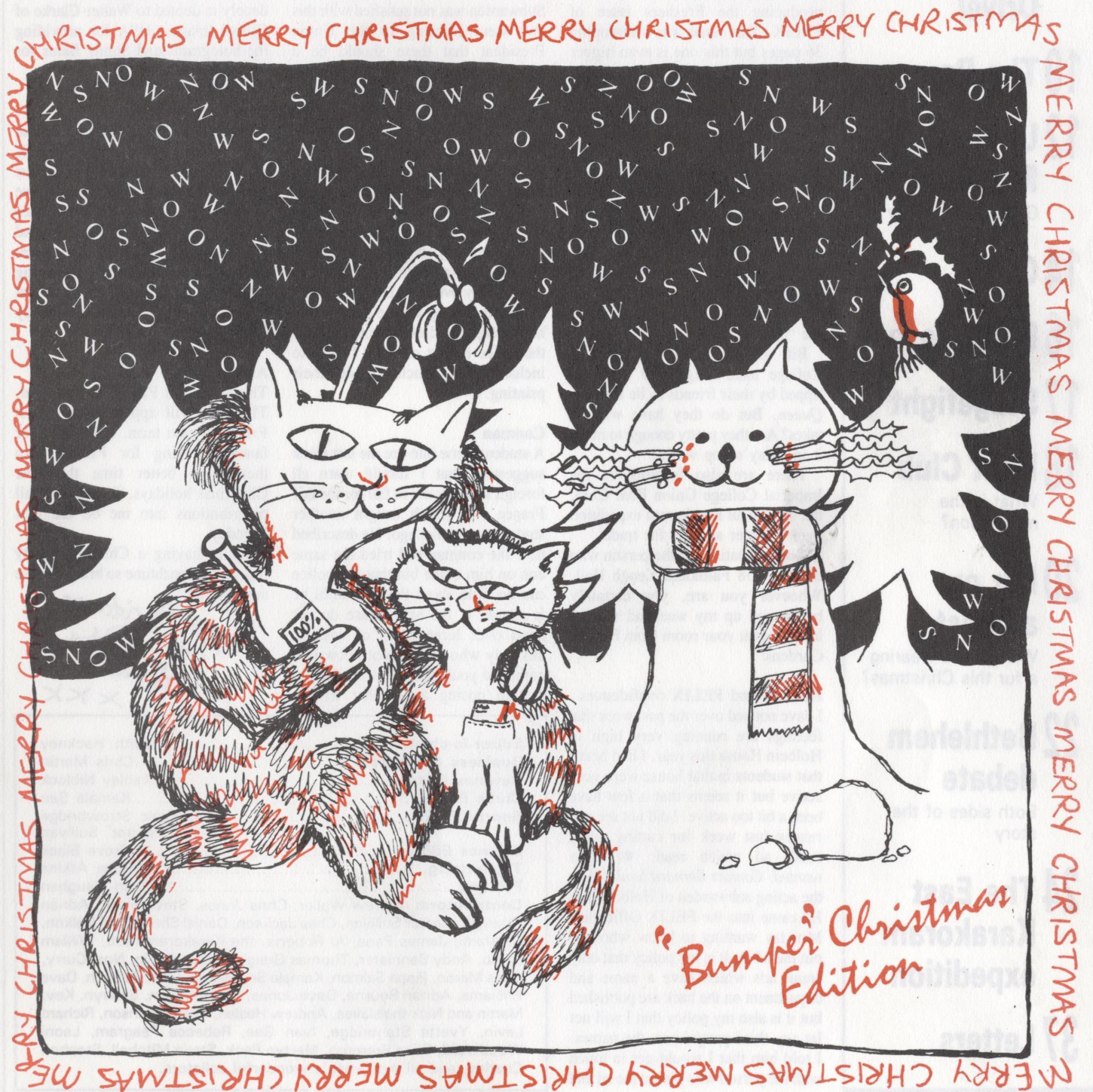


Felix



Issue No. 788
Wednesday 16th December 1987



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editorial

Hasn't this term gone quickly? Surely it was only yesterday that we were producing the Freshers issue of FELIX. That issue was a thumping 36 pages but this one is even bigger at 40 pages! This equals the record number of FELIX pages ever so don't be surprised if the 1988 FELIXs are considerably smaller because we've run out of money.

I think we've managed to get a nice balance of the serious and not-so-serious in this issue. I recommend that you take the time to read the feature about Bethlehem University. The motion will be fully debated at tomorrow's Extraordinary General Meeting so you should be aware of the 'facts' before you vote.

Bill Goodwin has interviewed College band *Stagefright* who are tipped by their friends to be the new *Queen*. But do they have what it takes? Are they pretty enough to make it in today's pop world?

There are also features on the Imperial College Union Boat Club, the successful Karakoram expedition over summer and the fur trade.

Congratulations to the person who lives in 358 Falmouth Keogh Hall. Whoever you are, you certainly brightened up my weekend when I looked up at your room from Princes Gardens!

Holbein and FELIX confidences
I have noticed over the past week that feelings are running very high in Holbein House this year. I had heard that students in that house were very active but it seems that a few have been a bit too active. I did not see any reason last week for cutting out a small ad which read: *•Fridges wanted. Contact Bernard Sunley.* But the acting subwarden of Holbein did. He came into the FELIX Office last Monday wanting to know who had put the ad in. It is my policy that only small ads which have a name and department on the back are published but it is also my policy that I will not let any third party know the names. I told him that I would get in touch with the person who placed the ad and

ask them to get in touch with him instead. This I did. But Mr Subwarden was not satisfied with this and went bleating to the Union President that there should be a censorship committee to censor small ads. What tripe! If you were on a censoring committee and you read *•Fridges wanted: Contact Bernard Sunley*, would you throw it out? Of course not! Perhaps, its time to remind everybody that FELIX has complete editorial freedom from the Union and that if anybody has any complaints they should come and see me, not the Union President who has no authority over FELIX whatsoever. It is also getting a little tiresome to have people endlessly tramping into the office telling me why I have to include their article or do their printing.

Conman

A student came into see me last week suggesting that I should warn all foreign students not to fall for the Air France con which caught another student two weeks ago. He described how the conman had tried the same con on him twice but that the police can do little about the man until he is caught in the act. Please do not hand over large sums of cash to anybody who you do not know that comes to your door. The con is that a man posing as an Air France

steward claims that he has lost all his money gambling and that he needs to get home in a hurry. In return for cash he offers 'gold' bracelets and watches as security for the 'loan'. Don't be duped.

The Free Gifts

We have three very different free gifts for you in this issue: a copy of Phoenix, the hologram on the cover and an extra special one on page 5. The hologram is a 2D-3D hologram which is the type you will find on your credit card. You will be able to view it better if you use a spotlight such as a torch or anglepoise. We are deeply indebted to Walter Clarke of Global Images, USA for providing the holograms and Sunny Bains for arranging the deal.

Your last chance

Today is your last chance to purchase one of our wonderful FELIX sweatshirts. This is possibly the last batch of grey sweatshirts we will have as the summer ones will be brighter colours such as reds and yellows and we only have a few of the present ones left. At a risk of repeating myself, they do make excellent Christmas presents and all my family have got one.

And finally

This is the last FELIX of this term. The next will appear on the first Friday of next term. If you've ever fancied writing for FELIX then there's no better time than the Christmas holidays. Please hand all contributions into me on the first Monday.

We're having a Christmas party this Friday lunchtime so bring a bottle and join us!

Happy Christmas
[Signature]
xxx

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Our Page 3 Man this week is Cute Rob the Good-but-not-very-happy fairy. Rob was bought by the IC Union Office at the City & Guilds Slave Auction last month for £21. Yesterday he was made to dress up as a fairy, chair a meeting of the Athletics Clubs Committee and collect for Rag. He made the Union £35.21 for their Rag total. Rob said that he didn't 'come cheap'. Neil McCluskey, Recreational Clubs Committee Chairman said later he looked 'even cuter than usual'.

Staff bitter over fine

Nick Marchant, a mines student, has been fined £25 by the College Disciplinary Committee and £15 by the Royal School of Mines Union for breaking a glass over the head of Union Bar Manager Adrian Johnson last month. He will also be banned from College bars for one year.

The incident occurred during a Mines barnight on November 4th. Mr Johnson was badly cut and had blood 'pouring out' from the back of his head but it healed without stitches. It was decided by Mr Johnson and Mines President Geoff Parsons that the police would not be called for at that time.

After the fine was announced both Union President Ian Howgate and

Union bar staff condemned it as trifling and not harsh enough for the crime that was committed. The regular Wednesday casual bar staff have announced that they are not willing to work in the bar for the next Mines barnight which takes place tonight because they did not feel there was adequate protection as the fine was too small to be a deterrent. Mr Howgate said yesterday that if no staff could be found to help Mr Johnson and his assistant Peter Hartley then he would be forced to close the Bar this evening.

Mr Johnson said yesterday that he 'regrets the fact that the bar will not be open but he can see no way round the current situation'.

Party violence

The Falmouth-Keogh Hall Christmas Party held last Saturday in the Union Building was marred by violence from a gate-crasher. Subwardens attempted to keep out people who were not from Falmouth-Keogh and hadn't paid. Beit security were called after one gate-crasher assaulted Assistant Subwarden Chris Owen who was taken to hospital with suspected injuries to his eye and nose.

Students Appeal

Students accused of causing trouble in Evelyn Gardens had their cases taken before the Residence Tribunal yesterday. Two of the students appealed against a fine and reprimand issued by the warden of Holbein House.

Verdicts about their cases have been reached but they have yet to be informed in writing.

Two disciplinary hearings were adjourned until next term, in order to allow time for further statements and information to be received.

Assault 2

An assault in which a member of Dramsoc was alleged to have hit someone over the head with a bottle in the table tennis room of the Union Building last Friday evening at about 10 o'clock. The Dramsoc person was, wearing a Greek costume at the time the incident happened as he had just come off stage mid-way through the production of *The Flies* and it has been suggested that an unflattering comment was passed about this.

Beit Security were contacted and the police were phoned at 10.05pm at the insistence of the 'victim'. Two policemen arrived and agreed to wait until the alleged attacker came off stage before they had a 'word' with him. Charges of actual bodily harm and malicious wounding will appear next month.

The President of Dramsoc gave the following statement 'we extend sympathies to the victim of the attack and condemn it as dangerous and irresponsible'.

Champions

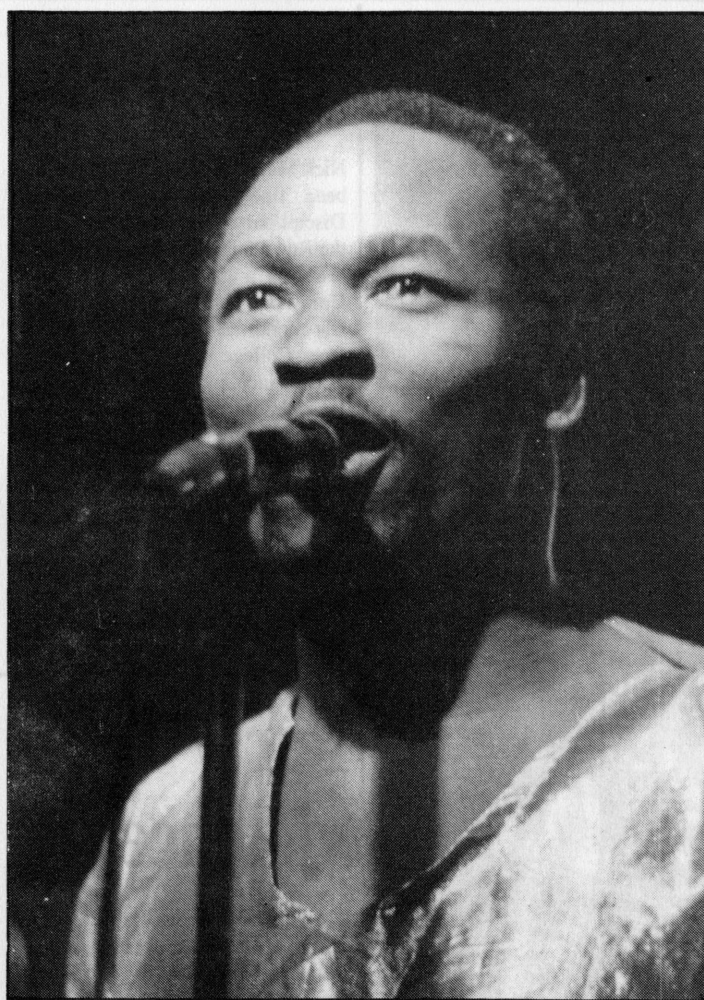
IC Water Polo team have won the South of England UAU Championships after playing Surrey (4-3), Bristol (9-3), Bath (6-1) and Southampton (4-4). The team will go to represent Imperial in the National finals in February.

Shooting at International

With the Hungerford Massacre still frighteningly fresh in the mind, the nightmare of many International Hall students were realised last Friday when two students fired a round of blanks and threw tomato ketchup around during a crowded Christmas party.

The shooting was carried out by a fresher from SSEES using a German 8mm automatic pistol which had been adapted to fire blanks. Eye witnesses said that the student entered the Hall bar during the Christmas party and fired five times at a fellow student at close range. This accomplice, a third year, then threw copious amounts of tomato ketchup at the victim to complete the desired effect. However, as panic struck the bar staff and customers it was clear that the prank had gone horrifically wrong. Within seconds the police were on the scene and they attempted to seal off the bar at once but the assailants managed to escape.

The following morning the Hall bar manager Peter Storker who had recognised the gunman, decided to take legal action. The charges which have not yet been disclosed are likely to include illegal possession of a firearm, assault and disturbing the peace.



A great time was had by all when the superb *Real Sounds of Africa* appeared in IC Union Lounge on Thursday 3rd December. The performance included a mind-boggling contortionist and a witch doctor. The band went down well in the packed Union Lounge so much so that nobody could stand still and a large percentage of the audience got up and danced on the stage at the end of the evening.

VC of OU hits out

Dr John Horlock, Vice Chancellor of the Open University, has hit out at post experience engineering training in Britain. He believes that British engineers are trailing behind their European counterparts. In an address at Heriot-Watt University he pointed out that French and German engineers have a statutory entitlement to study leave to upgrade their skills.

The Engineering Council is expected to announce plans for a major post-experience training initiative designed to involve every engineer and technician in Britain.

Tashkent trauma

The Soviet Union's Tashkent library has expressed concern over the number of archived materials which are cut up or stolen. They believe that it is not vandalism that's to blame, but scholars who want to take away materials to read up on for their research projects. The reason that text is taken is that only 1,000 photocopiers are produced every year in the USSR and that official regulations specify that photocopiers must be kept in a locked room which may only be used by special photocopying personnel!

Protest concert



Members of the College music societies held a protest carol concert yesterday lunchtime in the upper foyer of the Sherfield Building. The

Social, Cultural and Amusements Board Chairman, Richard Squire, said afterwards that he had organised the concert to bring to the attention

of the staff the anger that members of the music societies felt when they discovered that they would be losing the use of the Princes Gate Music Room after Christmas. The room is to be used by the new School of Management which took over the Princes Gate buildings in the summer. Mr Squire said that they had been offered an alternative room in the Old Holland Club; now part of the Department of Computing which was 'fine up to a point'. He has written a letter to the Rector stating his objections to Terminal Room 4 being used for music. In it he points out that the sound quality is poor, that the room will not be available at lunchtime and that there is no room for a piano and garage. He is also worried that Professor Sayers, Head of the Department of Computing, has told him that permanent terminals will be installed in the room in two years time which will mean looking for a new room again.

Galluping science

A Nationwide Gallup poll has revealed that 81% of people asked said that they believe the nation's prosperity depends on science and technology.

Awards

The Natural Environmental Research Council is to suspend an award round for university grants in 1988. It has had to do this to meet a cash crisis due to increases in salaries. It is also planning to impose compulsory redundancies to meet a target loss of 120 posts in the next academic year.

First Footing

It would seem quite strange that anyone should be willing to break off their New Year's Eve/Day viewing of non stop Terry Wogan to wait outside in the cold for a few minutes before the clocks strike 12. What is even more strange is that they are holding a piece of coal, some silver coins, a knife and occasionally some salt—oh and of course they must be male and dark haired. Once the television sounds of Big Ben have finished the man walks in through the front door, and without so much ado they promptly walk out through the back door. The whole purpose is to let the new year into the house and the old one out. On returning this gentleman puts down his coal (or coke if you live in a smokeless zone) and silver and cuts the Christmas cake with the knife (yes, the Christmas cake is not eaten until New Year). He then wishes everyone in the house a

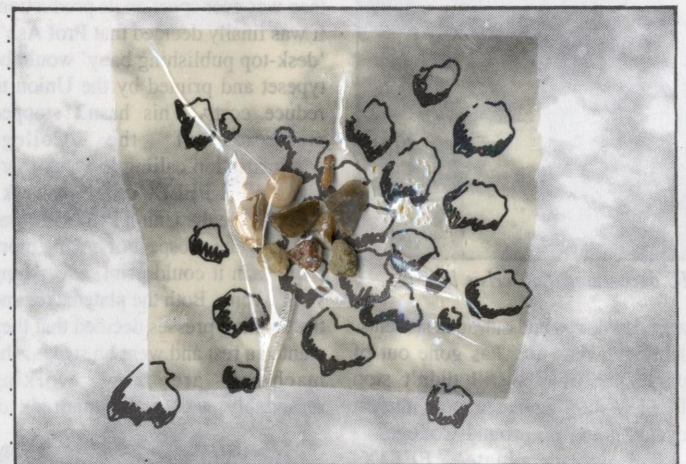
happy New Year with the glass of whisky (sherry will do at a pinch) he has just been given).

The custom is common throughout Scotland, Durham, Northumberland and even as far south as Yorkshire—northern emigres have introduced the custom to all corners of Britain. The reason behind the objects is very obscure it is considered that the piece of coal was the original token of good luck, the silver has come from the tradition of giving new born babies silver as a present, and the knife most probably from the necessity to cut the cake afterwards. The good point about the custom (if you are male and dark haired) is that you can welcome in the new year all morning until you run out of neighbours or fall down. The true art of successful first footing is to ensure that even after the amounts of alcohol one can still eat New Year's Day dinner.

Felix FREE GIFT

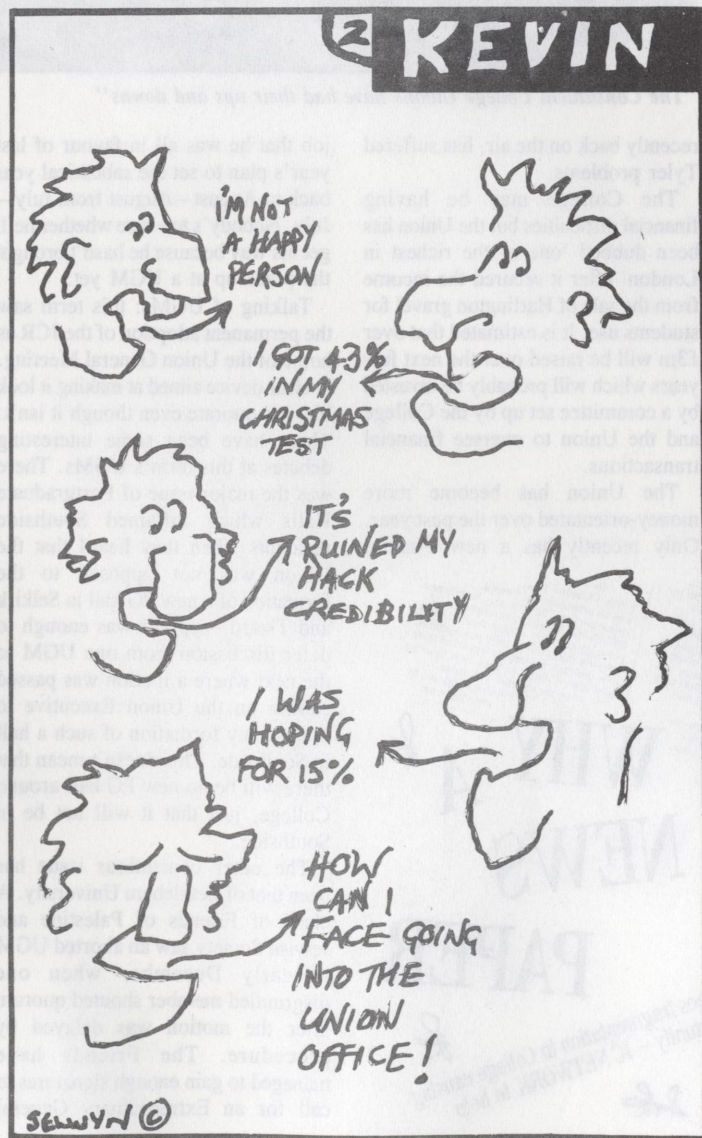
AT LAST!!

Wacky ICU Bosses have decided to start a massive share out, BP style, of the giant £3 million income from the sale of Harlington Gravel. FELIX is able to offer, as a *FREE GIFT*, your very own portion of this sizzling share out of shekels—some highly valuable pieces of the glittering ground itself.



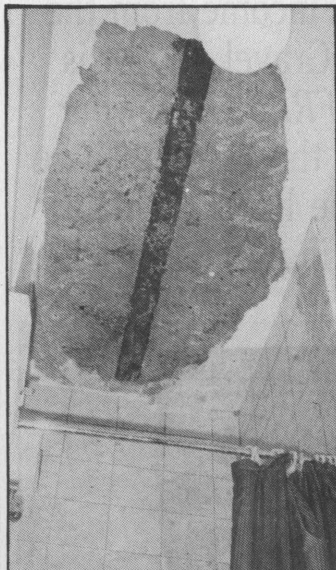
Faithfully shaped into natural forms by skilled craftsmen and stuck down with *REAL SELLOTAPE*, this is truly a present to treasure.

We hope you like it, and we all wish you a very happy Christmas.



NEWS REVIEW

This term seems to have been struck down with a lack of anything important happening to anyone. The students have put down their banners and picked up their text books. No longer does FELIX contain reports of massive demonstrations, well-



IC accommodation crisis looming

attended discos and outraged students. Although the 'life' has gone out of university life, it still didn't stop FELIX reporting on the more interesting events going on around College.

The 'postgraduate' FELIX, produced in August, carried the headline 'Finance blunder drags IC further into debt'. An investigation had been carried out by the Inland Revenue and it was estimated that IC would have to pay more than £100,000 in unpaid tax. The problem had arisen because administration had failed to pay contributions for all their casual workers. Since then prices have gone up in bars and refectories around College. The only bar that seems to have resisted the increases had been the Union Bar which reduced the price of its canned soft drinks by 2p to 30p.

This term has undoubtedly seen a tightening of the purse strings all over College. Week after week there has

been news of erosion in every department. Even central administration has had to face losses and as the Sherfield Print Unit is gradually being run down, more and more College printing is being done on the Union's Print Unit. Over Summer the Rector announced that the College would produce its own paper for academic staff to be called Network. The first issue hit the streets on October 12th. Each member of academic staff was wondering why College was spending so much money on a public relations exercise when they had to lose technicians or secretaries. The Rector defended himself by saying that in the long term Network would raise more money than was ever spent on its production. It was finally decided that Prof Ash's 'desk-top publishing baby' would be typeset and printed by the Union to reduce costs. This hasn't stopped members of the College administration calling it by its more undignified FELIX title, WetNerk.

But while the Union Print Unit was enjoying the prospect of having more work than it could print, everything went wrong. Both the platemaker and the printing presses decided that they wanted a rest and went on strike. The machines are now working reasonably well after hundreds of

pounds worth of maintenance and a bodge job done by FELIX Sports Editor 'Hector' Sullivan.

The other publications suffered mixed fortunes. IC Radio have had major equipment failures and STOIC, the Union television service, only

Officer been appointed to look after the Union accounts. His name is Reggie Blennerhasset and he brings the number of permanent staff working in the Union Office to four.

Ian Howgate, Union President, announced that he was so enjoying his



"The Constituent College Unions have had their ups and downs"

recently back on the air, has suffered Tyler problems.

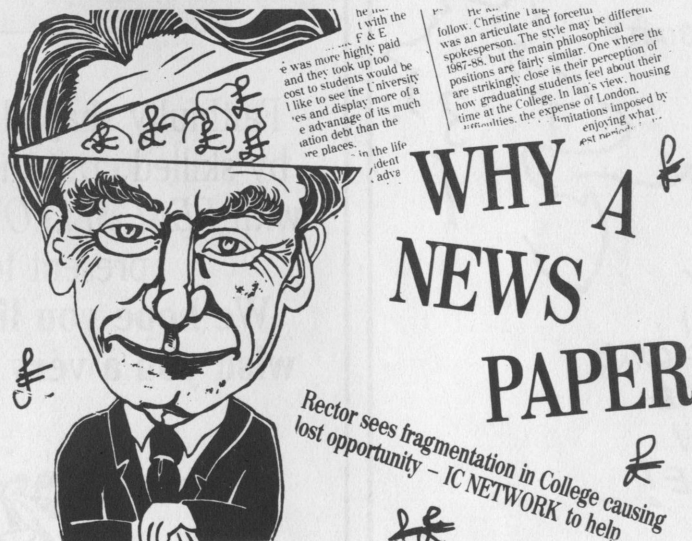
The College may be having financial difficulties but the Union has been dubbed 'one of the richest in London' after it secured the income from the sale of Harlington gravel for students use. It is estimated that over £3m will be raised over the next few years which will probably be invested by a committee set up by the College and the Union to oversee financial transactions.

The Union has become more money-orientated over the past year. Only recently has a new Finance

job that he was all in favour of last year's plan to set the sabbatical year back to August—August from July—July. Nobody's too sure whether he'll get his way because he hasn't brought the plans up at a UGM yet.

Talking of UGMs: this term saw the permanent adoption of the JCR as home of the Union General Meeting. A clear device aimed at making it look like it's quorate even though it isn't. There have been some interesting debates at this term's UGMs. There was the major issue of Postgraduate Halls which inflamed Southside residents when they heard that the Union was not opposed to the formation of a new PG hall in Selkirk and Tizard—support was enough to defer discussion from one UGM to the next where a motion was passed calling on the Union Executive to oppose any formation of such a hall in Southside. This doesn't mean that there will be no new PG hall around College, just that it will not be in Southside.

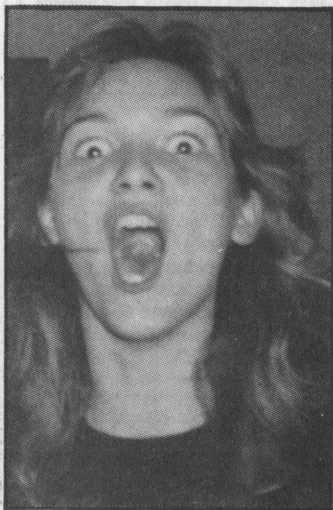
The other contentious issue has been that of Bethlehem University. A clash of Friends of Palestine and Jewish Society saw an aborted UGM in early December when one disgruntled member shouted quorum after the motion was delayed by procedure. The Friends have managed to gain enough signatures to call for an Extraordinary General



Meeting on Thursday and are confident that their motion will now be fully debated.

The outcome, as always, will depend on the number of interested parties who turn up to vote.

The Constituent College Unions have had their fair share of ups and downs this term. The Mines image had definitely been on an upper since Geoff Parsons took control. He managed to persuade several companies to give him money to refit the Mines Coffee Room as a new office. Poor old Royal College of Science Union discovered the full extent of their debts to College. They had to find some way of paying back around £6000. But their troubles don't even compare to City & Guild's. They have had to contend with Dave Tyler as President. The poor boy has delusions of grandeur and doesn't see what's wrong with threatening STOIC, flanning those who do not wish to be flanned and stealing 3000 copies of FELIX from their distribution points. Ah, well, I suppose it did raise an awful lot of money for Rag... Only one good thing has happened to C&G Union. The voters got it right and elected Tanya Maule, a first year chemical engineering student as new Vice President. Mr Tyler also managed to bring back the nastier side of inter-CCU rivalry when the C&G mascotry team tried to kidnap RCSU's mascot, a large thermometer called Theta. He was so miffed that RCSU got away while he was trying to count them that



"The best thing to happen to Guilds"

he incited Guilds members to ruin two RCSU freshers dinners.

It may have seemed that Ian Howgate was an utter dickhead from early reports in FELIX but in comparison to Dave Tyler he is delightful. Reports from the Union Office are that Ian's doing a good job



Well, at least one person was glad to see Howgate come back from Surrey

now and is a conscientious worker. Shame about the Hon Sec, though.

There have been other notable events this term. It was at the end of October that 'heroic' Steve Pearson of the ICU Boat Club rescued an elderly woman from drowning in the River Thames. The woman had been found in the water near Fulham football ground. It was believed that she was trying to commit suicide. The incident had occurred while members of the Club were practising in coxless fours. When Steve noticed her he dived from the boat and pulled the woman to the riverbank with another oarsman, Vince Roper. Steve gave the woman mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while blankets were brought and an ambulance was called.

The new Imperial School of Management was also born amidst petty politicking and outrage from the Union's music societies when they heard that they would lose their music room in 53 Princes Gate. This led to a petition being presented to the Rector and a protest carol concert being given yesterday. The Union, initially confident that the room would be safe, have since started looking for alternatives.

College administration has had its share of shake ups. Over summer, Lesley Gillingham was removed as Student Accommodation Officer, after complaints from several wardens. Managing Surveyor Peter Hallworth said that letters had been sent out late and that staff morale had been low. He said his decision to remove Ms Gillingham had been a hard one to make but that it had 'proved to be the right one'. Hapless Michael Arthur, College Assistant Secretary, took control until his girlfriend Anna Jones could take over. It was during this time that College had to face a massive clear up in Hamlet Gardens after residents had wrecked the flats over the summer. One group had even sold all the furniture from their flat. All the blankets had to be dry cleaned twice

and Manager Mark Cottle said 'if we hadn't been there, there wouldn't be any buildings left!'

The College housing situation has looked glum for next year. It was revealed that at least 50 more places will be lost overall even though 180 places have been gained in Evelyn Gardens. Housing benefit is also to be cut in April 1988.

Despite all this doom, gloom and depression things have been going well for other spheres of the Union. Rag looks like breaking all records this year under the leadership of Nigel Baker. The total now is almost as much as was raised the whole of last year. Rag Week went well with the exception of drink-a-pub-dry. London Student reported that 'Imperial louts' had gone on a drunken rampage through the University of London Union Building, stealing signs and generally being offensive. This news story was very reminiscent of the one FELIX had carried earlier in the term, reporting that IC sports team had been accused of sexism, racism and 'riotous behaviour' while visiting Surrey University. The whole incident was resolved when Surrey 'kidnapped' Ian Howgate and gave him a haircut. We were told that Surrey now realise why Imperial males acted in such a fashion after having to listen to non-stop Ian for three days. It has to be noted that a collection was held in December's UGM. One tin, collecting to bring Ian back, raised around £5. The other tin,

collecting to ask Surrey to keep him, raised £30. Unfortunately this was nowhere near the £100 Surrey was asking for so they sent him back.

The final major news story was that the infamous French conman has started operating in College again. He has been conning foreign students for over three years now. He always claims to have lost all his money gambling and that he needs to get home urgently. He offers expensive looking jewellery as security and takes sums of around £1000 from unsuspecting students.

The triumph of this term this year has been College Entertainments who finally seem to have a competent Chairman and the 'right attitude'. We saw 'Voice of the Beehive' perform in Freshers Week who have since made the charts with 'I Say Nothing'. They also managed to get 'The Real Sounds of Africa' who had been featured on The South Bank Show only a week earlier. This has given the committee a problem; they have too much money left!

This term has also been the term of the condom. Did you spot the packet on the picture cover? Not only did FELIX shock its readers by revealing

THE FELIX WAY TO PUT ON A CONDOM



how to put on a condom but the Union Office, Snack Bar and Bar also started selling Mates.

Finally, a little FELIX anecdote. In our Freshers Issue we carried a spoof article about Prof E Verreday who had invented AC batteries. This got the trade press so excited that Electronic Times rang College up to get more details on the project!

Happy Christmas from us all.

NEWS REVIEW

Hon Sex

Photocopier

I have taken delivery of a new photocopier for the Union Office. This will be in action next term as soon as the control system arrives (hopefully in the week before term). The control card system will consist of magnetic strip cards with a number of units encoded. They will be bought for cash or charged to the club/society concerned. The number of units can be varied to suit your requirements or budget. Also cards will be available with a small number of units for private use.

The machine itself will do A4, A3 and variable enlargements or reductions.

Transport

I am taking in weekend bookings for next term. It would help considerably if people could bring them in before

the end of term or right at the start of next term. This will help me to even out the bookings for next term.

Graduate Studies

Last Wednesday I attended a meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee in place of Ian. At the meeting there came up the issue of European students registering for MSc's. At the moment in, say, Germany, a student will spend five or six years doing their first degree. The issue was about allowing them to be registered for a MSc before the finish of their first degree. At the moment, even though they may be of sufficient standard to undertake an MSc course, they are not allowed to register for the degree. Happily, Graduate Studies Committee has sent a recommendation to the Board of Studies that they exercise more flexibility towards different education systems. They will first have to co-opt a group of 'experts' in the European further education systems to determine what level will be required for registration for an MSc.

Office Closing

The Union Office will close on December 21st and then reopen on January 4th.

AP shares

As this year's Alternative Prospectus Editor (yet to be ratified), I would like to take this opportunity of telling you what my job will be and how you can help me.

It is proposed that, with the money refunded by the printers last year owing to their poor quality printing, a supplement to the last AP shall be made, in order to bring it more up to date. This supplement will be 8-10 pages long (or longer if we get enough help) and will consist mainly of updated departmental information, and a special article on the merger with St Mary's Medical School.

If you want to write, or help write, one of these articles, or if you've got any ideas you would like to see in the AP then contact me through FELIX, IC Radio or Chemistry 1 pigeonholes. I will need all the help I can get (and you get your name in print at the end of it).

Bye for now,
Martin Peck,
Prospective AP Editor.

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EVERYONE
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QT Soc

a.k.a.

The Bastard Squad

*Announce their availability for
dirty deeds, nefarious nabbings,
hefty hits, crazy kidnaps, etc. No
one is safe if the price is right. All
proceeds to IC Rag.*

*For details come to QT Soc
meeting or contact M. Kallios
(Mech Eng 1).*

Remember Imperial College Union 'EXTRA' ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

on
Thursday 17th December
JCR

IT'S WELL CRUCIAL!

The College's **Apprentice
Association** is again holding a
Christmas raffle in aid of **Help a
London Child**. Last year's raffle
raised £200. This year, the prizes
include a camera, clock radio, video
cassettes and spirits. Tickets, at 20p
each, are being sold by apprentices
in the Mechanical and Electronics
Workshops of most Departments.
Your support would be appreciated.

CUT THE KRAP

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



Hi kiddies! What a week-and-a-half it has been! Fulfilling my duties as non-apatetic I've been getting invovled in student politics, more of this later. It is of course the Christmas season and the major selling present is the epitome of yuppiedom, the Trivial Pursuit set, and so in an attempt to hop on the bandwagon, I present:

DRIVEL PURSUIT™

Literature

Why does Ian Howgate write his own ransom notes?

I kid you not. Mr Howgate composed, wrote and typed his own ransom note (all except the PPS to whit 'why is he fighting off the women?'. Is our poor overworked president so underpaid that he must moonlight as a Surrey University secretary? I mean, I know for a fact this man can't even spell turd.

Television

Why is Dave Tyler so worried about STOIC's 'illegal' showings of videos?

I don't wish to claim he has a grudge against STOIC, but he was very anxious about it at Council. I thought the man took a lax view of the in's and out's of video law, especially when I hear rumours about a certain Swedish video in Canterbury.

Spelling

Why can't people print what I write?

I am of c**rse ref*rr*ng to the ins*rt*on of ast*r*sk* when I write the word fuck, I mean fuck not f**k because I am referring to the slang term to copulate in one of its plethora of metaphorical usages not Falmouth Keogh Hall. (Censor that if you can Judith.)

Politics

What is a camel?

A horse designed by a committee. An old joke, as opposed to 'what is IC? A university run by a committee'. As I said I was at this Union Committee meeting the other day. Procedure at this meeting is thus: First receive 25 sheets of paper, second someone will pick a random piece of paper, third, while you're looking for your copy, they will ask if you have any questions or complaints, fourth they will then proceed to the next piece of paper just when you find the previous one. Note: between steps three and four you have voted—still it's a fantastic system for those who can use/abuse it (Mr Baker, Mr Tyler) so like any good bureaucrats they can make the process last three hours.

Fashion

Why will Chris Martin be wearing a dress in the first week of next term?

This is Pub Board's industrial action (personally I do it for fun). Also on the protest agenda is a protest scarf knitting (can I have a pink one?) and a protest ski holiday. How come I never get to find out about committees like this one? Of course Geoff Parsons is loathe to tell RSM about this irresponsible action, I feel instead of a ski holiday, time would be better spent helping Geoff's training, it's about time he took a running jump.

Food & Drink

Have I bought the most feared banana split on campus?

Most people who know who I am know that I bought Fiona Nicholas at the C&G Slave Auction. It now turns out that she wishes to transfer her slave duties to a slave she bought. The only slave I can remember her buying is Nigel Baker who was about £15 cheaper. So I'm not certain this is wholly on, therefore, as it is a Rag matter, I intend to raise it with my CCU VP—that is to say my Rag Chairman...that is to say...

PS. Has anyone noticed how Alan Rose is an anagram for 'anal sore'.



KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **WILL CHRIS MARTIN** wear a dress for the first week of next term as part of the Pub Board strike? If so, which one will he choose from his extensive wardrobe?

Chris will undoubtedly want to look his best as he plays his first card in the Sabbatical Election Campaign, hoping to steal a jump on the other probable candidate for FELIX Editor, Bill Goodwin.

And other sabbatical posts?

Al Birch has confirmed that he will be running for Deputy President and has started the old politicians' trick of using babies for publicity. (A word of advice, Al, you're meant to kiss the baby—not sit on it!)

On the presidential scene, Nigel Baker's efforts with Rag have done



his prospects the world of good and I'm sure he wouldn't mind being President when (if?) the first Imperial College Student Charity Support 'mega event' takes place.

Other possibles include UGM Chair Alastair Seymour and Guilds Hon Sec Alan Hepper, although the latter may go for ICU Hon Sec just to get into the Union Office.

● **WILL IT BE 'BYE-BYE CHAS'** at the start of next term?

Last Monday Council members were again presented with the papers only minutes before the meeting, prompting Ian Howgate to propose a motion that unless Hon Sec Chas Jackson duplicates any reports given to him at least a week in advance and distributes them at least four College

days before Council then Chas will tender his resignation.

A case of Chas jumping before Judith pushes him?

● **WHO'S A SHY** bunch of students then?

Sales of Mates condoms in Norman's, the Union Snack Bar, have hardly set the cash tills ringing, only four packets having been sold since they went on sale a few weeks ago.

And talking of condoms, why is there a packet of Red Stripe hidden away somewhere in the FELIX Office?

● **CHAS 'A NOD'S** as good as a wink' Brereton never seems to give up. Having had his eye on a certain young female for some time, Chas decided to try and strike it lucky during the ICU burglary campaign.

The campaign involved members of the Union visiting people in halls of residence and leaving rude notes in those rooms which had been left unlocked and unattended. Sufficient to say that Chas arranged to raid the room of one particular female in Weeks Hall. He emerged from the room after a quarter of an hour looking somewhat haggard. Who was the girl in question? I'll keep that under my hat but it'll cost Chas three pints of GBH.

● **SOME OF YOU** avid small ads readers may have wondered why there are two nancy boys in Science Fiction Society. Well I can now shed some light on the unpleasant affair. Simon Bradshaw, SFSoc Publicity Officer, is going out with a Nancy. Dave Clements, SFSoc Bod & Social Clubs Committee Chairman, is also going out with a Nancy. It seems that the whole College knows that these two 'Nancy's are one and the same except for Simon and Dave. Sorry boys!

● **IC RADIO**, that bastion of fine moral values, is in turmoil once more. There's the 'caring' faction and the 'non-caring' faction. But there have always been at least two factions down the station at any one time. The 'caring' faction used to be in the majority but now only contains three members my mole told me. Well, we in the FELIX Office have noticed a distinct lack on IC Radio this term. So have the Union Snack Bar who are so sick and tired of listening to MasterTrax that they've decided to do away with their IC Radio line in favour of their own music next term

Chris Jones

THE BARON

XMAS SPECIAL

'You can shout at me later, do it again!' said Mad Dash, trying not to lose her temper with Arthur Michael. 'You're not putting any effort into the part; you must develop the character so that you're believable.'

'But how, what sort of character does a pumpkin have?' bleated Arthur Michael faintly. He knew any form of protest was hopeless.



They had all been at the rehearsal for more than eight hours, and Mad Dash was so strict about everything that they were still working on the first Act.

Everyone was practising for the Cheapskate pantomime, Cinderella. This was another one of Mad Dash's pet projects, so nobody had a chance of getting out of taking part. As soon as they got the dreaded phone call, they knew they had to do what Mad Dash wanted. Unfortunately the cast were not very happy with the parts they had been given. Derek Dash, the

Baron, was playing the lead role, Cinderella, and was having a particularly tough time of things. The worst thing for Derek was that he had to dance with John Secretary, who was playing Prince Charming, and the slipper fitting scene was certainly putting a strain on their professional relationship. John Secretary thought that his tights showed off his legs particularly well, whereas The Baron had to cope with a huge dress and two oranges and looked even sillier than usual.

Arthur Michael was particularly upset not to have been given the part of the Fairy Godmother, which had gone to Mrs Jolly Hockey Sticks: Mad Dash had decided that he was best suited to an inanimate role. (John Secretary had realised this years ago, but had decided to hang on to Arthur Michael just for the entertainment value.) As usual, however, Arthur Michael was insisting on taking everything far too seriously. He was trying to persuade Mad Dash that it was old fashioned to have a coach and horses as the transport. He wanted to bring the production up to date and have Cinderella travelling to the Ball in a boat: he even knew a man in Oxford who would do a very reasonable deal. But Mad Dash had insisted that they stick to the original script, and had explained to Arthur Michael that he had to make the transformation into a coach and horses as visual as possible. The best Arthur Michael had come up with had been to shout loudly; 'I've just turned into a coach and horses'. Mad Dash concluded that she had a lot of work to do with her actors.

'You're not using your imagination', said Mad Dash, losing her

patience with Arthur Michael. 'Just remember, for the first half of the scene you have to look like a vegetable. Now what do you think is the best way of going about this?'

Arthur Michael looked confused. 'You've got to *think* like a vegetable, stupid', screamed Mad Dash.

'That shouldn't be too difficult', said John Secretary under his breath.

While Mad Dash was giving Arthur Michael a hard time, Derek decided to slip away to a quiet corner and write a letter to Father Christmas. He always seemed to get exactly what he wanted when he wrote to Father Christmas, and was beginning to suspect that there must be something going on between Father Christmas and Mad Dash. This year he had decided to stretch his luck a bit and ask for the things he really wanted. 'This will test the old man', he thought as he began.

Baron's Castle,
Castle Gate,
Cheapskate

Dear Father Christmas,

Thank you for the mechanics set and the Tonka toy which you very kindly brought me last year. I hope you don't mind, but there are also of presents on my list this year; please don't worry if you can't manage all of them.

Firstly I would like a large concrete mixer so that I can get rid of that troublesome byssot, John Secretary. I am finding it more and more difficult to get him to do what I want. Every time I suggest something new he pipes up: 'Well, of course, the last Baron would have done it this way.....' I really don't think that it's fair that he prevents me from running my own castle as I would like.

You needn't send me anything to get rid of Arthur Michael; the current mixer will do for him as well.

The other thing I would like is a set of earplugs so that I don't have to listen to that intolerable bore Ian Whygate going on endlessly

p.t.o.



2
about how he lost his moustache; honestly
you would think that he lost it in the
Battle of Waterloo by the way he talks.

Also I would like a new speech for the
Citizens Leaving Party and all the other formal
occasions I have got to go to. The old one
has been in use for years and years, and I'm
far too busy appearing on Channel Four
doing my silly accent to write a new
speech for myself.

It would be very nice, too, if you could
see your way clear to bring me a filofax.
John Secretary and Arthur Michael already
have filofaxes of their own and I really
don't see why I should be the odd one
out. (Mind you, they won't be needing
theirs for very much longer, will
they?)

Lastly, I would like to have a
very large cigarette lighter, so that I
can go round burning all the copies of
Phallix if there is anything I don't
like in them.

Best Wishes,
Derek the Baron

X X X

Derek re-read his letter. It was one of his best letters ever, he thought. He put it in an envelope and wrote 'Father Christmas' on it. Derek was never sure what postbox was the right one for letters to Father Christmas, so he always gave his letters to Mad Dash to post: apparently she knew exactly where to send the letter, or so she said.

No sooner had he sealed the envelope than Derek heard Mad Dash calling out for him in her usual raucous voice. He hurried over to the stage, not wanting to put his wife in a bad mood before giving her his letter for Father Christmas. Mad Dash was preparing to run through the whole pantomime from start to finish, which meant that Derek had to be on stage to do the opening scene with the three ugly sisters, played by Whygate, Ego and Takeiteasy. On the whole these three made a very good set of ugly

ugliness, while Whygate was really enjoying the opportunity to wear a dress again. Takeiteasy was a bit of a disappointment to Mad Dash, however. She had decided that his modern interpretation of the third ugly sister was a bit unusual, but he seemed determined to play the character as someone who was permanently asleep.

All the cast took their places, and Derek began his first speech as Cinderella: 'Oh woe is me!' he cried. 'Where, oh where, will I find someone to help me go to the Ball tonight?'

'Behind you', called John Secretary, beginning to enjoy himself in a big way.

'There's nobody behind me', replied the Baron, not thinking very quickly.

'That's another way of putting it', chuckled John Secretary to himself.

'Be quiet everybody!', shouted Mad Dash at the top of her voice. 'Let's get on with the rehearsal!'

Mad Dash just about managed to keep John Secretary quiet and the rehearsal continued. Meanwhile, some of the cast who had nothing to do until the scene at the Ball were beginning to get a bit irritable. The three clowns, Dave Braincell, Clare MacUseless and Jumping Jehosofat were particularly bored. Jumping Jehosofat was playing the doorman at the Ball: all he had to do was bow very low whenever anyone came in. As far as he could see his part was completely unnecessary, but Mad Dash had been particularly keen that there should be a very prominent bow at the side of the stage when any of the guests entered, so that the audience would notice that they had arrived. Clare MacUseless had an even less important role: she had to rush forward when Derek picked up Cinderella's slipper, claiming that it was hers. Not very much of a role, she thought but at least she did have a few lines to say, unlike Braincell. This had been an inspired bit of casting by Mad Dash. Braincell was playing the clock which struck midnight to signal that it was time for Cinderella to go home. All he had to do was shout 'dong!' twelve times.

Meanwhile, there was a bit of disturbance in the Phallix Office. On the stroke of midnight one of the Phallix minions had thrown a typewriter across the room, shouting: 'That's enough! I'm not writing any more of this bloody 'Duke of Sluicegate' column! I'm going out to get pissed. Merry Christmas!'



Will anyone finish the 'Duke of Sluicegate'?

Will Braincell remember his lines?

Will Michael Arthur turn into a water melon just to wind up Mad Dash?

How come Ego is playing one of the ugly sisters when he's pissed off to Malta for a holiday?

Find out (perhaps) in another installment of 'The Baron of Cheapskate'.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



by Steve Black



Under the mistletoe?

There is no news on this page this week: Christmas is a time for goodwill to all people, and contemplating the news is not compatible with such a state of mind. So I thought it would be appropriate to fill the space with something more lighthearted than normal. I have even decided to set some competitions for those of you who will not spend the whole of Christmas out of your minds. The cartoons are from a well known science magazine.

What scientists want for Christmas

Last year *New Scientist* asked some famous scientists what they were asking Father Christmas for. Some of the answers are worth repeating.

Professor Igor Aleksander, of Imperial College, wanted a full emulation of the human brain in silicon chips. I would be inclined to dismiss this as arrogant, if he hadn't also said that he wanted it so people

would no longer have to stick wires in animals' heads to find out how brains work.

Roy Gibson, the former director of the British National Space Centre, decided to give Santa some advice. He thought that the reindeer-powered sledge was a bit primitive, and that the whole operation should move onto Hotol, the proposed European reusable space plane. Unfortunately, the Government has decided that such things are a waste of time, and Roy Gibson has consequently resigned.

Brian Oakely, then director of the Alvey programme, wanted everyone to be made to study both arts and sciences until the end of their first year at university. This is a good idea, not so much because scientists will be able to write their PhD's in Latin, but because the people who run the country might then remember what science actually is. Most of them are arts graduates at the moment, and all they know about science is that it costs money and ought to be abolished.

What I want for Christmas is an advertising eliminator. This device will make a fortune for its inventor. It will shield the wearer from all forms of advertising, such as the incessant Curry's Motors ads on Capital Radio. The device will plug

the users ears and darken his glasses whenever an advert is detected. A lot of us will be very grateful.

Angel Gabriel cited in surrogate parenthood case

One of the little competitions set by *New Scientist* in past festive seasons has been to think up plausible scientific news headlines. The above headline (recently unearthed by archaeologists) is from the science page of the Jerusalem Weekly Grapevine, sometime around 2 AD. It is interesting to note that Gabriel would now be liable for prosecution under both the surrogate motherhood laws and the proposed new laws on experimentation on embryos. Though, of course, the Bishop of Durham wouldn't believe any of it.

Other notable headlines in the history of science have been **US Surgeon Uses Barbed Electric Endoscope: Shock horror probe** and **Dr Fuchs Off to Antarctica**. The second one is real, Dr Vivien Fuchs was a famous polar explorer.

The SciTech Christmas Special



However, neither of these is seasonally topical. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to think up seasonally topical scientific headlines. Any good ones will be published in *FELIX*, and the best one may get a substantial prize, if it's good enough.

New Year and predicting the future

Apart from amusing themselves, scientists also spend Christmas speculating about the future. Not that there is one for science in Britain, but it keeps their minds occupied. Here are some predictions, of what life would be like in the 1980s, made by scientists in *Scientific American* in the early 1880s.

Chops and steaks will be cooked by electric sparks...

Not bad, but they missed vegetarianism.

The fruits of the earth will be multiplied enormously by the use of electric light behind coloured glass...

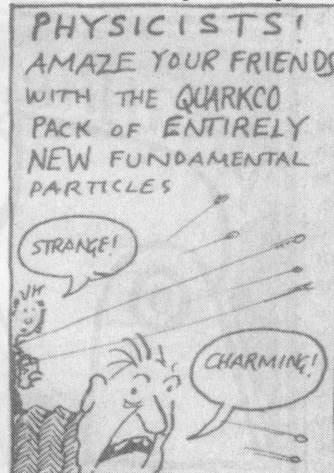
OK, no problems here, but they failed to predict the fad for naturally grown organic wholefood.

Air and water will be purified from all germs of disease, while air will not be breathed by human beings until it has been cleared of all noxious qualities...

So they got air-conditioning and chlorination of the water supply right, but they missed Legionnaires Disease, which breeds in air-conditioning, and nitrate pollution of the water supply, which is caused by intensive farming.

If food can be produced by improved methods at less cost, then the problem of poverty is solved...

Ah, at last, a complete cock up. We can produce enough food to feed everybody cheaply, in fact we pile it high in warehouses and let it rot. But we haven't solved the problem of



poverty.

Science, after all, is like a Genie, it gives you exactly what you ask for; no more, no less. So we can now have as much food as we want, but no amount of science will ever tell us how best to distribute it.

Predicting new science is easy: predicting the social consequences of that science is not. People may have predicted television before it happened, but how many predicted that half the population would watch Eastenders?

CAN YOU BE SURE THAT YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY IS BRAIN DEAD?



GET THE BIO-QUACK EEG KIT!
APPROVED BY THE BBC! *Amia*

A Christmas Mindbender

Here is a little something to keep you thinking if your brains have not been completely paralysed by Christmas television. It concerns self-referential sentences.

Self-referential sentences can be great fun. Here are a few to give you a feel for what I mean:

This sentence would be seven words long if it were six words shorter.

If writers were bakers, this sentence would be exactly a dozen words long.

If this sentence didn't exist, then someone would have invented it.

If the subjunctive was no longer used in English, then this sentence would be grammatically correct.

Not all self-referential sentences are as interesting as these, but it is this type of self-reference that can give you hours of Christmas fun. Try to think up a few more. Perhaps the best ones are the neurotic kind that give advice but don't take it, such as:

Proper writing, and you've heard this a million times, avoid exaggeration.

Others are hard to classify:

This sentence from Shakespeare has delusions of grandeur.

Thinking this sort of thing up is better than playing with a Rubik's cube. I thoroughly recommend it as a cure for Christmas 'entertainment' on television. But better than that, if you can think up any really good sentences, then you can get your name in FELIX, because I will print any good ones I get. Those of you who know the book I got this idea from had better not try submitting any unoriginal ones.

For those of you who waste your valuable time playing with computers here is a more serious challenge. Produce another sentence like the following one, that not only refers to itself, but documents itself as well:

This pangram tallies five a's, one b, one c, two d's, twenty-eight e's, eight f's, six g's, eight h's, thirteen i's, one j, one k, three l's, two m's, eighteen n's, fifteen o's, two p's, one q, seven r's, twenty-five s's, twenty-

CHRISTMAS PASSES LIKE A DREAM WITH THE "JULIE" LSD CRACKER!



two t's, four u's, four v's, nine w's, two x's, four y's and one z.

A pangram is a sentence that contains all the letters of the alphabet. Anyone who can think up an original sentence of this form deserves a large prize, even if they have to use a computer to do it. I will personally guarantee at least ten pounds to anyone who comes up with a better, previously unpublished, self-documenting sentence. There are no restrictions on what language it is in. I hope the effort keeps your brain occupied this Christmas.

ALBERT THE EXPERIMENTAL RAT.

by David Austin



What's this? The Prof is going nuts. In Albert's lab there must be cuts.



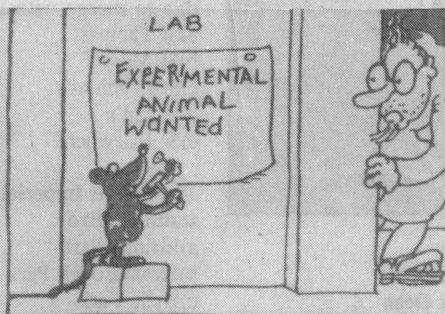
From Maggie came the harsh directive Sack all who are not cost effective.



When Prof works out the rates of pay Our Bert's the only one to stay!



Now Albert in the lab is chief Prof's out of work, alas what grief!



"Take my old job!" says cheeky Rat, "and I'll do test on you, how's that?"



Now poor old Prof he roars with pain With Bert's electrodes in his brain.

THE FELIX 1987 CHRISTMAS QUIZ



It's here at last. Your chance to test your general knowledge about College, Union, life, the big world and win a FELIX t-shirt as well. All you have to do is write down the answers to all the questions and send them to: The Editor, FELIX, Beit Quad or deliver them in person before Tuesday 12th January 1988. Entry is completely free: you don't have to buy a thing!

1. Which band played Imperial and appeared on The South Bank Show this term?

- a) Voice of the Beehive
- b) Brilliant Corners
- c) Real Sounds of Africa
- d) The Smiths
- e) Norman and the Nutburgers

2. Which one of these is the odd one out and why?

- a) Hamlet Gardens
- b) Lexham Gardens
- c) Earls Court Square
- d) Evelyn Gardens
- e) Collingham Place

3. Who was the co-star in Ronald Reagan's last movie who died earlier this year?

- a) Lee Marvin
- b) David Niven
- c) Rock Hudson
- d) Margaret Thatcher
- e) Burt Lancaster

4. Which British sportsman, who is currently studying at Imperial, wears this pair of shorts?



- a) James Hunt
- b) Fatima Whitbread
- c) Christopher Dean
- d) Steve Cram
- e) Geoff Parsons

5. What is the new College staff newspaper called?

- a) WetNerk
- b) The Independent
- c) NetWork
- d) FELIX
- e) IC News

6. Which Union Officer, branded 'cute' by FELIX, has had a Union club set up in his honour?

- a) Ian 'cute' Howgate
- b) Chas 'cute' Jackson
- c) 'Cute' Rob Gee
- d) Chris 'quite cute' Martin
- e) Chas Brereton

7. Who called for a national college ban for Imperial students this term?

- a) Ian Howgate
- b) The ULU President
- c) Margaret Thatcher
- d) Pippa Salmon
- e) The Surrey University President

8. Whose fourth marriage ended after nine months this year?

- a) Joan Collins
- b) Elizabeth Taylor
- c) Ian Howgate
- d) Danny La Rue
- e) Madonna

9. Which medical school is Imperial due to merge with in 1988?

- a) St Thomas'
- b) St Mary's
- c) St Dominic's
- d) St Ian's
- e) St Elsewhere

10. What is Imperial College's field station called?

- a) Elridge Park
- b) Farnborough Park
- c) Hyde Park
- d) Princes Gardens
- e) Silwood Park



CHRISTMAS PUDDING

This is so easy to do if you have access to a microwave.

Ingredients

- 65g plain flour
- 15g cocoa
- 2 tsps mixed spice
- 75g breadcrumbs
- 100g shredded suet
- 100g dark brown sugar
- 1lb mixed dried fruit
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tbsps black treacle
- 60ml brown ale
- 15ml brandy

Method

Sift the flour, cocoa and spices. Add the rest of the dry ingredients. Beat together the egg, treacle, brown ale and brandy then add to the dry ingredients and stir well. Tip into a basin and cover with cling film. Cook on HIGH for 5 minutes, leave to stand for 5 minutes, then cook for another 2 minutes. This should be done a few days before you intend to eat the pudding as it improves with age. Reheat for 2 minutes before eating.

Puzzlerem

I know of a certain lecturer at Imperial who, when he has too much marking to do in one evening, will reject most of the essays as being too awful to merit a mark. He then gives the remaining papers a mark from zero to ten. He makes sure that the first paper he marks is given the same number of points as the number of papers he gives zero to. (Did you get that?) Likewise, the second paper he marks gets the same number of points as the number of papers he gives one point to. And the third paper gets the same number of points as the number of papers which get two points, and so on right down to the bottom of the pile.

But this lecturer has been discovered because he has been forced to repeat himself this year and he has graded a pile of papers with the same marks as he has used before. How many years has he been using this marking scheme?

Prize of a FELIX t-shirt to the first correct entry randomly selected from the entries on Tuesday 12th January 1988.

FRED FOULMOUTH

'Don't give 'em the satisfaction of coming home yet'

DON'T condemn Mike Fatman for reacting as he did when umpire Kashmir Jumper put his spoke in about changing the field during IC Cricket Vs match at Surrey Polytechnic.

I think I'd have blown my top.

But we shouldn't abort the Christmas Tour, furious as the Vs must be. It just

wouldn't be cricket.

Nor should we refuse to play Surrey Poly again. It would give the impression that we'd been driven away, seen off. And surely, we're bigger than that.

Anyway, I wouldn't give Surrey the satisfaction.

Imperial's cricketers should take a deep breath, try to keep their tempers and see out the most controversial cricket tour there has ever been.

Kashmir Jumper was out of order. He should concentrate first on getting his job right.

Imperial is the top cricket university with the only full-time umpiring structure.

It's time the rest followed suit.

And, putting it baldly: Why should some Poly where they don't seem to care about umpiring standards have the

benefit of our people—while we're having to put up with theirs?

Surrey has always been dodgy for umpiring. And things are done so transparently.

Let's shoot the lot of 'em.

CRICKET TOUR CRISIS

FATMAN FURY

From PAUL WEAVER

EXCLUSIVE

CLASH

★HEAD TO HEAD: Mike Fatman and umpire Kashmir Jumper get to the point.

under attack

●Iain Sluicgate last night let rip with an attack on ICs captain Mike Fatman's behaviour.

●The former Geology tea maker and current union supremo reckons that whatever the provocation Fatman should not have vented his fury on umpire Kashmir Jumper.

●“Things have not changed at Surrey Poly since I made tea there in 1962,” said Sluicgate.

●“The food is bad, the umpiring is bad and there have been some terrible umpiring decisions.”

●Toilet cleaner Edna Andrex joined the criticism of Fatman by saying: “He never flushes the loo after he's used it either.”

cheat

**WATCH
OUT,
MATE**

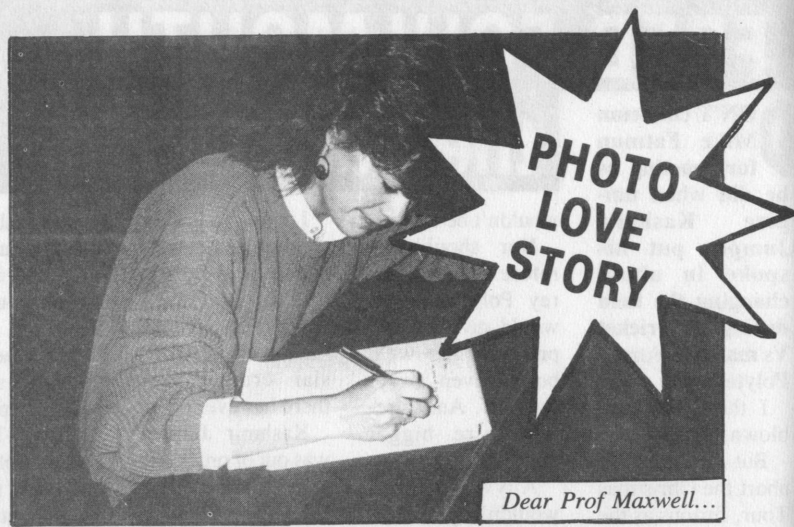
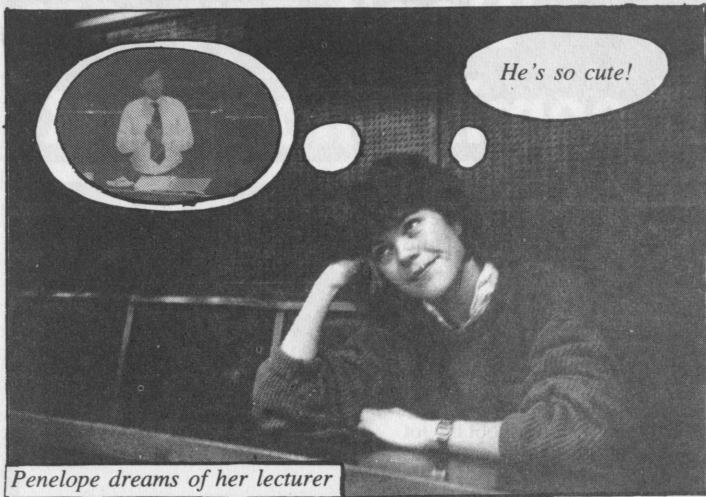
IMPERIAL'S strife-torn Christmas cricket tour could be abandoned after yesterday's furious row between captain Mike Fatman and Surrey Polytechnic's umpire Kashmir Jumper.

Three days of frustration and resentment exploded in the last over of the day when Fatman and Jumper were involved in a toe-to-toe slanging match at Surrey's home ground.

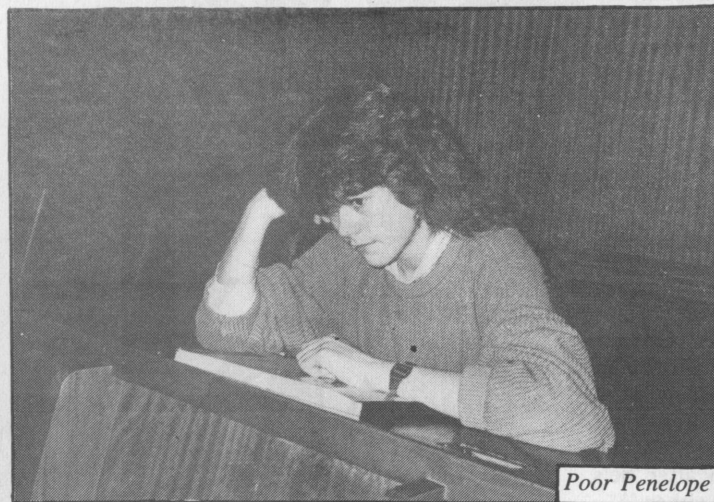
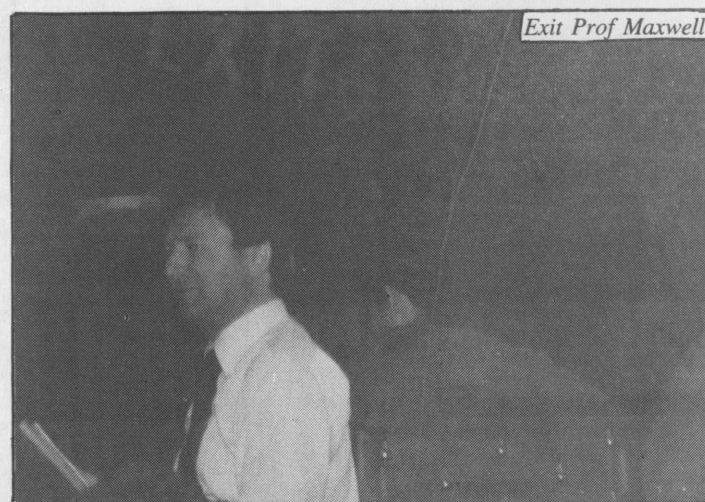
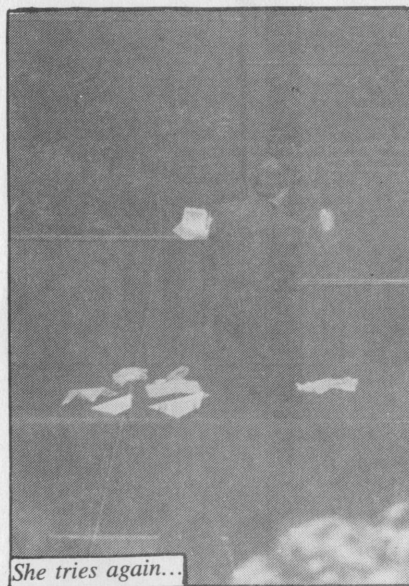
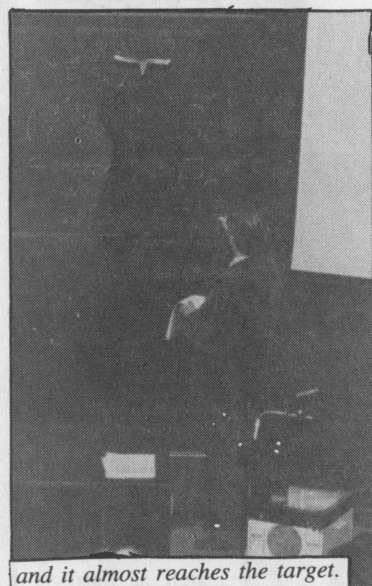
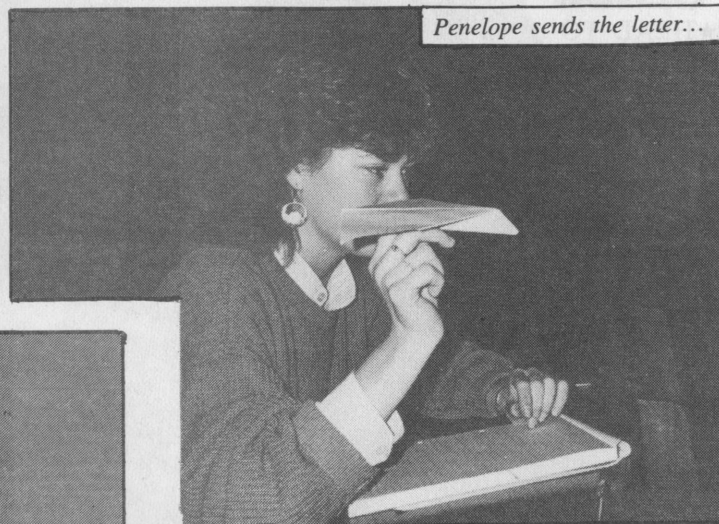
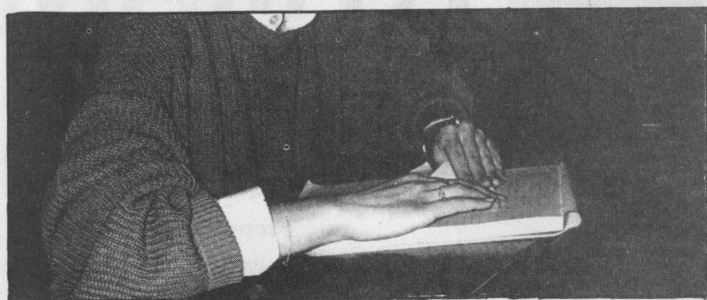
Jumper claimed: “Fatman called me a shit umpire and a son of a bitch. So I told him that he shouldn't have eaten so many christmas puddings on the tour.”

Rage

Last night Jumper, shaking with rage, threatened to kidnap Iain Sluicgate unless Fatman apologises and £100 is raised for rag.



Animal Magnetism



STAGEFRIGHT THE INTERVIEW BY GOODWIN



Nas Adal: songwriter and backing vocals, play acoustic guitar, learning to play the 12 string, ex-zoological, packed in halfway through second year.

Pete Hartley: bassist, cracks all the stupid jokes, writes songs, backing vocals, plays violin. Didn't do too well in first half of course, decided to take time off and worked in snack bar. Managed Norman's during the Summer. Now works full time in Union Bar.

Jez Sone: keyboardist, plays rhythm and sometimes lead guitar, Bio graduate, concentrates on music.

Jason Grey: Shouts at everyone in practice and tells them to shut up; lead vocals, rhythm guitar some lead, writes some of the music and some of the lyrics. Ex-Aero student.

How long has the band been together?

Pete: A year, one month and twenty something days.

When you were in the process of forming a band, were there any conflicts in deciding what sort of musical style you would adopt?

Jason: We were very pushed for time at the beginning because we had a couple of jams and then Kev Buckley (ex Union Bar Manager) suggested that we play a gig within ten days. We had to get something together very fast. Now it was basically my say. I got a few ideas just by listening to cover versions, and I had one or two songs from other bands and my own songs I wanted to try. We distributed a lot of tapes around; listen to this, learn how to play it and come to the rehearsal. We had three practices and just did the gig fairly blind really.

When your drummer Andy decided to leave the band, how did you go about finding a new drummer?

Jason: When we were working at the freshers event this year I was talking to the guitarist from TV World. He suggested that we try this 'New Line' agency; they put bands in touch with musicians and musicians in touch with bands. They sent us a letter; we filled in the forms and they keep supplying us with names of drummers. The rabbits they supplied have been particularly helpful and when we get pissed off with them we can eat them. That's always assuming they haven't gnawed through too many alarm cables first.

The band went through a stage of calling itself the Baby Deltas. Why did you decide to change your name?

Jez: We knew of another band in this country called Stagefright and there was this sort of common knowledge that if you call yourself a name that another band has they can sue you. **Nas:** There was another factor; the drummer thought the name sucked.

How did you come up with the name Baby Deltas?

Pete: We were sitting in the Union Bar haggling. Jason said what about delta, you know, the logo delta. Nas suggested that graphically he liked little delta better. Andy said Baby Delta. So we were the Baby Delta's. When we got rid of Andy we got rid of the name as well.

How did your parents and tutors react when you told them you wanted to form a band?

Pete: My mother said 'Oh I'd better

practice sewing on sequins then'. My mum was quite happy about it.

Jez: They weren't particularly concerned, I don't think. I suspect they would probably rather I had applied for a job last year, because parents like to see their offspring working.

Nas: My Dad just rang me from Hong Kong. I had to meet a plane and I thought, right, it's as good a time as ever. I told him that I hadn't applied for any jobs and that I was going to follow Mr Grey around and play in this band. He said 'Fine, it's your life, just make sure you meet that plane.'

Jason: Well, the Head of Department, the only interest he ever shows in the people on his course is when you reach the final year and he gives you this fifteen minute interview, to make him look concerned. When he started asking me about my career—when I told him that I did n't want to go into any engineering of any sort or apply for any jobs because I had set this band up in College and was really enjoying it, the look of horror on his face and the other member of staff that was in the room was quite something to behold. It was quite frightening; he almost had apoplexy.

You played an acoustic repertoire in the Holland Club recently and it was received very well. Do you see Stagefright indulging in more acoustic songs in the future?

Jason: I certainly found at the Holland Club, that as a singer, I felt very naked. You haven't got, dare I say it, the rest of the band to hide behind. When there is a familiar sound pumping out all around me I have the confidence to switch off to everything else and just concentrate on singing. But when I found in the Holland Club, you could here people chinking glasses and pulling pints and you're singing and the volumes are much more quiet, you can hear things—I was feeling a lot more vulnerable.

Have you any more gigs lined up in College?

Pete: Yes, the big one on January 29th, which is Ian Howgate's birthday party. We're playing in the Concert Hall, fairly late on in the evening. That should be a really good gig.

What do you think the prospects of getting a recording contract are?

Pete: It's a case of being in the right place at the right time. It's obviously where we'd like to go. As you play around, London, for instance, you're name gets bandied around. If you've got your posters up, someone's going to see them. Hopefully one of these days we will get an AR (Artist and Repertoire) man to come and listen to you and if he doesn't, he will mention

you to somebody else and the interest sort of snowballs. It's just a matter of chance really.

Who tends to write the songs for the band?

Pete: Jason does.

Jason: I'd say that would have been true, but as time progresses I think more and more people are becoming involved. Early on, towards the end of my second year, I'd written a couple of songs. Nas became involved in a couple of songs. Jez is now becoming involved. Whereas Nas writes in a style, I write in a style, Jez is a lot more analytical as far as music is concerned. Because of that he can input varying styles into a song.

Do you have any particular techniques of writing songs?

Jason: A tune is very important first. I can't write lyrics and fit a song to it. I've never been able to work like that.

Nas: It starts from the feeling. A feeling that came about a week ago and then suddenly you see yourself playing this tune and then you put the tune together and try and write some words.

Jason: It all stems from something real that has happened. We don't generally try to make it up. So there is always some sort of idea behind the song.

Jez: I think Nas and Jason believe that the tune is the most important thing for a song whereas I'm different. I think equally important is rhythm and texture. I could happily write a song in one cord if I thought it was vaguely original.

Are you aiming for any particular audience?

Pete: People like us. People who would go out and see a rock group like Whitesnake or Black Sabbath, have a good time, enjoy themselves, drink a lot and get down and headbang.

What do you think of the music that's currently in the charts?

Jason: It shows that the market can really be led. You know, if you see a jeans advert of a guy stripping off in a launderette you go out and buy the record and the record company cashes in. They're quite mercenary; they're not worried.

Do you think you could handle being ripped to pieces in the press?

Pete: As Oscar Wilde once said, "there is only one thing worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about." If someone says this band is crap, then at least this band is being mentioned.

Just messing about on the river?

It was a cold, grey Sunday morning in the middle of November. The sky was heavy and a cold wind was blowing up from the Thames estuary. Imperial College Union Boat Club was setting out to practise for another prestigious race that was coming up the following weekend. And the heavens opened....

The Imperial College Union Boat Club has been one of the most successful College clubs this year. The highlight was their win at Henley over the summer, where the top squad took the Visitors Cup. This was followed by a 9th placing at the World Student Games, where C. Behrens, G. Pooley, J. Waller, J. Walker and cox I. Scutts represented Great Britain in the Men's Coxed Fours. But these are only two of the Club's successes: at this year's Club dinner it took Captain Robert Gee nearly ten minutes to list the past year's achievements.

The Club has become well known to the rest of IC as a high-spending society which enjoys the patronage of certain influential College officials. Last year the Club annoyed Union officers by buying a secondhand eight from Oxford with the help of College Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur. The Club had tried to persuade the Union Finance Committee to buy the boat with money brought forward on its long term spending plan. When UFC decided that their claim could not be rushed through, and would have to be judged alongside claims from other Union clubs, the boat was bought with a loan from the College account. Boat club later tried to recoup the money from the Union. (UFC has agreed to pay the money this year, when the boat was originally due to be purchased).

I was more interested in the Club itself rather than its financial

arguments with the Union, so I decided to go down to its Putney boathouse to see for myself what the members did with their spare time. My first trip was during the summer holidays, when Boathouse Manager and Club Coach Bill Mason was repairing the boats and oars in preparation for the new academic year. I was met by Bill and Robert Gee, who gave me an extensive tour of the Boathouse. In the training pools on top of the building new members can get the feel of rowing and learn elementary techniques before being let loose on the river. The top squadders also get to use the tanks whenever there is fog on the river or when they want to study their own techniques in mirrors. There are three old ergometers by the side of the pool which strengthen muscles and help with breathing. Robert explained that time on these machines is very limited since there are over 80 active members. He also expects the Club membership to increase by 30 next year when St Mary's merges with Imperial, which will stretch the facilities they have even more.

At first sight of the boatroom, there seemed to be more boats than any rowing club could wish for, but on closer inspection it was clear that many were old or cannibalised. After a boat has been raced a certain number of times it loses its speed. New boats are always rigid which makes them fast but with constant battering this rigidity is lost and the boat becomes slower. This is a particular problem with the new carbon fibre boats at the top end of the range. These are used very rarely and the top class boats in the Boathouse are only used for prestigious races. A boat will also lose its speed when it has to be repaired with plastic padding. It is essential that the oarsmen have a top class boat for racing otherwise they start losing rather than winning. Bill and Rob both believe that there is no point in having the Club if it can't compete in top level competitions. This is why they jumped at the chance of

purchasing the Oxford eight last year.

Novices are started in the old boats after they have completed their training in the tanks. After they have won a certain number of races they are no longer considered to be novices and have to move up one class. The better the rower becomes the better the boat the rower is allowed to train in. Most of the boats are wood. These tend to keep their rigidity for a longer time than carbon fibre boats but are not as quick. Bill described how difficult it was to maintain the boat 'heirarchy'. If he allowed any team to use a better boat than they were able to handle then the whole boat preservation thing would break down.

The boats in the Boathouse are not used exclusively by the Club. Some boats belong to private individuals and others are lent out to other college's teams to use. It would be very easy to say that the Club owns too many boats but each one has specific use, whether it be for the Rugby teams that row on Morphy Day or the top squad. Bill told me that for some of the really top events they had to hire or borrow another club's boat as the current boats aren't adequate.

Upstairs in the Club lounge we looked at the many cups in the trophy cabinet and talked further about the Club.

Talking to Bill it is easy to see why the Club has been so successful. He is an incredibly dedicated coach who has complete faith in his teams' abilities. He is very keen to stress that success can only be brought about with hard work. It is only the members who share Bill's enthusiasm and dedication for rowing that survive the rigours of Boat Club life. Bill has little tolerance for members who wish to row occasionally and makes it clear that rowing time is too precious to be used up on joyrides.

He is convinced that the more training his top rowers do, the better they perform in race situations.

We became so involved in Boat Club talk that it was three hours later that I finally made my way back to



South Kensington, promising to return during termtime to see the Club in action.

So it was in mid-November that I finally found time to revisit the Club. We had agreed to meet on Saturday at 8.30am but I caught the wrong bus and arrived five minutes late. So I took advantage of the early morning sun and settled down to watch the other clubs on that stretch of the River. An hour and three-quarters later the IC oarsmen returned from upriver. The top teams had been racing in eights in preparation for a race the next weekend. When they had put the boats safely inside the Boathouse, I listened into one of Bill's pep talks, made arrangements to visit the next day and bought a ticket for their annual dinner which was to be held that night.

The dinner was a pleasant affair: the guest speaker was Minister for Sport Colin Moynihan, a former Olympic rower from Oxford and old friend of Bill (who is fond of telling the tale that he can remember Colin mooning at university). College Secretary John Smith and Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur were also present, along with Union representative Charles Jackson, to receive framed displays of victorious Boat Club teams as a token of their gratitude—and, perhaps, as a non-too-subtle hint that more cash was needed.

I met Ian Scutts, who is currently

the only top squad coxen. This is his final year at Imperial and he revealed that the Club is desperate for new coxens to take his place when he leaves. He originally joined the Club wishing to become an oarsman but at only 5ft 7in and a little over 8st he was soon persuaded to become a coxen. He told me that the coxen is always the scapegoat when a race is lost but the rowers get the glory when a race is won. He certainly seemed to be the butt of most of the jokes at the dinner but this didn't stop him from getting a large round of applause when he collected his World Student Games presentation oar.

Guy Pooley, who was one of the team which won the Visitors Cup and went to the Student Games, was also seated at my table. He has since left Imperial and gone to Cambridge and it is confidently predicted that he will stroke in this year's University Boat Race.

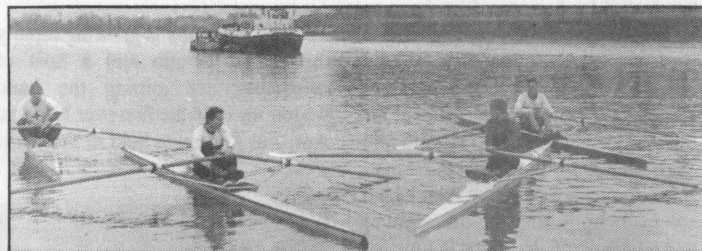
With the Olympics in 1988, the Club is sure that at least one member will be selected to row for Great Britain in Korea.

The next day I made sure that I arrived in plenty of time before the boats went out. It gave me an opportunity to talk to some of the rowers. I asked them why they chose to spend every morning down on the River. The replies they gave were similar: everybody talked about the group identity and the sense of



Above Ian Scutts, top squad coxen, proudly shows off his presentation oar at the Boat Club Dinner

Below Coach Bill Mason with a silver platter presented to him by the Boat Club members as a mark of appreciation for all the hard work he has put into the club. From left to right: Robert Gee, Bill Mason and Colin Moynihan MP



belonging they felt. They also mentioned their enjoyment of winning and being part of a successful club. One person told me that he enjoyed rowing because it was one of very few sports where dedication and hard training were enough to make you top class. Another believed that Imperial rowers were prepared to put so much time into rowing and training because they wanted to please Bill. They all derive a child-like pleasure from making Bill proud of them.

I asked one rower if he found it difficult to have to do so much training every day. He said that it was quite the opposite: 'you just have to train, even when you're on holiday, otherwise you start to twitch.'

Bill had prepared a punishing training schedule for the top squad. He had decided that they would take the smaller boats and keep to 26

strokes per minute. I followed in a launch with the new coach who gave them tips on technique and timed their strokes. David Hudson demonstrated just how easy it is to capsize a scull when he got caught up with another boat just before Hammersmith Bridge. It was just as we were beginning to make the return journey that the heavens opened and we all got drenched by cold, penetrating rain. I was glad to get back to the shelter of the Boathouse, although the rowers didn't seem the least bit upset by the downpour.

Bill came out to ask me how I had enjoyed the trip down the river. 'I thought it was great until it started to rain'. 'They all enjoy it until they get wet', he quipped to a friend. I decided to make a prompt exit in search of a hot cup of coffee and some warm clothes.



SPECIAL

Earlier this year a General Meeting of the University of Exeter Guild of Students unanimously passed a motion condemning the fur trade and created a 'fur free zone' in their Union Building. Lynx, the only national organisation campaigning solely to end the fur trade in this country, hailed this as a marvelous example to all other students around Britain. So will you be wearing furs this Christmas?

Fur or against?

Fur is very much a seasonal trade with vast quantities of coats being sold between November and February each year. Fur pelts, whether wild or farmed, become thick and glossy in the late autumn and throughout winter. It is during November that farmed minks are killed and pelted. Auction sales are held regularly from mid-December through to June. Pelts are auctioned in a 'raw' state: this is where animals have usually been electrocuted and then skinned but the pelts have not been cleaned. The season's first pelts are sent for cleaning, dressing and dyeing from March onwards. Fur pelts are prepared in many ways. They are scapped and thinned. Raw leather is brittle and hard so the skins have to be drummed to soften the leather and then cleaned. Dressing is a lengthy process and can take over a month to complete. The major international fur fairs, such as Frankfurt, Madrid and Paris take place in March and April. It is orders placed at these fairs which are made up during the the summer and which reach the shops in time for the next winter.

Why do people wear fur coats?

With so many synthetic fibres which are just as warm, just as waterproof or just as comfortable, why do so many people throughout the world prefer wearing fur? The British Fur Trade Association believe that it is because people like the feel of fur and the feeling of well-being it gives them. They claim that many women who do not own a fur coat say that a fur coat would feature high on their list of things that they would like to own. Meanwhile Lynx are doing their best to get rid of fur's glamorous image. The most famous campaign they have run in past years has been 'It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat...But only one to wear it'. The impact of such

campaigns has been that the lower range of the market, the rabbit skins and lamb paw jackets, have not been selling. I spoke to a furrier who said that the mink and luxury furs market was still strong but the cheap furs which most young secretaries would previously have bought and worn are very hard to get rid of nowadays. It seems that the campaign has only had an effect on the young women where fur is no longer fashionable in their circles. Most fur is sold to middle-aged women who still believe fur to be glamorous as well as warm and comfortable.

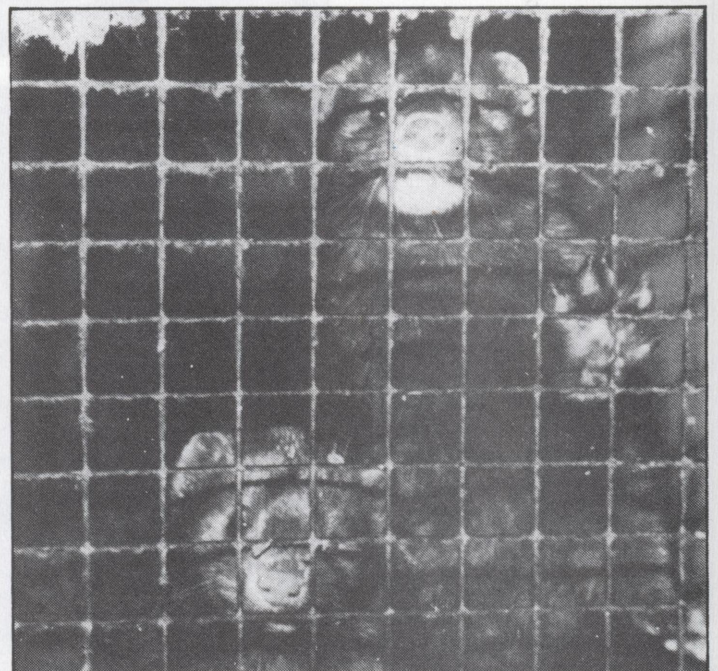
Why don't people wear fur coats?

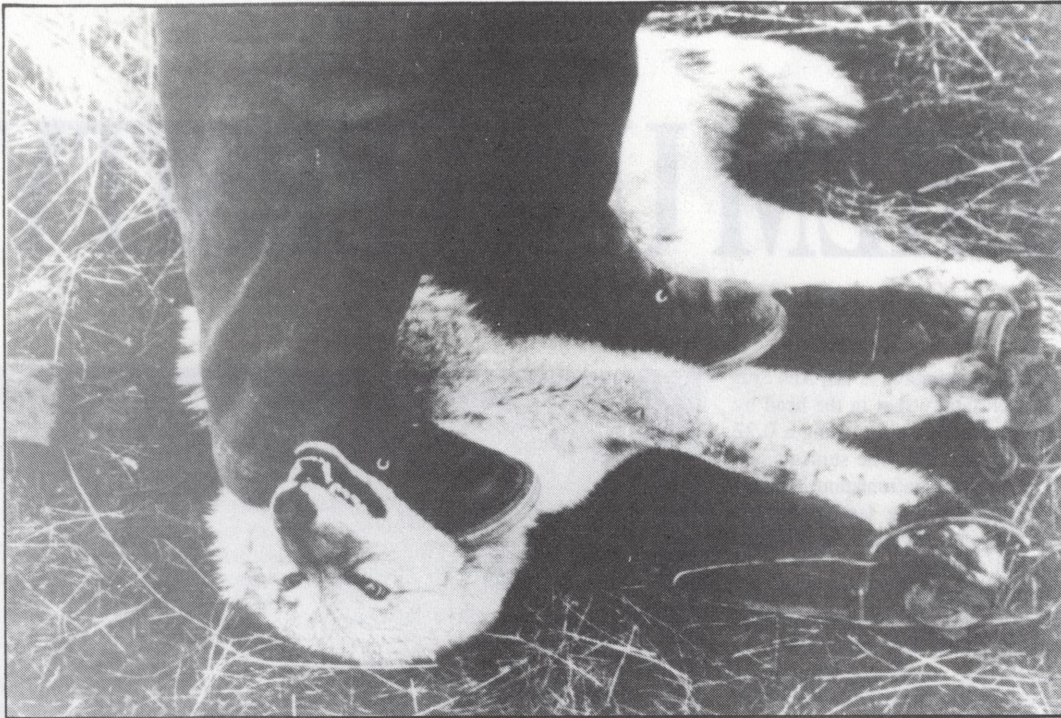
The anti-fur lobby is growing rapidly throughout Britain and a host of celebrities are joining the band wagon. In 1986 the first ever National Anti-Fur Rally was held in Trafalgar

Square where thousands of Lynx supporters gathered to hear speakers from both the European and British Parliaments. That same year a petition calling for a ban on all world fur imports from countries still using the leghold trap was presented to No 10 Downing Street by Clare Francis. It contained nearly 200,000 signatures.

Most Lynx supporters do so because they want to see inhumane trapping banned. In an independent opinion poll last year 74% of 2000 samples were against trapping and 70% against fur farming. They won't wear fur because they are opposed to imprisoning animals for a life time and slaughtering them at a fraction of their natural lifespans, when there are alternatives available. 'But does the anti-fur lobby eat meat or spread ground bones on their vegetables or feed offal to their pets?' The British Fur Trade Association argues. It points to the campaigners' double standards; at the protesters who wear leather shoes and eat chicken sandwiches. Not even vegans seem to be able to explain away the millions of rats, mice and rabbits that have to be killed throughout the world in order that they can enjoy their vegan diets.

Some campaigners have become animal terrorists, tired of the lack of results that Lynx provide. Bands of protesters have sent threats to fur traders, bombed fur stores and let free thousands of animals from British mink farms. The fur trade made great profit out of the fact that most of the freed animals returned to the farms in search of the continuous food supply they were used to.





And what about fake furs?

It seems that neither Lynx nor the British Fur Trade Association want people to wear fake furs. The BFTA complain that there is nothing like a real fur and that many synthetic materials have contributed to atmospheric pollution, acid rain and destruction of natural habitats.

Meanwhile Lynx believe that fake furs keep alive the notion that wearing furs is acceptable and desirable.

Fur factories?

Fur farms are situated all over the world, with most being found in Russia, Scandinavia and North America. Each year more than 40 million animals are farmed for use in the fur trade which amounts to 85% of all furs used worldwide. The rest is trapped, most of which is done with the agreement of various governments which are trying to keep wild animal populations down.

In Scandinavia alone, there are around 11,000 fur farms. In the UK there are only 70 farms, 90% farm mink and the rest farm arctic blue fox or fitch. The Fur Breeders Association recommends that mink cages should not be less than two cubic feet with two animals to a cage plus access to a nest box or pen.

So is farming cruel?

Lynx claim that mink farming is cruel because wild mink are solitary, highly territorial animals which have

territories of around 2 miles of riverbank area and that 2 cubic feet is not sufficient. They say that selective breeding has induced stone deafness, tail sucking, ear chewing and fur clipping. They also object to the methods of killing used: barbiturate injection, inhalation of carbon monoxide and neck dislocation.

Fur traders are keen to hit back at accusations of cruelty. Why, they argue, should they cause cruelty or stress to the animals because if an animal is badly looked after it will show in its coat. A healthy, well-looking after mink's skin will always be worth many times more than a lack lustre one. They also point out that mink farms are not factory farms. The animals live outside in natural light and are not fed any steroids, drugs or other substances designed to promote growth artificially. They also mate and breed naturally and artificial insemination is not used. They say that the most common method of slaughter is anaesthetic overdose which first anaesthetises and then kills. It is the same method that vets use to put down small domestic pets.

Mark Glover of Lynx still argues that farming is sophisticated and too scientific and that the needs of the creatures themselves are paid little or no heed. He also believes that the foodstuffs used to feed mink are a 'scandalous waste of resources, particularly when so many people face starvation.' I put this to a member of the BFTA who said that at least 80% of the food fed to mink and foxes is offal and by-products of the human food industry such as cattle

tripe, fish offal and carcasses. It seems that the BFTA can show their methods of farming to be more humane than any chicken or veal farm.

Trapping?

Lynx have much better grounds for their campaign when they present the facts about trapping. All trapping in Britain is illegal although around 100,000 red foxes are snared or trapped illegally with gin traps each year in the UK. They have evidence that trapped animals go to desperate lengths to escape. The stomachs of trapped arctic foxes often contain parts of their own bodies such as teeth fragments (broken off whilst the animal bits the trap) or parts of mangled feet, claws or bits of bones.

Most trapping is done in North America but only 1% of it by aboriginals who have made it their livelihood for centuries. The trapping regulations in the USA vary from state to state. Animals are commonly left in traps for two or three days. If they are still alive when the trapper finds them, they are killed by clubbing or strangulation. The most common form of trap is the leghold trap. A particular type of leghold trap called the gin trap has been banned in 64 countries including the UK and has been described as a 'diabolical instrument which causes an incredible amount of suffering'. Despite this the UK imports 2 million wild animals which have been caught using leghold traps.

The BFTA accept these figures but

point out that 85% of fur used by British fur traders is from farms and that trapping is no reason to ban fur completely.

The Canadian Government is a fervent supporter of trapping as a form of pest control. They have produced many propaganda sheets on why trapping is the best method and how many people's livelihoods would be taken away if trapping was banned. They say that such animals cannot be shot as it is ineffective against the species which are mainly nocturnal. All the trappers are trained and licenced. They also have quotas which they must not exceed. Canadian trappers also claim to check their traps twice daily so that other predators cannot take the catch away. They say that animals die quickly in the Canadian Arctic conditions and that the traps used now do not cause lesions as the arms are padded with rubber. They say that gin traps are not used and that all Lynx publicity is misleading.

The Canadian Government have managed to persuade Greenpeace to halt its campaigns against the fur trade. They decided that, although the fur trade was very damaging to millions of wild animals each year, their campaign was threatening the way of life of many native peoples. This followed pleas by Indigenous Survival International that 'the anti-seal and anti-wild fur campaigns directly or indirectly are condemning our people to a slow genocide of a culture that has cared since time immemorial about lands and animals.'

However, more and more traders are shunning wild pelts in favour of farmed pelts which are thicker, larger and glossier.

The future?

The BFTA are not keen to admit it but more and more fur firms are going under as less and less furs are sold in this country. However, the worldwide production has gone up by 10% this year. Fur will still go on selling even if none of it is sold in Britain.

The BFTA are very sensitive to all the bad press they have received. No animal in danger of extinction is sold as a fur coat in this country but they cannot deny that other countries' traders may flout the law.

Meanwhile Lynx supporters are growing in strength with their new Christmas campaign aimed at highlighting 'greedy furriers making profits out of pain'. Emotive words which seem to have been very effective over the last few years but how many British furriers are making huge profits now?

BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Tomorrow's Extraordinary Union General Meeting was called after the Friends of Palestine Society managed to gain enough signatures to call for a second reading of their Bethlehem University motion. At the last UGM, this proved to be a contentious issue so FELIX has devoted some space to the motion and the opposing views from Friends of Palestine and the Jewish Society. Firstly S Alami from Friends of Palestine puts the case for their motion.

On October 26 1987, Palestinian students at Bethlehem University were gathered to commemorate the Kafr Kassem massacre. Israeli army units surrounded the area and charged into the demonstrators with tear gas

and live ammunition. Is'haq Abu Srur was then fatally shot in the head by an Israeli army sniper using a 0.22 inch Baretto rifle. The students had no intention of confrontation. Nothing happened until the Israeli soldiers attacked, only then did the students respond with stones.

The real concern arises from the fact that the shooting is not an isolated incident. Since December 1986, 15 Palestinian youths, including 4 university students, have been shot dead and a further 106 wounded, the majority in the chest or head. The extensive firing, the violent beatings and the harassment of young protestors has reached an intolerable level. The use of sniper rifles marks a new and sinister phase in the already obvious shoot-to-kill policy.

The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported an Israeli official saying that 'the gun would be used to shoot at selected targets such as the leaders of demonstrations and those who hoist Palestinian flags'. So hoisting the flag is now a crime not punishable by 1 or 2 years in prison but by a summary execution.

In the words of Joel Greenberg of the *Jerusalem Post*, 'the new rifle has become recognised and legitimate, enabling soldiers to pick off protest leaders with methodical precision and deadly accuracy. Thus the commanding officer is given the option of arbitrarily selecting individuals for summary execution.' Or, in the words of Israel Shahak of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights in Jerusalem, 'the new weapon is a method of assassination of those Palestinians who appear to be leaders of a demonstration'.

On the second day of the shooting, Bethlehem University was ordered closed by the Israeli occupation authorities for 3 months. This not only constitutes severe disruption of academic life and education but is a collective punishment forbidden by international law.

This closure clearly contravenes the Geneva IV Convention (Annex, Part I, article 3; Part II, articles 27, 32 and 33; Part III, articles 47, 64 and 68 plus the corresponding parts in the

Attacks on Bethlehem University

ICU notes:

1. That on Wednesday, October 25th 1987. Israeli soldiers attacked students at Bethlehem University in the Occupied West Bank, who were commemorating the anniversary of the Lafr Kassem massacre, in which 49 Israeli Arabs were shot dead by Israeli forces.
2. That during the attack live ammunition was used, and amongst the injured was Issa Abu-Srur who was shot in the head.
3. That two days after the shooting Issa died in hospital from his gun shot wound.
4. That during his stay in hospital until his death Issa's family were prohibited from visiting him by military order.
5. That following the attack on Palestinian students Bethlehem University has been ordered closed for a period of three months commencing 29.10.87.

ICU believes:

1. That Palestinian students have a right of access to education, academic freedom and freedom of expression and that Israeli attacks and closures of Palestinian universities are a serious obstacle to peace in the Middle East as such actions constitute a serious violation to any people's basic human rights.

ICU instruct the Executive:

1. To write letters of support and condolence to Issa's family and to the Student Council at Bethlehem University.
2. To write a letter of protest to the Israeli Embassy and to ask for the immediate reopening of the University.
3. To participate immediately in a high-profile campaign against shootings of Palestinian students and against the military-ordered closure of the University through:
 - i) A national press conference on the closure of Bethlehem University with an invited speaker from the University itself.
 - ii) A national petition, promoted in the mailings/publication/UGM at IC addressed to the Israeli government calling for the immediate reopening of the University and for the cessation of violent attacks on Palestinian students (especially the use of ammunition).
 - iii) An information pack on Academic freedom under Occupation to be distributed to students.
 - iv) A letter-writing campaign to British MPs asking them to put pressure on the Israeli government so that it reopens the University and allows it to function free of military attacks.

Hague Convention) thus violating the right of access to education and of academic freedom.

It is important to establish the following:

1. The Israeli soldiers did attack first and the killing of Is'haq Abu Srur by a sniper bullet was willful.
2. Not a single report from any source claims that live ammunition was used by the Palestinian students.
3. The closure of Bethlehem University is illegal.
4. Access to education, academic freedom, freedom of thought and expression are universal rights and should apply to Palestinian students.
5. The freedoms 'granted' in the

amendments are regularly violated by the Israeli military.

Thus any amendment which violates one of the above rights is unacceptable.

Finally it must be stressed that Palestinian students throughout the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are continually subjected to a number of restrictive harassments and a denial of basic rights. This motion specifically addresses the serious recent incident at Bethlehem University. It is neither a criticism of Israeli policies nor a discussion of the solution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

S Alami (Chem Eng PG).



Letter from St. Mary's

For the past week (Monday November 30 to Friday December 4) the student life here has been dominated by the Musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* by Stephen Sondheim. This work is best known through the long standing association with Frankie Howerd. This choice was made in a hurry at the beginning of term but no shortage of time was apparent in the five performances on consecutive nights.

The musical is set in Ancient Rome, and this was quite believable when the staging was revealed at the start of the first act. The set consisted of three houses, the centre one being more imposing with a functional balcony and fine pillars. A functional fountain added to the scene well complemented by thoughtful well executed lighting.

The actors were of high standard, each proficient in their roles. One really should mention David Ketchin (1st year) as Pseudolous, a part he played with composure and élan. Richard Keen as the dirty old man Senex injected the correct amount of depravity into a difficult part. The voice of Borris Morrice, Hero, was superb. The duet with Senex and Hero I believe was the best song of the production.

On a visual note the choreography added to the event in that the dancing scene when Pseudolous views the females Marcus Lycus has to offer produced the desired erotic effect. Full marks for a nerve! The large set routines were executed well as all concerned clearly knew what to do, so difficult in amateur productions. The music itself was a little lacking, not up to the standard of the other facets.

In conclusion the performance was extremely funny and if one had gone to see it in the West End the only difference would be the orchestra quality. Indeed I have myself seen worse productions in theatreland.



Academic Freedom Vs Licence to riot

Neville Nelkon, Chairman of the ICU Jewish Society, explains why Bethlehem University was closed and describes the clashes which led up to the shooting of Is'haq Abu Srur.

Before 1967 under Jordanian rule, there was not a single university in Judea-Samaria (recently coined the West Bank). All the universities operating today—there are now 5—were developed and accredited as fully-fledged universities by Israel. They include over 6000 students and several hundred lecturers. These universities are the most free in the Middle East with the exception of those in Israel itself. As independent institutions they enjoy:

1. Freedom to set syllabuses and course content.
2. Freedom to employ Arab and foreign academic staff.
3. Freedom to exist as independent educational institutions.
4. Freedom to examine and criticise government policies within normal academic research standards.
5. Freedom to purchase all books except the 350 included on the censor's list.
6. Freedom to obtain funding from any source excluding the PLO, but including hostile Arab states.
7. Freedom to set entrance standards and control entry to the institution.
8. Students enjoy the freedom to criticise government policies peacefully.

Yet this is clearly insufficient for a significant proportion of the students as the universities have become the vanguard for incitement, extremism and terror. The situation is described by *Al-Kuds*, a pro-Jordanian newspaper on October 19th 1984:

'The roots of the recent crises are the overwhelming political activities on the campuses...causing the actual

academic activity to comprise less than 1% of the overall agenda on the campuses.'

Dr Kna'ana, Acting President of An-Najah, reinforces this view in the PLO funded *Al-Fajr*:

'...the intentions of those who supervised the establishment of the educational institutions were not really to foster education...rather they viewed the establishment of these institutions as helping their own political ambitions or as advancing their commercial interests.'

He goes on to make the pointed remark:

'This chaos...has not been the result of the absence of national sovereignty. Such deadly chaos has not characterised every non-sovereign society, especially not its higher education.'

At the heart of the crisis is the struggle between the internal administrations of the various institutions and the students on one hand—and among PLO, leftist and Moslem Brotherhood elements, on the other—for control of the campuses. At Bethlehem University in the wake of violent clashes between leftists and Fatah supporters, in which seven students were stabbed or otherwise injured, the internal administration closed the university on November 23 1984 for three days. On May 25 1985, in violent fights among students from rival factions, 40 were wounded at Bir Zeit and damage to the campus was estimated at thousands of dollars. The university administration closed the institution for a month. Statistics kept by the Adviser on Arab Affairs to the

Coordinator of Activities show that the universities in these areas have been closed for more days by the university authorities themselves than by the Israeli authorities.

Moreover, it is important to recognise that the basis of the legal system in this area is previous Jordanian law and that Israel operates under international law. This may be summarised by the American guide to the Laws of War on Land which states:

'...that the occupying powers may prevent any and all teaching which serves to provoke hostility toward the occupant's forces, disrespect to the latter and their commands, or passive resistance to the lawful orders given to the civilian population.' It is against this that Israel's policies must be judged.

In 1979 a first year student at Bir Zeit ran a Fatah terrorist cell which killed 4 Israeli civilians. More recently, the widely distributed 1986 PLO-Fatah calendar singles out for special celebration the anniversaries of the PLO massacre of the Israeli athletes at Munich in 1972 and the murder of school children in Maalot in 1974.

Indeed, Israeli political policies can be subject to legitimate discussion and criticism. But such discussion is irrelevant to the question of educational functioning and the academic integrity of the West Bank institutions. Academic freedom is not to be equated with opportunity for political incitement or underground activity in the West Bank, or anywhere else in the world.

IC EAST KARAKORAM EXPEDITION

Moonlight on the Mountains

Back in late July, with Jeffrey Archer's reputation still in the balance, a rumour that the Soviets might actually back a zero-zero arms reduction option being bandied about and the US escort of reflagged supertankers just getting underway, we flew over the Straits of Hormuz on our way from London to Karachi—where a bombing a few days earlier had killed 50 and injured 200.

From Karachi we flew north to Pakistan's capital, Islamabad (a showpiece city, still being built). There we dealt with various bits of red tape and continued our application for permission to carry out a Civil Engineering Research Project, with the British Embassy exerting influence on our behalf. The expedition was conceived as a combined mountaineering effort and 'road project'. Our road project would have looked at the Indus Highway; a route hewn from the side of the Indus Gorge. Due to the geological youth of the whole area (essentially the Karakoram is at the westward end of the Himalayas) the road is prone to frequent landslides, blocking and damaging it. We wanted to study and survey some of the affected areas and bring to bear up-to-date slope failure analysis techniques. They have not been used in such a context before and as well as trying to suggest practical remedial measures, we hoped to break new ground scientifically. However, after receiving permission to go ahead from their Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs politely refused it. And that was that!

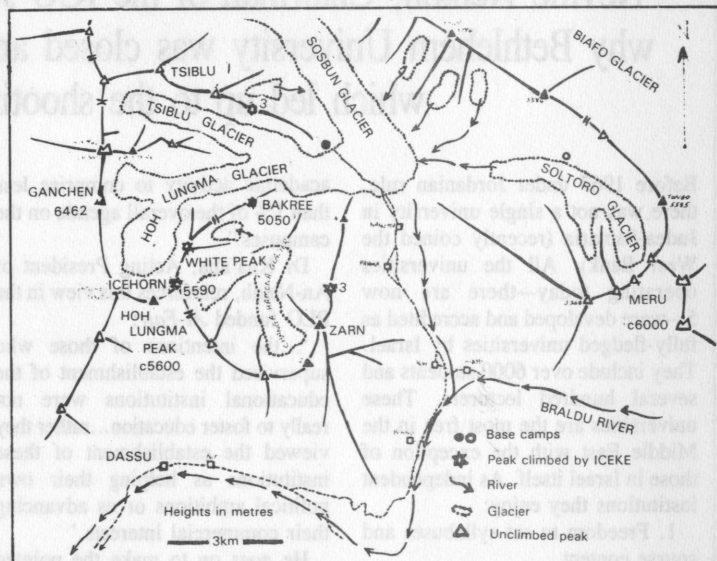
The result was a swift modification of our plans and saw all ten expedition members at the mountaineering base camp together (possibly the first time we'd all been together since the expedition was conceived). To get there we spent sixteen hours on a bus travelling up the famous Karakoram Highway to Gilgit and a further eight hours on the Indus Highway ('our road') over to Skardu.

Then we followed in the footsteps of the big expeditions on their way up to K2 (the world's second highest

mountain) and the other big mountains up there. The relative ease of access and having a large fraction of the world's highest and hardest mountains makes the area a magnet for the likes of Chris Bonnington. Indeed some of us met Doug Scott on his way back from K2—about to go to Everest!

see if we wanted to go home we saw no sign of humanity or its works except satellites in the ever clear, magnificent night sky—and what we had brought with us.

Three people failed to acclimatise to the 4200m altitude of base camp and were also suffering from dysentery-type problems. After a week



Part of area mapped, around Solsun Glacier, northern Pakistan

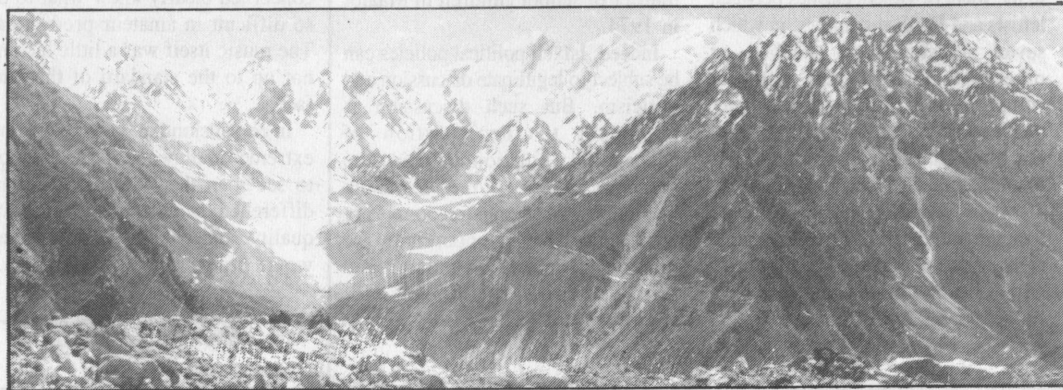
We took an incredibly hairy forty-mile jeep ride (perched on our heaps of food and gear, hanging on tightly as the jeep negotiated the mountain passes, landslides and rivers) to the village of Dasso. There we hired porters and set off for the three day journey up into the mountain (turning left off the K2 route after a day).

Most of us spent the next seven weeks up there, eating rice and chapattis every day, sunbathing and mountaineering. Apart from the occasional confused porter coming to

they decided they'd had enough, returned to Skardu, and after showing little improvement headed home.

The rest of us notched up four first ascents, one or two new routes and several other climbs. We also mapped the area, roughly speaking a bowl of six-mile radius, ringed with high mountains, criss-crossed with several ridges and glaciers—almost a self-contained, private universe. Climbing to its edges and looking over the other side was quite an experience. We saw K2, the Ogre (a mountain on which Doug Scott and Chris Bonnington nearly died—Scott descending on hands and knees with two broken legs), the Biafo Glacier, Nanga Parbat and several other famous mountains.

The high point of the expedition was the conquering of two unclimbed peaks which we named Ice Horn (5000m) and White Peak (5500m). These were climbed on a three day attempt, including one night spent sleeping on a glacier at -20°C (the failure of the stove didn't help), in which the basic approach was to climb up a long snow-ice gully onto





a ridge. Then it was only a matter of negotiating the occasionally knife-edged snowy ridge, taking in the peaks on the way.

Returning to the towns and cities of Pakistan made a change and had interesting moments (we found it hard to believe when we were shown some grass in Rawalpindi—the International Cricket Ground) but it wasn't until we landed back in misty, wet, heavily built-up, machine-ridden London that the real shock came. Everything was so familiar, but with Pakistan such an intense, recent experience in our minds, London seemed like a dream. I don't mind admitting finding seventy miles per hour on the M4 quite frightening for a while.

The expedition was conceived, planned and executed by ourselves, nine IC undergraduates and a Cambridge postgraduate, with advice and help from the Royal Geographical Society and the Imperial College Exploration Board. Along with a number of industrial sponsors, they helped fund us, though we spent several hundred pounds each ourselves. The message is that all you need is the desire to do something and the willingness to work hard for it. The experience will be worthwhile, as I expect members of the several College expeditions of last year would agree.

Trying to express the highlights of a ten-week, ten-person expedition is hard enough when you are talking to people—in the space available here all I can do is offer some of my strongest impressions.

The people were almost without exception friendly and co-operative—the only exceptions being in business matters such as perks for the porters or the jeep driver who refused to take us all the way back to Skardu because the police there wanted him for gun-running. We taught them football during rests on the walk-in—and began to regret it as their enthusiasm far exceeded our available energy and our ability to repair the beach ball we were using.

We watched the moonrise from our advanced base camp, several miles

away and higher up than our main camp. It began at dusk as a pale silvery glow running along the tops of the snow-plastered Meru group, a glow which expanded and brightened, washing out the stars all round. Then the first sliver of moon appeared, an astonishingly bright splinter—as though someone had lifted the curtain of the night sky up from the grey mountain silhouette to reveal a cold silvery sunlight beyond. As it rose it was as though the area had been floodlit. Sharp shadows lay everywhere and the ice and snow on the mountains and glaciers around us gleamed as thousands of little shards of ice reflected moonlight at us; this superimposed on the general fluorescent appearance of the moonlit snow. Just as the sky is much blacker and the stars sharper, the moonlight seems ten times as intense as in Britain—we could hardly look at it. We watched the meteor showers in awe, lying in our sleeping bags, heads out of the tent, wondering when the next one would flash by.

Some of us met a bear, which immediately ran off (and considering our appearance after a few weeks, I'm not surprised). A lone eagle occasionally soared over the area and a particularly cheeky ibex chewed up the inner of a tent we'd been using up the hill by base camp as a marker! (Sorry, Exploration Board.)

We flew out from Skardu in a Fokker Friendship—a plane of limited cruising altitude which meant we had an astonishing flight, threading our way along gorges and around mountains, sometimes only a couple

of hundred feet from a rock face towering over us. We were treated to sights of yet more famous and magnificent mountains, the early morning lighting lending a magical air of unreality to the whole thing. After seven weeks on foot suddenly we were soaring over villages and valleys, the cultivation terraces picked out by the low sun. Never have I found flight more exciting.

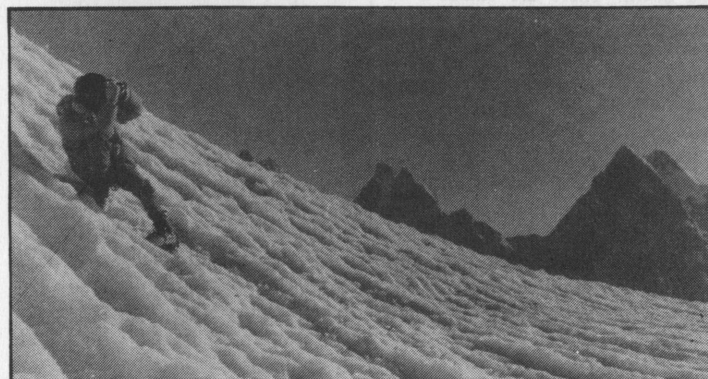
Possibly the best feeling of all (apart from getting back to Britain) was sitting on top of a peak, knowing that almost certainly no-one had ever been there before, eating a few raisins or a Crunchy bar. It would usually be just after sunrise (we climbed in the very early morning while the snow was still frozen—allowing us to ascend even 70-80° slopes using ice axes and crampons) and we would survey our half-familiar area from a new vantage-point, seeing distant behemoths lighting up in the first sunlight, watching the pinks and yellows of dawn rush down the mountains and ridges as the sun rose.



Sharp, deep shadows picked out the textures in rocky mountainsides, smooth rounded ones the snow, moulded to the underlying rock. As the sun rose, illumination became more even and the texture faded away, the details dissolving into the bulk of the mountains, distant ridges becoming indistinguishable from the background. Then, with the show over, we'd head down.

Possibly the worst feeling was being horribly unwell in Islamabad, in an 'air-conditioned' hotel room at 30°C, too weak to walk—but I was unlucky in that, most people escaped it.

A Fazakerley (Space Physics PG)



EXPLORATION BOARD

Going places

Have you ever wanted to travel to exotic parts of the world, to investigate foreign cultures, explore uncharted regions, to boldly go where not IC student has gone before, etc...but have never had the necessary money or perhaps companions for your venture?

Well, have no fear, Imperial College's Exploration Board is here! The Exploration Board, funded by Imperial College, ICU and various other organisations, provides financial support to expeditions organised by IC students, which it has approved.

The Board do not 'run' expeditions—it is entirely up to the students concerned to set up and run an expedition. Rather the Board meets some (usually not all) of the expedition costs, loans some expedition equipment and provides insurance for expedition members and equipment. The Board also gives expeditions official status as an Imperial College venture—useful when dealing with potential sponsors and foreign governments.

So how do you get these goodies? Well, once you have formed a reasonably detailed plan and a rough team you should contact either the Chairman Dr R C Schroter of Aero Eng or the Hon Sec Mr D M C Adlington at 15 Princes Gardens. It would be helpful if you could also contact a student representative:

Patrick Coleman (RSMU)

Ina El-Khadi (RCSU)

David Grimshaw (ICU)

Richard Hardiman (C&GU)

This should be done as soon as possible, so that it can be discussed at the last Board Meeting for this academic year on Wednesday February 3.

You don't have to be an Indiana Jones or even a member of an 'adventurous' club (like Scout and Guide or Sub-Aqua) to go on an expedition—although any relevant skills would be helpful. The Why, Where and When are entirely up to you, although it should have a reasonable purpose (getting a suntan or getting stoned on foreign booze are not reasonable) and the expedition members should be good ambassadors for Imperial College. Recent expeditions include an ornithological trip to the Cameroons, monitoring pollution levels underwater along the Sinai Peninsula and Mount McKinley in Canada.

So c'mon, get off your butt and into a wide world ripe for exploring!

OPINION

I wanna tell you a story

Now hear and attend and listen, best beloveds, while your Uncle Andy tells you the saddest tale ever written. It is the tale of five thousand unhappy children and all their wicked Uncles and Aunts.

Once upon a time there were five thousand children, who went to a big, big school in a place called London. Every morning of the week, the children got up at about 8am feeling miserable. When they had cleaned their teeth, for most of them were good little children, best beloveds, they would walk out of their damp little houses carrying such an awful lot of books and paper, and wend their ways to the big school, still feeling miserable because they really didn't like the big, big school they had to go to.

The big school was ruled over by all the little children's Uncles and Aunts. Some of them were quite nice, although they were all a bit old, best beloveds, but some of them were so nasty that you will have bad dreams



about them, just like the little children did. The ones who were really nasty had forgotten how to laugh a long time ago, and had spent such a long time being rude to little children that they couldn't remember how to be any other way. Most of them were all shrivelled and dried up, so that they looked just like dried plums, and were just as sour.

The wicked Uncles and Aunts had to teach the little children all sorts of difficult things. The little children were quite willing to try their best, but when they had first come to the big, big school they had had such a shock meeting the Uncles and Aunts, who were all divided up into nasty things like Course Coordinators and Personal Tutors, that they had lost all

their enthusiasm, and the Uncles and Aunts were such dry, dead people that even when they said something interesting the children just sighed and felt sad.

But listen carefully, best beloveds, for the very worst thing was this: When some of the little children who had just got to the big school went to see their personal Aunts and Uncles to tell them how unhappy they were, the wicked grown-ups wouldn't help at all! They only told the poor children to work harder than ever, which was just the problem in the first place. It wasn't that the Aunts and Uncles were bad in the first place, but they had been locked up in the big, big school for such a long time that they had forgotten what the world was like, and besides, because of a very wicked thing called Tenure, best beloveds, they couldn't be got rid of even if they were really awful, and if all the children said so at once. So all the little children had lost heart, and never complained any more, except to other little children.

My friends, despite the Rudyard Kipling style, I ain't kidding. Many people here do find life the most appalling grind, and it shouldn't be that way. It is mostly the result of the dated and unsympathetic attitudes displayed by many members of staff who can't teach to save their lives, and who have forgotten how to be human. If you don't watch it, you could end up like that.

It is not natural for people to be middle aged in their attitudes at the age of nineteen, and yet I reckon a majority of undergraduates here fall into that category. And you will too, if you don't do something about it.

Rebel! Complain! Don't stand for incompetence, don't roll with the punches, don't let the bastards grind you down. There are channels of complaint, there are ways of making your voice heard. If an entire lecture group writes to the Rector complaining about a particular member of staff, things might happen.

Don't let them turn you into a machine—behave like a student, which means an intelligent young person who has definite ideas and who gets things done. Drag this prehistoric institution screaming and kicking into the twentieth century—it CAN be done.

Andy Bannister

OPINION

In praise of...

Praise may be out of fashion, and dangerously likely to worsen IC's complacency about teaching standards, but still... Here's a bit of encouragement for those who, albeit with natural advantages, are getting it nearly right—the Geology department.

It's well into the academic year and once more voices are raised in chorus—no, it's not more Christmas carols, it's that ancient sport, 'Let's slag off the lecturers'. Isn't it sad to see so many people having such an awful time for three years of their lives? Boring courses, appalling lecturers, no social life (?); in short, IC has no redeeming features.

Can I really be the only person in College enjoying my course? My opinion is that the lecturers in my department are doing an amazing job under extremely trying circumstances.

I suppose the fact that I find my subject enthralling (on a good day) gives me a big advantage. But in my department one does get the feeling that at least one of College's boasts is true—we *are* being kept up-to-date on some of the latest research and ideas in the subject. Where else would you be told, 'Here's the latest idea on this topic, but don't write it in your exams because it hasn't been published yet'? Where else do you get sent off to a two-day meeting to hear some of the biggest names in a specific field presenting work that's fairly obviously still being thought out?

Besides all this, our lecturers manage to project their enthusiasm for their subject despite such provocation as having a one-person audience for three weeks running—due, I hasten to add, to the students' nocturnal lifestyle rather than to the quality of

the lecturing. It must help that classes are small enough for students and lecturers to at least recognise each other, unlike other departments I've heard described. Formality is at a minimum, and most people seem to feel that the lecturers are at least approachable. Admittedly, it would take a very hard-hearted person not to thaw a bit at the sight of a bedraggled student staggering from a day out in the field. Also, with the authorities keeping close tabs on who spends the field trip hiding in the village coffee-shop, it's difficult for students to feel the department is impersonal. The nasty comments, when delivered, are all too personal.

This brings me to one complaint that could be made—that we're being spoon-fed. Yet by this stage we're also doing large projects with only as much supervision as we need—or ask for. Parts of the course leave much to be desired. Computing as taught to first years, for example, was a standing joke; that is, if you were one of the lucky few who already knew one end of the keyboard from the other. Some of the lecturers at times provided the classic cure for insomnia, though listening to people from other courses we seem to have escaped lightly. And we do know that our complaints have been heard and, hopefully, acted on.

There are, of course, the usual quota of students who never see their personal tutors. Possibly many of them have no wish to do so. And it's quite likely the tutor won't be able to help with coursework—specialisation means that people often can't answer with any authority questions on anything outside their own small field. Frustrating indeed, but at least (if my tutor is anything to go by; and again, surely I'm not the only lucky one) the tutors are there to reassure and give the odd word of advice.

Summing up is easy: I find my course fantastic fun (though you wouldn't guess it from the amount of work I do—charitably described as minimal) and if this is mainly because I love the subject, the lecturers in this department have at least helped show it off at its most fascinating and challenging.

Even today, few things can rival homosexuality when it comes to setting the cat amongst the pigeons. There's simply nothing quite like it for precipitating a scandal, provoking an outcry, baffling the 'experts' or just disrupting the day to day tedium of a dull straight-orientated society.

Here then is a farcical merry-go-round of idle cant, blind prejudice, convoluted theories and conflicting statements as entertaining as they are controversial, maddening or depressing.

James Papa presents:

'Do you know if your vicar is homosexual?' asked *The Sun* newspaper last week, before helpfully providing us with its own version of '10 ways to spot one.'

A GOOD SLAGGING

1. What is homosexuality?

'Homosexuality is a sickness, just as are rape or wanting to become head of General Motors.'—*Eldridge Cleaver, US black power leader.*

'Homosexuality is funny, provided it's on the telly; off the telly homosexuals are only fit for being punched up.'—*Philip Adams, Australian TV critic.*

2. The closet—better out than in?

'It's not camp or cunning to stay in the closet—it's cowardly.'—*Lisa Power, gay activist.*

'Neither confirm it, nor deny it.'—*Quinten Crisp.*

'It is better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.'—*Andre Gide, writer.*

'I dislike the fact that your sexuality should be your most important social categorisation.'—*Simon Napier-Bell, pop group manager.*

'People who won't come out are ashamed of what they do in their own home. It's like putting yourself in prison, locking the door but holding onto the key.'—*Harvey Fierstein.*

3. Gays and politics

'We want to build a society in which we encourage rather than restrict the variety and richness of human nature.'—*Margaret Thatcher quoted by CGHE. (JP says 'what hypocrisy'.)*

'If you want a queer for a neighbour vote labour. If you don't want to be gay join the conservatives today.'—*Anne Robertson, Tory delegate at '85 conference.*

'I haven't been kissed by Peter Tatchell!'—*Slogan used by liberals to smear Tatchell during the Bermondsey bi-election 1983.*

'If Hitler returned and took over this country now, most gay men would probably think, wow, what sexy uniforms—and order another pint.'—*Lisa Power, gay activist.*

4. Gays and God

'Islam is not against masturbation, but considers as sins homosexuality, birth control and nudity. Wives should be discouraged from going to beauty salons and similar places, to avoid lesbianism.'—*Muslim sex manual.*

'If God had meant us to have homosexuals he would have created Adam and Bruce.'—*Anita Bryant, US homophobe.*

'...the treasures of the Vatican would not be enough to compensate those whom we have injured with our prejudices, our sexual illiteracy and our ignorant and conscious cruelty.'—*Former RC nun.*



5. Men in Frocks

'There is more to be learned from wearing a dress for a day, than there is from wearing a suit for life.'—*Larry Mitchell, writer.*

When asked by a reporter why he was wearing a woman's dress David Bowie is said to have replied: 'It's a man's dress.'

6. Sex & Violence

'Show me an army of inverters and I'll show you an army that is invincible.'—*Warrior leader, commenting on the Ancient Greeks' military strength, attributed to the love bonds between their men.*

'Perhaps men fight each other because they are afraid of loving one another.'—*Jim Cotter, Anglican priest.*

'I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults.'—*Gore Vidal.*

7. Literature

'To love oneself is the beginning of a life long romance.'—*Oscar Wilde.*

'What the public really loathes in homosexuality is not the thing itself but having to think about it. If it could be slipped into our midst overnight or legalised overnight by a decree in small print, there would be few protests.'—*E M Forster, 1960.*

8. Sun Spots

Excerpts from Britain's most morally upstanding institution.

'The filthy vicars in our midst—October 2.

'Gay vicar and his lover in AIDS storm'—September 30.

'Sally Army boss preyed on bible boys'—October 7.

'Pulpit poofs can stay'—November 12.

Finally a Joke!

Question: What's the difference between the Sun and the Beano?

Answer: Four pence.

Compiled from issues of *Gay Times* and *The Sun* by James Papa (SLAGS).

1. The older vicar who tries very hard to look younger. Many gays are obsessed about their age. They dress in an obviously young and trendy way.

2. The vicar who takes an undue interest in the ceremonies of the Church. The incense and pretty robes associated with Church ritual can often be a turn on.

3. A tendency to be a peeping Tom. The vicar who is always in the locker room with his choirboys or scouts could well be getting a kick out of watching them undress. He may not be a threat as such and will always have a legitimate reason for being there.

4. The vicar who takes an undue interest in exposing or condemning sexual scandal. Too great a public interest in sex can disguise a personal obsession.

5. The person who disappears for two midweek days on a regular basis. He could be off visiting a lover that he does not wish to bring to his parish for fear of being exposed as a homosexual.

6. The vicar who lives alone and is a confirmed bachelor. However there are many gays who are married with children.

7. Insecure and introverted vicars could just be trying to hide and fight their true feelings. Many agonise about reconciling their homosexuality with Christianity.

8. The vicar who prefers the company of women. He will have lots of women friends. This is a way of further disguising his true sexual leanings.

9. The parson who gives a very manly handshake after the Sunday service. He wants to emphasize his masculinity to his parishioners.

10. An undue interest in interior design and a fondness of cats.

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What's On

WEDNESDAY

Sailing12.30pm.
Meet outside Southside.

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

Ski Club12.30pm.
Above Southside Bar. Meet for trip to dry ski slope for lessons and recreational skiing. Bring gloves and thick socks.

Golf Meeting1.00pm.
Sudbury. Regular weekly meeting.

Caving Club Meeting.....1.00pm.
Union Snack Bar.

Wargames Meeting..1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

Ham Soc1.15pm.
3rd Floor Union Building. Christmas celebrations for all members and anyone else interested.

Beginners Rock n Roll.....2.00pm.
UDH. 80p. See Dance Club.

Shotokan Karate3.00pm.
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

Advanced Rock n Roll.....3.00pm.
UDH. 80p. See Dance Club.

ULU Meditation Group.....7.00pm.
Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street. Traditional breathing meditation. Everyone welcome. No charge.

Jazz & Rock Club Hop7.30pm.
Union Lower Lounge. £1.50 for 5 bands including 'The Purple People Eaters' and 'Schrodinger's Cat'.

THURSDAY

ICYHA Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

Meth Soc Meeting.12.30pm.
Huxley 413 for Christmas Lunch.

Socialist Society Meeting.....12.45pm.
Brown Committee Room. All welcome. Contact Adrian Grainger (Maths 3).

Ski Club12.45pm.
Above Southside Bar. Sign up for lessons, racing team and the holiday at Christmas.



DON'T THINK MUCH OF THE VIEW

SFSOC Library Meeting.....1.00pm.
Green Committee Room, Union Building. Borrow books from our vast library, help plan future events. Members only.

Arabic Classes.....1.30pm.
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

Gliding Club Meeting.....5.30pm.
Aero 254. Arrange trial flights, lifts to Lasham, talks and then to the bar.

Orienteering Training.....5.30pm.
Union Gym. Social meeting held from 6.30pm onwards.

Judo.....6.30pm.
Union Gym. Next beginners' course—January.

Film Soc Film7.00pm.
Mech Eng 220. 'The Name of the Rose'. 50p members, £1 non-members (membership available).

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.

Soul Express.....9.00pm.
IC Radio. Danny & Ken present the best in soul, dance and house.

ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm.
Weeks Hall Basement. See Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCAG).

FRIDAY

Circuit Training.....12.30pm.
Union Gym with Cross Country and Athletics Club. Everyone welcome. Free.

Orienteering.....12.30pm.
Brown/Green Committee Room (top floor of Union Building). Arrangements for following Sunday's event.

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

Upbeat FILMS

Christmas comes but once a year, and so do those evergreen films you've all seen before. Such as *Jaws*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Great Escape*, etc, etc. The pick of the bunch must be *Ben Hur*, not for the Oscars but that it's such a monumental film. As for films from the 80s, three seem to stand out from the crowd. *The Woman in Red* was a big hit, with Mrs Wilder co-starring with her husband in a comedy only spoiled by the music. There is *Terms of Enderarment*, the much acclaimed tragi-comedy. But the best film by far is *The Killing Fields*, which portrays the war in Cambodia without any of the 'bang, bang, you're dead' stuff. The sound track deserved an Oscar and overall *The Killing Fields* puts *Platoon* where it should be: on the *Rambo* pile.



Best Seller

Best Seller stars James Woods and Brian Dennehy two of the most interesting and powerful lesser-known Hollywood actors who, here, have been given roles that couldn't be better designed for them (whether the script was written with them in mind I know not). The story too is based around an interesting and clever idea and starts well.

Dennehy plays Dennis Meechum, a policeman and writer, basing his first best seller on an incident during the seventies when, during a robbery on a police evidence storeroom, three of his friends are killed and he is wounded. Years later, after the death of his wife, he has difficulty writing and runs into financial trouble. At this point the menacing character of Cleve (Woods) appears. He is a professional assassin who was involved in the earlier robbery and who now, after being cast aside by his employer Paul Shenar, an extremely powerful businessman, seeks revenge by offering to expose his own and Shenar's activities.

Together they set off across America to collect the evidence that will be needed to write the 'best seller' that will uncover Shenar. This part of the film is interesting, as the relationship between the two men develops from antagonism and mistrust to an uneasy friendship. It becomes clear, as Cleve describes in detail and even shows off about how cleverly he has achieved, the ghastly killings of his many victims, that he is a psychopath, and that his motives for helping Meechum write the book are more inscrutable than they at first seemed. Does he want it to be a confession, an expurgation of his conscience or, more likely, as Cleve struggles to make sure he is seen in a comparatively good light, an epitaph that paints him as some sort of hero. Meechum's motives too are unclear, his main aim is to bring down Shenar, but does he want to get Cleve too? He certainly intends revenge for Cleve's involvement in the 70s killings, and a confrontation seems inevitable.

Unfortunately, from here the film develops none of these possibilities, Cleve and Meechum unite to face the common enemy of Shenar and his organisation, and the film wends its extremely violent latter stages to a bloodbath ending that provides no insights into any of the subtleties mentioned, and cops out of the confrontation between the two lead characters.

The Dead

Dublin, 1904.

On a new year's evening, two elderly sisters—Miss Kate and Miss Julia Morkan—welcome their guests to their annual dance. Amongst the guests are Gabriel Conroy and his wife Gretta.

The dance proceeds smoothly—a well-known drunk manages to avoid disgracing himself, for a change. Gabriel, who gives a speech about absent friends, is suddenly struck by his wife's pose on the staircase, as she listens to another guest singing the old, mournful ballad 'The Lass of Aughrim'.

Later that evening, Gretta confesses to her husband that the ballad reminded her of an innocent love from her girlhood. The boy, who was ailing, came through snow to bid her farewell when she left the village, and subsequently he died—perhaps, she imagines, for love of her.

Gabriel, moved by her tears, and perhaps a shade jealous, feels a great emptiness inside him. He knows that he has never known love like that.

Putting aside the notoriety that *The Dead* will undoubtedly gain, being John Huston's last film, it is nevertheless a virtually flawless adaption of James Joyce's marvellous short story. There are one or two minor quibbles—Joyce's text would be better presented in the form of a voice over narration. In the story, the moment where Gretta pauses on the stairs is one of graceful mystery; Gabriel isn't even sure who the woman is. In the film, due to lack of any direct communication between Gabriel and the audience, the moment must be more deliberately staged for him, and thus it loses its mystery, and becomes more of a pregnant moment.

I found this disappointing to say the least, since Woods and Dennehy, who both perform well, are given some witty and sharp dialogue and deserve better in the way of a plot. However, as is sadly too common in Hollywood these days, the script has relented to the pressures of commercialism and has chosen the easy route of entertaining with 'glam' violence.

A.K.

Spaceballs

I haven't actually seen this yet, but it's Mel Brooks writing, directing and acting, so it must be good!

C.R.



The adaptation by Huston's son, Tony, is excellent. The script manages to capture all the exquisite and unmistakably Joycean elaborations and expansions that have made the writer so famous and intriguing. The final scenes, where Gabriel looks out of the hotel window at the wintry landscape, after hearing his wife's confession, exactly mirror Joyce's text:

'Think of all those back in time...this solid world dwindling...snow falling on that lovely graveyard...upon all the living and the dead.'

Ironically, the desolation and yet reconciliation in these words seems to mirror Huston's regretful acceptance of his own death.

The film is almost entirely plotless, the drama reduced to small moments. *The Dead* is more like an orchestral work—the chorus conjures up one image; the inevitability of death, and the dreadful sense of waste which we all feel upon its eternal hovering above us. Readers of English poet Phillip Larkin should have no trouble in comprehending these ideas.

The Dead is impeccably made and directed, a typical change of direction by Huston after the relative commercialism of *Prizzi's Honour*. It's a masterpiece, in which Huston himself will live. It's by no means mainstream cinema, but should be seen, even if it's the first and last time you go to see such a film.

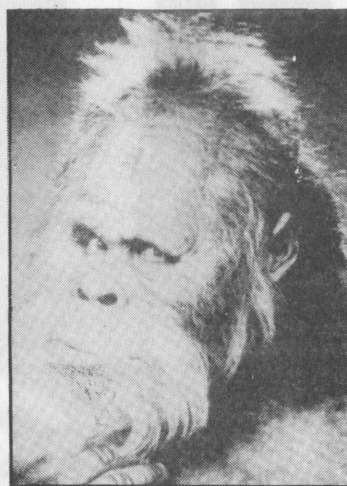
C.R.

Bigfoot and the Hendersons

The Henderson Family, on holiday in the mountains, literally run into the legendary Bigfoot, and decide to take him home, with hilarious results.

Need I say more? Perhaps a trifle overlong, but good for an afternoon when you feel like being a kid. This film is the first to come out for a long time that is anti-gun and anti-violence.

C.R.



Kershaw, Aidan
Aaron Kotcheff
Charles Robin
Thomas Greig

THEATRE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

RSC, Barbican

As a Christmas show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* seems ideal: Shakespearean culture for the adults and lots of fairies for the children of all ages, roughly 0 to 90. The RSC's current production makes sure that both aspects are well enjoyed.

The production takes us back several decades and provides us with a delightful visual spectacle, although the time change is only relevant to the humans, fairies being timeless creatures as any Peter Pan devotee will tell you.

The story concerns two sets of lovers, only one pair of whom actually returns their love. Poor Helena loves Demetrius, who only has eyes of Hermia, who is loved by and loves Lysander. Kathryn Pogson turns in a superb performance as Helena, and her argument with Hermia, re Lysander's sudden infatuation with her, is undoubtedly one of the best staged moments of the play. All the sudden changes in peoples' infatuation, are caused by Puck, aide to Oberon king of the

fairies, who goes around putting magic potion into the eyes of all the wrong people. Mr Woodeson is assured and witty as Puck and his obvious acting ability does wonders with what are already wonderful lines. As a sidekick to Oberon he is perfect and a complete opposite to the somewhat harsh portrayal of Oberon by Gerard Murphy.

Whilst the fairies are on the whole light of foot and delightfully quick, Oberon's dance with his queen Titania, looked sadly out of place and both Mr Murphy and Ms Tomelty (Titania) looked surprisingly uncomfortable.

It is however for the great performance of the whole that it will be remembered and it is a considerable compliment to say that very rarely does one think about the age of the language or the fact that much of it is written in rhyming couplets.

So if you are bored with Tinkerbell, let Puck do the entertaining this Christmas.

K.A.



FILM

Innerspace

A minaturised one-man submersible is accidentally injected into a supermarket cashier, who thinks that he's possessed. He then has to go on a wild madcap chase to retrieve the silicon chip needed to re-enlarge the intruder. Foreign electronics buyers and nasty industrialists complicate matters.

This is the latest offering from Steven Spielberg/Joe Dante, and has the same problems/advantages of all the others; fast moving plots with holes through which you could drive a double decker bus, moments of hilarious screwball comedy, moments of unutterable silliness. In other words, great entertainment. And if the plot sounds familiar, it's because the film is a sort of remake of *Fantastic Voyage*, with Racquel Welch. *Innerspace* sports its own beauty: Meg Ryan, last seen in *Top Gun*.

C.R.

Our Village
Mary Russell Mitford

Miss Mitford introduces the reader to a record of village life in the first half of the nineteenth century. *Our Village* is a collection of sketches of rural character and scenery that includes such topics as a country cricket match, various character studies of neighbours and descriptions of country walks throughout the year. Not just a charming period piece, or even a social history, but the memories and reflections of a warm and resilient woman.

Published by Penguin, £3.95.

The Official Doctor's
Joke Book
by Larry Wilde

I am not sure which body authorised this book as official, except that it certainly was not the British Medical Association. The book is an import from the States, with the only alteration for the English edition being

the price on the cover. On the inside is American spelling, American language and American money, as well as the most appalling American humour at its very worst. Not a single joke managed to produce a laugh, not even from the doctor I tried a couple out with. Don't bother considering getting this book if you have a sense of humour.

Bantam, £1.95

Allen Ginsberg—Collected
Poems 1987-1980

An extraordinary collection of poems by an extraordinary man; Allen Ginsberg is a man of many faces: Jew, Buddhist, ancient sage, 'enfant terrible', tragic dynamic, and his poetry reflects this: readalouds, incantations, drug-induced hallucinations and tender, explicit love poems. This book gives a unique record of life lived at the raw end during the last four decades in most places you've always wanted to get

to or out of. Ginsberg is a major American poet, a great influence in the American political voice and a lyrical genius.

Published by Penguin, £9.95.

Rewards and Fairies
by Rudyard Kipling

I will look forward this Christmas to toasting me toes in front of a roaring fire each evening and indulging myself in Kipling's delightful continuation of *Puck of Pook Hill*, *Rewards and Fairies*. If I am in luck the mince pies will last long enough to read a couple of the short stories, but if not I shall have to content myself with one of Kipling's classic poems that are scattered through the book.

The title and first appearance suggest this is a child's book, but I don't know any children who could possibly appreciate the magic in Kipling's writing. Definately for adult stockings.

Penguin, £2.95

T.G.

BOOKS

THE ALTERNATIVE PAGE

RIDING THE ANTELOPE



by Earl Grey

I was in Earls Court Station waiting for a tube when I was knocked senseless by an amazing conundrum.

'Will running down an escalator increase my chances of catching a train?'

When I reverted to mathematical jargon and used lots of big words it became apparent that the the probability of catching a train is the same whether you run down an escalator or not. Put it another way—if you wait on the platform long enough then a train will eventually turn up (barring nuclear war, the abolition of London Underground and Ian Howgate's underwear). It is obvious, even to a pygmy, that the probability of catching a train must always be one.

But, you might query; if a person runs down the escalator will it increase his chances of catching the next train?

In order to analyse the problem properly we must define what we mean by the next train.

Definition 1; The Next Train. The next train is defined to be the first train to arrive on the platform taken from the moment when the subject first sets foot on the escalator.

It follows...

Definition 2; Catching the Next Train. The Next Train is said to be caught when the subject arrives on the platform when the doors are open or in the process of opening.

Similarly...

Definition 3; Missing the Next Train. The Next Train is said to be missed when the subject arrives on the platform when the doors have closed or are in the process of closing.

It is obvious to anyone with half a braincell (Sorry Dave, no offence) that the probability of catching the next train will depend upon the following variables...

T The time taken for a stationary subject to reach the bottom of a particular escalator.

C The coefficient of runningdowntheescalatoriness

K Big K

A The time taken for the Next Train to arrive, timed from the point when the subject first steps foot on the escalator.

W The waiting time between trains

d The length of time the train is on the platform with the doors open.

If we define Big K to be a constant equal to the time taken to run from the bottom of the escalator to the platform it is immediately obvious that the probability of catching the train can be represented by the following Heaviside step function.

$$P = H\left((A+d) - \left(\frac{T}{C} + K\right)\right)$$

If P is 0, the subject will miss the train, and if P is 1 the train will be caught. In other words...

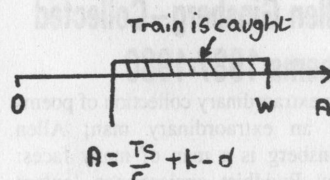
IF $P=1$

$$A+d > \frac{T}{C} + K$$

$$\therefore A > \frac{T}{C} + K - d$$

A must lie between 0 & W !!

Looking at this graphically...



Hence we can see that the probability of catching the Next Train can be represented by the following expression...

$$P = \frac{W - \left(\frac{T}{C} + K - d\right)}{W}$$

What does this mean in practice? Well, if trains arrive every 300 seconds, the escalator taking 30 seconds with a further 30 seconds to reach the platform and the train stays on the platform for 20 seconds, and if we assume that the coefficient of runningdowntheescalatoriness is 2 then the probability of catching the train is found to be 92%. Similarly, if we remain stationary on the escalator the chances of catching the next train are found to be 86%. Amazing huh! There

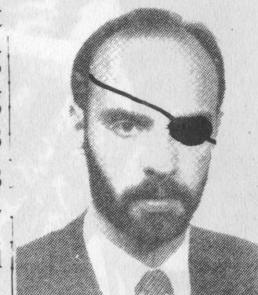
is only an 8% improvement if you run down the escalator.

Special offer. As a special offer to readers of FELIX, you can send off for a table of the parameters for these equations, tabulated for the most frequently used tube stations. Just think of the effort you could save by avoiding unnecessary running. Simply send an empty cornflakes packet to me, Earl Grey c/o the Physics Department.

Next Week we look at bicycles.

'I was gobstruck by the gigantic range of scientific, technological and managerial courses on offer'

Harold Hackney graduated from Imperial College in 1913 with first class honours. He is now tackling extremely complicated engineering problems making use of calculators and graph paper. Best of all he has an eighteen year old blond secretary with a passion for wearing mini skirts.



'The lectures were tremendously stimulating and the lab sessions were enormously motivating. I found the tutorial sessions orgasmic and the problem sheets gave me a real high. I used to swap sheets with my friends from other courses when I had finished my own. In my spare time I studied serbo-croat and origami.'

How To Be A Male Chauvinist Pig

By The Foreign Correspondents

Cleaning The Floor



Mowing The Lawn



Unblocking The Loo



Richard Wiles

Bill Goodwin

CONSERVATIVE

Parliament

On Friday November 27, 18 lucky members of College were able to visit the Houses of Parliament on a trip organised by the Conservative Society. After passing through the security checks, we were greeted by the Conservative Party Chairman, Mr Peter Brooke, who took us into the Visitor's Gallery of the House of Commons where we listened to a debate between Mrs Edwina Currie and Dennis Skinner on the NHS. After the debate, Mr Brooke took us on a short tour of the Chamber itself, explained how the Members voted in 'Divisions' and showed us the St Stephen's Hall and the 'Crypt' Chapel. Unfortunately, Mr Brooke had a meeting to attend and was unable to show us the rest of the Palace of Westminster or the House of Lords. Despite the early finish, it was a most interesting and informative visit.

Mr Brooke has very kindly offered another day in February when he will take another group on a guided tour. Places for this trip will be limited so if you are not yet a member of the Conservative Society, come along to our committee meetings every Friday at 12.30pm in Mech Eng 569 or contact John Ranson, Mech Eng 3.

WEIGHTS

Improving

As promised, here are a few more details about the planned changes for the Weights Club.

We want to provide Club training for those of you who at present are unsatisfied with the Club in that respect.

You can benefit from coaching and improve your performance within a good Club atmosphere.

Would anybody interested in taking a training course next term, please send a note with their name, department and the training times and the type of training they would like, to Andrew Tay (Physics 2) or Nige Meyers (Chem Eng 4) by the end of term. This is merely to get an idea of the number involved and in no way commits you.

Ladies, please remember the Weights Club is an equal opportunities club.

ORIENTEERING

Man-eaters

The ninth event in this year's calendar took place at Holmbury Hill near Dorking.

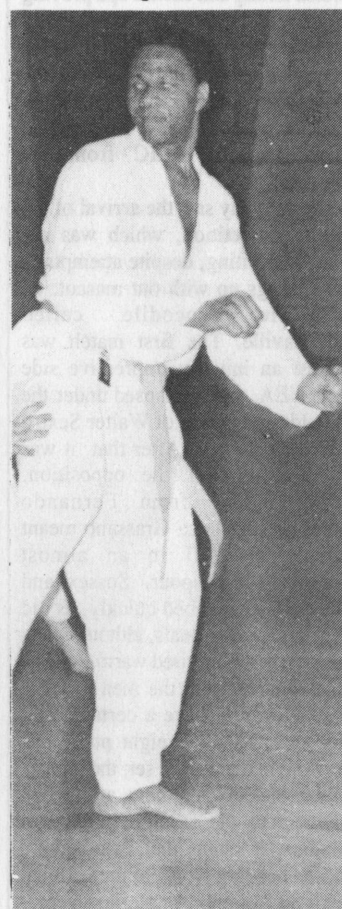
The area was very hilly with copious amounts of forest and thick bracken scattered around. There were many interesting features on the course including several 'man-eating' gulleys, which lived up to their description.

This was not one of the best weekends for the Club regarding results but the social atmosphere of the Club prevailed and spirits remained moderately high on the journey home.

Forthcoming events include a colour-coded one in Chessington on December 20 and the Christmas Dinner.

QT CONTINUES

The leader itself, in an effort to gain literary acclaim, put pen to paper and produced the work



MOTOR

Dense fog stops Guilds rally

Dense fog in the Thames Valley on Friday night caused the postponement of round 4 of the City & Guilds College Motor Club championship, a 108 mile rally on O.S. map 175.

Visibility was so bad that it would have been impossible for the crews to maintain anywhere near the 30mph average for the event.

The rally will now be fitted into the already hectic schedule for next term, which now features 5 rallies, an autotest, production car trial, econorun, Mini Miglia, and a circuit trip plus the continuation of the Scalextric championship.

Anyone interested in any of the events should see out noticeboard on Mech Eng level 3 or come to the Guilds Office.

REMEMBER

The deadline for all clubs articles is Monday lunchtime before publication.

KARATE

Grades higher

On Wednesday December 9 over 80 people turned up to grade at Imperial's Shotokan Karate Club. The grading examiner on this occasion was Sensei Otta (8th Dan) and assistant to Master Enoda, Chief Examiner for Great Britain and Europe. Over 50 beginners succeeded in gaining their first belt, with some achieving a double grading ie being of sufficiently high standard to gain two belts.

The afternoon began with a training session with Sensei Otta, who displayed his great skill in teaching and motivated everyone in the packed gym. His excellent technique coupled with his attention to detail made the lesson an enjoyable one for everyone who took part. The traditional celebratory dinner followed the grading. It was held this year at the Grosvenor Hotel, with everyone making the most of the 'all you can eat' carvery. The Club was privileged to have both Sensei Otta and Sensei Caesar Andrews (our instructor) as

the guests of honour at the dinner.

The officers of the Club would like to congratulate everyone on passing their grading and for making this term so successful. We hope to see you training again next year. Finally, we would like, as always, to thank Caesar Andrews for the tremendous amount of effort he puts into the Club and for the encouragement he gives us.

FILM

Medieval

IC Film Soc presents *The Name of the Rose*. An exciting tale of murder and detection set in Medieval times, starring Sean Connery and F Murray Abraham.

7pm, Thurs December 17, Mech Eng 220, 50p members, £1 non-members.

BOAT

Farcity boat race

Four IC crews entered IBIS head. The first eight boated on time, followed shortly by two novice eights. The senior C crew were one man short, had no boat and lost their start position but eventually arrived at the start line as the last crew, went off. They did well to finish 14th, 40 seconds behind the top squad in 3rd position. The novice crews finished well, the first being 20 seconds behind the senior Cs.

BADMINTON

Ladies' Day

All three teams are still in the UAU Team Championships. The ladies, having finished second in their group had a play-off with UCL which they won pretty convincingly 6-3. The men's 1st team also finished runners-up in the group and are now through to the last 16 having beaten City University 7-2. They now have to play the champions, Loughborough.

The men's 2nds were cruising to pole position in their league but slipped up against Kent by losing 8-1. Kent did have a strong side but the 2nds were not helped by the absence of 3 players, 2 of whom were playing for the 1sts. Anyway, the match was closer than the 8-1 deficit suggested with Richard Etheridge and Tim Bartle just losing out to the opposition's first pair, and Ian Mitchell and Andy McAleer losing 18-17 in the final game against their 2nds. Despite this defeat the team finished runners-up in the group and are through to the last 16 having had a bye in the play-offs.

In the London Colleges Knock-Out Cup IC are into the semi-finals having had a resounding victory over St Georges, 9-2. Richard Langford and Alastair McMaster certainly got their money's worth by beating the Georges' first pair 15-11, 17-18 and 15-11. That particular match was still going on when the third match started on the adjacent court. In the ladies' doubles IC were again more powerful overall and won 2 of the 3 rubbers, but special mention should be made of J Cohen and Monique Yeo. They played remarkably well in their first match together and only narrowly lost in the second game 15-12.

Georges won their other rubber—the mixed—but not before Richard Langford and Uta Boltze had made short work of their singles.



Universities Athletic Union

MESSAGE FROM THE BOSS

The divisional play-offs for the UAU Challenge Round finished last week with Imperial College teams showing a high level of success. Particularly notable achievements were the Rugby 1st XV and Ladies' Squash V who won all their games. The complete list of teams who qualified automatically by winning their groups is:

Rugby—1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV
Hockey—2nd XI
Squash—Ladies' V
Fencing—Men's, Ladies'

The following teams managed to secure play-offs by coming either second or third in their groups:

Hockey—1st XI

Badminton—1st VI, 2nd VI,

Ladies' VI

Football—2nd XI, 3rd XI

Squash—1st V

Of these teams all but the football and squash teams progressed to the Challenge round (the top 16 universities in the country).

This represents probably the best year for Imperial College teams in the UAU Championships since our affiliation in 1983. I would like to extend the ACC's best wishes to these teams and wish them well for the first knock-out round in January.

Mark Harris, ACC Vice Chairman.

VOLLEYBALL

Key to success

Sometimes it is easy to get paranoid about a club's luck. In recent years, the UAU regional championships have not always gone as planned for Imperial. Two years ago, the men were disqualified for fielding a woman after winning the final, and last year, the entry form got lost in the post (honest!), the team only gaining entry after turning up on the off-chance and grovelling profusely. This year, it was going to be different. This year, the key to the minibus snapped off in the lock two hours before the start of the tournament...

All was not lost. After calming a near-hysterical secretary, the women's team just caught a train to Brighton and managed to arrive almost, well nearly almost, on time. Upon presentation of half a van key, the team was forgiven, and rushed on court to crush a stropky Brunel team in two quick sets. This glory was short-lived, however, as despite some magnificent spiking from Margaret Asomaning and Anna Dahlkvist, a well-drilled Sussex team snatched victory in two sets which should have gone the other way. The women were still in the semi-finals though by virtue of the first win, to meet a very strong Kent side. This produced the most exciting match in both days of the tournament, as IC met an opponent of similar spiking power. Throughout, the team were under strong pressure, but fought strongly

due to the clean setting of captain Kristina Sagen. Going one set down, they recovered to take the second with Louisa Leung and Eleni Papa proving the effectiveness of the intelligently placed return, and Stephanie Samuels displaying remarkable reflexes on the back court. The third set went to 15 points apiece, but then Kent pulled ahead to remove IC from the competition.

The next day saw the arrival of the men's competition, which was not quite so exciting, despite attempts to liven things up with out mascot: an inflatable crocodile called Palookaville. The first match was against an initially impressive side from UEA, who collapsed under the smouldering spikes of Walter Sextro and Steve Pickett. After that, it was all downhill...for the opposition. Crisp setting from Fernando Gonzalez and Luca Grassano meant that spikes fell in an almost continuous downpour. Sussex and City both succumbed quickly, as did Kent in the semi-finals, although they did a nice synchronised warm-up. The final re-introduced the men to UEA who seemed to have a certain hang dog look, but took eight points off Imperial in the second set; the highest tally of the day. And now, after a two day trip to the seaside, without a minibus, it seems that Palookaville will be heading North to the national finals in Loughborough next year.

MIXED HOCKEY

Anna's traumas

IC Mixed 2—St Thomas (A) 0

In a game dominated by IC, the ladies played a major role with Penny causing trouble up front whilst Debbie frustrated the oppositions advances.

IC's first goal was scored by Penny after a break by Paul Hanrahan. His shot beat the keeper but was cleared off the line. However, Penny made sure of the rebound.

Some excellent goalkeeping by Spence, who is accustomed to playing with his feet, helped to maintain this lead into the second half, during which Brenan Farmer came off to increase the standard of umpiring.

Shrewd tactics by Dave Jennings and Benjamin Turner at defensive short corners ensured that no shots would go in at the near post. Also in defence, the diminutive Anna distinguished herself after squaring up to a one-on-one with their centre forward. She bravely laid in a solid tackle which not only stole the ball from the forward but left him crashing to the the ground. It took Anna several minutes to recover from this traumatic experience!

A free hit allowed Dave to slot the ball through to Paul who calmly placed it inside the right post, allowing the great man to score in his last game for IC before he heads off to Oz—good luck Paul.

BASKETBALL

Excuses!

IC's basketball team travelled down to Exeter last Wednesday for the Second Round of the UAU Championships. A full squad of 12 travelled down and immediately took advantage of Exeter's excellent facilities by frequenting the Union's canteen and 'Ram Bar'.

The match against Exeter was bound to be hard as they were runners up in the competition last year. Perhaps this, combined with the lengthy travelling, was the reason for IC's erratic play. It certainly wasn't the best that the team could do, but to the team's credit they did not relent as Exeter continued to pile up the points. Imperial continued fighting to the last seconds thereby gaining much respect.

Have a sporty Christmas, Hector and Dom.

JUDO

Making the grade

The IC Judo Club organised and held its first grading competition for low grades on Saturday December 5. In total, 7 women and 16 men from IC and other London colleges competed. Everyone had at least three fights, and we were fortunate in that only one player sustained a minor wrist injury.

All those from IC fought well, and were graded accordingly. Of the novices, Juliet White, Jon Bird, Craig Holmes and Steve Delaney were promoted to 8th Kyu (lower orange) while Brian Sentance and Stuart Wheaton were awarded 7th Kyu (upper orange). Of the graded players, Mylan Lester was promoted from 8th to 7th Kyu, and Henry

Young from 7th to 6th Kyu. Unfortunately, Yoke-Foong Tan, who had fought well for London University the week before in Leicester, was unable to compete due to a shoulder injury she had picked up earlier in the week in training. After the grading, the examiner commented on the high standard that the novices had reached after only 8 weeks of Judo—they had all been promoted from white to orange jumping over yellow belt. This is a credit to both their dedicated enthusiasm and the excellent coaching of Paul Warren (3rd Dan) and Peter Swettenham (1st Dan).

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Demolished

IC 8—Kent 2

Last Wednesday IC stretched their long unbeaten run with a convincing victory over Kent University.

Right from the start, our bowlers justified their fearsome reputation within the UCTBA. Skipper Paul Gaines, leading by example, opened up with a magnificent 203, inspiring his teammates Garman Wong (showing no reaction to last week's broken leg) and Roger Allen to memorable performances.

The B team, led as usual by Steve Russell and including Chi Chan and the new rising star Paul Young (scorer of the second 200 of the day) crushed the Kent B team. The IC C squad comprising the legendary Martin 'Moggy' Morris, Scott Waye, Ben Surtees and Simon Phillips continued the demolition by destroying their opponents with a clinical display of text book bowling.

The two points that did fall Kent's way were due to IC having an understrength ladies team (what a surprise!). In fact Christine Li, Andrina Wiles and Katie Rhodes (slightly jaded from the previous night's activities) battled gallantly only to lose by the narrowest margin to their Canterbury counterparts.

If you think you can take more drama than Dynasty, more excitement than Eastenders and more notoriety than Neighbours, then come bowling with IC—meet opposite Beit Arch (outside Aero Eng) on Wednesday at 2.20pm.

HOCKEY

Referee—11

IC 1sts—4

Essex University 1sts—1
Having only finished second in their UAU group, IC 1sts had to play a qualifying game in order to enter the last 16 of the competition. Imperial received a dream start inside 20 seconds with a goal made and scored down the left by Hari Vamadevan. Bouncing back straight away Essex forced a short corner which, if it were not for the reactions of the goalie Cole Slatter, would certainly have found the net. When placed under occasional pressure Imperial all too often resorted to stick tackles. These resulted in a spate of short corners, one of which rewarded Essex with their equalising penalty flick goal. By half time all 11 of the IC side had received a warning green card, with Gary Knaresborough having been sent off.

In the second half, Brendan Farmer came on at left half for John Rose. However Imperial continued to play with great spirit and some skill. Soon, with yet another wobble into the 'D', the inspirational Vamadevan won a penalty flick. Jim Garside left the trendy Essex goalie with no chance. From then on IC, supported by an enthusiastic crowd, swamped Essex with superb hockey resulting in two scorching goals. Paul Skipworth scored IC's corner, and Gary Knaresborough rounded things off with an undercut shot into the same spot. This result earns the 1sts an enviable trip away to Bristol.

KARATE

Don't medal with them

On Sunday December 16 the British Students' Karate Championships were held at Crystal Palace. Imperial College together with some other ULU clubs submitted a 'London University' team, many of whose members were from IC. The competition was fierce with 27 teams represented and upwards of 300 competitors, however we succeeded in coming away with a hand 'full' with 24 medals and one trophy. We were also runners up for the Keinosuke Enocda trophy awarded to the team with the best aggregate performance, with a particularly strong Cambridge team just beating us.

Credible performances were given all round with the ladies excelling themselves and winning a total of 12 medals amongst the three of them! Meiken Engelstad took 2 gold medals for individual kumite (sparring)—the BUSF (British Universities Sports Federation) and the BSSF (British Students Sports Federation) medals, with Sara Lindberg taking both bronze medals. Kate Taylor won the

BSSF and BUSF silver medals for the individual kata (fixed forms) when she came second; and together the 3 ladies came first in the team kumite removing all resistance with their strong and aggressive style taking the BUSF and BSSF gold medals as well as a huge trophy awarded for the 'pursuit of excellence' in the ladies' team kumite.

The men, though not faring quite as well, competed with good spirit and some excellent results were achieved. Not only was the whole team second best on aggregate but the men's team kata gained the BSSF and BUSF bronze medals, only narrowly missing silver and Paul Potter, Kenrick Sayers, Paul Urbona, Osama Kawafi and Bob-Alonge all but proved unstoppable, winning bronze medals for the team kumite when they were eventually defeated by the eventual winners.

Many thanks to those who took part for trying so hard and doing so well and thanks to Caesar Andrews for coaching and guiding us to eventual victory.

FENCING

Foiling the opposition

On Saturday November 28, IC hosted the first round of the UAU Fencing Championship for both South East South Division and the South East North Division in the Great Hall. The whole day was a great success especially for our teams. Many thanks to everyone who helped the day go smoothly, especially Simon Heaps for all his help and Peter Cripwell for presiding over the sabre competition.

In the South East North Division only UCL and City University were competing. UCL have a very strong team this year. They beat City 7-2 in the sabre; 8-1 in the foil and 6-3 in the epee. This gave them an overall victory of 21-6. UCL did not bring a ladies team and therefore the City ladies' foil team went through by default.

Meanwhile the South East South Division kicked off with the Sabre competition and our star sabreur, Simon Holden, managed to lose his first fight a very close 1-5! However, after this somewhat worrying start they then went on to beat Surrey 5-4! Next came the men's foil with Peter Cripwell and Ron Tham in very good form each winning all three of their

fights leading to a 7-2 victory.

The last weapon in the men's competition was the epee. By this time they only needed two more fights to win. To add to the excitement Peter and Adam (who was not hungover this time) bet vast amounts of alcohol on their performance. Needless to say this spurred the epee team into a resounding 8-1 victory with our illustrious captain, Simon, the only one to lose a fight and Peter four pints down on the match. The overall result then was a 20-7 victory over Surrey University, putting us through first to the next round with Surrey runners up.

The highlight of the day was the ladies' foil which we won 5-4 despite Caroline's injured knee and Sophia's lack of experience. Well fenced Sophia! We then had a friendly match against City ladies. After seeing both Caroline and Sophia lose against two very aggressive City Ladies, Clare stepped onto the piste with some trepidation. She lost this first fight 5-4 and then redeemed herself by winning the other two. Overall City beat IC 5-4 in a very close match.

UL KORFBALL

Not just a silly name

For those of you who don't know, korfbal is a mixed sex sport originating in Holland. The game lies somewhere between netball and basketball, although most of the standard techniques are peculiar to korfbal. Each side consists of 4 girls and 4 boys and is split into two groups of 2 boys and 2 girls. Each group is confined to their own half of the pitch, one group attacking the opponents' basket, the other defending their own. The groups change ends and roles after every 2 goals. The baskets are higher than in either basketball or netball, have no backboard and play can continue behind them.

Last weekend Nottingham University organised a tournament for all the student teams in Britain. The event was well attended and included 13 teams.

UL took a squad of 10 players, including 5 novices, and, although they have played a few club matches this season, they had played no other student sides and so had no real idea of their standing. It therefore came as a pleasant start to the tournament to win all 3 group matches, beating Brighton B 7-1, Notts B 3-1 and Lancaster 5-2.

It was unfortunate that the University had only one indoor pitch available so half the group matches were played outside in freezing fog where passing from one half of the pitch to the other was close to

impossible unless you used telepathy!

Through to the quarter finals, UL encountered the reputedly strong Brighton A team, only to beat them 4-1 with yet more goals from Russell Norton (IC) and Helen Grinyer who had been scoring all day. In the semi-final UL faced Oxford A, this proved the toughest match to date, although the scoreline of 5-1 to UL suggests otherwise.

So UL made it to the final against the favourites—York. The final consisted of two fifteen-minute halves rather than the twenty minute games played previously. It began with York scoring almost immediately, but UL levelled quickly and at half time the score was 4-3 to UL; after a further exchange of goals, UL scored three in quick succession including a spectacular effort from Takis Frantzis (IC) to take the score to 8-4. Although York scored again and were also awarded a dubious penalty, UL held out and were thoroughly delighted to win 8-6.

If you are interested in playing korfbal, or just want to see what it's like, we train every Thursday at 6 o'clock at Swiss Cottage Sports Centre and play league matches every Sunday in Battersea. We also have trips to Germany and Holland next year that are open to all Club members. For further information contact: Jacky Knowles (Biochem 3) or Russell Norton (Chem Eng 3).

CROSS COUNTRY

Led from behind

At last, on Saturday December 5, we scored our first win of the season. At Alexandra Palace on a cold, miserable day over a hilly course we creamed the rest of the opposition to win the University of London Championships. The first men's team were so far ahead of the rest that their last man could have finished bottom of the pack and we'd still have won! Our top runners were Trevor Shaw who came 4th followed closely by Hubertus Schulte-Huxel in 5th place who has vowed that Trev isn't going to beat him again. They were well supported by Alex Gaskell and Dave Knight who were 10th and 11th respectively. The team was completed by a pair of real leaders! I mean our illustrious captain of cross-country and

athletics Mr John Hugh Porter who was 16th and one of the opposition, Matthew Lynas, the Captain Orienteering, whose services we are grateful for. We were also the only college to put out a full second men's team, who in finishing 4th beat a lot of other first teams. Well done lads!

Now for the girls (including Jane). Well, at last we got a team together and by jove, what a shock and all that, they got a medal! Well done to Alison, Alison, Kamala and Jane who ran well to finish third.

Let's keep up the good work everyone. Our first race next term is the Southern Counties Cross-Country Championships at Trent Park on January 9. See you there.



London is a great place to go and see live league football, with 12 clubs vying for the attentions of the public. Each week in the city there are at least 5 games to choose from and I intend to preview these to whet your appetite.

Queens Park Rangers vs Coventry City (Division 1)

Friday December 18, Loftus Road
Loftus Road is the venue for a game between high flying QPR and cup winners Coventry. The plastic pitch will probably favour the home team and with Coventry finding it hard to score this season, a QPR victory looks the most likely result. QPR have a young side with the likes of Martin Allen and England reserve goalkeeper David Seaman being outstanding. Coventry have 'Chelsea reject' David Speedie, always looking for trouble, and big Steve Ogrizovic in goal.

Nearest tube: Shepherds Bush.

Wimbledon vs Norwich City (Division 1)

Friday December 18, Plough Lane
A match between middle of the table Wimbledon and lowly Norwich. Wimbledon have a reputation of being a dirty side with hard men of the like of John Fashano and Carlton Fairweather. Norwich are having a bad season but with the likes of Kevin Drinkell and Steve Bruce in the side, they are sure to pull up the table.

A draw is a probable result.

Nearest tube: Wimbledon Park.

Arsenal vs Everton (Division 1)

Saturday December 19, Highbury
The game of the day between ex-table toppers Arsenal and league champions Everton. The young Arsenal side had a great run to lead the table in November, albeit with their famous slice of luck and sometimes boring play. They do have exciting players of the likes of David Rocastle and the reliable Tony Adams. Everton are not playing their best football at the moment, but with players like the hard working Peter Reid and the sharp shooting Graeme Sharp, it should be a superb game with the result going any way.

Nearest tube: Arsenal.

Local Football Preview

West Ham Utd vs Newcastle Utd (Division 1)

Saturday December 19, Upton Park
A game between two sides in the middle of the league. West Ham, always renowned as an exciting, attacking side, had a bad start to the season but under loyal manager John Lyall and thrilling skills of Kevin Keen, Paul Ince and Tony Cottee, things are improving. Newcastle are playing some good football at the moment with the Brazilian striker Francisco Ernadi Lima da Silva (known as Mirandinha) and ex-Hammer Paul Goddard leading the way. West Ham should win with the close atmosphere and skills proving the clinching factors.

Nearest tube: Upton Park.

Fulham vs Chesterfield (Division 3)

Saturday December 19, Craven Cottage
A game not far away from Imperial at the riverside ground of Craven Cottage. With Fulham near the top and Chesterfield near the bottom, plus the stinking force of Gordon Davies and Leroy Rosenior, Fulham should win comfortably.

Nearest tube: Putney Bridge.

Charlton vs Chelsea (Division 1)

Sunday December 20, Selhurst Park
A London Derby between struggling Charlton and top half Chelsea. Charlton, the side that only scraped back into the First Division by means of the play-offs are having a wretched season, despite Welsh International Andy Jones and ex-Spurs player Garth Crooks. Chelsea, under John Hollins are a good working side with exciting Scot Pat Nevin and ex-England striker Kerry Dixon. Chelsea, who gave Liverpool a good run for their money two weeks ago, should grab the 3 points.

Nearest station: Norwood Junction (BR).

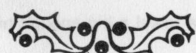
So go along to see some good football this weekend before Christmas and ignore the talk of hooliganism, it is very rare and only for those who want it.

Adrian Grainger

Small Ads

PERSONAL

- **Recognisably** human male required—apply to Katie, Mining House.
- **No 12** wishes to announce the formation of chips.
- **Noddy loves** Bigears...but with it last over xmas?
- **The chips** motto is 'health, hard work and sobriety'.
- **Love is**—when her telephone number is underlined in Bigears filofax!
- **The chips** head brewer announced the bottling of his first brew. Watch this space...
- **The LLO**—Could it be he's falling in love?
- **Why has** Mike been so exhausted recently?
- **How come** 60% of women at IC aren't looking for a boyfriend, but 65% have already got one? Are they looking for the Penthouse Club?
- **Girls!** Catch the Penthouse Club's vacation tour. Yes, we're taking the show on the road. See us in N Wales, Reading, Birmingham, Bradford and Jarrow! But hurry—our time is extremely limited. First come, first served!
- **Merry xmas** & happy new year to you all and remember girls, we love you too. The Penthouse Club.
- **Dear** Mat Chawner, you are not the Caped Avenger, so get that name from your lab coat or as soon as I've single-handedly reduced crime to manageable proportions I'm coming after you. The Caped Avenger.
- **St Thomas's Hospital** engagement stakes latest: Charlie and beautiful Sue 3-1, Toby and youthful Yvonne 7-2. Dominic has been declared a non-runner so Emma is looking for another ride; Declan may be available.
- **I want** to be interesting. Require one correspondence course. Send to Paul Bayton, Flat 219, Hamlet Gardens. Please enclose fresh sleeping bag.
- **Wanted:** Dead/alive human or animated object to share room. See 219 Hamlet Gardens.
- **Q.** What is depressing, very short, incorrect, has taken a long time and still isn't finished? **A.** Duncan's lab.
- **Stuck** for a xmas present? Why not give your loved one a human fountain. Contact Paul Murray.
- **Does Jackie** have divine inspiration?
- **Mirror,** Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of us all? 'Not you, sheepshagger!'
- **And Neil** said unto yonder mirror: 'Who's a pretty boy then?'
- **Why** do they call you Joey, Neil?



Scum

Dear Judith,

I had not realised until last week that FELIX could be used as a vehicle for vindictiveness and insults; congratulations to Matthew Soane the PATA Chairman for grasping this fact. If he wishes to ridicule me I have no objections at all, but, I deeply resent his deliberate implication that I support infanticide. If this is typical of the way PATA responds to opposing views, is it any wonder that they have received so much adverse feeling towards their 'stand'. Next time Mr Soane, confine your comments to the written content when criticising—only the lowest scum of the Earth sinks to the level that you did last week, surely you're not always like that?

Yours hopefully (and with some reservation about politeness),

Steven Mercer (Physics 3).

IC discipline is a farce

Dear Judith,

I write with reference to a meeting of the College Disciplinary Committee (12.12.87) in which the matter of discussion revolved around an incident report in FELIX concerning the assault on Union Bar Manager, Adrian Johnson in which he was attacked with a glass.

The committee in question imposed a fine on Mr Marchant of £25, the Royal School of Mines also imposed a fine on him of £15.

I would just like to say that for the seriousness of the offence, a £40 fine is appalling. Working behind the bar knowing someone can hit you, glass you, whatever and receive such a small fine is worrying.

Yours sincerely,

A member of bar staff (name and address supplied).

Conman—a misapprehension

Dear Judith,

I would just like to take this opportunity to use this small amount of space available to correct a widely held misapprehension among Imperial College students and staff.

It has come to my attention, during months of extensive research costing thousands of pounds and using the latest in hi-tech equipment that some things are not quite as they seem. More research has revealed that what I have discovered is not a new phenomena, but is unearthed about

this time of year by a radical non-conformist. Unfortunately, there is a mass campaign, led from very, very high up in the government, the military, industry, commerce and academia to suppress this information. I think that this is unacceptable in a democratic society and I hope that Judith will ignore the injunctions and go ahead and publish these allegations.

And now the time has come to reveal the truth: Santa Claus does not exist!

He was created by advertising agencies in an attempt to con little kids into asking their parents for excessive amounts of presents, and is being sustained by this wicked government for the benefit of its friends in the City.

I hope this revelation will not spoil Christmas for your readers, disappointing as it must be.

Wishing all your readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours seasonally,

Adrian M Bourne.

No ill-feeling

Dear Judith,

Last week's issue of FELIX (No 787) contained a letter from Emma Barrett, the outgoing Rag Secretary, which raised a few points that have to be clarified.

Firstly, Emma has resigned as Rag Secretary because she is dissatisfied with her course and is in the process of leaving College. She has not resigned over the 'Drink a Pub Dry' incident at ULU.

This brings me onto the choice of venue. Many complaints have been received in the past about the price of beer in the pub chosen for the event. ULU was chosen on the grounds that the beer was reasonably cheap and any profits made would benefit students. The person Emma quoted in her letter was myself, but unfortunately it was out of context. When I was asked by Emma at the beginning of a Rag Meeting why we went to ULU, I, knowing that Emma is a member of CND and the Labour Party, replied 'they are a bunch of lefties and we hate them.' At the time most people, including Emma, found it amusing. I'm disappointed that she reported it as a serious reason for choosing ULU. The same applies to my comment about Ian.

As to the matter of being offered 50% off the profits from a local pub well, I'm afraid Emma got her facts very wrong! The interested 'local pub' was a snooker club in Holborn. We were offered 10% of their profits on the condition we had at least 250 people. The 10% of the profits to Rag interested me until I found out that bitter was £1.30 per pint. I hope now that people will realise why I decided to go to ULU after all.

The ill-feeling between IC and ULU has now been sorted out. I spoke to ULU President John Tilsead, and Vice President (Services) Norm Robinson, on Monday and they informed me that they also felt that 'London Student' had exaggerated the incident. They also said that no action was to be taken as I returned most of the signs last Friday. I hope this has cleared up any misunderstanding about the event.

It has been decided that the Rag Exec (the Rag Officers and the CCU VPs) will look into all the events in Rag Week and consider their viability for next year. I for one will be very surprised if 'Drink a Pub Dry' and for that matter 'Morphy Day', appear on next year's timetable.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel D Baker, IC Rag Chairman.

Letters

Cost of CERN

Dear Ms Hackney,

Could I, as a particle physicist, comment on some of Steve Black's points on British membership of CERN in last week's FELIX? It is true that SERC is desperately short of money and that the CERN subscription is a major item on its budget. The cost of CERN is shared between the 14 member countries in proportion to their GDP's but payment is in Swiss francs and changes in currencies can play havoc with budgets which the Government insist must be cash-limited in pounds. As far as I know Britain is unique in paying such subscriptions directly from its science budget but I don't think that the Foreign Office, which itself often faces similar problems, is a better alternative.

I see particle physics very much as a part of science and to my mind it should be judged ultimately from this standpoint. We all find ourselves on this strange planet, for a brief time and surrounded by a fascinating universe—fascinating on the big scale and the small; fascinating in its complexities and its simplicities. Of course we don't need to think about such things though probably everyone does on occasion and certainly it is one of the driving ideas for a place such as Imperial.

In justification of research such as at CERN let me therefore first refer to the science. One asks what are things made of and where do forces come from? As one probes with this question and does experiments, down past atoms and nuclei a strange world of mesons, baryons and leptons appears, a world in which matter and antimatter have equal footing, a world in which the familiar electrons and protons are seen as merely the lightest, and therefore stable particles of their kind. One goes further and there is a major advance (the Electroweak theory of Salam and Weinberg) and suddenly a great unifying pattern is seen in which things as disparate as electricity, beta decay and gravity appear similar and questions such as 'why is the hydrogen atom neutral?' and 'why do particles have mass?' take on a new, profound significance. All such ideas have to work hand in hand with experiments and the history of the subject has been one of interplay between theory and experiment; as you can well imagine given a theory such as the Electroweak, experimenters are driven to do whatever they can to test and try it out, even to the extent of pooling their resources on an international and sometimes world-wide scale.

Looking back over the last twenty years or so let me mention briefly some of the areas in which particle physics has directly impacted on other branches of science and technology. There is the whole area of accelerator technology, eg the use of synchrotron radiation from electron storage rings for a host of studies on atomic and molecular structures. There has always been an intense concern with particle detectors, from the days of geiger counters and electron-sensitive emulsions to such as PET (Positron Emission Tomography) currently being applied to problems in chemical engineering and brain metabolism. One can think of the drive to faster electronic processing, pattern recognition and scientific computers. There is much interaction between the theory and Mathematics, eg Group theory, non-linear phenomena and phase transformations. There are whole new insights into cosmology. In all these areas particle physics has encouraged, and sometimes initiated growth.

The British Government (as there is an International Treaty it is ultimately a Government, not SERC decision)

may decide to withdraw from CERN, the essential argument being, as Steve Black implies, that the country cannot afford it. This to me is a measure of the parlous state to which support for basic science as across the disciplines has fallen in the UK and the low esteem in which it is at present held. Can we really argue that, in order to support obviously important areas of chemistry or molecular biology or for example research into high temperature superconductors the country has to give up research into particle physics (or whatever would be next in line)? Ultimately this is what it is about. It is astonishing to me also that our great chemical industry—as typified by ICI, our great electronics industry (eg GEC), and our great petroleum and mining industries (possibly including BP), still do so little to foster science and scientists in our universities in the areas Steve mentions. Science just now is 'piggy in the middle' between Government and industry and we all need to do what we can to convince both of them that it is not just the City of London that needs to take a longer-term view. I think, and hope, that this may be starting to happen.

Yours sincerely,
David Binnie.

SDI ethics

Dear Steve,

Thank you for an outspoken editorial on science and values (FELIX Nov 27)—even more so in the light of some people's argument 'that there is no place for such opinions in a page about science.'

However, if science is ever to become a science for people (not for industry—we've been treated to this variant for a whole year) then a few more scientists like Woodruff (or indeed those 50 UK scientists who signed a pledge refusing to participate in Star Wars condemning SDI as technically dubious) will not do.

What is called for is not more truthfulness—this is where professional ethics start, not end—but radical rethinking of scientific positivism. Far from being neutral, technology involves major value judgements by choosing to adopt a technological worldview and the SDI controversy is highly illuminating in this regard.

Any criticism of SDI centering around technical infeasibility testifies to a thinking arrested in 'neutral technology' categories. SDI is about substituting technological for political rationality and it is this decision and all its implications that need to be challenged by concerned scientists.

Yours sincerely,
Jobst Treiber (Elec Eng PG).

Silly letter

Dear Judith,

A copy of your publication, if swallowed by a small child, could easily lead to choking. Do you not think that it is irresponsible to leave copies lying around on low tables where children, of which there are a large number in this country, could easily reach them?

Yours sincerely,
Buster Gonad.

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **The Froggits**—Playing at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, Dec 15 to Jan 23, tickets £5 (tel 741 2311).

● **Any student** who wishes to stay in their present hall or house over the xmas vacation should see Lesley in 403A, if they have not filled in a vacation residence form.

● **Celebrate** Christmas in style—fine wines and fun. Tuesday, 6pm, SCR.

● **ICSO** would like to thank STOIC, IC Radio, IC Special Choir and FELIX staff for helping to make their concert a success.

● **Mech Eng** Christmas Party on Friday Dec 18, 12.30pm onwards, Rooms ME749-752. £2.50 to Mech Eng students which includes free drinks and hefty lunch. Tickets available from Richard Spencer (ME2) or year reps.

● **Male** ballroom dancer to partner good female dancer for College competitions. Height limit 5'10". Contact Gill Knowles (Mech Eng 3).

FOR SALE/HIRE

● **For sale:** Sony cassette deck TCFX220, £45; Sansui graphic equaliser SE300, £30. Both as new, contact Dave on internal 3531.

● **Hire** the professional disco with the power, experience and prices to satisfy. Budget system and up to 4kw sound and 5kw lighting effects. Hans Beier, 870 8112.

● **For sale**—Halfords ladies bike, 26" wheels complete with front and rear lights, rear panniers, u-lock. £60 ono, contact Donald Craig, 4548 anytime.

PERSONAL

● **Merry** xmas all—hope you've bought me a prezzy—Linzi.

● **I think** Ians hair looks better now—much sexier.

● **Angie**—you will pay for the lies you've printed this week, love Miss Piggý.

● **With** a cummerbund like Robert's who needs a mug?

● **Regards** to 'Pavement' Patterson from Fazbender.

● **Caving Club**—How much to leave Pete down there?

● **Pistol Club**—How much to use Andrew as a target?

● **Dram Soc**—How much to use Dave as a scaffold?

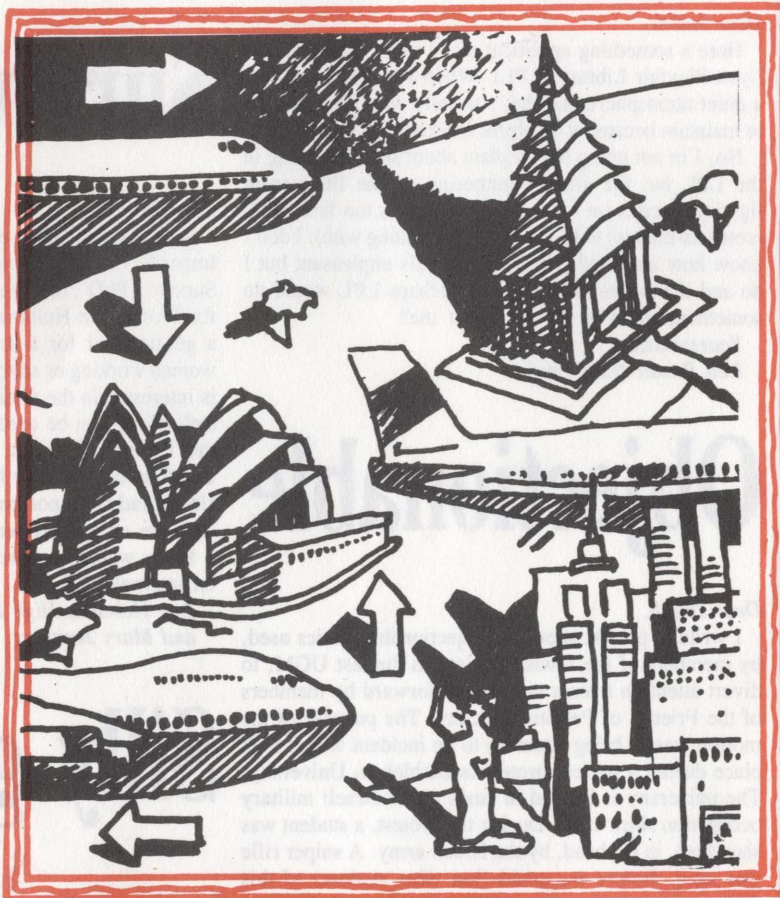
● **CU**—How much to sent Mags off as a missionary?

● **DOC 1**—Bismarck would have you all for supper

● **Need** something to liven up those dreary nights? Contact Paul for a free fountain show. All materials provided.

● **Is** a tea towel a big enough hankie, Stu.

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