

FREE!



Felix

No. 793
Friday 12th February 1988

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Weeks to be new PG only hall

Weeks Hall may be changed to a postgraduate hall of residence and wardens will be able to chose re-apps without consulting residents, following a meeting of College's Student Residence Committee (SRC) on Wednesday.

The idea of a postgraduate only hall has been discussed throughout the academic year. A survey of postgraduates presently in residence showed a favourable response to the proposal. It was also felt by SRC that having entire halls free over the holidays would improve the efficiency of the Summer Accommodation Centre and Letting Scheme. However, a motion passed by an IC Union General Meeting last term strongly opposed the conversion of any part of Southside into a postgraduate hall, as was originally proposed.

The use of Weeks Hall as a postgraduate residence would have to be subject to the agreement of Vickers, the engineering company, which provided money for its construction. A condition of the payment was that Vickers' sponsored students would be guaranteed places in the Hall. If the company agrees to the SRC's suggestions, the proposal will be put to the College Governing Body.

Dr Brian Levitt, who chairs SRC, commented that if things go smoothly, Weeks could become a postgraduate hall for the 1988-89 session.

SRC have also set down new rules on re-applicants. Dr Levitt said that re-apps' responsibilities would be stated clearly before they take up their places in future. There had previously been an 'understanding' that re-apps were expected to help their hall, but some wardens had felt people were not doing enough to justify their second year in College accommodation.

The Hall and House Committees will no longer be able to decide who is awarded re-app places in their residence. The choice will be carried out by the wardens alone. In previous years the committees have voted on all the applicants and composed a list of preferred candidates. Wardens have been able to veto any people they consider totally unsuitable but not to add names to the list. Dr Levitt said that the change was 'not major' and the decision would now be passed formally to the wardens but he did not think that they would appoint re-apps without first consulting the committees. 'It would be very foolish', he said.

However, fears have been voiced that the wardens will chose people who will do as the wardens ask but who will be 'unable to stimulate the social life of the new residents'. Re-apps have traditionally been the most lively and sociable people, who could be branded as troublemakers by certain wardens. Dr Levitt defended the decision, saying that it was essential that re-apps were there to help their wardens, not hinder them.

Comics relieved

The FELIX collection last Friday for Comic Relief in all departments raised £192.11. The highest amount raised in any one department was £52.80 from Mechanical Engineering followed by £39.01 from Mines, and £21.23 from Chemistry. At the other end of the scale Sherfield raised £1.83 (most of that from security men) and a stunning £1.60 from the whole of Computing and Mathematics in the Huxley Building.

Willy J thefts

Student property including a compact disc player and a ghettoblaster were stolen from Willis Jackson House on Tuesday. The thieves are thought to have used scaffolding, which contractors have left after replacing roofing lead lost in last October's storm.

As a result the scaffolding is to be removed, but in the meantime students are reminded that common sense measures such as locking windows and doors help in preventing such thefts.





editorial

This issue is one of 'specials'. If I had to recommend a page to read it would be the feature on Superconductivity (page 7). This recent development could have far-reaching effect on us all in the near future.

Money

Due to the FELIX financial position, I will be keeping the number of pages each week to a maximum of 20. This means features and reports may have to be 'stock-piled' or edited down. If

you object to this happening to your article, please write the objection at the top. We will try to please as many people as possible but, of course, it is impossible to please everybody.

Sneaky syd

Mr Harbour-Bridge, formerly Ian Howgate, keeps on threatening to take an anti-FELIX motion to a Union General Meeting, but never does in the end 'due to lack of time to write a report'. This is getting ever-so-

slightly tedious. I would suggest that if he has a valid motion to put forward that he does so at the next UGM, in the usual manner—submitting it five days before the meeting. Otherwise, will he please shut up and concentrate on doing his own job properly.

especially Derek, John, Nick, Paul, Simon, Egbert, Helmut and David.

Only joking Dave

Valentine's Day

Love and kisses to all my boyfriends,

*Judith
XXXXXX*

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No more Vice

Lachie Stuart, sabbatical Vice President (Services) at the University of London Union (ULU) was forced to resign last Tuesday after a No Confidence Motion was passed at ULU's governing body, General Union Council (GUC).

The motion was proposed by the Sports and Societies Councils at ULU, and alleged that Mr Stuart was continually out of the building on 'business which is not directly concerned with ULU affairs, had not produced any campaigning publicity of consequence since taking office and that he had not been carrying out other duties he is responsible for'. They also claim that since he is standing in the forthcoming National Union of Students (NUS) elections, he will have even less time for ULU in the future.

In his defence, Lachie admitted that he had done nothing for Sports and Societies, but felt that he could only interfere anyway, and they were

better running themselves. He also claimed that although he had not spent much time at ULU, he was spending his time travelling around the constituent colleges, and this was a more important part of the job.

The motion might not have been heard at all, as it was proposed that the motion was unconstitutional. It was put forward as an 'emergency motion' that, under ULU rules, has to be submitted at least 24 hours in advance. However, Mr Stuart did not hear of the motion until the meeting itself, despite there being an Executive meeting the night before at which both the proposers of the motion and Mr Stuart were present.

The meeting did vote to accept the motion, and then went on to pass the No Confidence Motion by the 2/3rds majority that requires Mr Stuart to resign.

At the same meeting, GUC voted for motions supporting the nurses strike, the campaign against clause 28 in the Local Government Bill banning 'the promotion of homosexuality', the campaign against the Alton Bill limiting abortions to 18 weeks, and the right of students to September resits.

Women boost UCCA figures

Despite the 2.1% decrease in the population in the 18-19 year old age group in 1986-87, the number of home applicants remained almost constant, thanks to an increase of 1,500 women candidates. In total last year 69,035 women and 83,495 men applied.

The UCCA figures also show that women applicants rose by 12% to a total of 22,726, with an increase in applicants from women in Eire from 1,740 (1986) and 4,033 (1987).

Diary of an Imperial prof

University academics around the country are being asked to keep a detailed diary of how they spend their working time. Planned by the University Grants Committee (UGC) and Committee for Vice Chancellors and Principals, the survey should show how much time academics spend on research and teaching. This initiative comes after increased pressure on the UGC to justify the funds it spends on research. The Department of Education and Science may take heed of a suggestion by the Research Councils that up to 5% of the UGC budget should be moved to their budgets.

Reform Bill

Tory rebels in the House of Commons have argued that the timetable for the Education Reform Bill may allow insufficient time to debate on Higher Education.

There are grave fears for the proposed Universities Funding Council which the Royal Society and British Academy claim threaten excellence and innovation. Paddy Ashdown MP described the Bill as one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation for the past fifty years. Chris Hawkins MP said that autonomy in British universities was under threat, and pointed out that one in six university staff had lost their jobs between 1979 and 1987 whilst the Department of Education and Science had lost two. Education Secretary Mr Baker claimed that opposition MPs were attempting to talk out the Bill.

Catastrophe

The College Finance Section has been thrown into disarray since a 'catastrophic failure' of the disc sub-system on January 4th and 5th, followed by a second one on January 10th this year.

The last print-outs to be sent out to departments was for the period up to November 19th 1987. It has also proved impossible to process staff expenses or payments to suppliers since the beginning of the year, with suppliers refusing to deliver until bills are paid.

John Davidson, College Administrative Secretary claims that they have had to contend with 'significant hardware failures, caused by an earlier power supply problem, combined with operator errors and systems deficiencies have corrupted the database on which the finance system is based'.

Meanwhile, the Union is planning to raise the matter of last year's audits which have still to be processed at today's Finance & Executive meeting. The Union's audit should have been completed by November last year but most major sub-committees of the Union still have their books to be looked at by the auditors.

Boycott

Scientists may boycott research funded by the Department of Health & Social Security if ministers try to use new powers to block fundings which would be politically embarrassing.

All DHSS contracts now state that scientists must get the Department's permission before publishing any results. Up until then, scientists have had the final say on publication of their findings, provided the Secretary of State is given the opportunity to see and comment on their work.

Shan's Dodgy Sporting Tips

- NAP **Barnbrook Again**
Newbury, 1.30 Friday
- NB **Idas Delight**
Ayr, 3.15 Saturday
- **Paddy Boro**
Newbury, 2.00 Friday
- Big race of the weekend - Irish Gold Cup, Leopardstown, 2.45 Saturday.
- **Playschool.**

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Papa: a man for all seasons?

Well a few interesting things have happened since I last wrote a piece for FELIX, so I thought I ought to tell you.

1. There is a 'Stop Clause 28' march and rally in Manchester on Saturday February 20th, which is followed by a festival in the evening, with the Communards, Erasure and other celebs turning up to perform! (free entrance to any of Manchester's gay nightclubs as a bonus!! Anyone who wants to go, it's only £5 on BR if you've got a railcard, or I can (for about £3) get you a seat on a coach if you contact me asap (Union Office or Mech Eng pigeonholes).

2. The Society for Lesbian and Gay Students (SLAGS) is now official, we meet in the Green Committee Room on Wednesday at 12.30pm (top floor of the Union Building) come and chat, elections soon, noticeboard on Sheffield walkway and some exciting (?) speakers too! I'm very pleased that so many new people have been coming along. If you people make the effort I'm sure you will benefit (I mean, you'll get to meet me for a start).

3. I am very, very worried by the amount of obscene graffiti I see in the Mech Eng and Union Building toilets. Either some of you have perverse imaginations, or there are some pretty desperate people out there. I'm worried that it may be the latter, and my advice to these people is that they should try and get out and meet other gay people in more normal surroundings, eg pubs, nightclubs or groups like SLAGS or ULU Lesbian and Gay Group. Not only is meeting people through graffiti in toilets probably dangerous but it gives a very bad impression of gay people. I, for one, have made many new and fun friends from these meetings and I'm sorry to disappoint everyone (oh God, I'm going to ruin my image) but I haven't slept with any of them! Bang goes my New Year resolutions.

4. I have been flirting all week as I want to get a record number of Valentines this year. I need to get nine because I got eight in 1986, so please send me a Valentine, even those (few) who don't fancy me!

*James Papa,
Lesbian & Gay Welfare Officer.*

No tax on reading



There are strong rumours that in next month's Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer may extend the coverage of VAT in line with European Community guidelines. One area that may be thus taxed is publishing—books, newspapers and magazines.

To tax the published word is to tax information and knowledge, the bricks and mortar of a university degree. A tax on reading has been

opposed for over 100 years by successive governments. As well as hitting the student directly, it would make a big dent in education budgets and research being done for publication.

In the College Bookshop, all prices would rise overnight by up to 15%, and it is unlikely the Chancellor will increase student grants to cope with this increase in expenditure.

If you oppose VAT on reading, write to your MP and MEP now, telling him that you strongly object to the concept of tax on information and knowledge and asking them to take up the fight against VAT on the written word.

*Alistair Birch,
Internal Services Officer*

Letter from St Mary's

One of the best things to happen in a term, from my point of view, is a visit to the mountain hut in North Wales. Being a northerner life in London can get claustrophobic, repetitious and draining. Escaping from the mad house, allowing the body to naturally recharge is as good a tonic as beer north of Watford (plenty of that too).

The hut at Drws-y-coed (four miles west of Snowdon) is the perfect escape. Given to the medical school some years ago, the hut has been converted from a holiday cottage into a bunk house. The situation is excellent, with walks and good climbing nearby.

All meets produce a little legend in themselves, which is all recorded in the log book. Obviously certain times of the year see 'events', notably the Freshers' Meet, where horrible things are done to and by newcomers. In my first year, I shall always remember seeing a certain gentleman fill half a bucket because he was too drunk to climb downstairs and spend a penny.

By the Dinner Meet at Christmas, those first years have found their own niche and a few join the older members in a weekend of what can only be described as true debauchery. Barrels were taken up in the bus, the only problem being that the glasses were in one of the cars. A transfer of pint pots was executed at 70 mph on the M5.

Arriving at 3am, those who had travelled up earlier were suffering from alcohol withdrawal symptoms,

as all the ale travelled in the bus. Thirsts were soon quenched and many moved off to bed, the only problem being that a vocal minority insisted on singing well into the morning. Only their seniority saved them from serious abuse.

During the day exercise is always light, in preparation for the dinner at a local hotel. In my case a saunter up Tryfan off the A5 sufficed, though it was not without difficulty as the clamber was on ice all the way to the summit. Not a cloud in the sky added to the achievement producing such a feeling impossible in NW6! The view was breathtaking, enhanced by the shadows created from a low sun.

After changing into destructables, the participants were bussed to the hotel on the shores of Llyn Cwellyn. Serious eating, drinking and removal of garments ensued. Excellent speeches from the distinguished medical people present gained rapturous applause.

The meeting was ajourned allowing for those willing to take a dip in the lake, before retiring to the bar for a few dozen or so after dinner spirits. Even more alcohol awaited our return to the hut. The following afternoon various early options, eg inhabiting Pete's Eats in Llanbevis proved popular and the assembled throng moved off home at dusk, after waiting for a couple of people leaving the decent Flying Buttress a little late. Home was finally reached at 2am on Monday morning.

Wicked!

Duvet Monster.
I love it when
you roar at
me.
Spud

Squidlydiddly. Take us
with you wherever you
go. Love
Anna & Vicky

Melanie at St Mary's.
I want to stroke you.
Love Nick Bow

Darling Steve Pearson,
leave your new toy girl
and come back to being
my toy boy,
lots of love
Sue

My first is in old but not in the court,
My second's in desire that's not to be
fought,
My third is in cold that's not in my heart,
My last is in bike but not to depart,
If that's me in short,
there's one thing to do,
Deliver this
riddle to
VRMI BASU.

KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **WHAT IS THE SECRET** of the mysterious building work currently in progress down in the Linstead extension basement? The latest rumour circulating Princes Gardens is that an extra floor is being built to accommodate a greenhouse. Not for academic purposes, we hear, but for the wife of David Evans, head of College's Estates Section.

● **UNION BAR BOD** Adrian 'Jelly' Johnson proved that you can crash a Union van before going into the bar earlier this week. Jelly was overtaking a car on Cromwell Road and hit the car travelling in front in the lane he was entering. The bonnet is a write-off. But just why was Jelly driving a Union van along the Cromwell Road into work?

● **TALKING OF VANS**, when the IC delegation visited the University of London Union on Tuesday night, their van was clamped in the ULU car park. The fact was announced during the General Union Council, much to the amusement of all delegates except those from IC. However, ULU Vice President (Finance and Administration) 'Fat' Norm ordered the clamp to be removed when he discovered that the IC delegation had rung up the RCSU 'Bolt-cutter' Squad and asked them to take the thing off themselves.

● **THERE SEEMS TO BE** a private battle being fought in the FELIX letters pages recently which nobody else understands. I decided to investigate and discovered that residents of Tizard Hall are making good use of their proximity to Linstead in Princes Gardens. Because Tizard is at right-angles to Linstead certain rooms can be observed, using binoculars, by peeping-Tizard-toms. These Tizard chappies think it's tremendous fun to ring these women up and describe in great detail everything they have done with their boyfriends in the last hour. They have also managed to plant 'bugs' in some rooms, in order to monitor the sound as well as the vision. They categorically deny that they are in any way related to 'perverts'.

'Number 1: To be the boss. Number 2: To do everything. Number 3: To no confidence any citizen not doing their job, and take over what they were supposed to do. Number 4: To crawl up the Baron's arsehole on every issue.'

Ian Whygate had just finished writing his job description. It would make him the most powerful citizens' Leader in the history of Cheapskate.

Now he started on the Deputy Leader:

'1. To be responsible to Ian Whygate. 2. To do what Ian Whygate tells you. 3. To take all the blame when things go wrong. 4. To spank Ian Whygate's bottom whenever requested.'

This was jolly good fun. Whygate hadn't had as much fun since he, since he, err...since he was chased around the citizens' office by Gillian Cutlet, a very tasty member of the citizens' dormitory committee.

Whygate was having so much fun that he thought he'd be really naughty and totally change the Honorary Slave's description:

'1. To organise Ian Whygate's parties. 2. To publicise Ian Whygate's parties. 3. To return Ian Whygate's friends in every election. 4. To spank Ian Whygate whenever the Deputy Leader was unavailable.'

Hmmm, though Whygate, Number 3 might be a bit difficult. There was this little matter of the Cheapskate general election in which all the citizens were allowed to vote. Whygate would go and see his chum, John Secretary, about it. He picked up the phone and was about to call John when he realised that a funny handshake wouldn't work on the phone.

'Bother, I'll have to go and have lunch with him.'

Over a McNorthey burger and chips, Whygate casually dropped the subject of elections.

'Tell me John, when you were governor of the Gilbert and Sullivan Islands, how did you make sure that none of the troublesome locals won the elections?'

'Oh, that's quite easy', said John, 'come back to my office and I'll show you something very interesting'.

John took Ian back to his office, unlocked the bottom drawer of his desk and produced a little green book. He handed it to Whygate.

'How to win elections and influence people', read Whygate, 'by F Marcos'. Ian turned to John and grovelled most profusely. He then started to flick through the book.

'Wow, it's a signed copy', gasped Whygate as he turned the front page, 'it must be worth a lot'.

'About twenty years in office if you play your cards right', replied John, 'you can borrow it if you want, but guard it carefully'.

Ian set off for the citizens' office armed with this little jewel of a book. Now all the Cheapskate general elections could be used to put in Whygate's friends. Whygate didn't want to spoil the fun of the candidates though so he didn't tell anyone, not even his candidates.

Elsewhere in the citizens' building, candidates were starting to get their publicity machines rolling.

Chas piano-player had bribed Martyn Prick to propose a silly motion at the citizens' meeting just so that he, Nige D Butcher and Willhebe Goodforacolumninch could get a mention. Cwis Media had gone one better by printing a little piece of paper with his name on it and by giving a little report.

Meanwhile, in the Phallix office, Judith Largeamounts was preparing to virtually run the office single-handed for a few weeks. This was supposed to be so that all candidates could prepare their posters confidentially, but it was really Largeamounts way of making sure that her candidates won.

Who will win the General Elections—Whygate's or Largeamounts' candidates?

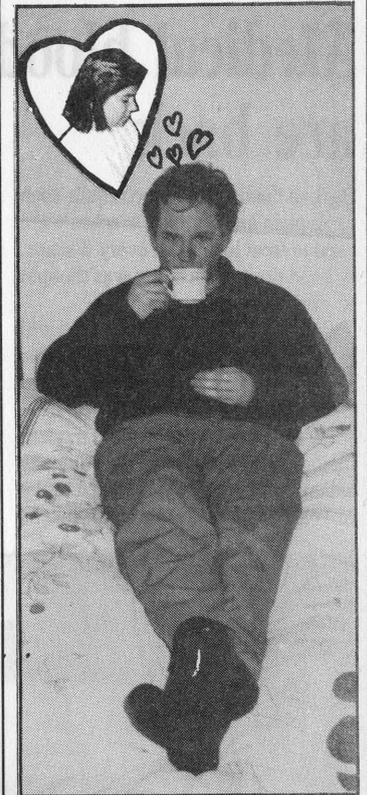
How many of you will vote for me?

Find out in the next episode of the Baron of Cheapskate.



● **FEW PEOPLE** could have imagined a worse punishment than having to endure being talked to by C&GU President David Tyler but this is what will happen to a kidnapped University College London Union sabbatical this week if his Union doesn't pay a sum to ICU Rag!

● **NAUGHTY NIGE WHITFIELD**, the infamous IC Radio News Editor has been upto his bad old ways again.



At a recent meal out with a few other ICR hacks, Nigel was seen scribbling a secret message to the voluptuous waitress on the bill. He then made a swift exit to hide his embarrassment. However, she read the message too soon and waved at him before he had got out the door. This completely disorientated Nige to such an extent that when he tried to wave back, his feet collapsed beneath him and he was left helpless and blushing as the rest of the party fell about in hysterics. Rumour has it that all Nige's romantic gestures to women have had a similar effect.

Head Tenancy Open Day

Wednesday, 17 February

Further information from:
Student Accommodation Office
15 Princes Gardens

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



by Steve Black

Medical bloodsuckers are back

Back in the days before cure-alls such as Aspirin and Valium, leeches were used to treat just about every disease. A good dose of bleeding was thought to cure anything.

Our enlightened medical establishment thought they had done away with such barbaric treatments. But the leeches turned out to have some clever solutions to some modern medical problems. Indeed a company called Biopharm (UK) has been set up in Wales to farm leeches and it sells

range of chemicals that many medics now want to get their hands on.

Leeches don't like their dinner to be lumpy, so they have developed anti-clotting agents which are present in their saliva. One of the compounds, called Hirudin, is very good at stopping clots forming in people, and it is being investigated as a possible treatment of certain forms of heart disease and post-operative trauma.

Hirudin can be extracted from the leech saliva, which can be extracted

normally produced after injury, when it attacks the structural proteins in damaged cells thereby helping to clear up the useless waste material. However, sometimes the system goes wrong and the Elastase attacks healthy tissue (this happens in the lung disease emphysema). It may prove useful to treat such diseases with the leech-derived inhibitor.

To cap all this, the smart and slimy little bloodsuckers have developed a spreading agent to spread all their other chemicals evenly over the neat star-shaped wound that they cause. This compound is called Orgelase. It works by sticking to hyaluronic acid (a sort of polymerised sugar) that acts as a glue to stick cells together. Orgelase is highly fussy about exactly what it sticks to and can therefore be used as a test for the cellular glue. This

has proved useful in research into some diseases of connective tissue (such as rheumatoid arthritis) where there appears to be an excess of the glue in the joints.

Biopharm is doing research on several species of leech to see if they can find any more useful chemicals. The research is paid for by milking the leeches for the chemicals they already know about.

But they are also selling live leeches to surgeons. The leeches can be used to neatly remove blood clots from underneath skin grafts. They can also be used to remove excess blood in microsurgery. At the moment this practice is popular only in the USA, but I'm doing my best to stay out of hospital just in case. (*Chemistry in Britain* 26 p11 (Jan 1988), *New Scientist* 4th February 1988 p43)

Editorial

If Kenneth Baker ever makes it to Prime Minister, he is going to do it over the dead bodies of a lot of university academics. His Education reform bill has some of them foaming at the mouth in fury. It threatens to wash away the sacred cornerstones of academic independence. University bigwigs are ganging up to mount a campaign of opposition. But how justified are they in opposing Baker's reforms?

Baker wants to abolish academic tenure. Tenure prevents universities from sacking anyone except for gross professional misconduct (for example, throwing the Rector off the top of Sheffield for not giving their department enough money). Tenure is supposed to allow people to do unfashionable research and to prevent political interference in their work. Such freedom from outside interference is supposedly essential to the pursuit of knowledge.

The second and more important clause in the Baker Bill is about university independence. Baker wants to be able to impose his direct will on the universities, who are at present nominally independent (clearly most of their money comes from the Government, but it is up to the universities to choose what to do with it). He wants to be able to force universities to close or merge specific departments and to sack specific staff and so on. He cannot do this at the moment. Academics find the new clause highly threatening. A future government could sack people it didn't like. Pure research might be abandoned for short term gain, leading, ultimately, to the destruction of the whole research base.

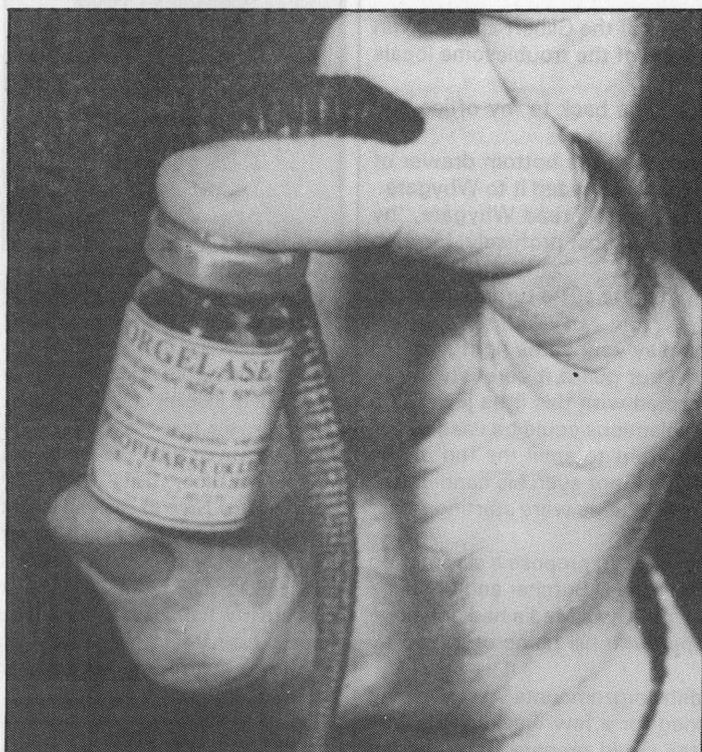
However, academics' protests might be listened to more carefully if the universities had shown any willingness to put their own house in order.

Tenure can be abused. There are still some people who treat tenure as an excuse to be bad lecturers or not to do decent research. Many other academics make poor use of the resources they have: many senior scientists couldn't administer an aspirin, never mind a department, but they still rise to positions of responsibility on the basis of their career in research. When money is short, rationalising decisions are often avoided because of academic infighting and rivalry. Lecturers often resist proper training in teaching methods because they want to devote all their time to research. People fail their PhDs because their supervisors don't know how to manage a research group efficiently. Good ideas go to waste because academics take so little interest in the outside world they can't see the applications of their work.

It could be argued that academics, because of their all too common isolation from the outside world, have failed to appreciate or fulfil their duty to society.

So while Kenneth Baker may well be about to make a terrible mess of the universities, the academics are unlikely to do much better if their past record is anything to go by.

I wrote this when I was in a bad mood after my computer broke down, so it may sound rather opinionated. However, it is intended to stimulate discussion on the issues raised by the Baker Bill, so I want to hear what others think. Please send articles, comments or abuse to me at the FELIX Office. Indeed, this goes for anything that appears on this page.



These slimy little bloodsuckers are smarter than the average chemist.

tens of thousands of them around the world.

When it comes to biochemistry the leeches are smart little buggers. In the process of becoming better bloodsuckers, they have developed a

from the leeches by milking them in special sausage skins (live hosts are not required).

Leeches have also developed a chemical that inhibits Elastase, a sort of waste disposal enzyme. Elastase is

What is a superconductor?

Superconductors are the materials which, when they are cooled below a certain temperature, display zero resistivity. The electrical current pass through the body of a superconductor without any loss of energy at all. An important feature of these materials is that they exclude any magnetic field that would normally penetrate them. This is called the Meissner effect or perfect diamagnetism.

Why is superconductivity important?

Using superconductors we can use electric current without any losses due to resistance. Powerful magnets can be made which are used in medical equipment (NMR), particle accelerators, magnetic separation, magnetic levitation trains and other applications with a lower cost than if conventional electromagnets were used. Moreover, there are applications such as very sensitive magnetometers which could not even exist without superconductivity.

Today, the conventional superconductors represent a market of £110 million (\$200 million) a year and, it is estimated, this will increase to £930 million (\$1,700 million) a year by the end of the century.

Ceramic Superconductors: The new generation

Until 1986, the materials which were used were only superconductive below 13 to 23K (-260 to -250°C), so liquid Helium with boiling point at 4.2K was the only coolant that could be used.

In September 1986, Bednorz and Müller published a paper announcing the discovery of an oxide which became superconducting at 30K under the modest title: 'Possible High To Superconductivity in the La-Ba-Cu-O system'. It made a great impression on the scientific community and researchers started experimenting with these ceramics. The paper was a breakthrough and in February 1987, Professor Chu's group at Houston discovered superconductivity at 94K in the Y-Ba-Cu-O system. Bednorz and Müller were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics later in 1987 for their discovery.

Raising the critical temperature to 94K is very important, because liquid nitrogen can now be used for cooling since its boiling point is 77K. Liquid nitrogen is ten times cheaper than liquid helium and much more easy to handle. It costs about the same as milk.

Following this discovery many universities and companies around the world set up research teams. Up to the end of 1987 there had been no

success in the search for new materials with critical temperatures higher than 94K. However, much progress has been reported on the knowledge of the structure, the properties and the fabrication of these materials.

According to recent newspaper reports, a new compound consisting of Al-Bi-Ca-Cu-Sr-O has been found to be superconducting at 114K, but this has yet to be confirmed by any scientific publication.

SUPERCONDUCTORS

by Y. Kontoulis

Scientists use every possible technique to study the characteristics of $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-8}$ (the so-called 1-2-3 compound) from methods like Thermogravimetric Analysis (TVA), M-Ray Powder Diffraction (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) to the most sophisticated like Neutron Powder Diffraction and High Resolution Electron Microscopy (HREM).

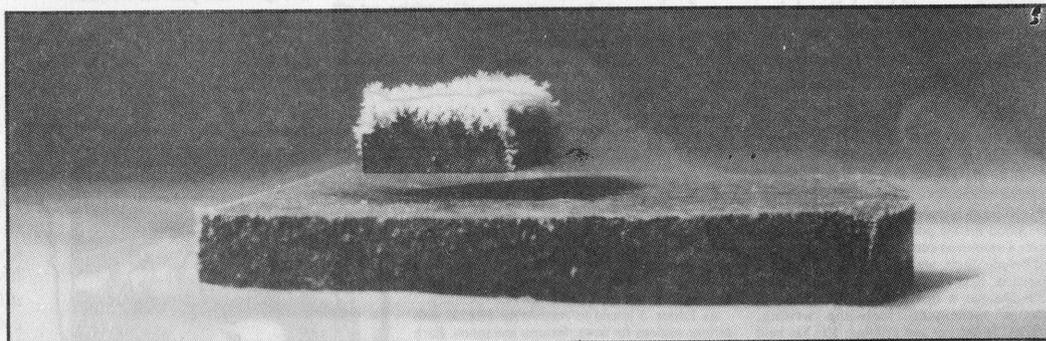
circuits of microchips have recently been made experimentally in Japan, using integrated circuit technology.

Many of the above methods are being tried by research staff of the Imperial College. A demonstration of superconductivity took place during the RSM Open Day last term, where pieces of magnet floated over superconducting pellets as a result of the Meissner effect.

Governments are eager to provide the funds and characteristic of their

interest are the following facts:

President Reagan proposed a superconductivity initiative consisting of eleven points for 'the promotion of greater cooperation among government, academia and industry; encouragement of the private sector more rapidly to commercialise scientific advances and improved protection of the intellectual property rights of those working in the field'.



The research for new compounds is extensive and many groups have substituted the elements of the 1-2-3 compound hoping to produce a compound with a high critical temperature. In fact substitution for Y gave encouraging results, but the new compounds made with Ho, Eu, Gd, Nd, Er and other rare earth elements do not display superconductivity at temperatures exceeding 93-94K.

For experimental samples, the fabrication of the 1-2-3 compound simply involves the mixing and firing of Y_2O_3 , BaCO_3 and CuO . In order to improve the quality of the material, however, more complex processes are now being used like freeze-drying, sol-gel, coprecipitation, spray-drying and others.

Another interesting view of the subject is the fabrication of thin films by methods such as sputtering and metallorganic deposition. Experimental superconducting

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) of Japan founded an 'International Center on Superconductivity', providing money for and having the support of many Japanese companies. It has been reported that the funds are around \$50million.

Britain has just named Cambridge as a 'Superconductivity University Research Centre' and has also approved many research programmes including that of Imperial College. The SERC has committed £2million in the form of grants.

At Imperial, the Departments of Materials, Physics, Chemistry are all involved in the research of superconductivity. Their research groups meet regularly in order to coordinate the research, to inform one another on the progress that has been made and to discuss the problems that arise. Their results have been reported at a conference in Bristol and at another one in London in December.

The Meissner Effect: A magnet is levitated over a superconducting surface. The superconductor, cooled with liquid nitrogen to 77K (-196°C) expels the magnetic field and makes the magnet levitate.

Features

DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!

Election papers for this year's sabbatical elections go up on Monday in the Union Building Foyer. Any full member of Imperial College Union may stand providing they are proposed and fully seconded by papers down on Friday 26th February. There is no charge so this year's elections could be great fun with several joke candidates promised for each post. There might even be a few serious ones. FELIX takes a look at how this year's sabbaticals lived up to their expectations, what the new Union job descriptions really mean and how to go about getting elected.

UNION PRESIDENT—IAN HOWGATE

Ian feels that he is following his manifesto well. *'There is still a lot to be done and half the year still to go.'* Does he enjoy his job? *'I have enjoyed it very much, although it doesn't leave a lot of time for the rest of my life.'* Would he stand for the same job again, if he could? *'At this point I would say very definitely but then I still have 5½ months left. I have learned far more in this 6 months than the whole of my degree so far and at least I've got to use my brain.'* Does he find the job rewarding? *'Yes. I get very little public recognition for the work I do, but then I didn't expect it. In myself I feel I'm doing a good job and can see things improving greatly in the future and that's good enough reward for me.'*

PRESIDENT

Ian Howgate, proposed by Kenneth Young

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

Ian's pedigree, unlike most other candidates, hardly needs restating, although his contribution in so few years bears reiteration.

84—85 Captain of RSM Hockey Club
85—87 Student coordinator of RSM Open Day

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

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

As I have already said, a more confident, amiable and capable candidate I have yet to see. Therefore,

I strongly advise all voters to follow my example and place a 1 by Ian Howgate—you won't regret it.

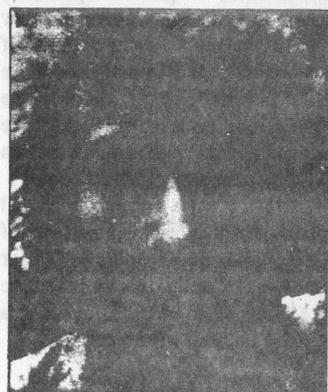
I have many plans for the Union, most of which would bore the average student silly, but include; Union reorganisation, pushing for better accommodation and sports facilities, continued improvement of College refectories and a drastic reorganisation of the entertainments machine.

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

DEPUTY PRESIDENT—ALAN ROSE

Alan had no manifesto because he was returned unopposed last year. Does he enjoy being a sabbatical? *'Most of the time, yes. Occasionally, not at all. The occasions can be of varying duration.'* Would he stand for the same post again if he could? *'No. I think I'd have stood*

for FELIX Editor. It looks like lots more fun.' Would he have chosen a 'real' job to do this year given hindsight? *'I feel like this every time I see a bank statement or my shoes need repairing. On the whole, though, I've found that the bad experiences I've experienced have to be counted as 'experience' nonetheless and for the future, experience has shown that most experiences are good experience, be they good or bad at the time. Apart from that, I'm sure that I would have regretted not giving the job a try for a long time. There's a lot that can be condensed into one year.'*



FELIX EDITOR

Judith Hackney, proposed by Ciaran Hassett

Judith Hackney is one of the best candidates ever to have stood for the post of FELIX Editor. She has made a substantial contribution to FELIX under three different editors, and is best known for editing the excellent ICU Handbook. As a senior staff member she has a thorough knowledge of all production techniques, including writing, typesetting, laying out and printing. She has held several important Union posts, including two years as Publications Board Junior Treasurer and Vice President of RCSU. But of much more importance she is reliable, hardworking and enthusiastic. She is also a strong believer in teamwork and always encourages other people's input into a project. All these qualities combine to make for the best possible FELIX so put a '1' against JUDITH HACKNEY's name on Monday or Tuesday.

Ciaran Hassett

FELIX is produced to provide information, entertainment and criticism. It must cater for as wide a range of students as possible. It is not enough

to be proficient at producing a newspaper. The Editor must be able to generate a tight and well-formatted publication with quality news and sports coverage; encourage articles from both regular and occasional contributors; inspire and advise the staff; run the Print Unit efficiently and competently.

As Editor, I intend to restructure FELIX with definite sections for news, features and sports. Each section will have its own style; a well-ordered, easy to read news section with background and analysis of events plus external news of interest to students; a magazine-type features section including previews/reviews, cinema and theatre listings, music and fashion; a more comprehensive sports section that reports on and previews matches with a weekly, up-to-date results table.

If you want to see my kind of FELIX next year, vote HACKNEY 1.

Judith Hackney



FELIX EDITOR—JUDITH HACKNEY

Judith admits to being slightly dismayed on re-reading her manifesto. *'I thought that I was keeping quite close to it. I wish that we had been able to give background and analysis to all our important news stories and that we could have sustained the preview and sports results sections. Otherwise, I would like to think that we're not too far off the path!'* Would she stand for the post again if she could? *'If I had a year to re-couperate, I would. It's hard work but very rewarding. It's the best sabbatical in that respect. The worst part is having to manage the Union's Print Unit and cope with all the machinery breakdowns.'*

HON SECRETARY—CHAS JACKSON

Chas feels that he has been true to his manifesto in parts but became morose when I asked him if he was enjoying being a sabbatical. *'Occasionally, when I forget myself.'* Would he stand for the same post again if he could? *'No f**king way (doctor's orders?), especially if the post was in such a mess as when I started.'* Would he rather have done a 'real' job this year, then? *'It would probably have been much less hassle, but not really. What a f**king condescending question!'* Has he found the job rewarding? *'Certainly not financially! However, I've learnt a lot and it is nice to sort out problems for third parties, which seems to be a large part of it.'*

HON SECRETARY

Chas Jackson, proposed by Hugh Southey

The Hon Sec needs to be somebody who is going to work hard for the Union. Chas has shown that he is prepared to do this. As Union Publicity Officer, Chas has produced tons of posters, being one of the people who ensured that the QT boycott was a success. He has served on working parties to reorganise the Union and has helped in the office doing the jobs that nobody else has time to do. Chas, though, has not just become involved this year in order to become a sabbatical. He has been interested in the Union for longer than he and I care to remember. Vote for Chas Jackson for a hard working Hon Sec.

Hugh Southey

Next year there are a number of important changes which must be made to the Union Office and organisation. The Hon Sec and all the sabbaticals must be closely involved with this. An Hon Sec must also be a decision maker with proposals for the good of the Union. Amongst my concrete proposals are:

Duplicating

As the Union Office now has two gestetners and two electrostatic scanners, I will try to set up a gestetner with a scanner for the use of clubs and societies.

Exec News

It is vitally important that students are kept informed of the actions of Union Officers and sabbaticals. If elected I would produce this fortnightly and print it in FELIX. I hope that it will include adverts for discounts in local cinemas and shops.

Transport

Expansion of the fleet would mean that more non-RCC clubs could use the vans at weekends. However I will examine possible alternatives to buying new vans. Perhaps contract hiring could provide an answer. At the moment, outside hire of vans at weekends is very expensive.

Chas Jackson



The Union reorganisation: the new need for self-motivated, imaginative candidates

The twenty fifth of January saw the the introduction of sweeping changes in the structure of Imperial College Union. After a protracted debate Council decided to approve a number of new job descriptions for sabbaticals and permanent staff which would radically change their role in the Union.

In a nutshell, the changes will shift the burden of administration onto the permanent staff leaving the sabbaticals free to become more directly involved in student matters. The pivotal change has been the introduction of a full-time Union Manager to take over much of the work currently carried out by the Deputy President. Basically this involves looking after and improving the Union Building and the Union transport facilities. There is every reason to assume that a full time manager could do much to make the Union Building more useful and more attractive to students. The question remains, however, can the Union afford to employ another full-time staff member? There will be a two year period of grace during which the College will meet half of the Manager's salary; beyond this, the post will have to become self-financing. Hopefully the manager will attract enough business to the the Union Bar, Snack Bar and other Union facilities to cover his own wages. If he is unsuccessful then it is likely that the Union outlets will have to increase their prices and this underlines the importance of having a competent employee in the post. So where does this leave the Deputy President? The DP will still remain responsible for overseeing the financial estimates of the Unions clubs, the security of the Union Building and representing the Union

on disciplinary meetings. The fact that he or she will no longer be directly responsible for the upkeep of the Union Building will mean a substantial reduction in the DP's work load. This will be compensated for by the DP taking responsibility for two of the following areas; academic affairs, accommodation and housing, athletics, overseas students, postgraduate affairs and welfare. The Union President will be responsible for the remaining five areas.

The job of the Honorary Secretary has been described as a job which could easily be performed by a monkey with a gestetner. It is the Hon Sec's job which has undergone the most complete change-around. In his or her new role, the Hon Sec will be in charge of events. The word event will cover everything from running campaigns, Freshers Fair, Commemoration Balls, and entertainments events. The job will still retain responsibility for running elections and organising social colours awards. To be dispensed with will be the Hon Sec's minute taking role, the responsibility for maintaining the constitutions of Union committees, clubs and societies, responsibility for insurance, parking permits and the production of Union cards. The job of organising reciprocal membership of other institutions will be taken over by the President.

The President's job description has been tightened up from the previously vague 'the President shall have overall responsibility for the effective organisation of the Union' to a much more specific breakdown of the job's requirements. As mentioned earlier the President will take on five areas of relevance to students and is mandated to research and keep up-to-date information in these areas and to inform the UGM of developments. In addition the President is directed to sit on a number of named committees including being present as an observer on Governing Body and the Finance and Executive Committee, the two top College committees.

The newly created Constitution and Policy Officer has generated a good deal of controversy. Essentially the holder of this post will take on the job of UGM and Council Chairman, with the additional task of ensuring that the Union officers, including sabbaticals are performing their jobs correctly.

The Officer will have no powers in this respect but will be able to report lazy officers to the UGM. In addition, the Constitution and Policy Officer will sit on the Governing Body and the Finance and Executive Committees as an observer, where his or her role will be to ensure that the Union President is representing the Union's policy to the Governing Body or Finance & Executive. Other duties will include updating the Unions Constitution and pointing out matters which may require policy to be changed to the Union Executive.

Well, the burning question on everybody's lips is 'what implications will this have for those people considering standing as sabbaticals for next year?' It is clear that these new job descriptions will require candidates with different qualities. The President and the Deputy President will no longer be elected on their ability to administer; their ability to represent students will become much more important. There is a good deal of scope in the job descriptions for holders these posts to put a lot of work into affairs of concern to students and there is equally a lot of scope for them to sit back and do nothing. Good candidates for these posts will need to be very self-motivated and they must also have the imagination to take action for themselves in their areas of responsibility. They will need the ability to go out and research areas such as accomodation problems; they must be upto date with the latest government policies, if they affect students for example.

Prospective Events Hon Secs will be elected on their ability to organise. They will need to be able to motivate people and have a proven ability to publicise events properly. There is no question that the post has become associated with the ICU Ents consortium and one can foresee Ents becoming a route for prospective sabbaticals. In conclusion, for those of you thinking of standing next week you should bear in mind that the jobs have changed completely. There is no point standing because you think you can do the job better than this year's sabbaticals. Do you think you have the ability to conform with the new requirements? If you do, then go ahead and stand for a post and good luck—you'll need it; election campaigns are never pleasant.

How to win

Are you an egomaniac? Are you looking for a year off from academic life, or a year's grace before braving the big wide world? Most importantly, are you a mug? If you can answer 'yes' to these questions, you should consider a one-year career as a sabbatical.

The first problem facing all prospective sabbaticals is how to get the job. Usually this involves fighting an election, unless you can nobble the opposition beforehand.

First you have to put your name up on the appropriate paper on the Union noticeboard. This is situated on the right of the central staircase entrance to the Union Building. You will also need twenty people who think you're capable of the job, to sign the paper, and a proposer who is prepared to stand up in front of an audience of hundreds (well, at least twenty) and say nice things about you. It shouldn't be too hard to find a suitable person as (a) there are plenty of weirdo exhibitionists in the College and (b) everyone thinks you're a really wonderful person, don't they?

As soon as papers come down, but not before, you are allowed to start your publicity campaign: plastering College bars, walkways, common rooms and toilets with posters, providing enough leaflets to paper a small ballroom, speaking to lecture theatres (preferably full of students), kissing babies...anything you can think of, as long as it's within the election publicity rules. Honorary Secretary Chas Jackson should have a copy of these, for your inspection.

At Hustings you are given two minutes for you and your proposer to convince everybody that you are the best thing since sliced bread. Meanwhile the people you and your opponents have planted, plus a few randoms, should submit questions which will be put to the candidates after the speeches. When you are preparing your questions, don't forget they must apply equally to all candidates. That's the rule.

There are numerous ways to cheat: bribery is extremely easy and fairly cheap. You can, of course, put promises of how you will make life wonderful in your manifesto, but I'm talking about straight cash (or beer) in hard bribery here. Voting is easy to rig. You can vote in each department, as long as you have enough current Union cards (easy to obtain), and unless someone twigs and asks for a register check, no one will know.

May the best person win!

You've bin mine since November. Will you be mine forever? All love, S.B.

Smile-! My-Dearest My-love...in-all-for Rena, Michael.

Here's to a lifelong game of triv with my own vegetable washer. I lover you forever— The Polderro Cave Dweller.

To all you sexy ladies not mentioned in the other ads, we love you and want your bodies. The Penthouse Club.

Will the old wrinkley one please be the Valentine of the monkey with baby dinosaur tendencies who loves him very much?

D.—I love you much more than any valentine can express—J.

Will you be my valentine Andrew?

Andy—still love ya—thanks for putting up with me— Love Piggy. PS. be happy for me now!

The Second Floor send their love to Emma's saucy, circumcised sausages.

Who will give me rubs tonight?

Judith—am I allowed to give you one tiny kiss as it's Valentines Day?

Go on Nicole, make my May 6th. DKLS.

Tim, I think you're realy cute, you beat Tom Cruise by miles! You're a really nice guy, too, and I'll be your Valentine any day! Love

James—someone had to send you a Valentine!

Jamie—you shall always be my only Valentine.

May this be the best Valentine's Day that the most eligible electrical engineer ever has.

Angie, will you stop chasing Kevin & Matt and send me some more Valentines! Love G.

Angie, what's it like to be a sex maniac? Tell William!!

Piggy—let's be friends who hug and kiss!!

Yet today my love has flown away I am without my love.

Eleiaki, I love you very much. Yiannis.

Linzi—you're beautiful inside and out—love ya, lots and lots—Piggy.

James— send me one too!

Cuddles, I'm missing my hot water bottle— Dimples.

Lover-Lovee, love you lots; hope you love me too.

To Toby, you can be my Globetrotter anytime. Love Boing Boing.

Love & white rabbits with waist coats from the Caped Avenger.

Okay, so you've got a wrinkley one. There must be a cure so don't feel blue, you little monkey. Ewok.

Eeeeeek, a tribute to Laura from the Second Floor.

Helen—your Valentine's HERE— Uncle Nick.

Have you been exposed to the joy of a box of Cadbury's Milk Tray?

Dear Judith, all our love, the Penthouse Club.

James—I'll always love you—you're true love.

Linzi, shall we make a baby? Miss Piggy!

Boffin—I love you— Ruddles.

Please Nicole, DKLS.

Previews

MUSIC



by Phil Young

This week the rise of *Red Lorry Yellow Lorry* takes them tonight to the Astoria for what has to be the gig of the week; more later. Also tonight the blues influenced *Screaming Blue Messiahs*, currently in the charts singing about the Flintstones, are playing at the Town and Country Club, while the thumping thrash outfit *Stump*, play at ULU.

On Saturday, *Balaam and the Angel*—heavymetal-come-goth-come-hippy, play the Astoria. They are supported by *Ghost Dance*—ultra-goths from the old *Sisters of Mercy* who aren't in the new *Sisters of Mercy* or the *Mission*, who sing, somewhat tediously, about death, gloom and evil.

On Sunday, the Red Wedge gig at the Mean Fiddler is for me overshadowed by the *Godfathers* at the Town and Country Club. No nonsense, rock hard and with no trace of metal, on stage these guys are characterised by menacing stares and wild guitar frenzies. Their music has been likened to a whirlpool of old *Cult*, *Clash* and old *Idol*. They'll be promoting their new album, *Birth School, Work, Death*, and expect to hear the single of that name several times in the course of the evening!

Album Review: Red Lorry Yellow Lorry, Smashed Hits

The compilation album by the band who are the answer to my (musical) dreams. To give you an idea: take the old *Sisters of Mercy* without the mask of plange and chorus to hid behind; the deep, rolling covals of Andrew Eldritch without the tongue-in-cheek lyrics. Add the anger of the *Jesus and Mary Chain* as they used to be. And the hard, no-compromise lyrics reminiscent of *The Godfathers*. Need I say more? What more can someone who is not—contrary to rumour—a goth, but is more goth than anything else, want? (OK, apart from that!) This album contains all their better-known releases—such as *Beating my Head*; *Hollow Eyes* and *Chance*. Not as earthy as *The Godfathers*, more witty than *The Sisters*, and more talented than *J&MC*, *The Lorries* should go far. This should appeal to all lovers of goth, indie and hard rock. Get it!



FOOTBALL

by Adrian Grainger

There are four first division games on in London this weekend, so it gives a better choice than usual. All games are on Saturday 13th February with 3pm kick offs (unless otherwise stated).

Arsenal vs Luton Town
Highbury (Arsenal tube)

The Gunners entertain a side that hit Oxford for 7 last week, even though they conceded 4! Arsenal played the right sort of game at Everton last week in the Littlewoods Cup Semi-Final and came away with a slender win due to the fact that Everton can't put a penalty away. Man of that match Tony Adams looked solid and a good prospect to take on the captaincy of England in the future. Luton, the 'I don't want any away fans because our Chairman is a Tory MP and likes to crawl to Thatcher' team have some good players and lie in the right side

of the Division. The Stein brothers, Mark and Brian, Mick Harford and Steve Foster have helped to mould Luton into a force to be reckoned with. I think a draw is likely but Arsenal could nick it with a bit of luck.

Charlton vs Wimbledon
Selhurst Park (Norwood Junction BR)

A London derby between two of the most poorly supported Division One clubs. There won't be much of a crowd but this doesn't prevent the match from throwing up a little action. Charlton are still rooted to the foot of the table and can't really see them moving up. Wimbledon are having another good season and Bobby Gould has taken over where Dave Bassett left off. Fashanu is on the verge of the England squad and could provide the punch to give the Dons the three points.

Chelsea vs Manchester United
Stamford Bridge (Fulham Broadway tube)

This is the repeat of the recent FA Cup 4th Round tie with the Blues being home this time and eager to seek revenge for the Reds 2-0 victory. Chelsea have not won in the league since October 31st and have fallen to 14th in the league. They came back from 2-0 down at Forest last week but were unfortunate to lose 3-2. United scraped a 1-0 victory last week, due to a 4th minute goal, but Brian McClair, as I have said once before, is having a good time at Old Trafford and Olsen still has magical skills. It has been 30 years since Munich and the days of the Busby's Babes, will the Reds ever see days like that again? The loss of Duncan Edwards, the best English footballer of all time, and 7 others was movingly shown last weekend on TV and showed how the fans had so much passion for the game. Manchester to win late on.

West Ham United vs Portsmouth
Boleyn Ground (Upton Park tube)

Two of the middle of the table boys draw swords to battle it out to the end. Pompey won the previous encounter between these sides, their first win for 27 years...in the top flight of course. The Irons showed a steel defence at Liverpool last week to become the first side to hold them twice this season and Tom McAllister was superb. Pompey have chemistry graduate Barry Horne in their side and I am told that he is a man to watch in the future. They won at home for the first time for over three months in the league last week beating the worst current form team Derby. Top signing Ian Baird will probably sit it out on the bench as he is unable to oust Mick Quinn or Connor. The Eastenders should obtain revenge and wipe up the points.

SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY

Brentford vs Fulham
(Griffin Park—Brentford Central BR)

This London Third Division derby has been put back a day in the hope of attracting a bigger crowd. Player-manager Steve Perryman has helped his side into a position that could possible lead to promotion with a nicely timed run. Fulham are left with the enviable plight that they must spend yet another season in the lower reaches. They were on the brink of top league football a few years ago, but times have changed and things are not too rosy at the Cottage. Brentford to take the points.

Game of the day: Chelsea vs Manchester United

What's On

FRIDAY

Rag Meeting12.35pm.
Union Lounge. All Welcome.

Conservative Soc Meeting12.30pm.
ME 569.

Circuit Training12.30pm.
Union Gym with Cross Country and Athletics Club. Everyone welcome. Free.

Orienteering12.30pm.
Brown/Green Committee Room (top floor of Union Building). Arrangements for following Sunday's event.

Debating Society Meeting1.00pm.
Physics UG Common Room, Level 2.

GLC Meeting1.00pm.
Union SCR.

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

Christian Union Meeting6.00pm.
OHC 308. Title: Christian Privileges. Directions to 308 on noticeboard.

STOIC7.00pm.
'Into the Night'. Films, videos, chat, 'Countdown'. On all the televisions in the Halls of Residence.

SUNDAY

IC Radio7.00pm.
The show with no listeners Valentines show. Linzi and James play a chaotic mix of no-slush, non-romantic records and relay any Valentines messages. Send messages either to James Papa (Mech Eng 2) or Linzi Wishart (Maths 2), or phone us on Sunday (89 on Southside exchange).

MONDAY

Rock Soc Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of rock? Come along!

Parachute Club Meeting12.30pm.
Union Lower Lounge. See Max Hunt von Herbing (Chairman).

Artsoc Meeting12.30pm.
SCR Union. Come to sign up and pay your money for tickets for forthcoming events, eat biscuits and drink coffee. Free to members (membership £1.50).

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

Intermediate Ballroom7.00pm.
JCR. 8Op. See Dance Club.

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

Beginners Ballroom8.00pm.
JCR. 8Op. See Dance Club.

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

TUESDAY

IC CathSoc Mass12.30pm.
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, Sherfield Building. 'Museums at the Millennium' by Dr Neil Cossons.

Holy Qur'an Recitation1.30pm.
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

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

STOIC6.00pm.
'In and Around'. A preview of the week's events in and around IC.

Canoe Club6.30pm.
Meet in Beit Quad for training session in swimming pool.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. Sorry—no more beginners.

ICSF Film7.00pm.
ME 220. 'Silent Running', this year's best science fiction film.

The Gondoliers7.30pm.
Union Concert Hall. Come and see all the first night foul-ups. £1.50 and £2 from Opsoc.

Rock Video Nite8.00pm.
Norman's. See Whitesnake and Hendrix on the box FREE.

Cricket Nets8.00pm.
Lord's as usual. Sign notice outside Union Bar and meet at Mech Eng Lobby prompt. All welcome.

Canoe Club Meeting8.30pm.
Above Southside Bar.

WEDNESDAY

Sailing12.30pm.
Meet outside Southside.

S.L.A.G.S. Meeting12.30pm.
Society for Lesbian and Gay Students' meets in the Green Committee Room (top floor Union Building). Come along for a chat if you don't mind people thinking you're going to a Wargames Society meeting!

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

Wargames Meeting1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

Hamsoc Meeting1.15pm.
3rd Floor Union Building 'Shack'. For new licence holders and any prospective radio amateur examination candidates.

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

The Gondoliers7.30pm.
Union Concert Hall. Last chance to get the cheapest seats. £1.50 and £2 from Opsoc.

THURSDAY

Methsoc Meeting12.30pm.
Huxley 413.

ICYHA Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

Socialist Society Meeting12.45pm.
Brown Committee Room. All welcome. Contact Adrian Grainger (Maths 3).

Ski Club12.45pm.
Above Southside Bar. Sign up for lessons, racing team.

STOIC1.00pm.
'Newsbreak'. IC's own news programme.

Arabic Classes1.30pm.
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

Gliding Club Meeting5.30pm.
Aero 254. Arrange trial flights, lifts to Lasham, talks and then to the bar.

Orienteering Training5.30pm.
Union Gym. Social meeting held from 6.30pm onwards.

Photosoc Meeting6.00pm.
Union Dining Hall.

STOIC6.00pm.
'Newsbreak'.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. Sorry—no more beginners.

IC Filmsoc Film7.00pm.
Mech Eng 220. 'Something Wild'. 50p members, £1 non-members.

The Gondoliers7.30pm.
Union Concert Hall. Republican uprising thwarted! £2 and £2.50 from Opsoc.

FRAZER
THE
1st Yr.
FRAZER
ATTENDS
HIS FIRST
EVER
U.G.M.!

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE UNION TO SUPPLY RAPE ALARMS FOR BOYS, AS WELL AS GIRLS? I THINK THIS IS NECESSARY.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THEN?

CHUCKLE! CHUCKLE! HAA! HAA!

HEE -HEE -HEE

HA-HA-HA! HA-HA-HA!

GUFFAW

CHORTLE! CHORTLE!

HO! HO! HO!

HAW! HAW!

SNICKER! SNICKER!

BECAUSE, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SCREW ME FOR EVERY PENNY I'VE GOT!

REASONS

1. Only 4% real rise
2. Cut in Rent Rebates
3. Rise in Parent Contribution
4. 20% in Rents in London
5. Rent for the State

Reviews

FILM

White Mischief

This film is based on the true story of Kenya's greatest scandal. In 1941 Lord Errol, a young Scottish lord, was found murdered outside Nairobi. He was a well known figure in Kenyan society, one of the happy valley set, and had a reputation as a gambler and adulterer.

At the time of his death he was in the middle of an affair with Lady Diana Broughton (Greta Scacchi). Her husband Lord Broughton was subsequently charged with murder. During the trial many of the more sordid details of Kenyan high society life were revealed. These included details of adultery, wife swapping and orgies, the leading perpetrators being the happy valley set.

It is this side of the story that Michael Radford the director concentrates on. The mystery of the identity of the murderer, unknown to this day, is ignored and the audience are left in no doubt as to who Radford thinks killed Joss Errol. The film concentrates on the affair between Joss and Diana, and not Jack Broughton's murder. It is billed as a true story but is very economical with the facts and they are wildly interpreted. The main actors are all very good, especially Joss Alkland as Broughton and Trevor Howard in his last role. However, the characters they play have been exaggerated almost into caricatures.

The film itself does not do the story justice and moves along at a slow pace with a weak script. The cast is superb and the acting excellent but they don't make up for the rest of the film.

Matt Flynn

Angel Dust

As all avid viewers of late-night Channel 4 continental films will tell you, it's difficult to tell what the hell French films are about. In a French film, a character gazing into space for ten minutes accomplishes two things; one, it's a statement about the growing unease of the working classes at the corruption of the communist government (or something like that, anyway). Two, it bores half the audience to death in one fell swoop. Unfortunately, you have to be French to appreciate the former, and, if you paid to see the film, you're pretty pissed off at the latter.

Angel Dust suffers from the same problems that afflict the films of Jean-Jacques Beineix (who recently directed *Betty Blue*, easily the most coherent and best French film to be released in years); the story is basically one of detection, be it somewhat surreal/off the wall. However, the film attempts to introduce irrational events into a plot that is moving in exactly the opposite direction, and the result is something akin to condensing six lanes of the M5 into a narrow country lane. The detection plot, which unveils mysteries, clashes painfully with the introduction of new, odd mysteries; consequently the film fails either as a neo-supernatural work or as a straight detective story.

Despite all this, however, the film is still interesting: it's the story of the avenging of a girl's prostitute mother's murder. The girl, Violetta,

and Gabriel, her life long friend, engineer the murder of the pimp responsible for Violetta's mother's death. Policeman Simon Blount starts investigating, slowly uncovering the truth.

Violetta and Gabriel are endowed with an almost angel quality, but the basis for this religiose aura is then made absurd by their all too human desire to avenge the mother's murder. Despite these laboured Christian overtones, the film contains some attractive ideas; Simon, the policeman, is rather prone to bouts of violence, and is paralleled with Gabriel, the murderous 'holy fool', and both are portrayed as exceedingly vulnerable to Violetta, the controlling angel.

While the plot on its own is well put together, it's just a bit too fluctuating in tone and mood to be really successful. This isn't helped by the gratuitous over-direction; blurring pans and huge tracking shots distort the narrative, distracting one from the plot.

Angel Dust believes in a simple code of morals; violence is a cleansing force. But strangely enough, *Angel Dust* (probably more than a little related to *Angel Heart* in ideas at least) has a charm similar to *Betty Blue*—although it is confusing and laboured, it's nevertheless quite good. However, unless you're really sure you want to go and see it, don't, because you might well be very disappointed and peeved at having parted with good cold cash.

LIVE

Eric Clapton

Never having seen Clapton live on stage before, I didn't know what to expect, but a few reports told of a brilliant performance. I arrived just as the support act, Jonathan Butler, came on stage. He did as well as anybody playing guitar in support to Clapton could do, but no one was really listening, but rather peering through a crack in the stage door trying to catch a glimpse of 'God', as we call him. J B left the stage and everyone sat around looking disgruntled when suddenly the lights died down and blinding spotlights swept the arena. We didn't need to be told who was coming, the Stratocaster said it all. No one else could play the guitar like that. *Crossroads* began, and from then on it was all I could do to take it in. Most had seen him once, many twice, and they could sit and listen, but I was in awe of the great power in front of me. He transformed the hard-ripping solo of *White Room* into the relaxing *Wonderful Tonight* that you felt that you were on some kind of wonderful drug, but nothing so potent existed. It was only after two hours of his playing that I began to look at his band, but band is not the name, since each is an artist in his own right. Steve xxx(?—TS) and Phil Collins provided all the drum support needed, while a madman, Ray Cooper, smashed his way through percussion. Alan Clark and Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits were on keyboard and guitar, and the marvellous Nathan East was playing the bass guitar. Between them they produced a dream concert. Obviously the rest of the crowd agreed with me, because he came back three times—I can't read this can someone translate it? Preferably the person who wrote it—Rose.

Martyn ?

VIDEO

Assault on Precinct 13

A re-release of one of John Carpenter's first films; a police station is besieged by a youth mob armed with stolen silenced automatic weapons. Despite the obvious limitations in budget, the film is still gripping—the long, drawn out establishing scenes neatly counterpoint the latter vicious bouts of gunplay. The characters are actually characters, which is a pleasant surprise in this day and age. Definitely worth hiring, even if you already have seen it on telly.

Slamdance

Last year's revival of film noir—see the review in FELIX, last year.

Platoon

Oliver Stone's film, ostensibly the film about Vietnam. However the showing by the BBC of *The Killing Fields* this Christmas put *Platoon* where it belongs—on the Rambo pile. Good viewing, nevertheless.

Charles Robin



SAILING

Light winds

IC vs Surrey University

This weekend saw IC in action against Surrey University. Conditions were excellent, light winds and plenty of sunshine to roast those with dry suits on.

Not to be put off by the late arrival of the opposition (still celebrating Friday) we had time for some sightseeing, somewhere near Guildford. Over early morning coffee the captain Richard Jarman talked tactics and instilled his enthusiasm in the team.

The three morning races went well for IC, as Surrey were taken out in the first race by a surprise attack from the rear. Good covering by Ape enabled the last boat to gain 1st place. This gave an easy win with 1st, 2nd and 5th places to IC.

Surrey were clearly stunned and looked like losing the 2nd race, but although 1st place was assured for IC, 3rd and 5th slipped to 4th and 6th under pressure from Surrey. Giving them a close win.

Both teams pushed hard in the 3rd race with many forced mistakes or rule offences resulting in points (known as greens) against the offending boats. By the end of the race IC were not in the top places but scraped through on points after a contested protest, giving us a 2-3 win overall.

Following an ample lunch, designed to give Surrey a weight advantage in the light afternoon airs, sailing was continued with a change in boats and teams. This compounded the problem of weight advantage, with both the captain and commodore in the same boat. However, Sam Page (commodore) was determined to do well, resulting in a very close race and superior roll tacks from IC. Light airs were getting lighter and eventually Surrey decided to withdraw. The afternoon result being a draw, IC managed to scrape an overall win.

FOOTBALL

Shaken by the ball

IC V 1 - LSE V 0

Last Saturday, somewhat shaken by the Ball (at the Savoy the night before), IC V assembled for their Cup semi-final against LSE V.

The match was annoyingly close. LSE were hardly in the Liverpool mould, despite dominating, IC had very few clear cut chances. The one opening fell to Tan, who, with a quick shuffle of that famous waistline cleared a path to goal, but his superb shot was only stopped by a save so absolutely sensational that it would have made even the great Steve Von Barga proud (can I have that fiver now please Tan?). In defence, IC were so dominant that our goalie, Steve, went off for thirty minutes for a jodrell and no one noticed. Jon, Mike, Lee and Basher made it easy for the team. On the sidelines, Kev, Brad and Al were contributing their support with great passion. The game

drifted to extra time. Tan's ageing legs were replaced by the 'not much more energetic' Paul. John Bolger came into his own, and inevitably, the goal came...Peter played a superb ball that sliced the defence like a knife through a carrot (ok, no more jokes about the redecorated bathrooms). Bassim took it in his stride, cut inside, fended off the defender and struck the most unbelievable lob over the advancing goalkeeper. The ball took an eternity to cross the line (in fact, almost as long as it took for the Dean to finish his dinner speech), but it crept in, and we were there. They were never going to score. Ean and Glenn were simply strolling it in midfield, and despite Basher's booking late in the game (first of the season for anyone in the team), IC had done it.

Balding, but favourites

IC II 2—Goldsmiths II 1

Having been unable to play for two weeks due to flooded pitches, IC found themselves up against Goldsmiths again, in another top of the table clash. With much pre-match banter and a fine speech from captain Jez Holland, IC II set out to show why they are the most successful IC team this season. The mixture of experience of Paul Thompson, Russ Dark and the balding Andy Allen, with the youthful running and enthusiasm of Guy Phiri and Chris Burton proved too much for Goldsmiths. Mickey Plummer and Ed Coates combining brilliantly on the left forced many chances. Ed himself opened the scoring mid-way through the first half, with a cool, clinical finish, from just inside the box. Goldsmiths rallied, and should have

equalised straight away, but their hopeful shot blazed over the bar. Just before half-time, Jez Holland went down after a collision with a Goldsmiths forward. An expected torn calf muscle could rule Jez out of the rest of what has been an unlucky season for him. After the switch, as Jeff Fitzgerald came on as sub, Chris Burton dropped into defence but Goldsmiths fought back. Rakesh Muthoo's growing influence on the game inspired IC and after a mix up in Goldsmiths' defence, Rakesh stabbed the ball home. IC then controlled the game until the final whistle. Having beaten most teams at least once now in the league, IC look to be odds-on favourites for the league.

BADMINTON

Struggle

UAU Challenge Round

It has been a good year so far for IC badminton in UAU with all teams reaching the last 16 but then the only rewards for this achievement were 3 very tough away draws. The Mens and Ladies teams both drew last year's championships, Loughborough and Birmingham respectively and Mens II had to travel to Bath.

Birmingham defeated IC in the Ladies final last year so a victory in this mid-stage competition would have been sweet revenge. Sadly this was not to be, even though Birmingham had split up their first pair to even out the strength of their team. The match was close but might have been closer. Julie Goodeve and Uta Boltze, having beaten the first pair, had also beaten the Birmingham seconds. The IC seconds, Sarah Threadgold and Ann Redley, also had a good match by beating the opponents third pair and then narrowly losing out to the Birmingham firsts—another crucial and matchwinning result. The end result was 6-3 in Birmingham's favour, a repeat of last year's final.

In Bath the Mens second team were made to struggle. Although Alastair McMaster and Svein Tollefsen nearly caused a riot by winning 2 of their 3 rubbers it was not enough to see them to the quarter finals. The final score was a victory to Bath by 7-2.

Having seen Loughborough's team at the UAU championships last November there was a great deal of hope and a genuine feeling that IC might create an upset by defeating the champions. This hope turned to wishful thinking as Loughborough cruised to a 9-0 whitewash despite some defiant badminton from the IC team. In reality some of the matches were not as one-sided as the scoreline suggests but it was a shame that after so much effort we did not even come away with a point.

HOCKEY

Nice strategy—shame about the result

IC 0—Bristol 2

Imperial College 1sts travelled West last Wednesday to play against Bristol University in the UAU challenge round. Up against a highly coached, skilled, fancied and supported team, captain Brooking recognised IC to be the underdogs. Counting on this year's exceptional defence, he

sanctioned a disciplined marking game coupled with surprise counter-attacks. This strategy kept IC in contention during the first half with no player making more vital interceptions and tackles than Brooking himself. Brendan Farmer followed his captain's example. The early second half continued in the

same fashion—outstanding defence with sporadic attack. With only twenty minutes to play, the Bristol team were losing discipline and IC were beginning to create goal chances. Skipworth, Vamadevan and Collman all failed to turn openings into a famous victory. Ironically it was now Bristol who were able to

counter-attack. They did so effectively forcing short corners and, eventually, a goal. With IC forced into the attack, a second goal inevitably came. The loss of Brooking (sent off) sealed the game for Bristol, giving them a place in the quarter finals.

Going solo



Imperial College Gliding Club (ICGC) is the oldest university gliding club in the country and at present owns three gliders (single seaters).

On the Saturday before last a typical winter weekend's contingent of ICGC members travelled to Lasham Gliding Centre near Alton in Hampshire seeking instruction.

On arrival we managed to procure a two-seat glider and the services of an old Polish instructor whom we found in a corner of the...clubhouse.

GLIDING

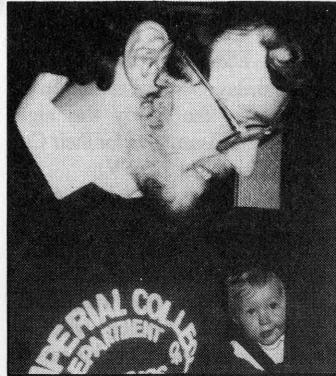
During the day I was able to get four flights, the highlight of which was doing a full spin and recovering (a good job I missed lunch!). The total flying cost of the day for me was £11.98 (thanks to hefty ICGC discounts!).

Gliding does, however, involve a lot of waiting around for flights. During this time you are expected to help with the running of the flightline by pushing gliders around, controlling launches, logging flights etc—but believe me, it all becomes worthwhile once you get into the air. 'Going Solo' is where the ultimate challenge and excitement occurs—in soaring flight. During the summer months it is possible to remain aloft for several hours and to cover hundreds of miles by making use of the thermals (rising currents of air).

If you are interested in gliding, please come to one of our weekly meetings (every Thursday at 5.30pm in Aero 254). For the paltry sum of £10 we will transport you to the airfield and give you a 15 minute trial flight. You can then decide whether or not you want to join the club (this costs £26 per year). But we bet you'll be hooked!

Howard Dudley.

HAMSOC



Following the short article in FELIX two weeks ago Hamsoc was deluged with new prospective members interested in amateur radio—most wanting to apply for the Radio Amateur Exam to gain a transmitting licence. Even a prospective college applicant turned up to have a chat with chairman Phil Pavelin! The large number of new licences gained by members in the last examinations in December also means that Hamsoc will be able to provide help for other societies (such as marshalling in rallies). If you see any of us, and are interested in amateur radio, why not ask us about it?

The latest society news is that the

Beam-Antenna Rotator has been repaired and will be positioned on top of the Elec Eng tower in the next few weeks (giving Imperial College one of the highest VHF antenna sites in London!).

WEIGHTS

New training courses (four sessions per course, one session per week) for Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes (1pm to 2pm) will begin in the eighth and sixth week of term respectively. Contact Andrew Tay (Physics 2) for the Wednesday slot and C Donegan (Biochem PG) for the Tuesday slot. Each session will begin with instruction in basic exercises and the remainder will be given over to the discussion and explanation of very comprehensive handouts.

The most recent news is that there will be a Friday course beginning today (1.30pm to 2.30pm) and possibly a women's course provided there is enough interest. Those interested in the Friday course should meet outside the provision shop in Southside today. Those interested in the Women's course should send a note with name, department and type of training wanted to Linda Donegan (c/o C Donegan). To correct a mistake in the last note, all present courses will cost 75p per session.

CONSOC

MP visit

On Thursday 21st January, Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, came at the invitation of IC Conservative Society to speak on the subject of 'Serfdom or Sovereignty—the picture of the welfare state'.

She feels that people in Britain have become used to the state doing

everything for them, robbing them of their ability to think and do things for themselves, and reducing them to the level of vegetables.

She continued by comparing those individual needs supplied by the state (health, council housing, education) with those provided by private means (food, clothing, etc), noting that those in shortage, or of generally low quality, were the former group. Mrs Gorman identified the problem with the welfare system as being that it is producer dominated rather than consumer controlled.

West London Chaplaincies
Science and Religion Series
 Monday 15th February
 7.30pm

SOUL AND IMAGINATION
 A psychological perspective on
 wholeness and duality

Dr Chris Roberton
 Institute of Psychosynthesis
IMPERIAL COLLEGE PHYSICS DEPT
LEVEL 8 COMMON ROOM

HYDE PARK RELAY

PRESENTS A ...

VALENTINES
 PARTY

**WITH STUDENTS FROM FRANCE,
 BELGIUM, HOLLAND, GERMANY, SWEDEN,
 NORWAY AND SCANDINAVIA**

SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY IMPERIAL COLLEGE
 JUNIOR COMMON ROOM 8pm-1.30am
 ADMISSION £1.00 ON THE DOOR
 BAR EXTENSION TILL 1.00am

PROCEEDS TO CHARITY RAG

ROCK SOC

Comic Relief

Rock Soc managed to raise £100.33 for Comic Relief last Friday by selling burgers in Beit Quad and mugging people for the collection can! We even got a mention on Radio One, but this was mostly because our colleagues from UCL Rock Soc had hijacked the Friday Rock Show.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped out, everyone who donated, and especially those brave enough to buy the burgers. Special thanks also to Dr Finlay for the amazing sauce, Dramsoc for shedding some light on the matter, and Jelly and the bar staff who munched their way through the last box of burgers, and were generally helpful. Finally 'ta' to the anonymous stripper!

Future events include free video night on Tuesday (16th) in Norman's which will feature Whitesnake and Hendrix. Be there at 8pm! Don't forget to come along to our Monday lunchtime meetings (Southside Upper Lounge) to find out what else is going on.

OPSOC

Sell sell sell

Yet another privatisation: Offer for sale by ICOS on behalf of The Government of Spain, an ordinary rights issue of:

504 ordinary paid-up shares at 200 pence per share; 504 ordinary paid-up shares at 250 pence per share and 252 paid-up shares at 300 pence per share; also available as partly paid preference shares to students and OAPs at a reduction of 50 pence per share, in: His Grace, the Duke of Plaza-Tore (an Impecunious Spanish Grandee).

Application for shares may be made of the executive of ICOS in the Foyer, Level 2, Sherfield Building during the lunch break or from the Haldane Music Library, or on the door of the Union Concert Hall (from 16th Feb)

200p shares available for Tuesday and Wednesday.

250p shares available for Thursday and Friday.

300p shares available for Saturday.

Applications must be received before 7.30pm on the above dates. No dividends are expected but share holders will be admitted to the production of *THE GONDOLIERS*.

Don't forget to tell Sid!

AMNESTY

No charge

Munif Mulhim has been held in detention without charge or trial since his arrest in August 1981 for his membership of the prohibited Party for Communist Action (PCA).

Murif Mulhim's health is reported to be poor. He continues to suffer from a malignant tumor for which he has not been given the necessary medical attention. In August 1984, Amnesty International (AI) learned that his condition had deteriorated, apparently as a result of torture. AI initiated urgent appeals on behalf of Murif Mulhim and two other detained members of the PCA also reported to be seriously ill at the time. In June 1985 AI again appealed to the Syrian authorities on his behalf following further reports that his health had seriously deteriorated, that he continued to be deprived of medical treatment, and that family visits had been curtailed.

Please write to Rif'at al-Assad, Vice President, Office of the President, Muhajirin, Presidential Palace, Abu Rummaneh, Al-Rashid Street, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, urging that he be given all necessary medical care and treatment, and that he be given a fair trial and be released unconditionally if not charged.

FILM SOC

Go wild

IC Film Soc present *Something Wild* on Thursday 18th February at 7pm in Mech Eng 220.

Charles Driggs is the newly-appointed vice president of a large tax consultancy—a man as conservative as his starched white shirt and about as adventurous as his calorie-controlled lunch.

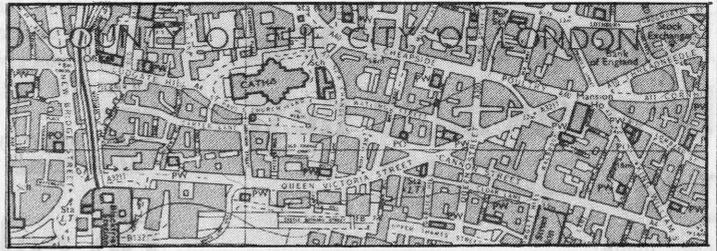
But when he finishes that meal in a Mid-Manhattan diner, he pockets the check and strolls out without paying.

Only Lulu Hankel notices the petty theft.

Lingering over coffee a few seats away, she has recognised Driggs as a kindred spirit and whether he's willing or not, she knows how he will spend Friday afternoon.

It is an experience he will remember the rest of his life—or the rest of the weekend—whichever comes first.

50p members, £1 non-members (membership available).



MOTOR CLUB

City runabout

Ever been chased around the square mile of the City of London looking for letters stamped on boltheads on roadsigns? No—then you've obviously never been on a Guilds Motor Club Mini Miglia. It starts in a car park near Smithfield Market at 10pm this Saturday and finishes at 1.45am on the North side of Finsbury Circus.

In between you have to find answers to sixty clues (twenty easy,

twenty medium and twenty difficult). To do this you are given a large scale map and a list of eight figure grid references.

Everyone is welcome to enter and competition membership is available on the night for 50p to non-members.

The entry fee is £2 per car and the maps and grid references will be given out in Southside Upper Lounge between 7pm and 8pm on Saturday (13th).

JEWISH

Letter record

At the end of November, the Jewish Society held a stall in the JCR to write letters to a Soviet refusenik. This was in conjunction with similar efforts up and down the country, to try and set a new World Record for the most letters sent to one person in one day.

Imperial students wrote 40 letters to Michael Stollar, and in total 4000 letters were sent to him, and were delivered to the Moscow Central Post Office on one day just before Christmas. I would like to thank all those who wrote, and the achievement is such that Norris McWhirter has given his personal assurance that it will be included in the next Guinness Book of Records. The stall also collected 250 signatures for a petition

that was presented at the recent summit between Reagan and Gorbachev, and nationwide over 5000 signatures were gathered.

A proposal for a Soviet Jewry Action Group is currently under consideration by the Social Clubs Committee. The SJAG, which will be affiliated to various national and international groups, will campaign for the rights of Soviet Jews, including their right to leave the Soviet Union, and anyone even vaguely interested should make themselves known at the stall, or contact Paula Lyons (DoC 1), or Philip Schryber (Elec Eng 2).

S Parkus, Chairman, Jewish Soc.

SCIENCE FICTION

ICSF present *Silent Running* on Tuesday February 16th in ME220, 7pm.

Those of you that have seen this film will know just how good it is. The rest of you, come and see it! One of the best films of the genre ever made, concerning a time when the only plants left are held in orbit around Earth, in museums; and the museums are about to be closed down. One of the curators takes three gardening robots and his supplies and jettisons in one of the museum bubbles. There follows the most brilliant piece of continuous one-person acting ever seen, as the curator attempts to keep the plants alive on their way out of the solar system.

ANTI APARTHEID

The Anti-Apartheid Society has the aim of increasing public awareness of the racist regime in South Africa and how this affects the majority of its population.

Our objectives:

To organise debates by guest speakers on various relevant issues.

To reduce the college's investment in South Africa.

To inform and participate in the nationally organised rallies.

To fund-raise on behalf of the national Anti-Apartheid Movement.

To lobby the South African embassy.

All those interested should contact Rakesk Muthwo (Physics 2).

Letters

Mining House will be unsociable next year—official

Dear Judith,

Recent events in Mining House have brought to the fore a lot of ill feeling that has been building up for quite a while. Miss Brown, the warden, has insisted that choosing re-apps was entirely her own choice, even though College offices said that she simply had the power to veto any applications. Consequently, a committee was chosen to pick the re-apps, and Miss Brown then proceeded to ignore their choices, submitting a list of next year's re-apps which included people that had not even been put forward by the committee. When asked why she had chosen one of these people, Miss Brown commented that 'he does what the warden and sub-wardens tell him to do'. From this, it is obvious that Miss Brown intends to surround herself with yes-men for next year, simply in order to make her job as easy as possible. The re-app forms insisted that 're-apps will be chosen according to their contributions to their house', yet Miss Brown seems to have conveniently adjusted this to suit her own purposes. She has picked the people she likes, or to be more accurate the people who aren't going to kick up a fuss about anything.

Miss Brown has never been slow to admit her great dislike for the Mining House social club of 'The Diggers'. (Is this because the club has successfully run itself for eleven years and she has been unable to manipulate or interfere with its activities?) Diggers is a tradition. It survived for nine years before Miss Brown, and hopefully will go on for many years after she has gone. However, in choosing next year's re-apps, Miss Brown has conveniently omitted Adrian Lewis, who, with great respect to next year's president, would have undoubtedly made the best president. The reason given by Miss Brown was that she doesn't 'like' him. She doesn't even know him. He is a sociable person, therefore by Miss Brown's book, he must be trouble. This simply highlights the attitude of our Warden. On the first day of arriving at the house, she took a dislike to me because I smoke. This petty, almost childish, attitude does get tiresome. If I disliked people for having silly haircuts, I would have very few friends. However, before all this sound like a case of sour grapes, I must point out that even though I myself did reapply to the house, I withdrew my application, mainly because I didn't want to play any part in this whole farce.

Throughout the year, Miss Brown has stuck to her attitudes of treating the whole of the house as school children. She is afraid to let the house run itself, not because she is afraid that discipline would be lost, but because she knows that the house would probably do a much better job of it. Understandably, the sub-wardens are behind her thick and thin. They can't be blamed. They have got cheap accommodation, and a relaxed life. They are never going to put their head on the line simply because they have a lot to lose. Miss Brown has now made sure that next year the once most sociable house in Evelyn Gardens will become the dullist ever. It suits her perfectly. What she forgets is that she is getting free accommodation, which is being paid for by us. She has to learn that with a happy house there will always be hiccups, but what she wants is a house full of bookworms who make things very easy. Not only does College need a big rethink in how to handle re-applicants, but also in how they choose their wardens. Miss Brown may be wonderful at bookwork,

but as far as the atmosphere in Mining House goes, something certainly stinks. This isn't the first, and most certainly won't be the last complaint about Miss Brown, but for how long can College keep a low profile on the matter.

Yours sincerely,
Mr B Basma.

Do college Playfair?

On entering the Lyon Playfair Library last night I was asked to produce identification. I asked the reason why and was told that monitoring was going on to determine how many students from other colleges used the library, with a view to only letting Imperial College students use the building in future.

I would like to bring the following points to your attention.

Firstly, it must be noted that Imperial College is part of London University. One attraction of London University is the availability of large information resources throughout London. Furthermore, due to the acute accommodation crisis in London many students live a long way from their respective colleges and it may often be convenient for them to study at a library nearer their lodgings.

The banning of non-Imperial College students from Imperial College libraries, as well as being unfair on these students, could also lead to reciprocal bans being introduced by other colleges on Imperial College students, thereby having a bad effect on the students the ban was trying to protect.

If the library is suffering from lack of books or space (which one assumes it must be else these measures wouldn't be considered) it must be noted that banning people from the library does not create more books, or more space, but merely cuts back people's access to education.

Rather than Imperial College libraries withdrawing into themselves, to protect their own members, it would be better if the libraries joined with other London University libraries and institutions in a concerted campaign for more money for all aspects of education, as well as a better sharing of their resources.

Although monitoring student usage of the library is not the same as actually banning certain people, it can only be seen as the first step along the way.

I hope students at IC will note these points and protest accordingly.

Ross Popper (IC student)

Are they related?

Dear Judith,

I think it only fair to thank David Leigh for last week's kind letter, I found his perception into IC Radio quite astounding, since he is only a listener. He is right in his assumption that the station is quite staid in its approach. However, with the current movement of people the station will, in the next couple of years, develop into an important part of the IC community. So stay tuned.

However, I'm sure David was as dismayed as I was to read the headline 'sycophantic drive!'. I'm sure when FELIX receives its own appreciation letter for the year, like IC Radio has, its headline will not be along the same tactless lines.

Yours sincerely,
Spenser Lane (Mat Sci 1).

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Environmental Week** is one its way!

● **Quiz** machine addicts require details of machine locations. Please send details to M Mitchell (Aero 1) or C Gibbons (Physics 1).

● **If any** clubs or societies would find two-way communications (up to distance of 25 miles) useful, could they contact P Pavelin, Hamsoc Chairman via the Union pigeonholes.

● **Japanese Society**—Please contact K Yokota (Mech Eng PG) for details.

● **His Grace** The Duke of Plaza-Toro demands your attendance at the Union Concert Hall, 7.30pm, Tuesday 16th—Saturday 20th Feb, to see 'The Gondoliers'.

● **This week** dry ski slope lessons begin again meet Wednesday, 12.45pm in Southside. Bring thick socks and gloves.

● **Refunds** are now available for all those who have had dry slope lessons or who did not require equipment on the holiday. Come to the regular meetings on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

LOST & FOUND

● **Found:** Pewter tankard, engraved: Walton Regatta 1961, Senior Coxed Fours. Contact R Howes (MRE 1), RS Mines.

WANTED & FOR SALE

● **Tickets** for 'The Gondoliers': £1.50/£2 (Tues and Weds), £2/£2.50 (Thurs and Fri), £2.50/£3 (Sat).

● **Are there** any musicians out there who want to play in a jazz to pop combo. Contact James Steward (EE1). Reading and improvisation skills could be very useful.

● **For sale**—Fiat Mirafiori 1300cc. S Reg, mechanically perfect but rust on body. Absolute bargain £400. Phone: 602 2132.

● **Anyone** selling a bike contact Rony Douek (Chem Eng 1) or phone internal 97.315.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Male**, non-smoker to share quiet, ground-floor studio flat in S Ken. £33 per week (after rebate) including bills. Please contact John Hodgen in Chem UG pigeonholes.

● **Room** in spacious semi-detached in Acton for (preferably female) non-smoker. Large lounge, kitchen, dining room and central heating, etc. £35 p/w (excl). Phone 992 3813 or contact Claire on 6776.

● **Single** room available in Wimbledon House. Rent £36 p/w (£12 rebate). Tel: 947 5207.

● **For rent:** 2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom in SW14. Newly decorated, central heating, 30 mins to IC by bus, £460 p/m. Contact Andreas on 6206 or Yuri or Agnes on 878 2058.

PERSONAL

- **Wanted**—popularity, charm and general appeal, contact Caitie, Mining House.
- **CYA** Sec '85-87 and CYA Sec '88. Merger not ruled out.
- **Drac** J, even walls have ears! G the P.
- **'Everything** you ever wanted to know about Tizard' is now available on a single cassette, KTEL Soc.
- **Could** St Mary's medics save our Steve's toe? (or hack it off), Tizard Private Surgery.
- **Wanted**—woman willing to split magnum of champagne (temporary engagement may be necessary). See D Shiu (Maths 1).
- **Yes**, it's rat race time again!
- **What** has Andy got about bananas? P C.
- **2 x 1 = 1**—it's official. As Dr Elgin. The Penthouse Club.
- **Dai**, don't become a polymer technologist. P C.
- **Don't** miss the Penthouse Club's curry and Blues Brothers run. Tonight! Bring hat and shades.
- **Congratulations** to Prof Stradling on entering into the spirit of Comic Relief and wearing his red nose last Friday.
- **Afraid** of dying? No? Adventurous? Sensation seeker? Contact Mike Plummer (Maths 2).
- **James**, was the floor comfortable enough for you on Friday night?
- **Paul**—that black eye is so sexy.
- **Sorry** about the noise, did it distract Giz.
- **Why** are Tizard girls single? Where are the blokes?
- **Neil**—do your flies up before answering the door to Leonie.
- **Pissed** off by reading your name in FELIX? For solidarity contact Stuti or Laura.
- **Leonie**, Leonie, forgive me my little peonie.
- **Me want** Heffie—Heffie Hug too.
- **Ian**—thanks for the after-Peat flowers—creepy swarm you!
- **Dave** Bradley prefers 'thumping'!
- **Perhaps** Ann isn't so innocent and naive after all.
- **Quiet** ones are the worst, eh Nigell!
- **Would** Adam remember his trainers if Garfield were painted on them?
- **Why** does Clare enjoy tying up Peter?
- **Come** back Simon (nearly) all is forgiven—the peanut gallery.
- **What is** long, blond, wears glasses and has no point?
- **Cap'n** Simon getting spliced, he'll buckle no more swashes.

A frightfully awful rock group letter from Pete Hartley

Dear Judith,

In reply to the letter featured in the January 21st issue of FELIX from Andy McMayhem, renowned former skin-basher for the famed five, Stagefright, I must point out a few gross inaccuracies that occur in his epistle. The comment that he picked upon, however, just flew out of my mouth on the spur of the moment, and was not meant to offend or be misconstrued. But he seems to want to take it further. so just a few points.

1. While being very grateful for his guest appearance at the Holland Club, I feel that as we paid him £10 for his pains, and that he made adequate use of the free facilities available (ie he got drunk as a lord), he really came out of it quite well (unlike the rest of us who as usual ended up out of pocket).

2. We were also very grateful for the loan of his personal drumkit (which was his) for our auditions, but as we provided free transport home for himself and his drumkit, this saving him untold train fares, once again he came out on top.

3. After extensive consultation with the rest of the band, we feel that the name 'Baby Delta', which agreeably was crap, still left after he did. However this cannot be proved!

4. I feel that if Mr McMayhem left the band as stated, He could have made us aware of the fact before Father Jason was on the phone to him, expressing the band's joint wishes that his days were over. I feel that the fact that Mr Mayhem thought he had left of his own accord pays tribute to Jason's tact and compassion in giving him the boot.

However, I must thank Andy profusely for giving me a great deal of amusement, and can only suggest that he uses his hard worked for English A-Level to greater effect in the future.

*Yours sincerely,
Peter A J Hartley,
ex-Union Bar,
ex-Union Snack Bar,
ex-RCS AAO,
ex-cellent bass player.*

Tracy-Ann vs Mr Tyler

Dear Judith,

There was a certain article in the last issue of Guildsheet that rang untrue. Unlike some people, namely Mr Tyler and Mr Baker, I make sure I know the facts before I knock someone's efforts. Whilst I'm on the subject, I might add that I feel Mr Tyler is the last person worthy of telling me about my job. Before he does this he should make sure that his own job is done well.

To set the record straight, myself and Tanya last term attended five out of six Rag meetings each. I supported the biggest Rag event of the year (tiddlywinking) by being in the office at 8.30am to give out cans etc not to mention selling T-shirts. I was helped by friends who had nothing to do with Rag and was not joined by Mr Tyler until after 9am. I went tiddlywinking and helped count money. Next

the slave auction—I collected the bulk of the money and counted it, helped by Alan Hepper who has nothing to do with Rag. I was bought by the Rugby Club and gave them a good day of work.

I hardly think Mr Tyler or Mr Baker have proper grounds to say I have not done my job. My job as I see it, is to look after Guilds Rag money and to support some, or all, Rag events which I feel I have tried to do. Yet it is extremely hard to do a job when Mr Tyler insists on interfering. He happens to be good friends with the IC Rag Chairman Mr Baker and they have tended to work with each other instead of going through me. Maybe Mr Tyler should have been Rag Treasurer instead!

I confess I rarely go to the Guilds Office but I find the bad atmosphere and the aggressiveness of Mr Tyler very off putting, as I'm sure many of you will agree. I think Mr Tyler is not so much concerned that I have not done my job but that I have not been to every single event. I get the impression that Tyler thinks anyone who has a post in Guilds is supposed to attend every event. Like many I have been to those I could afford and found time for.

I conclude that I believe I have done my job (my conception, not Tyler's). I fear, though, that a second vote of no confidence I may well get because of those hacks (most of those voting) do and think whatever Tyler says is right.

*Tracy-Ann Hall,
C&G Rag Treasurer.*

PS. Having done the job I feel that there is really no need for a Rag Treasurer in Guilds: RCS seem to manage without one.

PPS. For the record, Mr Tyler and I have not seen eye to eye ever since I ran for President against him.

More incoherent muttering

I was shocked to read Julian Moore's—oops!—Dracula J's letter in last week's FELIX.

Firstly I would like to thank Mr Neil Humphrey for submitting his letter on our behalf. I find it not in the least surprising that Mr Moore should have to resort to personal abuse in order to explain the shortcomings of his UVR+DDL column (Broadsheet).

I would like to point out that the reason everyone found Mr Humphrey's letter 'completely incomprehensible' was that no-one ever reads UVR+DDL anyway. The fact that even J M himself failed to comprehend the letter does tend to support the allegation that UVR+DDL is actually churned out by chimps and not Jooly Wooly at all.

Perhaps Jooly Wooly would also like to extend the label 'illiterate' to all of his readers, since if the 'illiterate' Mr Humphrey had not brought his 'Chimpsheet' article to our attention it would have been given its usual role as a piece of Andrex.

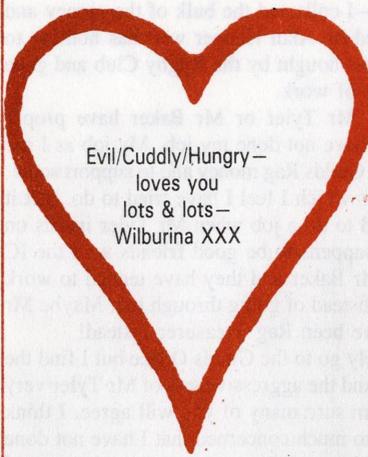
As for calling N H 'grumph and pervert'! Jooly Wooly's imagination seems to stretch little further than 'three in bed orgy', 'Radio Bonk', 'teddy bear' and 'pervert'—all phrases purely of his own invention.

Jooly Wooly is grossly misunderstood. If his favourite words truly are 'bonk', 'teddy' and 'orgy', he should be hailed as nothing less than a genius, since most of his contemporaries are still running around shouting 'would you like to see some puppies?'.

It is always nice to see the syllabus at Eton moving with the times.

Walls have ears, so watch it Jooly.

*Yours faithfully,
K McC, Tizard Surveillance Society, VP.*



Evil/Cuddly/Hungry -
loves you
lots & lots -
Wilburina XXX

Tell Syd: President goes to Aussie

Union President Ian Howgate has changed his name by deed pole to Sydney Harbour-Bridge as a charity stunt. The idea was dreamt up by IC Radio's Simon Bichara during a 'boring lecture' last week. He mentioned it to his fellow IC Radio members who thought that it would be an excellent way to raise money for Comic Relief last Friday. They then approached Ian with a short list of silly names which he could choose from. They were Phil Harmonic-Orchestra, Sydney Opera-House, Albert Memorial and Sydney Harbour-Bridge. Syd says that his choice of name was influenced by the fact that his birthday falls on Australia Day and that this year is Australia's bi-centennial.

It was decided that a sum of £500 would have to be raised for Comic Relief before he agreed to change his name. The latest reports indicate a total in excess of £800 was raised on Friday.

The change took place at a London solicitors after consultation with his bank manager and College Registry. It has been agreed that his degree will be in the name of Mr S H Bridge should he keep the name for that long. He has already agreed to keep the

S.A. policy

For the first time in Imperial College Union's history, it has a policy on South Africa. At Tuesday's Union General Meeting held in the Junior Common Room, a motion was passed supporting the London School of Economics Union in their fight to get their College to disinvest in South Africa.

The motion was passed by a majority, despite an attempt by its opposition to call quorum before it was debated. The students present heard how LSE has shares in Shell, one of the companies that invests in South Africa.

Another motion concerning the new Union job descriptions was also passed following amendments. Any sabbatical job descriptions will now have to be discussed at an Executive meeting (Union Officers) or Publications Board (FELIX Editor/Print Unit Manger) before being passed at consecutive Council and Union General Meeting. This follows the rapid shake-up in the Union last month when Council, alone, was required to change these job descriptions.

Elected 1

Paul Shanley and David Green have been elected as the two Ordinary Members of Council for the next academic year.

BY THIS DEED I the undersigned SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE of Linstead Hall Princes Gardens London SW7 DO HEREBY absolutely renounce and abandon the use of my former first names and Surname of IAN ROBERT MALCOLM HOWGATE and in lieu thereof do assume as from the date hereof the first name and surname of SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE

AND in pursuance of such change of such first name and surname as aforesaid I HEREBY DECLARE that I shall at all times hereafter in all records deeds and instruments in writing and in all actions and proceedings and in all dealings and transactions and upon all occasions whatsoever use and sign the said name of SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE as my first name and surname in lieu of the said first names and surname of IAN ROBERT MALCOLM HOWGATE so renounced as aforesaid

AND I HEREBY AUTHORISE AND REQUEST all persons to designate and address me by such assumed first names and surname of SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE only

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto signed my assumed first name and surname of SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE and my relinquished first names and surname of IAN ROBERT MALCOLM HOWGATE and have set my seal this TENTH day of FEBRUARY One thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight

SIGNED SEALED and DELIVERED by the above named SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE in the presence of :-

Sam C. Hall
60 St Mary Lane,
London EC1A 9ET

IAN HOWGATE
Sydney Harbour-Bridge

name until the end of this academic year. When FELIX asked him how he would sign his name he replied,

'Up, across and down again with some below and an opera house on the side'.

Neighbour complaints stop parties

Following complaints about noise from late night parties in the Union Building, parties have been banned from the Union Dining Hall, Senior Common Room and Concert Hall.

This was brought about by official letters sent by Borough Environmental Health Officers to the Union warning that the noise must stop.

Recently the Concert Hall has been fitted with double glazing, but there is little ventilation and so during parties the windows are opened and the noise escapes.

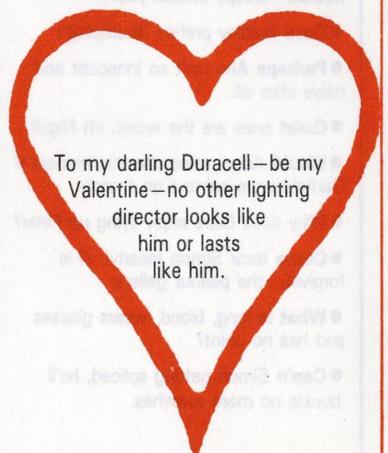
The Lounge, which is below street level on the North Side of the building is unaffected by these arrangements.

Elected 2

David Smedley, current RCSU 'Broadsheet' Editor, has been returned unopposed as this year's Freshers' Handbook Editor.

VALENTINE'S PARTY

Silwood's most romantic event!
come and meet the partner
of your dreams
TONIGHT (8pm)
2 live bands & disco
late bar
other novelty attractions!
Tickets £1.50
(from Kathy IC Union Office)



To my darling Duracell - be my
Valentine - no other lighting
director looks like
him or lasts
like him.