



No. 803
Friday 20th May 1988

FREE!

Felix

INSIDE

4 Union and
Letter from
St Mary's

5 Libel and
Blackmail

6 Science

7 Back in the
SAO

8 Dennis
Gabor

10 Previews

11 Reviews

12 Sport

13 Clubs

14 Diary

15 Letters

Bridge in troubled water

Students are still in the dark over the suspension of the Union Snack Bar staff and over the position of Deputy President Alan Rose, following yesterday's AGM. The Union Executive gave a limited explanation of the crisis, but were not able to disclose full details.

The meeting was opened to an audience of around 200 students at 1.05pm yesterday in the Union Concert Hall. It was decided that awards should be handed out to their various recipients before the rest of the business was dealt with.

The first awards to be made were ICU Social Colours to members of College staff. Prof D Ewing and Vernon McClure received their awards for their work on academic affairs; Patrick the Beit Quadrangle Messenger for his work as a messenger; Adrian Johnson for his work as Union Bar Manager; Reggie Blennerhassett for his work as Union Accountant; and Sashi Patel for his work in the Wages Office.

After this, Imperial College Union President Sydney Harbour-Bridge announced that a new ICU award was to be given by the ICU Executive for outstanding service to the Union in any one year. John Noble and Ian Morris were awarded an ICU Outstanding Service Award for their work on Entertainments; Nigel Baker for his work on Rag; Chas Brereton for his work on Academic Affairs; Mark Harris for his general help around the Union Office; Rob Kelly for his work last year; Dr Ken Weale for his work as ICU Honorary Senior Treasurer; Chris Martin for his work on Publications Board and transport; and Kevin O'Connor for his work on accommodation.

The final awards to be made at the meeting were the Union General Awards (UGA), given by the Union President for service to the Union over a sustained period. The first UGA was awarded to Chas Jackson,

this year's ICU Honorary Secretary, for his work as last year's ICU Publicity Officer and Hon Sec. Quentin Fontana was also given a UGA for his work as ICU Honorary Secretary two years ago. Mr Fontana is no longer a student at Imperial and was not awarded a UGA by Carl Burgess, the ICU President two years ago. Mr Harbour-Bridge said that he wished to make this retrospective award because he believed that Mr Fontana had 'held the student union together at that time'.

Mr Chas Brereton was awarded the third UGA for his work on Academic Affairs this year and in view of the large sums of money he has raised in the past three years for Rag.

Mr David Clements was awarded his UGA for his work with Debating Society, Science Fiction Society, the Royal College of Science Union and work as ICU Social Clubs Committee Chairman this year.

The penultimate UGA went to College Secretary Mr John Smith for the support that he has given Imperial College Union over the time he has been at IC and for the amount of money he has made available to the Union this year.

The final UGA was awarded to Union Administrator Mrs Jen Hardy Smith who Mr Harbour-Bridge described as the 'most deserving case'. He said that he believed it was time to make this award to Mrs Hardy Smith after the many years service she had put into the Union.

Following the award ceremony, a procedural motion was passed which brought the emergency motions to the top of the agenda. The first

emergency motion, proposed by Chris Martin and opposed by the ICU President, concerned the position of the Deputy President, Mr Alan Rose, who has been relieved of his management responsibility for the trading outlets. The motion called on the Executive to explain why they took the action regarding Mr Rose and to present any evidence they had regarding his alleged 'gross misconduct'. It also called for an open debate on the matter. After speeches from both sides, the motion was passed.

At the end of several minutes discussion of whether the action should be debated, Mr Harbour-Bridge agreed to answer questions from the floor.

When Mr Martin asked why the Deputy President had been relieved of his responsibilities, the meeting was again interrupted by several procedural motions from the floor and heated discussion on the conduct of all four sabbaticals.

Mr Harbour-Bridge was asked to give exact figures for the lost revenue from the Union Snack Bar. He said that projected profits of £35,000 (calculated by assuming that the stock that had been purchased had been sold) had 'disappeared', and that the Snack Bar had actually made a trading loss of £10,000 during this academic year. He added that last year's trading deficit had been £3,000.

Mr Rose stated that he believed that decisions made by the Executive two weeks ago had been based on opinions and not facts. Again the floor asked for clarification of the accusation of 'gross mismanagement' which had been levelled against Mr Rose by the Executive. Not much was forthcoming.

continued on back page



editorial

It occurred to me today that perhaps I was getting a little too involved with the 'Snack Bar saga'. Certainly this week, with the bitter feuding on both sides, I have found myself slipping further and further towards the 'Snack Bar staff side'. I no longer feel able to comment independently on the events in the Union and the shambles of an Annual General Meeting we had yesterday.

It is for this reason that I have asked last year's FELIX Editor David Jones, who was also present at the AGM, to write a guest editorial this week.

Just before I go, I'd like to say a big thank you to the five people who turned up to collate last night and everybody who has rallied around me this week. I love you all.

Judith XXX

I suppose it was just one IC UGM too many. Like the compulsive gambler who puts his last pound on the 33:1 shot but knows in his heart that he's pouring money away, or the alcoholic who can't put the glass down though he knows it's killing him, somehow I believed this one might be different. What kind of a fool am I?

After a close involvement with FELIX and the Union, it has been disconcerting to have to watch the goings on inside Beit Quad as an outsider. Perhaps that change of perspective has been significant, but this year the Union seems to have hauled itself onto a new level of collective absurdity. Hands up if you agree with the people from St Mary's. And those who disagree. That's a far smaller number....

The crass behaviour of all but the most level-headed students is par for

the course, but it's especially galling when there was at least one item of business that needed as much discussion as time and/or legal considerations would allow. Hopefully the Union as a whole will be given a full account of the major trading imbalances in the Bar and Snack Bar when the matter has been resolved. The only thing which came out of yesterday's hot air session was that among the mightier members of this shitty students union there are some personal grudges which run very deep indeed.

And the biggest personality clash of all? Ian and Alan may not be best of friends anymore, but it's Howgate versus Hackney which has been at the forefront of Union in-fighting for most of the year.

Or at least, that is what everyone seems to think. I've been looking through this year's back issues of FELIX recently, and there really isn't much evidence of the anti-Howgate hate campaign. There are one or two editorials which betray some personal dislike for the Union President, but hardly anything in the rest of the paper. Nothing, certainly, to rival the classic FELIXes of Steve Marshall (1980-81) or even those of Pallab Ghosh (1983-84) at his most vitriolic.

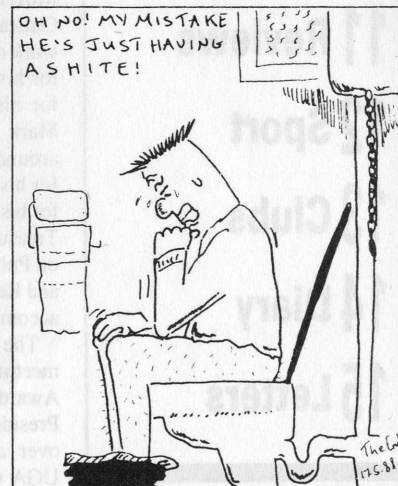
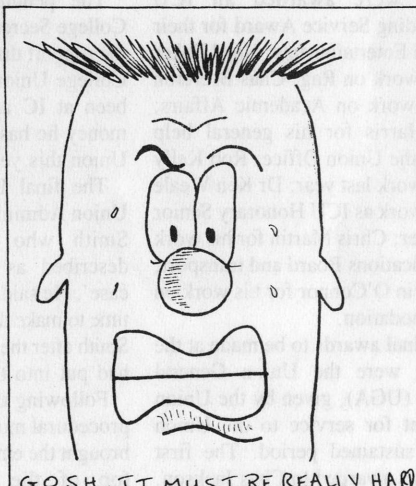
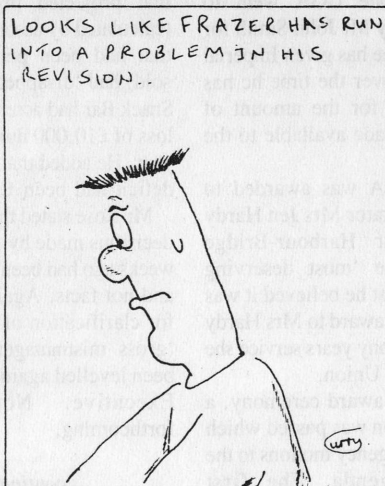
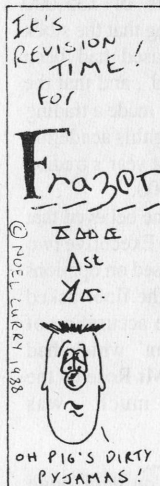
Now Ian Howgate is an interesting character. I first met him in early October 1983, when his chief interests were playing Dungeons & Dragons and trying to get laid. He rose from obscurity in the year before his election as President when leading the crusade for better security in College residences. In this, and indeed in much of his work as Union President, he has worked very conscientiously and with the best interests of IC students uppermost in his mind. He has certainly been one of the most committed of Presidents in recent years, and if Judith has been unfair to him, then I think it has been in not drawing attention to his diligence whilst mocking his eccentricities.

But I'm afraid she has her reasons. There aren't many Council members who were also Union officers last year, but those who were will have difficulty forgetting Howgate's continual interruptions. Whatever the subject, he would hold forth as long as his lungs would hold out. Now it's probably expecting too much of anyone who seeks public office to be shy and retiring, but there's another side to this: if you put yourself in the public eye, you have to be prepared to take the flack, and this is where Howgate falls down. He stormed out of Council on more than one occasion last year and he withdrew from the Presidential election first time round just because a few people made it clear they did not want him in the job. It was Ian Howgate that stormed into the FELIX office during the elections and demanded that Judith (then VP of RCSU) immediately round up a group of RCS students who had chosen to steal his posters. It was Ian Howgate that made known his view that the Union President should have the right to censor FELIX. It was Ian Howgate that tried to amend the sabbatical job descriptions so that all the posts were subservient to the President. ('But why, Ian?' - 'Because I'm the President.' Well, bugger me). It's not surprising that he doesn't hit it off

with the FELIX Editor.

But in one way or another Ian Howgate has left his mark on the Union this year. What I find more worrying is that his term of office is having a knock-on effect on FELIX as well. He's a hard worker, he's thin skinned, and his other great characteristic is an endless capacity for self-deception. This is what is rubbing off on those people who like to take his point of view. FELIX may not like Ian Howgate, but Ian decided long ago that he did not like FELIX. If the Ian Howgate hate campaign exists it exists chiefly in the mind of Ian Howgate, and in the mind of anyone else he can seduce. FELIX always gets a good shelling but this year it seems to have escalated into a bombardment fed by paranoia. This is a shame, because you only have to look at yesterday's proceedings to know that, without its newspaper, IC Union is a festering heap of egomaniacs. On top of his other qualities, Ian has a gift for putting across flawed opinions and being believed. This is not a situation without precedent, but only Presidents such as Carl Burgess have dared to suggest that they should control FELIX. From Beit Arch to the central staircase, an iron curtain has fallen across IC Union.

Editor-in-chief	Judith Hackney
Guest Editorial by	David Jones
Business Manager	Chris Martin
Reviews Editors	Andrew Clarke and Sumit Guha
Clubs Editor	Andrew Waller
Sports Editors	Dominic Strowbridge and 'Hector' Sullivan
Science Editor	Steve Black
Features Editor	Kamala Sen
Typesetting	Rose Atkins
Printing	Dean Vaughan
Contributors:	Paul Shanley, Andrew Waller, Chris Martin, Pippa Salmon, Adrian Bourne, Kamala Sen, William Lumb, Matthew Salter, Neil Motteram, Delator, Chris Jones, Steve Black, Sumit Guha, Andrew Clarke, Sunny Bains, Murray Williamson, Yishu Nanda, L Patsioulou, K Yamalidon, Chris Stapleton, Roy, Dominic Strowbridge, Noel Curry and all the collators.



Con Man back at Imperial again

The con man who tries to persuade students to 'lend' him money, so that he can 'return to France urgently' is back in College after six months. The man poses as an Air France steward called Benoit and drives a white Fiat registration number D166 ALP.

Earlier this week an Imperial student was approached by 'M Benoit' and asked for money. The student refused to cooperate, having read about the con man in FELIX last December.

Anyone approached by strangers asking for money should contact the College Security Office (extension 3371): they are advised not to part with any money.

Guilds handover



The City & Guilds Union Handover General Meeting was held on Tuesday on the steps of the Albert Memorial. Events included the Trouserless Boatrace between this year's and next year's C&GU Executive.

Guilds Awards

City & Guilds President Dave Tyler has awarded five City & Guilds Union General Awards this year. The awards went to Murray Williamson for his personal help to the President and outstanding work with C&G Entertainments; Alan Hepper for his personal help to the President and outstanding work as Honorary Secretary; Chris Horne for his general help and Ken Pendlebury for his work in revitalising Hoverclub and help around the Union Office. Second Lieutenant Tyler also awarded himself a C&G UGA for his work as President.

Mugging

A lady cleaner was mugged in an alley by the side of the Union Building last Friday morning. The attack took place in broad daylight at about 10.00am and the woman was robbed of £40. The man was middle aged and around 5ft 10in tall.

Student dies

A second year Materials Science student died on Sunday after falling from a top floor window in Bernard Sunley House, Evelyn Gardens, at 2am. The inquest into his death has been adjourned and his funeral will take place today in Coventry.

MDH closure

College administration have announced that the Main Dining Hall in the Sherfield Building will be refurbished during the summer vacation. The work will include the installation of completely new kitchen and servery equipment, a new ceiling, lighting and furniture, and general redecoration. They have also designed a new servery and cash till layout to reduce queueing times.

The MDH will be closed from July 11 until mid-September for the work but there will be restricted access from May 23.

Canadian reception

Imperial students planning to study at a Canadian university next academic year will be able to attend a reception at Canada House next month.

At the reception, the students will meet Canadian students who are enrolled at British universities, as well as Canadian government officials. There will also be other valuable information about Canada available.

For further information and an invitation to the reception, students should write to Doris Fletcher, British Students Reception, CUS/La Société, Alberta House, 1 Mount Street, London W1 Y5AA.

The reception will be held on June 28 at Canada House, Trafalgar Square.

BOOK NOW...

or summer may pass you by....

	return prices from
Athens	£99
Istanbul	£99
Milan	£92
Paris	£49
Tel Aviv	£159
Bangkok	£400
Delhi	£394
Hong Kong	£504
Los Angeles	£328
New York	£224

Enquiries & Bookings

01 581 1022 Intercontinental
01 581 8233 European



ULU Travel
Sherfield Building
Imperial College, SW7



ULU TRAVEL

Ian's dodgy tips

KELSO 2.00 The Anti-Christ
Wincanton 3.45 Goodbye Sydney
Ayr 3.45 Lack of colours



Money for old rubbish

An ecologically-minded student is being sought for a summer research project into waste paper recycling, being set up by Steve Easterbrook and Dr Richard Murphy. The project is to investigate how to organise collection of paper from all over College and will run for eight weeks over the summer vacation. The project will be funded by UK2000, the project headed by Richard Branson, and supported by Friends of the Earth, to provide cash for community efforts to improve the environment. IC Union have also offered to provide some funding and office space.

There are a number of problems associated with collecting paper for recycling which will need to be investigated in this project. One of the most obvious, which has dogged previous attempts is where to store the paper, and how the fire risk can be overcome. It is hoped that a deal can be negotiated with a waste paper dealer to provide fire-proofing as necessary. Other problems include how best to sort the paper as certain grades of paper are worth more than others, and how to encourage people to collect their waste paper.

The results of the project will be presented in a written report which can then be circulated to other colleges and institutions to encourage them to set up their own paper recycling schemes.

Anyone interested in earning some money over the summer while remaining ideologically sound should contact either Dr Richard Murphy (Dept of Pure & Applied Biology) or Steve Easterbrook (Dept of Computing).



City & Guilds News

City & Guilds Union have awarded the following colours:

Full Colours

Dave Tyler (Union), Tanya Maule (Union, President), Alan Hepper (Union, President), Rebecca Hunt (Union, President), David Hudson (Union), Bill Goodwin (Union), Ralph Greenwell (Union, LMS), Sean Dixon (Union, LMS), Colin Trotman (Union), Sarah Cox (Union), Chris Horne (Union), Kev McCann (Union), Stephen Wells (Union, AeroSoc), Phil Chandy (Union, AeroSoc), Nigel Street (Hoverclub), Rachel Fowler (Union, Civ Eng Soc), Chris Cliff (Union, Civ Eng Soc), Ken Pendlebury (Union), Jon Stout (Union), Ed Daniels (Union), Amin El-Kholy (Union), Murray Williamson (Union, Bo), Tim Clark (Union, Bo), Phillipa Hogben (Bo),

Steve Gosling (Bo), Dave Hobbs (M/C), Adrian Bourne (M/C), James Wilson (President), Ian Morris (Ents), John Coward (Rugby), Mark Maddalena (Rugby), Rich Molloy (Rugby), Steve Holden (Rugby), Steve Ashen (Rugby, Union).

Staff

Paul Ewing, Alex Noorbhai, George Tindall, Shaun Crofton.

Half Colours

John Noble (Ents), Mike Foulds (Ents), Wendy Moss (Chem Eng Soc), Mark Putt (M/C), Paul Bullen (Union), Nigel Baker (VP), Max Kallios (VP), Hal Calamvokis (VP), Alison Dewey (Union, LMS), Sarah Vant (LMS), Dave Osborne (Union, Ents), Amanda Morrison (Ents, Civ Eng Soc), Simon Nuttall (Ents), Chris Greenwood (Union, Ents), Owen Jones (Bo), Leo Shapiro (Mech Eng Soc), Margaret Vaughan (Mech Eng Soc), Matt Holmes (Rugby), Peter Lewyckij (Rugby), Shawn Forrestal (Rugby), Pete Johnston (Rugby), Miles Bennett (Rugby), Gehan De Silva Wijeyeratne (Union, Civ Eng Soc), Ian Cowly (Aero Soc), Neil

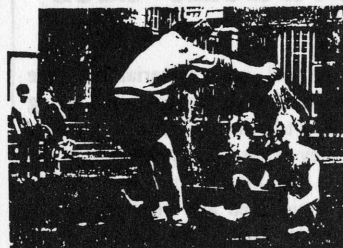
Smith (Hoverclub), Richard Hardiman (Union), Kevin Humphries (VP), Richard Spencer (Union, President), Andrew Rogers (Union), Richard Barnford (M/C), Peter Fordham (VP).

Staff

Peter Thatcher, Brian Evans, Colin Rogers, Chris Jerrard.

RAPE ALARMS

are still available to any Imperial College woman who needs one from the IC Union Office in Beit Quadrangle. FREE



Rag Fête

The totals for the individual stalls of Rag Fête are as follows:

Mud Wrestling	£30.50
SciFi Soc Videos	£9.70
Books & Rag Stall	£55.63
RCSU Pimms Stall	£29.75
CU Balloon Throwing	£11.93
Stocks	£45.80
FoppSoc Pig Roast	£95.80
Raffle	£137.40
Tombola	£12.00
Chaps' Curries	£31.38
Jez Rides	£27.51
IC Radio	£3.47
Guilds Rugby Fruit Machine	£11.69
Coconut Shy	£30.51
Guilds Flanning	£0.95
Queens Tower	£183.91
ICCAG Burgers	£80.78
Beetlesoc	£2.70
RSM Bottoms	£11.30
Total	£810.81

Letter from St Mary's

Life is very sombre at the moment. There is little fun to be had in the pre-clinical years. The project of the grim reaper has scared many a first year into frantic work, and reminded the second years of lost time. Talk is full of hints dropped by the teaching staff in tutorials and lectures.

This is the time the 'spotter kings' (or queens) make a mark. Carefully picking their way through the minefield of summer exams, they examine each topic for the probability of appearing in the paper. Success can be stunning, for example last year in one paper (and I stress only one paper) an individual spotted 20 out of 21 questions. Unfortunately such a dazzling performance occurs only once.

Probably the funniest sight of the day is the race to the library after the first lecture! Unless you are at the front your chances of a desk are limited. As one walks into the library the atmosphere of concentration is immediately apparent. One can

visualise the tiny cogs whirring as fact upon fact is digested with a sense of purpose usually reserved for international money dealers.

It is now that the individual who has ignored the tutorials throughout the year starts appearing and asking for extra work. This is partly to improve their style and accuracy, but is also (and probably more importantly) to see if the tutor will drop any half-hint that can be acted upon. Such rumours spread around with the speed of a well fanned bush fire, so that by the end of this week almost every subject individual will have been spotted!

Mounds and mounds of paper have been destroyed and countless pens discarded. One individual used a whole pad (200 sheets) of A4 in a week (using both sides and no waste). This feat gains even more credibility when one remembers that there are few if any formulae or calculations required, as most of the work is in essay form.

The ironic thing is that most of this work is of no practical use for the future, simply a way to pass the 1st or 2nd MB. To work so hard and amass so much information—each subject doubles the vocabulary, just to pass a single set of exams and then forget most of it strikes me as one of the biggest wastes of time ever devised. Those people who do well in 2nd MB do not necessarily make good doctors, so what is the benefit of it all?

KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **MY GOOD FRIEND** College Secretary John Smith, recent recipient of an Imperial College Union General Award, is always so fond of telling us how the Summer Letting Scheme keeps term time rents down. Quite possibly. But certain figures have been passed in my direction.

Hamlet Gardens is a head tenancy down in Hammersmith. Students are charged either £33 or £36 per week depending on which block they are living in. This figure is zero-rated for VAT during term because it is a student residence. It does not include gas or electricity.

However, during the Summer Letting Scheme, the same flats are let out at £34pw for the first four weeks and then £28pw after that. This includes VAT at 15% for the first four weeks and 3% after that. My calculator reckons that the zero-rated VAT is therefore about £27pw. This figure is inclusive of gas and electricity bills. At an average of £4.50pw for gas and electricity this means that College is getting about £22.50pw during the summer.

It doesn't take a degree in Mathematics to see that £22.50 is considerably less than the average £34.50 that students are being charged.

Why are students subsidising summer residents?

● **COMRADE HOWGATE** has been confiding to close 'friends', notably Mr Martyn Peck, FELIX spy, that he may find himself in academic trouble next year. Hissing Syd is apparently not guaranteed of a place in College next year. Will this endanger his master plan to get elected as Union President for the second time, at the end of next year?

● **THERE WERE** some very weird proxies flying about at Council on Monday night. It seemed that people were running about College all day, desperately making phone calls in a bid to have a vote. One member present, however, went out of his way to ensure he was there. He actually bought his proxy for £2—a proxy belonging to someone whom he had met only once before in his life.

blackMAIL

Information required on the following topics:

The Union has decided to fit a new key system into the Union Building to replace the decrepit one now in use. In their infinite wisdom, they have chosen the ASSA 6000 series. This was the one installed in Linstead Hall over the summer. Why has the Union again chosen an ASSA system when:

- Dozens of masters (ie R37s, ES1s, etc) are flying about?
- The Linstead 'foolproof' system was cracked within *eight hours* of installation?

Talking of key systems, why has Southwell warden Ken Young been expressing an interest in obtaining a particular key? He asked one of my spies if he could gain entry to Sherfield Level Four Finance. Why?

● How many keys has College Chief Security Office Geoff Reeves received since he declared an amnesty on illegal key-holders?

● Following my question a few weeks back, I can now reveal that Union Administrator Jen Hardy-Smith was responsible for the Union reorganisation. She even drew up the 'white paper' for the scheme. If Mrs Hardy-Smith is pulling the strings in the Union, then presumably Mr Harbour-Bridge is Pinocchio, the lying puppet who broke free.

● Life Sciences had a first-year intake of 140 students at the start of this year as opposed to a planned 100. A source of mine within the department has told me that it is intended to raise the pass mark in order to fail more students. This would bring the size of the year down to a manageable level. Can the head of department refute this?

● Al Birch, Falmouth Keogh Assistant Subwarden informs me that The Players were indeed at Rag Fête and threw a deck of cards off the top of the Queen's Tower. Funny how no one else saw it, eh, Al?

Is Mr Birch trying to shift attention away from himself? Could it be that The Players weren't at Rag Fête because one of them was in Cambridge at the time, ie Mr Birch himself?

● RCS tramp Tony Spencer wrote in to deny last week's story concerning his leaking of information to *Delator*. However as I pointed out at the time, Mr Spencer is on *Delator's* 'unreliable information' list. Consequently I don't believe a word he says.

On this subject, a third source within Guilds has refused to deny my allegation that a slush fund exists.

● A certain Hall/House Warden applied for the wardenship with 'his wife'. Why does his wife and kid(s) have a different surname to him? Could it be that they're not really married?

● Two items marked 'confidential' were discussed at Monday night's Council. Why were they debated in an open session with observers present?

Last week's Blackmail:

- 1) The Union Officer who shaved all his pubes off in a third year English lesson was External Affairs Officer, Mr Neil Motteram.
- 2) The second year Aeronautics student who makes Mars Bars disappear when his girlfriend is about is Mr Jan Graham.

This week's Blackmail:

- 1) Five pounds from the Phantom Soaker or I reveal his name.
- 2) Five pounds from Mr Harbour-Bridge or I publish 'confidential' details of the local council elections and the bowling alley.
- 3) Which male Union Officer has recently contracted syphilis? *Delator*.

P.S. Thanks Mr Northey for the £5.

● **MY SPIES** in College have been pretty scathing about the conduct of a certain newly-appointed Student Accommodation Officer. It seems that she has arranged several new clerical jobs in her office but is unconcerned about the lack of College Welfare Advisor following the resignation of Ms Linda Simmons at the end of March.

Ms Simmons was a well-liked and conscientious Welfare Advisor but only remained at Imperial for six months. Why? Close friends tell me that she was disillusioned and cynical by the time she left. Her main reason was the lack of support she was getting from both her colleagues and Imperial College Union.

The Student Accommodation Office seems to be in a bit of a turmoil at the moment. Student Accommodation Officer Loretto O'Callaghan is convinced that the office will not be running smoothly until next year. The question on many people's lips now is why, at the height of exam time and two months after Ms Simmons left, has her job not been advertised? And why doesn't Imperial College Union push for the post to be filled now?

Sources close to the SAO have speculated that it could be because Union sabbaticals don't need welfare advice—but they do need jobs as subwardens next year!

● **FORMER RCSU HON SEC** Tom Melliard-Smith was seen wandering haplessly in the direction of the Union Building last Wednesday night. The man had gone for a drink in the Holland Club. The poor souls who had to suffer Mr Melliard-Smith's tedious monologue got extremely bored by this and took action. A phone call was soon arranged calling the man to the Union for 'an urgent message'. Mr Melliard-Smith has not been back to the Holland Club since.

● **AT THURSDAY'S AGM**, Mr Howgate deferred one of his Outstanding Service Awards at the end of the meeting. The prospective recipient was Phil Drew, St Mary's President. Mr Drew was so angered by the direction the meeting was going that he walked out, taking all his Exec with him. He also stated that his Union would not be merging with ours until such a time as ICU got their act together.

Needless to say, Mr Drew did not receive his award.

Chris Jones

Eating Rocks

Precious metals, such as Gold or Platinum, are so expensive that they are worth extracting from rocks that contain only tiny amounts of them: 5 grams of Gold per tonne of extracted rock is not uncommon. Sometimes this tiny amount of precious material is easy to extract: metallic gold is heavier than most rocks so sophisticated large-scale versions of panning can be used to separate it (in a fast-flowing stream of water the least dense bits get washed away before the heavier bits). However, in some precious-metal ores the valuable bits are much more difficult to extract. About 30% of all Gold is found in rocks made from sulphide minerals and these tend to hold on to about one third of their Gold content (even when harsh chemical methods are used to try to get it out). A Canadian mining company has recently proposed a new method that promises to get almost all the Gold from sulphide rocks. The method involves eating the rock.

While eating rock (even the sort you get with 'Welcome to Blackpool' written the whole way through it) is not good for people, there are some bugs that just love it. One particular bacterium, *Thiobacillus Ferridoxans*, gets its energy by 'burning' the sulphide ores into sulphates (sulphates are derived from sulphides by adding oxygen—thereby releasing lots of energy). This makes the rock more soluble and breaks down its impermeable and dense structure, making it much easier to extract the precious components.

The only problem involved results from the amount of heat produced during the digestion: the bacteria have to be kept at 30°C but this requires a large amount of cooling and a large vat to hold the soup while the bugs do their work. The extra Gold recovered makes it worthwhile.

Meanwhile, British biotechnologists are working on some other bugs that work at much higher temperatures and would therefore require smaller vats and less cooling. These might be useful in circumstances where the expense of the Canadian bugs would not be justified. Perhaps this unusual application of designer-bugs to geology is a sign that biotechnology is, at last, starting to do something useful with all the money that has gone into it.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

by Steve Black

Spaghetti Universe

Astronomy's latest fad is the cosmic string. As is typical for such fads, cosmic strings are being used to explain every piece of anomalous information available to astronomers. In particular, they have recently been invoked to explain why the observed universe is lumpy.

First let's look at the observed facts. In the last few years astronomers have concluded that there are huge holes in space between clusters of galaxies. This was unexpected and is, apparently, difficult to explain given conventional assumptions about the origin of the universe and the formation of galaxies. More recently a group of astronomers known as the seven samurai have uncovered some other related awkward facts about the motion of some nearby galaxies. Their observations show that our neighbouring galaxies are being pulled by some mysterious object called the Great Attractor (which is about 200 million light years away in the direction of the southern cross, turn left at Betelgeuse). This attraction was discovered by subtracting the expected velocities (resulting from the attraction due to the known galactic lumps) from the actual velocities (measured by red shifts). However, the quality of this sort of data is questionable (and often questioned) since it relies on incomplete galactic surveys.

Astro-theorists are never slow to jump on the bandwagon, even if it is based only on dud observations. So cosmic strings have been invoked to explain some of the anomalous facts. Strings already existed in the minds of the Alice-in-Wonderland theorists who like to publish six impossible things before breakfast, but until these recent observations they had no facts that could be usefully explained by them.

What the strings are is difficult to comprehend (though I welcome any attempts by physicists to explain them more thoroughly on these pages). Basically, they can be thought of as one-dimensional defects in the fabric of space. Space near a string is

distorted in such a way that if you travelled in a circular path around one, you would not have travelled a full 360°. Such odd objects in various incarnations (including massive strings which weigh a lot, superconducting strings and loops of string) have been invoked to explain anomalies such as the great attractor and the inhomogeneous nature of the universe. They are now even being used to explain the origins of galaxies themselves.

Cosmic strings were, according to the people who champion their existence, formed in the very early stages of the Big Bang and have permeated the universe in a sort of cosmic Spaghetti ever since. As clouds of dust and gas flowed past them in the chaos of the early universe the clouds were condensed into thin sheets (this is a result of the distortion of space around the string). These sheets were condensed enough to form into galaxies and clusters of galaxies whose distribution will therefore be very uneven. One interesting (and testable) prediction from this model is that the distribution of galaxies is more like a sponge than a foam (a foam has lots of completely enclosed bubbles but a sponge has only one interconnecting but very complicated hole surrounding a single piece of matter).

It will be worth waiting for the observations to sort these ideas out, but it will be even more fun to see what the theoreticians can dream up next: a cosmic reef-knot perhaps?



Editorial: Science and the Heretic

In most fields of human endeavour the heretic is an unwelcome distraction. Not so in science: there, the heretic is an absolute necessity. Not that you would know that by looking at the way they are treated by the establishment. For example, when Rupert Sheldrake's heretical work *A New Science Of Life* first appeared, the editor of *Nature* suggested that it should be burnt in public. It may well be that the book was full of nonsense, but Sheldrake stuck to the rules of science and suggested how his ideas could be tested.

In responding to his challenge, many biologists will have been forced to think afresh about the fundamentals of their subject. This will have kept them intellectually alert. The more you close your mind to new ideas, the more stodgy your own ideas become. Strict adherence to the conventional is a sure path towards intellectual stagnation.

Recently *New Scientist* opened its pages to another biological heretic: Peter Duesberg, who believes that HIV is not the cause of AIDS. He believes that the virus is benign and that AIDS is simply a product of a sexually degenerate lifestyle. Duesberg's ideas were ignored by the establishment when he first published them, but this only encouraged him and his supporters in the press.

New Scientist took a more reasonable approach: they allowed Duesberg two pages to put forward his ideas and then gave someone else the same amount of space to refute them. Duesberg's opponent admitted that he had to think again about the basic evidence when confronted with the heresy, but the rethink only reinforced his own beliefs. He won the argument convincingly.

This is the way all scientific debate should be conducted. Heretics are a valuable spur to new thought and if their ideas are wrong then open public debate is a better way to prove them wrong than suppression. Anyway, sometimes the heretics are right and conventional science just holds back progress by ignoring them.

Jobs for the boys (and the girls!)

During the Summer vacation many of the College's residences are let to visitors from outside the College.

The income from these schemes is essential if reasonable rents in the residences are to be maintained.

The various Summer Letting Schemes offer a number of jobs for the vacation period.

These vary from challenging full-time managerial posts to part-time cleaning work. In general the work is well paid and interesting; free accommodation is provided in most cases.

The schemes fall into two distinct categories. The Summer Accommodation Centre operates in Linstead Hall and part of Southside, providing hotel standard bed and breakfast service for Conferences and other short stay visitors. This is run under the auspices of the Conference Office. The Summer Letting Schemes include Evelyn Gardens, Hamlet Gardens and Beit Hall, providing a more basic and less expensive form of accommodation. The clientele tends to be students from other Colleges staying for fairly long periods. These schemes are run by the Student Accommodation Office. For all the schemes marketing is carried out centrally, but during the residence period most of the work of running and maintaining the scheme is carried out by students on site.

Summer Accommodation Centre (SAC)

This is the most prestigious of the four schemes and has a relatively large work force necessary to maintain the very high standards required. The office and reception desk is in the foyer of Linstead Hall and is run by a member of the Conference Office staff, together with Assistant

Managers, Night Managers, Cashiers/Receptionists. The reception desk is manned day and night throughout the Summer vacation. Guests are welcomed, registered and billed on arrival by the reception team and shown to their rooms by a porter.

Behind the scenes, the cleaners prepare up to 460 rooms which involves changing and making beds, cleaning wash basins and bathrooms and vacuuming carpets. All this has to be done in the morning in four hours. Cleaners work in pairs, under the supervision of the Housekeeper and coordinator, serving 24 rooms and three sets of bathroom facilities on a staircase. There will also be a demand for extra cleaners for between 7 and 14 days at the start and for cleaners to work weekends only. However accommodation will not be provided for these two categories.

Evelyn Gardens

This is the largest of the schemes operated by the Student Accommodation Office, and is staffed by four assistant managers and nine cleaners. All three schemes are however supervised by a Coordinator. The assistant managers run the office, act as receptionists,

maintain booking charts ensuring full occupancy where possible, collect rents, operate the accounting system and supervise the cleaners. The cleaners clean rooms, change sheets and act as porters.

Hamlet Gardens

At Hamlet Gardens three assistant managers and two full time cleaners run about 50 flats which provide accommodation for about 200 guests. The duties are similar to those at Evelyn Gardens. These flats provide accommodation of a basic standard.

Beit Hall

Beit Hall is different from the other schemes in a number of ways. It is much smaller with only 100 rooms and the Housekeeper is heavily involved with the lettings. The Beit Hall scheme operates with one assistant manager, one night manager and three cleaners. The assistant manager is responsible for raising all invoices and making sure that guests pay on time and also acts as an assistant to the Housekeeper.

Coordinators receive a £10 per week responsibility payment in addition to the above rate. The hours given for cleaners and coordinators represent a guaranteed minimum; it is possible that overtime will sometimes be available. The hours given for other staff represent normal hours, but there will be times when extra hours are required. Although overtime is not paid for these extra hours they will be taken into account when assessing bonuses.

The Summer Letting Schemes offer an interesting and rewarding kind of vacation work. At times the work is very hard, especially at the beginning and end of the schemes. Those working in the management type jobs need a lot of stamina and patience to deal with large numbers of guests while working under considerable pressure. At the same time most people who work on the scheme tend to enjoy themselves as well as gaining useful work experience. Please note that in general all staff working in the schemes must be prepared to cover any emergencies that arise.

Application forms are available from the Student Accommodation Office, 15 Princes Gardens, or Room 170 Sheffield Building.

The Closing date is Friday May 27, 2.30pm.

Remuneration

All students who work in the Summer Lettings Schemes are offered a competitive wage. Those who work for the whole summer are offered free

accommodation, and are eligible for a discretionary bonus. Wages, hours and bonus rates are as follows:

Position	No of Hours	Wages	Bonus
Assistant Managers	39	£100 pw	£100-300
Night Manager	35	£80.50	£100-300
Receptionist	35	£77	£70-200
Cleaners and Cleaning Coordinators	24	£2.10 ph	£30-100

DENNIS GABOR: IMPERIAL ENGINEER AND FATHER OF HOLOGRAPHY

Dennis Gabor, the world famous inventor of holography, spent several years working at Imperial College. International publisher and holography enthusiast Sunny Bains takes a look at the life of Gabor and his scientific philosophy.

Dennis Gabor was born in Hungary at the turn of the century into a strong engineering family, although his father never went to university. From an early age the combination of Dennis' own intellect and the education provided by his father, Bertalan, gave him more knowledge of physics and mathematics than his teachers. He and his two brothers were given all the books and laboratory equipment they needed to excel in both the experimental and theoretical sides of physics. Through the family, Dennis learned to speak good German, French and English, as well as his native Hungarian.

At school he was often bored by the work, which he found too easy, and was unpopular with teachers. He went on to study mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Budapest

where he began to settle down until the third year when he was called up for military service. Eager to escape the army, he moved to the Technischer Hochschule in Berlin to pursue an Electrical Engineering degree:

"Though still at its height at the time, I could not call the TH Berlin an ideal institution. There were far too many students and there was hardly any contact between students and teachers. It was a sort of slot machine into which one had to throw no end of machine designs, essays and papers and out came a diploma in the end. But it certainly made one get used to hard work! My real education, and the memory which I cherish most at that time, was the Physical Colloquium at the University, every Tuesday, and the unforgettable

seminar on Statistical Mechanics which I had under Einstein's guidance in 1921-22."

Gabor finished his first degree in 1924 and went on to complete a Dr-Ing in 1927. He then joined the Physics Laboratory at Siemens but when Hitler came to power his contract was not renewed and he returned to Hungary where he worked on the development of a plasma lamp.

In 1934, through Edward Allibone, who was to become a lifelong friend, he came to Britain. For 15 years he worked for the British Thomas Houston Company. His work at BTH was, to begin with, largely based on the development of the plasma lamp. When this project was eventually found to be unworkable, he was given a staff position at the company. With the onset of the war he found himself very restricted in his potential fields of research as he was classed an 'enemy alien' by the British government. For this reason he was not allowed to take part in any project even vaguely involved with defence. He nevertheless decided to pursue his own research on the detection of airplanes using the heat from their engines and an infrared detecting screen but, when the military found out about it, the project was taken over and he was prevented from working on it further.

In 1938, after the advent of television, a worried cinema-chain owner persuaded Gabor to develop some way of projecting cinema pictures in 3-D which he went on to patent in 1940.

In 1947, Gabor was trying to solve the problem of aberrations in lenses in electron microscopy. He had the idea of recording the phase information of a beam of light on an intensity sensitive plate by interfering it with a reference beam from the same source, and then replaying it by



Features

passing light through the photographed image. By mid-1948 he had proved that his theory could work in practise.

At the end of 1948, Gabor moved to Imperial College in London where he had been appointed Reader in Electron Physics. In 1956 he wrote that the preceding 6-7 years had been the happiest of his scientific career.

Professor Eric Ash, Rector of Imperial College, was the first student Gabor supervised for a PhD. He wrote of Gabor:

There was no doubt amongst his students that Gabor should win the Nobel Prize for something - we debated just what it might be. Nor was this a symptom of hero worship of which we were largely innocent. We could assess the magnitude of the intellect but found it harder to discern the direction.

This is, perhaps, hardly surprising. In this period he designed an interference microscope, started experimental work in plasma oscillations and did pioneering work in communication theory.

Throughout his life, Gabor was insistent that he was an engineer and inventor, rather than a scientist. Perhaps is surprising, then, that he did not always like to work with engineers:

My experience with engineering students is that one in two is completely unfit for research, and the other takes a year before he gets going. For this reason I am taking on a young physicist; their starting time is less, but of course there is always the possibility of getting a dud.

When doing experimental work, he tended to design an experiment and then let the research assistants and students get on with it. This left him free to go into his office to write.

Communication between Gabor and the students was sometimes difficult. He often found it difficult to get down to the level of the students when trying to explain some idea. Eric Ash wrote:

His lecture courses... seemed memorable but hardly capable of assimilation - at least, until the realization dawned that they were not so much lectures but master classes. It was necessary to 'know' the subject before attending these occasions; but then the experience was enormously worthwhile - providing both the long historical view as well as insight in depth and generality.

In 1956 Gabor went back to

Germany for a visit. Of his trip he wrote:

This was my first visit to Germany since 1933, and it was almost a triumphal entry. I was the guest of Göttingen University and of the Max Planck Institute, to whom I gave a lecture on information theory and physics. They gave a dinner in my honour where I sat between Otto Hahn and Heisenberg, who treated

never taken up since the cathode ray tube had been shortened by this time. In 1956, however, the Sunday Times found out about the research and printed an article on the subject. Gabor was concerned for his reputation and wrote to Allibone, who was now head of the Associated Electrical Industries (AEI) research labs at Aldermaston:

You may have seen in yesterday's

which can only be harmful to me. I wanted to let you know, in case you have an opportunity to rectify false impressions.

Dennis was appointed to a personal Chair of Applied Electron Physics at Imperial College in 1958. His inaugural lecture entitled *Electronic Inventions and their Impact on Civilization* eventually became the book *Inventing the Future*.

In 1958 he started working on a project involving thermo-nuclear fusion, but illness intervened in 1961 when thrombosis-phlebitis of the legs sent him to hospital which forced him to withdraw from the project.

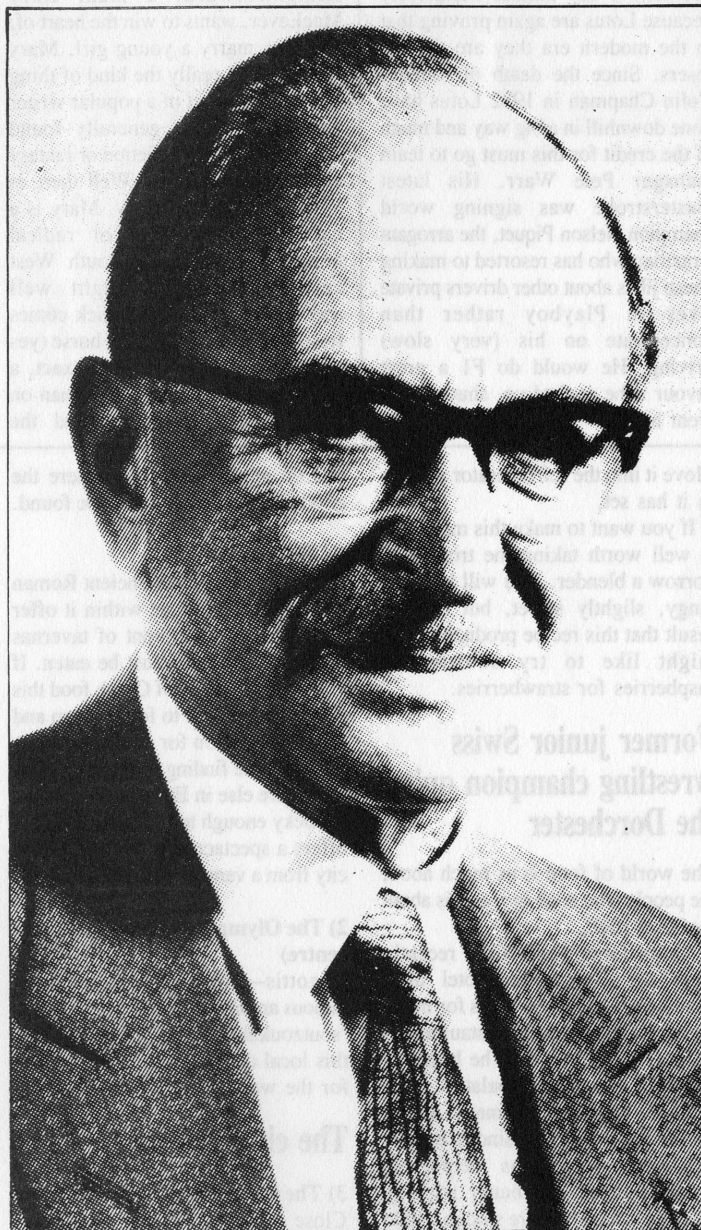
In 1962 the AEI research facility at Aldermaston closed down. To a journalist from the Financial Times he wrote:

In fact your personal worries are now part of a very sinister development. Do you know that ICI are closing down their fundamental research at Welwyn, and Courtaulds are also shutting down fundamental research? I am afraid what is happening is nothing less than the end of what can really be called research in industry in this country. It is a catastrophic development. When I came to this country 29 years ago and noticed the primitive state of industrial research as compared with that in Germany, I thought, as most people did, that it would be different in a generation, when the people who had themselves done research when they were young would have risen to high management posts. Just the opposite has happened, it is not the research man who has replaced the bluff old production engineer, but the accountant.

From 1963, when Leith and Upatnieks applied lasers to holography, Gabor's place in history was secured. When in 1971 he won the Nobel Prize, Upatnieks sent the first telegram congratulating him, and in 1972 Leith wrote as part of the introduction to the Nobel Lecture printed in the proceedings of the IEEE:

While Nobel awards are given for specific achievements, it nonetheless seems fitting that the recipients of science's highest award should be truly intellectual giants in the broadest sense. On all scores, Dennis Gabor is worthy of this award.

FELIX acknowledges the assistance given by the College Archives and Holographics International.



me with more than polite courtesy. These good Germans, whom nobody could ever accuse of nazism, are pathetically keen on making amends for the others.

Between 1952 and 1958, Gabor worked on another of his pet projects, the thin TV tube which could be used for both monochrome and colour. The experimental work was, in fact, successful, but his invention was

Sunday Times a short article 'New TV set will hang on wall', mentioning that I am developing such a tube. I want you to know that I neither inspired this article nor authorised it. Presumably it has been released by the National Research Development Corporation, perhaps in the hope that the British valve manufacturers would prick up their ears. For my part I am rather concerned about the article, as it could be read as self-advertisement,

MOTOR

The most successful driver of all time, Prost won his 30th Grand Prix and his 4th Monaco victory in the last 5 years in a rather unsatisfactory manner. Prost has been out-qualified in all 3 Grand Prix this season by Senna quite easily and startline mistakes lost him the race at the Imola and should have cost him victory in Monte Carlo. Yet the fact is that he leads Senna by 15 points and McLaren are yet to suffer a mechanical retirement (Senna was

Unlike football, where the complete underdogs can beat a much more expensive team, Formula One is ruled almost exclusively by the chequebook. The big spenders at the moment are Honda, Philip Morris (Marlboro) and R J Reynolds (Camel). I say almost exclusively because Lotus are again proving that in the modern era they are the big losers. Since the death of founder Colin Chapman in 1982 Lotus have gone downhill in a big way and much of the credit for this must go to team manager Pete Warr. His latest masterstroke was signing world champion Nelson Piquet, the arrogant Brazilian who has resorted to making cheap jibes about other drivers private lives in Playboy rather than concentrate on his (very slow) driving. He would do F1 a great favour if he packed up, shut up and went home.

The Grey Horse

This simple tale of simple Irish folk turned out to be a little too simple for my liking. The plot itself is very straightforward, a man, Rory MacEver, wants to win the heart of, and then marry a young girl, Mary Stanton. Not really the kind of thing you might expect of a popular writer whose works are generally found amongst the science fiction or fantasy section of bookshops. Well there is a little more to the story. Mary is a nationalist, the kind of radical protagonist which the South West corner of Ireland might well accommodate. The real kick comes from Rory though. He is a horse (yes a grey one), or to be more exact, a horse fairy who turns into a man on occasion and gallops around the

The fairly subtle sub-plot of father and estranged son being reunited is not only a touch obvious but very clichéd. In fact the only surprise in the book is how quickly the characters come to accept a magical creature in their midst. Perhaps the Irish are like that—I don't know.

Despite these complications and substructures, the events develop rather too slowly, perhaps an attempt by the author to recreate the timelessness of the country, which is usually claimed by the Irish Tourist Board. The frequent Gaelic references I found confusing and distracting and did little for the authenticity of the story, a shame since this is no doubt the reason for their inclusion.

R A MacAgoy has received several awards and nominations for her writing, and I can only assume that she has done better in the past. If you like horses and simple tales though, you might like this book.

The Grey Horse is published today by Bantam, and is £2.95.

Andrew Clarke.

I always look forward to the Summer because strawberries are available in abundance to make my favourite mousse.

Ingredients:
500g fresh strawberries
50g (2oz) caster sugar
4 tblsp water
½ pint double cream
2 egg whites

Set the mousse in the freezer compartment

The mousse takes about 2 hours to set. Take care not to freeze it solid.

If you want to make this mouse it is well worth taking the trouble to borrow a blender. You will love the tangy, slightly sweet, but creamy result that this recipe produces. You might like to try substituting raspberries for strawberries.

The world of food is as much about the people who cook in it as it is about the food itself.

Anton Mossiman retired recently from the Dorchester Hotel after heading a posse of 80 chefs for many years. He has opened a restaurant off Belgrave Square where he hopes to carry on pleasing the palate.

He is regarded by many as the finest chef in England since the great Escofier. Anton has helped to promote bread and butter pudding from the status of mere stodge to that of a regal pudding. I hope to include his recipe for this classic pud in a future issue of FELIX.

The City of Thessaloniki

L Patsiolou and K Yamalidou of Chem Eng were kind enough to give

tips on areas of the city where the good Greek tavernas are to be found.

The areas around the ancient Roman castle and the village within it offer an excellent assortment of tavernas where Greek food must be eaten. If you have any fears of Greek food this would be the time to forget them and eat like a glutton for you will have a difficult time finding better value food anywhere else in Europe. You might be lucky enough to find a taverna that offers a spectacular view of the port city from a vantage point in the castle.

Rogottis—This establishment is famous amongst the locals for its juicy 'soutzoukakia'. The girls insist that this local delicacy cannot be missed for the world.

3) The locality of Krini-Kalamaria

Close to Krini is the expensive, luxurious taverna of Krikelas. A meal here would be recommended to those who are prepared to spend between £10-15 per head inclusive of service and wine.

5) The village of Panorama
Here the tavernas offer the much loved 'trigono' which must be had as dessert with any meal you might try.

All the areas that I have mentioned can be reached by bus from the city centre. It would be a good idea to try Greek seafood dishes if you go to a taverna in an area near the sea, but further inland the 'Souvlaki' (kebab) meat preparations might be preferred.

It might be sensible to avoid Corfu in the peak of summer, but if you venture this far you certainly must not miss a meal at Georgo's taverna in Messongi. The Moussaka, the Barbouni (red mullet), the Massoroonatha do Foumou (oven baked macaroni cheese) are the outstanding dishes to be tried. A meal here will cost a paltry £1.50.

Dr Toumazou warns that Cyprus will be more expensive than the Greek islands but that is never any reason to miss out on good food.

The places to look out for are: Taverna Aphrodite, Limassol—The Kleftico (leg of lamb) and the 'Aphelia' (chunks of meat marinated in wine) are two masterpieces and should cost about £3 per head. Taverna Salamis, Ayia Napa—The Souvlaki and the Galamari (squid) should be tried.

We have come far since leaving the leafy lanes of London but before our gastronomic itinerary moves westward I will be giving food tips from Athens and the Aegean islands. I am indebted to those who provided the info that made this article possible.

Bye for now,
Yishu

FILM

Ironweed

It is rare these days to see a truly bad film. Films cost too much money for anyone to risk making a bad one but Hector Babenco has managed, against all odds, to achieve just that. His film *Ironweed* runs for two hours fifteen minutes and seems to last twice as long.

The film is set in 1938 in the depressed town of Albany NY where Francis Phelan (Jack Nicholson) and his down-and-out friends scrape out an existence in soup kitchens and flophouses, doing odd jobs and drinking liquor. When working as a gravedigger he visits for the first time the grave of his son, who died at 13 days when Nicholson accidentally dropped him on the floor twenty two years previously. The grave starts him thinking about his life before the accident and about the wife and family he left because he couldn't face the guilt. From then on the film chronicles the events of the next day and half with numerous scenes of life as a hobo and his belated return home bearing a 15lb turkey as a gift.

The scene of reconciliation is actually quite moving but it comes too late in the film (about two hours too late). By that time you are too bored to care, having sat through what must be the most lengthy exposition in cinema history. Babenco seems so anxious to show what life was like as a tramp that he uses most of the running time just to set the scene. The boredom and hopelessness of their lives is conveyed by boring the pants off the audience.

The film is based on William Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize winning novel of the same name (by the way; what does *Ironweed* mean?). But the depth of characterisation possible in a novel is not easily transferred to the screen. After half an hour the characters are established and you wonder when the plot will arrive. An hour later you are still wondering, the intervening time seeming very empty because the director fails to express the ideas of the book in filmic terms.

Besides two superstars (Nicholson and Meryl Streep) the cast boasts Fred



Gwynne (Herman Munster), Tom Waits and 60s sex symbol Carrol Baker who is no baby doll any more. She's no actress any more either although some of the acting is very good, managing to produce the obligatory oscar nomination for Ms Streep. Unfortunately no amount of

good acting could rescue this film from the hands of its director. *Ironweed* is sad proof of the fact that even Hollywood's finest can come up with a 15lb turkey every now and again.

Steve Roberts.

MUSIC

Seventh Son of a Seventh Son

Iron Maiden

I've always bought Iron Maiden albums because they use Heavy Metal as a medium for presenting interesting musical and lyrical ideas, rather than simply thrashing out rock clichés to shouted 'blood and guts' lyrics. Unfortunately, the latter is a far more accurate description of their new LP, *7th Son of a 7th Son*. Even Derek Riggs' usually stunning cover illustrations are lacking, although the inner-sleeve is terrific. As with their last album, synths can now be heard unobtrusively in the mix, along with sampled choirs on the very long title-track, the second half of which contains most of the novelty on the album. The chorus, however, simply consists of the title repeated 8 times! The acoustic guitar ending to *The Prophecy* would have come as a surprise to people if I hadn't spoilt it. A pity really, as there aren't any other surprises.

Richard Fincher

The Innocents

Erasure

Given that Erasure's latest album, *The Innocents*, is produced by Stephen Hague, you might expect it to sound like the 'every-hit's-the-same' Petshop Boys. That sound is certainly in evidence, but Vince Clarke's catchy formula music is still the predominant feature. Vince is good at what he does, and obviously sees no reason to vary things unduly. Anyone who liked *The Circus* will go for this one too. Unlike some gay lyricists, Andy Bell has always written lines which can be identified with by both gay and straight people, although he does slip up in *Witch in a Ditch*, albeit in German, which has a catchy folk music tune. The other non-formula track is *65000*, which is a boring attempt at a house instrumental. The packaging is very attractive, the music, consistently chart-orientated, with numerous potential singles.

Richard Fincher

Blind

The Icicle Works

Following last year's *If You Want to Defeat Your Enemy, Sing His Song*, comes *Blind*. Consistently creative, yet consistently denied of commercial success, The Icicle Works continue to cut their way through the ever increasing volume of dross that finds its way onto radio playlists and shops, in their gritty scouse way. *Blind* is a blend of styles as diverse as the African sounding *What Do You Want Me To Do?* through to the Prince sound-a-like *Kiss Off*. McNabb still reminds us though that he's still listening to his Led Zeppelin and Neil Young albums, *Shit Ceek* sounding particularly like Jimmy Page...

The title track though is without doubt the finest track on the album. Following on from *Up Here in the North* a single from *...Enemy...*, McNabb sets about telling you in under five minutes what's wrong with Britain/the World in 1988. No doubt, this record will slip by barely noticed,

without the recognition and radio play it deserves. Support a worthy cause, the boys are probably still mourning their team's failed attempt at the FA Cup (no doubt to be featured on the next album).

Brad Blundell.

The Wonderstuff

Marquee, 5th March

As usual, The Wonderstuff mix a set of loud indie/rock with humour and wit, with the lead singer 'Miles' (!!) supplying the intersong chatter. What The Wonderstuff are good at are fast, short pop songs such as their current single *Give, Give, Give Me More, More, More* that are perfect to jump about to. They will definitely be heading for bigger and better things if the following of fans they have and the media attention they have been receiving are anything to go by.

Mac

BOAT

Mad Dogs and Belgians

Ghent Regatta

Last weekend, a squad of 11 IC oarsmen competed at Ghent International Regatta in Belgium and produced some impressive results.

Vince Roper competed in open light weight sculls on Saturday—just failing to make the final in which the former World Gold Medalist came third. On Sunday, Vince, competing at Under 23 level took the silver medal less than a length behind the gold.

The lightweight coxless four, had a bad draw on Saturday and failed to make the final, being pipped in their heat by the silver medal crew. On Sunday, however, after a storming first 1000m they led the field and went on to win the gold over the Scottish national squad and some notable European crews.

The heavy weight four finished 6th on Saturday with a slightly different crew stroked by super-heavy weight, Nick Leigh, came 3rd in their heat behind a World Under 23 gold medal winning crew.

The coxless pair came 3rd in their heat which was a little disappointing. However, these boys were to later have satisfaction in a spectacle which brought keen interest from the crowds as they 'licked' the classy UL pair in a very enviable performance.

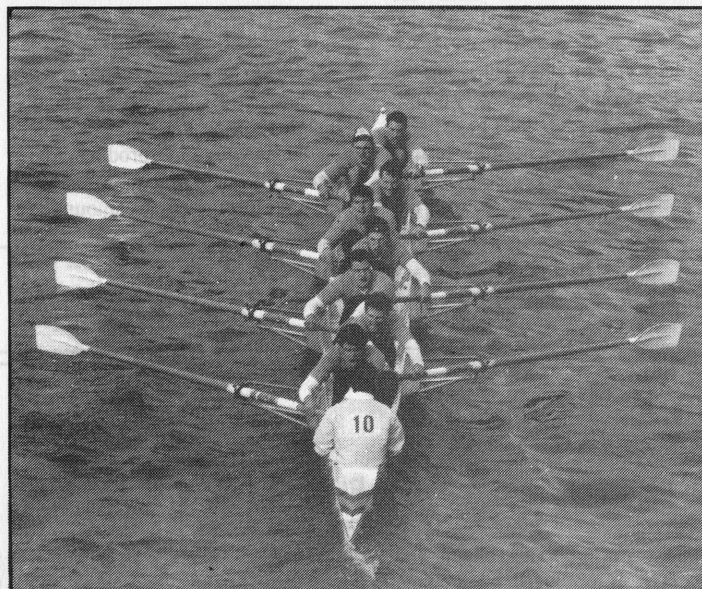
Notts City Regatta

Durham University were found to eat their words at Nottingham last Sunday after racing IC in Elite Coxless Fours. 'Don't worry about IC, you beat them easily yesterday' their coach was overheard saying before the race in which (a different IC) were destined to beat Durham. In a six boat final, using the infamous wall of water technique and rating a phenomenal 147 off the start, the Imperial four found themselves half a length up on a world championship silver medal winning crew in the adjacent lane. (This crew only drew level with a mere 100m of the race left!) However the important race was against Durham who were beaten by 2½ lengths—reversing the previous day's

margin.

Other wins were achieved in the 'special race for extremely slow double sculls' and 'almost' lightning coxless fours. In the latter, yet another crew combination was tried (with Porky Roper rowing at 2) and the four cruised home to win easily.

The most exciting win of the weekend, however, was in the Senior I fours. Suffering from a weakened squad after a number of oarsmen were off games (without notes) the crew was formed on the day, forcing ICs coach, Mad-Dog Mason out of retirement and into the technical seat of the boat. In a race that was a cliff hanger throughout its 6:47" duration, IC won by 4 feet. Bill Mason is 38.



CRICKET

Sticky Wicket

2nd XI Cricket vs UCL

Having already qualified for the knock-out round of the UAU tournament, today's game was the match to confirm IC's place at the top of the league. IC batted first, and despite an unpleasantly sticky wicket, managed to put on 80 runs before lunch. After the break Adrian Lewis terrorised the UC bowling with an inspired 48, but the loss of his wicket heralded a tail end collapse and we were all out for 142.

Mr Lewis's batting exertions had left him too shattered to bowl, and cut IC's attack to three bowlers. Fortunately, we had the men for the job in the agile O'Brien and stubborn consistency of Tim Harmer and Andy McGee. With eight runs to spare, the last UC wicket fell and the 2nd XI was triumphant.

SQUASH

Unsquashable

Four IC squash players have proved to be 'unsquashable' and are now team champions of London's Fourth Division.

The fifth team of IC snapped the Championship from the London School of Economics virtually on the 'finishing line'. The LSE had started this squash season as the mighty favourite but surprisingly dropped points against teams from the midfield of the league table, which then suffered 'whitewash' defeats against Imperial College.

Four convincing 5-0 victories in

their last four games finally left Lenssen, Bashir, Müller and Patel two points clear of the disappointed LSE team. The four victims were London Business School, Westfield, Queen Mary College and St Thomas's Hospital.

This success is, as team captain Lewis Lenssen explains, partly the reward for a 'very good team spirit'.

'When I was on the court, I knew I was not just playing for myself, but fighting for the team. We have always given a lot of moral support to each other'.

Small Ads

● **Q1** A red haired electrical engineer, mass 10st, height 5'8" goes to an IBS seminar. He spots 4 girls in front of him, he is then stressed by 3 letters, considering him to be sponsored by BEM, calculate the modulus of fridgidity (assume zero mass in the skull). FF.

● **Hunky** male stripper offers services—has own toolbox, but 'After Eights' to be supplied by client. Contact Gremlin, Willis Jackson House.

● **Win** a date with Ken Dolan. Enter the Garden Hall pool competition. All interested parties contact their psychiatrist immediately.

● **3YMG's** announce the 'bring back Said to Room 14' Campaign.

● **Responsible** re-apps shouldn't fiddle the golf machine!

● **Hallam**, how many times a day does the postman come? Or doesn't she?

● **Amendment**—Any reference to Nigel's b*m originated from that locality. The Rhino Club.

● **Do not** disturb NH90, unless you've got a booking, of course.

● **It was not me**, it was the other three. Gordon.

● **It was not me**, it was the other three. Tony.

● **It was not me**, it was the other three. Nancy.

● **It was not me**, it was the other three. Amanda.

● **It was not me**, it was the other four, and I'm pissed off. Dave.

● **To the Ferret**, of £5 ono is not forthcoming by Friday your hat will be frozen and shattered into a million pieces. £5 to RCS Rag.

● **For** undercover knowledge of fortification find Ann.

● **NH90**: Business as usual (ie very unusual—Access and Barclaycard, Amex—that'll do nicely).

● **Faz**—what's it to be, space shuttle or trashy women? Well, at least you know about space shuttles...

● **Tim Chang** the fastest student between two houses.

● **What's** the difference between 3 materials and 1 Aero 2 student? One has a Mercedes, the other 3 pay for it.

● **Dear Tim**, we love you really, can we stay in your house next year? Love, Aero 2.

PHOTOGRAPHIC *Exhibiting ourselves*

The Imperial College Photographic Society opens a summer exhibition in the Consort Gallery, Sherfield Building on Tuesday May 24 at 7.30pm.

Work on show will include the best entries in our competition 'Exploring London', and also a selection of the best work from society members. The competition has been sponsored by Jessops and Paterson, and awards for the best prints will be presented on the opening night.

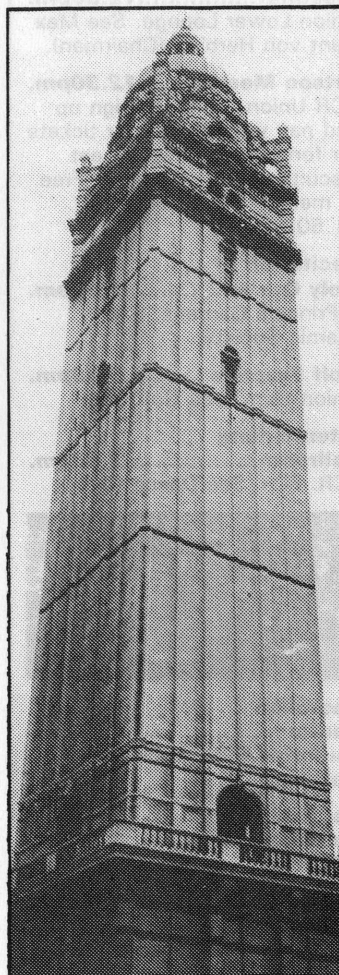
Opening at 7.30pm with cheese and wine, anyone is welcome, not just society members. There is no charge, however, if you do want to come along please give either Sophie Jackson (int 4541) or Phil Turner (int 7488) a ring in advance so that we can cater for the right number of people.

The exhibition will run for four weeks, and we hope most people will get a chance to see it this time. It then transfers to Jessops on New Oxford Street for two weeks commencing July 1.



IC RADIO *Fast trousers*

Due to popular complaints, Spenser 'Fast' Lane and Neil 'Trouser' Press are doing a new radio show on Wednesday at 1pm. This will have the usual letter's page, Mike's Handy Tips, and a new feature with a special jingle machine, which also works part-time as toilet attendant at the V&A. So tune in.



Classical music

The ICSO was not put off by the shortness of the Spring term and put on another ambitious programme—it was ambitious, I play in the 'cello section and I can vouch for it!

The programme consisted of:
Suite No 1 from 'Carmen' by Bizet
Reinicke Flute Concerto in D Maj
Peterloo Overture by Malcolm Arnold
Suite from Star Wars by John Williams

The first half consisted of the Bizet and the Reinicke flute concerto. The wind section had a very tricky task in the Bizet but had a great opportunity to put their talents on show. There are some fast and testing passages in 'Carmen' but these posed no problem proving the ability of the wind section.

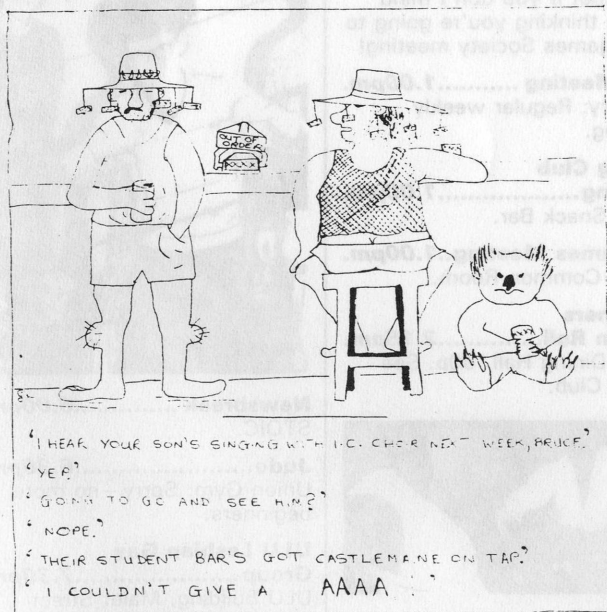
We are very lucky in having so many talented players in ICSO and Robert Manasse is certainly one of them. He played the Reinicke with feeling and apparent ease.

The Peterloo Overture was commissioned in 1968 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the TUC. It regales the events of the Peterloo massacre in 1819 in which 11 people were killed by cavalry. It was a piece of great contrast and was my favourite piece in the programme, a feeling shared by many others.

The Grand Finalé was the suite from the motion picture Star Wars—big tunes, that are well known and reminiscent of Mars from the Planets, tender tunes represent Princess Leia. The only possible criticism of this may be that the French Horn player experienced some difficulty in overcoming nerves whilst playing her solo. This was a pity as in the rehearsals she'd played faultlessly. The thing I admired was that she continued to complete the solo which isn't easy if you know of a slight error.

The finalé was a wonderful blaze of sound that roused the audience and ensured the concert finished with a bang.

I.C. CHOIR.



FAURE ~ REQUIEM
PURCELL ~ MY HEART IS INDITING
SCHUBERT ~ SONG OF MIRIAM
BLAKE ~ THE SONG OF ST. FRANCIS

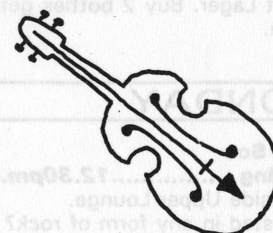
Friday 20th May, at 8pm in The Great Hall.
Tickets available from the Haldane Library or
on the door, priced ~£1.80 students, £3 ~ non students

CONCERT BAND *Concert bang*

Yes it's that time of year again when Dramsoc rock the whole of South Kensington with pyrotechnics, while the Queen's Tower sways with bell ringing and the Concert Band plays Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, all at the same time! Those here last year will remember witnessing this event while eating their lunches on the Queen's Lawn in blazing sunshine. We've booked the sun for Tuesday May 24 at 1pm this year so take a break from revision and witness the main event of the summer.

The remainder of the programme includes:

Medley from 'Time Out'
Dave Brubeck
Egmont Overture
Beethoven
Fantasy on British Sea Songs
Gordon Langford
Blue Tango
Leroy Anderson



Diary

What's On

FRIDAY

Conservative Soc Meeting12.30pm.
ME 569.

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

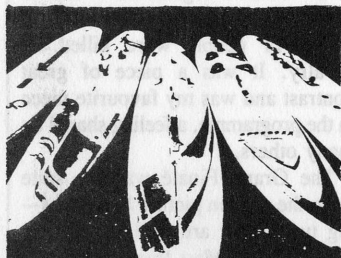
Orienteering12.30pm.
Brown/Green Committee Room (top floor of Union Building). Arrangements for following Sunday's event.

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

Into the Night7.00pm.
STOIC. Films, videos, chat, 'Countdown'. On all the televisions in the Halls of Residence.

SATURDAY

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



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

SUNDAY

Sunday Service10.00am.
Sherfield Building. The Communion Service. Don't miss it!

Wargames Meeting1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

Union Bar7.00pm.
Labatt Promotion. Canadian Export Lager. Buy 2 bottles get 1 free.

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

Boardsailing Club ..12.30pm.
Election for next year's posts. Southside Upper Lounge.

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

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

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

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

Amnesty Meeting1.30pm.
Brown Committee Room. FREE.

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

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

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

Caving Club Meeting7.00pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

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

IC Radio8.00pm.
Psychedelic & Indie Show.

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

Canoe Club Meeting8.30pm.
Above Southside Bar.

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

WEDNESDAY

Sailing12.30pm.
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 Meeting1.00pm.
Sudbury. Regular weekly meeting.

Caving Club Meeting1.00pm.
Union Snack Bar.

Wargames Meeting ..1.00pm.
Senior Common Room.

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



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

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

ULU Meditation Group7.00pm.
Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street.

Traditional breathing meditation. Everyone welcome. No charge.

THURSDAY

ICYHA Meeting12.30pm.
Southside Upper Lounge.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Newsbreak6.00pm.
STOIC.

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

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

ICCA Soup Run9.15pm.
Meet 16-18 Prince's Gardens.

The Martyn with a Y radio extravaganzaevening.
The bestest collation show in the whole widest world.

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **City & Guilds** Motor Club annual dinner will be held on Friday May 27 at the Vanderbilt Hotel. Tickets from C&G Office.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Need somewhere** to live over summer? Huge double/triple room to let in massive flat in Earl's Court. Kitchen, bathroom, central heating, colour TV and access to Philbeach Gardens! Share with one other person. £50 pwpp (up to £18 rebate) for 3 people, £40pwpp for 4. Contact J Howard LSD2 or phone Emma on 385 6277 between 9.30am and 5.00pm.

FOR SALE

● **Yamaha** CD-X5 Player. Perfect condition, £165. Contact J C Fitzmaurice, Chem Eng (int 4639).

PERSONAL

● **I bet** Prophylactic Press wished he used a rubber to erase his mistake.

● **Due to** awesome demand the Press & Lane team also going on air on Wednesday, 1pm on IC Radio.

● **IC Radio** can be found on the Radio

● **And** not on the TV.

● **Nor** the tipex bottle

● **Introducing** Spenny Lane—the only man with a radio show worth listening to—Gary Davis.

● **I couldn't** have said this—The Rector.

● **This** quote has been quoted completely out of context.

● **Who** wears the trousers in the accounts department?

● **You know** its double entry when...a finance officer tells you to drop your pants.

● **What's** seven inches long, 2 inches wide and lovely to nibble? A kinder egg of course!

● **SL** cute and cuddly definitely. Sweet and innocent never. No not me—HIM, My seven inch bundle of fun!! Meow, SK.

● **Beit Hall** 2nd floor (NH) is a gay rendezvous.

● **Fez** U is fond of little boys.

● **Wing** is full of 'Grace' when he does it.

● **Rakesh** uses little girls.

● **The Acton** 49ers do it on one ski.

● **Doom Doom Doom!** Inspired words from a man who knows how to kill ants.

An open letter to the Union President

Syd's circus

Dear Mr Howgate,

I am writing with reference to the orchestrated circus that occurred last Monday night ie ICU Council. Specifically I refer to four items of business.

Item one: you steadfastly refused to discuss Mr Alan Rose's conduct with regard to Union Bar/Snack Bar losses. The reason given was that a police investigation was pending. However Mr Chas Jackson stated from the floor that Mr Rose was only guilty of 'gross mismanagement' and that there was no hint of criminal activity on his part. The obvious assumption from this is that you deliberately set out to deceive Council.

Item two: you reintroduced Constitution and Policy Officer via 'the back door' in the form of amended job descriptions for UGM and Council chairs. This is despite a decision by a previous UGM to throw out this new job. As I was elected UGM chair before this new job description went through I am now expected to carry out a job for which I did not stand. The reasoning behind this is presumably to force my resignation so that either yourself or your sidekick Mr Neil McCluskey can stand as CPO, a job you are sure to reintroduce. Tough luck, I'm staying.

Item three: Along with Mr Nigel Baker, you helped to ensure that Mr Dave Tyler did not receive social colours for his contribution to Rag this year. Anyone who raises a four-figure sum for Rag, helps to organise Rag events and goes out collecting from theatres at times when he probably had better things to do, surely deserves some recognition from Imperial College Union. Am I right in assuming that personal opinions have influenced your decision?

Item four: You successfully moved that all Pub Board colours be referred back for reconsideration. The reason for this is apparent to anyone with half a brain in their head, you objected to certain members of FELIX staff receiving an award specifically because they have been critical of your action this year—notably in the past four weeks. This was not the reason given Monday night.

In conclusion, Mr Howgate, you deceived Council in much the same way as you have deceived the members of Imperial College Union all year. I await your reply to this letter. You surely deem a reply is necessary, as no response is an endorsement of the above points.

Yours cynically,

Paul Shanley.

Objective report?

Dear Judith,

I question strongly your view of the 'truth'. How can anybody purporting to have one iota of journalistic ability, produce a flysheet, based on an hour and a half long interview, and still misrepresent the facts at the time with a report dotted with tiny quotes? You reported that Mr Harbour-Bridge 'said that he could have sacked the staff who were suspected of petty pilfering but if he had got the wrong people it "would have been far worse" than sacking everybody.' The only quote you used in this paragraph made no mention of the word 'sacking'. The Snack Bar staff have been 'laid off', since the outlet has been closed. Technically, you can't 'sack' casual staff since they have no contract of employment; do you still say your reporting was factual?

What fun can be had from quoting out of context. Here's

how your editorial sounds, when reported FELIX style; 'I always believed that growing up, maturing, call it what you will, was something you did by your own experience...I feel I've missed something.'

Is this a true record of your editorial? I leave it to your readers to judge for themselves.

To set the record straight, I still feel my reporting was factual. I quoted from the minutes of the catering committee and the letter sent to Mr Rose last Friday. At no point did I quote Mr Harbour-Bridge, since I felt he was too emotionally involved to give an objective report on the events at the time. Mr Rose did not appear in the Union Office all day and was not available on the telephone; how could I have asked him for comment? I spoke to one of the Bar Staff to find the main areas of complaint they had and then tried to find out more about what had gone on. Most of the facts were, and still are, unavailable and I can understand why. If you were considering the dismissal of one of **your** permanent members of staff, wouldn't you feel it only fair that they were given the full list of reasons at their hearing **before** they were distributed to all and sundry?

As for your complaint that I was reporting on ICU affairs, why shouldn't I? It seems that you are incapable of doing so properly.

I shall certainly be at the AGM to question **our** Union Officers. I presume you will be there as one of the sabbaticals, paid and elected by the student populace. It's just a pity that you feel yourself above having to write an annual report and being answerable to a UGM—you are.

Yours,

Dave Smedley, Broadsheet Editor.

Useful info

Dear Judith,

Covenants to Students

It has come to my notice—via a son who still manages to defy the efforts of the examiners at Durham University—that in the last budget Mr Lawson, in addition to stopping student covenants except those drawn up before 15th March 1988 also insert a requirement to the effect that *an existing covenant will be allowed to continue only if the actual deed is submitted for inspection to the taxpayer's Inland Revenue office before 30th June 1988.*

I had not realised this and suspect that many students and parents may be unaware of the requirement. Perhaps you have already drawn attention to the matter in previous issues of FELIX but, even so, a reminder might be prudent.

Yours sincerely,

P Holmes,

Professor of Hydraulics, Imperial College.

A tool writes

Dear Judith,

The day before yesterday, I had just finished writing a long letter to my friend, which had taken three hours. However, I discovered, to my horror that I did not have a stamp. I asked all my friends to see if they had a spare one, but unfortunately they didn't. Fortunately the Post Office was still open, so I managed to get one there.

Yours,

Les E Spanner.

continued from front page

A procedural motion tabled by David Clements that the meeting move on to the elections was defeated. A second procedural motion, calling on the Executive to explain their actions immediately, rather than in a written statement in *FELIX*, was tabled and passed.

Royal School of Mines Union President Mr Geoff Parsons spoke on behalf of the ICU Executive. He explained that the decisions concerning Mr Rose and the Bar and Snack Bar staff had been taken after 12-13 hours of meetings and stressed that they had not been made lightly. He stated that an emergency Executive meeting had taken place 2½ weeks ago, at which all the Executive officers, except Alan Rose, had been present. The meeting was also attended by the Union Bar licencees, Dr Robert Schroter and Mrs Jen Hardy-Smith, Dave Peacock, the Union Manager, and by Chris Martin and Nigel Baker as observers. A second meeting took place where Mr Rose was present in order to answer accusations. It was at a third meeting that it was decided to relieve Mr Rose of his duties concerning the Union trading outlets. This decision had been made unanimously, said Mr Parsons. He went on to say that the Executive felt that Mr Rose had not fulfilled his responsibility and that he had been obstructive when working with the Union Bar licencees. He said that he felt that all the decisions which had been made in the last few weeks had been in the best interests of all students.

Mr Rose said that in his opinion 'certain facts' had been distorted by the Union President. He also believed that the Union had 'taken on too much too soon' as far as the outlets were concerned.

Several more questions were tabled from the floor until a vote was taken at 2.50pm as to whether any more discussion should take place on the issue. The meeting decided after a vote that it did not wish to carry on the debate and the agenda went back to the minutes and reports.

At this point, Philip Drew, President of St Mary's Medical School Union, stood up to speak. He said that he was appalled at how badly the meeting had been conducted and that he would suspend all negotiations between his and IC Union until ICU 'put its house in order'. He then lead his fellow St Mary's students from the

meeting.

Later he told *FELIX* that this had not been just a spontaneous reaction, but that he had for some weeks been upset at the way his union was being treated. He condemned the fact that the AGM achieved so little and said he felt the chairing of the meeting was poor. St Mary's meetings were much more civilised and ordered, he said, and they got much more done.

The meeting finally decided to consider the annual reports. A motion was passed mandating the *FELIX* Editor to write an annual report. Such a motion is not technically within the remit of a UGM. The by-laws state that 'the officers of the Union shall be responsible for carrying out the policy of the Union as determined by a General Meeting'. The *FELIX* Editor is not classed as a Union Officer in these by-laws. The UGM may choose to dismiss a *FELIX* Editor but no other practical power over the *FELIX* Editor. But by this time nobody was paying too much attention to procedure.

There was another procedural motion, calling for the elections to be run, which was passed. All elections took place with only the GUC delegates elections being referred back to the next Union General Meeting. Quorum was then called during a motion on Human Rights Week and the meeting was closed at 3.30pm.

150 beds lost in Lexham

Imperial College students are likely to lose the use of the Lexham Gardens head tenancies from the end of this term, it was revealed today by IC Union President Sydney Harbour-Bridge.

The 150 beds have been at risk since an inspection by the Local Authority found various faults in the buildings. These faults included problems with roofing, drains and gutters as well as certain breaches of fire regulations. The Local Authority served inspection notices on the landlord which required him to carry out work on the properties to bring them up to standard.

Although the Local Authority does have some discretion on how long they can allow landlords to carry out maintenance work in general, this does not apply where fire regulations have been breached. In any case, College Secretary John Smith told *FELIX*, it would be irresponsible to have students living in the building if this work was not carried out.

It is thought that the investment that the landlord would have to make in order to bring the accommodation up to an acceptable level for students would be so high that he would be more likely to want to sell the buildings outright or redevelop them as luxury flats.

The Landlord, Mr Dangoor, was unavailable for comment, however it appears that he has actually offered to sell the houses to College. It seems unlikely, however, that the College Residence Account could afford to compete in price with developers.

Loretta O'Callaghan, Accommodation Officer, has expressed her regret at the loss of the places, but said that there were one or two alternative places that they were looking into.

Sydney Harbour-Bridge was also saddened by the news, especially in light of the fact that they had already lost 50 places in Hamlet Gardens and another 22 in Earls Court Square. It would make life more difficult for those who had already been accepted to live there next year, he said, though there was no suggestion that these people would not get places somewhere.

The houses had been known to be under threat for some time, but it was only in the last couple of weeks that Malcolm Aldridge of Finance Section, who had been negotiating with the landlord, decided that there was little prospect of a settlement which would mean College keeping the houses.

The present lease for the buildings runs out at the end of June.

Professor Alan Cowley appointed to top position

Professor Alan Cowley, currently of the University of Austin in Texas, is to take the Sir Edward Frankland chair of Inorganic Chemistry at Imperial. He will succeed Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS and Nobel Laureate, who has been at Imperial for 32 years.

The appointment comes at a time when the Chemistry Department, under its new head, Professor John Albery, has plans to widen its activities. There is to be close collaboration between the Department and the new Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Semiconductor Growth, Characterisation and Processing. Professor Cowley's expertise in designing molecules for laying down very thin films on semiconductors will be particularly

useful in this respect.

Alan Cowley was born in Manchester on 29 January 1934. He received a BSc with Honours in Chemistry from Manchester University, where he also earned an MSc in 1956 and a PhD in 1958. For the next two years he worked at the University of Florida, before taking the post of Technical Officer with the Exploratory Group of Imperial Chemical Industries (Billingham Division). In April 1962 he started as Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Texas, and in 1984 he was appointed George W Watt Centennial Professor of Chemistry.

Professor Cowley was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in March this year.

Passed the post

Gill Knowles has been returned unopposed as next year's Women's Officer at this year's Annual General Meeting. Several other elections took place at the meeting. Chris Stapleton was returned as ICU Housing Officer, Martyn Peck as ICU Publicity Officer, Jan Graham as Haldane Record Buyer, Andrew Thompson as *FELIX* Business Manager and David Clements as Postgraduate Affairs Officer. An election for House Committee Chairman was avoided when Sydney Harbour-Bridge (name changed in aid of Comic Relief) decided to stand down, leaving Andrew Thompson unopposed for the post. Sumeet Ghaie and Neil Motteram will be next year's House Committee Ordinary Members.

The only election to take place at the meeting was that for Haldane Book Buyer. Andrew Meredith won by a small majority.