

FREE!



No. 784
Friday 13th November 1987

Felix



DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

RAG SPECIAL

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editorial

For all of you who didn't manage to get a copy of last week's issue, may I apologise once more. We have been experiencing severe equipment difficulties in the Print Unit: all three printing presses gave up the ghost, leaving us with only 1500 finished copies at 9.25am last Friday. As I write this, the new press has just been completely turned over and hopefully fixed. This means, unfortunately, that the waiting list for print jobs is now stretching well into December and the Print Unit Manager is worn out and ready for replacement!

Rag Week

I realised just how mean and miserly some of you are this week. It was a nice idea to ask for 20p for each small ad and diary entry, or so I thought, but the number of times people just turned around and walked out of the door when I told them that they'd have to donate to charity this week shocked me. 20p is the price of a chocolate bar, a tabloid, or a quarter of a pint of beer. This said, I would like to thank everyone who did contribute.

Debt, Degrees and Damp

It was announced at Council this week that College administration are expecting to lose around 500 head tenancy places in Hamlet Gardens, Lexham Gardens and Earls Court Square. On further investigation, FELIX discovered that 50 places are

definitely going next year, forcing more students into the private sector. It has to be this year that we make the decision whether to campaign for increased benefits/grants in order to cover the rise in the cost of living, poll tax, rent increases and such, or to resign ourselves to the fact that in order to complete our degrees in London we must find a part-time job, find sponsorship or take out massive loans. I can only talk from my own situation: I have one more year of Physics to complete and I am not a sponsored student. My family live on the outskirts of Greater London in a Conservative run borough which will only give me a full grant if I live in College accommodation. Next year, if I don't want to get into debt, I will have to live at home (it takes just over 1½ hours to commute in every morning) and as I will get no travelling expenses, any grant I do receive will go to British Rail and London Transport. The alternative is to drop my degree and find a job. I am confident that I could start at around £10,000pa. There would be no debt, no rising damp, no exams and money in my pocket. It's very tempting. It must be very tempting for others in my position.

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Small Ads

ACCOMMODATION

- **Wanted:** One person to share large private flat in Lexham Gardens with 4 male 2nd years. Contact Andrew Allun (Physics II) or 01 373 8384.
- **Christians** looking for a flat next year—If you want to live in a Christian house then contact A J Mellor (Mech Eng 1).
- **Single room** in large semi. Share with 2 PGs, excellent facilities. Ealing (40 min from College) £50 p/w. Contact Pip (5944) or Adrian (5920) or 589 2110 after 7pm.
- **Queens Gate Terrace.** Single room available in Flat for 4 people. £176 p/m (before housing benefit). Phone 584 8874.

PERSONAL

- **Local** superhero seeks the Bridget Cape Cleaning Services. Apply C Avenger, somewhere in London.
- **Lisa** from Rumbelows. We love you forever, especially at mealtimes. The Penthouse Club, 130 HG.
- **Physicists** & chemist seek Olivia Newton John for biological experiment. Apply 130 HG.
- **This one's for Rag.** 130 HG.
- **Blonde** Australian lady rock star sought by top floor scientific community. Olivia Neutron Bomb preferred. Apply the Penthouse Club, 130 HG.
- **Random** laundry users be warned: The caped Avenger has struck again.
- **10,000,017** on wave 30—the force is with JCB.
- **SJ**—Please can we meet sometime—CB.
- **James**—Me want cuddle. Me want cuddle. Me want cuddle. Me want cuddle. Andy.
- **Lo Three** Pussy Cats come for a party on Wednesday. Hi Spence.
- **Heffies** go hangovers—please don't hug Heffie Homemakers still huggable though (hint, hint).
- **Q:** Is Captain Chaos and Elf? (Count the noses!)
- **Young lady** found—could it be with A J the mild-mannered janitor?

Music news

The College Music Committee has been inspecting rooms which have been put forward by College administration as alternatives to the Music Room to be lost in Princes Gate. The most satisfactory room is Terminal Room A in the old Holland Club, which is being converted into rooms for the Department of Computing. Four rooms in Sherfield have already been allocated as practice rooms.

Mr Malcolm Aldridge, a member of the Music Committee, expressed his disappointment at the loss of the present music room. He said 'I am a little sad. There is only one place in the whole College which is ideally suited to music making. There are literally dozens of rooms which are suitable for conferences and seminars'.

ICU President Ian Howgate acknowledged the progress which had been made. He indicated, however, that the Union would continue to fight for the use of the Music Room.

Big Demo

There was a major demonstration outside the Huxley Building on Tuesday afternoon. Members of the Bangladesh National Party were protesting against the ruling administration which seized power in a military coup in 1981. At about 3.50pm members of the group charged across the road to the doors of the Bangladeshi Embassy. There was a brief scuffle with police and reinforcements were called in.

Within a couple of minutes 6 police cars, 7 bikes, 2 vans of policemen and 2 mounted policemen arrived. The group were forced back to the other side of the road where the demonstrators got increasingly angry.

When FELIX approached members of the group they claimed that the military regime had assassinated Mr Saur Rahman who ruled for 5 years under a democratic system. Since the coup there had been hundreds of people killed in Bangladesh and much of the country's wealth had disappeared.



The 1987 Rag Mag was launched at the Beer Festival on Wednesday. The Rector, Eric Ash, bought the first copy for £5 from the editor, Gehen de Silva Wijeyeratne. Later 700 copies were sold from the rag stall at the cover price of 50 pence. This is the first new Rag Mag produced at Imperial for some years after

controversy over the contents of previous editions.

The Beer Festival itself was a great success, with takings of over £5,300 and a profit for Rag of over £2,100. Many students attended the Festival to sample the large variety of Beers on offer.

Surrey saga continues

Surrey University have still to write officially to Imperial College Union about the events that happened two weeks ago last Wednesday, when visiting IC sports teams caused trouble in their bar.

A motion concerning the trouble was passed at the weekly Surry Union General Meeting (UGM) on Tuesday, although a stronger worded motion put to the previous UGM was rejected after pressure from Surry sports teams. The original motion called for the banning of IC students from Surrey's Union Building and the signing in of visiting sports teams, neither of which were contained in the motion which was passed.

ICU President Ian Howgate has sent a letter to the Chairperson of Surrey's UGM which apologised for any trouble that was caused, and which contained reports from the Imperial sports teams that were present. When contacted by FELIX, Surrey's President Andy Young said he would be writing back by the beginning of next week.

In the meantime, copies of front cover of last week's FELIX, containing this story, were distributed on the Surrey campus by their sports teams after a piece published in the Surrey Student Newspaper 'Bare Facts' which made no attempt to put both sides of the story.

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Compact discs rejected

The second Imperial College Union Council this year took place on Monday evening. A suggestion that Compact Discs should be bought to replace many of the worn out records in the Haldane Library was rejected, in favour of a proposal to purchase cassette tapes. It was pointed out that although a large number of students have cassette players, less have the equipment for playing CD's and records.

A proposal by ICU President Ian Howgate that Union General Meetings should be held every other week in the JCR resulted in much debate. The first UGM held there two weeks ago was a success, but Ian felt that it lasted too long and motions

were not discussed. He pointed out that more regular UGM's would result in less business for each meeting. There was opposition, however, from members who thought that many students have other commitments at lunchtimes when the meetings would be held, and it would result in problems scheduling clubs' events and meetings. It was decided to refer the matter to the next UGM for a further discussion before a decision was taken.

The non-attendance of some of the members of Council resulted in a proposal that any member who cannot attend and does not send a proxy or acceptable apology would be fined £5, to be donated to rag.

Arnold's Cat brings chaos

Pure mathematics is in trouble. Gone are those halcyon days when every result was guaranteed to be useless. Even number theory (where people waste their time trying to prove that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no whole number solutions for n greater than 2) has started to prove useful. Recently some deep (and, until now, utterly useless) results from algebraic number theory have just been used by two mathematicians at Queen Mary College, to make some simple kinds of chaos more understandable.

It is worth taking some time for a quick introduction to chaos. Consider simple recursion relation $x_{n+1} = ax_n(1-x_n)$. This defines a sequence of numbers with each new number being fed back into the equation to give the next number. Different types of behaviour occur for different values of a (values of a between 0 and 4 and output of the function (that is x_{n+1}) eventually settles on one number, but for a between 3 and 4, crazy things happen (go try out a few sequences on your calculator; you will appreciate chaos much better if you do). For values of a near 4 the output of the function is completely chaotic; that is, the output fluctuates wildly without apparent order, visiting every point between 0 and 1. The function typifies simple dynamical systems common in the real world, such as populations whose growth is constrained by a limited food supply.

The latest discoveries concern certain two-dimensional discrete dynamical systems. These are described by functions like the simple equation given above, but with two variables. The trouble with these systems is that a great deal of their behaviour is chaotic and this makes mathematical analysis very difficult. However, some initial states evolve in a perfectly regular manner, but these are very difficult to find as they are completely surrounded by states which are effectively unpredictable. This is typical of chaos: the slightest uncertainty in the initial state produces complete uncertainty in the state after only a few cycles of the system.

The system is studied by looking at the properties of its *phase space* (this is just a graph where a point sums up

UNDER MICRO



THE SCOPE

by Steve Black

Chaos is a fascinating and fashionable field of research. Curiosity is driven by the question: how is it possible for a purely deterministic system to behave in a totally unpredictable manner? If you play around with the simple equation in the article then you may well catch the bug. Try it; it really is fascinating. Here is some further reading for those who are interested: *Scientific American* 245 p16 (Nov 1981), *Concepts of Modern Mathematics* p307 Ian Stewart (published by Penguin 1981).

all there is to know about the system, that is there is one axis for each variable, position, momentum, etc). In this case, the phase space is topologically equivalent to the surface of a doughnut. The dynamics of the system are described by a repeated mapping on the surface of the doughnut, called *Arnold's cat* (it was first illustrated by a drawing of a cat on the surface).

Percival and Vivaldi (the two from QMC) realised that many of the questions about the system could be rephrased as questions about the arithmetic of some number relating to the mapping. These can be answered using some of the most useless concepts in pure maths (such as the quadratic reciprocity law, ideal classes, the classification of primes as ramified, split and inert...). Using such arcane devices, the two mathematicians were able to map out the regular point in the sea of chaos (which can be thought of as the skeleton on which the chaos is hung). This is helping with an understanding of the depths of the chaotic regions of the system.

The importance of this work lies in the number of chaotic systems in the real world. Almost any system with nonlinearity or feedback will exhibit chaotic behaviour at some point (biological systems are often based on feedback loops: for example, heart attacks have been modelled as transitions to chaos. A lot of physical systems are similarly chaotic (for example, the weather).

The big question is this: can pure mathematics survive all this applicability? (*Nature* 329 p670 and 391).

Gas from the Earth

If science can be measured by economic returns on investment, then Geology is a very successful science. The world's biggest and most profitable companies rely on geologists to find the oil and gas deposits that create their profits. However, all the oil may have been found by applying an incorrect theory of its origin, at least according to a geologist called Thomas Gold (his book *Gas From The Earth* was published last month).

The new theory suggests that natural gas and oil are not derived from rotting primaeval rubbish, but come from the earth's core where they were trapped when the earth was formed. Gold, formerly of Cornell University, now at Cambridge, first proposed the idea several years ago.

Gold's theory neatly explains some observed anomalies in the contents of gas and oil deposits. The actual distribution and extent of petrochemical reserves has always been something of a mystery, and it is often difficult to explain the reserves' origin in terms involving the decomposition of biological junk. Geologists usually propose that the oil was formed somewhere other than where it was found and then moved through porous rock until stopped by an impervious layer. But the oil

should leak away faster than it has done if it is as old as we think.

There is also the problem of the relative composition of oil and gas. Basically there is too much hydrogen for a strictly biological origin. Worse than that, there is the helium: some natural gas wells contain several per cent helium (in fact this is where all commercial helium comes from), and there is no way to explain the helium within conventional theories. Gold's theory neatly accounts for the helium, which was a common constituent of the early solar system (as was hydrogen). It is not difficult to imagine the trapping of gasses in a planet built by slow accretion of rocky bodies, as long as the whole body never becomes completely molten (and this is now the favoured theory anyway).

It is, unfortunately, difficult to verify or refute such an idea easily. Gold can explain the circumstantial evidence for biological origin (the presence of common plant-derived chemicals in oil) as the result of biological contamination of his primordial deposits. But there is a definitive test. If Gold is right, then we should be able to find hydrocarbons in areas where they could not possibly have had a biological origin. These areas of the earth's crust contain only very old rocks and no sedimentary deposits where biological waste could have gathered.

Gold was able to persuade a team from the Swedish electricity industry to drill a deep hole in one such suitable area. Unfortunately, the money for the project has run out due to 'unforeseen drilling problems', just as interesting results were coming in. No gas field has yet been found, but there is methane and helium and hydrogen in places where they should not be.

Hopefully the project will restart, because if Gold is right then there is enough gas down there to keep the whole world well supplied for thousands of years. That is long enough for us to find a better way to become extinct than running out of energy.

SCIENCE PAGE

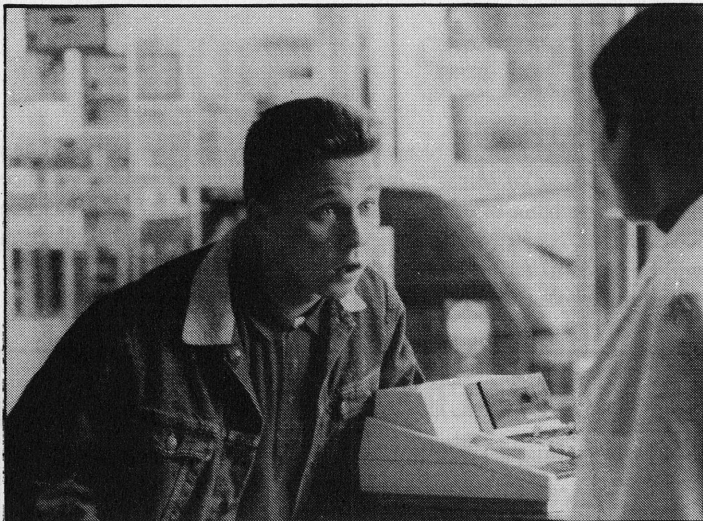
Articles, suggestions
and complaints
should be sent to
Steve Black c/o
FELIX Office or
phone int 4642.

All mates together

Safe sex is to be on sale in Norman's, the Union Snack Bar, following the launch of Richard Branson's 'Mates' condoms which

Mr Branson's latest venture into inflatable objects coincides conveniently with IC Rag Week—in plenty of time for the Slave Auction—and all profits will go directly to the Virgin Healthcare Foundation. The Foundation was officially launched on 10th November to provide support for 'major health care issues and crises in society'.

Condoms are to become the latest fashion accessory amongst trendy, young people. Available across the counter and in vending machines in



may be purchased along with veggie samosas and the Guardian.

places such as pubs, toilets, grocers, WH Smiths and, yes, Virgin Record Stores, the new range comes in four varieties: standard, ribbed, coloured and strong, along with Play Mates.

The AIDS publicity icebergs and all have broken down the barriers to mentioning 'condoms' even on TV and the sight of the first condom advert is only at the end of the Underground at Uxbridge (anagram Big Durex). Virgin and its Healthcare Foundation are planning a massive advertising campaign in order to remove any embarrassment attached to purchasing, carrying and using condoms. So you don't have to be shy when you ask for a condom with rice and extra cheese tonight in the Snack Bar.

The 'Mates' launch may accidentally and coincidentally bring Branson an awful lot of publicity—as did falling into icy cold water, which reminds me of a certain advert...



Hopefully his attempts to clean up sex will be more successful than that of street litter, or has he found a new use for all those brooms.

Interesting Condom Facts

- Only 2 condoms are purchased per head (?) of the population in Great Britain. (In Japan it's 7 per head).

- Shares in Japan's leading condom manufacturer have tripled in the same year as Virgin shares were floated.

- In Sweden all schoolchildren are made to practice putting a condom on a wooden penis.

- In France they are already putting vending machines for condoms in schools.

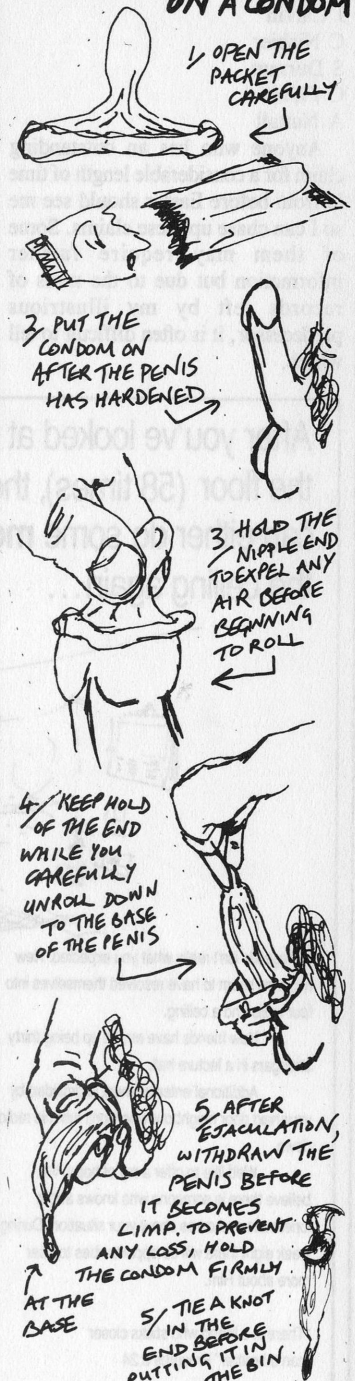
- In Kenya sales of condoms have increased from 10,000 a month in 1986 to 300,000 a month today.

- In Australia the favourite condom promotion song is entitled 'Roll it on Robbie'.

- Some Catholic priests in Ireland have stated that use of condoms is fine if the intention is to prevent AIDS rather than pregnancy.

Getting young people to accept the idea of using condoms will be difficult as at present only 10% of sexually-active people under 25 use them. Richard Branson in his usual homely manner made the following comment: 'if you give up sugar in your tea you won't like it for a few days. After that you won't notice the difference.'

THE FELIX WAY TO PUT ON A CONDOM



Hon Sex

Notice Boards

At last I'm asking for applications for the use of noticeboards this year. Application forms for the use of noticeboards are available from my office on Monday next.

Hall Insurance

Cheques are in my office for the following people:

E O Gedney
J Calvin
C Nisbier
S Durrant
C Flores
A Nuttall

Anyone who has an outstanding claim for a considerable length of time ie from before Easter should see me so I can chase up these claims. Some of them may require further information but due to the mess of records left by my illustrious predecessor, it is often difficult to tell which.



Clubs and Societies Insurance

The Insurance Company are asking for an updated inventory for all property of clubs and societies. For anyone who has not provided me with one there are blank forms in the pigeonholes in the Union Office.

Anything not notified (or even put under the heading of miscellaneous) will not be insured.

There seems to be outstanding claims on this policy and contact with the clubs or societies concerned will be helpful.

Parking Permits

The process of allocation and re-allocation has now finished. As indicated previously in FELIX anyone originally allocated a permit who didn't pick it up by Monday November 2 was assumed to no longer want one. Those were re-allocated using the appeals forms which I had already received. The lucky people who can pick up their

permit from my office are:

F Sutcliffe, EBU 354W
Castro, XLT 7175
S Mortezaei, CLK 584T
Rita Bento, N1-28-03
Kangblo Lee, A 386 JKN
K H Lee, SLJ 61X
D Anastassopoulos, GHJ 531S
D Nicolson, RGW 662X
G Ratnasingham, E969 V90

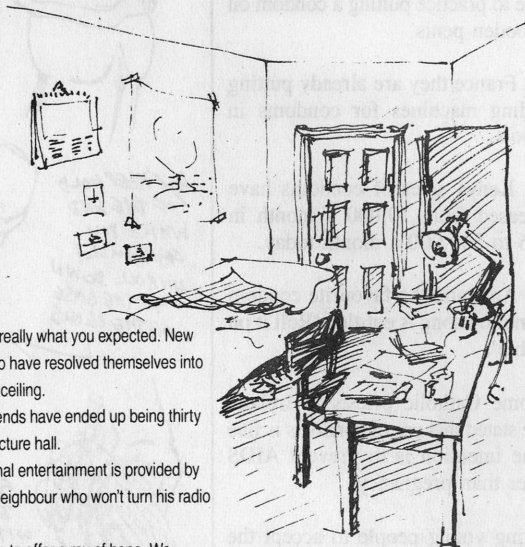
I have heard reports of accusations of the allocations being unfair. All I can say is that the allocations procedure was as fair as possible given that the present system is inadequate. I will produce recommendations for changing it so that my successor won't have the same problems.

Royal College of Science Union

In view of the chivalrous behaviour of the City and Guilds Union and the Royal School of Mines in avoiding an outbreak of serious violence during the lunchtime of Friday, November 6, the Royal College of Science have decided that 10% of the money collected on their 24 Hour Collection will be given to each of the other CCUs.

Fiona Nicholas

After you've looked at the ceiling (49 times), the floor (58 times), the walls (99 times), you can either do some **more** work or look at the ceiling again...



College life isn't really what you expected. New horizons seem to have resolved themselves into four walls and a ceiling.

New friends have ended up being thirty strangers in a lecture hall.

Additional entertainment is provided by your next door neighbour who won't turn his radio down.

We'd like to offer a ray of hope. We believe there is someone who knows about loneliness and cares about your situation. During week eight there will be opportunities to hear more about Him.

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" Proverbs 8:24

A series of events
in week eight, Nov 23-28
organised by Imperial
College Christian Union

8

VACANCIES FOR WARDENS

From January 1988 there will be vacancies for wardens in Princes Gardens and Evelyn Gardens. Wardens receive rent free accommodation in return for pastoral duties within their residence.

For further information and application form please contact Michael Arthur, ext 3017, Room 537 Sherfield Building.

Closing date for applications:-
Monday, 23 November 1987

CUT THE KRAP

Cut 'n' Blow Dry £5.00
Wednesday 10am onwards
in the Ents Room (above the
New FELIX Office)

KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

●**DAVE SMEDLEY**, hassled Broadsheet Editor, obviously overcome by the hectic events of Friday's RCS UGM, made a bit of a blunder when writing up the story for Broadsheet. As the words of derision for Guilds flowed from his pen, he then stumbled by naming the Theta Bearers as Dave Tyler and Dan Pluta. Maybe the Broadsheet Editor considered the only way the Guild's President was likely to get his hands on the RCS mascot was by changing jobs.

●**IT'S GOOD** to hear that 155 people turned up at Southside Gym last Friday to donate one braincell each to the Guilds President. However the sabbaticals were not amongst them, maybe they're a bit short themselves...

●**CHAS 'TAKEITEASY'** Jackson ran into a bit of trouble in Marks and Sparks recently when he went to buy a new suit for Commemoration Day. After choosing a racy little £200 number he proceeded to write a cheque. Unfortunately, Chas did not have his cheque guarantee card on him and tried to fob off the attractive young assistant with his Union card. Not surprisingly, he was soon seen heading for the manager's office...

●**MATTHEW BRIDGWATER**, bar worker, Hamlet sub-manager and Physics postgrad, seems, upon first sight, an unlikely person to embark upon a PhD. However, Matthew has scrapped his MSc and decided to try and become Doctor Bridgwater. When quizzed on his reasons for the change he replied 'It's a good chat up line for the girls!'. No doubt this insight into the world of the postgrad will be a real wow with the girls down the 'booooozer', so Matt would say.

●**OVERHEARD IN Mergers Bar...**
Pissed Old **FELIX Hack**: 'Alan, I need some dirt on you for **FELIX**.'
Alan Rose: 'Well, how about I voted for Ian Howgate?'
FELIX Hack: 'But that's not scandalous.'
Alan Rose: 'I think it is!'

THE BARON

'But this is just the sort of thing I'm talking about', said Whygate. 'This is why we must have the "Whygate finishing school for new citizens"'.
Whygate was getting very upset and not speaking very clearly. In fact he was leaping up and down on his desk with one finger in his ear, trying to do an impression of the letter 'P'. With him in the citizens' office were Alan Ego, the Deputy Head citizen, Mrs Jolly Hockey Sticks, the citizens manager, and Bob Aitch, the citizens' stool of sport. They were discussing what to do about a serious complaint from the head citizen of Sorryland. A group of sporty citizens, the particularly evil looking set known as the rugger buggers, had gone to Sorryland and behaved very badly after their games.

'It was only a case of high spirits', punned Aitch, trying his best to calm down Whygate and at the same time checking that his hair was in place. (Aitch was very careful over his appearance and was proud of his reputation for being the cutest leading citizen in Cheapskate).
'High spirits?', screamed Whygate. 'Some of them even took their clothes off'.
'But Whygate, dearie, you do that all the time', said Mrs Jolly Hockey-Sticks, doing her best to prevent the situation getting any worse. 'Why don't you invite the head citizen of Sorryland over for a vat of sherry. I'm sure he would enjoy that'.

Fortunately the conversation was interrupted by Whygate's phone ringing. It was Arthur Michael, who wanted to discuss the colour scheme for the new Michael-Whygate home for senior citizens. As usual, Whygate's attention was immediately absorbed by any discussion about himself. 'Pink, green and maroon stripes', said Whygate at once, forgetting about Ego, Mrs Jolly Hockey Sticks and Aitch. 'But I wanted wallpaper with gnomes on', complained Arthur Michael. The two of them settled down for a serious argument.

Elsewhere in Cheapskate, lots of citizens were still recovering from the annual Bore Festival. This was one of the many occasions when most of the citizens drank as much gassy liquid as possible, then brought it all back up again, telling each other as they did this what a great time they were having. The excuse of the moment was that it was the middle of the citizens' Cloth Week, and so all the money they spent on gassy liquid would be going to charity.

There were lots of events of this type during the citizens' Cloth Week. Most of the time the citizens would be drinking a lot, breaking the furniture, and taking their clothes off. In fact, Cloth Week was an opportunity for the Cheapskate citizens to behave like rugger buggers. But not all of Cloth Week involved drinking lots of gassy liquid.

Other things to look forward to in Cheapskate included the Daft Race. This was a very silly competition between teams lead by the three clowns, Dave Braincell, Clare MacUseless and Jumping Jehosofat. This was a very popular part of Cloth Week, which was quite surprising really since it involved people getting wet, but not a lot of drinking of gassy liquid.

Meanwhile, in the Baron's castle, the chief yes man, Ian Bore, was trying to produce the next WetNerk. Bore was a little worried that the first issue had been a bit one-sided, so he had decided to make sure that this one included several people's points of view. He had put together an impressive list of articles and was certain that he was going to bring out a well balanced paper. The articles submitted so far included: 'A biography of the Baron', 'The Baron—a life', 'Cooking with the Baron', 'The best of Cheapskate', 'The Baron's progress', 'There will always be a Cheapskate', and 'The Baron's greatest hits'. Bore knew his job all right....

Will there be any articles about the Baron in WetNerk?
Will Ego say anything next week?
Will Arthur Michael get his wallpaper with gnomes on?
Will Whygate manage to convince anyone that he is the letter 'P'?
Find out in the next issue of The Baron of Cheapskate.



●**CHAS 'A NOD'S** as good as a wink' Brereton has been having a few problems with members of the opposite sex recently. Whilst playing the piano at one of the Guilds Freshers Buffets Mr Brereton suddenly hit upon what he thought was the ultimate chat-up routine. He picked out the prettiest girl he could find and asked her if she would sponsor him for a charity piano playing session.

'Yes', was her reply, 'when do I pay you.'

Wiley Chas suggested that they should meet that Saturday lunchtime in Norman's to discuss the financial aspects. When the girl actually showed up, Chas was so surprised that the only line he could think of ran along the lines of 'Would you like to become an ordinary member of the Academic Affairs Committee?' Needless to say, the affair was fairly short lived.

Not to be outdone, though, Chas decided to try the same routine at the remaining dinners and arranged to meet a number of girls the next Saturday. Fortunately, with a little help from his filofax he managed to stagger the times so that the girls would not accidentally meet each other. Pity, no one turned up.

●**INFAMOUS** Mech Eng 3 wally James Burdett caused a normally placid lecturer to erupt into a torrent of four letter words last week. James was travelling in a lift in Mech Eng with Mr Lewis and Dr Barnes when he was challenged by a fellow student to open the doors between floors. This he did, stopping the lift, setting off the alarms and incurring the obvious displeasure of the other occupants, one of whom complimented him on being a 'f***ing b*st*rd'.

●**POOR OLD** David Ashforth, the vicar of Cheapskate, thought that he was doing a good turn when he decided to photocopy last week's edition of Chi Rho. He had heard that the trusty **FELIX** litho had given up once more and ran off all the copies he thought the Editor would need. Meanwhile in some dim and distant part of College, the Chi Rho Editor was busily trying to Gestetner the whole edition in an attempt to keep the costs down.

If anyone out there knows of a good home for a pile of week old chaplaincy mags, give the chaplains a call.

Features

The case for better driving

Daren Austin takes a brief look at advanced driving: tests and the likelihood of having an accident.

'13 dead on M62', '18 dead on M6', 'U-turn madness on M4'. Fortunately headlines like this are not everyday reading in our national papers, but accidents do happen every day on our road and motorway network.

Accidents with rare exceptions do not occur at any given time or place, but rather in widely scattered areas, at all times of day and night. Surprisingly only a few of these can be attributed to any particular road feature or vehicle defect, but it is found that 90% of all accidents can be traced to 'human error' by the person or persons concerned.

By international standards Britain's roads are relatively safe, and our accident rate is among the lowest in Europe. Even so our safety performance is not a matter for

self-gratification.

Every year about 330,000 people are killed or injured on our roads, nearly 6,000 are killed, some 80,000 seriously injured and another 245,000 less seriously injured. On average a road injury occurs every 99 seconds and one person dies every 75 minutes. Amongst men aged under 30 this is the single most likely cause of death, outweighing all types of diseases.

The single biggest cause of accidents is driving with excess speed; this, coupled with driving too close to the car in front, leads to many of the horrific motorway pile-ups. How many people know the stopping distance of a car travelling at 70mph? It is little wonder then, that a line of cars separated by about 20 feet and travelling at about 60mph in fog is an accident waiting to happen!

The single most effective method of reducing the accident rate is to press for better standards of driving. There exists, in this country, two non-profit-making charities, The Institute of Advanced Motorists and the RoSPA Advanced Drivers Association, whose aim is just that.

To become a member involves a 1½ hour test of both driving skills and knowledge. Passing the test is not

necessarily the main object! The evaluation carried out by one of the examiners, all of whom hold Class 1 Police certificates, is what really counts. From the assessment the candidate can learn what is right about his driving, and more important, what he should do to improve from a safety point of view.

Many drivers have potentially fatal flaws in their driving. It is surprising the number of drivers who dip the clutch before negotiating a bend, instead of changing down. Or the people who actually take both hands off the steering wheel without realising!

The Government Transport and Road Research Lab has shown that drivers who pass the entrance test are 50-70% less likely to have an accident than the general motoring public. A consequence of this is that they are considered much better insurance risks, and can save up to 30% on their premiums.

If anyone would like more information on advanced driving do not hesitate to contact me, Daren Austin, via the Physics pigeonholes.

The stopping distance at 70mph in ideal conditions is 315 feet, so just how good a driver are you?

ESTD

1742



WHITBREAD

Our reputation has been brewing since 1742.

We wish Imperial College every success with the Rag Week

RAG WEEK SCAB NITE

Whaddaya mean you've never been to a DramSoc play? Or an OpSoc show, or a performance by IC Orchestra or Choir? Well, now's your chance. At SCAB Nite tomorrow night, you can see all of IC's performing societies 'doing their bit' for Rag, on the Union Concert Hall stage. Most of the performances are more light-hearted than usual, whilst a couple should be just plain ridiculous.

Under the banner of the latter come DebSoc's debate: *This house believes Captain Kirk is the ultimate dramatic hero*, proposed by the good captain himself, and opposed by James Bond. Also DramSoc's irreverent rendition of *Alice in Wonderland*, starring the DramSoc 'techies'—should be good for a laugh.

On a rather less silly note, OpSoc present *Trial by Jury* by Gilbert and Sullivan, whose works they must know back to front by now; DramSoc are doing Alan Ayckbourne's *Between*

Mouthfuls, and Choir sing the *Geographical Fugue*. Jazz and Rock Club have two bands appearing, including *The Rhythm Method*, College's new jazz heptet; there is an (as yet unknown) ensemble from IC Orchestra; and a band from the newly formed Folk Club. Those veterans of SCAB Nite, the Trombone Trio, from Chamber Music make a welcome appearance, and include Tony Neal, the Young Musician of the Year finalist. The evening is rounded off by Film Society, who will be showing *Barbarella* in cinemascope, starring Jane Fonda, into the wee small hours.

You get all this, and a cheap bar, for a mere £2, all of which goes to charity through IC Rag. So even if you don't go to any other event in Rag Week, go to SCAB Nite on Saturday November 14 (tomorrow) at 8pm in the Union Concert Hall. *Alice in Wonderland* will never seem the same again.

Richard Squire, SCAB Chairman.

Crisis at Christmas

This year, Crisis at Christmas will organise its nineteenth pilgrimage from Canterbury to London, now a recognised annual event, which is growing bigger by the year. (Hopefully 500 walkers will turn out this year.)

The money raised by sponsored walkers (around £40,000 last year) has given comfort and new hope to many thousands of single, homeless people; people without home or family, often sleeping out and living rough, during the winter months, with little chance of a happy Christmas.

Yet there are still thousands more who need your help, and you can give that help by either joining the walk itself on November 28 and 29, or by sponsoring me! Keith Lowthian (Chem Eng I), Falmouth-Keogh, Room 379.

Sponsor forms should be found in your CCU offices so please leave your name etc and give generously to this cause.

The pilgrimage itself is 60 miles in length—no joke! It is traditionally started by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the grounds of the Cathedral, finishing two days later (having walked 34 miles of the first day and 26 on the second) in Southwark. The route consists of road

walking for the most part along the none too scenic A2 and negotiates such obstacles as Shooter's Hill (a 1½ mile gradual climb) and an even worse climb out of Rochester.

If you are interested in walking, either see me or write to:

Pilgrimage Office
Crisis at Christmas
212 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

Once again, please give us your support and help the single homeless.

Cheers,
Keith Lowthian

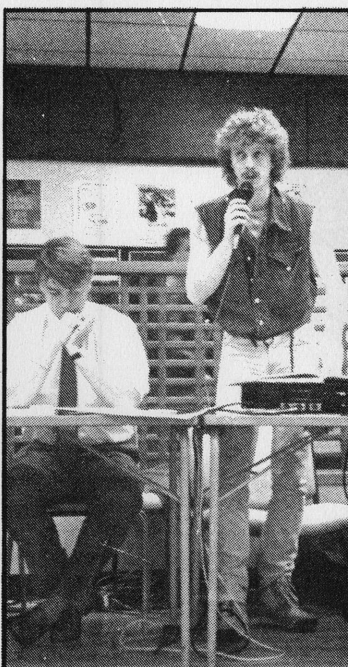
Aero darts

November 20

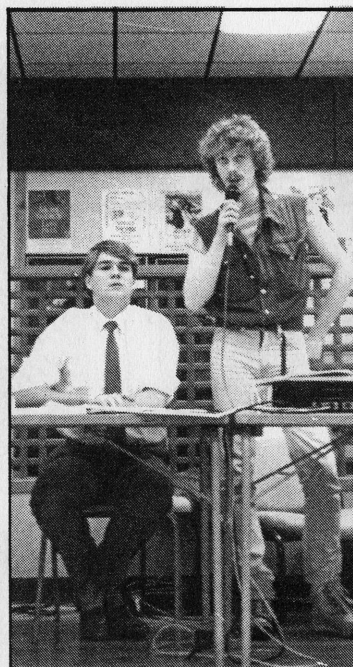
Aerosoc challenge all departments and anyone in College to enter the following 2 competitions:

1. Individual entry, paper dart, size limit: 1 A4 sheet, any number of entries.
2. Group entry—*new this year*, unlimited weight paper and cardboard glider, 1 entry per group (both competitions on longest distance).

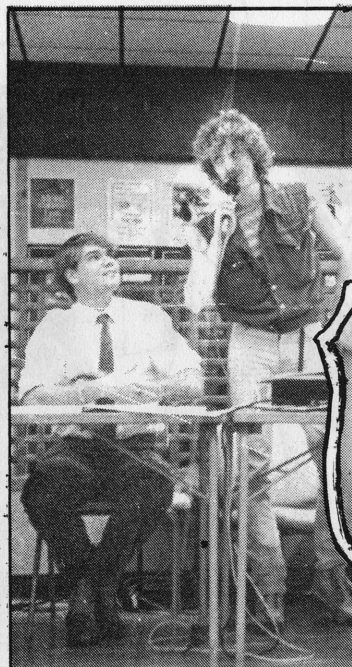
All closet aircraft designers can come out! Fantastic prizes are available and all profits go to Rag, so please support us!



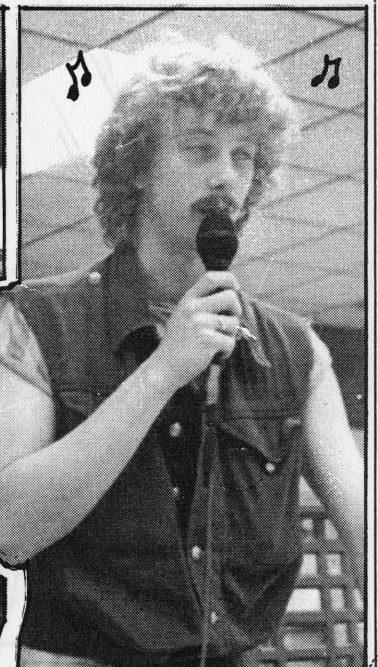
And for my last number:



And more...



Much more than this...



I did it MY way!

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Towers Perrin is one of the world's largest independent firms of actuaries and management consultants, and we're growing rapidly.

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Arrivals



TOWERS PERRIN

RAG MAG OR RAG DRAG?

The mid-sixties saw the troubled birth of the Imperial College Rag Mag, a publication destined time and time again to cause controversy. Under the editorship of David Irwine, the first issue underwent censorship of an entire 16 page supplement, and few subsequent issues have been spared from similar notoriety. The current issue is unlikely to remain unscathed; no doubt some puritanical members of the general public will be critical of the front cover!

A distressing feature of the Rag Mags of other, lesser institutions is their tendency to regurgitate the same material issue after issue. The IC version has always prided itself on its originality, to the extent of being

a period of hostility between the Rag Mag editors and ICU Executive officers.

Although the balance was redressed the next year, 1981 once again saw trouble, with Patrick Coll's

the second school of thought, but like all such things, has passed through the hands of the ICU Censorship Committee, and has benefited from close cooperation between the Rag committee and the ICU Executive.

Given adequate time, an editor should be able to prepare a magazine which is not only funny, but which demonstrates the ability of IC to produce wacky writers and wild cartoonists. It is possible that there may be pressure on future editors to follow the trend set by this one, especially if we prove successful. The present practice of preparing the Rag Mag over Summer doesn't really leave enough time for this, and many on this year's committee feel that the



trend setting: Mike Williams, the Editor in 1972, is widely credited with the introduction of dead baby jokes, which now feature in practically every Rag Mag going. This year's, for example, is the first ever to introduce the 'non joke'.

Any efforts to track down IC Rag Mags from the sixties proves futile, as College do not appear to archive them. Those of the early seventies remained fairly uncontroversial and therefore avoided censorship, although nowadays they would probably raise cries of "Sexism!" due to being liberally laced with Playboy and Penthouse cutouts—a trend which lately appears to have died out.

The publication reached its present format in 1979 with the introduction of higher quality paper and a glossy cover. The end result was polished, professional, and rejected by the printers due to the nature of its contents. 1979 also saw the start of

publication being banned by a UGM. The ban was eventually lifted, but not before momentum had been lost, leaving a vast pile of unsold Rag Mags. An attempt by Carl Burgess to ban the 1985 version failed, despite the inclusion of Bradford Fire jokes, and the resulting notoriety gave a considerable boost to sales country wide.

The above result has given rise to two schools of thought. The first points to the good sales achieved by a bad reputation, and uses that as reasoning for an 'anything goes' attitude. The second school agrees with the sales point, but adds that a good, clean Rag Mag ought to sell as well, and avoids the adverse publicity to College and Union courted by such events as the highlighting in the national press of a recent IC Rag Mag as an example of racism and sexism in British universities.

The present publication grew out of

A Felix editor and a ULU sabatical are hanging off a cliff. Whose fingers do you tread on first? The Felix editors; business before pleasure.

election of the editor should be brought forward.

The early Rag Mags had little or no advertising, justified by their low production costs, and even with the introduction of the improved format

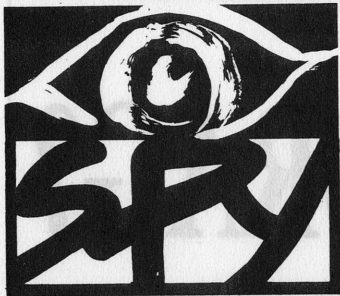
"Whats the worst thing you could say at an interview?"
I worked on the I.C. Rag Mag" or "I'm a friend of Gehan de S.W."

in 1979 little effort was made to increase this. The aggressive commercial attitude of this year's publication is reflected in increased advertising, and in the possibility that it may be possible to persuade

What are the six most terrifying words that can be spoken to you?
"Hello, my name's Ian Howgate".

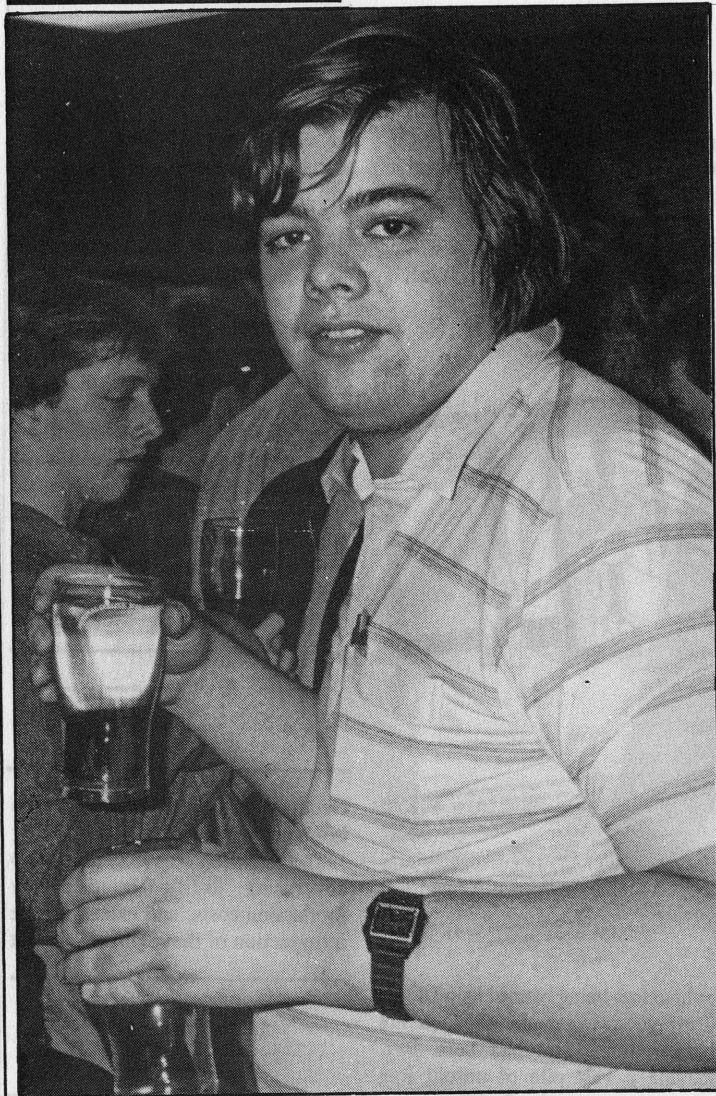
bookstores to stock it. Half the printing costs were covered by advertising revenue, and for the sake of quality of production it is hoped that future editors will continue this trend.

Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne,
Rag Mag Editor, 1987



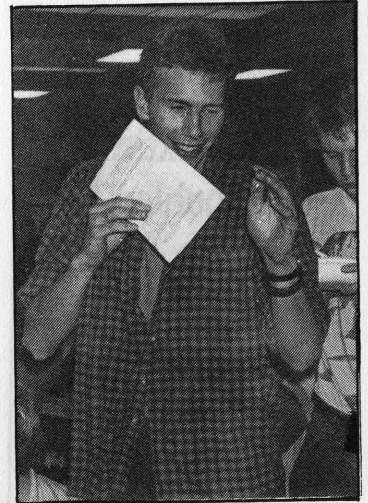
At the Beer Festival

What brand of condom do you use?

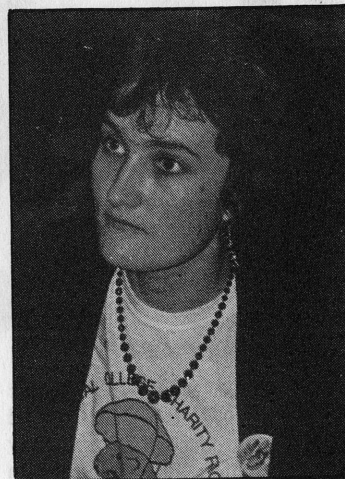


Stuart—
"I don't use condoms."

Jelly—
"Whichever's nearest at the time."



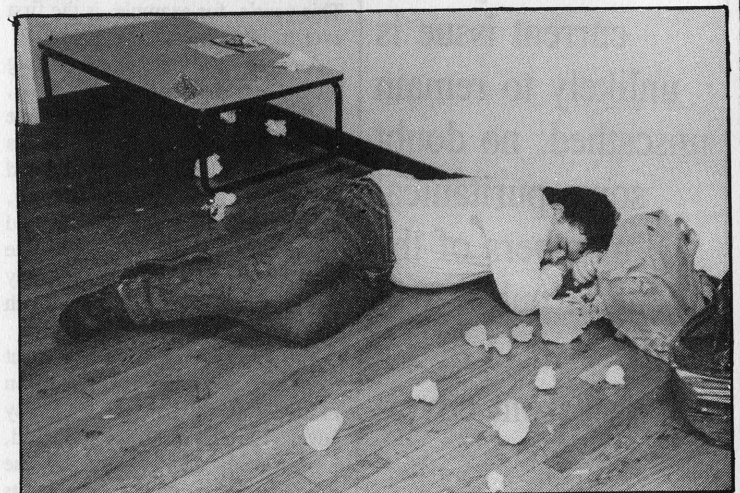
Fiona—
"I don't."



?—
"zzzzzzz"



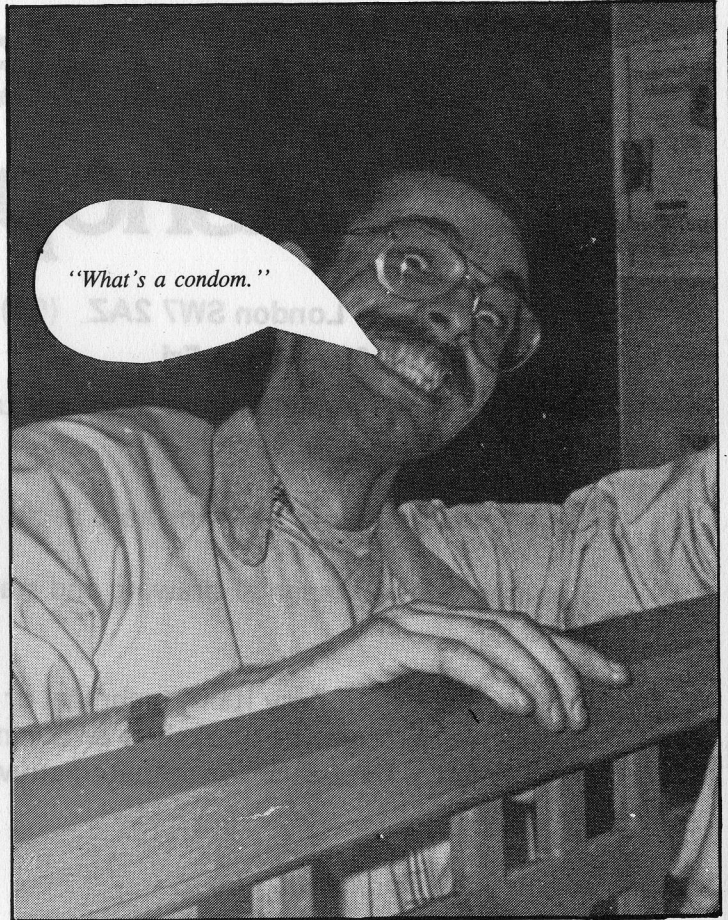
?—
"I use a Durex Featherlite."



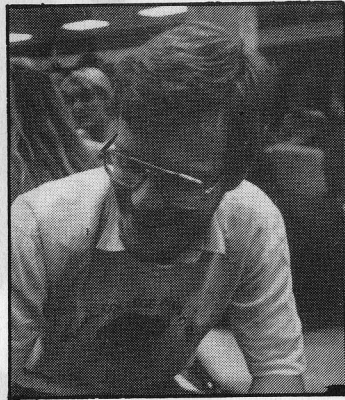


Mike—

Steve—
"I'd like to try these 'Mates'—the Richard Branson ones—sooner rather than later."



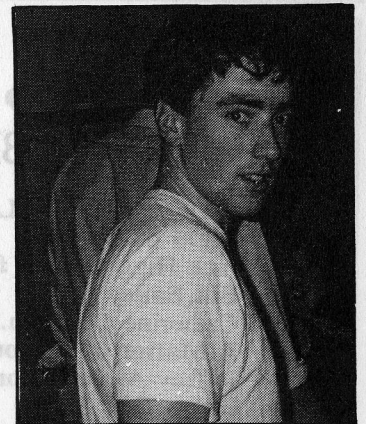
Phil—
"That's a very personal question."



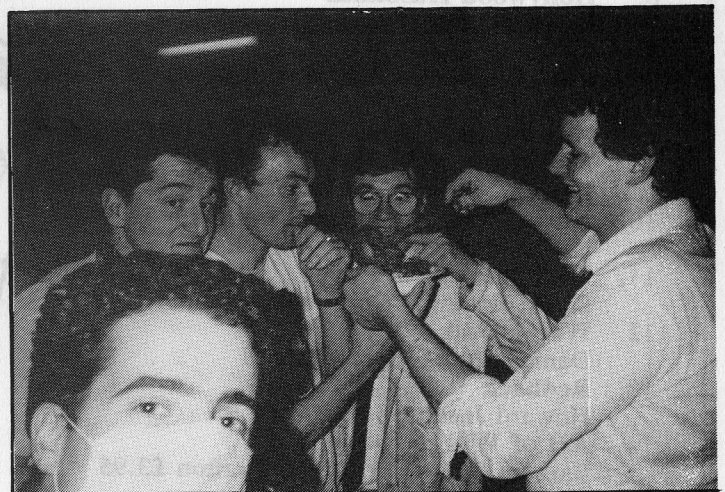
Gus (to friend)—
"What condoms do we use?"



Alan—
"What sort of condoms do I use?"



Chaps—
"Red Stripe."



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Jeffrey Archer. Coronet £3.50
5. **Down Our Street**
Lena Kennedy. Futura £2.50
6. **Hollywood Husbands**
Jackie Collins. Pan £3.50
7. **Perfume**
Patrick Suskind. Penguin £3.95
8. **O-Zone**
Paul Theroux. Penguin £3.95
9. **No Enemy But Time**
Evelyn Anthony. Arrow £2.95
10. **Adventures of Goodnight and Loving**
Leslie Thomas. Penguin £3.95
11. **Guardians of the West**
David Eddings. Corgi £2.95
12. **Wanderlust**
Danielle Steel. Sphere £3.50
13. **Redback**
Howard Jacobson. Corgi £3.95
14. **Act of Will**
Barbara Taylor Bradford. Grafton £3.95
15. **A Misalliance**
Anita Brookner. Grafton £2.95

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What's On

FRIDAY

Speaker Meeting1.00pm.
Socialist Society present Paul Foot of the SWP in Senior Common Room, Union Building.

Lecture1.30pm.
Read Lecture Theatre, Sheffield. 'Sex, Scientists and the Arms Race' by Dr Patricia Lewis, Senior Analyst for Verification, Technology Information Centre. FREE

Guilds Motor Club7.00pm.
Kart Garage. Scrutineering and signing on for the 2nd rally of term.

SATURDAY

Annual London Ball7.00pm.
JCR. Bar extension, professional demonstration held by IC and UCL Ballroom Dancing Club.

SCAB Nite8.00pm.
Union Concert Hall. All the Union's performing societies on one stage. £2 (profits to Rag).

SUNDAY

Sunday Service10.00am.
Sheffield Building. Lunch midday, prayer workshop 1pm to 3pm.

MONDAY

Meeting5.30pm.
Elec Eng 403B. Meeting to discuss the proposed exchange trip to ESPCI in term. All wishing to help organise please come along.

Paris Meeting5.30pm.
Elec Eng 403B. Meeting to arrange long weekend exchange trips to Paris next term. Please come and help with the arrangements.

Wellsoc Speaker Meeting7.30pm.
Physics LT1. Dr Geoff Manning, ex-head of the Rutherford—Appleton Lab talks on his varied career as a scientist. Free to members.

TUESDAY

Piano Marathon Starts6.00am.
JCR. Helpers needed urgently.

FREE

Christian Union8.15am.
Chemistry 231. See Steve Clark, Christian Union.

Cheap Records & CDs12.30pm.
UDH. See Audiosoc.

Third World First Talk1.00pm.
Green Committee Room. 'Women in the South Pacific.'

Astrosoc Lecture1.00pm.
Physics LT3. Dr Charles Jenkins, head of RGO talks on the new William Herkel Telescope and associated experiments. Free to members.

Industrial Society Presents1.00pm.
Chem Eng LT2. Mr Smith, Chief of Powerplant Technology (Civil) at Rolls Royce, talks to the Society. FREE.

Wine Tasting6.00pm.
Union SCR. A mystery tasting of fine wines from around the world. Great value and great fun (as usual). £1.50.

A&R Cambridge7.30pm.
Holland Club Function Room. Demonstrating lots of their stuff. FREE. See Audiosoc.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. Next beginners' course—January.

WEDNESDAY

IC Gay Okay12.30pm.
Green Committee Room, Top Floor of Union Building.

SWSS1.00pm.
Green Committee Room, Union Building. 'The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx.'

Ten-Pin Bowling2.20pm.
Meet outside Aero Eng (opposite Beit Arch). Anyone welcome. £4.50.

Piano Marathon Finish10.00pm.
JCR. FREE.

Industrial Society Presentafternoon.
ICI Paints Division, Slough. This is a trip; numbers limited so contact C Keener (Chem Eng III) immediately with £3 deposit. Members only. Free to members (cheques returned).

Industrial Society Presentevening.
Wyndham Theatre. Trip to see 'Serious Money'. Time Out said—'An intoxicating play for our times that one should not miss!' Tickets reduced from £9.50 to £5.00 (members

only). Contact Jason Conner (Physics III).

THURSDAY

Methsoc Meeting ..12.30pm.
Huxley 413. Giancarlo Elia of the FGBMH, a charismatic organisation will be being charismatic. Lunch 50p.

Cheap Records & CDs12.30pm.
Union SCR. See Audiosoc.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. Next beginners'

course—January.

Filmsoc Presents7.00pm.
'Little Shop of Horrors', Mech Eng 220, 7pm, Thurs November 19, 50p members, £1 non-members (membership available). Don't miss this exciting comedy horror SF musical.

Gay/Lesbian Group ..7.30pm.
ULU Building, Malet Street. Men's group room 3a, women's group room 2e. Meet weekly for speakers and booze.

Upbeat

'It hasn't been organised—I just solder things together.'

So commented STOIC's Technical Manager on their new *Through the Night* schedule starting at 10pm tonight, but some organisation must have gone into it to provide eleven hours of feature films, music videos, features and interviews. It finishes just after 9am on Saturday with breakfast with the ICU Exec. A full schedule of this exciting new venture in student broadcasting is given below.



If you're up in time on Saturday after a night spent glued to the box, don't miss 'Allo 'Allo (7.20pm, BBC1) where we rejoin René & Co escaping from a prisoner of war camp dressed as girls from the Folies Bergère.

Humour in a very different vein is later the same evening with *Saturday Almost Live* (11pm, C4) repeating some of the best of their popular live series.

Sport

It's an early morning for those without videos on Sunday when *The Australian Grand Prix* (7.20am,

BBC2) is broadcast live (well almost—only two hours late). Piquet may already have the World Championship, with the possible re-emergence of Ferrari in time for the new season.

Game Shows

Highlight of the week is *Treasure Hunt*, cruelly switched to Sunday afternoons (1pm, C4) but losing none of Aneka Rice's bubbly charm tempered only by Kenneth Kendalls authority ('cos he knows the answers).

Music

Still on Saturday, you might consider *Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony* (8.15pm, BBC2 and Radio 3) performed by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, with the added extra of a stereo FM simulcast.

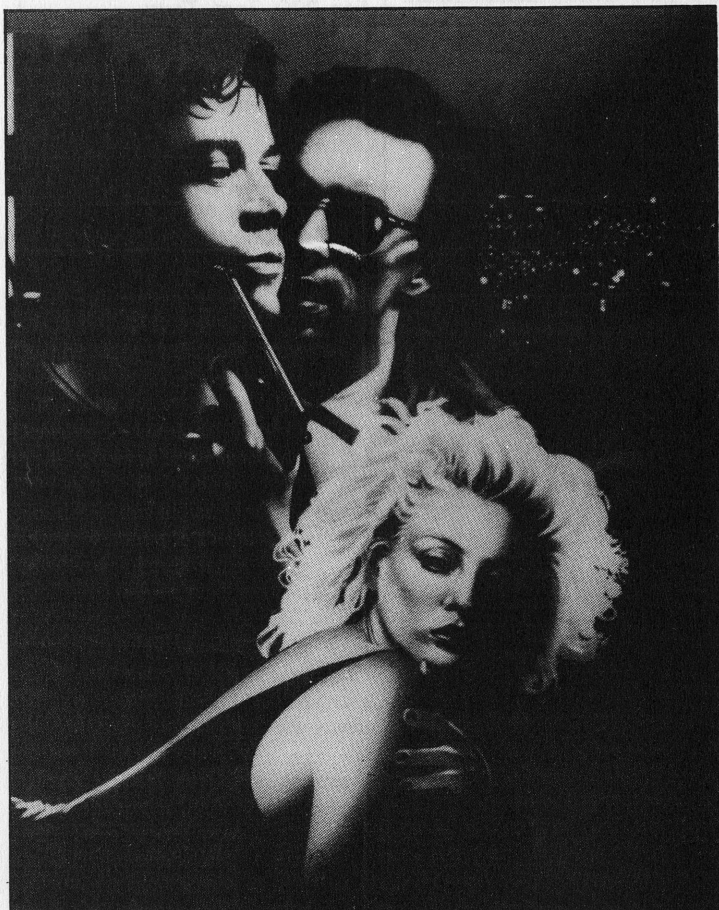
Drama & Documentary

Saturday sees the return of the insincere duo *Cagney & Lacey* (9.20pm, BBC1). More predictable plots, unimaginative endings and bad acting.

Next Friday sees the continuing, excellent documentary about the activities of Customs & Excise (*The Duty Men*, BBC2, 9pm), this week focusing on *Poteen Manufacture in Ulster*.

Cartoons

There are some great repeats being shown on Saturday but you may require an early start to catch them, or a video! *Roobarb* (9.20am, BBC1) not seen since our teens, brings happy memories; and later (about 10.30am, ITV) during *No. 73*, a showing of *The Trapdoor* is a must and has been described as 'Morph on acid'.



Slamdance

Although, technically speaking, Wayne Wang's *Slamdance* can be classed along with a growing batch of American movies directed by Orientals, it can be much more closely associated with the recent batch of oddball thrillers in which the main character gets involuntarily dragged from his safe, normal world into a nightmare sub-world of fear and horror (*Blue Velvet*, *After Hours* and *Something Wild* being the better examples of the genre).

The central character here is Drood, a painter and artist (played by Tom Hulce), who appears practically continuously in the film, which is no great shame as his performance is easily the most enjoyable to watch and his character is the only one allowed enough scope to develop. The gateway to his nightmare opens when the woman he has just recently finished an affair with is murdered; he has been sent incriminating photographs of her with public figures and on top of this the police are trying to frame him with the murder.

The problem with the film is that neither the storyline nor the script are ever really strong enough, and the

sub-plots in the movie such as Hulce's relationship with his estranged wife and their daughter 'Bean', or Hulce's internal wranglings over whether or not he really loved his ex-mistress Elandra Caldwell are never strongly developed. The support is also weak: the usually reliable Harry Dean Stanton is mediocre as the semi-honest cop, Smiley. Adam Ant and John Doe also make only half-worthy contributions to the action. Only Don Opper, as the hoodlum, with a warm heart, who has to hassle Hulce manages to impress. Again, it is only Hulce who shines, as the twisted look and boyish smile are used as effectively as they were in *Amadeus*. Wang also shows some nice touches throughout the film, but the pace chops from slam-bang-wollop to stillness too abruptly.

All this may sound very negative, and although it doesn't quite live up to the standards of the films in whose wake it is following, *Slamdance* is an enjoyable film, and you could do a lot worse than to go and see it; it's just on leaving the cinema one has the feeling that although it was good, it could have been a lot better.

N.C.

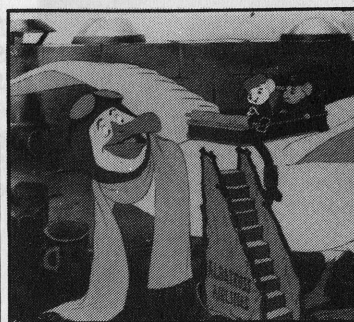
Let's Hope it's a Girl

Despite Liv Ullman's touching portrayal of a woman coming to terms with adversity and Catherine Deneuve's occasional appearance, this film does not have much to offer. Two hours of struggling with the subtitles of this Italian film was only acceptable because the plot was so slow moving I didn't miss any of the film by having to read them.

Without men, Elena (Liv Ullman) copes with a failing estate, the death of her estranged husband and the seeming desertion of all her brood. The strong feminist undertones surface in the last scene, where all the women, united and facing their problems together, prepare and eat a meal. The only man present, dotty old Uncle Gugo, symbolically doesn't eat with them, but sits to one side knitting socks for horses.

I don't expect many students would enjoy this film: on a rainy afternoon with nothing better to do I would rather sit in the rain and save the money.

(Renoir, Russel Square, WC1.)
T.G.



The Rescuers

First released in 1977, Walt Disney is trying to make some more money from *The Rescuers* re-released last week. Created from over 2½ million separate drawings it is well worth seeing. In true Disney style there are lots of goodies (the mice) and baddies (Medusa), plenty of action and a happy ending. What more could you ask for?

If you do go and see it watch out for the remarkable likeness between the evil Medusa and our very own Mrs Thatcher.

T.G.

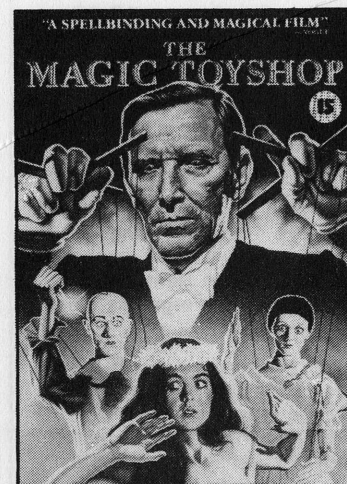
Video

The Magic Toyshop

The latest offering from the poison pen of Angela Carter was filmed but never generally released, appearing on video instead. Following in the wake of *The Company of Wolves* this production certainly deserved investigation.

It concerns the fate of Melanie (Caroline Milroe), an innocent teenager who is tragically orphaned and is forced to stay with her sadistic Uncle Philip. He owns a toyshop in south London and is obsessed with puppets, forcing his family (consisting of his dumb wife and two toys) to watch strange plays he writes and performs using the mannequins he lovingly creates. These become increasingly bizarre and eventually involve Melanie herself as the divide between fantasy and reality is blurred.

The film provides a captivating atmosphere of magical fantasy, with mysterious forces and sexual intrigue weaving a complex thread. However, the characters do not develop beyond



fairy-tale stereotypes which deprives them of any real interest and although the ideas are effectively executed, the strangeness soon becomes tedious due to the total absence of plot and the film quickly becomes vacuous. Rather than the thought-provoking *Company of Wolves*, *The Magic Toyshop* left me feeling cheated of any stimulating conclusion.

(Released by Palace Video today)
A.N.

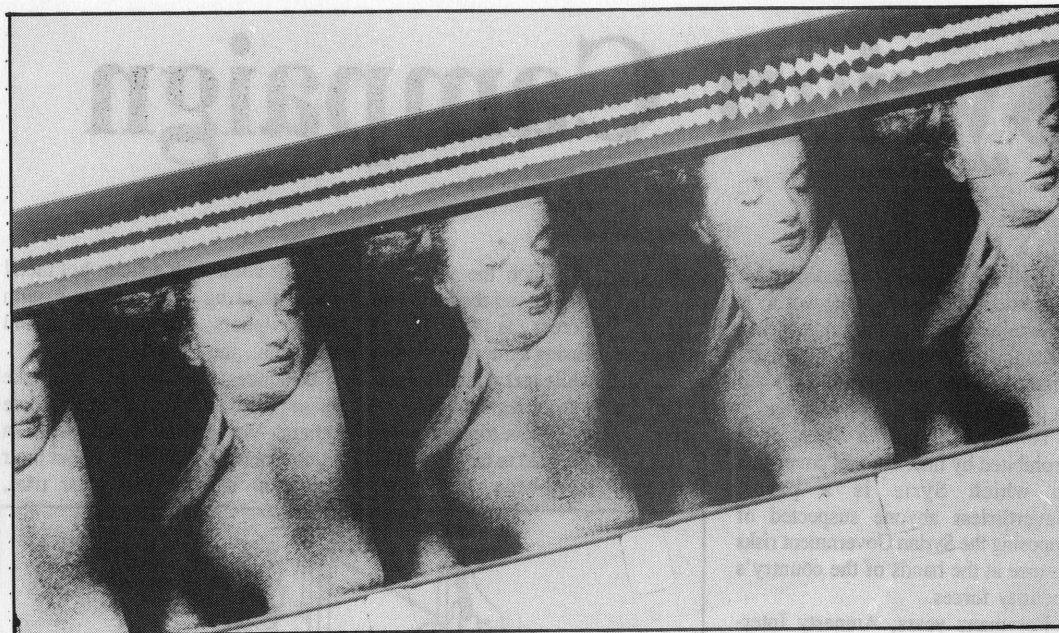
FILM

Junk Aesthetics

With the advent of the found footage phenomenon in recent advertising campaigns (ranging from lager to deodorant) and its proliferation in the realm of music video, this collection of short films traces the origins of a traditionally avant-garde technique. The show at the ICA concentrates on the work of Bruce Conner and consists of nine films, six of which are his, covering the period from 1930 to 1980.

They range from a biting satirical view of Kennedy's assassination (*Report*, Conner 1965) which has inspired many a dancefloor classic, through early 'music videos' (*Mongoloid Devo*, Conner 1978 and *America is Waiting* Eno/Byrne, Conner 1980) to technical experimentation in the form of early solarisation effects (*Berlin Horse*, LeGrice 1970); there is even what purports to be a very young Marilyn Monroe posing nude to a tragically ironic song, cut up and repeated (*Marilyn Five Times*, Conner 1973), but is it really her?

Like all avant-garde work this collection, some of which is being released for the first time, suffers from only partial success, with some



ideas being stretched just a little too far. However, the range and scope of the set as a whole is remarkable and some sections are a pure delight. In the main the films are ironic and sarcastic, with the power of newsreel footage used critically to good effect.

A rare treat for the daring.

(Until 19th November at the ICA)
A.N.

Video

She's Gotta Have It!

The release of this 'seriously sexy comedy' on video follows a record-breaking independent run—a welcome change for a film shot in black and white with an all-black cast.

Nola (Tracy Camilla Johns) is a successful paste-up artist, living in Brooklyn. To her, men are either decent, or dogs. Trouble is she's found three decent ones and doesn't want to choose between them. There's the sensitive and caring Jamie (Richard Hicks), smooth and arrogant Greer (John Terrell) and the hip and lively Mars (Spike Lee, who also wrote and directed the film).

Their respective attempts to upstage each other form a hilarious portrayal of male rivalry as the prospective suitors fight for Nola.

Altogether a sharp and witty study of modern relationships neatly turned around. One criticism though; who pays £35 for a video these days?

(Available from Palace Video, £34.99.)

A.N.

Romeo & Juliet
by W. Shakespeare

Many Shakespearean productions involve no more than hammed-up poetry and dusty old costumes. I was beginning to believe that no director had the ability to make such work relevant to a modern audience.

However, Jeremy Bell's *Romeo & Juliet* at the Young Vic has returned much of my lost faith.

It is set in the 1980s: the Montagu's and Capulets are wealthy, sophisticated business families, the Nurse a zany brummie and the Priest a black vicar.

Shakespeare's wordy sonnets are spoken naturally (even the clichéd "Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou"...etc). Romeo (Richard Huw) and Juliet (Sarah-Jane Fenton) are played as rough-edged teenagers who find themselves immersed in emotions that they can neither understand nor control. Their powerful love story unfolds.

Towards the very end of the play the direction seems to lose its way, but this was more than compensated for by the remarkable power and imagination of earlier scenes.

It is frightening that a play of such jealousy, hatred and violence as well love can be as relevant to our lives as it was to the Elizabethans.

(Until November 21 at the Young Vic, SE1.)

L.H.

THEATRE

The Rover
by Aphra Behn

After a highly successful season in Stratford, the Royal Shakespeare Company is starting *The Rover* again at the Mermaid Theatre. With very few changes to the cast and a brilliant preview performance it is set to have an equally successful London season.

Jeremy Irons plays the lead role of the Rover; a wild philandering womanizer who regards sex as the prime objective in life. I always think that on television and film Mr Irons is such a drip, but his stage performance is excellent; he is the perfect actor for the character.

The lively and bubbly Geraldine Fitzgerald and Imogen Stubbs play two of the three sisters who break free to enjoy the carnival. These two are exemplary of the whole cast, who exude the same infectious sense of enjoyment.

The Rover is easy to follow, fun to watch and brilliantly performed, and with student concessions and standby tickets available this is a play not to be missed.

T.G.

Noel Curry
Thomas Greig
Liz Holford
Alex Noble

Features

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Syrian Campaign

As you are sitting here reading this, someone, somewhere in the world, is screaming out in agony while being beaten. Can you imagine the pain he/she is going through? If you want to do something, please read on.

Torture is illegal in Syria. It is prohibited by international covenants to which Syria is a party. Nevertheless anyone suspected of opposing the Syrian Government risks torture at the hands of the country's security forces.

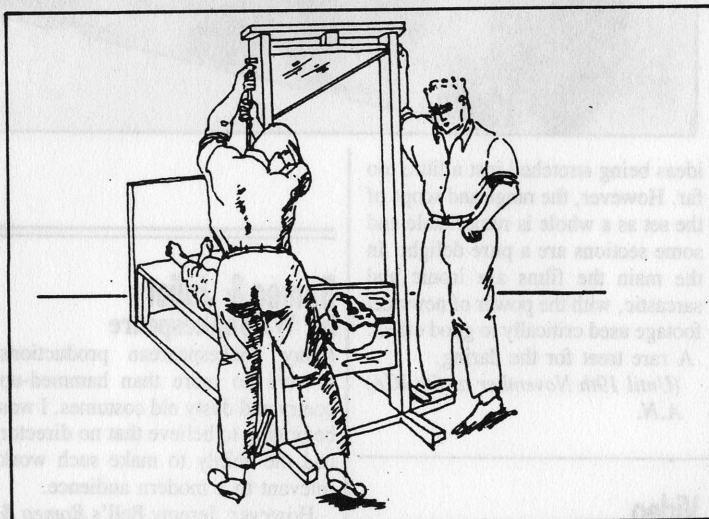
For many years, Amnesty International has received reports that political prisoners are systematically tortured and ill-treated by Syrian security forces. People arrested or abducted by the security forces in those areas of Lebanon under Syrian control have described tortures similar to those suffered by detainees in Syria. The use of extensive powers of arbitrary arrest and detention conferred on the security forces by a state of emergency which has been in force in Syria since 1963 provides the main context in which torture takes place. These powers have been grossly abused. The various branches of the security forces have seized people at will, without warrants, without any explanation of why they are being arrested and without reference to any central authority, and held them incommunicado for long periods, in some cases for years. It is during such incommunicado detention that most prisoners are reported to have been tortured.

Brutal methods of torture at the hands of the Syrian security forces have been described to AI. One, the Syrian Chair, involves the use of a

metal chair to which the victim is bound by the hands and the feet. The chair's backrest is then bent backwards, causing acute stress to the spine. Meanwhile metal blades fixed to the chair's front legs cut into the victim's ankles. People tortured in the Syrian Chair are said to have suffered fractured vertebrae and near

back or chest with a sharp hot metal rod; plucking hair or skin with pincers/pliers; extracting finger and toe nails...the list goes on.

Detainees are tortured to make them 'confess' or to incriminate others. Some are tortured as a punishment for protesting about their detention without charge or trial,



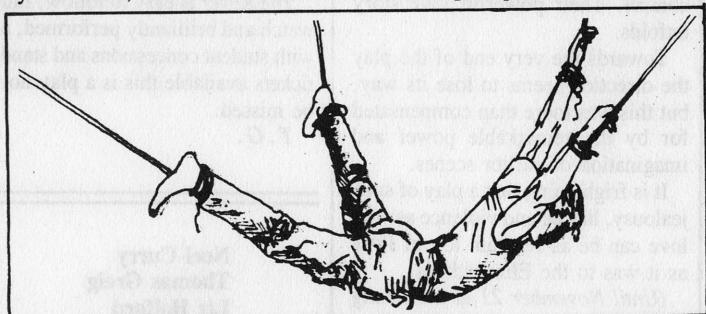
Torture method known as the 'Guillotine'; the blade stops just short of the victim's neck.

strangulation. AI has received descriptions of over 35 different methods of torture, excluding the routine beatings. For example, 'Bisat al-Rih' (flying carpet): strapping the victim to a piece of wood shaped like a human body and either beating him/her or applying electric shocks all over the body; placing pieces of cotton wool soaked in petrol on various parts of the body and setting them alight; piercing the victim's

often for many years. Others are tortured in order to force them to sign statements renouncing their political views. Relatives of political prisoners have been taken hostage and tortured to try and make the prisoners 'confess' or give information. Others have been taken prisoner and tortured for information about a relative who was wanted by the security forces. A number are reported to have died in prison in recent years. Some are said to have died as a result of torture during interrogation, or through routine ill-treatment and appalling conditions of imprisonment.

The Imperial College group will be part of a worldwide campaign against these human rights abuses. If you would like to join us, come to our meetings (Tuesdays, 5.30pm, Brown Committee Room) or contact Guy Sims or Monique Yeo (both of Maths 2).

Don't just be horrified by man's inhumanity to man, join in the fight against it!



This drawing illustrates a method known as the 'Flying Spider', reportedly used in Anjar detention centre in Lebanon. Victims are suspended from the ceiling by their hands and feet and beaten on their backs.

ISLAMIC

Instinct and Intellect

God gave man a spiritual instinct, a desire to revere something greater than man's own self. Throughout history we find people worshipping something—God, idols, the sun, water, or even other men.

However, God did not leave us the emotionally-based spiritual instinct alone by which to discover our creator. God also gave man intellect, which should guide us to the proper path. Without its guidance, instinct may cause man to worship fire or stones, a result of low level thought.

Thus God made Islam to be accepted intellectually, not as a blind faith. Many verses of the Qu'ran give rational arguments for the existence of the one true God; unfortunately space is too short to quote any.

Only after the muslim is intellectually convinced that God is alone the creator and worthy of worship, that Mohammad (may peace be upon him) is the Prophet of God and that the Qu'ran is from God, can he submit himself to the will of God. But that will be enlightened obedience, not blind obedience.

Imtiaz Z Malik (EE2)

Chairman of the Tuesday Circle

ROCK

Music

Rock Society, the newest society at Imperial, has a simple aim: to bring together people who enjoy rock music in any of its forms. We will be arranging trips to gigs (including regular pilgrimages to the Marquee), holding rock discos and concerts in College, and showing rock-related films and videos.

We also intend to forge links with other colleges such as Goldsmiths and UCL; the new ULU rock society should be big enough to hold concerts featuring well-known bands.

IC Rock Soc's first event will be a 'Sixties and Seventies Disco' for Rag Week, to be held in Southside Upper Lounge on Saturday 23rd November. So come along and support us and Rag.

As with any new club, there is plenty of scope for (polite) suggestions, so come and make them. Meetings are in Southside Upper Lounge every Monday lunchtime.

INDUSTRIAL

What's in a game?

Business games come in all shapes and sizes, but anyone who can think logically is capable of playing them. They are played in teams which compete, using their own strategies, to gain most money.

Each game lets you become, for a few hours, the managing executive of an independent company. You decide on key issues affecting its performance, such as lowering prices (gaining customers but reducing profit margins) or tendering for contracts (profitable in the long run but risking initial cash-flow problems). The final outcome will rest on your decisions, but also on those of your competitors. After 2 or 3 repetitions of the decision-making process a winner of the game emerges.

Membership of the Industrial Society (£1.50 for the year) allows you to take part in such games, which are run by the companies which have

designed them. Each company tends to provide travelling expenses, lunch or dinner during the game, and information about themselves. Games are usually held on Wednesday afternoons, finishing at around 6pm or 7pm.

Only thirty places are available on each, so early application is advised. The games are fun whether you're aiming for large profits, deficits, or just a slander campaign against your competitors. You'll also learn a great deal about businesses and how they are run. If you'd like to play, choose one from the list below, and give a returnable deposit cheque, payable to ICUSCC, to Man Tai Tseung, Chem Eng 4 (Business Games Organiser, Indsoc).

Nov 18—Arthur Anderson
Nov 25—Touche Ross
Dec 2 —Price Waterhouse
Dec 9 —Austin Rover

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

DON'T SLUMBER...



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SCHLUMBERGER INDUSTRIES & TECHNOLOGIES

Clubs Editor's note: it's great that so many clubs are writing in (and sending pictures), but this means that space is tight and waffly articles will be cut short. This week I've rewritten a lot to save all the facts, so if your article isn't exactly as you wrote it, you know what's happened. In future I may just cut out the last paragraphs...To avoid this, be concise.

NOT INDSOC

Challenge

Throughout central London last Wednesday, eight teams took part in an event organised by the National Students Industrial Society and lavishly sponsored by British Telecom. They raised £500 for the charity, Childline (the telephone service launched from TV's Childwatch).

The challenge involved racing to nine companies, collecting a list of questions from each, and phoning the questions back to a base team to solve. BT provided £175 in prizes, as well as free phonecards and travel-cards and a huge banquet at the end of the day. A superb time was had by everyone involved.

Unfortunately IC Industrial Society could not attend as they were 'too tired after organising the Careers Fair'. Civ Eng 1 stepped in just in time to save IC from being branded totally apathetic.

Despite short notice our team of six put up a very creditable performance, coming fifth.

Thank you, everybody, and if IC Indsoc can't get its act together in the future, we'll do it again.

Ian Thomas

MOTOR

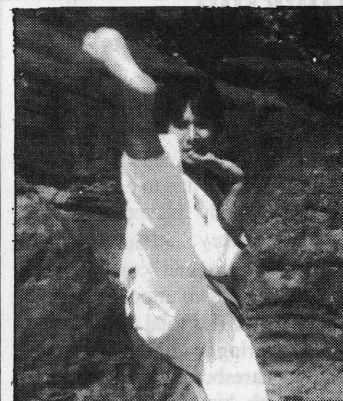
Night drive

The second round of the Motor Club championship, the Freshers' Rally, took place in a waterlogged Hampshire on October 23/24.

These rallies take place at night, and are scheduled for 30 mph, a lot faster than it sounds given the amount of time taken to translate the navigation into a route on the map, and the narrow, twisty nature of the roads used.

Victorious at the end of the 100 mile route were the ultra-experienced pair of Paul Dent and Paul Brooks-Johnson in their Escort Mk I. Second were Duncan Royle and Ian Hamill and third was the first fresher, Mark Putt, who navigated for Lee Stanley.

The next round of the championship is tonight on OS map 175.



TANG SOO DO

Fused style

The Tang Soo Do Club, IC's latest athletics club, was formed on Monday. Tang Soo Do is the Korean art of self-defence developed by Grand Master Hwang Kee, who followed tradition in carefully selecting his students to ensure the perpetuation of the martial arts. This particular system is a fusion of the art of Soo Bahk Do and Chinese fighting systems, and is characterised by a large repertoire of kicking techniques. Its best-known user is probably the former martial arts champion, Chuck Norris.

A typical class consists of execution of basic movements, basic technique and free-fighting. We train every Monday in the Southside Gym at 9pm and every Saturday in the Union Gym at 4pm. Our club instructor is Sa Bom Nim Yap (4th dan black belt).

FILM

Vegetarian?

Little Shop of Horrors

A fun-filled fiction horror spoof, directed by Frank Oz of the *Muppet Show*.

Life goes on as normal in Skid Row, until Seymour, an orphan who works in a small plant shop, discovers a strange plant. He nurtures and cares for it, discovering that it feeds on blood, and later on whole people. The plant grows in size, and meanness, until its true purposes are revealed.

Mech Eng 220, Thursday November 19, 7pm, 50p members, £1 non-members (membership available).

HOCKEY

Bobbling and flicking

IC 1sts V WLIHE

On Saturday the 1sts played away to the highly trained and coached WLIHE. Partly due to a small pitch, IC sporadically played disjointed, scrappy hockey. Paul Skipworth dictated up front and scored IC's first goal with his revolutionary bobbling penalty flick (his total now being 14 goals, scoring in all of his 8 games). Gary Knaresborough added to the score with his maiden goal in the second half. The defence was confidently solid throughout the game, Rolf Slatter being brilliantly athletic between the posts (proving again that even when approaching his thirties, experience counts for far more than youthful physical prowess in the goalkeeping business). This result gives IC a chance to top the Middlesex 1st division if they can win against high flying Mill Hill on Saturday.

HOCKEY

Shooting down the wing

IC 3rds V British Airways

Within seconds Steve Burton produced our first goal. A solo goal cutting through their defence. Five minutes later BA equalised from nowhere with a shot from the edge of the D by an old defenceless looking man. After some poor passing by AJ, BA gained position, ran the ball through our defence. The goal-keeper came out to attack the BA player but miss-kicking the ball, BA managed to score with the loose ball.

The second IC goal came from Vijay Thuker after complex passing within the D before scoring.

BA's third goal was scored when four from the two teams were on the ground after the keeper had taken them out.

The second half was almost the usual IC 3rds game but they didn't score any goals. The final score was 3-3.

RUGBY

Aggressive driving

IC 1st 48—LSE 0

IC cruised to their third successive win in the UAU competition, after a solid performance against LSE.

Last year IC struggled against LSE. But this year with Andy Watson at the helm and Simon Smith on the touchline, the boys are playing aggressive, driving rugby up front and swift, skilful play in the backs. With two more games to go IC are already assured of a place in the play offs. The man of the match award went to R Hargrove the Fresher No 8.



SAILING

Foggy foggy crew

Sailing

IC at Oxford

As the IC sailing team set off for Oxford on a cold foggy Saturday morning, the question in most sailors' minds was: What the hell were they doing out of bed at such an unearthly hour when the prospects of sailing were so dim.

By the time we reached Oxford however, effective coaching by the captain, combined with some signs from the gods of wind that they have not forgotten us forever, had helped bring some life back into the IC team. They then went forward to prove that you don't need a force 6 wind to

perform most sailing manoeuvres, including some rather complex racing tactics. Richard Jarman, like any good captain, showed us the way in the first race which resulted in an IC victory. The rest of the team followed his example in the rest of the races, which were sailed in a similar manner. These nerve-racking manoeuvres however resulted in the early retirement of some crew members that could not take the strain they required.

Team: Richard Jarman, Rob Kimberly, Apostolos Leouidhopoulos, Sam Page, Jenny Burton, Kath Drake.

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MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 1987

STARTING AT 18.00

ROOM 317A/B SHERFIELD BUILDING

A BUFFET WILL BE PROVIDED

Please add your name to the list attached to the main poster for this event on the main careers notice board, outside the careers office in the Sherfield building, if you intend to participate.

RESULTS

Hockey

IC 1sts—2.....0—WLH
IC 2nds—0.....2—HCC
IC 1sts—7.....0—LSE 1sts
IC 1sts—1.....3—Ashford
IC 2nds—2.....6—OMT 2nds
IC 3rds—1.....2—Brunel 3rds

Ladies Hockey

IC—0.....2—Charing Cross
IC—1.....3—Sussex Uni.

Badminton

ULU Mens 3
IC—5.....4—Goldsmiths

Water Polo

IC—6.....7—Met Police

Football

IC 3rds—3.....0—LSE 3rds
Holbein Hse—7.....3—Willis Jackson Hse
Bernard Sunley Hse—2.....7—Mining Hse

FIXTURES

Saturday 14th

Football:
All Teams Cup 1st Round

Hockey:

Men's 1st XI.....Mill Hill
Men's 2nd XI.....Mill Hill
Ladies 1st XI.....London Hospital

Cross Country:

Stag Hill Relays at Guildford

Rowing:

4.s Head Race from Barnes to Putney Pier.
Starts 10am

Wednesday 18th

Football:
All teams UAU against Kent

Hockey:

1st XIs UAU against Kent

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

Football Crazy

IC III 3—IC II 2

IC 3rds came to their second league match against IC 2nds in high spirits after some good results, but it was plain that the 2nds were in a determined mood after last week's 2-2 draw. The 3rds struck a free kick by Chris Budgen was laid off to Fergus Batstone who turned sharply and fired in a low cross that Chris Morris converted perfectly. Fifteen minutes later Alan Glass added a second after a Chris Morris back-header and the 3rds began to believe that it would be their day. The 2nds had other ideas however, and began to play as they knew they could, Pip Peel was causing lots of trouble to the 3rds defence and Dan Thomas was always dangerous. The real star (as ever) was Niel Vandenbegin, but it was Adam who pulled one back for the 2nds just before half-time after a slight defensive error. The second half began with the 3rds determined to hold their lead, but they could not believe their luck when Fergus Batstone duped the 2nds keeper from the edge of the box to put the thirds 3-1 up. After this the 2nds really began to play, Paul Thompson and Stuart Miller made probing runs from the back and John West was creating lots of space in the midfield. The 2nds pressure paid off at last when a cross by Adam Thomas was headed home by P P Peel, but unfortunately for the 2nds they couldn't create any more real chances, even though they controlled the rest of the match. The final whistle went with the 3rds the winner, but judging by the way the 2nds played it will be very surprising if they don't win the league come the end of the season.

3rds Team: Julian Henson, Chris Burton, Mark Woodgate, Kevin Graves, Chris Budgen, Graham Day, Chris Morris, Paul Neville, Andy Leahy, Fergus Batstone, Alan Glass, Neil Lennard (sub).

2nds Team: Andy Allen, Stuart Miller, Russ Dark, Paul Thompson, Micky Plummer, Rakesh Muthod, John West, Jo Muller, P P Peel, Neil Vandenbegin, Adam Thomas.

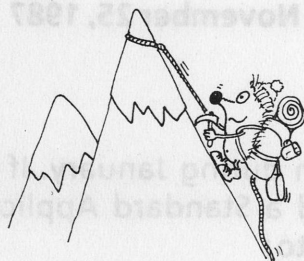
IC 5ths

Team: Julian Henson, Chris Burton, Kevin Graves (capt), Mark Woodgate, Chris Budgeon, Graham Day, Chris Morris, Paul Oster, Mark Radley, Paul Neville, Fergus Batstone.

IC IIIs 3—LSE IIIs 0

IC IIIs approached their 3rd game of the UAU competition needing a win to have any chance of going through the regional division. The IC captain won the toss and decided to attack against the wind in the 1st half. Neither team settled down properly and IC were content to contain LSE, knowing that with the advantage of the wind in the second half they should be able to take the points. The 1st half ended scoreless, with very few goal attempts apart from a couple of half chances that fell to Fergus Batstone.

IC began the second half well, Chris Morris and Mark Woodgate won everything in the air and the ball was rarely seen by goalkeeper Julian Henson. Move after move took IC nearer to opening the scoring, Graham Day came close and Fergus continued to cause problems to the LSE defence. Eventually the breakthrough came, a goalmouth scramble saw Paul Neville finish well and LSE began to crumble. IC began to completely dominate the game, a run from the defence gave Kevin Graves a 1 on 1 with the keeper who saved well and after coming close with a powerful shot. Graham Day slotted in the second when Fergus robbed the LSE keeper. LSE had nothing more to give and Paul Neville (ICs answer to Gary Lineker) continued his excellent scoring form by getting the third 5 minutes from time.



Next summer, a group of students from Imperial College will be travelling to India with the aim of crossing the Eastern Himalaya through Bhutan to Tibet, and then continuing across China to Beijing. Any budding explorers interested in taking part in this expedition are invited to apply for a place now.

IC Vs 5—KQC VI 1

IC Vs achieved their second win of the season last Wednesday in a hard fought game against KQC VIs. The match was evenly balanced until the twentieth minute when Glenn Evans scored the first of his magnificent hatrick. No one was more surprised than him to see his 20 yard effort loop over the goalkeeper and drop just under the bar. KQC fought back hard, and but for some brave defending by our illustrious leader, veteran Jon Turner, and the rest of the star-studded defence, the game might have gone the way of so many others this season. KQC did equalise ten minutes later. Approaching half-time, IC continued to counter-attack and were rewarded by another goal from Glenn Evans, this time a 12 yard angled drive beyond the keeper. The score remained 2-1 until, in the second half, with the wind in our favour, Glenn complete his hatrick by beating two defenders and prodding the ball past the despairing keeper.

Midway through the second half, the goal of the season so far was scored by Steve Von Bargaen—our goalkeeper! A long kick resulted in the ball bouncing on the penalty spot and over the head of the other keeper into the goal. Last, but not least, our fifth goal was scored by the right-back Mike Wilson after a move started in our own penalty area.

A sad note is the loss of our midfielder player Hemang, carried off with a fractured ankle.

IC II—3 vs LSE II—0

With points at stake in the UAU and League, IC needed a good performance to continue their unbeaten run. Paul Thompson replaced the injured Jezz Holland, in the heart of the defence, and Adam Thomas made a welcome return after his ventures into 1st team football. Playing against the wind in the first half, IC soon got to work. Pip Peel opened IC's account, finishing off with a spectacular lob, having been put through in usual style. Towards the end of the well-fought half, Guy Phiri latched on to another ball, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home. Playing with the wind in the second half, IC camped in LSE's half. However, pressure was not rewarded with goals, until Adam Thomas crashed a volley into the net, from outside the box. This victory means IC will get to at least the regional playoffs for the last 16 in the UAU.

Team: S Holden, S Miller, R Dark, P Thompson (capt), M Plummer, R Muthoo, P Peel, J West, J Müller, A Thomas, G Phiri.

ORIENTEERING

Running wild

On Sunday the Orienteering Club attended their fifth event of the season at Chelmsford. The weather stayed fine although it was bitterly cold making orienteers run faster than usual. The event colour-coded with only blue and green courses mapped out but this only meant that there was mere competition within the Club. A few members of Oxford University were spotted and their results closely watched as they are competing in an inter-university match in the future.

The orienteers this week were: M Lynas, A Horrocks, R Haddock, T Foster, C Hargreaves, R Magini, A Thompson, A Fazakerley.

EXPEDITION

Explorers this way

Some mountain trekking experience would be an advantage though not essential. The cost of the trip will be met partly by sponsorship. Give names to H Sullivan or D Strowbridge (ME 3), for more details as soon as possible.

This will be an equal opportunities expedition!

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To find out more, pick up a brochure from your Careers Office (from early November), or come to our presentation at Imperial:

**Pippard Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building
Imperial College**

at 6p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 1987

We shall be interviewing in London during January. If you would like to be interviewed, please send a Standard Application Form and photograph by January 1, 1988 to:

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74 St. James's Street
London SW1A 1PS**

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tug of War**—come and pull for Guilds at 11am in Prince's Gardens. Sunday 15th.
- **Slave Auction**—ME 220, 12.45pm, Tuesday 17th.
- **Drink a cup of tea** for Rag—The world's best tea at the Sri Lankan stall. JCR, Fri 13th, Sat 14th and Tue 17th.
- **Yuppies wanted**—to swell the ranks of the ULU Finance Society. Contact Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne or John D Doyle (Civ Eng 3).
- **Join the Linstead Life Fan Club**—the most exclusive society in College.
- **All those** wishing to take part in the RCS 1,000,001 down darts during Rag Week should collect sponsorship forms from the RCS Office or Dave Burns (Physics 2) from today onwards. All standards of spear chuckers wanted.
- **The RCS Motor Club** 'The Godiva Run'. If College gives Motor Club £1,000 for Rag, Jez will circumnavigate Hyde Park with 13 daring members. Donations to S J Bell (Physics 2) or RCS Office asap.
- **I am looking** for somebody who can guide me around the V&A, Science and Natural History Museums. Payment of £5 offered. Hans Hasek, Hopfenstr. 67, 708 Aalen, West Germany.
- **ICNAC**—Working in the USA is possible with BUNAC. Weekly meeting in the JCR.
- **YupSoc**—Anyone with Barbour, stripey shirts and brogues, interested in forming an upwardly mobile society contact Basil Heaney (ME 3). Make sure you've got your fillos to arrange a date.
- **Need** a professional disco? Top sound and lighting effects, as seen during Freshers' Week. Special student rates. Contact Vince Roper 381 5388.
- **For a professional** disco sound, hire solar winds. Cheap rates for all student and charity parties. Contact Hans Beier 870 8112.
- **The Wine** Tasting Society presents a very mysterious tasting...Union SCR, Tuesday 6pm.

FOR SALE

- **V Reg Daihatsu Charade XG**, 1000cc, LHD, cream, good condition, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax, stereo, sun roof, £800. Tel 01 385 7477
- **BBC Micro** computer, Model B (32k and interfaces), DFS and 40 track 100k d/drive. Software: 150-Pascal (Acom), S-Pascal Worldwide, user guide, advance user guide, BASIC II user guide, Acom graphs and charts, disk and book, assembly language programming and disassembler, three types of screen dumps (EPSON), £275 ono. Contact A Churchill (Solid State Physics) int 6925.

Letters to the Editor

Slave labour

Dear Judith,

I am writing to warn your readers about the dangers of working as a Manager for the Imperial College Summer Lettings Scheme.

I worked as the Day Manager of Beit Hall over this Summer—six days a week, eight and a half hours a day, for which I was paid £2 per hour and given a room in Beit Hall. I frequently exceeded these hours mainly due to being woken at 6.30am on my day off by a resident for some trivial reason.

In addition to my basic wage, I was contractually entitled to a bonus of £100 for working the whole scheme, and a further sum up to £200 for generally being a good boy. Most other Managers in the scheme totalled bonuses of around £260, including the Night Manager of Beit Hall. I received £150 five weeks later than promised.

Interested in what looked like a £110 shortfall, I contacted Mr Arthur, who finally—after much blustering—stated that he had been informed that most of the time I had performed excellently, but sometimes I had not been available. I checked: most of the complaints about my not being available related to my day off, or my statutory weeks holiday.

At the end of the scheme, I, and most of the other employees of the scheme were exhausted.

Michael Arthur miscalculated the VAT percentages on rents this Summer, thereby losing thousands of pounds over the whole scheme. Has he lost any bonus for his demonstratable incompetency.

DON'T work for the Summer Letting Scheme.

Yours,

A P Bannister.

Abortive topic

Dear Judith,

Can I assure Steven Mercer (FELIX November 6) that the questions I posed in my last letter (October 30) were merely an attempt to encourage people to accept that, in considering the rightness or wrongness of abortion, there are important issues to be faced which are sometimes ignored. There seems to be a tendency nowadays to just assume in discussions, for example, that the (very real) emotional traumas of women with problem pregnancies justify abortion or that abortion on demand must be the natural step forward as it makes it all much easier (ref Kemi Adenubi, October 16 and November 6). I do think, then, that his extreme condemnation of my letter is a bit much.

In answer to his question, then, I would say 'yes', a pregnant woman does keep the individuality 'that gives her the freedom to decide the course of her own life'. But

in believing in such rights (along with Mr Mercer one presumes) I acknowledge the corollary that there are certain things an individual does *not* have the right or freedom to do. Now perhaps he, or others, would tackle my question, the one he took such annoyance at: How come a woman can choose to end the life of her child just because it is still in her womb?

Yours sincerely,
Hugh MacKenzie.

In the ear of the beholder

Dear Judith,

I am outraged at the posters for RCS Broadsheet which ask if you are 'pissed off'. The standard of English in Broadsheet (to use it's politer title) is generally poor, but to extend such crudity to posters is appalling.

English is a beautiful language, don't let Broadsheet wreck it; burn Broadsheet posters!

Yours sincerely,
Simon Cholerton (Physics II).

Planned and subtle?

Dear Judith

Doubtless you have received many letters on the mascotry events of Friday November 6, I myself was present at both events and would like to make the following 2 points.

A few years ago I did a considerable amount of research into the history of Mascotry of the past 30 years or so and therefore feel as if I can talk from a position of some authority on the matter and the following points clearly emerge:

- (i) No CCU mascot has ever been stolen by the violent storming of a UGM or any other Union event.
- (ii) All successful raids have involved planning, subtlety and above all patience.

I hope Guilds and Mines take good note of these 2 points and refrain from bringing mascotry into future disrepute.

Yours in all good faith,
Benjamin Sidle (ex-RCS student)

Gissa bonus

Dear Ed,

I'm still waiting for my bonus. Come on Michael, cough up!

Yours,
Bill Goodwin

Mascotry attempt foiled

An attempt was made to take the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) mascot, a large thermometer called Theta, last Friday. Only 30 people had turned up to an RCS General Meeting which was taking place in the Union Lower Lounge. When City and Guilds Union (C&GU) President Dave Tyler heard of the lack of numbers, he lead those in the union office over to the Union building, stopping in the Bar to enlist the help of some Royal School of Mines (RSM) students.

On reaching the Lounge, they sealed off the room, although RCS had barricaded the doors and they could not get in. After about a minute, RCS then passed Theta out through a window into the Beit Quadrangle. It had nearly reached Beit Arch when some Guildsmen shut the iron gates barring the exit to Prince Consort Road.

For a while it looked as there could be some violence with the RCS mascot trapped in the Quad. However, in an attempt to avoid trouble, Mr Tyler invoked a rule claiming that they had 'overwhelming numbers' and that the mascot should be handed over to them. At the time, the RCSU members present were probably outnumbered, but not by a large amount, according to ICU Deputy President Alan Rose, who was called in to adjudicate the count.

While a count was being arranged and the two groups were separating, the two RCS Theta Bearers, Dan Pluta and Dave Burns, took Theta secretly back through the Union Building, passed the Albert Hall, and onto Kensington Gore. There, after some delay they hailed a taxi, telling Sid, the driver "This is possibly the greatest moment of your driving career". The taxi then drew off towards Knightsbridge. Meanwhile, some RCS students sat on the bonnet of a car being used by C&GU to chase the mascot.

While the taxi was waiting at the traffic lights at the top of Exhibition Road, a red Metro being driven by Tim Clark pulled up behind the taxi. One of the occupants, Chris Adams, got out and stood in front of Mr Clark's car while the taxi drove off. Mr Clark then drove slowly forward and Mr Adams did not move. Mr Clark then drove forward again, and Mr Adams ended up on the bonnet while the car drove around the corner and stopped out of the traffic. The car



RCSU mascot, Theta, making an unconventional getaway

had some minor damage to the bonnet, while Mr Adams had a stiff knee for the rest of the day.

Clare McErlane, the President of the RCSU, said afterwards that "they were very glad they still had their mascot", and felt that if the attack had been better planned it would have succeeded. C&GU President Dave Tyler said that the spirit of mascotry was adhered to, although the Vice Presidents of all the CCU's would be getting together after Rag Week to formalise the rules as regards mascotry. When asked about his feelings when RCS smuggled away

Theta during the count, he said he would have done the same thing, but expected RCSU to pay a fine for doing so. It was better, he said, to pay a fine and keep your mascot.

An IC Union executive meeting later agreed that 20% of the total from the RCS 24 hour Rag Collection should be split between the other CCU's.

Later that evening C&GU make another attempt when they unsuccessfully tried to follow the van containing Theta after the RCSU Life Science Freshers Dinner.

Fifty places to go

There will be at least 160 less places available in Head Tenancy flats next year. The contract on the '220' block in Hamlet Gardens, holding about 130 students, is not being renewed by the landlords. This was known last year, and a new block, containing 80 students in flats for four was taken over as Head Tenancies this year, leaving a drop over the two years of 50.

The remaining loss is from the 8 Earls Court Square building which houses 30 students. The landlord is probably not renewing the contract for economic reasons, although negotiations are still continuing.

The other main block of Head Tenancies, in Lexham Gardens, are due to be renewed in February. Every

year the negotiations have been more difficult as the landlords have demanded more. An additional problem this year might be the withdrawal of Housing Benefit, which could put the Lexham Gardens prices out of the reach of many students.

The College is still looking for new Head Tenancies, although with the prices of property around the College area being so high, there is a problem in that the only buildings in a reasonable price range are not in an acceptable condition for housing students, and there is no point in offering College Head Tenancies that have no advantages in cost, distance or facilities over commercially available property.

BRIEF

Blood

155 pints of blood were donated by staff and students last Friday. The donations were in response to a plea by City and Guilds Union after they were fined 50 pints of blood for disrupting the Freshers' Reception.

Making history

STOIC, the television network of Imperial College, will be broadcasting all night tonight for the first time in their history. The transmission is scheduled to start at 10.00pm and end sometime on Saturday morning.

More minibuses

There will be a minibus service to take women home after the Guilds Carnival next Friday night. This follows the success of a similar scheme run in Freshers' Week.

New officer

Interviews will be taking place on Tuesday for the new IC Union Finance Officer.

Crashing down

John Redwood, Conservative MP for Wokingham and former Head of Downing Street Policy Unit, spoke to Imperial College students on Tuesday. He was assessing the stock market crash last month and looking at the possibility of another worldwide recession like the one that followed the crash of 1929.

Smoking Concert

There will be at least twenty acts at this year's Smoking Concert, it was disclosed by RCSU Entertainments Officer Steph Snell. The Concert is to feature the FELIX staff in a stunning portrayal of the classic 'Baron' series.

Scandalous

Only one in five of the academic staff recruited to universities in 1985 were female, it was revealed by the Association of University Teachers' women's committee this week.