



Felix

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

A project to utilise 'underused space' College drafts plan for health club

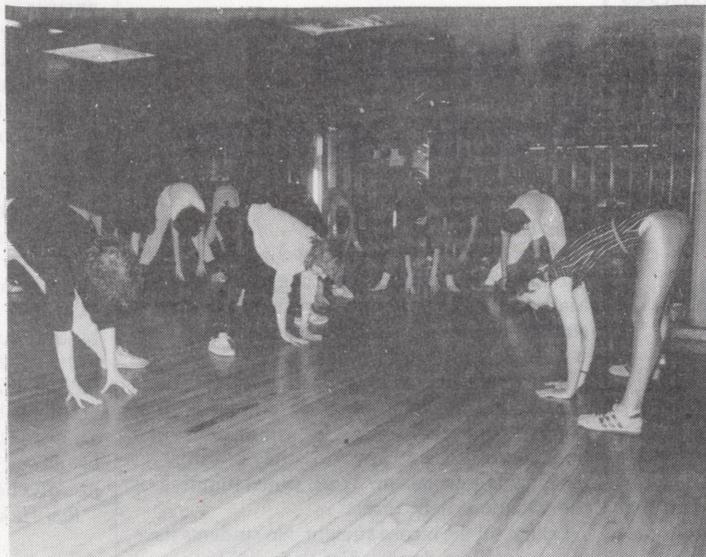
The College has drawn up draft proposals for a Health Club to be placed opposite 'The Gardens' restaurant under Southside Hall. It is hoped that the club will include multigym and weights facilities and a solarium and saunas. If the proposals are agreed to as they pass through Union and College Committees, construction work, costing around £500,000, could start by the Summer Vacation.

College Building Planning Officer, Brian Dennis, has drawn up a draft plan of the Health Club, to go before the College's Finance sections and Union and College Officials. The plans propose a conversion of the present weights room into a multigym area, and the installation of a new weights room in what is currently a large toilet area.

When describing his reasons for the plans, Mr Dennis said 'there is a lot of underused space.' If implemented, the plans would also include provision for a Sports Shop and a reception area and lounge. Improvements to the toilet and changing facilities in the Martial Arts area above the weights room are also planned. Mr Dennis hopes to see a 'quality' development. 'There is no point doing things by halves' he said.

The proposals include improvements to the ventilation system in the area, which have been said to be poor.

College Secretary, John Smith told FELIX that the College is hoping to 'maximise the use' of the space under Southside, currently used as



Keep Fit fans look below for the health club

a weights area and toilet facilities. He went on to say that the idea came from last year's Athletics Clubs Committee (ACC) Chairman, Rob Gee.

Mr Smith said that the College's Finance section is currently making 'financial projections', which he hopes will be available shortly. The 'projections' will look at the possible opening hours of the proposed facility, as well as staffing levels and the possibility of a membership system. He said that he thought the club could be run in a similar manner to the College's Sports Centre in Prince's Gardens although, he added, 'it is a very different kind of facility.'

If the proposals receive a favourable response from the numerous people involved, the College will take out a loan to fund the project. Union President, Nigel Baker and Manager, Dave Peacock are keen to see the Union back the project if it is acceptable to them.

Mr Baker told FELIX that he would like to see the Union use its income from the Harlington Gravel it owns or obtain a loan from the College to finance the plans. He added that the Union would seek to manage the club if the Union backed it.

Mr Smith said he thought that the question of management was 'something to be decided.'

Lecturers ballot on exam veto

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) may boycott examinations, if a ballot of the union's members agrees.

The union decided to ballot its members at an Executive meeting on Wednesday. Papers will be distributed today with replies due by December 12. The result of the ballot will be known by December 14. If the ballot agrees, the union will 'withdraw entirely from participation in any part of the examination process,' from January 9 1989.

The ballot comes after the University Authorities Panel (UAP) failed to produce a pay offer at a meeting on Monday. In a report from the AUT and the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), of which the UAP is a sub-committee, pay increases were agreed for December 1 1986 and March 1 1988. The report concluded that a further increase would be desirable by April 1 1988. This offer has not been made.

A spokesman from the CVCP said that it had not been possible to make the further pay increase, due to a lack of funding from the Government. The next increase for AUT members is due on April 1 1989.

In a press statement on Wednesday, the AUT said they were 'seeking a reasonable pay settlement for 1988 and a satisfactory 1989/90 negotiating timetable.' They aim to receive a settlement in 1989 which will be in line with other public sector groups.

The AUT claims that academic and related staff are being defrauded of 'their legitimate pay

Continued on back page

Uncaring College?

Dear FELIX,

Three years ago my brother was poisoned by one of the chemicals he was using as part of the third year laboratory course of his Chemistry degree at this College. After spending eight weeks in intensive care and a further one and a half years in hospital he is left requiring a stick to walk and with permanent brain damage.

He returned to College last year to finish his course with the result that he was awarded a 3rd class degree by the Department. Previous to the accident he had been capable of at least an upper second. I would have thought that on purely compassionate grounds the College could have made some allowance for the difficulties which he had undergone; the months when even the weight of a sheet caused agonising pains in his legs, the recurrent hallucinations and nightmares caused by the prolonged stay in intensive care, the list goes on but would, I feel, be of little interest to the College authorities.

I can only hope that at the very least the incident highlights the College's attitude to the undergraduates about whose welfare it professes to be concerned.

I would add for anyone thinking of a retort that they may find their hollow excuses fall on ears as deaf to them as their own were to my brother's case. I realise that the College is purportedly a centre of excellence, but at what price excellence?

Yours,

I Healy, Elec Eng

Mathematics Comment

Dear Editor,

After the last two issues of FELIX I find that I must comment about an article, two editorials and a letter.

1. Article headed 'Maths Room' (11 November, p5)

The views attributed to me about the disposition of Mathematics lecture theatre 213 in Huxley and about Mathematics Department Academic Staff are not ones which I hold and I would not express them in such an offensive way even if I did. It is also distressing that you should elicit information for a congratulatory (?) piece about an increase in Mathematics undergraduate recruiting and misrepresent it instead as a grouse about Physics timetabling. Despite the implication of your article, I was unaware of any such difficulty.

2. Editorial (11 November, p3 and 18 November, p3)—Letter from a student (18 November, p2)

It would, of course, be invidious for me to comment about the academic progress of a particular student. However, I would like to point out that the particular accusation that you make

with regard to examination resits is quite false, as the student himself states. I am in complete agreement with the content of his letter—with the very minor exception that the letter he received was from our Head of Department, but with my wholehearted endorsement. No student could be, or would be, refused any resit to which he/she was entitled under University Regulations. Your understanding of the situation is quite wrong and you should withdraw your accusation, rather than imply that you have special knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

F H Berkshire, Director of Undergraduate Studies.

A Frank opinion

Dear Editor,

An item in the editorial column of last week's FELIX strongly implied that the Mathematics Department have improperly refused to allow a student to resit examinations. This is a false and offensive suggestion. No students in this Department have been deprived of their right to resit any examination they have failed.

Yours sincerely,

F G Leppington.

A second Frank opinion

Dear Editor,

Editorial articles in the last two issues of FELIX (11 and 18 November) have suggested that the Mathematics Department has tried to deprive a student of his right to resit examinations. This is false and offensive.

Your persistence in repeating this serious accusation, in spite of correspondence that pointed out the error, is astonishing and mischievous and beyond the bounds of reasonable journalism. Your 'understanding of the situation' is incorrect.

Let me set the record straight. No students have been or will be deprived of their rights to resit examinations; no attempt has been made to take such a vindictive course of action.

Yours sincerely,

F G Leppington, Head of Department of Mathematics.

No Problems in Physics

Dear Editor,

Your news item headed 'Maths Room' (FELIX, 11th Nov) suggests that the increased Maths intake this year has led to timetable problems in Physics. The writer appears to have been unaware that the Physics Department relinquished (apart from one or two lectures a year) the use of Theatre 213 in Huxley well over

a year ago so that the consequent changes to the Physics timetable could not possibly have had anything to do with the increased Maths intake this year. A quick check with any 2nd Year Physics student would have confirmed this. As I explained to the FELIX reporter who telephoned me, we relinquished the use of Theatre 213 in Huxley as part of a College-wide rationalisation of the use of lecture theatres. The only new development on this front this year was that a single lecture on the first Wednesday of term was rescheduled. There are very good relations between Physics and Maths and I hope that your news item has not caused any Physics students to feel that they have been in any way disadvantaged by the increased Maths intake this year.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Jones, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Physics.

Replies to last weeks letters

Dear Editor,

Dave Thomas could quite easily have had the answer to his queries if he had had the common sense to come to see me. All stationery items, unless priced by the company concerned, are less than the recommended retail price. All books are priced by the publishers. We are not allowed by a legal agreement to alter that price. Incidentally, 'Ecology' by Begon, Harper & Townsend is £15.75 in IC Bookshop, and has been since July 1987. With regard A4 copy safe pockets, if Mr Thomas would care to buy some for 4p; the Bookshop would like to order 200 each of the eight colours, and to show my generous nature, I will give him 5p each! The Bookshop is owned by the Students' Union, so we have to make a profit. That is why Library carrier bags are sold in the Library at cost, and if we sell any, we make 2p. Bookshop carrier bags are free! So, if Mister Thomas would care to come and see me, he can be quoted Recommended Retail Price, and then he can choose our price or the manufacturers.

Roy Hicks, Bookshop Manager.

Overworked operators

Dear FELIX,

Just a few lines to explain to Miss Warren what our job consists of. We deal with over eighteen hundred external calls a day, that's without the internal help we give, not forgetting that half our external callers are from overseas calling for students.

We also have phone gradings to deal with, telephone bills and telephone moves to deal with. We try our best to help as many people as we can, if anyone would like to try and do better they are very welcome to try.

Yours faithfully,

Telephone Exchange.

Editorial Council

The FELIX dinner's jolly good
They give you lots of yummy food.
A man is coming from the press
To tell us what an awful mess
The papers have become of late
Whilst stuffing his face
And filling his plate.
So come along on December 9,
Ask in the FELIX Office any time!

Evelyn Gardens. A second ceiling has fallen down in Evelyn Gardens. The Managing Survey of Residences, Mr Peter Hallworth claims that it fell down because of dampness caused by students overflowing their baths or having showers with the curtains open. Pull the other one Peter.

Mathematics. Felix has received a number of letters from the Mathematics Department complaining about the contents of an editorial two weeks ago and a news story last week. I think it would be sensible to withhold comment until I have had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the authors of some of the letters. However, on the subject of the editorial let me point out that I have received no new information - aside from blanket denials and demands for retraction - since the editorial was published. Consequently I have had no reason to change my opinions on the matter. I accept, however, that the Maths department is entitled to express its own opinions on the issue.

I am sure our readers are intelligent enough to make up their own minds.

Apathy. It is ironic that FELIX has not received any comments on the subject of the Alternative Prospectus which, after all was the issue at stake in the disputed editorial. It is sobering to realise that students and staff show no interest in issues which should be seen to be important. They are far more interested in technicalities and defending themselves against minor criticism than they are in issues such as the future of Imperial College or student loans.

Credits. Mega thanks to Dave Thomas, Andy Clark, Summit Guha, Steve Meyfroidt, Liz Warren, Sez Wilkinson, Phil Hopkins, Dave Smedley, Doug King, Dominic Strowbridge, John Brigs, Andy Waller, Noel Curry, Mac, Ali Nizan, Mike Dalton, Rose and Dean and anyone I have forgotten. Staff Meeting and Sherry 12.30 today.

Council

Sketch

In an attempt to prove just how wacky students can be it was decided to hold Monday's Council on a boat moored on the Embankment. The boat, a heap of rust aptly named 'The President' had never before experienced anything quite so tedious.

The President's report opened with discussions on rent levels. Now the College's Finance and Executive Committee have decided to donate £50,000 warden's national rents to the residence account. Hon Sec Wendy Morris intends to Wimp out of the Union rent strike in the event of College not diverting funds from foreign students into accommodation.

The meeting passed on to criticising Christine Taig (Union President two years ago) for tying the Union into a rent agreement that now seems ludicrous. A motion was finally passed recommending to College that Montpelier Hall be sold for at least £5M, with the money being used partly to purchase a cheaper, new hall for more students and partly to reduce the Fisher Hall mortgage. Unfortunately recent bids for Montpelier Hall have not much exceeded £4M.

Good news at last; the AstroTurf pitch at Harlington has been approved by College. Better news; President Nigel Baker has been instructed to try and get an agreement out of College as to exactly who owns what at Harlington and the Boat House and, more importantly, exactly who the proceeds of the Harlington Gravel Trust belong to. He seems to have forgotten that the whole thing was investigated by Sydney Harbour-Bridge last year. Congratulations to Nigel if he ever gets College to sign anything concrete on this issue.

Calls for support, or otherwise, for the ULU shutdowns to protest against the Poll Tax and DES Union survey were rapidly abandoned as irrelevant when Jelly pointed out that the Poll Tax protest was in the middle of the Easter vacation. GUC delegates were mandated to point this out to the rest of GUC, as they obviously hadn't noticed. Tom Yates, SCC Chairman, proposed that as a positive alternative we should hold a 'Stop the Poll Tax Carnival' and a 'Stuff the DES Survey Carnival' (names courtesy of Jelly). Council are always loath to pass up the opportunity for a party, so watch out for the chance to both

enjoy yourself and be politically 'right on'.

and a 'state of your liver' testing machine. All Council members have been mandated to use the latter, so you will probably have the pleasure of watching Union hacks fainting in the Bar as they realise they are going to die in three days time. There were also calls for RCS President Steph Snell to use the machine last, as she would probably break it. A motion calling for all Council members to abstain entirely during the Week was, strangely enough, defeated by a large majority.

Deputy President Chas Breton (decorated for services to deforestation) presented a mercifully brief report. The only contentious issue was this desire to clarify whether Sabbaticals can take time off during term time to pursue club activities or work part-time (eg playing the piano). For the sake of pianos everywhere, Mr Breton should be told the answer is No.

A verbal addition to Wendy's report was his view on non-attendance at Human Rights Week Committees. He pointed out that the Week was conceived by someone with a 'less than realistic view of the world'. As this person is now in Peru, Council felt safe to scrap the Week for this year.

During discussion of a new House Committee constitution, it was pointed out that under the wording presented, each call of 'quorum'

would halve the membership of the Committee. House Committee Chairman Adrian Hicks conceded this was a 'mistake'.

And so, at last, to the motions. During the motion on investigating the formation of a Union playgroup, a rumour circulated that the investigation was to be reported back on March 20th because Fi Nicholas is expecting shortly after that.

SCC caused a stir by submitting a motion advocating clubs holding personal bank accounts containing Union money. The vision of club chairmen and treasurers treating themselves to dinner at the Savoy every year (a privilege confined to the Industrial Society) was enough to make the great and exalted of the Union throw the motion out.

In another motion, Nigel and Chas were mandated to read the White Paper on Student Top-up Loans. Nigel only had two questions: 'How thick is it?' and 'Who actually has to go and buy it from HMSO in Holborn?' Why not treat yourself, Nigel, and do it yourself.

The best slanging match of Council was saved until the end. Nigel brought a motion of No Confidence in Sydney Harbour-Bridge (name changed in aid of Comic Relief) as Council's representative to Governing Body and Finance and Executive (the two highest College committees). This was because Syd had missed F&E last Friday when his alarm clock failed to go off. After Syd's passionate defence, Nigel was the only person supporting his motion. Most of the rest of Council actively voted against.

And so, the myth of Union democracy lives on.

Alcohol Awareness Week



The Students Guide to Life the Universe

and all the little gritty bits in the corner which are really difficult to get at. (or cisterns of the world unite)

Alternative Cabaret

Forget 'The Comedy Story', forget 'The Cabaret Jongleurs', for some real alternative comedy, get your bod down to the Houses of Parliament (a.k.a. 'The Valley that Time Forgot) and see some real experts like Norman 'I don't eat babies, I just torture them' Tebbit or Nigel 'Don't worry it's just a blip' Lawson.

Fortunately, the nice ol' government has banned the rather riskée band of comics, Sinn Fein, you know, the ones who would often pop up on the news reminding us of how absolutely abhorrent the IRA and their antics are. I thought some of their one-liners such as: 'The civilian deaths caused were a complete and utter accident, nothing to do with us really, and we're really, really sorry, honest guv.' A bit tasteless, but thankfully we can forget about them and where they come from now.

I prefer the more traditional

performers like Tom King and his classic routine of piping up about how suspects in Northern Irish trials are going to be found guilty if they stay silent, while three people, who had all claimed their right to silence, were being tried for plotting to kill Tom King. The coup d'état came when the judge criticised King on the timing of his announcement and the press questioned King on this. His reply? 'No comment.' The guy is a comic genius.

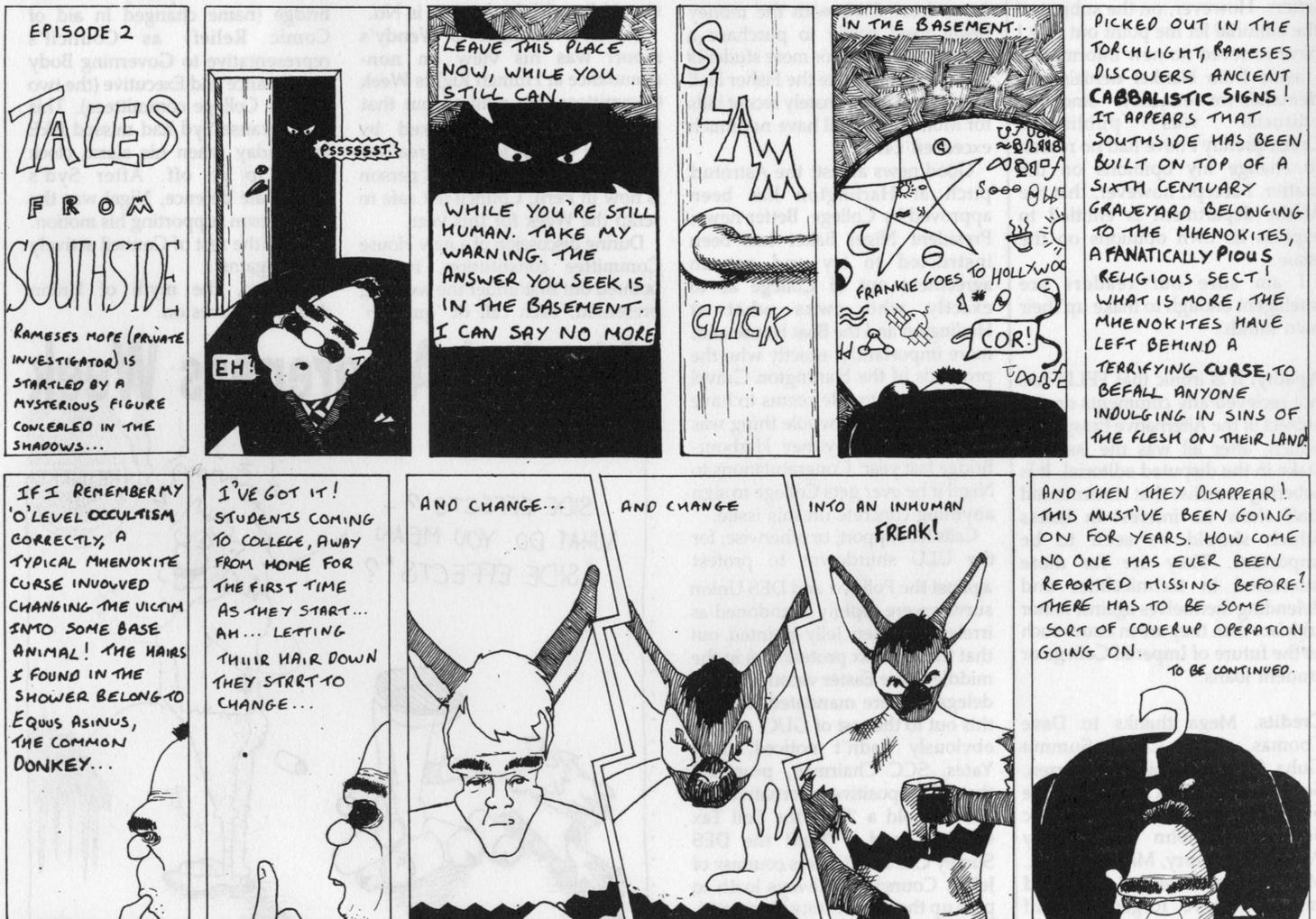
Films

This week's recommended list:
Midnight Runs—The excruciating story of one man's battle against diahorrea. De Niro spent three months eating vindaloo in order to get into the part.
Steak Out—The suspense of two people who go out for a steak and get kidnapped by alien lager louts.
Rattle and Hum—The terrifying story of a man tortured for hours by a sort of rattly/hummy sound in his

engine. Dustin Hoffman plays the bit of grit that causes the problems.

Television

Yes, it's baaaaaack!! Pro-celebrity hunting is back on our screens. The show that brought us classic episodes, such as Sean Connery clubbing Rupert the Bear to death with a three-wood. What a lovely swing the Scotsman has. Then there was when Jack Charlton harpooned Flipper—a catch to be proud of. And who could forget the Christmas Special when Jack Nicholson axed the entire cast of Bambi into tiny little bits. This series promises such delights as Norman Bates, Dumbo and a twelve-bore shotgun and a Christmas special involving the cast of 'Cats', Garfield, Felix, Healthcliffe, Bill, Wharfdale, a meat cleaver, chainsaw, Howitzer cannon short range tactical nuclear weapons and Nicholas Witchall, Great family entertainment, so just sit back and enjoy.



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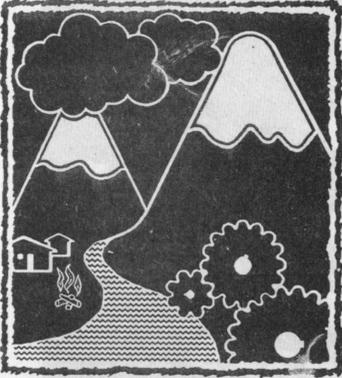
STA TRAVEL

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The Baltistan Energy Survey Expedition

By Dominic Strowbridge

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Amanullah approached one of the carpenters on the building site and asked him if he would answer some questions for the energy survey. The carpenter agreed, and sat down with Henry to fill in one of the questionnaires. Soon, the rest of the builders had stopped working and, along with a passing group of school boys, were crowding around, intently curious at this strange spectacle.

During the summer of 1988, the Baltistan Energy Survey Expedition travelled to the town of Khaplu, in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, where it conducted a survey of the sources and uses of domestic energy. We questioned local inhabitants on the types and quantities of fuels used for activities such as cooking, heating and lighting. The aim of the survey was to point to alternative energy resources that the population would readily accept in order to improve their quality of life and stop further deforestation in the area.

At the beginning of the 1987 academic year Henry Sullivan and I, both Mechanical Engineers at IC, decided that we wanted to make use of our fledgling Engineering skills in conducting a technology survey in a remote and mountainous region of the world. With this idea in mind, we recruited two Physicists, Lynn Hughes and Phil Startin, and together we began to develop a plan.

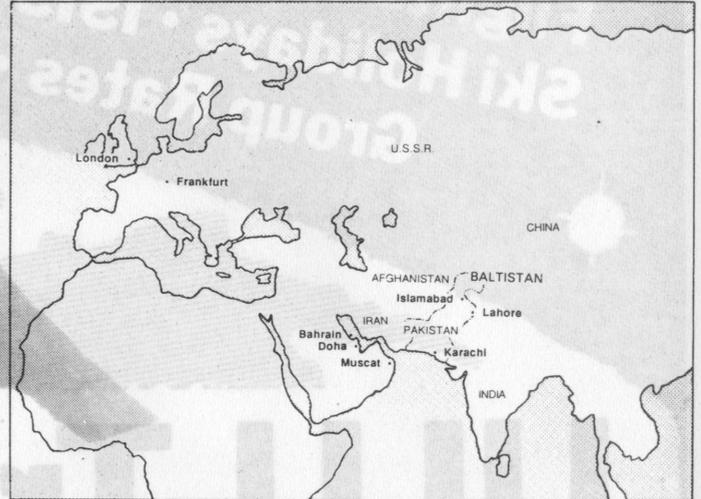
Our initial hope to visit Bhutan fell through because of the exorbitant tariffs imposed by the Bhutanese on foreign visitors. Instead we chose Baltistan, as it fulfilled the two main criteria for the expedition. Firstly, development agencies were already working in the area and the expedition could collaborate with these on a survey. Secondly, the region is dominated by the greatest concentration of the world's highest mountains—the Karakoram range of the Himalaya.

Over eight months were spent raising the necessary sponsorship for the expedition, planning the survey and liaising with the Pakistan Council of Appropriate Technology (PCAT) and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), the development agencies we arranged to work with. On July 5th the expedition left Heathrow at the beginning of its long journey to Baltistan, and the town of Khaplu.

The first culture shock wave hit us as we stepped off the plane at Karachi airport. Pakistan's largest city was a feast for all the senses: the mixture of colours, noises and smells were a dramatic introduction to this country. We soon exchanged these surroundings for the interior of a bus and a 32 hour drive to the capital Islamabad.

In Islamabad, we met the Chairman of PCAT, a high ranking government official, who enthusiastically endorsed our work, and assigned one of his field officers to help us during the survey. We were also received by HM Ambassador, who turned out to be an ex-governor of Imperial College. The next leg of the journey to Skardu, the capital of Baltistan, involved another 28 hours on buses; 6 of them spent on a small roof rack and shared with a rather fierce looking goat.

Baltistan was very different to the lowlands of Pakistan. Here, the people lacked the material possessions or amenities of their countrymen down south, but seemed to have a more hardy and independent character that came from surviving the harsh mountain climate. Their facial features bore much resemblance to their Tibetan ancestors who brought Buddhism to the area between the 4th and 7th centuries, though now the population has almost entirely converted to Shia Islam. Their unquestioning bond to the Muslim



faith explains the different roles of men and women in their society: men generally sit about all day in the bazaars, drinking tea and 'gupshupping', or gossiping, while the women do the cooking, tend the fields and bring up the children. As a result, only the boys go to school regularly, whereas the girls will be kept at home to help their mothers. These roles only look unfair through the eyes of foreigners who have had a Christian dominated upbringing. Only the most liberated Baltis find fault with their system.

We spent three days buying last minute supplies in the large bazaar at Skardu, and arranging a timetable for our survey with the local AKRSP officials before travelling another 100km eastwards, by jeep, to Khaplu. Here, our home and base was the Khaplu Government Rest House, a one storey stone and cement building situated down by the river Shyok. The four of us shared one room, two beds and an odd assortment of chairs. The latter were strung together to form two more rather uncomfortable, makeshift beds and a strict rota was enforced so that we all had our fair share of sleepless nights.

We started the survey as soon as possible. Unfortunately, PCAT had not realised that most Baltis speak a different language to the rest of Pakistan, so their appointment of Sabz Ali as an interpreter was not particularly useful. With the help of

AKRSP, we hired a couple of locals as interpreters: Amanullah and Din Mohammed joined the team. We would get them to go and ask for permission to conduct an interview in a particular house. If this was forthcoming, and in most cases it was, we would wait silently by the entrance, listening to the scuffling of feet and slamming of doors as the ladies of the house were hurriedly ushered out of sight. We would then be shown into the best room of the house, to be greeted by the head of the household. A typical interview would take between a half and one hour. Frequently, though, our stay in a house would be longer as our hosts invariably offered us food and refreshments. This gesture was particularly moving when it came from the poorer families, who obviously had so little to spare, but still insisted on showing the very best hospitality to us.

After a hard day's interviewing, we would return to the guest house, to sit out on the verandah and cook a meal over two hideously inefficient kerosene cookers. Food, or rather, the lack of it, was one of the most contentious issues during the whole expedition. We had to rely on the few items that were readily available in the Khaplu bazaar. This amounted to porridge, potatoes, rice, onions, garlic and powdered milk. Despite a wealth of culinary experience amongst us, developed while surviving on

Walking up from sea level to the summit of Gondorro is equivalent to climbing the Queen's Tower 79 times



student grants in London, we found it increasingly difficult to create original and appetising menus from these ingredients. The only alleviation to this diet came from the apricots that grew so abundantly in the area and the occasional purchase of an anorexic chicken from a local. Morale hit a particularly low ebb when we discovered that the small yellow lumps in our porridge were not flakes from the husk, but were actually small worms! We soon dropped porridge from our culinary repertoire.

After 25 days of interviews and questionnaires, we finished the survey and headed north to Hushe. We had left ourselves almost 3 weeks for the climbing part of the expedition, and, with the help of

two porters, made off into the mountains. Our trek took us past the lofty likes of Mashebrim, Chogolisa, K-6 and K-7, though we were more modest in our climbing capabilities, and saved our energy for a successful attempt on the 19,000ft Gondorro Peak.

As we returned to Islamabad by plane, we enjoyed fantastic views of the Karakoram. K2, Broad Peak & Nanga Parbat were just a few of the peaks that we recognised. To celebrate the end of the expedition, the chief engineer of PCAT took us out for an excellent dinner in the heart of Islamabad. A larger official reception had had to be cancelled because all the government officials were observing 10 days mourning over the death of General Zia.

Travel Dossier

Pakistan

Getting there—By air to Karachi costs approximately £350 (by Gulf Air), to Islamabad £650 (BA and PIA). Travel Agents can sometimes find cheaper flights but they will not be direct. Book a seat early for your return journey to England towards the end of August and in September as this is the busiest time of the year. Remember to keep PR250 for airport tax as you leave the country. Overland is difficult, as it involves travel in Iran, but it is not impossible. Afghanistan's borders are still closed.

Visa—A 6-month tourist visa costs £30 from the Embassy of Pakistan, 35 Lowndes Square, London SW1X, and will usually take 24 hours to be issued. Currency £1 = PR30 (Pakistani Rupees). You can only take PR100 into the country. Take US\$ cash and travellers cheques but note that in remote areas, they will not change TCs and sometimes no banks exist at all.

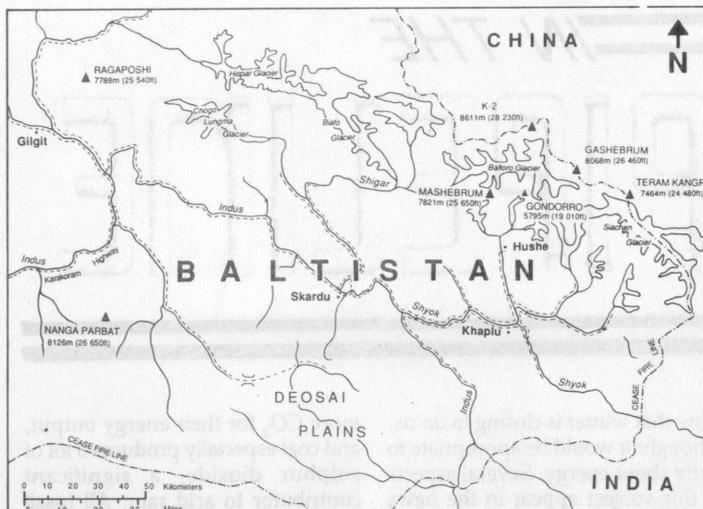
Health—Vaccinations needed for Cholera, Typhoid, Tetanus, Rabies, Tuberculosis and Polio. Both types of Malaria tablets are also necessary.

Drink only purified water or bottled soft drinks. Baltistan has its own specific hazards: Giardia is a microscopic parasite that lives in the dusty atmosphere and will strike you down with the runs and cause fits of bad-egg tasting burps; the thinner atmosphere in the mountains can lead to altitude sickness, which can only be cured by rapid descent; and sunburn, which can be avoided by adequate protection.

Transport in Pakistan—Cheap, uncomfortable buses run frequently all over the place. Usually 24 hours booking is needed. Trains exist on the lowlands, but are often booked up for weeks in advance. Internal flights are reasonable eg. Karachi to Islamabad via 'The Night Coach' is £30 single and Islamabad to Skardu is only £10 single, though this can be booked up over a month in advance, and its running depends heavily on the weather.

Accommodation—Any class to suit every pocket:

Food—Chillis with everything!



The curious locals in Hushe

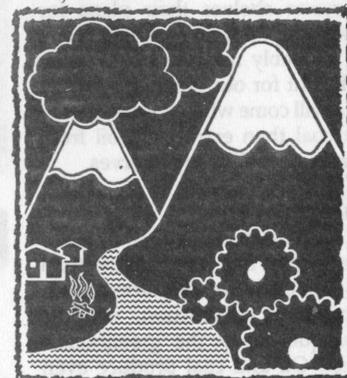
Are you an Explorer?

After reading this account of the Baltistan Energy Survey Expedition, would you still like to take part in a similar project? Another expedition is planned for the summer of 1989, with similar objectives to this year's venture. The party of 8 people will come from different colleges of the University of London, selected in groups of twos. Members of each pair should get on well with each other, have done some independent travelling before and be able to cope with the unexpected. Send your personal details together, and include a short list of previous experience and how you would contribute to this expedition, to:

Dominic Strowbridge,
4M
Department of Mechanical
Engineering,
Imperial College.

Expedition Presentation

We will be giving a presentation about the expedition on Tuesday November 29, at 1.15pm, in lecture theatre 342 in the Mechanical Engineering Department. Everyone is welcome especially if you are interested in applying for a place on next Summers proposed expedition, or if you are just curious.



Henry interviewing on the building site

IN THE PIPELINE

Now that winter is closing in on us, I thought it would be appropriate to write about energy. Several aspects of this subject appear in the news from time to time; unfortunately there isn't room to go very far here.

Production

About 90% of the world's energy needs are met by combustion of fossil fuels; the rest comes mainly from nuclear and also hydroelectric sources. Production and sale of

Ninety percent of the world's energy needs are met by fossil fuels

energy is big business and is vital to all nations' economies. It is no surprise to find that most developed countries have large resources of energy, and most underdeveloped countries do not. There are some significant exceptions, particularly Japan, which is very short in energy resources. In Britain the importance of energy can be seen from the large balance of trade surplus produced by the oil industry - about £7 billion and the sales per year by British Coal (£4 billion), British Gas (£7 billion) and the CEBG (£5 billion). Whenever the world price of oil increases significantly, everyone gets very worried about the impending energy crisis and what they will do when the oil runs out. These worries evaporate when the price of oil falls again, as we have seen in the last few years, and everyone shelves their plans for producing oil from coal, etc. There are probably reserves of oil easily sufficient for our lifetimes, but the time will come when it is cheaper to use coal than extract the oil from increasingly difficult reserves.

Pollution

No form of energy is totally 'clean'. The cleanest fuel is probably natural gas, but even that produces carbon dioxide on combustion, with its consequences for the 'greenhouse' effect. Oil and coal produce even

more CO₂ for their energy output, and coal especially produces a lot of sulphur dioxide, a significant contributor to acid rain. All fossil fuels when burnt also produce nitrogen oxides, but this depends more on the method of combustion than on the fuel. Nuclear energy produces no atmospheric pollution, but instead, of course, produces radioactive material. We could make a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by replacing all our fossil fuel energy supply by nuclear power stations, but the cost would be prohibitive and the increased risk associated with the increased capacity may be unacceptable.

Renewable Energy

So what about 'alternative' energy resources? The quantity of solar radiation incident on the earth is phenomenal, but it is very thinly distributed, as are all renewable resources. For example, the annual average solar energy in Britain is just 0.1kW per square metre. Or to replace just one nuclear power station, we would need 150 square kilometres of solar panels. A similar energy production from wind power would require 300 sixty-metre wind turbines in an area the

size of Birmingham. Renewable resources also tend to be somewhat unreliable. However, some renewable energy resources are very viable, for example hydroelectric schemes. These generally require huge capital investment, but will run very cheaply for years. Some schemes have been very successful and some disastrous (eg in Brazil, FELIX 814).

Efficiency

We could do a lot to conserve our energy resources and reduce pollution by using energy more efficiently. This entails both reducing requirements for heat in industry and houses, and recovering the heat released by combustion more efficiently. It is often pointed out that the generation of electricity is very wasteful of energy, because for every unit of electricity produced, something like 1.5 units of heat is thrown away. Schemes to recover

No form of energy is totally clean

this heat, eg in district heating schemes, have usually not been very successful. However, since electricity can be used much more efficiently, the overall energy consumption may be quite good. For example, electric trains compared to diesel trains, microwave ovens compared to gas ovens, electric lights compared to candles, etc. Many advances have been made in recent years in the efficiency of combustion systems and in the transfer of this energy, largely prompted by oil price rises in the 1970s. On the domestic scene,

the introduction of natural gas allowed a huge increase in the number of homes with central heating, with hardly any total increase in energy consumption, because of the increased efficiency

Renewable resources tend to be unreliable

of gas boilers, compared to the coal fires they largely replaced. Even so, gas boilers are only up to 75% efficient, so a quarter of the gas you use is still wasted. Recent experiments on the old Ascot water heater in my kitchen showed it to be about 12% efficient.

Improvements to boiler efficiency are constantly being investigated by British Gas, with features such as condensing the water vapour from the flue gases to recover the latent heat. This is easy with the relatively clean flames from gas, but much more difficult with flue gases from coal. Both the efficiency and coal fired systems can be improved by adding water to the fuel. In the case of oil, up to 20% water can be added; the water helps the oil break into smaller droplets, so improving mixing with air, it provides a source of OH radicals for the combustion reactions, and it lowers the flame temperature, reducing the production of nitrogen oxides.

Adding water to coal is not the only way of improving its combustion efficiency. British Coal are doing a lot of research into fluidised bed combustors. (Coal is ground into small particles and burnt in a vertically fast-moving stream of air.) These have the advantage of being much smaller than conventional

A quarter of the gas you use is wasted

combustors and because of the increased turbulence and mixing of the coal and air, the combustion and the heat transfer to the steam pipes is more efficient. Another British Coal project is coal gasification for power generation. Here the coal is gasified, the gas is burnt, passed through a gas turbine to generate electricity and then preheats steam which is passed through a fluidised bed combustor where the rest of the coal is burnt to produce steam for a conventional steam turbine. The feasibility of a 2000MW power station using this technology is being investigated by British Coal.



Dounreay nuclear power station.

Wacky & zany!

Robin Davison recounts the story of IC

Imperial College of Science and Technology was founded by the federation of three colleges in 1907. Two of these, namely; Royal School of Mines and Royal College of Science had been associated since 1853.

The RCS has the oldest lineage being founded as the College of Chemistry in George Street, Hanover Square in 1815. It became the Royal College of Chemistry and dedicated to the work of Sir Humphrey Davy. It opened accepting 50 students, said to be 'gentlemen of all ages, ranks and of a variety of professions who follow chemistry as a profession or as the object of scientific taste'.

The RSM was founded as the Government School of Mines and Science Applied to the Arts in Jermyn Street in 1851. It was part of the Museum of Practical Geology and the Geological Survey and its first director was Henry Thomas De la Beche. It became the Royal School of Mines in 1863.

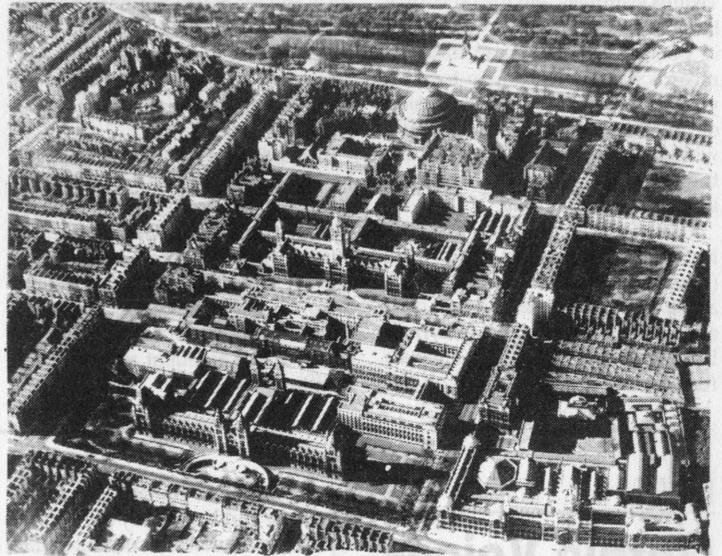
A Royal commission of 1870 set up to inquire into 'Scientific Instruction and the Advancement of Science' recommended a move of both Royal Colleges to South Kensington. This was completed in 1872, to the first Huxley Building in Exhibition Road. The building remains standing today as the

Henry Cole wing of the V&A. Laboratories were provided for the instruction of Physics and Biology and a chair of mathematics was established and in 1881 the School became the 'Normal School of Science and Royal School of Mines'. Its first Dean was TH Huxley who was perhaps heir to the Prince Consort's vision for Science and Art teaching in South Kensington. The circumstances of its foundation and growth owe much to fears that Britain would fall behind the advanced technology of Germany both industrially and militarily.

The name Normal School of Science was devised as an analogy to the Parisian Ecole Normale but was unpopular and soon changed to Royal College of Science.

The City and Guilds College was founded, because in 1876 the Corporation and Livery Companies of the City of London believed their attention should be directed to the promotion of technical education. In 1878 the City and Guilds Institute of London was formed and established the Finsbury Technical College.

The Institute moved to a site, leased at peppercorn rent from the 1851 Commissioners, in Exhibition Road. In December 1884 six students enrolled—five men and one woman.



The 1851 Exhibition

Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, had a vision for developing South Kensington into an area devoted to Science and Arts in 1849. By the turn of the century the dream was fulfilled and in South Kensington stood; the Royal Albert Hall, The Royal College of Art, the Royal College of Music, the Natural History Museum and, of course, the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

The idea of holding an 'Exhibition of Works of Industry of All Nations' came to Prince Albert as President of the Royal Society of Arts in June 1849. It became the 'Great Exhibition of 1851', arguably still the greatest of its type to have been held in Britain. It certainly made a substantial profit, and the centrepiece was 'The Crystal Palace' erected in Hyde Park.

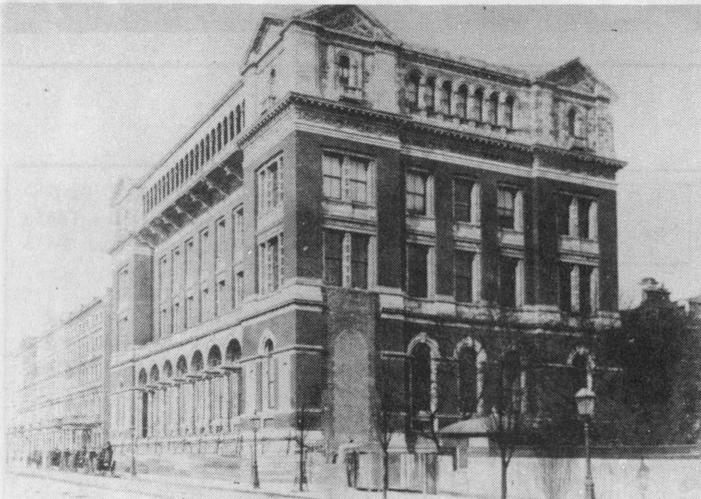
A Royal Commission of August 1850 had run the exhibition making a profit of £186,000. A second Supplementary Charter of 1851 gave the body powers to dispose of this surplus. The 'Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851' bought an area of South Kensington on which scientific and artistic societies could locate themselves to 'extend their influence upon productive industry'.

At the direction of the Prince Consort the Commissioner bought, the irregularly-shaped 87 acres, at £3,500 per acre, in 1854 with a loan from Parliament. The land was undeveloped country estate belonging to several families and the Smith's charity.

The Commissioners speculated with the land and set up a 'Main Square' bounded by Kensington, Exhibition and Cromwell Roads, and Prince Albert Road, now Queen's Gate. The rest was developed by private builders for residential housing.

Sixteen and a half acres of land were sold to Parliament for the Natural History Museum in 1863, which was not started for a further ten years. The Estate of the 1851 Commissioners was used for exhibitions and the Horticultural Society Gardens until 1880. Permanent buildings housed the Science and India Museum and the Penton Collection.

The exhibitions of national portraits, scientific instruments, inventions and colonial artefacts enabled the mortgage repayment to be completed, and the Estate allocated sites for educational institutions in 1880.



The Royal College of Science building in Exhibition Road, now part of the Victoria and Albert Museum

Music

LIVE

The Tom Tom Club

The Borderline Club, just off Charing Cross Road is, let's face it, quite poxy. Spaghetti western paraphernalia dripping from every surface, bandoliered girls wandering around trying to sell you Tequila slammers and the occasional bandito in the corner. The lighting is poor, the stage small and the records bad. It makes you feel like you're in a North Mexican version of Liverpool's old Cavern Club, without the enjoyment. Despite this the club has some good bands on, like the *Tom Tom Club*.

The *Tom Tom Club* are the husband (drummer) and wife (bassist) team from Talking Heads, and it shows. Their sound is as clear and well produced as that of Byrne's band with a different style. They are funkier, more emphasis is on the

them but are more rock orientated. beat and bass and they are also extremely likeable. They don't try to out cool you like most other pretentious pop purveyors, they simply show you their talent and invite you to have fun, and that's what you do.

Their music is brilliant but subtle. To watch the guitarist (a David Byrne—Norman Jardine lookalike) you think he cannot be playing the sounds which actually emerge, but he is and his guitar gymnastics leave his face unperturbed. Again with the bass, about four notes emerge from every pluck or fretting move, we thought there must be a backing track on the songs.

Towards the end they were joined by Kirsty McColl (she was probably just knocking around the club) and did a cover of Velvet Underground's *Femme Fatale* (you can forgive the clichés when they're done well). Also a bit predictable was the rendition of *Once in a Lifetime* but so what, it was excellent and this was a unique show.

ALBUM

U2

The much heralded album/film/book of the tour by the current darlings of the music world has been added to the Haldane Library's record collection. A chronicle of the *Joshua Tree* US Tour of 1987 it is a mixture of live songs and new material recorded in such hallowed locations as Sun Studios, Memphis where Elvis became the King.

Nothing could rival the success of the *Joshua Tree* and *Unforgettable Fire* and so U2 have taken leave of those styles to explore their 'true roots'. Hence, guest stars include Bob Dylan, co-writing and playing some particularly insipid organ on *Love Rescue Me*, and B B King provides the highlight of the album with his performance on *When Love Comes To Town*. The new songs have some of

the rough feel of *War* and *Boy* about them but are more rock orientated. U2 claim them to be better songs, but those who preferred the lack of formal structure in early U2 will find little here to comfort them.

Of the live stuff the covers, *Helter Skelter* and *AI: Along the Watchtower* are frenetic and perhaps encapsulate U2 live better than versions of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Bullet the Blue Sky* which moved me less than their originals. A Gospel choir backing to *Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* sounded fun but made it dangerously like the kind of Bible-bashing Gospel Rock U2 have managed to sidestep despite their Christianity.

So all credit to a band who refuse to rest upon their laurels and are adventurous. I loved the whole thing but in discovering their roots they are moving away from their origins and those who liked *Boy* may not necessarily feel the same way about the men.



LIVE

Gothic Voices

Music was just getting started around the time of the Crusades but despite the lack of refinement and technique the court minstrels could still write a good tune and Christopher Page has filled a gaping hole in the classical repertoire with recordings from the Middle Ages of court and secular music by the Gothic Voices.

Much of the music in this concert was written around the time of the coronation of Richard Coeur De Lion, 800 years ago next year. It was sung largely in the conducted form, each part following the same note

the rough feel of *War* and *Boy* about structure and beautifully performed by the four voices, contralto and three tenors. Light relief was provided by Christopher Page the non-conducting musical director who introduced each piece with contemporary writings from the period.

This year the Gothic Voices won a Gramophone Magazine award for their latest work, *Music for the Knights of the Garter* and their finest work to date, *Music by Abbess Hildegard of Bingen* can be found in the Haldane Library if you are interested in hearing something just a little bit different from Mozart or Beethoven.

C.D.L.

Southkenders



Alcohol Special

The first Campaign of Welfare '89, the Union Welfare project, takes place next week. The aim of the week is to promote awareness of students at this College about the effects of alcohol, both long and short term. The culmination of the week is a low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks promotion in the Union and Southside bars on Thursday evening and Friday lunchtime. I hope you will come along and try some drinks that you might even like!

Fig. 1
DRINKS WHICH HAVE THE
SAME ALCOHOL CONTENT

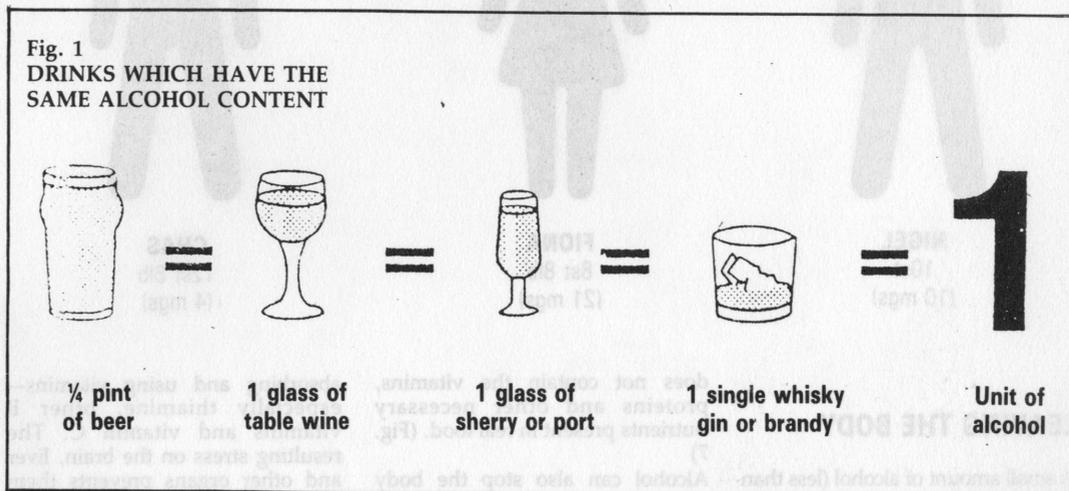


Fig. 2
HOW ALCOHOL ENTERS
THE BODY

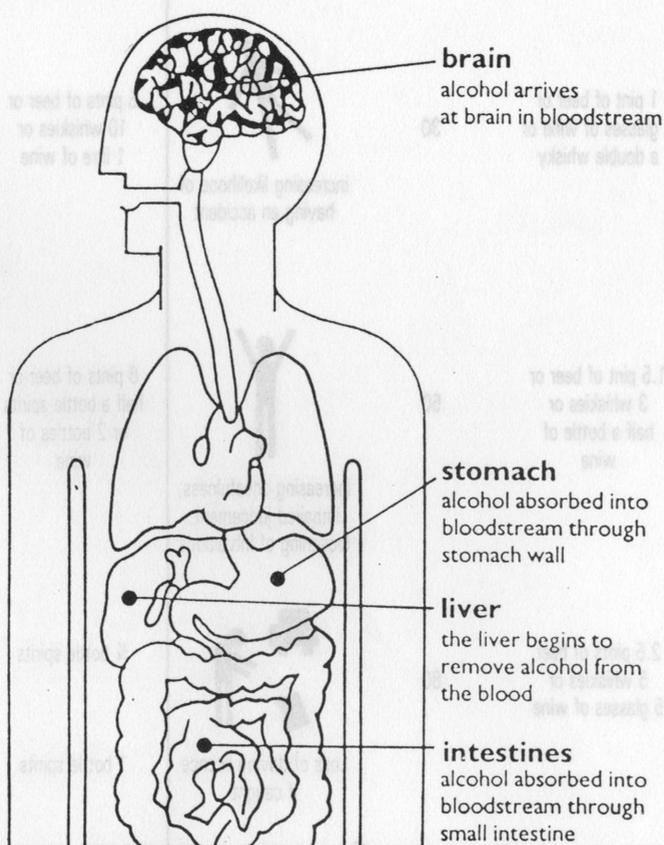
ENTERING THE BODY

Alcohol is a depressant drug. When it is swallowed it travels to the stomach and small intestine (or gut) and is absorbed through the wall of the gut into the bloodstream.

The amount of alcohol in the blood and the rate of absorption depend on the amount and type of alcohol drunk, the speed of drinking, and the amount of food in the stomach. For a woman it can depend on her menstrual cycle, alcohol being absorbed more rapidly just before a period and during ovulation. If she is taking the contraceptive pill, alcohol is absorbed and metabolised more slowly.

There is also evidence to suggest that fizzy drinks carry alcohol more quickly into the bloodstream. Once in the blood, alcohol travels to all areas of the body within a few minutes quickly affecting the working of the brain. (Fig. 2)

The immediate effects of drinking depend solely upon the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream—the blood alcohol concentration or BAC. Blood alcohol concentration varies according to a person's sex, weight, body composition, and speed of drinking. Women tend to have a higher BAC than men after drinking



the same amount because they have less body fluid to dilute the alcohol. (Fig. 3)

The depressant effect of alcohol on the central nervous system means that 'messages' take longer to travel along the nerves in the brain. The result is a dulling and slowing of the brain's responses or intoxication—reaction; thought and coordination suffer. It becomes difficult to carry out complex mental and physical tasks such as operating machinery and, of course, driving. The effects vary in severity depending on BAC. (Fig. 4).

HANGOVERS

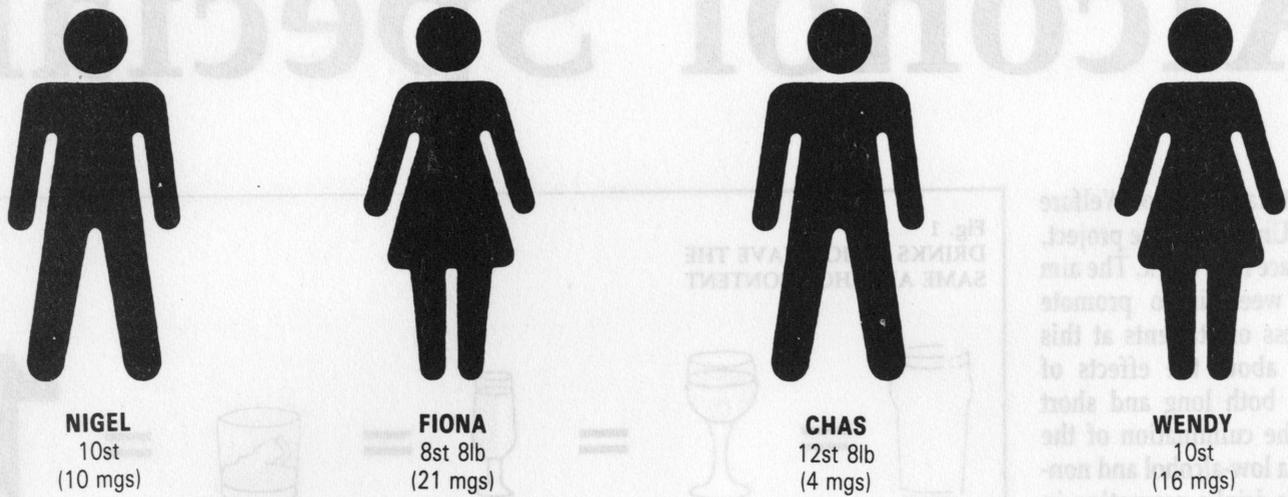
Hangovers are partly a kind of poisoning and partly the effects of dehydration and low blood sugar. 'Congeners'—the cause of the poisoning—are impurities present in all alcoholic drinks but in greater quantities in darker drinks such as brandy or red wine. Dehydration occurs because alcohol is a diuretic—(ie it stimulates urination). It also stimulates the production of insulin, which in turn reduces sugar levels. Low blood sugar produces feelings of drowsiness, weakness, trembling, faintness and hunger. The acid in the drinks can cause stomach upsets.

Although some people find drinking a great deal of water helps avoid them, there is no real cure for hangovers. The 'hair of the dog' cure is especially dangerous as it can lead to dependence on alcohol, and its immediate effect could be to raise BAC to risky levels.

Booze

Fig. 3
DIFFERENT BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENTS

The approximate blood alcohol concentration of Nigel, Fiona, Chas and Wendy after one drink (one unit of alcohol) consumed in one hour will be:



LEAVING THE BODY

A small amount of alcohol (less than one tenth) is eliminated from the body in urine, breath and sweat. The rest is oxidised—ie like food it combines with oxygen in the blood to release heat and energy or calories. However, although alcohol has some nutritional value, it is of poor quality because it lacks vitamins, proteins and other essential nutrients. Also, unlike food, alcohol is burnt up almost exclusively in the liver which means that the liver is one of the first parts of the body to suffer from excessive drinking. (Fig. 5)

The liver burns up alcohol surprisingly slowly. The rate varies from person to person according to body weight and to the enzyme (dehydrogenase) in the liver, but as a general rule it takes as many hours as the number of drinks for the body to completely burn up all the alcohol. It is a little known fact that it is possible to fail a breathalyser test 24 hours after stopping drinking. (Fig. 6)

ALCOHOL, WEIGHT & DIET

Drinks are high in calories but empty nutritionally. Excessive drinking can lead to obesity because alcohol calories cannot be stored by the body in the same way as calories produced by food. This means that if alcohol is consumed in addition to a normal diet, alcohol calories are used by the body while food calories are stored as fat. If a person decreases food consumption to compensate for alcohol, then poor nutrition is a risk because alcohol

does not contain the vitamins, proteins and other necessary nutrients present in real food. (Fig. 7)

Alcohol can also stop the body

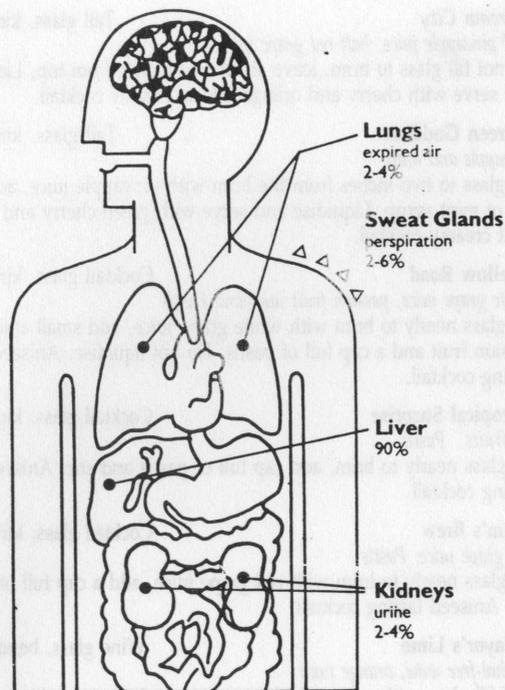
absorbing and using vitamins—especially thiamine, other B vitamins and vitamin C. The resulting stress on the brain, liver and other organs prevents them

working properly. In general, vitamin deficiency affects a person's appearance, particularly the skin, and limits the body's ability to fight off infection.

Fig. 4
THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON ADULT BEHAVIOUR

number of drinks	blood alcohol content (mg/100ml)	usual effect on persons of average build	number of drinks	blood alcohol content (mg/100ml)	usual effect on persons of average build
1 pint of beer or 2 glasses of wine or a double whisky	30	increasing likelihood of having an accident	5 pints of beer or 10 whiskies or 1 litre of wine	150	loss of self control; quarrelsomeness; exuberance; slurred speech
1.5 pint of beer or 3 whiskies or half a bottle of wine	50	increasing cheerfulness, impaired judgement, loosening of inhibitions	6 pints of beer or half a bottle spirits or 2 bottles of wine	200	stagger; double vision; loss of memory
2.5 pints of beer 5 whiskies or 5 glasses of wine	80	Loss of driving licence if caught	¾ bottle spirits	400	oblivion, sleepiness coma
			1 bottle spirits	500	death possible
				600	death certain

Fig. 5
HOW ALCOHOL LEAVES THE BODY



barbiturate tablets taken with three or four drinks can kill.

ALCOHOL AND STRESS

Because alcohol is a depressant drug, it can act as a tranquillizer, reducing stress for moderate drinkers. However, regular heavy drinking can increase stress and nervousness when the drinker stops for a day or two or when the body becomes tolerant to alcohol's effects. The danger in this is that the drinker may be tempted to drink more and more to overcome stress and tension.

ALCOHOL AND SLEEP

Alcohol's tranquillizing properties may help a person get off to sleep and may indeed be a less harmful tranquillizer than sleeping pills. Alcohol-induced sleep, however, is not REM (rapid eye movement) sleep necessary to provide complete rest.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol interacts with many other drugs, often producing a much stronger effect than expected. Barbiturates, tranquillizers, stimulants, antihistamines can all have quite dangerous effects when combined with alcohol. One or two

People who both drink and smoke are at extra risk because alcohol enhances the action of cancer-producing agents such as cigarette smoke.

SEX

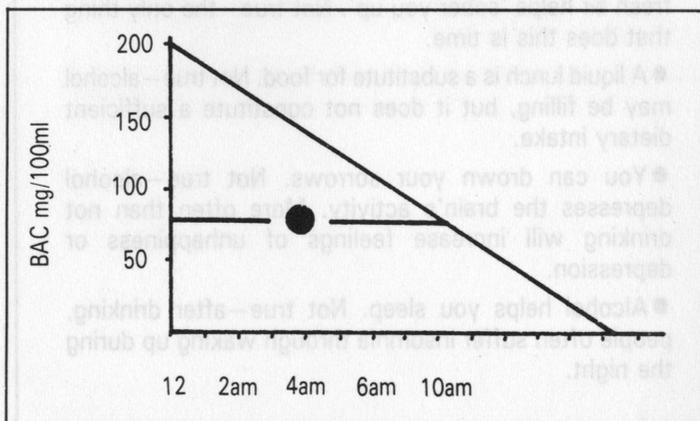
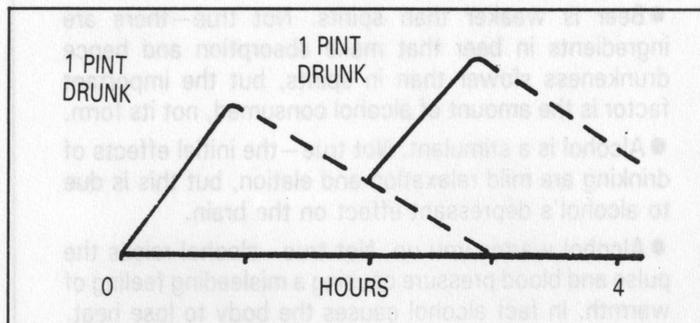
Many people drink in order to feel sexy. Although there is some truth to the claim that people are more sexually aroused when drinking, the effect seems to be mostly psychological. In moderate doses alcohol can prolong the length of time before a man reaches orgasm and at slightly higher doses it can induce 'impotence' because of its muscle relaxant effect.

DAMAGE TO HEALTH

In the long term, drinking more than the relatively safe levels of 14 units a week for women and 21 units a week for men can seriously damage health. The throat, brain, liver, heart, pancreas, reproductive organs and stomach can all be affected by drinking too much over a period of time.

Liver disease is widely known to be caused by alcohol, but research has also shown links between alcohol and cancer, heart disease, brain damage, and infertility. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (or FAS) is a

Fig. 6
TIME TAKEN TO ELIMINATE ALCOHOL



condition that occurs in babies of women who drank heavily in pregnancy. The symptoms include physical abnormalities and mental retardation. Even at fairly moderate levels, however, drinking during pregnancy may have harmful effects on the foetus.

'Alcohol dependent' or 'alcoholic'

are terms used to describe a person who drinks very large amounts of alcohol and who suffers very disturbing and painful withdrawal symptoms when he or she stops. The only way he or she can avoid withdrawal is to drink more, creating a vicious circle, very difficult to break.

Fig. 7
HOW MANY CALORIES IN YOUR DRINK

DRINK	CALORIES
1 pint of beer	300
1 glass of wine	80
1 gin and tonic	140
1 whisky	90
1 vodka and orange	130

● Remember: 10,000 extra calories will produce 3 pounds of fat.
 ● This means that 2½ pints of beer a day for 2 weeks could put on 3 pounds of weight.
 ● Two gins and tonic a day for 5 weeks could fatten you by 3 pounds.

Booze

Myths Surrounding Alcohol

- Beer is weaker than spirits. Not true—there are ingredients in beer that make absorption and hence drunkenness slower than in spirits, but the important factor is the amount of alcohol consumed, not its form.
- Alcohol is a stimulant. Not true—the initial effects of drinking are mild relaxation and elation, but this is due to alcohol's depressant effect on the brain.
- Alcohol warms you up. Not true—alcohol raises the pulse and blood pressure causing a misleading feeling of warmth. In fact alcohol causes the body to lose heat.
- Drinking black coffee, having a cold shower or getting fresh air helps 'sober you up'. Not true—the only thing that does this is time.
- A liquid lunch is a substitute for food. Not true—alcohol may be filling, but it does not constitute a sufficient dietary intake.
- You can drown your sorrows. Not true—alcohol depresses the brain's activity. More often than not drinking will increase feelings of unhappiness or depression.
- Alcohol helps you sleep. Not true—after drinking, people often suffer insomnia through waking up during the night.

Alcohol-free Cocktails

- ★ **Dream City** Tall glass, kirly straw
Half pineapple juice, half red grape juice.
Do not fill glass to brim, leave about two inches from top, Liquidise and serve with cherry and orange. Sweet creamy cocktail.
- ★ **Green Goddess** Tall glass, kirly straw
Pineapple and mint
Fill glass to two inches from the brim with pineapple juice, add a cap full of mint syrup. Liquidise and serve with green cherry and orange. Mint creamy cocktail.
- ★ **Yellow Road** Cocktail glass, kirly straw
White grape juice, passion fruit juice and Pastis
Fill glass nearly to brim with white grape juice, add small amount of passion fruit and a cap full of pastis. Do not liquidise. Aniseed tasting cocktail.
- ★ **Tropical Surprise** Cocktail glass, kirly straw
'10 fruits', Pastis
Fill glass nearly to brim, add cap full of pastis and stir. Aniseed tasting cocktail.
- ★ **Tim's Brew** Cocktail glass, kirly straw
Red grape juice, Pastis
Fill glass nearly to brim with red grape juice, add a cap full of pastis, stir. Aniseed tasting cocktail.
- ★ **Mayor's Limo** Wine glass, bendy straw
Alcohol-free wine, orange juice
Half fill glass with wine, add orange juice to brim, add cherry and orange. Long cool cocktail.

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The Pill

Unnatural, undamaging or unresearched?

Twenty controversial years of research have passed since the introduction of the pill but quite what risk faces pill users is still something of a mystery. There is one point in the debate, however, which stands out as being alarming. Victor Wynn, Professor Emeritus of Human Metabolism at London University warned 'As a scientist, I just think about how very little research there is and how few experts there are. I think it's very worrying'.

Oral contraceptives—'the pill'—are now claimed to be the most widely used form of contraception. These artificial hormones work by imitating the natural hormones present during pregnancy by preventing the ovaries from releasing ova. They are undoubtedly

Fears about the pill have been in abundance ever since its creation

the most reliable of all contraceptives provided that the woman strictly follows the prescribed schedule, usually one pill daily for three weeks followed by a week's rest during which there is a period of bleeding like a menstrual period.

Fears about the safety of the pill have been in abundance ever since its creation. People are often concerned that even if it did not have unwanted side-effects, of which there are many, the pill's main contraceptive effect in suppressing the cyclical activities of the ovary and of the pituitary gland is 'unnatural'. However, John Guilleband, in his book *The Pill*, claims that 'having menstrual cycles and periods is actually not entirely 'natural'. Biologically, suppression of the menstrual cycle for years at a time may, in fact, be a much more natural state of affairs.'

In the past, before there was effective contraception, the normal thing was for a woman to be either pregnant or breast feeding during all the child-bearing years. A doctor working in central Africa was once visited by a woman in her early

forties who was worried by bleeding. By excluding all the other possibilities, he eventually diagnosed this as a normal period. She had been anxious because she never remembered having such a thing before! John Guillard concludes: 'Far from the myth that periods are normal and necessary to 'flush out the flues', they really are not what nature intends.'



As a support for this notion, it does seem that some cancers, such as cancer of the ovary, are commoner in women who have had more rather than less natural menstrual cycles during their lives. Probably for this reason the pill seems to be protective against certain types of cancer.

The Oxford/FPA study—1983

The pill risk, although not negligible, is very small

suggests increased rates of cervical cancer with increasing duration of the pill. After more than eight years the maximum rate was 2-3 times that in non-users. However, cancer

of the cervix is really a sexually transmitted disease. It is caused either by a virus or a chemical carried by sperm to the cervix. This risk much exceeds the pill effect, even accepting the Oxford report.

The rest of the news is good. Cancer of the endometrium (the lining of the womb) was more likely to occur in women using high-oestrogen pills, but the complete opposite applies to combined pills. Research has shown a halving of the risk if the pill is taken for one year and a threefold reduction after five years.

At least nine studies report a clear-cut protective effect against cancer of the ovaries. After five years of taking the pill there is a two to threefold reduction in the risk and some protection continues among

about are not easy to detect.

Perhaps the most that can be said is that the pill is not quite so unnatural as appears at first sight.

The pill is not quite so unnatural as appears at first sight

Paradoxically, many pill critics give little thought to smoking, which is undoubtedly much more of a medical risk.

Dr Swann, of the Imperial College Health Centre, compared the additional risk taken on by pill-users with the additional risk involved in studying in London over, say, Southampton.

In conclusion, the pill risk, although not negligible, is very small, except for women who smoke, are very overweight, or have other conditions such as high blood pressure. In such cases the risks involved in taking the pill are small compared with the medical risks already present.

EPILOGUE

Not a very long time ago having sexual intercourse before marriage was widely accepted as being morally wrong. Sex in itself, in or out of marriage was rarely discussed certainly not in public.

Today contraception is as normal to the average teenager as going to school, and phrases such as 'sexual freedom' are liberally broadcast by the generation of the 60's and 70's with some degree of pride. Those who retain the old stance of 'no sex before marriage', whether their objection is on religious, moral or other grounds are labelled, at best, old-fashioned or frigid.

This situation, in itself, somewhat negates the effect of the slogan 'sexual freedom'. We are free to choose not only whether we want to have sex but also whether we don't want to. It is an important feature of our society that those who believe that the evidence against 'sexual immorality' is strong should be able to live according to their views without fear of social rejection.

Perhaps the most important criteria for happiness is self-content. If each one of us is capable of accepting first our own, and then our neighbours view-point with respect, then freedom in its true sense will be a word we can all be proud of.



Who Framed Roger Rabbit

Cert PG, Odeon Leicester Square From December 2.

Take one of the world's best producers, Steven Spielberg, and directors, Robert Zemeckis; give them 740 additional technical staff, the backing of Disney's Touchstone Pictures, and over £20 million; add a couple of the finest actors around, Bob Hoskins and Christopher Lloyd, and every Disney and Warner cartoon character imaginable.



The result is *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, as dazzling and entertaining as any other film you can name. It opens with Roger co-starring in a cartoon with Baby Herman ('I've got the sex drive of a fifty year old and the dinky of a three year old'), chasing around the unfeasibly large kitchen of a typical cartoon house. The film is spoilt by Roger's acting though, the director calls cut and a stunning transformation to the real world occurs. The effect is spectacular and a taster for the following one hundred minutes' journey around Hollywood and Toontown.

Eddie Valiant (Hoskins), a local gumshoe, is hired to obtain evidence proving the infidelity of Roger's wife Jessica ('I'm not really this bad—it's just the way I'm drawn'). He takes pictures of Jessica indulging in a game of patta-cake with Marvin Acme, a local businessman, and these are shown to Roger in the hope that it will straighten him up and improve his acting.

When Acme is found dead, Roger becomes prime suspect. Eddie

Henceforward

Who could live with a man who tape records you every time you take a pee, and styles the sounds of sex into steamy synclavier symphonies? That man is Jerome (played by Ian McKellen) the semi-successful musical innovator who's struggle out of lean times in love, life and work forms the theme of Ayckbourn's latest play.

Candidates for his partner would have to be pretty eccentric, just a

winds up trying to prove his innocence, and quickly regrets the decision. They are aided by Delores, Valiant's foolish lover, and begin a hopeless search for truth and justice. Close behind is Judge Doom (Lloyd), marvellously created as a purely evil creature and convincingly played. The scene is set, the chase is on.

The details of the plot I found not just confusing but pretty unfathomable. It all gets explained at the end, the whos and whys, and makes a strong social comment in a strangely amusing way. The film loses nothing for this complication however. It's about having fun. When Eddie reprimands Roger for showing off in public while he's supposed to be in hiding he justifies it with a line which summarises the entire move. 'It's alright, I made

little kinky or plain inhuman. The artist has to settle for the latter in the shape of NAN300F the demented domestic dalek passed on by 'the man down the hall' because his wife has long since departed their bugged boudoir, taking their only daughter, and all his inspiration, with her.

Jerome's scheming to win back daddy's favourite girl by passing off his chaotic existence as a picture of homely tranquility, with the aid of naive escort girl and aspiring actress Zoe, is funny in itself, and lays down jigsaw-cut foundations for scenes of absolute hilarity in the second act. Here we see the lawyer, the wife and child, Jerome and his new found perfect partner (!) engaged in classic Ayckbourn farce.

them laugh. It's important to have a laugh. Sometimes a laugh is the only weapon we have.' A wonderful philosophy.

Maturity is not about being serious. It's knowing when to be serious, and when to revert to childhood. I can say unashamedly, I sat in a cinema full of kids, knee-high to Roger himself mostly, and laughed with them at the funny little cartoon characters racing across the screen. The sheer technical brilliance was enough to fill me with awe and a childhood passion I've not felt for a good many years. I loved every last second.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit is going to be the blockbuster movie of the year and I can think of nobody who wouldn't enjoy it. Be sure to catch it and see what I mean.

Andrew Clarke.



'You do what like a rabbit?'

This tempting invitation to peek in at the creative artist at work could easily be siezed on as an opportunity to interpret the work as autobiographical. The artist-as-voyeur metaphor fits perfectly, of course to Ayckbourn's own craft of playwright, but is broad enough to stand for many creative disciplines.

The potential pitfalls of choosing this subject must always be self-indulgence and conceit on the part of the writer yielding a mythical master-artiste surrounded by stage-prop supporting characters, thus providing a rather crude device for focussing our attention on the central character.

Indeed McKellen might almost be the author, trapped in the middle of a maypole dance of his own cut-out characters strangely comes to life. Unusual economy of detail for these characters leaves us with a Sloane Ranger, an ageing hippy, a City slicker, a bunch of brash brats and, only moderately less human, the robot.

Thankfully Jane Asher brings abundant humanity to her role as the estranged wife, almost enough in fact to offer convincing competition to her husband's constant companion and lover; his art.

Setting the artist's 'pad' in the anarchic bedlam of a 'rough streets' district together with a disparaging reference to Kilburn draws a paranoid middle-class chortle at the 'urban jungle' cliché, but the net effect is to add harmlessly to the 'cred' of our bohemian artist. Audio-visually, however, all credit to the designers of the moody set and to Yasmin Hasmi and Paul Todd's musical backbone to the work.

In the end the sentimental shoot of a finalé springs to suddenly, sucking emotional sap from a half prepared and shallow soil. The contrast of this slow seduction and rapid climax is strangely post-ecstatic and ultimately a little unsatisfying.

To an understanding of its two themes of love and creativity the play contributes little, but it uses them to good comic effect. The result is not enlightenment, to be sure, but it is something more than the word entertainment has come to mean. In the best sense of that word *Henceforward* succeeds, like all good theatre, in striking out into the stalls insisting, with its live presence, that it involves, even moves you. So allow yourself that luxury and go and see it: the after-dinner conversation from this one will be light enough not to spoil your post-theatre Vindaloo.

(*Henceforward* by Alan Ayckbourn is at the Vaudeville Theatre, nearest tube Charing Cross)

Mac



The Seventh Sign

Although not too many footsteps behind the release of *The Last Temptation of Christ* in terms of pictures which are literally of biblical proportions, *The Seventh Sign* is much closer to *The Omen* in spirit and style.

Once again the book of Revelations has been pilfered in order to provide a modern day drama, and, as with *The Omen* it teeters between being a gripping, frightening drama and just plain silly.

The film opens within a genuine sense of forboding, as scenes of prophesies of the apocalypse become a reality are intercut with those of a woman (Demi Moore), going through the last months of her second pregnancy already having lost one child. The relevance of this becomes clear when the messenger, Jurgen Prochnow (easily the best reason for seeing the film), visits the woman and it is revealed that the seventh, and final, sign of the Apocalypse is the birth of a dead child, signifying that there are no more souls left in the Guf Hall in Heaven (silly eh?). But the fact that the film manages to keep a straight face, the production is excellent and the script, direction and



'Ryoko makes them pay'

A Taxing Woman

Cert 18, Chelsea Cinema, Kings Road.

performance are adequate, all save Jurgen Prochnow, who is very impressive, manage to keep the film eminently watchable and very tense. Until, that is, towards the end, when Hollywood sentimentality rather than the extravagance of the biblical prophecies, pushes the film over the

A Taxing Woman is a Japanese film with English subtitles which has won nine Japanese Academy Awards for its cast and director, Juzo Itami. It is his third attempt at directing, his first film being the highly acclaimed *Ososliki* (The Funeral).

The title of this latest film refers to Ryoko Itazura a diminutive but highly effective junior auditor for the Japanese tax department. The film revolves around a battle of wits between her and Hideki Gondo, the unscrupulous but likeable proprietor of several 'adult hotels'. She is unable to link Gondo to the numerous tax frauds in which he is involved, despite intense investigation.

When Ryoko is promoted to tax inspector she quickly distinguishes herself in this male dominated, high risk profession and when Gondo's ex-mistress phones the department to expose him she heads the investigation. The climax of the film involves the final raid of Gondo's premises by over one hundred dare-devil tax inspectors. The result is a brisk, well directed film with a strong screenplay which conveys the intellectual dual between the leading characters and their mutual understanding and respect.

I found it extremely enjoyable; the fact that it has subtitles should not discourage anyone from seeing it.

D Noske.



Nico

Cert 18.

Nico Toscani, an Italian-born American cop in Chicago is the unlikely hero of this action thriller. He is a Vietnam hardened martial arts expert, which naturally comes in useful during the many attempts on his life.

The complicated and quite implausible plot involves the CIA in league with drug barons, and up to no good, in central America. Nico and his partner Dolores Jackson, investigate the drugs connection using that reliable method of beating up some neanderthal man in a sleazy bar. Do they really have these bars in America?

Nico, has served with 'The Agency' before and recognises its methods. Naturally when the trial becomes hot, he is suspended from his job and, in a familiar piece of

acting, hands in his gun and badge. Nico's wife and son are threatened, so he is forced to call in the family.

They are part of the Mafia and provide a handy service in protection.

Steven Seagal co-produced this film and wrote the story, basing the main character on himself. He also rather modestly cast himself in the title role, and with that in mind, the film isn't so bad. Seagal is a 6th degree black belt in Aikado but did not want to make a martial arts film. He feels they, 'rarely have any story and continually fall back on non-stop, unrealistic action that glorifies violence'. What made him write *Nico* is unclear in the publicity notes.

I was entertained by this film despite its drawbacks. It will be popular with students—it doesn't require much intelligence to watch.

Robin Davison.



A Good Year for the Roses

Mark Timlin, Corgi, £2.99.

George Bright wants his daughter Patsy found and hires Nick Sharman to do the job. Sharman is an ex-policeman, ex-drug addict, ex-thief and frankly and ex-bent copper. He is just starting up a private detective agency, needs the money and takes the case against better judgement.

Quickly he gets tangled up in drugs again, and murder, decapitation, car chases and all the other everyday incidents of South London's gangland streets. Waterloo to Streatham, Dulwich to Tulse Hill. A trail of confusing clues, guides him, death follows and the plot stays one step ahead.

That's annoying because the book

the Supreme Court; the wife a suicidal woman, desperate to have a baby) and the film never even thinks about straying towards anything that could be considered experimental! Once again the businessmen inhibit the film makers to the detriment of the audience.

Noel Curry.

is written in the first person, so we don't know what the hell is going on either. Except that the real villain became obvious pretty early on. The big surprise ten pages from the end wasn't at all. Luckily a new character, the Arab dealer taking over the patch, tells us all about it.

This is Mark Timlin's first book, and the first of a series featuring Nick Sharman. The character isn't entirely believable, being too well educated and worldly wise, yet simultaneously too dumb to put the clues together. Not what you'd expect from a C.I.D. Officer really, ex- or not.

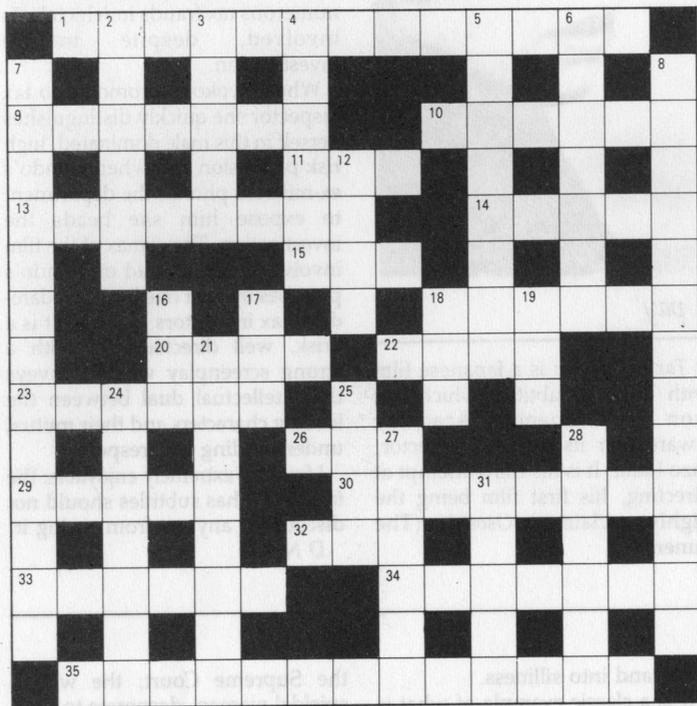
Having said that, after an erratic start it settles down well, and certainly is compelling, as the cover states. I think I'll be tempted to buy Mark Timlin's next book. This is just the thing for your next long train journey.

Andrew Clarke.

Competition

COMPITITIONCOMPITISIONCOMPETISIONCOMPETISHUNCOMPITISHUNCOMPETITION

This week's completely fabulous compitishun is an amazing crossword. The winner gets a night out with the **FELIX Editor**, Billy the Kid.



ACROSS

1. Court proceedings, plus mistake, solve a problem experimentally. (5, 3, 5)
9. Ruse I so confusedly made earnest. (7)
10. Is mule making healthy breakfast. (6)
11. Unhappy, back like five hundred. (3)
12. Having cunning is a nervous affliction for the skillful. (8)
14. Shah king could be violent. (5)
15. Slippery fish. (3)
18. Detain from inner tea. (6)
20. Hold castle. (4)
22. Got a form of Roman dress. (4)
23. Naturalist needs Northern Ireland Dust. (6)
26. Amateur broadcaster overacts? (3)
29. Jeer at model relation. (5)
30. Wise art I muddled, giving woody vine. (8)
32. Hotel in North. (3)
33. Possessors concede to queens. (6)
34. Cut short dog end. (7)
35. Monochromatically clear cut. (5, 3, 5)

DOWN

2. Try air—it's a scarcity! (6)
3. Affirms, one promises. (5)
4. Gold steam ship, for example, is antipodean. (6)
5. Increasing coarseness whilst sketching. (8)
6. He died. Wait upon it will make you see. (7)
7. Two mules and one country cause political murder. (13)
8. Princess's laurel can be ignominious. (13)
12. Singles make clean serves. (4)
16. In asking for it, one will travel over snow. (3)
17. Fixed group. (3)
18. One finds nothing to the north except a charged particle. (3)
19. Knock valve. (3)
21. Mysterious ice store? (8)
24. Lurid north, a daily confusion. (7)
25. Fine linen grass. (4)
27. Chop finely in an affected manner. (6)
28. Turn at mixed up absentee. (6)
31. Lamp from church on high ground. (5)

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MEN'S HOCKEY

6 Cheers

IC 1st XI—2

Mill Hill 1st XI—1

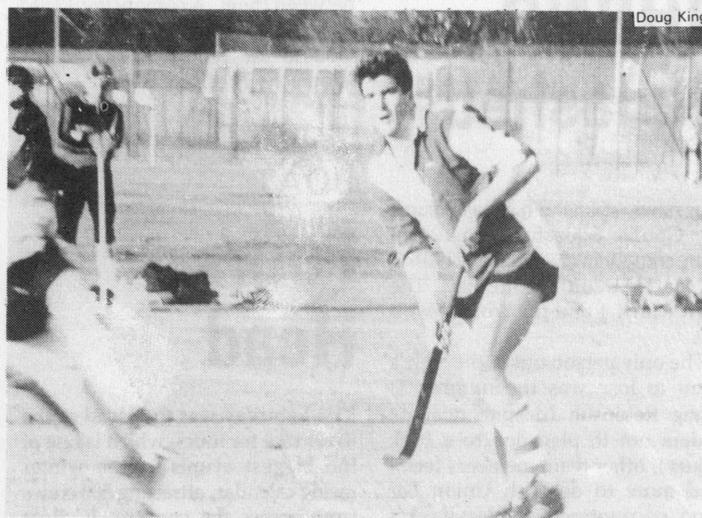
The first XI took the pitch adopting, with Mark Lewis, a 'Liberò' sweeper system. The entirely new formation consisted of a couple of players promoted from the 2nd team. From the push back, Imperial took control of the midfield with Andy Lewis and Mark Rayfield coming forward at every opportunity from defence, the game being played in Mill Hill's half. After sustained pressure, Imperial scored from a penalty short corner, through Gary Knaresborough. After several other opportunities for Paul Skipworth had gone begging, Mill Hill put the pressure back on Imperial by scoring minutes before half-time. In the second half IC played their own inimitable brand of happy hockey. Mill Hill were outclassed in every department and were unable to maintain any possession. Paul Skipworth partially redeemed himself when M Rayfield constructed an easy scoring opportunity for him. One umpire blew for full-time and captain Hari Vadadevan offered 3 cheers for the opposition. The other umpire then added some extra time and IC were forced to resume their domination. The final whistle then blew, 6 cheers for the opposition.

BADMINTON

Home win

On Wednesday we played a UAU match at home versus Kent. Men's I found it incredibly easy due to the fact that the Kent men's didn't turn up. Men's II also found it incredibly easy due to the fact that despite Kent actually producing a team they didn't provide any opposition. The ladies team had injury problems and were forced to concede most of the games and therefore the match 7-2.

This weekend we entered twelve people in the Hammersmith individuals. Everyone played well and we had a few notable successes. In the men's doubles 'Kid' Kiernick and 'Boy' Bartle having come second in their group lost to 'Grandad' Hughes and Steven Baddley (oops! I mean Mike Bradley) in the semi-finals 21-10. 'Grandad' and Mike then went on to win the final 15-5, 15-9. In the mixed 'Grandad' and 'Flo-Jo' Cohen got to the semi-finals after winning their group and lost closely to 'Captain Boo Boo' and Nisha Ghelani 21-17.

THE SPORTS PAGE

2nd XI match winner Max Michaelis

LADIES HOCKEY

UAU Success

IC 1sts—1

Kings 1sts—1

IC 1sts—3

RHBNC—1

Despite an influx of high class players, IC ladies have had a tough start to the season. In the UAU and UL League Premier Division, halfway through term, they had failed to win a game. A goal against Kings College by Meriel Jones last Saturday earned a draw and, more importantly, a boost in confidence. Wednesday brought a visit from Royal Holloway in the UAU. Always one of the strongest ladies sides in London Holloway beat IC 16-0 last year. Not surprisingly, IC entered the game with some trepidation, but also a lot of determination. From the outset IC played the more skillful team hockey. Debbie Tucker and Sam Spence soon took command of the midfield, allowing Lisa Preedy and Gail Barnett to combine well when attacking down the right. Aggressive stopping and tackling by Captain Alison Seward ensured that IC played much of the game inside the Holloway '25'. Di Thomas finally provided the much deserved breakthrough with a determined individual run and shot before half-time. In the second half Emma Pownell had to hold the defence firm against a renewed Holloway attack before Alison Seward put the game safe by getting on the end of a Gail Barnett cross. Di Thomas' second goal, made sure that Holloway's late penalty flick goal did not endanger IC's win.

KARATE

Wazari

On Saturday November 19, the Club competed in the Eighteenth Portsmouth Invitation Karate Tournament and won a large number of medals and trophies against tough opposition from clubs all over Southern England despite the absence of Maiken Engelstad (3rd dan), the winner of last year's Ladies Kata Competition.

In the Men's Individual Kata, Paul Potter came a respectable 5th, but any disappointment at not reaching the finals must have vanished when he was later part of the 3 man team which won the Team Kata with a brilliant performance of 'Empi'. The synchronisation of the Kata movements of our team surpassed that of any of the others.

In the final of the Ladies 10th to 4th Kyu Kumite (fighting), Sari Lindberg completely outclassed her opponent in the final, quickly scoring an 'uppon' with her 'Jodan Mowashi-Geri' (kick to the head) to win. There were also placings in some of the other events. Kate Taylor came second in the Brown/Black Belt Ladies Individual Kata and joint third in the Kumite. Andy Kerley was runner-up in the 10th to 4th Kyu Mens Kumite losing the final by a 'wazari' in a fight which went the distance, and the Mens Kumite Team were narrowly defeated in the semi-final of their category, losing by 3 wins to 2 despite looking set to win when 2-0 up at one stage.

SAILING

Match Report

Sunday morning saw IC sailing team battling the elements in an attempt to reach Queen Mary reservoir for a match against the City University.

On arrival at the reservoir we discovered that there was quite a breeze blowing, and 2 intrepid members of the IC team ventured onto the water to test the conditions. After a few minor setbacks the two teams were afloat and the serious competition began. Some IC sailors were slow to pick up the new techniques needed to sail the strange boats, resulting in some spectacular acrobatics. However, we put up a good fight and by the end of the day the teams were roughly level.

All in all, an enjoyable (if wet) time was had by all.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Third Class

IC 3rd XI—2

RHBNC 3rd XI—0

IC 3rd XI—7

Bracknell 3A—1

Wednesday saw the 3rd XI's second taste of UAU success with an impressive win over the supposedly strongest opposition in the division. Although the ball was continuously in the opposition half as IC piled on the pressure, this pressure was unrewarded as the opposition goalkeeper pulled off some good saves. Ten minutes into the second half IC spirits were raised when a short corner was awarded and Martin Grafer made no mistake with a fierce drive to end RHBNC's stubborn resistance. As the light faded good work by Hansaan Majid was rewarded when he struck from close range to make it 2-0 and shortly afterwards he came close to making it 3-0.

A much depleted 3rd XI side made it four wins in a row with a spectacular win over some genuinely good opposition. Indeed, early on the opposition looked extremely dangerous and goalkeeper Robert Hunwick had to do some good work. However, a fine individual goal from Steven Burton and good, solid defensive work to thwart their efforts seemed to break the opposition team and the floodgates opened. Two more goals from Steven Burton and one from Vijay Thakur made it 4-0 at half-time and by full-time Steven Burton had scored 5 goals and Vijay Thakur 2, to complete an amazing afternoon.

Photos by Doug King



Nigel Collier battles against tough opposition.



Simon Smith is stopped just short of the line.

SQUASH

RHBNC Squashed

Our newly sponsored squash teams (by Goudie Squash International) won convincingly against RHBNC in the UAU on Wednesday. The men won 4-1 and the women won 5-0.

The only person out of the men's team to lose was the number 1, Craig Robinson (despite doctor's orders not to play due to a back injury), other team members feel it had more to do with Union Bar food, encountered after last week's match. Ming Tan (2) won convincingly 3-0 against a stropy opponent who encountered firm refereeing from Lewis Lenssen. Lewis himself (5) won with embarrassing ease. Club captain Ian Mercer (4) foxtrotted his opponent to a simple 3-0 victory whilst Rustom Khumbatta played very nicely and won 3-0.

For a change, the ladies had a leisurely 'Sunday Afternoon' match

against a team who looked like they had that 'Sunday Morning' feeling. The ladies lost only 12 points between them. A convincing 135 to 12 points victory. Obviously the nice Goudie kit put their opponents (stomachs ?) off.

BOAT

Fours Head

Last Saturday was the Head of the River race for fours, which is one of the biggest events in the winter racing calendar, attracting 500 crews from across the country. IC Boat Club had a large entry this year with 12 crews competing at all levels from novice to elite. The results speak for themselves—IC was the only club to win three pennants—the novice coxed, the Sen II coxed and Sen I coxless fours. The overall results were excellent both by the winning crews and the others who narrowly missed out in their divisions. Hopefully, this is a pointer to a successful season.



Pete Galley on the rampage at LSE.



IC's Nigel Collier creates trouble for the LSE defence.

Gutter Brothers

After the excitement of Rag Week dies down, what else is there to entertain you around College?

Hopefully, by now, you'll have seen the publicity around for *The Gutter Brothers*. If not, then let me say that they're playing tonight (Friday 25th November) in the Union Lounge. Not only that, but there's a disco and a bar extension till 12.

The band are based in London and play excellent R&B skiffle music (this includes the washboards). They are, at present, riding high after completing a very successful tour of the States, and after numerous appearances on *Night Network* and other TV slots.

They are one of the best live bands around and absolutely not to be missed.

Doors open at 9pm tonight and you can get tickets in advance for £1.50 from the Union Office or the Union Snack Bar, or on the door for a mere £2. Ents card holders pay just £1.

GRADUATES

Research for Tomorrow's Generation

At the CEGB, we believe our industry is vital to the community; to this end we are seeking high calibre graduates and post-graduates with motivation and commitment, who would be keen to make a contribution to the future of electricity. We have a number of exciting opportunities to join our research Laboratories in Surrey, Hampshire and Gloucester, in any of the following areas:

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- Mechanical and Chemical Engineering
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Statistics
- Metallurgy and Material Science
- Chemistry
- Life Sciences

In addition there are a number of Research Studentships leading to the award of a PhD.

Competitive salaries and other large company benefits are offered, including relocation assistance where appropriate.

Interviews will be held in a London hotel from 3-6 January 1989. If you are interested please telephone Irene McDermott Brown on 01-634 7220 for an application form or write to her at **Courtenay House, 18 Warwick Lane, London EC4P 4EB**, quoting reference FE/1/88. The closing date for applications is 5 December 1988.



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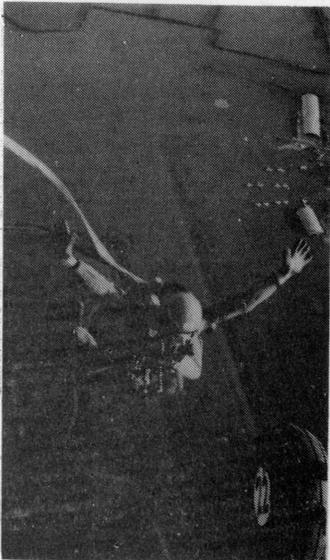
Parachuting

Drop out

'1000, 2000, 3000, 4000. Check Canopy!' That's right the immortal phrase of first time parachutists, a phrase that nearly all of the 35 students that did the course forgot! Well wouldn't you forget when balanced on your right cheek in the doorway of a plane with only your socks and the soles of your boots between you and the ground 2,000 feet below.

Despite this slight amnesia everybody's parachute opened perfectly as they nearly always do using the static line system that opens the parachute automatically for you. Once out of the plane and with your canopy fully inflated you have a good two minutes of floating gently down, admiring the scenery, being directed by radio to the landing spot and generally relaxing. It's an excellent feeling!

Everybody managed to reach the ground. The odd one managed to land in a tree (didn't you Simon) of which there are only two in the land area of 45 acres!! Two other people couldn't be bothered to walk the 800 metres from the landing field back to the hangars, so they landed a bit closer. One of them guided their parachute neatly between two rows of parked aircraft! The other landed in the spectators paddock.



Parachuting is an excellent sport. The initial outlay is quite a lot at £65 but this includes all the training and the first jump. Subsequent jumps are only £12 and student members of the club receive a subsidy on this.

If you're interested in doing a jump, contact Wendy McInerney, Chem Eng 4, Helen Richardson, Chem Eng 4, or come along and see them in the UDH any Monday at 12.30pm.

Filmsoc

'Nam

Full Metal Jacket is next Thursday's Filmsoc presentation. Directed by Stanley Kubrik, who gave us the classic *2001*, it has been critically acclaimed as the best war movie ever made. The story comes in two distinct halves, firstly the training, the bit of the film which spawned the unlikely hit single *I Want to be Your Drill Instructor*. And secondly, the actual Vietnam war action, shot in a former gas works in London. It is disturbing, even frightening in its realism and quite unlike any war film I've seen before, a remarkable film you won't easily forget. Details are in What's On.

CSO

Sibelius

Jean Sibelius was born in a small town in Finland and hence became a world famous rally driver. He is perhaps best remembered for his ability to compose music whilst driving. Many of his greatest works were written whilst competing, including 'Karelia Suite', written on a special stage of the RAC rally, and perhaps his most famous work, *Finlandia* composed whilst competing, successfully in the One Thousand Lakes Tour of Finland.

Tonight, at 8pm in the Great Hall, Imperial College Symphony Orchestra will perform Sibelius' Violin Concerto, arguably the most difficult in the repertoire (composed during the most difficult rally, Paris-Dakar). The soloist is Geoffrey Silver, former leader of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and a second year maths student at IC. Geoffrey has never competed in a rally, although, he was born in Carshalton, Surrey.

Also on tonight's programme are Elgar's *Symphony in A Flat* and Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*.

Tickets are £2.50, £1.50 (students) and £1.00 (in advance) and are available from Orchestra members or the Haldane Library.

Kung Fu Club

Boxing Day

Wu Shu Kwan, the style practised by the Imperial College Kung Fu Club, is an extremely practical and formidable street fighting technique. The Wu Shu Kwan Chinese Boxing Association, which has branches all

over the world, has organised a Freestyle Full-Contact Championship in which senior practitioners of the style fight one on one. The actual fighting technique is very similar to Thai Boxing, combining normal boxing punches with kicking. The result is a fast and furious fight which is exciting to watch.

The tournament is to be held in Surbiton, Surrey, on Sunday December 11 at 2.00pm. Seats cost £6 (a subsidy may be available), and if there is enough interest a minibus will be organised. For further information, please contact Steve Murray (Mech Eng 2), Ali Abidi (Elec Eng 2) or Warren Won (Elec Eng 3).

WIST

Women

There will be a meeting of WIST on Wednesday December 7 at 12.45pm in Huxley 139. Valerie Mainstone of Women Against Sexual Harassment has kindly agreed to speak at the meeting. WASH is a voluntary organisation set up to offer advice and information on sexual harassment. Its aim is to develop legal strategies, promote training programmes and generally to increase awareness of the effects and implications of sexual harassment. Members of WASH work in the law, equal opportunities, and counselling fields.

DRAMSoc

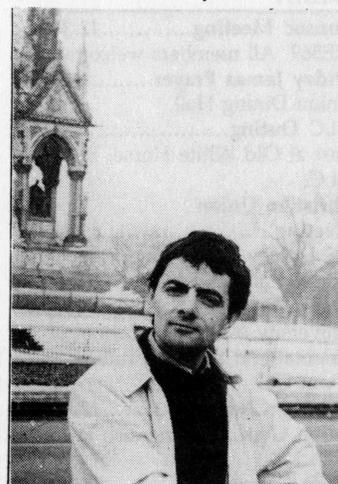
Nerds

Have you ever had the unfortunate experience of someone inflicting themselves upon you? Have you ever been subjected to a being's presence which is so annoying that visions of hari kari flow through your mind constantly? Have you ever had someone wreck your life so thoroughly that you thought the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse had been embodied in one man and had come to live with you?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then you have at some point been in contact with... a nerd.

The Nerd by Larry Shue, was first performed in the West End by Rowan Atkinson in the title role. The show received rave reviews and was awarded 'Best Comedy of the Year' and 'Best Comedy Performance of the Year' in the Laurence Olivier awards in 1984. It packed out the theatre for a year.

Dramsoc is proud to announce that this hilarious, sidesplitting, uproarious, bladder-bursting (and other adjectives too numerous to mention) show is the first production of the year. It can be



seen in the Concert Hall at 7.30pm from Tuesday December 6 to Saturday December 10 at the incredible, value for money prices of:

Tuesday-Thursday £1.50 (concessions) and £2.00 (others)
Friday & Saturday £2.00 and £2.50.

Amnesty International

The Prisoner

General Pinochet rose to power, due to the military coup on September 11 1973. Since then there have been 680 documented cases of 'disappearance' in Chile. Although the true total may never be known. Most of these 'disappearances' means that people are abducted by government agents, then any knowledge of arrest or detention is denied.

There have been many testimonies by former prisoners, but the discovery of the bodies of 52 'disappeared' in 1978 provided irrefutable evidence that government agents had arrested and murdered these victims. In 1987 Judge Carlos Cerda Fernandez brought charges against 38 members of the Armed Forces. Even so many cases are left unresolved.

Amnesty International's two year campaign about the 'disappeared' hopes to raise public awareness and to inform people of the ongoing violations of human rights in Chile. As part of this campaign there will be a showing of a video entitled 'No Olvidar' on November 29 at 5.30pm, in the Brown Committee Room. The video looks at one particular family, 5 members of which disappeared in 1973. If anyone would like any further information contact Chris Pote, Chem Eng 2.

What's On

What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

FRIDAY

Consoc Meeting.....12.30pm
ME569. All members welcome.

Friday Jamaa Prayer.....1.00pm
Union Dining Hall.

GLC Outing.....???.??
Cast at Old White Horse. See GLC.

Christian Union Meeting.....5.30pm
308 Huxley. Time for prayer, worship and discussion.

Poetry Readings.....6.30pm
University of London School of Oriental and African Studies Room G57.

Fencing Club.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock.

ICSO Concert.....8.00pm
Great Hall. Elgar, Sibelius and the music from the Maxell ad.

Ents Event.....9.00pm
Union Lounge. 'The Gutter Brothers' plus disco and bar extension for details. Tickets £2.

SATURDAY

Karate.....10.00am
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.

IC Kung Fu.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.

Real Ale Soc Trip.....6.00pm
White Horse, Parsons Green, SW6. Meet at South Ken or at the pub.

SUNDAY

Sunday Service.....10.30am
King's College (Kensington), Camden Hill Road. See West London Chaplaincy.

GLC Outing.....???.??
Stockcar racing. See GLC.

Sunday Mass.....11.00am
West London Catholic Chaplaincy, More House, 53 Cromwell Road. Also at 6pm (followed by bar supper). All welcome.

Wargames.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room. All Welcome.

Kung Fu.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

MONDAY

Artsoc Meeting.....12.30pm
SCR (above Union Snack Bar). Come along and sign up for shows. Free to members (membership £2.50).

Rock Soc Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come along and have a good time.

Karate.....7.00pm
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.

Beginners Ballroom.....6.00pm
JCR. 80p.

IC Concert Band Rehearsal.....5.45pm
Great Hall. All players please.

Beginners Rock 'n' Roll.....6.45pm
UDH. 80p.

Advanced Ballroom.....7.00pm
JCR. 80p.

Latin American Dance Class.....8.00pm
UDH. Cha, Samba, Rumba, etc. 80p

Wellsoc Speaker Meeting.....9.00pm
Professor Heinz Wolf. (No venue supplied—FELIX.)

TUESDAY

Boardsailing Club.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.

Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.

Roman Catholic Mass.....12.40pm
702. Mass followed by lunch. 50p.

Ski Club Meeting.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want to try racing? Come and find out more.

3rd World First.....1.00pm
4th Floor, Env Tech, 38 Prince's Gardens.

Beatles Hour.....1.00pm
For all the best Beatle and Beatle-related material on Cd with Spenser Lane.

Lunch-Hour Programme.....1.15pm
Read Theatre, Sheffield Building. A lecture by A Kennaway of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Expedition Presentation.....1.15pm
Mech Eng Lecture Theatre 342. The Baltistan Energy Survey Expedition.

Amnesty Meeting.....5.30pm
Brown Committee Room (top floor Union Building).

Meditative Prayer.....5.45pm
Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. Come and join us for some peace and quiet. See West London Chaplaincy.

Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym. All grades. No more complete beginners.

Latin American Society Films.....7.00pm
Mech Eng 220. 'Kiss of a Spiderwoman'. Members 50p, others £1.50.

Karate.....7.00pm
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.

Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm
JCR. 80p.

Caving Club Meeting.....7.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone interested should come along.

Beginners Ballroom.....8.00pm
JCR. 80p.

Mountaineering Club Meeting.....9.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Beginners always welcome.

WEDNESDAY

Building Blocks.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 702. A course in Christian Education run by West London Chaplaincies. Everybody welcome. Lunch provided for only 75p.

Caving Club Meeting.....1.00pm

Hamsoc Meeting.....1.15pm
Third Floor of Union Building. Amateur Radio Society regular weekly meeting.

Ski Lessons.....2.00pm
Meet Southside Lounge. Come to Tuesday's meeting to book a place. Bring gloves and thick socks.

Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll Class.....2.15pm
UDH. 80p.

Jazz Dance Class.....3.15pm
UDH. 80p.

Karate.....3.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.

Open Circle Study.....4.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.

Orienteering Training.....6.15pm
Union Gym.

Kung Fu.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.

Basic Christianity.....6.30pm
Senior Common Room, 7th Floor. A meeting held by University Christian Outreach examining the life and claims of Jesus.

THURSDAY

Fencing Club.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock

ICYHA Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone welcome.

Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records, tapes etc.

Ski Club.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge.

Methsoc Meeting.....1.00pm
Venue to be announced. 'Alcoholism—causes and cures'—A speaker from the Salvation Army.

Debating Society.....1.00pm
Room 341 Maths (Huxley).

Lunch-Hour Concert.....1.30pm
Read Theatre, Sheffield Building. Maggini-Bochmann string quartet.

Arabic Lessons.....1.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.

Prayer Meeting.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. All Christians in

College are welcome to come and pray for the work of Christians in College.

Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym. No more beginners.

Filmsoc Film.....7.00pm
Mech Eng 220. 'Full Metal Jacket'. 50p members, £1 others.

Soup Run.....9.15pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).

Smallads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Jazz & Rock Club Hop**—Thursday 1st December in the Union Lounge. Doors open 7.30pm. £1.50 cover charge.

● **Real Ale Society Meeting**—Thursday 1st December, 7.30 in Union Crush Bar featuring Ringwood Old Thumper, King and Barnes Old Ale and Golden Hill Exmoor Ale.

● **Brewery Trip**—Wednesday 30th Nov to Tolly Cobbold in Ipswich. Meet at Beit Arch at 4.30pm.

● **Wine Tasting**—Strewth! It's Ausie wines and 16 of them too. That's 8 seen and 8 blind. One in the eye for alcohol awareness week.

● **Pimlico Connection Society**—Ice skating trip on Thursday 1st Dec, Meet 7.30 Union Bar. £3.50.

● **Bar Staff** required for lunches in Holland Club. Ring 3902 (Niel Mason).

ACCOMMODATION

● **Male UG** needed for double room in flat of 5 in West Hampstead. £42 p/w—rebate. Ring 328 6994.

● **Position** in double room in Hamlet Gardens needs to be filled by male UG. Contact Roger Sayle. Comp Sci 2.

FOR SALE

● **BMW 2002**—Excellent condition, low mileage, alloys, £950 ono. Masoud Mansouri, Linstead Hall, Room 327. Phone 589 5111 ext 9480, or Comp Sci pigeonholes.

● **Amstrad CP6128** word processor, 128k memory, disk drive, systems software, hardly used. £200. Contact Masoud Mansouri, Linstead Hall, Room 327. Phone 589 5111 ext 9480.

PERSONAL

● **Wanted:** Intelligent women with nice credentials and interesting microstructure. Contact Stephen!!

● **Cheap cycle locks** can't now be bought from Sheffield Security. These locks are American made, and so their guarantee is not valid here. It is much better to buy a British lock from a cycle shop which will also include a cycle bracket.



On a biting cold night when even the fog froze in the air and the moon hid itself behind the clouds, the poor wide-eyed waif stood shivering outside a tall imposing dance hall waiting for the crowds to come out. In the eerie yellow light of the street lamps the majestic buildings of Vienna cast dark forbidding shadows under which the ghosts of the past sang a sad song of decadence.

She longed for warmth. A coal fire burning in a small cosy room where she could sip her hot tea and read a book in her comfortable and inviting bed, or even the warmth of fumbling men desperately wanting to make love to her in their sweat stained shirts and their dripping saliva smelling of alcohol. The former was a dream, the latter remained the reality, and her way to survive. But everyone needs warmth, just like human beings need water to keep themselves alive, money to survive and love to retain their sanity. Did it really matter then how one got these things?

What is right and wrong when it is a question of honour and disgrace? When one is cold one does not think about such dilemmas. One just does not think. The mind goes numb and the body tells you what to do. The body does not know right from wrong.

The vast doors to the dance halls opened and extravagantly dressed people poured out laughing and singing. She tried to recognise those mens' faces among the herd whom she had been with and to see if they had a woman by their side. If she was ugly and stout then she was probably their wife (the thought was comforting), otherwise a whore. If a whore, then why not her instead. Was she growing old? Oh that is frightening indeed!

Her clientele was varied and quite colourful. She always asked the men about themselves. Some did not want to talk but there were others who wished to talk more than anything else. There were the fresh-faced soldiers in their woollen hats and green uniforms who behind their masquerades of tough young men were mere adolescents wanting to see what life is really like before they were slaughtered in the carnage on the battlefield; then there were the upper middle class men who had wives and children, but their lives were too uneventful and seeking this forbidden pleasure they found the excitement of little boys stealing apples in an orchard. Occasionally pretty faced boys came up to her, blushing with embarrassment, trembling with fear and lust, and not knowing what to say. She felt sorry for them because they had undoubtedly been pestered and dared by their friends to lose their virginity. She made a very good listener and showed her understanding in the conventional expressions of sympathy.

Maria was born in a large family of eight brothers and sisters. Their's was a dingy and morbid house, overcrowded, disorganised and above this sad existence prevailed an overpowering stench of human faeces. Her father had sent her away at the age of nine to work in rich peoples' houses, wash the dishes, wipe the floors and entertain the children. There was nothing her mother could have done to let her stay, she did not have the will. Her masters were not always nice to her, the pay was low and all she got to eat were the leftovers. At the age of fourteen a friend of her persuaded her to run away to a more promising life. She ended up on the streets of Vienna selling her body to anyone who cared. She and countless other women like her were the indispensable Pariahs of the society. Condemned and damned, they were nevertheless gears in the machinery and, ironically, very human too. She often had the money to buy a new dress, she even had the memory of the whispered words of love in her ear by so many men. But her's was a false world; a world that had been pronounced morally wrong by priests and law-givers whose hypocrisy and corrupt values were never questioned. She could not find solace in religion. Her parents had been religious but that had not given her any comfort. The men who called on her went to Church on Sundays but did that make them better human beings? Neither did she have a lover, somebody with whom she could talk to and snuggle up to on cold evenings.

Maria did not have many friends. In a way that was not her choice. But she never mixed with her fellow women who often got together and gossiped and laughed about their latest exploits. They used to sit around a table in their favourite cafe and the eldest mistress would take the conversation in her own hands. She would then move from person to person asking intimate questions, gently poking for details, taunting if the bespoken girl was young and at the end of each interview summing up her contorted version of the hapless girl's life. That is when everybody broke into empty laughter which was nervous and too loud. Maria could not stand these social occasions, she found them an unbearable stress on her being.

Every day in her life was the same, or worse. She used to wake up with the taste of sleep in her mouth and looked outside the windows to find people buying vegetables in the makeshift market. In the vast infinitum of time which was her life, she could only remember the sounds above the grey monotony of her existence: the sounds of mules unloading their burden in the cobbled street, raindrops falling on her window pane, the heavy panting of her lovers, and her stifled sobs. She often took long walks along the Danube, watching all the young couples go by holding hands and the mist rising from the swirling waters into the heaven above. Days passed like this and turned into years which marked her face, but her life remained the same, unchanging and joyless.

Emile Nizan, *Elec Eng 2*
London 1988.

Dear Readers,
FELIX shall be bringing out a new arts column entitled 'ON THE TUBE' very soon. I shall give you a full low-down next week but it suffices to say here that we shall include features, stories, opinions etc.

So watch this space.....

AUT action

Continued from front page

increase,' adding that 'Universities DO HAVE some resources to make a reasonable offer.'

'They say they can't afford much but propose to offer even less,' said AUT General Secretary, Diana Warwick, speaking on the AUP's refusal to make a pay offer.

The IC branch of the AUT was unable to comment on the issue yesterday, since the union's committee had not met to discuss the issue for release to the press. The union is holding a meeting next Thursday, at which IC Union President, Nigel Baker is to speak for the Students' Union.

Mr Baker now plans to take a motion to the Students' Union General Meeting next Tuesday, to gain an official policy on the dispute.

S. Africa debate

IC Debating Society presented the first of two speeches on 'The Future for South Africa' yesterday.

During the presentation Cedric Mayson, representing the African National Congress, described his vision of a non-racial future which he believes will occur in his lifetime.

Mr Mayson became a 'banned person' in his country for his friendship with ANC members. He was charged with High Treason in 1983 and now lives in exile.

He believes 80% of South Africans want to live in a united and democratic society and claims Apartheid is maintained for an economic advantage by the white community, and not because of any racial dogma.

He answered questions on the Freedom of Charter of 1955, the policy document held by all anti-apartheid organisations. Mr Mayson stated that many of the opinions held by Britains were the result of unconscious racism, particularly the lack of support for sanctions against South Africa.

Jan Castlyn from the South African Embassy will address the same question next week.

This week's ceiling collapse

A ceiling collapsed in Evelyn Gardens' Southwell House early this week.

The occupant of the room was in the bathroom when a five foot square section of ceiling fell in. This is the second such incident within the space of a month.

Southwell House Warden Ken Young commented; 'It's only a matter of time before someone is injured'.

Managing Surveyor of Residences Peter Hallworth insisted that there was no danger to students living in Evelyn Gardens. He said that the ceilings frequently collapsed when students used showers without drawing the curtains or filled baths to the rim before getting in. Mr Hallworth went on to say that there were no plans to reappraise the

safety of the ceilings in Evelyn Gardens.

'There is no problem with the buildings' he said.

Southwell House Warden, Ken Young, told FELIX 'I think it's about time it was given less flippant consideration'. He pointed out that previous ceiling collapses were not the result of dampness and explained that the buildings 'should be sound enough' to cope with leaking baths and showers.

Mr Hallworth now intends to replace the shower curtains by sealing doors, but says he can do nothing about the problems which arise when baths overflow.

'The reason for the problem is the abuse of facilities' he said, 'if students don't abuse the facilities they have no need to worry'.

RCS forged cards fiasco

Five members of RCS Union were caught with forged Union cards during a failed Mascotry attempt at a Royal School of Mines Union General Meeting on Monday lunchtime. The IC Union executive will be meeting on Tuesday to decide what action to take over the forgeries.

The UGM was gate crashed by nine members of the RCS who posed as Mining students in an attempt to steal the Mines Mascot, Davy. The students were recognised as not belonging to the RSM and were detained whilst the Mines mascot was carried to safety. Five of the students were found to be carrying forged Union Cards.

RCS Vice President, Dave Williams told FELIX that the forged cards had been photocopied on a

colour photocopier, but a spokesman from FELIX commented that the cards could only have been printed in the Union Print Unit.

Mr Williams is critical of the way IC Union has reacted to the incident. 'We've shown how ridiculous their security system is and they are just trying to discredit us for their own fallibility' he said.

He is particularly critical of Union President, Nigel Baker, who, he says 'is taking a very strong holier than thou attitude considering what he got up to when he was Rag Chairman'.

The Union are currently investigating a move to print personalised Union cards. The cards will be labelled with the bar codes currently used by the library system and will double as library tickets.

London Student editor goes

The Editor of 'London Student' (LS) newspaper resigned last week after the Editorial Board 'expressed disgust about her performance', according to an LS spokesman yesterday.

The Board felt that the editorship of the newspaper should be questioned before a forum but Editor Jane Headon resigned before

the University of London Union General Meeting on Wednesday night. A statement was issued in the last edition of LS which claimed that Miss Headon had resigned in order to 'continue her career as a freelance journalist.'

The new Editor, Justin Simler, refused to comment on the change.

IndSoc weakens Rag

This year's Rag Week has raised over £7500, according to Rag Chairman, Fiona Nicholas. The figure is considerably less than last year's total of £10,500.

Miss Nicholas said that the main reason for the fall was the Careers Fair's clash with Rag Week, for which a £500 compensation fee is to be paid to Rag. She also blamed the loss of Chas Brereton's Piano Marathon this year. In the past, Mr Brereton's 24 hour Piano Marathon has raised over £1500 for charity during Rag Week.

And finally...

There were red faces all around when QT Society arranged for the Rector's house to be put up for sale. An advertisement was placed in The Times and Evening Standard last week offering the residence for £5m. Deputy President Chas Brereton's phone number was given as the contact number. Mr Brereton told FELIX that he had had several interesting offers. The Rector was unavailable for comment.

SUBWARDEN

Applications are invited for the position of Subwarden of Garden Hall, a hall with 87 male residents situated in Princes Gardens.

The Subwarden's duties are to assist the Warden in the day-to-day running of the hall and in disciplinary and social matters. Any member of the College who expects to be at the College for a further two or more years is welcome to apply. Candidates should be sociable, mature, responsible and resourceful. The successful applicant will be provided with free accommodation suitable for a single person.

Application forms are available from the Accommodation Office and should be sent to:

Dr Simon Walker

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Further information can be obtained from Dr Simon Walker (int 3666 or 6247) or Dr Ian Metcalfe (int 4323 or 3634). You are strongly urged to make informal contact with either of the above before submitting an application.

The closing date for applications is 2nd December 1988.