



Felix

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

No-News Blues!

Conservative candidates have been returned in Westminster South and Fulham, two of the constituencies in which most Imperial College students will have voted. Hammersmith was held by the Labour candidate, and the results from Chelsea and Kensington are not expected until around midday today.

At the time of going to press, with only about 50 results still to be declared, the Conservatives had won 347 seats, Labour 225, the Alliance 14 and Others 6. Though these figures represent a small gain by the Labour party on the 1983 result, the Conservatives have clearly won another landslide majority. The Alliance did particularly poorly, after hopes of holding the balance of power, and lost some of the seats which they had won four years ago.

The local results are symptomatic of the general trend. Labour's Nick Raynsford will be particularly disappointed to lose Fulham to the Conservatives, having only recently won the seat in last year's by-election. He polled only 15,430 votes, as compared to 21,752 for Carrington (Conservative). In Westminster South, the constituency which contains most of the College Halls of residence, the Labour candidate polled only three thousand less than the Conservative candidate, who won the seat with just under twenty thousand votes.

Drama occurred early in the day when FELIX photographer David Burns arrived at the polling station to cast his vote, only to be told that he had already voted. After protesting vehemently to the polling officials Mr Burns felt sufficiently incensed to rush over to the FELIX office to submit a late 'Small Ad'. Later, FELIX Editor-elect Judith Hackney was interviewed by Swedish Radio, whilst watching the election results on the video screen in Picadilly Circus.

Overall position at 4.00am today

	Seats	Gain	Loss	Net
Con	347	12	27	-15
Lab	225	25	6	+19
Lib	10	2	5	-3
SDP	4	0	3	-3
Others	6	4	2	+2

The one we had to print

Dear Dave,

I was appalled by the Rector's comments in "The Ash Interview" (FELIX 773) regarding FELIX. Whereas I am totally opposed to the publication of anonymous letters, or letters written under a pseudonym (eg last year's letters written by "Spock" and "James T Kirk"), I see nothing "diabolical" in asking the Editor to withhold the name or names of the authors. I say this for two reasons: firstly, if I had to make as serious a complaint about my department as the group of Civ Eng PGs had to make about theirs, I would rather not be singled out so that other people could point their finger at me and say "He's the one who complained" or "He's the one who aired the dirty laundry in public". Secondly, the Rector may well say this is a free society; but the group of anti-Khomeini Iranian students who wrote to FELIX some months ago to inform us of the atrocities committed in Iran in the name of Islam have every reason to fear reprisals from the pro-Khomeini camp. It is only fair that these students should be allowed to express their views without endangering their personal safety.

Professor Ash's other criticism of FELIX, that it is too full of 'in-jokes' and material which, according to him, is "not likely to be of enormous interest to more than about five per cent of the students, is nonsense. I cannot imagine what this material could be, nor who this mysterious five per cent of the IC student body is. Apart from the occasional (and very funny) episode of "The Baron of Cheap skate", there is very little in the way of gossip and jokes about the Union officers, as the infamous (but also very funny) "Below the Belt" column is now defunct. If anybody out there agrees with the Rector simply because they keep seeing references to "John Smith", "Michael Arthur", "Brian Lloyd-Davies" and haven't a clue who these people are or how they can affect our lives at IC, they have only themselves to blame. After all, you only have to read FELIX each week, or even (dare I say it) attend the odd UGM to know exactly who these people are and what they did, do and will do.

As for the Rector's suggestion that FELIX should be devoting its time and space to "looking at the role of Imperial College in the country at large", I would say that that is not its *raison d'être*; the assessment of IC's role in the country is, in the main, College's responsibility and they should not expect the newspaper of Imperial College Union to be doing it for them.

Yours sincerely,
Alastair J Seymour

Felix

King Arthur

Nearly four years ago former FELIX Editor Pallab Ghosh launched his first issue with a scathing attack on Michael Arthur, who was Student Services Officer at the time. Pallab called Mr Arthur the "most arrogant and unhelpful College official it has been my misfortune to come across". There was no particular reason for this, except that Pallab wanted to make FELIX fun to read and Michael Arthur had given him a hard time over his second year rent bill.

Today Michael Arthur works in College administration "headquarters" and has responsibility for student affairs such as accommodation. After a year of trying to get useful information out of this man I have realised that he is the biggest bullshitter I have ever met.

Mr Arthur's meddling in Union finances, through his patronage of the boat club, is quite out of order. To summarise, if you did not get the full position from our news stories, the boat club approached Michael Arthur for financial help when the Union made it clear that there could be no "advance" on next year's five year plan money. Mr Arthur put up the necessary funds to buy the boat on the understanding that the boat club

would have to "repay" it. Union Finance Committee is faced with a decision over whether or not to allocate money for a boat which has already been bought.

It is true that the boat in question, the eight used by Oxford when they won the university boat race, was probably excellent value for money, and that it had to be bought quickly or not at all. It is true also that the boat club has been exceptionally successful, has received a lot of coverage in the national press, and is an excellent advertisement for Imperial College. This is why the club can so readily call on the help of College admin.

to publish at least 36 pages, which will include all the features we've been saving up until the end of the year. I hope to have this out Friday June 19th, though there is a possibility that it will have to be delayed until Wednesday June 24th. Try to hang around to see a copy; it should be worth reading.

If anyone would like a hand-bound edition of this year's FELIX, could they please give me their name by next Friday. A bound-edition will cost £22.00, but they are well worth it, and it is the only way to make sure that a full set of issues can be kept in top class condition.

Credits

Thanks, as usual, to Kamala Sen, Judith Hackney, Chris Martin, Pippa Salmon, Chris Edwards, Mark Cottle, Dave Williams, Pete Wilson, Dave Burns, Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle, Sunny Bains, Francis Miers, Dave Clements, Simon Bradshaw, Neil Motteram, Sarah Kirk, Andy Bannister, Al Birch, Steve Shackell and Rose Atkins.

One for the Road

I have to say that I'm really rather ashamed of this issue. So far this term we have had one 16-page FELIX, one 12-page FELIX with 12 pages of annual reports and four other 12-page issues. This time last year I was boldly planning to bring out a regular 20 pages, and never fall below sixteen; 10 pages seems a little pathetic. Hopefully the final issue will make up for all the thin ones—I intend

A memory that lasts a lifetime!

Show your grandchildren what FELIX was like during your College days. For the paltry sum of £22 you can have a year's collection of FELIX handbound, and embossed in gold with your name. We have a limited number of complete sets available, so get in early if you have not kept all the back issues. Please see David Jones in the FELIX office by Wednesday June 24th.

Calling Jackie Stewart, Stirling Moss, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell and Martin S Taylor

Dont miss the FELIX motor rally on Sunday June 21st (probably!). Please ring the FELIX office for details. Teams should have one car and as many people as they want to put in it.

An experience that goes on until it's over—Murray Walker

ICy Heights

In view of the imminent departure of a group of IC students for the Karakorum, FELIX introduces this week the gripping tale of the first ascent of Annapurna in 1950.

For many people the idea of mountaineering in the Himalayas suggests a long, lonely struggle up steep rocks, in constant danger and hardship. But this is just a fraction of the reality. Though in Himalayan expeditions, as in so much else, fashions change—from large groups with hundreds of porters, to small groups living off local food and with a minimum of equipment—the complexity of even the simplest is challenging. Local people, porters, Sherpas: all have to be dealt with—in their own language. Climbing gear and enough food to sustain the people on the mountain, with a wide safety margin, have to be carried over great distances of rough terrain. And then you have to find your mountain...

By 1950, when Maurice Herzog's expedition started, 22 other expeditions to the Himalayas had tried and failed in attempts to climb mountains of over 8000m. The group's objectives—Dhaulagiri and Annapurna—lay in the heart of Nepal, an area as yet unexplored, so that the

maps of the area were sketchy, to say the least. Thus after over two weeks' marching across Nepal, the nine men found their maps were wrong, and Annapurna was nowhere to be found. Ridges where passes were marked on the map made the area unrecognisable, and the few villagers around didn't recognise the name. After a period of reconnaissance the team decided Dhaulagiri was too formidable, and the approach to Annapurna was found. A route avoiding likely avalanche paths, and the treacherous crevassed part of the North Annapurna glacier, was planned on the first day the weather lifted enough for them to see the mountain clearly.

Now it was a question of juggling supplies between their earlier camp, the Base Camp and the camps that were to be established further up the mountain to support the assault parties. Acclimatisation would also be a problem; earlier at 16,000 feet they had suffered from severe headaches and even a form of hallucination.

Already the team found the plans for the Alpine-style fast attempt they had made in Paris were unworkable, and they were glad of the Sherpas they had intended to do without.

At last the order to start the assault was given. From Camp I the route followed the glacier up. Sun reflected off the ice made the valley a furnace, the thin air made breathing difficult and arguments broke out over the weight of the loads they carried. The usual daily storm, snow and mist overtook them further up but finally Camp II was set up in the middle of a plateau at 19,350 feet, with avalanches roaring down from the invisible heights around. The next stage was still more dangerous, all snow and ice in unstable seracs and slopes. Reconnaissance showed that the only route was up a vertical ice wall, which they narrowly managed before the next snowfall. But that day they were beaten back without finding a place for Camp III. Fortunately going down was easier than climbing up, despite the difficulties of crossing a heavily crevassed area in the mist. At this stage the rearguard of the expedition—including photographer, doctor, and more food—caught up with the advance party, and the climbers could feel that victory was possible. Eventually Camp III was set up in a snow packed crevasse. Camp IV followed quickly, with the Sherpas rapidly picking up the necessary technique. Back at Camp II plans for the next moves were made. Throughout the next day black specks



moved up and down between camps and a maze of tracks developed. But towards evening the chaos settled down. Until shouts were heard from the lonely darkness...

to be continued.

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LONDON (WEST END) · MANCHESTER · FRANKFURT · THE HAGUE

Christine's next to last bit

There's not an awful lot to say this week. Things are winding down for the end of term—and my major problem now is getting a copy of the AIDS information booklet (which some of you will already have received) to everybody before they all leave for the summer. If anyone can spare the odd hour to help filling and labelling envelopes, I'd be more than grateful. This will be going on over the weekend and most of next week as well—ask in the office.

Hamlet Gardens

If you're panicking about somewhere to live next year, you might be interested to know that there are extra Head Tenancy flats available in Hamlet Gardens, Hammersmith. These flats are for 6, 7 or 8 people; they might not be palatial, but they *are* reasonable and inexpensive. Hammersmith is a good place to live with plenty going on and

it's only 20 minutes away from College. If you're interested, get a group of people together and pick up an application form from the Student Accommodation Office in Prince's Gardens. By the way, it is possible to live happily in a group of 6–8 people (I managed it last year) and it keeps your bills low.

Student Managers

Next Wednesday is the closing date for applications for the posts of Head Tenancy student managers—posts which carry guaranteed reduced-rent (or free) accommodation. If you're interested in going for one of these posts, pick up an application form, cover note and job description from the Union Office. Interviews will be held on Tuesday June 23rd and Wednesday June 24th.

That's all for now,
Christine

The following clubs and societies still have not submitted the information for the Union Directory:

ACC

Basketball, Cricket, Kung Fu, Ladies Rugby

RCC

Graffiti, Model Aircraft, PhotoSoc, Real Ale, Surfing, Water Ski

SCC

Anti-Apartheid, Anti-NUS, CND, North America, Pro-NUS, WIST

OSC

Afro Caribbean, Chinese Scholars, Cryptot, Hellenic, Friends of Palestine, Latin American, Lebanese, Singapore

If they aren't submitted by June 19th you can forget your Freshers' Fair stall!

KATHY TAIT, ICU Receptionist



How to get to the top at Imperial

Make June 21st the day you finally do it: You've promised it to yourself for years. Now is the time for breakthrough.

Win a prize you'll treasure forever. Tell your children's children what you've seen. You can do it: YOU can climb the Tower.

Fantastic invitation to launch pad

You may have queued for hours trying to get into London's most exciting show. But on June 21st, no queuing...just a special private invitation for you to visit Launch Pad, at the Science Museum.

No glass cases where you read and just look. Here everything is to be touched, handled, taken apart, climbed on, shouted at, whispered to, walked through and sat on. Science in Action. Launch pad will launch you whether you're 6 or 60 or a voyage of discovery about science, about new technology. You might even decide to make a career of it. That's why it's called "Launch Pad".

The Science Museum is providing for us on the 21st special Gallery guides to explain, to answer question and to give exciting demonstrations.

Specially for IC there will be "Do-it-at-home-yourself" demonstrations.

There will be a book on sale to help you find out more. You can't afford to miss it. A great opportunity to have fun and to launch yourself.

New start time: 3pm, June 21st due to overwhelming popular demand.

Win a dinosaur's footprint

Pan for gold

Spot an oil well

Fly me...

Your chance to be a pilot

Try Derek...

The 70 year-old motorcycle

Outdo Sir Robin Day on IC's own TV channel

See yourself in action on the silver screen

Steptoe and Son in action

All unclaimed goods auctioned

Glass blowing

Balloon races

Biological antiques

Dancing

Photo competition... bring your camera



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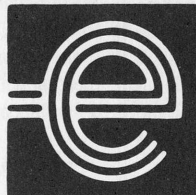
MATHEMATICS

Opportunities exist in the Board's laboratories in Surrey, Hampshire and Gloucestershire.

The main research activities focus on the short-term and long-term development of fossil-fired plant (both conventional and advanced cycle), nuclear plant and alternative energy sources.

Starting salaries (currently under review) are around £9,500 for first degree students and at least £10,500 for those completing a PhD.

Interested applicants should apply as soon as possible to Mr A. Allen, Divisional Personnel Officer, Central Electricity Generating Board, Technology Planning and Research Division, Courtenay House, 18 Warwick Lane, London EC4P 4EB for an application form or telephone 01-634 7220.



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Opinion

A Human Rights Dilemma

Whilst one hears almost every day about Jewish dissidents in Russia and blacks in South Africa, the Western media often ignores one of the most serious human rights issues in the world today: the plight of the Palestinian people in the West Bank (Palestinian territories occupied since 1967) and in the Lebanon.

One wonders about the objectivity of a "free world" which allows the State of Israel to get away with horrific crimes against the Palestinians. In 1982 50,000 people (mostly civilians) were killed and wounded in the invasion of Lebanon. Israel claims that the almost daily bombardment of Palestinian refugee camps in the Lebanon is an "essential self-defence" measure against "terrorist bases". The Israelis seem to think that they have the right to deny the Palestinians the most basic of human rights: the right to a land of their own. The report (1985) of a UN special committee (established in 1967—UN resolution 2443) investigating Israeli practices in the West Bank, speaks of "continuing deterioration in the level of respect for the human rights of the Palestinian civilian population".

In addition to restrictions on the rights of Palestinians to express themselves, move about freely and form associations, the Israeli government is continuing with its policy of annexation and settlement in the occupied territories. The Israelis now have building plans in the West Bank, which extend well into the next century. According to these plans, 27 new settlements are to be built there by the year 2010, at a cost of \$650 million, on land which has been seized by force since 1948 from Arabs living in the area, for so called "security" or "state use" purposes.

The ruthlessness of the Israeli practices in the West Bank has made it a regular event for universities to close down for prolonged periods ("University of Beith-Lahem" and "Beir-Zit University" are still shut down); There are restrictions on the movements of civilian leaders, such as lawyers, teachers and journalists; houses are sealed or demolished as a form of punishment. A Palestinian artist, Fauzi

Ghabin of Gaza, was jailed for six months, because he used the three colours of the Palestinian flag in his paintings.

The most serious Israeli practice in the West Bank is the overlooking of terrorist activities by large scale organised settler groups (such as the TNT gang), directed against the Palestinian civilians, and aimed at driving large masses of Arabs living in the area to flee their homes. In fact, only a few settlers, known to have participated in violent acts against Arabs in the West Bank, have been brought to trial and in each case, the sentences given by the Israeli courts were a mockery. (Most of these convicted settlers are allowed out of prison during the day, and are only required to spend the night in jail).

Despite all the suffering of Palestinians caused by the Israelis, and despite all the Israeli barbaric practices, the Western media and many Western governments are still very keen on promoting the false Israeli image, picturing it as a democratic, "peace loving" country, often threatened by attacks from "Arab terrorists". The Israeli propaganda is even beginning to succeed, with Arabs always being labelled as "terrorists" in the West, while most of the time it is they who are suffering in the Middle East.

The sad truth is that there are four million Palestinians in the world today who are homeless, a large number of whom still live in refugee camps, often being butchered by various 'groups' and constantly being persecuted by Israel. This is not taking into account the West Bank where there are one million or so Arabs still struggling to live under Israeli military rule. Yet, the West is doing nothing to unmask the reality of the Israeli State and show the real terrorist in the Middle East.

In view of such indifference shown by the Western world for Palestinian lives, one has to wonder how much longer the Palestinians should suffer before the "free world" moves away from its unjust attitude, and shows more understanding and sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

H Idriss, PG I

When a director's first two major films are cult hits it can lead you to demand too much of his future efforts. So it was, I suspect, with Alex "Repo Man" Cox's new release *Straight to Hell* which opens on June 12th. *Straight to Hell* is a spoof on spaghetti westerns, in which Cox tries to combine the style of Sergio Leone with a modern Spanish setting and a cast of itinerant rock stars. The problem is that rock stars aren't necessarily great actors. This wouldn't matter in such an offbeat film if there were enough jokes to cover over the cracks—unfortunately all that's left to prop up the plot towards the end is a steadily increasing pile of corpses. Joe Strummer as a 'hired gun' and Elvis Costello as a weird butler aren't bad but the rest of the cast are just hamming it up completely.

This looks like a film which was fun to make, although it's only average to watch—and in this business average isn't enough. There are some good details which are reminiscent of the style of *Repo Man* but they aren't sufficient to make up for the fact that it fails to be nearly as charismatic as *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. It also lacks sufficient talent for black humour to make up for a high level of realistic violence—I was surprised that it got a 15 certificate. Perhaps the censors rate sex and swearing worse than a bullet through the brain?

If you like the Pogues you'll probably like the way they play the treacherous McMahon gang (a play on Pogue Mahone?). On the whole though I get the impression that this is just wacky old Alex Cox and some of his mates making a wacky holiday film on a binge in Spain.

Dirk McBeast



Straight to Hell

PG Fish

The Annual General Meeting of the Imperial College Union Postgraduate Group will take place on Thursday June 18th 1987 at 1.00pm in the Union Dining Hall. All Departmental Postgraduate Group bosses are required to attend; ie those of you who've had money from us over the year. The meeting will last about half an hour with a few bits and elections for next year's PG Group officers. If any of you out there are interested in the following posts: PG Hon Sec, Chairman (PGAAO), Treasurer, 2 ordinary members, PG Women's Rep, UG Liaison Rep. All candidates must be postgraduates or last PGs from September/October coming.

All postgraduates MSc/PhD are invited to attend.

Gareth Fish, PGAAO

RCSU office move

Today marks the beginning of a busy four days in the life of the Royal College of Science Union. It's the Annual General Meeting at 12.45pm, at which various union posts will be elected, reports will be given and handovers will take place. It's worth popping along, even if you aren't a regular UGM-goer, as it's a chance to check up on your elected officers and who's to be elected for next year. Also there is the ceremonial pouring of the infamous 'RCS mix' and painting of the Executive. Clothes pegs definitely required for this one.

Tomorrow the RCSU Office actually moves to its new site in Old Chemistry; a process which will probably take almost as long as we waited for the office to be completed. Hopefully everything will be in good working order for next year. Please take the

opportunity to visit the new office sometime.

Tomorrow night when the old office has been cleared we will be having an "old office leaving party". Everyone is welcome but please bring a bottle.

Sunday sees the Annual RCSU v RCSA Cricket Match at Harlington. Coaches leave Beit Arch at 1.00pm.

Monday sees the Joint General Committee with the official Executive handover. A chance to see your new President in action and the wonderful wine draughts afterwards. For reasons of exams there will be no Vice President's match this year. Instead there will be three matches: President's, Hon Sec's, and HJT's.

Be there!

Happy holidays and see you next term.

NUTS

Many thanks to the clubs who have submitted articles for this year's Spanner. We are still waiting for contributions from: Chem Eng Soc, Civ Eng Soc, SPT, RFC, Doc Soc, HPV, Hockey, Hover and Guildsheet. Please submit your contributions, before the end of term, to the Spanner Editor, City and Guilds Union Office, or we will send Simmo around.

We are looking for more general interest articles for this year's Spanner. Suggestions include alternative pub guides, a guide to curry restaurants, etc. Photographs of Guilds events are welcome, and will be returned when finished with.

Ragged singers

Firstly, apologies that this bit is a week overdue—exams you know... This is just to say a very big thankyou to everyone who helped, collected, sang or made themselves look silly in a Santa Claus suit for our Carol Singing on May 28th. This event went extremely well and raised nearly £270, which is very good going for twenty or so people. The highest collector was David Williams, as usual, who raised an incredible £58 (perhaps by getting people to pay him *not* to sing). Anyway, he gets the prize, when we've decided what it is. Thanks also go to QTSoc for lending us the Santa suit. Nigel looked charming in it, and was most persuasive with a security guard from Covent Garden who tried to throw us off, as well as promising lots of little children impossible things next Christmas, thereby causing six months of anguish for several mothers.

Without a large contingent from OpSoc, the singing would have been atrocious (well, even worse, anyway) so we're very grateful to them all. Last but not in any way least—the Trombone Trio: Phil Cambridge, Tony Neal and

Nick Lieven who accompanied carols as well as playing through some of their other repertoire—brilliantly, of course!

Other news from Rag is that we've chosen next year's charities, and they are: *Quest for a Test for Cancer*, *The Muscular Distrophy Group*, *The British Institute for Brain Injured Children*, *Shelter* and the *Terrence Higgins Trust*. For more details about these charities, see our notice-board on the Walkway.

Well, that's it for now—back to revision...

Emma Barrett,
Rag Secretary 1987—88

More Fishing

The Annual General Meeting of the Imperial College Cricket Club will take place on Wednesday June 17th at 12.15pm in the Lounge. All members of Imperial College Cricket Club should attend to hear reports, hold elections, discuss the tour and anything anyone else would like to bring up. Further details from Rob Kelley (int 4642) or myself (int 6289).

Gareth Fish,
Hon Sec IC Cricket Club

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Sexual Apartheid

"I don't even think they know what a homosexual is. They probably think it's a pizza."

Comedian Bernard Padden on his parents.

After succumbing to pressure from Andy Bannister to prove that he's not the only gay at IC, I thought I'd write an article on some of the daft things said by people in and out of College this term. The above quote is quite suitable to describe the archaic prejudices and the silly opinions of supposedly intelligent people at the College.

I'd like to answer a few of these criticisms and include a few daft quotes from recent months to add a little light-hearted amusement.

Recently we've all been flattened by the excessive election coverage, yet despite the fact that 10% of voters are assumed to be gay I did not hear any politician address the gay question.

All we've heard is a torrent of hysterical ragbags splattered across the tabloids, ruining the careers of a string of mainly Tory MPs. Poor Harvey Procter, a misguided individual taken for a ride by a group of certainly less than innocent young men, is the most recent example of this hysteria. Moreover in our supposed democracy gay relationships are not legitimised for

housing, inheritance, taxation or immigration and the discriminatory attitudes continue to squash visibility in books and magazines.

For gay men, sex itself is illegal except in a 'private, unshared residence when both are over 21 and neither first approached the other in a public place.'

In an electoral system where a swing of 3% is regarded as crucial why have none of the political parties expressed policy on the gay issue?

I think that the answer is that gay voters apparently do not consider their homosexuality to be a political issue. Indeed, Robin Squires MP believes that the majority of gays presently vote Tory, so surely the Conservatives have got the most to lose by adopting a clearly anti-gay stance. Yet despite a string of sexual scandals in the Tory party (of one kind or another), Tory MPs have never moralised so much.

It is a damning indictment of society, particularly here, that people know so little about what gays are like and are willing to believe the most amazing exaggerated rubbish.

AIDS is probably the most grossly mis-represented issue affecting the image of gay people today. AIDS does not worry me—I have no intention of ever being in a situation where catching the virus is possible. It is true that the gay scene used to be rather promiscuous but that is not the case now. Indeed, 60% of men polled by Capital Gay had had sex with either no one or only one person in the previous month. Only 2%, on the other hand, claimed to have made it with between 11 and 20 partners. Promiscuity is now a term to be associated with straights, especially the sex-starved people at Imperial. Most will jump into bed with any woman given the chance! So in my view Mr Howgate and his mates ought to concern themselves with the AIDS issue and stop pawning it off on us as a term of abuse.

So what about the moral position? No, this is not an extract from the 'Joy of Gay Sex', but an attempt to confront the patronising view that to be gay is immoral.

Homosexuality is described by the church as "sinful", but so is adultery and that isn't illegal. There is a clinging label of "unnatural"; a view that homosexuality is a real threat to procreation (though with overpopulation and the unavailability of jobs this might be seen as a bonus, were it true). But what is particularly annoying is the scurrilous accusation that gay men are dangerous to children.

I think that much of society's subservience can be accredited to Christian teachings, most of it stemming from a positive dislike of women and a fear inherent in almost all clergy of their own latent homosexuality.

Things are changing for the better, however. Brian O'Sullivan, Executive Secretary of the National Conference of Priests said, "I don't think any priest would accept or encourage promiscuity, but quite a lot would be prepared to accept a stable relationship of a homosexual couple."

So, what about sex? Almost every letter written in recent months has had references to sex. It is a paradox that people who claim to be so disgusted at the thought of people being gay, seem so interested in what it is we actually do. A few weeks ago someone wrote an appalling letter in which he used the word "scatology". Well that bloke was obviously thinking very hard about the

private lives of gays to come up with a comment like that. There were other remarks like "there's a lot of blood around" attributed to Andy Bannister. In fact he was severely misquoted and it amazes me that such a trivial comment raised so much hysteria. Suffice to say the remark is completely false anyway if you're doing it right.

For the rest of you animals obsessed with physical sex and penetration I suggest a useful reference—*The Joy of Gay Sex* by Dr Charles Silverstein and Edmund White. Regrettably it's not available in the College bookshop or the Lyon Playfair Library, which is probably just as well as I can see the riots now.

I don't want to say anything else about sex itself. It is after all a very private and personal issue and in my opinion it's not the business of anyone else. Besides, I don't feel we could give the subject a fair airing without verging on the obscene. I leave the subject with an interesting exchange of comment between Peter Tatchell (ex left-wing Labour MP) and the manufacturers of a strengthened American condom, Red Stripe.

Tatchell—"I've never had a condom split on me."

Red Stripe—"You're either under-endowed or you don't thrust hard enough, lovey."

Make of that what you will!

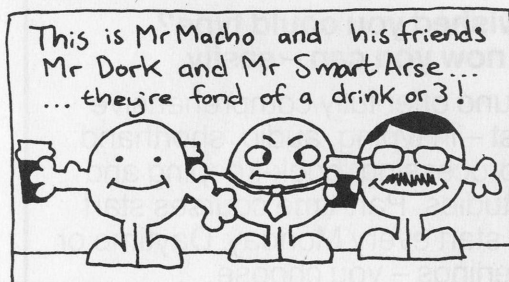
Finally, I want to pose this question to those of you who have read this far.

What are you going to do if one of your mates or perhaps your roommate tells you he's gay? Will you kick his face in, abuse him and force him back into the underworld of lies and deceit he's been living in up 'till then or will you shake his hand and say "well done for admitting it! Now go out and do something to help sweep away the awful prejudices in the College?"

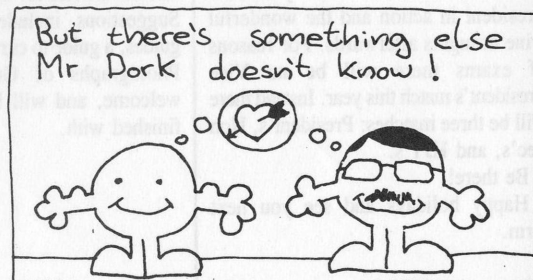
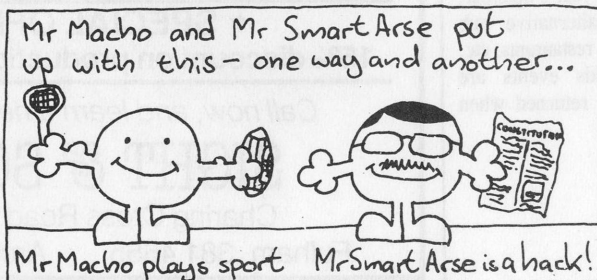
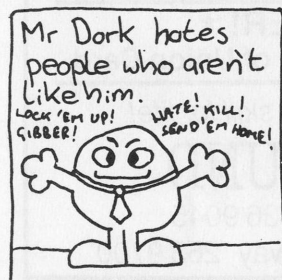
I don't expect straights to regard gayness as "normal" because it's not, by the very definition of the word. But I do expect intelligent people to accept the need for gays to be able to come out at this college.

I expect people to realise that homosexuality is not a disease that you can cure by hitting the people infected, but a natural way of life for those of us born gay. I leave you with these thoughts.

Al Roberts (Doc 1)



By
Mark



What's On

FRIDAY

RCS AGM12.45pm.
UDH. Hear those reports and watch the infamous initiations

Friday Prayer1.00pm.
Union Building. See Islamic Society.

Music & Lights9.00pm.
Southside Bar. The Southside Disco, by IC Radio. hip-hop, funk, rock, pop. FREE. See IC Radio and Southside Bar.

SATURDAY

RCS Office move.....all day.
Bring a friend.

RCS Party10.00pm
Old RCS Office. Bring a bottle to celebrate the passing of the College's favourite crash pad. Singing and dancing to the early hours.

SUNDAY

RCSU v RCSA Cricket Match1pm.
Meet at Beit arch for coach to Harlington. Watch Simon Singh open the batting and laugh at the Old Boys.

MONDAY

ICCAG Meeting12.45pm.
Rag Office, top of Union stairs. See ICCAG.

Recitation of Holy Qur'an1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

Dai Rocking11.00pm.
IC Radio on 999kHz. The best in hard rock music thro' midnight, including the featured album every week. With David Williams. FREE!

TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting8.15am.
Union Upper Lounge. See Christian Union.

IC CathSoc Mass ..12.30pm.
Chemistry 231. Quiet and contemplation between lectures or exams. Food provided (50p). All welcome.

Holy Qur'an Recitation1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. All standards Welcome.

Automatic Barrier Show7.00pm.
Broadcast on IC Radio, 999kHz. The last ABS of term. Special guests: Anne Boleyn and the Chief Slime Monster. FREE.

OpSoc Tour Rehearsal7.30pm.
53 Princes Gate. See OpSoc.

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



WEDNESDAY

Explanation of Holy Qur'an1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. Talk given by Dr Darsh. See Islamic Society.

IC Gay Okay12.30pm.
Green Committee Room, Top Floor of the Union Building. See Andrew Bannister.

Non-Stop Ecstatic Dancing8.00pm.
Broadcast on IC Radio, 999kHz. The last Ecstatic Dancing of term. "Treat your feet to the beat that's neat!"

Another City11.00pm.
The last but one twisted confusion of musical confusion as the hippy reveals his name in two hours of jazz, folk, blues and stuff. Be warned, the next one's an all-nighter.



THURSDAY

Science Fiction Society1.00pm.
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 Things1.00pm.
Green Committee Room, Union Building. The BBC epic "Hordes of Things"—serialised at SFSoc every thursday. All this and the library too. Free to members.

Judo6.30pm.
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.

ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm.
Weeks Basement. Will be running throughout the summer. FREE. See Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCAG).

Small Ads

VERY PERSONAL

● **To the complete and utter wanker** who stole my vote in yesterday's General Election. You are beneath contempt. If I ever find out who you are I am going to cause you great physical damage. May you die early. Love Dave Burns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **IC Cricket Club**—Annual Dinner, 7.30pm, 19th June 1987. Meet Southside Bar any time beforehand. All members of the Club are invited. Please sign up on noticeboard outside Union Bar by 17th June. See you there!

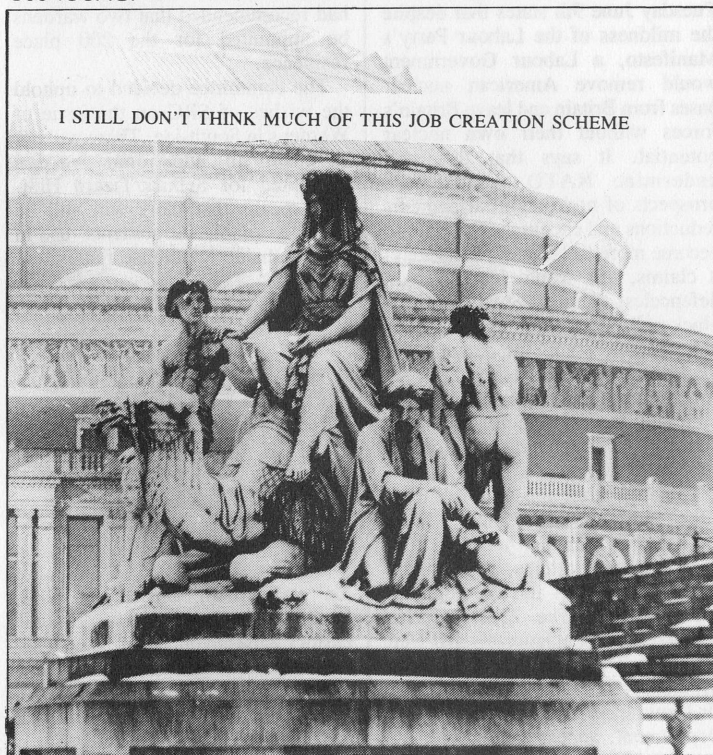
● **City & Guilds** College Motor Club—would everyone who ordered a club rally jacket please put a cheque for £28 (minus deposit, if paid) into the Motor Club pigeonhole in the C&GU Office. Cheques should be made payable to "City & Guilds College Union" and should include an address where you can be contacted during the last week of June/first week of July on the reverse.

● **UROP**—Professor DW Ribbons of the Centre for Biotechnology has available a UROP place for work in the general area of microbial metabolism. Contact Professor Ribbons on 2nd Floor, Link Building (between Biochemistry and Chemistry), or telephone extension 7087.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Flat** available from end of June to end of Sept (with option to continue next year)—3 bedrooms/kitchen/bathroom & hall—suits up to 4 people. £130pw (negotiable). Ring: Rajinder Singh on 831 7171 Ext 4613 (between 9am & 5pm).

● **Flat to let** June 28—mid-September. 1 person required to share flat, single room, 1 min High St Ken Tube. Contact: Charles Oxley, Mech Eng UG pigeonholes or 373 8714, flat 12/Simon Withers—Physics UG pigeonholes or 373 1736, flat 7.



Traffic tariff

Hon Sec Dave Colley yesterday appealed for students' responses to the planned £25 parking charge. The charge, which was reported in last week's FELIX, has brought strong complaints from members of the College Trade Unions, prompting the Union leaders to write in reply to the College Secretary, John Smith. Mr Colley wishes to write a similar letter to Mr Smith.

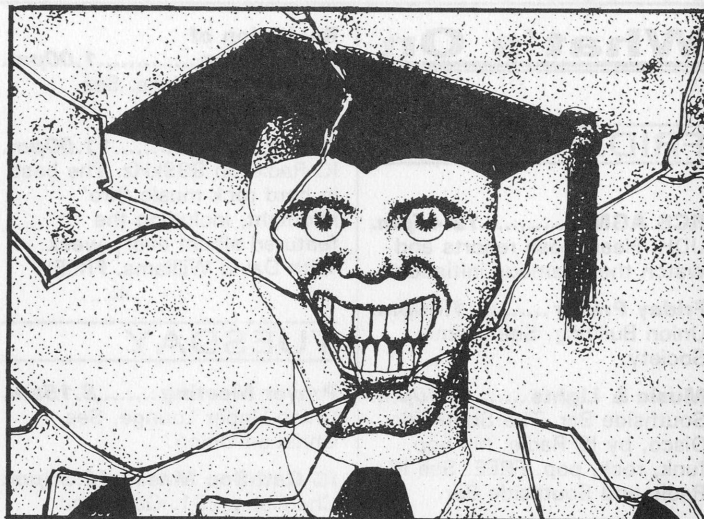
The method by which the increase was decided has also annoyed Mr Colley, who maintains the Finance and Executive Committee did not make a final decision but referred the matter back to the Rector. Mr John Chalmers, Senior Assistant Secretary, took the minutes of the F and E meeting in question. He commented: "It is my understanding that after the meeting, the Rector and the College Secretary discussed how to implement the measures", adding that the decision had already been taken at the meeting.

The new system of charging staff and students for parking permits will begin at the start of the next session.

US of Aid

A group of American students raided Southside Shop on Saturday, in a bid to help London's down and outs. The students, who were about to finish their courses at the American Institute of Foreign Studies, discovered that they still had £180 of vouchers which could be exchanged for food throughout Imperial College and other parts of the University of London. Descending on Southside Shop they bought all the perishable goods, which they distributed amongst disadvantaged people on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Refectories Manager, Mr Rob Northey, who runs Southside Shop, was not surprised by the events. The Americans spend about £7000 worth of vouchers per month and sometimes up to £300 in one day if they are about to go home, he explained. When told about the donation of food, he commented "it seems a very good cause".



Learning to learn

Imperial is to publish a guide to learning at College, to be distributed to first and second years in the Autumn Term. Entitled "Study Survival", the booklet has been written by Dr Lester Kershenbaum and Dr Gareth Jones with assistance from the Undergraduate Studies Committee. The twelve page book is

to form the basis of courses run by individual departments to encourage students to use better studying methods.

The guide concentrates on the ways of solving problem sheets, taking lecture notes and basic learning patterns.

Profs object

A group of academics have written an "Open Letter to the Academic Community" expressing their dissatisfaction with the Labour Party's proposed defence policy. The letter published in *The Independent* on Tuesday June 9th states that despite the mildness of the Labour Party's Manifesto, a Labour Government would remove American nuclear bases from Britain and leave Britain's forces without their own nuclear potential. It says that this will undermine NATO, reduce the prospects of multilateral armaments reductions and encourage the USA to become more isolationist. Ultimately, it claims, this would leave Britain defenceless against Soviet nuclear blackmail. This, they feel, poses an unacceptable risk, increasing the likelihood of a Third World War. Amongst the 102 names on the list are included several lecturers from Oxford University and some London colleges, but none from IC.

The open letter appeared five days after "A Manifesto for Science" was published by *The Guardian*. In this, the Labour policies to support scientific research and development are described. The 72 signatories include two Nobel laureates and Neil Kinnock. The names of Prof Tom Kibble, Head of Physics at IC, and Dr David Caplin, also in the Physics Department, appear on the list.

What, no warden?

There will be only one warden in the new hostel in Evelyn Gardens next session. At a meeting of the Rector's policy committee on June 2nd it was decided to go against the wishes of the Student Residence Committee, which had recommended that two wardens be appointed for the 200 place residence.

The committee decided to uphold the wishes of SRC on the issue of Wardens in Southside. There will not now be an additional warden appointed for Selkirk/Tizard Hall. This means that there will still be places available for students' use in the Southside Penthouse flats.

Visually exciting

An exhibition entitled "New Observations" opened at the Natural History museum on Wednesday. This exhibition is of the past fifteen years of work by the Royal College of Art Natural History Illustration Unit and is said to be "visually exciting".

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