



# Felix

THE NEWSLETTER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

## What a Whoppa

The Mechanical Engineering Department have begun work on a very large candle. The candle is to be burned next to the Albert Memorial on December 10 in a televised event designed to raise money for the British Epilepsy Association.

When complete, the candle will be 10 metres tall with a diameter of 1 metre. Seven tonnes of wax are being used in the candle, which it is estimated, could burn for a month. The wax is being supplied, free of charge, by Mobil Oil whilst Thames Water Authority have donated the pipe which forms the mould. The wick, a ships mooring rope, is being donated by a shipping company in Bristol. The stress and heat calculations for the candle have been carried out by Dr Sean Crofton of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

It is hoped that celebrity Terry Wogan will attend the candle

lighting ceremony in Hyde Park, the event being broadcast in the TV programme 'Motormouth'. After the ceremony, the candle will be slung beneath a Chinook helicopter and flown to the continent where it will be used in other fund raising events.

Work on the candle was temporarily halted yesterday when technicians were unable to retrieve the wick from within the mould. The wick was eventually extracted with the aid of a long hook and a scaffolding tower. A tanker of hot wax was poured into the candle mould behind the Mechanical Engineering Building yesterday afternoon. The wax will take a week to solidify and shrink before the mould can be removed.

Candlemaker, David Constable commented 'I've never made one this big before; the biggest one prior to this was 20ft tall with an 8 inch diameter'. Mr Constable is 92.

## Mum's the word!



Doug King

Queen Mother photographed outside the RCM on Tuesday

## Refectories lose £22k shock

College refectories have made a trading deficit of £22,000 over the past financial year, it was revealed at the House Committee last Wednesday. The loss compares with a gross profit of £73,000 for the preceding year. When asked how the deficit had arisen Rob Northey, Refectories Manager, was unable to comment. 'If I knew, I wouldn't have a problem', he told FELIX.

The Catering and Conference Services Management Committee appears to be attributing the loss to rising salaries. Operating costs, however, have fallen due to the closure of the Main Dining Hall for

refurbishment. Although income was up by 6% from last year, the cost of food sold rose by 16%, resulting in a 5.8% decrease in gross profit.

Over the past six months there has been extensive alteration of refectory outlets, and the creation of new ones, such as the Kebab Bar on Southside. In the light of the accounts for last year it is likely that the contribution to the Refectory Capital Programme for the refurbishments will be of the order of £20,000 rather than the forecast of £157,000. This will inevitably prompt a complete re-scheduling of

the repayments. Catering proved to be the main source of deficit with a loss of £70,000 as against a £35,000 profit last year. This is again a result of the rising cost of salaries, despite an increase in turnover. The Southside Shop also reported a reduction in takings and profits compared with last year.

Bars throughout College made a 4% profit, but again this is less than last year, and not significant compared with overall figures. The first glimpse of optimism comes with the accounts for the cellars. These are able to report a profit of

30% compared to a previous 9%. Unfortunately they were incorrectly budgeted for a 53% profit, the cost of sales having been underestimated.

Mr Northey claims not to have seen or had any information about the accounts before Wednesday's Committee meeting, and is unable to take any action until the figures have been fully audited and agreed by the Catering and Conferences Committee. His only comment on the situation at present was 'I know nothing. I see nothing.'

## As the world falls down

Dear FELIX,

On the news item 'ceiling collapse' of the last issue, Mr Peter Hallworth, the Managing Surveyor of Residences, said that there was no danger to students living in Evelyn Gardens. He also pointed out that there was no plan to re-appraise the safety of the ceiling although the ceiling had quite frequently collapsed.

I could not understand whether Mr Hallworth's comment on safety was based on his professional judgement or his own commonsense. It is ridiculous to think that a collapse of a five foot square section of ceiling causes no danger to the students of Evelyn Gardens. My commonsense tells me that a 2 inch thick piece of concrete of 5' by 5' is heavy enough to kill.

If the occupant had been injured or killed, who would have been liable for damages? The College, the Warden or Mr Hallworth himself?

I really want to know what would be Mr Hallworth's feeling if the collapse had happened in his bedroom.

And finally, thank God I am still alive.

Yours,

A. Li, *The Occupant, Evelyn Gardens.*

## Bloody flipping burgers

Dear Bill,

How many ecologically aware budding scientists and engineers take their burgers and drinks from QT in ozone unfriendly polystyrene containers?

Only by consumer actions (ie drinking out of cans or cartons or taking burgers wrapped in paper) will manufacturers realise that these products are undesirable and seek to replace them.

If we start at IC and get our house in order then perhaps we can stop people perpetuating the reputation of scientists and engineers as people who are uncaring about the environment.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Francis

Sentiment supported by Frank Dean and Colin Boxall.

## Student loan apathy

Dear Editor,

We the undersigned write in disgust at the apathetic attitude of IC students with regard to the Government's plan to introduce Student Loans.

Thousands of students from all over the

country marched to demonstrate against loans on Thursday 24th November, however, only a handful of IC students were present. Why is it if people from as far afield as Dundee can make the effort to march that IC students cannot even manage a quick tube ride across London.

It was particularly disappointing to note the absence of any members of the Union Exec, perhaps if the President had considered the demonstration important enough to attend more students would have followed his example.

Those of us that did go on the march shouted 'Baker Out!'—the question is which 'Baker' were we referring to??

Incidentally, none of us are members of the Socialist Workers Party.

Yours sincerely,

S Owen, *Life Sci 3*

L Kenton, *Life Sci 3*

N Bolton, *Life Sci 3*

R Isaacs, *Life Sci 3*

F Marsh, *Life Sci 3*

W J Edmunds, *Life Sci 3*

T A Dighton, *Life Sci 3*

N Martinez Alier, *Life Sci 4*

H Roberts, *Life Sci 3*

C Zachary, *Life Sci 3*

## South Africa no platform

Dear Bill,

I am writing to you to protest about the staging of a debate with a speaker from the South African Embassy at Imperial College.

There can be few other institutions that are prepared to lend legitimacy to an oppressive and unjust regime by saying that it has a valid defence to be heard and debated.

I would hope that rather than sitting back and condemning the apathy of everyone else something can be done to prevent what can only otherwise be seen as Imperial's support for the South African regime.

Yours etc.

Alistair Goodall, DoC.

## President slammed

Dear Bill,

The President of ICU, the Hon Nigel Baker, stated at the UGM on 29.11.88 that he needed a further 1½ weeks to formulate a paper to be circulated about the introduction of student loans, before the EGM on 8.12.88. He said that people need to know the 'facts' about what is happening and not have their judgement on hearsay and on the media. Less than a minute later he condemned the march on Parliament based on what he had heard. Does our President know what he is talking about?

S Essery, *Life Science 2.*

## George Ingle Finch

Dear Bill,

Might I ask through your letters column for help in getting back one of the life-size photographs used for the Merger exhibition outside the Great Hall last month?

The photograph is of George Ingle Finch, Professor of Applied Physical Chemistry here, who was on the College staff from 1919 to 1952. He founded the College Mountaineering Club and pioneered the use of oxygen in mountaineering as a member of Mallory's 1922 Everest expedition. The photograph shows him in walking clothes and carrying a long walking staff.

As such photographs are very expensive to produce, we are naturally keen for its return, and so long as it is returned undamaged we shall ask no questions. We should be grateful either for its return or for information leading to its recovery. If the person who has it wants to return it anonymously, then he/she will find the Archives Offices on Level 4 West of the Sherfield Building; it can just be left outside out of office hours.

Richard Williams, *College Archivist.*

## Bio Blues

Dear Bill,

As I feel repercussions from powers that be that might seriously affect my future, I wish my name to be held by request. My complaint is simply that the Biology Department persists in contravening College rules by holding practicals and lectures on a Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime. This means students who wish to go to lunchtime activities do so to the demise of their education. This is compounded by the fact that out of, say, a class of 20 three may wish to go to lunchtime activities and by 'democracy' the three lose out.

Secondly, and possibly a more serious contravention, is the Biology Departments insistence (including the Head of Department Professor Anderson) on holding lectures at 11.00am on a Tuesday thus clashing by half an hour with humanities lectures at 11.30, or by starting practicals at 11am thus totally clashing with humanities lectures, these practicals running over lunchtime. We are allowed to do humanities courses (although the department does not positively encourage us to do them) and yet due to our department's time-tabling I know personally of two biologists (and there are probably more I don't know of) who have had to give up their chosen humanities option. I myself missed several practicals on my last course due to the timetables. I have already complained to Chas Brereton as to what I feel is an unacceptable state of affairs but I very much get the feeling that, unless serious action is taken against the department, this state of affairs will continue as it has done for at least the last three years despite efforts to prevent it.

Name and department supplied, but withheld by request.

# Editorial

# THE BARON OF CHEAPSKATE

**NUS March** Fifteen thousand students gathered in Westminster last Thursday to protest against the Governments planned introduction of 'top up' loans. Scenes of violence arose when three thousand of the marchers left the official route and clashed with Police as they attempted to lobby Parliament.

The papers told of students bombarding the Police with coins, sticks and tins. Eye witnesses claim incidents of Police brutality and the indiscriminate use of Police horses against the students.

It would be difficult to say, without attending the march, whether the students or the Police were to blame.

Union President, Nigel Baker's remark that 'the activities of the students on the march summed up why the exec were not prepared to take part in such a farce' is at best presumptuous.

The NUS, were at least prepared to do *something*, and I am sure that the President of the NUS did not have to wait to be mandated by the other Union Officers before she read the White Paper on student loans.

What it all boils down to, of course, is the President's reluctance to involve the Union in anything political. The Union is a service for students and that's it.

The point is underlined by the scheme Nigel has been considering to rename IC Union IC Students Confederation thus avoiding the political implications of the word Union.

The Baker Brothers, Kenneth and Nigel have more than their names in common - as those who listened to Nigel drone incessantly at the private meeting between Kenneth Baker and some 'typical IC students' earlier this term will testify.

Perhaps Nigel shares the belief often declared by the Secretary of State for Education, that students should concentrate on their studies not on politics. It is an odd stance from someone who ought to realise that real education cannot come from a text book.

It is quite apparent that students in the 1980's, if they care about the future of education and that of their country, can no longer afford to ignore politics.

Nor can the Union claim to be looking after the welfare of the students it represents when it does not challenge issues such as student loans head on.

It is very easy to burble about being 'a responsible Union' whilst sitting around and discussing these issues at UGM's. But what does it

achieve? The march last Thursday made a point which was noted by the whole of the nation.

**FELIX** There will be no issue of FELIX next Friday. Instead there will be a special Christmas issue on December 14th, followed by a staff party, a trip to the Texas Lone Star, and an all night FELIX radio show.

**Port.** tasting evening tonight in the FELIX office at 8pm. Anyone involved in FELIX this year is welcome to attend. Cost £2.00.

**FELIX Dinner.** Friday December 9th in 170 Queensgate. The Dinner is open to anyone, particularly those who have contributed to FELIX this term. The meal with drinks will cost £15 and vegetarian food is available. Call into the office for details.

**Credits.** Thanks to the staff for their hard work and support this week, particularly Rob Davison for standing in as news editor, Wendy Kite for UTAH, Liz Warren for nagging, Rose Atkins, Dean, Dave Thomas for being a hero, Andy Bannister for being himself, Steve Meyfroidt for being someone else, Sez Wilkinson, Andy Clarke (hello), Summit Guha, **Doug King**, Noel Curry for having a festive name, Michael Kirsch, Patrick Smith, Emile Nizan, Ramin, Andrew Waller, Dramsoc, Andy Player, Martin Kinsey, Susan Appleby, Mike Norton, Adam Harrington, and everyone I have forgotten.



Phallix Editor, Willhebegoodforacolumninch, was in a bad mood again. Factory Society wanted 25,000 posters in two hours time and he still hadn't finished reading Mislam Society's latest article. He'd decided to entitle it 'All you need to know about the Qu'ran in six easy volumes', so that was a start. He glared at the citizens in the Office, shouted 'Bog off!', and hid under his silly cloak. Some people thought he was cracking up, but Wilhebe knew better. They hadn't seen anything yet!

In the Citizen's Office, Chief Citizen, Little Lord Patacake, was pacing up and down in his inner sanctum. He rubbed his hands together with glee as he thought of the new Wealth Club he'd read about in Phallix.

'Dave!' he shouted.

Dave Beandick, the Citizen's Organiser scurried into the inner sanctum, and jumped up onto a seat.

'Give me your ideas on this Wealth Club thing,' Patacake snapped.

'Having made an assessment of the profitability of the projected forecasts, together with an indexed capital prediction I reckon for this in a big way. This is the big one,' said Beandick. 'I can get us a good deal on 20,000 bath tiles, and sixteen kettles. If we can train Kathy Why-aye-mon quickly enough we'll be quids in.'

'What? You mean?'

'Yes, a sexy sauna and massage joint, in the style of the new citizens' Hack Bar. Big queues, sweaty bodies, and everything broken to a pulp!' Beandick exclaimed.

Meanwhile, The Baron Derek Dash was smiling as he flicked through his holiday snaps. There he was on the beach and there was Mad Dash in Singapore patting the dear little ex-citizens on the cheek. There they were talking to a man in uniform, in that funny country where that little man in Attenborough's film had stirred up all that trouble. Derek stuffed the photos into his drawer and made a mental note to go on holiday in Britain next time.

The Baron picked up the phone: 'John Secretary? Come here a moment, I want to discuss the report from the Committee set up to decide about a meeting about the possibility of a takeover, oops, merger, with Royal Holloway and Bedford Prison.

'You mean the report that doesn't exist Derek? The one that you and I have never seen,' smiled John Secretary down the phone. John Secretary saved his special smile for talking to the Baron on the telephone. It was more of a sarcastic sneer really.

'Yes, that's the one,' the Baron replied, 'It's on my desk. You did get your copy last week didn't you?'

Meanwhile, in the Hubby Office, Mad Dash was having a wonderful time. Phallix had just printed her press release and now she knew that Hubby was worth every penny. She felt so good, at least £10,000 worth of good, and the young citizens' Christmas Party was still to come...

*Will Dave Beandick get his sexy sauna and massage?*

*Can Willhebegoodforacolumninch get any worse?*

*Will the Baron ever go abroad again? Will little Lord Patacake persuade Kathy Why-aye-mon to take a training course in massage?*

*Why hasn't Wendy Haircut had a mention so far?*

*When will the three clowns try to get in on the act?...*

*Read the next gripping episode of the The Baron to find out.*

**College  
Christmas  
Dinner**

**Tuesday 13th December**

Price to students £10 (£6 subsidy)  
(includes wine)

**MENU**

Gruyere Salad Roulade  
Roast Guinea Fowl & Vegetables  
Christmas Pudding  
Coffee & Petit Fours  
Carols with the College Choir

Dress: Dinner Jacket or Dark Lounge Suit  
Tickets available during lunchtime from  
Pat in the Union Office. Closing date  
6th December



# The Independent

By Wendy Kite

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## UTAH

Utah has something for everyone—juniper deserts, lakes, pink or white sand dunes, alpine mountainous scenery, sandstone arches, sixteen ski resorts and, of course, cities. Cities I won't say much about except that Salt Lake City is the capital of Utah and the world headquarters of the Mormon Church. In southern Utah, one seventh of all the national parks in the USA lie within a 200-mile circle.

The climate is generally dry and sunny—average temperatures in winter and summer are 6°C and 31°C respectively, Utah is situated in south-western USA, an area often described as the Golden Circle of Scenic and Vacation Lands.

There are five national parks in Utah:

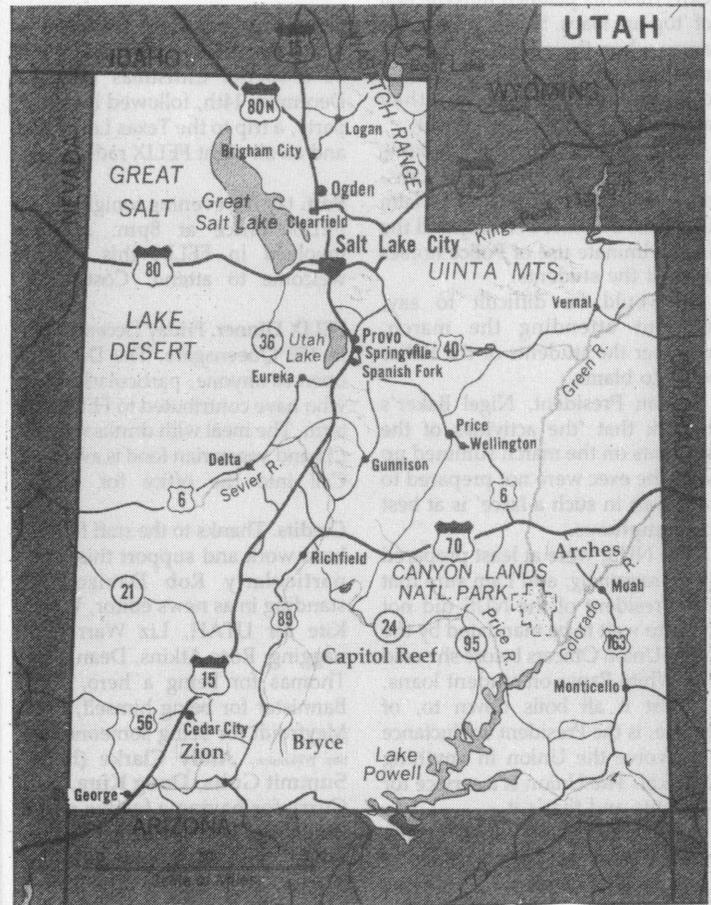
**Arches**—Over 200 sandstone arches cut out of a flaming red desert amidst towering cliffs, oddly-shaped mountains and photogenic gnarled old pinyon pines. Funny how the gnarled trees never grew in front of anything worth taking a picture of, though.

The altitude is between 4,000 and 5,600 feet, so hikers are advised to take it easy if not used this type of climate. There are trails here for

as 'Schoolmarm's Britches'—it looks like a pair of legs).

**Bryce**—'A hell of a place to lose a cow' Ebenezer Bryce is said to have remarked of his namesake. A delicate labyrinth of fairytale-like spires and columns and windows, translucent white and orange, is best observed at dawn, when the contrast between light and shadow is greatest and a rosy tint is added to the scene. The Paiute Indians called these strange formations in amphitheatres of rock 'red rocks standing like men in a bowl', and believed that evil creatures were turned to stone by a god in retribution. Hiking, horseback riding or moonlit walks are available.

**Canyonlands**—The park boundaries lie around the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers. From Dead Horse point breathtaking views of the Colorado River goose-necks can be seen at 2000 feet above the valley. Cataract Canyon is one of the most famous white-water rafting areas on the Colorado River. Needles, spires and standing rocks are supposed to look like Mad Ludvig's castles in Bavaria—well....



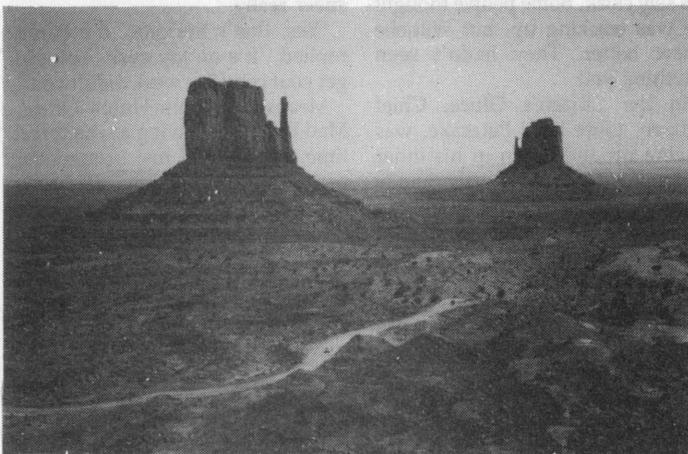
**Zion**—Zion is part of the same geological sequence of depositions which formed the Grand Canyon, 125 miles to the south, and Bryce Canyon. The Grand Canyon is the oldest; Bryce Canyon the youngest. Zion canyon was probably carved out of the rock by the Virgin River, although this is a matter of some dispute among geologists. Brilliant red vermilion cliffs are crowned for a third of their height by shimmering white cliffs.

A highly recommended three-hour walk is the strenuous five miles to Angels Landing, a promontory into the canyon. From here an excellent picture of the valley can be taken. Just when you think you are nearly at the top for the hundredth time, you suddenly realise that for once the trail guide's warnings are not at all exaggerated. You find yourself clinging to flaking sandstone and loose rusty chains hammered into the stone, looking at the knife-edge looming ahead or the 1500ft sheer drop, amid gusts of wind, and suddenly remembering all those things in life you still haven't done.

Also recommended is a trip to Lake Powell—originally a red desert valley, the Glen Canyon Dam was built across a narrow part of the canyon and the valley accumulated rainwater over ten years until it reached the level it is today.

Lastly, the Great Salt Lake is well worth a visit. A trapper named Jim Bridger floated into it from Bear River in 1824, and thought he had reached the Pacific Ocean. It appears a huge mirage above fairly broken scenery. Its saline content is about equal to that of the Dead Sea—apparently it is quite dangerous to swim in any sort of wind as large crystals, carried by waves can cause some harm. The smell was enough to put me off!

**Travelling Fares**—Around £375 return to Salt Lake City via New York. Try bucket shops but be wary. Unless your name is Jack Kerouac you'll need to hire a car—beware! Check the insurance, and don't stop to help anyone by the side of the road—they are legally entitled to sue you if your help proves to be inadequate. Your UK license is valid for one year.



Monument Valley

every level of hiker although in every case plenty of water and frequent rests should be taken. Park rangers are only too happy to quote the effects of dehydration of the body.

If you only see one arch, be sure to see Delicate Arch, (once known

**Capitol Reef**—Local legend has it that Butch Cassidy hid here. Domes capped with white sandstone resemble the US Capitol, hence the name. Other interesting features include canyons and remnants of the Colombian Indians of the Fremont Culture, eg petroglyphs.

# IN THE PIPELINE

British Airways' latest 150-seat airliner, which entered service at the end of April, promises to improve air safety by taking advantage of recent developments in electronics technology.

About 75% of all air transport accidents have pilot error as a significant contributory factor. Computers aboard the Airbus Industrie A320 reduce the likelihood of errors being made by reducing pilot workload, and also by physically preventing him from exceeding the limits of the

Any one of four computers can fly the plane

aeroplane.

Externally, the A320 looks deceptively ordinary. But the use of digital computers to control the plane and monitor the multitude of systems on board makes it, in its own quiet way, as revolutionary as Concorde was in the 1970's.

Passengers invited to see the flight deck could be forgiven for thinking that they had mistakenly stumbled across an in-flight amusement arcade. Gone are the thousands of dials and switches which characterised previous generations of airliner cockpit. In their place lie six multi-colour cathode ray tubes—seven inch square TV screens which, instead of displaying the latest space invader game, provide the pilot with his speed, height and heading information.

Behind the instrument panel computers are at work, ensuring that information is presented to the pilot in the most efficient way possible. The improved ergonomics reduce crew workload significantly, thereby contributing to the safety of the aircraft and its on-time arrival and departure. Besides flying the plane, the crew needs to monitor or control engines, fuel, hydraulics, air-conditioning, electrics, pneumatics, auxiliary power, and several types of radio and

navigation equipment. While the pilot was once expected to do many of these jobs at once, he can now concentrate on the most important tasks and let computers monitor other things. The passenger can be reassured that the plane is constantly checking itself; the A320 makes certain that no checklist item can be overlooked—which in the past has so often been the cause of disaster.

A central warning system alerts the crew to the onset of emergencies, and even displays the procedure necessary to safely rectify the fault. The pilot will be warned if his fuel is too low, if an engine is not running healthily, if he has forgotten to lower the undercarriage, and so on. Built-in test equipment aboard the A320 provides 95% probability of tracing a fault to a single component, which can easily and quickly be replaced as soon as the aircraft has landed.

A further striking feature of the flight deck is the absence of the pilot's conventional control column.

Instead, the pilot is provided with a miniature sidestick, reminiscent of the few visible clues that computers also play a key role in helping the pilot control the aeroplane.

The A320 is the first airliner to be fully equipped with computer driven 'fly-by-wire' (FBW) controls. Unlike conventional aircraft, the pilot is not linked to the plane's control surfaces by a mechanical rod and cable system. Instead the pilot's demands are converted into an electrical signal; this passes via a computer to an actuator, which moves control surfaces on the wings and tail.

By moving the sidestick, the pilot is effectively telling the aeroplane where he wants to go. A powerful computer, performing 3 million operations per second, arranges for the plane to move in this direction by deflecting the appropriate control surfaces. If necessary, the computer may modify the aircraft's response to prevent it from performing potentially dangerous manoeuvres. This system is invaluable in an emergency situation, such as a near miss, when A320 pilots can apply full sidestick deflection instantly, obtaining the maximum response of the aircraft, without fear of stalling, or physically damaging the airframe by manoeuvring too violently.

The A320, like most modern airliners, is equipped with an 'autopilot', which automatically flies the plane along a set route, and is usually only engaged during cruise. In contrast, the FBW system is designed to assist the pilot during

critical phases of flight, such as take-off and landing, when an autopilot could not match the ability of a human pilot to cope with the unexpected.

With computers performing such important functions, designers have had to ensure that component failures or programming faults could not result in catastrophe. The A320 features five man FBW computers, and any one of four of these is

It is as revolutionary as Concorde in the 1970's

capable of flying the aircraft perfectly safely on its own. These computers are of two different types, programmed by different companies working independently from each other, to minimise the risk of software faults affecting more than one computer. Protection against faults is such that the aircraft can be dispatched with a failed computer, go on to suffer other FBW computer failures in flight, and still remain completely and safely under the control of its pilots. A mechanical back-up system protects the aircraft from the consequences of complete electrical failure.

Improved safety is only one of the benefits of FBW. Civil airliners must be specially strengthened to cope with every eventuality, such as extreme stresses arising from rare violent gusts and turbulence in storms. This insurance places large weight penalties on aircraft throughout their service life.

Thanks to sensors linked to the FBW computers, the A320 can detect conditions of severe turbulence, and automatically deflects the control surfaces to counteract the 'stomach-churning' sensation of a sudden up-gust. As well as improving passenger comfort in rough weather, the reduction of loads imposed upon the airframe enables substantial weight savings to be made, allowing more passengers and cargo to be carried whilst consuming no more fuel.

The benefits of using such advanced technology have not gone unnoticed. With nearly 500 commitments from 20 airlines, the A320 is selling faster than any airliner in history. The European manufacturing consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20% stake, are justifiably confident that their latest product can threaten American dominance of the 150-seat airliner market.



# BOOZ·ALLEN & HAMILTON

The world's largest firm of top level Strategy and Technology Management Consultants is growing rapidly in Europe and welcomes applications from outstanding final year undergraduates for the London-based position of Business Analyst.

OPEN PRESENTATION  
at The Rembrandt Hotel,  
11 Thurloe Place,  
London SW7 on

Thursday 8th December 1988  
at 6.30 pm

BOOZ·ALLEN & HAMILTON  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

What is art? This question has bothered a number of eminent and not so eminent people and has prompted them to define it, write books about it and explain it in metaphysical slang making it yet more inaccessible to the public.

Till the last century, art was indeed considered as various forms of entertainment and pleasure only suitable for the aristocracy. It was not until the Great Wars and the advent of the rule of the masses that the plebians became acquainted to art.

These days many people define art as whatever appears under that title in the national papers. Among the post-yuppie affluent classes of today, it is considered chic and sophisticated to talk about these, and a person well-versed in such trivia is bound to attract, in a house party the smiles of admiration from the amorous females who will inevitably be reeking of Chanel/Knowing and the envy of slick men in their white shirts, Chinos, brogues and braces. (Men read this upside down)

But we are mavericks and a group of non-conformists and shall not accept this materialistic definition of Thatcherite British propoganda. So let us explore further.

Across the globe, art is defined in various manners. The French (whether you think of them as indescribable frogs with their mouths stuffed with garlic and horsemeat and their hands stained with virgins' blood, or worse) nevertheless perfected the art of conversation in the Parisian cafes of the nineteenth century, until an eccentric Scotsman came along and invented the television (after which must have been published a pompous little book, probably called 'The Television and the Empire').

In pre-AIDS India (2000 B.C.), love-making and sex (they are not the same) were considered to be art forms. And sexist as it may sound, the KamaSutra indulges in at least sixty ways on how to be a good wife. The closing chapters deal with male sexuality and are a must reading for people out to try the exotic.

The Japanese (kimono-wearing Lillipudians who never stop bowing when meeting strangers on the tube) cultivate the tea-ceremoney as an art. Killing an opponent in sword-combat is also a highly regarded (but less often practiced) form of art.

In Europe and Persia, painting, poetry, literature and music have come under this heading.

But in essence, an activity which a person pursues in leisure and is a source of pleasure can be regarded as art. Though how you interpret this definition is another matter.

Under this generous label, we shall regularly be discussing art forms in Felix-On the Tube.

The most improtant thing we need is feedback from the readers. So of you want to write, be creative and give it a try.

Once a good friend of mine wrote to the 'Times' editor and disclosed his rather biased views about the Gulf war. He had hoped that Britain being a free land where everybody has the right to free speech, his letter would be published soon. A few days later, the editor's secretary worte back, '...the Editor regrets that he was unable to publish it...'

The reason I tell you this story is that this sort of thing will not happen to you. So get in touch.

How to get in touch:

1. Visit us in the cosy and comfortable interiors of the Felix office where prevails an atmosphere of leisure (and abandon) and everybody drinks Merrydown Cider.
2. Drop me a note via the pigeon holes.



# what is art ?



## a sentimental journey

I wrote the following piece of surrealistic writing in April 1988. On the 31st of July, it was broadcasted by Buerger Radio Berlin in a program on non-linear art.

The Prince riding on his horse came closer to Samarkand. Dusk was falling rapidly and he had to be at the palace before nightfall. The raod was dusty and only occasionally but blissfully provided with an oasis or a water-well. The landscape was typical Transoxanian, arid and barren. The sacred Amu Darya flowed further North and this region of the Silk route between Bokhara and Kashgar was not green. Sometimes the hills near the Caspian were visible too, a place so dreaded by travellers because it was in these mountains that a paradise existed, the pleasures of which were only for a fanatical class of assasins, the Hashisheen.

The Prince was born in Nishapur. He was a contemporary of Omar Khayyam. He had the fortune to live his youth in a rather colourful part of the Moslem Empire. By the age of fourteen he was adept at sword fighting and reading Latin. He was a handsome young man with a strong Caucasian face, dark brown eyes and flowing black hair. The Persian women, so proud of their own beauty used to gaze at him haplessly from behind their veils. His adventures had led him so far to the forbidden gardens of the Nizam of Badakhshan, where he secretly made passionate love to the Nizam's seventeen year old daughter. His days were carefree, spent either drinking grape wine with Khayyam or talking to the old man in the mountain about Astrology, Alchemy and Philosophy.

(continued)  
Emile Nizan  
Elec. Eng II

## Competition

# Win a gallon of whisky!

The FELIX Christmas competition sponsored by *Peter Dominic of Gloucester Road.*

In the wake of alcohol awareness week FELIX brings you the opportunity to win one gallon of whisky in this fabulous Christmas competition.

Simply answer the questions in the box opposite, cut it out and return it to the FELIX Office by December 6. The correct entries will be placed in a hat and the lucky winner, to be announced in the last FELIX of term, will receive a whole eight pints of whisky courtesy of Peter Dominic.

### Competition entry form

Name.....

Address or department.....

1. What is the difference between a blended whisky and single malt?

2. What does the name whisky mean?

3. What is the standard measure of whisky you get in England?

4. Which is the odd one out:

a) Jack Daniels, Glenfiddich, Glenlivet?

b) Bells, Jamesons, Teachers?

The competition is not open to members of the FELIX staff. The judges decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

**PETER DOMINIC**  
THE WINE MERCHANT

25 GLOUCESTER ROAD, SW7  
(next to the Harrington Pub)

**JENSEN**  
Pilsner Lager

£8.99

(case of 24 large cans)

Donator of competition prize—  
gallon of whisky

## FELIX Christmas Cards



10p from the FELIX Office  
emblazoned with the message  
'Have a moderately good Christmas'

# Police brutality ?

Many of you will have read the newspaper reports of last Thursday's student protest against 'top up loans' or seen some of the action on the television. Yet, without having been there, you cannot understand the feelings of the students nor the extent of the Police brutality against what was a fundamentally peaceful demonstration.

I was there and I got hurt, both physically and emotionally, and I would like to share with you my experiences so that you will hopefully grasp the situation a little more than the average Imperial College student or ICU executive member seems to do at the moment. About twenty-five members of the college assembled at Beit Arch on Thursday morning and travelled to ULU to join a vast crowd of well over the expected 15,000 students who had travelled from all over the country.

The feeling of the crowd during the march South to the river was of great enthusiasm for a cause that, let's face it, would directly affect very few of the participants. This is something I have rarely experienced at Imperial College, where the major concern seems to be the size of one's starting salary on graduation or the price of beer in the Union Bar.

The march gave me some hope that actually opposing the introduction of student 'top-up' loans might achieve something beneficial for future generations of students. As the vast majority of the march left the agreed route at Waterloo station, we were determined to lobby our MPs at Westminster.

We were not to know that thirty Police horses and over 100 Police Constables and Officers with four riot vans were to meet us at the south side of Westminster Bridge. They were intent on not letting any of us pass.

I got near to the front of the crowd so that I could have some idea of what was going on - the Police never informed the crowd of anything. It was not until the following day that I discovered it is now illegal to demonstrate within a mile of Parliament when in session. Not that the knowledge would have stopped me or the other 10,000 students.

As it became apparent that the Police were not going to let us



*The NUS march against student loans*

through, much of the crowd decided to push through the Police line. This was unorganised and hence ineffective and generally in ignorance of what was happening to students at the front.

It would be an gross understatement to say that the Police were violent beyond the call of duty. Indeed, they received no provocation from the students - any reports you may have heard about a barrage of missiles being hurled at the Police is a complete fabrication. It is true that about two dozen placard poles were thrown in about two hours, but since several of these broke before the march had begun, under the sheer weight of two pieces of cardboard, they were not incredibly harmful to the Police - especially since most didn't actually reach the Police line.

During five or six futile attempts at breaking the Police line many students were assaulted, unprovoked, by the Police. At one point, with both my arms visibly trapped, a Policeman began to kick me in the shins. It was unprovoked and there was very little I could have done to defend myself, and if I had retaliated I would have been arrested or suffered further assault. My injuries required hospital attention.

The assault ended as the Policeman became involved in further scuffles. However, despite being injured and not capable of

provocative violence, I was subsequently kned in the groin, held in a neck lock and subjected to much intimidating verbal abuse. This was undoubtedly intended to make me decide that our peaceful protest ought to disband.

In considerable pain I tried to move back through the crowd. This proved pointless as there were just too many people and it was less painful to simply stand still. I was not allowed through the Police line. I continued to witness quite shocking Police brutality I even saw a horseman make his horse turn round and kick into the students. Girls were grabbed by their hair and pulled screaming through the crowd. Black people were preferentially snatched out of groups of black and white students shouting (justifiably) abuse at the Police.

Yet, when Police became cut off within the crowd, they were treated courteously by the students. Between crowd surges students were seen to pat and stroke the horses and peacefully protest our case to the Police.

The final 'cavalry' charge of 25 Police horses at the packed crowd of 10,000 was totally unreal. It came without warning, and I was fortunate to be at the side of the crowd. But if it had not been for fellow students pulling me out of the way of the following wave of Police on foot I would have suffered

further injury.

As it was, many of the Police kicked, punched and jostled students as we tried to disperse from the area. The intimidating abuse continued and many indiscriminate arrests were made.

All of the students present were quite stunned at what had gone on, as were many onlookers, passers-by and, believe it or not, some of the Police. I hope that the inquiry into the affair highlights the Police Force's unnecessary violence and intimidation as the major cause of the incident at Westminster Bridge.

I feel that if the Police had given the students some positive option - such as laying down our banners and walking, as individuals, across the bridge to lobby our MPs - then the situation would not have occurred.

Perhaps the NUS must take a small proportion of the blame, but at least they were prepared to inform their members about the loans two weeks ago and then organise some action to defend the future of the education system. Some 'independent' Student Unions that I could mention ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

By Andrew  
Player



*A soft landing in Paris*



## Bird

Bird—Charlie Parker, 1920-1954, with Dizzy Gillespie, the innovator of Be Bop, legendary saxophonist, drug addict and alcoholic.

Clint Eastwood—tough guy hero, occasional mayor, man with lofty political aspirations and increasingly thought of as one of the best directors in America.

Eastwood shot *Bird* in a dark moody way which is entirely suited to the feel of the film and the jazz clubs, bars and flats where most of the action takes place. Flashback form is used to tell Parker's story,

these flashbacks are seen as Parker goes through the last few weeks. During these weeks Parker attempts suicide, faces drug withdrawal, nervous breakdown, bereavement and professional disappointment. Fairly catastrophic really. *Bird* does have its high points; two scenes, a Jewish wedding and a tour of the Southern States are particularly funny.

The flashbacks concentrate on Parker's relationship with his wife and a white trumpeter, as well as Bird's struggle with drugs and alcohol.

Parker's wife Cham is played by Dione Verona who puts real feeling into her fight to get Parker off heroin and encouragement of his professional life, he has numerous affairs.

All the performances are good and the subject is approached in a manner which, although barely avoiding hero worship at times, has a welcome lack of sentimentality. Parker's rivals are often shown to be bland and the film tends to gloss over other problems Parker encountered, particularly racism which is only properly addressed in one of Dizzy Gillespie's speeches. At 2hrs 45mins long its length would be a problem for those with no interest in jazz, which ties the scenes together. The score includes Parker recordings with new backing musicians to a superb quality and this film cannot fail to spark a live interest in the partially converted.

*Patrick Smith*

## The Hidden

A thingy from outer space with a craving for loud music, loose women and gleaming Ferraris, takes over the body of a mild-mannered accountant and starts killing everyone. This seems to be its favourite hobby.

Enter Kyle McLaghlen (*Dune*, *Blue Velvet*) as a body inhabited by a good thingy from outerspace, out to do away with the power crazy bad one. But before he can close in for the kill, the baddie alien has switched bodies to a grandad with a heart condition. And so the chase continues.

This all may sound like a ridiculously naff sci-fi B movie, but it is very well made and is great entertainment. It never takes itself seriously and there is plenty of light comedy and dark humour.

Michael Noun plays an all-American, worldly-wise street cop; the type that saves the city from hoodlums before lunch. He feels threatened by the young McLaghlen posing as an FBI agent, but his cynicism gives way to respect as the story progresses.

There are probably some subtle messages about today's society and quips at politicians, but why bother analysing these when the

entertainment value is itself worthy of attention.

The action segments are fast and furious—the usual staple of blood, car chases and explosions. This is contrasted with sentimental looks at the nicey-nicey normality of the family of Noun's character. The tongue-in-cheek humour, though, makes the film watchable. The publicity for the film likens it to *Robocop*, which is unfortunate, since it never approaches that standard. Still, fans of the action film wouldn't be disappointed and I'd recommend this to anyone who feeds on a diet of Schwarzenegger movies.

*Sumit Guha.*

## The Commisar

Lumiere, St Martin's Lane, from 7th April 89

*The Commisar*, the first and only film of director Alexander Askoldens, was the surprise of the 1987 Moscow Film Festival, where it was shown for the first time since being banned in 1967.

The story is set during the Russian civil war between the Whites and the Reds, in the 1920s. Claudia Vainlova (Wonna Mardyukova) is a tough, tank-like woman commisar in the Red Army, who becomes pregnant. To her fury, she finds she has left it too late for an abortion, and is billeted in the small home of a poor Jewish artisan and his large family. They resent her presence every bit as much as she resents having to leave her hard soldier's life.

However, the resentment fades with the coming of Claudia's child. She fusses over it, so that Maria (Raisa Niedashkovskaya), the artisan's wife, comments to her husband, 'Look! The Russian cares for her child like a good Jewish mother'. Behind the growing feeling of warmth in the household is a brooding tension. In childbirth, Claudia sees her army lover being shot, she sees the inevitable fate of the Jews. Even the children at play chillingly recreate the horrors.

As the White Russians begin to encroach on the town, Claudia is torn between remaining as the feminine figure she has become, and her devotion to duty as a Red commisar.

The film is beautifully crafted with fine performances from the leading characters. Tight camerawork, by Vallery Ginsburg, sets the pace of the film, with rapid movement between disturbingly large close-ups in the action sequences and lingering, soft shots in the family home giving an impression of peace.

But why was a film which had a Red army commisar obviously fighting the 'good' fight banned? Coming as it did, after Russia's major foreign policy embarrassment in the Six Day War, it was the Jewish elements of the film which caused the problems. Askoldor was locked out of the editing room and banned from making any further films when he refused to cut certain scenes, and change the ethnic origins of the family.

Thankfully, we can now see this superb film in its full form, thanks to Soviet glasnost, and I would recommend it.

*Michael Kirsch.*



## The Conquest of the South Pole

Royal Court, Sloane Square

A promising and exciting idea. Four unemployed young men a backwater town in Germany decide to recreate Amundsen's conquest of the South Pole upstairs in the attic, amongst the white sheets hanging up to dry. We follow the trek through the whiteness while real-life tags along for the ride. As the journey progresses, attitudes change and mimic-ed hope and

goals take effect on the real lives before us.

Unfortunately, *The Conquest of the South Pole* fails to conjure these promising ingredients into a satisfying whole.

The script skirts around its subjects saying much but meaning little, and without eloquence. There is a certain feeling for rhythm in the ebb and flow of the words, but the humour is rather heavy-handed, the wit lack-lustre, and most of the potential pathos ignored.

In a play depending so heavily on fantasy, while considering fairly hefty issues (a picture of the impact of youth, unemployment and, more generally, humanity's terrible need for a purpose in life), it is vital that the surrealism of the imagery be countered by real substance, to give a sharp edge to the glitter. This is the problem with this production. There is energy, enthusiasm and ferocity, but left unfocussed it wafts

away with the cigarette smoke, leaving behind no more than a fleeting impression of vague dismay. The characters rant and stomp and weep, but never progress, never break free from their stereotypes. These people were not unemployed, but unemployable.

The swaggering, black dad leader was hollow, and his foil, a quiet, severe type, did not fulfil the promise shown by his request that they switch characters and play the failures of the story—Scott and his men. An annoying sniveller and nondescript dowdy character complete the main line-up.

The action progresses in a rather haphazard fashion; dowdy gets a job, but is intreated to continue the play—acting. Employment, while supposedly the main villain of the piece, has virtually no effect upon the characters when it strikes. This puzzling phenomena is disregarded, and all of a sudden we

join hollow swagger-boy. He has all of a sudden tired of his role as aggressive, cheerful leader, and is overcome with unexplained tears...but just as suddenly decides that all is alright with the world again because he has fathered a child. The mother's refusal to acknowledge him as father, his complete inability to provide for the child, and the presumably hostile environment into which it is being delivered do not seem to enter into the calculation.

*The Conquest of the South Pole* is a disappointing production, sadly giving the lie to the undoubted potential of the concept. It is spoiled by unsympathetic characterisation, and a tendency to shout for the sake of style, rather than anger. What could have been a moving and entertaining serious comic piece is, instead, more of a modern firework: flashy, and without substance.

Susan Appleby.



## Scrooged

Cert PG

You get the impression from a film like *Scrooged* that it was made more for the sake of the Paramount executives than the public. It's as if these money men in suits sat around a table one day deciding what they could wheel Bill Murray out for. Knowing that whatever he does would probably bring in the bucks, they sat back and built a film around him.

In general, this film isn't at all bad, but does seem rather artificial and contrived.

The film is set in the TV world, and in so doing makes some very amusing comments along the way about the tacky and patronising schlock that occupies most of US network TV.

A large network plans a truly dreadful production of *A Christmas Carol*—the type of thing the general public go for (like the Royal Variety Performance that I was unfortunate enough to see the other day). The man responsible for this is Bill Murray (*Ghostbuster*, *Stripes*), who plays the president of the network. His character is the modern-day scrooge; deriving pleasure in sacking employees on Christmas Eve and planning to exploit the holidays for every rating point they're worth. And so, in the best tradition of the Dickensian classic, he is visited upon by three unwelcomed ghosts. The best of these is easily Carol Kane as the ghost of Christmas Present, a sugar



Frank takes a breath of fresh air

plum fairy who resorts to beating people senseless to gain their attention.

Also intertwined in the plot are Karen Allen (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*), as the romantic interest, Rob Goldthwait (*Police Academy 2, 3 and 4*) as a fired executive; and Robert Mitchum, excellent in the comic role of the senile chairman of the board. There are also several cameos from American TV personalities such as

Lee Majors and John Houseman, who send themselves up in hilarious scenes.

Bill Murray is, of course, perfect in his part. His irreverent humour is always a joy to watch. His presence alone is a good enough reason to see the film.

The one real sour point in the film comes at the end. Murray's character changes too abruptly, and delivers a schmaltzy speech about

Christmas, which is lacking any sort of conviction. It is a moment that Murray is uncomfortable with, but in a moment of brilliantly wild improvisation he turns it around.

In all, this is a 'feel good' movie wrought with moments of cringeworthy sopiness, but it is good fun. I'll say no more. Go see the film.

Sumit Guha.

LIVE

## The Coltranes

### St Vitus Dance

An old warehouse, a vaulted cavern in Liverpool's deserted Stanley dock. Wet outside and misty in, pods of light half-illuminating shadowy figures; a scene from a New York alley, steam rising from the grates, tension in the air before a rumble.

The event is the Liverpool University Architects Party, students are milling around, there's



something in the air tonight. A bar at one end, a stage and some tables improvised from wooden things which hang around old warehouses.

The rumble commences. The first contenders are *St Vitus Dance*. Six men on a less than generous stage, it is like *Kool and the Gang* on a matchbox. The songs punch out thick and fast, constantly beating you until you acknowledge the band. They're an Irish band so they



play the obligitory ballad, but even that had something special about it. This band are on the sincere side of jangly pop.

Next there is an intermission disco, more students amble to the dancefloor, sensing more action. The stage is rearranged, the bar is visited and then *The Coltranes* arrive.

The Bristol band do not put up as good a fight as their predecessors.



Another indie band, they do the trick of merging in with all the other indies available. The sameness of *The Coltranes*, apart from the odd bright spark, makes a light anticlimax to the event.

With everybody gone the warehouse looks like a desert with tumbleweed crisp packets blowing around and the smell of lager from every surface. Had to imagine that in a few hours it will be the site of a market.

LIVE

## Al Stewart

Dominion Theatre

It takes a certain type to be an Al Stewart fan. There we sat, all of us bearded and wearing scruffy greatcoats re-living the early seventies when folk rock was still a viable form of music. Us folkies are a queer lot, friendly to each other whilst eagerly awaiting someone who hasn't toured for four years and hasn't had a hit record for eleven. (*Year of the Cat*, the record that everyone's older brother has a copy of and must have been the thing to persuade Johnny Rotten to take up punk). Al is back with a new record company, a sixpiece band (unnecessary as the best songs are his solos) and a new album which is hailed as the eighties classic (whatever that means), and could have been written at any time since about 1965.

Of course he played lots of YOTC and one or two of his other notable ditties, tastefully updated to give the band something to do. We all shouted out requests and he even played one or two 'cos he likes to give us punters what we want. There was no pretentious light show, probably because he can't afford it any more although his saxophonist was wearing a totally pretentious pair of leather trousers and a courgette which more than made up for the lack of effects.



Sexy Al Stewart

Everyone had a solo spot, but Peter White had lots as he can play the Spanish guitar and this fits in well with the soft-rock songs. We even had a special guest appearance by some guitarist who plays with Marianne Faithful and who I've

never heard of. So we all had a happy evening reliving the seventies and went home to our bedsits to contemplate why Neil Tennant of the *Pet Shop Boys* sounds just like our Al and makes much more money.

CLASSICAL

## Jessye Norman

Imagine an ample but graceful woman with an assured air and you would have a fair idea of what Jessye Norman looks like; but if you hear her voice you will realise why some of us worship her.

Firstly, she is power-ful, not only in volume but also in her ability to capture the attention of an audience completely. Those who have seen the French film *Diva* will have experienced this spine-tingling rapture. Her enunciation is perfect in at least three languages other than English, so that those who don't have any German can still appreciate the beautiful sounds of Goeth's poetry. She can communicate the emotion behind the words, so that we are swept along into the music and feel, with her, excitement or melancholy.

If you want to hear her for yourself, here are three recordings that I recommend highly:

1. Schubert: Lieder Philips 412 623-X
2. Brahms: Lieder Deutsche Gramophon 413 311-X
3. Les Chemins D'Amour Philips 416 445-XPB

The first two are collections of German songs and the third of more modern French songs. Each song is only 2-3 minutes long and the mood alternates between fiery-fast and mellow-subdued. You are bound to find some favourites here, though if you are new to the world of classical music the Schubert and Brahms are safer buys. For Jessye-junkies, however, Les Chemins will be a real shot in the arm, with its jilted modern melodies mixed with simple French charm. There are lots of twentieth century goodies here—Poulenc, Duparc, Ravel, and a very witty song by Satie. The most beautiful is probably the title piece which could make a rugby player cry.

Ramin Nakisa.

## ICSO

The ICSO produced a concert of their usual high standard, despite the disruption of their rehearsal schedule by their performance at the College's Merger Ceremony. The opening piece, Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*, a little scrappy in places, but nevertheless played with the vigour and intensity necessary for the piece and was very enjoyable.

Geoffrey Silver was the soloist in the Sibelius Violin Concerto. A mathematics student at Imperial, he has played at the Royal Festival Hall and was the leader of the National Youth Orchestra for two years. His performance was of the highest calibre and, ably supported by the Orchestra, this was the highlight of the evening for me.

Richard Dickens produced, as always, an excellent performance from the Orchestra for a packed hall and that will add to the many others that have encouraged me to listen to these talented musicians at every opportunity.

E.W.

## ORIENTEERING

## Fog Hazard

Last Sunday the Orienteering Club made its way to Brandon Park in East Anglia to compete against Oxford and Aston in the Churchill Cup. As we travelled North out of London we found a landscape covered in frost and the event area was lightly sprinkled with snow, it may have been cold but no one could deny the beauty of the scenery.

All the IC competitors completed their courses, and some good times were recorded, as a team we beat Aston, and lost to Oxford (who are one of the best University teams in Britain), but most importantly everybody had enjoyed themselves. We then drove home stopping only for tea at a hotel on the route.

## SQUASH

## League Draw

**Men's team draws with LSE 2-2**  
Playing one of the best teams in the league without our regular number 1 (whom last we heard was on crutches!), we managed to persuade IC Football 1st team midfielder Simon Colege to make a comeback. He played an entertaining game with plenty of angled shots and extraordinary returns but lost out to the LSE number 1, who is one of the League's better players. Ming Tan (no. 2) had to fight hard to win 3-2 although always ahead, and always looked the fitter of the two. Rustom Khambatta (no. 3) lost another close 3-2 match after being ahead for most of the game. 'Old man of the team', Martin Croucher (no. 4) was head and shoulders above his opponent, and a bit generous in giving his opponent one game in his 3-1 win (although he wasn't that generous in the Bar later!).

## MEN'S HOCKEY

## Justified Result

IC 4ths—6  
St George's 2nds—1  
'.....and so, the eleven strangers came together (for the first time!!!) and fused into a solid unit, fighting together as one. Individual skills were supported with excellent back-up, leading to a justified end result.'  
Seriously though, it was a very

## THE SPORTS PAGE



David Jones on the rampage.

good first game (even though we borrowed a couple of players from the 2nds) and the new Hockey Club members showed lots of potential. Goals came from Kaleem Ahmad (2), Dave Millard (2), Avi Gupta and John Prole. If we continue on this form, it promises to be a brilliant first season for the 4ths.

Anybody interested in playing hockey this year for the 4ths can sign up on the hockey noticeboard (opposite the Union Bar) or get in touch with Vijay Thakur (Physics 2)—newcomers are always welcome.

## CROSS COUNTRY

## Imperial Challenge

The Cross Country Club is presently involved in a close contest for the leadership of the London Colleges League. Lying in fifth place overall, a solid performance was needed at the third race of the series, at

Wimbledon Common, in order to maintain our challenge. However, the recent cold spell seemed to affect the form of several runners. Our first finisher was Frank Dudbridge in 14th place, followed by Alex Gaskell in a rather disappointing 49th. Matthew Lynas came 52nd, showing once again that this sport is where his true talent lies and that he should give up orienteering immediately. Our other scoring runners were Dave Knight 67th, Pete Smith 68th and Stefan Ledin 74th.

We didn't manage to scrape a women's team together this time, but it didn't stop Steve from walking around behind the St Mary's ladies and finishing in a pathetic 133rd place!

A few days later we entered three teams for the Reading University Relays. The men's teams finished 27th and 35th, the women's was incomplete although the two Alisons braved the cold and ran respectable times. The fastest men's runners were Frank Dudbridge (12'47 and 13'23) and Alex Gaskell

(13'20). Dave Knight also performed heroics by running two legs.

Stefan Ledin (13'29), Bill Skailles (13'33) and Ramin Dilmaghmanian (14'14) completed the teams.

Club members meet for training at lunchtimes (12.30pm) in the Union Gym. Athletics training takes place at Battersea Park at 3.30pm on Wednesday, and 11.00am on Sunday. Anyone interested in joining in the sport is encouraged to come along.

## SAILING

## Battle at Oxford

After a re-match against City University on Thursday in which the team's honour was stoutly defended by Paul and Charles. The team gathered early on Saturday morning to do battle at Oxford against both Brunel University teams and Oxford 1st teams. A slight lack of wind led to a rather slow start, but when the competition began Rory and Liam went as if on rails, and were first home easily. The commodore, Richard, was having problems with exhaustion, caused by a lack of sleep the night before and he was looking a little low. Unperturbed, in the second race he overcame this and was also able to provide a good finish. So, after two races and two draws, Bill and Carol, who by now had warmed up considerably, came to the rescue in the last and pulled their boat into the lead and held it to the end. This gave us a well-deserved win over Brunel's 2nd team. At this point racing was abandoned for the day due to lack of wind, the search for a pub with a telly showing the rugby match then began....of which more next week.

The  
Royal School of  
Mines  
ANNUAL BALL

16th December 1988  
Sherfield Building

Double ticket £50  
(from RSMU Office)  
Black Tie

# What's On

## What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

### FRIDAY

- Consoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
ME569.
- Friday Jamaa Prayer**.....1.00pm  
Union Dining Hall.  
**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.
- Ents Event**.....9.00pm  
Union Lounge. 'The Jets' plus disco and late bar. Tickets £2, doors open 9pm.

### SATURDAY

- Karate**.....10.00am  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.
- IC Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.
- Fancy Dress Party**.....7.30pm  
Union Lounge. Disco and fun. Tickets from Andy Tay, Physics or Kypros, Civ Eng (4817).

### SUNDAY

- Holy Communion**.....10.00am  
Sherfield Building. This is Barbara Corey's last service—so be there. See West London Chaplaincy.
- 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.
- RCSU Night in the Bar**.....7.00pm  
Union Bar.

### MONDAY

- Rock Soc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Come along and have a good time.
- ICCAG Meeting**.....12.45pm  
Rag Office (top floor of Union Building). All Welcome.
- Recitation of Holy Qur'an**.....1.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens (Basement).
- Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm  
JCR. 80p.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm  
UDH. 80p.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm  
JCR. 80p.

- Karate**.....7.00pm  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.
- Dramsoc Production**.....7.30pm  
ICU Concert Hall. 'The Nerd'. Everyday until 10th of December.
- Latin American Dance Class**.....8.00pm  
UDH. Cha, Samba, Rumba, etc. 80p

### TUESDAY

- CU Prayer**.....8.15am  
308 Huxley. For those who think prayer is more important than sleep. Free.
- Boardsailing Club**.....12.30pm  
Southside Lounge.
- Audiosoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.
- Roman Catholic Mass**.....12.40pm  
Mech Eng 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.
- Debsoc Meeting**.....12.50pm  
Huxley 213. 'This house believes we should hang 'em and flog 'em' with Tim Janman MP.
- Astrosoc Lecture**.....1.00pm  
Physics LT2. 'Missing mass near the sun' by Gerry Gilmore.
- 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 Lecture**.....1.15pm  
Read Theatre, Sherfield Building. 'Professor John Ziman. A steady state'.
- Qur'an, tradition of Prophet**.....1.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens.
- 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.
- Port Tasting**.....6.00pm  
Union SCR. Presented by Dr Mark Masento. £3.50.
- Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym. All grades. No more complete beginners.
- Christmas Double Bill**.....7.00pm  
'The Day the Earth Stood Still' and 'Terminator'. See Science Fiction Society.
- 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

- Informal Lunch**.....12.30pm  
Conference Office Room E452, Aeronautics. All Women of IC welcome.
- Building Blocks**.....12.30pm  
Mech Eng 702. A course in Christian Education run by West London Chaplaincies. Everybody welcome. Lunch provided for only 75p.
- W.I.S.T. Speaker Meeting**.....12.45pm  
Huxley 319. Women in Science and Technology present Valerie Mainstone from Women Against Sexual Harrasment. Everyone welcome.
- 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.
- 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

- Filmsoc Film**.....  
Mech Eng 220. 'Dumbo'. See Filmsoc for time.
- 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.
- Communion Service**.....12.30pm  
See Methsoc for place.
- Debate**.....12.50pm  
Mech Eng 220. 'A future for

- South Africa'. Bring your Union cards.
- Ski Club**.....12.45pm  
Southside Lounge.
- Debating Society**.....1.00pm  
Room 341 Maths (Huxley).
- Lunch-Hour Concert**.....1.30pm  
Read Theatre, Sherfield Building.
- 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.
- Soup Run**.....9.15pm  
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).

## Smallads

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Anybody** interested in joining an 'Italian Society' please contact Rory Donek (Chem Eng 2). We need at least 20 signatures.
- **Are there** any Brazilians at College wishing to exchange English lessons for Portuguese lessons? If so please contact Ian on 5252/5198 or through the Elec Eng PG pigeonholes (Ian Healy).
- **Yep** folks it's that one again—the port tasting. We advise hangover precautions or lemonade for the weak livered.
- **City & Guilds** College Union presents the 38th Annual Engineers Dinner and Dance. At the Waldorf Hotel. Tickets on sale on Monday 12th December at 9.30am. £10 non-returnable deposit plus a £60 cheque which can be post dated.
- **Linstead Hall** Bash—tonight. Bands, disco, bar extension. Free. All ex-residents welcome (bring Linsteads card). No admittance after 10.30pm.
- **Two days** to the end of the world Ros. Lots of love IC Pony Club.

### FOR SALE

- **Ibanez** *Artiste*, pre-amp/graphic £200 (o.n.o.), Boss CE3 £10 and HM2 £30. Phone 989 8881.
- **Encore** Coaster Strat copy guitar. 2 p/ups. Locking trem. £85 (inc case). Tom Mortimer, Physics 3.
- **Mountain** bike. 15 speed Ammoco Mountain Club and extras. Contact Dave Southall on 01-542 6922 or Geo 3 internal mail.
- **Bicycle** £30 (o.n.o.). One year old, 3 gear, unisex mini bicycle. Civ Eng Rm 411—Kypros ext 4817.

**S**nooker

First, a few words to non-members—see a shrink. (Don't get smug you members; you're beyond help.)

Seriously, I'd like to apologise for the lack of lights in half the Club. It took five weeks of non-stop nagging to get Repairs to send us a team.

We've suffered recently from non-members hogging the tables and also from a lot of vandalism. To try

to deal with both problems, we've asked RCC for an extra £600 to fit light meters, with tokens for members. Others will have to pay for lights on a table giving the Club more money for the up-keep of the tables and equipment.

Comments and suggestions for further improvements to me, Saif Ghouse, Chem Eng 2.

**G**LC

The Greater London Club is a social and educational club which caters for a large variety of tastes. As the end of term approaches we have become much busier. Visits in the coming week include a trip to the 100 Club on Sunday December 4 to see the *Big Town Playboys*, a trip to ITV Studios to see *This is Your Life* on Wednesday December 7, a Casino trip and a visit to Ronnie

Scotts on Thursday December 8. So far this term the Club has organised trips to the City, the Old Bailey, stockcar racing, Jongleurs, Greyhound Racing and a lot others. We've got a lot of lively trips coming up so anybody out there who does not feel their social life is up to much come and join us. Membership is £1.50 and gives you a discount on most club visits of at least £1.

# Felix Editor in irrelevant headline fiasco shock

**Student Loans.** In accordance with Union Council policy the Union now has three copies of the Government's White Paper 'Top-Up Loans for Students'. I have read this document and am in the process of producing a briefing paper which will outline the Government's proposals and also endeavour to explain how these will affect students of this College. This should be out in department's on Monday. There will be an Emergency Union General Meeting on Thursday 8th December to discuss the proposals and also to decide on the Union's response.

**NUS Demonstration.** A few people have commented that they thought the Exec Committee were wrong not to go on the demonstration organised by the NUS. I think the activities of the students on that march really summed up why the Exec were not prepared to take part in such a farce.

**Alcohol Awareness.** Today is the last day of Alcohol Awareness Week. I hope that some of you have tried the low alcohol alternatives that have been on promotion in the Union Bar. Some of you may even try them again in the future, you never know! The next phase of Welfare '89 takes place between January 9th and 13th when the subjects covered will be AIDS, sexuality and homophobia.

**Transport.** Just recently Surf Club were fined £24.70 for failure to return a van on time and for lying to me about when it was returned. They were also charged £14 for the extra administration costs incurred. This came about because the Club had not bothered to check whether the van was required when they returned it and they were not sure of the Transport Procedures. If anyone else is unsure of the procedures then ask Kathy or myself. Transport Committee does not accept ignorance as an excuse!

Nigel D. Baker,  
ICU President.

# When I were a lad you could live for a week on a shilling

**Rent Strike.** I was rather disturbed to read in the report of Council that I was wimping out of the rent strike originally planned for next term. I feel that it would be a little unreasonable for us to pressurise College further when they appear to be taking positive steps towards transferring monies from overseas fees to the residence account pending enquiries to the University Grants Committee.

**Student Loans.** A number of people have come up to me and said 'You don't care, you git' because I didn't go on the march last week.

The reasons that I missed the march were namely:

- a) That the organisation at the Imperial end was at short notice.
- b) That I hadn't yet obtained and read the White Paper on the loans.
- c) I do not think that it was the best way to change the Government's decision.

I am very concerned about loans and welcome any suggestions as to how the Union can best defend students finance.

Last but not least, don't forget to see the *Jets* tonight as they are absolutely brilliant! Up yer bum, Ian Moris

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# THE NERD

Union Concert Hall  
Dec 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10  
7.30pm

**Good news for all SCC Clubs. The lat SCC meeting of the year will be today at 6.30pm in the SCR. Happy Christmas.**

# IC Student Arrested

Thirty students from Imperial College attended the 'Loans' demonstration on November 24 that became uncontrollable and led to widely reported violent scenes on Westminster Bridge.

Imperial students reported that the demonstration was disciplined but badly organised with too few NUS stewards. Colleges and universities throughout the country were represented and the NUS had expected less than two-thirds of the 15,000 students attending.

The NUS believes Socialist Workers' Party students featured strongly among a break-away group that was deliberately confrontational and provoked a cavalry charge from mounted police.

Students marched from ULU in Malet Street across Waterloo Bridge to an assembly point at the Imperial War Museum. The students continued to Westminster Bridge but were informed that they could not enter Parliament Square.

Imperial students reported that the police tried to clear the bridge but there was nowhere to move to. Ugly scenes ensued and 69 people, including one IC student, were arrested.

# Booze Blues

'Alcohol Awareness', this term's Union Welfare Campaign culminates today, with the appearance of a liver testing machine in the JCR and Union Snack Bar.

All Council 'hacks' have been mandated to undergo a test rumoured to be the result of Nigel Baker's concern for their health. Today features the promotion of low alcohol drinks in the Union Bar.

The liver testing machine detects the presence of an enzyme particularly susceptible to alcohol and indicates any liver damage.

Nigel Baker told FELIX that there had been a good response to the leaflets placed around College this week.

Campaigns planned for next term are on AIDS, Social Security and drugs. The Union hopes to have the results of 1,200 welfare surveys for the new Welfare Officer to plan the campaigns for IC students.

# AP Bored?

A motion calling for an editorial board to be set up to control the content of the Alternative Prospectus was carried unanimously at Tuesday's Union General Meeting.

The motion called for an editorial board consisting of the IC Union and Constituent College Union Academic Affairs Officers, an editor and four randomly chosen members of Council. Under the motion, the editor will be responsible for the production of the publication, but the content of the Prospectus will be the responsibility of the committee.

Proposing the motion, Deputy President, Chas Breerton pointed out that editors in the past had been 'victimised' by those departments who were unhappy with their write-ups in the Alternative Prospectus. He pointed out that an editorial committee would ensure that any articles written were factual and pointed out that this year's Alternative Prospectus Supplement had to be rewritten and reprinted at a cost of £1,000 to the Union because

of factual errors.

Following a procedural motion by President Nigel Baker, the discussion of two motions on student loans was postponed until an Emergency General Meeting on Thursday next week. Mr Baker said that this would allow him to circulate a paper he was writing on Student Loans.

# NERDS

The wacky boys and girls from Imperial College Dramatic Society will be presenting their version of 'The Nerd' next week. The play, a side splitting comedy, is written by Larry Shue and was first made famous by Rowan Atkinson in 1984. It can be seen in the concert hall at 7.30pm from Tuesday December 6 to Saturday December 10. Admission is £2.00 from Tuesday to Thursday and £2.50 on Friday and Saturday.

# Indsoc Dinner Scandal

Industrial Society held a free dinner for its members last Friday paid for out of the profits from the Careers Fair.

A spokesman said the Fair generated £8,000 of which £1,500 will pay for typesetting the Careers Fair Brochure, the cost of which was 'under estimated.'

The Indsoc chairman stated that £2000 would be spent on the dinner at £25 per head - justified by 900 man hours of work.

Nigel Baker told FELIX that it didn't seem very moral but there was nothing he could do about it.

Non-grant income from any society can be spent without recourse, however, next year's Careers Fair profits will be controlled by the Industrial Relations Committee so the issue will not arise again.

This year's Careers Fair disrupted the Rag Week for which a £500 donation was made in recompense.

A Careers Fair organiser suggested that profits of up to £18,000 could have been achieved by increasing stall charges and advertising rates, without decreasing the number of companies participating.

# Christmas Capers

The Rector's wife, Mrs Claire Ash has organised the IC family Christmas party 'The Christmas Caper' for December 11 at 2.30pm.

Staff and students are invited, particularly overseas students, to witness Father Christmas distribute presents to hospital children. Dramsoc will perform a panto and guests will be invited to participate in music and games of wit and skill.

Tickets, including ice cream and cake, are £2 available from the HUB Office, Sheffield Building.

# Rescued

College Finance and Executive Committee postponed plans to sell Montpellier Hall last week.

ICU President Nigel Baker favoured proposals to sell Montpellier, which requires £230,000 upgrade, in order to provide more accommodation in a less salubrious area than Knightsbridge.

The Committee noted that a property worth £4-£5 million could prove difficult to sell as the current high mortgage interest rate may deter buyers.

Montpelier Hall provides accommodation for 100 postgraduates at IC.

# And Finally...

The Rag game 'Killer' was completed last Thursday in a 'wild-west' style gun fight. Over fifty people originally joined the 'circle of death' and around £100 has been raised for charity. Each person was contracted to assassinate another player. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways, but were generally shootings. Once a killer makes an assassination, he then carries out his victim's contract, until one person is left.

The sole survivor was Karl Edwin, having twelve kills to his credit, he receives first prize.

Second prize went to Claude Beazley with eight kills. The third prize was awarded to Dave Woods for the 'most interesting kill', he decapitated one of his victims with a scythe, while impersonating a 'Grim Reaper'.

...AND WHILE THE POORER STUDENTS WERE SUFFERING FROM HUNGER & HYPOTHERMIA IN THE COLD BRITISH WINTER....



...INDSOC WERE STUFFIN' THEMSELVES AT SOME POSH \*\*\*\*\* RESTAURANT.

