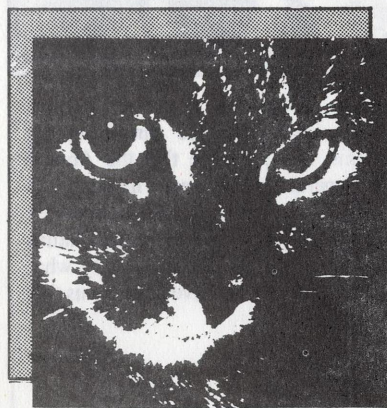


FREE!



Issue No. 802  
Friday 13th May 1988

# Felix

## INSIDE

2 Editorial  
and Frazer

3 News  
plus Martyn Peck's  
dodgy tips.

4 Union and  
Cookery  
Club

5 Libel and  
Blackmail

6 Science

7 Reviews

8 Previews

9 Clubs and  
Sport

10 Diary

11 Letters

## LIFE SCIENCES STUDENT SERIOUSLY ILL

# Meningitis Scare

**A Life Sciences student was taken by ambulance to St Mary's Hospital on Monday with Meningococcal Meningitis after having been found unwell at home. Meningitis is an inflammation of the brain lining which can affect the brain, being caused by several different types of germs. One of the most serious bacterial types is Meningococcal Meningitis, the strain in the recent outbreak in Gloucestershire, which caused 158 deaths in the 1,090 cases reported in 1987.**

The germ lives naturally in the back of the throat and is spread like colds by droplet transmission when coughing, leading to flu-like symptoms, a severe headache worsened by movement, a stiff neck, discomfort from bright light and sometimes a rash from associated septicaemia. Treatment is immediate hospitalisation with intravenous antibiotics.

The present case is most likely to be an isolated one, according to the Health Centre, as most secondary cases are reported within four days, though the incubation period is two to ten days. Who catches the disease is dependent on an individual's susceptibility with household contacts only slightly more in danger, and social contacts such as classmates no more at risk than anybody else.

As required by the Public Health Act the case has been notified to the Local Medical Officer for Environmental Health. The Health Centre has spoken to the affected student's class and distributed a notice throughout the College. Four to five people have discussed the symptoms with their doctors but none were

found to be infected, and it is felt there is no need for concern.

The Life Sciences Office is in contact with the intensive care unit at St Mary's and was told there had been a slight improvement in the student's condition on Thursday although he was still very ill.

## New RCSU Exec initiated



Dave Williams, RCSU Vice President (Centre) shows his true colours at the Exec Initiation on Tuesday. Also present were RCSU Hon Sec Gail Turner (left) and outgoing RCSU Vice President Fiona Nicholas (right).





## editorial

I was listening to a report on the radio yesterday which detailed the results of an extensive survey into the values of 18-28 year olds. I think that most of us fit into that category. It concluded that Mrs Thatcher's 'Victorian' values are back and that we were all being far too sensible about life.

The average 18-28 year old practises safe sex and believes in monogamous relationships: his views are slightly right of centre and he sounds as boring as hell. 'Today's young has turned its back on the Sixties', proclaimed the reporter. 'Today's young plays it safe'. I had to agree with him and I had to identify with Mr Average 18-28 year old. But aren't we all missing something.

I always believed that growing up, maturing, call it what you will, was something that you did by your own experience. We all have to burn our fingers before we learn not to touch the fire. Our generation, however, has grown up to be the unquestioning generation. We believe what we are fed by the Government, media and even our parents, then we make our own conclusions from the information we have been given. All we want out of life is enough money for luxuries, our own homes and somebody to love. We may occasionally collect a little money for Rag, go to a charity concert, give to the RSPCA, but we don't seem to care for others or give them our precious time.

I don't remember much about the Sixties but I certainly prefer their values to those of the Eighties. I feel I've missed something while practising safe sex and planning for my future. Do you?

### Puppet on a string

I feel really sorry for Sydney Harbour-Bridge. He tries so hard to make everybody like him. A few do until they find out how easily led the poor dear is. All this year he has allowed himself to be manipulated by a few key people who make all his decisions for him, give him his ideas and tell him what a naughty boy he is if he talks to FELIX.

Last week I received a telephone call from one of the Union Bar Licensees. He said that he would appreciate it if nothing was published concerning the Snack Bar or Union Bar losses and that he was asking on behalf of Mr Harbour-Bridge. But Syd gave me an hour and a half interview that night where we carefully went over exactly what I could publish. I checked every fact he gave me twice. I also spoke to Alan Rose. I then published the story in the FELIX flysheet.

Next day Syd was severely reprimanded by individuals who have no place to give advice, or to say that they speak in the best interest of the Union. He has decided not to tell any member of FELIX staff any more

details concerning this unpleasant situation.

However, last Friday he gave a very detailed interview to Broadsheet Editor Dave Smedley on which Dave based his lead story this week. The story, purporting to be the *actual truth* was entirely the 'truth' according to Harbour-Bridge. I have spoken to most concerned and they all say that they were never approached by Mr Smedley for an interview. How can RCSU allow their newspaper to be used in such a blatant propaganda campaign? And why was Broadsheet covering an Imperial College Union news story anyway?

Dave accused me in his editorial of 'effectively create(ing) news at the expense of people'. Strong words but are they really justified? I asked the people who I'm accused of using. None of us could see any news that I had 'created' at their expense. So what's Dave getting at? I shall in turn accuse Dave of distorting viewpoints, printing one-sided news stories and being used to further the aims of the puppet and his puppet masters.

### Annual Reports

I was very disappointed that neither

the President nor the Deputy President presented annual reports this week. I hope that the Annual General Meeting next Thursday will insist that both reports are circulated in FELIX at a date in the near future so that we can all see exactly what both sabbaticals have done for us this year.

### Turn Up!

Please come to the Annual General Meeting of the Union next week and question *your* Union officers about the past year.

### Randoms

Did you know that Cameron Small got a U in Physics? I didn't until Wednesday night.

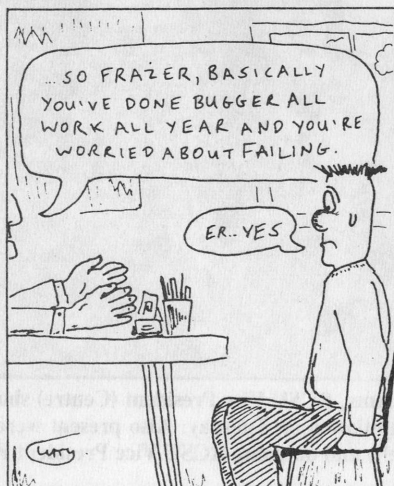
*Yours  
can more  
significantly  
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<b>Editor-in-chief</b> .....	Judith Hackney
<b>Business Manager</b> .....	Chris Martin
<b>Reviews Editors</b> .....	Andrew Clarke and Sumit Guha
<b>Clubs Editor</b> .....	Andrew Waller
<b>Sports Editors</b> .....	Dominic Strowbridge and 'Hector' Sullivan
<b>Science Editor</b> .....	Steve Black
<b>Features Editor</b> .....	Kamala Sen
<b>Typesetting</b> .....	Rose Atkins
<b>Printing</b> .....	Dean Vaughan
<b>Production Assistant</b> .....	Martyn Peck
<b>Contributors:</b> Paul Shanley, Martyn Peck, Andrew Waller, Chris Martin, Pippa Salmon, Adrian Grainger, Adrian Bourne, Kamala Sen, William Lumb, Matthew Salter, Neil Motteram, Chas Jackson and all the Union Officers who could be bothered to submit their annual reports, Murray Williamson, Olivier Waser, Delator, Chris Jones, Steve Black, Richard Fincher, Sumit Guha, Andrew Clarke, Noel Curry and all the collators.	

*Frazer.*  
The  
1st  
Yr....

... VISITS  
HIS TUTOR..

© NOEL CURRY 1988.





## ULU Library occupation success

The University of London Library at Senate House was occupied overnight on Tuesday by students from several University Schools. The demonstration, organised by the University of London Union (ULU), was in protest against plans to severely cut central library facilities, and had the support of the library staff.

The University is considering moving all Science and Medicine texts from the Senate House library and turning it into a reference-only, Arts and Humanities library. It was felt that this would not, as claimed, save the University money, and would mean undergraduates would lose access to a considerable number of the University's books.

24 Imperial students attended the 'work-in' of which 15 stayed all night, including ICU President



Sydney Harbour-Bridge, External Affairs Officer Neil Motteram and a STOIC film crew. IC was the best represented of all the colleges present.

The 'work-in' began with a meeting of around 150 students addressed by ULU Chairperson-elect Randall Smith and ULU President John Tilsed. There were guest speakers

from Middlesex Poly who are presently in indefinite occupation of several of their sites. The meeting passed a motion declaring support for Middlesex action. During the night attempts were made by some, more extreme members of the ULU Exec, to extend the protest or to take some radical action in the morning, but these were defeated by the organising committee.

ULU President John Tilsed called the protest a '...resounding success'. He thanked students from Imperial for their support and asked them to attend a lobby of Senate over the issue next Wednesday at Senate House, at 3.30pm

Birbeck College Union opened its Snack Bar for the protester's breakfast at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning. The protest ended with a considerably smaller meeting at 8.00am which voted to support the lobby of Senate and to look at other ways of keeping the campaign running.

## Enterprising?

The Department of Employment has started a new campaign encouraging small firms to employ graduates with a strong strain of individuality. The campaign is associated with the Manpower Services Commission initiative to persuade higher education institutions to introduce a more enterprising approach to the curriculum so that undergraduates of all disciplines gain experience in skills relevant to the business world.

As part of the campaign three booklets have been published which are available from the Department of Small Firms Centres, Jobcentres and Enterprise agencies.

## STOIC censured

The Student Television of Imperial College, STOIC, has been censured by Publications Board following the purchase of a new camera. The Board agreed that STOIC had misled a previous meeting so that it would allow the camera to be bought.

## Bursaries still available

There are still some Old Centralian bursaries available for summer employment under the UROP scheme. These are restricted to City & Guilds students but can be held for work in any department. Each bursary pays half the cost of your employment up to a maximum of £375. The usual UROP research project lasts for ten weeks during the summer vacation and the recommended maximum bursary is £75 per week. No tax or National Insurance contributions are payable—you get the full amount and overseas students do not need a work permit.

To apply for a bursary you need to find yourself a Supervisor who is looking for a summer student. The UROP Directory lists all the projects on offer and you can get a copy from your Departmental Vacation Training Officer or from Mrs Wendy Ibsen, Room 713, Elec Eng.

There are no similar bursaries on offer for non-Guilds students, due to the lack of interest shown by the RCS and RSM alumni associations. However, it is possible for a Supervisor to apply for a Nuffield Foundation grant. If your potential Supervisor pleads poverty try suggesting that he makes a Nuffield application—details available from Prof J C Anderson, Elec Eng.

### Peck's Dodgy Sporting Tips

**BLUE BELL MUSIC**  
11.45 Saturday, Beverley  
**COMMAND BID (nap)**  
1.45 Saturday, Beverley  
**BILLET (nb)**  
2.30 Saturday, Newbury

# 50% OFF

## SEA TRAVEL

### FOR STUDENTS

DENMARK	SWEDEN	GERMANY
<p>■ Hans Christian Andersen's home. Hamlet's castle. Golden beaches. Copenhagen's lively nightlife. And probably the best lager in the world. What a way to blow your grant.</p> <p>HARWICH OR NEWCASTLE TO ESBJERG.</p> <p><b>£55.00 RTN.</b></p>	<p>■ Forests, Lakes (over 96,000 of them). Mysterious Viking remains. And Stockholm, Venice of the North. For lovers of the great outdoors (and admirers of the Swedish blonde).</p> <p>HARWICH OR NEWCASTLE TO GOTHENBURG.</p> <p><b>£65.00 RTN.</b></p>	<p>■ Night clubs and cabarets. Jazz cellars and rock concerts. Beer gardens and pavement cafes. After a few days in Hamburg you'll need a holiday.</p> <p>HARWICH TO HAMBURG.</p> <p><b>£35.00 RTN.</b></p>

You'll travel by DFDS Seaways luxury liner with its bars, disco and live band (and that's just for starters). Your car goes free with 4 passengers. Price includes accommodation in Couchette or economy cabin. All fares valid 17th June - 14th August 1988 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sailings. Ask for details of 50% discount before and after these dates and sailings on other days of the week - some are even cheaper!

For a copy of our Timetable and Fares brochure or to book, call 0255 240240 or visit your local ABTA travel agent.

**DFDS SEAWAYS**



## Guilds May Ball

Balls and Dinner & Dances are some of the more dignified events held at College. The annual Engineers' Dinner & Dance held at one of London's top hotels always sells out (in this year's case in 36 hours). It was decided last year that City & Guilds should hold a second Dinner & Dance, out of the West End, on not such a large scale as the Engineers' Ball, which would mean it would be substantially cheaper. Our aim was to cater for those members of IC who feel that Dinner & Dances are just a

little too expensive, and for those who missed out on getting a ticket to the Engineers' Ball.

The result of our aim is the May Ball. The Ball is being held on Friday May 20 at the Carnarvon Hotel, Ealing Common. This is a four star hotel where the food is excellent.

The itinerary for the evening is:

### Friday May 20

- 5.30pm Sherry reception.
- 6.00pm Coaches leave.
- 7.00pm Coaches arrive. Hotel bar open.
- 8.00 Sit down.

### Menu

*Fresh cream of vegetable soup*  
*Supreme of chicken princess*  
*Cauliflower mornay*  
*Glazed carrots*

*Roast potatoes*  
*(Vegetarian meal available)*  
*Profiteroles with hot chocolate*  
*Coffee and mints*  
*Port*

- 10.00pm Toast and after dinner speech by College Secretary John Smith followed by dancing.
- 1.30am Coaches return to College for disco until 4.00am

The cost is £42 for a double ticket which covers everything. Tickets are on sale until Wednesday May 18 and are available from the Guilds Office, Level 3, Mech Eng. Do not forget it's open to the whole of IC not just C&G.  
*Murray Williamson,*  
*C&G Hon Sec Elect.*

**Imperial College Union Council will be held on Monday May 16th in the Union's SCR**



## The Royal School of Mines Journal 1988

The RSMJ (1988 edition) will be printed in June this year. The RSMJ is a must for anyone who wants to be kept well informed of all aspects of academic life in the Minerals Industry and life at the RSM. As has been the case in previous years we are continuing to add new features and ideas to the Journal and this year is to be no exception.

**Further information** please contact either: Frank Lucas (Editor) or Barrie Holt (Business Manager) c/o Royal School of Mines Journal, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BP Tel: 01-589-5111 (ext. Frank 3524 / Barrie 6472) To be sure of obtaining your 1988 RSMJ order now through the above address £5.00 (including P/P) Life subscriptions £150.00 Cheques payable to: RSMJ

## Cookery Club



## A gastronomic survey of the world

This week's column is guest written by Olivier Waser who is studying at Imperial but lives in France.

It is often said that eating in Paris is expensive; now let me show you that it is not true. The first spot which comes to everybody's mind is the Latin Quarter, a place where you will find most Parisian students. Lately the place has become invaded by fashionable shops but you will still find great places to eat especially near the Metro St Michel where all the North African restaurants are located. Go into one of them and ask for a 'couscous', a really stuffy dish composed of semolina, chilly sauce, vegetables, veal, chicken and chilly sausages, in fact it is so substantial that you will get chock-a-block quite easily. While we are on the 'Arab orientated' food try the Lebanese restaurant situated in the Rue Sauton (Haubert Hautualité tube station). It is a take-away restaurant but instead of taking-away soggy French fries you can enjoy great local food. Even if it is not French food you can't ignore it because Paris is a multi-racial city. Now let's talk French food! If you have 'un creux' (empty

stomach) then go to a Boulangerie (you'll always find one within 5 minutes walking distance from where you are) and eat croissants aux amandes, pain aux raisins, tartelettes aux fruits, eclairs au chocolat or a selection of savouries such as sandwich crudité or quiche lorraine. If you want to find a good café with a nice 'ambiance' and local people try 'le Marais' in the 12th arrondissement. Try to avoid modern brasseries especially those near 'Le Champs Elysées' where everything is expensive. Now to finish here is a list of some great inexpensive restaurants:

*Chez Chartier:* Rue Montmartre. Here you will get 'cuisine familiale' for about 30 Francs, but be careful—meals are not served after 9pm.

*La Fresque:* 100 Rue Rambuteau (near Les Halles). Only for lunch, for about 50F you'll get a main course with meat and sauce.

*Le Petit Vatel:* Rue Lobineau (behind St Germaine market). The story goes like this: Vatel was the cook of Louis XVI and he killed himself because of a sauce that he made which tasted horrible. The restaurant's like a big kitchen and there's only one table so it's easy to make friends. You might have to queue to get a seat but it's worth it because the cost is 50F for a whole meal.

*Les Artists:* At the corner of Rue de Siene. Just ask for Tarte Tatin it is the greatest in the world.

Now remember that service is included in the bill.

*Bon Appetit,*  
*Olivier Waser.*

Next week, Yishu Nanda will be back with his special recipe for Strawberry Mousse.

### Summer Vacation Residence Forms

Now available from the Summer Accommodation Office

Closing date: Friday June 3rd  
 Unfortunately places are strictly limited

## FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

ROLL UP, ROLL UP  
 to

## THE IC UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 19th May 1988

1.00pm in the J.C.R.

**Come and separate fact from fiction,  
 truth from rumour  
 WHO WILL GET SACKED THIS TIME?**



## KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **THE PHANTOM SOAKER** has returned! Anarchists mourned the loss of this wacky character when he/she disappeared from the College scene two years ago. However, at 7.30 last Sunday night, College's favourite rascal returned.

Internal Services Officer and Falmouth Keogh Assistant Subwarden Al Birch was walking outside his hall when a carrier bag full of water landed right in front of him. Despite hunting high and low for his assailant, Mr Birch had no success.

FK Warden and top physicist Prof Geoff New was informed of this near miss. He put calculator to pen to paper and worked out that the carrier bag was travelling at such a high velocity when it hit the ground that if it had landed on top of Mr Birch, it would have killed him instantaneously!

Rumour has it, that if and when the Soaker is caught, he/she will be charged with gross incompetence.

College Chief Security Officer Geoff Reeves told an ace FELIX reporter on Monday that he didn't think that it was the work of the original Phantom Soaker.

● **THE SILWOOD BALL** last Friday night proved interesting to say the least. Gail Turner announced her engagement to Paul Bailey. Several people present expressed concern over this, leaving Miss Turner in a somewhat subdued mood. When RCS Hon Sec Gordon Brignall later approached her on a completely different matter, Miss Turner resorted to Anglo-Saxon dialogue. RCS President Elect, Stephanie Snell, anxious to intervene told the Hon Sec Elect not to be so rude. This resulted in a croissant ricocheting off Ms Snell's ample frame. The croissant, 24, was said to be in a stable condition last night.

● **ON THE SUBJECT** of Silwood, College Chief Random Simon Bradshaw spent all of last week looking for someone to accompany him to the Ball. Mr Bradshaw was seen accosting several young ladies including shy, impressionable, FELIX Editor, Judith Hackney, 22. Alas Mr Bradshaw was rejected by all and eventually attended alone.

## blackMAIL

Information required on the following topics:

● Why was next year's UGM Chairman seen leaving College's Refectory Manager Rob Northey's flat at 5.30 in the morning two weeks back?

● How does Mr Sydney Harbour-Bridge find time to attend an RCS AGM; attend a Pub Board meeting and eat his lunch in the JCR but not to write his annual report—part of his job?

● Why were the Chemistry Department so keen to hush up another attempted suicide just before the Easter break?

● Broadsheet Editor Dave Smedley had a cosy little chat with Mr Sydney Harbour-Bridge last Friday. Could this explain the content of Broadsheet this week? Could this explain why Broadsheet came out three days early? Why does Mr Harbour-Bridge refuse to talk to FELIX?

● **The Players:** The portrait of Lord Keogh has been found safe and well. The picture, which disappeared from Falmouth-Keogh Hall last term, was found Saturday by a hall resident. I can now reveal that *Delator* had intended to recapture the Noble Lord on a midnight raid but he came to light before the raid could take place. How convenient!

★ RCSU VP-elect Dave Williams had admitted to one of my moles that the painting was hanging on his wall.

★ Holbein resident Chris Stapleton has admitted to another of my moles that his 'friends' within Gauntlet Club had Lord Keogh on their hit list.

★ Falmouth Keogh Assistant Subwarden Al Birch has admitted that he possesses a key to the cupboard that the picture was contained within.

★ Falmouth Keogh resident Ian Frith 'discovered' the painting. Why was he looking in the cupboard in the first place?

Are one or more of these four individuals members of 'The Players'? Who are these masked men? Why did they not turn up at Rag Fête as was previously announced?

Last week's story concerning Guilds Dinner and Dance proved to be half a red herring. The entire story was made up by Guilds Hon Sec Alan Hepper. He 'leaked' it to RCS mug Dave Williams, who told RCS tramp Tony Spencer. Guess who told Blackmail? Messrs Williams and Spencer are now on *Delator's* 'Unreliable Information' list. Nice one, Alan!

On a more serious note, I have received further information that confirms the existence of a second bank account. I intend to publish a list of more 'slush funds' very soon.

### Last week's Blackmail:

1) The Queen's Tower bonkers were Carol Luscombe and Simon Banton. I received a note from them promising to reveal more unless I paid five pounds. Well, a crisp fiver is on its way!

2) Rob Northey, College Refectory Manager, was the man confronted by the lady with her knickers down at the 170 Queens Gate party. Five pounds by Monday or I reveal the lady's name. This is your final chance.

### This week's Blackmail:

1) A blast from the past: One of this year's Union Officers had a close shave at secondary school. The poor chap felt the urge to cut off all his pubic hair. This kinky act was not done in private however. It was done in full view of his classmates and teacher during a third-year English lesson. Five pounds from the pervert and I forget about this incident.

2) A five pound cheque from the second year Aeronautics student who asks his girlfriend to do the most extra-ordinary things with Mars Bars.

Loads more Blackmail next week.

*Delator.*

PS. Keep the information rolling in. It's all appreciated!

● **MARTYN PRICK** of 'Vote for Me, I've got a briefcase' fame is in the news again this week. Mr Prick left his case in 7—11 on Gloucester Road whilst buying some very dodgy magazines. When the Holbein Random went to collect his lost property next day, the police were promptly run up. 7—11 staff had thought the offending item was a bomb and had it removed. Mr Prick was last seen making his way to Gerard Rd in a large white van...

● **TALKING OF 'El Prick'**, he and his Bean's Club random twin Sumeet Ghaie (pronounced GAY) were up to no good again last Sunday night. Anxious to discover the identity of Bean's Secretary Paul Shanley's late-night guest, they did some spying 'Cosmic Ferret' style. This involved hanging out of a third-storey bathroom window just above Mr Shanley's window with camera poised. The boys slightly gave the game away when they forgot to take the camera flash off. As no thunder followed this sudden burst of lightening, Shan and his guest realised what was happening and drew the curtains.

The bungling peeping toms then burst in on the pair to take surprise snap shots for the Holbein noticeboard. Shan and his guest, not wishing to disappoint the boys, who had obviously gone to so much trouble to corner him in a compromising position, arranged a photosession for them on his bed. A good time was had by all.

● **TWO CASES** of mistaken identity have come to my notice recently:

FELIX Editor Judith Hackney had found herself back in her room with two other randoms after collation last week. One of her guests, who was slightly worse for wear after devouring a third of a litre of Southern Comfort, managed to spill his tea all over her carpet. The man in question then decided to make himself another cup. He got up, picked up her telephone, took it over to her sink and proceeded to try and fill the 'phone up. It took at least two minutes before he realised exactly what he had done.

Also Martyn Prick (it's that man again), whilst pointing at a packet of cream crackers in a friend's room, accused him of being a stamp collector. Mr Prick was convinced that the packet was a stamp album.

The difference between Miss Hackney's friend and Mr Prick was that the friend was drunk.

Chris Jones.



## Editorial

Imagine a computer manufacturer who has to pay out vast sums every year because its computers are unreliable and break down while under warranty. Any sensible observer would tell the company to spend some money on its production line and its quality control in order to make its computers more reliable; fewer repairs would lead to a long term saving. If the company actually chose to cut its losses by sacking staff and economising in its complaints department, we would rightly regard the management as stupid and incompetent. Yet something very similar is happening with the Health Service.

The Health Service is (supposedly) becoming an increasing strain on Government spending. At the same time the British public are becoming increasingly unhealthy. The Government has responded by restricting the amount of money spent by the hospitals. What they ought to be doing is taking action to improve public health. Last year, while the Health Education Council spent £1.4 million on a campaign called *Look After Your Heart* (this is about one per cent of the advertising budget of the tobacco industry), the NHS spent more than £400 million treating those who had heart disease. Britains have some of the least healthy hearts in the world (two British regions, Scotland and Northern Ireland, actually top the world league for heart attacks per head of population).

The Government's free-market instincts seem to prevent it fulfilling its duty to the public. Nutritional labelling of food has been rejected by ministers (contrary to their scientists advice) because the powerful food lobby were worried that telling people what was in their food might put them off buying it. The Common Agricultural Policy and the Ministry of Agriculture have conspired to subsidise the farmers who produce some of the least healthy foods (hence, for example, the butter mountain). In fact, almost all policies relating to agriculture are designed to benefit the producers and they have historically completely ignored the nutritional needs of consumers.

Recently those scientists who work on areas related to public health have been starting to agree more than ever before that it is possible to improve public health by concerted government action. Several scientific reports (on diet and health, the causes

of heart disease and so on) have produced urgent suggestions for action. However, the politicians seem too concerned with keeping public spending under control in the short term to realise that they could save a fortune in the long term by spending

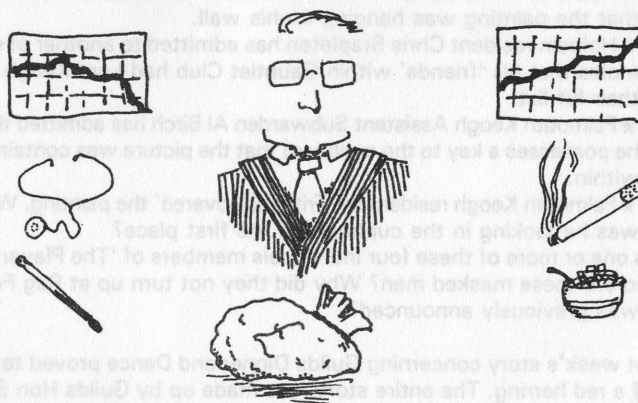
can make more money encouraging us to eat an unhealthy diet. And no scientist should allow their opinions to be bought by vested interests.

It requires a lot of effort to create a healthy society, but in the end it is worth it. We need government action

## UNDER MICRO THE SCOPE



by Steve Black



money now to encourage us to be more healthy.

We need Government action because the food industry makes too much money out of unhealthy foods and is therefore willing to promote bad habits by powerful advertising. Even the tobacco industry (who cannot claim that its products are good for you) is still allowed to spend a fortune every year encouraging us to kill ourselves. They get away with it because they also spend a lot of money lobbying MPs in an attempt to stop them banning the advertising. Other slightly less disreputable companies, such as sugar refiners, have misused scientific results to make their products seem more innocuous than they actually are. One company even had one of its own experts make a highly publicised speech claiming that children who eat too much muesli were suffering from malnutrition because of lack of sugar. We will never build a healthy society if we follow the advice of those who

to promote the public knowledge of the facts of nutrition and health. We also need legislation to force food companies to tell us what is really in their products so we know what is good for us and what isn't. We should aim for a society where people are well enough informed about science to judge for themselves how to be healthy.

It is good to live in a society where the ill will always be looked after, but it is better to live in a society where few people fall ill. We live in a country where the cost of caring for the ill is becoming so large that some people think the state can no longer afford to pay it. However, the best way to preserve the NHS is not to keep investing more money in treating illness (though some may be needed in the short term), but to spend the money in an effort to create a more healthy society. Investing in health education now will ensure that, in the long term, we can afford to look after our ill.

## Vampire chemical kills bugs

A new idea in chemical weaponry has been invented by chemists at the University of Illinois: it is an insecticide that only kills during the day. At first sight this may not seem like such a good idea, since crop-eating insects are likely to be just as hungry at night as during the day: why should we call a truce if they don't! However, the nature of the vampire chemicals may make them more useful than other bug-killers.

The basic chemical ingredient of the Illinois chemists vampire soup is a compound called delta-aminolevulinic acid (delta-ALA to its friends). Because of its similarity to some cellular building-blocks, it is unlikely that insects can evolve resistance to it. In fact, it works because they absorb large quantities of it at night and then, when the sun comes up, light (aided by the other chemicals of the soup) initiates a chain reaction that transforms the delta-ALA into another rather nastier compound called proto-porphyrin which buggers cell membranes when it gets into the wrong place in them. Outside the insects or in the absence of light the delta-ALA is harmless and rapidly degrades in the environment. Insects that have absorbed the compound survive normally until dawn when they last about ten seconds before spinning around violently throwing up and dying (unless they can find a dark coffin filled with consecrated earth).

The other additives to the chemical soup can be readily modified to make the mixture highly specific for one pest. The process of making specific cocktails is easy and thousands have already been tried. This is a significant improvement over more conventional pesticides where costly and slow trial-and-error alterations to the basic killing-molecule are the only way to create species-specificity.

It all goes to show that even watching old horror films can suggest ideas for new chemistry.

*If there is anything you would like to see on this page then now is the time to contact me: there are only a handful more issues of FELIX before the summer. Suggestions, ideas, articles, abuse to Steve Black, Chem PG or the FELIX Office.*



# FILM

## A Prayer for the Dying (15)

The major problem with making films about Northern Ireland and its troubles is how not to side too heavily, and hence avoid alienating a large part of your audience immediately.

This is overcome in *A Prayer for the Dying*, the new film from Mike Hodges (director of *Flash Gordon* and *Morons from Outer Space*), in the very simple and effective way. The Irish connection is left very low key, almost as subtle background to the events which the film portrays.

Starring as the IRA partisan Martin Fallon is Mickey Rourke (*Barfly*, *Angel Heart*), cast brilliantly in the part which could have been written for him. The film opens with Fallon inadvertently killing a bus load of schoolchildren—the single violent act which convinces him to leave Ireland for good.

That's where Alan Bates (*The Entertainer*) comes in. He plays London gangland boss Jack Meehan, operating a drugs and prostitution syndicate using a funeral director's business as a cover. Meehan offers passage to America, a passport and cash, but only if Fallon will carry out a hit on one of his rivals.

Fallon agrees reluctantly and wipes the guy out while he is visiting his



mother's grave. The murder is witnessed by Father DaCosta, an ex-SAS officer turned priest, played by Bob Hoskins (*Mona Lisa*, *The Long Good Friday*). From then on the story plods along at a steady pace, developing into quite a thrilling climax.

The film is based on a book by Jack Higgins (*The Eagle Has Landed*, *Exocet*) and the author claims a hidden narrative in all his books—the eternal questions about the nature of man. This theme is clearly evident in *A Prayer for the Dying* as the emptiness which appears when you've reached your peak. Mickey Rourke shows this in his character, revealing himself layer by layer in a display of fine acting. He explains his thoughts to Bob Hoskins from the pulpit in a short exchange which is

delivered with a sad finality. 'There's nothing worth killing for, and there's nothing worth dying for, but the real truth is there's nothing worth living for either.' The confusion in the character is much like that of Harry Angel in *Angel Heart*.

Bob Hoskins is not my first choice for a priest (typecasting perhaps?) and inevitably his performance is not equal to his part in *Mona Lisa* but he does well playing a character very similar to Rourke's. Alan Bates is quietly menacing as Meehan. Younger brother Billy Meehan, sadistically and psychotically portrayed by Christopher Fulford, provides a character who you'll love to hate, and enjoy the sickening way Rourke deals with him.

The other characters, father DaCosta's blind niece Anna, and two

IRA members sent to catch or kill Fallon provide a little more depth to the plot if not to their roles.

*A Prayer for the Dying* is quite a sad yet enjoyable film, not being heavily political, and is worth seeing if only for Mickey Rourke. It opens tonight at the Leicester Square Theatre.

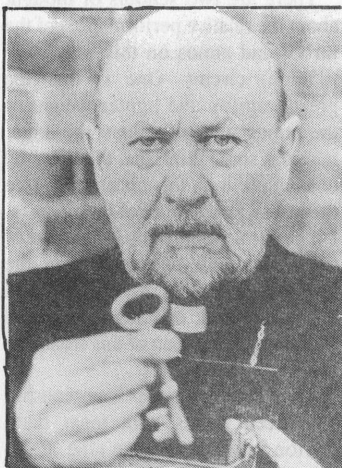
## Prince of Darkness (18)

God exists, and it can be scientifically proved. This is the stunning revelation presented to us in the new film by John Carpenter *The Prince of Darkness*. God exists in all things at a subatomic level, and this results in the strange concepts of Quantum Physics. Also, just as there are particles and anti-particles, there's a God and an anti-God.

A priest (Donald Pleasance) summons a group of graduate students and scientists to an abandoned church to probe the secrets of a mysterious cannister. With the cannister they find an alternative bible (like an alternative prospectus) which tells things as they really were. Apparently the bible we all know, was just something for those simple people who didn't know what calculus was. But now 2000 years later we know about Quantum Mechanics and so the real truths can be explained to us.

The manuscript explains that Satan, the Prince of Darkness, is entombed within the cannister, and it sets out to prove scientifically with a series of differential equations that what Jesus said 2000 years ago was true. This is a bit much for the students to take in, but they also have to contend with being individually killed off or zombified because it just so happens that Satan, after seven million years confinement, decides that this is the time to escape and so effect the coming of his father, the anti-God.

*Prince of Darkness* marks another venture into horror films for John Carpenter (*Halloween*, *Christine*), and here he takes his science very seriously. But in the end the use of the strangeness of Quantum Reality as a basis for supernatural behaviour serves as just a vehicle for a rather routine horror film. There are some nice spine-tingling touches, but the



acting is mostly dreadful and unconvincing (or is it that scientists really do act that way?).

Ultimately it is in the silly physics and theology that the fun in the film lies as it happily explains away life, religion and....everything, in one fell swoop.

Sumit Guha

# MUSIC

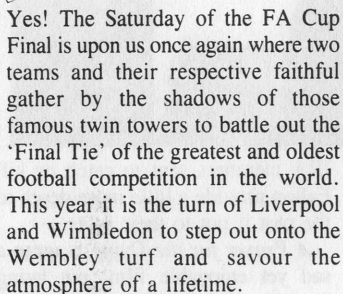
## Aliens Ate My Buick

Thomas Dolby

*Aliens Ate My Buick* is the sort of thing that could easily achieve cult status if enough people get to hear of it. It is, in fact, the latest album from Thomas Dolby, and is definitely the sort of album that reaches out and grabs you. The cover is a mixture of sixties style film hoarding, Monty-Phyton style cartoons, and Flash Gordon style melodrama. One of the unchanging features of rock groups is how seriously most of them take themselves and their music. This criticism certainly stops short of Thomas Dolby, whose latest album is a series of musical send-ups, with hilarious lyrics, and a wide variety of musical styles. *The Key to Her Ferrari* sounds like big-band jazz, sending up people who fall in love with their car, whilst *Airhead* and *Hot Sauce* have a viciously funky bass, and are about women who just refuse to be liberated. Ever heard a road-drill on a record before? Rounding up with the aetherial *Budapest* by *Blimp*, here is an album which displays more imagination than anything I've ever bought before.

Richard Fincher





So much has been said, seen and written about Liverpool this season that a few paragraphs can't really do them justice. They are already league champions and Wimbledon alone prevent them from completing their second double in three years. In goal is the extrovert Bruce Grobbelaar, sometimes brilliant, sometimes

The man in charge is Kenny 'sorry, can you repeat that please?' Dalglish. He is down as a player-manager but is now content to sit on the bench while his men do the business on the field. They haven't had an easy passage to Wembley with victories over Stoke (after an away scoreless draw), Everton, Aston Villa (away), Manchester City (away) and a tough

Twelve years is a long time in football and a progression from non-league to Division One and now Wembley is quite staggering. It is their first FA Cup Final and nerves will be jangling. In goal is the captain and all four divisions man Dave Beasant, a highly paid player who leads from the back. In defence they have ex-Argyle man Clive Goodyear, little Terry Phelan and ex-Brighton player Eric Young who recently reduced Pompey goalkeeper Alan Knight's face to a disaster area. There is also the Psycho Vinny Jones, the man-to-man marker who Paul Gascoigne of Newcastle got very intimate with. Under 21 star Andy Thorn completes the rearguard. The midfield and attack mixes flair with true grit. Alan Cork has been there since the beginning of time. Terry Gibson, the ex-Coventry and Man Utd man, plays his part after a record £200,000 transfer. There is Lawrie Sanchez from Reading and the class little 5'6" Denis Wise, the man with little hair and a big heart. The hit man (no pun intended) is John Fashanu, the £120,000 ex-Millwall front man and amateur boxer. The back-up men include Brian Gayle, Carlton Fairweather (let's hope it is)

*Yours for the last time,  
Adrian A B Grainger.*

# MOTOR

That is, in essence, the story behind the Monaco Grand Prix, or is the racing the story behind the posing? Monte Carlo in May is one of *the* places to be seen on the European social circuit and as such attracts a different type of crowd from the normal Grand Prix. The sponsors love the place and bring guests galore, all hoping to see their cars succeed. This puts extra pressure on teams and drivers—not as if they needed any more, for this is the oldest surviving street course on the World Championship calendar. The circuit winds its way around the principality in a tortuous two mile ribbon, past the famous Hotel de Paris, the Casino,

Alain Prost leads the Championship on fifteen points with team mate Ayrton Senna next up on nine. Prost won three consecutive Monaco GPs but Senna won last year in the actively suspended Lotus-Honda. It should be a classic struggle—two great drivers in clearly superior cars fighting amongst themselves. Qualifying and the start will be all important. If one of them gets through the Virage Ste Devote first with the other behind other cars then the race will be as

Over in the States, motorsport and the month of May mean one thing—the Indianapolis 500. This Sunday sees the start of qualifying when pole positions will be decided. The race itself on May 29 will be watched by 400,000 people making it the world's biggest sporting event. More details in two weeks time.

# RACING

Hopefully, next week I can give you my tip for the Derby. Until then, this week's tips appear in the news pages.



## Clubs

### C&G MOTOR

Last Friday thirty members of the City and Guilds College Motor Club took the Cooper Racing Services introductory course in motor racing at the Castle Combe circuit in Wiltshire.

First of all drivers attended a briefing in the circuit control tower, there the instructor showed the correct racing line around the circuit, indicating breaking, turning in and gear change points. It was emphasised that the key to a quick lap time was smoothness and using the full width of the circuit.

Then it was onto the track for individual attention. The instructor drove you around for two laps in a Ford Escort XR3i or Orion 1.6i, demonstrating what had been explained earlier. The pupil then took over the controls and had three laps to learn the circuit and prove his competence to progress. The instructors were very helpful in these laps, pointing out faults as they occurred enabling them to be corrected straight away. Then came the highlight of the day—seven laps in a race-prepared works Formula Ford (FF) 1600 car. This is the type of car used by almost the very junior drivers as they start their motor racing careers. As the name suggests, they are equipped with Ford 1600cc engines, producing about 105bhp, four speed Hewland gearboxes, a tubular spaceframe chassis and Dunlop control tyres. Top speeds were about 100mph because we were asked to keep to a 5000rpm limit, but the impression of speed is much greater because of the directness of the steering and the stiffness of the suspension.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and another trip will be organised next year, anyone interested should get in touch with C&G Motor Club via the Guilds Office.

### IC RADIO

Starting from Monday May 9, from 8am to 9.15am, a new era starts in IC Radio broadcasting history. The immaculate partnership of Spenser 'Fast' Lane and Neil 'Trouser' Press is sure to bring an element of mirth into your Monday mornings. So, by tuning into 999kHz on the medium wave band (which is even audible from Garden Hall, so who is spreading these vicious rumours about not being able to get it in Southside).

## ICSO

Robert Manasse, a 3rd Year Applied Biology student, is probably one of the most talented people ever to study at Imperial College. He was born in New York in 1932 and at the age of 21 discovered the secret of eternal youth.

Apart from being an excellent biologist, he has also composed the soundtrack for, and starred as Harrison Ford, in such films as 'Star Wars', 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' and 'ET'. He represented Wales and the British Lions at full back for ten years and he knits his own jumpers.

This evening, at 8pm in the Great Hall, IC Symphony Orchestra is privileged enough to have Robert performing Reinecke's Flute Concerto with them. He will be playing a flute presented to him by Winston Churchill in recognition of his service in the Battle of Britain. The Orchestra will also be performing three of Robert's pieces: Music from 'Star Wars', 'Carmen' and 'Peterloo' which he wrote at the age of eight months. Tickets are £1.50 (£1 advance) for students and £2.50 for grown ups.

## MICROLIGHT

Have you ever wanted to fly? Have you ever had that urge, drawing you to the open skies and wondered what it's like being up there? Unfortunately normal powered flight costs so much as to be out of reach of most people's pockets. Microlight aviation is cheap and fun. Microlighting is also not very hard, if you can learn to ride a bicycle you can learn to fly a microlight. This is helped by the inherent stability of the weight shift control trainers: one of the weirdest sensations is taking your hands off all of the controls and finding nothing happens (microlights are less affected by weather than other forms of light aviation). Nothing can beat putting full throttle on charging down a field and then disappearing off into the heavens.

The most expensive part of microlighting is the licence, which costs a few hundred pounds spread over a few months but after that microlighting is the second cheapest form of powered transport after the moped. Microlighting at Imperial's first job will be renovating the College microlight to an airworthy condition and as the end of exams and the summer months come up it should be a lot of fun. Anyone interested in microlighting at IC should contact Hal Calamvokis (Aero 1 or Rag pigeonholes) or Chris Tipper (EE1).

## Sport

### SQUASH

The results for the Spring Term of the Men's London League has just arrived and the results are as follows:

Div 1	IC I	6th
Div 2	IC II	8th (down to Div 3)
Div 3	IC III	2nd (up to Div 2)
Div 4	IC IV	8th
Div 4	IC V	1st (up to Div 3)

### TENNIS

UAU 1st Round  
Saturday May 7  
IC vs City at Harlington

Hopeful to improve upon last year's quarter final place in the UAU, the Imperial College 1st team got off to a good start this season defeating a strong City University side 5-4.

City's American 2nd pair took time in adjusting to the superb grass courts that Imperial boast at Harlington, dropping the 1st set to Hill and Lavelle before narrowly winning in 3 sets. At the end of the first round Imperial were down 2-1 as Jones and Roberts lost to City's strong 1st couple and Morcos and Skipworth won against City's 3rd pair.

The match score stood at 3-2 to Imperial when Morcos and Skipworth lost a marathon match against the City 1st couple 3-6, 6-4, 15-13 after

### RIFLE & PISTOL

Always in search of new challenges the pistol team took up standard pistol, an Olympic discipline not normally shot at IC. As some match practice was needed before the BUSEF competition at the end of term we challenged the Central Polytechnic of London to a match on March 4. Standard pistol is a timed discipline with a string of 5 shots taken in 150, 20 and 10 second. These are repeated 4 times for each time period. This gives an individual score out of 600 and in this competition the best 4 scores out of 6 were to count.

The teams, in the order they shot, were:

IC	Central Poly
Paul Deeks	Michael Wolf
Ian Draper	Rob Silverstone
Andrew Jones	Robin Razzel
Mike Lacey	Pete Kershaw
Andrew Lane	Adrian Mitchell
Roger Winskill	Ross

The team champions of London's Fourth Division are:

Lewis Henssen (Aero 2)  
Sadaqat Bashir (Chem Eng PG)  
Joachim Müller (Physics 2)  
Pankaj Patel (Biotechnology 1)

The women's teams were enormously successful with the Imperial College I winning their Div 1 and Imperial College II getting promoted from Div 2.

Thanks to all the team captains for organising the teams and the players for putting up a good showing, especially the Mens 3rd and 5th teams and both the women's teams.

holding a match point. In the final round, needing to win 2 out of the 3 remaining matches Imperial scraped home victorious.

Julian Jones and John Roberts look like developing into a very formidable pair, although their combined height of 11 feet leaves them vulnerable to tactical lobbing. The new partnership of Hill and Lavelle demonstrates the depth of talent in the IC Tennis Club, coasting against City's equivalent couple before losing narrowly to the vociferous American 2nd couple. It was left to Morcos and Skipworth in the deciding match of the day against the Americans to demonstrate the finer points of grass court tennis and take the match 6-2, 6-0.

The result guarantees IC a place in the UAU knock-out rounds regardless of the result of our match this Wednesday against UCL.

After introductions, and a late arrival by Ross (who didn't have time to tell us his other name), the shooting began.

Some good scores were shot by Central Poly, their best by Silverstone at 331, gave them an overall score of 1209. These were, however, well beaten by an impressive IC total of 2050 with the best score of 521 from Roger Winskill. A bout of erratic shooting meant their best was almost as good as our worst but a good team performance gave counting scores all over 500.

After such an emphatic win (again) we look forward to a return match soon. Finally we are still looking for members and welcome anyone, come down to the range any lunchtime to join. Also if any of our members know of any reasonably good clubs around London we can challenge come down and let us know.



# Diary

## What's On

### FRIDAY

- Conservative Soc Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
ME 569.
- Circuit Training** .....12.30pm.  
Union Gym with Cross Country and Athletics Club. Everyone welcome. Free.
- Orienteering** .....12.30pm.  
Brown/Green Committee Room (top floor of Union Building). Arrangements for following Sunday's event.
- Rag Meeting** .....12.35pm.  
Every second Friday. Union Lounge. All Welcome.
- Debating Society Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Physics leve 2 common room.
- Islamic Prayer** .....1.00pm.  
The Union Building. See Islamic Society.
- Christian Union Meeting** .....6.00pm.  
308 OHC Computing. A talk on the Deity of Christ. All welcome, follow directions from Physics Foyer.
- Into the Night** .....7.00pm.  
STOIC. Films, videos, chat, 'Countdown'. On all the televisions in the Halls of Residence.
- Starwars** .....8.00pm.  
ICSO In concert in the Great Hall plus some real music. £2.50, £1.50 students, £1 advance.

### SATURDAY

- Shotokan Karate** .....10.00am.  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.
- Tang Soodo** .....4.00pm.  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome. £1 members.

### SUNDAY

- Chaplaincy Service** .....10.00am.  
Sherfield Building. Please join us for an ecumenical communion service. FREE.
- Wargames Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Senior Common Room.

### MONDAY

- Rock Soc Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of rock? Come along!
- Parachute Club Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
Union Lower Lounge. See Max Hunt von Herbing (Chairman).
- Artsoc Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
SCR Union. Come to sign up and pay your money for tickets for forthcoming events, eat biscuits and drink coffee. Free to members (membership £1.50).
- ICCG Meeting** .....12.45pm.  
Rag Office (top floor of the Union Building). All welcome.

- Recitation of Holy Qur'an** .....1.00pm.  
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.
- Golf Practice** .....5.30pm.  
Union Gym. See Golf Club.
- Concert Band Rehearsal** .....5.45pm.  
Great Hall. All players please!
- Intermediate Ballroom** .....7.00pm.  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.
- Shotokan Karate** .....7.00pm.  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.
- Beginners Ballroom** .....8.00pm.  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.
- Tang Soo Do** .....9.00pm.  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.00 members.

### TUESDAY

- Christian Union** .....8.15am.  
Chemistry 231. See Steve Clark, Christian Union.
- Guinness & Gossip** .....12.30pm.  
Sailing Club meeting above Stan's.
- IC CathSoc Mass** .....12.30pm.  
Chemistry 231. Quiet and contemplation between lectures or exams. Food provided (50p). All welcome.
- Boardsailing** .....12.30pm.  
Regular meeting in Southside Lounge to organise trips.
- QT Soc Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Southside Upper Lounge (or Pizza Bar). Plot-hatching extravaganza! New members welcome.
- Holy Qur'an Recitation** .....1.30pm.  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.
- Amnesty Meeting** .....1.30pm.  
Brown Committee Room. FREE.
- Islamic Circle** .....5.30pm.  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.
- Canoe Club** .....6.30pm.  
Meet in Beit Quad for training session in swimming pool.
- Judo** .....6.30pm.  
Union Gym. Sorry—no more beginners.
- Caving Club Meeting** .....7.00pm.  
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Advanced Ballroom** .....7.00pm.  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club
- IC Radio** .....8.00pm.  
Psychedelic & Indie Show.
- Improvers Ballroom** .....8.00pm.  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.
- Canoe Club Meeting** .....8.30pm.  
Above Southside Bar.
- Dai Rocking** .....9.00pm.  
IC Radio (99.9kHz). The best in hard rock and not-so-hard rock music including the featured album every week with Dave Williams.

### WEDNESDAY

- Sailing** .....12.30pm.  
Meet outside Southside.
- S.L.A.G.S. Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
Society for Lesbian and Gay Students meets in the Green Committee Room

(top floor Union Building). Come along for a chat if you don't mind people thinking you're going to a Wargames Society meeting!

- Golf Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Sudbury. Regular weekly meeting.
- Caving Club Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Union Snack Bar.
- Wargames Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Senior Common Room.
- Beginners Rock n Roll** .....2.15pm.  
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.
- Shotokan Karate** .....3.00pm.  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.
- Offbeat Practice** .....3.15pm.  
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.
- ULU Meditation Group** .....7.00pm.  
Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street. Traditional breathing meditation. Everyone welcome. No charge.
- ICSO** .....7.00pm.  
No rehearsal this week because the concert was last Friday!

### THURSDAY

- ICYHA Meeting** .....12.30pm.  
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Socialist Society Meeting** .....12.45pm.  
Brown Committee Room. All welcome. Contact Adrian Grainger (Maths 3).
- Amnesty Letters Stall** .....1.00pm.  
JCR fortnightly. FREE.
- Newsbreak** .....1.00pm.  
STOIC. IC's own news programme.
- IC Annual General Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
JCR. Come and separate fact from fiction, truth from rumour. Who will get the boot this time?
- SFSOC Library Meeting** .....1.00pm.  
Green Committee Room, Union Building. Borrow books from our vast library, help plan future events. Members only.
- Arabic Classes** .....1.30pm.  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.
- Gliding Club Meeting** .....5.30pm.  
Aero 254. Arrange trial flights, lifts to Lasham, talks and then to the bar.
- Orienteering Training** .....5.30pm.  
Union Gym. Social meeting held from 6.30pm onwards.
- Newsbreak** .....6.00pm.  
STOIC.
- Judo** .....6.30pm.  
Union Gym. Sorry—no more beginners.
- ULU Lesbian Gay Group** .....7.30pm.  
ULU Building, Malet Street (Russell Sq. tube).
- ICCG Soup Run** .....9.15pm.  
Weeks Basement Hall. Contact Liz Warren (Chem Eng 2).
- Martyn 'with a y' Peck's Collation Extravaganza** .....10.00pm.  
Tune into IC Radio 99.9 kHz for more goeey MoR!

## Preview: Classical Music

Hello again! Due to the overwhelming indifference shown to my first article I had to plead, wheedle and buy drinks for the FELIX hierarchy (where was mine?—Ed) to be allowed to write another and to stop being replaced by an article on the spawning habits of the Mongolian tree frog.

Right, now for the music. Now is a great time to go to hear classical music in London. The great part of the world's top fiddle players have, or are about to, descend on the capital in conjunction with the LSO International Violin Series.

In the week ahead you will be able to hear Beethoven, Creig, Elgar, Tchaikovski, Rackmaninov and Debussy.

Tonight at 7.45pm at the Barbican the LSO have a rich bill—the star attraction of which must be the Tchaikovski Violin Concerto in D Major.

This is a major work with a wonderful, intensely sad subject in its first movement and all kinds of breathtaking scales. The second movement is full of retrospection and wistfulness. It is typical Tchaikovski—even its happiest moments are introspective and regretful of what might have been. The third movement flies along and requires nimble and quick fingerwork.

Sunday May 15 sees another great Tchaikovski/Mussorzy/Rackmaninov programme at the Barbican. The LSO play Night on the Blue Mountain. The all famous Rackmaninov Piano Concerto No 2 and the real star Tchaikovski's Symphony No 6 in B minor.

It is impossible to preview all the concerts but I have highlighted the best. The star concert this week is the LSO performance of Beethoven's Triple Concerto in C major featuring the brother/sister/sister trio of Myung Whun Chung, Kyung Sha Chung and Myung Wha Chung. The piece was an unprecedented achievement in orchestration, allowing all instruments to be heard irrespective of their very different tones. The orchestra is almost redundant in some places as the three solo instruments play as a trio in their own right and in places trying to outdo each other in the first movement. The second and third movement blend wonderfully into one another with 'cello starting and finishing the second.

Also appearing on the same bill is Mahler Symphony No 1 'Titan' which in my opinion is brilliant.

Matthew Salter.



## Small Ads

### FOR SALE

- **Mugs** (quantity 30). New-unused. Were £1 each, will sell for £15 the lot. Contact V Collins (Mech Eng) int 6208
- **Trolley** (floor level). Has strong metal frame. Very useful for moving packages, tables, chairs, etc. As new £23. Contact V Collins (Mech Eng) int 6208.
- **SAAB 99L** Dark blue, L reg, sun roof, good tyres, MOT September 88, taxed until February 89. £350. Int 4468.

### PERSONAL

- **Has Prophylactic** Press worked out what a prophylactic is, or will he ask a Johnny?
- **For all** those who missed the Press and Love Breakfast Show on Monday, you missed out.
- **So listen** in on Mon 16/5/88 at 8am on IC Radio to the Neil and Spense Show. Guaranteed record spot for all personal ads readers.
- **I didn't** say that either last week—The Rector.
- **Have Faz**, Anne-Marie and Phil got diseases or are their spots just on the show?
- **Introducing** Spense, the no 1 DJ at IC Radio—Si Bichara.
- **Introducing** Neil, the best thing to w\*\*k to during your revision—Madame Sin.
- **Don't** be conned into listening to this con. It's a con to think that is a con.
- **Where's** my record?—Mallam.
- **You haven't** got it yet—Lane.
- **Is** this the sort of rubbish we're going to hear on the show?
- **Mr Floppy** is it flora or sunflower margarine?
- **Calling** all rhinos—feeling horny? Where's Nigel?
- **Nigel**—don't point that b\*m at me! The Rhino Club.
- **Boz**—long range coo from the girlie rower, in need of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- **2nd Lt Tyler** wishes to announce that he has eloped to Aldershot with a large bulldozer. Telegrams to the happy couple should be sent via Guilds Union Office.
- **Lost:** One large Second Lieutenant. If found please return to the Guilds Union Office.
- **Q:** How much work has this year's Internal Services Officer done for the Union? Answers on the back of a postage stamp please.
- **Who's** got Ann's blue dressing gown?
- **Wing** does it (i) 3 times in 40 minutes and (ii) gracefully.
- **Graham's** bed is 'squeaky' clean!!
- **Save our chocolate.** Write to your MP NOW!
- **No Swiss** chocolate please. We're Rowntree's.
- **Keep** Rowntree's Yorkshire.
- **Wordpuzzle**—rearrange these words: Nick Sodding a mouth got has big Leigh.
- **Penthouse Club!** Wow, yeah—let's have some more split infinitives this week as well!
- **Excellent.**
- **After Silwood**, a four-way simultaneous chocolate orgasm in Hyde Park.
- **Mr Anonymous**—who are you? ES5.
- **Found:** One pair of black lace knickers (only slightly ripped!) by a tree after Silwood Ball. Contact Dramsoc for return.
- **Found:** A sum of money outside the FELIX Office. See Judith if it's yours.

## Useless phones

Dear FELIX,

Having been back at College for two weeks and only having received two external telephone calls, I must write to express my concern over the efficiency of the new Weeks/Garden Hall exchange. As I understand from your explanation at the beginning of term, there is only one line between the exchange and the main College exchange. This means that only *one person* in the whole of Weeks/Garden Hall can receive an external call at one time. Is this really so? It seems too preposterous to be true. Before this new, and, I presume, highly expensive, exchange scheme, each landing had a simple, four-digit extension number, and no problems arose. Now, not only is the new phone engaged to all external callers (even if it is not actually in use), but its ringing tone is virtually inaudible and it needs a sharp tap before it actually connects! What use is a telephone exchange with all sorts of high-falutin' and fairly useless applications if it cannot guarantee simple communication? Why should the external caller (probably long-distance or in a callbox) suffer the expense of waiting while the line is supposedly engaged? The most annoying aspect is that the previous phone system worked efficiently. Perhaps the new Weeks/Garden Hall exchange should have an external number totally separate from that of the main College exchange. But above all—why the deplorable waste of money on an ineffective scheme? College—and students—are hard up enough as it is without resources being squandered in this way.

Yours,

Madeline Slatford.

## A A dismay

Dear Judith,

I was dismayed to read last week's report entitled 'Union squashes debate' (FELIX 801). This report was both biased and incorrect.

First let me clarify that the Anti-Apartheid Society has a 'no platform' policy against persons who officially represent the system of Apartheid. It is not against debates or public meetings in which Apartheid-related issues are discussed.

In the case of the debate, planned by the Debating Society for May 5, we objected to the invitation of Mr Jan Castalyn of the South African Embassy. We refused to oppose the motion in that particular planned debate because we did not want to legitimise Apartheid by standing on the same platform as Mr Castalyn. That is why it comes as no surprise to me that both Sydney Harbour-Bridge and Abby Amushila (who had, at first, agreed to speak) and the Zambian, Zimbabwean and other African Embassies refused to participate.

The article which appeared in FELIX on the cancelled debate, states that members of Anti-Apartheid asked people not to enter Mech Eng 220 'where the debate was being held'—we could not have possibly done this because there was no debate being held in Mech Eng 220.

It also says that the President of DebSoc spent forty minutes asking Anti-Apartheid members 'to go into the debate'. Again, this statement is not correct as the President, Ms Lynda Matthews, could not have asked us to join a non-existent debate.

What Ms Matthews did want, was for me to speak, in

Mech Eng 220, to all the Anti-Apartheid demonstrators present, explaining why I believe in a 'no platform' policy; which, of course, is ridiculous, since none of the demonstrators would have been demonstrating if they did not agree with such a policy.

The article also states that we were 'totally against participating' in debates. This is wholly and grossly untrue. I told Ms Matthews that I was personally willing to speak in a debate, especially one whose motion was Apartheid-related.

What this article did not mention was that there were around fifty people, demonstrating their disapproval against the invitation of a member of the South African Embassy, outside Mech Eng 220 and only about five people, mostly members of DebSoc, inside the lecture theatre (presumably having a general discussion).

Yet none of the demonstrators were interviewed or approached by FELIX staff, and none of us were either named or quoted in the article. On the other hand, statements made by members of DebSoc were published in FELIX.

Finally, I think that some people may feel that the bias in the article was not unexpected, seeing that it was written by Mr Andrew Allum (and sub-edited by yourself). Mr Allum is not only a member of the the Debating Society, but was also meant to be a speaker in the cancelled debate.

I hope that the article which appeared last week was only an isolated case and that reports in FELIX, in future, will return to their normal high standard of truthfulness and journalistic competence.

Yours sincerely,

Rakesh Muthoo, Chairman, Anti-Apartheid Society.

**Mr Muthoo's letter contains a factual inaccuracy: the FELIX reporter who wrote the story was Mr Andrew Waller who bears absolutely no resemblance to Mr Allum at all. I apologise if our story appeared biased. It was not intended to.**

Dear Judith,

Sanctions or no Sanctions?

What is the role of the IC Debating Society? What is debating all about? What is real freedom of speech?

'It is essential to the purposes of the College that opportunities for free and open discussions shall be safeguarded' (IC freedom of speech: code of practice).

This is what we, as IC Debating Society are trying to defend with all the means available to us. We have the duty to promote discussion of subjects which we think would be of interest to IC students. As is inevitable, most issues have two rivaling arguments and our role is to make sure the participating audience is able to listen to both sides of the argument. Ideally, no one should obstruct such democracy, and, surely, anyone opposed to this is termed no less than a dictator.

Speaking in public is a state of art on its own. Amongst the finest speakers in history one could mention Winston Churchill, Mark Anthony, Martin Luther King, Steven Bico, etc. These people have persuaded a multitude of people of their convictions by means of the spoken word and by nothing else.

Why should a group of people at Imperial College deny the majority of students at IC of a grand occasion of testifying such an event? Such is the fallacy of what happened on Thursday May 5 in the vicinity of Mech Eng 220: a historic event in itself, as I realised what a determined few hard-liners bring about. Of course, with no respect for lawlessness, I continue in my endeavours to ensure the true freedom of speech where absolutely no one would be inhibited as they speak forth their own individual mind.

Yours democratically and individually,

Mark Gialanze (Physics 1).



## Executive relieve Deputy President

Imperial College Union Deputy President Alan Rose has been relieved of his duties relating to the running of the Union Snack Bar and Bar following a decision made by the ICU Executive. The meeting found Mr Rose to be 'responsible for gross mismanagement with relation to a number of his duties as Deputy President relating to Union trading outlets'.

Mr Rose has responded to these allegations of mismanagement in an open letter which has been distributed inside every copy of FELIX. In it he states that 'the decision of the Executive Committee to back the recommendation of the self-styled 'investigation committee' in the removal of the Bar and catering activities from my (his) remit implies an instrumental responsibility for the apparent stock shortages, experienced by both outlets. This is a position which I (he) cannot accept.'

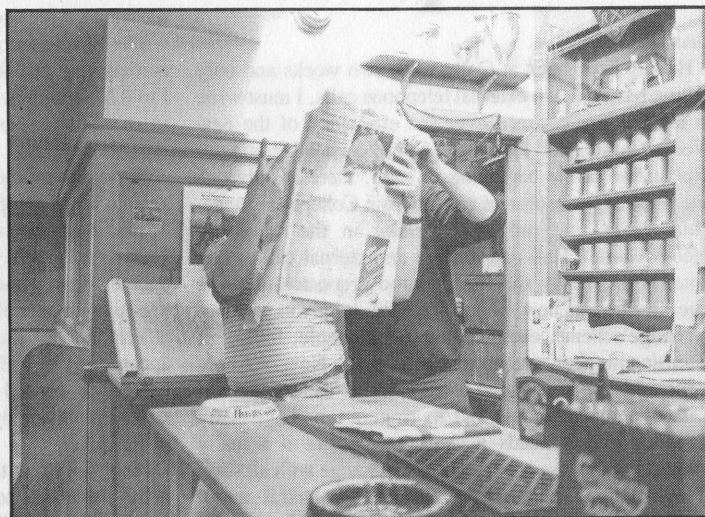
The Executive Committee has decided that Mr Rose should not have any more to do with the Union's trading outlets. Mr Rose is still looking after the Union's finance, the Union Building and Mike, the IC mascot.

Both Snack Bar Manager Norman Jardine and his deputy Mark Anderson decided not to turn up to their Union hearings earlier this week following legal advice. Mr Anderson told FELIX that both he and Mr Jardine are still unsure as to why they are being asked to attend the hearing. He said that he wasn't being uncooperative with the Union, he just wanted everything in writing before he attended any inquiry.

Union President Sydney Harbour-Bridge has arranged another meeting for this afternoon but Mr Anderson says that he will not attend until he has a written list of questions and allegations so that he can in turn provide a written statement regarding his actions during his time working in the Union Snack Bar.

Mr Harbour-Bridge was too busy to comment on the situation when he was approached by FELIX yesterday.

## New Union Barman appointed



The Union's new Bar Manager, John Greaves, working hard in the Bar after his appointment this week. Mr Greaves, a Bristol City supporter, is a graduate of SSEES and was formerly Head Cellarman at the Savoy Hotel. He has also worked for ULU and the DHSS.

## Richard has his balls pinched

Snooker Club Chairman Richard Wiles is fuming following the disappearance of his balls. Mr Wiles, almost 21, told FELIX yesterday that he had lost two sets of balls this year alone.

Last year Mr Wiles locked up his balls in the Snooker cupboard but when he unlocked it this year 'there were only two sets of balls!' He had assumed that the Club Treasurer, a postgraduate, could have been playing with his balls over the Summer but the Treasurer naturally denied this.

Mr Wiles said that each set of balls cost in the region of £40 to replace. He has appealed for his balls to be returned and has promised that 'no questions will be asked'.

## AGM to go ahead

The Imperial College Union Annual General Meeting will take place at 1.00pm Thursday in the Junior Common Room despite attempts to postpone it at last week's Executive Committee meeting. Union President Sydney Harbour-Bridge wanted the meeting to be put back until the matter of the Union trading outlets had been resolved. The Committee decided, however, that next week was the best time for an AGM and that it would interfere with most people's exams if it was postponed.

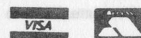
## Waller wins election

Mr Andrew Waller, a first year Physicist, has been elected to RCSU Bookshop Representative by a landslide victory over current SCC Chair David Clements. Dan Pluta and Paul Wilmott were returned unopposed as Theta Bearers.

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## ULU TRAVEL



# ANNUAL REPORTS

## President

### Sydney Harbour-Bridge

Regretfully I am not in a position yet to write an annual report because of ongoing matters which will have to be reported in full.  
Sydney Harbour-Bridge

## Deputy President

### Alan Rose

Mr Alan Rose has written his report but has decided not to submit it at this moment in time. It will be published in a future FELIX, as will Mr Sydney Harbour-Bridge's report.

## Honorary Secretary

### Charles Jackson

#### Introduction

At this time last year, Dave Colley (my revered predecessor) suggested that I write my report in much the same format as both his and the previous Hon Secs. In view of the wholesale change in the job descriptions and the extended working year I have decided to follow that approach as much as possible but adding in my analysis of the situation and my approach towards leaving matters in a fit state to be handed over.

First I would like to say a few words of a general nature about the current job description. Being almost entirely an administrative post, the biggest problem has been the inevitable learning curve. Hopefully the change in job description will offset this effect. Certainly something had to change.

#### 1. Transport

**a) General Administration:** Last year saw the demise of shared costing for weekend bookings. This year I tried to run a system where outside hire vans were booked as second vehicles for those clubs requiring more than one. However, demand has been unexpectedly high and this system has had its problems with 'one-off' users and certain clubs who felt that they were treated unfairly. However, I have encouraged greater flexibility in the use of cars and panel vans. This itself has meant that I have dealt with more hire firms than last year, not all of whom are very quick at sending invoices. A particular problem that I am trying to alleviate is that until recently it has been difficult to provide regular figures on the usage of the transport account. I am currently working with Reggie to ease this task by the breakdown of expenditure into various subheadings and the use of the micro to speed up calculations. One problem with ascertaining the current position is the lack of an exact carryover figure for the beginning of the year. My own calculations have given a working figure, but sight of the audited accounts would be much better.

**b) Minibuses:** This year has seen the delivery of one seventeen seater, FLW and the order and eventual delivery of a thirteen seater, FLM. AHU has continued to give problems with the steering, clutch, battery and choke. It has now got a problem with the loss of the synchromesh on the lower gears. OLE suffered a major breakdown, merely because the driver didn't check the water level in the radiator and then proceeded to continue driving with the oil warning light on. This year I was hoping to expand to six vans but problems with AHU have made this unlikely.

**c) Outside Hire:** This year I have used Budget and Translocation to provide more flexibility. However, Translocation can be relied upon to send bills swiftly in contrast to Budget. I have also experimented with Crown Supplies. Outside hire always produces problems, for which there are no easy solutions.

**d) Accidents:** There have been two major accidents, to BLR and an outside hire car. These have caused great hassle due to delays and arguments about the payment of VAT on claims.

**e) Vehicle Insurance:** Nat West Insurance Services have been very helpful with advice and the willingness to issue cover notes at short notice. However, the same cannot be said of whoever in the Motor Insurers Association rang up the repairers to say that we were liable to pay VAT on repairs. As we aren't, this caused me considerable grief.

**f) Problems on the Horizon:** The first and most serious problem is a government proposal to bring us into line with the EEC by requiring an HGV or PSV licence to drive minibuses. At present we use minibus permits to exempt us from this requirement on the grounds that usage is not for 'hire or reward'. As this is planned to happen quite soon, we are left in a difficult position regarding the purchase of new vans. The second problem is the running of the transport system next year. It is rather unrealistic to expect the Union Manager to take on this area immediately, even if it is desirable for him to do so. The strengthening of the Transport Officer system is one possible way forward.

#### 2. Insurance

**a) Clubs Insurance:** The £100 excess on claims has been a considerable burden this year. However the low number of claims may help us in two ways. Firstly I hope to be able to renegotiate the premium and excess due to the improvement in the claims history. Secondly, it has taken longer to learn this aspect of the job than certain others. I have cleared up some long outstanding claims, and hope to be able to clear up others dating from last year. There seems to be woeful ignorance amongst clubs as to insurers' requirements when making claims. This is understandable, but someone should really have produced a set of guidelines, as is my intention. The other problem is that of inventories. I think that it is inadequate to attempt the production of a complete new inventory at the beginning of the year. The Union Office is very busy and club committees are new to the job. My solution, which I hope to implement, is to store inventories on the microcomputer in such a way as to allow easy updating. This will also enable production of an inventory for each club to amend at the end of the year in time for the calculation of the new premium.

**b) Halls of Residence Insurance:** This has arguably been one of my most successful areas this year. It is certainly one into which I have put considerable time and effort. Last year the procedure for handling claims was changed but unfortunately my predecessor was not informed of all the requirements. This led to large delays and a considerable backlog of claims. Having managed to convince the insurers that that the delay in submission of claims was due to College and not the claimants, I set about clearing up the backlog. I have been successful in clearing up virtually all of last year's claims, and most of this year's. Unfortunately this required a flood of information from my office to the insurers, which could be causing delays in the handling of claims. The insurers have also become noticeably more pernickety in dealing with claims. The insurance brokers at Alexander Stenhouse have been a tremendous help, both in dealing with my vast amount of enquiries, and in chasing up the insurers. A special word of thanks must go to Pete Higgs, who helped me file the mass/mess of correspondence from last year. A connected task which I have performed this year has been the entering of details of claims for the last two years on the micro. This is enabling me easily to perform analyses such as changes in the claims history, and the relation of security changes to changes in the number of thefts. A full report on this is being prepared.

**c) Linstead Hall Basement Sale:** This has been such a problem as to deserve special mention. Although it has dropped out of the headlines, the task of gaining recompense for those students who lost possessions is not easy. The various complications arising from the sale have taken up much of my time, and the whole sorry affair still has not been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Because it is still an ongoing matter, there is not much of detail that I can say without possibly prejudicing outstanding claims. When the matter is finally settled, I will take great pleasure in telling the full story, from my viewpoint.

When looking at annual reports for 1980/81, I found the quote "The Endsleigh Halls of Residence Policy has caused us some problems this year, with the largest being the disappearance of luggage from Linstead Basement." Plus ca change, plus ca meme chose.

#### 3. Duplicating, Photocopying and Stationary

**a) Duplicating:** The Gestetner and stencil cutter have been in working order for most of the year. However their presence has led to a considerable number of requests from clubs for duplicating. Also I have duplicated RSM Newsletters and one issue of Guildsheet. I have reduced the emphasis on use of this process for Union minutes and general office bumph. I have mainly used the photocopiers for minutes, leaving the gestetner for UGM papers.

**b) Photocopiers:** Both photocopiers have been replaced this year by more suitable and versatile machines. The copycard system on the main photocopier has been very successful, and will ease both billing and the prevention of free photocopying by unscrupulous individuals.

**c) Stationary Supplies:** Generally I have used Central Stores for supply of envelopes, pens and paper. However, the possible closure of this facility has made the investigation of other sources more urgent. We have received interesting quotes from a supplier of recycled paper, and hope to tie it in to an initiative to organise recycling of paper throughout College and its environs.

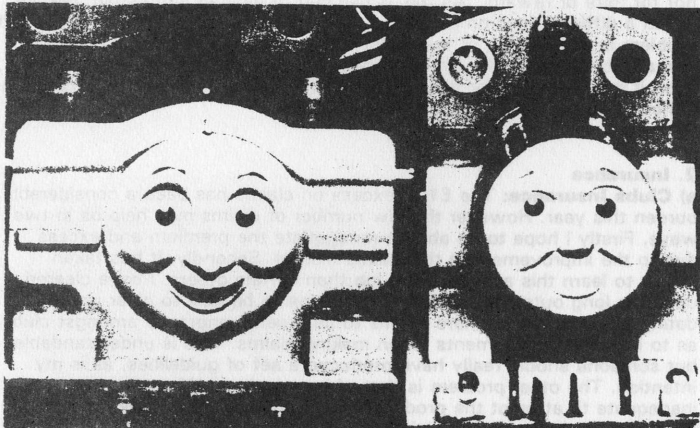


# ANNUAL REPORTS

## 4. Union Committees and Meetings

**a) UGMs:** These have suffered from the age-old problem of inaccuracy. Even the transfer to the JCR hasn't been as successful as hoped. The possible increase in attendances has been offset by problems in counting attendance and votes. One problem has been the general lack of publicity. One thing that I have noticed has been a lack of policy-forming motions. My intention to produce a Composite Policy Statement may help this situation.

**b) Council:** All Councils have been quorate this year, thank goodness.



Generally discussions have been of high quality, but as always have tended to go round in circles somewhat. Obviously there has been discussion on many important issues, particularly changes in the job descriptions. I feel obliged to return to the age-old Hon Sec's problem about the preparation of papers. Members still hand in reports and papers at the last minute. It takes a considerable length of time to prepare papers for Council, which people simply don't realise. It is particularly annoying when members submit material too late to be distributed and read before the meeting.

**c) MSCs:** It's quite relaxing to attend committees which you don't have to minute. However, I haven't attended as many as I would like, mainly due to pressures of time. Those I have attended have been well-run and often very interesting.

**d) Other Committees:** The Minor Subcommittees are all minuted by the Hon Sec, bar Academic Affairs. Union Finance Committee has been the lengthiest of these this year but has been chaired well by Alan Rose. I set up a more consistent style for the minutes, allowing for greater continuity between years. One problem has been the constant search for consistent UFC policy. As this is often set by precedent rather than in the form of motions, it will be very difficult to set it in the form of a policy statement, although very useful. House Committee has been very useful and active. Members have approached it in a refreshingly non-partisan manner. They have seemed willing to address the problems in the Building, though hindered by College dragging its heels on improvements. Welfare Committee has had some useful discussions and External Affairs business seems to have been conducted mainly through UGMs. It is very sad that Internal Services Committee hasn't met at all this year. Exec hasn't met as often as might be liked, and it seems now that this situation should be rectified next year. It has shown itself willing to deal with problems in a quiet manner 'between friends' and on occasion thus to create a smoother path than might otherwise be possible. Also pancakes and maple syrup in the RSM President's room was a treat not to be missed.

**d) ULU GUC:** As usual this has suffered from the problem of delegates approaching it from a political stand rather than from the interests of their members. Although I often agree with them, I still consider the primary purpose of student bodies to be that of looking after the interests of their members. Political discussion on outside matters is important, but should always take second place. I.C. Union is regarded of somewhat of a maverick because of its difference of approach. Although some people respect us for this, many have the rather dogmatic view that we are baby eating fascists merely because we are Imperial and not in NUS. I still hold out hope whilst such people as Fat Norm (ULU VP F&A) are in student unions, but it does nark me a bit.

## 5. College Committees

**a) Governing Body/ F&E:** Surprisingly, there have been some relevant matters at these bodies. The College deficit and Finance Section problems together with the St Mary's merger have been major issues. There is a promise of more to come with problems due to College policy on recruitment of overseas students being emphasised. One of my best memories is of the chairman of the Governing Body almost ignoring the Dean of Guilds to tell myself and Alan a set of amusing and racy anecdotes.

**b) Parking and Traffic:** Again the subject of parking fees has raised it's ugly head. However we provided a set of proposals to raise the money without hitting those least able to pay.

**c) Joint Trade Unions:** Recently I have attended these instead of Syd,

the main subject being the proposed closure of Central stores.

## 6. Other Jobs

**a) Parking Permits:** These are a major source of grief. However much you explain, people still accuse the committee of allocating them unfairly, and still expect you to have a secret supply long after they have been allocated. I'm sure the allocation system could be made more efficient, but I'm also sure that we allocated them as fairly as possible.

**b) Commem Ball:** This is something that I could have organised much better with the benefit of hindsight. All indications are that next year's Ball will be something very special, and organisation is well under way.

**c) Elections:** These were very hard work, and I'm quite frankly amazed that they went without major hitch. I was very disappointed at being unable to organise a ballot box at St Marys, which would have been a nice gesture on the eve of merger.

## Conclusions

I've enjoyed my year of despotic power, although it is far from over. I feel that it has stood me in good stead for the future, and my main regret has the strained relations between the Office and Felix. I only wish that I could have had my present level of knowledge ten months ago, and that I'd had the perks of any self respecting despot. All I can offer in mitigation is that I have always tried to do what I felt was right. Thankyou, goodbye and goodluck to the Union.

## Credits

Unlike Gutman, I have managed to retain my hair. This is largely due to my colleagues, Syd and Alan and to those amazing fixtures, the permanent staff. Jen, Pat, Kathy, Reggie and Dave have all made the shouldering of burdens a little easier. Lastly, thankyou to Ken Weale for some good chats about cricket and to Jelly for some good beer.

Chas Jackson

## Academic Affairs Officer

Charles Brereton

In this annual report I have summarised the major achievements of the year and also plans for the rest of this term and the next academic year. My work as Academic Affairs Officer is conducted, on the whole, within (i) College and (ii) Union committees and (iii) activities directly related to these, so the report is in three main sections.

## A. COLLEGE COMMITTEES

**1. Undergraduate Studies Committee:** Luke Walker, City and Guilds Union AAO 1985-86 said that this committee would form the most enjoyable part of any AAO's work; in retrospect I am inclined to agree with him. Under the able stewardship of Professor David Blow the committee has progressed from strength to strength. The members of the Committee, all without exception, are genuinely concerned about undergraduate teaching. The Committee has divided itself into two Working Groups, looking at Teaching Evaluation and Student Needs.

**Teaching Evaluation:** this group is responsible for the Lecturer Evaluation Questionnaire, which had a pilot run early in the Spring Term. This was not without its problems, and having seen a few of the analyses of the results I am in agreement with the recommendation of the Committee, namely that a pilot run(s) is necessary to iron out the difficulties. I look forward to the Questionnaire next year - at last students will be taken seriously in all departments where the lecturing is not up to scratch. I hope that all the time and trouble which Students and Staff have taken over the past three years will have been worthwhile. My thanks must go to Professor David Ewins who chairs the group and Vernon McClure (Deputy Registrar) for their hard work.

**Student Needs:** This working group has been looking into the problems of students' motivation (or lack of it), workloads and failure rates. This group has not been as active as I would have liked; however the group will be looking into these areas in more detail in the next academic year.

**2. Board of Studies:** This "committee", consisting of Heads of Departments, Deans, Professors et al is basically a rubber-stamping body for its subcommittees policies regarding course changes etc. and as such is quite boring. Nevertheless it is the highest Academic Board in the College, so student representation on it is vital. Most of the items which are discussed are passed with a nod! However, on contentious items such as the questionnaire or failure rates, I have been quick to put the students' point of view.

**3. Admissions Policy Committee:** College policy on admissions procedures, standards and external publications for prospective students is decided here amongst 14 admissions tutors and 4 student reps. The big problem of recruiting more students has been addressed throughout the year. In particular, analysing students' reasons for declining offers made has been useful. I was not pleased to hear of the problems which College is having getting offer/rejection decisions transmitted to



# ANNUAL REPORTS

candidates via UCCA. However I must thank Admissions Tutors and registry staff for doing their best in the circumstances.

Meeting with Schools: This conference, held in the Easter vacation, was well received by the 40 or so senior and Head teachers who attended. College spared no expense to see that they were fed with all the best statistics (from Peter Mee) and nosh (from Rob Northey)! The most useful part was talking to the visitors: I gave them an unbiased view to take back to their pupils; IC is a good College - but also faces some serious problems (which many school Heads seemed unaware of.)

4. Careers Advisors Committee: This committee met once, just before the start of the Academic year. In spite of the good intentions of the departmental careers advisors and those in Sheffield this particular area is seriously understaffed, as I myself have found. I hope the committee realises that finalists need all the help they can get in finding work. Perhaps departments should send a questionnaire to all finalists to find out exactly what they want to do - this will give them some sort of idea of the numbers they will be dealing with (i.e. those who want jobs and those who want to do further study). This is one area which I think needs definite improvement.

5. Rector's Working Party on the Recruitment of Women Students: Under Margaret Cunningham's aegis this working party has discussed some of the problems IC faces in recruiting more women. The IC-WISE courses, started last year, have paid off and will be run again this year, both as residential and non-residential courses. The number of women students at IC has increased to nearly 1000, but shows a slight fall in percentage terms.

In general, I have enjoyed sitting on College committees in spite of the preparation that is needed for each one. I have to be alert 100% of the time; since on many occasions I am the only rep for all 5,250 of you. It's quite a responsibility - administrators and academics see student reps come and go but it's your future which is often at stake.

## B. UNION COMMITTEES

1. Academic Affairs Committee: This has been the backbone of the Union's work in Academic Affairs. I have tried to make the meetings interesting and have provided refreshments for members at most meetings. Chairing the committee has not always been easy, though. We have had 8 meetings so far this academic year and there will be two more this term. AAC Secretary: Jo Feakes has not been able to attend many meetings this year owing to academic pressures; as a result I have not given her the support that she deserves for doing what is a thankless task. Ordinary members: Gail Turner and Linzi Wishart were ratified at the Results UGM last term but both have yet to attend any meetings. Sabbatical members: I am very disappointed with these members of the committee. Sydney Harbour-Bridge is the only sabbatical officer who has shown any interest in the committees work. Alan Rose and Chas Jackson's attitudes towards the committee have left much to be desired. Even Kingston and Q were better! Information: the three Union sabbaticals are ex-officio members of all Union Committees. Dep Reps and CCU AAOs: By far the most active and involved members this year. In the past Dep Reps have been criticized for not being involved enough with the Union. However with the Lecturer Questionnaire I have been able to ensure that almost all of them do their jobs properly. For many students their Dep Rep is the only Union Officer they have any real contact with; and I am pleased to report that most of them have accepted this responsibility.

This year's best Dep Reps have been in Guilds - thanks to the efforts of Becky Hunt, Guilds AAO. She has taken a keen interest in problems faced by all Guilds students, not only those in her department. Dave Bradley has done an excellent job as Mines AAO; he is a useful representative on College Committees and I shall be sorry to see him go this June when he graduates. Executive Sub-committee: I set up this committee (consisting of myself and the three CCU AAOs) so that we could review papers for College Committees with the idea of co-ordinating representation thereon. We have also been able to deal with matters at CCU level rather than departmental level, to discuss topics which are then taken to the full committee for approval. As a forum for discussion, liaison and socialising it has been successful. St. Mary's Academic Affairs: As a result of a motion passed at the committee last term, William Liddell, St. Mary's Education Rep, now attends meetings. Next year there will be 4 reps, the Education Rep (equivalent to a CCU AAO) and 3 year reps (equivalent to Dep Reps), being preclinical 1 & 2, and clinical.

I have been down to St. Mary's several times to liaise with their Union Officers in the bar; these events have been extensively documented elsewhere.

2. Council: This huge committee is at best controversial and lively, at worst dull and tedious. I have provided written reports to every Council meeting this year - unlike "certain Union Officers I could mention".

3. Other Union Committees: I have sat on many of the other Union Committees, too numerous to mention here. I am somewhat disheartened when I see almost the same people each time sitting on them.

## C. GENERAL

1. Ac Reps: Much to my regret, I have not been able to get to know as many Ac Reps as I would have liked. I tried to organise some interdepartmental training evening last December but this idea was not well received by Dep Reps. As a result it is hardly surprising if many Ac Reps have never seen or spoken to me this year. This is not the way I intended the Academic structure within the Union to run; how are Ac

Reps supposed to get involved with the Union at a higher level if they are not in contact with at least their CCU AAO?

2. Academic Affairs 1/2 day: this event, now in its third year, was run last term and although the attendance was somewhat disappointing, all those present agreed that it had been useful. The meeting was addressed by the Rector, who also answered questions from the floor. Looking back on this year, that's probably the only time the Rector has had to answer to ordinary students!

3. Rest of this term: There will be two more meetings of the full Academic Affairs Committee (including the Joint meeting) as well as four of the Executive sub-committee. By the time you read this the Undergraduate Studies Committee will have considered its review of the Maths Department. Service teaching by the department has often come under criticism. Apart from that there are only a couple of college Committees; most people will be sitting exams.

4. Next Year: Dep Reps for the departments of Chemistry, Aeronautics and Mineral Resources Engineering still have to be elected. As Deputy President I will have overall responsibility for Academic Affairs within the Union; the College Questionnaire will be run again, with the results being published for the first time. The Academic Affairs Committee itself will be stronger, since many of this year's members will be on the committee next year.

## Conclusions:

At the end of this academic year I will have been at IC for four years; but this year has undoubtedly been the most enjoyable. I have learned a great deal about the way College works; this experience will be useful for me next year. However many of the things I have achieved would have been impossible without the support of other Union representatives, and some College personnel, some of whom are mentioned in this report. To them I extend my grateful thanks.

I can only hope that Richard Spencer, this year's Mech Eng Dep Rep and my successor, will be able to look back on next year with the same pride I have this year. To him, and all of you, I wish the best of luck for the future.

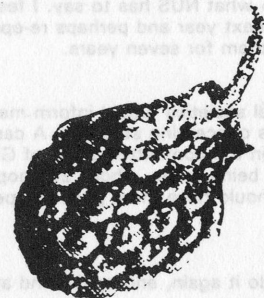
Charles Brereton,

IC Union Academic Affairs Officer 1987-88

## Entertainments Officer

John Noble

No report submitted.



## External Affairs Officer

Neil Motteram

I've realised a few things in my past three terms as EAO:

- 1) That the outside world is not really a nice place.
- 2) That the government doesn't really give a damn about students.
- 3) That the University doesn't care too much about student opinions.
- 4) That it helps if the EAO does something all year.

## GERBill

This was a major campaign. We don't have many of those. The support we got from the students after we actually explained to them what was going on was wonderful. It does prove that IC students do care if the issues are explained to them.

The strike was not very well followed up. After we got positive responses from some of the MPs that we talked to, we should have written to them and followed up their interest. This did not happen.

The GERBill was considerably amended in its Commons Report Stage. This was due to immense pressure from Labour, the teaching and University unions, the TUC, the NUS, and perhaps, us. It still is a major



# ANNUAL REPORTS

threat to autonomy and some sort of pressure should be brought on the Lords.

## Grants, Benefits & Housing (GBH)

Oh dear!

In the past 12 months students have been hardest hit by minimal grant increases, exponential rent increases, changes in benefit regulations, changes in covenants etc etc. Soon we'll also have the Poll Tax to deal with (1990). All this is generally making life unlivable for ordinary students in London. A recent report said that students can expect an average overdraft of £345 after their first year. I feel the time could be coming where we will have to advise applicants not to come to London unless they are financially secure on their own.

## The Housing Bill

The theory is that with the deregulation of tenancies, that there will be a great expansion of the rented sector because landlords will have more rights. This expansion is supposed to lead to a lowering of rents to 'market levels'. The problem is that the demand for rented accommodation in London is so great, when this bill is passed, rents are sure to skyrocket. The bill removes many of the rights of the tenants against unfair landlords and is, on the whole, a bad thing. I feel this is something we should be focusing on in the coming year.

## Human Rights Week

Simon Boscher and Amnesty have been working on a major Human Rights Week to be held next February. Despite hassles from those wonderful people at ULU, we have been working to get it University-wide recognition. We hope to be taking a motion to the next GUC and cooperating with ULU and other colleges in its organisation.

## ULU

ULU can be a useful forum for debate, a powerful lobbying body, a good central union for the University. ULU can also be a great big floundering idiot, a puppy for NUS London to do with what it will, and a political bickering shop. We try to encourage the former and discourage the latter. ULU sabbaticals seem impossible to get hold of, and useful when you do. Last week I took a tube out to Malet Street, and did more useful work in an afternoon than in three weeks over the telephone.

What we really need ULU for is as a source of information. We caught on far too late what was happening with GERBill and gained much from a 'borrowed' NUS briefing. As we are outside NUS we need ULU to provide an up to date news briefing service. They have a new research officer, we should press the new exec for information.

## NUS

DebSoc's debate last term showed that there is considerable interest in our students as to what NUS has to say. I feel we should invite more people from NUS next year and perhaps re-open the debate on affiliation. We have ignored them for seven years.

## Speakers etc.

I wish that political societies would inform me in advance of interesting speakers on topics concerning students. A case in point, SocSoc invited an MP who was on the committee stage of GERBill at the time concessions were being made. About 20 people were there, half staff.

In general we should have more political speakers, for example, at UGMs.

## To Close

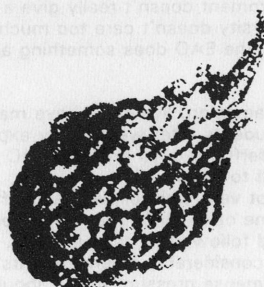
It's been fun. I'll do it again, and again, and again...

Neil Motteram,  
ICU External Affairs Officer.

## Internal Services Officer

Alistair Birch

No report submitted.



## Postgraduate Affairs Officer

Helen Fitzpatrick

No report submitted.



## Rag Chair

Nigel Baker

The best way to judge the success of the Rag year is to look at the money raised. Last year £14,700 was donated and despite inheriting many problems from last year's chairman this year's total is set to exceed £25,000.

The year has been characterised by the continuing success of the 'traditional' events such as Monopoly, Tiddlywinks and most of the Rag Week events, along with the introduction of many new events and the resumption of collections under an Imperial College Union Charity Rag licence. Collecting licences were obtained for Canterbury, Wolverhampton, Chelmsford and Bedford. These collections passed off successfully without incident and I can now look forward to the time when the Metropolitan Police will allow us to hold London licences after our seven years in the wilderness.

For the first time this year we decided to operate an incentive scheme. This began by offering Rag t-shirts to those who collected £100 and sweatshirts for totals of £250. During the spring term it became apparent that these were no longer realistic incentives and so jumpers for £600 and tankards for £1000 were added to the list. At the time of writing two people have earned tankards and it is anticipated that by the end of the year five people will have passed the £1000 mark.

The only unsavoury event of the year was Drink-a-pub-dry which took



place in the ULU bar, Mergers. Unfortunately the reports that were written in London Student were highly exaggerated but the situation was solved very quickly when I spoke to the ULU sabbaticals. Since Drink-a-pub-dry doesn't raise any money for Rag it has been decided that this event will not take place next year. Morphy Day is also to be dropped, this is due to lack of interest.

The end of the spring term was livened up by the serving of an injunction upon myself over some allegations that were allegedly made against London Rag '88. This injunction was later lifted. The sad part of the whole event was that when I was last in touch with London Rag '88 it looked as though it was going to lose a lot of money and would need bailing out by Intermediate Technology, the charity it was hoping to support. I will not say 'I told you so' but...

It now only leaves me to say thank you to all those who have helped Rag over the last year and to pass on my best wishes and good luck to Fiona Nicholas as she takes over the most rewarding job in College. If she receives as much support for 'Dragons Divine '89' as I did for 'Lemming's



# ANNUAL REPORTS

Fate '88' then next year will be another record breaking time.

Good luck Fiona,  
Nigel D Baker,  
Rag Chairman 1987/88.

## Welfare Officer

Acting: James Papa

No report submitted.



## Womens Officer

Linzi Wishart

From the amount of feedback I've had this year I can only assume that most women are perfectly happy being women at IC. Sandra Dawson and I met the new first years who wanted to meet us. A significant proportion of those who turned up had been on the ICWISE course, another of which has been organised mostly by Margaret Cunningham (and the Rector's working party for the recruitment of women students) for this Summer.

Council was very boring. Welfare Committee started off well, with the alcohol awareness campaign taking shape. However, the campaign was shelved until next year (or maybe never) and the committee hasn't met since. Julie Hall, ULU Women's Officer, contacted me last term and there was a meeting of women's reps (I sent Helen Fitzpatrick) where important issues were discussed. However, when I went to the next meeting, there was no one there and no one had heard of Julie Hall.

It's been a year of firsts for me including: the ICU Ladies Lunch which will hopefully become an annual event, and this report (the first from a Women's Officer). I can't tell you about the video on cervical cancer because it hadn't happened at the time of writing.

Good luck to Gill Knowles for next year and hopefully WIST will rise from the grave as well.

Linzi Wishart, Women's Officer

## Athletics Clubs Committee Chair

Robert Gee

Affiliation to the Universities Athletic Union (UAU) has continued to enhance the general level of sport throughout the College with several good performances over the full range of sports.

Teams from Football, Rugby, Badminton, Fencing, Hockey and Squash reached the last sixteen in the play offs of the UAU. With the Ladies Fencing team reaching the quarter finals. In both Water Polo and Volleyball, the IC teams won the regional tournaments and came fourth in the finals. The Karate Club have also been very successful this year, consistently winning medals in all University competitions often only finishing second to Cambridge University.

Again however, the Boat Club were Imperial's only winners when they won both the first and second eights UAU Championships. This followed an impressive summer last year when they won the Visitor's Challenge Cup at Henley beating UL in the final and had thirteen members of the Club selected to row for Great Britain, some in the World Student Games, Under 23 Championships and World Championships.

Once again this year it can be seen that many IC teams are providing

the basis of University of London teams and in some cases such as Volleyball providing over half the UL team.

This year, as a committee, we have encouraged coaching in all sports and I hope that over the next few years, more clubs may benefit from what is an important part of training. If more teams are to learn to play better and more people are to be brought into sport it is vital that coaching facilities are improved. I hope through our Union funding that it will be possible to continue this in the future.

Off the field advances have been made in a few areas although there is still a great deal to be done over the next few years in particular regarding the provision of indoor sports facilities. Agreement has now been reached as to the type of facilities which should be provided for an indoor sports facility on campus and this has now been accepted by the governors. The development is now at the 'project definition stage' and a number of architects are being asked to submit proposals.

The development of the basement of Southside for the provision of a weights gym/health club has also been given provisional approval and at



present is being discussed with reference to the type of facilities which should be provided. This is one area in which I anticipate the ACC Chairman and new Union Manager will be very involved over the next few months.

Outdoors, the extraction of gravel from Harlington is proceeding and at present over half a million pounds has been raised from this source. It is hoped that it will not be very long before an astroturf pitch will be put down at Harlington and at present projections are being made prior to a definite decision as to the date and place where it will be.

Another significant development next year will be the possibility of St Mary's students competing under Imperial colours. In all cases, I think to obtain maximum benefit to both sets of students, clubs should individually contact their opposite numbers at St Mary's and work out how they may best cooperate. Already, the Waterpolo teams have agreed to merge and I would imagine in many sports this would be to the long term advantage of sport at Imperial.

Finally, I would just like to thank all this year's members of the Mafia and those Capo-regimes who have regularly turned up to meetings. May I remind all Capo-regimes that elections for next year's Mafia are on May 24 and it is in your own interest to stand!

Good luck to 'Rob' 1988/89 whoever he/she may be.

Rob Gee, ACC Chair.

## Overseas Students Committee Chair

David Munasinghe

The OSC has traditionally been one of the quietest of the MSCs and somewhat remote from the rest of ICU. This year I have tried to bring the OSC more into the mainstream of ICU activity, and I hope this policy will be continued in the future.

### REPRESENTATION:

The OSC not only represents the various National Societies at IC but every overseas student at Imperial. It is this which leads me to voice my concern at the way College administration treats the overseas student as a direct commodity. College has realised that full fee paying students provide a valuable source of income and has initiated a series of intensive recruitment programmes worldwide. This has seen the number of overseas students at IC increase to about 1150 this year, and this figure will be exceeded by at least 100 next year.

My concern is based on the fact that College does not deem it necessary to provide the additional support services in terms of welfare and accommodation which will be needed due to the increased numbers. It may prove possible to increase the numbers of overseas students in the short term if the above policies are continued but if the students returning



# ANNUAL REPORTS

to their home countries are dissatisfied with the facilities at IC they will surely not encourage others to come here, and IC will lose the International reputation it has as an educational establishment. This will ultimately make recruitment much harder in the long term.

## SOCIETIES:

One of the positive aspects of the increase in overseas student numbers has been the formation of several new societies, in addition to the 17 already in existence. This year has so far seen the formation of a Korean Society, and two others, the Japanese society, and the Middle East society will be active by next session. The activities of the societies in general has been about normal, though several societies have shown a marked increase in activity.

## OSC

The OSC executive has generally performed much better than in any previous year (out of the last five). I hope this shows how by spreading the workload a lot can be achieved in a short time, this bodes well for the future.

## EVENTS

### 1. Sports

This year the appointment of an OSC Sports Officer has been extremely effective. He has been able to coordinate the weekly activities of the various societies, within the very limited time allocated for the use of facilities, as well as organise the International Week sports tournaments. This year the traditional 6-a-side football tournament, with teams playing for the Jose Molina (International) Cup, again saw the Cypriot society team victorious, for the second year running. An International week basketball tournament was also initiated this year with Greek, Cypriot, IC Basketball and OSC All Star teams taking part. Congratulations to the OSC All Star team who performed to a very high standard and won the tournament convincingly.

### 2. International Night.

The highlight of the OSC calendar was the International Night in February. This has grown into a major event in recent years, attracting about 1500 people this year, and has gained a reputation as being one of the best International events amongst the London Colleges. It is far removed from any other event at Imperial and draws in many students, academics and families for an evening of varied entertainment. This year saw the traditional national exhibitions, Latin American carnival and Afro-Caribbean Disco. The highlight of the evening however was undoubtedly the Cultural Show which had nine acts from the Cypriot, Indian, Korean, Sri Lankan and Turkish societies taking part, all of whom performed extremely well.

In conclusion I would say that this year has been particularly successful for the OSC and its constituent societies on many fronts. I believe there has been a greater awareness of the International community at Imperial giving one the opportunity to find out about the various cultures present at IC as well as giving overseas students the chance to bring to the attention of all students at Imperial matters of international significance. The spirit of Internationalism which exists at IC and overrides all else within the OSC bodes well for the future.

David R. Munasinghe.  
OSC Chairman 1987-1988

## Publications Board Chair

Christopher Martin

Imperial College is fortunate to possess some of the best and widest ranging media of any University, and Publications Board is the body that looks after the administrative and financial side of these publications on behalf of the Union.

It is important to stress that, in normal circumstances, the Publications Board has no editorial control over its publications. I am pleased to say that during the last two years during which I have been Chair, the Board has not encountered a situation where it was forced to interfere editorially.

However, a great deal of time has been spent by the Officers of the Board in defending publications from attacks from within the Union itself, attacks on the principle of editorial freedom on which our publications are based. Because we have such a wide range of experienced and well resourced media at the College, the approach to these publications must be necessarily different from a students' union that just puts out a news sheet every week.

We cannot allow any one member of the students' union dictate what appears and does not appear in our publications, unless that is the task to which they have been elected, and then that editor is responsible to the body that elects them.

We had a situation with the Union Handbook over the summer where unacceptable changes were forced through in the final drafts, against the wishes of the editor, in order to present a less accurate and more favourable view of IC and IC Union. If any of the publications we produce are to have any credibility at all, and are not just to be puppets of the Union administration, then this behaviour cannot be allowed.

I am pleased to report that, eventually, a policy was passed ensuring that the Handbook editor does have the final say of what goes in the Handbook so this situation should not happen again.

This year has been an example of a very useful function of Publications Board: to act as a buffer between the Union and the publications, and to stop the Union's financial power becoming editorial power.

I must say that the Union Finance Committee this year has been completely schizophrenic—one meeting it seems to be the most enlightened it has ever been since I started going over 4 years ago—and the next it is a shambles. Particularly, the Five Year Plan meeting showed a great lacking in any consistent financial policy at all. The policy changed three times in the space of an hour! Sensible, concrete and binding financial policy must be a first priority for the UFC next year. UFC did pass policy on the membership subscriptions on the two publications that do need to charge membership; IC Radio and STOIC. Previous years have seen the membership fee rise to a level where students were put off joining; in particular IC Radio was finding great difficulty in providing the kind of service they would like and that the students deserve. The new policy allows the individual publication to set its own membership fee at a level that will encourage, instead of discourage, new members and will allow a better and larger service.

### St Marys

One change next year that perhaps will affect the Publications more than most is the merger with St Marys. It will require money from some source, to provide Mary's with an Alternative Prospectus, Handbook, and copies of FELIX and the Phoenix, the least they can expect as part of Imperial College Union. They might want to produce their own Handbook and AP; this is up to them. It would be enormously unfair, however, for students in one part of ICU to have these facilities, and in another not to. There seems to be a very strong case to be made to College to provide these resources.

Looking to the future may also see IC Radio and STOIC provided with feeds to St Mary's, particularly their Hall of Residence.

## The Handbook

This was produced over the Summer by Pippa Salmon, and was certainly up to the excellent standard we have come to expect. I have yet to see an equal to this publication produced by any other college.

## Felix

Under the editorship of Judith Hackney, most of the problems this year have been with the Print Unit. Problems with the reliability of the equipment kept recurring, and resulted in many all night sessions. However, FELIX did appear every Friday on time to an excellent standard and has been well received and well read.

Many detailed discussions were held over the future of the Print Unit, after it became clear that the Litho Operator was working well over his contracted hours every week. Steps have been taken to cut down his work load, but the situation will have to be carefully monitored in the future so the balance between Union work at cost price, and outside work at a profit, is never tipped too far.

## IC Radio

Under Steve Gutteridge this year, IC Radio seems to have been adversely affected by the substantial membership fee, and this has certainly resulted in a poorer service than could otherwise be expected. They are certainly looking to the future, however, and have recently obtained a licence so they can try out the possibility of broadcasting to the Princes Gardens halls on the FM band, with a large increase in quality. Again, the spectre of Community Radio looms, and it is reassuring to see that they are well prepared.

## STOIC

STOIC have expanded their programmes to include broadcasting on Friday evenings, now that they have their own studio in the Union Building. However, I must express concern about the manner and amount of money which has been spent on this project over the past few years. It appears that every few months they find they need a new piece of equipment in order for them to broadcast...and we are assured that this is the last item they will need to finish their studio. I have heard this said of no less than five separate claims over the last three years. Some Officers within STOIC seem to think the Union has undertaken to equip them to whatever standard they like, and all that they have to do is claim of the nearest available contingency fund. I have great doubts, after 3 years of seeing the Studio develop, of whether unqualified students have enough knowledge to make judgments on the suitability of what is very expensive equipment, and I propose that before any more money is spent on the expansion of the Studio, outside expert advice should be sought.

## Phoenix

A new style of Phoenix has appeared this year. Instead of the previous practice of producing one a year and then attempting to sell it, this year



# ANNUAL REPORTS

the editor, Liz Holford, has brought out three smaller editions which have been distributed free with Felix. I think it will take a little time for the new style Phoenix to catch on, but I think an Arts magazine is essential in a place like IC. There has certainly been more involvement from students with the new style of publication.

## Postgraduate Prospectus

This used to be called the Postgraduate Handbook but Postgraduate prospectus is more correct: it is aimed at final year students thinking about a postgraduate course and gives a student's view of postgraduate life, along with a lot of information which cannot be obtained elsewhere. It was produced by Alan Barnett, again to the usual high standard. Distribution again is a problem; this year piles were left in Departments for final year students to pick up, accompanied by a Poster campaign. This has been fairly successful, and I think it has fulfilled its purpose well.

## A.P. Supplement

Because we only produce the Alternative Prospectus every two years, and it is produced for the year ahead's entry, parts of the current AP could be three years out of date. To counter this, money saved from the AP last year was carried over to produce a four page supplement, which was mailed out with the remaining copies of the full A.P. The supplement was produced by Martyn Peck, but was greatly hampered by Dep. Reps not bothering to write anything.

The experiment of having an AP every other year, with a supplement in between needs to be looked at very carefully to see if it has been a success, or whether there is a method that could produce a new AP every year at reasonable cost. I hope this is discussed in depth next year.

## Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank the following, as well as all the members of the Board (especially the editors); Jen, Kathy, Pat and Reggie, Dean and Rose for their unending help and patience with us all throughout the year; Alan, Chas and Ian; Simon Langan for being an excellent Senior Treasurer, Nigel and Kamala, who keep the Board running, and finally all the students for reading, listening, watching and perhaps even taking part in a publication.

Chris Martin,  
Publications' Board Chair 1986/88.

## Recreational Clubs Committee Chair

Neil McCluskey

The last academic year for the RCC has been totally non-academic in its activities but virtually academic in its running. I have had a fairly easy task in running the RCC with considerable help from the rest of the RCC Exec and a great deal of co-operation from the clubs themselves. It's amazing what they do when threaten to freeze their grants.

Most clubs have been very active throughout the year. Notably: YHA six times requesting a tent, six times denied, still doing brilliantly. Mountaineering managing to devour a number of table decorations as part of their annual dinner.

Photographic society back in the picture increasing their membership on last year by large amounts.

Parachuting attracting many people willing to pay lots of money to throw themselves out of planes.

Other mentions should go to the new clubs within RCC, these being Beetlesoc and Computer Graphics, with Debsoc halfway to transferring from SCAB to RCC.

Financially the clubs within RCC are managing to spend every penny we have with quite a bit of money going tours. Some eight clubs ran tours during the Easter vacation, putting a heavy strain on the Union vans and on Chas Jackson.



Next year's RCC Exec was elected, or should I say merely ratified, on Thursday 5th May. With an enormous turn-out of both incoming and outgoing club chairmen the meeting still only lasted for thirty minutes!! With three out of the five posts going to Scout and Guide, the other two being outdoor clubs as well it looks like the indoor clubs are going to be quiet, shy and retiring for the coming year. I hope they prove me wrong. After splashes, splutters and fits and starts the following clubs never really got off the ground: Graffiti, Surf and Water-skiing. Graffiti have reformed but have yet to claim any money, strange though that may

seem. I hope next year Surf and Water-skiing will be continued. Lastly I'd like to thank the UFC and the Union sabbaticals for giving us lots of dosh when we needed it and for not bugging up the meetings by attending!!

Neil McCluskey  
RCC Chairman 1987/88

## Social Clubs Committee Chair

David Clements

### 1. Introduction

SCC is a strange conglomeration of clubs whose interests vary from Transcendental Meditation to the City of London, and many of whose groups you might expect to be in conflict with one another, such as the Conservative Society and the Socialist Workers. However, SCC, as the body which provides funding and overall administration to the 32 clubs within it, does function well, and overseeing it has been a rewarding job.

### 2. SCC Business

This year the total membership of SCC clubs amounted to some 2500 people, about 3/4 of the total undergraduate population of IC. As always happens, some clubs fade out of existence, and new ones form. This year we have made a net gain in clubs, with SWSS (Socialist Workers), RockSoc, SLAS (Student Lesbian and Gay Soc) and GLC (the Greater London Club) forming while Polish and CND have disbanded. Christian Union has also been lost to SCC, but more of that later.

As is usually the case, SCC has the largest clubs in college, this year the laurels are shared by Industrial Society and Science Fiction Soc. each with 400 members. Of the religious clubs, the Islamic Soc should be mentioned since its membership of about 250 makes it bigger than almost all of the other religious clubs put together. The Islamic Soc committee are clearly providing a much needed service. The Greater London club is also an unusual phenomenon in gaining a membership of 170 in just its first year of existence. Rob Conn, their founder, and committee should be congratulated for their hard work, and I'm sure far fewer of us will now 'live in ignorance'.

On a rather less mercenary note than membership figures, a club which has had a notable success this year is the IC Amnesty Group whose adopted Prisoner of Conscience, Ivan Starovoi, a Jehovah's Witness imprisoned in the USSR, has finally been released. One other notable success, introduced last year, but only put into full operation this year, has been the SCC video system, now used by clubs throughout the Union.

On the organisation side of SCC I'd very much like to thank the vice chairman, Sarah Bunney, for her hard work this year; things would not have gone so smoothly without her. Our two senior treasurers this year also deserve thanks for putting up with the boring necessities of cheque signing sessions and book keeping. Nigel Graham (Civ. Eng.) has been treasurer for several years, but had to give up the job half way through the year. He has certainly contributed a great deal to the running of SCC over the years and shall certainly be missed. A presentation pot will soon be arriving, though probably not by the AGM, unfortunately. Dr. John Cosgrave (Geology) then kindly took up the job of HST at short notice, and has been doing an excellent job ever since. Thanks are also due to Jen Hardy-Smith and Brian Lloyd-Davies in the Union office for making the switch in our HSTs so smooth.

### 3. Union Committees

As a major subcommittee of council (MSC), SCC sends its chairman to both Council and Union Finance (UFC) meetings. Council, as the highest committee in the Union, second only to a UGM, gets through an awful lot of business, and its meetings tend to be very long. This has been especially true this year with the very necessary Union reorganisation and many other matters being discussed. One thing you can certainly say about this year's president is that he doesn't let sleeping dogs lie, and I think future generations of IC students will benefit from this.

The only major item discussed on Council of direct relevance to SCC this year was the issue of the Christian Union. Briefly the issue here was that CU requires its members to sign a declaration of faith, and it was deemed that this was contrary to the principle that any IC student can join any IC club. As a result of this the CU are no longer a Union club, but are organising events outside Union auspices. This does not seem to be unduly affecting their activities, though of course they no longer have a Union grant, and I wish them every success. The restriction placed on membership of CU is in fact imposed by an outside body, and the issue of restrictions on club membership resulting from external influences is a can of worms that is probably best left unopened. As it is this may well be an issue that could 'run and run'.

The Union Finance Committee (UFC), the body in control of the Union's purse strings, has rather more direct relevance to SCC, since it is from there that we get our money. The Union has been fairly well off this year,



# ANNUAL REPORTS

due in part I am sure to the competence of Jackie Pierce, last year's DP, and so most reasonable claims to UFC have been accepted. However it became clear at the time of the Estimates UFC for next year's budgets that UFC is badly in need of some coherent policies. Bits and pieces of policy on funding, spending etc are scattered through old UFC minutes, and I hope that next year's DP spends some time collecting these together into some form of policy document. This would make everybody's job at estimate time much simpler.

SCC currently has about 2500 members, which means that the subsidy they get from the Union is about £3.50 a head. This represents, I feel, exceptional value for money when you consider the degree of activity of the SCC clubs. One financial bugbear that I am very pleased has not rained its ugly head this year (touch wood) is the issue of Ultra Vires payments. It may be that SCC committees have finally worked out what an Ultra Vires payment is (aside from being illegal) and have decided to be good boys. For that I am glad.

One final bit of Union business that has been of relevance to SCC was the 'reorganisation' of the room booking system. After it was discovered what a mess this was it took a massed deputation of MSC chairmen to change it back to what it always was. I trust the old system is now working as well as it always used to, if not better.

## 4. Final Bits

It certainly has been an interesting year, and SCC chairman an interesting job. It's a pleasure to regularly meet and assist such a varied and enthusiastic group of people as members of the SCC club committees, and they all deserve thanks for their work in their own clubs and societies. I see the job of SCC chairman merely as one of making things as easy as possible for the clubs to get on with doing their business of running events of interest to their members and students in general. Seeing so many clubs doing so well is what makes the job worthwhile. One final notice to all SCC clubs. Please get forms for the Union directory from your pigeon holes in the Union Office, and send your articles for the ICU Handbook to Dave Smedley in the Felix Office as soon as possible. It just remains for me to wish next year's SCC chairman, whoever it may be, the best of luck, and I you get as much out of the job as I have.

'It was a tough job but somebody had to do it.'

— Superchicken

Dave Clements, SCC Chairman 1987-88

## Social Cultural & Amusements Board Chair

Richard Squire

A report on the activities of the Social, Cultural and Amusements Board during the 1987/88 session.



## 1. Societies

Despite the loss of the Music Room, **Chamber Music** have had a good year, with the formation of a new chamber orchestra along with ICOS. They have also organised four concerts, and several coaching sessions for members.

**Choir** have had two successful concerts so far, performing extracts from 'Seasons' and 'Christmas Oratorio' in the first term, and Verdi's 'Requiem' to a packed Great Hall in March. They also organise many social events for members, such as rehearsal weekends out of town.

**Debsoc** have this year held a major debate on the NUS, and a College-

wide debating competition. Two Debsoc members also won this year's ULU debating competition. Debsoc are likely to transfer to SCC next session.

**Dramsoc** had successful runs of Satre's 'The Flies' and Durrenmatt's 'The Physicists' in the Union Concert Hall, despite one or two difficulties. This summer they are off to the Edinburgh Festival for the Nth successive year. Dramsoc's range of technical services for events is also continuing to expand.

In their second year, **Filmsoc** have successfully increased their number of film showings, showing a wide variety of films to a wide variety of audiences in Mech Eng 220, on Tuesday and Thursdays. The 'Cult Movie' season was a feature of this year's programme.

**Folk Club** has been given new life this year after a long period of dormancy, specialising in the performance and appreciation of Folk Music. Events have been held in both the Holland Club and Norman's, and members played at several events during Rag Week.

**Jazz and Rock** continues in its expansion, with bands from the club playing gigs both inside and outside College. More new bands have been formed this year than in previous years, and two Hops have been held, with improved organisation and increased attendance.

**Orchestra's** year has seen performances of Holst's 'The Planets' and Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker Suite' among many others. The Orchestra has been more balanced this year, due to an influx of talented new players into the strings section. The concerts have also been well attended, with every seat in the Great Hall filled for the Autumn performance of 'The Planets'.

Last, but not least, **Operatic Society** have had a difficult year with a small committee, but due to a lot of hard work by a few people, have managed to their shows a success. Their February show this year was 'The Gondoliers' by Gilbert and Sullivan. A strong intake of keen freshers this year should serve to make life easier for them.

## 2. The Music Room

Over the summer of 1987, the old Humanities buildings of 52-53 Princes Gate were taken over by the new School of Management. With them went the Music Room, for years the centre of College's musical activity, and several other smaller practice rooms. The School of Management intended to use these facilities for conference and educational purposes on a permanent basis, to the exclusion of Music.

A campaign by the musical community within College ensued, in the hope of keeping the space provided for music in College to at least its previous (albeit inadequate) level. A lot of work was done, both by members of College's Music Committee, and by members of the student musical societies; publicity was produced, a petition raised, and a concert held in Sherfield foyer in protest. The result of all this was not the retention of the Music Room for music, but its temporary replacement by Terminal Room A, in the old Holland Club building, along with a new Steinway concert grand piano for which the money (20K) was arranged by College. Replacements for the smaller practice rooms had been found previously, in various parts of the Sherfield Building. However, the current arrangements are far from satisfactory, Terminal Room A being generally acknowledged to be an inadequate, and only a temporary replacement for the Music Room. It must be ensured therefore, by myself, my successor and the members of the Music Committee, that the Rector's undertaking to look for sponsorship money to fund an extension to the Huxley Building, for the sole purpose of music, is carried through.

Thanks are due to the chairpersons of the musical societies, along with Ian Howgate and Al Birch for their work over this issue.

## 3. SCAB Nite

A few years ago, SCAB Nite used to make a perennial loss. This year, for the second year running, almost £200 was raised for Rag. Members of all the SCAB societies took part, and my thanks must go to everyone involved, especially those who helped behind the scenes setting up. You know who you are.

## 4. Capital Equipment

Again this year, losses to SCAB capital equipment have occurred due to theft owing to lack of security in the Union Building. With luck, the new lock system recently purchased by House Committee should improve things, so long as the system is not abused.

## 5. Finance

A review of UFC financial policy is badly needed, and is currently being carried out. SCAB's financial policy is currently under discussion, and may need to be tailored to fit in logically with newly formulated UFC policy, governing the presentation of estimates etc.

The College's long delay in returning last year's accounts has been of no help at all this year.

In summary, a mixed year for SCAB. The loss of the Music Room was a bad blow, but all of the societies have had an active year, and one new society has been started up again.

My thanks for help during the year go to Ian, Alan and Chas, Chris Martin (for fixing our finances!), the chairpersons of all the SCAB societies, and to Bill Wakeman, Nigel, and, of course, Dinah...

Richard Squire,  
Social, Cultural and Amusements  
Board Chairman 1987/88.





**Mr Alan Rose, Deputy President of Imperial College Union, has written an open letter concerning his position with respect to annual reports and allegations that have been made against him about his responsibility for the Union Snack Bar and Bar.**

That I, as Deputy President, bear a global responsibility for the Union's bar and catering activities as a sabbatical officer is without question and in this regard I am prepared to be called to account to justify my role within any part of the management structure.

The decision of the Executive Committee to back the recommendation of the self-styled 'investigation committee' in the removal of the bar and catering activities from my remit implies an instrumental responsibility for the apparent stock shortages experienced by both outlets. This is a position which I cannot accept.

The matters which the Executive were invited to consider related to a number of complaints made largely by persons who also bear administrative, financial and legal responsibilities for the Union trading outlets. None of these complaints would implicate me directly in the stated shortfalls even if they could be substantiated which, for the main part, they cannot. The only formal allegation made against me is one of 'gross mismanagement' a term so suitably vague that it may be interpreted to mean anything from dishonesty to gross incompetence by anyone not privy to the details of the 'investigation' process.

It was alleged that I countenance the practise of after hours drinking which I do not. I have helped the bar manager to clear the bar on a number of occasions and have reprimanded him in the past for allowing the consumption of alcohol during the afternoon. To back up this allegation it was offered as evidence that on a stated night I was locked in the Union Bar drinking with the staff until well into the morning when in fact I can conclusively prove that I was in Beit Hall.

It was alleged that I acted in defiance of licencees' instructions in allowing 'undesirable' individuals to work behind the bar in relation to one particular person. I did not wish to act on the basis of someone else's personal animosity towards a person who I considered to be a valuable asset to the bar but would have accepted sound professional reasons or an explicit statement debarring him. No reasons have ever been forthcoming and every instruction affecting him has been carried out to the letter. He was never employed by the bar after an instruction was issued and has not set foot behind the bar after a further instruction was issued.

The delays in the production of financial information relating to trading outlets has been cited as my specific responsibility. Providing detailed trading accounts is

something which I am neither required nor qualified to do. Whilst I could have chased some people harder for figures in the Autumn term and perhaps even produced a few raw figures myself, I was engaged in a great many other activities including organising the recruitment of a finance officer who I believed would be able to produce exactly the kind of detailed information which was needed. Given that we were all concerned about the standing of the snack bar, raw figures such as the sales figures produced by the Union Administrator (which she could have produced at the committee at any time) or bank statements may not have told the full story and could easily have lead to the wrong conclusions. For example, a cash flow problem in November would have been consistent with expanding into the area or formal dinners where we had invested quite a lot of money but were not seeing returns as the bills had not yet been paid. If this was, however, symptomatic of a greater problem, we needed last year's accounts (which the College had not finished) and the advice of a professional (who was due to start in the near future). Suppliers had increased their prices so we increased ours; portion control was said to be lacking so we tightened it up; takings were suffering at the hand of a better range provided by college outlets so we looked at what else we could provide. These were the sort of decisions which we were in the position to make and were indeed making.

That there were delays in dealing with some other issues is cited as dithering on my part. For example, the RCSU claim about poor service at their dinners took some time to sort out. By the time it reached my hands there were no more catering meetings scheduled for the Autumn Term which had one day left to run. I believed that as I had not been present at the dinners in question and that the catering staff felt that an adequate service had been provided, the matter should be taken to a catering committee, and indeed the ICU President asked me to make it an agenda item as he wished to discuss the whole future of dinners in the Union. By the time the catering manager had returned from compassionate leave, the finance officer had identified a possible theft of stock or cash from the snack bar. When it became clear that this was to become a police matter I was advised that the details of the trading account should not be made public by the senior treasurer and by the police through the President. As the catering committee members would undoubtedly be demanding details of the account I



decided to suspend meetings until such time as we had a statement which we could give, as the alternative would have been to hold meetings and to deliberately mislead the committee. The committee met again after an effective gap of two months, not an excessive delay compared to previous years.

There was an implied allegation of an irregularity concerning the snack bar about which I know nothing and of an IOU taken out by a member of catering staff about which I know something. The money covered by the IOU was apparently taken out before I took office but I was asked to call it in which I did. The borrower does not know to this day where the money actually came from or to where it is supposed to be repaid. No one has furnished me with this information and it does not seem to show up on the trading account. The money is still locked up in my office as I am still unsure of its status and I would not approve of its joining the unaccounted for sums which exist in the Union safe and are occasionally used for buying such items as bottles of sherry.

I am charged with a failure to communicate with the licencees and whilst this is not an easy charge to either prove or refute, it is to my mind one of the more significant ones. Whilst I would freely admit that there are a number of personal differences between myself and the licencees, the important factor is that professional channels should be kept open and in this regard I feel that I have fulfilled my obligations. Both were informed immediately of the apparent shortfalls in the bar and the catering accounts and were involved in the decision making process of what to do about them from the start. There are a number of people who bear responsibilities for the bar and catering activities and to make the charge that I was making decisions and excluding people who had a need to know is to claim that those people could not possibly have any responsibility for the problems which we have encountered as they did not know about them. As soon as I became aware of the problems I passed the information on. None of us were aware of the stock situation before the finance officer began work and I was not and could not have been aware that a possible theft had taken place in either the bar or the snack bar before this time.

Having stated that I could not have prevented something which I could not have known was taking place I must state that I believe that at all times since becoming aware of the situation I have acted in a proper manner. Since the involvement of the police, my role has become less significant given that their first contact has always been the President. As the investigation has progressed, there has been information which has not been passed on to me and this has affected the amount which I have been able to do.

The responsibilities are not, as I have already stated, vested in me alone. If management was to blame then

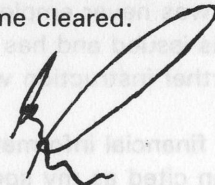
it is the management structure which must shoulder the responsibility and not one person. We have known for a long time that the Union needs to change to fulfil its management responsibilities and I have always been supportive of such moves, particularly from the point of view of bringing in a finance officer as I have already mentioned. I alone cannot be blamed for the way in which the matter has been handled given that in the initial stages I was only one part of a group of people making decisions and in the later stages I was not even kept informed of what was happening. If the licencees or the President feel that more should have been done in any direction then they themselves had an obligation to do something or, if they felt that I should have been doing something, asking me to do it. At the start of the year I asked the President to deal through me if he wanted something done about the bar or the snack bar. This was simply because I felt that he had a tendency to overreact at the slightest provocation and that this would not be good for staff relations. It was not, and could not have been, any kind of disclaimer of responsibility on his part in either area.

If the finger of suspicion is to point at all at those people who have handled stock then it must surely point at those who handled invoices or cash. There may be no evidence to suggest malpractice on the part of, say, the Union Administrator, but she was never interrogated by the police and in any case there is little or no evidence against the bar and catering staff who have been sacked or suspended. The Union must be fair and must be seen to be fair, there are not two classes of employee as no one is above suspicion and no one is beneath justice.

I have remained in office but am presently considering taking up a job offer for the near future given that I feel very bitter about the way in which I have been treated in the name of a students' union into which I have put an enormous amount of time, effort and (dare I say it?) love over the past three years. I resent being asked to carry the official can for something which I can accept no blame but for which I would have been prepared to bear whatever part of the responsibility was ex-officio mine for a system which has clearly been shown to be at fault.

I am prepared to submit my annual report but only if the ICUGM asks for it; it is up to that body to decide whether it is happy to accept the easy solution of finding scapegoats and allowing those who would shirk their responsibilities to appear blameless.

I have done nothing dishonest and reject the charge of 'gross mismanagement', I feel I have a right to have my name cleared.



Alan Rose, ICU Deputy President.