Mobius (the infamous puzzle solver) and I spotted an attractive offer:

WIN A BARREL OF BEER

There was already quite a crowd gathered around the table, but we managed to find out the following: in front of the barrel were two measures, one of five pints and one of three pints and the challenge was, using the two measures and the barrel as your only implements, to transfer beer around so as to end up with just one pint in each of the measures (pouring beer away was allowed). Various people had failed

dismally and their beer was poured back into the barrel so that the next person could try. It's a bit of a con, because to solve the problem you have to use a trick nobody in their right mind would consider, but if you can gather up a group of thirsty people I reckon we can get round it!

Mobius managed to solve the problem, although we didn't take the barrel home with us, how did he do it?

Answers, new problems, comments, etc to the FELIX Office by 1.00pm Wednesday, please. As usual there's £5 prize for a randomly selected winner.

Crossnumber

Here's the solution,

1	2	3
7	9	2
4	5	1
7	0	6

10	11	12
9	2	2
13	6	7
14	8	3

15	16	17
0	1	0
18	4	1
19	7	2

The winner (and only entrant) was Ken McCormick, Physics 3.

Pyramids

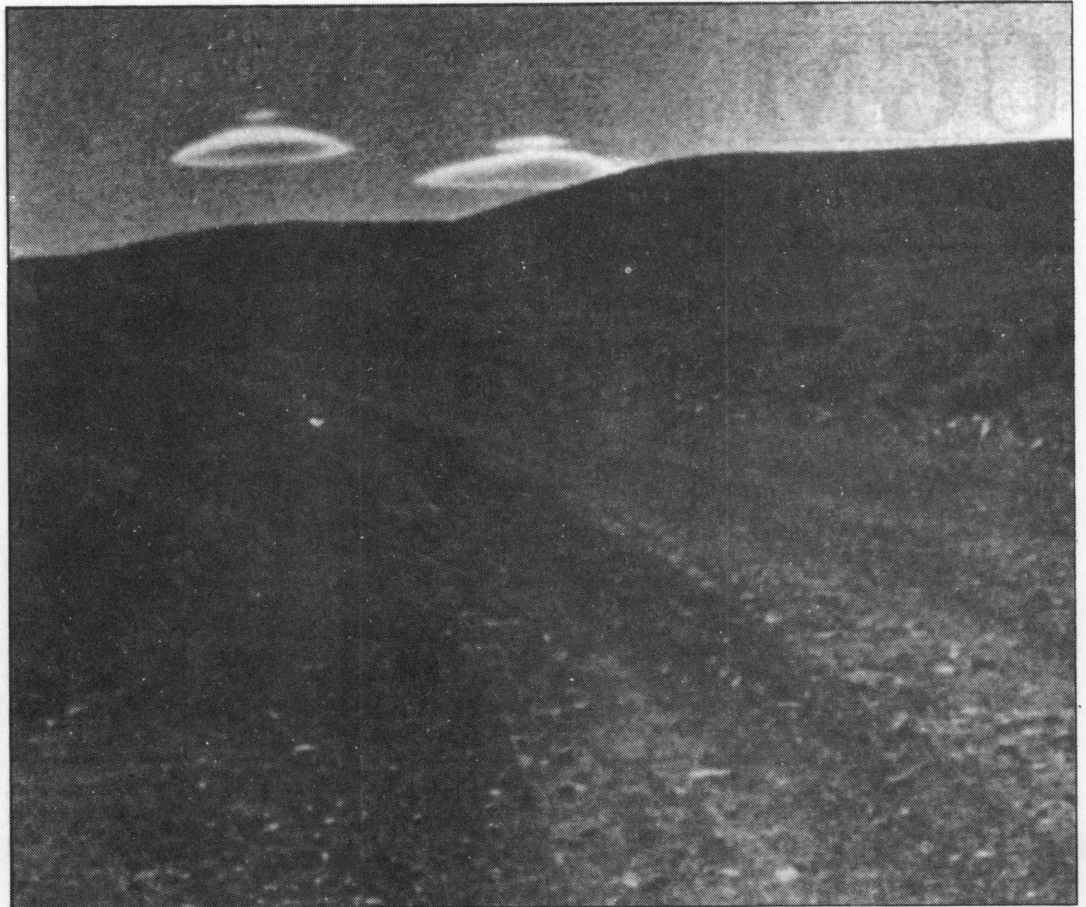
No-one has yet entered a correct solution to *Pyramid Problems*, last week's problem. Some of the solutions have involved a page full of algebra, this is not what I meant by "a simple argument". The answer I want can essentially be

achieved without any algebra at all. As a clue I'll say that you have to consider several pyramids of each type and how they might fit together. Answers by next Wednesday 1.00pm, please, for the £5 prize.

THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE

*A cynic's eye
guide to the
UFO
controversy.*

By
Chris Edwards



UFO's have been reported and conjectured on for centuries. Ezekiel's hovering chariot has long been theorised about - in Von Daker's discredited books it was a flying saucer, in the Bible, an agent of God. The refusal of governments to investigate the phenomena to any great degree has led to allegations of a cover-up campaign - that aliens have visited but that the evidence has been destroyed or hidden.

The Carter administration was embarrassed when, after promising to release the *Blue Book* files, found that many of them had been lost. *Project Blue Book* was a USAF file kept on UFO's which largely established natural causes for UFO's, but left a few sightings unanswered.

The first UFO's to be sighted and not to be attributed to enemy aircraft were soon after the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima - just as mysterious disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle were rising to a new popularity. For a long time, flying saucers, the Bermuda and Devil's Triangle (in the China Sea) were connected in the popular imagination as being part of a plot by extraterrestrials to study humanity.

Over the years, the UFO story has done more to show what people are prepared to believe in if they want to, than to indicate if technological races other than humanity exist. The most frequent sightings occur in North America and likewise the most fervent belief in the theory that UFO's really are messages from other worlds. This may be linked to

a recent survey of students in American universities reported in the Times December 6th which stated that an alarming number of students believed unequivocally in Genesis and the existence of paranormal phenomena.

While it might seem unfair to link belief in a God with belief in visiting extraterrestrials, the two philosophies have remarkably similar properties. Few UFO buffs would disagree with the hypothesis that extraterrestrials are benevolent and only too willing to help mankind - a feeling shared by people like Carl Sagan and Dr Alan Hynek. More fanatical believers are of the opinion that these aliens have a mission to save humanity from itself. Here Christian style religions seem to have left their mark, with a fervent belief in "original sin" and the inability of mankind to avoid self-destruction. Many of these theories seem to share similarities with C.S. Lewis' book *Out of the Silent Planet*, where Earth's supposed twin Venus is an unfallen Eden inhabited by angelic beings, right down to the frequent story that Jesus was a Venusian astronaut.

Stories of "close encounters of the third kind" - where alien beings contact humans personally - often show similar patterns as well as a singular lack of imagination. The extraterrestrials are almost always humanised, frequently "spindly, shimmering beings of unearthly beauty", that kidnap humans either to study them, or to give them messages to relay and are then returned. The two most famous occurrences of this are those of a man

who called himself simply "David" and the "cosmic" jazz musician Sun Ra. "David" returned as a prophet of salvation by the aliens wearing their symbol - a fylfot. The fylfot is quite a terrestrial symbol of good luck, used for over two thousand years in Indo-European cultures (it is the mirror image of the swastika - a familiar black magic symbol). Sun Ra claimed that he had been "transported into space on an energy beam", where he was "transformed into a member of the Angel race and given a mission on Earth - to make space music."

All of the evidence for flying saucers so far is circumstantial although quite serious attempts have been made to find evidence of intelligent extraterrestrial life. In the mid-60's a series of radio-sources were discovered that transmitted regular pulses of radiation on a micro-second scale. They were at first attributed to intelligent life, but quickly found to be caused by rapidly spinning, ultradense neutron stars which act like massive lighthouses. In 1960 Project Ozma was undertaken to search for signals of life in space, as well as the suggestion that a permanent array of one hundred antennae be used for this purpose - called Project Cyclops. This is a yet unrealised project despite extensive lobbying by people such as Carl Sagan, a keen exponent of communication with other races. Sagan believes that a race capable of interstellar communication and even travel must have overcome problems of self-annihilation and could even offer advice. The fact that we seem

to be intending to do the same thing and that we have not overcome our problems would appear to give the lie to this.

Meanwhile earthbound sightings of UFO's reported to be of "flying saucers" have largely been attributed to other, natural causes, or to human error. Recent research has suggested that eyewitness accounts, once the backbone of the modern judicial system are so unreliable as to be damaging. It has been shown that the things that people believe they see are due to preconceived opinions more than to the reality - even to the extent that they think they have been mugged by a black person simply due to newspaper reports that most muggers are black, simply because there was insufficient time to see the attackers properly. Likewise, when it comes to UFO sightings, similar preconceived notions colour the events recalled. Frequently the testimonies of airline pilots and fighter pilots are invited as "expert" witnesses, when in reality the reverse is true. Pilots are trained to recognise other aircraft since their lives may depend on it, and accounts of strange objects with windows are often due to a combination of poor seeing conditions and conditioning.

The most famous occurrence of this was in 1973 in an episode known as the Coyne Incident where a helicopter pilot was chased by a UFO, which caused panic stricken pilot Lieutenant Larry Coyne to put the craft into a steep dive. The UFO stopped overhead, bathed the crew in a green light and sped off to the west, changing colour as it went. Instruments malfunctioned, the radio died, the craft was trapped in "an antigravity vortex" and rose thousands of metres into the sky before it could be brought under control. At first it seemed to be hard evidence for the flying saucer theory, but closer examination showed that much of the episode was due to panic and instinct rather than advanced alien technology.

The radio malfunction was found to be due to low altitude blocking out signals, the green glow simply due to the green antiglare strip along the top of the helicopter windshield, and the sudden rise due to instinctive pulling back on the stick - an act frequently performed by experienced pilots. The UFO was probably an Orionid meteor.

Sightings are frequently due to atmospheric effects as well as meteor showers. Many of the sightings which involve lights in the sky performing exotic manoeuvres can frequently be put down to inversions. This is an effect caused by warm air layers coming into contact with cold air layers. At the interface a mirror like surface forms due to sudden changes in density, due to the changes in refraction and reflection properties. The UFO's encountered are merely the reflections of car headlamps in the sky - this giving rise to sudden course changes as they go round corners, a phenomena often reported.

Secret Air Force report admits the threat is real.

UFOs May Doom Life On Earth

Read The Official U.S. Government Findings!

Ever since the first UFO sightings (shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima), the government has been calling the UFOs a hoax. Yet all the time, Air Force intelligence was working frantically to discover where the UFOs were coming from!

SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED THE ALARMING TRUTH AND OUR GOVERNMENT HAS HIDDEN IT FROM YOU!

PROJECT BLUE BOOK was the government's code name for the top secret, multi-million dollar investigation that had FBI, CIA, special investigators, university scientists and the RAND Corporation (a government "think tank") - all working together in a national security effort to trace the origins of the UFOs. The findings shocked even the scientists themselves because who could believe all this was just coincidence?

April 12, 1960 The National Science Foundation attempts to communicate with intelligent life in outer space using its giant radio transmitter at Green Bank, West Virginia. On the same day, a scientist reports seeing a UFO!

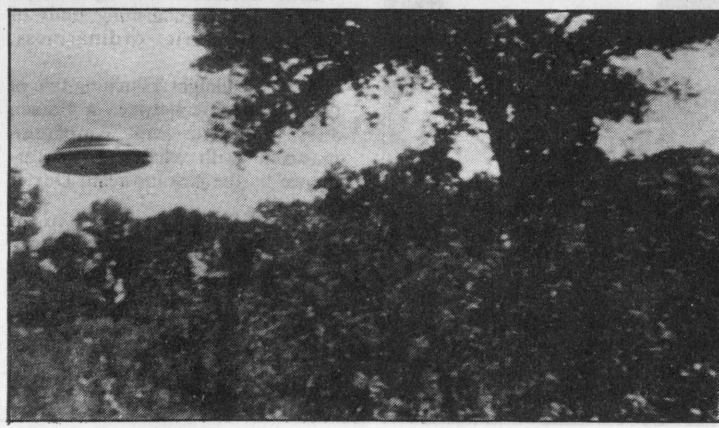
November 22, 1963 President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, exactly one month after observers at Cape Canaveral report seeing a UFO!

July 28, 1964 The day after UFOs appear over Norwich, New York, scientists reveal that dozens of dangerous bacteria have developed a strange immunity to miracle drugs!

FREE
WHEN YOU ORDER - YOURS TO KEEP REGARDLESS

1. Portfolio of 8" x 10" glossies of UFOs, all from Official U.S. Government files.

YOU GET ALL THIS
Complete Case Files, 1947-1969



The other major sightings, those of "flying saucers" can often be attributed to hoaxes and more rarely odd cloud formations. It is possible that the clouds may have inspired the saucer idea - as well as early science fiction movies such as *The Day The Earth Stood Still* and *Forbidden Planet* - an idea that has become so prevalent that few other shapes are ever reported. It may also be due to the fact that hubcaps and frisbees do fly exceedingly well, whereas breeze-blocks do not.

The case for extraterrestrials is not helped by the hoaxes purported by even some of the most senior UFOlogists in their attempt to have their case taken seriously.

In an attempt to have the United Nations take a look at the UFO story, the tiny island republic of Grenada (before its invasion by America), led by its self-styled "mystic" prime minister Sir Eric Gairy, requested a meeting with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. In doing so, Gairy invited several prominent UFOlogists to attend, and was billed as being "the most important meeting in the history of UFOology." However it was merely a courtesy extended to any member state. The overall effect was not helped by the hoax organised by on Charlotte Blob of the UFOEC (UFO Education Centre) which related the story of an eminent Mexican Physician who treated an alien being after a saucer landed near a Mexican village. The "eminent physician" turned out to be none other than Charlotte Blob's husband.

It has been computer enhancement that has provided the last nail in the coffin of photographic UFO evidence in many cases. Many have been discovered to be double exposures, saucers hanging by strings or simply out of scale pictures. The same technique has been used to discredit many photos purported to be of the Loch Ness Monster. Ironically it also provided the famous picture of a diamond shaped fin from a meaningless blob, fuelling more controversy.

Whilst it seems that extraterrestrials have yet to arrive, the UFO saga has done much to show what people are prepared to believe in if they want to. The desire for an end to famine and global war makes an alien race saving us from ourselves very attractive. It also removed the need to make any conscious decisions to alleviate these problems, hoping that Big Brother will sort us out. That in itself is a far more worrying fact than any belief in little green men.

Pick Of The Year

Films, by Jim Clayden

Silverado A very intelligent, "classic" western directed and written by Laurence Kasdan ("Body Heat", "The Big Chill") and starring Kevin Kline.

Year of the Dragon Virtuoso film making from Michael Cimino around the story of a racist cop in Chinatown with an impressive performance from Mickey Rourke.

My Beautiful Laundrette Another wonderful example of the strength of British writing from Hamit Kureishi. A tale of love and money in Thatcher's Britain.

Defence of the Realm Journalism and political intrigue in modern Britain.

Kiss of the Spider Woman The relationship between two very different prisoners in a S. American Jail.

Colonel Real Snobbery and elitism in Austro-Hungarian army with a brave performance from Klaus Maria Brandauer

Dreamchild Creative fictional account of the life of Rev. Dobson, author of Alice in Wonderland, and the experiences of the grown-up Alice in New York.

Alamo Bay Classic surprise and intrigue in a trial of a man suspected of killing his wife.

Stakie Wonderfully odd American independent film about a youth who discovers a device for viewing heaven.

No Surrender Yet more great writing this time Alan Bleasdale with a story set in a nightclub. Very black, but entertaining, humour.

Ran Astonishing epic film based loosely on King Lear but in feudal Japan and directed by Kurosawa.

A Room with a View Merchant and Ivory's wonderful vision of the E.M. Forster story. Perhaps the most life-enhancing film of the year, marvellous.

Caravaggio Derek Jarman's wonderfully photographed version of the artist's life.

The Lightship Largely neglected portrayal of an escaped convict taking refuge on a pacifist captain's lightship. Another excellent performance from Klaus Maria Brandauer.

After Hours Highly imaginative comedy from America's most creative director, Martin Scorsese. A yuppie slips into mayhem one night in downtown Manhattan.

Lamb A brother goes AWOL with an abused young boy from a Roman Catholic School. Powerfully sad film.

Vagabonde Agnes Varda's study of young girls self-destructive nomadism.

Runaway Train Konchalowski's film of two convicts trapped on a runaway train. Subtle photography and more intelligent than usual Hollywood entertainment.

Sean Connery in 'Name of the Rose'



Rosa Luxemburg Neglected study of the Polish political activist and early feminist ambitiously covering both private and political life.

Hannah and Her Sisters Another very cleverly balanced film from Woody Allen this time chronocling the life of three sisters.

Mona Lisa Yet more great British writing this time from Neil Jordan about a naive ex-con and his prostitute charge. Faultless performances from Bob Hoskins and Cathy Tyson.

Betty Blue Poignant and pretty study of self-destructive madness by the director of "Diva".

True Stories David Byrne's (of Talking Heads) charming study of Texan eccentric ordinariness. Lovely.

Round Midnight Touching tale of the relationship between a French Jazz Fanatic and American musician with charming performance by the jazz musician Dexter Gordon.

Eat the Peach Lovely tale of eccentric obsession as Irishmen decide to build a wall of death in his backyard.

Crocodile Dundee Wonderful tale of fish out of water, but successfully so. Paul Hogan goes to New York. Potentially the best film of '87.

Down By Law I've seen it twice and it is the best film of '87. Three characters escape from Louisiana jail and head out across the swamp. There's little point in describing it further because you will see it, you must!

Peggy Sue Got Married Intelligent adult "Back to the Future" more sentiment, less whooping.

The Colour of Money Martin Scorsese latest with Paul Newman as aging hustler and his pupil Tom Cruise.

The Fly Gruesome but impressive remake of '58 B movie.

When the Wind Blows Animated version of Raymond Briggs story. Peggy Ashcroft and John Mills provided the voices, then cried at the screening.

Name of the Rose Film version of Umberto Eco's very unusual story.

Castaway Nicholas Roeg's version of Lucy Irvine's account of life on an island.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off Wonderful and funny tale of the inventively wicked Ferris, an intelligent message about the state of American life.

Jumping Jack Flash Entertaining comedy starring Whoopie Goldberg.

Mosquito Coast Latest film from Peter Weir starring Harrison Ford.



New Releases

The idea of 'technology running amok' has become popular recently with films like *Wargames* and *Blue Thunder*, both directed by John Badham. He contrives the theme in his latest film, *Short Circuit*, which concerns the world of robotic armaments. Unfortunately, where his previous films have had a certain amount of technical credibility, *Short Circuit* is far less convincing, although admittedly less serious.

'Number Five' is an artificially intelligent weapons system, a robot Rambo, which, after being struck by lightning, escapes its secret testing ground and decides it would rather pick flowers and look at butterflies than zap people with its built-in laser. To this end it is befriended by Stephanie Speck, a "cute all-American single girl" and animal lover, who becomes convinced that the robot is 'alive'. Meanwhile it is being tracked down by its inventor, Newton Crosby, and a gang of bungling security men. After the compulsory sequences of chases and laser battles Stephanie manages to persuade Newton Crosby that Number Five really is 'alive' and together they try and save it from being 'disassembled'.

If you're prepared to put up with the rather predictable plot, stereotyped characters, and a horrendously cute robot (metallic ET), then *Short Circuit* is quite good fun, making up for what it lacks in other areas with a witty script and fast pace. It is one of those films where you just know who's going to live happily ever after with who.

Ally Sheedy as Stephanie



Do you remember going to pantomimes when you were little? There was something for everyone. Your Dad could ogle at the principal boy, your Mum could go out because you weren't around or she could laugh at the comedians, you could shout and sing along with the actors. The *Golden Child* is a sort of pantomime film. There's special effects and a child hero to appeal to the younger audience. There's Eddie Murphy to appeal to the teenagers. There's a beautiful woman who gets covered in water (the wet T-shirt look) for the dirty old men. There's a love story. Unfortunately this cocktail of everything doesn't work. The *Golden Child* is not up to the standard of previous Eddie Murphy films (even 'Best Defence').

The *Golden Child* is meant to be funny, but apart from one five minute scene, it drags. The problem is that Eddie Murphy is at his best when he is wisecracking and in this film he is rarely given the chance to wisecrack. He spends most of his time on a fairly boring trail chasing after a child. He is faced by a variety of supernatural enemies. The film is basically a poor adventure movie. The special effects are quite good but are so infrequent that they don't really make the film special. The story line is boring.

The *Golden Child* will probably be a huge box office success. People go and see Eddie Murphy whatever the reviews say. Most people who go will, I believe, be disappointed. The film has got the ingredients of a good film, it just hasn't mixed them properly.

Hugh Southey



Karen Silkwood was a socially outcast power worker who uncovered faults at her plant that were being ignored by the company. She was murdered whilst travelling to meet a reporter from 'The New York Times' and the evidence that she had with her disappeared. Her story was filmed as "*Silkwood*", one of the most powerful and controversial films of the 80's.

The team that produced "*Silkwood*" reformed to make "*Heartburn*". This time Meryl Streep plays a cookery writer who, against her better judgement marries playboy Jack Nicholson, and for a while they live in bliss, but their marriage quickly falls apart.

Director Mike Nichols seems unable to decide whether to treat the story as a yuppie tear-jerker or a satire. Nora Ephorn's script is based upon her own marriage and consequently is a confused mixture

of emotions which does not make good cinema, the unsatisfactory ending even suggests that the whole movie is an allegory of the children's rhyme about a spider! However "*Heartburn*" does have some spicy comic moments which keep the audience laughing along, until, at the end, we realise how vacant and spineless it all is.

Hollywood stars do not make controversial films in case they lose their audience and consequently work. Streep, who is brilliant when playing flawed women surviving against all odds, now appears only in mindless, if expensive, films that are unworthy of her immense dramatic skills.

It is unbelievable that the talented group of people that made "*Silkwood*" can fall to such depths. The advertising ought to warn that "*Heartburn*" is not only irritating it can also make you sick.

Theatre: Triumph at The Gate

When I saw the excellent reviews of "*Triumph of Love*" by Michael Billington of the Guardian and Michael Ratcliffe of the Observer it did cross my mind to hand in their collective opus, but instead I give you my equally prestigious (well almost) contribution.

If you want to see what London Fringe Theatre is about then you couldn't do better than to go to the Gate Theatre in Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate. This play furthers the reputation being built up at the Gate Theatre (they received the Time Out Fringe Award for best venue of 1986). There are four reasons for this.

Firstly, you will see a British premiere of a play frequently shown abroad.

Secondly, the visiting Anchor and Dolphin theatre company present their new translation of a piece by the much neglected (in this country) Marivaux.

Thirdly, you'll see the contrast between the expensive West End theatres with their lavish but dull and touristy productions and the small scale professional theatre that is prepared to put on something new.

Fourthly, the pub downstairs is pretty good.

The play itself is about a young queen who finds herself falling in love with a young man who her own family have mistreated. This neatly fits in with her dislike of the injustice done to him and so she decides to win his love and make him king. This sound simple enough but unfortunately the young man is looked after by a somewhat chaste philosopher and the equally chaste philosopher's sister.

Marivaux is never one to shy from a bit of complexity and so the philosopher and his sister find themselves both being seduced by the not so truthful queen. Whether reason defeats manipulation you'll

have to find out for yourselves.

The success of the play is highly dependent on the ability of the main actress. Anchor and Dolphin have found a fine actress in the form of Harriet Keevil who deserves a mention. She pulls this well directed play along very skilfully. There are also some good supporting performances.

The play is a thoughtful comedy which may well introduce the audience to a commedia dell'arte style. If you want to know the significance of the masked character then I refer you to the comprehensive programme which covers it better than I can.

All in all, this makes for an enjoyable evening's entertainment as both myself, several IC students and the Guardian and Observer critics can testify. Its certainly professional and it'll certainly make you laugh. I understand that audiences are steadily growing but you have until the 31st Jan to see it.

FilmSoc

IC Film Society's next presentation, this coming Thursday the 22nd in Physics LT1 (doors 6.30pm) is *Weird Science* (15)

Weird Science is a hilariously funny comedy about Gary and Wyatt; two nice, well-brought-up, but slightly nerdy kids. The only trouble is, not one girl in their entire school will look at either of them. In desperation they make their own girl on Wyatt's computer. Not a picture of a girl on the VDU, understand, a real girl. The film stars Kelly LeBrock (from *The Woman In Red*) who portrays "the perfect woman"

The following Thursday's film, again in Physics LT1 in the evening is *Beverly Hills Cop*, starring Eddie Murphy, a brilliant comedy—melodrama with farcical elements and a lively music score.

Also coming this term are two of the best films of 86: *Jagged Edge* starring Jeff Bridges and Glen Close, and John Huston's *Prizzi's Honour* with Jack Nicholson and Kathleen Turner.

See posters for further details of Film Society's presentations—and please do come along—it's a inexpensive, very enjoyable evening out.

Chinese Chess

Go and Hsiangchi are vastly different strategy games for two players. They were both invented several thousand years ago in the Far East and while Go has survived virtually unchanged from its original form, Hsiangchi has undergone many changes down the ages and is the forerunner of modern 'western' chess. It is still widely played in the Far East, and western chess players will notice immediately the similarities between eastern and western versions.

While Hsiangchi spread to the West to evolve into western chess, Go did not spread, and while it is now arguably the foremost board game in Japan and China, few westerners have heard of Go. This is a pity because, for the people who play it, it is easily the greatest board game in the world. (Hsiangchi and chess players may disagree!). I will spare you technical details except to say that Go takes about five minutes to learn, Hsiangchi a little longer, and both take anything over an hour to play.

The Chinese Chess Society exists to promote both of these games and meetings are held during Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes in Maths 341 from 12.40. Beginners are most welcome: we have many



FilmSoc presents 'Jagged Edge' starring Jeff Bridges and Glen Close, the psychological-mystery-thriller

competent players of both games and full instruction is given to new members.

So, if you're fed up with being fed up at lunchtime come along and be interested instead. See you there.

Chris Eardley EE2

Amateur Radio

Contrary to popular belief HAMSOC—the Amateur Radio Society—is alive and bleeping. We meet every Wednesday at 12.30 in the Hamsoc Shack in the Union building (lift level 3). So if you are remotely interested in finding out about radios, or whether it is snowing in Sarajeto! come and see us or contact Chris Read (Elec Eng 4), Martin Shepherd (Physics 3) or Eliza Richardson (Geology 2)

ConSoc Speaker Meeting

Consoc has arranged several speaker meetings for this term, to which all IC staff and students are welcome. The dates for your diary are

Peter Goosen—From the South African Embassy—Tuesday 20th Jan

Leon Britten MP—Tuesday 27th Jan

Tom King MP—Secretary of State for N Ireland—Thurs 29th Jan

George Walden MP—Secretary of State for Higher Education—Thursday 12th Feb

Geoffrey Howe MP—Wed 4th Mar

Cecil Parkinson will also attend on a date to be fixed.



SPORTS

Athletics

It may be early to consider athletics when we're going through the coldest spell of the year, but nevertheless, preparation starts now.

Would all those interested please note the following:

1) AGM

Today, Friday 16th January, 12.45pm, Green Committee Room, top of Union building.

2) Training

(a) Battersea Park Track with London University on Wednesdays at 2.00pm and Sundays at 10.00am.

(b) Circuits on Mondays and Fridays in Beit Gym 12.30pm (anyone welcome).

3) Fixtures

The first two meetings this term are on Monday 26th Jan at Tooting (outdoors) and on Wednesday 28th Jan at Crystal Palace (indoors).

Note There will be a preselection trial for the London University side for BUSF/BSSF/UAU National University Championships (Sat 3/Sun 4 May) at Kingston on Sunday 1st March.

Summer

On the 28/29 April (Tue/Wed), in the first week of term, London Colleges, Motspur Park: we won convincingly last year - let's do it again!

Southern UAU—yet to be confirmed.

Details will be posted on the notice board at the bottom of the main stairs in the Union. It is imperative that everyone interested attends the AGM so that the future of the club can be assured.

John Pope

Athletics Secretary 1984/87

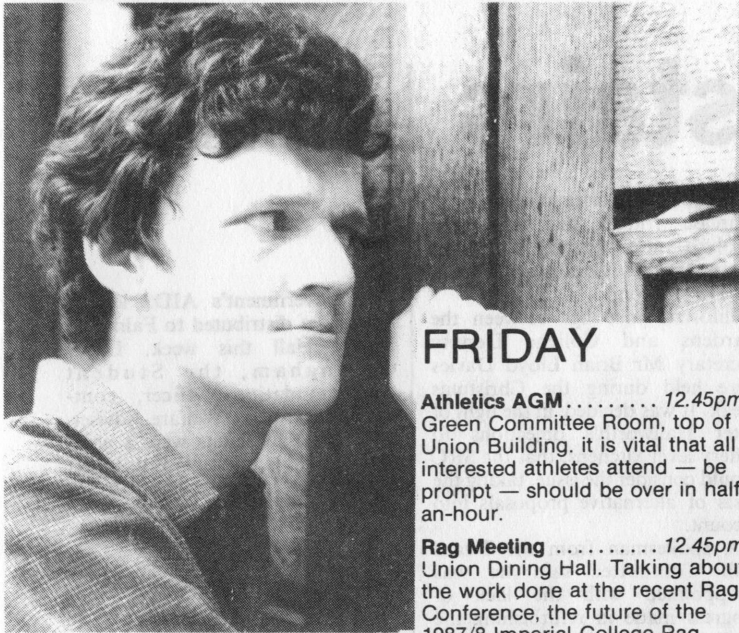
Hockey

Mixed Hockey
Sunday 11th January
RSM 2 IC 1

It was on a cold winter's morning that the two College mixed hockey teams met for what had been billed by some as a crunch match. The pitch at Harlington was frozen solid, as were many of the players, with snow falling throughout much of the game.

The first half was fairly even, both sides having scoring chances. At half time, however, the IC team led by one goal scored by their dynamic striker, Richard Ellis.

The second half saw that RSM had by no means given up. Several breaks into the IC goal area finally resulted in the equaliser scored by Mark Rayfield. The second goal came from a penalty taken by Simon Otto, following an incident in which Andy Lewis was brought down by IC's goalkeeper.



FRIDAY

Athletics AGM 12.45pm.
Green Committee Room, top of Union Building. It is vital that all interested athletes attend — be prompt — should be over in half-an-hour.

Rag Meeting 12.45pm.
Union Dining Hall. Talking about the work done at the recent Rag Conference, the future of the 1987/8 Imperial College Rag Magazine and the events to be held this term. Everyone Welcome.

Friday Prayer 12.55pm.
Islamic Society in the Union Building. Halaal food provided.

Fencing Club 6.00pm.
Union Gym. Beginners and experienced fencers welcome.

Faith, Hope and Love .. 6.00pm.
Christian Union Buffet Tea in the Music Room, 53 Princes Gate.

Tandori Extravaganza ... 6.30pm.
Eat as much as you want at The Kilburn Tandori for £5.00 with Guilds. Meet in Stans.

New Year's Disco 8.30pm.
Cantebury Hall, Cartwright Gardens WC1. 'til 1.00am, Happy Hour 8.30-9.30. £1.50

WHAT'S ON



SMALL ADS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

●**Transcendental Meditation**, a simple natural technique to improve all aspects of your life. Come to our free introductory talk this Wednesday at 1.00pm in the Common Room, Level 8, Physics Dept.

●**Calling all boys, calling all girls!** Queen fan club convention, 24-26 April, at Southport. Interested? Contact Lisa Ingram, Life Sci. 1, asap.

●**Anyone interested in forming a stamp club**, please drop a signed (important) note to Andrew Daglish, Chem. I.

WANTED

●**Lunch-Time Staff** (11.30-2.30) for the Holland Club to serve food and drink. Would suit postgrad., £2/hour and free lunch. Contact Mark Maddison (manager), Holland Club, int 3903.

MONDAY

Ap. Tech. Soc. 1.00pm.
Elec Eng 403A. Dr Dave Elliot on "Alternatives to Chernobyl".

Dance Club Beginners Ballroom 7.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Dance Club Medals Class 8.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting 8.15am.
Christian Union, Union Upper Lounge.

Postgraduate Meeting .. 12.45pm.
Holland Club. All Departmental Postgraduate Reps. must attend, plus any other Postgraduates interested.

Consoc Speaker Meeting 1.00pm
'South Africa: The Future' by Peter Goosen, from the South African Embassy. All IC staff and students welcome. Mines G20.

Beginners Rock 'n' Roll 5.45pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

FOR SALE

●**Roland JX3P Synthesiser** and PG 200 Programmer, including sustain pedal and wooden box. Contact Mark Harman, DoC, Huxley 219 or ring 229 5680/733 5575 for details. £500.

LOST & FOUND

●**LOST - Jumper** at the Biochem Xmas party. M&S, brown/green, no label. Contact Vicky on Int 7445.

ACCOMMODATION

●**Single Room** in Putney, £35pw plus bills. Ring Matthew Morris on 789 7391 for details.

German Wine Tasting ... 6.00pm.
Union SCR. The second tasting of term, with fine German Wines.

Judo 6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

Dance Club Intermediate Ballroom 7.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Dance Club Improvers Ballroom 8.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Nigel on the Wireless .. 9.00pm.
Two hours of aural titillation. IC Radio, 999kHz, 301m.

WEDNESDAY

Rock 'n' Roll Routines . 3.00pm.
UDH. Dancing Club. Cost: 70p.

Tap Dancing 5.00pm.
Lounge. Dance Club. Cost: £1.00

THURSDAY

Fencing Club 12.30pm.
Union Gym. Professional coaching for beginners and experienced fencers.

Ap. Tech. Soc. 1.00pm.
Elec Eng 403A. Dr Tom Shaw of McAlpines on "The Severn Barrage".

ICSF Library Meeting ... 1.00pm.
Green Committee Room. Access to our vast library, organisation of future events and news from all over the SF world. Members only.

Film Show 6.30pm.
Physics LT1. "Wierd Science" starring Kelly le Brock. 50p (members).

Judo 6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

●**Savi, Simon, Steve** did you have a good lunch? I have got frost bite now.

●**Repent** before it's too late. The Chaplin is coming to stun you into silence.

●**"All for one and two for 30p"**. We are a virtually College-based revue team who would like some more bookings. Ask Beit Hall Residents and Elec Eng persons for critical comments, but be careful how you word it. Questions, pledges of money and other responses to Elec. Eng. pigeonholes under 'E'.

●**Watch out** the train is on its way.

Upstairs, Downstairs

Residents in Southside have signed a petition expressing opposition to the proposed introduction of staircase kitchens in the hall. Instead, Tizard & Selkirk residents are pressing the College to build an extra gallery level kitchen in the space formally occupied by the laundry, and they propose that the staircase fridges be replaced by individual fridges in each room. The petition, which has been signed by almost all of the Tizard residents is due to be presented to the Students Residence Committee when they meet to discuss the matter next week.

The Wardens' Sub-committee endorsed the plans for gallery level kitchens at a meeting on Wednesday, when it was decided that individual fridges could be paid for by increasing the weekly rent by 50p per week.

The Managing Surveyor of Residences, Mr Peter Hallworth, is

understood to be in favour of staircase kitchens and has listed a number of objections to individual fridges. In a report assessing the costs of three proposals to rehouse the staircase fridges — a move which is necessary to comply with fire regulations — Mr Hallworth points out that individual fridges would be costly to maintain, would encourage students to cook in rooms, and would present a pest hazard. The report estimates the costs of providing individual fridges in cupboards on the staircase as £60,000 and rehousing the fridges in gallery level as £33,300.

The provision of new kitchens in Tizard and Selkirk was first discussed by the SRC last year when it was decided that gallery level kitchens should be built. Work on the kitchens did not go ahead, according to Mr Hallworth, because

the problem of where to relocate the staircase fridges had not been resolved, and because of alleged obstruction by Southside Warden Dr Hutchinson.

Informal meetings between the wardens and College Deputy Secretary Mr Brian Lloyd Davies were held during the Christmas break. It was decided, in the light of Peter Hallworth's objections to gallery level kitchens, that the SRC should consider the issue, taking the costs of alternative proposals into account.

A spokesman from the Tizard Hall Committee said he was disappointed with the lack of progress made in refurbishing the kitchens and said that it was unfortunate that the issue had to be referred back to the SRC.

AIDS Leaflet

The Government's AIDS leaflets have been distributed to Falmouth Keogh Hall this week. Lesley Gillingham, the Student Accommodation Officer, continuing her role as Welfare Adviser, said that the leaflets were a good idea and added that plans to leaflet other residences were under consideration.

TV Fees Increase

The membership fees for Imperial College Radio and STOIC will be increased to £4, it was decided at Tuesday's Union Finance Committee. Union Deputy President, Jackie Peirce, said that the £1.50 increase was necessary to pay for the high cost of the equipment used by both of the clubs. She added that, because neither STOIC and IC Radio were essential services, it was reasonable for students to help finance the equipment.

IC Radio Station Manager, Pete Hands, described the move as "very sad" and pointed out that students would be discouraged from joining IC Radio as a result.

Grant Inadequate

The All-party Education Select Committee has accused the Department of Education and Science (DES) of misleading parents over the adequacy of the student grant. The Committee also unanimously criticised the Department's failure to collect evidence and keep statistics on students' financial needs.

The Committee's report, which was presented to Parliament on Tuesday, supported the principle of full grants for almost all students, but acknowledged that the cost of £3 million would be impossible to meet.

The DES admits that the present cost of living calculations are "entirely national" and the report proposes that a "student cost of living index" be set up. Middle class families would also be assessed more generously if the report's suggestions are accepted.

The report has been favourably received by the NUS and the Labour Party, which described it as "a sharp rebuke to the government over its policy on student grants".

In The Pits

Dave Colley announced at yesterday's UGM that, considering AA recommendations, the Union van fleet would be off the road for the duration of the bad weather.



Rose Atkins joined the FELIX staff as the new Phototypesetter Operator on Monday. Rose, who lives in Mitcham, is looking forward to operating the brand new Compugraphic Typesetter.

IC Tomb Horror

Three Imperial College students were found dead from hypothermia this week. The three, who all lived in the same flat in Lexham Gardens, were found huddled together for warmth in their sub-zero unheated flat, with their feet poked inside the kitchen oven. Students Union know-alls, Ian Howgate and Alan Rose, commented "this is an absolutely disgusting state of affairs", and we are going to further our sabbatical election campaigns by criticising whatever Christine

does about it".

Conditions in the 25 Lexham Gardens flats have always been described as "chilly", but the latest arctic weather has prompted calls for issuing free thermal combinations to all tenants. This is a little late for the three victims, and for the students in flat six, who are believed to be suffering frostbite in several places. Student services are advertising the empty flat later this week.

New Places

The College is negotiating to buy a 200 place hall of residence in the locality. The hall will be financed in part by the letting of rooms in Evelyn Gardens, Beit Hall and Garden Hall during the Easter holidays — a move which is expected to raise an extra £25,000 per year.

Fire regulations dictate that the residences cannot be let to the general public, and it is anticipated that the facilities will mainly be used by visiting foreign students.

In previous years the halls have been let out only in summer, under the control of the Student Manager. The College is now considering delegating the scheme to the Conference Office in order to prevent the incidents of student rowdiness which resulted in damage to halls last summer.