

ULU saved from UGC hatchet men

The University of London Union has been saved from the massive cuts which were threatened by the UGC. Though the figures still have to be finally approved by the Senate next year, ULU will receive an increase of 3.6% in funding.

This news is being heralded as a major success for the campaign to defend central services which was organised by ULU last term. The "biggest campaign ever run by ULU" included collecting a petition of 13,000 signatures and a Day of Action, which was held in January.

The future of all of the University's central services now seems more secure. The Careers Advisory Service will also receive an increase of 3.6%.

The Accommodation Office and the Central Institution Health Centre will receive increases of 3.5% and 3.7% respectively. The Library and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies will be granted smaller increases.

The Universities Grants Committee have sent officers at ULU an apology for the original statement about cuts in central funding. The Senate of the University of London have passed policy backing the maintenance of student amenities.

ULU have published a report on "The Future of Student Amenities in the Federal University" based on information gathered in the campaign, which points out that student facilities in London are still underfunded.

Postal strike havoc

90,000 addresses were without mail earlier this week as almost all Post Office sorting staff in south west London went on strike.

The unofficial dispute started in Brixton postal district (SW2) where, because of a high sickness rate amongst staff, a backlog of mail had built up. Staff were either unable, or not unwilling, to work the overtime necessary to clear the backlog. The district post master tried to get trainees in from a neighbouring district to do the deliveries. This course of action had previously been agreed with the Union of Communication Workers (UCW), but as soon as the idea was put forward, the postal workers walked out. Other postal districts' workers also walked out throughout the week in a show of sympathy for the Brixton district.

these districts being Clapham (SW4), Stockwell (SW9) and Earl's Court (SW5) and South Lambeth (SW8).

A Post Office spokesman said that they "deeply regret the inconvenience caused to the public as a result of this unofficial strike action." He also told FELIX that there are many standard procedures by which the UCW can communicate with management to sort out any dispute without causing inconvenience to the public. "Obviously the postal workers in Brixton have ignored these procedures" FELIX was told.

As a result of negotiations on Tuesday and Wednesday, normal services were resumed throughout south west London on Thursday morning, although FELIX was told that it would take up to a week to clear all the backlog of mail.



First for the Scarlet Woman

The RCS Motor Club admitted to having a fun-packed bank holiday weekend. The burly bunch of firepersons were out every day, exhibiting Jezebel the fire engine.

On Saturday the team took Jez to Battersea Park to be filmed for the BBC TV programme *Top Gear*. The show was running a feature on the Historic Commercial Vehicles Society annual outing to Brighton in which Jez took part. The interviewer, Mr William Woolard, admitted to the crew that he had once used the ladies toilets at Imperial and to having been suitably impressed by the low standard of grafitti.

Sunday saw Jez successfully completing the trip with only a minor mechanical problem when a fan blade sheared off. However, she made it to Brighton and back again without any further problems.

The highlight of the weekend was on Monday at the "Wheels of Yesterday Rally' in Battersea Park. Here Jez was awarded first prize in the class of Fire and Rescue Vehicles, and was presented with a nifty silver trophy.



Letters

Token letter

Dear Ed,

We feel it is our duty to warn fellow unsuspecting students of the dangers which lurk within Kensington Gardens. At 8 o'clock this evening six of us ventured out for a walk. While '8-wheel Jack' was razzing on her roller skates the rest of us engaged in a highly energetic ball game !! During the course of which, our ball (or rather, the tennis ball Natalie found in Linstead Bar!) was devoured by a ravenous flower bed, into which it was thrown by 'Clutzy Charlotte'. As if this wasn't distressing enough, on reaching the gate outside Kensington Palace (with the intention of going to MacDonalds) we found them locked. Not wishing to forego the pleasures of a MacDonald's milkshake we decided to scale the heights. This, however, is not as easy as it may appear.

At the sight of six worried looking females (due to the spikes at the top of the fence) a gallant drunken Londoner rushed over to help, leaping over the fence to demonstrate how easy it was. His over-enthusiastic efforts nearly caused a serious injury for Jackie on the top of the fence, who was posing for the tourists, keen to capture quaint London customs on film. On noticing Jackie's precarious position a handsome young man appeared, catching her, much to the disgust of his girlfriend! With Jackie safely over, the others were committed to following her. After surveying the fence, Natalie (a life scientist and therefore able to find an easy way out of everything) discovered the simplest route, utilising the handle of the gate (no...the gate was locked). With an extra foothold it was now possible to negotiate the obstacle with care (due to the spikes). Natalie, Helen, Charlotte and Jackie (now skateless) then joined the other Jackie on the far side, leaving Kate, wearing a skirt and scared of heights, not happy about the situation. By this time the handsome young man had left (dragged off by his girlfriend, who instantly recognised Natalie's man-eating instincts) and not even the offer, from the drunken Londoner, of his back as an extra foothold was enough to tempt her over the gate. But, after a little more encouragement, and one false start, we were all on our way to MacDonalds.

So you have been warned. Jackie (razzing) Godfrey Charlotte Green Natalie McGowan Jackie Scott Kate Whiteside Helen Waddington (Linstead Hall)



ULU Saved

The fate of ULU probably seems entirely insignificant to the majority of IC students, who consider even their own students union an irrelevance. Large colleges which have good facilities, such as IC, function perfectly adequately on a day to day basis without the aid of the centralised London Union. This is one of the reasons why ULU was open to attack when the need for drastic cuts arose. Though the heat may be off for the moment, there can be little doubt that students unions will be in danger in future when more cuts are threatened. Unless there is a major upset at the next general election the government will continue to trim the education budget for as long as they are allowed to get away with it. As UGC funding contracts, universities will have to supplement their incomes more and more with sponsorship from industry and private research contracts. Imperial already receives a substantial amount of money in this way and the administration are keen to see this increase. More and more emphasis is going to be on 'economically viable' research, means-tested grants will eventually give way to student loans, and tertiary education will move further towards being privately funded instead of state-maintained. Science institutions will no doubt do relatively well, but students unions will be squeezed out as government money dwindles, and, as usual, students will suffer.

Rag Fete

Tomorrow is IC's Rag Fete—the main Rag event of the summer and the last chance to collect for this year's charities. On page 5 there is a short article about the organisations which benefit from money raised by IC. This is the side of Rag which really counts—if you can take time off from exams, for Rag events try to get out and support this event and the people who have spent the year organising fund raising events for your entertainment.

Print Unit

This is my 26th issue of FELIX and the novelty is beginning to wear a bit thin. More and more, I have found, the job is concerned with running the Print Unit rather than editing FELIX. I do not have time to look after personally everyone who wishes to make use of the facilities, but I do not like having the FELIX Office treated as a service which exists only to meet the needs of club publicity requirements. I will go out of my way to help anyone, but I do not like the implication that people are entitled to my attention, or, more importantly, to the attention of volunteer staff. If anybody is dissatisfied, Kall-Kwik is on Old Brompton Road.

Credits

Many thanks to Judith Hackney, Dave Burns, Pippa Salmon, Kamala Sen, Steve Kilmurray, Chris Martin, Neil Motteram, Dave Williams, Mark Cottle, Pete Higgs, Chas Jackson, Aaron Kotcheff, Sarah Kirk, Liz Holford, Sunny Bains, Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle, Andy Bannister, Francis Miers, Jane Spiegel, Grenville Manuel, Al Birch, Christine Taig, Dave Colley, Nigel, Rose Atkins and Steve Shackell.



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News

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Appalling prospectus

The Imperial College Alternative Prospectus for entry in 1988 and 1989 arrived in the FELIX Office on Wednesday night. When examined by the AP Editor, Sunny Bains, it was found that the printers of Preston, had used the wrong kind of paper for the covers and had not allowed the ink to dry before stacking. In addition they had not cropped the booklets, allowing holes in the edges of the paper, produced during the printing process, to show on the finished articles, and had generally produced a very low standard of finish.

After Ms Bains complained, a representative of Hamilton Press agreed to take £200 from a total bill of £1885 to compensate for the error in the covers, but was non-committal as to whether further reductions could be made for the other printing faults.

The total number of booklets delivered was 200 less than it should have been, and at the time of writing it appears likely that ten percent of the remaining will be unusable due to an error in folding.

The usable copies are to be included in the Sherfield mailing next Monday or Tuesday; it is expected that this will be about six thousand. Ms Bains said that reprinting was out of the question, as the Sherfield deadline had to be met if the AP were to be distributed by College, and the cost of separate distribution by ICU would be prohibitively expensive.

New Welfare Adviser

College has recently appointed Mr Iain More as Director of Public Relations. The main responsibility of this new post is to provide an effective fund-raising programme for College. It is envisaged that such a programme will involve new contacts outside College, as well as further fundraising from College alumni. The appointment is on a five year contract starting on June 1st.

Mr More's most recent position was at INSEAD, a management training college in Paris. Previously he was Development Officer at Edinburgh University.



On Thursday April 20th over 100 demonstrators from NALGO, including a number from Imperial College, lobbied the meeting of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals in support of the 1987 University Clerical and Administrative staff pay claim. The demonstration handed to the committee a graph showing relative earnings in the clerical sector.

The protesters were addressed by the Labour Deputy Spokesman on Health and Social Security, Frank Dobson MP, whose constituency covers Bloomsbury and the University buildings.

The pay claim is for an 8% increase or £600, whichever is greater, and improvements in hours. It was recommended by a Ruskin College report commissioned jointly by NALGO and NUPE. There is presently a large turnover in College secretarial staff.

ICU President Christine Taig said: "They deserve every penny. They're grossly underpaid and undervalued."

Fund raiser appointed

A major reorganisation of 15 Princes Gardens has put all Councelling, Welfare and Accommodation Offices on one floor. A new Welfare Advisor, Linda Simmonds, will be starting next month. The Welfare Centre should reopen on Monday.



COLLEGE UNION The Handover UGM

on Tuesday 12th May Meet 12.50pm Union Office (Mech Eng Level 3) for 1pm Albert Memorial including...

trouserless boat race awards trials (followed by Serpentine Swim) Pray it doesn't rain HAIR BRAINED

Cut 'n' Blow Dry £5.00 Wednesday 9.00am to 4.00pm in the Ents Room (above the New FELIX Office)

TEAM QUIZ

Thurs 14th May 8.00pm IN THE LOUNGE BAR (ie Norman's) Teams of 4-£1 entry per team First Prize-£20 per team, Second Prize-£8 per team ENTER ON THE NIGHT (bring a pen)

Accommodation for academic year October 1987—June 1988

Fully furnished, self contained flats and houses available for groups of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. Available in South Kensington, Fulham and Putney. Prices from £32 per person per week, exclusive of bills. Some single and some double bedsits also available. Bookings taken now, no payment until October.

Please ring for viewing 385 9882, 731 0292, 731 4073 any time during the day

Union

Christine's Piece

The Good News

It appears that the University of London Union is safe, at least for another couple of years. The UGC funds allocated to the Central University over the next three years are to be higher than originally predicted, and rather than facing a 50% cut in income ULU is in fact receiving a 3.6% increase, as is the UL Careers Advisory Service. The Central Accommodation Office and Health Centre are to receive similar increases, while the library and department of Extra-Mural Studies are to receive increases of 0.86% and 0.35% respectively.

This is extremely good news, especially when you consider that the University of London as a whole spends far less on student facilities and amenities than the national average (1.5% of recurrent expenditure compared to a national average of 2.3%, according to the recently published ULU document 'The Future of Student Amenities in the Federal University').

ULU extends its thanks to everyone who helped and supported them in their campaign against funding cuts. Meanwhile, make the most of the Central University facilities while you can; although things look rosy at present there is no doubt that ULU will be under scrutiny again in the next round of cuts.

More about ULU:

Three ULU posts are up for election at the next General Union Council meeting on June 2nd.

The posts are:

GUC Chair

Women's Officer

International Officer

The GUC Chair is responsible for the smooth running of ULU General Council meetings. The International and Women's Officers are non-voting posts on the ULU executive, responsible for advising on all matters relating to their respective student groups.

All three posts are open to any full member of Imperial College; nominations close on Monday 18th May at noon. If anyone's interested in standing for one of the posts, come and see me for more information and a nomination form.

More Good News

At last the Imperial College Welfare system appears to be getting into shape. The whole service will be based on the first floor of 15 Princes Gardens; the Accommodation Office at the front, dealing with all matters relating to College and private residences (apart from residence bills which are paid in the Sherfield Building); the Welfare Centre and Welfare Advisor's Office in the middle and the Student Counsellor's Office at the back.

A new Welfare Advisor, Linda Simmons, has just been appointed and

been re-decorated and leaflets on a range of subjects are available there. If you have urgent problems Lesley Gillingham, the Accommodation Officer, can probably help you in the interim before Linda starts work.

A Request

There are plans to organise a big party for children of students and staff of the College, probably on June 21st. The party will be held on the Queen's



should be starting work at the end of May. She will complete what should be a good, comprehensive service, offering advice and help on a range of matters from financial and accommodation to work and personal problems. This is not before time; the welfare service has been in a state of disarray for most of the year with too few people trying to do too many jobs. Linda will have a lot of re-building to do but having met her, I'm sure she's more than capable of it!

Meanwhile the Welfare Centre has

Lawn and will be a "mini-fair" with various stalls, games and activities for up to 300 kids. The party is being organised by Clare Ash, but energetic as she is she won't manage singlehanded! If any groups or individuals would like to help out, or have bright ideas for activities and stalls, let me know within the next couple of weeks and we can then offer some support for this idea—which sounds like a good one and should be a lot of fun.

That's it for now, take care. Christine

Gay News

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I'd like to start this week by thanking all the people who screwed up their courage and turned up at our meeting on Wednesday. I don't think any of them regretted it one bit, and I hope to see them all again, hopefully with several more new faces, next Wednesday, same time, same place (Green Committee Room, 12.30pm).

Some concern has been expressed—usually behind my back about what such a meeting is for. Well, to start with, we are not in the business of organising rampant bonking sessions. Anyone who has thought this should start questioning their attitudes to sexuality rather deeply.

The purpose of this group is simple: We aim to provide somewhere for the gay students and staff of Imperial College, where just for a while they can be completely themselves without fear of ridicule or attack—fears that for many are very real indeed. I don't say that these fears are always justified, but given the atmosphere here they are understandable.

I would also like to restate my invitation to anyone who isn't gay or lesbian, but still thinks they might like to come along—you're welcome.

I'm sorry to see that there has still been very little reaction to all this in the FELIX letters page. I had hoped to see an exchange of ideas and constructive criticism, and surely some of you must have something to say? See you on Wednesday,

Andrew Bannister

Insurance: Could the following people please see me: D Clarke, M Kenny, S McClean, G Punlorn, R Tristram, N Turnbull Thanks, D Colley



Rag at work

On the eve of the last major Rag event of the year, FELIX takes a look at the charities which IC Rag is supporting this year

FELIX

Be it mud wrestling with women's rugby, fire eating with 22 Club or gazing at London from the Queen's Tower, Rag Fête tomorrow promises to be a day of fun and entertainment. But what is it really about?

Each year Imperial College Charity Rag raises about £11,000—£15,000 for various charities. The charities this year are Imperial Cancer Research, Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC) and the Rectory Paddock School.

Rag this year is donating £3000 to Imperial Cancer Research for the purchase of an incubator. ICR are the largest independent cancer research charity and plan to give £500M to research projects over the next ten years.

RADAR are an information-giving and campaigning charity for disabled people. They run an education and training bureau which provides home tutors for disabled people in the London area and correspondence courses outside. As well as providing custom-made devices, usually at no cost for people with special needs, their campaigning side monitors the implementation of such laws as the Tom Clarke Act which provides special facilities for the disabled.

The National Deaf Children's Society provides money for research



A panoramic view of some people in the mud

into deafness—causing illnesses particularly meningitis. They provide special equipment (eg teletext



televisions) for individuals and schools and sponsor a festival for performing arts at the Unicorn Theatre. NDCS are also pressing for a change in the law over the unsuitability of the new GCSEs for deaf children (the NDCS Chairman, John Butler, will be attending Rag Fête).

BIBIC teach the parents of brain injured children program stimulation therapy which can improve the children in all areas. Their main residential centre, Knowle Hall near Bridgewater, is being extended and Rag is contributing a considerable amount for this project.

The Rectory Paddock School for Metally Handicapped Children are buying a new minibus to replace their old one. Most of the money is coming from the Variety Club but Rag are donating £3000. The new minibus will be at Rag Fête tomorrow.

Rag Fête starts at 2.00pm tomorrow. There is a bar extension until 4.30pm. There will be stalls from nearly all the societies, Bo and Jez will be out, the Exec will be in the stocks and the Queen's Tower will be open. The Rag Raffle will be drawn, possibly by Ava Gardner. In the evening there will be a Children's programme party in the JCR with a 1.00am extension.

So enjoy tomorrow, spend lots of money, and remember what it's all for.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHARITY RAG

presents

RAG FETE on Saturday May 9th. 2.00pm Queens Lawn; bar extension, silly games, Rag raffle, followed by party in JCR till 2.00am.

FELIX

A Holiday for Two is Going



• This is it! It's the last one—this is YOUR chance to win a holiday for two. And not only that, but with the sponsorship of STA we are able to give you a *choice* of a weekend in either Paris or Amsterdam.

• This is the final week of the competition and, as usual, there is a \$10 travel voucher prize for the first correct entry (drawn from a hat) to the two questions below. We have also reprinted all the previous questions and photographs—you can still enter for the main prize if you submit answers to the complete set of ten questions by **5.30pm** today (Friday). Don't worry if you can't answer all the questions or identify all the photos—submit an entry anyway because probably no-one else will either.

The draw for the winner will take place at 4.00pm tomorrow at the Rag Fete and the result printed in next week's FELIX, along with all the answers.

Don't miss this chance of a lifetime!

• Previous questions and photos are:

Week 1 Who was the Rector of Imperial College before Lord Flowers? Mystery photo 1



Week 2 Who was the first President of IC Union? Mystery photo 2



- This week's questions are;
- 1) What part of College is this?
- 2) Where is the Colcutt Tower?



• The fourth amazingly lucky winner was Mark Ball of Chemistry III (again).

• All entries to be addressed to the FELIX Office and marked "STA Competition". For further information, contact either FELIX or Mark Fletcher in the STA Office on level 2 of the Sherfield Building.

Week 3 When was the Union Building extended? Mystery photo 3



Week 4 How many FELIX Editors have there been? Mystery photo 4



All entries to be handed in to the FELIX Office by 5.30pm tonight. -

Here we go again!

FELIX

Or "a Miner's guide to voting in ICU elections" by Dave Colley



For the forthcoming election for President of ICU there are five candidates in the running. There could be an election held whereby the candidate with the most votes wins on the first count ie majority win on the first past the post candidate. This, however, is not the case in ICU elections. In ICU elections a form of proportional representation known as the single transferable vote (STV) is employed to elect a majority winner. The process starts with you, the voter...

There are five candidates running for the election. On the days leading up to the election you will undoubtedly read their publicity and ask them questions. The forum for asking questions is the hustings ie yesterday, however there is nothing to stop you approaching a candidate to ask more detailed questions yourselves. On the polling days there will be a ballot box positioned in all departments. On production of *your* Union Card you will be given one ballot paper with the five candidates' names on it in alphabetical order. Next to each candidate is a shortened down form of voting instructions.

When voting put the figures 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 in the boxes in order of your preference ie:

Candidate 1	3
Candidate 2	5
Candidate 3	2
Candidate 4	1
Candidate 5	4

If in your opinion Candidate 2 is the best for the job put '1' in the box next to Candidate 2 (see above). Then put '2' next to your next best candidate and so on until you get to '5', or you don't want to vote for any of the remaining candidates (leave the remaining boxes blank).

If, in your opinion, none of the candidates are worthy of the post of Union President next year, then you may register a vote against all the candidates by writing 'ABSTAIN' across the ballot paper.

This is all you have to do to vote, and here is a short summary:

1. Get off your backside on either the 12th or 13th of May ie this coming Tuesday or Wednesday and wander into College, any department will do, or if you live in Princes Gardens use the box in the Southside Upper Lounge. 2. Take your Union Card with you to show you are a registered IC student.

3. Vote for as many of the candidates as you want, using the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 to indicate order of preference, or abstain by writing 'ABSTAIN' on the ballot paper (if any other mark is made on the paper is scribbling out and starting again the vote is spoiled).

DO NOT VOTE WITH A CROSS.

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Manifestos

FELIX, Friday May 8th 1987

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PRESIDENT

Hi! The fact that you're reading this at all makes you a very unusual person at Imperial. If you vote in Monday/Tuesday's election you're even more unusual. Why? Because you've shown some interest in the running of your students' Unionan activity that over the past few years seems to have all but died out at this College. There is one major reason for this change of attitude-the types of students entering Imperial over the years have changed whereas the type of people organising the Union have not. There is no real feedback between students and the Exec., no matter how 'approachable' they may claim to be, and so the Exec., along with ents and other committees, continues to do its own thing. Many past Execs have complained about student apathy but have done little to alter the situation. One of my first tasks as President, should you elect me, will be to draft some form of questionnaire in an attempt to find out how you really want the Union's £2m turnover spent. The President's main job is to represent your ideas and views to the main student and College committees, but how can your ideas be known if you're not asked? The President is

Paul Bailey, proposed by Anne Driver

also meant to be a forceful representative of student life and opinions to the College block but too frequently in the past Presidents have backed down to College upon confrontation to avoid 'trouble'this means that you lose out, something that I will not tolerate. Many Presidents have said this in the past but have felt obliged to be 'nice' to College administration for an easier life. Who needs an easier life?-I don't, and I'll only be nice to people if students will gain from it.

So if you want your Union to show more interest in you, vote for Paul Bailey on 11th and 12th of May.



EN



Symon Corns, proposed by Alan Rose

Since coming to College I have had active involvement in College life and hence I would like to see the Union flourish next year. For this to happen the Exec must be a strong group with a strong President, able to lead and work in a team. I believe that I am such a person and hence am asking you to vote for me in the election.

A major part of the President's job involves representing all IC students on various College and Union committees. To be successful a calm and responsible approach is required. Further personal politics or prejudices must not interfere with representing the majority student view. I do not subscribe to any political party and have a wide range of experience on committees.

The Union has seen several changes this year, especially in outlook, initiated by this year's Exec. I would, if elected, give full support to these changes and would try to use them to consolidate the Union's strength. The Union faces changes next year as well and for us to respond rapidly and effectively a flexible approach is required. Chas Jackson and Alan Rose have already spoken on the required re-distribution of work amongst the sabbaticals. I agree with their ideas and will endeavour to have this redefinition of work-load completed by the end of next year by working with them as a team.

Please vote and use your vote wisely!



lan Howgate, proposed by Kenneth Young PRESIDENT

Having worked with four of the last five Union Presidents I have no reservation in stating that Ian Howgate is potentially the best person I have yet met for the position.

Ian's pedigree, unlike most other candidates, hardly needs restating, although his contribution in so few years bears reiteration. 84-85 Captain of RSM Hockey Club

85-87 Student coordinator of RSM Open

Day

86-87 Geology Departmental Representative 86-87 Student Residence Committee Union Rep

In my capacity as warden of Southwell House I have seen Ian's tireless commitment to all matters residential, with a particular responsibility for security (hence the Linstead Hall lock changes). He is a gifted and confident orator, whose ability to cajole the opposition toward his opinion, yet still retain the essential element of cooperation never ceases to amaze me.

As I have already said, a more confident, amiable and capable candidate I have yet to see. Therefore, I strongly advise all voters to follow my example and place a 1 by Ian Howgate-you won't regret it.

I have many plans for the Union, most of which would bore the average student silly, but include; Union reorganisation, pushing for better accommodation and sports facilities, continued improvement of College refectories and a drastic reorganisation of the entertainments machine.

There is far too much of a 'College verses students' feeling at present and these barriers need to be broken down so we can all work together for the best results. I became involved in the Union last year, because I and friends were experiencing little representation in halls and in my department. The result was that I took up these jobs myself. I now wish to work for all of you to make this College a better place for everyone.



Manifestos

FELIX, Friday May 8th 1987 9

PRESIDENT Junichi Imura, proposed by Lawrence Kapalah

Hello to you all hardworking (?) IC students and good luck to those taking exams!

Now, I bet you are wondering "who is this foreign guy with a name that sounds like Zanussi". Well, I am not a bloke with an endless list of Union involvements and certainly not a washing machine. So do I promise limitless supply of funds to the College functions? or do I promise free booze and no work for you all? I'm afraid I'm not a magician but I am an IC student, just like you, who believe that something can be done to improve the life at IC.

How many of you attends UGM regularly? Certainly not the majority of you, I reckon. Most people I've spoken to felt that Union precedings seems to take place behind our backs! IC Union—'a faceless organisation' as described by the Alternative Prospectus. Why this is so? Union exists for *everybody* why not give priorities to STOIC and IC Radio over other societies together with FELIX so that IC students can be well informed of what's going on. Also why not give priorities to Ents Society because its contribution has a great significance to the life at IC. I also like propose the strengthening of liasons with other colleges in London. How do we benefit from this—facility sharing, livelier, social events to name the few, and also this would be beneficial to those who lives far away from IC.

I will be around so even if you are white, coloured, straight or gay don't be afraid to come and talk to me. I'm dying to hear your views on IC Union.

I've come to my 300-words limit so I like to leave you with a proverb I like you to remember before the election—"Heap big smoke, no fire". Cheers



PRESIDENT

Roger Loughney, proposed by Sri Moorthy

The problem at IC is not apathy. Is it apathy that motivates the members of the inumerable clubs and societies? The problem is one of communication between the Exec and the student body, and all the consequences that this implies.

For my part all the energy and enthusiasm I have will be channelled into creating a dialogue between the Union and the student body. I believe the Union has a duty to present the student body with every opportunity to debate policy. Once decisions have been taken at UGM, they will be persued unceasingly. In dealing with student and College committees, I make it clear from the outset that I am not along for the ride, and I expect all those participating in the Union to hold their own.

The issues: as a manager in SAC for the past two years it is clear that the security of Southside is continually compromised, a wholesale reassessment of security being necessary; I am totally opposed to any sale of Silwood land; I would encourage clubs and societies to find additional sources of finance by implementing their talents; I would seek to develop foreign students' involvement in the Union; I see the Union as an apolitical body and I oppose membership of NUS, though I would encourage a dialogue with other university unions; I am against student loans; I welcome the merger with St Mary's Hospital Medical School; I encourage further links with the American colleges and see their presence as only for the better.

What I offer, then, is communication between the Union and its members, be it through FELIX, CCUs or more importantly on the personal level I will endeavour to be approachable at all times, open to discussion of Union policy and willing to help whatever the problem.

ICU Sabbatical Elections

Voting in all departments, Tuesday May 12th and Wednesday May 13th. Bring your union card. Results in FELIX next Friday

Clubs

FILMSOC

Orson Welles at IC

This Thursday (14th) IC FilmSoc presents Citizen Kane. in Mech Eng 220 (doors at 7.30pm, admission free to members).

Shortly after the success of his vivid radio dramatisation of The War of the Worlds, which panicked the whole of America, Orson Welles, America's boy wonder, launched himself into cinema.

In Citizen Kane, Welles' first film, he directed, produced, co-wrote and starred. Although not a commercial success at first (1941), even though it won two Oscars and received 5 nominations, the film was soon rereleased and became a smash hit. By 1962 the British Film Institute poll of international critics had voted it the greatest film of all time and every poll since it has led the second place film (La Règle du Jeu) by a larger and larger margin.

"Then last week, as it must to all men, death came to Charles Foster Kane.

The film revolves round a magazine reporter who interviews the friends of the dead newspaper tycoon, Kane, in an effort to discover the meaning of his last words. The film mirrors the life of William Randolf Hurst who, in the first third of this century, was one of the most powerful men in America. Hurst spent a fortune trying to make a star out of his actress-lover Marion Davies, and their high profile affair was hot news for many years.

Kane is a brilliant piece of Hollywood cinema, using all the resources of the studio, and despite lapses of characterisation almost every shot and every line are utterly absorbing.

Here are what some more respectable critics thought:

On seeing it for the first time, one got the conviction that if cinema could do that, it could do anything"-Penelope Huston

"Probably the most exciting film that has come out of Hollywood for twenty-five years. I am not sure it isn't the most exciting film that has ever come out of anywhere" -CALejeune

More fun than any great movie I can think of"-Pauline Kad

All members (and non-members) should not miss this opportunity to see one of the greatest films ever. Martin Gans

Price £1.00 for non-members.

Abba and G O'Sullivan



demise of Ents activity this year

increases the importance of having a

good committee next year to revive

involvement in Union events. Whilst

the Ents chairman has been elected,

a number of posts are available and

anyone can stand for them (Ents is not

a clique of hardy students-we think

Abba and G O'Sullivan have really

injected life into the music business).

e) 8 Ordinary Members (four

All CCU Ents officers are

automatically members of the committee. It is important that they

attend meetings to prevent events

Election papers will be going up in

the next few days. Anyone interested should contact J Noble (Chem Eng

IV) via the Ents pigeon hole in the

The posts are as follows:

a) Secretaryb) Junior Treasurer

d) Publicity Officer

clashing unnecessarily.

Union Office

c) Disco Officer

freshers)

Tomght, Friday May 8th, Ents are presenting the 7-piece band Hookline & Silverfish in the Lounge. The band have been described as a cross between Elvis Costello and Aztec Camera and their history includes a gig at the 100 Club which was attended by a selection of record company representatives; which means they are as hot as a cross between the Smiths and a blowtorch.

Moving further into the term, Ents, in conjunction with IC Rag, will be running a Comedy Cabaret Night on Saturday May 16th, again in the Lounge, with a very cheap bar. Acts appearing include Scottish satirical singer-songwriter Tom McEwan, juggler and funny man Steve Rawlings (whose appearances include Saturday Live) and the Music Hall Cabaret, who describe themselves as a bawdy trip back to the good old days. All this, coupled with intermittent jazz should ensure a jolly wild jape (and some hints of wheeze).

On a more general note, the sad

Ladies Rugby Tour Report

Ladies overpower Oysters

At the end of last term the Ladies Rugby Team went on tour to Holland. There were two matches played, of which IC lost the first, but came back to win in the second.

In retrospect it is not surprising that we lost the first match to the Eindhoven 'Elephants', after ten hours travelling and only two hours sleep. Seven tries were conceeded in the first half, but we woke up in the second half, only conceeded a further twelve points and came close to scoring a number of times ourselves.

The next day the snow disappeared and it became warm and sunny. Despite the fact that a number of players had great difficulty in holding

down their breakfast (and one didn't suceed) on the journey to the pitch after the previous nights activities, we were a much improved side when we played the Oisterwijk 'Oysters'. The teams were quite evenly matched, but the speed of wing Sabrina Demello proved to be our strength and IC scored two tries in the first half, one being converted by Abygail Samuels. This made the half-time score 10-0. The Oysters scored a breakaway try near the beginning of the second half as we relaxed slightly, But this proved to be their only score and after consistent pressure we scored a try from a penalty move close to the line: final score, a 14-4 win.

Easter rowing

THE EIGHTS HEAD

After watching Oxford win the Boat Race, the 5 College crews then raced on the falling tide to again demonstrate their dominance in university rowing, against 500 international, club and university crews.

The first eight improved on last year's position and came 9th overall, winning the Ortner Shield for the fastest UAU crew, and coming in the top three of the British club crews. The second eight also excelled winning the UAU Trophy for the fastest second UAU crew. Possibly the best result was the winning of the Novice Pennant by the 'beginners' of the club who have only been rowing for 6 months.

SCULLERS HEAD 11th April

This is the top long distance sculling race in the country and was attended by over 500 scullers including many British and foreign World British and foreign Championship medalists. It was here that the boat club had its best ever result by a sculler when Nick Barfitt won the whole event, much to his surprise, after having a very good scull over the 414 mile course.

BEDFORD SMALL BOATS HEAD 12th April

Here the stars of the day were, yet again, the novices, who won the novice coxed fours and coxed pairs. The coxed pair's win was most remarkable as they were coxed by our coach Bill Mason who was larger than either of the two crew members. He then went on to win in a veteran coxless four with his old friends. The other wins at Bedford were in Senior B coxless pairs and Senior C sculls.

DAF and CHANNEL 4 POWER SPRINTS 4th May

This event is the first rowing event specially organised for television. It is to be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday evenings during the summer. The race is a 500m timed trial with the fastest four crews from the heats going through to the semi-finals. After the heats the first eight had the third fastest time which put them into the semi-finals. Here they raced the Tideway Scullers School, supposedly the top club in the country, but after a hard fought race beat Tideway by ²/₃ of a length, giving IC the fastest time of the day (also beating the University of London crew) and winning themselves a place in the grand final at Bristol on the May Bank Holiday.

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FILM

<u>Reviews</u>



Big Knockover

The Big Knockover and other stories (Dashiell Hammett-Penguin £3.95) With Dashiell Hammett you get more murders per page than any other author. In The Big Knockover, the title story of this collection, there are fortysix murders and at least fifty woundings when a gang of one hundred and fifty gunmen take over a San Francisco bank. Hammett deals in superlatives; his 'tec is the archetype, whiskey-and-poker, raincoat, dis-gusted with life and invariably shouldering his way into the most seedy dives. Indeed Hammett did work for the Pinkerton detective agency before and after the First World War. His dust jacket reads like a fantasy;

messenger boy, newsboy, clerk, timekeeper, yardman, stevedore." Who needs a degree? He died of the effects of TB accentuated by his imprisonment ten years previously as a civil rights campaigner. His stories are wacky and varied-there are ten in this book; murders in Chinatown, on a millionaires' island, a wild west hick town that deals in illegal Mexican immigrants. The backgrounds and characters are casually sketched in with a few accurate colours of the pen, the stories are enthralling and you don't feel impelled to solve them before he does. This is a great book and nine out of ten cats said their editors preferred it.

FILM

Working Girls

Working Girls and Personal Services are two films currently doing the rounds that deal with the subject of prostitution. On the surface they seem different, but their cores are very similar.

Lizzie Borden's *Working Girls* is a documentary style 'day in the life' story of a well run New York Brothel. It is filmed almost entirely within the claustrophobic apartment where no 'kinky stuff' is allowed (or, at least, costs more). It is seen through the eyes of Hooker and Yale graduate Louise (Louise Page) who talks philosophy with clients.

Terry Jones' Personal Services tells how Christine (Julie Walters) takes over from her prostitute tennant when she moves out, owing 8 weeks' rent, and leaving a string of potential clients. Eventually Christine opens a brothel to cater for 'really kinky stuff'; its clients are mainly diplomats, judges etc. The film, as well as being consistently and hilariously funny, cuts deep into the hypocrisy of the British sex laws and our whole attitude to the subject. As one of her clients said, when he admitted to his perversion he was coming out of a "very crowded closet"

Both Working Girls and Personal



Services are firmly on the side of the women, who see sex as a commodity, in great demand, to be bought and sold. All are in total control of their own lives, minds and bodies and consider themselves well above the men to whom they sell their services, if not the whole of the male sex. Christine's bitterness finally breaks out following her arrest; "Men can't talk a bit of sense 'til they're despunked" she screams "When their balls are full their brains are empty". Louise makes her emotional separation from the male sex more obvious—her lover is female.

Although both films are humourous and (dare I say it?) entertaining, the ultimate merrage of each is desolate, depressing and empty, just as is the whole subject of prostitution; it is ignored or brushed to one side as 'somebody else's problem'.

Liz Holford

Prick Up Your Ears

Prick up your Ears is a film about a tragic love affair. Written by Alan Bennett and based on John Lahr's biography of Joe Orton, the film centres on the relationship between Orton and his homosexual lover, Kenneth Halliwell, who was eventually to brutally murder Orton. The very fact that Halliwell's name is remembered today is ironic, since it was jealousy of Orton's fame as a young 60's playwrite that undoubtedly played the largest part in driving Halliwell to kill his lover.

In recognisable Bennett style the film cuts unchronologically between two narratives, that of the Biographer collecting information for his book and that of the Biography itself, but concentrates on the story of Orton and his lover.

They meet in London while trying to become actors and Halliwell, an aspiring writer, takes the younger, uneducated Orton under his wing. In the early years the relationship goes well while together they struggle to write, and amuse themselves by taking side swipes at authority. But Halliwell becomes increasingly upset both at Orton's sexual rejection of him in favour of frequent encounters with pick-ups, and at his increasing success as a writer. It becomes clear that Halliwell is the real innocent of the two as his frustration and jealousy bring him to the verge of insanity, just as Orton is becoming a national celebrity.

The film is ably directed by Stephen Frears, following on admirably from his success with My Beautifull Launderette and, like that film, presents its subject matter in a straightforward, no nonsense way. Orton and Halliwell are both excellently played, Gary Oldman as the irreverent and unsympathetic Orton, Alfred Molina as the sad, neurotic Halliwell. Bennett's clever and funny script offsets the depressing nature of the story and deals with the seedy side of 60's homosexuality sympathetically. All in all an enjoyable and revealling film. Presently playing at the Curzon, Shaftesbury Avenue and the Screen on the Green, Islington.

13 FELIX, Friday May 8th 1987

Reviews

THEATRE

Mystery

Stagefright are excellent live around College I'm told, with a live set consisting of "well known kick-ass

rock covers surrounding the bands own material played with energy, power and enthusiasm". Well they have recently visited a 24-track recording studio and recorded a demo-tape.

You can't fault their enthusiasmthis lot enjoy playing. The two tracks on the tape are the bands own material, resisting the temptation to record a cover on their first tape. All the usual you would expect from a 'rock' band is there, incessant guitar and drums, but what really lifts it for me are the lead vocals; they really are quite special.

The overall style, despite the rock style, can't help but remind me of Jools Holland's band, Squeeze-the vocals are very similar. Where it does fall down a bit is with the drums. I'm told they used a drum sampler, and they didn't quite get it right. Especially during the first track on the demo it's

The company pretended to be a fifth-rate musical company, a pretence

that did not stretch the imagination. The experienced performers were obvious-you could hear them. It was

sad to see Ernie Wise, Lulu and the

other passable actors prostituting their

talents to a bit of West End musical

that was neither highly amusing, nor

musical, nor well-acted, nor with any

sign of a credible script. This is the

kind of thing we send American

tourists to (poor things) to earn our

MUSIC

Stagefright



not clear whether the drums are even accompanying the right track. OK, it's a little rough around the

about. It's worth a listen, definitely, or even better get to see them liveyou'll enjoy it!

edges, but that's what demo tapes are Chris Martin

FILM

One of the most publicised films of the year, mainly, one suspects, due to its unexpected financial success in the US, is Oliver Stone's Platoon. Yet



another film about Vietnam, you ask? Well, to a certain extent it is just another film about Vietnam, although admittedly a very well made one.

The plot is quite simple: the experiences of one U.S. recruit, starting from his first day in the battle zone. Charlie Sheen (looking incredibly like his father in Apocalypse Now) plays Chris, a college drop-out who naively decides to 'fight for his country' and becomes one of the few Vietnam volunteers. The platoon of the title is that to which Sheen is

Platoon

assigned, a hardened, unfriendly

Last Saturday I went to see a rather dreary performance of The Mystery of Edwin Drood at the Savoy Theatre, The Strand. The plot is based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel, where young ED disappears and various inhabitants of the local town fall under suspicion. The audience are called upon to give their (rigged) vote on the ending, which is then acted out.

HE SOLVE-IT-YOURSFLE MUSIC

SAVOY THEATRE

MYSTERY OF EDWIN

FILM

Crimes of the heart

foreign exchange.

Sarah Kirk

Crimes of the Heart is a hilarious black comedy which gives three of the best screen actresses of the decade a chance to go wonderfully over the top, playing eccentric (if not insane) sisters, who refuse to conform to the rules of their community.

Babe (Sissy Spacek) has just shot her husband because she "didn't like his stinking looks", Meg (Jessica Lange) is a failed singer who drinks too much and admits freely to having had far more men that is good for her. Lenny (Diane Keaton) nurses their grandfather and avoids men as she believes that they will reject her because she has a shrunken ovary.

The film concentrates almost entirely on the three central performances. It quickly rushes past

the more serious points that the original play raised, such as hypocrisy and racism in the American South (Babe has an adulterous affair with a young black boy who is quickly sent away by the authorities when it becomes public). Bruce Bresford's direction sometimes wavers somewhere between the drama and the humour of situations such as Babe's string of failed attempts at suicide.

However all of the film's faults are more than compensated for by Lange, Spacek and Keaton's performances as the sisters who love, laugh, scream and cry together when nobody else will accept them.

Liz Holford

bunch who, although believably played, seem a bit cliched: the wimpy Lieutenant, battle weary Sergeant, resident wierdo...etc. Sheen soon realises his mistake, as a new recruit he is not only given the worst jobs, but his life is worth less since he has no experience. As the film continues he is exposed to some of the other horrors of the war: night ambushes, booby traps, napalm, VC (Viet-Cong)

villages levelled and girls raped. The comparisons with Apocalypse Now are inevitable. The films both have a similar atmosphere and both portray the war in a black and unglorified way. They differ in that Platoon tells the story of the standard infantrymen (who were usually the poor and uneducated men of the U.S.-one of the original points the film makes) in their day-to-day activities, although there is plenty of 'action' of course.

Platoon is professionaly made and is certainly exciting enough if a war adventure is what you're looking for, but in the end I felt that I had learnt little new about the Vietnam conflict, or the suffering of the people involved. Platoon is presently playing at the Odeon Leicester Square and around London. teok, Look out

Aaron Kotcheff

Who is Tony Neal?

FELIX

Anthony Neal (pictured) is in his first year studying Electrical Engineering at Imperial. He is also one of the most gifted young trombonists around, and on Friday he is performing Grondahl's Trombone Concerto with Imperial College Symphony Orchestra.

Tony began learning the trombone at the age of 12. In 1981 he won a Junior Music Exhibition Award from Essex County Council to study at the Royal College of Music Junior Department. As well as playing in the Essex Youth Orchestra and the Royal College of Music Junior Orchestra he has been principal trombone of the National Children's Orchestra and is now principal of the National Youth Orchestra. His most recent concert with the NYO was at the end of April in the Royal Albert Hall when their programme included Eine Alpensinfonie by Richard Strauss.

Tony shot to national fame last year when he won first prize in the brass section of the BBC's *Young Musician* of the Year competition, beating hundreds of other musicians of over Grade 8 standard to become the best brass player under 19 in the country.⁻ In the final he played the Grondahl Trombone Concerto on national television with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Bryden Thompson.

Although he is studying Electrical Engineering, Tony still finds time to take a very active part in music at IC. He is a member of ICSO and Imperial Brass, and is often seen performing



with IC's Trombone Trio which plays almost anything (from *The Queen of Sheba* by Handel to *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*) almost anywhere.

Tony considers the little-known concerto by Grondahl to be the best one written. It was composed in 1924 and demands a high level of technical and musical competence from both soloist and orchestra. Your chance to hear it is on Friday May 15th in the Great Hall at 8.00pm and it will only cost you £1. Not only can you hear the Concerto for Trombone, but we are also performing Mozart's Magic Flute Overture, a brass Fanfare from La Peri by Dukas, and the Symphony Number 8 by Dvorák, which he wrote shortly before his New World Symphony.

Emma Barrett



This term saw what might (very arguably) be described as the highlight of the IC social calendar— Silwood Ball. Though those who attended may have looked charming and elegant, their doings were on the whole, far from respectable.

Perhaps the most shocking tale concerned a young Aeronautical Engineer, called Sasha, who threw herself, ballgown and all, into a pond. After wandering around for some time in a sodden dress decorated with algae, she was persuaded to change into her coat, but in doing so noticed she had lost a shoe, probably in the pond. A nameless female friend, when asked to retrieve it, decided not to do to her ballgown what the unfortunate Sasha had done. For this reason she took off her dress, much to the delight of Dramsoc who viewed her braless form with admiration from a first floor window. David Isherwood, not content with a balcony seat, rushed down to 'assist' the young woman with her quest. It is rumoured that he will formally reinstate 'Ogle Soc' some time this term.

An only slightly less embarassing event which occurred at Silwood was the engagement of former ladies' man Mark Ball to Stephanie Snell after they had been going out for little more than a term. Undisclosed sources would lay 5:1 against a marriage ever taking place.

By the way, it anyone from 'Alchemica Acta' is reading, they're welcome to it, but they're not welcome!

Here's the answer to the last problem of last term. Plenty of correct solutions although there seemed to be a bit of confusion about some of the clues: 1-across was 'A multiple of 11-across' many answers did not satisfy this condition, and 1-down read 'Odd. Each digit is greater than the preceding one.'—this was meant to indicate that the digits should increase as you read down the page.

The £5 prize winner was Nick Blatchley, Maths II, well done! The summer term is a pretty lean one for Megabrain, with exams taking up most people's spare thinking time, so there won't be a new problem this week. Look out for one later this term



though, and the special problems page in the end-of-year issue.



What's On

What's On

FRIDAY

Christian Union......6.00pm. 'Abortion—A Christian Response'. The Music Room, 53 Prince's Gate. All welcome.

Dance Club Dinner-

Dance.....7.30pm. Live band, late bar plus cold buffet. Tickets £6. Demonstration and cabaret included. Held in JCR. Tickets from Neil McCluskey (M R II).

IC Ents Concert8.30pm. Union Lower Lounge. Hookline & Silverfish supported by Dave Puppy & The Happy Dogs. Disco and bar 'till 12.00. £1.50. See IC Ents.

SUNDAY

ICSO Rehearsal2.30pm. Great Hall. There's no better way to spend your afternoon!

MONDAY

Concert Band

Rehearsal5.45pm. Great Hall. All players please! See IC Concert Band

Dai Rocking......11.00pm. IC Radio on 999kHz. The best in hard rock music thro' midnight including the featured album every week with David Williams. FREE!

TUESDAY

IC CathSoc Mass ..12.30pm. Chemistry 231. Quiet and contemplation between lectures or exams. Food provided (50p). All welcome. Christian Union......8.15am. Prayer meeting, Union Upper Lounge

Socialist Soc AGM12.45pm. Green Committee Room. Elect

next year's committee members. See IC Socialist Soc.

Judo.....6.30pm. Union Gym. All standards welcome.

OpSoc Tour

Rehearsal7.30pm. 53 Princes Gate. See OpSoc

Nigel on the Wireless9.00pm. IC Radio, 301m, 999kHz. Make tea, not lover. Rather a screw loose than a loose screw. FREE.

WEDNESDAY

ICSO Final Rehearsal7.00pm. Great Hall and afterwards in The Queen's Arms.

Another City11.00pm. Idiosyncratic, confused and fairly erratic but fairly lacking in mindless pop and overflowing with good rock, folk, jazz or whatever takes Neil's fancy at the time. IC Badio

THURSDAY





Science Fiction

Society.....**1.00pm.** Green Committee Room, Union Building. Anarchy, occasional events, use of the library, find out what we're doing in the weeks to come. FREE to members

Science Fiction

Judo.....6.30pm. Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

Gay/Lesbian

Group.....**7.30pm.** ULU Building, Malet Street. Mens group room 3a, womens group room 2e. Meet weekly for speakers and booze. See Robert Daniel.

Citizen Kane7.30pm. Mech Eng 220. Free to members £1.00 to nonmembers. See IC FilmSoc.

Soup Run9.15pm. Weeks Hall Basement. FREE. See Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCAG).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Christians looking for a flat next year—If you want to live in a Christian house then contact A J Mellor (Mech Eng I).

• Head Tenancy Flats – Extra flats for 4, 6, & 8 available from October 1987 in Hamlet Gardens. Applications open today. Available from the Student Accommodation Office. • Tonight only! IC Ents present a 'Booze and Band Nite'. Forget exams, get down and get pissed. Two bands, licensed bar 'till 12.00pm, £1.50 only. Friday 8th May.

• Christian Aid Week—During next week envelopes will be distributed throughout halls giving residents the opportunity to donate money to help the poorest people in Africa. Please think seriously about the amount you could donate to a very worthwhile cause.

PERSONAL

• IGOR FROOBLE DINGEL DORG-VOKHNBKGVU

• Happy birthday Eucalyptus tree. Lots of hugs, Koala Bear.

ACCOMMODATION

• Earl's Court, flat-share. Large double bedroom in nice flat, 1 min Earl's Court tube, 74 bus outside door, £271 per calendar month. Available now. Contact Maria Tel: 222 9070 ext 245.

FOR SALE & WANTED

• For Sale: Dual CS 505 turntable, NAD amplifier & tape deck, Goodmans 3-way speakers, cabinet and approx 40 LPs. Price is a paltry £275 all-in. Contact Colin Bridgewater c/o Civ Eng letter racks or phone 532 6253.

• For Sale: VW Golf 1100L, 1976, 76,00 miles, new tyres and clutch, body poor, no MOT, good runner. £125. Ring Sunil, ext 6658 or 373 4917.

• Wanted: One qualified aerobics/dance teacher for evening or lunchtime classes. Competitive rates. Classes of about 30-40 people. If interested please contact Carolyn Dyson, Physics III.



Silwood: Spot the Ball!

Young, gifted and unemployed

The Commission for Racial Equality has published a report which shows that students who are black or from other ethnic minorities find it more difficult to get jobs after graduation than those who are white. In addition they receive lower wages, and are less likely to be offered a job suitable for their qualifications.

The report was based on a sample of 2,640 recent polytechnic graduates, and shows that, whereas only 30% of the white students were unemployed a year after graduation, this rose to over a half for non-whites.

Students of Asian descent were particularly badly hit, with an unemployment rate double that for whites, and average salaries £30 per week less even though they tended to study in fields such as engineering and pharmacy which are more vocationally orientated. Even Asian electronics graduates "seemed to be experiencing considerable difficulty in finding any form of suitable employment", with only half finding jobs in a year, compared to 14 out of 15 whites. The report says that these differences could not be explained by differences in degree class.

Dr Russ Clark is the head of the careers service at Imperial College. He said that he was surprised by the report's findings, and that the differences could be caused by other factors—interview techniques for instance. If there was discrimination then he believed it happened at individual interviews. He said that if any student felt that they were being discriminated against then he would be ready to help. Careers services could refuse to handle the literature of employers if necessary.

In two years he had received only one complaint about racially prejudiced recruitment, from a Jewish student who had decided not to take the matter further.

The standard application forms used for graduate recruitment include

a question on ethnic background which is designed to allow employers to monitor their recruitment to see if it is racially unfair. However this section could also be used to filter out non-white students early in the recruitment in a way that would make discrimination almost impossible to prove. This section is voluntary, and some students refuse to complete it. "It is up to each student to make their own decision about this", Dr Clark said, "It is a rather grey area".

Although the careers service handles these forms and *could* do its own monitoring of recruitment of ethnic minorities, this is not done because it is felt that the requirements of absolute confidentiality must be respected, and some students from ethnic backgrounds might not want such monitoring. For these reasons a decision has been made recently that the recruitment of disabled students would not be checked.

Another ceiling collapses

A section of ceiling collapsed in one of the resident's rooms in Southwell House last week. At about 11.15pm last Thursday a 3' x 2' section of plaster crashed from the ceiling of one of the ground floor rooms and landed on a bed. Fortunately both the occupants of the room were out at the time.

Warden Ken Young said that the resident whose bed it was had had a lucky escape, as the section that fell had been 'substantial'. He said that the room had been in such a state that the two occupants had been put up in temporary rooms while the damage was cleared. Mr Young went on to say that Southwell residents were particularly concerned about the safety of the ceilings in view of a similar incident in Holbein in the autumn term. He was unhappy with the extent to which the ceilings had been checked and went on to say it was important for the safety of students that a full survey be carried out. Southwell and Holbein are both among the Evelyn Gardens houses which were upgraded during the summer, although this did not involve structural work.

Peter Hallworth, Managing Surveyor of Residences said, when asked for comment, that he had examined the damage personally but had no idea why the collapse had occured. He said that with the age of the Evelyn Gardens houses this sort of thing was to be expected. In the case of the Holbein incident the plaster had been weakened by leaking water but this was not the case in Southwell. Mr Hallworth said that he did not believe any further survey was necessary and that anyway it would be impractical to move students out of their rooms en masse.

