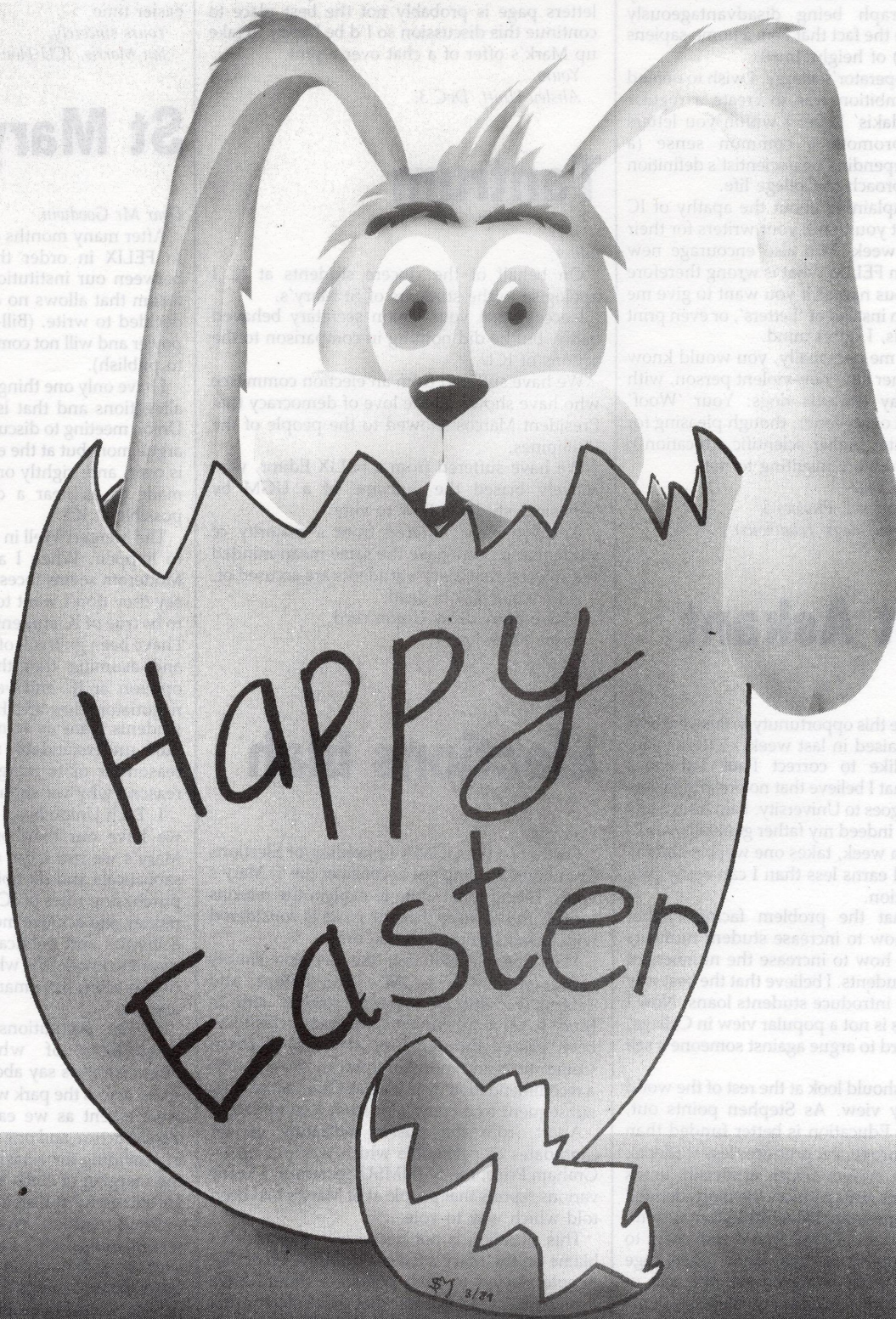




Felix

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION



More Saridakis

Sirs,

The apology to Dominic O'Kane has been made through FELIX and therefore I feel that there is no more grounds for me to take legal action in defence of his (and PATA's) interests.

I could take legal action on similar grounds for my letter being obviously falsified (my English is bad but understandable nevertheless) and my X-ray photograph being disadvantageously altered, to hide the fact that I am a homo sapiens sapiens (twice) of height 1m60.

As for your operator's allergy, I wish to defend myself: my ambition was to create a regular column ('Saridakis' Letter') within you letters section, to promote a common sense (a nonsensical, depending on a scientist's definition of 'sense') approach to College life.

You are complaining about the apathy of IC students whilst you thank your writers for their articles every week. You also encourage new students to join FELIX: what is wrong therefore with my glorious name? If you want to give me another column instead of 'Letters', or even print only my initials, I don't mind.

If you knew me personally, you would know that I am a rather shy, non-violent person, with a slight dismay towards dogs: Your 'Woof' feature instead of my letter, though pleasing for ALF ('dogs enter higher scientific education'), was therefore doubly insulting to me.

In doggy faith yours,

Saridakis Emmanuel, Physics 1

(Biophysics group-dogs' behaviour).

Grant Askant

Dear Sir,

I'd like to take this opportunity to answer some of the points raised in last week's letters page.

Firstly I'd like to correct Paul Tubman's presumption that I believe that no one from a low income family goes to University. I am from a low income family, indeed my father generally works over 50 hours a week, takes one week's holiday a year and still earns less than I can easily pick up on graduation.

I believe that the problem facing Higher Education is how to increase student numbers and especially how to increase the numbers of 'lower class' students. I believe that the best way to do this is to introduce students loans. Now I realise that this is not a popular view in College, after all it is hard to argue against someone's self interest.

Perhaps we should look at the rest of the world to support my view. As Stephen points out, British Higher Education is better funded than in the rest of Europe, yet produces less students. It is the grant system which artificially limits student numbers and produces the much derided 'elitism' of the present Higher Education system. The evidence from abroad would also seem to destroy the argument that loans discourage students from poor backgrounds, the rest of Europe has many more 'lower class' students than we do.

To answer Stephen, I don't want to see a world full of 'engineers, accountants and lager louts' (although a few more engineers would not be a bad thing). Loans need not discourage students from studying the arts because loan repayments are deferred if you earn less than 85% of the national average income.

Finally I'd like to point out to Mark that no one has lost out from tax cuts for the rich. Since tax rates have been lower tax revenues have increased substantially, allowing more to be spent on such things as the NHS and Higher Education.

To finish I'd like to say that I agree that the letters page is probably not the best place to continue this discussion so I'd be happy to take up Mark's offer of a chat over a pint.

Yours,

Ashley Unitt, DoC 3.

Tantrum

Editor,

On behalf of the sincere students at IC I apologise to the students of St Mary's.

I accept that your Union secretary behaved badly, but he did nothing in comparison to the actions of ICU.

We have suffered from an election committee who have shown all the love of democracy that President Marcos showed to the people of the Philippines.

We have suffered from a FELIX Editor, who actively biased the outcome of a UGM by 'advising' students how to vote.

And we have suffered from a majority of student at IC who have the same mean-minded self-interest that Mary's students are accused of. ICU democracy is dead.

I have burned my Union card.

Simon Cholerton,

Physics 3.

Elections blah

Dear Bill,

Further to the UGM's upholding of Elections Committee's ruling not to consider the St Mary's votes, I feel I must write to explain the reasons for this in the hope that the issue is considered with respect to the election only.

Many people feel that the decision simply represented the UGM's nonchalant and destructive attitude towards merger with St Mary's, yet it only upheld a decision which had been passed through Executive and Elections Committees and more importantly arose due to a recommendation by myself as Chair of the latter subsequent to a complaint from a candidate.

Apart from the poster indicating certain candidates as preferable which was put up by Graham Price, the SMHMSU Secretary. I heard various reports that people at St Mary's had been told which way to vote.

This situation is not necessarily one which I blame on the Mary's Exec. Certainly, I feel that people elected to such positions should have more sense, yet it is ironic that the problems that have arisen and will probably affect merger

negotiations might not have occurred had the merger already place.

In the light of the situation and without blaming anyone, I felt that there was no alternative but to discount the votes, drawing the analogy that had C&G Union put up a similar notice, the candidate who referred the Mary's matter to the UGM would have been the first to storm into my Office had his name not appeared on it.

If it is any consolation, counting the St Mary's votes could not have resulted in their preferred candidate for President being elected.

I am very sorry that these problems occurred and hope that next year's Hon Sec will have an easier time.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Morris, ICU Hon Sec.

St Mary's v IC

Dear Mr Goodwin,

After many months of trying to avoid writing to FELIX in order that no 'slanging match' between our institutions could be started in a forum that allows no discussion, I have finally decided to write. (Bill—I respect your Editorial power and will not complain if you do not choose to publish).

I have only one thing to say about the 'rigging' allegations and that is there was definitely no Union meeting to discuss who to vote for. I could argue more but at the end of the day the election is over, and, rightly or wrongly, a decision was made in as near a democratic fashion as is possible at IC.

The Merger? Well in my opinion it is not going to happen. When I ask 'the people' that Mr Motteram seems incessantly to talk about, they say they don't want to merge and that appears to be true of IC students as well. I am afraid that I have been guilty(?) of listening to the ICU Exec and assuming that they represented student opinion at IC and very helpful (and skillful) negotiators they are. However, it seems that IC students want us as much as we want them—quite understandably really as logically I see no reason for us to merge in fact I can see many reasons why we should not:

1. Each Union has a long history. This means we have our own procedures and rules. At Mary's we run more efficiently as we have no sabbaticals and do not come under the blanket purchasing rules of IC—per capita we have less money and achieve more in the way of sporting activities and political campaigns. That is not meant to knock ICU who, with a larger institution to look after, have many more committees etc to attend.

2. The Institutions are on separate sites. Regardless of what the more senior administrators say about cycling at Eddie Merx speed across the park we will not integrate to any great extent as we each have our own social infrastructure and one is no better than the other in providing for what their students want. Also the merging of clubs is a non-starter, our clubs are successful and an integral part of Mary's with a proud tradition. Would the RSM Rugby Club merge with ICRFC, I think not and they are on site! We each have our own superb sporting and other clubs to merge them for the sake of saving money would be nothing short of criminal.

3. We have separate Concerns. Recently we

have been fighting against Student Loans, The NHS white Paper and Doctors hours all things that effect medics alone or differently to students at IC. Would ICU sanction the enormous cost involved in these fights?

There are other points I am willing to discuss but I feel the pressure of the Editor's knife.

So what is the answer? We would be happy with carrying on as we are with our grant fixed at a reasonable percentage of the total Union subvention—Mary's students do not use ICU facilities so why should we pay for them when we have our own site? We would (nor should) expect no more representation on IC committees than the CCU's do at present but should be kept informed of any meeting which will effect us. However we will not come under the rule of ICU, surely as FELIX Editor you have criticised them enough to know why? We will, however, work with ICU on matters that effect IC Students, through decisions made at our own UGMs.

Finally are, as you suggest, Mary's Exec making a fuss about something the average Mary's student doesn't care about? I think the 240 Mary's students that trooped across to the IC UGM may have cared just a little. We are both student bodies attached to two great institutions, each with its own identity and long history—we are different from (not better than) each other and I feel that we can never be together like the other CCUs for the reasons above. Therefore I propose that we stop this bickering and reconcile ourselves to this difference so that we can reap what little advantage both sets of students can gain from this merger.

There will be an open debate at Mary's after the Easter break for all students from both institutions. I will write with further details nearer the time.

Cheers,

P J Drew, President SMHMS Students' Union.

So much for Public Relations

Dear Bill,

I have finally got sufficiently pissed off to write and complain about the complete lack of politeness and consideration in this year's Union Office Sabbaticals. After having to put up with Nigel's tirades, Wendy's insults and Chas' idiocies, I've had enough!

I shall just give one example, which has been the final straw. I have just attempted to attend a Union Working Party, scheduled for 6.30pm Thursday, in the Union Office. Unbeknown to me, the delayed election count was going on there. I am met by an irate Wendy Morris determined to get his own back on anybody and everybody who's caused him hassle. 'No you can't come in', 'Cancelled' and not so much as an apology for not being told.

While Union Officers could be expected to put up with the Exec's personality defects as a part of their job, the occasion when the sabbaticals, principally Nigel, have vented their spleen at the street, are unacceptable. This could very easily have a lot to do with the 'public relations' problems the Union has had this year.

I do not expect any reply to this at all, except perhaps the odd frown or dirty look in the Union Office. Too many people up there follow Jen's sound advice never to reply to a letter in FELIX,

but even Jen must admit to the reality of this problem, since it is the Union staff who usually have to pick up the pieces after the latest outrage.

Yours,
looking forward to escaping,
Dave Clements.

Well done, Bill

Dear Bill,

It is becoming obvious that this year's FELIX supersedes and outshines all those of the past. This is thanks to the brilliant leadership of that mild-mannered and softly spoken hero, Bill Goodwin. He is strong, yet sensitive, slow to chide and swift to bless, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, widely as His mercy flows.

*Praise my soul the king of FELIX
To his feet thy tribute bring
Ransomed healed, restored forgiven
You, like me his praise should sing
Praise Him, praise Him etc.*

Yours Sincerely,
Bill Goodwin.

Rant, rant, rant, rant

Dear Bill,

I'm just about fed up, I am. Week after week, term after term people write stupid senseless ranting letters to you. Letters which have no object other than to rant, excessively. This is not right—you should monitor your letters page. Cut the crap, cut the bullshit, get to the point. People out there in the big wide world of Imperial College don't want to read the ranting, drivelling letters written by people who having nothing more stimulating to say, no interesting views to express. I hate people who moan about nothing and take half a column over doing so. We should get rid of their letters. We should let them know how worthless they are. This is a typical example of the time-wasting, moronic activities so abundant in IC. Don't you have anything better to do? Stop writing letters. Get the important things in life such as problem sheets done. It doesn't make any sense and I despise the whole business.

Yours faithfully,
Mark Reeves.

A N Dogbiscuit writes

Dear Bill,

In the wake of the elections I feel that a major concern should be aired. In this day and age not enough attention is paid to that workhorse of Western democracy, the bicycle pump.

It is a sad world and one where bicycle pumps are merely a tool to be used for filling little tyres

with air. Has Thatcherism taken hold to such an extent that there is no concern for such a humble but useful implement?

For was it not the bicycle pump that served RA Butler so well in the creation of the welfare state?

Archimedes would never have made his fateful discovery of bath overflow systems if he did not have a bicycle pump in his possession. How would he have pumped up his favourite rubber duck?

The situation is now so serious that people only care about having their bicycles stolen, not the pump. I remember the halcyon days of youth when a bad day was having your pump stolen. Unless of course somebody decided to empty a chamber pot on you. That wasn't very nice either.

Is that enough, Bill? Oh good, I can go home now.

Yours sincerely
Lunchtime O'Dogbiscuit.

You are cordially invited

Dear Bill,

Splendid news! Jeremy's having a cocktail party this eve. The Ritz again I'm afraid—it's getting a trifle boring now. Remember the last one—what a wheeze, especially when Nigel, the little darling, showed us all his Union Jack y-fronts. It was all so sweet. And Ian, the super chap, had so much Moët he could barely remember the name of his girlfriend, let alone the design on his y-fronts. Most embarrassing for the poor darling but he did have a splendid time.

Anyway, this little fling is to celebrate Jeremy's new baby—a biscuit-beige Rolls Royce Corniche—not my taste but there we are—Jeremy's still the 'nouveau-riche' cliché really—not quite there yet. He's booked some jazz pianist for the evening—couldn't afford the Chas chap I really wanted. Most disappointing.

Must pop off now. The food hall's shut soon. Do join us, Billy, we've made a special exception for you—it was only supposed to be open to sabbaticals you know, but since you were such a jolly wheeze at the last one I decided to make you my very own guest.

Splendid kisses and fondest regards,
Fifi Trixibelle.

Election section

Dear Sir,

I find it incredible that the Hon Sec (Events) should think that at every ballot box each candidate receives roughly the same proportion of votes. I wonder how many candidates and agents would have liked to have seen the odd ballot box from the 'wrong' part of the constituency suddenly spontaneously combust. Surely the votes from St Mary's are bound to vary the most. Still, being a returning officer is fraught with interesting surprises.

Yours,
Andrew Robinson, Physics 2.



Editorial

Women

This week FELIX presents an in-depth feature examining the the opinions and problems of women at Imperial College. As everyone knows, the 'ratio' is the perennial talking point at IC, but surprisingly, most women do not find the atmosphere at IC overly daunting.

When it comes down to it, the problems that women face at Imperial are very much those faced by all students in heavily work orientated College in the most expensive part of the country. The 'ratio' can and does create problems for IC's male population and some men do leave the College without any real idea of how to deal with women. A night spent in the Union Bar will confirm the sentiment expressed by some of the women FELIX interviewed that some men become 'desperate' and 'predatory'.

And yes, there are women who exploit the fact that they are female in a College full of males.

The College has done well in recent years to attract more women to Imperial through courses for sixth formers such as ICWISE. Let's hope the trend continues. Unfortunately, the nature of society, which still pushes the girls into arts and the boys into science, will mean it will be a very long time before we can see males and females here in equal numbers.

Drink

I have been challenged by Fiona Nicholas, Hon Sec elect who would like to prove that she can drink more than me in order to raise money for rag. The event will take place in the Union bar at the end of the year and rag will be running a sweep stake on the outcome. In the meantime I will need to put some training in, so if you see me in the bar an alcoholic beverage or two would not go amiss.

Blub Blub Blub

Scab Chairman Roger Davies is one of the most unpleasant, obnoxious people I have ever had the misfortune to encounter.

Mr Davies is sulking because I forgot to print an article he wrote. So upset was he that he proposed a vote of censure in the FELIX Editor at last night's council. The move was thrown out on abstentions by the majority of Council, who quite frankly didn't give a shit about Roger or his article.

I have lost count of the number of times that I have pointed out in Editorials that I cannot guarantee to include articles in a given issue. Nor will I promise not to cut or edit them.

Oddly enough, when putting together a twenty page FELIX there are a far more important things to worry about than one shitty clubs article, as anyone who has worked on FELIX will testify. Ironically if Roger had put his article in the clubs or reviews pigeon holes like every other club does, instead of expecting it to be given some sort of preferential treatment it would have automatically gone through the system.

It seems that Roger has a chip on his shoulder and is intent on ruining the good working relationship that FELIX has with Dramsoc. Thank heavens the rest of Dramsoc are not like him. I wonder what shit Mr Davies will try and stir at the next Council; as far as I am concerned he can piss off.

Party

Today at 3.00pm in the FELIX Office followed by trip to TEXAS Lone Star ant the Ferret and Firkin. All welcome.

Credits

Ernormous thanks to Liz Warren, Ramin Nakisa, Andy Garside, Robin Davison, Sumit Guha, Simon Bradshaw, Sez Wilkinson, Dave Smedley, Jason Lander, Mike Morton, Simon Thompson, Dan Homolka, Mike Dalton, Ian Morris, Yishu Nanda, Adam Harrington, Keith Adeney, Wouter van Hulten, Noel Curry, Adrian Bourne, Wine Soc, Paul Barton, Wendy 'cool' Kite, Ardy Byat, Steve Marshall, MB Khan, Chas Brereton, Phil Hopkins, Doug King. Particular thanks to Week's Hall who stayed up all night to collate last week.

Smallads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Want** some students to key data on computer during Easter, 1-2 weeks, £5 an hour. Konrad Walerstein, Economics Advisory Group Limited, 35 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FB. Phone 01-629 7209.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Single** room in shared house, central heating, washing machine, etc. £53 p.p.w. Available almost immediately. North London Piccadilly Line. Phone 368 1234 ext 2234 (work) or 361 4941 (home).
● **Random Male** body wants in on flat share for next year, Southside, Evelyn. If Lexham, shove it where the sun don't shine. Must be certified dork-free. Contact Mike via FELIX.

FOR SALE/WANTED

● **Sweatshirts** going cheap! The original Nike Oregon design at only £8 each. Black, large and some medium. Contact Dave Knight (Physics 2) or Cross-Country Club.
● **HI FI** sale. Rotel Amp RA-820BX, Rotel tuner RT-820L, B & W speakers 100. £180 ono. Contact B T Ng (Computing 4).
● **VHS** video recorder, 2 months old, perfect conditions, £180. Phone (0474) 332657.
● **Ricoh** YF20 35mm automatic compact camera. Still in box. £40. Contact Simon Nuttall, Civ Eng 3 or on 749 4450.

PERSONAL

● **BaronSoc.** Would like to thank all those vaguely-awake students who noticed their QT nose.
● **Want** to join BaronSoc? Write to 'Baron' via all departmental 'B' pigeonholes.
● **Phallixword:** And the horse you rode in on! The Last Main Block.
● **Phallixword:** Yowsa! Yowsa! Yowsa! I've got it—yooooou're an Italian!—The Strawberry Flavoured Last Main Block.
● **Is that OK?**
● **Are you suave?** Sophisticated? Do you want to go to a really classy event? Then buy your Silwood Ball tickets from the RCSU Office now.
● **When** you go home tonight, take a look in your wardrobe. Doesn't your ballgown/DJ look lonely. Give it a treat—put it on and go to the Silwood Ball. Tickets from the RCSU Office.
Will anyone propose this year? Come along to the Silwood Ball and find out. Tickets from the RCSU Office.
● **I know** nah-thing - Steph Snell.

● **Glynn.** You can put your pick in my mine anytime. Snowwhite.
● **If** anyone saw a car accident occur in the car park outside Chemistry on Tue 7th March at about 5.45pm could you please contact C Denekamp (ext 4645, Chem PG).
● **Nutford House,** Latest...House News to be relaunched as The Nutford News. Bigger and better, and don't think you got away with last term's gossip.
● **The** Vice President will get more videos next term.
● **Watch** out for the news round-up of the year's events, especially Giaia.
● **Easy** Meeech.
● **Fisher** Hall Wakey Wakey Squad would like to thank all those who 'woke up' for Comic Relief.
● **Are you suave?** Sophisticated? Then stay away from the RCS Ball!
● **What** are Nicky and Rob doing locked in Bill's back office.
● **Apparently,** they're playing Charades
● **Bill** is on the look out for a partner for the Ball—this could be your lucky day Simon!
● **Simon** says: 'Yes'—as long as he can wear the trousers.
● **New** services rendered in the HUB Office—see Photo Love Story for details.
● **John**—We love you really. STOIC.
● **The** division of death Scientists in a joint production with RIP(?)Soc bring you Legionella II at a cooling tower near you from Sunday.
● **Nicky** wears a red bra with a hammer on one nipple and a sickle on the other.
● **Well** done Dramsoc—the play was brilliant but the reviews page was already pasted-up. Nicky.
● **Will** the guy who lost his lighter one the Firkin Run please contact Fiona Nicholas (Rag pigeonhole in ICU) as Rag found it when they were cleaning the mini-buses.
● **Sex** Wilkinson is a spelling mistake.
● **Happiness** is the inability to appreciate what a really lousy place the World is.
● **Anj,** you're not stupid, honest.
● **Sod** it, I'm going for a cup of coffee, JL.
● **Doug** Queen. Is he?
● **Wendy, Wendy!** How can we keep our love secret when I've already blabbed to everyone.
● **Jon** Denham is NOT fat. Space merely distorts around him.
● **STOIC** - Wot no camera?
● **For** Sale random lump of brass. One previous careless, subterranean owner. Apply Black Hole c/o RCSU.

Planted 'shoplifters' show up poor security Union loses £7k+ over bookshop deficit

Losses in Imperial College Bookshop have left the Union out of pocket by over £7000. The losses were announced at a meeting of the Bookshop Committee last Thursday when it was revealed that the shop had made a deficit of £16,771 last year.

An auditors report on the bookshop alleges theft of goods by staff and customers; collusion between staff and customers leading to goods being undercharged, theft of cash by staff or customers and overpayment of suppliers by mistake or 'in consequence of collusion between staff and supplier.'

Security has been highlighted as one of the shop's weak areas and security cameras in the store are reported to have been inoperational for the past 5 weeks. The extent of the problem was demonstrated at Thursday's Bookshop Committee

when Union Manager, Dave Peacock produced a collection of goods which had been stolen by students on the Union's behalf. The cameras are now in the process of being repaired.

Bookshop Assistant Manager, Ann Toudup told FELIX that she felt a great deal of the loss was due to 'carelessness on the tills.' She added that the Bookshop Manager, Roy Hicks, had attempted to implement all of the orders sent to him by Union Manager, Dave Peacock after the auditors report.

Cashiers are now required to 'sign on' and 'sign off' their till rolls and tills are 'cashed up' every day. Despite the more stringent controls Monday's tills were short by £50.

In answer to criticisms by the auditors that the Bookshop carries an excessive amount of stock, Mrs Toudup told FELIX that the store orders lecturers' recommended texts

and tries to judge its ordering on past years. 'It isn't easy to judge' she added. The auditors claim that the shop's bank overdraft of £18000 could have been reduced by better stock control.

Speaking on the Bookshop's loss, Union President, Nigel Baker said 'It is a problem and we've got to get in there and sort it out. With the expertise we now have in this office, we believe we have the ability to do just that.'

The Union now intends to change the Bookshop layout to incorporate tills at the exit and a better view across the shop. An Electronic Point Of Sale till system has also been agreed to. Cashiers will be able to enter sales with a light pen, allowing for more accurate till operation and better stock control. The system is expected to cost in the region of £5000.

Mines elect new exec

Rob Lowe, a Mining Geology second year has been returned as next year's Mines President after a close election last Tuesday. Mr Rowe was standing against Matt Jupe a Geology second year; both candidates gained 78 votes leaving Mines Hon Sec Eddy God with the casting vote. Mr God voted for Mr Rowe on the grounds that he gained more second votes than the opposing candidate.

Anne Rothwell was returned as Vice President with 73 votes to Eddy Kiernons 35 votes and Dave McMillan was returned as Honorary Secretary with 74 votes to Dave McMillan's 28.

Also elected were Kate Knudson for the post of Foreign Students Officer, Warren Turner as Sports Officer and J P Hansen as Newsletter Editor.

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Monday Night saw Imperial College Union Council head off to Silwood Park for its annual token gesture to Postgraduates. After much um-ing and er-ing and delegation of proxies there were enough Council members to make the meeting quorate. Sensibly, the Postgraduates at Silwood stayed well clear of the proceedings.

The meeting kicked off with the President who reported that, in the wake of moves by Imperial College Union, the NUS were considering taking legal action against the Association.

'Perhaps we should invite the NUS to join us' suggested a drunk Dave Williams.

The meeting proceeded with Council mandating Nigel Baker to seek legal advice on whether it was possible to take out an injunction on lecturers to force them to set examinations.

The Unions decision to charge tie clubs for the use of the Union as a mailing address was vigorously opposed by 22 club chairman David Burns. The motion was put forward by Maths Dep Rep Athos Ritsperis who suggested that it was hypocritical for the Union to charge

the Christian Union (CU) for this service when they did not charge other non Union Clubs. After a great deal of debate, during which the FELIX Editor cast aside his traditional neutrality to defend the CU, it was decided that clubs would be allowed to use this facility free provided they brought in more than £300 revenue to the Union.

Two new clubs were ratified by council with little debate; University Christian Outreach and AISEC, a student business organisation.

It was then that SCAB chairman Roger Davies decided to play his ace card by censuring the FELIX Editor for forgetting to print his article in two consecutive issues.

Unfortunately Council was totally disinterested and the move was defeated by abstentions after five people voted in favour and five against.

A motion to re-establish the Wine Tasting Society grant which had been cut by the Union Finance Committee on the grounds that the Union should not fund 'a bunch of pissheads' caused a stir amongst the now sloshed members of Council.

Union President Nigel Baker argued that Real Ale Society was not

funded and said that Wine Tasting should therefore not be funded. It was the Council Chairman, Neil McClusky who came to the rescue by pointing out that Wine Tasting Society could claim for entering students in competitions if they wanted to and that this would probably cost the Union more than their subsidy. The motion was unanimously carried.

'You've written a blank cheque' said Nigel Baker shaking his hands in disbelief before heading back off to the bar.

'Fine, I'll have a double' retorted 22 president Dave Burns.

As the meeting consumed more and more alcohol the debate became most protracted and less coherent. A motion calling for Social Colours to become the responsibility of individual Major Sub Committees (MSC) was however passed despite Nigel Baker's assurances that the MSC's would receive no money to buy Social Colours Ties.

'That's just tough shit,' he said, but by now Council had had too many to care.

By far the low point of the evening arrived when Hon Sec Ian Morris presented his report, which

consisted of 65 policies which were due for renewal or binning. By now it was 11.30pm and to expect Council to wade through all 65 policies was perhaps a little optimistic. A number of Council members made their feelings known as they stormed out of the session and into the bar to play pool.

Shouts of quorum were fastidiously ignored by Council Chairman Neil McCluskey who pointed out that as there was no way for Council to get back from Silwood without the Mini-busses they might as well finish the business.

Thirty six policies later, amidst much shouting from all and sundry, the meeting degenerated completely. By now most of Council was in a complete state of inebriation which prompted Deputy President Elect, Dave Williams to pull himself from under the table and present a final motion.

'I think we should limit the numbers of drinksh that Council membesh drink because itsh just ridiculous.'

Thank heavens its only three times a term.

Anti-NUS moves

The Government is planning to take legal action against the National Union of Students' (NUS) 'closed shop' after its survey of student unions earlier in the year. Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker announced the plans at the Conservative Central Council in Scarborough last weekend, after a group of MPs tabled a resolution deploring the automatic NUS registration of students' at NUS affiliated student unions.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Baker said the action would be guided by the basic principle that it is wrong for State money to be used for political campaigns when it has been provided for students' welfare and support.

Dismissing reports that his top-up loans scheme had been rejected by the banks, Mr Baker also insisted that legislation for the loans will go ahead in the Autumn.

Comic Rag

Imperial College Rag raised £430 for Comic Relief last week. £120 was raised by cleaning minibuses, £260 by selling copies of FELIX, £50 from selling red noses whilst £70 was raised by the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra.

Parachute Death

A parachutist was killed last weekend after she collided with the propeller of a light aircraft at the parachuting centre used by IC Parachuting Club. The 28 year-old woman was an experienced jumper, on her 35th jump at the club, but died instantly when she struck the Britten Norman Islander plane, 600 yards off course.

A number of students from IC expressed worries at the proximity of light aircraft to the parachuting ground at the Headcorn Training Centre in Kent. A full investigation is likely but a spokesman for the centre told FELIX that the probability of accidents is 'minimal' and stressed that it is the first accident to happen at Headcorn in the 10 years it has been open.

ULU election results



University of London Union (ULU) Senator for Medicine, Chris Massey has been elected as ULU President for next year. Mr Massey, from St George's Hospital won by 75 votes to 36 at a meeting of the union's General Union Council (GUC) on Sunday 12 March. He joins next year's Vice President (Finance and Administration), Sean Wright and VP (Services) Steve Hopwood.

Hal Kalamvokis, from IC, was also elected as Senator for Science and Engineering.

Officers Elections

The last Union General Meeting (UGM) saw the election of next year's Union Officers, with a large number of posts remaining vacant. Sez Wilkinson was elected as External Affairs Officer, Hal Kalamvokis as Rag Chair, Adrian Pagan as Accommodation Officer, Nicola Fox as Women's Officer and Stephen McCabe as Ents Chair. Although there were candidates standing for the posts of House Committee Chair and UGM Chair, New Election won more votes in

both cases. These posts will be open to re-elections, as will a number of other posts for which no candidates stood. These include Academic Affairs Officer, Internal Services Officer, Post-Graduate Affairs Officer, Industrial Relations Officer, ICCAG Chair and Welfare Officer. Anyone wishing to stand must sign the papers on the board in the Union Building and must have five seconders who are current members of IC Union.

Geology in Crisis

A recent cut in the funding of IC's Geology department by the University Grants Committee (UGC) has caused severe staff cutbacks. The cuts have resulted in a reduction in the number of subject options Imperial can offer Geology students.

In an interview with FELIX, the Head of the Geology department, Dr Richard Selley, said that the department will lose 10 academic and 13 non-academic support staff between June 1988 and October 1989. The loss may reduce the number of options available to second year Geologists from 7 to 3. The 4 courses due to be axed have a low number of students. The option cuts are due, in part, to staff cuts and the need for the department to improve its strength in the field of research geology for future UGC assessments.

If an option cannot be offered by Imperial's Geology department, it is hoped that students will be able

to attend courses in other University of London colleges, primarily University College, Birkbeck College and Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. The students' tutors are to organise the restructuring of the courses.

When interviewed by FELIX, second year Geology students said that they were only recently informed of the reduction in the number of options. Of the 40 or so members in the second year, 10 are taking the Mining Geology course, with a fixed set of options. The remaining 30 were asked to fill in a form expressing their respective choices. With the forms processed, the second years have been informed that only three of the original seven options are to be run.

The decision has upset a number of the Geology staff as well as the students. A petition has been organised to express the students' opposition to the line of action. At an informal lecturers' meeting, the

majority of the Geology department's staff said that they would run lecture courses in all options if there was any demand.

The feeling in the Geology department is that the UGC grading and subsequent cuts in funding, are unfair since the review of the department was primarily carried out on the basis of pure research Geology, as opposed to applied Geology, where Imperial has its greatest strengths.

Imperial's Geology department is one of the largest and best equipped in the country and is one of the few with facilities for carrying out strength testing on rocks. The department also nurtures close links with industry. In the face of the UGC's cuts, the department is managing to build up its applied geology section with the appointment of three new industry-funded lectureships.

ENTS CARNIVAL STUFF THE POLL TAX PARTY TONIGHT

★4 bands

★Casino

★Disco

plus bar extension
till 2am

Tickets:

£3 (adv), £4 (door)

AUT action to face lawsuits?

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) decided to continue with their boycott of examinations at a meeting on Saturday, after they received an increased pay offer of 6% on Friday. The AUT now intends to ballot its members on the pay offer and the result will be released in mid-April. Vice-Chancellors have insisted that there is no more money available for a higher offer.

Threats of legal action by parents and students whose examinations may be disrupted by the dispute have spurred Vice Chancellors throughout the country to consider any action they may take against the AUT. One Vice Chancellor pointed out that if Universities did not take action against staff boycotting examinations, they would have little defence in court against any student suing them. Vice Chancellors have previously considered lock-outs, suspension of pay and dismissals for staff taking part in the action.

RHBNC makes new plans

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (RHBNC) has published a report outlining its plans for academic developments in the 1990's. The report assumes that RHBNC will "stand alone" within the University of London and not merge with IC and that any increase in resources will be generated by RHBNC itself.

Courses at RHBNC will be changed to reflect the more diverse qualifications brought about by the new A/S level examinations. This will entail more joint and multidisciplinary courses which may involve increased co-operation with IC in the areas of Science and Engineering. Greater European integration by both colleges will be further stimulus for combinations involving European languages, especially with science subjects.

Mascotry Madness



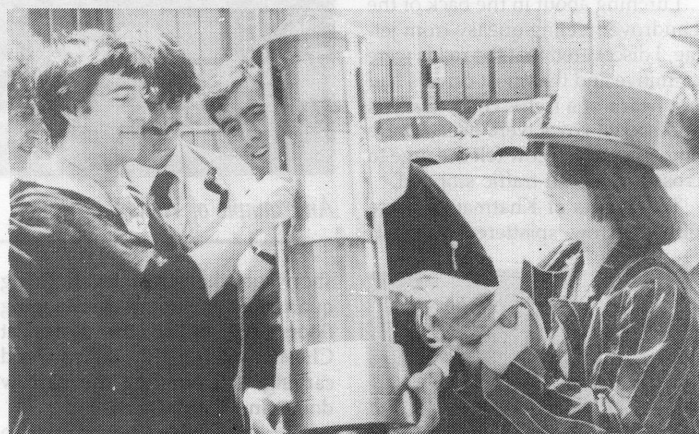
City and Guilds Union have kidnapped the seven foot high bear 'Roger Davies' from Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. The bear, which is the mascot of the RHBNC students Union was kidnapped on Saturday afternoon by a team of mascoteers 'acting on inside information.'

A spokesman from City and Guilds Union told FELIX that the

mascoteers had broken into a cupboard at the top of RHBNC's North Tower to retrieve the mascot, which was chained to the wall with a 15ft chain. The Mascoteers removed the chain and carried the bear away unchallenged.

RHBNC Union are reported to be very keen to regain possession of 'Roger'.

RCS get big brass lamp



Students from the Royal School of Mines attempted to batter down the door to the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) Office on Friday night after the RCSU mascotry team succeeded in stealing the Royal School of Mines (RSM) mascot, Davy.

The three feet high outside Davy lamp was stolen from a room in the Royal School of Mines on Tuesday 14 March after what RCS Vice President, Dave Williams described as several months of

'reconnaissance.'

Mr Williams told FELIX that the RSM Union General Meeting at which RCS students had previously been caught with forged Union cards had been part of the planning. He added that RSM will now have to raise £1000 before they recover their mascot.

'There has been a much better spirit within the RCS than there has been for a few years. Who knows what the future holds?' he said.

In Brief

Fire!

South Kensington underground station was evacuated last Tuesday (14th), when a small fire was discovered on the escalator connecting the Picadilly and District lines. The fire was extinguished by station staff as trains passed through the station without stopping for twenty minutes.

Computheft

The College's spate of computer thefts has continued with the theft of four computers from the Aeronautics department last week. The thieves 'had all the keys and an intimate local knowledge,' said Chief Security Officer, Geoff Reeves. The stolen items were worth £8-10,000.

Chainmail

A chain letter threatening severe bad luck to recipients who do not redistribute 20 copies of the letter has been circulated throughout College. The letter has been described as 'highly offensive' and anyone who receives such a letter is advised to throw it into the waste paper bin.

The Virgins

Two members of the Royal School of Mines are trying to restart the IC ladies Rugby team, 'The Virgins'. Anyone interested should contact Bryony Isaacs (Geology 1) or Kate Knudson (MRE 2).

And finally

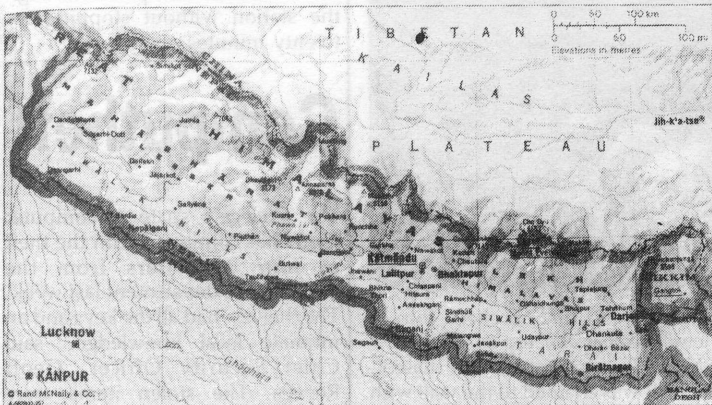
There were red noses all round when the Queen's Tower was given a red nose for Comic Relief Day. A group of wacky students attached a large red paper nose to the tower with the aid of a 'trained abseiler.' 'I laughed so much I nearly wet myself,' said FELIX Editor, Bill Goodwin afterwards.



The INDEPENDENT

ELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAV

Kathmandu by Wendy Kite



Nepal is the home of the Abominable Snowman, hashish, Buddha, and of course Mount Everest, which rises majestically from the snowy Himalayas. The country is small and rectangular-shaped. Squashed between the hulks of India and China it wisely adopts its foreign policies to compromise between the two countries.

When I first arrived in Kathmandu I reeled with culture shock. The airport steps were covered with spit and the crowds of people who had come to greet the plane filled the air with violent and drawn-out hawking.

Kathmandu is noticable for its wide ranging ethnic background;

there were the slightly Mongoloid Newars, the original inhabitants of the Kathmandu Valley, the dark, Caucasian peoples from the Ganges, and the strongly Mongoloid Tibetans, but do not be surprised to see roughly clad aging hippies walking the streets - the hangers on from the 1960's Tibetan day dreams.

Lurching about in the back of the Landrover feeling queasy from jet-lag, I discovered that the roads were primitive and that most drivers had not heard of a traffic code. Cyclists and sacred cows were everywhere and whenever a cow felt the urge to cross a road, all traffic stopped.

The streets of Khatmandu were filthy, narrow, splattered with spit,

animal and human excrement and rotting garbage; they were always packed with people.

Here pagoda-shaped temples, with the ever-present pair of blue eyes painted on their golden towers, a Nepali-type number one painted under them to remind the people of their faith, shocked me with their erotic wooden carvings on the roof supports. I learnt more from them than I ever did in school.

The predominant religion of the people is Hindu; the other main religion being Buddhism. Some of us could learn something from the way people of such divergent value systems live in harmony; there are specific Hindu and Buddhist temples in Nepal but most temples contain images or statues sacred to both religions.

The architecture retains much of the old Newar influence with small

Sitting astride an elephant is as uncomfortable as it looks, I discovered the next day as we went tiger-spotting in the jungle. Unfortunately, elephants being large, they tend to crash through the dense undergrowth, and all we did succeed in spotting was a rhinoceros with her baby.

In Pokhara (about 200km west of Kathmandu), we had just about enough time for a row on the largest lake in Nepal and a cup of tea at the Hotel New Crystal, with a magnificent view of the Annapurna range of mountains behind it, before we hit the runs again. This time we could identify the culprit. At an hotel, shortly after ordering our dinner, there was a power cut. The resultant dim lighting meant that we failed to notice that the food was half cooked.

Many people travel to Pokhara to



An example of Wendy's driving



A river

shops on the street level, living quarters on the upper overhanging floors—not unlike the Rows at Chester—with highly skilled wood carvings surrounding the narrow doors and windows.

After a miserable Christmas when we all spent the day in bed, shouting encouragement or voicing despair to each other as we took it in turns to crawl to the loo (I have never heard of a visitor to Nepal not getting the runs) we set off for the Chitwan National Park. This is about 110km south-west of Kathmandu.

The steep terraced hillsides outside Kathmandu are a joy to behold, but rounding sudden bends to be confronted by a fast moving bus can be un-nerving.

trek up to the Himalayas, to Jomosam or the Annapurna Sanctuary. Along most paths are chautana (stone benches in a square around a pipul tree) to rest at, and tea houses selling, if you're lucky tea from a pot boiling away with milk and excessive quantities of sugar for about 2p. You can stay at tea houses for about 10p; a twin foam mattress, blanket and wooden shelf all inclusive.

I did return to Nepal, and no doubt I will again, for despite Nepal being one of the least developed nations of the world, it has a lot to offer. Although people are intensely curious, they are generally friendly to the same degree and the old Oriental mysticism pervades the atmosphere everywhere.

SCIENCE

Ψ

As we approach Easter, that most be-egged time of year, the FELIX Science Page investigates Salmonella.

Revenge of the killer eggs

'Much of the egg production in this country,' said the minister, 'is, sadly, infected with Salmonella'. These words, broadcast country-wide, led to an unprecedented nationwide panic attack, the destruction of thousands of hens and the paying of hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation to disgruntled farmers.

The incident will go down in political folklore as a classic example of starting the mouth before engaging the brain. But the ill-starred Edwina may have done us all a favour: most of Britain now knows that Salmonella is highly virulent, can quickly evolve resistance to treatment, and has been found in 80% of poultry flocks.

In the UK during 1987 there were about 18000 recorded cases of Salmonella poisoning, an increase of over 20% on the year before. People have been known to fall ill after digesting as few as ten bacteria.

The bacteria is a mutation of the 'useful' Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) bacteria, part of the digestive system, and like E. Coli it lives in the guts of many species of animal. The bacteria finds the gut the ideal place from which to attack the host and from which to spread back into the environment and into other food. One Salmonella carrying chicken can easily and rapidly infect a whole flock.

Corpses of slaughtered animals, and even the milk from infected herds of cattle can contain living

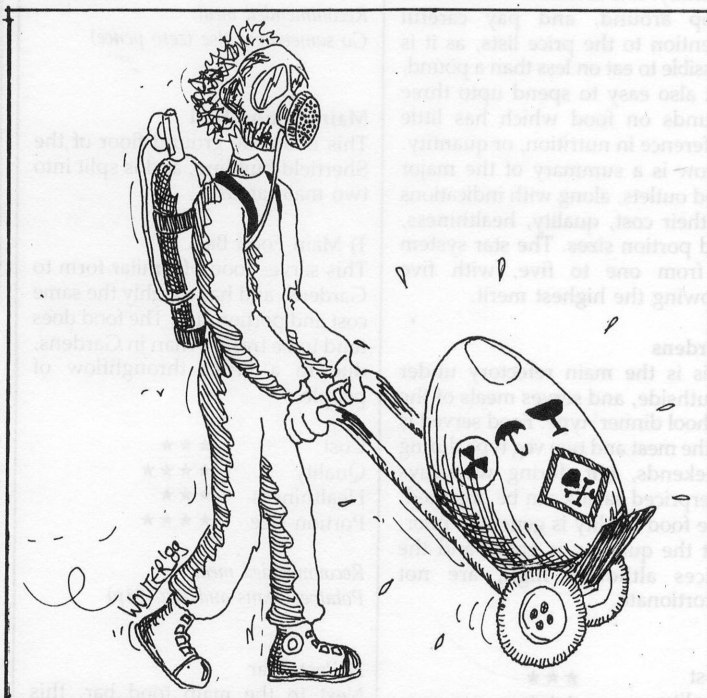
bacteria, bacteria which can eventually find their way to humans.

The key to the bacteria's survival is adaptability. There are many different species each of which infects food in a slightly different way. Salmonella enteritidis, the one held responsible for Currie's eggs, is the most common in this country. There have also been recent outbreaks of the rarer Salmonella paratyphi and Salmonella saint-paul, the latter affecting one hundred people who had eaten contaminated beansprouts. There are few foods which cannot contain salmonella.

This may explain how people become infected, but in recent years the number of cases had dramatically increased. There must be some change in the nation's eating habits which makes us all more vulnerable. Many researchers now believe that it is the fault of the fridge.

In recent years the number of people buying and then cold-storing food has increased dramatically. This, like all other food, is susceptible to Salmonella infection. The difference is that such meals are often kept for long periods of time, all too frequently where it is warm enough for the bacteria to grow. Edwina's eggs are as prone to infection as anything: the inside of the shell is an ideal breeding ground.

If the food is thoroughly cooked, as per the governments post-panic



advice, most Salmonella should be killed. However if, as normally happens, the meal is stuck in the oven or on the cooker, left for half-an-hour and eaten, enough may survive to make someone ill.

There are no guaranteed ways of stopping animals becoming infected with Salmonella. Researchers are working on 'cocktails' of organisms which colonise the gut to the extent that no other bacteria can gain a foothold. This is not without its flaws, Salmonella are rapid adapters

and can quickly become resistant to a particular cocktail. Despite this, the Germans have enough faith in the technique to make it compulsory for all cattle to be vaccinated. The British Government, true to form, is doing nothing and this time, there may be no political gaffes to make then sit up and take notice.

Duane Wircire

Input

Picture this: the scene, a dingy laboratory full of large machines and flashing lights. In one corner stands the mad scientist, giggling manically, about to perform some hideous experiment on the helpless heroine. He reaches for a large lever on the wall and pulls it down. Machines buzz and sparks fly. In thirty seconds, she will be beyond help.

Suddenly, in rushes the hero, his

smile glinting. There is a fight: the hero gets the upper hand, the mad scientist fights back. There are just seconds to spare. In a last desperate to save his true love, the hero strikes the scientist who staggers back, trips over a chair and falls into a vat of sulphuric acid. The hero rushes across the room, pulls the lever just in time. The heroine is saved and the world is again at peace.

OK, so it wouldn't win an award for originality. In fact, the above could be a scene from any one of hundreds of films, books, plays and the like, and is typical of the bad press scientists seem to receive. How many celluloid scientists have

been mad, bad or misguided? How many have planned to take over the world? The list is endless.

Even when the scientist gets to be the good guy, he, and it is almost invariably a he, either spends the whole film working on the antidote to a mysterious alien disease or having his mind drained by invading green blobs while some hunk with the brain of an amoeba fights off the menace. The worst of the lot are the happily-married-with-son brigade from 50s American Science Fiction: 'Gee Pa, did you have a good day at the atomic rocket testing ground?', 'Sure did son, how was your day?', 'Gee, it was

swell, I saw this spaceship land in the back garden.', 'Sure son, just you get off to bed.'

We have been typecast. How can the general public trust anyone who seems simultaneously to want to rule and save the world. Scientists must learn to communicate and, here's the plug, one way to do this is by writing. The FELIX science page will accept articles from anyone on anything vaguely scientific. Old lab. reports or tutorial essays, if they are interesting, will be lapped up. So if you want to write something, anything over Easter, do so, please. World domination plans accepted.

EAT IT!

Refectory Guide

There are many food outlets in College, and they all cater for different tastes. The outlets also vary greatly in price, food quality, and quantity. It is therefore advisable to shop around, and pay careful attention to the price lists, as it is possible to eat on less than a pound, but also easy to spend up to three pounds on food which has little difference in nutrition, or quantity. Below is a summary of the major food outlets, along with indications of their cost, quality, healthiness, and portion sizes. The star system is from one to five, with five showing the highest merit.

Gardens

This is the main refectory under Southside, and serves meals of the 'school dinner' type. Food served is of the meat and two veg type during weekends, but during weekdays overpriced salads can be obtained. The food quality is generally poor, but the quantity is good, and the prices although high, are not extortionate.

Cost	★★★
Quality	★★★
Healthiness	★★
Portion size	★★★★

Recommended meal
Potatoes beans and veg (91p)

QT (McNortheys)

Situated in the JCR, this is the worst food outlet in the whole of college, combining high cost, small portions, and low quality. This is a take-off of the large fast food chains, and sells burgers, baps, fries and a selection of cakes. Unfortunately water is not provided at this outlet so you will also have to buy a drink.

Cost	★
Quality	★
Healthiness	★
Portion size	★★

Recommended meal
Go somewhere else (zero pence)

Main Dining Hall

This is on the ground floor of the Sheffield building, and is split into two main areas:

1) Main Food Bar

This serves food of similar form to Gardens, and has roughly the same cost and portion size. The food does tend to be fresher than in Gardens, due to a faster throughflow of people.

Cost	★★★★
Quality	★★★★
Healthiness	★★★★
Portion size	★★★★

Recommended meal:
Potatoes beans and veg (91p)

2) Pasta Bar

Next to the main food bar, this serves a large range (usually four or five) of different pastas. This outlet is notably cheap, and the food is filling. On the other hand eating a full plate of pasta can prove to be monotonous. The pasta is generally both hot and fresh.

Cost	★★★★
Quality	★★★★
Healthiness	★★★★
Portion size	★★★★

Recommended meal
Plate of any pasta plus 1 slice melon. (£1.40)



Sorry! There's some food on your fly!

Belushi's

Situated in Southside Bar, this outlet serves pizzas, salads, and potatoes. The outlet is open during bar opening times, seven days a week, and proves very popular with both drinkers and non-drinkers alike. The pizzas and salads are fairly expensive, but the potatoes are notably good value.

Cost	★★★
Quality	variable
Healthiness	★★★
Portion size	variable

Recommended meal
Spud with anything.

Caterpillar Café (Union Snack Bar)

The only union food outlet, situated on the ground floor of the union building. The food presentation is poor, and portion size is small, but the quality can be quite reasonable. This outlet doesn't provide water, although this fault could easily be rectified, but drinks are reasonably priced. Unfortunately the vegetarian food is overpriced, and sometimes is more expensive than meat based meals. This outlet is run in a similar way to Belushi's, and has a fairly variable menu. Unfortunately it fails to attract as much custom as it should in the evenings, probably partly due to the unpopularity of the Bar.

Cost	★★★
Quality	variable
Healthiness	★★★
Portion size	variable

Recommended meal
One of the set meals (80-90p)

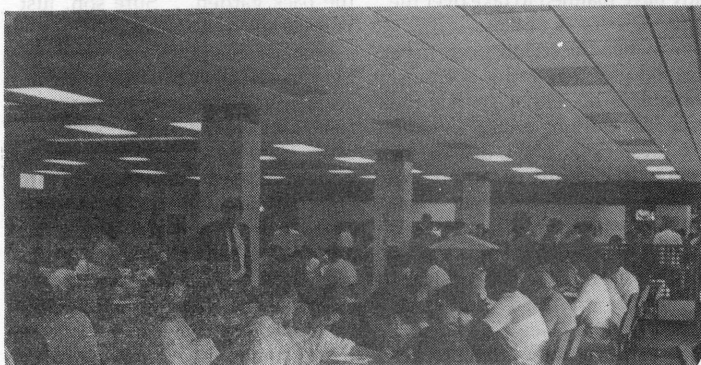
For the future

Union Outlets

Hopefully the Union will keep learning from it's mistakes, and expand the caterpillar cafe, maybe enlarging the custom of the newly formed MTV lounge. Also portion size could be increased without large increases in cost. Although the Bar has been refurbished it is still very synthetic, has no corners to hide in, and no comfortable seating. The lighting is too strong, and either dimmed lighting or spots would improve the atmosphere. Also I would say the lowering of the ceiling was badly done as it is still very high. Hopefully these will be changed in the future, so as to improve both trade, and viability of the Union outlets. The way to turn losses into profits, is to have a decrease in cost per meal, increasing custom and therefore maintaining current expenditure.

College Outlets

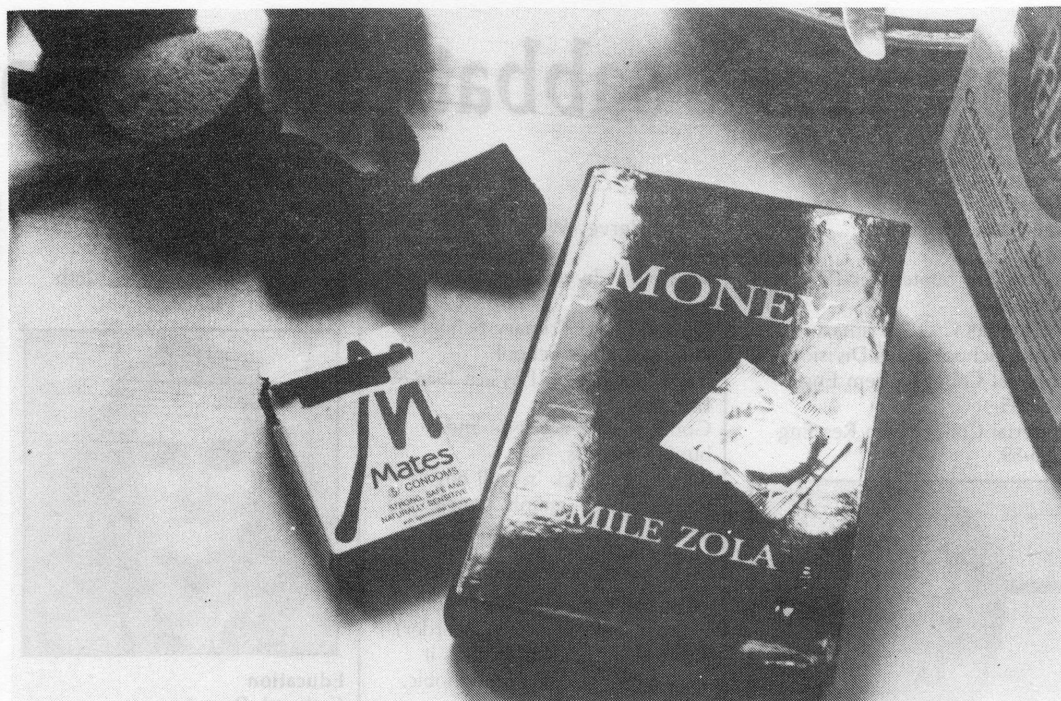
The College outlets could probably decrease their prices further, and they have regular custom, so wastage should be low, and they have bulk buying power. Gardens refectory needs to take a look at the food it is providing, as it is no longer popular during evenings and weekends. Perhaps more food of the 'bangers and mash' type could be provided so as to use the obvious market for cheap food that exists in the halls. It is important that the outlets cater for the people they could potentially serve, otherwise the massive advantages of bulk will soon be lost.



Come on over to my place?

A Room With A View

This week FELIX was lucky enough to obtain an exclusive insight into the character of Chas Brereton, Union Deputy President. Chas has been kind enough to write a few words about his room in Beit, something that we must all have wondered about at some time.



Opera, literature and fast women; such is my life

A person's room reflects the inner depths of their psyche. From the decor, the subtle arrangement of the furniture, the focus of attention, the pastel shades of a room, one can learn what a person is really like. I am boring. My room is boring.

The first thing that people notice when they walk into my room is the impressive poster of me on the wall in my Marks and Spencer suit (which is standard issue in the Union Office). Beneath my fine bust is the caption 'working for the Union, working for you.' Obviously there are some very gullible people at IC who believed this and voted for me.

I am very handsome, but for some reason the girls think otherwise. Just in case one of them ever does find me attractive I keep a packet of Mates handy. They're lots of fun to play with in your spare time, and that's something that I've got a lot of this year. For example, you can put them over your head and then puff them up full of air so that you look like a spaceman, but if you fill them too much they explode - BANG!!! The other thing I like to do with condoms is put them over the end of the tap and fill them full of water. Then I tie a knot in the top and throw it out of the window of my playroom in the Union office into Beit Quad - SPLASH!!!

My desk is very important; that's where I play grown-ups. I have lots of files, and sometimes I take them all out and lay them out on the desk in front of me. There are ever such a lot, and they're all as boring as each other. I have a file for every facet of my gloriously boring life,

such as my Passport File, which contains my passport. There is a technical receipt file for technical receipts, a contracts file, a tax file, an investments file number one and an investments file number two. There's even a file for filing accessories. But the most interesting file of all is my 'unusual exam writing paper' file in which I keep all manner of fascinating and bizarre paper.

By the side of my bed are a collection of my favourite books. Usually I read the telephone directory, but when I don't feel like being excited I read Geoffrey Archer novels, such as *First Among Equals*. I have a keen interest in the

production and biosynthesis of pseudomonic acid 'A' from *Pseudomonas Fluorescens* with a sideline in competitive blocking of N-methylation in ergot alkaloid biosynthesis.

Last year I was a bit of a lad. That's why you can see three social colours awards hanging proudly on the wall. I earned them by my boyish pranks in the year of Harbour-Bridge. I also have severe dandruff, so I use Head and Shoulders shampoo as you can see in the picture. My coiffure is something that is very important, so I start each day with a shampoo, set and blow dry. But that's what being a sabbatical's all about; boredom.



I take my appearance very seriously

Next year's sabbaticals: the boring truth

Name

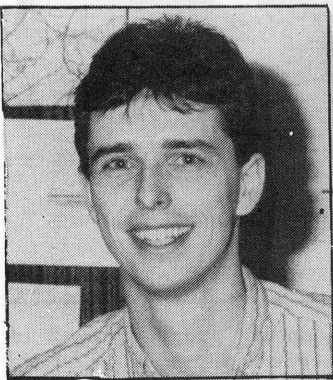
Neil Barry McCluskey.

Born

Bolton, 5th September 1964.

Education

St Thomas C of E Primary.
Bolton School (Boys Division).
Imperial College Chem Eng
1984-85.
Imperial College Min Res Eng
1985-89.



Interests

Just about any sport but mainly dancing
Travel, hitching, international friendships
Cooking.

Likes

Socialising.
Entertaining.
Competing in sport.

Dislikes

Disorder.
Dishonesty.
Dismemberment.

Plans for next year

Getting better deal for students.
Trying to get sponsorship for clubs and societies.
Try to involve self more with all of College.
Go to halls of residence for open forum meetings, so not just relying on UGMs for information.
Use PG's who have attended other colleges for ideas and contact.
Accommodation: Stabilise rents at affordable levels.
Make more provision for students getting outside accommodation.
Forge relations between international universities on lines of RSM international students week.

Long term ambitions

Work in any job paying moderately well (pay off overdraft) preferably in London.
Disappear around the world for 12 to 18 months. Longer term as yet undecided, but will use travel experience.

Name

David Harvey Williams.

Born

St Asaph Clwyd, 24th May 1968.

Education

Bryn Pennant Primary School.
Holywell High School.
Imperial College, Physics 1986-89.

Interests

Going to rock concerts and buying records.
'Good time rock 'n' roll boy'.
Photography—mainly people and landscapes.
Collecting for Rag.

Likes

Wine (pull the other one - Ed), women and song (in that order).
Satirical humour as long as it isn't racist, sexist, homophobic, ablist....

Dislikes

Morning after wine women and song!
Waste and inefficiency.
Two-faced people.



Plans for next year

The usual DP things.
Make bar more popular and look at Snack Bar.
Make sure UDH is refurbished.
Make sure people can't slip through disciplinary procedure.
Develop further the idea of Union Duty Officer.
Make sure that Union is kept up to scratch.
Be a nice guy while at it.
Not to embarrass my sister who's coming here next year.

Long term ambitions

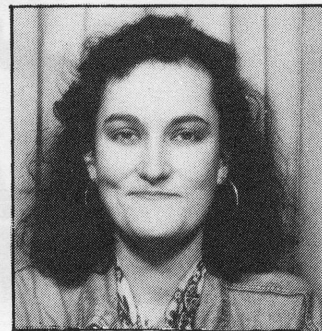
Pay off overdraft.
Be someone who makes their little mark on the world.
Do something involving travel and working with people.
Own a TVR.

Name

Fiona Tamsin Nicholas.

Born

Wrexham, North Wales, 26th December 1967



Education

Catbrook Primary.
St Briavels Primary.
Overmonnow Junior.
Monmouth Comprehensive.
Imperial College, Biochem,
1986-89.

Interests

Rag.
Watching Rugby.
Looking after plants.
Cooking.

Likes

Taramassalata.
Men with muscular thighs.
Crime.
Wine.

Dislikes

Football.
Dust.
Untidyness.
Bros.

Plans for next year

UGMs in the evenings so everyone can come.
Ask PGs exactly what they want ents-wise as they're not catered for now.
Improve on publicity for all Union events, especially UGMs.
Try to get more co-operation over all aspects of Union.
Try to get places like Institute Francais and American colleges to come to our events so there will be more women. IC's main problem is lack of women (Yawn - Ed).
Do what I can to help merge IC and St Mary's, e.g. exchange publicity.
Long Term Ambitions
My own profit making business (preferably a restaurant) by 45.
My own emporium by 50. Get married, have four kids and live happily every after. Die quickly and painlessly. Go to bed with Charles Dance (as soon as possible).

Name

David Guy Smedley.

Born

Coventry, 13th January 1967 (a Friday).

Education

Assorted primary schools.
Lawrence Sheriff Grammar School.
Imperial College (Physics)
1986-89.

Interests

Photography.
Used to play lots of role-playing games (but denies membership of wargaming club!).
Likes raquet sports but hasn't had time for them since being at IC.

Likes

Having a good laugh, humour.
Wine, women (pull the other one - Ed) and song (no particular order).
Good pint of No 3.
Good bottle of claret or port.
Cigarettes, but has given them up.
Black Forest Gateaux.



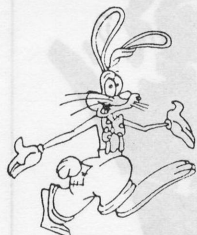
The sort of weak tea that Bill Goodwin makes.
Blue biros that leak in pockets.
Computers (but word processors are OK).
The little blue bits in washing powder.

Plans for next year

Have a holiday
Open FELIX up a lot more
Get it away from ranting at the Union. Give people more of a chance to contribute.
Would like to start moving towards more communications in FELIX Office (another phone, PAD line).
Change layout totally.
Articles more concise.
Give readers a laugh.
Long term ambitions
Not much—doesn't plan that far ahead
May go into journalism.
Would never be accountant or lumberjack.

INVESTIGATING

EASTER



By Keith Adeney

For Christians, the Easter stories are the stories of how Jesus Christ rose from the dead and showed himself to his followers. But the word 'Easter' comes from the name of a germanic pagan goddess Eostre or Eastre. Her name means 'the dawn' and her festival, that took place every spring, was about light and waking up to new life.

It was probably Saint Bede (AD 673-735) from Jarrow in the north-east of England who first joined the two festivals together. It was one way of converting the pagans to Christianity. This was the beginning of Easter as we know it.

The Easter Egg

Nowadays chocolate eggs are probably favorites for Easter, but this is a relatively recent addition. For thousands of years people have given hard-boiled or 'blown' eggs to one another as gifts in spring. Especially in Eastern European countries, a lot of time and care goes into decorating these gifts. They can last for many generations, some becoming family heirlooms.

For Christians they quickly came to have a special meaning. They are a sign of new life which is just about to break out. On Easter morning the rolling away of the stone was like the breaking of an egg.

In the Middle Ages it was the custom not to eat eggs during Lent.

The custom of boiled eggs for breakfast on Easter morning still goes on. For a long time it was literally a breaking of the fast.

The Easter Bunny

In many countries the Easter Bunny is said to bring the Easter eggs. These are hidden in various locations in the home and children go on an 'Easter Egg Hunt'. This might be the most enjoyable Easter past-time, however the use of young rabbits as a symbol for Easter is probably based on a mistake. Traditionally it was the hare, not the rabbit, which was associated with Easter.

Some may have come across the Easter hare in the Hare Pie Scramble. The story of this custom is about a lady who, many centuries ago, was chased by a bull whilst crossing a field. She was only saved from being gored to death when a hare ran across the path of the bull causing it to hesitate. In gratitude the woman gave some land to the church on condition that the rector of the parish should distribute two hare pies to the parishioners every year.

Making hare pie seems a strange way of showing gratitude to hares, but does not stray far from the original reason for their presence in Easter. The hare was almost certainly used as the festival sacrifice to Eostre.

The Empty Tomb

By far the largest part of the Easter week centres around an empty tomb. Why is such colossal importance attached to this tomb? Because the body of a man called Jesus Christ was meant to be in it, and because this event causes Christianity to stand or fall.

So what is said to have taken place on that first Easter Day? Jesus had died, executed on a Roman cross two days before. He had been taken down from the cross shortly before the Jewish day of rest (the Sabbath) by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who had hurriedly placed his body in a tomb.

Once the Sabbath was over, a group of women made their way down to the tomb to complete the last funeral rites. They found the stone sealing it rolled away and the body gone. Not wanting their expensive funeral spices to go to waste they tried to find out where the body was.

Jesus later appeared to two of his friends as they were walking down the Emmaus road. No one believed them. Then Jesus appeared to all the disciples apart from Thomas. Thomas didn't believe them. (Here is the original 'doubting Thomas'.) Then Jesus appeared to Thomas.

Amongst apparitions and resurrections most of us just get lost or consider it non-scientific nonsense, but many have spent much time and effort, trying to prove or disprove the Easter Tomb Story. In the end they almost all come up with four main alternatives that have to be considered. They are as follows:

1) A Swoon by Jesus

After being whipped, nailed to a cross, speared in the side, Jesus was registered as dead by the Romans, although he only lapsed into unconsciousness. Then after three days in the tomb, he got out of his grave wrappings, pushed away the stone blocking the tomb entrance, gave the Roman guard the slip and sought out his depressed disciples to successfully persuade them he had risen from the dead.

2) A Fraud by Others

(Well if the Pharisees had taken the body, they would have doubtlessly produced it at the claims made by the disciples of the risen Christ. So most consider if a fraud, then the disciples did it.)

After beating back the Roman guard, the disciples rolled away the stone, took Jesus' grave clothes off to leave them behind, and then went and dumped the body somewhere. Later they were to be seen beaming with joy and saying Jesus Christ was alive.

3) Hallucinations by Bereaved Followers

The depression of Jesus' friends caused them to start hallucinating. None of them ever got to the right tomb, they just thought it was his in their mental confusion. Others then had hallucinations of Jesus appearing to them. These were so 'real' that even the unbelieving Thomas got caught up in them. And then suddenly all their hallucinations stopped.

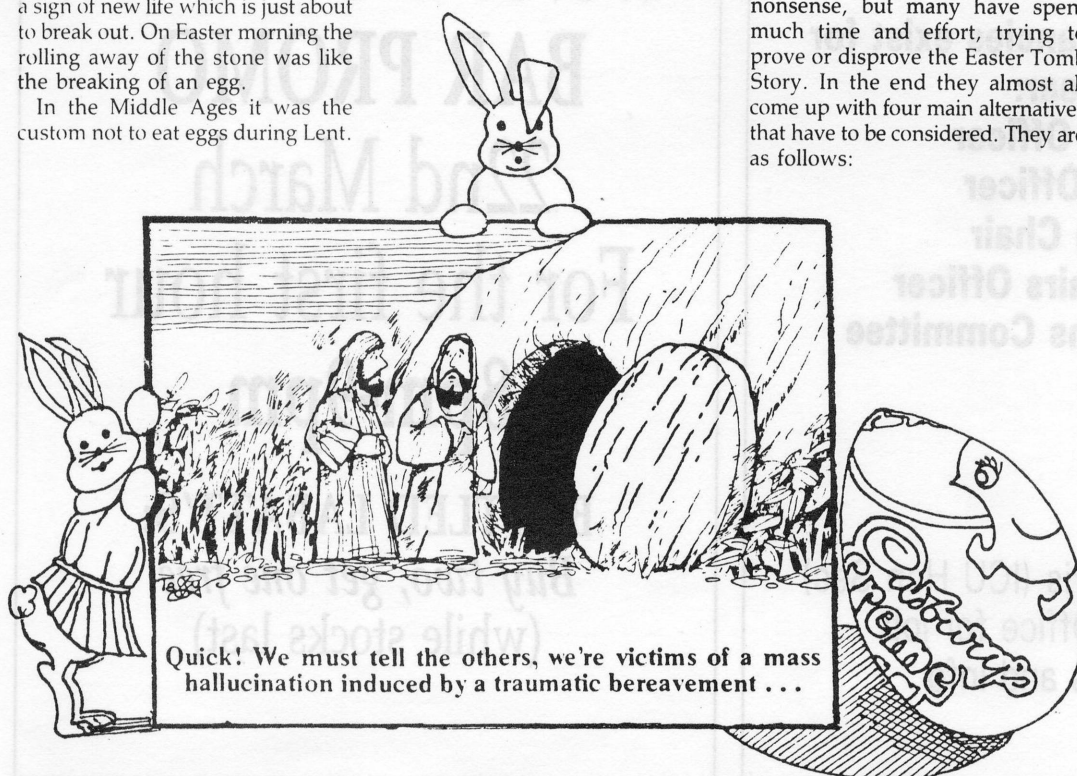
4) A Miracle by God

The story is as told in the four Gospel accounts, and God raised Jesus from the dead.

Chuck Colson was an associate of former US president Richard Nixon. He was involved with Nixon in the Watergate scandal of the seventies, and along with other conspiritors, he was sent to prison. After prison he spoke about Christianity and the forty years in which Christ's disciples never backed down on their witness to the resurrection.

Colson knew from Watergate, that the truth has a way of slipping out. 'We couldn't hold our stories together for three weeks under the pressure,' he said, 'I was around the most powerful men in the world, but we couldn't hold the lie. If the resurrection wasn't true, those disciples could never have held out. Someone would have dug out the tape or something!'

But why spend any time on Easter bothering about an empty tomb? Surely there are more interesting things to do centred around Easter eggs and bunnies.



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ICU POSTS for 89/90

**The following vacancies exist for
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- Academic Affairs Officer**
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**Please see Ian Morris (ICU Hon Sec)
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Shurley shome mishtake—Ed.

The first heat of the Peter Dominic University Blind Tasting Competition took place on Wednesday, with Imperial regaining their previous form and sailing through to the final as hot favourites. A lack of time had meant intensive practise over the last few weeks for the team and this seems to have paid off with Chris Edwards gaining the highest individual score of 51 points.

The rest of the team (Claire Rulten, Nick Battersby, Steve Gargett and Kevin McKoen) all picked up good scores. This was in the face of difficult and unusual wines, especially in the whites where a tricky Alsace was thrown in. The reds, although easier didn't include the usual Gamay, which proved upsetting, especially for the Cambridge team.

Overall, IC got 170 points with Cambridge trailing behind on 110 points, and not a bit pleased with second place.

This win comes as a welcome boost to the Society, currently under threat of having its grant withdrawn by IC Union for the purchase of wine, proving to those who doubt the Society's integrity that they are a worthwhile and educational organisation.

Winning competitions such as this increase the Society's already high standard in the trade. The aim of the Society is to give all its members a chance to taste a wide variety of wine, reflecting the many difficult styles of wine available. Only by purchasing quality wine can the true characteristics of a region or grape variety be shown, so the Society is heavily dependent on its grant. (It should be noted that the practise tastings were funded independently by the small number of members who attended.)

If the Society loses its grant, it could mean the end of a prestigious Society whose reputation in university wine tasting is second to none.

Kevin Barker of Peter Dominic Wine Merchants interviewed by Jens Peterson.

The Imperial Wine Tasting Society has bought wine from Kevin Barker at Peter Dominic on several occasions. I would like to stress that I'm totally independent of the Society and have not participated in tasting sessions.

Do you believe that this quantity is a large amount for a Society like this?

For thirty students who only taste a small amount of each wine? Well yes, that should be about right.

Out of interest. What quality wine does the Society buy?

It's rare that they buy cheap wine. They tend to go for slightly more expensive wine which, by most people's standards, is in the upper end of the market.

Do you beleive that Imperial College Wine Tasting Society is an excuse for a party?

Definitely not. It's costing them something. It's not exactly as if they're guzzling wine down.

Do you recognise the importance for students to sample wines?

Of course.

If students want an alcoholic drink they could go to the pub. Why should College give them the chance to drink wine?

They're not drinking wine, they're tasting it. It's useful to discuss the properties of wine. I could open a bottle now and taste it myself, but I'd be far wiser to share it and find out other opinions. That's what makes it interesting. The wine market constitutes a massive trade. It also has become a hobby for many people. It really is a recognised trade.

Do you find that the present committee are incompetent?

The three girls that come in, you mean? They have asked me for a discount and I've given them one, 7% I think. However, I don't think they know the power that their Society holds. They could probably get an even larger discount if they came forward and put forward their case.

Are you surprised that Imperial College Union finance have plans to withdraw some or all of its grant to the Wine Tasting Society?

I hadn't heard about that. But yes, I am surprised. There are probably other areas within your university which are not so important as the Wine Tasting Society.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sexy FELIX Pin up

Sez Wilkinson



This week FELIX presents gorgeous pouting Sez Wilkinson. Slinky Sez is a mathematics first year student. In her spare time she enjoys writing news for FELIX and ice skating. Sez is not just a pretty face—she is a fully qualified bee keeper and has a fine collection of ball-point pens. Her ambitions are to travel the world and meet people. Sez Wilkinson is 92.

JOIN THE FELIX TEAM

Bored with revision?

Why not pop into FELIX?

We need people to:

- ★ Make the tea
- ★ Take & develop photographs
- ★ Write articles
- ★ Investigate scandals
- ★ Draw cartoons
- ★ Create scandals

Pitta Bread and Circuses

Once again FELIX is proud to present exotic recipes from our erotic culinary expert Yishu. Below is a complete meal as an example of Arabic cookery. We cannot promise the same effects on you as happened to Yishu (see dedication at the end of this article) or perhaps there is a secret ingredient in Egyptian food.

It is always a joy to invite someone to demonstrate a few interesting dishes from their national culinary diet or dishes which are their particular favourites. I have captured the magic of a meal with Arabic and especially Egyptian flavour in this article so that it may inspire you to arrange a meal like this yourself.

The guest chef, Reem Bahgat, had decided that she wanted to grace my table with 'Fattat Makdous' (a fried aubergine dish served on a bed of crisp pitta bread pieces) and 'Foul' (pronounced fool; an Egyptian bean dish). A little coaxing soon convinced her to use the green pumpkin that I had brought to make her childhood favourite of 'kara-assal' as a dessert.

The Fattat Makdous is a Palestinian dish which makes good use of contrast to give it character. The soft aubergine flesh sits under a layer of hot mince meat sauce but above a layer of cool but nutty yogurt and above a bed of crunchy pitta bread. A masterpiece

providing contrast of both temperatures and textures. The Foul is a heavy bean dish that would be seen served on Sunday afternoons when one has nothing more to do than have a siesta and digest the lunch. Unfortunately the foul did not excite me after the beauty of the Fattat Makdous. I have provided recipes which are based on the observations that I made in the kitchen while the food was being cooked, they were not provided by the guest chef.

The three dishes below provide a good meal for six people:

Fattat Makdous

Ingredients:

- 4-5 medium size aubergines
- 1 pint whole milk set yogurt
- 8-10 cloves of garlic
- 1 tbs tahina (sesame seed paste)
- 1lb minced beef
- 1 tbs tomato paste
- 3 tbs pine nuts
- 5 medium pitta bread segments
- 2 medium size onions

Method:

1. Crush 5 cloves of garlic and combine with the yogurt and tahina paste. Set aside.
2. Cook the mince beef in the normal way by frying the onions and then adding the beef and tomato paste. Add some stock, black pepper, ground coriander, salt and cook to completion. The mince beef should not be too dry when cooked.
3. Fry the pine nuts until lightly browned. Set aside.
4. Place the 5 leaves of pitta bread in the oven at gas mark 5. Heat them until they are dry and crisp enough to be cracked into pieces. Set aside.
5. Stir a half tablespoon of tomato puree into half a cup of water. Heat a little bit of oil and the tomato preparation. Cook for a few minutes. Set aside.
6. While the mince is cooking, skin the aubergines and cut them into ¾ inch thick slices. Soak the aubergines in salted water for 15 minutes so that they will absorb the salt. Dry them on paper kitchen towels. Wait until the mince is cooked. While the mince is kept warm fry the aubergines on both sides until cooked.

Serving

Place the crispy pitta bread pieces at the bottom of a deep serving dish. Add 5-6 tablespoons of the tomato sauce over the pitta pieces, followed by the yogurt paste. Spread the aubergine pieces in a layer over the yogurt and finally pour on the mince. Garnish with the fried pine nuts.

Serve the dish straight away. Eat on its own or with some pitta bread.

The Foul

Ingredients:

- 3 cans of cooked 'Foul' beans
- 1 medium can of plum tomatoes, chopped
- 2 medium onions finely chopped
- 6 cloves of garlic finely chopped
- Fresh or dried parsley
- Ground coriander
- 3-4 fresh green chillies, finely chopped
- Olive oil

Method:

1. Fry the garlic in olive oil
2. Add the onions and continue frying until the onions turn brown. Add the chillies and tomatoes. Continue frying for several minutes on medium heat.
3. Add the beans from the cans. Salt, pepper and ground coriander to taste. Simmer until beans are well heated or transfer to an oven proof dish in a hot oven to be heated.
4. Garnish with freshly chopped parsley and serve.

The dessert—Kara-assal

Ingredients:

- 1.5lbs of green pumpkin, skinned and cut into small cubes
- 1 cup of water
- ¼ cup caster sugar
- 3 tbs raisins
- 2 tbs walnuts, chopped
- Ingredients for bechamel sauce without the salt (milk, white flour, butter, sugar)

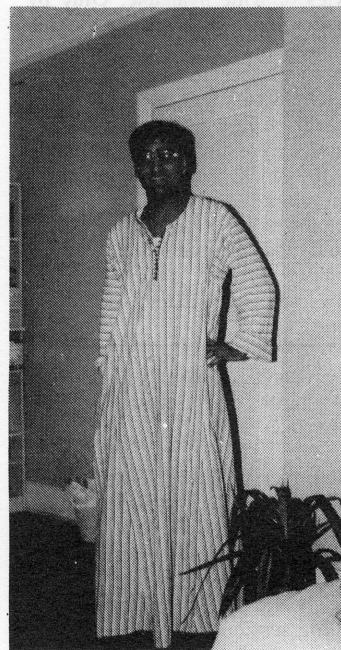
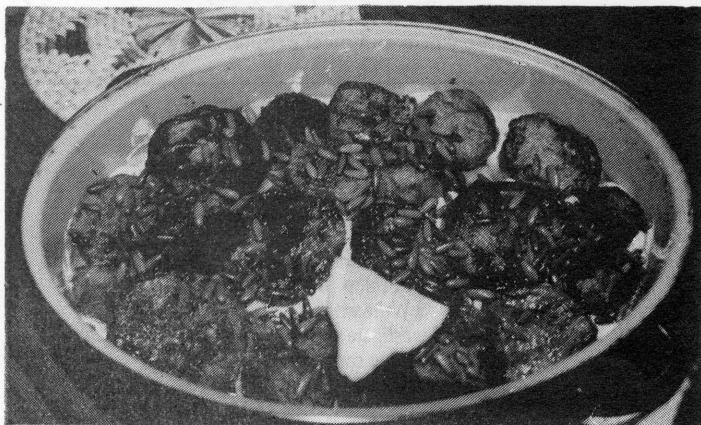
Method:

1. Place the pumpkin, water and caster sugar in a pan and put over a low flame.
2. Cook for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Mash the pumpkin into a pulp and add the raisins.
4. Spread the mash into a 6 inch square tray.
5. Prepare about half a pint of bechamel sauce.
6. Pour the bechamel sauce over the pumpkin layer in the tray and garnish with chopped walnuts and or almonds.
7. Cook under a grill or in a very hot oven (gas mark 6) until the bechamel sauce develops a rouge colour all over its surface. Be careful not to burn this.

Serving

The Kara-assal is normally chilled in the refrigerator before being eaten, but I found it very enjoyable straight from the oven.

I would like to dedicate this article to Reem for being a temptress of the palate. After enjoying such an idyllic lunch at the hands of a lady I can only end this article with a rhetorical 'will you marry me, Reem?'. Thanks for the material for this article and when will you come and cook again?



Women at IC

Where girls become men?

by Liz Warren

There are roughly five times as many men at IC as women. How does this imbalance of the sexes - 'the ratio' - affect life at IC? Can things be said to be improving and what are the opinions of the women currently studying here? Liz Warren investigates.

Women have attended courses at the various colleges and institutes which were the forerunners of Imperial College almost since their foundation.

Annabella Homeria Pollock, accompanied by her father, and a Miss Woolston attended classes in Natural History in 1851.

There were one or two women students in subsequent years, including Elizabeth Garret Anderson, who went on to become the first woman doctor to practice in Britain.

The first woman to actually obtain a qualification was Elizabeth Healey, who became an Associate of the Royal College of Science (ARCS) in 1884. By 1907, when Imperial College was founded, about eighteen women had taken the ARCS and there were about nine women still studying at the college, all in the RCS.

IC has thus never been an entirely male preserve, but it has certainly been a male-dominated one. The first woman to gain a degree in Mining was Julie Ann Wilson in 1963; first class honours in Electrical Engineering were only awarded to a woman, Susan Crease, as late as 1975. Yet in other ways Imperial has been very advanced in encouraging women scientists throughout its entire history. Dr Annie Whately worked for 36 years in the Chemistry Department, having reached the position of Assistant

Professor upon her retirement in 1934. She was instrumental in the invention of new methods of drug synthesis during the First World War, and was also a founding member of the Imperial College Women's Association (ICWA).

ICWA existed to promote social contact between women at Imperial. It had its own room in the Union Building (which is now part of the Union Office) and its President sat on Council to represent women's views to the Union. It was disbanded in 1981, its functions being taken over by Women in Science and Technology (WIST), a Social Clubs Committee Club. WIST has never really replaced the functions of ICWA, being viewed as a much more radical feminist organisation and not appealing to such a wide range of women students. The loss of representation of women in the Union was felt and resulted in the post of Women's Officer being created in 1985. An interview with its current holder, Gill Knowles, is included in this feature.

Despite these efforts by the Union, it will perhaps surprise many students to learn that women were not allowed into the Union bar until as late as 1972, when a group of women students discovered that there was no actual bye-law preventing them drinking there and proceeded to 'invade' the bar every night for a week, much to the



Some boys and girls

disgust, it seems, of the men drinking there.

The number of women students continued to increase slowly, from about 25 in the thirties to about 70 in the fifties, with the number of full-time women students (undergraduates and postgraduates) exceeding 100 in 1959 and passing 500 in 1977. There has been a rapid increase over the past ten years and this year saw the number of women students top 1000, an increase of about 10% on the previous year.

This rapid increase is almost certainly due to the College's strong attempts to recruit more women through efforts such as the IC Women into Science and Engineering (ICWISE) courses for sixth form girls. ICWISE is described by its current organiser, Margaret

Cunningham, in an interview elsewhere in this feature.

One of the great steps taken by College in acknowledging the need for more women at IC and in recognition of the special problems they will encounter as a minority group was establishing the College Tutor for Women. Sandra Dawson, who has held the post since it was created, was interviewed by FELIX and describes how she sees her role in College.

So much for history. How do the women of IC see themselves today? What do they think of the social life? More importantly, would they encourage other women to come here? Perhaps one day there will be equal numbers of men and women here and the issue of women at IC will no longer be an issue.

Editorial

When I first thought up the idea for this feature, I had an initial hypothesis that IC somehow made women more 'masculine' through being in such a male-dominated environment - hence the main title of this feature. I had been brought up on the diet of 'oh, with the ratio, women must have problems; they all become either honorary men or token women'.

What I have discovered is that IC attracts women who seem more assertive than most, almost certainly as a consequence of the science-based nature of the College, but it is also something that is true of them before they arrive. College does not seem to have any effect on them beyond what might be expected from attending any other university.

I do worry that College, in its desperation to attract women students to IC may paint too rosy a picture of life here. Women may not have problems because they are women, but they are still likely to

have problems because they are students.

A friend of mine who was helping on the ICWISE course last year said that when he talked to the girls during mealtimes and explained the problems of high rents in London and high academic pressure at IC, he was taken aside by some of the lecturers and told, 'Don't tell the girls that, we don't want to put them off.' Do we really want to lure women, or indeed any student, to IC under the pretence that everything in the garden is rosy only to disillusion them with the realities

of student life in London when they get here?

Having said that, I don't want to discourage anyone from coming here if they're fully aware of what it's like. I've certainly enjoyed my time here.

Elizabeth Warren

Credits: I'd particularly like to thank Richard Williams for all his kind help in the College Archives, all the people who gladly gave me their time to be interviewed and Bill, who helped and supported me while I wrote this feature.

FELIX interviews three women who deal with issues directly concerning women at IC

Gill Knowles—ICU Women's Officer

Gill Knowles is a fourth year Mechanical Engineering student and has been ICU Women's Officer this year.

What do you see as the central aspects of your job?

I sit on Council and represent women's points of view. This basically means ensuring that nothing sexist or derogatory to women is made into Imperial College Union (ICU) policy. Also I'm responsible for providing such things as rape alarms and transport home for women after Union events. In addition I'm here if anyone has any problems and feels that they can't approach a member of staff or Sandra Dawson (the College Senior Tutor for Women).

My job is essentially to do whatever the women at IC want me to do, which unfortunately doesn't seem to be very much. I have tried holding 'surgeries' and would be happy to hold one once a week, but I don't get much response.

What were your aims for the year when you took up the job?

I actually took up the job at the last minute because nobody else had stood and I felt it was important that someone did the job.

What do you feel you have achieved so far?

The organisation of transport and rape alarms has been going well. I've also had some success in ensuring that reports to Council are not worded in a sexist manner, because I believe language can underline sexual stereotyping.

What other things would you like to see happening?

I've been trying to organise self-defence classes but again I've not had enough response to make it possible to run a course.

What do you see as the main problems facing women at IC?

Firstly let me state that my remarks are generalisations: they certainly don't apply to everyone and everything. I feel that the attitude of College and the Union is very 'male-dominated' and that the CCU activities are 'male-orientated': the 'ten pints of beer in the Union bar' sort of social event.

College as a whole, but women in particular suffer from the lack of an Arts faculty, which is why the

merger with RHBNC might have been a good thing, although I don't believe it was good from the point of logistics. I've also heard comments like 'Oh, they won't fail you because you're a girl', although I don't think that attitude is so prevalent any more.

I think women have difficulty finding other women who think the same way, as there are not so many women to choose from, and so they don't get the support they need. The basic problem is 'the ratio' and what it does to the social life.

A lot of women are obviously happy, since they haven't come to see me.

Do you think men at IC have similar problems?

I think that because of the ratio, some men do. IC has a reputation for high flyers which attracts people who work all the time, and it does nothing for the social life. Women are put off at school because they see IC as either hard work or hard drinking. When men graduate they can have difficulty relating to women because they've hardly dealt with them for three years.

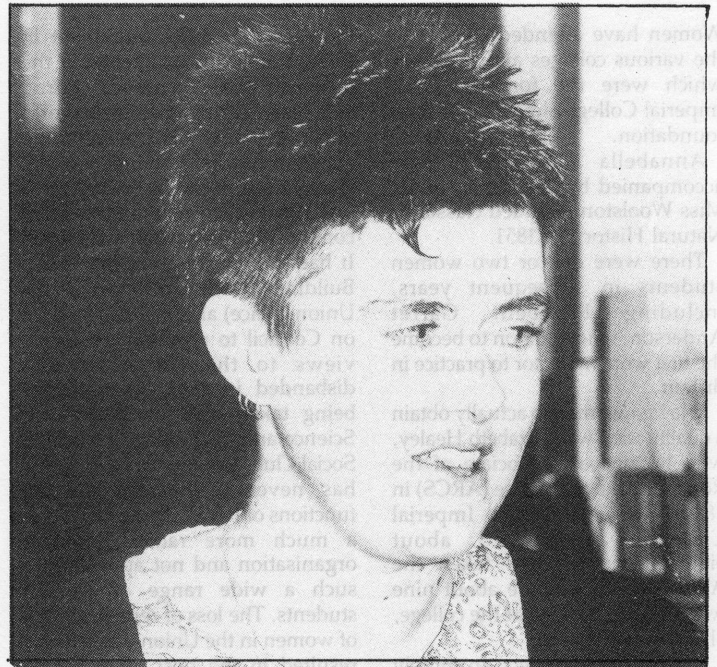
Do you think ICU needs a 'Men's Officer' to cope with these problems?

No, I don't think it does. Men already have support because there are so many of them, so at least they don't need help in finding each other.

What do you feel the attitudes of the Union as a policy making body and administrative structure are towards women and their problems?

I think they're pretty good. I've had a lot of support and help over things like organising transport home and rape alarms, particularly from Nigel Baker, Ian Morris and Jen Hardy-Smith. Nigel was also very supportive when I suggested that there should be at least one female subwarden in each hall of residence when the future of subwardens was being discussed.

I do feel very wary of bringing up 'women's' motions at Council because I have the impression that



Gill Knowles, ICU Women's Officer

Council would regard them as trivial.

I feel that the CCU's do have a bad attitude, that they are 'little boys playing at games', but as I haven't been to any CCU events since my first year, I don't really know what their attitude is. I also don't approve of tie clubs, but as they're not really under Union control and as block votes have prevented their abolition in the past, I don't feel there is a lot I can do.

What do you feel the attitudes of College towards its women students are?

I think that College are aware that women students can have special problems and that they are trying to attract more women undergraduates. They have a College Senior Tutor for Women and there is a Women's Tutor in Mech Eng. They are certainly aware of the things they could and should be doing. I think there is still a latent sexism because College is male dominated and things change slowly.

I don't feel there is any reverse

sexism i.e. positive discrimination, although perhaps when they have a number of candidates who are equally able they will take a higher proportion of women. I think that can only be good.

From which people or organisations have you received most support?

I have had a lot of support from Sandra Dawson, Linzi Wishart (last year's Women's Officer), Jen Hardy-Smith and Kathy Tait in the Union Office, Nigel Baker, who has had a very thoughtful and positive attitude and Dave, the ICU Transport Officer, who has helped enormously with the transport after events.

Do you class yourself as a 'feminist'?

Do you mean in the dictionary sense or in the 'popular' sense? Actually, I'd say probably both. It really irritates me when people say they're not a feminist. The definition is, after all, 'one who believes that men and women are equal' and everybody should believe that.

Sandra Dawson—College Tutor for Women

Sandra Dawson is one of two College Tutors who has special responsibility for women. she is a lecturer in the School of Management and has held her post as College Tutor for the past two and a half years.

What do you see as the central aspects of your job?

When I was first appointed two years ago I felt that my main responsibility was to ensure that the needs and concerns of women students were acknowledged and met.

A lot of my work is seeing individuals with particular causes of concern and I've also tried to set up networks of women students, so that some of the isolation experienced in some departments can be overcome by introducing women students to women in other departments and other years. I think there is a great tendency, with the exception of some of the more active societies, to become locked in a group such as one's year in the department or one's hall.

I've also been concerned to try and attract more women to come to College through working with schools and also through the IC Women into Science and Engineering Courses, which I think are excellent.

Do you feel you have had any success?

At the individual level, as I've become more experienced in the job, I've been able to provide help for the minority who have problems of particular concern, which have varied from personal relationships and harassment in the broadest sense.

At the group level, it's been much more difficult. The meetings I've organised have only attracted minority support, but I think that's true of anything at IC.

In previous years there has been an informal postgraduate women's group and we're now trying to establish one on a more settled basis. This should allow more involvement of women postgrads and they will be holding their first meeting, which will be advertised to all women postgrads, next term.

In the area of working with schools and trying to attract women to IC, we've found that the schools are very pleased to receive both the students and myself. I think the major problem is the educational system in this country where children have to make choices at 13 or 14, but we're usually invited to talk to the sixth form.

I think it's very important to encourage women students to go back to their old schools (we can pay their travelling expenses and provide them with literature and videos). I think that women just two or three years out of school talking about their experiences is immensely valuable. Making students into ambassadors is far more effective than me, Margaret Cunningham, or anyone else talking to them.

What specific events have you organised for women at IC?

Well, basically the work I've described above. I've also invited new women students to meet me and other first year students and I've tried to bring the activities of the student group Women into science and technology to the attention of women students.

What do you see as the main problems facing women at Imperial?

I think that in some departments it's still very much a man's world, particularly because there are so few women members of staff. The issues of career choices and life after graduation are very important and I don't think there is a big enough variety of role models. The work of HUB (run by the Rector's wife, Clare Ash) is vital in contacting female ex-members of the community (both staff and students) and organising lunches with discussion of women's careers. There is also the possibility of setting up a Women's Alumnae Group, which could help in introducing women students to the range of opportunities facing them after they graduate.

I think that some women students are isolated to a degree, whereas men are less isolated. Statistically there is more chance of men encountering staff and students with whom they can discuss their concerns. I think there's now quite a sharp split between departments such as Life Sciences in the Royal College of Science and the Engineering Departments.

I don't want to stress the negative side. I think Imperial College can be an exciting and interesting place for women to be. We take intelligent and interesting women students

who want to make a go of it and I don't want to be an agent of doom and gloom about it.

Do you think IC needs a Tutor for Men?

Most of my work as a College Tutor is not actually concerned with women, as I sit on committees such as Admissions Policy, Students' Residence Committee and Undergraduate Studies, although I do chair the Day Nursery Committee and I sit on the Rector's Working Party on the Recruitment of Women Students. I see myself as a College Tutor, just with a special responsibility for women.

I am persuaded that it's important to have the special designation of 'College Tutor for Women' because of issues like sexual harassment which may make many women worried about who they actually go and see, so it's a bonus for individual work.

What do you feel the attitudes of IC towards its women students are?

Many are positive, a few are negative. I hope that by taking up specific issues and by trying to stop isolation we can make it an even better place.

Some departments have a Women's Tutor, but in most cases the departments with women members of staff try to make them take responsibility for the women

students. The basic problem is that we need more women staff, so that we don't have to set up these special arrangements. After all, if there is one female member of staff there is no guarantee that she will be concerned with pastoral or welfare issues.

Do you feel it is a disadvantage that you didn't study a science-based subject?

No, I don't. I've worked in the area of industrial studies for so long I feel I'm a member of IC, I don't think it's a matter for concern or comment.

Do you class yourself as a 'feminist'?

I'm someone who shuns labels. I think they lead to more difficulties than solutions. Personally, I think that domestic life and professional life are both important and I'd like to encourage women to see that they can have a strong positive combination of both. The critical thing is both individuals and organisations response to issues such as childcare: IC are extremely good in that respect.

I do believe passionately in equality of opportunity, and I believe that with the contribution women have to give to science, industry or politics and the number of women who figure in significant positions in those areas, that a lot of talent is being wasted.



Sandra Dawson, College Tutor for Women

Laying myths to rest

How do the current female students at Imperial College (IC) see themselves? What do they think of the men at IC and what do they believe the men think about them? Liz Warren interviewed some of them to find out.

How do you see yourself?

A choice of several adjectives was offered. Almost everyone saw themselves as intelligent, which is probably not surprising as they are studying at Imperial. Most of them felt they were quite self-confident and strong-willed: obviously unconfident women do not come here.

More than half saw themselves as talkative, which at least goes to show that when men accuse women of this fault women are aware of it! Perhaps most surprisingly, in a place where women are supposed to have problems, all of them felt that they were on the whole happy.

Although all the women interviewed believed in equal

opportunities, less than half would describe themselves as a feminist ('one who advocates equal rights for women' - Collins English Dictionary). This is undoubtedly due to the connotations of extremism and indiscriminate man-hating that the word has acquired over the years.

Finally, one myth should be laid to rest: women do not come to IC because there are five men to every woman. All the replies to the question, 'What were your reasons for coming to IC?' mentioned the academic reputation of the College, together with some women who said they wanted to study in London, but nobody gave 'the ratio' as a reason.



Do women still see IC like this?

Work and Career

Most people felt that men and women treated each other equally academically, although there were a few who thought that perhaps both sexes had an overinflated view of the other's ability. Certainly nobody thought that men looked down on the women at College. There was a feeling that women in general performed better than men, but only because they were more highly motivated when they applied to IC and also perhaps because 'they have more to prove'.

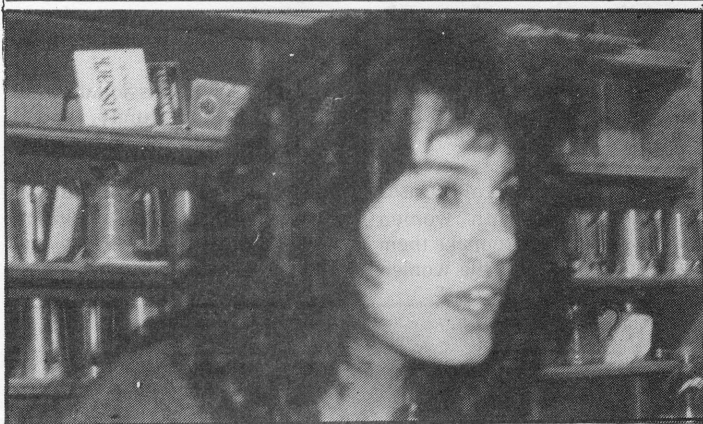
Many felt that some women exploited their femininity in an academic environment, but that 'fortunately, they are in a minority'.

Everybody wanted to get a job after leaving College, with a number wanting to do research. They were split evenly on whether they

wanted to get married, although nobody would give up work simply because they had got married.

On the question of whether or not they would have children, a third said yes, a third said no and a third said they weren't sure. Those who did want children still wanted a career and most of them would only take a career break of about five years. Nobody expected their husband to give up his career for the sake of the family.

It was pleasant to discover that almost no-one had been discouraged in wanting to study science, though those that were seemed quite angry about it. A large proportion of women had attended some sort of sixth form course to encourage girls into science, and most said that that had been very encouraging.



Women in the Union Bar—in their traditional role?

Social Life

Everybody seemed to have more male friends than female friends, and most of them seemed to think they had more male friends than they would have done outside IC. Given the imbalance in numbers this does not seem strange. Most women didn't seem to notice 'the ratio', certainly not academically. Some of them felt it could make Union parties unpleasant, whilst others felt that as the women tended to be more sociable it was less of a problem than the basic numbers might suggest. It was also suggested that 'it would be less of a problem if it wasn't discussed so much' and 'there are more men than women here. So what!' Life scientists said

they certainly didn't notice it.

Most women felt the social life was on the whole good, but that it wasn't really provided by the Union, and that one had to either be in a good hall or make one's own. Most women felt there was little strain in socialising, but some of them felt that some men could become 'desperate' and very 'predatory'.

Almost everyone felt that contraception was the responsibility of both partners, while most felt that abortion was the responsibility of the woman only, although a large minority felt that both men and women should be involved in the decision.



Women at IC are self-confident and strong willed

Should women come to IC?

Quite a number said that it would depend on what sort of personality she had and that if she was 'arty' she should go elsewhere. There were a few emphatic no's, but the reasons given were mostly to do with the high cost of living in London and the academic pressure

at College, which they felt was responsible for turning out rather odd people anyway. Half the women questioned said yes: London was a good place to be, and that the degree was well respected. There's hope that one day 'the ratio' won't be discussed because it'll be one to one.

Margaret Cunningham—running ICWISE

Margaret Cunningham is the organiser of the Imperial College Women into Science and Engineering (ICWISE) courses which aim to allow sixth form girls to find out about studying science and engineering, and also to find out more about Imperial College itself. She is currently the Senior Tutor in the Department of Computing, has previously been College Senior Tutor for Women and has successfully combined both a career and a family. She studied at IC both an undergraduate and as a postgraduate and after spending some time in industry returned to IC as a lecturer.

How many women were at IC when you arrived?

There were just over 100 full time undergraduates. Everyone was very excited about that. There were about 40 fresher females.

Were you yourself encouraged into Science?

I was neither encouraged nor discouraged. I was just allowed to follow my own mind.

Where did the idea for the ICWISE courses come from?

They were an idea dreamed up by the Rector's Working Party on the Recruitment of Women Students, which discusses a lot of general issues but has mostly concentrated on running these courses.

They were inspired by the Insight into Engineering courses which we ran here every year they were held except the first. In 86 we ran both Insight and ICWISE, and we've run ICWISE for 87 and 88 as well. I've done the planning for this year and the preliminary booking for next year. The course may or may not happen after that, and I will probably step down as organiser anyway.

The thing about the ICWISE courses are that they're shorter than Insight. We've aimed to optimise the length of the course with the number of women on each course, as it is all additional work above their ordinary duties for the lecturers who take part. The courses last two days and there are 45 to 50 women on each course. We ran four courses in the first year, eight in the second year and four residential and one non-residential course last year. That gave the opportunity for more girls to be involved as we didn't have to accommodate them and a lot of them were women who either wouldn't want to live in hall or would be mature students. This year all the courses are residential. The courses, including the accommodation are free, to encourage as many women along as possible.

During the course there are talks

and discussion on careers in Science and Engineering, Laboratory Sessions in the Departments and tours of College and London, as well as the chance to talk to students and members of staff.

How many subsequently study for science-based degrees?

I think that the number who come to IC each year is several dozen. It's certainly not all of them, as I think the courses have a far wider appeal and are more general than simply recruiting into science. I do think it has been instrumental in recruiting to IC, though. We've seen the biggest single increase, 10%, in the number of women students at IC this year. I think the course helps in as much as many girls are reassured about what this part of London is like. There's a small proportion who are put off simply because they don't like London.

Do you think it is a good idea to encourage women to come to IC?

I think it is, partly for the parochial reason that it makes it nicer for the girls who are already here, but also in the long term because industry needs more qualified people.

I think that girls are still sometimes put down when they get interested in science and the reassurance of an all girl course helps - they're meeting girls with the same interests, possibly for the first time.

What do you see as the problems for women entering on science based courses and science based careers?

If you ask the careers people, I think they'll tell you they're the same for women entering any career in which they are outnumbered, for example the City.

I think individual prejudice is probably still a problem, but certainly the corporate view of women is improving, simply because of the need to employ women because of the labour shortage. Companies are realising that they need to provide things like



day nurseries in order to keep their female staff. There still seems to be a lot of prejudice about bringing the two halves of women's lives, career and motherhood, together.

What do you think are the attitudes of IC towards its women students?

I think there are lots of different attitudes. There is still the big social disincentive of the 'beery, tribal social life'. The line from College, from the Senior Tutors and Admissions Tutors, is that they are very keen that women here should fulfil their potential and they definitely want more women students.

What is more disturbing is the lack of female staff. There is still a greater drop-out rate among women than men because a career break can be critical for women. There are only about 35 to 40 women staff here. There are quite a lot of contract research staff but they don't have security of tenure.

How do you think attitudes towards women at IC have changed whilst you've been at IC?

I think there has been a realisation that we need more female staff. I don't think this was even considered when I first came here. I think it's sad that when the Imperial College Women's Association went it wasn't really replaced, as it filled a need for social contact. Women students have always held more visible positions proportionately than men. That's probably because they're more

motivated and more individual than the men who come here. They've had to answer the question 'Why are you doing engineering when you're a girl?'

From whom have you received most support in your work?

Because of this scheme there has been collaboration between all the departments for the first time. Each department has had one member of staff who has co-ordinated that department's action, so I'm grateful to them and also to the Research Assistants who've helped with the practical work. We have female staff staying during the courses and as there aren't many of them that means there's been very good support from them.

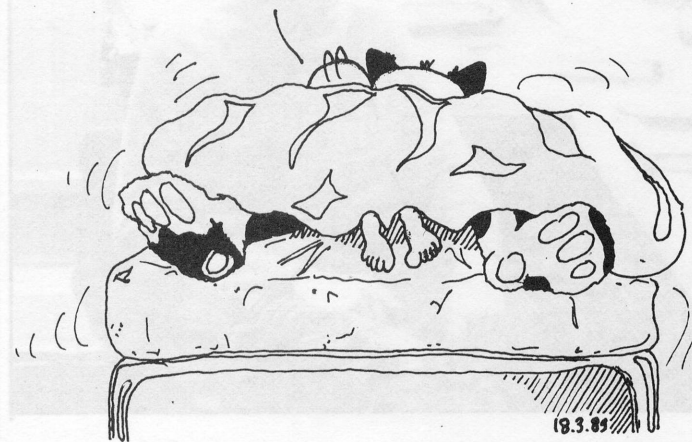
Terry Whodcoat, the Assistant Admissions Registrar, has helped with the administration, particularly while the courses have been running, and there have been several students who have acted as receptionists and helped with the day-to-day running of the courses. There are also all the staff and students who've helped by coming along to meals and talking to the women on the course.

Do you class yourself as a 'feminist'?

Yes, I do, recognising that that covers quite a wide range of views. I believe in equal rights and equal opportunities, but the word has connotations and overtones put on it by its critics and it can imply extremism without pragmatism.

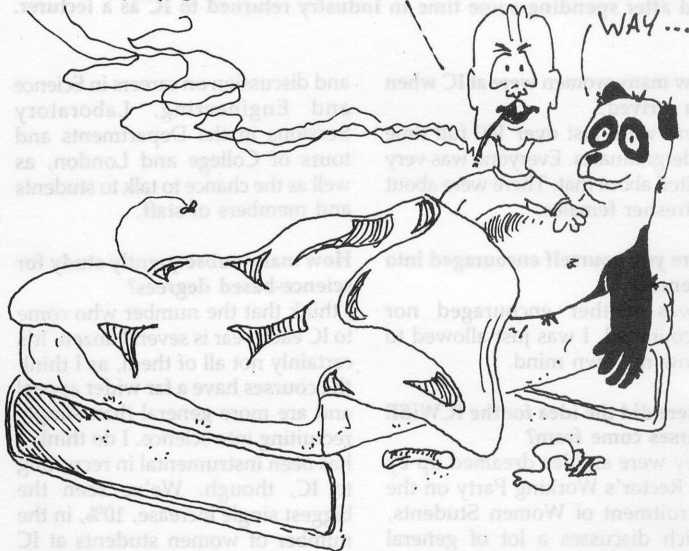
Pandamonium

OH MING MING, I'LL HUG YOU AND SQUEEZE YOU FOREVER!



I'M SICK OF BEING A CARTOON CHARACTER

DON'T WORRY, THERE IS A WAY...



H.U.B

What sort of girl would you like?



PUSSY!

'She's got to be furry, cuddly, and shaped like a panda.'



'Oh Pussy! I'll love you and squeeze you forever...'



What's your problem?



What do you think, I'm pregnant!



THWACK!!!

Don't be facetious

Dr Dragonspook

Will Doctor Dragonspook ask if Pussy is on the pill?
Will Tad fail his degree?
Will Ming Ming ever forgive him?
Is this story worth a libel writ?
Send your answers on a stamped addressed envelope to Ramin Nakisa c/o the FELIX Office.

FELIX

22 MARCH 2019

As we near the end of this second decade of the twenty-first century, it is a fitting time to look back. What has happened to all those people who controlled our lives thirty years ago? The obvious answer, and the correct one, is that they are all dead. So, instead, we will concentrate on those ordinary people, the complete non-entities of 1989 as Tempus Futura continues his series:

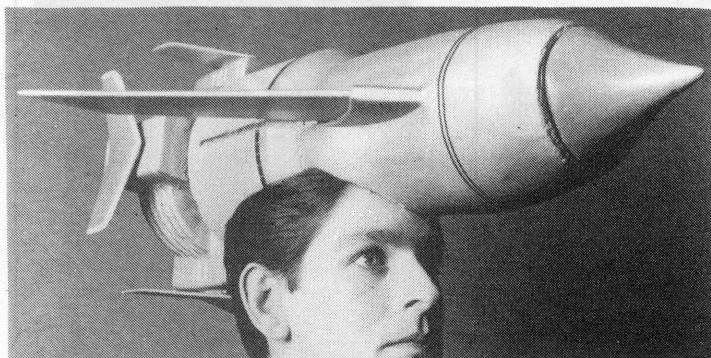
Thirty years on

Nigel Baker

Nigel D. Baker was in what he believed to be the important job of 'Union' President back in 1989. To us, living in these enlightened days, this may seem strange. Many of us still remember the banishment of Scargill, the last of the Union Presidents, by the Great Maggie in 1993. But the Union Nigel ran was of a different sort, it could be

Labour Party the night before the vote and the subsequent, valiant decision by the government to struggle on with the debate without them. The vote in favour was unanimous, and Parliament, the bane of generations of Britons, was never to be seen again.

But Nigel's political triumph was also to be his downfall. With no Parliament, he was without a job



described as the 'students's social club of what is now 'Imperial College of Science, Technology, Medicine, Arts and Star Wars Research plc'.

Historians are unsure of exactly what the 'Union' did: many of its records were destroyed when it was forced to close by Sir Kenneth Baker after a later president, Red Nicola Fox, was found guilty of communist subversion.

At the close of his presidency, Nigel took a highly paid job with Mogul oil, but his true destiny lay elsewhere and within a year he was standing for parliament.

Nigel was selected as Conservative candidate for the Safe Tory seat of Ridley on the Oouse and was so successful that he was eventually elected after the boundaries had been moved twice.

He soon became a favourite of the Prime Minister and indeed it was Nigel who was chosen to pilot the bill to abolish Parliament through the Commons. The rest is history. Children today are taught of the accidental mass arrest of the entire

and after Lord Norman Fowler finally removed the last of the scroungers and abolished the Dole, he had no means of support. Nigel now lives in a cardboard box on the roof of what was, before the Thames flooded, the Royal Festival Hall.

We at FELIX sent our ace reporter, Sez Wilkinson Jr., to find Mr. Baker and ask him how he feels after all these years. She found him in his favourite spot on the far side of the building and offered him a bottle of meths as an incentive but with no avail. Nigel would only mutter vaguely about 'Bloody Goodwin'.

A doctor, Dr. Philip Drew, was asked to examine Mr. Baker on behalf of FELIX. His diagnosis was not hopeful, before our money ran out, we were told that Mr. Baker had a severe mental problem making him an 'undesirable vagrant'. We had no choice but to call in the Police and we are sorry to announce that Nigel D. Baker, former president of Imperial College Union was officially put down last Tuesday.

Bill Goodwin

William Robin Goodwin was one of the last of the so-called 'independent' FELIX editors. Indeed, it was just two years after his term that Rupert Murdoch bought up the newspaper and replaced the editor with a computer.

Bills career had a less auspicious start than Nigel. His first jobs with Alpen and the Pregnancy Advisory Service were both terminated suddenly and he was forced to return to the one job he was really capable of.

As tea-boy on the Chipping-Sodbury Gazette, Bill met many interesting people all of whom were going to later be better paid than himself. He was, however, dogged and persistent and within a few years he was making the coffee.

Bill's big break came when, on a fact-finding visit to Johnson's Breweries, the papers entire news staff fell into a vat of lager and dissolved. The paper's owners, in desperation, asked Bill to stand in.

It was a stroke of luck that Bill happened to be in the 'Tebbit Arms' that day, the very day that it collapsed into the Channel Tunnel. He was just leaving the pub when he heard what he later described as a 'colloshal crash' and turned to see the building and half the village disappear down a hole.

He was thus, the first reporter in the country on the scene and the only one to file his report before the military sealed off the area. His fame was thus assured and he was soon offered jobs with the Guardian, Independent, Times and, the one he finally chose, with the Sun.

As the Sun's Arts and Culture correspondent he travelled the country writing, in his own unique style, of great events such as the Bob Dylan 'Walking Frame and Harmonica Tour' of 2001. It was after this piece that Rupert Murdoch sacked him.

Bill returned to the Chipping-Sodbury Gazette to the post of tea-boy cum features editor where he remains to this day. Our reporter, Sez Wilkinson Jr. tracked him down.

Sez Wilkinson adds:

I found Bill Goodwin in the Chipping-Sodbury Gazette offices just off Saachi Street. It was a pleasant change to get out of the town: to see the great rolling expanses of concrete that make up the beautiful British countryside, the vast mock-georgian housing estates and even the occasional tree. Chipping-Sodbury is a typical Kentish village: a small community of stockbrokers and accountants living traditional country lives in traditional country ways, their only means of communication the traditional Fax machine.

The Gazettes offices are on the fifteen floor of Lawson Towers and Bill's desk takes pride of place in the far corner, just behind a row a filing cabinets and next to the loo. When I met him, he was asleep in his chair, silly hat covering his eyes.

'Mr. Goodwin,' I said. He woke with a start. 'My name's Sez Wilkinson Jr. of FELIX'.

For a second he seemed engrossed in thought.

'Wilkinson, you shay. Didn't I know your mother.'

With that, he offered to buy me a drink and I'm afraid that was his last intelligible statement.

Ian Morris

Ian Morris was Imperial College Union's 'Honorary Secretary' at the time of Nigel Baker's presidency. As far as the historians can gather was some kind of entertainments organizer and it was into the entertainments business that Ian went at the end of his year in office.

His film company 'Wicked Wendy Productions' achieved both fame and notoriety with its original interpretations many great works. FELIX obtained copies of many of Ian's early works. However, the office was recently raided by the Whitehouse-Rees-Mogg Thought Police and the material has, unfortunately, been confiscated.

Ironically, it was a raid by the same police squad that finally closed down Wicked Wendy's for good, five years ago. Ian now works as a doorman at the 'La Maison' in Soho.

Chas Brereton

Chas Brereton was Nigel's deputy in the late 1980s. His progress since that time is shrouded in mystery. He was reported to have first obtained a 'job in the City' but from then on, no trace of him can be found.

Some historians were beginning to doubt that he had ever existed at all and one went as far as claiming that he was a fictitious character invented by FELIX as an object of ridicule.

However FELIX have traced him to a small company called 'Cosa Nostra Properties' which appear to specialise in import and export. The reporter we sent to interview him disappeared and was later found as part of a bridge on the M1276 motorway. Since then three typesetter operators have lost their hands in mysterious accidents and two printers have been found entangled in the press.

FELIX regrets any inconvenience we may have caused Mr. Brereton and wishes to announce that it is abandoning this line of research.

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- Piccadilly Circus
- Earl's Court Road
- Union Bar

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CLEARANCE SALE**

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Time Out
'Wor get your kit off darling' —
Paul Barton
'Highly stimulating' — Chas Brereton
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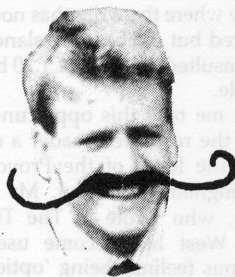
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Many people wear spectacles at
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Tower.
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are too many bloody
students here already'
Smith.

Nigel's Naughty phone service



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- 0893 3503 Wicked Wendy's whip
and chain-o-gram
- 0898 3502 Agony Chas—will solve
your emotional problems
24-hour service
- 0898 3515 'How to run a Union'
advice line
- 0898 3271 Honest Rob's fast food
to take away. 'Bloody
good value and tasty
too'.
- 0898 3440 Think you've got
academic problems? Talk
to Nigel Whitfield—they'll
soon pale into
insignificance.
- 0898 3371 Cheap computers! Take
away service. Contact
'Reevesy the Fence'

Imperial College Humanities Programme

My life and achievements
by Nigel D Baker, Monday 24th April
Read Theatre, 1.00 to 1.03pm

Turkey—The Shocking Truth
Paul Barton, 25th April, Read Theatre, 1.00-1.30pm

Turkey Unveiled
Paul Barton, 26th April, Read Theatre, 6.00am-10.00pm

Turkey—I went there once
by the much travelled Paul Barton
Pippard Theatre, 1.00pm to 1.30pm

**The proper use and maintenance of small carbon
dioxide fire extinguishers**
Ian Gilliet, Great Hall, every lunchtime

How I solved the Great Train Robbery
Geoff Reeves, The Gent's Loo, Sherfield, 25th May.

Tribal Dances
John Smith, The Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, 1st June
How to keep your hair looking perfect in all situations
Ian Morris, the Roof of the Queen's Tower, 2nd June

The effect of gravity on large bodies
Sez Wilkinson, Rector's Office, 3rd June.

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models
'More fun than a cold
bath'—Nigel Baker

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Satanic verses

There is an uproar in the media and the public alike, about the novel called *Satanic Verses*, although very few people seem to understand the fact that we have been addressing the wrong issue so far i.e., the freedom of speech. The fact of the matter is that it is not the right of the freedom of speech *per se* that has been contested by those who condemn *Satanic Verses*; in fact it's just the opposite i.e., the **abuse** of this so-called freedom, which has met with the most severe confrontation, and understandably so. The question we have to address is; does anybody have the right to speak without due regard to the consequences?

Do we have anything like complete freedom? Why do we have laws of blasphemy and a race relations Act in this country, all of which curb the freedom of expression? Is there any precedent in this country where books have been removed from the shelves in the public libraries?

Of course, without laws there would be complete anarchy. All speakers, actors, writers etc must

have a responsibility in what they are doing. It's disheartening to know that the law of blasphemy in this country is based on discrimination without due regard to faiths other than the Christian faith. This needs immediate attention, and the right of everyone to be free from abuse and insult must be respected, irrespective of their faith. Clearly the government have shown double standards in dealing with the issue of *Satanic Verses*. Does the establishment who sacked her minister because she said 'the eggs are contaminated' and who spent millions to silence Peter Wright have the right to lecture about freedom of speech?

As for Rushdie's book, it is not about satanic verses. It is an attack on Islam in the guise of a novel in which he insults the muslims and tries his utmost to give a distorted view of history and Islam. He ridicules the religious consciousness of muslims and is guilty of blasphemy. Based on his book and his comments, both on television and the newspaper, he is guilty of apostasy. This is an extreme form of

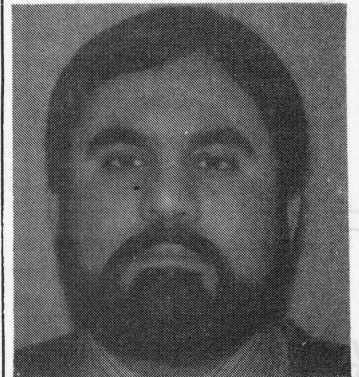
'treason' and carries the retribution of Capital Offence according to Islamic Jurisprudence. There are other books critical of religion but they are objective. This one is abusive, racist and slanderous. For example he refers to one of the Prophet's black companions as a 'black monster'.

So disgusting is the style that an English speaker, while commenting on the book, said 'I would like to kill him for his appalling use of English!'

Mr Rushdie and his associates were invited to the Central Mosque, in London, in October to discuss the contents of his book. He completely declined to accept. A Sikh leader had also advised him not to go ahead with the publication but he paid no heed. It was clear to the publishers that the material will be highly offensive. So clearly, the stake was financial. This is therefore a case where the writer has not only ignored but deliberately slandered and insulted the faith of 1.30 billion people.

Let me take this opportunity to offer the respected reader a quote from the letter of the Provost of Birmingham Cathedral, Mr Peter Berry, who wrote in *The Times*, 'The West has become used to religious feelings being 'optional', 'extra', 'marginal'. May God's peace and blessings be with Mr

Peter Berry, as he has spoken the truth in a world of widespread moral laxity. After all, the real common ground that the people of East and West may have is in the recognition of one God.



About the Author: M B Khan travelled from Afghanistan to Pakistan before the Russian invasion. He completed his first degree at the University of Punjab in Chemical Engineering before travelling to US where he completed an MS and where he also worked on a US Dept of Energy research project on Synthetic Fuels. Mr Kahn is currently pursuing his PhD in Polymer Engineering at the Dept of Chemical Engineering at IC. He is also a consultant with the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission.

Blasphemy?

Is the Oath on the Bible inherently blasphemous?

'Will you take an oath on the Bible?' they say, though even the most ardent blasphemer, long since grown out of being ticked off with supernatural cautions from his elders and betters lest he tell a porky, feels himself shunted into a corner and thinks he does his honour a disservice by allowing himself to bow down to taking an oath which **they** proffer to him. He rightly sees no ease in refusing for the extra nuisance it will cause is something he can well do without and there is no dignity to be gained by contravening **himself** by protesting he is an atheist simply because his view of God is not a **view they** share. So what is he to do if he is not to be reduced to the taking of empty oaths?

Here is my considered opinion. If his demeanour is nothing which will work to his disadvantage or the

disadvantage of anyone close to his heart he should welcome the opportunity to take the Oath, he should grin broadly and say 'Sure! Pass that Bible over. I'll most certainly take an oath on it! Why I'll even spit on it if you would like me to.'

And if his demeanour is something vital then let him request that the Court be adjourned for at least three weeks to give him time to read the damn thing, small print an' all, before he signs his Pact with the Almighty. Is there a Court in the Land which could afford to refuse such a simple request?

My point is, of course, that the Court itself treats an Oath on the Bible with the most contemptuous triviality. And this is **proven** by the law of Perjury, which, I contend, is a **blasphemous** law by all noble definitions of the word 'blasphemy'. And there is little point in any definition which is **not** noble. The Law of Perjury assumes that the fear

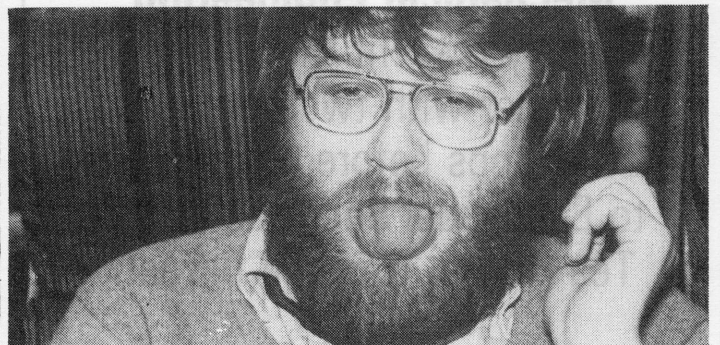
of God is sufficient to enforce the telling of the truth but God is not sufficiently mighty to chastise those who lie. And so I say that the Oath on the Bible is a **wicked** extorting of the truth by a legal pressgang which cruelly manipulates the honest faith of simple folk and wishes upon them all manner of neuroses unless they allow the State to stick its nose into their business.

And to cap it all, this truth the Court perfidiously expects will not be freely given **unless** a threat of divine wrath is brought to bear, a threat which the Court **itself** believes to be empty or it would see no need for a Law of Perjury.

And even if the truth be freely given and under Oath **still** the Court undermines the position of the individual with regard to the

position of the State by retaining for **itself** the right to disbelieve what is said, whether under Oath or whether on your Mother's Grave, blatantly flying in the face of the faith they expect us to put in its authority in the first place. They demand we place our trust in them but do not extend the same trust to us and yet at the same time they have the gall to claim to be the upholders of Justice. There is more **honesty of intention** in a straightforward Kangaroo Court.

Even so, if I am to be hauled up in front of one or the other then every time give me a kangaroo court which does not see itself as such and I will hurl my contempt for it in like manner so they cannot ever afford to see it as contempt **as such**.



McCarthyism

This interview was conducted at the Fulham Greyhound in late February 1989, and first broadcast on IC Radio on Monday March 13. I spoke to Malcolm (singer) and Tim (guitarist) from the band.

How do you see yourself these days?

McC...I think we're trying to change pop music in some way, trying to make it a bit more relevant to people's lives, trying to relate it to the world and not cut it off like it is at the moment—most pop music is pure escapism and has no relevance to anybody's life, so we feel we're quite a campaigning group now, we're trying to say something a bit more intelligent in a pop song.

Most of your song titles have some kind of obvious message...presumably the lyrics are developing these ideas?

Tim. Every record we've released has had overtly political lyrics, but we think that everything is political around us—we don't consider ourselves similar to other 'political bands'. There's a policy running throughout everything we do, and the music is just a framework for what we have to say.

(To Malcolm.) Are the whole band behind your lyrics...it's not just you 'crusading'?

Tim. It's Mal's specific ideas—none of the rest of us contribute to them, but we all agree to protest about what we don't like in the world and what needs to be changed. None of us is unpolitical, though we have differences of opinion in solutions.

Would you classify yourself as an indie band?

McC. Well we are on an independent lable, but as a form of music...we don't think about being any particular category of music...we avoid overtly rock clichés and so on, and we have our own idiosyncratic brand of music, which can't easily be put in any other category, which leaves the horrible 'indie' tag.

I don't think we have any more in common with any group on an indie lable than we have with anyone on a major lable.

Mal. Our influences are not generally musical influences—they're from art, or literature particularly from the 1920s: Berthold Brecht, John Hartfield, George Cross, people like that. We think they have a similar way of going about things to us. A much higher vision.

Someone was telling me that you're making a video next week—is that true?

Mal. Dreadfully true, yes. It's not something that I find particularly natural to do...We feel reasonably confident about making records now, but it was a long process of learning.

The video is for our new record (*Keep an Open Mind or Else*). It involves a liberal, arguing with somebody. At first he's very tolerant, saying yes, you're entitled to these opinions, but gradually as the song goes on he's getting more and more wound up by what this other person's saying, so by the end he's threatening him with violence. We wanted to illustrate this in some way in the video. I thought the most obvious way to signify tolerance was to give someone a kiss, so I'm afraid someone's going to have to kiss Tim on the cheek in the first verse—and in the third verse they're going to have to spit at him, Tim's not looking forward to being spat at.



It must be quite exciting—do you think you're about to launch off into major things?

Mal. Into space? Probably into space. Once people find out what we're saying, perhaps they will come to our houses and stone the windows. I hope so! That would be the ideal reaction.

Well you'd certainly get an exclusive with the Sun then...You still seem quite idealistic—so you haven't been embittered by the 'pop world' yet.

McC. No, I dunno why that is. It's a very embittering thing, obviously all just for money. But we're very sure of what we want to do in the group, and what we want to see happening in the world, so we've got a lot of resilience.

You're all Londoners—have you toured much outside London?

Tim. Oh yeah, In fact, we don't play much in London. We play round Europe quite a bit.

Where's your favourite place in England to play?

McC. Edinburgh's always good. Tim. Well I like London—I have to have a big city, I can't stand anything rural.

Mal. All the countryside should be built over immediately and be made useful—I mean it's completely useless just sitting there doing nothin in particular—I think it's got far too good a press up to now, in the history of mankind!

I think you've just lost a lot of Green fans.

Mal. Good, good! Goodbye! Actually... you do Math's don't you?

Yes.

Mal. Because it occurred to me that a lot of my songs are meant to be like mathematical propositions...

(?@*)

Mal....trying to get all the feeling and vague-mindedness out, they're meant to be very cold, logical and precise, very accurate. I say a proposition in the first verse, and someone will have to go along with that, another in the second and so on, and then I hit them with the conclusions, and they're usually horrified by the conclusions, but because they've agreed with the propositions earlier, they're in trouble.

I can't fault that. I hope you don't lose the poetry though.

Mal. Well...I'm not that bothered about poetry. Mathematical is what I want really... The music Tim writes is very emotional most of the time, and the lyrics are always playing off against the music in some way.

You have a new album coming out.

Mal. Yes. *'The Enraged Shall Inherit the Earth'*, due out in March.

Oh. That'll be good!

Mal. It's from the Bible—I'm always reading my Bible.

Smashing

McCarthy's new album is out now—and the gig was dead good! Love from Susan xx.



IC Radio have been scuttling about interviewing pop groups these last few weeks. Two Mondays ago saw the broadcasting of a conversation with McCarthy and also with *Jesus Jones*, recored at their recent gig at our very own gorgeous Imperial College. We have taped interviews with *Birdland* and also the legendary *Gaye Bikers on Acid*—both to be broadcast early next term—and in the pipeline are the *Rose of Avalanche* and *Spaceman 3*.

For further transmission times, write to Tom Cunningham or Susan Appleby, c/or IC Radio, and keep an eye out in the 'What's On' column.

Keep listening—99.9KHz Medium Wave, 97.7FM test transmissions. We're all having a mega-happy time.

Big Boy Tomato—ULU

Big Boy Tomato have dimples. Punk packaged in cute cladding. Fronted by a dizzy gal who peers endearingly through a frizzy fringe, tassles, odd socks, oversized t-shirt and baseball boots. She grins and adore-me dimples appear in her cheeks. Surely this is not the face of post punk nostalgic music. It is!

As with most modern fast pop performers they shoot through a funny set paying more attention to energy than technical mastery. The drummer (I'm convinced he was one of the great train robbers) beats and bashes baldly. The 78rpm rendition of *Summer Loving* gets the crowd smiling.

They certainly have the right idea. The only way to revive punk is tongue-in-cheek. In this way, there is no prospect of artistically 'spoiling' any piece because there is no pretention involved and no one takes it seriously.

They were a guitarist short tonight but it didn't matter, with or without they were worth £0 of anybody's money. See them or eat ketchup.

The Great Easter Wordsearch

L	L	E	H	S	O	C	T	O	P	U	S
G	H	E	D	I	L	W	K	C	I	H	C
B	U	G	G	S	B	U	N	N	Y	B	C
T	F	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	R
H	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	C	A	G	E
U	G	S	B	A	G	M	A	S	E	T	C
M	D	A	S	M	G	K	W	B	A	U	H
P	C	T	D	O	Z	J	I	L	B	G	A
E	E	A	M	X	U	F	W	M	O	I	S
R	G	M	Y	Y	E	P	D	D	R	R	T
R	S	A	L	M	O	N	E	L	L	A	X

CLUES TO WORDSEARCH

1. Buggs Bunny
2. Chocolate
3. Chick
4. Battery cage
5. Easter
6. Myxomatosis
7. Thumper
8. Octopus
9. Salmonella
10. Edwina

CRYPTAFELICAA RITHMETICA

AHG is divisible by 1 but not 2
 BKKA is divisible by 2 but not 3
 CJDDF is divisible by 3 but not 4
 DHKJ is divisible by 4 but not 5
 CBAFE is divisible by 5 but not 6
 BGFBD is divisible by 6 but not 7
 AJA is divisible by 7 but not 8
 ABDDC is divisible by 8 but not 9
 DEJFK is divisible by 9 but not 10

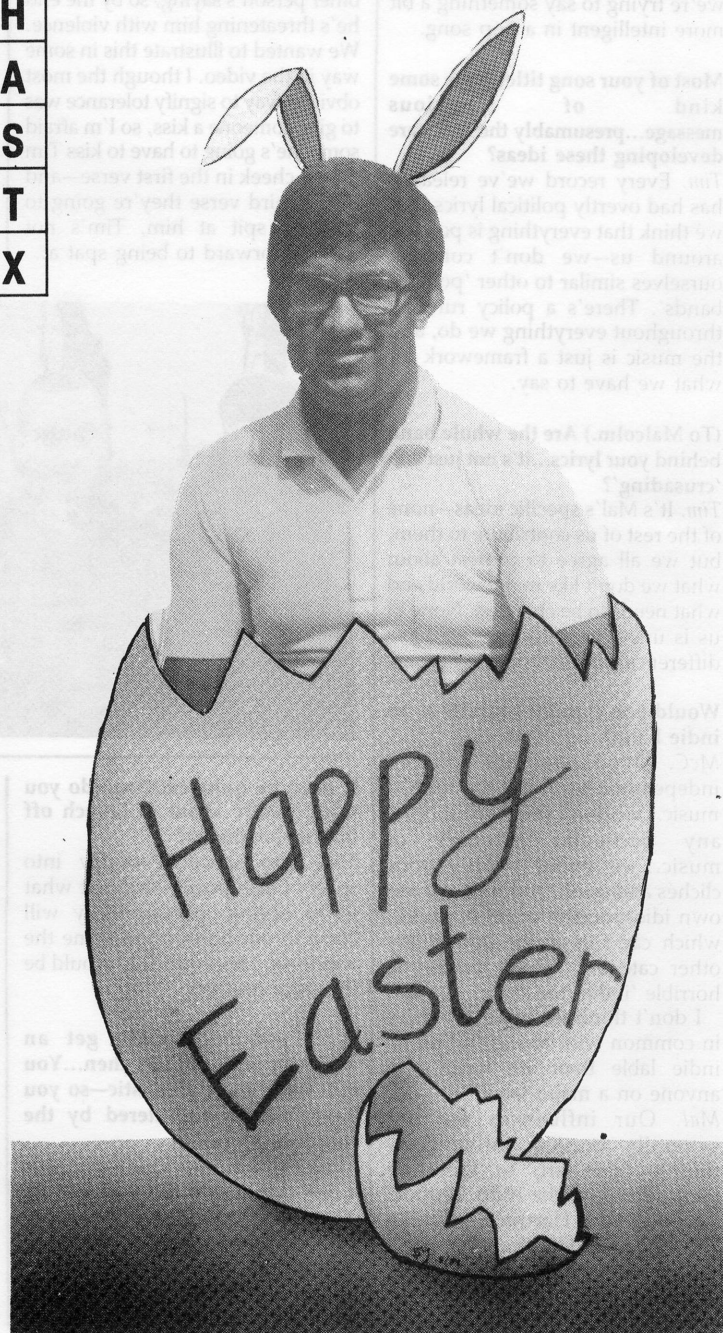
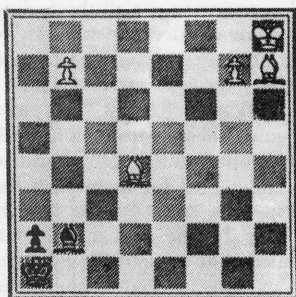
CHJHA is divisible by 11 but not 12

A to K (with the exception of 17) represent the digits 0 to 9. Each series of letters represents an integer in base 10. There are no leading zeros. Which letter represents which digit?

Wacky Easter Chess Problem

Two egg-spert chess players were playing in the Primelia College Chess Club last week, and to add some egg-citement, Egbert (white) was trying not to win, but to have his King checkmated, but Shelley (black) tried to avoid checkmating

him. The match had reached the position above; (White to play and lose and advancing up the page). How did Egbert manage to lose in three moves? Only legitimate moves are allowed.



FILM QUIZ

Name the films these serial numbers appear in:

THX 1138 (*Clue: In more than one film*)

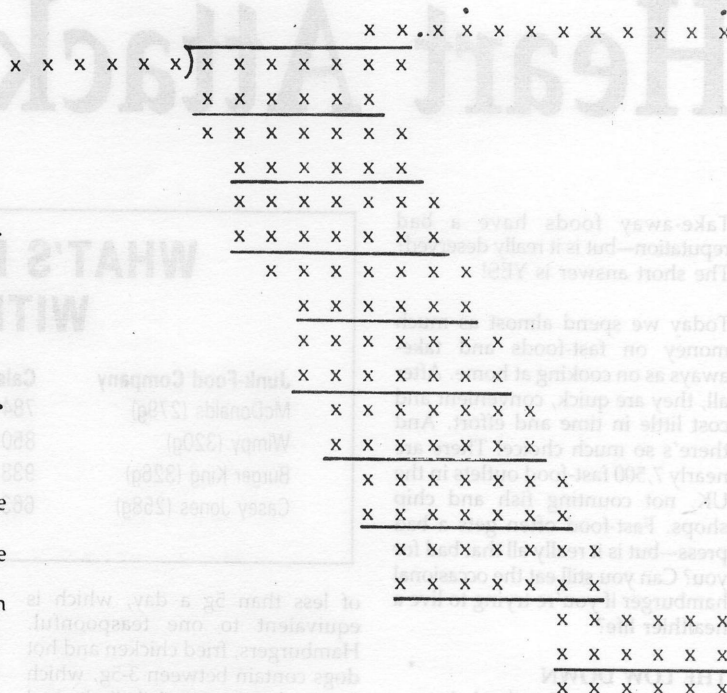
CBS 101

Number 5

ED 209

THX 138 (*Clue: Harrison Ford was in the driving seat*)

This competition is open to all except employees of FELIX plc and their families. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence shall be entered into. Any entry by Dave Clements shall be 'lost' in order to give the rest of the world a chance. The prize shall be either a crate of L. Ron Hubbard books (we're still trying to get rid of them folks!) or a night out on the tiles with a FELIX film reviewer (Mike doesn't care what sex you are!)



Words

1. What common English word has no rhyme?
2. What eight letter word contains only one vowel?
3. What common six letter word contains no vowel?

4. What six letter word has three v's?
5. What word contains three consecutive double letters?
6. What word has all five vowels in alphabetical order?

Alphabetics

Give the next two sets of three letters in each of the following:

1. NGU TOO GAI KOW
2. SAI FOO YIN WOR
3. IAR TZE MIN HAR

COMPLETE THE SEQUENCE

- 1
- 11
- 21
- 1211
- 111221

Prize Long Division

This is probably the hardest puzzle I've ever seen. Anyone who solves it will have earned their fiver, as well as my eternal admiration. The object is to fill all the spaces correctly, and the answer is unique given that the last nine digits of the answer form a recurring decimal. In fact if anyone can do it I'll give them a fiver of my own!

Crosswords

Single brain cell clues

ACROSS

1. Sideboard
7. Hear
9. Lame
10. Braille
11. Mountaineer
12. Sainted
14. Turn
15. Nile
16. Castalian

Multiple brain cell clues

ACROSS

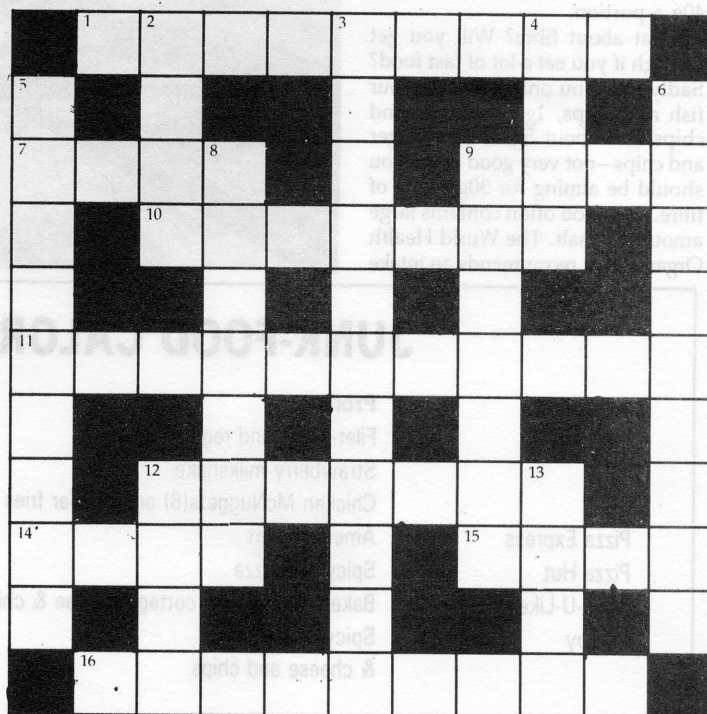
1. Side board above water
7. Hear an ostrich
9. The man is lame
10. Braille for the open minded
11. Separate mention of the mountaineer
14. Small turn
15. Nile held till duty paid
16. Devilish castalian

DOWN

2. Leer
3. Considerate
4. Dale
5. Cart-Horse
6. Valentine
8. Aliment
9. Marital
12. Cain/I can
13. Avid

DOWN

1. Leer at whirling danse
3. Considerate violation of sanctity
4. Sawn pine wood on the dale?
5. Musical cart horse
6. Middle-Eastern valentine
8. Bad aliment?
9. Marital war
12. I can hear Indians!
13. Avid opera star



Heart Attack and chips

Take-away foods have a bad reputation—but is it really deserved? The short answer is YES!

Today we spend almost as much money on fast-foods and take-aways as on cooking at home. After all, they are quick, convenient and cost little in time and effort. And there's so much choice! There are nearly 7,500 fast-food outlets in the UK, not counting fish and chip shops. Fast-food often gets a bad press—but is it really all that bad for you? Can you still eat the occasional hamburger if you're trying to live a healthier life?

THE LOW DOWN

The reason most fast foods have a bad reputation is because they're high in fat. And eating a lot of fat can increase your risk of heart disease. Government guidelines recommend that fat should make up no more than 35% of your total daily intake of calories. For example, if you eat about 2,150 calories a day, that shouldn't include more than 84g of fat. If you eat a portion of chicken and chips (which contains between 45-56g of fat) or fish and chips (42-52g) you're getting dangerously close to your full day's allowance. You might think pizza is a better bet. Not so. It's high in calories and because of all the cheese, the fat level can creep up to 40g a portion.

What about fibre? Will you get enough if you eat a lot of fast food? Sadly not. You only get 3g in your fish and chips, 1g in chicken and chips and about 5g in hamburger and chips—not very good when you should be aiming for 30g a day of fibre. Fast food often contains large amounts of salt. The World Health Organisation recommends an intake

of less than 5g a day, which is equivalent to one teaspoonful. Hamburgers, fried chicken and hot dogs contain between 3-5g, which is very close to your daily limit. And how about that delicious milkshake you are drinking?

THE HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES

Fast food companies are gradually becoming somewhat more health-conscious. Wimpy and Casey Jones now produce a bean burger with more fibre and less fat than normal hamburgers. If you are trying to slim you cannot go far wrong with a

jacket potato with a low fat filling such as cottage cheese. If you get occasional cravings for an Indian meal, *don't worry be happy*. Curries aren't as damaging to your diet as you might imagine—chicken korma, pilau rice and an onion bhajee is under 800 calories. Indian food can be high in fat, so choose dishes like lamb tikka and tandoori chicken which are grilled in spices and yoghurt rather than cooked in oil. You might also think Greek. A large kebab and salad is low on calories only about 500—and has about 16g

fat, 6g fibre and a good amount of calcium.

And finally, if you are worried about eating too much fat and developing coronary heart disease, but still love fast food, try some of the healthy alternatives some of the better known junk food companies have on offer.

THE BEST HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE

Join ICU Health Food Society. We offer everyone something unique and special; whether you're grossly obese, fat, out of shape, a permanent junk food eater or a normal weight and athletic sensible fellow. You'll get the chance of a lifetime to enter the world of healthy, delicious, junk-free, international cuisine. Try it for yourself and come to our next meeting, see details below:

1. Weekly outings to best healthy (ie junk-free) food restaurants at previously negotiated discounts.
2. Regular outings to major health clubs in London. Some clubs offer cheap sauna, jacuzzi and massage facilities.
3. Free entry to lectures by prominent health practitioners, food nutritionists and well-known authors of health books.
4. A quarterly newsletter and monthly circulars.
5. Free list of healthy and good food restaurants.
6. Great fun competitions to educate your palate.
7. Summer trips to health resorts (abroad).

For membership or further information, see Club Chairman, Ardy Bayat (Life Sci 1), Vice Chairman Mo Afshar (Computing 1), Secretary Elsa Argiropulu (Computing 1) or Publicity Officer Roger Goudarzi (Physics 1).

WHAT'S IN A QUARTER POUNDER WITH CHEESE & CHIPS?

Junk-Food Company	Cals	C/hydrate	Fat	Protein	Sodium
McDonalds (279g)	784	71.9g	42.3g	33.5g	1.546mg
Wimpy (320g)	850	80.8g	44.4g	34.5g	1.495mg
Burger King (326g)	938	71g	50g	35g	1.324mg
Casey Jones (258g)	663	66.4g	31.8g	32g	n/a



JUNK-FOOD CALORIES

Company	Product	Calories
McDonalds	Filet-o-fish and regular fries	704
	Strawberry milkshake	375
	Chicken McNuggets(6) and regular fries	558
Pizza Express	American Hot	930
Pizza Hut	Spicy hot pizza	722
Spud-U-Like	Baked potato with cottage cheese & chives	360
Wimpy	Spicy bean burger	520
	& cheese and chips	785

Football

The doubles tournament has been won, in a gruelling and hard fought final, by Saif Ghouse (Chem Eng 2) and Clive Roberts (Physics PG).

Their opponents took a 25 point lead in the first frame but a timely break defeated them on the pink ball.

The next two frames were lost convincingly by the eventual winners, with the balls being badly placed for break-building.

After composing themselves, SG and CR came back determined to win their £24 (wow!) prize money. They played no frills, sensible snooker and kept their noses in front. In the end, both frames were won comfortably.

Sailing Club

Last weekend IC Sailing Club sent a team to one of the premier University team racing events of the year: The Bradford Barrel. After a warm reception in Bardford on Friday night, the teams arrived to start racing on Saturday at a time considered by most teams to be far too early.

The IC team sailed consistently throughout the weekend. Highlights included a win over the strong hom team Bradford, a confrontation with Edinburgh when we came out with big guns blazing and a victory over the University of London team in one of the most exciting races of the series. We did, however, narrowly lose to the eventual winners, Southampton, whose team included two Olympic trialists.

After the prize giving and celebrations, including the sharing out of the prize (the 'Bradford Barrel') and a dip in the lake for several people, the team set off for home after a very enjoyable weekend.

Boat Club

Ladies Head of the River

On Saturday March 3, the Imperial College ladies eight competed in the Women's Head of the River. Almost 200 crews were timed as they raced the 4½ miles from Chiswick to Putney Pier (the Oxford-Cambridge boat race course in reverse). In a closely fought competition, the



ladies came tenth out of 47 crews in their category.

Kingston Head of the River

Imperial crews from all squads entered the Kingston Head race last Saturday. the punishing course stretches along the Thames from Hampton Court to Teddington Lock.

The men's first eight, despite being given a start position low down in the running order, put in an impressive performance, coming second overall in the event.

Two days before the race, the second eight's boat, known affectionately as the 'Eric Bash', had undergone drastic remodelling with the help of some iron railings and a freak gust of wind. Bandaged up, he carried the crew to second place in their category. A trail of steam was left hanging over the course as the novice men's eight raced to victory in their category. The phenomenon was later put down to the animated conversation between numbers five and six, rather than the speed of the boat.

The ladies eight finished third in their category.

University of London Head

Last Sunday, boat crews from all the London colleges competed in their own head race; from Hammersmith Bridge to the UL clubhouse near Kew.

The men's first eight did not race after their exertions of the previous day. However, their storkman and club captain, Steve Pearson, defying those who thought the stroke seat was the most powerful position that

he could occupy, turned his hand to coxing the 2nd eight. they did not disappoint, coming first overall. The men's novice eight came in close behind in third place overall, winning their category by over two minutes. This takes their total to ten consecutive wins this year. The ladies had an unlucky race and only managed fourth place in their category.

Snooker

IC III-12 Goldsmiths II-2

In their final game of the season, IC got off to a great start, when Adam Thomas made it 1-0 after only 2 minutes. IC then started to play some neat football but failed time and gain to beat the offside trap. The pressure continued and IC were rewarded when Gary Mahoney went through to score. Soon after Wendal Charles scored with an excellent 30 yard shot, and by half-time IC were 4-1 up.

In the second half IC tore Goldsmiths apart with some devastating midfield play from Christ Hargreaves, Toni De Leon and Neil Bond who scored with a brilliant solo run through the defence.

Although hard pressed Goldsmiths occasionally managed to penetrate the IC half, but were easily contained by IC defenders Ivan Parkin, Sean Cary and Paul Neville. Right full-back Mike Wilks elected to play up front for the second half and managed to score 2 goals, coming close to a hat-trick, as did Gary Mahoney. Adam Thomas went on to score 4 and Teixeira got one after replacing Toni. Goalkeeper Gary Hastings had an excellent game—counting planes landing at Heathrow.

More Football

IC 1sts-3 UC-0

Skipper Nigel Collier was once again the hero of the day, bagging his second hat-trick in consecutive games, as IC swept aside a spirited UC side to clinch their first ever University of London Division title.

Playing into the fierce wind and driving rain in the first half IC found it hard to establish themselves and it was UC who made the early running, playing the ball about with some confidence and forcing several brave saves from S Holden. However, Franz and the boys at the back held firm and IC began to grow in confidence. Inspired in midfield by the return of Si Cole and by the blistering pace of Mick Plummer down the right flank (aided, to his own surprise, by Ivan Parkin), IC began to impose themselves and took the lead on the half hour when Nigel slid the ball home from a narrow angle. The goal of the game

came ten minutes before the break when Nigel intercepted a clearance, beat two defenders and dummied the keeper to leave him on his arse as Nigel gleefully slipped the ball home.

With the wind behind them in the second half, IC exerted almost total domination but even with the addition of Pip Peel, could not break down the resolute UC defence until 20 minutes from the end when Nigel fired in a low shot to complete his hat-trick and put the result beyond doubt. Despite effectively losing the services of Phil Evans after a head-butt from Pip Peel, Guy Hattersley covered superbly at the back and indeed IC nearly added a fourth when Byron Wood's late effort was ruled offside.

This win over the third placed team leaves IC three points clear with one game remaining and thus guarantees them the Championship.

FILM

Twins

Hands up everybody who has been on the underground recently but hasn't seen a poster for *Twins*. What were you both doing? This movie has more hype attached to it than Arnie has muscles. There is a good reason: films this bad don't sell themselves.

Julius Benedict (Arnold Schwarzenegger) is the perfect specimen, and man of learning, strength, vitality and inexperience. A product of genetic experimentation, with all the good bits stuck together. He even walks like Frankenstein.

Vincent (Danny DeVito) is his younger twin, composed, it seems of the genetic garbage. Taken away from his brother at birth, Vincent has lived a lonely life, through an orphanage, and now steals cars to pay off the loan sharks who are after him.

Julius arrives, looking for his family, and while his innocence and naivety allow a couple of jokes based on American culture, in the vain of *Crocodile Dundee*, they also give Vincent an opportunity to exploit his new found sibling.

Accompanied by girlfriends Marnie and Lindsay Mason (Kelly Preston and Chloe Webb), they embark on a journey to Texas. Julius is looking for his mother, Vincent is looking for money, the women are looking for love, the mob are

looking for Vincent, the hitman is looking for Vincent, money and probably a little love too—he probably never had a mother—and the audience are looking fruitlessly for a halfway decent plot with some humour.

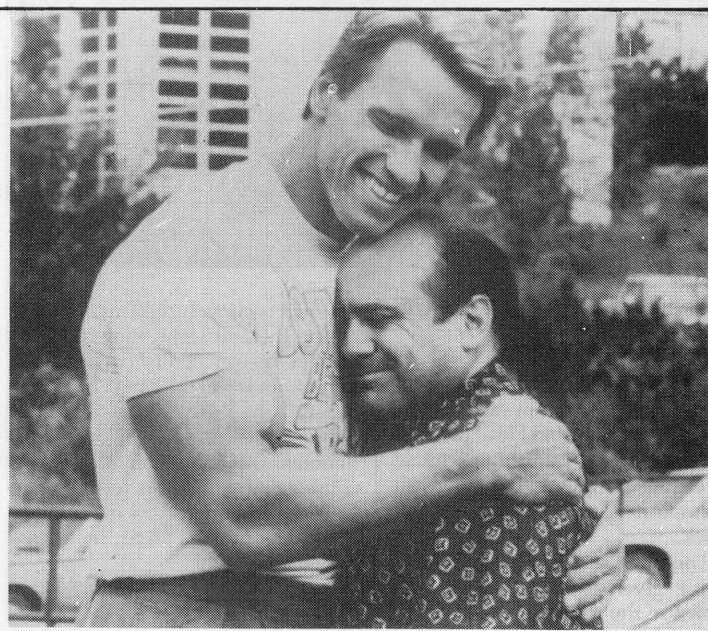
Twins was written especially for DeVito and Schwarzenegger. The idea came from director Ivan Reitman, who also made *Ghostbusters* and is now working on a sequel. The pairing of the two strikes an instant feeling of comedy, the prospect of such opposites starring together as brothers is too attractive for the public not to flock into cinemas everywhere. The characters are even modelled on the

actors to such a degree that the film proves to be exactly what you'd expect, except funny.

The message which the movie gives is the importance of family ties to a full and happy life, and the film is at least successful on that count. You can't fail to notice Arnie's hefty arm shoving that down your throat.

Everyone concerned has achieved much better in the past, and consequently this film is a disappointment. If you really need a lesson in brotherhood then *Rainman* is on around town, and far superior. Those of you who succumb to the hype, I hope you enjoy it more than I did.

Andrew Clarke.



FILM

Crazy Love

Now showing exclusively at the Metro, is the startling debut of Belgian director Dominique Derudder. *Crazy Love* consists of three episodes, based on the short stories and writings of Charles Bukowski, known to most as the character who inspired (and wrote) *Barfly*. The narrative concerns itself with the sexual escapades and failings of Harry Vos, during varying stages of his life.

Vos is initially seen in a cuttignly accurate, but highly amusing, tale of a young naive teenager who believes every marriage is like in 'the movies', with princes fighting valiently for their princesses. The mood is pacy and light, as the film follows the attempts of Vos' older and more experienced friend to educate Vos about the 'other sex'. A moment of sheer gripping terror as Vos makes his initial fumbblings towards the first kiss, is brilliantly captured. The tone becomes more despondent though as his dreams are slowly shattered.

Vos next appears as a sensitive adolescent, who is suffering from the most horrendous case of boils. It follows his progress during the evening of his school prom. He is almost totally withdrawn and rejected, bar one friend who manages to instil hope in Vos, despite his desperate situation. In a scene where Vos manages to finally

Theatre

From my point of view

By Stephen Berkoff, *Man in the Moon Theatre Club*, 392 Kings Road, till March 25.

Somebody give these people a decent script! The Volcano Theatre Company erupt with guts and power. Thus its a surprise to find them squandering red hot larva into Berkoff's shallow and murky waters. Why such storm troopers should be mounting a mercy mission to rescue this mortally wounded piece was a puzzle I couldn't solve. The vigour with which Fern Smith and Stephen Fisher expand this play beyond its false promise leaves the impression of two doberman pinchers ravenously devouring a slice of wet quiche. This is kissogram delivered by the SAS.

Billed as a piece which presents 'a strong uncompromising and assertive image of women', what we

get are the bitter recollections of a sadly exploited tart. Her's is the voice of the major role and the voice of the narrative. (The two being contrasted as colloquial slang against a weakly scripted heightened authorial comment.) In the first half of the play Fisher acts a caricature of a wide boy and Smith plays the abrasive young woman. She takes us through the contrasts of love's aspirations and the sordid and disappointing realities of her own experiences: waiting hopefully by the phone for 'someone nice' to ring; screwing surreptitiously standing up in the hallway.

In the second half of the action Smith plays a woman's eye view of a wide boy and Fisher acts a caricature of a shy wall flower. Smith swaggering menacingly as Fisher loiters hopefully in the stale and boozy twilight of a Mecca disco night. All of which is carved out brilliantly in a stark choreography of carnal lust and gender conflict.

But the rumble of the verbal assaults is robbed of all capacity to shock since this is an unintentional portrayal of the woman-as-victim. A habitual victim with the backlash:

bitterness to match. She is the girl with a reputation. She is Mary from Eastenders. She is the girl who wants only love and who gets only sex. An unhappy 'adolescent' who has failed to get a grip on her life, who has failed to grow up.

The thing about a play concerning a woman who has failed to grow up is that it has no audience. An adult will only vaguely recall such pubescent traumas and at best will respond with backstage offers of 'problem line' counselling telephone numbers. A youngster, unless a victim of equally disastrous sexual first experiences, is unlikely to sympathise with the woman's point of view unless out of some melodramatic sense of adolescent comradeship. The show is also billed as 'unsuitable for children', in a deluded over estimate of its ability to shock, thus excluding the final age group. (Although a few blasts of dinosaurs Gary Glitter and T-Rex which punctuate the action should perform that task quite adequately.)

This is not the feminist play it might seek to be. Women with more character, resourcefulness and independence have lived in the

most patriarchal of times and civilisations. It is a terrible thing that some women find themselves within a life which fits with Berkoff's pessimistic 'Point of View'. An unintended conclusion might be drawn that the kinds of progressive thinking typified by women's liberation are painfully slow to take on a reality amongst the working classes whose intellectuals were their original champions. For women in such a situation a note of optimism is the least that Berkoff might have offered in his ill-advised blunder into difficult cross-gender territory.

Don't cancel any pressing appointments for this one but if you find yourself near the Kings Road then both the venue and the company deserve your support. The play is only an hour long and gives you the measure of this enthusiastic and energetic company. The *Man in the Moon* itself is a lavish, relaxed and friendly pub and venue twenty minutes along the Kings Road from Sloane Square. Membership in advance for only 40p. Obtain all details from box office 351 2876/5701.

get a dance with the girl of his dreams by embalming his head in toilet paper, Deruddere manages to combine the humour and humanity of the situation to an inspiring degree before letting reality flood in again as the girl leaves him after one dance, and Vos realises that in order to notch up this minor victory he had to wrap himself up in 'shit-paper'.

In the final chapter, Vos has degenerated into the mould of fully-fledged adult. Devoid of any commendable morals, he still seeks his princess, unable to see how bankrupt his soul has become during the pursuit.

Throughout the film Duruddere manages to bring Bukowski's text to life, injecting wit, pain, anguish and an overall sense of the impossibility of innocence.

The film examines and exposes as false, the ideas we have about how sex should be embarked upon and also that classic of modern cinema narrative 'The male friendship'. Despite being involved in three close mle friendships, Vos is rarely comforted or helped by their intervention. He is only made more aware of his shortcomings.

Unfortunately, the advertisers have sought to increase this excellent film's success by proclaiming that it is 'sexually explicit' and 'strictly for adults only'. The explicitness of the film is emotional, not sexual, and the capability to endure this is not governed by age.

Noel Curry.



The Adventures of Baron Munchausen

Baron Munchausen told stories. So incredible were these stories that a play was written about them. Munchausen lived in the 18th century and fought for Prussia against the Ottoman Empire; for Munchausen fighting the Turks involved flying to the moon, talking to the gods in Mount Etna and surviving being swallowed by a giant fish.

The film starts in a besieged town ruled by an elected civil servant. In

the middle of the town is a theatre where a performance of Munchausen's stories is taking place. The public love the play, except for the one Baron Munchausen. The Baron stops the play and tells it how it is. Munchausen insists that he started the war by enraging the Sultan and that only he can stop it. In order to beat the Turks, Munchausen escapes the town in a balloon made of knickers and sets out to find his old servants. The Baron has a stowaway—the ten year old daughter of the theatre boss.

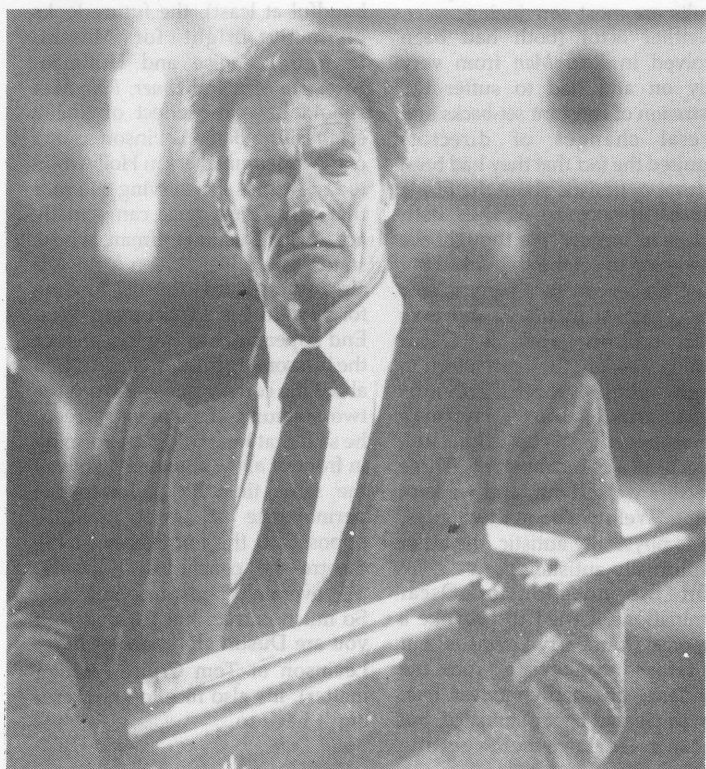
Munchausen and the girl, Sally, bring together a gang of four nearly super-human men who are now all old and weary. All is not lost though and their adventures give the Baron youth so he and Sally can inspire the

little band of men. The Turks are defeated and the town is saved.

Ex-Python, Terry Gilliam, directs this lavish, comic and theatrical film. The expense (£43 million) is always evident in the sets, costumes and effects. The style of the film is reminiscent of the theatre where the film starts. Similarities to both *Brazil* and *Time Bandits* are clear; Gilliam sees these two and *Munchausen* as a trilogy. It is all good to look at, especially *Venus*.

This film ponders a little on the link between fantasy and reality, being the story of an old man who lives forever though his fantasies. Essentially it is a comic adventure which, although not a laugh a minute, is sometimes hilarious and always sumptuous.

Patrick Smith.



PREVIEW

The Dead Pool

Inspector Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) is back on the streets of San Francisco, dispensing his usual mix of justice and violence, as ever on the edge of trouble with his superiors and City Hall.

Harry is now a media celebrity and if something should happen to his well-being the ratings are liable to soar. Bored movie director Peter Swan (Liam Neeson of *Prayer for the Dying* and *Suspect* fame) draws up a list of the ten people least likely to survive the year, and Callahan is at the bottom.

As you might guess, there follows a series of violent murders as the members of the list are eliminated in sequence. Swan is prime suspect.

Harry sets out to find the real culprit, but it is only a matter of time, before he will become the target.

The Dead Pool is the fifth of the Dirty Harry films, and the first since *Sudden Impact* five years ago. Once again it is set and filmed entirely on location in and around San Francisco.

After his political excursions to secure the local ice-cream parlour, Clint Eastwood has returned to make just what you'd expect. The story includes the clichéd foil of the nervous young partner and a romantic interest in the form of TV reporter Samantha Walker (for once played by Patricia Clarkson and not Sondra Locke). And of course, there is a large measure of death and destruction.

The Dead Pool was received poorly in America, but for all its overworked and stereotyped substance it can still claim Mr Eastwood, and he remains one of cinemas biggest crowd pullers.

Release date April 14.

Andrew Clarke.

INTERVIEW

Rain Man

They made for an unlikely-looking trio—the grey-haired, bright eyed director and the two actors, one youthful and sporting a crew-cut hairstyle and permanent smile; and the other middle-aged, lacking something in inches and hiding (rather unsuccessfully) behind what may very well grow to be a beard. And yet the common sense of contentment and relief shared by Barry Levinson, Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman was there for all to see, and the reason for this might just have something to do with the somewhat surprising but undoubtedly emphatic and commercial success enjoyed to date by their new film *Rain Man*.

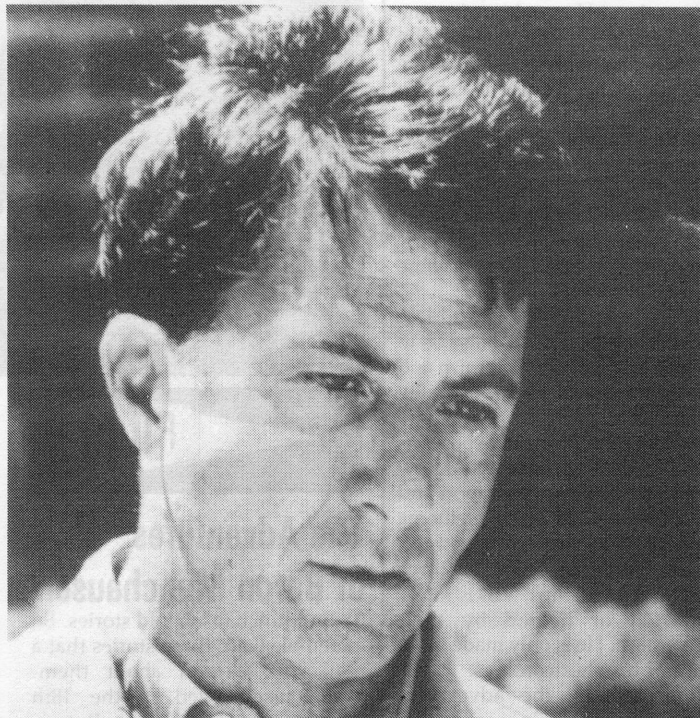
Comfortably seated in a plush suite in London's Mayfair Hotel, Director Levinson, sunglasses and all, betrayed none of the fatigue that he must now be feeling after a rigorous promotional tour prior to the film's British opening this month. He spoke in a relaxed manner about the problems and anxieties which plagued the making of the film—he was the fourth director to join the project, and he confessed that 'If it had been one week later, I would have had to say no'; such was the pressure of time. He acknowledged that there were always going to be inherent problems involved in making a film about autistic behaviour, but stressed that 'the movie does not pretend to make a clinical study of autistic savants', and it was with obvious delight that he described as 'one of the most pleasing things about the movie' the very many complimentary letters he had received from parents of autistic children.

However, Levinson reckoned that the hardest aspect of making the film was 'trying to see if an audience would be involved in two characters in a kind of evolution without any sort of plot-stuff', and he was unreserved in his praise of his two stars. When I asked whether he had been wary of working with an actor of Hoffman's 'reputation' he smiled and admitted 'I'd heard all the stories', but nevertheless remarked that 'It was never a difficult situation...in terms of a collaboration it was great.' More interestingly, while acknowledging Hoffman's greatness in the role of Raymond Babbitt, he refused to play down in any way the contribution of Tom Cruise; 'The two of them make the great performance—it couldn't have worked without Tom just as it couldn't have worked without Dustin.'

This view was echoed by Dustin Hoffman himself; 'It wasn't just me playing the part. Tom was playing the part, the director and the crew, too.' When asked how he had 'found' the part of Raymond Babbitt, Hoffman replied simply, 'Just with a lot of help!'. I had a year of research—not because I wanted it, but producers kept turning it down!'. It was clear nevertheless that his preparation had been meticulous—he spoke with feeling and knowledge about the problems experienced by autistic individuals and about his many discussions with leading medical experts on this subject; he emphasised that everything in the film (for instance, Raymond's astounding mathematical powers and ability to instantaneously count a pile of toothpicks) was based on fact, and lamented the fact that 'I know that most of those who see the film don't believe it!'. The rapport between Hoffman

and Cruise is crucial to the film, and it seems to extend to the actors' off-screen relationship as well. When I tried to suggest that they might have experienced difficulties in regarding each other as brothers (at 51,

competitive...you do not sit and think while you're making the film 'Gee, I'm going to win some awards!'. Hoffman was rather more original in his response; obviously annoyed that Tom Cruise was not

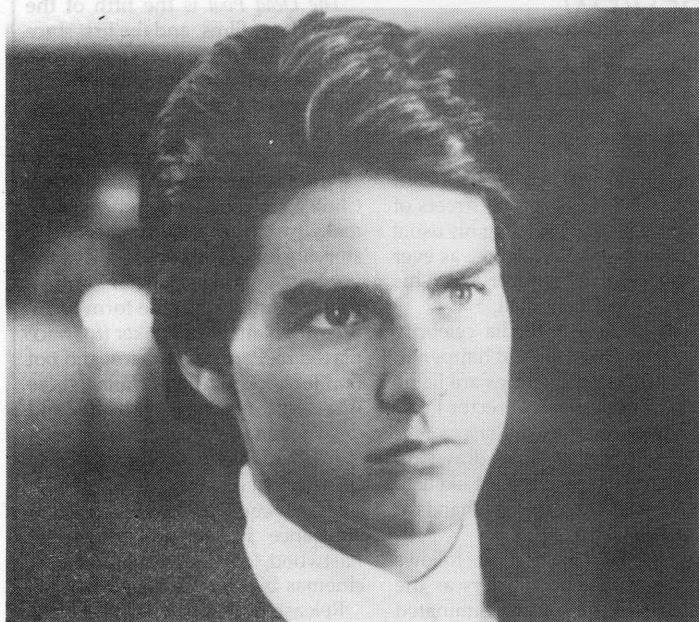


Hoffman is twice Cruise's age), Cruise (also wearing a pair of dark glasses—do all Americans share the same misconceptions about British Februaries?) merely laughed at the suggestion; 'I told him I didn't think he looked that old!', while Hoffman denied that it had posed any problems, although he did admit that 'I first thought 'How the hell can we be brothers?'. Certainly, the results are most convincing.

Neither actor (both had been involved in *Rain Man* from very early on and had to suffer the frustration of constant set-backs and several changes of director) disguised the fact that they had been far from optimistic about the film's chances of success—as they both declare in unison 'We thought we were going to get the shit kicked out of us!'. Of course, such panic is now only a distant memory, and over \$110 million and 8 Oscar nominations on, they can afford to laugh about their previous nightmares. As Hoffman remembered, 'Who the hell expected a blockbuster? Three directors walked out, and we kept saying 'Well, we've got two guys, one is physically autistic, the other is spiritually autistic...!'. On the question of Oscar nominations, I tried to provoke a response from Barry Levinson, but he refused to deviate from the standard, guardedly-modest line; 'I'm so pleased I got nominated, but I can't feel myself getting

on the Academy short list, he put this down to his good looks!—'Tom should have been nominated; he knows why he wasn't, I know why he wasn't...If he had had this nose (indicating his own rather prominent proboscis) he would have been nominated!'. However many golden statuettes *Rain Man* collects on March 29 (and I would guess that it will pick up a handful at least), the future looks distinctly bright for Messrs. Levinson, Cruise and Hoffman. After *Tin Men* and *Diner*, *Rain Man* should have the effect of finally establishing Barry Levinson as one of the top filmmakers in Hollywood today, whilst also serving as proof that yes, Tom Cruise can actually act. As for Dustin Hoffman, whose status as a silver screen legend is already assured, he is looking forward to his forthcoming West End appearance as Shylock (hence the blossoming bristles). I asked him about the comparisons between the two mediums of stage and screen; he said that he relished performing in front of a live audience, while at the same time he preferred the permanence of the cinema as opposed to the immediacy of the theatre—he concludes, however, that overall 'It's just nice to work!'. So much is true, but then again if you are Dustin Hoffman (or Barry Levinson or Tom Cruise for that matter), it's also nice to know you don't have to.

Bill Dale.





Carnival

The Union is holding a carnival on Wed 22 (tonight) which is the last day of term, so a long lie in is the order of the day.

The event will be bigger than usual with bands both upstairs in the Concert Hall and downstairs in the Lounge.

In addition there will be a casino, disco and comedy, plus a bar until 2.00am. Tickets are £3 in advance (£4 on the door) and are available from my office in the Union. Please buy early to avoid disappointment like the last Carnival which sold out by 9.45pm

Ian Morris, ICU Hon Sec.

Chas Brererabbit

This week I have been investigating the subject of Dog biscuits. As many of you will know, Dog biscuits are important for strong teeth and a shiny coat. They contain valuable minerals such as iron, calcium and preservatives such as sodium benzoate which increases the natural lifespan of our four legged friends.

There are many different types of dog biscuit, for example bonio which takes its name from Borneo, which is a country. Spillers produce two types of biscuit; ovals and shapes. The shapes are particularly valuable because they improve a dog's spatial awareness. They come in several colours and the following shapes; diamonds, bones, ellipses, and squares. But if you want to keep your dog's coat very shiny there are no substitutes for charcoal biscuits.

It is a little known fact that King Alfred invented the dog biscuit in 870 AD. The story is very long and boring which is why I must tell it here. The King, under threat from the Vikings was in hiding in a hut in a forest. Now, the lady who owned the hut, Mrs Spiller, happened to be baking some cakes and she asked the king to look after the oven for her. But the King whose mind was preoccupied by

Vikings let the cakes burn. Mrs Spiller was so annoyed that she threw the cakes on the floor. But amazingly, her pet Sausage Dog swallowed the cakes with great gusto.

This incident marked the beginning of a Cottage Industry which in later years would revolutionise the world.

Dog biscuits should always be served with water.



Nigel Beaker

Life is full of dilemmas. Should I accept a £20,000 a year job with Mogul Oil or an £18,000 a year job with the Territorial Army, bearing in mind that it includes a free company armoured personal carrier. I have had so many offers, but I have no opinion on the matter. It is up to you to decide and I will be raising these questions at the next Union General Meeting.

It's becoming rather tedious, the number of interviews I've had. Companies are practically falling over themselves to seduce me into their evil empires. I just tell them to go away; I don't want power, status or money. I just want to save the whale. There will be a march in protest to the number of job offers I have recieved next Saturday. Meet underneath the arch at 10am.

FELIX end of term party



3.00pm in the FELIX Office today
(bring a bottle)
Followed by trip to Texas Lone Star
and the 'Ferret & Firkin' pub
ALL WELCOME

RAPE ALARMS

The alarms
have arrived at
last!

Please collect
from the Union
Office

Gill Knowles
ICU Women's Officer

Marches to mascotry

Finance, not surprisingly, is the stuff of which College news is made. Anti-Loans marches, AUT action, rent strikes, ceaseless computer thefts and successful Rag raids all verify this.

Undoubtedly the most publicised events of this term have centred around the battle against loans.

Term started with a lobby of Parliament by 170 IC students. The action was not only a notable success in the area of external affairs but was supported by the College's Governing Body, the Rector and most Heads of Departments, who rescheduled lectures for the afternoon. A lobby of the DES, some weeks later, saw the three Union Office sabbaticals holding a seven hour vigil, and leafleting eminent members of the education hierarchy including Mr Kenneth Baker MP.

Three Union Office sabbaticals held a seven-hour vigil

With tedious repetition we have read about the NUS march in November, the 'non-organised' march on February 1st: a notable success despite the withdrawal of the National Union of Students (NUS), the University of London Union (ULU) and our own Union, the educational shutdown on March 16th and finally the two-mile long NUS demonstration which included a large contingent from the Association of University Teachers (AUT).

The AUT themselves have stimulated the pens on the FELIX newsdesk on numerous occasions this term. Exam disruption was threatened in the first issue of the year, followed by threats of not marking work and not grading marked work. The Rector said little on the matter to FELIX but expressed his disapproval of the action in a letter to *The Times*. The Union investigated the possibility of students suing the AUT, and barristers felt there was a worthwhile case on the students' part.

From external politics to internal politics and the biggest 'stir' of the term came in the form of a seemingly innocent motion at Council which suggested the abolition of Union General Meetings (UGMs), thus leaving Council the

top decision-making body in the Union. Council voted to take the motion to a UGM and all hell was let loose. The aim of the plan was to produce a body of people with a

Council voted to take the motion to a UGM and all hell broke loose

fair representation from St Mary's, who claimed they were unable to attend IC UGMs. The UGM which ensued saw the highest attendance of the year, and the 'abolition' motion was crushed by 150 votes.

As soon as one drama is over, another one begins. After months of speculation and rumours, the sabbatical candidates finally revealed themselves, and the election battle began. With twelve candidates standing for the four posts, the battle proved to be a tough one. St Mary's votes were disqualified on the grounds that their Executive had 'deliberately biased the elections'. After IC votes were counted it became evident that the St Mary's vote would not have been capable of changing the election results, and members of the Union expressed fears that the decision would have a detrimental effect on the already fraught discussions between the two Unions. In one term St Mary's had lost their fight to abolish UGMs and their voting rights. Discussions on a merger between the two Unions were dropped.

The internal relationship between FELIX and Union President Nigel

The appointment of a new Welfare Adviser has been unanimously applauded

Baker remained equally fraught. After several heated arguments an agreement was reached, which was passed at a UGM. Next term the FELIX Editor and the President are to 'swap' jobs for a week, in an attempt to enable each to understand better the pressures of the other's job.

The Union have received credit for

a number of achievements this term. The appointment of a new Welfare Adviser has been unanimously applauded. The Union Building has received a large upgrade in security, with the installation of a new lock system, and the opening of a new security lodge at the door of the building. The issue of the new keys was so limited that the FELIX Editor had to fight hard to receive a key to the FELIX Office.

The term's most unproductive upset involved heated talks and endless reams of writing about the possible merger of Imperial College, which has recently merged with St Marys, and Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, which itself has just merged. A working party set up to discuss the advantages a merged institute would enjoy decided in favour of the plans, but, in the light of the difficult financial situation of the two colleges which face a joint deficit of £6.5M by 1992, the entire discussions merged into

Bristol University had its main administration block bombed by animal liberation activists

nothing when a meeting of Heads of Departments rejected the plans.

External forces have provided more dramatic upsets in the latter half of term. Bristol University had its main administration block bombed by Animal Liberation Activists, and shortly afterwards security at IC reported that they had received a number of 'suspect' phone calls. Biochemistry rapidly increased their security but Applied Biology felt there was no need.

The threat of bombs was overshadowed when FELIX reported an outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in College. College Secretary, John Smith, who

FELIX reported on an outbreak of Legionnaires Disease

is rumoured to be leaving at the end of the year, wrote to all students informing them of the dangers and symptoms, and ventilation cooling

towers were closed down throughout College and the Science Museum as possible sources of infection.

The Union has witnessed more financial upset, this time from the College bookshop which is £16,000 in debt, with little explanation for the lost money. The College has lost vast quantities of money in the form of computer thefts, though whether this is now news is dubious. Rag, however, have seen a highly successful year financially, though they look set to face legal fees after threats to take the Editor of the Rag Mag to court over the 'offensive' material it contains.

Just to prove that students will be students, the usual number of clever and amusing pranks were

Then there was the world's biggest candle...

witnessed College-wide and duly reported in FELIX. The Guardian diary reported that the brass plaque from the Iranian Embassy was possibly not on its way home but just around the corner, and pinpointed first City & Guilds and then Royal College of Science mascotry men as responsible.

Then there was the world's biggest candle, which overnight became a money-measuring thermometer, the type of which hang outside 'pseudo-poor' churches and charity organisations. When charity did rear its head in the form of Comic Relief, Queen's Tower donned the biggest red nose around, visible from Marble Arch to Harrods' beauty salon.

Shocking story of a roof collapsing

Politics and finance aside, FELIX found space to bring you those unique news stories that tell their own tale, like the 'woman stripper in the Sports Centre' story, and the tale about eight members of IC Amnesty International Group who trapped themselves behind barbed wire in the JCR and ate bread and water for twelve hours. Finally, there was the shocking story about a roof collapsing...Do things ever change?

Imperial College Union

Stuff the Poll Tax Party

featuring

OLDLAND MONTANA

BASS DANCE

THE MAN FROM DELMONTE

LAUGH

plus comedy with

TWO FINGERS, OWEN O'NEIL

SIMON BLIGH

and compère VIC REEVES

**CASINO, DISCO, COCKTAILS and
BAR TILL 2am**

Wednesday 22nd March

in the Union Building

Doors open 8pm

Tickets: £3 adv, £4 door, £2 ents

Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, SW7