

FREE!



No. 789
Friday 15th January 1988

Felix

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Linstead's bargain basement

Angry students have discovered this month that most of their personal possessions have been sold by the Linstead Hall Committee. The mistake was discovered when two Canadian students from Montpelier Hall came to collect items from the Linstead Hall basement where they had left them for safe-keeping and discovered they were gone. Four people have since come forward claiming that their possessions have also disappeared.

Five years ago the Students Residence Committee decided that the Linstead Basement area would be the only area in College where property could be left for a long term period. Since then more and more items accumulated and it was not obvious to whom they belonged. At the beginning of this academic year the Linstead Hall Convenor Martin Whitfield suggested that the area should be cleared and any unwanted property sold. The Hall Warden Richard Clarke was in favour and the Hall Committee agreed to help.

Three notices were put in FELIX to announce the decision and impending sale of any goods which had not been clearly marked with name and department.

The Basement was closed on 2nd December and the Committee spent three days sorting out what could and could not be sold. Dr Clarke told FELIX that anything which was not marked was opened and if it was good it was put aside for sale by auction. He said that the whole operation was monitored by the subwardens. It was decided to donate all the clothes to Oxfam as there were sufficient other goods to make a sale worthwhile. They also found three televisions, three stereos, ski boots, a windsurfing outfit, a computer and three bicycles.

The sale took place on the following Saturday and made £1123.935 with the proceeds being split between the Hall and the RNLI. Dr Clarke said that the Hall would be using the money to finance the Hall's 20th birthday party in March.

It was shortly after this that people started to realise that personal possessions had also been sold, including items from boxes which had been marked with peoples' names and departments. One women claims to have lost £3000 worth of skiing equipment while others have lost records and important lab books.

Dr Clarke apologised for the losses but said that it was 'inevitable with such an exercise.' He has also promised to examine each case and has asked for all the students affected to put their stories down in a letter.

Martin Whitfield, in a written report, said that he believed that the sale had been a great success and was a long time in coming. He also wishes to see such a sale held every year. He writes, 'as with anything that is done, some people will get hurt and lose some of their possessions. But the sort out of the basement occurred with every reasonable effort being taken to locate the owners of most of the valuable items. If any article was not properly labelled, i.e. Name,

department, year it was left, date of collection, it was then opened. If it was obvious that the total worth of the articles was high then their name would be checked against the College list and if the name didn't appear, the articles were then sold or thrown out. In my opinion if the people who did lose belongings in the sale had taken more care of their possessions in the first place, they wouldn't now have lost them. Hopefully it will teach them that if they can't be bothered to even label them properly, why should the Hall look after them, when all they are doing is cluttering up the Hall's basement which is to be used primarily for the Hall's residents and not as a potential fire hazard which it was before the clear out was started.'

The Union is to take up the cause of the students who have lost their possessions. President Ian Howgate has described the situation as 'a complete mess'. He said yesterday that the whole thing is a shambles, because proper records had not been kept of the items in the basement by Linstead Hall security. They have a list of names and departments of people who have gained entry to the basement in the last five years, but they are concerned that students were not informed by security that they should put name, department and date to be collected on any boxes left there. College administration have stated that College will not be held liable, which means that people who have lost items will not be reimbursed. However, the Union is trying to compile a list of people whose possessions have been sold.



editorial

Happy New Year to you all. Let's all hope that 1988 will be ten times better than 1987. Spring Term has always been my favourite of the three. There is a spate of annual dinners throughout January and February leading up to elections at the end of the term. For first years, this annual event is quite exciting. There's the chance to stand for posts within your own club or society. It should be interesting to see just who puts themselves forward for major Union posts. It's about now that you should have decided which post to stand for. As the time gets nearer FELIX will be carrying features on the sabbatical elections, how to stand and how to vote.

Linstead

What a shambles. The brief was for Linstead to sell off any items which had been left for years and were not clearly marked. So why did they sell recently left equipment, books, records and clothes especially when they were all marked? College should reimburse all claimants immediately. But this won't replace the treasured items which were left in Linstead's care and sold as forgotten items.

Grants

Bit by bit we're losing the war against inflation with less money in students'

pockets again in 88. Student loans are a thing of the future. FELIX has been hard hit as more of the staff have to supplement their incomes with casual work. This must be true of all clubs. The Union cannot distribute the Welfare Handbook because they don't believe that they have the forty or so people needed to carry the operation out. Nobody is prepared to do anything for nothing nowadays. In the sixties and seventies the Union had no trouble in finding 'hacks' to help clear up after parties, distribute leaflets or organise campaigns. But now the 'hacks' ask: 'what's in it for me?'. They all want posts to add to their CVs but they don't want to do the work which their job entails.

FELIX

It's a new year so why not come and work on FELIX. We're always looking for feature writers, news researchers or just collators. We'd love to have you here.

Judith
XXX

Editor-in-chief.....Judith Hackney
Business Manager.....Chris Martin
Reviews Editor.....Ashley Niblock
Features Editor.....Kamala Sen
Clubs Editor.....Andrew Waller
Sports Editors.....Dominic Strowbridge and 'Hector' Sullivan

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Christmas Quiz

No one sent in a correct entry to our Christmas Quiz in the last issue so nobody wins the t-shirt. Hard luck to everyone who entered and got it wrong.

t h e · a n s w e r s

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) Earis Court Square
- d) Evelyn Gardens
- e) Collingham Place

The rest are head tenancies

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?

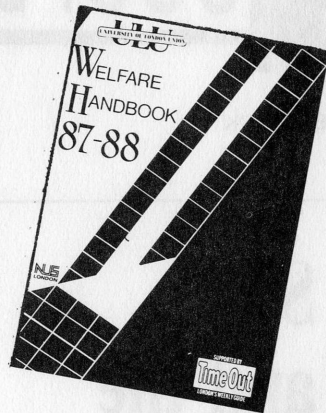
- a) Elridge Park
- b) Farnborough Park
- c) Hyde Park
- d) Princes Gardens
- e) Silwood Park

Quite coincidentally, no one sent in a correct entry to our Christmas puzzlerem. You've got one more week to win the prize. Anybody can enter except present or ex-members of the FELIX staff.

Welfare worries

ULU Welfare Handbooks, intended for first year students in October, are still collecting dust in the Union Office. Union President Ian Howgate and Union Welfare Officer Pippa Salmon have blamed this on the University of London Union who produced it and apathy in the Union.

Last year's Union Welfare Committee took the decision not to produce 'But Were Afraid To Ask', the ICU Welfare Handbook, but to take 2000 copies of the new ULU Welfare Handbook instead. These were intended to be distributed at the Freshers' Reception as 'But Were Afraid To Ask' had been done previously. However, the booklets did not arrive until the third week of the Autumn Term, too late for the Reception, after a series of mix-ups at the University of London Union.



Ms Salmon said that the ideal solution would be to get stickers and names from Registry in order to distribute the booklets to the departments but she felt that there

would not be the support to help her do this and that she did not have the time to do this all herself.

Mr Howgate does not believe that they are worth distributing at this late stage and is particularly annoyed with ULU. 'The Handbooks were 8-9 weeks late and they were definitely not as good as But Were Afraid To Ask.' He is not worried that first years missed out on the welfare literature this year because it was well-covered in the ICU Handbook which Ms Salmon edited.

Ms Salmon still hopes to persuade departmental senior tutors to take on the distribution but until then they will be collecting the dust in the Union Office. She said yesterday 'it's a great shame that the first years didn't get the Handbooks when they arrived, when they probably needed them most. Ian spent a lot of time chasing ULU up about it. I don't think we could have done anything else once we were committed to the ULU book'.

It is almost certain that the Welfare Committee will decide to return to 'But Were Afraid To Ask' for the coming year's intake.

Extra cash

The Union Snack Bar has been seriously affected by the illness of Manager Norman Jardine. There is a severe shortage of casual workers especially before midday and an appeal has been made for any students, who can spare a few hours one morning and need extra cash, to help out.

Smash 'n' grab

The Union's Microcomputer Club was broken into over the Christmas period and several vital bits of equipment were taken including a BBC micro and a keyboard. The job was not professionally done as the door was broken open. Honorary Secretary Chas Jackson believes it to have been carried out by an opportunist. This has put the Club out of action.

Inter-Rail

British Rail have decided to keep the price of their Inter-Rail card at the same price as last year, despite their recent price increases in Great Britain. For £139, the card allows travel throughout 20 European countries and Morocco to all people under 26. The price also includes discounts of up to 50% on a choice of cross-channel hovercraft and ferry services.

Flowers urged

London University's trade unions have urged former IC Rector and current UL Vice Chancellor Lord Flowers to attend the House of Lords throughout the debating of the Education Reform Bill. They believe that Lord Flowers should take a high-profile stand against the Bill and represent the feelings of all academics in the University.

Adventure

The first National Outdoor Pursuits Exhibition opens on Thursday March 3 in Battersea Park, London for four days. If you want to add a little adventure to your dull, dull life then it's only £1.50 to students.

ORS awards

There will be 800 new Overseas Research Students Awards this year in the United Kingdom. They will be offered on a competitive basis to overseas postgraduate students of outstanding merit and research potential. Each award will cover the difference between the tuition fee for a home postgraduate and the full-cost fee they would have been expected to pay as an overseas postgraduate student. Nine of these awards are tenable at IC. Further information can be obtained from the Scholarships Office, Room 314, Sherfield Building.

Obituary

Vernon Clancy MBE

Vernon St Clair Clancy has died aged 82. One of College's most distinguished alumni, he was a leading explosives expert and investigator of bomb-induced aircraft crashes, his most recent being into the loss of the Air India Boeing 747 over the Irish Sea in 1985. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

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Bad news for atom power

1988 is going to be a terrible year for the nuclear industry. At the end of last year this column reported that studies of the survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki had shown higher than expected incidences of cancer, forty years after the bombings (latest news: *New Scientist* 7th January 1988 p46). The first few weeks of the new year have already seen worse news.

A horrific study of the effects of fallout from Chernobyl on American mortality rates is about to be published (see *The Independent* 4th January p14). The main conclusion of the report is that radiation kills many people in the short term by indirect means (this is in addition to the long term risks of death from cancer).

The results come from a statistical comparison of the state-by-state mortality figures and the measured amounts of fall out in each area. Small doses of fall out are normally difficult to measure, but the report found a clever way to make reliable comparisons. Iodine-131 is a common radioactive component of fallout, and iodine is concentrated in cow's milk. Measurements of the amounts in milk are routine and they give a reliable indication of the amount of fall out in the area where the cows graze.

Between May and August 1986 (the three months following the reactor's explosion) the death rate showed an unexpected glitch. Normally about 650,000 people die during these months in the USA. After Chernobyl about 690,000 people died, that is, about 40,000 (forty-thousand) more than expected. The result is significant because the figures have shown remarkable stability since the beginning of the century: such a large glitch is completely unprecedented.

Normally the figures would be regarded as a meaningless coincidence because the actual radiation doses are so small. Such small doses were previously thought to cause only marginal increases in death rates (from cancer) and these would not show up for decades. But, the measured radiation doses in milk occur in the same states as the unexpectedly large body counts. States with low doses of Chernobyl's muck show normal death rates. So, they cannot be ignored as a quirk of

UNDER MICRO



THE SCOPE

by Steve Black

the Grim Reaper.

However, 40,000 Americans did not kick the bucket from radiation poisoning, or indeed from anything that is normally connected with radiation. The theory that is gaining popularity is this: the most easily radiation-damaged part of the body is the immune system; even small doses of radioactive nasties cause small decreases in the body's ability to fight off nasty invaders; so if people are ill a small increase in the radiation dose may be enough to make the difference between survival and death.

So we have to take the figures with a pinch of salt: most of the people who died were probably *not* healthy fit individuals who were suddenly struck down by Russian fallout. Most were ill people who were just tipped over the edge by the small decrease in their ability to kill bugs. It is meaningless to say that any specific individual died because of the fallout; the effect only becomes obvious in large populations. Nevertheless, no one ever imagined that such small doses of radiation could cause such a large secondary effect.

The number of deaths caused by the disaster is likely to be very much larger than anyone thought likely at the time (if the results are confirmed in European work). The study is reminiscent of the one that showed a small, but perceptible correlation between exposure of pregnant women to X-rays and deformed babies. That report led to tight restrictions on the use of X-rays in medicine. It is, as yet, impossible to say what will happen as a result of the latest figures, but it isn't going to be good for the nuclear industry, civil or military.

In twenty years time we may be thankful for Chernobyl. It may prove to be the only thing that will convince us just how dangerous our nuclear playthings are. We have to learn that lesson now and start to look for safer ways of defending ourselves and keeping our light bulbs glowing.

Sex and the single insect

Chemical warfare is banned under the Geneva Convention. But the Geneva Convention convention only applies to people. This leaves the world's chemical companies free to engage in a continuous and fearsomely nasty war against creepy-crawlies.

The big problem in this war is selectivity: we could kill our insect enemies with the same things we are not allowed to use on our human enemies (phosgene, chlorine, taubin, hydrogen cyanide...), but we would kill lots of friendly people as well, and this is considered rather counterproductive by the agricultural profession (though it might just solve some of the EEC's problems with farming subsidies).

The first big breakthrough was the discovery of DDT. It killed almost anything with too many legs and proved to be nearly harmless to people. Unfortunately, it is really inert chemically and so sticks around in the environment, enabling resistant strains of insect to develop. Also, it kills birds and fish, which we would rather kill by other means so we can eat them.

Pyrethroids were the next really big breakthrough. Some British government chemists borrowed the basic chemicals from some plants who had been engaged in their own war against insects for eons, and then improved them to make them more effective. They are much more

selective than DDT: you can spray a room with them killing all the flies but not your pet cat. The lethal doses are small and the compounds do not accumulate like DDT. But, they are still rather unselective among insects and are not wholly harmless to the pet fish.

Newer and better chemicals are on the way, but it will always be extremely difficult to find a chemical weapon that kills just one type of insect selectively. Ideally we want a chemical that can be used to kill things that eat crops, but not useful insects, such as honeybees and crop pollinators. However, a bit of lateral thinking has just produced some spectacular and completely specific results in Egypt.

Their particular problem involves killing Cotton Leaf Worm (which destroys cotton crops) without killing Honeybees (which produce a valuable crop in their own right). The trick that produces specific results, is to use the insects own sex pheromones against it. Pheromones are the chemicals insects use to find each other when they are randy and want to start a family (in this case female pheromones attract the male insects). They are completely insect specific (after all God does not want to encourage unnatural acts between different types of insect, does he?). Chemists can identify and reproduce the pheromones in large quantities.

The first attempt to control the insects involved using the pheromones to attract male insects into a trap. However, this failed because the small number of males avoiding the traps were enough to keep the population going. After an amazing lateral thinking leap, the scientists tried a better method that worked: they saturated the cotton crop with the pheromone. This, presumably, drove the male flies into an orgy of randyness, but, more importantly, left them completely unable to find the females (not so much because the small amount of female scent was drowned by the artificial variety, making it impossible for the males to smell out the females).

This, of course, left the population devastated after one generation. More importantly, it had no effect on the bees (or any other insects for that matter), thus producing a bumper honey harvest.

The side-effects of DDT left chemistry with a tarnished image, but these latest developments show that Chemists may be near to redeeming themselves. A healthy respect for the balance of nature is not, after all, incompatible with the chemical industry.

World Leaders

NAFF: David Steel
M. Thatcher
N. Kinnock
H. Köhl
P.W. Botha

HIP: David Steel
D. Lange (New Zealand)
Riesa Gorbachev
Prof. Ash
Lord Whitelaw

Media

NAFF: Star Cops
TV AM
Dr Who
See for yourself
Yes P.M.

HIP: Night Network Batman
Neighbours
Mr Ben
Whistle Test
STOIC Countdown

Places

NAFF: Wimslow
Queens Arms
Kilimanjarro
Sahara Desert
Tea Clipper

HIP: Union Bar
Liverpool
Gibraltar
Georgia, USSR
K-2
Sellafield

People

NAFF: Pam Ewing
Michael Arthur
David Owen
Ian Howgate
Linda Bellos

HIP: Chris Jones
Dr Jerry Leggit
Ken Livingstone
Steve Bell
Stephen Fry

Music

NAFF: Stock-Aiken-Waterman
Hip Hop
Beethoven
Country & Western
Boy George

HIP: Suzanne Vega
Black
Bach
Miles Davies
Screaming Blue Messiahs

what's
cred in
'88

Departments

NAFF: Management Science
Chem Eng
Pro SDI Doc
Anti SDI Doc
Maths

HIP: Life Science
Physics
Min Res Eng
Mech Eng
Computing

Films

NAFF: Little Shop of Horrors
Fatal Attraction
Predator
Rambo III
Inner Space

HIP: Maurice
Cry Freedom
The Woo Woo Kid

Food

NAFF: QT burgers
Health food
Norman's vegie stew
M & S dry white wine
Wispa

HIP: Smarties
Bananas
Norm's chicken casserole
Mars Bars
Green Pasta

Chas Jackson's 'Sex for Beginners'

Transport

A new van has been ordered to replace the rather old and doddering white van. For those of you who are interested, it is to be a (socialist) red 13 seat crew bus.

Last term a considerable number of people asked for Union van tests at extremely short notice. As this causes great inconvenience for the van testers (who have to give up their lunchtimes), there is now a Transport Committee ruling that all van tests should be notified at least one week in advance. If you require a van test, please think about it well in advance.

Insurance

Since the last edition of FELIX, the following cheques have arrived:

Colrin	Hunt
Gedney	Takel
Kwok	Niskier
Espejo	Ivory

The lucky recipients can collect the cheques from my office, but must bring identification.

Also I need further information on the following longstanding claims. It would help considerably if the claimants could see me as soon as possible:

J Cooper
F Kateli
R McBryde

Noticeboards

The following is the list of noticeboard allocations. I have cut down on the space for each club/society in order to fit everybody in. I felt that this approach was much fairer than denying clubs space entirely, as the choice of clubs/societies to be denied space would be arbitrary and with more

basis in personal prejudice than a detailed knowledge of individual clubs/societies which I cannot be expected to possess.

Sherfield

Walkway
Rag
SLAG
Wine Tasting
ICGLC
ICCNAC
Choir
ICSO
Turkish
Nigerian
OSC Sports
Hellenic
Chamber Music
Riding
Filmsoc
Dramsoc
Palestinian
Sri Lankan
CSSA
Friends of Palestine
Malaysian
Dance
West London
Chaplaincy
Union Main
Foyer
Parachuting
Photosoc
Wing Chun
Ski
Fencing

Cross-Country
Athletics
Orienteering
Third World
First
PATA
Academic Affairs
WIST
Badminton
Basketball
Audiosoc
Wellsoc
Christian Union
Folk
Union East
Staircase
Netball
Hockey
Cricket
Rugby
Football
Opsoc
Audiosoc
Volleyball
Climbing Wall
Mountaineering
Sports Centre
Tennis
Southside Gym
Keep Fit
Beit Arch
Scout and Guide

A Final Note

This is a term of hard work for everybody. Just remember to get some sleep and eat all your greens, or you won't grow up big and healthy (like Judith).

Pippa Salmon's 'Alcohol for Beginners'



I hope everyone's recovered from their holiday hangovers by now—and perhaps your bank balance is also slightly healthier.

While these matters are still fresh in your mind, I would like to introduce the Alcohol Awareness Campaign. It's not a 'let's ban alcohol' scheme, but it is intended to

encourage people to think about how much they drink and why.

Alcohol is the major cause of death in men aged between 18 and 24 and did you know that if you drink 2½ pints of beer a day for two weeks you can put on three pounds of weight! And of course it costs a fortune.

The Campaign will be concentrated later on this term, probably the sixth week. We'll be arranging things between now and then, so if anybody wants to lend a hand just send a note to me at the Union Office or ring up (internal 3500) and leave a message. Better still, come to the next Welfare Committee meeting on 26th January at 12.45pm in the Union Office. Thanks to those who sent apologies for Tuesday's meeting and to the two people who turned up!

Pippa Salmon,
ICU Welfare Officer

John Noble's 'Fun for Beginners'

Here we are again with another term of events for your pleasure. To kick off with we have an amazingly good value offer on January 15th, ie today if you're reading this on Friday otherwise you have missed it. For a mere £2.50 you can have the time of your life at Carnival 88, where you can see two live bands, *Buddy Curtess & the Grasshoppers* plus *The Jivin' Instructors* as support and three first class cabaret artists including Mark Miwurdz of *Tube* fame. On top of the acts we have a film, *Ghostbusters*, a disco, late bar until 12.30pm, barbecue, cocktails and happy hour from 8-9pm so come early. Tickets are £2.50 in advance from the Union Office or Norman's or £3 on the door (don't forget your Union Cards) and the *Jivin' Instructors* are on at 8.30pm, doors open at 8pm. I hope you agree this is an offer not to be missed at any price.

John Noble,
Ents Chairman



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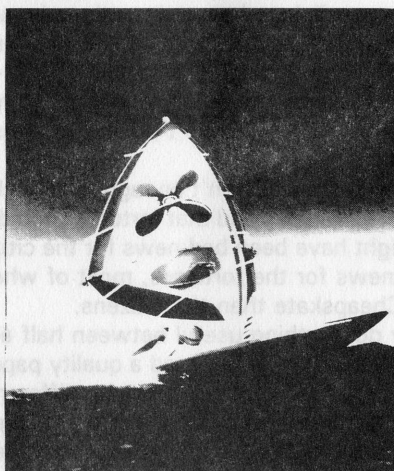
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The game of Go

The game of Go (nothing to do with monopoly) is played regularly by the Imperial College Chinese Chess Society. Proper name Weichi, the oriental game is played with Hsiang ch'i. Chris Eardley describes how Go is a subtle strategy game which requires tactics entirely different to those of Western chess.

Picture in your mind a game of ordinary western chess after a few opening moves have been played. Now modify the game in two ways. In chess, the separate pieces, with their separate identities and powers, together form an army, and the game is about one army battling against the other. For the first modification, shrink one of these armies down into one piece, into one unit, and let you and your opponents have 180 of these army pieces to distribute at will on the board. This gives rise to the next modification—add another 300 squares to the board. These modifications have the effect of converting the localised battle of chess into a full scale war using many armies over a large area. This new game is called Go.

Go is a strategy game for two players using black and white identical pieces on a brown wooden board marked with an almost square grid of 19 x 19 lines, giving 361 playing points.

The game starts with the board empty and players take it in turn to place pieces anywhere they like on the board. Pieces do not move about the board but stay in the same position throughout the game. The object of the game is to create more territory than the opponent by surrounding segments of empty space with uniform lines of pieces. If your opponent gets in the way you can surround him too and remove him from the board, but this is a secondary objective. Go is a constructive game in that there are more pieces on the board at the end of the game than at the start, in contrast to most other 'war' games.

Calling Go a war game is in fact fairly misleading, though for most people this is the easiest concept to have when they start playing for the first time. It takes only a short while however, before beginners sense the



subtlety and depth to the game—it is indeed a game of war, with both players spending much of their time trying to kill each others pieces, but the rest of the time is spent building territories in a constructive manner and only 'leaning' on the opponent rather than going in for the kill all the time. When an attack is made, it is done subtly—not much 'cut and thrust' occurs in Go because it doesn't work. In chess, for example, a queen and a rook can be let loose for a while to bash up the enemy, and indeed this is a most enjoyable occupation. When the pair have finished they can retire behind their pawns and be safe. This doesn't happen in Go because the pieces do not move around, and so once committed to an attack, it has to be followed through right to the end because it is impossible to 'pull out'. If the attack is mis-handled then the mistake sits there on the board staring back at you for the rest of the game. When attacking the opponent's pieces, his pieces are also a threat to yours and very often an attack has to be suddenly turned into a defence for a few moves, then back to an attack, and the defence, and so on. This is one of the beauties of the game—it is impossible to bludgeon an opponent without having to let him make major gains against you. The game has a built-in stabilising effect which defies explanation but which never ceases to

crop up, and it can be summarised in one phrase—give and take. Greedy players always lose, and so do meek and timid players. Moderation is the watchword. If a player claims too much territory he can only guard it thinly, so he will lose it. If he over-attacks his opponent and indulges in too much 'rape and pillage' he will suddenly find himself being attacked.

The techniques of attack in Go are quite subtle and usually work best if contact with the opponent is avoided. The aim is usually to manipulate the opponent rather than take him out completely. Of course, the opportunity to wipe out some local opposition in big fights does occur, and is highly exciting, but this

happens comparatively rarely.

In Go there are no guns or cannons or tanks, or in fact anything remotely violent to look at or use. All the pieces are identical round counters and none of them has special powers or moves. Individual pieces are worthless; it is the position they are in that is important. In chess, for example, players have armies that they put into battle against each other, and in effect the players 'hide' behind their pieces—they are one stage removed from the theatre of operations. In Go, there are no such armies and the players are brought right into the action and it becomes a much more intense fight, not between armies, but between minds. Go players locked in combat stare intensely at the board with their knuckles white, hands clammy and stomachs churning. They are totally immersed in action which to an outsider seems pretty boring, but to them is a matter of life and death. In this sense Go is the ultimate war game: there are no objects of war in sight, yet the players are trying to tear each other apart.

People who like arguing should enjoy Go, because many of the fights can be likened to arguments. If black invades white's territory he is telling white that he has a point to make, and what's more, he is right. What happens next is highly interesting because white has to listen to black's

point of view (ie that white has too much territory and should surrender some) and agree or disagree. If he agrees with black it means that black attacked successfully and white gives way and battens down any remaining open hatches. If white disagrees, he answers with a counter-attack on black, leaving black to ponder. After a few moves of this 'argument', and before its logical conclusion, it becomes clear to the players who is going to be the eventual winner, and the argument stops, because there is no point in continuing—the point has been made. To give a ridiculous analogy, it's a bit like Julius Caesar storming into Gaul with 1000 men and coming face to face with a million Gauls. Some people would advocate fighting to the death; they lose every game of Go. In a case like this if Caesar fights to the death the Gauls win. If he doesn't fight, the Gauls win. There is no argument, and Caesar should get out of Gaul sharpish. In this way fights are left unfinished all around the board because both players see that in 3 moves time, say, one of them will die, so what is the point of carrying on. If you're arguing with someone and you suddenly see that you have argued your way into a hole, then you shut up there and then unless you're one of those tiresome people who like arguing that black is white. The nice thing about Go is that if someone does try that argument you can always prove them wrong. Of course the trick lies in working out whether you're going to win the argument before you start it.

In Summary

Go is one of the most beautiful games in the world because of its simplicity, elegance and its many hidden subtleties. It looks pretty as well.

It is a battle of minds rather than armies of pieces, because the pieces directly relate to your thoughts—they are not coloured by any special powers a piece may have.

It is a game of extreme violence—life or death, yet players have to live with each other on the same board. A player can never be totally wiped out. In this sense it is more constructive than most war type games which are usually a fight to the death.

Anyone who likes a good strategy game should like Go, and anyone who is fond of a good (logical) argument ought to get hooked on it without too much effort. It takes five minutes to learn to play, so come and see for yourself at one of our meetings during Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in Elec Eng 403b.

GOING ON THE PISTE

Skiing holidays are becoming cheaper and cheaper as cut throat tour operators tout for business. They combine sun, fresh air, fantastic scenery, physical activity and apres-ski to make a thrilling antidote to the academic blues. Judith Hackney, still limping slightly, tells you where and when to go and whether it's really worth all the effort.

Before you decide to try skiing, you ought to consider just how much the holiday will cost you. You shouldn't believe that the £200 odd you give the tour operator will be your major outlay. On top of flights and accommodation there will be equipment to hire, special clothing and ski lift passes to buy, lessons to arrange and over-the-top food and drink prices to pay. Skiing holidays don't come cheap if it's your first time.

Where

The first decision you will have to make is which country to visit. Each has its own merits. Austria is said to be the best for beginners, Germany the most friendly and France the best for all types of skiing terrain.

Austria is still the most popular destination for Britain's first-time skiers. Most of the resorts still manage to keep the mountain village atmosphere which seems preferable to the well-designed pre-fabs that adorn the French slopes. Cheap out-of-season skiing is also good here because life in these villages doesn't stop when the holiday trade disappears. Austria does have its disadvantages: it has a high cost-of-living which makes eating out expensive and, because of its cosy village life, there are very few self-catering apartments. If you want good *apres-ski* it is better to stick to the well-known resorts of Innsbruck or Kitzbuhel where this is especially well-catered for.

Switzerland is out of the price range of most of today's students. The resorts are populated by the jet-set who have been retreating slowly from

the other European towns as the prices drop and the lower classes infiltrate their apres-ski. You can expect to pay at least another £100 on top if you chose any Swiss resort.

The favourite family resorts are situated in France. It was here that the modern-style ski resort took shape, with well-designed apartments and good ski lift networks. Such resorts as Les Deux Alpes and Val d'Isere were built solely with skiing in mind. Le Village complex in Les Deux Alpes, where I spent a week over Christmas, boasts skiing from the doorstep with no long cable car rides to endure. It also has snow nearby all year round so it was one of the few resorts this Christmas which could offer skiing after the European thaw.

Most of the French holidays on offer are for self-catering apartments which cram up to six people, a bathroom, a kitchen area and a lounge area into a space no bigger than two Southside rooms. It is important to ensure that your group gets on well together because there's no place to hide.

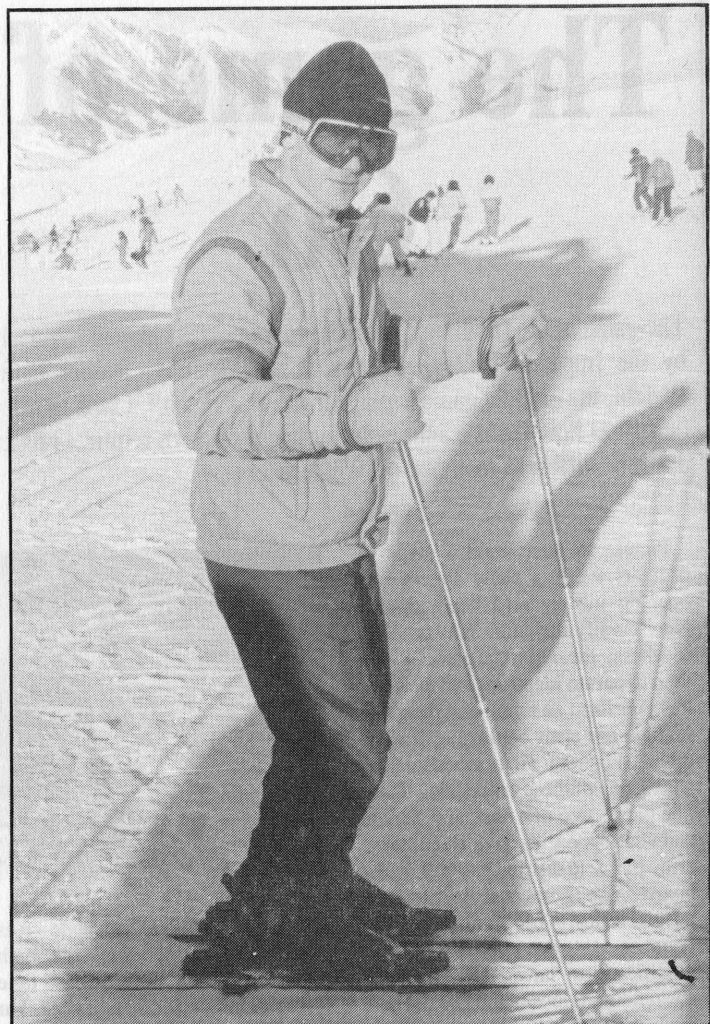
Self-catering is the cheapest form of living because all restaurants charge steep prices in these obvious tourist traps and, although

supermarket food is not cheap, it's far cheaper than having to eat out every night.'

There are other European skiing destinations apart from the big three. Italy is the next biggest although its popularity seems to have declined recently with its bad international reputation. Package tours are available to Spain, Andorra, Norway, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. There's even Avimore in Scotland, but the skiing and weather isn't as good as the alps.

When

Second is the decision of when to take your skiing trip. The obvious dates of Christmas and Easter are peak season and tend to be the most expensive. The cheapest time is in January or early March. Don't be tempted to go before Christmas, even though the fares are cheap because most of the resorts facilities will not have opened for the season. We went over Christmas and found that the advertised heated swimming pool was still shut. Our tour guides



recommended that March was the best time to go to France because that is when the snow is the thickest and the pistes the clearest. March also has the added advantage of longer daylight hours so there's more time on the precious slopes. That late in the season the weather can be relatively hot and ultraviolet rays are in abundance. If you do go in March, it is best to take a high factor sun cream and lip protector.

Clothing

Once you have made the decision where and when to go, there are essential items of clothing which have to be bought or borrowed. Good ski clothing is very expensive so a first time skier should try to borrow as much as he/she can. This, in my experience, is not the easiest of tasks. Hardened skiers are reluctant to let their clothing go on holiday without

is the best-selling make in Great Britain. You will also need ski pants or salopettes, which are high-waisted, padded trousers that cover your kidneys for added protection. Salopettes are the best but make you look very silly. Alternatively, you can buy a ski suit. But you can't wear a ski suit to College if you've decided against skiing again.

The most important item to buy is a pair of ski gloves. You can't get away with the ones you usually wear in London. One of the members of my ski party thought that he could and soon discovered how uncomfortable it was to ski with freezing cold, wet hands. You should make sure that the ones you buy have leather palms and a slight curl in the fingers. They should go several inches beyond your wrists so that any jacket will overlap and no cold air will get to them. You'll also need a ski-hat because a large percentage of your body heat escapes through the head. Remember to pack ski sunglasses, several thick ski socks and lots of thin polo neck

The most important item of your equipment is your pair of boots. You'll have a miserable holiday if your feet are uncomfortable or cold. Try walking around the shop for a few minutes with the boots on before accepting them and if you're unhappy, change them.

Lessons

One of my mistakes this Christmas was to believe that I could go skiing without first taking lessons. If you are a first timer it is best to take a few dry slope lessons in Britain before you go. While the ones who believed they could ski without doing this, spent the holiday on their bottoms, the ones who did, skied off into the sunset. Skiing holidays are much more fun if you can stay upright for most of the time. The ICU Ski Club organises trips to a local dry ski slope most weeks.

Some people chose to take lessons at their resorts. These aren't cheap and most foreign instructors have difficulty explaining in English. If you're unlucky you will end up paying through the nose for an arrogant fool who just wants to show how good a skier he is compared to you.

Exercises

Many ski books will recommend that you do a few exercises before your holiday. This may be necessary if you're an expert skier but I didn't experience any aches or pains from any of the gentle skiing I performed.

Price

The advantage of the cut-throat tactics of today's tour operators is that skiing holidays are getting cheaper. I have discovered recently that Horizon have a special 'First Timer's' six-day ski package to Austria. The flight and accommodation for seven days costs from £232-£347 depending on the season and the First Timer's pack an additional £146.50-£156.50.

When I visited Les Deux Alpes this Christmas a six day ski pass cost £64, lessons (12 hours total in groups of ten) cost around £45 and ski and boot hire £40.

Conclusions

Today's skiing technology is much more sophisticated than a decade ago. The boots are designed to protect your ankles and, in so doing, make your knees more vulnerable. The first lesson to learn is how to fall without hurting yourself. I didn't and missed three days skiing with an injured knee. The second lesson is how to slow down and stop without falling over.

I enjoyed my first skiing holiday despite the falling over. I will, no doubt, be gracing the slopes in the future. I also found the whole experience surprisingly relaxing. This may have had something to do with my lack of skiing, my excess of fresh air and sun, and a severe case of over-eating. It did have its downs (literally) as well as its ups but I can thoroughly recommend skiing as a wonderful antidote to the academic blues.



them for fear of having their designer salopettes ripped to shreds by an inexperienced student. I ended up having to buy most of the essential items. This only applies to clothing. It is best to hire skis, poles and boots in the resort as they can fit everything to you exact requirement.

When you buy your jacket make sure that arm movement is not restricted in any way. It will cost around £60 for a good, well-insulated jacket so buy one which you can wear in London afterwards, just in case you decide skiing is not for you. I tried most of the well-known sports shops in London before deciding on one from C&A whose Rodeo Collection

jumpers. Several thin layers are better than one thick layer.

Equipment

When you finally make it to your chosen resort you will have to hire boots and skis. Skis should come up to between shoulder and head height, depending on your build. You should check that there are no gouges in the base and that the bindings are easy to step into and release. The hire shop will alter them to suit your height and ability.



Re-applicants 1988/89

Application forms for
Re-applicants to Residence are
now available from:

Student Accommodation Office
15 Princes Gardens

Closing date:

Friday, 29 January 1988

What's On

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.

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

Carnival 88.....8.00pm.
Union Building. Probably the best carnival in the world.

SATURDAY

Shotokan Karate10.00am.
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

Tang Soodo.....4.00pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome. £1 members.

SUNDAY

Wargames Meeting.....1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

MONDAY

Rock Soc Meeting.....12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of rock? Come along!

Curry Soc12.30pm.
Weekly meeting. Southside Upper Lounge.

Parachute Club Meeting.....12.30pm.
Union Lower Lounge. See Max Hunt von Herbing (Chairman).

Artsoc Meeting.....12.30pm.
SCR Union. Come to sign up and pay your money for tickets for forth-coming events, eat biscuits and drink coffee. Free to members (membership £1.50).

Recitation of Holy Qur'an.....1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

Golf Practice5.30pm.
Union Gym. See Golf Club.

Concert Band Rehearsal5.45pm.

Great Hall. All players please.

Guilds Gen Comm ...6.00pm.
Union Dining Hall. Make your views heard. See Guilds Union.

Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

Shotokan Karate7.00pm.
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

Beginners Ballroom.....8.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

Tang Soo Do9.00pm.
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.00 members.

Guilds & RCS Radio Show9.00pm.
Prizes, good music and all the latest gossip!

TUESDAY

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

Guinness & Gossip 12.30pm.
Sailing Club meeting above Stan's.

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

Boardsailing12.30pm.
Regular meeting in Southside Lounge to organise trips.

Ski Club12.45pm.
Above Southside Bar, sign up for lessons and recreational skiing.

QT Soc Meeting1.00pm.
Southside Upper Lounge (or Pizza Bar). Plot-hatching extravaganza! New members welcome.

Speaker Meeting1.15pm.
Read Theatre, Sheffield Building. 'Science: Master or Servant?' by Lewis Stretch, Engineer and ex Pro-Vice Chancellor, Aston University.

Holy Qur'an Recitation.....1.30pm.
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

Islamic Circle5.30pm.
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

Amnesty Meeting5.30pm.
Brown Committee Room. Everyone welcome.

Cinema & Food Trip6.00pm.
Guilds Union Office. Drink, see 'Wish you were here' and then stuff yourself in the West End

with Guilds. £8 all in. See Guilds Union.

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

SF Film: 'Alien'7.00pm.
ME220. The unrepeatably original, Ridley Scott film...Remember—in space no one can hear you scream. 50p members, membership available.

Caving Club Meeting.....7.00pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

Advanced Ballroom.....7.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club

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

Improvers Ballroom.....8.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

Dai Rocking.....9.00pm.
IC Radio (99.9kHz). The best in hard rock and not-so-hard rock music including the featured album every week with David Williams.

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.

Improvers Rock n Roll2.15pm.
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.

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

Offbeat Practice3.15pm.
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.

ULU Meditation Group7.00pm.
Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street. Traditional breathing meditation. Everyone welcome. No charge.

THURSDAY

Methsoc Meeting ..12.30pm.
Huxley 413.

ICYHA Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

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.

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.

Lunch-Hour Concert 1.30pm.
The Music Room, 53 Prince's Gate. The Sartori Ensemble playing Mozart's Quintet for clarinet and strings.

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.

IC Choir Practice.....5.45pm.
Room 342, Mech Eng. Rehearsals of the Verdi Requiem. New members welcome.

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

Gay/Lesbian Group ..7.30pm.
ULU Building, Malet Street. Mens group room 3a, womens 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).

The deadline for What's On entries is Monday lunchtime. Please notify us if an entry is wrong.

Previews

MUSIC



by Phil Young

Hi! A belated welcome to 1988 from the all-new FELIX music column, bringing you previews and reviews of gigs and records, concentrating on non-mainstream music—those not in favour can go and listen to BBC Radio. Recovering from the traditional Christmas gig wilderness, the London live scene starts tonight!

For those of you not going to see Buday Curtess tonight at College, you could try the Boogie Brothers at Dingwall's, Camden at 8pm (£5). For vibrant blues and soul complete with

pork pie hats and shades. If you miss them you can see them on Sunday at 9pm for £4 at the Half Moon, Putney. If your appetite was whetted by Howlin' Wilf & the Vee Jays at College last term, you can see them at the Dublin Castle in Camden tonight at 8.30pm for £3, or tomorrow at the King's Head, Fulham High Street, at 8pm for £3. Punk fans can see Chelsea—remember them?—tonight at the Marquee in Wardour Street, Soho at 7pm for £3.50, and devotees of the speed poet John Cooper Clarke can see him in action at the Cricketer's, by the Oval at 8pm for £3. Marillion fans can try and buy a ticket from the touts to see them at Hammersmith Odeon between Saturday and Tuesday.

Gig of the week has to be Pop Will Eat Itself at ULU tonight at 7.30pm, £4.50 on the door, for a night of sexist hip-hop grebols doing self-indulgent thrash and parody.

On Saturday 23rd, The Triffids play the Astoria and Echo and the Bunnymen play Brixton Academy, Eric Clapton appears on January 25-27, 29-31 at the Albert Hall. Definitely worth missing are the Alarm on February 9 at Hammersmith Odeon.



Gig of the week: self-indulgent Pop Will Eat Itself at ULU tonight

Album review:

The Smiths—Strangeways here we come

Deterred from buying this one because of the lousy music press reviews, I find this album distinctive from previous Smiths' material. A noticeable lack of Morrissey one-liners is countered by a stronger

instrumental input. Don't be put off by the single 'Girlfriend in a Coma'. Gems like 'Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before' and 'Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me' put this album amongst their best.

FOOTBALL

by Adrian Grainger



A week after the FA Cup third round, London's teams return to the league trail with some exciting matches in prospect:

All matches are on **Saturday January 16th** with 3pm kick-offs.

Queens Park Rangers v West Ham
Division 1, Loftus Road, Shepherd's Bush (tube)

A clash between the hooped Rangers and the pride of East London is mouth-watering. QPR have faltered lately but are still a force with new signing Mark Falco settling in well, scoring two FA Cup goals last week. West Ham have had their problems this year with injuries to key men like

Alviu Martin, but after a cup victory over Charlton last week, a draw seems likely. Watch out for the skills of Liam Brady whose curling free kick goal last week was superb. Go along to see football on plastic, its last season at Loftus Road.

Tottenham v Coventry
Division 1, White Hart Lane, Seven Sisters (tube).

The obvious comparisons will be made with this being the repeat of last year's FA Cup Final. This match though should be a reverse of that May result, a classic match is unlikely. Terry Venables is slowly forming Spurs into a winning side with an impressive cup win at Oldham under his belt. Clive Allen seems also to have returned to form. Coventry are struggling near the foot of the table and are finding it tough to live as cup winners. Regis is playing well though with memories of his great days at WBA. The walk from the tube is 25 minutes long, so I would wait for a better match than this to see.

Wimbledon v Watford
Division 1, Plough Lane, Wimbledon Park (tube).

Wimbledon are 'on a roller' with six straight wins including a demolition of WBA last week. John Fashanu, Vinny Jones and other part-time players have made the Dons a strong

force, not given enough credit for their achievements. They are my top for the cup this year. Watford are a poor side with recent turmoil about their ownership not helping their league position. New man Steve Harrison has problems indeed. They struggled in the Cup and should receive a lesson or two in this match.

Crystal Palace v Huddersfield
Division 2, Selhurst Park, Norwood Junction (BR)

Palace are playing very well and I think that they are a good bet for promotion. I saw them demolish Plymouth 5-1 and their rhyming and roaming strikers Bright and Wright (37 goals between them this season) being devastating. Huddersfield have new manager Malcolm MacDonald but are still smarting from their 0-1 defeat at Manchester City. Palace should take the 3 points without breaking into a gallop.

Millwall v Middlesbrough
Division 2, The Den, New Cross (tube)

Although this is the match of the day in the second division, I would keep well clear. I saw Millwall at West Ham and their bad reputation with their fans is justified. There were 40 arrests at Arsenal in the cup last week as well. Tony Cascarino is Millwall's best player, a fighting 17 goal striker.

Middlesbrough were top but have dropped back lately and could only draw with non-league Sutton last week. 17 goal Slaven is their star striker. Millwall might just sneak it.

Fulham v Port Vale
Division 3, Craven Cottage, Putney Bridge (tube)

This doesn't seem on paper a very exciting game, but you never know. Fulham are a decent side and Terry McCann will always stick with them. 18 goal Rosenior is the key. The lads from the potteries are near the foot of the table. I saw a game at Vale Park about 5 years ago and the atmosphere of financial heartache and old traditions was a saddening feeling. Fulham should win.

Leyton Orient v Crewe
Division 4, Brisbane Road, Leyton (tube)

The home team with their new name are second in the league and deserve to climb up a division. The East London reds are in round four of the FA Cup which may prove a distraction though. Crewe are mid-table, better than usual for them, and have a good away record. Orient's form should see them pull further away with Wolves at the top

London game of the day:
QPR v West Ham.

FILM

Fatal Attraction

New York attorney Dan Gallagher is happily married. However, when wife and daughter are out of town, he has a passionate affair with Alex Forrest, an unmarried publishing executive. For Dan, this is a whirlwind thing—intense but shortlived. However Alex wants more.

After the heap of excrement that was the designer S & M of *9½ Weeks*, Adrian Lyne now tries his hand at designer psychopathology and the result isn't much better than his previous work. In this film, culture is a fondness of *Madame Butterfly*, and style amounts to expensive clothes, famous locations and flashy editing. At one point, we cut back so often to Alex's seemingly lifeless body in a bath that you just can't not know that she's going to rise up.

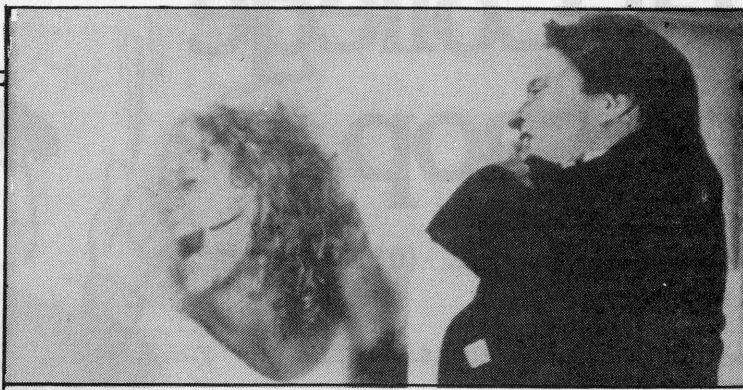
Much has been made out of the steamy scenes between Alex and Dan, but *Fatal Attraction* is actually quite conservative. Dan and Alex may have sex in a kitchen sink, but the big message of the film is 'don't stray from the path'.

Fatal Attraction seems to me to be yet another addition to the yuppies-in-peril catalogue of films. However, it is also noticeably a product of the post-AIDS sexual climate. Alex, excellently played by Glenn Close, rapidly loses her character, becoming a vengeful rampaging psychopath. Dan's part in the affair, and therefore what should be his share of the blame, is quickly forgotten in a knock down, drag out fight. Alex, it is made clear from the start, is bad news—you are beaten over the head with this. Alex is overtly sexy—Dan's wife plain, just pretty. Alex's loft is barren, bleak, filmed in colourless tones. Dan's flat is homely clutter, filmed in warm inviting colours. And if the audience still doesn't get the message, Alex's loft is pointedly set in the meat-packing district of the city. The poor woman never stood a chance.

What at first seems to start as an intelligent film about adultery soon becomes pretty objectionable in the way it relies on an image of the sexually independent single woman as clinging and psychotic. Give *Fatal Attraction* a miss—it's long, heavily over-directed in places and ultimately the male comes out on top yet again.

C.R.

Aaron Kotcheff
Charles Robin



Near Dark

Near Dark is another contemporary vampire story—vampires on the road, in a way. Farm boy Caleb Cotton, looking for excitement, takes a strangely beautiful young woman, Mae, for a ride in his truck. As dawn approaches, she demands to be taken home and he insists on a kiss first. She bites his neck and runs off. Since his truck won't start Caleb has to walk home—and the sun, when it rises, sears his flesh. And so begins what is probably the most off-beat vampire movie since *The Hunger*. *Near Dark* homes in on the hysterical violence beneath a folksy surface, like David Lynch's *Blue Velvet*. An innocent boy is drawn by his desire for something different into a sado-erotic nightmare world, which threatens to destroy him. And, as in *Blue Velvet*, Caleb overcomes the monstrous vampire family so that the good and normal one can prevail.

Whereas *Blue Velvet* centres on its young hero's fantasies, *Near Dark* makes skillful use of the vampire genre to give Caleb's battle for survival a mythic dimension. The vampires stand for Society's outcasts, wandering the land wreaking unholy vengeance: their battle scarred leader, Jesse, sporting long rider coat and pony tail, fought for the doomed South in the civil war. His partner, Diamond Back, was a wanderer. 'Young' Homer was a high school misfit and the pathologically blood thirsty Severen sports bikers jacket and spurs.

The vampires are sometimes treated with black humour (Jesse coughs up a bullet and hands it back to the man

who just shot him with it) but never are they glamourised: they are unremittingly evil. The film also manages to steer clear of a few clichés such as the long fangs—but the vampire mythology has also been changed a little bit, to allow a blood transfusion to cure the afflicted. Despite this *Near Dark* is quite close to Bram Stoker's *Dracula* making many of the latter's submerged themes, especially the erotic undertones, more explicit.

Caleb finds himself unable to kill his own victims and therefore has to lead a parasitical existence off Mae. And the scenes in which he drinks her blood from her wrists are intensely and disturbingly erotic. In other words, vampirism is the ultimate zipliss sex.

Near Dark is almost as much a Western as it is a vampire film. Caleb engineers the escape of the vampires from a police ambush—and is rewarded by Severen giving him one of his spurs. Later, when Caleb rides out to confront the vampires he does so on a horse. And the final battle has a definite show-down feel to it.

Near Dark is a thoughtful film—one of the few in the vampire genre which actually raises the question of whether or not it's nice to be a vampire, and gives a real impression of the difficulties involved in sucking blood: 'I hate it when they don't shave' complains Severen, just before tucking in.

If you're in the mood for something a bit off the wall, but not too much so, *Near Dark* is probably your kind of film.

C.R.

The Woo-Woo Kid

A charming story of 'Sonny' Wisecarver, a 15 year old who became something of a national celebrity in wartime America, after becoming romantically entangled with two married women, and subsequently chased around the country by the authorities and scandal hungry press. The story is treated

with a light, rather glossy, Hollywood style but is definitely amusing and occasionally hilarious. The central character, Sonny, was often reminiscent of Woody Allen in his bemused innocence, and the whole film had a modest, unimposing atmosphere rare to American cinema.

A.K.

Predator

As one would expect, bulging biceps and macho wise-cracks abound in *Predator*, the latest production starring Arnold 'intelligent' Schwarzenegger. Arnie, plus team of seasoned mercenaries do battle with a high-tech alien who seems to want to kill anything warm-blooded he comes across for no particular reason whatsoever. Despite having some of the deadliest man-portable artillery you're ever likely to see, the men get picked off one by one very much in *Alien* style, but without the imagination or subtlety of that film. However *Predator* is well produced and, treated with the amount of respect you might give an episode of the *A-Team*, is good entertainment and proffers a few laughs.

A.K.

THEATRE

Ian McKellen Acting Shakespeare

The Playhouse, Adjacent to Embankment Underground Station
This is probably one of the best one-man shows that London has ever seen—actor Ian McKellen takes his audience on a tour of the life and plays of William Shakespeare. He plays the part of the playwright, as well as all of his famous characters—and he does it all without one change of costume. McKellen switches from Prince Hal to Hamlet to Polonius to Juliet with awesome ease. His performance inspires even the most unlitary in his audience who have never even heard of Shakespeare.

This is a must—it's a great night out. The run has been extended to January 30th and all proceeds go to the London Lighthouse AIDS hospice.

Students can get best available seats immediately before the performance at £5, one ticket per person, upon presentation of your Union Card.

Monday to Thursday at 8pm
Friday to Saturday at 9pm
Firday and Saturday at 6.30pm
C.R.

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David Frost. Fontana £2.95
5. **Whirlwind**
James Clavell. Coronet £4.95
6. **Bill Bailey**
Catherine Cookson. Corgi £2.95
7. **The Other Side of Paradise**
Noel Barber. Coronet £3.95
8. **A Perfect Spy**
John le Carré. Coronet £3.95
9. **Goodbye Soldier**
Spike Milligan. Penguin £2.95
10. **Love and War**
John Jakes. Fontana £3.95
11. **Night of the Fox**
Jack Higgins. Pan £2.95
12. **A Taste for Death**
P D James, Sphere £3.50
13. **Football is a Funny Game**
Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves. Arrow £3.95
14. **My Family and Other Animals**
Gerald Durrell. Penguin £3.95
15. **A Matter of Honour**
Jeffrey Archer. Coronet £3.50

Imperial College Sports Shop
Open: 11.00am - 2.30pm
For Sports & Regalia



Phone: 581 2953

To Imperial College
from St Mary's

Before starting this week's article I feel it necessary to reply to my critics. To all the people I have either upset or angered, it was never my intention to and I do apologise. The comments made have been noted and I shall attempt to follow them.

I must make it clear that this column is *not* an official communiqué from the St Mary's Student Union, merely the personal view of one student (who tries to reflect typical student life).

This month it has been pleasing to see three students from St Mary's playing in national rugby trials with Kevin Simms (Wasps), a regular England Centre returning to the team playing the French at the Parc des Princes in Paris. The other two players—Sean O'Leary (also of Wasps) and Richard Wintle (London Welsh) playing second row and right wing respectively, distinguished themselves playing for the seconds sides in the respective national trials.

It must be noted that all three do not play for St Mary's regularly, only for the special occasions which include the Hospital's Cup and the annual Cambridge University fixture. Eligible to play for St Mary's are a whole team of excellent players regularly turning out for noted London sides. One cannot for a minute disagree with their decision to gain deserved recognition by playing for clubs that can offer a good fixture list.

The problem is Catch 22. St Mary's can no longer offer first class fixtures to entice quality players, but on the other hand in the new league system one has to earn the right for first class fixtures. Thus the problem cannot be resolved due to the unusual situation of a student team playing good rugby of the time but never able to realise the full potential of the talent available.

What can be done has been demonstrated with a string of victories including Hospitals' Cups, 7-a-side competitions and last year's win against Cambridge University. Not bad for a potential pool of only 250 male students, of which only 1/3 are seriously interested in the game.

Rugby has, and will continue to play a large part in the social strata of life at St Mary's, and while it may not be the sole reason for the outside world to know of St Mary's and its high standards it must be pretty close.

PARACHUTE CLUB

Maximising the jumps



We have another first time jump course. It is organised for the evenings of February 2nd and 3rd for ground training in College. First jumps will be on the weekend of the 6th and 7th of February—weather permitting. The cost is £65 and £4 membership plus a £15 deposit is required ahead of time. Our meetings are at 12.30pm on Mondays in the Union Lower Lounge. Come next Monday to book your place.

Those who have seen me already about this course please come along on Monday as well or contact me through pigeonholes.

*Max Hung von Herbing,
Chairman, Parachute Club.*



COOKERY CLUB

Celery and ham rollers

This is an extremely easy meal to cook and is ideal as lunch or a late supper. You can substitute asparagus shoots for the celery hearts if you prefer. I like the combination of the

hot cheese on the cold ham but others like to bake the dish. The quantities shown should give you a healthy meal for one.

Ingredients

15g butter
1/2 tbs. flour
1/4 pint milk
50g grated cheese
2 celery hearts, halved
(or asparagus shoots)
4 slices of ham

Method

Melt the butter and remove from the heat. Add the flour and cook the roux for 1 minute. Gradually stir in the milk and bring it to the boil. Add most of the cheese and season to taste.

Wrap each bit of celery in a slice of ham and place it in a grill proof dish. Pour the cheese sauce over the

ham and sprinkle the top with the extra cheese. Grill until the top begins to brown.

If the hot—cold combination does not appeal to you then try baking at 180 deg C for 20 minutes before grilling.

Good appetite.

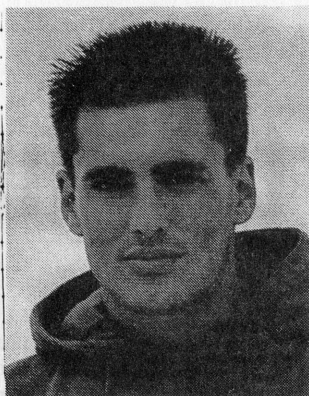


WIN £50

DEBATING COMPETITION

Meet Physics UG Common Room, Level 2
12.30pm WED 20th JAN
EVERYONE WELCOME

CHRIS JONES



TESTIMONIAL

I found Christmas really depressing this year. The endless reunion parties with old school friends who were still drinking too much and smoking too much. I think it depressed me because I started to realise that I had somehow grown away from the people I used to hang around with. I no longer wanted to party into the night, drink too much or smoke too much. I put this down to being 'Imperialised',

though my old friends just said 'boring'.

I don't consider myself boring. It's those eggheads that sit in the front row and know all the right questions to ask that are. I'm just more confident than I used to be since coming to university. I don't feel that I have to pretend anymore when I go to a party. I've never really liked them all that much, or discos, come to that.

The parties of my formative years consisted of spiked orange juices and throwing up in the kitchen. I could never understand why I let myself go through that same old Friday night ritual. I could sit for hours in the same armchair, with a fixed grin and obligatory gin & tonic, watching them chatting up girls with nervous giggles and 34a busts. I would feel my week-long inhibitions floating away as the wall fixtures began to rotate mysteriously and I would have an inexplicable urge to visit a bucket.

Discos are worse. One evening over Christmas my best friend at school and his latest girlfriend Sue insisted that we should go to 'Grooving' in Hainsham. Sue promised that this newly-opened nightclub would make the ideal evening out. So I spent the evening with my obligatory gin & tonic, watching heaving, sweating bodies gyrating mindlessly to mindless pop.

The charts are full this dross nowadays. I suppose it's because the only people who can afford to buy singles in 88 are those that run the damned discos. It only takes 20,000 sales and you've made it. Radio One only makes it worse. I get really irritated when I find myself singing along to it. I don't want to. I've found myself brainwashed by the background music and the backside chatter.

I must admit that Christmas wasn't just a string of parties and family get togethers. I did meet some people that I hadn't seen since school. I was shocked to discover how many of my contemporaries had got engaged since then, and one had been married for five months! I'll soon be the only bachelor in Hainsham. This doesn't worry me that much because I intend to make the most of being single.

I think the best thing that happened to me at Christmas was EastEnders. It's suddenly got really good again. I've managed to miss both of this week's episodes but I plan to catch them on Sunday. We all think Lofty will top himself. Let's hope we're right.

Chris Jones

PHOENIX

the literary magazine of Imperial College Union requires new poems, photos, short stories and artwork. Please send them to Liz Holford, c/o FELIX.

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

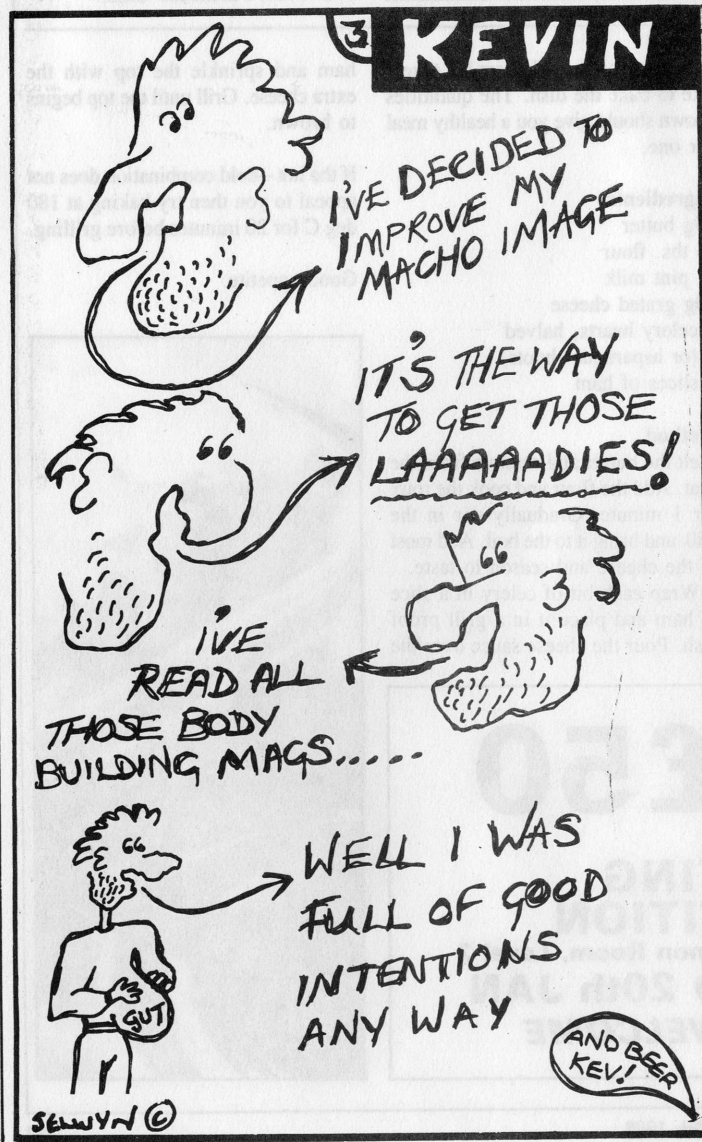
- **Join IC Choir** and sing the Verdi Requiem, come to Room 342, Mech Eng, Thursday at 5.45pm
- **Guilds** dinner and dance: will people who have bought tickets please give their seating preferences to the Guilds Office, and state whether they would like a vegetarian meal.
- **Bean's Run** on Monday January 18. Meet at Holbein, 6.30pm, runners leave at 7pm.
- **Notice** is herby given for all former residents of Bernard Sunley House, 40-44 Evelyn Gdns, SW7, who still have properties in the attic of the House to remove all their articles before January 31 1988. Failure to do so before this date will result in all articles being forwarded to the auction sale of February 6.
- **Cricket Club:** Indoor nets every Tuesday 8-9pm, MCC, Lord's Ground, meet 7pm Mech Eng foyer.

FOR SALE

- **Celestion** Ditton 44 monitor speakers. 3-unit, teak, fabulous sound but a bit scratched, £120 (pair). Akai open reel stereo tape recorder, perfect, £75 (inc some tapes). Quad AM2 tuner, 1958, mint condition, £60. Pair Leak Variscope 3 preamps, offers? See Andy in Norman's or via Felix Office.
- **VW Polo**, T-reg, manilla green, 42,000 miles, one owner, garaged, dealer serviced, £890, phone int 3035.
- **Roneo** duplicator going cheap. Contact Al Birch on 3624 int for details (it's in Cambridge but transport can be arranged).

PERSONAL

- **SF Soc** announce their remake of 'Scanners' starring FELIX libel writer as the exploding head. BRPULC
- **Dai Rocking**—we're more likely to die laughing—BRPULC
- **What's** the matter Simmo? Can't you 'hack' the pace in the hills?
- **Simmo** you're too fat—start dieting.
- **Just** when Cosmic thought it was safe to go back to reading the small ads...PPSoc return!



● **Q.** If there's a balding patch in the neighbourhood, who do you call?

● **A.** CosBusters!

● **First** there was Steve Austin, a man barely alive. Now PPSoc brings you Cosmic—a man barely.

● **We** warn thee SFSoc, QT are just a front. The power lies with PPSoc.

● **Could** the gentleman with the frame tent please answer the door?

● **Can** the man with shares in Kleenex please contact the monkey who used all her's at the new year?

● **The** Paul Kendall four-step guide to Oxford pub seductions...(i) spin, (ii) dive, (iii) crush, (iv) burn.

● **Simon** Bradshaw...proof that the RAF employ nancy boys!

● **Nancy**—May the (air) force be with you!

● **Bradders**—just what sort of night exercise did you get up to on that camp?

● **Is Doze** a cradle snatcher?

● **See** Alien with John Hurt—very hurt.

● **Watch** Alien with SF Soc for a real gut-wrenching experience.

● **Trinity** College, this is London calling. Channing or non-channing? From the Humpy Fiddler.

● **Baw!** The unexplained. A place where cats disappear without trace. We cannot explain this. That's why it's called...baw! The unexplained.

● **Peckham's** law: Beauty times brains equals a constant.

● **To whoever** nicked my laser card, good luck on your life of crime, even though I hope it's an extremely short one. Rob (pissed off with amateur crooks) Howes (MRE 1). Return c/o Bank of Kerovnia.

● **Dinosaur** Tiddlywinks—sounds a bit elite-ist to me. Still, as long as Sid doesn't find out, eh?

Deadline for all
Small Ads is
Monday
Lunchtimes
(1.30pm)

Fur falls foul of secretaries

Dear Judith,

I write with reference to the article in the last issue of FELIX about the fur trade, specifically the paragraph stating that 'most young secretaries' were responsible for the sale of cheap furs. Not only was it insulting to secretaries but on the whole meaningless and I feel that the printing of it was very insensitive on your part, considering that young secretaries make up a large number of the non-academic staff at Imperial.

The statement itself, made by a furrier, just goes to show how out of touch they are with the public's awareness. If they are finding it so hard to sell cheap fur then why do they go on butchering animals, and trying to persuade women that wearing dead rabbits on their backs is still glamorous and desirable.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Randall, Secretary, Chemistry Dept.

Glad to be Liberal

Dear FELIX,

I must object to James Papa's suggestion (FELIX 788) that Liberals used the slogan 'I haven't been kissed by Peter Tatchell' in the 1983 Bermondsey by-election. I worked for Simon Hughes, the successful Liberal candidate throughout this by-election, and never once saw or heard this slogan or anything else anti-gay used by Liberals.

It is often forgotten that right up until the last week of the by-election it was seen as a two horse race between Labour's Peter Tatchell, and John O'Grady the Independent Labour candidate. The *Economist* actually printed a cartoon of the two of them on horses a week before the by-election. Most of the anti-gay smears that appeared came from the O'Grady campaign, the rest from the Tories, NF etc. It is possible that some O'Grady supporters, realising their cause was hopeless, came over in the last few days to help Simon Hughes and continued to use anti-gay smears on the doorsteps. At this stage in the campaign there were hundreds of people coming to help, and it was obviously impossible to check the political soundness of every volunteer who turned up. But I am sure if anyone had been heard using the slogan mentioned by James Papa they would have been told to leave.

Liberals have long been the party which has worked hardest for gay rights. Labour has jumped on the issue in their usual inept way and only whipped up more prejudice. Many of my Liberal friends are gay. As an undergraduate at IC in the late 1970s, and a member of the IC Liberal Club then, at the time the most active political society in College, I remember being constantly hassled for our support of gay rights, particularly as the Jeremy Thorpe case was then in the headlines. The

standard slogan was then 'Backs against the wall, it's the Liberals'. The Socialist Society actually circulated a spoof of our 'Forward!' newsletter, called 'Sideways!' full of anti-gay jokes. I am sure that much of this material can be found in the Union archives, and I ask Mr Papa to look it up before spreading more smears about the Liberal Party.

I campaigned for Simon Hughes because he stands for the sort of radical Liberalism I believe in, and which is now threatened by merger with the SDP. Seeing Simon elected as MP for Bermondsey was one of the proudest moments of my life, and I am sorry that the Labour Party, the world's worse losers, continues to tell lies about the election.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Huntbach, Dept of Computing.

Hamlet's hardships

Dear Judith,

On Tuesday December 1 the warden of Hamlet Gardens was notified that the immersion heater in flat 210 Hamlet Gardens was not functioning thereby causing the residents of the above some discomfort, as they could not even wash properly. In the two weeks after the defect was reported the warden was re-notified at least three times until on Wednesday December 16 a letter was sent by the residents proposing to go and see the fair rent officer for Hammersmith if the defect was not repaired. A repair was carried out on the following day (December 17).

On the evening of Saturday December 19 the water heater again ceased to function. We think we have reasonable cause to feel that neither the warden of Hamlet Gardens nor Strolmoor Ltd, the landlords, are fulfilling their obligations to these students of Imperial College who are in residence at Hamlet Gardens.

We wish to protest in the strongest manner possible about the amount of attention afforded to the above flat (and probably the rest of Hamlet Gardens) by the two agents in question.

W J M Keys, Andrew Marsh, David Hendy, T P Weggett.

Cocktail thank you

Dear Judith,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Cox and all the students who acted as hosts at the Guilds Cocktail Party. The event was a tremendous success. If anyone is interested in seeing the letters of thanks then please contact me in the Guilds Office.

Dave Tyler, Guilds President.

Student grants set to rise by 4 per cent.

Student grants are to be increased by 4% next academic year, it was announced by Education Secretary Kenneth Baker last month. The Secretary of State was forced to announce the figures for 1988/89 when Andrew Bennett, MP, asked

him in Parliament.

Undergraduate grants for London students will rise from £2330 to £2425 and postgraduate grants from £3492 to £3630.

The threshold for parental incomes, and the points on the contribution scale at which the contribution changes, will be uprated on average by about 6.5%. Parents whose residual income is below £9900 will not be assessed for a contribution. The minimum contribution will rise from £40 to £50.

Union Welfare Officer Pippa Salmon said yesterday that 'in view of the fact that housing prices in the South East have gone up by 20% this year and rents accordingly, this increase is laughably small for Imperial students'.

Union President Ian Howgate was also quick to condemn such a small increase. He said, 'my personal feeling is that 4% is obviously insufficient. The instalment of the cut in Housing Benefit in April means that they are instigating the student loan system already.' He went on to call for a co-ordinated national campaign by students. 'We need a national union which operates properly but unfortunately we don't have one of those,' he said. 'At the moment we can't fight the Thatcherite government without proper coordination.'

FELIX carried out a straw poll in the Union Building yesterday and couldn't find one student who was satisfied with the increase. Most people we asked thought that 4% was 'dreadful' and that most new students next year would certainly have to rely on top up loans.

Residual Income £	Contribution £
9900	50
10000	64
11000	207
12000	350
12600	435
12700	455
12800	475
12900	495
13000	515
14000	715
15000	915
16000	1115
17000	1315
18000	1515
18400	1595
18500	1620
19000	1745
20000	1995
21000	2245
22000	2495
23000	2745
24000	2995
25000	3245
26000	3495
27000	3745
28000	3995
29000	4245
30000	4495
21000	4745
31620	4900 (max)

Central Stores to close

College administration has announced that they plan to re-organise the College Central Stores. The present stores will continue to organise storage, delivery and collection of gas cylinders, and purchase and storage of cleaning materials. The stationery stores will be moved to Sheffield and all scientific consumables will be decentralised. The stores staff have argued that this is effectively closing the Stores from August 1 this year.

John Smith, in a circulated letter, claims that 'these changes are expected to make savings on staff costs, space, vehicle cost and maintenance, and the reduction of stocks held centrally'. However, the Stores staff say that only Central Finance will save money as the expense is shifted from Central Administration to the departments. They believe that College stocks will have to increase overall, rather than being reduced, if sixteen decentralised stores are set up and therefore the space needed to store these items will increase.

Mr Smith has also assured all Central Stores staff that they will be 'offered alternative work within the College'. Both the staff and their union representatives from IC NALGO believe that nine jobs will be lost as a result as technicians and handlers are persuaded to take voluntary redundancy.

The staff feelings are running very high at the moment. They believe that administration have not treated them fairly and have let the Central Stores run down over the last ten years. They argue that great savings can be made through central ordering and Stores modernisation which has been rejected by administration.

There is a joint purchasing power of £½ million and Requisitions believe that they can save £50,000 a year through centralised bulk purchasing from the right suppliers. This 'could wipe out the £3m deficit' rather than trying to skimp on a few jobs. The discounts are much less for small purchases.

Mr Terry Neville, who has the overall responsibility for Central Stores, told FELIX yesterday that departments had 'voted with there feet' over the last few years. He believes that departments can demand the same discounts as the present

central service. He is confident that many suppliers are willing to deliver to individual departments at short notice. He told us that 'departments can get most supplies cheaper elsewhere any way'. He believes that this plan is ideal because it cuts staffing costs and each department can cater for its own specialist needs. He said that the response has been 'quite positive so far' from departments and he expects savings to be in the order of £100,000. As far as job losses were concerned he said that 'no pressure has been put on staff to take redundancy'.

NALGO representative Janice Lewis is arranging a campaign to save Central Stores to start next Monday. She is angry that the College administration have no concrete arguments for their decision. She is also concerned about the lack of consultation between the staff, administration and the departments which will have to take on their own purchasing and supplies; she believes that 'it clearly hasn't been thought through properly'. Other staff believe the plan to be 'short-sighted' and 'naive'.

The NALGO campaign will consist of posters, lobbying for departmental support and a petition which all students are invited to sign. The staff have already made representations to the Rector.

If you wish to sign the petition, Central Stores staff have given FELIX a copy which students can sign.

Meanwhile 1200 items are out of stock in Central Stores due to the breakdown of computers in Sheffield at the beginning of December.

LRT rise

From January 10 London Regional Transport has operated its increased fares which once again will hit students' pockets. A two zone ticket will now cost 80p (previously 70p) and a three zone ticket increased to £1.10 (£1 before). However travel on bus or tube in the central zone remains the same at 50p. Travelcards have gone up by 30p to £2 and all zone Capitalcards now cost £2.60.

	Undergraduate £	Postgraduate £
Hall or lodgings		
(i) London	2425 (2330)	3630 (3492)
(ii) Elsewhere	2050 (1972)	2975 (2859)
Parental home	1630 (1567)	2160 (2075)

JUMP & JIVE & SPLIT YOUR SIDES WITH IC ENTS

AT CARNIVAL 88

featuring bands:

**BUDDY CURTESS
& THE GRASSHOPPERS**

'Quite simply the best party band in the world'

JIVIN' INSTRUCTORS

'50's Rock 'n' Roll by one of the tightest acts going'

comedy:

MARK MIWURDZ—*'Straight from the socialist republic of South Yorkshire, Mark has been on the way up since his residency on the tube'*

JON MOLONEY—*'The angriest young acordion player in the world'*

WENDY LEE—*'Very interesting stand up'*

*All this plus disco, late bar,
cocktails, food,
happy hour, films, etc etc.*

TICKETS:

**£1 (IC Ents Card), £2.50 (adv),
£3 (on the door) from Union**

Office & Norman's

DOORS OPEN 8pm FRIDAY 15th JAN 88

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CARNIVAL 88

THE TIME	THE PLACE	CONCERT HALL	U.D.H	LOUNGE	BAR	CRUSH BAR	QUAD
8-9					HAPPY HOUR		
9-10		JIVIN' INSTRUCTORS					
			WENDY LEE				
10-11			JOHN MOLONEY				
			MARK MIWURDZ				
11-12		BUDDY CURTESS & THE GRASSHOPPERS					
12-1			FILM				
			GHOST-BUSTERS				
1-2							