

FREE!



No. 795
Friday 26th February 1988

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STRIKE!

The first strike by IC students since 1986 looks set to go ahead on Tuesday March 1, following a successful motion to this effect at last Tuesday's Extraordinary General Meeting. The motion, proposed by ICU External Affairs Officer, Neil Motteram, called for student support for the AUT (Association of University Teachers) and TUC lobby of Parliament in opposition to the Government's Education Reform Bill (GERBILL).

Ballots are currently underway on a departmental year basis, on the understanding that a class majority will result in the cancellation of all their lectures, labs and tutorials from

Engineering 2 & 3 and Computing 2 are in favour of taking strike action on Tuesday. Only Mechanical Engineering 2 and MRE 3 have decided not to strike and both MRE

national press coverage on this occasion, the ICU strike was not well supported, and it is hoped that the departmental voting will encourage student support.

ICU voted in favour of this independent action rather than take part in the NUS/TUC rally in Hyde Park tomorrow (Saturday). Mr Motteram, who was recently non-confidenced and then re-elected as External Affairs Officer, believes such a stance is important as Imperial College has much to gain from the Bill: in particular through the change in emphasis from arts and humanities to science and engineering the proposed University Funding Council (UFC) will create. He considers the increased powers of the Secretary of State to be of particular concern, along with the power of the UFC to specify exactly how funds are spent.



External Affairs Officer Neil Motteram co-ordinating the GERBIL challenge

11am to 4.30pm. In this way AUT members will be free to attend the protest, which ICU students are also being asked to support. By yesterday afternoon 18 lecture classes had been polled. Life Sciences 1 & 2, Biotechnology 3, Mathematics 1, Chemistry 1 & 2, Physics 1 & 2, Civil Engineering 1, Aeronautical Engineering 1 & 2, Chemical

1 and Geology 1 have delayed making a decision until they receive more information on what they are supposed to be striking about.

The last time that ICU protested against Government education policy was in January 1986, when the Union supported the AUT on its stance against cuts in higher education funding. Although the AUT received

NUS rally

The National Union of Students is holding a national demonstration supported by the Trades Union Congress against the Education Reform Bill tomorrow. Students are asked to assemble on the Embankment at 12 noon and march to Hyde Park for 3pm where there will be a rally. Imperial College students have been invited to attend even though Imperial College Union will not be sending a formal delegation.



editorial

Welcome to the bigger, better, brighter FELIX! This issue is full of great features and my many fan letters. I urge you to read them. It's not often that people show such appreciation of my humble efforts. I still enjoy reading FELIX anyway. Does anybody else?

Strike

I think that one of the most sensible moves that Ian Howgate has made this year has been to suggest that individual lecture groups vote to take action. Having taken part in the last joint AUT/ICU/NALGO action in January 1986, which failed due to lack of student/lecturer support, I can only applaud next week's method of action. It is important that we don't sit back and ignore the Union's call next Tuesday just because the Education Reform Bill will benefit science. The strike has been called to point out that we, as intelligent thinkers, do not want the Government to control what we learn and how we are to be taught. Nor do we want to stifle art and all that is creative just because the Government doesn't believe it has relevance in the 1990s.

If you do go on strike next Tuesday, don't just treat it as a day off. Lobby Parliament or attend the NUS rally on Saturday. Get off your backsides and do something radical for a change!

I also hope that the Union's action

doesn't stop after Tuesday but that both Ian and Neil Motteram, ICU's External Affairs Officer, organise more events to highlight our concern about GERBILL. I still like the Rector's idea of staging a work-in. Strikes are very negative and tend to aggravate the situation. I'm sure we'd achieve much greater press coverage if we did something slightly different in protest.

Reviews Editor

Charles Robin, who has been our Reviews Editor this term, has decided to leave College and has resigned from his post. This has left the post vacant. Four people have already dropped in to the office to ask about the job. Would they and anybody else who fancies writing the occasional review please drop into the FELIX Office at 12.45pm today when I will be holding a special reviewers meeting.

Manifestos

Next week's FELIX is possibly one of the most important issues of the year: the manifestos issue. It will explain the Union's version of the Single Transferable Vote System and contain the manifestos of all the students standing in the sabbatical elections. Don't miss it as it's your Union's future!

For any potential sabbaticals out there, the deadline for the manifestos

issue is 9.30am on Monday 29th February. The maximum number of words for a manifesto is 300; over-long manifestos will be cut at the 300th word. No manifestos will be accepted after 9.30am. FELIX will print copy exactly as it is submitted. All candidates should ensure that their spelling, grammar, etc, is correct. Photographs will be printed with manifestos if delivered on time.

Heroes

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff who rallied around me on Monday and Tuesday when Rose Atkins, our typesetter, went down with a mysterious virus and on Wednesday when the printing press broke down again. I want also to thank both Rose and Dean, the printer, for their dedication. Dean has been fighting the 'flu all week. It's no mean feat operating the press with a full-scale headache. Most printers would not have bothered but Dean's a printer in a million!!

Print Unit's Future

Has the Print Unit a future after all the criticism it's been getting recently? Certainly when my sabbatical was created both FELIX's and the Print Unit's work were a lot

smaller than in 1988. For the past month we have been holding a working party to discuss the FELIX Editor's job description and the future of the Print Unit. Perhaps it is time to split the Editor and Print Unit Manager. We will be having a final meeting of the working party at 1pm today in the FELIX Office and hopefully come up with a few decisions. Anybody who feels that they can suggest anything useful to this party is welcome to attend—and that includes any of my fans in Mopsoc or Astrosoc.

More Staff

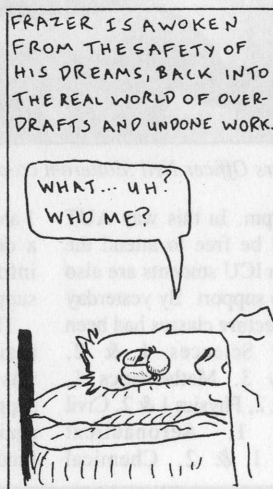
FELIX can never have too many staff. The more input there is, the better the paper. The easiest ways to contribute are by either writing a feature on something you care passionately about or by turning up on Thursday nights to collate the paper (that's putting the sheets together). Collation was how I got involved but I'm a bit sick of it now.

I don't think I'm a dictator, as is suggested on the letters page, just a bit eccentric. Don't be surprised if you find me hang gliding off the folding machine.

Love & Kisses,

Judith xxx

Editor-in-chief	Judith Hackney
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Clubs Editor	Andrew Waller
Sports Editors	Dominic Strowbridge and 'Hector' Sullivan
Science Editor	Steve Black
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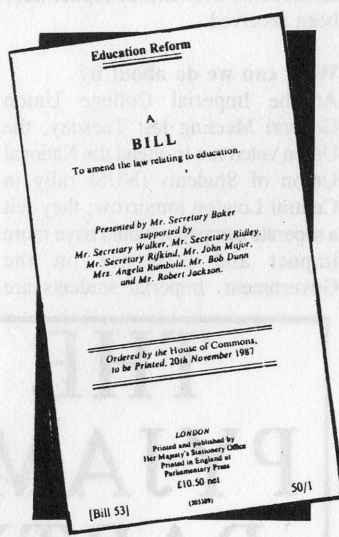


FELIX brings you an opinion...

GERBILL Attacks Imperial

Imperial College Union has called a half day strike over it. The Association of University Teachers (AUT) and the Universities have condemned it. The NUS are marching tomorrow against it. What is it? Kenneth Baker's 'Great Education Reform Bill' is (or 'GERBILL' for short) proposing the first major reform of education since 1944. Why is it causing so much concern?

The major changes to the universities are in the way that central funding is given out. At the moment, a body called the University Grants Commission (UGC) sits between the Universities and the Government, and contains a majority of representatives of the universities, including the IC College Secretary, John Smith. The UGC advises the Government



Minister on what the universities need, and decides how to distribute funds passed from central Government.

The GERBILL proposes that the UGC is replaced by another body, the University Funding Council (UFC), which will contain a majority from industry, commerce and finance. This body will only have the power to do what the Secretary of State tells it. It will not be able to make representations on behalf of the Universities to the Government, but is only there to distribute any cash given to it, and even this will be under the directions of the Minister. The idea of the Bill is 'to achieve the right number and balance of graduates in the 1990s'. What they really mean is that they want a higher education system based only on the needs of commerce and industry. Once the universities are churning out industry-orientated graduates, they can shift the funding for these courses onto industry itself.

To do this, however, they need to break up the way universities are funding at the moment to separate funding for separate courses. To do this they have suggested, in one discussion document, the idea of 'contract funding'.

Contract Funding

The idea of contract funding is that universities would have to put in 'competitive tenders' of how much it would cost for them to educate so many students, and the cheapest would be awarded the contract and get the funding. This has already happened for a few courses started recently. This has many implications, not least for funding of student services not directly connected with one course or department; accommodation, student unions, welfare services and so on. All these are an essential part of student life, but with no mention in the GERBILL at all. Contract funding itself is not mentioned in the Bill either, but one of the most worrying features of the whole Bill is that it gives the Secretary of State (be they Tory, Labour or whatever) the power to introduce major changes, like contract funding, without even taking it through Parliament. The Croham Report, which recommended the formation of the UFC, suggested that one of the first jobs of the new UFC shall be the introduction of contract funding.

The Robbins Principle

The Robbins Principle, from a report in the 60s, says that Higher Education should be available for all who can benefit from it. The GERBILL proposes a system where higher

education is based on the needs of industry, not the students, and would mean the effective abandonment of the principle. Higher education would be available to two groups, those that are suitable for 'industry-orientated courses', and those that can afford to pay for other types of courses. Even the industry-orientated courses may be funded by loans, and there are rumours that the Government will attempt to introduce them again; last time it was attempted, they withdrew the proposals with a pending election and objection from Tory parents.

The major courses that will be hit are Arts and Social Science courses, without a strong vocational content, and obviously this will not affect Imperial directly. However, with industry 'calling the shots' in the Universities, research will become more orientated towards short term industrial goals, and longer term and more theoretical work will have difficulty attracting industrial money. Also, as research becomes more based around industrial contracts, the free flow of information between individuals and research groups will become restricted as research results become 'trade secrets'.

Tenure

Another part of the Bill abolishes 'tenure', whereby academics are given job security for life. Although tenure does not exist at Imperial, its abolition will allow academics to be sacked, courses closed and departments shut down purely on financial grounds. More worrying is that the Secretary of State will be able to determine a lecturer's appointment, and there will be little incentive to question or criticize the Government.

More Students

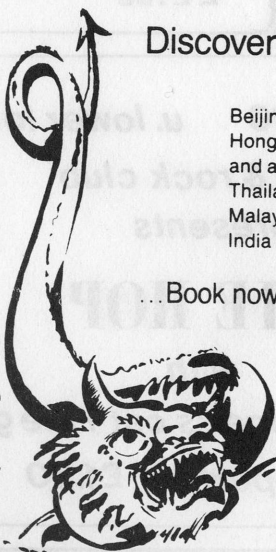
The Bill proposes a 5% increase in student numbers, an extra 50,000 (ten times the size of Imperial) by 1990, and in the same period aims to cut funding by £126m. The growth, according to Baker, will have to come from "better value for money" from higher education. This at a time when universities are already closing departments and sacking staff to meet Government targets. This is one of the major omissions in the Bill; it proposes large changes in the University system, an increase in student numbers, and a shift to the more expensive 'industry-orientated' courses, without addressing the issue of how it is going to be paid for.

Another omission is that Student Unions are not mentioned once in the GERBILL. It does, however, give the Minister the power to determine exactly where money is spent within the University system, and imposes

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Features

financial penalties for non-compliance. It does not take too much imagination to see the Government specifically not allocating any funds for a Student Union if they felt the need.

Even without this power, a University competing to provide education at the lowest possible price, to attract funding, will see libraries, welfare services and Student Unions as easy targets for savings, as they have no capacity for gaining funds.

goals open to a privileged few, as set out in the GERBILL. Education is a right, not a privilege.

The GERBILL

The Bill is now in the committee stage, and is due to be presented to the Commons for the last time in March. Any amendments need to be made before around 8 March. Already the Government have backed down on some proposals; they have indicated that they do not intend to

or twenty years and it is important to get it right. Despite this, the opportunity for consultation and debate has been tiny. The Bill is into its third reading, after only being introduced last summer. The latest consultation period has been only two months, where normal bills have periods of 6 months or more. The reaction has been so great that even in this time, over 15,000 replies have been received.

What can we do about it?

At the Imperial College Union General Meeting last Tuesday, the Union voted not to attend the National Union of Students (NUS) rally in Central London tomorrow; they felt a separate campaign would have more impact and influence on the Government. Imperial students are

still welcome on the march, under the University of London Union banner. It starts at midday at Embankment tube, and the rally is afterwards at 3.00pm in Hyde Park.

The Union instead decided to ask each year group to hold a half day strike on Tuesday 1 March, from 11.00am to 4.30pm, to coincide with the AUT lobby of Parliament. The President and External Affairs Officer are producing a paper on what exactly the Bill would mean for Imperial College, and students are to be encouraged to lobby their MPs at the same time.

Individually you can write to Kenneth Baker or your MP expressing your opposition to the proposals, fill in one of the ULU postcards, and keep your eyes open for further action.



NUS Protest outside Parliament

Imperial College, in the middle of one of the most expensive areas in the country, has a clear disadvantage in these competitions, with the staff costs and overheads significantly higher than a competing College outside London.

What's Missing

We all know that one of the biggest problems facing students today is the level of the Grant they receive. This isn't even mentioned in the Bill. At the moment the Minister for Education, Robert Jackson (who was at Imperial on 15 February and is featured on the front cover of the College magazine, Network, this week), is reviewing student financial support, as it is known. This review, it is widely rumoured, is going to propose the introduction of student loans. This is despite evidence from overseas, where the introduction of loans has resulted in higher costs for the education system as a whole and where it has deterred students from entering higher education.

There is no commitment to the principle of 'education for all', no concessions to help the disadvantaged or poor. What we need is a high quality education system available to all members of our society, not a narrow system based on industrial

interfere with the way that the UFC proposes to distribute funding. This is mainly due to the Higher Education lobby in the House of Lords, they do not rule out, however, the introduction of contract funding or other alternatives that will have similar or worse effects. This does show, however, that they will bow to pressure for change if they are forced.

In Conclusion

Although presented as a change in the way that the Universities are funded, the GERBILL gives the Secretary of State for Education (who may well be Labour in the future—a fact some senior Tories are very concerned about) the power to decide, to a very large degree, exactly where money is spent and therefore exactly what is taught, when it is taught and by whom. This, combined with the current Government policies for higher education and the lack of any more cash, constitutes the greatest attack on the universities since they were set up.

The timescale for the GERBILL is geared towards getting the new system well established by the next election, so that a future Government would not be able to reverse such major changes so soon. The system that is set up now will last another ten

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● **NAUGHTY** Nigel Whitfield tried to play hero this week by ringing the Standard to tell them of the fault on one of Mercury's telephone lines. He had discovered that by dialling 131-0000000000 followed by any number in the world, he could telephone free from any payphone to anywhere in the world! He asked the man at the Standard to try and secure a donation to Rag from Mercury for the information. When he had heard nothing for a few days he decided to telephone Mercury direct. When he mentioned money, he was told to go away or be arrested for blackmail!

● **WHY DID FELIX** centrespread Andrew Waller get his hair cut on Wednesday? Rumours that he wished to disguise himself were scotched when he confessed 'when my mother sees this she'll say 'I hope you've got your hair cut since then!''

Ah, what a sweetie!

● **JUDITH 'DICTATOR' HACKNEY** has taken to standing on chairs to exert her authority over the cowering staff.

The rule of terror was shortlived, however, when the Business Manager hurled a roll of masking tape at her. Ah well, the bigger they come, the harder they fall!

THE BARON

Derek sat in his padded cell (sorry, office) looking at the furry little creature running around on its wheel, nibbling at its food and drinking from its bottle.

'There, there, my little friend. Uncle Derek's going to look after you, I won't let that nasty Sidney Spanker get you.'

Just then John Secretary walked in. 'Excuse me, your most magnificent baron-ness', he said very sincerely, 'but who are you talking to?'

'Oh, err..., nobody John.'

'Yes you were, I distinctly heard you.'

'OK then, I admit it. I was talking to this pet that someone gave me to look after.'

Derek moved aside and showed John the small cage. Inside was a large gerbil.

'What on earth have you got that in here for?' said the stunned John.

'I was given it last summer, when it was just a baby, to look after while some friends of mine, Margaret and Kenneth, went on holiday. They haven't been back to collect it yet and it just keeps eating and getting fatter and fatter. Now I hear that Sidney Spanker wants to kill it.'

'Why should Spanker want to kill a gorgeous little creature like this?', said John Secretary, putting his fingers through the bars of the cage to stroke it. Unfortunately the gerbil didn't want to be stroked and sunk its teeth into John's finger instead.

'Ouch, the little bastard bit me', howled John.

'Yes, it didn't used to do that. Let me tell you the whole story. When I got it, it was just an ordinary gerbil, it didn't do much and didn't say much. Then after a few weeks it started to talk. First of all just things like 'Hello Derek' and other niceties, but then more serious things like 'Section 1, Scientists and Engineers are great, artists are a waste of money.'

'That's incredible', gasped John, 'have you managed to train it to say anything else?'

'Well, I managed to change section 1 to 'Scientists and Engineers are great, especially the ones at Cheapskate, artists are a waste of money, except electricians who play violins.' Apart from that it just keeps on saying things like 'I love Kenny and Maggie and Uncle Derek is a cutie.'

'So why does Sidney Spanker want to kill it?'

'Oh, I don't know, more stupid publicity I suppose.'

'What's he going to do?'

'They had an extraordinary citizens' meeting and voted to go on strike one day next week. They're going to gang up and try to kill my gerbil, and what's more, if all the citizens go on strike then the torturers will have no one to torture for the afternoon so they will join the citizens.'

'So how many will attack do you think?' asked John, who was being strangely inquisitive because he knew more than Derek but liked to see Derek sound impressive.

'About three or four if they're lucky', laughed Derek, 'so we'll just get you, Arthur Michael, Iain Bore and Rob McNorthey to mount a round the clock bodyguard on my gerbil.'

Will Spanker kill the gerbil?

Will McNorthey put it in a QT burger?

Will Derek get a peerage for looking after Maggie and Ken's gerbil?

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



● **IT'S NICE TO SEE** the IC Union Executive are getting on so well. At the EGM last Tuesday, Guilds President Dave Tyler spoke against President Ian 'Spanker' Howgate's proposal for the half day strike. Mr Spanker immediately turned to his right and exclaimed to the aghast Mr Tyler 'Why don't you turn over and die?'. Some wag present then shouted, quick as a flash, 'Let's vote on it...'

● **MR TYLER** was equally popular at the recent Union Finance Committee, when they were discussing the ridiculous RCS Union Estimate for next year. President Clare McErlane was valiently trying to defend the astounding £6,000 increase while Mr 2nd Lt. Tyler, armed with all the facts from some RCS mole, was tearing into it left, right and centre. The other members of RCS present were passing notes discussing slightly more direct action however—the best way of eliminating Mr Tyler from this earth forthwith.

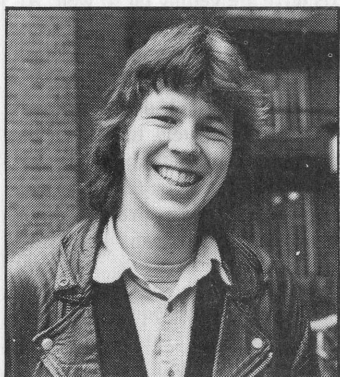
Mines President Geoff 'Jumping Jehosaphat' Parsons was considerably more sussed. Before the committee started to discuss his claim, he told the assembled hacks 'There's a few things I've forgotten but if you cut my claim, I'll add them on again'. Suffice to say his estimate was passed with little further ado.

● **HAVE YOU HEARD** of Kelso? 'Yes', said Martin Prick, 'it ran a good race last week!'

● **WE HEAR THAT** the University of East Anglia have just elected a gerbil as President. IC beat them to it by a year...



OPINION



by Steve Easterbrook

On Tuesday a motion was proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting calling for a paper recycling scheme in College. While nobody objected to this aim, the motion was not accepted due to a procedural problem, however, it will be re-submitted to the next Union General Meeting, where it can be discussed properly. I hope the person who blocked the motion reads this article, and realises that before it can be discussed again, nearly one thousand wild species will disappear forever from the world!

Q: What do you think of it so far? A: Rubbish!

Few people would deny that recycling waste is a good thing, but how many have thought deeply about the issues involved? At present less than a quarter of the paper in use is recycled, but there is no reason why it could not all be recycled. Simply recycling half the paper in use in the world could meet three quarters of the demand for paper, and free 4 million hectares of land from paper production. This would be good news for Scotland, where plantations devoted to a single species are replacing beautiful countryside, and especially good news for Rainforests in Brazil which are being torn up at a horrifying rate.

None of the huge amount of paper used in College is recycled at present. All it would take, however, is everyone to save up their waste paper, add a little effort spent on central collection, and the wastage can end.

But simply collecting up our waste paper isn't the end of the story. We need to investigate the possibility of using recycled paper throughout College. The Bookshop must be persuaded to stock recycled stationery. Departments must be persuaded to use recycled paper where possible. We need to investigate the use of recycled paper for all the photocopiers and printers. The only obstacles to overcome are apathy and bureaucracy.

If the initial collection scheme proves successful, we would like to examine the possibility of setting up our own pulping machine, and producing our own paper. This will save transportation costs, and could save the College a large portion of its stationery budget. The scheme could then be expanded to include neighbouring establishments such as the Natural History and Science museums.

But what this all rests on is the need for support. Volunteers are needed to set up and monitor collection boxes,

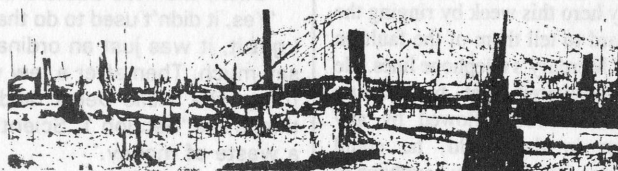
and empty them at the central collection point. Ideally there should be a collection box in every hall and house, and in every department. Areas which consume large amounts of paper need special attention, such as photocopier rooms, near pigeonholes, and in the Felix office!!

Start collecting right away, and don't forget that cardboard, newspapers and any form of paper should all be saved. The only thing to be wary of is plasticised paper—it makes a mess of the recycling machines. With your help we can save the Rainforests.

The Rubbish Mountain

The problem of waste disposal is a modern problem. Where once, the only things to be found on old rubbish tips were pieces of pottery and the odd sickle blade, the contents of modern waste tips will endure for a long time to come. The archeologists of the future will know what kinds of things we ate, from the plastic wrappers, and even the names of our shops, from the carrier bags.

In Britain, we generate up to 75 kilograms each of rubbish every month. The growth of this rubbish



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Don't mix your rubbish. If you have a garden, organic kitchen waste can be used as compost. Use separate bins to collect paper (and cardboard), and glass.
- Boycott over-packaged products. Few products need more than two layers of wrapping. Luxury items are the worst offenders: a box of chocolates will often have as many as seven separate layers of packaging.
- Buy in bulk. Bigger packets mean less waste packaging.
- Choose returnable containers where they are available. These are the most effective and efficient way of re-cycling. Unfortunately they have declined in number over recent years.
- Choose natural packaging. Cardboard and paper are preferable to plastic, as they can easily be re-cycled. Similarly, glass bottles are much better than plastic.
- Help your department to participate in re-cycling paper. Ensure there is a recycling bin next to every photo-copier and printer. Offer to help empty them from time to time.
- Keep a box in your office or room, for your own waste paper. You'll be surprised how quickly it fills up.
- Buy re-cycled stationery where possible. It is available in a wide range of qualities, and is now even available for photocopiers!



Features

mountain began in the post-war economic boom. New production methods meant greater capacity to produce, and the introduction of self service required highly packaged products.

By the 1960's the marketing industry had discovered how to stimulate consumption. In order to sell more and more, the industrialised world was trained to discard and replace everything, and frequently. Attitudes to waste changed, and consumerism became a way of life.

This encouragement to produce rubbish is quietly assisted by the effective waste collection service. By removing rubbish as fast as it is generated, it is hidden from the public view. If it all stayed on the doorsteps, people would think twice about throwing things away.

Once the rubbish is collected, it usually ends up on a rubbish tip. The euphemism 'landfill site' is often used to pretend that these rubbish dumps serve some useful purpose. However, they contain a lethal mixture of solvents, pesticides, cleaning fluids, and oil, along with rotting organic waste, and huge volumes of packaging and plastic. This poisonous mixture soon begins to react. Inflammable gases are released, and chemicals such as mercury, nickel and various solvents are washed through the soil to appear in our drinking water.

Burning the waste produces even more pollution. Plastics and wood preservatives give off dioxins as they are burnt, which are among the most poisonous substances known. The smoke contains a lethal mixture of fumes and adds to the problems of acid rain. While burning rubbish for energy sounds like a good idea, our rubbish tips contain such a range of materials that a host of expensive filters and scrubbers are needed to clean up the smoke produced.

The problems of what to do with all this rubbish would be greatly eased if it was sorted as it is discarded. A number of constituents of the domestic wastebin can easily be recycled, as long as they are collected separately.

Thirty percent of domestic waste is organic material which makes excellent compost. In the country, organic waste should never be collected—it can simply be returned to the garden. In the city, this is a little harder, but if collected separately, organic waste can still be used for compost. Several towns in Germany already do this, using separate dustbins for organic waste.

Glass can also be recycled. Broken glass from bottle banks is added to new molten glass in a furnace. The

result is a huge saving in the amount of energy needed to produce glass. Better still, returnable bottles require even less energy to re-use.

Then of course there's plastic. The great virtue of plastic is its durability. However, this makes it totally inappropriate for most of the uses to which it is put. For instance, a carrier bag, which will last for centuries, is only used for perhaps a few days. Worse still, foam polystyrene is used for fast food containers which are often only used for a few minutes—to keep the food warm long enough to leave the restaurant!

Disposing of plastic is a tricky business. Both burning and burying release poisonous fumes such as vinyl chloride gas. The only answer seems to be not to use so much plastic in the first place. However, there are certain plastics which can be melted down and recast into heavy duty items such as floor tiles and fence posts.

It is also possible to produce biodegradable plastics from natural substances such as sugar and carbohydrates, rather than oil. Such plastics will decompose within a year on a compost heap. Clearly, careful thought can ensure the problem of disposing of plastic is solved, by using it appropriately.

There are many solutions to the problems of waste, by careful selection of materials for packaging, and by sorting rubbish as it is discarded. The latest enemy of environmentally sound waste disposal are the composite materials which manufacturers seem to love. These are impossible to recycle as they cannot be separated.

Consumer pressure has already been seen to work in removing additives from food. The next target should be the packaging it comes in. We must demand simpler and recyclable packaging.

Tropical Rainforests

Tropical forests, commonly known as Rainforests, are disappearing at an alarming rate. While it is hard to monitor exactly how fast they are being cleared, it is estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy that 20 million hectares are lost every year. That's an area the size of England, Scotland and Wales.

These forests have evolved over millions of years, and at present cover 6% of the Earth's surface. They are also the richest biological systems. More than half of all wild species on earth live in these Rainforests.

The reasons for the deforestation mainly lie with the spread of non-sustainable farming in the developing world, and with extensive and

- ### THE STATISTICS

 - 40% of all tropical forests have disappeared since 1945
 - Every year 20 million hectares of tropical forest are destroyed or irreversibly damaged. That's 100 acres every minute.
 - 5 million hectares per year are consumed by commercial logging. The logging damages the forests so badly that they cannot be renewed, and the trees will not grow properly. Tropical loggers make no attempt to replant felled areas.
 - In an area of 4 square miles of Rainforest there are up to 1,500 species of flowering plant, 750 species of tree, 400 species of butterfly, 125 of mammals, 100 of reptiles, and 50 of amphibians.
 - Over 50 different wild species become extinct every day more than one every half hour!
 - 40 years ago, Ethiopia had forests covering 40% of its land, and a population of 4.5 million. Today trees less than 5%, and the population has risen to 40 million.
 - Globally, over 1 billion people depend on water from tropical Rainforests to irrigate their crops.
 - As a result of deforestation in the Himalayas, India spends over \$1 million annually on river defences to control seasonal flooding.

destructive logging. The countries in which the rainforests are situated, such as Brazil, Zaire and Indonesia, have rapidly growing populations, and they desperately need wood for fuel, and land on which to grow crops.

Where once small groups of indigenous peoples used traditional shifting cultivation methods, there are now huge numbers of landless migrants, moving into the areas. They use 'slash and burn' farming, clearing vast areas of forest to plant crops, because they do not know how to use the forests sustainably for food. In Brazil, the government has embarked on a forced programme of migration into the Rainforests.

The second biggest cause of deforestation is commercial logging. The forests are either clear-felled or selectively logged. Clear-felling is used to produce pulp for the paper industry, and involves the removal of everything, leaving the land bare. Selective logging is used where only certain species are wanted, typically for the timber trade. Whilst only 10 - 15% is removed, selective logging still leaves the forest severely damaged, and usually, 30 - 60% of the trees are destroyed.

The logging is encouraged by the economic situation. Many tropical countries have growing debts, and are forced to use their natural resources to meet the interest repayments. The demand for consumer goods and packaging in the developed world exasperates the situation.

The rapid clearing of Rainforests provides short-term relief for the countries containing them. However, the long term effects can be disastrous. As most of the nutrients are contained in the dense vegetation,

clearing the Rainforests leaves the soil barren. Crops can only be grown for a few years before the land is exhausted. This is in direct contrast to the experience in non-tropical regions, where land cleared of forest leaves fertile soil.

Water supplies are seriously threatened by deforestation. The tropical Rainforests receive half the world's rainfall, and soak up the water, slowly releasing it to the surrounding areas during the dry seasons. Clearing the forests removes this storehouse, and causes alternate flooding and drought.

Soil erosion is another consequence. The intense rainstorms can remove 70 tonnes of soil per acre in just half an hour. Where once the soil was protected from this onslaught by the vegetation, if it is left bare, it is simply washed away. Rivers silt up down-stream and cause more flooding in the coastal regions.

Perhaps the most serious result is the effect on the global weather. The loss of Rainforests results in a general decrease of rainfall in the countries involved. Worse still, the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere leads to the 'greenhouse effect', which it is estimated will raise temperatures by two to three degrees over the next fifty years. This is sufficient to melt the polar caps, flooding the coastal regions where a third of the world's population live, and making the equatorial regions uninhabitable.

No-one is really sure of the long-term effects of the loss of the Rainforests are. At the current rate there will be very little left by the next century. The predicted consequences range from the mildly disastrous to the total loss of all life on Earth.

Books and Science

Science is too important to be left to the scientists. We have, for too long, done our best to keep our knowledge to ourselves. The excuse is that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'. We have been content to let the public remain completely ignorant of our subjects, assuming that our work is unaffected by their ignorance.

We can no longer afford the luxury of our ivory towers: we have to come down to earth and tell people what we have been doing with their money. Science needs a constant supply of new scientists to keep it going, and in some subjects the supply is drying up because no one has bothered to tell anyone outside the profession how interesting it really is.

Ignorance breeds suspicion. For example, the public's monumental ignorance of chemistry has created the belief that any food containing 'chemicals' is poisoned in a reckless attempt to increase chemical industry profits. We only have ourselves to blame when this happens. Our lack of interest in the day-to-day relevance of our science to the man in the street inevitably leads to such anti-science attitudes.

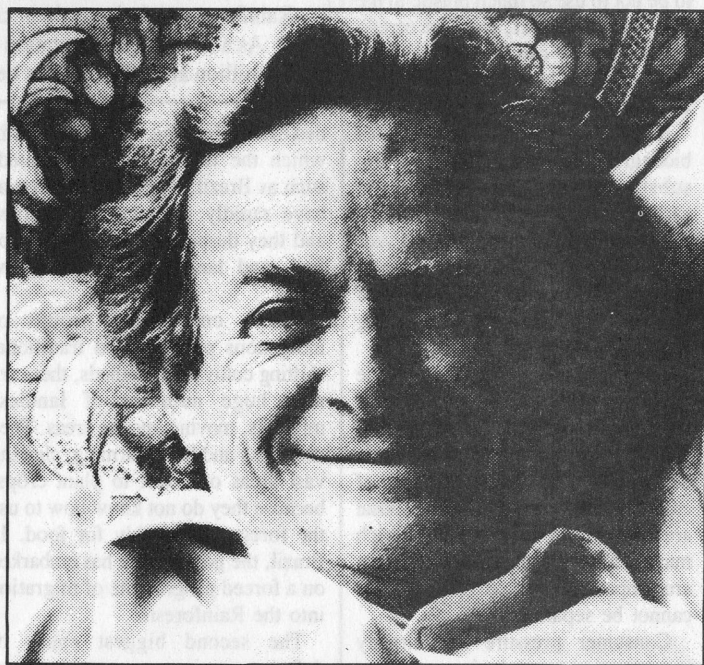
This week's column is a brief review of some of the books that have tried to fill that yawning chasm in public understanding.

My first choice is *Molecules* (Scientific American Library, 1987). This is a book about chemistry for people who don't know any chemistry. The author, Peter Atkins, is well known for his textbooks on Physical Chemistry and Quantum Mechanics. But, instead of starting his book with an explanation of chemical bonding or reactivity (which is highly offputting), he concentrates simply on the structure of molecules. He describes the structures with the aid of colourful 'portraits' built from touching spheres representing the individual atoms. He is careful enough not to assume that the readership will understand the sort of shorthand notation usually used by chemists to describe molecular structure, so he gives a very gentle introduction to the interpretation of the pictures.

It is truly amazing how much chemistry can be appreciated just

UNDER MICRO THE SCOPE

by Steve Black



Physics lost one of its greatest writers last week, when Richard Feynman died of cancer. He had a Nobel Prize but he could still explain complicated physics to ordinary people. For example: 'The neutrino is almost, but not quite, totally useless; take your son-in-law as a model...'. He may have been a smartass, but that made his books (he wrote good textbooks and good popular books), a delight to read. He also played the bongos, as readers of his textbooks will know. He made physics a more popular and more humane subject.

from these structural portraits. Even experienced chemists can gain new insights into common everyday chemistry by glancing at the pictures.

The book is a guided tour through the chemical makeup of the everyday world. Atkins starts with the air we breathe (and stops to mention some of its common pollutants). Then he shows us the structures of the things that we use as fuels for our cars and our bodies (the structure of petrol is not so far removed from the structure of margarine). He talks about the molecules that go into plastics, and the molecules that make our food taste the way it does. There is a section on

the chemicals that make nature colourful, and finally a selection of good and bad chemicals (everything from aspirin to TNT).

This book demystifies chemistry: it shows that the molecules made by chemists are the same as the molecules used by nature. It deals in generalities and leaves many questions for inquiring minds. The style alone (never mind the quality of the diagrams), literate, humorous and exciting. It is probably the first ever book to make the mysteries of chemistry as accessible as the overhyped mysteries of cosmology and particle physics.

In short, it is one of the best introductory science books I have ever read (and the first one ever written by a chemist). Chemistry would be in less trouble than it is now in if there were more books like it.

Another classic of unpretentious explanation is: *The New Science of Strong Materials: or Why You Don't Fall Through the Floor*, by J E Gordon (Penguin, 1977). The title gives away the style of the book: it is the sort of book that asks and answers obvious everyday questions without bothering to obfuscate the answers with technical gobbledygook. Its answers are, however, sound enough for it to be an Open University set book.

The book is about the mysterious interface between chemistry, physics and engineering called material science. The important questions are why are some things weak and others strong? Why is everything weaker than it ought to be?

The book neatly explains the difference between stiffness and toughness (something that we had a lot of trouble with at school). It also goes into the details of what microscopic properties make compounds behave as they do. Steel is tough and strong, concrete is sometimes strong, but is brittle and sometimes weak. Wood is tough, but relatively soft. If you want to know why, but you don't want to be buried by technical jargon, then this is the book for you.

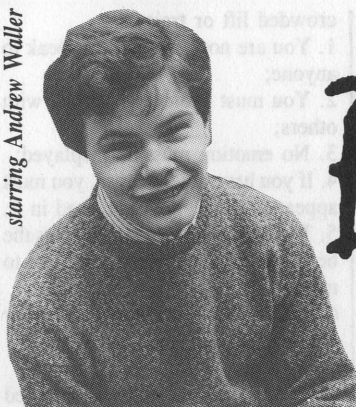
My final recommendation is Richard Dawkins' recent book *The Blind Watchmaker* (Longman, 1987). Dawkins already had a reputation for controversy and clarity of exposition because of his earlier book, *The Selfish Gene*. This book again demonstrates his ability to describe obscure facets of the process of evolution in a way that anyone (except a diehard creationist) can appreciate.

For example, he uses pictorial computer models to demonstrate that unexpected new forms can arise through the process of natural selection. His illustrations go a long way towards breaking down the intuitive barrier that prevents most people from appreciating how evolution works.

He is a skilled and careful writer, capable not only of producing grammatical English sentences (rare enough in the world of science) but of producing the sort of clear explanation that is a joy to read.

These are three of my favourite writers. There are only a few more in their league. We need more, or science might not have much of a future.

starring Andrew Waller



Body Language

More human communication takes place by the use of gestures, postures, position and distances than by any other method. Non-verbal communication is a complex process involving people, words, tone of voice and body movements. This special FELIX feature examines each component of body language and gesture, though few gestures are made in isolation from others.

People have been communicating with their bodies for thousands of years, but it was only in the sixties that scientists started to study this non-verbal communication in any great detail. The most influential technical work before this period was Charles Darwin's *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* published in 1872, where Darwin detailed studies of facial expressions and body language.

It was this communication skill which made silent movie actors, such as Charlie Chaplin, great. Each actor was classed as good or bad by the extent to which he could use gestures and other body signals to communicate effectively. When talking films took over, many silent movie actors faded into obscurity as non-verbal were superceded by verbal skills.

Albert Mehrabin has carried out extensive research into body language. He has found that the total input of a message is about 7% verbal, 38% vocal (tone of voice, inflection, etc.) and 55% non-verbal. Other researchers have estimated that the average person actually speaks words for a total of about ten or eleven minutes a day and that the average sentence takes only 2.5 seconds.

Most researchers generally agree that the verbal channel is used primarily for conveying information, while the non-verbal channel is used for 'negotiating interpersonal attitudes'. Despite this, humans are rarely aware of their postures, movements and gestures and the messages they convey.

Intuition

Technically, 'intuition' is a person's ability to read another's non-verbal cues. For instance, it is easy to tell when somebody is lying because their verbal and body languages do not agree. Another example is that of an Imperial College lecturer and his students. If the students are sitting back in their seats with chins down

and arms crossed on their chests, a perceptive lecturer would get a feeling that his delivery was not getting across. Hopefully, he would become aware that he needed to take a different approach to gain audience involvement. A non-perceptive lecturer would carry on regardless. (Recent student research has shown that only 5% of IC lecturers are perceptive.)

Women are generally more perceptive than men—the so-called 'female intuition'. They have an accurate eye for detail and can decipher non-verbal signals better than their male counterparts. This is why it is so easy for a woman to tell when her husband is lying or to pull the wool over his eyes.

Genetics or cultural?

Most of the scientific research that has been done into body language has concentrated on whether gestures are determined by our genetics or our cultural upbringing. The German scientist Eibl-Eibesfeldt found that smiling expressions of children born deaf and blind occur independently of learning or copying, which means that these must be inborn gestures. Ekman, Friesen and Sorenson supported some of Darwin's original beliefs about inborn gestures when they studied the facial expressions of people from five very different cultures. They found that each culture used the same basic facial gestures to show emotion, which led them to the conclusion that these gestures must be inborn.

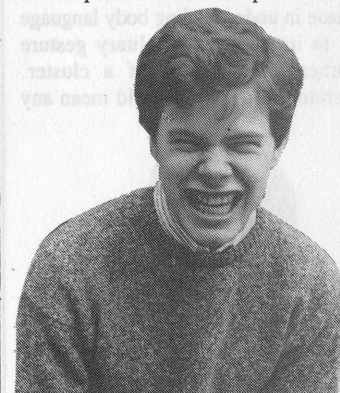
There is still a great debate as to whether some gestures are culturally learned or become habitual, or are genetic. Most research indicates, however, that much of our basic non-verbal behavior is learned and the meaning of many movements and gestures is culturally determined.

Origins

Most of the basic gestures occur all over the world. Most nations smile when they are happy and cry when

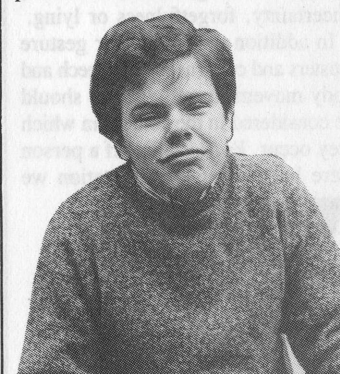
they are sad. Nodding the head means 'yes' and a shake means 'no'. Scientists believe that these gestures are inborn as they are also used by blind people. When a baby has enough milk it will turn its head away, seemingly shaking its head to reject its mother's breast.

Baring the teeth can be traced back to our primitive animal past. It is



derived from the act of attack and is used today to indicate anger or sneering.

The shoulder shrug is also a universal gesture showing that a person does not know or understands.



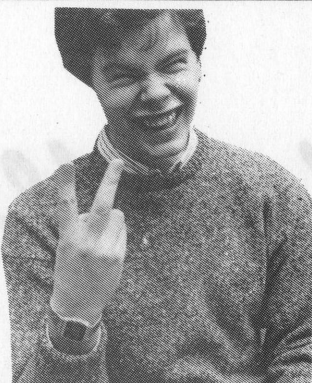
It is a multiple gesture with three main parts, exposed palms, hunched shoulders and raised brow.

Misinterpretations

Some gestures mean different things in different countries. The 'V sign', so popular in this country, carries an



Features



'up yours' interpretation. In most parts of Europe, however, this palm facing in version means 'victory'. This signal also means the number two. The insulted Spaniard serving behind a bar could respond by giving the Brit two pints of beer!

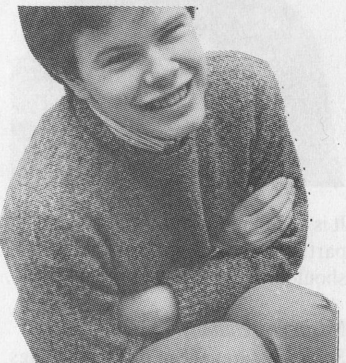
There are many other simpler gestures which can be misinterpreted and can cause embarrassing results. All the gestures I have pointed out are given the British interpretation.

One of the mistakes that can be made in understanding body language is to interpret as a solitary gesture rather than as part of a cluster. Scratching the head could mean any



number of things: fleas, dandruff, uncertainty, forgetfulness or lying.

In addition to looking for gesture clusters and congruence of speech and body movement, all gestures should be considered in the context in which they occur. For instance, if a person were huddled at a train station we



could rightly assume that they were cold. If they struck the same position in a warm house then we could

interpret this as a defensive position.

Faking

It's no use trying to fake your body language because you will also, subconsciously, give out microsignals that you are a faker. The pupils may contract, one eyebrow may lift or some part of the body may twitch. The result is that the receiver tends not to believe you.

The human mind knows when it is receiving incongruent non-verbal messages. However, some people have got faking off to an art. Politicians are very good examples. They are very good at using body language to persuade people to vote for them. Successful 'political fakers' are said to have 'charisma'. Beware of charismatic sabbatical candidates!

The problem with lying is that the subconscious mind acts automatically and independently of our verbal lie. People who rarely tell lies are easily caught because during a lie our body gives out nervous energy that shows up in our gestures. This is the principal on which American lie detectors work. Some people whose jobs involve lying, such as actors, politicians, lawyers and sabbaticals have usually refined their gestures to the point where it is difficult to detect the lie.

Research using slow motion cameras shows that most microgestures occur within a split second. It is only people such as professional interviewers who can consciously see them during a conversation.

The best way to lie is over the telephone!

Zones

Man, like animals, has territories. Every country is a territory. People also kill to protect their own territory.

Each person has his own personal

zone which includes the area around his possessions, such as his home, his car and his airspace around his body. (FELIX Editors have their office!)

Most animals have their own personal space. How far it extends depends on how crowded the area is. Man's space depends on the density of the population in the place where he grew up. This personal space is, therefore, culturally determined.

1. Intimate Space (15-46cm) Only those who are emotionally close to that person are permitted to enter it. Between 0 and 15cm is the close intimate space.

2. Personal Space (46-120cm) This is the distance that we stand from others at parties and social gatherings.

3. Social Space (120-360cm) This is the distance for strangers.

4. Public Space This is the comfortable distance when we are addressing a group.

If a person enters our intimate zone, the heart pumps faster, adrenalin pours into the bloodstream and blood is pumped to the brain in preparation for an attack.

The distance that two people who are kissing keep their hips apart can tell you about the relationship between them. If their pelvises are within 15cm then they are lovers or enjoy a close physical relationship. If the hips are more than 15cm apart then they no longer enjoy a physical relationship or never had one in the beginning!

Crowding

There are certain unwritten rules which British people follow when their intimate space is invaded because of crowding, such as in a

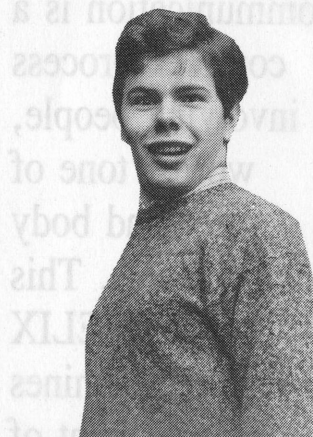
crowded lift or train:

1. You are not permitted to speak to anyone;
2. You must avoid eye contact with others;
3. No emotion must be displayed;
4. If you have a newspaper, you must appear to be deeply engrossed in it;
5. The bigger the crowd, the less the body movement you are permitted to make;
6. In lifts, you must watch the floor numbers as they pass by.

As soon as we enter a crowded place, the crowd become 'non-persons'. They do not exist and we, therefore, do not respond to them.

When a person claims an area among strangers, such as a seat in a cinema, he usually looks for the widest space available between two others and claims the area in the centre. The purpose of this is not to offend the other people by being too close to them.

An exception to this rule is the spacing that occurs in public toilet cubicles. Research shows that people choose the end toilets about 90% of the time, and, if they are occupied, the midway principle is used.



Personal Zones



INTIMATE SPACE

0-15

PERSONAL SPACE

0-46

SOCIAL SPACE

1-20

PUBLIC SPACE

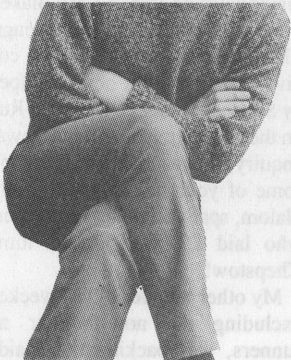
3-60

metres

Body Specifics

Crossed Arms and Legs

This gesture is a signal that a negative or defensive attitude exists, crossing the arms on the chest was originally



intended to defend the heart and breasts. Crossing the legs is an attempt to shield the genitals.

Leg Clamping

A person who adopts a Figure 4 position with the right leg resting on the left knee with the hands clamped



on the right shin is showing that he is a tough-minded, stubborn individual.

Palms

The open palm has been associated with truth, honesty and submission. Oaths are taken with palm on the heart or held visibly in the air as in a court of law. One way of discovering



whether someone is being honest is to look for palm displays.

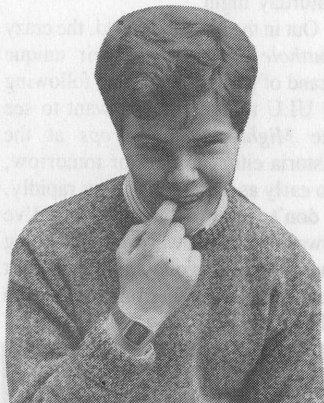
Eye Rubbing

This gesture is the brain's attempt to block out the deceit, doubt or lie that it sees, or to avoid having to look at

the face of the person to whom he is telling the lie.

Fingers in the Mouth

This occurs usually when the person is under pressure. It is an unconscious attempt to revert to the security of the

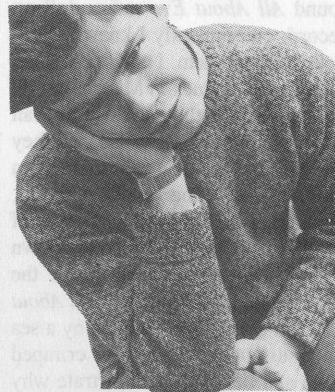


child sucking on his mother's breast. This gesture is an outward manifestation of an inner need for reassurance.

Cheek and Chin

A good personal tutor knows when his students are interested in the tutorial. When the student begins to use his hand to support his head, it is a signal that boredom has set in. The degree of boredom is related to the extent to which his arm and hand are supporting. The ultimate boredom signal is when the head is on the table and the person is snoring!

Evaluation is shown by a closed hand resting on the cheek, often with



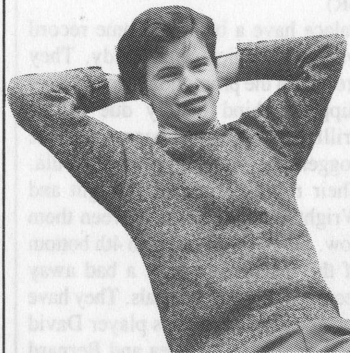
the index finger pointing upwards. Should the person begin to lose interest but wish to appear interested, the position will alter slightly so that the heel of the palm supports the head. Genuine interest is shown when the hand is on the cheek, not used as a head support.

The chin-stroking gesture is the signal that the listener is making a decision.

Hands Behind Head

This gesture is used by a 'know it all' individual and many people find it irritating when someone does it to

them. It is typical of professional people or people who are feeling confident or dominant.



Hands on Hips

This indicates an aggressive attitude. Humans use this gesture to make themselves appear bigger. Males will use it as a non-verbal challenge to other males who enter their territory.

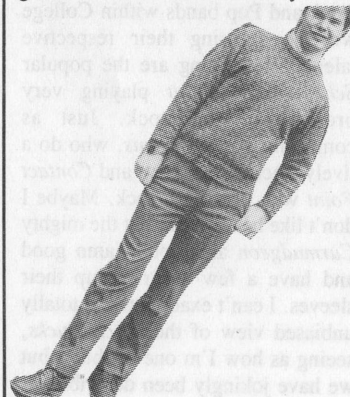


It can also be interpreted as a 'ready-for-action' gesture.

The aggressive-readiness poses are used by professional models to give the impression that their clothing is for the modern, forward-thinking woman.

Sexual Aggressiveness

Thumbs tucked into the tops of the pockets is an act of sexual aggressiveness. The hands highlight the genital region. Men use this gesture to stake their territory or in



the presence of females to say 'I'm virile and I can dominate you'.

This gesture, combined with

expanded pupils and one foot pointing towards a female, can be easily decoded by most women. Women who prefer wearing trousers are usually those who are sexually aggressive and like to make decisions. Hence the old saying: 'the one who wears the trousers' in a household.

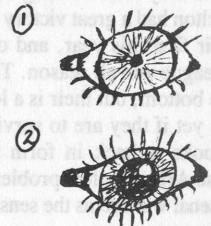
Playing with Purple Fluff

This usually indicates an insecurity or an intent to stop biting the nails. Most people find this habit intensely irritating.

Eyes

Eye contact is probably the most important sort of non-verbal communication because eyes are a focal point of the body and the pupils work independently.

The pupils will dilate or contract as the person's attitude and mood change from positive to negative and vice



versa. When someone becomes excited, his pupils can dilate up to four times their normal size. An angry mood can cause the pupils to contract.

Young lovers will look into each other's eyes, unknowingly looking for dilation. Pornographic images cause pupils to dilate by three times their normal amount.

Tests conducted recently showed that expert card players played less well if their opponents wore dark glasses. Scientists put this down to the fact that the opponent's eyes would dilate if they had a good hand so the expert would know that he shouldn't bet on the hand.

Territorial Gestures

People lean against other people or objects to show a territorial claim. Leaning can also be used as a method of dominance or intimidation when the object being leaned on belongs to someone else.

Conclusion

People form 90% of their opinion about you in the first 90 seconds of meeting you, and you never get a second chance to make a first impression! So, you better get practising your gestures now, before you turn too many people off!

NEXT WEEK: Courtship gestures— or how to pull the birds.

Previews

FOOTBALL

We return once more unto the league trail with a couple of London derbys to offer the discerning neutral, but with little else in what looks like a barren Saturday. My predictions were mostly up the spout last week, mainly in the lower divisions, though. All matches are on Saturday 27 February at 3.00pm.

Arsenal Vs Charlton

(Highbury—Arsenal tube)

A London derby to kick off which throws together two contrasting teams with 21 points separating them. Arsenal came through a tricky FA Cup tie last week against Man Utd, due to the fact that Mr McClair though he was taking a Rugby penalty. Paul Davis is due back for Arsenal and they look a strong outfit now. Charlton had a great victory last week, their first this year, and only their 5th league win all season. They are off the bottom, but their is a long way to go yet if they are to survive. Garth Crooks is back in form and could cause Arsenal a few problems, but an Arsenal win seems the sensible result to expect.

QPR Vs Wimbledon

(Loftus Rd—White City Tube)

Yet another game between two near neighbours (a pity Charlene won't be in it!) in London. Rangers drew in the Cup last week (replay two days ago) and still in the top six of the division with a strong home record to boast. The Dons are seventh and after a tremendous victory last week, helped by Vinny 'Grab Your Nuts' Jones, over Newcastle in the Cup, they must be confident of a good result here. Wimbledon were my tip for the cup at the beginning of the season, and have not let me down at all. (A pity I didn't put my money where my mouth was). Predicting a result is not so easy here, so I will plump for a hard fought draw.

Leyton Orient Vs Wrexham

(Brisbane Rd—Leyton Tube)

Orient had a boosting 4-1 win against fellow promotion chasers Cardiff last week, after being 1-0 down as well. They are right back in the hunt and Frank Clark must be a little happier now. Wrexham sit at the wrong end of the league table and their away record seems to explain why, with only 10 goals to show from 15 outings. The O's should come out on top with a comfortable win.

Game of the Day:

QPR Vs Wimbledon

Crystal Palace Vs Shrewsbury

(Selhurst Park—Norwood Junction BR)

Palace have a brilliant home record with twelve victories already. They are still in the promotion race but have slipped behind mainly due to the brilliance of Blackburn and the dogger determination of Aston Villa. Their rhyming strikers Bright and Wright have 40 goals between them now. Shrewsbury languish 4th bottom of the league and have a bad away record with a lack of goals. They have former Villa and Blues player David Geddis still in the area and Bernard McNally to bang home the ball from the spot. If Palace play to their potential they should win quite easily, if they play badly I still can't see Shrewsbury getting even a point.

Fulham Vs Blackpool

(Craven Cottage—Putney Bridge Tube)

Fulham splashed egg on my face last week by beating Walsall 2-0 with Leroy Rosenior netting one for a change. Their crowd was dismal, surely well below a break-even level. It lifted them up the league to a deceptively comfortable mid-table position. Blackpool were unlucky not to reach the 5th round of the cup, a last minute Man City goal robbing them.

They are one point and one position below Fulham (3 games in hand). They have ex-Sunderland and Stoke man Barry Siddall inbetween the sticks and ex-Throstle Craig Madden up front. A draw is the most likely between two indifferent sides.

My Littlewoods Cup Final prediction:

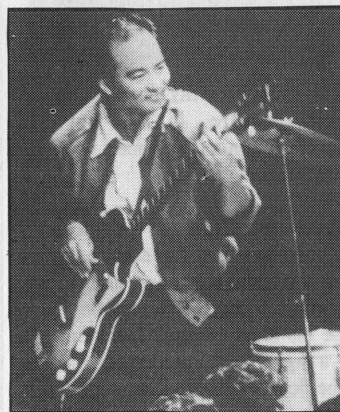
Arsenal Vs Oxford

MUSIC

First on the agenda this week is the musical extravaganza which is the Jazz and Rock Club Hop. All the Rock and Pop bands within College will be showing their respective talents. Headlining are the popular *Schrodinger's Cat* playing very professional folk-rock. Just as competent are *The Gents*, who do a lively Rock 'n' Roll set, and *Contact Point* who play hard rock. Maybe I don't like heavy rock, but the mighty *Curmudgeon* are pretty damn good and have a few surprises up their sleeves. I can't exactly give a totally unbiased view of the *Mock Ducks*, seeing as how I'm one of them, but we have jokingly been described as "the best thing since *Sigue Sigue Sputnik*" (thanks Tom). Oh well, it's all a bit of fun.

If by now you are thinking "Oh no, another I.C. Rock Night", well think again. The lovable *Chance* bring you lively pop and HiNRG, and probably a fashion show as well! All this and more in the Lower Union Lounge on Saturday night.

Out in the big wide world, the crazy *Butthole Surfers* play their unique brand of garage to a strong following at ULU tonight. If you want to see the *Mighty Lemon Drops* at the Astoria either tonight or tomorrow, go early as they will sell out rapidly. I don't know about you, but I've always found it a waste of time seeing them live and I got nothing I couldn't get from listening from the Album 'Tonight'.



Gig Review

All About Eve at Manchester International 2

Apologies for missing *The Wedding Present*—they'd sold out. I've always found *All About Eve* rather dull on record, consequently I knew next to nothing about them. I only went along because I was stuck in Manchester on my own with nothing to do until I ran into a couple of Goths who said they were going, would I join them? I'm glad I did. The support band, *Something Else* played a mixture of *Doors* and *Kinks* covers and their own material which sounded much the same; good but forgettable. *All About Eve* came on, all but hidden by a sea of hands outstretched above crimped hair, and began to demonstrate why they are the focus of such devotion. They played brilliantly, giving a superb rendition of the album bearing the groups name, plus a few surprises—'Paradise' being the most memorable. The singer's vocal excellence makes her a serious rival to *Kate Bush*. This band do not fit into any major musical category, but are probably nearest to Pop-Goth. But who cares? The worshipping fans showed their deafening appreciation which should elevate them to the dizzy heights reached by *The Cure*. See them next week at the Astoria!

Phil

RACING

All you eagle-eyed punters who spotted the misprint—my fault, not FELIX—in last week's racing selections probably wished you'd have kept your eyes shut.

I picked Slalom to win the 1.30 at Chepstow but put down Friday instead of Saturday. As it happened, when Michael Robinson's horse did run the next day, he came a disappointing third to Sir Blake by some three and three-quarter lengths. There was no way that Slalom could give any more after being hampered by Sir Blake and second-placed Rustle on the home straight. After a stewards enquiry, the result stood. If you blew some of your hard earned grant on Slalom, spare a thought for the punter who laid £5000-£5500 on him at Chepstow!

My other blunder of last weekend, excluding the now-familiar non-runners, was backing the Maid of Money tip win at Navan on Saturday. She just missed out when beaten by a length and a half from Galmoy. Punters who took her each way at 6-1 deserve a pat on the back.

Playschool could well enter the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 17th at evens, 6-4 at the most. Ante-post backers might be as well to take 4-1 being offered by all the High Street bookies. This is looking more attractive day by day with Burrough Hill Lad and Cavvies Clown still looking doubtful. In the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle on the same day, Young Snugfit is still looking a good each way prospect at 25-1. The price can only go down. My advice is to move quick on that one.

A spy of mine with contacts at David Elsworth's stable informs me of a cert running at Cheltenham in March. I'm so confident on him that I'll be risking a pony each way on the nag in question—but fear not! FELIX readers will not go uninformed. Watch this space nearer the Festival for details.

Check out the news page for this week's selections.



MUSIC

Rain Parade and Carnival Day

While the likes of *Debbie Gibson* and *Tiffany* dominate the charts, hundreds of decent and genuinely talented bands and artists go unnoticed...

This week I received what can only be described as a totally brilliant demo tape by a Salfordian duo called *Cleveland*.

Two beautifully crafted tunes which pluck tenderly and the heart strings. Comparisons? Well they don't sound dissimilar to *McCartney*, *Miracle Legion*, *R.E.M.* with a bit Manchester's finest—*The Smiths* thrown in for good measure.

For the measly sum of a quid, (and a S.A.E.), you can't afford to ignore these boys. They need your support!

Available from: John Kilby, 6 Tomlinson House, Islington Estate, Salford, M3 5HY.

Brad Blundell



West Coast, which probably accounts for their strange taste in clothing.

Their first single to be released in this country is on EMI and entitled *Fight Like A Brave*. It is a lively little number that has a persistent and somewhat annoying bassline. The bass tries too hard to be like that on a Level 42 track and fails dismally. The introduction is my favourite part of the song and makes it seem quite promising to begin with but it has a tedious instrumental break half way through and never recovers.

As far as vocals go, they are a mish mash of New York style rapping a la Beastie Boys and West Coast rock. An interesting combination, which means that the song has no hook and is likely never to see the Top 40. The lyrics are dead clever: *Fight like a brave, don't be a slave* and *If you're sick and tired of being sick and tired*. It obviously took them a long time to think of that one.

I'm sure the boys look very fetching in their socks but the vinyl doesn't grab me, man. This record doesn't do very much for me, but I think that if they can sort out where they're coming from they could make some good music in the future.

Watch out for them on TOTP!
V.A.N.

WANTED: more record, film, stage and gig reviews. Pop into the FELIX Office at 12.45pm today if you're interested.

Letter from St Mary's

Last week saw what was arguably the most cultural event at St. Mary's for a long time, certainly since I have had the pleasure to reside here. Our Dramatic Society staged a production of Will Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (or *What You Will*).

It is extremely difficult to carry off such an ambitious project at the Medical School with the style required. The emphasis in recreation here is fun with a capital 'F', hence the temperance of artistic drive and realism developing to the ideal choice of *Twelfth Night*.

First performed in the Middle Temple on 2nd February 1602 - Candlemas Day, the play was designed to be part of the winter feasting, extending from St. Andrew's Day to Shrovetide. The play is a comedy, but carries a serious social message, and is full of contemporary comment.

It seems a shame to individualise such a production, but certain names must be mentioned. Jane Jones as Viola was superb. Her sense of timing, the delivery of lines, the creation of the correct atmosphere and general stage presence were exemplary. The drunken duo of Sir Toby and Sir Andrew exploited fully the potential of the situation, carefully resisting the temptation to produce a complete farce. For this, praise must be directed to Simon Edwards and James Froner respectively.

Anna Parns played the fool exquisitely mixing the comedy of the part with the underlying serious message often ignored in this play. Richard Thomas as Orsino, David Lavalette as Sebastian and David Ketchin as Antonio all gave credible performances.

Malvolio, the pompous puritan, servant of Olivia who has grievous wrong done to him by Fabian, Maria, Sir Toby and Sir Andrew gave Julian Cooper the part to exercise and stretch his talent to fill the demanding role. He lived up to expectations delivering a stimulating performance.

The actors were well dressed in primary colours, and the staging in the form of an enchanted garden with a hexagonal seat around a tree as the centre piece provided a visually interesting set, without overpowering the acting. The lighting was simple and functional, in keeping with the production ethos.

In conclusion, Barns Morrice (the director) and Kat Cooper (the producer) have managed to give the Medical School a cultural injection of which we can all be proud, being as good a production ever to be seen by an amateur group, certainly the best thing done here for a long while.

On a totally different topic, just to inform you that St. Mary's mens hockey team beat IC 1sts in the quarter finals of the ULU cup three weeks ago, by a significant margin.

Red Hot Chilli Peppers

The Red Hot Chilli Peppers have received a tremendous amount of press recently due to their unusual stage costumes: the entire group play their set wearing one white sock each, and nothing more. (No, they don't wear them on their feet!). The gimmick certainly worked because it's got such mags as *ID* and *The Face* interested in them and curious females turning up to their UK gigs. They recently played the Clarendon in Hammersmith to packed houses. The band actually hail from America's

UNION

Manchester invaded by SLAGS—official!

On Saturday a momentous event occurred which was unfortunately ignored by the press, (apart from an inch in the Observer and a photo of a man dressed as Maggie Thatcher in the News of the World). What was this event you ask? It was the 'Stop Clause 28' rally in Manchester, of course! 20,500 (Twenty thousand and five hundred!) Gay and Lesbian people marched through Manchester streets, past the open-mouthed Sharons and Barrys, ending up in Albert Square, outside Manchester Town Hall.

This was the biggest demonstration in Manchester for TWENTY YEARS, and the biggest gathering of

Gay and Lesbians ever!! Celebrities such as Ian McKellan, Michael Cashman (EastEnders "Colin") Jimmy Sommerville, Linda Bellos (Lambeth Council Leader) etc, etc, etc, all turned up to march and speak.

I think the highlight of the day was getting on the 8.20am train from London Euston, and it was PACKED with Gay people. Then a family got on, and standing amongst 20 screaming queens, the woman asked her husband "Do you think it's so full because of the football match?"!!!! Everyone cracked up, but no-one had the heart to tell her why it was full!!

Many thanks to all the heterosexuals who turned up for the march (obviously not everyone is a neo-fascist in this country).

Lots of Love,
James Papa

PS. I have been in bed with flu all week. Sorry if anyone has been trying to contact me.

Diary

What's On

FRIDAY

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

ConSoc 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.

Anti Apartheid Meeting12.45pm.
Green Committee Room.

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

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

Secrecy in Whitehall.....1.15pm.
Talk by Chapman Pincher, author of 'Their Trade is Treachery' etc. Humanities Lunchtime Programme.

Christian Union Meeting6.00pm.
in OHC 308, 'New Life, New Lifestyle'. See noticeboard in Union Building for directions.

17 Years of Supertramp7.00pm.
IC Radio, 99.9kHz.

Into the Night7.00pm.



STOIC. Films, videos, chat, 'Countdown'. On all the televisions in the Halls of Residence.

SATURDAY

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

Tang Soodo4.00pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome. £1 members.

Pyjama Party.....8.00pm.
JCR. Bar 'til 1.00am, Roadshow Discos with DJ's. All profit to Rag. £2.00

SUNDAY

Guilds Motor ClubAll Day.
The Annual Autotest, handbrake turns, reverse flicks and all that. See our noticeboard for details.

Wargames Meeting1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

MONDAY

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

Curry Soc.....12.30pm.
Weekly meeting. Southside Upper Lounge.

Parachute Club Meeting.....12.30pm.
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 forth-coming events, eat biscuits and drink coffee. Free to members (membership £1.50).

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

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

Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm.



JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

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

Beginners Ballroom8.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

Tang Soodo9.00pm.
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.00 members.

TUESDAY

May Ball TicketsAll Day.
On sale in Guilds Office. £42 a double. Includes coach to Carnarvan Hotel, Ealing, magician, disco etc. Only 70 available?

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

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

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.

For Your Information.....12.45pm.
STOIC's event guide.

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.

Amnesty Meeting1.30pm.
Elec Eng Foyer, replaces old meeting time and venue.

Jewish Society Meeting1.30pm.
Speaker "Religions beyond the fringe of Judaism" in the Union SCR.

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

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

Biology Society Talk5.45pm.
W2/W3 Beit Quad, "Photosynthesis is for Fuel and Chemicals", Prof D.O. Hall (Kings College)

Bulgarian Wine Tasting6.00pm.
Fantastic Wines at an unbelievably low price. £1.50

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.

Eat Fatso's Bare7.00pm.
Meet Southside, and eat Fatso's out of house and home!

Caving Club Meeting7.00pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

Advanced Ballroom7.00pm.
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club

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

Canoe Club Meeting8.30pm.
Above Southside Bar.

Dai Rocking9.00pm.
IC Radio (99.9kHz). The best in hard rock and not-so-hard rock music including the featured album every week with David Williams.

WEDNESDAY

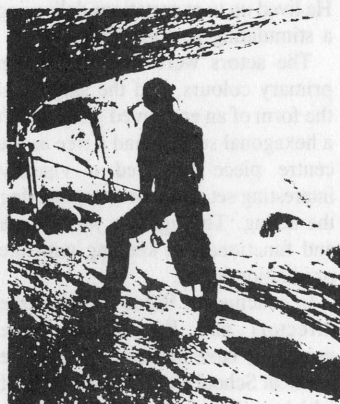
Sailing.....12.30pm.
Meet outside Southside.

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!

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

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

Caving Club Meeting1.00pm.



Union Snack Bar.

Wargames Meeting1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

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

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

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

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

Guilds Motor Club.....7.30pm.
Mech Eng 750, meeting for all drivers and navigators taking part in Friday's rally.

THURSDAY

ICYHA Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

Dry Ski Slope Race12.45pm.
Find out how to get involved in the race on Saturday. Southside Upper Lounge.

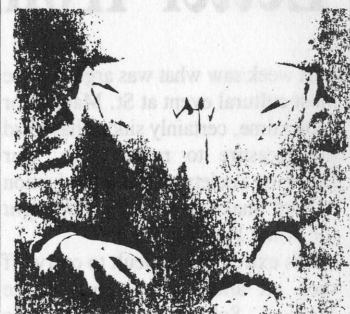
Socialist Society Meeting12.45pm.
Brown Committee Room. All welcome. Contact Adrian Grainger (Maths 3).

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

Letter Writing Stall1.00pm.
JCR, Amnesty International.

Newsbreak1.00pm.
STOIC. IC's own news programme.

SFSOC Library Meeting1.00pm.
Green Committee Room, Union Building. Borrow books from our vast library, help plan future events. Members only.



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

Newsbreak6.00pm.
STOIC.

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

Film Soc7.00pm.
'3 Amigos', a spoof western from the comic team of Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, Martin Short and John Landis. Mech Eng 220. £1.00 non-members, 50p members.

ULU Lesbian Gay Group7.30pm.
ULU Building, Malet Street (Russell Sq. tube). For speakers and booze and if you're feeling adventurous a trip out to nightclub or pub afterwards.

Martyn with a 'y' Special9.00pm.
IC Radio. All your favourite records for two spectacular hours.

ICGAG Soup Run9.15pm.
Weeks Basement Hall. Contact Liz Warren (Chem Eng 2).

JEWISH SOC

On Tuesday March 1st and Tuesday March 8th, a number of students at Imperial will be hungerstriking in solidarity with Soviet refuseniks, waiting to be permitted to leave Russia.

The project, called "Hungry for Freedom", will involve students fasting from sunrise to sunset in solidarity with Alex Poberezchensky. Alex, a 19 year old student, is being asked to join the Russian military (which will cause the Russians to refuse him an exit visa for 20 years after his service as a result of "military agreement"—a violation of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement), or face imprisonment. Alex needs our moral support, and the plight of an innocent fellow student must be known.

The second Tuesday, March 8th was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day—a day on which, in over 50 campuses in Britain, students will be fasting to show strength of feeling for another student refusenik, Galina Pilenstein, in her struggle for freedom.

Many IC students will hopefully make the above dates memorable occasions for Alex, Galina and Imperial College, by joining the fast. If you can't quite manage to do without food for the day, perhaps sponsor a friend to?

Anyone interested in helping during the above, or with the Soviet Jewry Campaign at all, please contact Jonathan Goldstein (Chem 1).

AMNESTY

Parliament is again preparing for another debate and vote on whether to reintroduce the death penalty for murder in the UK. An amendment or amendments are to be put forward at the Third Reading of the Criminal Justice Bill, probably to take place in April.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation and as a matter of principle. The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment. It is a denial of the right to life. There is always the risk that someone who has been wrongfully convicted will be executed. Timothy Evans was hanged in 1949 for the murder of his daughter and was awarded a posthumous pardon in 1966 when the evidence of the principle witness was discredited. A recent study in the USA produced evidence of 349 cases in which innocent people were wrongly convicted of capital offences. Twenty-

three of these were unjustifiably executed. In 1987, during the debate on the re-introduction of the death penalty, Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, spoke against it saying that, as it was irrevocable, "A later finding of innocence would leave a dark stain on our system of justice."

Please write a letter to your MP urging him/her to vote against the re-introduction of the death penalty giving a list of arguments against it. For more information, contact Monique Yeo (Maths 2) or Stephen Curry (int 6729).

OSC—PARTY

If you like dancing to the sounds of the Afro-Caribbean disco, lively Brazilian Carnival Music, exotic food and drinks, are interested in international culture and folk dance, then hold your breath. The night you have been waiting for is coming to IC tomorrow, Saturday 27th Feb, with only £2.50 a ticket (£3.00 after 9pm).

The night will start at 6pm with a Cultural Exhibition including registered societies of IC Union OS Committee. Later on, International Exotic Food Tasting and a show of National Folk Dance Groups will warm you up for the following impressive Afro-Caribbean Disco and Brazilian Carnival. These take place simultaneously in the SCR and MDH. During this time, a Late Bar will be open for drinks until 2 am.

I assure you that it will certainly be the talking point of IC next week. There is no need to tell you that it's a night not to be missed. So, cancel everything, be there and have the most enjoyable night of your life at IC.

Sedat Ozbilen, OSC Publicity Officer

WATERSKI CLUB

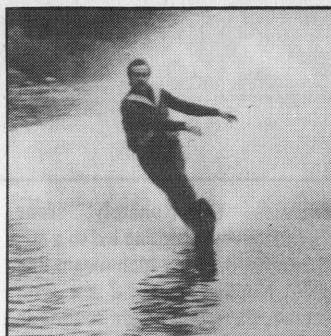
Does the idea of skimming across the water at speeds of up to and in excess of 30mph interest you? Maybe you just like the thought of being dragged along by a 140hp boat! Whichever, the Water-ski Club is for you.

The club is currently inactive, but if enough interest is shown we hope to restart it. At our disposal is a 14-foot Delta Sports hull powered by a 140hp Ford 3-litre V6 engine. This is kept at Burghfield Aqua-sports club near Reading which offers club members good skiing at whatever level of ability. It also provides bar and kitchen facilities.

If you think that water skiing at this time of year is only for masochists

you couldn't be more wrong. Wet and dry suits are available for members' use at a daily charge of 70p, so you need never feel the slightest chill. Apart from a swimming costume (and wet and dry suits) all necessary equipment is provided free of charge.

The membership of £10 for full members or £2 for day members may



sound excessive but the facilities available to the club are only normally available at clubs where membership is in excess of £100. Actually towing time is also much cheaper at about 20p per minute, and even experienced skiers don't normally ski for longer than 15 minutes. So as you can see the costs are minimal for an

afternoon's exhilaration.

Tuition is available to all members free of charge, whatever level of ability you are, so everyone can make rapid progress. If you are at all interested in water skiing whether you're a complete novice or an expert (especially if you have a car!) please contact us through the pigeonholes or meet us above Southside Bar on Mondays at 12.30. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Andrew Lane (Chem Eng 4)

Chris Cox (Mech Eng 1)

FILMSOC

IC Filmsoc presents '3 AMIGOS', starring Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short. Directed by John Landis ('An American Werewolf In London', 'Animal House', 'Trading Places' and 'The Blues Brothers') this is an hilarious send-up of the Western genre and involves the singing horses, the singing bush and the invisible man! Don't miss it!

7.00 pm, Thursday 3rd March, Mech Eng 220, 50p members, £1.00, non-members. Membership available.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

SAT. 27th FEBRUARY '88

SHERFIELD BUILDING, PRINCE CONSORT ROAD, SW7 2BP.

FEATURING

CULTURAL EXHIBITION & SHOW INCLUDING

THE FOLLOWING SOCIETIES:

Afro-Caribbean, C SSA, Cypriot, F. of Palestine, Hellenic, Indian, Korean
Latin-American, Malaysian, Nigerian, Pakistan, Sri Lankan, Turkish

INTERNATIONAL EXOTIC FOOD TASTINGS

NATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUPS

BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL

LATE BAR & AFRO-CARIBBEAN DISCO

Starts: 6pm, Party: 9pm 'till 3am

Tickets: £2.50 (before 9pm), £3.00 (thereafter)



IC FRIENDS OF PALESTINE
present, for the International Week,

THE PALESTINE EXHIBITION

Fri 26 Feb. '88, JCR, 10.30am-6.00pm

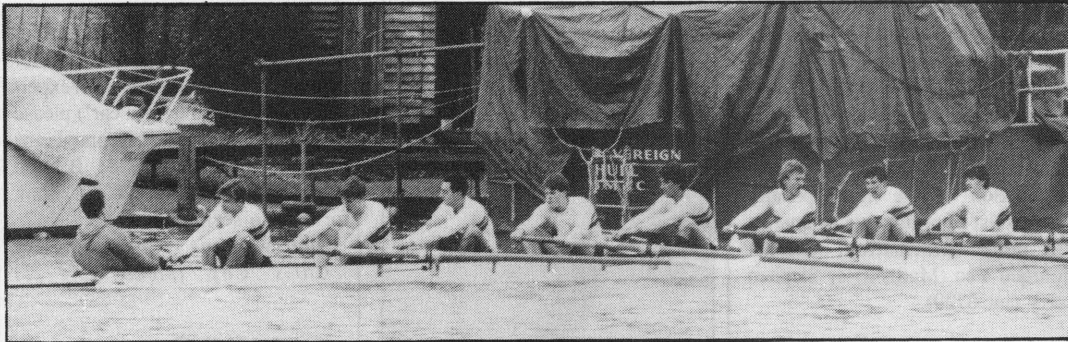
with books, posters, pictures,
caricatures, art prints, cards,
handicrafts, embroideries...

ALL WELCOME, ADMISSION FREE
DON'T MISS IT!



BOAT

Burway and the Blues



The Star Novice Crew

Having missed Henley 4s Head due to flooding of the Thames, Burway Head was the first chance this year for most members of the club (except the 1st eight who were rowing Cambridge) to find out how good their winter's training had been. The Four's division was held first with four Imperial crews racing. The second eight having split into two coxless fours impressed both with their rowing and their new lycra skin tight rowing suits winning both Elite coxless (fastest four overall) and Senior II coxless (3rd fastest overall). The Senior III coxed four also rowed well to win their class comfortably. The stars were however, the novices, who following 5 months rowing under the coaching of J Pop O'Brien won their division by the margin of 1 min and 32 seconds (pretty good over a 12 min race). All in all four wins out of four was not too bad.

In the eights division, Imperial had entries in the Senior 1 and Novice

categories. Unfortunately, some rather inconsistent timing led to a few odd results, one of which meant that the IC Novice eight did not win, however, the second eight rowing in the Senior 1 category won their division quite comfortably.

Once again the Club found its resources overstretched and the ladies' boat could not be transported to Burway. It was regrettable that the ladies crew did not find any of the substitute boats suitable, so they did not row.

IC 1st Eight V Cambridge

Last weekend saw the IC 1st Eight race the Cambridge 'Blue' boat in a private competition at Ely, just outside Cambridge. The Cambridge Eight stroked by ex-ICBC member Guy Pooley, is probably one of the best crews to challenge Oxford for a number of years with an average weight of 14 stone compared to Imperials 12½ stones.

The crews were to race over two fifteen minute pieces on Saturday followed by three five minute pieces

on Sunday. As expected, in the first piece Cambridge took a ½ length lead in the first minute but after eleven minutes, had only managed to gain a 1 length advantage and finished the piece only some 2 lengths clear. In the second piece, Cambridge started with a slight lead and Imperial again fought a hard race only losing by about 5 lengths.

Sunday's five minute rows provided some very good racing between the crews with attempts by both coxes to gain the advantage round bends. Both crews pushed continuously through the pieces, IC at times rating 40 strokes per minute. The final five minute race proved the most exciting with Cambridge getting a slight lead off the start and Imperial then fighting back all through the piece to end only some ½ a length down. In all, the weekend proved very successful in giving some strong competition to both crews and hopefully the race experience gained will prove valuable in the weeks to come.

Two halves

Imperial College—2
London Hospitals—2

The severe weather conditions dominated the game. London Hospitals won the toss and elected to kick against the ferocious wind. IC dominated the first half knowing that they would have to take advantage of the wind.

IC scored the first goal mid-way through the first half from a good build up. The ball was passed from the halfway line to N Collier who was waiting on the edge of the box, he volleyed it to the other side of the box to Alan Glass who laid it in the path of Paul Oden who scored.

The second goal came from a bad back pass from a LH's defender allowing Phil Ewart to score. At half-time the score stood at 2-0 and IC must have wondered whether they had capitalised enough in the first half.

Although LH were not a very strong side IC were finding it hard to clear the ball out of their half. Due to the strong wind IC could only manage a few attacks and spend most of the time defending.

The referee awarded a dubious free kick to LH on the edge of IC's box, from which they scored. Their other goal was to come from a free kick on the left hand side of the pitch. The ball was crossed and a LH player swung at it and with luck and good judgement it went into the top of the goal.

The final score was 2-2 and it was certainly a game of two halves.

6-A-SIDE CRICKET

Inside out!

The qualifying round of the UAU indoor cricket championship was held on Sunday February 21 at City University; IC found themselves drawn against UCL and Sussex University, the other group being Kent, Essex and LSE.

IC started impressively with a comfortable win over UCL; Rajeev Dewan top scored with 31 out of a total of 114 from the allotted 12 overs, UCL managing just 80 in reply.

With UCL also losing to Sussex, IC had to defeat Sussex to ensure a place in the qualifying round final, and a possible trip to Newcastle to play in the National finals. After a dreadful start IC were reeling at 4 for 2 and an already confident Sussex side seemed certain to restrict IC to a very low score. An aggressive partnership between Punkaj Patel and Jagot

Fernando however, enabled IC to reach an impressive total of 136 for 5. Sussex found what little confidence they had left soon drained away as they slumped to a dismal 51 all out.

Victory over Sussex saw IC reach the qualifying final where they met Essex who had scraped through as winners of the other group after some far from convincing performances. After an excellent start to IC's innings by Rajeev Dewan and Michael Anderson, five confused run-outs resulted in IC stumbling to a disappointing 70 all out. Such a modest total should have posed few problems for Essex, yet they lost four wickets and never looked comfortable. Defeat resulted in IC failing to reach the national final despite producing the most impressive cricket of the tournament.

SAILING

IC at the helm

Last Saturday saw Imperial at its home reservoir, racing against the other main colleges of London for the Castaways Cup. Four teams entered, IC, QMC, Kings and the much fancied UC.

Racing was initially organised in a round robin style with teams racing each other twice. The first race of the day set Imperial against University College. With two helms from the London first team, UC looked the team to beat. The race began with no clear leader emerging at the first mark. However, at the second mark, indescribable sailing by Rob Kimberly allowed Imperial to take a commanding lead. Unfortunately a mistake by the captain, caused by the incessant arguing of his crew, allowed UC back into the race, which they eventually won.

After a re-arrangement of the team, IC raced against QMC. From the start Apostolos Leonidhopoulos and Richard Jarman established an unbeatable lead which they held all the way round the course to give IC their first win.

This set the scene for the remainder of the qualifying races with Imperial winning almost every race easily, overwhelming Kings (twice) and QMC (again) but only narrowly defeating UC.

Thus IC qualified for the final against QMC, who surprisingly had beaten UC twice in the earlier rounds.

The final was to be the best of three, but in the event QMC were outclassed. Imperial won the first two races easily, to become the top sailing college in London.

More sport:

Lack of enthusiasm

QMC III—1
IC II—6

After an epic journey into the heart of Essex, IC lacked the enthusiasm to demolish QMC totally. Having already beaten weak teams in their last two games, SOP (3-0) and New III (5-1), IC struggled to find their rhythm against another. Only playing 35 mins each way because the ref had to go back to work, left IC thankful on an energy sapping pitch. Despite this poor start, it was IC who dominated, and it wasn't long before the goals began to fly. Guy Phiri opened the scoring, Alan Glass powered two and Pip Peel made it four by half time. After the switch, IC continued, except the goals weren't so forthcoming. Alan Glass completed a fine hat-trick to make it 5-0, and then the day was spoilt as QMC scrambled a lucky goal. Mark Woodgate came close with some fine headers, Micky Plumber also nearly scored and Guy Phiri was off-side, before Guy sneaked the sixth goal. A tough display from IC, from Andy Allen in goal, Russ Dark and Chris Burton in defence through to Ed Coates, Chris Morris and Darren Bolland in midfield. With 25 points from 14 games, IC look to be certain champions.

Impressive 3rds

IC III—9
MXUC II—0

The 3rds continued their league revival with an impressive win against bottom-of-the-table MXUC. The goals began right from the start, Dave Clarke made a good run down the right and Neil Lennard headed home, then skipper Kev Graves scored two in quick succession, both from corners. MXUC managed to hold on until half time at just three down, but there was no stopping the IC team in the second half, a goal from Paul Neville, three from Fergus Batstone, a great run from Neil Vandenbegin and an excellent finish as well as a penalty that gave Kev Graves his hat-trick all contributed to a marvellous team performance and a well-deserved result. Thanks go to Dave Clarke, Alan Sinclair and Jerry Edmonds who made their debuts and watch out seconds, your title isn't safe yet.

Hell hath no fury...

Dear FELIX,

There is no place for women in IC's Boat Club. This was proven to be the case at the weekend when Imperial College Boat Club, correction, the male members of the Boat Club, competed at Burway Head of the River.

The women's Senior C IV, who have been training rigorously throughout the Winter, arrived at Burway last Saturday to be informed by the Club Captain that their boat had been deliberately left behind at Putney. The reason given was that there was insufficient space on the trailer for all boats; and it had therefore been decided, in their absence, that the women's boat should be left behind.

Did Imperial really expect their female members to compete without a boat? Of course not, the Club Captain offered an alternative boat, although this was felt to be only as a token gesture. The women's crew were given the 'honour' of sharing one of the Top Squad's boats; a boat which the girls are normally not even allowed to practise in because it is considered too 'good' for them. Built and rigged purposely for its 14 stone male crew, it was clearly totally incompatible for any other crew, least a women's crew, and under the circumstances a total waste of time racing in it.

Unfortunately this is only one example of the chauvinistic attitude that now prevails within the Boat Club. At present the women members of the Boat Club are given the lowest priority irrespective of their commitment and achievements. The Senior C IV who should have raced last Saturday, three members of which came second in their division at the IV's Head this season, have been forced to practise in an old, twisted wooden boat and to compete in boats that the Boatman Bill Mason has kindly managed to borrow from other clubs. In contrast, Novice men's crews, who train less often and are less experienced, have been allocated, it seems automatically, comparatively race worthy fibreglass boats.

Clearly, there are certain members of the IC Boat Club who are not benefitting from the money that the Union is putting into the Club. In its present state, the women members of the Club feel they have no alternative but to join a different rowing club. At a time when Imperial is actively trying to encourage women to join the College I think that it is important that College is made aware of the situation which currently exists within one of its costliest and most prominent clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Mandy Phillips, ME3

Ladies' Boat Club Captain

Copies to: Mr John Smith, College Secretary

Sydney Harbour Bridge, Union President

Robert Gee, Boat Club Captain

Mr Gee would like me to ask any ladies to see him so that he can discuss the situation with them. He is very anxious that things should be sorted out between the men and the ladies.

Misguided Tories

Dear Ms Hackney,

On coming into College on the morning of Tuesday 16th I spied a poster reading 'Hitler had a no-platform policy as well—the Conservatives protect free speech'.

I had to ask myself if this was a joke perpetrated by an opposition group, a sick attempt at humour from IC Conservative Society, or a sadly misguided though sincerely felt opinion.

Like many others I laughed to myself as I tried to reconcile this statement with the facts of the seven-year Thatcher tyranny as I know them.

We are talking about a government who has 'lost' important documents concerning the sinking of the Argentine ship 'Belgrano', who have, in their goulish guise as Norman Tebbit, tried to dictate broadcasting policy to the British institution the BBC. We are talking about a government who lost two ministers during the shady saga of 'Westlands'—both who left of their own accord as they felt they could no longer take part in the covert dealings.

We are talking about a government who have recently wasted millions of pounds of taxpayers' money in a futile and embarrassing attempt to bar 'Spy Catcher' which documents highly controversial material about underhand dealings of the security forces against the Wilson government.

We are talking about a government that will not allow us, the public, to hear Mr John Stalker's evidence in the alleged RUC 'shoot to kill' policy and of a leader who quickly stifles any dissenting voices in her cabinet by mysteriously reshuffling.

We are talking about a Prime Minister who justifies denying public access to potentially embarrassing topics by using the catch-all phrase of 'not in the public interest' and hoping that will justify the public and the media.

This is a government whose youth wing, the Young Conservatives stifle speeches by the Federation of Conservative Students, some of whose members illustrate the hard right reality that underscores their actions.

I had to laugh as I considered that this poster related to a government who refused to sanction a Freedom of Information Act.

I am both angry and sympathetic to the poor fools who take these posters seriously and I think it will take a miracle if the Tories don't try to censor this letter before it reaches print.

I am all for free speech but when will the government be?

Yours in sincerity,

Matthew Salter (Chem 1).

Hell hath no fury II

Dear Judith,

You may have been confused so far by the correspondence coming from Tizard Hall. Until now we have been sworn to secrecy about the bizarre goings on in the hall, under threat of having to spend an evening with these three notoriously interesting people—Dracula J, Grumph and Ken McC. Well, I am now daring to break the silence and tell all.

The truth of the matter is that they are involved in a love triangle and these 'incoherent mutterings' are in fact codes, arranging meetings for their secret society 'Radio Bonk', (they have obviously misunderstood the meaning of 'Sachs in the Afternoon' on Capital).

They were quite happy until Grumph had an affair with his teddy bear and, although he pleaded that it didn't mean anything, the bitching started. (Hell hath no fury like a fag scorned!)

This brings me onto the question of why girls in Tizard Hall are single. The boys are obviously far too busy playing with pen and paper to play with the girls.

But don't despair, there are some real men out there.

Love, The Shark.

Letters

Petty vandalism

Dear Judith,

It's a great pity that we at SFSoc have had to write this letter, especially in view of the success of Picocon, but recent events have made it an unfortunate necessity.

It's well known that the life of posters around IC tends to be short, especially on the walkway, but it has become clear that in the case of SFSoc publicity someone thinks that even a couple of days is too long for our posters to stay up. At first we were inclined to blame missing posters on over-zealous cleaners or high winds and insufficient blu-tac, but this week it became clear what was really happening. On the Thursday prior to Picocon some twenty posters were put up along the walkway between Mech Eng and the bookshop. By Friday morning they had gone and so were replaced. By lunchtime the replacements had gone, and so more went up. By 3pm they too had been removed. Whoever did it wasn't remotely subtle—adjacent posters from STOIC, ICSO etc that had been up since Wednesday were left untouched.

We don't know what motivates this person (we hope it isn't another group); maybe they don't like one of us, or they hate SFSoc as a whole. We don't much care. Every week we have to produce over 100 posters to have enough to re-poster the walkway up to twice a day—and it's the Union's money—*your money*—that is being wasted. Twenty posters removed is a pound down the drain, and we are getting sick of it. We would like to remind those responsible that defacing or removing other club's publicity is a Union disciplinary offence, and if you're caught you could well end up paying a sizeable part of our publicity budget. It's a pity that this letter had to be written, but enough is enough. Whoever you are, you might feel clever and proud of your petty vandalism, but just lay off before you're exposed as the idiot you are.

Simon Bradshaw, ICSF Publicity Officer,
Nancy Reading, ICSF Assistant Publicity Officer,
Tom Yates, ICSF Chairman,
Charles Rainey, ICSF Treasurer,
Dave Clements, SCC Chairman.

S'il vous plait

Dear Editor,

Are there any IC students out there who would like to take part in an exchange with the ESPCI in Paris.

There could be the opportunity to study for a year to gain a MSc or DEA in the fields of Materials, Physics, Chemistry, Chem Eng, Elec Eng or Computing.

The ESPCI (École Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielle) is one of the top 'Grande Écoles' and is in the Latin Quarter of Paris.

If you are interested, please drop me a note as soon as possible.

Clive Benham, Mech Eng 2.

Do not pass Go

Dear Judith,

I am writing in response to the piece on Rag in your editorial in last week's FELIX (794). While it is fair for you to comment on the actions of Rag, I think what you

said was unbiased and unjustified. It was a shame that there was no mention of Monopoly which was the next day, consequently only forty people turned up and we only raised £1,800. We in Rag believe that we should put on a balance of different events, collecting externally is a lot of hard work for the individuals actually doing it (ask anyone who was on Monopoly) and if we only collected externally we would soon burn out the people involved. For the rest of this term there are at least five external collections a week (although most involve only two people), a few large sponsored events and some 'fun' events (like eat Fatso's bare on March 1) that are not aimed to raise that much money. Instead of putting people off Rag (or its sponsored events) as an ex-VP of Rag you could have devoted the space to highlighting the other things Rag does.

Just for the record, Rag has raised in total £22,600 this year (calculated at 3am last Sunday) and the next Rag raid is on Saturday at Chelmsford with free tickets to the pyjama party afterwards—there are still some places left, more details at the Rag meeting today (Friday), 12.30pm, Union Lounge. We, like you yourself, prefer people to come and talk to us before they write their own opinions in FELIX. Anyway it's all water under the bridge.

Yours constructive debate and all the rest,

Hal Calamvokis, Rag Secretary 1987-88.

PS. They say charity starts at home.

From
Collins
English
Dictionary

A fan letter

Dear Judith,

With reference to the letter from Mr Salmons and Mr Wood in FELIX last week. I fully support their efforts to regain their money; taken by FELIX over a bad job done, in printing their membership cards.

Last term, Hamsoc also requested that FELIX print membership cards. These cards, it was agreed, would be in two colours. When the cards arrived, it was found that about one third of them were unusable; most of these being completely blank! Also, the cards were only in one colour. We have not been asked to pay for these cards. Why is it then, that Mopsoc and Astrosoc have been asked to pay for similar (or worse) goods that they received?

P Hopkins, Hamsoc QSL Manager.

It was obvious to me that your cards were unusable and that it was our fault. Hence no charge. This is very different from the complaint Mopsoc and Astrosoc have with us. See FELIX 794.

Another fan letter

Dear Judith,

Could you please explain why there is a total lack of new photographs in FELIX?

There hasn't been a photograph accompanying a leading article all year, this seems very suspicious to me perhaps there is a staff revolt, this might explain the wacky letter from Andy Bannister printed earlier this year and the call for new hacks.

Yours observantly,

Jon Morgan, Chem 1.

Have you been reading the same newspaper as the one that I've been editing?

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **International Week**—Fri Feb 26, 10.30am to 6pm, JCR. Friends of Palestine Society present Palestine Exhibition with embroideries, caricatures, artprints, handicrafts, books, posters, all welcome, admission free.

● **Guilts** May Ball tickets are on sale from March 1.

● **Jumble** jumble jumble. Please sent your jumble, unwanted books, bric-a-brac, clothes toys and tasty cakes to IC Nursery, 8 Princes Gardens by Thursday March 3.

● **City & Guilts** plus Fullers present the rugby seven-a-side competition. This is your last opportunity to sign up your team in the Guilts Office. To be held at Harlington on Sunday March 6. All teams must be signed up by March 2 if they wish to compete.

● **Anyone** interested in forming an American football team contact Max Hallioux, Mech Eng 1.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Single Room** in flat for rent. All mod cons, £40 p/w plus bills. Phone Matthew on 789 7391 after 7pm.

FOR SALE & WANTED

● **One pair** SX90 ski boots, size 360, £20. Contact J Biddle (Biochem 2) or 371 0249.

● **1 pair** red leather thigh boots. Reason for sale: owner's legs too short. See M Mukherjee (Physics 2). Also for sale: leather blindfold with thongs and studs.

● **Wanted**—Second-hand practice amp. Contact M J Virdee, Aero 2 pigeonholes.

● **Atari 520 ST**—1MB memory (upgrade to 2MB possible on board). 720k disk drive and lots of software. Offers to Steve Black, int 4642.

PERSONAL

● **Shorty** the Giraffe needs no clue to stick to his plastic monkey—this fixture's permanent.

● **Monica**—I luv u, Jimbo.

● **Monica**—I'd like to take you out. Your two friends are welcome too!—Jimmy.

● **Dinner** for 2? Monica 4 Jim (2).

● **Monica**—If you stand up again I'll faint! Jimmy.

● **Are** you a member of the Rhino Club?

● **Do you** know where Rayleigh House is?

● **Answers** on a postcard to box 7/14!!

● **Picture** the scene; 1.45am in a quiet room in Princes Gardens...IT spoke—37 Mad Gardeners.

● **Where** does IT go on the weekend?—37MG's.

● **Hey Wottadick**, how was your 'bite' to eat? 37MG's.

● **You think** AAOs are bad? Well, Dep Reps are worse.

● **Frightened** to go to the toilet? Remember, we're here to save the world. AAB.

● **Yishu**—Roses are the best shade of red, But you are the best in bed—xxx.

● **Wap** me with the red spatula, man.

● **Ooh!** ooh! Not the egg whisk.

● **Put** that cheese grater away, Julian.

● **Definition** of a beanfeast: mass orgy with red kitchen utensils.

● **Wanted**: SM partner. Must provide own red fishlice. Apply M Mukherjee, Physics 2.

● **To my secret admirer** (alias the woman who wants it): don't be shy, please tell me who you are! Richard, Life Sci 1 pigeonholes.

● **To my secret admirer**: thanks for the Valentine's card. Who are you?? From your 'secret admiree'—xxx

● **U** think IC Amnesty meetings at 5.30 in the Brown Committee Room are boring? So do we, so we're now having them at 1.30pm in Elec Eng.

● **Never mind** pilchard factories, when are you getting your Scottish church or Welsh farm? You need to be eligible as well! (only kidding).

● **Bargain**—for as little effort as signing a petition you can send a letter to a genuine dictator or tell him how useless he is—IC Amnesty letter stall, 1pm Thursday, JCR.

● **Pyjama party**—Saturday 27, 8pm. Be there or be a square!

● **Get pissed** till 1am at the Pyjama Party, tomorrow.

● **Stage Two** Roadshow, with DJ? Yes at the pyjama party.

● **Missed** the D&D get your Guilds May Ball tickets on Monday from the Guilds Office—cost £42.

● **Feeling hungry?** Help eat Fatso's bare. Meet Southside Bar, 7pm, Monday.

● **David Bradley**, Thumping Incorporated, Beit Hall, Room 89.

● **To** the 2½ flat-tops—what colour next week guys?

● **Darren**—is it an 'armed robbery' degree you're taking.

● **Surinder**—is IT really small, or have you been spoilt.

● **Try harder** Rachel, you might get him!

● **Following** a recent vote of no confidence in Andy, the post of LLO is now open. First candidate with a proposer gets the job. Penthouse Club.

● **Become** a straight thinker—wish the vagon had never been born. The Penthouse Club.

● **Dear PK**, you're right—spin, dive, crash, burn. Andy, LLO candidate.

● **Andy**—bet I get the job. PK.

● **Light** bulb power increased by patent method. See mark; the Penthouse Club.

● **Wanted**: Replacement flatmate for M J Virdee. Contact the Penthouse Club, 130 HG.

● **Graham's** is so solid he can wop it on the floor and it makes a loud noise.

● **Manoj**—Do you ever awaken? We love your pyjamas—The Second Floor.

● **Mike**—have you been to Benetton lately?

● **Mike**—congratulations on 52½ (or is it 53½?).

● **Mike**—congratulations on three months—my longest ever.

● **Paul**—you don't have any. I'm sure you don't—I know you don't.

● **Boys** on the second floor get down on the rug and do it together.

● **ICWBC**—Imperial College Women's Boatless Club.

● **Q**: What have men got that women haven't?

● **A**: A boat.

● **ICBC** (men only).

● **One** o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock, thump!

● **There** was a young sailor named Rick, whose boyish good looks were a trick, such a mad foolish caper, with an ad in this paper, left both of us feeling quite sick.

● **To** the least eligible Electrical Engineer: 'Where do you get your strength from now?'

Phew, what a scorcher!

Dear Judith,

Poor you! I sympathise with your views that most Council members are little better than nodding dogs. Still, at least they do ask some questions. If you are really concerned that the President is not submitting reports for FELIX, why didn't you ask him to justify himself?

Perhaps Mr Sydney Harbour Bridge (the late Mr Ian Howgate) doesn't submit reports because he doesn't like the way that you snipe at him every week in both the editorial, and the 'Libel' page that you also write. Perhaps he is too busy with other things to write a report which may not be printed anyway.

For someone who writes 'I don't invite criticism. I invite constructive debate' in their editorials, where in reality the reverse is true, do they deserve the effort? I don't know what your personal vendetta is against Sydney, but I find it offensive and unnecessary to see it sprawled all over the pages of FELIX.

If the cat is going to be factually incorrect, is it worth keeping him free? You state that all past Presidents have written regular reports. Bullshit! Christine Taig may have done a reasonably regular job, but previous Presidents like Carl Burgess and Ian Bull did not. Burgess' literary efforts were even left out, when submitted, by the then editor.

The FELIX Editor is not God. The Editor is accountable to the electorate in just the same way as any other sabbatical. An Editor for such a publication should reflect the true views of ICU rather than the distorted personal views that you seem to hold.

Perhaps other people also agree, and this is why everybody gets three credits, to hide the fact that a lot of FELIX staff have drifted away under your dictatorship.

I would hope that FELIX would aspire to being a quality newspaper rather than a Sun—News of the World—Sunday Sport rip off. Next year's Editor please take note!

Yours sincerely,
Tony Spencer

1) I am an *observer* on Council. I report on what happens and do not involve myself with its running. It is not my place to question the President at Council. Surely as an ex-student, you should know that Tony.

2) I do not write the Libel page, I only add space fillers if not enough text has been submitted to fill the two columns allocated.

3) I would print any report Ian submitted except if it expressed an opinion (hence it is not a report) or he submitted it after the Union Page had gone to press.

4) Check your eye sight.

5) Would you like to be my page 3 fella next week?

One more fan letter

Dear Judith,

I feel I must reply concerning your bias and inaccuracies in your contentious reply to the letter of complaint last week from MOPSOC and Astrosoc.

Your reply gives nothing but poor excuses for bad work, a common enough occurrence for anyone using the Print Unit. (There were even errors in the MOPSOC letter). The Print Unit this year has not only botched this job, but also work for Broadsheet, Hamsoc, the Postgrad Prospectus covers and the Silwood tickets for RCSU to name but a few. For a Unit that pretends to be professional, I find the cavalier attitude towards paying customers and producing substandard work distasteful.

The two societies gave you the least hassle possible and

agreed that they would let you print their cards on the Balloon Club plate that you already had, although it would cost more. They did you a favour. The result was a bad job, for which they were then charged 2.6 times the original verbal estimate.

Many clubs and organisations decide to go ahead with printing on the basis of an estimate or quote supplied by the Print Unit Manager, to fit in with their budgets. Since FELIX refuses to give written quotes for some reason, they rely on the trust of a verbal quote. They are rewarded with bills sent out weeks later which are then at least double those quoted. This is not only breach of trust but highly dubious business practice. Standard bill differences for professional printers will differ only by plus or minus ten per cent, not an order of magnitude greater. A 'guess' is just not good enough.

I will also quibble with the statement that there is no labour charge in the Print Unit's 'at cost' printing. For those not aware, the Unit charges for a plate, plus artwork costs plus the paper, PLUS a charge for each time a sheet is run through the press (and this is twice if both sides are printed). If this latter is not a labour charge (quoted as 'machine time') then I don't know what is! Ink and fount solutions are not that expensive!

As for Mr Salmons 'having changed his mind', it is obvious that as two clubs were involved, two people were responsible for rejecting the work. Since only one of them picked up the job, Mr Salmons was not able to return the defective cards until 9.00am the next day. At least they communicated with each other, which it is obvious that the Print Unit Manager and Business Manager did not!

For a printing facility that likes to think it runs on commercial lines, this is not good enough. Everybody makes mistakes but you should be man enough to admit them, and not pass the charges for your incompetence onto the customer. Proper written quotes would not go amiss either. If you have any courage you will print this letter, or else it will be submitted to the CCU publications, who do understand what a free press is all about.

Publish or be damned!

Tony Spencer

1) We have never 'pretended' to be a 'professional' print unit. How can we be when the Manager is a sabbatical and most of the equipment antiquated and inadequate. What we *do* offer is cheap printing for clubs and societies. At least our printing is distinctive!

2) We have never refused to give written quotes.

3) How can we quote an accurate price for cards when we don't know how much artwork the club will use and how much of the plate they will take up?

4) The 'impression charge' (not 'machine time', dear) covers not only ink and fount solutions but machine maintenance (servicing costs us nearly £2,000 pa), machine depreciation, blanket wash, plate cleaner, damper cleaner, roller paste, oil, grease, anti-offset spray, hand cleaner, barrier cream, anti-skin spray, blankets, blanket reviver, dampers and paracetamols.

The final one

Dear Judith,

I'm fed up with reading people slagging off you and the Print Unit!

If they want perfect printing at an hour's notice, with smiling jovial staff they should go to a print shop whose staff are paid decent wages and who can go home at five o'clock and forget about work.

Perhaps a 'real' print shop would appreciate the arrogant customers insisting on constant attention to *their* job but I doubt even they'd stand for it.

Pippa Salmon.

Rag ruffled by glossy mag

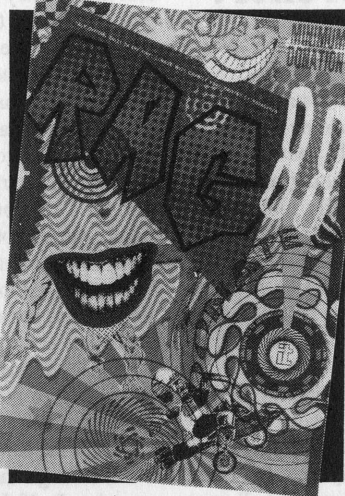
Imperial College Rag are up in arms over a new rag mag which is being sold throughout London. The rag mag, which looks like a glossy magazine and is printed in full colour, is being sold for £1 a copy. The mag has been produced and distributed by a group calling themselves London Rag 88.

Rag Chairman Nigel Baker first heard of the group last Thursday when he was trying to sell Imperial College rag mags in the Goose and Firkin pub. Nobody was willing to buy them because they had already been sold a London rag mag earlier in the evening. Mr Baker became suspicious of the rag mag because he had never heard of a London wide charity fund raising organisation and the telephone numbers given in the magazine were unobtainable.

The next day the magazines were being sold outside Beit Quadrangle. Mr Baker decided to contact the charity named by London Rag 88, Intermediate Technology, which is an organisation trying to help the Third World to help itself. The Appeals Organiser knew of the mag but did not know about the group behind it. Mr Baker also rang several of the advertisers to point out that Imperial Rag, the largest rag in London, was not connected with the venture.

On Wednesday Mr Baker was threatened with an injunction by London Rag 88 in order to stop him telephoning the advertisers or the press. They claim that advertising worth £4000 may be lost already due to Mr Baker's action.

Mr Baker told FELIX last night that he believed a London wide rag was



The offending rag magazine

a good idea but that this group had gone about it the wrong way. They were paying people to sell the rag mag and the public were buying it because they thought that it was a glossy student rag mag and all the money was going to charity. He also doesn't believe that rag should be politicised: the magazine contains an article about the Green Party and several adverts for political campaigns. He has asked London Rag to place an insert in each magazine pointing out that they are not connected with any College rags. He feels their efforts will jeopardise any sponsorship or advertising that IC Rag tries to obtain in the future.

A meeting has been organised between London Rag 88 and all London College rags for next Monday, when Mr Baker hopes that the whole situation will be sorted out.

Shanley drops out of race

Presidential candidate Paul Shanley has withdrawn from the Sabbatical's race leaving Nigel D Baker (Chem Eng) proposed by John Noble, as the only fully proposed candidate for the post.

Steve Mercer (Physics), proposed by Max Kallios; and Chas Brereton (Life Sciences), proposed by Amin El-Kholy are the only candidates so far for the post of Deputy President while Ian Morris (Civ Eng), proposed by Alan Hepper; and Roger Houghton (Maths), unproposed so far, are standing for Honorary Secretary (Events).

There are three candidates so far for the post of FELIX Editor/Print Unit Manager. They are Chris Martin (DoC), proposed by Liz Holford; Bill Goodwin (Mech Eng), proposed by Dave Burns; and Martin Peck (Chemistry), proposed by Summeet R Ghail.

The papers will remain up for the rest of today and nominations will close at 5.30pm. The Hustings Union General Meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd March and elections will be College-wide on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th March.

Hustings

RCS Hustings took place yesterday, during which speeches were heard from all the candidates. The following posts are being contested:

President: Daniel Shiu, Dave Smedley, Stephanie Snell;
Hon Sec: Steve Mitchell, Julian Moore, Gail Turner;
HJT: Carol Luscombe, Sarah Porter, Vijay Thakur;

David Williams is unopposed as Vice President and Andrew Meredith as Academic Affairs Officer.

Guildsman Murray Williamson was present as RCSU's violate mascot for the day. Mr Williamson agreed to do this after RCSU bought him for a day in last term's slave auction.

Out of Africa

The London School of Economics sold all its shares associated with South Africa this week. This follows Imperial College Union's letter which was sent two weeks ago to the LSE Union supporting their protests.

First ever for OSC

The Overseas Students Committee is staging its first ever basketball competition next Monday and Thursday as part of the ICU OSC International Week. Monday sees IC Basket play Greece (4.30pm) and OSC All Stars against Cyprus (6pm). The final will be played on Thursday at 7.30pm in the College's volleyball court.

Shan's Dodgy Sporting Tips

NAP: **Bronze Head**
Kelso, 4.15 Friday
NB: **Knockbrack**
Kempton, 4.15 Friday
E/W: **The Tzarevich**
Kempton, 2.30 Saturday
This weeks Irish race: **Bonalma**
Punchestown 2.45 Saturday.

U.L.U. FINANCE SOCIETY INVITES
YOU! FOR A VISIT TO



ARTHUR YOUNG

PROGRAMME

CORPORATE FINANCE

BY

BLAIR AGNEW (MANAGER)

AND

BUSINESS SERVICES

BY

ROGER DAVISON (PARTNER)

AND

FREE BUFFET!

DATE: TUESDAY 1ST MARCH AT 6.30 PM

**PLACE: ARTHUR YOUNG, ROLLS HOUSE,
7 ROLLS BUILDING, LONDON EC4**

AS PLACES ARE LIMITED REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT
CHEQUES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO GEHAN DE
SILVA WIJEYERATNE (CIV ENG 3) BY MONDAY 1ST
MARCH. CHEQUES FOR £3.00 SHOULD BE MADE
PAYABLE TO "U.L.U. SOCIETIES COUNCIL".
CHEQUES WILL BE RETURNED AT ARTHUR YOUNG.

THE EDUCATION REFORM BILL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

This document details the implications of the Education Reform Bill from the viewpoint of Imperial College Union. It should be noted that these points are restricted to the direct effect that it will or may have on Imperial College. It is felt that sufficient information is available on its implication to the education system as a whole.

Of the 142 clauses in the Bill only 12 have direct relevance to Universities, although many set precedents that could ultimately affect Imperial College, whilst a large number include phrases which allow the Secretary of State to change a proposal that has been passed without reference to Parliament.

In the 12 clauses which have relevance to Universities, Imperial College should be concerned about only three but they are, in fact, very crucial clauses. At the same time, we should be gravely concerned about other clauses in the Bill which give the Secretary of State unreasonable powers over other educational institutions. There are far too many of these to discuss in full but Clause 139 illustrates the matter fairly well:

139. - (1). The Secretary of State may by order make such modifications in any enactment relating to employment and, in particular, in any enactment -

- (a) conferring powers or imposing duties on employers;
- (b) conferring rights on employees; or
- (c) otherwise regulating the regulations between employers and employees;

as he considers necessary or expedient in consequence of the operation of any of the provisions of this Act mentioned in subsection (2) below

(2) Those provisions are -

- (a) sections 33(2) and (3) and 34(9) and Schedule 2; and
- (b) subsections (2) to (8) of section 104.

Needless to say, Sections 33, 34 and 104 are the major sections concerned with the appointment and dismissal of staff. The Secretary of State, in proposing Clause 139, is suggesting that he should have the power to overrule anyone else's decisions on staffing matters. Luckily for Imperial College, the Secretary of State is bound by Crown legislation on universities and cannot intervene in this area as yet.

It is the opinion of the Union that Imperial College should at least register its dismay over such proposals even if they do not affect us.

The three clauses about which Imperial College should be particularly concerned are Clauses 92, 94 and 130. The remaining nine clauses affecting universities merely give teeth to the bodies established by this Bill to enable them to carry out their duties.

The summary of Clause 92 in the Bill states:

Clause 92 and Schedule 6 provide for the establishment of the Universities Funding Council, to be responsible for the administering funds made available by the Secretary of State for the purpose of providing education, research and other activities at universities. Schedule 6 makes provision for the powers, composition, staffing and organisation of the Council'

What this actually means is the provision of a body empowered to distribute funds, allocated to them by the Secretary of State, to universities around Britain. This body will have no power to ask for more money than it is given and is not bound by any regulations on what it should or should not fund.

Paraphrasing Sections 4 and 5 of this clause to rid it of all legalistic jargon leaves it reading:

"Council shall be responsible for administering funds made available for the purpose of providing financial support for activities eligible for funding. The activities are:

- (a) provision of education and research
- (b) provision of other activities by universities in connection with education and research."

Part (b) is the only section of this Bill which could possibly be interpreted as suggesting that some body should fund student unions, let alone other welfare and recreational facilities. In fact, it does not even define that they should be funded but merely that they are eligible to be funded if the University Funding Council (UFC) feels like doing so.

Once paraphrased Section 7 reads:

"Council shall have power -

- (a) to keep under review activities eligible for funding"

This means that any time the Council does not feel like funding these activities it can stop doing so. This could mean no clubs or societies, no Haldane Library, no student representation, no Welfare office, no Accommodation office, no support for students and no student body to oppose government legislation such as this.

The members of the UFC are personally selected by the Secretary of State and the Council is made up of 15 members, of which between 6 and 9 are to come from areas involved in industry, commerce and finance. This, in many ways, is likely to be a good thing for Imperial College and could possibly mean that the Council will have a bias towards Imperial College when distributing funds, but that is yet to be seen. Unfortunately, what is demonstrated is an inclination to move towards privatisation of the higher education system as a whole, a move which threatens not only to preclude many people from gaining further education because of their background but also the funding of welfare services and student unions. The rest of the Bill shows a distinct tendency towards laying the ground for such a move. A move such as this would be disastrous for education in the fields of arts and humanities and, at the same time, endanger research and study in areas which do not give short-term financial gain, such as the Departments of Maths and Pure Physics, sections of Geology, any long-term research project and many more areas at Imperial.

The summary of Clause 94 reads:

"Clause 94 empowers the Secretary of State to confer additional functions on the Funding Councils, and makes supplementary provision for the payments which they make and the grant which they may receive from the Secretary of State."

Three very important sections are contained in this clause:

Section 2 allows the UFC to require repayment of any part of a University's funding, including any interest that would otherwise have been earned on that money, if any condition specified by the UFC at the time of issuing the fund is not complied with.

Section 3 states "The Secretary of State may make grants to each of the funding Councils of such amounts and subject to such restrictions as he may determine."

This means that the Secretary of State is free to make cuts in University funding as and when he sees fit without anyone having any recourse to question him. It should be noted that he intends to increase student numbers by 5% whilst cutting funding by 126 million pounds, by the implementation of this Bill.

It also means that the Secretary of State is free to impose restrictions such as "You shall not fund student facilities" or "Funding shall only take place under a system of contract funding." For those who don't know, contract funding which has been discussed in relation to this Bill, would mean that each Department would have to put in competitive tenders in an attempt to gain funding, the UFC being more than likely to accept the cheapest. The first areas to be cut in an attempt to educate the largest number of students at the least cost would be those concerning student facilities.

At the same time the Secretary of State is also giving himself the power to cut specific departments. The Finance & Executive committees of Imperial have already been under considerable pressure from Government to cut four departments who are grossly overspending their budgets. These departments and their overspend are: Maths - £525K; Physics - £333K; Materials - £205K and Chemistry - £121K. If the new system was in place now the Secretary of State could cut Imperial's budget by the same amounts, whilst specifying that these Departments will not be funded.

Section (4) states: "Funding Councils shall comply with any directions given to them by the Secretary of State."

"You shall be my puppets and I shall pay you for being so," says the Secretary of State. **Enough said!**

Clause 130 is summarised in this manner:

"Clause 130 and Schedule 9 establish a body known as the University Commissioners, set out considerations to which they are to have regard in exercising their functions, and define the institutions in respect of which they are to exercise those functions."

In fact, what this is doing is setting up a body to implement the removal of job tenure for College staff. This would allow a university to dismiss staff for reasons of redundancy or "good cause".

In many ways something of this nature has been needed for some time as there are quite a number of people who work for College to do very little and get paid a lot because they have job tenure and know they can get away with it. This lack of commitment to the job has meant it is nearly impossible to run an efficient institution as someone is always going to mess it up.

Unfortunately, this clause also provides the machinery for the dismissal of any member of staff who simply does not agree with the system, or as a way of saving money. The reason for this is that we do not know that the commissioners are going "to apply the principles of justice and fairness", (whatever that may mean from the Government's viewpoint) as stated in Section 2(b) of Clause 130, simply because they are selected by the Secretary of State. It is not reasonable for us to trust the Secretary of State, as he has proven by the way he is trying to push this Bill through with very little consultation, that he is untrustworthy.

We would be far happier with Clause 130 if the commissioners were appointed by the Privy Council or an independent academic board.

There is very little doubt that this Bill in its present form poses a fundamental threat to University and Student Union funding and autonomy. This is in many ways a great shame as a shift in the education system towards Science and Technology has to be beneficial to this country and this Bill actually proposes to do that.

Unfortunately, so little time has been allowed for ironing out the flaws in the Bill that we must protest now in order to secure the future of student facilities.

An attempt has been made to give each Departmental academic year the option of joining in any protest and it was decided that Imperial College Union should act in a manner independent of the NUS. Hence, each set is to be asked if it will support a half-day abstention from lectures on Tuesday, March 1st, between 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., the time when Association of Universities Teachers, your lecturers, are aiming to lobby Parliament.

Give your lecturers the opportunity to exercise their right to lobby Parliament. Absent yourselves from the lectures they are not allowed to cancel. At the same time, support the AUT and this document by taking this simple action. It's not a lot to ask in order to defend 40 years of an education system, the future of your department and student facilities.

SYDNEY HARBOUR-BRIDGE

President
Imperial College Union

25 February 1988

Will academic reps please remember to inform
if their set has voted to abstain from lectures.

If you have any problems please contact the Union
