



Felix

THE JOURNAL OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

VALUABLE



PRECIOUS

Letters

Evelyn Merger

Dear Bill,

The proposal to merge Willis Jackson and Holbein Houses, it has been suggested could be accomplished before the start of the next academic year. The benefits of this would be the conversion of one of the warden's flats and the possible conversion of a subwarden's flat into student accommodation. The cost of these improvements, providing 3 to 5 places, would obviously be quite large and would have to be met by the already overstrained Residences account. The merger would result in a deterioration in social life, quite apart from the financial considerations. At present there is a marked difference between the social life in the three smaller Evelyn Garden Houses, and the sterility and isolation apparent in Southwell and Fisher Halls.

It has been argued that few of the students in Willis Jackson gave preference to this house on application forms. This to some extent also true of other Evelyn Garden houses, because of their isolation from college, but the vast majority of the present residents would not now wish to move. It seems ridiculous that the opinions of people who, at that point had not even seen the house or attended college, are put forward as a reason for the merger. There is very little enthusiasm amongst the students at either House for these plans, and the House Committee at Willis Jackson has resolved to fight them. We hope the college can find other ways to resolve its accommodation crisis.

Rupert Clayton
Nicholas Marley
(10 other students)

UGM

Dear Bill,

I attended the UGM last week for the first time for a while, and was not surprised to find that the usual tricks of putting the interesting business last were still going on. When this occurs, to help along business often before quorum is called, I do not object, but there was only one issue in which two-thirds of those present were interested. Business was spun out for an hour before the motion on UGM abolition was discussed, and sufficiently long for people with 2.30 lectures to have to leave before voting was completed. The audience was considerably reduced before this occurred. A number of appeals from the front of the meeting were made, to give serious consideration to separate parts of the motion concerning the merger with St Mary's. It did indeed deserve better treatment than it received, but the majority of the audience was faced with the choice of a vote now or never, it was voted down entirely. Given the way in which the meeting is handled, it was impossible to produce any useful decisions from any point within the motion, except that UGM abolition was not acceptable.

Attending a UGM to vote on an issue I feel strongly about, is virtually the only time that I have contact with the workings of the Union.

I am not surprised that all other students with whom I have discussed this motion, have agreed that UGM abolition is unacceptable. The one point of the college organisation which has impressed me while being a student here is the openness of the system to the electorate to compel the wishes upon a disinterested Executive, or to curb its excesses. This has always seemed a sharp contrast to elections outside college.

David Pierce
Physics PG

Support

Dear Bill,

In the Alternative Prospectus Update published at the end of last term, the Sub-Editorial stated that the Undergraduate Studies Committee, 'do not receive as much support as is necessary to really get things done'.

At the Committee's last meeting we discussed this statement with the Sub-Editor, and I want to let everyone know, through your columns that the Undergraduate Studies Committee has never been delayed in its work by lack of support from the College, from the Union, from the AUT or from the board of studies. Indeed the support we have received from all sources has been magnificent.

College has funded us generously. For example, we could purchase a mark reader to process the teaching appraisal forms which everyone will be invited to complete in the next few days. It has also given us funds to meet all academic staff training, and so to extend the training given to offered to probationary teachers so that they do a course in each of the probationary years.

The support from college has also allowed us to institute the reviews of undergraduate teaching in departments, and by the end of this session more than half the departments in college will have been reviewed. In every case the report of the review and the changes recommended, have been accepted by the Board of Studies and by the department concerned, without major amendment.

The Board of Studies have also supported us by accepting important new practices suggested in our reports. The most obvious will be the availability to all students, this year, of the responses to the lecturing appraisal survey in their department. Other significant changes will follow the acceptance of our report on Undergraduate Motivation and Performance earlier this session, which gave guidelines on student load, curriculum organisation and tutorial practice which can be monitored in our departmental reviews from now on.

Support from students has been positive, constructive and energetic, both from the student members of the Committee, from Departmental Representatives and from students who have met the assessors during departmental reviews. We have been criticised for slowness, and there have been times when we have consciously moved slowly in order to give time for others to accept our point of view. But I think there have been significant achievements in our three and a half years of existence.

Yours David Blow Professor of Biophysics

'Lefties'

Dear Bill,

Last week's FELIX saw Ian Morris, Julian Moore and Neil McClusky corner the market in 'factual inaccuracies'. I would like to submit some 'logical inaccuracies' from their entries.

Regarding the ridiculous Water Polo Loans posters, I quote Julian Moore, 'Ian Morris saw the posters and agreed that they were totally illegal, but he isn't going to create a fuss because he agrees with the sentiments'. The question is not whether these posters met with club committee's approval, but where the hell is the connection between water polo and student politics! Surely a society is given a budget AND an official Union name on the basis that they will be used to further the stated aims of the society. The water polo club was simply adopted as a tag to legitimise the political activities of its committee.

The embryonic anti-student loans society (which now merits capital letters in Julian's letter, and so seems to exist) should have set themselves up and then acted. If they can get all those innocent students to sign their petition, then surely they could find twenty or thirty to form a society.

As someone who attended the first anti-loans meeting at college I would like to contend his denial that they are not 'leftist hacks' - the whole room smelt of SWSS. They succeeded in hijacking the water polo club, and then went on to hijack ICU for their own political ends.

ICU is unique. It has been well known for being apolitical - when Ken Baker visits most universities he gets pelted with eggs and yoghurt, when he visits IC he gets interviewed by STOIC. Many Lefties who come here complain at the apolitical nature of our Union - they complain that its not fighting their causes for them. I think most IC students are generally proud of our student Union and its independent stance. There are signs of this being eroded - the out of character adoption of the loans campaign may be the first example.

Andrew Allum Physics III

Word of advice

Dear Bill,

Last year Syd had the good sense to accept the advice given by Nigel this year - namely 'never write back' to letters in FELIX. Nick Bradshaw, ICU President 1976/77, imparted these words of wisdom to his successor, Hugh Barrett, and urged me to pass them on to all future Presidents, saying that a sensible President has neither time nor inclination to indulge in distasteful slanging matches in the media.

Perhaps it would be a good extension of the same principle if past sabbaticals still at college also refrained from replying to letters in FELIX.

Sincerely,
Jen Hardy-Smith
Union Administrator



Editorial

The papers for this year's sabbatical elections will go up on Monday. Hopefully, this year will see all four sabbatical posts keenly fought. There is nothing worse than an uncontested election, or as was the case last year, an election in which most of the opposing candidates were joke candidates.

For the first time, students this year will have the option of voting for a 'new election'. In the case of posts for which only one candidate is standing the candidate will still have to prove him- or her- self to the electorate.

The following posts are up for grabs:

President. The President is theoretically responsible for the overall organisation of the Union and represents the Union to the College. The President also takes responsibility for a number of areas of concern to students, for example academic affairs, athletics, external affairs or welfare and is required to research and distribute information in these areas.

Deputy President. The revamped Deputy President's job description was designed to remove much of the tedium from this position, but unfortunately was unsuccessful. In theory, the DP is responsible for the financial side of the Union, Union security and discipline, representing the Union on a number of College committees and chairing a number of Union committees. Like the President, the DP is supposed to take up two areas of responsibility on student matters.

Honorary Secretary (Events). The Hon Sec (Events) is responsible for organising anything that can be classed as a Union event. This involves liaison with Rag and Ents and the organisation of Freshers' Fair, Commemoration Ball, et cetera. The Hon Sec also acts as the Returning Officer and is responsible for producing and distributing publicity for Union General Meetings and other Union events.

FELIX Editor and Print Unit Manager. The FELIX Editor is responsible for the production of FELIX and the management of the Print Unit. The job is the toughest of the four sabbaticals and anyone thinking of standing for this post ought to go and see a doctor immediately.

Election Timetable

Papers up.....	13th February
Papers down.....	24th February
Hustings at IC.....	2nd March (1pm)
Hustings at St Mary's.....	27th February (evening)
Voting in departments.....	6th and 7th March
Results UGM.....	9th March

Publicity

Sabbatical candidates should come and see me before Wednesday next week to discuss their publicity requirements. The publicity budget this year has been set at £80 which should allow for the production of two sets of posters and a double-sided A4 leaflet.

We will be printing election publicity on 20th and 21st Feb and all artwork for printing must be completed before these dates. I will be available to assist with election publicity on the 13th, 14th, and 17th of Feb. In addition candidates will be able to book time on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of Feb when they will be guaranteed complete privacy within the FELIX Office.

Any candidates requiring typesetting should hand copy in by 17th Feb at 10.00am at the latest.

Manifestos. Copy for the manifesto's issue of FELIX should be submitted by Monday 20th Feb at 10.00am, accompanied by a photograph if you wish one to be printed. Late manifestos will not be accepted.

Manifestos should be submitted on a single side of A4 and should be hand written or double-spaced. A maximum of 300 words will be allowed; overlong manifestos will be cut at the 300th word. Candidates will not be allowed to proof-read their own manifestos, but FELIX staff will ensure that they are printed exactly as written.

Credits

It's been a sleepless week. A thousand and one thankyou's to Steve Meyfroidt for designing the cover, Toilet Editor Sez Wilkinson, Dev for the Valentine's page, Simon Bradshaw, Dave Thomas, Robin Davison, David Smedley, Ramin Nakisa, Doug King, Wendy Kite, Andy Bannister, Jason Lander, Paul Barton, Andy Garside, Yve Posner, Andy Waller, Adam Harrington, Mike Dalton, Sumit Guha, Andy Clarke, Wouter van Hulten, Liz Warren, Jen Hardy Smith for being mother, Felicity, Walter, Rose Atkins, Dean Vaughan, RCS and Ralph Greenwell for collating last week and all the collators. Staff meeting today at 12.30pm

Debts

IC Choir who promised us collators in return for a free advert but did not fulfil their part of the agreement.

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Smallads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AIESEC Meeting**, Tuesday 12.45pm, Mech Eng 748. Valentine's big kiss from Konrad Pagenstert for all who turn up!
- **Is anybody else running in this year's London Marathon?** I'm looking for somebody to train with. Contact Gavin Spittlehouse, Computing 3.
- **Environmental and Appropriate Technology Society** present 'Environmental Week' from 20 to 24 Feb. Lectures every day, 2 films and two stalls around College, one manned by the Green Party. Watch out next week for more publicity.
- **Booksale**—Avoid the crowds at Sotheby's. A unique chance is afforded of acquiring withdrawn items of Central Libraries book stock. Many bargains to be had. Lyon Playfair Library foyer, 9.30-14.00 Wednesday 22 Feb.
- **Ladies basketball team** meets Fridays at 12.30pm, Volleyball Courts, behind Old Chemistry or contact K Crawley, Chem I via pigeonholes.
- **Help**—A red Marrin mountain bike was stolen from outside ME on Wednesday (1 Feb) afternoon. Anyone spot anything? Contact Tristram Graham, ME 3.

FOR SALE

- **Cannon** fitting lenses; Vivitar series 1. 28-135mm and Sigma 70-210mm. Also, cable and

tripod. Contact Tristram Graham ME 3.

- **Calling** all bikers—Nolan (N31) fibreglass helmet (unused). £50. Contact M Afsham, Computing 1 or extension 54 Tizard Hall.

PERSONAL

- **Christmas** is coming fast! Don't delay, contact Andy Plant (Chem Eng 2) for your free hamper catalogue.
- **Nutford House**. Corridor Speed Record: 17.5mph. Well done Jcn.
- **Nutford House News**—Get your Valentine's messages in now!
- **DoneV S O?** I am writing an article in FELIX about experiences in VSO and am interested in interviewing you. Please contact Features Editor, FELIX (Union Building).
- **Thanks, Manos.**
- **QT** is Cosmic, or is it custard? Just watch you don't put your foot in it, but then haven't you said enough?
- **Phallixword**: Telegram for Gothic Thunder! Congratulations! Ah! The Last Main Block.
- **The** rumour that IndSoc is changing its name to CVSoc is completely untrue.
- **Italian** speaker wanted, for regular conversation practice. Contact Paul Smith, Management School, int 7029.
- **Phallixword**: The Purest? Yes I think so. Wasn't it a cadillac you were looking for?—TLMB
- **QT** watch this space!

THE GREAT GUILDS RAVIOLI COMPETITION

14th February at 1pm

Beit Quad

Do you like Ravioli?
Would you like a free meal?
Can you find sponsors?

YES? Then collect sponsorship forms
from the Guilds Office. 10 best forms
get to compete.

£500 national prize for most Ravioli
eaten in 5½ minutes.



—too far—

Do you think I'm sexy?

This is the final article in a series of highly investigative and profound features, in which a certain student reveals the heartfelt views of the students of Imperial College and Great Britain, on the National Issues of Union Rats, alcohol enforced overdrafts and finally but by no means least, the hounding dilemma of the editorial freedom of FELIX.

The Paper

FELIX uses sentences which are far too long and words which are far too gynomous. It deliberately out-talks the average student reader whose average IQ is certainly less than the average FELIX hack's IQ. A certain student (Syd - Ed) recently stated that out of a random selection of 5 Felices he understood at least

30% of the contents in at least one case. The underlying purpose behind this seemingly innocent ploy is to make FELIX the only publication which fully understands the idiotic farces that take place in the loony bin. It is a well known ploy in publishing to keep the dramatic facts secret and print something that is completely uninformative. FELIX is falling into this trap. FELIX has totally rejected the offer of supreme editorial power from the Union. If this offer had been accepted the Sabbaticals would have edited printed and produced the paper and as a weekly freebie given an Exec News insert. However the staff are bound by some wierd chant of 'Editorial Freedom' and remain oblivious to this offer.

Wendy (Ian) Morris Hon Sec for

events attempted to express his opinions in a recent rant article. If he pays a little more attention to seeking supreme power Ian could exhibit an outstanding year for his Union rather than organising discos for the regular six American attenders. FELIX is here to project a view on every issue. It should be completely accountable to the President and totally banned from printing anything which in anyway condemns the action of the Union. In this way students will be protected from the need to express any opinion or to have any say in the running of their ruling body. It is a system which has worked brilliantly in Russia. Why not try it here in Imperial (Russia)? Come on FELIX think about it sensibly.

The Editor

Although the best candidate for the job at the time of the elections easily beating his opponent to the stark horror of the existing supremo Ms McHackney, Mr William Goodwin has since been discovered a horrible fraud. Not only did he run the election under the false name of Bill, a tactic strictly outlawed in the fading turquoise Union bible, but his strange sexual history and outrageous sexual perversions were kept strictly secret. The election was obviously one of the most successful cover-ups ever performed. However since October Bill has come out of the closet. His harrowing desire to be the mother of other peoples babies has been revealed and I

suspect there is worse to come.

On the work side there is yet more scandal. A dark and sinister personality has been revealed in wild personal attacks on our meek president Nigel Baker typified in the scandalous editorial in which Bill accused Mr Baker of being an 'overgrown kiddie' and subsequently even sank to the depths of 'below the belt' personal attacks and labelled the leader as an 'infant megalomaniac'. Come on Bill. Nigel was simply trying to turn over supreme power to himself, invalidate all the views of students in the Union, destroy all known forms of democracy, conceal all decisions and actions from FELIX and the College, and maintain his blissful relationship with the lovely doctors and nurses in Paddington. Is that *really* too much to ask?

Indeed secret sources have revealed that the voice heard at the UGM chanting 'this is exactly how Nazi Germany started', was that of Mr Goodwin himself. We must ask ourselves how this fiend slipped through our rigorous election procedure. It must not happen again. Mr Goodwin is a ferocious literary farce who ought to carry a powerful government health warning to ward off the meek and submissive staff under his power. At the same time deep down Bill is a soft marsh mallowing character whom I once would have considered a good partner. Presently I fear his future academically and sexually. I'm sorry Bill but it had to be said.

PICOCON SKETCH

For the outsider, attending a science fiction convention is not unlike being an alien stranded, helpless on a strange planet without even a Speak-and-Spell for company. He is surrounded by people whose language he does not speak and whose customs he does not understand. To put it another way, your correspondent spent last Saturday at Imperial College Science Fiction society's 'PicoCon'.

The culture shock is instantaneous. The outsider, plucking up his courage, enters the hallowed portals of the Union building and approaches the SFers at reception. 'Are-you-eye-see-ess-eff?', the duty SFette enquires 'No' he nervously replies. 'Astra?' Again the answer would seem to be negative. He is labeled as a heretic and is handed a tell tale blue badge.

The outsider sets out to explore this strange new world. In the corner of the entrance hall stands a black board optimistically proclaiming no problems. On the wall an arrow points to something called a 'fanroom'. Intrigued, he follows it.

What strange creatures inhabit this place? In one corner a gaggle of people leant over buzzing, bleeping computers busy blasting digital aliens to technicolour smithereens. In another wizards and hobbits fight each other with notepads and dice. At the very back of the room, hidden behind rows of brightly painted plastic rockets, sat a genuine enthusiast, the first of the day. All around people were talking excitedly of Pratchett and Langford and Shaw, of the last CONNIE and of ICON 91. The outsider, overwealmed, wanders out.

Upstairs he finds more SFers, worshippers of the great god Tee-Vee. He slips quietly into the room and stands by the door. On the screen, an enormously fat man explodes. The audience is both nauseated and delighted. He leaves

again.

Back in the entrance hall the blackboard's luck has run out: it now informs the world that the bar will not be open for another hour. Nearby, worried looking beings in ICSF sweatshirts discuss lost guests.

The outsider pokes his head around the door of something ominously named Battle of the Plants, fully expecting to see an aspidistra and a rubber plant locked in mortal combat. Instead he sees two dozen humanoids. One of them gets up and faces the others. He is handed a piece of paper. At a signal he begins to wave his hands about wildly. The others shout at him, 'Book!', 'Film!!', 'How many Syllables?!'. Suddenly he jumps up and points excitedly at some random SFer, apparently the winner. The prize would seem to be a question, a question of such obscurity that no normal person could possibly answer it. As a rule, it is answered correctly. After half an hour or so, the outsider sidles out, his head spinning.

It is the afternoon. The blackboard in the entrance hall is apologising

profusely for the loss of two guests to bronchitis and the late arrival of another. Ruling committee members are taking it in turns to wear a gold hat and gibber inanely. The convention starts to get going. The guests are due to speak.

The stars of the show, and the heroes of the audience, are the SF authors themselves. These people know their audience and know how to make them happy. They read from their latest books with unhindered bravura. They describe the plots of books yet to come. Graphic descriptions of invasions of killer stomachs, stories of useless guards and impractical dragons, side-swipes at publishers and other authors: the audience lap it up. This type of enthusiasm is equally contagious. The outsider finds himself laughing at in-jokes he does not understand. He is almost converted.

Suddenly, the speech is over. Any questions? A hand shoots up in the audience. 'In your book...'. The effect is rather like having the wind knocked out of you. The questioner gives a page reference and asks

PGs hit by loans

The proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper 'Top up loans for students', will lead to a critical shortage of students willing to take up Post Graduate study. This was the consensus of a meeting of the Post Graduate Students Committee (PGC), at a meeting last week at ULU. They claim that the debt burden incurred as undergraduates will deter most graduates continuing in education. Post Graduates will not be able to draw on Social Security Benefits after 1990, under the plans but a discretionary £5m Access Fund will be administered by Universities 'for cases of genuine hardship'. This

fund will be totally inadequate, according to the PGC, who foresee severe difficulties for Post Graduates after the deregulation of rents and the introduction of Poll Tax. London, as the region with the highest rents will be the hardest hit. Robert Jackson MP, the Higher Education Minister, informed the Committee that only mandatory PG grants would be frozen. Such grants are held by clinical students at Medical Schools. The Government proposals do not discuss how discretionary awards will be calculated which are currently linked to the level of an undergraduate grant.

Doug Hurd addresses ConSoc

The Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd MP was invited to the Conservative Society meeting last Tuesday. He began his talk by outlining the Government policy on some of the major issues currently in the news.

One the issue of football identity cards, he emphasised thier sole purpose of keeping the hooligan element out of football matches rather than intimidating the general public. He merged the issue of the Official Secrets Bill and the 'Right of Detention' in Northern Ireland with the answe that both were designed to ensure an atmosphere of greater security for the general public. At the end of his speech, a barrage of controversial questions were asked by students from the Third World First and Socialist Workers' Party. The questions ranged from the issue of tough immigration policies, the 'unaccountability' of the security services, alleged police brutality to the Government's policy on curbing AIDS in prisons.

ULU elect new president

The University of London Union's General Union Council has elected Ruth Benzimra as President for the rest of this academic year. Ms Benzimra, who was elected unopposed, said she wanted to work full-time for ULU after having been a member of ULU's Executive Committee for 2 years. Ms Benzimra's election comes after ULU's previous President, Stewart Jackson resigned at an emergency meeting of GUC in January.

AUT boycott latest

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) have resolved to continue their boycott of examinations after describing the most recent pay offer made to them as 'Meagre and inappropriately modest'. In London, heads of departments

in Queen Mary's College are refusing to request examination papers and the AUT are claiming 'total support' in Birkbeck College. The AUT claim that there are over 30 Universities involved in the dispute nationwide.

RCS raise loads-a-dosh

The Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) has raised in the region of £1600 by selling Rag Mags on a tour around 14 Universities in the North of England. Over 3000 Rag Mags were sold at Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool and other Universities. The tour brings the RCSU Rag total to over £16000 for this year.

Valentines Caption Competition



The sender of the wittiest caption recieved by Tuesday lunchtime will win a crate of L. Ron Hubbard books or a night out with the FELIX editor. This competition was sponsored by 'No-News Blues' Inc.

Jesus, Blues, Love, Death and Mozart

LIVE

Jazzy Blues

Chris Barber's Jazz & Blues Band, 100 Club, Wednesday 25 Jan.

Trombonist, vocalist, bandleader, record producer, jazz fanatic—the list is impressive in itself, but Chris Barber has been all of these things for 35 years. Since the 1950s when he helped found the legendary Marquee Club, then in Oxford Street, his band of dedicated musicians has toured the world and recorded a broad range of musical styles with a plethora of great musicians. It was he who first brought legendary blues giants such as Howlin' Wolf to Britain from America and his weekly sessions at the Marquee launched the R&B craze in the 1950s.

At lot has happened in the years since, but Barbers Jazz and Blues Band is still a group of dedicated musicians surviving it's personnel changes through the years. Their return to the 100 Club was an impressive show of traditional jazz, swing and mellow blues; rough yet clean, original foot stomping music delivered with an enthusiasm disguising their years. At home playing slow blues or shouting, powerful jazz, all eight blend their instruments together without losing their individuality. Pat Halcox's muted trumpet on *Spanish Castles*, the inspired double bass of Vic Pitt as he launches into a blinding solo, or the almost be-bop tenor saxophone with which John Crocker beautifully slides in and out of the melodies, all were worthy of the capacity crowd that night. Their success is undoubtedly the product of a passion for jazz shared by two friends who wanted to start a band 35 years ago. Their band is still going strong, and they still love jazz, but best of all, they are still playing it.

Rufus Isaacs.

The lucky bastard who won last week's comp. was Martin Steer, Life Sci IV.

FINALISTS

If you want a final year photo, or any group photo, and your department photographer is unable to do it, contact Doug King at FELIX. Any job considered. Competitive rates.

Jesus Jones

Jesus Jones have not been around long. You can tell this by the fact that they still have Joe 'I know the band mate' Bloggs turning up to their gigs. He is the one who subtly lets you know his acquaintance with the group by shouting 'Barry is a wanker' then laughing (laarfing) in a South London accent. The band are visibly embarrassed by this remnant of their schooldays and attempt to pass him off as a heckler. Joe will not be defeated though, he continues to yodel the names of songs then go 'Yeah' as they start the introduction and nod his head vigorously whilst all around him are static. One day the band will tell him to piss off, then they will have matured.

Jesus Jones try to shock, with attitude rather than antics. Proclaiming their own greatness, strutting, posing then playing listen-to-us pop rock à la *Wonderstuff*. They are the best of the *Pop Will Eat Itself-Wonderstuff* apostles. They play this arrogant music right and believe in what they say. They make you believe it, you feel that there must be something in them, they are a spectacle to be seen.

Jesus Jones are playing ICU on March 3, come along with your leather jacket.



Thinking of having a party, disco or soirée to impress your friends?

We'll have a disco just for you. It is cheap and we have the latest and greatest records for your delight and delectation. We can provide you with the Lounge Disco as seen at Ents events and Wednesday Night Discos, or a mobile disco for use anywhere in College. So, get together with your friends and book the Ents Disco

Contact B) via Ents pigeonhole (in Union Office) for more information.

The two prime movers in Mozart's creativity reflect the two greatest things in life; love and death. In his operas the most moving and genuine passages deal with these wonderful ideas which are the renewal of life, and an end to life. Mozart was an attentive and affectionate lover as can be seen from his letters to his wife Constanze. Seven years into their marriage, while he was away in Dresden, he wrote

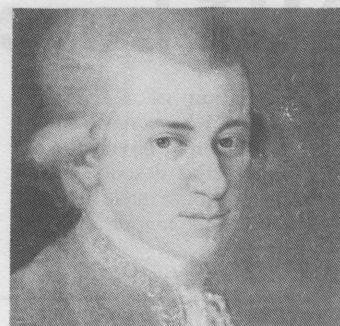
'Dearest little wife, if only I had a letter from you! If I were to tell you all the things I do with your dear portrait I think you would often laugh. For instance, when I take it out of its case, I say, 'Good-day, Stanzer! Good-day, little rascal, pussy-pussy, little turned-up nose, little bagatelle, Schluck und Druck', and when I put it away again, I let it slip in very slowly, saying all the time, 'Nu-Nu-Nu-Nu!' with the peculiar emphasis which this word so full of meaning demands, and then just at the last, quickly, 'Good night, little mouse, sleep well.' Well, I suppose I have been writing something very foolish (to the world at all events); but to us who love each other so dearly, it is not foolish at all. Today is the sixth day since I left you and by Heaven! it seems a year.'

His operas are full of complex love-affairs which usually end happily, such as those in his most famous opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*. The plot is rather light, but caused a stir among the aristocracy of the time because it showed the servants of the household plotting against, and making a fool of, their masters. We start with Figaro, man-servant of the Count Almaviva, calling out the measurements for the room which is to contain his wedding-bed. His fiancée, the scrutiny Susanna, tells him that the Count has designs on her. The countess is enamoured of a young and handsome page called Cherubino who spends a great deal of time hiding in cupboards and climbing out of back windows. Figaro is loved by a crinkly old woman, Marcellina, who is old enough to be his mother, and who actually turns out to be his mother. The complexity reaches its height when the Count asks Susanna to do something that a fiancée really should not, but she dupes him by swapping dresses with the countess so that the Count commits adultery with his own wife. To save face he declares his love for her and everyone sings a happy chorus.

Mozart's character also had a deeper and more serious side. This

can be seen in a letter he wrote to his father Leopold, whom he loved greatly, on hearing of his illness.

'...but now I hear that you are really ill. I need hardly tell you how greatly I am longing to receive some reassuring news from yourself. And I still expect it; although I have now made a habit of being prepared in all affairs of life for the worst. As death, when we come to consider it closely, is the true goal of our existence, I have formed during the last few years such close relations with this best and truest friend of mankind, that his image is not only no longer terrifying to me, but is indeed very soothing and consoling. And I thank my God for graciously granting me the opportunity (you know what I mean) of learning that death is the KEY which unlocks the door to our true happiness.'



Old Motzie himself

His masterpiece, the Requiem, was commissioned by a 'stranger in grey'. He became convinced that he had been poisoned with acqua toffana, a designer poison of the seventeenth century, as his wife described after his death

'Some six months before his death he was possessed with the idea of his being poisoned - 'I know I must die,' he exclaimed, 'someone has given me acqua toffana and has calculated the precise time of my death—for which they have ordered a Requiem, it is for myself that I am writing this.'

His wife forced him to put it aside, and so he wrote a masonic ode which was a great success. This gave him confidence to return to the Requiem, but within a few days of starting he fell ill and died a few months later. To the last he worked on the Requiem, dictating to his pupil Sussmayr, and telling him how to complete the work. A woman at his bedside wrote 'his last movement was an attempt to express with his mouth the drum passages in the Requiem. That I can still hear.'

Hear it for yourself: Philips 411 420—2.



The INDEPENDENT

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Florida

Getting There

America is the mother of the hamburger, the large rootbeer, the fast-food joint. Yet never before have I encountered such difficulty in ordering a Big Mac (without large fries, thank-you) as the time I entered the McDonald's at 71st and Collins, Miami Beach, Fla. The problem was the different language which we share.

This turned out to be a recurrent trouble. I could speak American quite well, but that didn't seem to be enough. The natives are from such diverse backgrounds and races that the title 'American' becomes hideously meaningless. But I don't intend to tackle the historical development of the US of A, nor the sociological implications of a mixed population.

This is the story of a simple holiday which began a week or so earlier at three a.m. in the departure lounge of Gatwick Airport. This is the first thing you must know about the United States—it is so far away that you have to fly to get there. You also need to fill in a little pink form explaining who you are and why you never got an entry visa, otherwise the US immigration will stop you going to your hotel, or in fact anywhere. Few people at Gatwick seem to know of this and so our holiday kicked off with a couple of hours of pitiful gibbering and weeping, fearful of refusal at the entry gate.

Soon we were up though, and only eight hours later we were down again. A brisk walk through Miami Airport to our internal flight, on which nobody had bothered to reserve seats for us, and we were up again. Florida itself is 400 miles long and can be covered by a short hop on a plane. You see, America is big. So big that anything further than the drugstore at the end of the street is usually reached by automobile, and quite often by plane.

We took off in glorious sunshine, (Miami was at 90 degrees), and landed in torrential rain, (Orlando was at only 86). Florida is known as the Sunshine State, and it just can't be anything more than a tourism play because it rained for three days



Nigel, Chas, Wendy and Bill

without a break. When the sun came out (and it didn't rain again for the next twelve days) the temperature soared and we could only pray for more rain to cool us down.

Orlando

Everyone knows of Orlando, if not by name then by the endless list of entertainments there. This really is the Vacation Capital of the World, no kidding. There are so many places to go that you have to plan your time very carefully, or else move there. Our bus driver (who we forgot to tip) claimed an acre of land can be bought, built on, and the house fully furnished for only \$90,000. It is almost cheaper to

emigrate than to rent a room in Southside all year. Hence three quarters of the State population are not native Floridians. Hence also everyone can afford lots of land, and even the things which are close together are far apart.

You need a car. Everybody has one in America, from second grade upwards it seems. Ours was provided by a friend who was out there, and we remain forever grateful to him for all the running around he did.

Day One. We went to Spaceport USA. This is the main Earth terminal for all manner of interplanetary, interstellar and intergalactic flight. It is also possible to take a bus tour around Kennedy

Space Centre, out to the launch pad where Discovery was quietly sitting, all wrapped up in a giant space-shuttle cosy. Most of this is free, or cheap, and it is all inside too, so when it's teeming down outside this is an ideal and very interesting place to go. We met a spaceman although my friend Neil thought he was only an actor.

Days Two, Three and Four. Walt Disney World. Step into the Magic Kingdom and you enter two hundred and fifty acres of pure amusement park. A multitude of rides, restaurants and gift shops crammed with Roger Rabbit paraphernalia. A short monorail trip away is EPCOT, two hundred and fifty acres of definitive crowd control. This is split roughly three ways also as above. The difference is the rides take the form of active museum exhibits. It isn't just the thrill of the rollercoaster (this being the appeal of the Magic Kingdom) but the stimulation of the imagination too. It was Mickey's 60th Birthday too and I was one of only a few million visitors to wish him a happy one.

Day Five. Several years ago an abysmal film came out by the name of Jaws 3. It was filmed largely at Seaworld. This is a mix of aquatic sideshows and animal exhibits. Some of the exhibits are a bit repetitive, but the shows are impressive and fun, if you don't mind a little animal cruelty here and there. The interesting bits can be seen in an afternoon, for a mere \$21.

Day Six. Our transport had left for London. We were confined to a hotel and in need of a rest. The television provided the only nearby entertainment, so we caught up on a number of video releases, ate Maltesers, drank Coca Cola Classic and tried desperately to pack all the T-shirts we'd bought into the cases. No mean feat.

Miami Beach

The City of Miami Beach is an island three miles from Miami, across Biscayne Bay. The bay is only four feet deep, so we were told, but to this day I remain dubious about that. The beach is famous and has come to prominence through several cameo performances in a number of movies and of course Miami Vice. A string of hotels and unfeasibly expensive houses line the



Miami Beach

coast, and there are several cinemas, a red light area (surprise, surprise) and a McDonalds.

As such, this provides a more conventional resort. It is a sun-worshippers paradise and centre for local excursions. We took several and lazed around the pool for the rest of the time.

Key West. This is the southernmost tip of Continental USA. Actually it is an island and I can't understand how it qualifies. It's extremely pretty and some of the buildings date back almost a hundred years. You quickly learn that anything dated earlier than the second world war is regarded as antique and so such history as exists in Key West is proudly manifest. After taking pictures at the monument, with Hurricane Gilbert 200 miles away in the background we went to the US Mail Office. The teller refused to sell stamps for Britain. The postal strike was on and he seemed convinced that our postcards would be burned and didn't want me to blame him when they were. Does anybody understand this?

The Everglades. Imagine an area of land, 2188 square miles, completely covered with long grass and water. Sound boring? It is. For a fee you can get out amongst all the grass in an airboat, see a few alligators swimming around, and wait politely for it all to end. The gators would have been interesting but we'd seen them earlier, wrestling with some native Indians. I joined in, shouted 'handbag!' at one then grabbed it while it cowered. Okay, the Indian caught a baby, taped its mouth up and passed it to me. Same thing. The Indians themselves proved to be the most pleasant people we met, even compared to the Disney clones.

Our remaining week was filled spontaneously. A day trip around Miami was spoiled only by the promise of Don Johnson, who did not appear. We did see J F Kennedy's flame for eternal peace, which was out, and wandered around Coral Gables and Bayside,

where much of Miami Vice is filmed. It all looks as pretty and expensive as the television series makes it seem.

The nightlife of Miami exists mostly in an area called 'Downtown'. This is also where most of the people in the world get mugged and it is so far from Miami Beach that it is difficult to reach anyway, even if you want to get your throat cut. We were forced to spend the evenings at a cinema or eating take away pizzas in the hotel room, watching TV.

On the last day, the Dolphins played home to Green Bay Packers, and in the glory of Joe Robbie Stadium we saw the Packers get stuffed, ate hot dogs and caught sunburn. A fitting end to a fortnight of alternative entertainment.

America

The only generalisation which can be made about America is that it cannot be generalised. It would be unfair to do so on the basis of a holiday in Florida anyway. A country this large (there are only three in the known universe which are bigger) must by nature be immensely diverse or terribly monotonous, and while bits are undoubtedly flat and boring (the Everglades, Salt Lake) most is not.

The best guide to most countries, at least in terms of culture and society, is television. Being in Rome (as the saying goes) we swallowed huge quantities of this medium. It provided a confused, overbearing and mixed bag of goodies, entertainment with an identity crisis. This confirmed my suspicions that nobody can really explain what a typical American is, least of all themselves.

In many ways though the States is similar to Britain. Far more expensive in some situations, much cheaper in others. While I cannot tell you the best place to go for a holiday, you could do much worse than Florida.

Andy Clarke

This is welfare

by your Welfare Advisor, Yve Posner

This year Imperial College Students' Union has made welfare a high priority. Mark Fisher, Physics 2, took on the job of Union Welfare Officer in late October 1988 and the Union has also appointed a full-time Welfare Advisor, Yve Posner, who joined the College in January.

Welfare covers a wide variety of subjects but during the Week 13th-17th February the emphasis will be on Welfare Rights in the areas of benefits, housing and immigration.

Every year millions of pounds of Welfare Benefit goes unclaimed by all sectors of the population. Some people are too proud to claim, many are put off by the bureaucracy of claiming and others just do not realise what their rights are. Therefore part of this campaign is to raise awareness of Welfare Benefits and to encourage students to claim what is theirs by right.

A handout has been produced outlining the benefits which some or all students can claim. These will be available at various places throughout the College. The benefits covered include.

- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Health Benefits
- Family Credit
- Child Benefit
- Disability Benefit

In addition to this, various specialists will be available during lunchtimes in the JCR to answer questions (for details see below).

Housing, of course, is one of the major problems faced by students. Not only is it difficult to find

accommodation but it is also expensive and many people are at the mercy of unscrupulous landlords.

If you want to find out more about your rights as a tenant, then come along and speak to the specialists.

Imperial College has over 1,100 Overseas students who face additional problems. Many students from abroad have only limited leave to enter the country and may encounter difficulties if they need to vary this leave or extend its duration for any reason. There are also restrictions regarding rights to benefits for many overseas students. The United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students Affairs (UKCOSA) is an organisation set up to promote and protect the interests of overseas students. It provides advice, training publications concerning the issues faced daily by students from abroad. On February 16 1989 a representative from UKCOSA will be available to answer queries.

There are, of course, many other situations which arise when it's important to know one's rights. For example what happens if your new Walkman chews up its first tape, you find a slug in your lettuce or your next door neighbour keeps you awake all night with loud music? These are some of the other areas 'Benefits and Rights Week' aims to address. The Union Welfare Advisor and other Benefits/Rights specialists will be available to answer your questions so it's up to you to exercise your rights and come to see them.

— WELFARE '89 — BENEFITS & RIGHTS WEEK February 13th-17th

Representatives from advice agencies, local councils and DSS will be available in the JCR 14th-17th Feb, 11.45am-2.30pm

Tuesday 14	DSS External Services Officer (will deal with queries regarding DSS benefits/procedures) Westminster Council Housing Benefit Officer (to answer questions on Housing Benefit) Imperial College Welfare Advisor (to answer queries on all types of benefits/rights issues)
Wednesday 15	DSS External Services Officer Westminster Council Housing Benefit Officer Imperial College Welfare Advisor Hammersmith Council Tenancy Relations Officer (will answer queries regarding private tenants rights, new Housing Act)
Thursday 16	DSS External Services Officer Advisor from UKCOSA (United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students Affairs — will answer queries regarding immigration, rights to benefits, etc) Representative from Fulham Law Centre will answer queries regarding law centres and help they can provide)
Friday 17	Advisor from Kensington CAB Citizen's Advice Bureau will answer benefits/rights queries and explain work CAB does) Hammersmith Council Tenancy Relations Officer

PHOTO LOVE

Fluffie goes
to Imperial



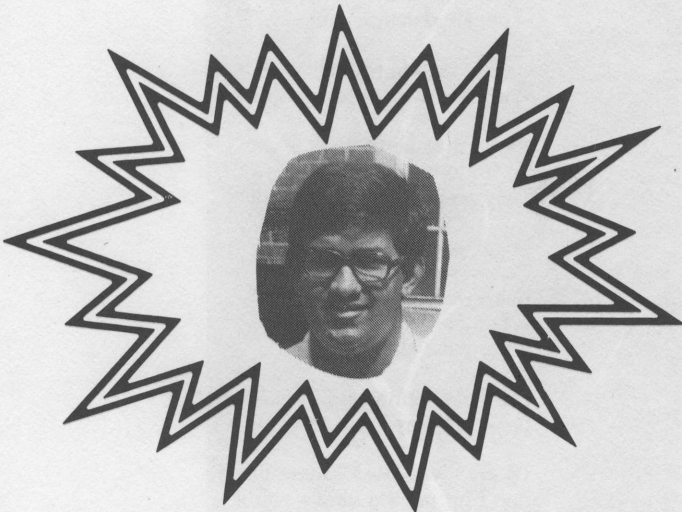
You've been offered a place at Imperial, dearie

Oh, Cripes, how wonderful!

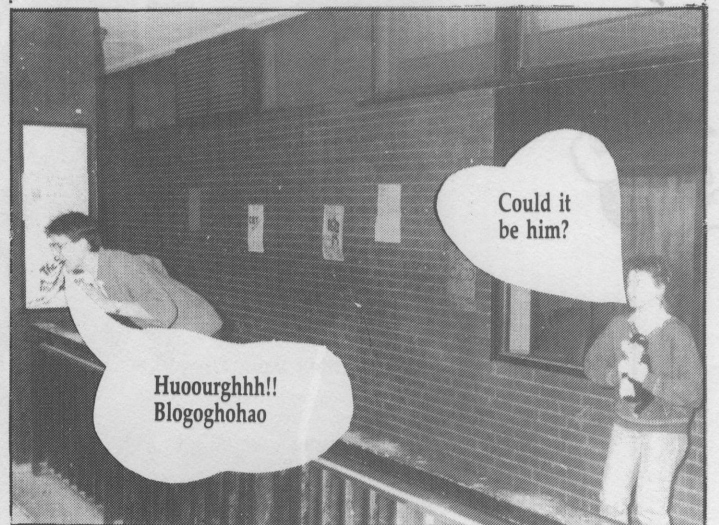
Once upon a time there was a girl called Fluffie Petite



I wonder what it will be like.



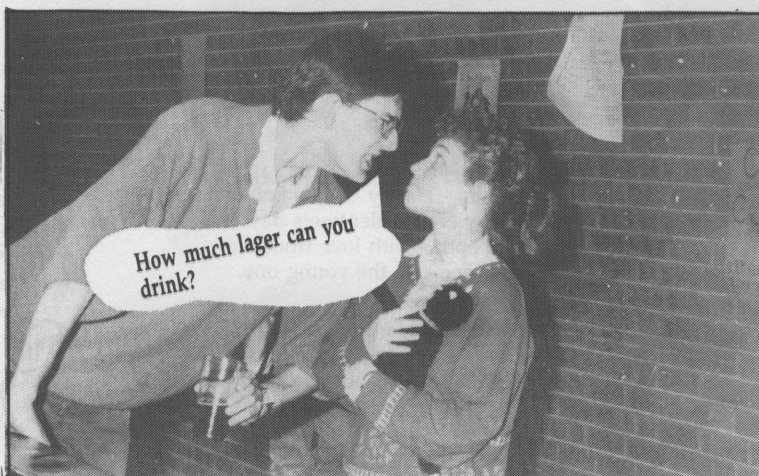
And perhaps I'll meet the man of my dreams



Could it be him?

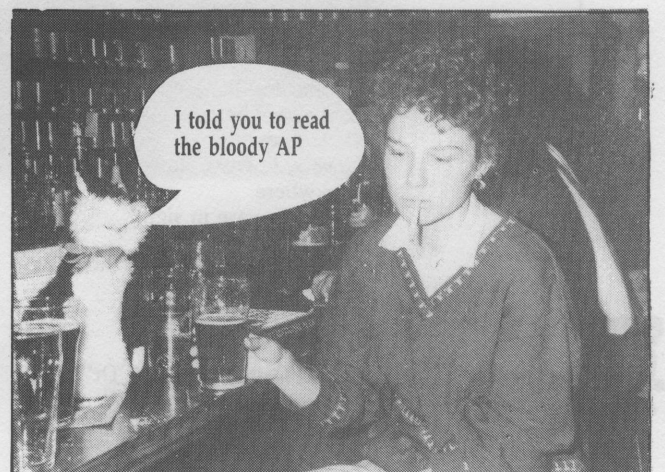
Huouourghhh!!
Blogoghohao

On her first day Fluffie was scampering ing down the walkway



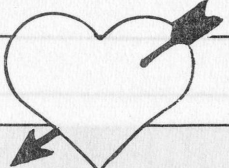

How much lager can you drink?

This guy was a real hunk with beery breath and zits



I told you to read the bloody AP

Poor Fluffie.



To all the girls we've kissed
before!! I.C Rugby.

To any Orchestral girls with a
yellow ribbon, remember this
poem!

Amy Sumner (Life Sciences 1) I
love you. Andy Latham.

To the gorgeous hunk in the
FELIX office you bet I wouldn't
do this, but I did.

P loves you 68 x
infinity.....yum!

- I'll clean my teeth if you've got
some toothpaste.....love you!!

HM "Baton Rouge (and NO
sesame seeds either!)", Terry
Yaki(?)

Alice J.- Lewis Carroll's Alice is
fabulous, but you are wonderful!
Fred Astaire.

Barbie- Never blow up on me
please, Ken.

Dirk- we can tiptoe through the
tulips anytime - X

To my little friend, lots of love -
Pussy.

Nigel Darling - we all love you
dearly - FELIX.

I'd die for Heather Taylor -
"Lord" Colin Sivas.

Eye eye Rachel!

Frog 43 Boss
Rebbit, rebbit, rebbit.
Arf, arf?
Cap 43 tab.
Smile boss.
Surprise
Prisoner for life?
Maybe, maybe not.....
Never know!
Flowers, flowers, flowers, flowers
everywhere
And not a vase in sight!
I LOVE MASCOT!
A.R I still love you even though
Snoopy's gone!

I love Heather Taylor - "Dr"
Simon Richards.

INXS Let me slap them thighs
and ride them nipples -A.S.

This lady rabbit lover toyboy and
her welsh rarebits.

Clare A. You're so commanding
and Machiavellian -Luv yer -
"Baron" Eric.

Freddy's Angels- new recruits
always welcome. Applicants must
pass initiation test.

I'm crazy about Heather Taylor
"Naughty" Nick Blade.

Klondyke, Take your glasses off!
O.S.H.M.

I.C. health warning !! Fred can
seriously damage your????

This is an ode to Fred
Who wants to get every girl in
bed.
As hard as he tries
To undo his flies
They just all wish he was dead.

Sugar is sweet
Candy is dandy
Keep well away
When Fred's feeling Randy
(or anyone else)

Let's play bunnies, El Presidente!
Love you forever, Bunnikins XX

To my own little Chinese Boxer -
don't hit me too hard - you'll
hurt my shoulder!


Let's run away together to
Polperro - I love you!

To the secret DocII admirer in
Registry from the secretly
admired DocII student.

Thankyou for giving me so much
trouble. Sorry for giving you so
much trouble.

Ewok and friendly medic-type
person - Happy Guilds Ball and
Merry New Valentine's day to
you both - with love from the
cute one and the young one.

Happy 15 months 22 days 13
hours and 38 minutes, today—
blue monkeys couldn't frighten
me away. Love BD.



If you're happy and you know it
Hug a Ralph.
If you're happy and you know it
Hug a Ralph.
If you're happy and you know it
And you want to keep your teeth
Get your hands off 'cos he's
mine.
Love Cath.

S- "Fill'd with her love, may I be
grown
Mad with much heart, than
ideott with none"
HELP! ITS ME (PIGLIT)!

So John's been Donne And the
Spear's been Shaken With a
romantic gufaw All piss has
been taken!

Pauls - let's revisit Brideshead.
I'm half price on Monday nights
- JH

Sergeant Goodwin's Lonely
Hearts Club Band offers:
*One Felix editor. As new. Good
runner with a few early morning
starting problems. Applicants should
apply to "Dear Landlord" c/o the
FELIX office.*

Gareth- Labour is red
Tories are blue
But I'm a real LIBERAL
Can I sleep with you?

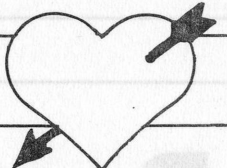
Be the fizz in my life, the man
with the rose

Anke: I see you in the swimming
pool
I see you in the JCR
I'd like to wear your mini skirts
But I haven't got that far.
Yet. Love Mr. Q.

Wanted: for lonely Felix Editor,
adoring office floozy (must be
female). Ability to make coffee,
do photocopying and collate with
Ed. well into the night. Apply
box 1, Felix office.

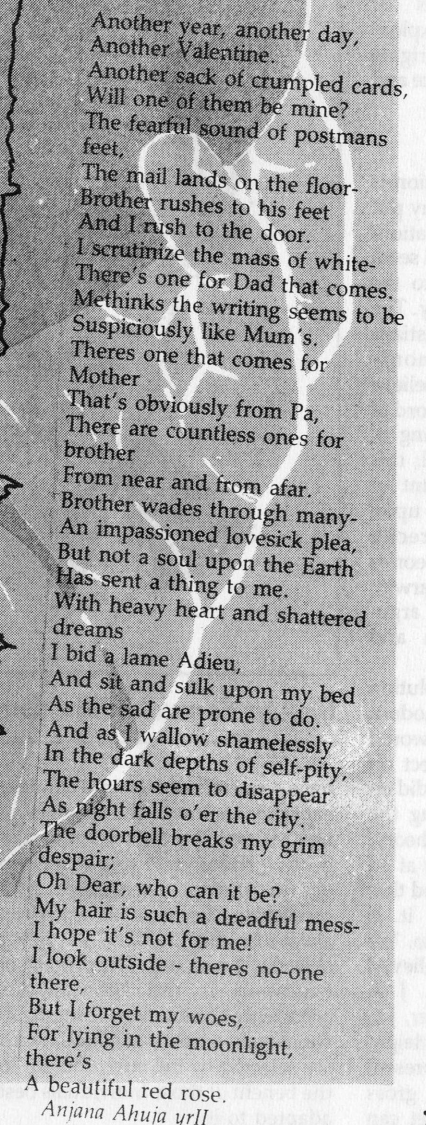
Felicity, why've you deserted my
bed for the top shelf?

On our fifth anniversary, Wo bist
du jetzt, meine leibchen?
(oder Svenchen, aber ich nicht
verstehe dass).



Newspaper editor seeks female
companion for romantic trip to
planet Zog. Apply box 1, Felix
office.

Oh, Anjana, I'm filled with pity,
But can only say what's true-
After typing this for half an hour
I murderously hate you.



Another year, another day,
Another Valentine.
Another sack of crumpled cards,
Will one of them be mine?
The fearful sound of postmans
feet,
The mail lands on the floor-
Brother rushes to his feet
And I rush to the door.
I scrutinize the mass of white-
There's one for Dad that comes.
Methinks the writing seems to be
Suspiciously like Mum's.
Theres one that comes for
Mother
That's obviously from Pa,
There are countless ones for
brother
From near and from afar.
Brother wades through many-
An impassioned lovesick plea,
But not a soul upon the Earth
Has sent a thing to me.
With heavy heart and shattered
dreams
I bid a lame Adieu,
And sit and sulk upon my bed
As the sad are prone to do.
And as I wallow shamelessly
In the dark depths of self-pity,
The hours seem to disappear
As night falls o'er the city.
The doorbell breaks my grim
despair,
Oh Dear, who can it be?
My hair is such a dreadful mess-
I hope it's not for me!
I look outside - theres no-one
there,
But I forget my woes,
For lying in the moonlight,
there's
A beautiful red rose.
Anjana Ahuja yrlI

Creation v Darwin

by Dave Thomas

Introduction

My sole purpose in writing this article is to demonstrate that it is perfectly possible to hold a fundamentalist Christian faith and yet still be a rational scientist. I believe that the concept that there is a dichotomy between science and the Bible and its claims is fallacious.

A more correct idea is that held by the ancient Greeks that science and theology are but facets of philosophy. This article will explore three contentious areas: the origins of life, the philosophy of science and the theology of science.

The origin of life

Christians believe that salvation is by faith; why then do so many put so much energy into the creation/evolution debate which would seem to be somewhat irrelevant to the central doctrine of Christianity. The reason is that certain Christians (myself included) commonly labelled as fundamentalists believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, the history and teaching of which is to be read as literal; this includes the creation account in Genesis 1 and 2 which even upon cursory examination directly contradicts evolutionary theories developed since the time of Darwin. So what are the scientific arguments behind creationism and evolution?

Few would deny that evolution forms the backbone of modern biology which, if broken, would have a far more radical effect on biology than Einstein's views did on physics. Despite only having the somewhat elevated state of a theory, evolution is taught as a fact at all levels of biology. It is assumed that everyone believes it and it is considered unscientific not to. Yet the following scientists all believed in creation; J C Babbage, J A Fleming, Lord Kelvin, J Lister, J C Maxwell, L Pasteur, Lord Rayleigh, G Stokes and M Faraday. To present theory as fact is itself a gross scientific misconduct and yet can either evolution or creation ex nihilo (from nothing) be regarded scientifically as theory?

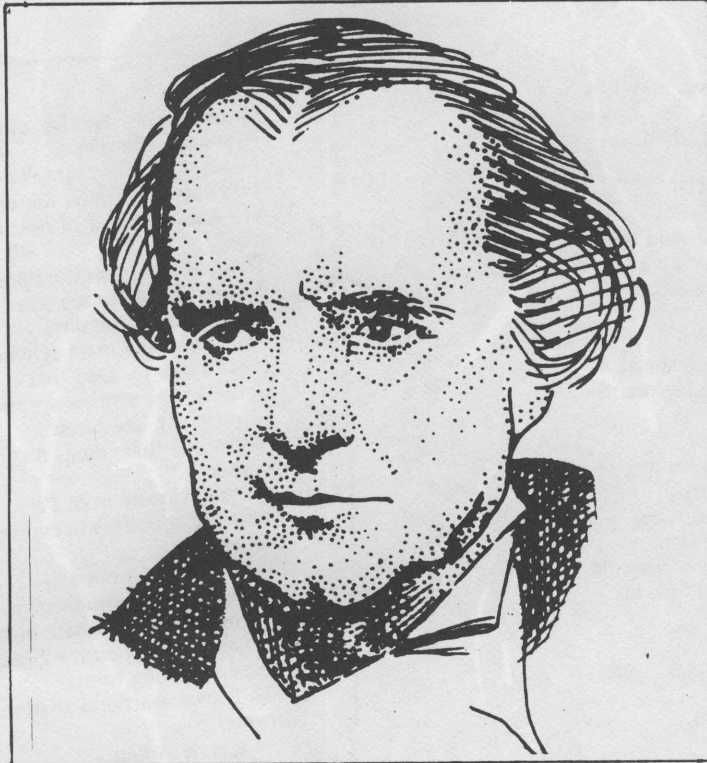
Scientific method requires observations of a phenomenon to be made followed by a hypothesis being formulated to explain these observations. One then does experiments to try and disprove the hypothesis. If, after much experimentation, you have not disproved, it the hypothesis becomes a 'theory'. A universally

not disproven theory is often regarded as a law. Using this method creation ex nihilo and evolution can at best be regarded as vague notions, as unless one has travelled in time, to observe these processes as they are supposed to

incompleteness and creationists maintain that it originates from Noah's flood.

Molecular Biology

The similarity of basic protein structures in all species leads to the



Bishop Samuel Wilberforce

have occurred, one cannot conduct experiments to test the accuracy of one's ideas. Therefore scientifically both theories depend on circumstantial evidence and conjecture, the basis of which can always be disputed and yet never objectively resolved. The concept of evolution is the spontaneous occurrence of mutations resulting in variation between individuals which are selected by the environment to the benefit of those individuals best adapted to it.

Creation ex nihilo argues that God created the world from nothing as per the Genesis account and that science purely observes what has been made.

I shall now give more examples of equivocal evidence used by protagonists of the two theories before considering God and miracles.

Fossil Record

Evolutionists cannot explain its

construction of evolutionary trees. It is equally plausible that a rational God would have a basic adaptable unit of design.

Anthropology

The evidence for the decent of man is far from conclusive.

Age of the Earth

Depends on the method used. Measurements on aluminium deposits give an estimate of 100 years!

The philosophy of science.

It was Aristotle who first put forward the concept of theology which states that all that can be observed in the universe tends towards its cause, ie God. This belief was held in the early church. The initiation of the dichotomy between science and religion was caused by the publication of Summa Theologiae and Summa Contra Gentiles

by St. Thomas of Aquinas in the thirteenth century. This argued for the use of reason within faith and this is the forerunner of modern apologetics. In the fifteenth century William of Occum developed what is commonly called Occum's Razor Principle ie that the simplest hypothesis that accounts for the observed data is probably the most correct. The birth of modern science was in the sixteenth century with Copernicus's Theory of the heliocentric universe and Bacon's development of modern scientific method with hypotheses being substantiated by observed data and not by reason as had previously been the case. Does science have limits within which it can operate? Science cannot explain where precisely the universe came from however elaborate Big Bang theories may become. Science cannot explain scientific law but can merely elucidate what it is from the phenomena observed. For example why are there positive, neutral and negative electrical charges, why 3 such charges and not four? Science is a consequence and not a cause of the laws of creation that it observes. It seeks to unify observed phenomena believing there to be an integrity to creation and the whys must be left to philosophy and theology. It is interesting to observe that 'Das Kapital' by Marx was published in 1848, 11 years prior to 'The Origin of Species' by Darwin in 1859. Marx's famous one liner was 'religion is the opium of the people', and yet has communism brought any greater happiness to the world than religion? T H Huxley and C Lyell, both fierce protagonists of Darwin's views, were sworn atheists (Darwin became a Christian just before his death and realised that God was behind creation). It may be reasonably stated that the adoption of evolutionary theory by the scientific community of the late nineteenth century was a deliberate attempt to free it from what it regarded as the shackles of the Church. Since then evolution has been used to further the causes of Marxism and scientific humanism and to disprove God. The result of this prevalence of science in society can only lead to the conclusion that 'science is the opium of the people'. Yet to return to the principle of Occum's Razor evolutionists in their attempts to prove evolution beyond doubt produce ever more complex and esoteric ideas which viewed by 'The Razor' seem ever less plausible

as the truth.

The theology of science

Science and technology are the religion of the twentieth century. In many cases scientific theory comes across as scientific fact in lectures and past and present scientists of eminent status are held in awe. This is aided by the principle of scientific inertia where new ideas are rejected for no greater a reason than the prevailing scientific establishment not wishing to admit to being wrong. Furthermore this cult is promoted by the use of evermore esoteric terms which even fellow scientists out of that particular field cannot often understand, let alone the average person in the street who holds science in awe, believing it to be the answer to the world's problems. Yet I believe that the universe is but a transient state of God's will and that the supposed wisdom of men will prove in the end to be meaningless as the universe passes away.

Despite so many breakthroughs in modern science the world appears to face more and more disasters and problems with each passing year. Science can solve the problems of malnutrition and disease in the world and yet its results can often not be implemented due to society's political and moral inadequacy. Furthermore disasters and accidents will always occur to the end of time. Yet Marxism and Scientific Humanism are based on the concept that human nature is inherently good despite it being a result of random chaotic evolutionary processes which Marxism and Scientific Humanism hold to be true.

I think that it takes as much faith to believe in evolution as it does to believe in Jesus and the claims that he made. However, people prefer to believe in the former rather than the latter as it makes them feel more in control of their destiny; talk of Christ and the Bible makes them feel uncomfortable. I think that modern science has in itself become a religion which is the very thing that it was originally trying to escape from and still tries to remain distinct from. One must ask the question: 'Does science limit my perception of God or does God fulfil my perception of science?' 'The centrality of science in modern thinking means that many people find it impossible to have a perception of God. Yet science can neither prove nor disprove God: 'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.' (Romans 1v20)

Loans publicity

Student loans and the associated benefit cuts form the biggest ever threat to education in this country in recorded history.

Contrary to popular opinion the benefit cuts are not in the white paper for student loans, but were passed in last year's Social Security Reforms Bill. These cuts are total, and will mean that students can claim no benefits either during term time or over the Summer vacation. This includes rent rebates, housing benefit, and income supplement.

Students will also have to pay 20% poll tax, although this may be increased to 50%. No increase in grant will be made to compensate for this. For many students this will result in an £800 per annum loss of income, and a projected debt of £6000 over a three year course. All these figures are before the grant is frozen.

This will have knock on effects in education as students with large debts will not be able to accept poorly paid teaching jobs, producing a shortage of qualified 'A' level teachers.

This will then, over a period of five years, create a massive collapse in education, as teachers will not be able to train students to a standard to make them capable of teaching 'O' level. This will increase the shortage of educated people, and people who are educated are needed by industry. It seems that we are starting a five year charter to destroy the education system which took so long to achieve. There will also be a massive class divide set up denying some of the country's most intelligent people a university education. Despite this our Union is doing its best to deny students information concerning action being taken to fight loans, and is in some cases deliberately lying, so as to mislead students. This was most notable on the First of February demonstration, organised by a committee of seven, consisting of six Union presidents, and a member of the ULU Executive.

Of these seven, none were members of the Socialist Workers Party and only one, namely Keith Budden (ULU Executive), a member of Militant.

On Tuesday 24th January I personally informed Nigel Baker that he could get any information he needed about the march from either of the SOAS co-presidents. I also informed him that the organising group were not members of Socialist Worker.

In full knowledge of this he proceeded to write an 'Executive announcement' he knew to be factually incorrect. The actual content of this announcement, and its wording were never agreed by ICU Executive.

This factually incorrect announcement, along with the correct but incomplete 'Loans demo faces set back' news story in FELIX was the only information students were permitted to receive, and on the basis of these most students decided that the march was liable to be a badly organised riot.

The London Loans Campaign group (the organisers) produced a poster, and a leaflet to promote the march, but these posters were torn down by the Union.

These posters did not contravene any of the Union publicity rules, and when asked for the reason for removal of the posters, Ian Morris (Hon Sec Events), read through the rules and settled on rule ten. This is as follows-

10. Interpretation Interpretation of these rules rests with ICU House Committee and the ICU publicity officer.

I then asked him which rule he was interpreting, and he restated rule 10.

Since he was not interpreting any rule he could not invoke rule 10.

Since then Ian has been approached by Fizz Marsh (Union Publicity Officer) and asked for an explanation. He then changed his mind and said that House Committee agreed that all posters must have the name of an ICU club on them. This was not a valid excuse for the following two reasons- 1) The posters had ICU SWSS written on them. 2) rule 11 of the publicity rules clearly states-

11. Alteration Alteration of these rules is subject to a majority decision by ICU Council.

Therefore House Committee had no power to make such a decision and by not allowing the posters to be displayed Ian and Nigel overturned a decision of Council, and broke the constitution to which they are bound.

On the day (Wednesday 1st) we proved ourselves. The march was well stewarded, and over two thousand people attended. The march stayed on the route, and there was not a single arrest.

Of course most of you won't have been on the march, or know much about it's organisation and success, but so long as no-one complains when your Executive lie to you, or restrict your access to information - you will retain 'your right to be deceived'.

Andy (not SWSS) Garside

WALTER WALTER WALTER

Just for once, Walter intends to leave the whole miserable business of Union politics alone for this week, and to concentrate on a far worthier matter. That's right, friends and neighbours, it's that Valentines time of year again.

Different people celebrate the day of St Valentine for different reasons. Among our own ranks, Eric Ash celebrates because it reminds him of when he met Clare, and Chas Brereton celebrates because it remind him of the massacre. Walter celebrates for the simple reason that this is one season when love is in the air, and when the whole of the race is, at least theoretically, in harmony. In the spirit of this harmony, your columnist would like to suggest a set of matches which he feels could be made among various public figures, both within and without this institution.

To start with, the Catering Manager Rob Northey should team up with either of the Roux brothers. Mr Northey's cuisine could only benefit from this, and the Roux Brothers have shown a certain naivety in commercial matters which Rob the Fixer would soon put paid to. Cecil Parkinson, who has been psychoanalysed as being in need of a mother-figure, should try a match with Mrs Jen Hardy-Smith, who in addition to providing a mother-figure, would also keep him well on the straight and narrow. Mary Whitehouse's husband - poor man - really ought to see the other side of life as provided by Cynthia Paine, and as for Mrs Whitehouse herself, Walter recommends a dose of Harvey Proctor; this should at least be entertaining.

The world of entertainment itself could see the meeting of Terry Wogan, who brings junk television to the boobs among the populace, and Sky TVs latest find, Dolly Parton, who brings boob television to the junk around the world.

And finally - for there must always be an 'and finally' - Walter would dearly love to see the Union of Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock, to be subtitled "Gruesome Grocer and the Welsh Wimp". Oh, to be a fly on the wall.....

Poll Tax: the truth

The Poll Tax or Community Charge will take effect in Scotland from the beginning of April, and the rest of us will get it the following April. To the average member of the public it will mean a bill of £200-£300, and to students £50-£100 per year. The Poll Tax will take over from the present rating system whereby local councils generate income by charging people according to the rateable value of their houses. Everyone (apart from the mentally ill, elderly people living in homes and hospitals, and convicted prisoners) even foreign residents will have to pay. Students will be entitled to a 80% reduction if they register at their College address. Estimates of the charge/tax vary from borough to borough, with central London generally having the highest levels (see table). Westminster Borough (which covers Southside and many intercollegiate halls) would have charged £448 had this been the first year of the Poll Tax. Thus 20% of £448 = 89.60. It is still possible for students to register at home; however, it seems that then you would have to pay the full amount, not a clever idea. This does not refer to registering to vote at home and at College which is still possible.

Local councils will send out registration forms in the autumn which must be returned. There is a fine of 10% of the bill for non-return. This process has occurred in Scotland, where the Minister for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkin, claimed that 99% of those eligible to pay had registered. Campaigns for non-return had been organised by the Scottish Nationalist Party, several rebel Labour MPs and some clergy. The response of the Labour Party to the Poll Tax featured heavily in the Glasgow Gorbals by-election, in which the SNP won with a large turn around in the Labour vote. Scotland became a testing ground as the Tories feared devastation at the polls after revaluation increased rates by up to 300% under the old system.

Non-payment of the tax will involve a surcharge of £50 on top of the bill. There are claims that many councils will be unable to collect all the Poll Tax due to it because of the difficulties involved with keeping track of people. Under the present system, which has a high collection rate, thanks largely to the fact that houses, unlike people hardly move, many boroughs achieve 98% registering. However Birmingham

City Council estimated in the last year of its existence that they collected just 81%.

The contention behind the Poll Tax has a long history, first appearing in 1377 as a tax of a Groat per head on people over the age of 16. The tax was increased but as a sliding scale in 1379 peasants still paid one groat. Then the Parliament of Christmas 1380 imposed a Poll Tax of one shilling on peasants rising for the more well off. This sparked off the Peasants Revolt of 1381 in which Wyatt Tyler achieved fame. After then the tax was only imposed on foreigners living in Britain.

Poll taxes do not always raise the amount of money expected. The difficulty with a shortfall in collection is that simultaneous with the abolition of domestic rates, businesses will not pay rates direct to local councils. A national business rate will be set, and all money collected will be redistributed to councils according to population rather than the locality of the area. The twelve inner London boroughs currently receive £1,123 million in business rate income. Had the National Business Tax been in force last year, this income would have dropped to £447 million, a decrease of 60%. Some of the shortfall may have to be met by Poll Tax payers.

The Business Rates will be fixed so any council which overspends its budget will have to transfer all the extra burden onto the rate payer.

There are several questions raised by a compulsory registration for the tax with regards civil liberties. Foreign residents who wish to remain anonymous from certain government forces will probably be able to come to an arrangement with their local council to assume an alias for the purpose of the register. The spectre of 'snooper' has been raised; many people fear that there may be an army of collectors searching for non-payers, and if these people do come into operation which files are they going to be allowed to see? Officially such things as the electoral register will not be used, but it does seem a little difficult to imagine that they would not check up on someone who was registered to vote, but not registered to pay the tax. Non-payment will carry a surcharge of £50 on top of the final bill.

So you may be asking, so what, surely the difference will be met by a drop in hall fees or rents when

rates are taken out? This, sadly, is not automatically the case. The rates for College halls are paid for by the UGC and intercollegiate halls have their's paid for by the University Court Department which is UGC funded. The UGC is itself on the verge of abolition and so it seems very unlikely that the replacement University Funding Committee will pay your Poll Tax. Accommodation outside halls will not necessarily go down automatically for the rents would have to be registered before landlords had a legal obligation to reduce them with the abolition of rates. Most rents do not fall into this category. Student grants will not be increased to pay for the extra expenditure.

So what are the alternatives? Opposition parties agree with the Government that the present system is not fair. However, they believe the Poll Tax to be even more unfair. The Labour Party would like to introduce a combination of local income tax and property tax. The Democrats would like to see a local income tax.

Opinion Bit

'The Poll Tax is fair only in the sense that the Black Death was fair; it is indiscriminate, striking young and old, rich and poor, employed and unemployed alike'—Tory Reform Group, March 1987.

As this is an opinion article I shall

resist from calling the Poll Tax a Community Charge, for it is by definition a tax on voting. Having campaigned in several local elections it is clear that the present rating system is unpopular, and frequently the example is given of a grey haired old widow paying the same rates for her semi as the Mr and Mrs Jones and working son or daughter next door. The unfairness of the system is not just that one person is paying the same as three, but that there is a differential in incomes. At present it happens that a handful of areas of a borough may pay the majority of the rates for that town. However, they are out-voted at district elections by people who are not affected so much by the increase in rates. Thus resentment has built up whenever rates increase. The Conservatives hope that by making everyone (bar the poor and other exceptions) pay the same that the chances of the Conservatives gaining control of councils increases.

The Poll Tax will also further diminish the student grant yet further as no allowance will be made. The Poll Tax will also cost more (about twice as much as present rates) to collect, and there will be more bureaucracy. It has been said that a hearth tax (or a window tax (1697-1815) would be fairer. Anyway the proof of the tax will come in April 1990 when it arrives through letter boxes and the ensuing district elections.

Greater London			Student figures in brackets	
Borough	Full Poll Tax per adult	Poll Tax	1st Year	
Camden	639.00	(127.80)	438.00	(87.60)
Hammersmith	578.00	(115.60)	347.00	(69.40)
Kensington	340.00	(68.00)	384.00	(76.80)
Westminster	373.00	(74.60)	448.00	(89.60)
Hounslow	243.00	(48.60)	277.00	(55.40)
Richmond	259.00	(51.80)	325.00	(65.00)
Other Examples				
Chelmsford	229.00		304.00	
Ipswich	215.00		238.00	
Guildford	266.00		339.00	
Rochdale	278.00		228.00	
Bath	259.00		238.00	
Middlesborough	282.00		254.00	
Llanelly	160.00		137.00	
Edinburgh City	334.00*			

* Includes water charges.

The following tables show Government estimates of Poll Tax/Community Charges. Sources: Parliamentary Written Answers 10th and 23rd May 1988.

London Student Editor

The Editorial Board of London Student, the newspaper of the University of London Union (ULU), voted at an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) on Monday to become the first student newspaper in the country to have a staff editor. The vote has raised questions concerning the loss of editorial freedom for the paper, which is now under the editorial control of ULU.

The EGM was called to discuss the financial situation of the paper, which faces a projected deficit of £22,000 by June. The paper has operated without a student editor since the resignation of sabbatical editor Jane Headon last term.

Nicola Jones, Vice-President of ULU with responsibility for Finance and Administration, proposed the appointment of staff member Lawrence Cosnett as editor. The motion was passed by the five representatives attending the EGM. Miss Jones explained that the move was a 'temporary measure only' and that she hoped it would be possible to return the editorial control of the newspaper to a student sabbatical in the next academic year.

At the General University Council on Tuesday, Miss Jones proposed an increase in grant for London Student.

Union cards needed

Students will have to carry their Union Cards with them over the weekend, if they wish to use College and Union bars. There will be card checks at the entrance to Southside Bar and the Union Building. The action is being taken to prevent any damage to facilities by students from the Cambourne School of Mines who are visiting IC for the Annual 'Bottle match'; a rugby match between the Royal School of Mines and Cambourne.

Multicultural Extravaganza

A group of students from the University of London are urging people to 'Love the World' on St Valentine's Night. 'Love the World' is the title of what is described as a 'multi-cultural' extravaganza; a two hour concert featuring student groups and artistes. Over 2500 people are expected to attend the event. Tickets are available from the Bloomsbury Box Office, 15 Gordon Square, WC1 (Tel: 01-387 9629).

Union Day of Action

The Union will be holding a series of events in the Union Building on Thursday in support of the National Union of Students (NUS) campaign against student loans.

Students voted to boycott lectures at the Union General Meeting last Tuesday but the College has declined to co-operate by re-timetabling lectures.

The events in the Union will include a speech by MP for Tottenham Bernie Grant and a letter writing session. A comedian, a Marx Brothers' film, a pool competition and a table football competition are also planned. The Union Bar will

also be open all day with a Furstenberg Fest Bier promotion. The day will be ended by a Rag 'Gaming Night', with a casino and horse racing.

In London, the National Union of Students in London (NUS London) are hoping to organise a 'rally' outside the Department of Education and Science. A spokesman for NUS London told FELIX that publicity was being produced for the rally on Tuesday although NUS London are still in negotiations with the Police to obtain permission for it.

Union hold DES vigil

Imperial College Union took part in the University of London Union's (ULU) vigil at the Department of Education of Science (DES) on Monday. The three sabbatical Union Officers held a vigil from 8.15am to 3pm, in support of ULU's campaign against student loans.

During the vigil they handed out leaflets to people entering the DES, including Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, MP.

Speaking on the event ICU Honorary Secretary (Events), Ian Morris, told FELIX that he felt the vigil had been a success. He added that they had collected over 120 signatures on a petition for the NUS campaign against student loans, throughout the day. He went on to say that he felt the main aim for student campaigns was to increase awareness amongst parents.

and Finally...

Faced with further political wranglings and scandals last week Wendy 'just want a quiet life' Morris finally flipped.

Overwhelmed by the authoritative action taken by Nigel Baker in summoning Geoff Reeves to eject the CIA, Mr Morris was heard to whimper 'I don't want any of this'. He then curled up into a foetal position and shortly afterwards hopped away making croaking noises.

Our researchers have discovered plans to flood the Hon Sec (Events) Office and install a lilly pad.



However Deputy President Mr Charles Brereton denies all knowledge.

BR Offer cheap Railcards

British Rail is offering half price rail fares to Young Persons Railcard holders until February 25. Railcards are also on sale at half the normal price of £15 until February 25. 16 to 23 year-olds and mature students in full-time education are eligible for a railcard.

British Rail is also holding a 'Trip to Fame' competition, open to anyone eligible to hold a Railcard, with a first prize of an Inter-Rail card. Further details are available in the Union and Student Travel offices.

Life of a Sabbatical



EVERYDAY



PRE-ELECTIONS



ELECTIONS



POST-ELECTIONS

Reviews



Die Hard

It's Christmas Eve and New York cop John McClane (Bruce Willis) flies to Los Angeles bearing gifts and hoping to patch up his marriage. Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman) is also in LA, but he's not there to give out presents. He's there to take more than \$600 million in exchangeable bearer bonds from the multinational Nakatomi Corporation, where McClane's wife is an executive.

McClane arrives in the midst of a Christmas party in celebration of the company's most successful year ever. Meanwhile, Gruber and a dozen fellow terrorists are meticulously sealing off the building, after which they take the staff hostage. But McClane is not

amongst them. He has taken it upon himself to disrupt their finely laid plans, armed only with his service automatic. The terrorists are packing Uzi sub-machine guns and plastic explosives, and they don't stand a chance.

The fairly routine plot structure - Hunchback of Notre Dame meets Towering Inferno - is transformed via some refined direction by John McTiernan (*Predator*), skillfully efficient and absorbing acting, and some caustic humour and satire, into a brilliant and thrilling example of how an action movie should be made.

Bruce Willis' previous disastrous forays into the motion picture biz (*Blind Date*, *Sunset*) can be forgiven. He sheds his smart-ass image becoming a tough guy, reluctant hero.

Clad in a white vest and running around in bare feet he carefully assesses the strengths and weaknesses of his adversaries,

becoming a 'spanner in the works, a monkey in the wrench'. Willis is quite excellent in the role, displaying a hitherto unforeseen aptitude for this action-adventure stuff.

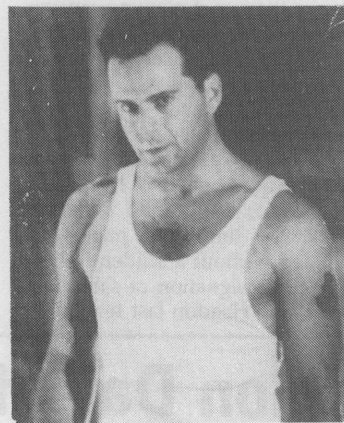
But he really is totally upstaged by a wickedly sophisticated and sardonic portrayal of Gruber by Rickman, an RSC actor, previously renowned for his stage performance in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. He is the ultimate in cool-dome; assured, smooth and deadly. He electrifies the screen with his presence and is oddly appealing. 'I am not an ordinary thief, I am an exceptional thief' he roars with a maniacal intensity.

The film engages our emotions from the outset and makes us cry out at the ineptitude and downright idiotic antics of the police and FBI agents, who can never get their act together. The FBI in particular, represented by Agent Johnson and Special Agent Johnson (no relation), are hilarious, dressed in expensive

suits, shades and Rambo mentalities. Stereotypes maybe, but good fun all the same.

There are no doubts about the entertainment value of this film. It is tense, gripping, in parts intentionally hilarious, and it'll have you jumping in your seats. This is something you won't want to miss.

Sumit Guha



Henry IV part 2

England is still troubled by civil war. Hal, the Prince of Wales has resumed to his bawdy haunts. Hal's friend Falstaff, a decadent, inept and old knight, is in the Cotswolds putting his newfound, false, glory for great financial advantage.

A new group of rebels led by the Archbishop of York, build a new army. The rebels are confronted by the King's son, Prince John, and are captured.

Henry IV is dying; on his deathbed he and Hal are reconciled.

Hal is crowned Henry V and rejects his former companions.

Henry IV part 2 relies heavily on part 1. In structure it is similar, having a largely comic first act and a more serious second act; the scenes roughly correspond to those in part 1. There is a substantial continuation of character and theme, making it a play best seen with a knowledge of part 1.

The play builds up through both acts to the reconciliation scene, much of the action points towards this. Throughout the play in Michael Cronin as Henry IV we see a character battling to appear tough and struggling with his guilt of usurping the crown (which he begins to see as a curse); his thoughts about Hal become more desperate as his illness gets worse.

Hal realises and embraces his responsibilities as the play develops,

finally emerging as a king with whom we feel England will be safe.

In the first half we are treated to fine comic scenes; these are centred in an Eastcheap inn and later, in the Cotswolds. Barry Stanton as Falstaff provides an excellent comic focus. His cowardice and cunning drop him into tricky situations out of which he wriggles (or waddles) his way.

Falstaff is the perfect buffoon, he realises this to some extent saying; 'I am not only witty in myself, but the cause of wit in other men'. Through all his using scheming Falstaff displays a real affection for Hal, always having in mind (though often his motives are selfish), inventing new amusements for Prince Harry.

Falstaff uses his friendliness with Hal to borrow money and win favour. The final scene in which Hal

rejects Falstaff, gives Falstaff a severe knock and he is broken (for a while at least).

This production is a little rough at the edges. Sometimes the supporting cast delivers its lines with a lacklustre manner (many of its members have large roles in other plays) but the standard is generally high. The mix of costumes from different periods helps emphasise the characters from Henry IV down to the tavern derelicts.

Michael Bogdanov has included some good directional tricks which bring fresh life to an already spirited play. This is a good production, getting the balance between comedy and seriousness right. Seeing it after Henry IV part 1 would be best; the two together making a good set although part 1 stands well on its own.

Patrick Smith



Dangerous Liaisons

If he who lives by the sword also dies by the sword, then what of the man who lives by the powers of seduction? Choderlos de Laclos first posed this question in his erotic novel, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

His story of the nimble gamesmanship of the pre-revolution French aristocracy was turned into a successful play by the RSC, which rivetted audiences with a series of psychological twists. Now comes

the big screen Hollywood adaptation starring Glenn Close (*Fatal Attraction*), John Malkovich (*Empire of the Sun*), and Michelle Pfeiffer (*Witches of Eastwick*).

The screenplay keeps true to the spirit of the play, both having been written by Christopher Hampton, and the period details and locations look stunning.

The film is set in a time of legendary decadence, with wealthy, perfumed characters fully dedicated to the pursuit of their own pleasure. They spin for themselves a plot of labyrinthine sexual intrigue as they succumb to each others seduction.

Dangerous Liaisons promises to be a visual delight, but will probably go down with countless others as a film which didn't quite match its stage impact. Release Date 10th March.

Sumit Guha





Henry V

The Wars of the Roses : Episode 4. Young Prince Hal, likely lad, reveller, drinker of sack, is king. He has revoked his past, transformed to adulthood and decided to claim France as his own, on the consultation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The French are informed, but take the threat lightly. Henry assembles his armies, deals with a few rebels at Southampton, and sets sail for the continent. Amongst the soldiers are Pistol, Bardolph and Nym, old friends from the Boar's Head Tavern, and sources of humour and lessons in morality.

The town of Harfleur is taken and the Battle of Agincourt commences. Henry's army is outnumbered 5 to 1 yet sustains only thirty losses compared to 10,000 French deaths. With the battle lost the French King Charles VI surrenders to Henry's terms. Marriage is proposed to Katherine, Charles' daughter, who accepts.

In order that this simple historical story becomes an entertaining production, the Bard has created a rousing tale of fervent nationalism, brotherhood and glory. Director Michael Bogdanov has extended this to bolster a patriotism which would shame Oliver North and could conceivably knock several points of the Eurotunnel shares.

The production is slick, the sets minimalist and effective, the changes smooth. The ambiguous and anachronistic setting of the piece, now the norm in Shakespearian theatre, is a crossbreed of Victorian England and World War II.

The underlying theme of this staging remains its contrasting view of opposing states. In battle the King inspires his troops, 'God save Harry, England, and St. George !' They respond as only the English can - the sailing from Southampton is a scene of riotous marching skinheads, with a chant of 'Here we go' and a banner proclaiming 'Fuck the Frogs'.

The placid, casual and aloof air of the enemy is maintained throughout, with the exception of the Dauphin's character, a militant and war hungry individual, humorous in his disposition, both to the audience and his peers.

The standard of acting is very high. Many of the players cope with difficult text and demanding regional accents. Three people stand out though: Sion Probert, as the

officer Lluellen, puts such strength and conviction into his part as to leave an impression that the Welsh are unparalleled in patriotism. And who would disagree?

The Dauphin, performed by Andrew Jarvis, has a madness and volatility, and not least a funny walk, which convinced me that he wasn't acting at all. I look forward to seeing him as Richard III next week.

John Dougall, in the guise of the king, ensures that the central character is never superceded. In each scene he appears, full attention remains on his every movement or word. Dougall draws the audience in and refuses to release them.

This production has to be highly recommended to all, and must surely be strong competition for similar compilation at the Barbican. The Old Vic is very pretty, and the ice-cream excellent, if expensive. In a word faultless.

Andrew Clarke.



The Dead Can't Lie

When I went into this film, I assumed it would be some kind of Mafia, underworld type thriller.

This theory was confirmed by the appearance of a 'Film Noir' type private investigator called Mallard (possible rip-off of Marlow). Mr Mallard is lured to find some jewels of suspect origin by an affluent client.

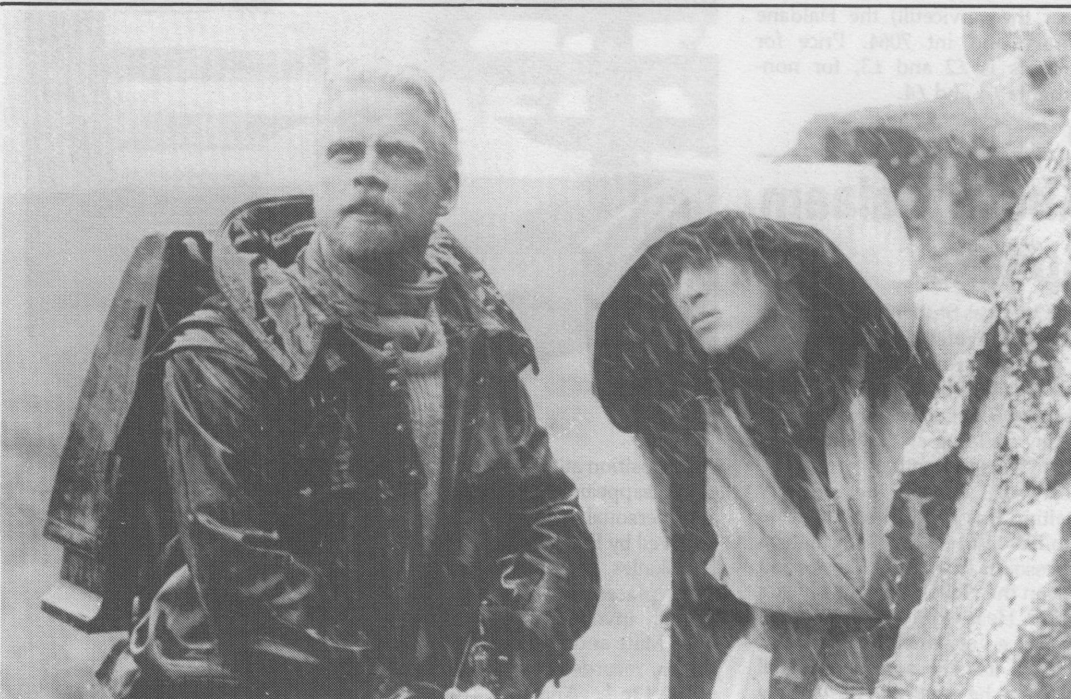
At this point the attractive female co-star turns up. The usual happens between her and Mr. Mallard, it turns out that she is also after the jewels. This is complicated by the

fact that despite appearances, she is in fact dead.

This poses some interesting questions. What possible use does a corpse have for 1 million dollars of jewellery? What is the legal position of someone guilty of unpremeditated necrophilia? What am I doing in this cinema?

Anyway the plot trundles along with the occasional 'shock revelations' you have anticipated for at least 30 minutes. This is basically a story of two-dimensional characters involved in a plot of contradictions such as the fact that going to bed with a ghost is a fatal experience (even with a condom) yet Mallard looks remarkably healthy at the end. Basically a film that spends far too long getting going and by the time something does, you wish it hadn't bothered.

Mike Morton



Slipstream

Its a few years since Mark Hamill last took to the screen, not since *Return of the Jedi* in fact. The long break and a radically different part allows him to break the typecasting which Luke Skywalker invoked, but unfortunately this film proves little more than a springboard to re-launch his career.

Hamill plays Tasker, a hardened cop with an itchy trigger finger, intent on bringing a murderer in for

trial and execution. His success will lead to a healthy reward and a ticket to easier life 'downstream'.

Byron is the murderer, a conservative looking character in a pinstripe suit blessed with an expansive knowledge of history, literature and philosophy. He is an intriguing and confusing person, until it is revealed that he isn't a person at all. He is instead an intriguing and confusing android.

While in Tasker's custody, Byron is kidnapped by Matt Owens, a smuggler with J.R. Ewing accent and Michael Hutchence (of INXS) looks. Owens can see the financial advantages of reaching the settlement with his captive and takes to the air.

The chase is on, through a

wilderness world of canyons and ravines, the result of Mother Earth's revolt against pollution. As the characters progress they encounter a diverse assortment of guest stars - Robbie Coltrane, Ben Kingsley, F. Murray Abraham - who die somewhat needlessly and generally at Tasker's bidding.

The entire affair is pretty lacklustre, and seemingly pointless. Byron and Matt have a short exchange at the close concerning the dangers of humanity, but this is the only insight into an otherwise inaccessible lesson. Despite advertising which made this film look appealing and a leading female who is, you must surely have better things to do with your time.

Andrew Clarke

OPERATIC SOCIETY

Gilbert & Sullivan

For many years now the Imperial College Operatic Society has been putting on a show in February. This year's production is the famous Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*. The show has many famous songs including *A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One*.

This year's production is to be highly entertaining and amusing. If you think that opera is boring and only for the 'over forties' think again.

The show is on every night from 13 to 17 February. Monday to Thursday, the performances start at 7.30pm, on Friday the performance starts at 8.00pm.

Tickets are available in advance from the JCR, Level 2, Sherfield (near the servicetill) the Haldane Library and int 7064. Price for students is £2 and £3, for non-students £3 and £4.

O.S.C.

Abdus Salaam Speaks

The Overseas Students' Committee has invited Professor Abdus Salaam to give a lecture on his life and career. It will be held on Monday February 6 at Lecture Theatre 213, Huxley Building at 12.40pm.

For those familiar with the Professor, they'll be eagerly awaiting this event. But for those who haven't heard of him, he is a Professor in Theoretical Physics and he won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1979. He is well-known and has had a very interesting career.

He is usually not in Imperial College as he works in Trieste, Italy where he is the Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics. So this is a golden opportunity not to be missed.

Please note that due to the extremely busy schedule of the Professor, we might have to reschedule the talk to a later date. Keep a lookout for the posters.

CROSS COUNTRY

200 Line-Up

Cross Country Club Report
The IC Cross-Country team, easily the strongest collegiate team in U.L., recently consolidated its overall fifth position in the London Colleges League (which includes the Polys and 6th-form Colleges) with

a solid fourth place at Trent Park.

A field of nearly 200 lined up at the start of the five mile race. The usual sprint start left most of us gasping immediately, with Frank Dudbridge around 20th, Alex Gaskell 25th, and Matt Lynas, Stefan Ledin and Dave Knight all conserving their energy in the fifties. The early frantic pace had settled by halfway, by which time Frank had moved through to 12th, and Matt, Stefan and Dave were working their way through the forties. Alex had suffered a recurrence of a hip injury, and to avoid further damage slowed down to eventually finish 60th.

The second half of a cross-country is usually a punishing slog, during which your motivation for this sport is severely questioned! However, a



good position at the end makes the pain disappear remarkably quickly, and personal best placings were achieved by Frank, Matt, Stefan and Bill Skailes, in 7th, 38th, 46th and 56th places respectively. Dave Knight, involved in a keen battle with Matt and Stefan in the later stages, recorded his best this year with 42nd. Another creditable performance came from John Rowland, with 67th.

In the women's section, Alison Horrocks admitted to having a bad run, finishing 24th. Despite the lowly-sounding positions of our runners, one must bear in mind the overall size of the field (150 men) and the quality of the leading athletes (the race was won by a county champion). The fact that over 20 minutes separated first and last (a Kings runner, of course) reflects the very wide range of ability supported by this sport.

The club will be staging the Hyde Park Relay on Feb 18th, one of the major inter-university fixtures of the year. All enquiries regarding this to Dave Knight, Physics 2.
F. Dudridge

FILMSOC

Dolce Vita

This Thursday Filmsoc presents 'La Dolce Vita,' Fellini's erotic classic. Marcel Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg gave excellent performances which, when coupled with Fellini's bizarre visual style results in a movie that still has the ability to shock twenty nine years after its initial release in 1960. The film deals with the prophetic vision of a generations spiritual and moral decay with Mastroianni as a hack seeking sensational stories by bedding wealthy socialites. Beautiful cinematography completes the visual experience. See What's on for details.

A.I.

Turkey

The Turkey campaign is now entering its final stage in which the lobbying of members of the European Parliament is carried out by different AI Groups. The IC Group, together with the Putney and Kingston Groups are currently in contact with Dave Stelagh Roberts. This lobbying aims to have a certain pressure exerted on Turkey for an improvement of the Human Rights record. An increased awareness by the European Parliament members of the reality of the violation of Human Rights in that country is particularly important at a time when it seeks to present a clean image in the issue of Human Rights with a view to become a members of the EEC.

So far, we have been contacting MPs and have obtained responses from the Labour Group and Toby Jessel (Tory MP for Twickenham) who assured us they were ensuring that the Foreign Office should closely monitor Turkish policy and practices on such issues.

Thanks to all those who helped.

RIFLE & PISTOL

Victory

On 1st February a ten men team from Cambridge University arrived at IC to face the might of our pistol team. Two courses of five were shot: one small bore and one full bore. Despite being out of practice the Imperial team (P. Deeks, I. Draper, R. Winskill, A. Jones, M. Lacey and T. Menzies) managed to pull off a victory in both these competitions winning the small bore 970-838 and the full bore 1055-898.

PS If you are interested in joining ICR&PC come down to the range (in the Sports Centre, Princes Gardens) on any weekday lunchtime and we'll give you some details.

FOOTBALL

Still Unbeaten

Imperial College VI—1
St Bartholemews—1

IC VI continued their resurgence up the table with a bruising draw to extend their unbeaten run to 4 games. In a highly physical confrontation, IC took the lead from an exquisite move from the back, finished off by Andy Draine, after some brilliant one-touch football. Just before half-time, Martin Cole's superbly timed covering tackle was judged a foul by the referee due to some theatrics by the forward, and Barts equalised from the subsequent free-kick. A rare defensive lapse nearly allowed Barts to (undeservedly) steal the lead, but the post and then Martin Cole quickly came to the rescue to clear the danger. Eiji Fukumuro nearly won the game for IC when his thundering header went just wide with the goalkeeper helpless.

Thinking of having a party, disco or soiree to impress your friends?

Well we have a disco just for you. It is cheap and we have the latest and greatest records for your delight and delectation. We can provide you with the Lounge Disco as seen at Ents events and Wednesday Night Discos, or a mobile disco for use anywhere in College. So, get together with your friends and book the Ents Disco

Contact BJ via Ents pigeonhole (in Union Office) for more information.

What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

FRIDAY

Consoc Meeting.....12.30pm
ME569.
Rag Meeting.....12.40pm
Union Lounge.
Friday Jamaa Prayer.....1.00pm
Southside Gym.
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.
STOIC—Intro
The Night.....7.00pm
Chat film and reviews.
Fencing Club.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock.
Valentine's Party.....8.00pm
Silwood Park. Meet Beit Quad at 8.00pm. £2 (includes free glass of champagne). Tickets available from Union Office.

SATURDAY

Guilds Rag Raid.....10.00am
Meet in the Van Park for trip to Aylesbury.
Karate.....10.00am
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.
IC Kung Fu.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.

SUNDAY

Holy Communion.....10.00am
Sherfield Building.
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.
Anyone interested in any form of rock music come along.
Artsoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Sign up for shows. Membership £2.
Yacht Club Meeting.....12.30pm
Upstairs in Southside.
STOIC News.....1.00pm
Watch in JCR and Halls.
Recitation of Holy Qur'an.....1.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens (Basement).

Improvers 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.
The Pirates of Penzance.....7.30pm
Union Concert Hall. Students £2, non-students £3. See Opsoc.
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.
Remote Controlled Modelling Club.....12.30pm
Southside Upper.



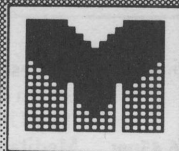
Boardsailing Club.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.
Roman Catholic Mass.....12.40pm
Mech Eng 702. Mass followed by lunch. 50p.
Ski Club Meeting.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want to try racing? Come and find out more.
3rd World First.....1.00pm
4th Floor, Env Tech, 38 Prince's Gardens.
Consoc Speaker Meeting.....1.00pm
ME213. Angela Rumbold on Student Loans.
Beatles Hour.....1.00pm
For all the best Beatle and Beatle-related material on Cd with Spenser Lane.
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.
STOIC Feature.....6.00pm
Beginners Ballroom.....6.00pm
JCR. 80p. All welcome.
Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym. All grades. Sorry no more beginners.
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.
Opsoc Show.....7.30pm
Union Concert Hall. The Pirates of Penzance.

come along.
Hamsoc Meeting.....1.15pm
Third Floor of Union Building.
Amateur Radio Society regular weekly meeting.
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.
Bar Quiz.....7.00pm
Union Snack Bar. In aid of Rag.
Opsoc Show.....7.30pm
Union Concert Hall. 'The Pirates of Penzance'. Students £2, non-students £3.
Kung Fu.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.
Orienteering Club.....6.15pm
Union Gym.
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.
Methsoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 703. Speaker Meeting, all welcome.
Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records, tapes etc.
Ski Club.....
The Ski Club will only meet on Tuesdays this term.
Debating Society.....1.00pm
Room 341 Maths (Huxley).
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.
Cricket Nets.....5.45pm
Meet in Mech Eng Foyer. Sign up on cricket noticeboard.
Everyone welcome.
Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
Soup Run.....9.15pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).
Opsoc Show.....7.30pm
Union Concert Hall. See Wednesday.
Games Night.....8.00pm
Snack Bar. With Casino and Disco.



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COME TO OUR INFORMAL PRESENTATION!

To be held at the Committee Room, 317a/b on Thursday 16th February 1989 from 7p.m. to 9p.m.

Wine and Buffet will be served.

WANTED

FULL AND PART-TIME

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RCSU

COUNTRY HOUSE BALL

at

SILWOOD PARK
on FRIDAY MAY 5th

Double tickets now available from the RCSU Office at £55 (Deposit £20) to include sherry & champagne receptions, buffet dinner, breakfast, band, disco & travel

RAG WEEK II

—THE SEQUEL—

February 14th-18th

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME	PRICE
14th	Milk Tray Delivery	Anywhere		£2.50
	Barbershop-o-grams	Anywhere		£2.50
	Spaghetti Eating	Beit Quad	1pm	
15th	Bar Quiz	Snack Bar	7pm	£2
	Disco plus	Lounge	10pm	Free!
	Crazy Rag Cocktails			
16th	Gaming Night	Lounge & Snack Bar	8pm	£2
17th	Hypnosis Lecture	Great Hall	8pm	£2
18th	BIBIC Londonwide Collection	Snack Bar	10am	Free!
	BIBIC Carnival	Union Building	8pm	£1.50

You've survived the first RAG Week, you've bought the t-shirt, you've bought the mug and now.... RAG Week 2: The Sequel.

Why I hear you ask? Well it just seems that the Rag committee had lots of good ideas and decided to lump them together.



Milk Tray Delivery:

Have a box of the proverbial delivered to the love of your heart. A black clad milk Tray man/woman will enter the lecture theatre or other place of your choice to the sound of dramatic music and give your sweetheart a box of chocs. Ultimate embarrassment at only 2.50

Barbershop-o-grams:

A minute of pure acapello courtesy of IC Choir. wonderful and a snip at 2.50

The Bar Quiz:

Remember the first in november? The same thing again- loads of prizes- 2 per team of 4. Don't forget to bring your brain (and leave your vodaphone at home or you'll get a large fine for cheating). afterwards there will be a Dicso. bop to the latest Ents sounds and mellow out on crazy Rag cocktails (we have as much fun making them as you do drinking them).

Gaming night.

Horse racing on the ginormous 50 inch video screen. The races arrive sealed, and you bet on the outcome. A must for all gamblers and if that doesn't entice you, Guilds casino will, including blackjack, roulette and poker.

Hypnosis Lecture:

by popular demand we see the return of Martin S Taylor, hypnotist extraordinaire, for another evening of entertainment (remember Cosmic the talking martain?). If you don't already know how good this is you really ought to go.

BIBIC Londonwide Collection:

pay Monopoly around the sites of London as laid out on the board game, but watch out for the jail van (and dissapearing into Soho at high speed when it's on the other side of a traffic light doesn't help, especially when you're wearing no trousers at the time). A good day out for teams of 4-6 in aid of BIBIC, which helps brain damaged children regain senses which they have lost.

BIBIC Carnival:

Bands, disco, films etc for the BIBIC collectors, the Hyde park relay teams any anyone else who wants to go. Great value at 1.50 great value.
