

# Felix

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

## Students unhappy over Silwood conference centre

The College has announced its intention to convert the Main House at Silwood Park into a conference centre. The Postgraduates at the Park are worried about the effect that the centre will have on their own facilities. They are concerned that they will lose married student accommodation, kitchen facilities and access to the Main House for social events.

The college hope to earn money by building a centre which will provide accommodation for thirty people. The centre will contain a restaurant and private dining room and the College are considering a plan to use profits from Harlington Gravel to build a swimming pool and a squash court for conference guests, staff and students.

Plans for the centre have been draughted and the Biology Department has been moved into new buildings to make room for the centre. The College is currently trying to raise money for the project, estimated at between 1.4 and 4 million pounds and is hoping to conduct a feasibility study on the scheme.

Should the project prove successful the College plan to construct an accommodation block for conference guests and a new lecture theatre in the Main House.

The students at Silwood are concerned that the development will cause the loss of the Student's Union's facilities. The long term future of the Union building is uncertain and the Union fear that the building may have to be demolished to make for the planned expansion in the Conference Centre accommodation. In an interview with FELIX on Wednesday, Estates Secretary, Mr Cameron Clark said that there were no immediate plans to use the Union building, but said that it "may or may not be the sight for a new accommodation block" in the future.

The Student's Union are also unhappy about a plan to move the bar in the union building into the Main House. The Postgraduates will be able to use the old bar area, but

not for selling drinks.

"Its no use having a split Union with a bar on one site and facilities on another" said Union President, Ian Lowles.

The new bar is expected to serve drinks at an increased price to conference guests, but will be open to students in the evening for drinks at a cheaper price.

The development will mean the loss of three flats for married students and the Union are hoping

in use, that it is unsuitable for families and that it has insufficient kitchen and bathroom areas. At present the Southwood II block contains 4 couples, two of which are in single rooms, 2 families and two single students.

Students are also worried that they will lose access to the Main Hall and Conservatory which are regularly used for social events. The College has given verbal assurances to the Students that they will be able to book rooms in the centre on a 'first come first serve' basis, but it is likely that they will have to book the rooms a number of months in advance. The union fear that this



to appoint an Accommodation Officer to try and locate cheap flats for married students in the Reading area. Since the sale of Sandyride house in April, Silwood has lost five of its flats for married students. Mr Cameron Clark told FELIX that accommodation for married students was available in the Southwood block which contains double rooms which can be interconnected. The Union argue that this accommodation is already

will put an end to their social events. Silwood administrator Keith Fisher told FELIX that he didn't think that this would be a problem, "It may mean that students have to get organised to use the house" he said. It is unlikely that the Silwood Ball, organised by the Royal College of Science Union will be able to take place next year. Work on the new centre is set to begin in the Spring of next year.

## Trashed!

Three groups of squatters were evicted last Friday from the student residences in Hamlet Gardens following a court injunction. The squatters have caused several thousand pounds worth of damage and have been threatening the Hamlet Gardens staff with violence. Some of the squatters have since broken into another Hamlet Gardens flat owned by the Notting Hill Housing Trust.

The squatters have been living in flats 131, 137 and 135 since they were vacated at the end of last term. The occupants of one of the flats had been living in the College's 200 block since Christmas until they were evicted by builders working for the landlords, Strolmor at the end of term.

The squatters have been regularly hurling abuse at the student managers in Hamlet's Summer Letting Scheme. One of the managers, Steve Mercer, told FELIX that the squatters had hit him in the ribs with a snooker cue and said that one of the squatters had threatened to set a vicious dog onto the staff. Several residents have also been threatened including an old lady who is now too frightened to talk to the police. The managers also believe that the squatters are responsible for a burglary in one of the flats on July 18th in which Hi Fi and jewelry were stolen.

Accommodation officer, Loretto O'Callaghan told FELIX that the squatters had left the flats in a disgusting state. One of the flats was covered in abusive graffiti directed at the student managers. Contract cleaners refused to clean another flat where the squatters kept a dog and eleven puppies locked inside. The furniture inside another flat had been thrown out of the windows.

The Accommodation Office is worried that the squatters will move back into the flats when the

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# Acton Venture Day

At the end of the last academic year Imperial College Community Action Group donated £250 to the Acton Saturday Venture Club. The Club, which runs a play centre for youngsters with special needs, used the money to fund an outing to Chessington Zoo. Alistair Goodall went along to investigate.

The weather was none too good as we drove to the zoo whilst the two vans picked up the children from the Acton area.

The sky relented in time for the arrival of the vans with their full complements of children, although I'm not sure just how many went because nobody was in the same place for long enough to be counted.

According to the club's annual report, there are '29 members aged between 6 and 24 with a predominance of youngsters with special needs, including those with physical and mental disabilities and their able-bodied friends'. This extract doesn't do justice to the pack of loud, exuberant and very energetic kids who make it all worthwhile.

Everyone managed to stay together as we went round the Children's Zoo with its rabbits, guinea pigs and other furry creatures. There seemed to be a slight lack of rustic knowledge when donkeys were greeted by a 'Moo'

and horses by a 'Baaa' but this was soon rectified with some great, if one sided, conversations.

The signs to all the rides soon proved all too alluring and so, impatient to risk life and limb, small groups of children and helpers soon dashed off in search of this World of Adventure.

Half an hour after we had arranged to rendez-vous at the entrance we were still missing one child who was in a wheelchair. We found out that he had gone off with some other people unrelated to the Club (there's nothing like being independent!).

For myself the nicest aspect both of the day out and the normal Saturdays is the way that the children are so ready to trust you and 'be friends with you'. This places a responsibility on you not to abuse their trust in any way but at the same time it lets you into their group where you really can have a great time.

ICCAG's involvement with the Club is limited to putting people in touch with them and having a student representative on their Committee. The club meets on alternate Saturdays at a purpose-built playcentre for disabled children and go on a number of trips throughout the year. The activities at the playcentre can range from pushing a child on a bike, to handicrafts and baking. Volunteer helpers are supposed to 'assist youngsters with their games and creative attempts'. In practice this means that they can have great fun and can act in a childish manner without anyone noticing.

Should you be interested in this or any other form of voluntary work then get in touch with ICCAG via the pigeonhole in the Union Office or come along on the Soup Run (meet Thursdays, 9.15pm in Week's Hall Basement Kitchen) which is our other main activity.

## Editorial

**Hamlet Gardens:** The student managers at Hamlet Gardens have been harrassed and threatend by squatter vigilantes since the beginning of the Summer. The squatters have been evicted, but they left Hamlet in a disgusting conditon. I visited one of flats after it had been cleaned; the stench was sickening. More sickening though is the College's laissez fair approach. Year after year, FELIX runs stories about the dammage caused by squatters. The student managers can not be expected to cope with the problem by themselves; unless something is done, the squatters will return at the end of the Summer. Loretto O'Callaghan and the managers have done an excellent job, but they should not be expected to do the job alone.

**Congratulations** to Dave Smedley for completing the Union Handbook and to Adrian Bourne for completing City and Guild's handbook, Spanner. Both of them have produced excellent publications

Thanks to; Rose, without whom this issue had no chance, Dave, Steve Meyfroidt, Steve Kilmurray, Doug King, Dave Griffiths, Mick Godfrey and Mark, Yishu and Alistair.

# Squash

The Imperial College Union Postgraduate Group hosted the inter-departmental postgraduate teams squash championship at the Sports Centre on July 12.

The eight teams vying for the Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson Trophy were split into two groups:

Group A: Civil Eng, ICCG, Management Science A, Chem Eng.

Group B: Materials, Management Science B, Physics, Mech Eng.

The tournament was organised along the lines of the European football championships with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. The qualifying round was complicated by the fact that each department had to play in twelve matches with a restriction that a player could not be used more than twice. The team captains could use a team of minimum strength or use players only once and go for a player participation bonus by using more than the minimum strength team. since the bonus points for player participation were significant they could not be ignored.

The group qualifiers saw Civ Eng and ICCG, with Materials and Mech Eng go through from Group A and B respectively

## Semis

The semi-finals provided a lot of drama. After the qualifying matches ICCG, Materials and Civ Eng all looked possible winners.

Everyone knew that Materials versus ICCG was going to be close. Ming Tan beat Steve Berry 9-2, 9-4 in a match of power play which saw not a single drop shot. John McCairn (ICCG) beat Richard Sweeney (Mat) equally convincingly 9-2, 9-2. Alex Brennan (ICCG) beat Jon Durn (Mat) 9-1, 9-1. ICCG had won two matches and lost one and they lead by an accumulated total of 42-23 ball points. Things looked ominous for Materials because even if the Materials lady won her match 9-0, 9-0 Materials would still be pipped 42-41. However it had been decided that in the event of a team winning two matches and also loosing two matches against an opponent, the winner of the ladies match would decide the tie break. The Materials lady had everything to play for and took her team into the finals.

The other semi-finals saw Mech Eng beating Civ Eng after the Civ Eng captain and squash supremo Alison West did not use the best

four players at her disposal.

## Finals

The finals were not as close as one would have hoped, Materials ran through easy winners, after winning the first three matches, leaving the ladies match to be inconsequential.

The squash tournament finished at 8.15pm after over 10 hours of play on all four courts.

### The final order of the teams was:

Champions	Materials
Runners up	Mech Eng
3rd	ICCG
4th	Civ Eng
5th	Physics
6th	Management Sci A
7th	Management Sci B
8th	Chem Eng

The trophy presentation in Southside Upper Lounge saw Pro-Rector Professor Brian Coles name the trophy after Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson Nobel Laureate who is retiring from the College this year and was a keen squash player at one time. The trophy was presented to Ming Tan, veteran of Material's victory in 1987.

Will anyone stop Materials next year? Materials master tactician Ming-Jen Tan will be here next year to try and make it a hat-trick for them.

They will be a tough nut to crack if Prof Sheppard makes a re-appearance for Materials next year after missing this year's tournament. The professor provided plenty of spice in the 1987 tournament.

It looks like the Wilkinson Trophy will become a focal point of inter-departmental squash competition in the years to come.

Yishu

## MICHAEL JACKSON

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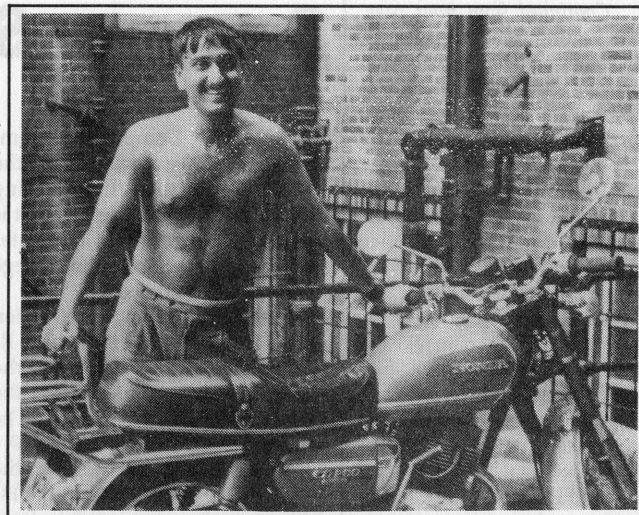
# Food without Frontiers

Yishu Nanda graduated from Imperial College in 1986 and is now doing research in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He established a strong culinary reputation in Holbein House after serving a number of gastronomic wonders in events as diverse as gourmet lunches to international dinners.

The 'eight jewel stuffed duck' (Cantonese), the 'almond flavoured steamed rice pudding' (Chekiang Province), Rogan Josh and Chicken Tikka are just some of the gastronomic delights which have graced his table.

Yishu's infectious love for food soon spread to the pages of FELIX. His gastronomic survey of the world aimed to inspire students to be adventurous when eating abroad. The ambitious gastronomic itinerary included Thessalonika, Paris, Rome, Venice, Delhi and Lagos. He provided a brief background about the regional dishes before recommending places to eat.

Yishu is fortunate to have a diverse knowledge on food from all over the world. Four years in Liberia (West Africa), six years in a Polish school in England, his love for Chinese and Italian food have enriched his Indian culinary heritage. He has worked in the restaurant of a resort island hotel in New England where he first learned the joy of eating fresh seafood. He still reminisces about his first lobster. To cap it all Yishu is an adept cocktail bartender and has even earned his livelihood making flambée coffees.



## Restaurant Review

### Spago

(6 Glendower Place, S Kensington 01-225 2407).

I would not have dreamed that an establishment with a strong Italian flavour existed within walking distance of the College.

The establishment is run from a single room seating at most 30 people. The small confines of the place help it to acquire a rich atmosphere by eight o'clock. A clientele in the 20s to mid-30s age group, peppered with a few Italians holed out in London, seeking nostalgia from the live TV broadcasts from Italian television, provides a pleasant setting for a meal.

The a la carte menu was varied but not so much so that one would have visions of a frantic chef tying the spaghetti into knots. The appetizers were priced in the 90p to £3.10 price range. I settled for the

classic starter of 'Prosciutto Melone' (£2.80). Anyone who has not eaten this special salted and air-dried ham accompanied with melon slices must try it.

The others dining with me had the garlic bread (90p). I was a little surprised to find the bread in the form of thin but large discs which had been baked and rubbed with olive oil and garlic.

The main course choices were priced at around £3.50. I was able to sample a wide cross-section of the menu.

Spaghetti Pesto, Pesto is made from fresh basil leaves, walnuts, garlic and pignoli (pine-nuts). Although very flavoursome I found the combination of pasta and the pesto a little too dry.

Fettuccini Funghi Basco. The pasta is bathed in a sauce made with wild mushrooms. The overall impression created was pleasant but did not especially excite me.

Spaghetti Cartoccio—Cooking 'al cartoccio' is popular with fish but works equally well with pasta. Enzo the chef produced a great combination of mussels, prawns, squid and pasta. The under-cooked pasta is combined with the tomato sauce, olive oil, parsley and other ingredients and cooked to completion wrapped in foil in an oven.

The menu offered a number of pizzas with interesting names priced at around £2.50. I did not have the gastronomic energy to try one. Maybe next time.

The a la carte menu was supplemented by a number of specials which included a risotto of the fruits of the sea and the classic 'Carpaccio', a marinated raw beef

dish.

My share of the bill came to £7.50 which bought me a beer, starter, main course and an espresso. Not at all bad for South Ken.

Enzo, the chef did a first rate job. My compliments to the chef and the two brothers from Milan that run the place. When you go there ask for Cinzia to show you to a table. People are recommended to make a booking if dining during peak hours. Spago has been known to serve food as late as midnight, so be a little bit more ambitious next time you feel hungry late at night.

## Classic Volumes on Food

Giuliano Bugialli's *The Taste of Italy* has pride of place on my cookery shelf. The book is extremely well written covering a wide range of regional Italian dishes. 125 recipes

presented with stunning visual impact provided by 250 colour photos of Italian settings as well as the dishes. It is one of the best books on food that I have read, a bargain at £12.95. Bugialli runs a cookery school in Florence and has long been regarded as an authority on Italian food.



### ICCAG Soup Run

This is a plea to all you hardworking postgrads who don't get holidays and to all you undergrads who are still in London and obviously don't want holidays.

If you are around any Thursday evening at 9.15pm then come along on the Soup Run and we promise we'll get you back enlightened and enlivened by 11pm.

We leave Week's Hall (the large ugly building next to The Student Accommodation Office) basement at about 9.30pm (but arrive earlier and see true chaos) to give out tea, soup, sandwiches, and biscuits to some of London's homeless, most of whom are more talkative and interesting than a great many students.

You don't have to be a particular sort of person to come and you don't have to come again, but please see if you can make it some time this summer because we really are short of people.

## SUBWARDEN FOR OLD HOSTEL BEIT HALL

Applications are invited for the post of Subwarden in Beit Hall to take up duty from the end of September 1988.

The Subwarden is required to assist the Warden and the Hall Committee in keeping the peace and promoting the social life of the Hall.

Applicants should, for preference, be postgraduate students with at least two full years to run in the College.

The Subwarden will receive rent-free accommodation in a self-contained flat.

Applications should be sent, by **August 23rd**, to:  
Dr P J Finley,  
Beit Hall

accompanied by a current CV and two references.

Preliminary enquiries on 4013 (day) or 3671 (evening) are welcome.



*Continued from front page.*

Summer Letting Scheme finishes. Mrs O'Callaghan is considering plans to give students a weeks free accommodation in an attempt to ensure that the flats are not left empty.

Mrs O'Callaghan is critical of the lack of support given to her by the police. "Hammersmith Police Station is very unhelpful and didn't want to get involved" she said. She is currently negotiating with the College to persuade them to take the squatters to court for assault. She has asked College to help with the costs, should the student managers decide to prosecute.

College Security Chief, Geoff Reeves told FELIX that the College had no plans to hire security guards to police Hamlet when the flats are vacated at the end of Summer. He said that the flats were too dispersed to police effectively and added that security firms would be unwilling to deal with the squatters, who he described as 'psychopaths'. He went on to say that the only legal way of removing squatters was to apply for a court injunction, a process which can take months.

Mr Reeves is planning to write to the Commissioner of Police, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Home Secretary in an attempt to prevent the problem recurring. "We need to get the law clarified with respect to our property" said Mr Reeves.

## Break-In

There was a break-in at Garden Hall late on Wednesday night. One of the video games was completely gutted and the pool table had the glass ball shoot smashed and ripped open.

The incident was discovered by Security at 3.30am and the police were called. Although there must have been a lot of noise when the front was ripped off, splitting the wood, none of the residents heard anything: One resident claimed to have seen people playing pool around 1am when he came home.

The police returned yesterday to take fingerprints and the games machine owner came to collect the machine, 'Karnov', which he says should be returned by Friday.

## New Tutor

Dr David Goodgame, Senior Tutor in the Chemistry Department, has been appointed as a new College Tutor.

## Computer Stolen

An IBM 8D Computer system, valued at £6000 was stolen from the Rector's Electrical Engineering Office on July 15th. The incident is just one in a series of computer thefts which have cost the College insurers an estimated £110,000.

Amongst the computers stolen was an IBM Landmark Rt Computer, one of only three in the world, which was taken from the Royal School of Mines in April. The computer was valued at £42,000.

The spate of thefts began at the start of the year when a BBC microcomputer was stolen from ICU's Microcomputer Club in the Union Building. Since then 26 computers have been taken from the departments within College.

The thefts are believed to be the work of ex-members of College.

Security Officer Terry Briley told FELIX that many of the thefts were caused by people leaving their offices unlocked. He added that thieves were able to by-pass the security desks by using back exits left open by members of staff on their way home.

A description of two men who were seen attempting to steal a computer in the Electrical Engineering Department on 28th July has been circulated to College Security. The men are described as being of Asian origin, one 5ft 6 and stocky with a beard and the other 5ft 9, thin with dark spikey hair. The men have been seen loitering outside the departments where the thefts have occurred. Mr Briley has asked anyone seeing these men to contact Security on 5372.

## Hamlet Gardens after the squatters



## Accommodation

A new accommodation block for postgraduate students is to be built at Silwood park. The College will be taking out a loan to build the new block which will be paid back by increases in student rents. The new block will replace the William Penney block which is to be used for

short course accommodation.

Students at Silwood are pleased by the move as they feel that the William Penney block is unsuitable for long term students. The block suffers from poor lighting, small kitchens and very poor sound proofing between rooms.

## Asbestos

Contractors have removed frayed asbestos lagging from the Underwater Club. The asbestos, which was found to be in a dangerous condition was replaced by expanded foam cladding. The College Estates Section arranged for the asbestos to be removed after

Union President Sydney Harbour-Bridge threatened to call in the Health and Safety Executive. Estates also plan to remove the asbestos from a fire door in the Scout & Guide storeroom and the Union are pressing for asbestos in a storage area beneath Biet to be cleared.

## Refit

The Sherfield refectory is being refurbished over the Summer at a cost of £300,000. The new look refectory will feature padded chairs, formica tables and a suspended ceiling designed for easy maintenance. Three serveries are planned with illuminated display cases for the food with new entrances and exits designed to cut down queueing time. Two of the serveries will serve traditional refectory meals, whilst the third will serve pasta and salads. A public address system, paid for by the Queens Gate trust will enable the refectory to be used for social functions.

The College has agreed to pay out an extra £30,000 for a lighting system designed by the Rector's wife, Clare Ash. The system, consisting of about fifty low voltage lamps and twenty two wall lights aimed at the ceiling, will replace the original economy strip lighting planned for the refectory. Mrs Ash is also planning to redesign the colour scheme in the new refectory.

Refectory Manager, Rob Northey told FELIX "I hope its going to be a hell of a lot less like a school dining room". The project is due for completion by September 25. Unfortunately there are no plans to refurbish the range of food on offer.

## Merger

Imperial College officially merged with St Mary's Hospital Medical School last Monday. The Bill enabling the merger received Royal consent on 29th July and the College will now be known as Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. The merger will be marked by a ceremony on 19 October where speeches will be given by Lord Flowers, Chancellor of the University of London, the Rector, Professor Eric Ash and Professor Peter Richards, Dean of St Mary's. The ceremony will be followed by a party for staff and students in the Serpentine Restaurant, Hyde Park.

## New Dean

Professor Patrick Holmes of the Hydraulics section in the Civil Engineering Department has been elected as the new Dean of City and Guilds College.