



# Felix

THE NEWSLETTER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Crisis in College company forces takeover

## Biotech buyout

Imperial Biotechnology, partly owned by Imperial College and a world leader in the fast expanding Bacterial products market, is to be taken over by an Australian company. Five years of world class award winning, academic research are likely to pass out of British hands.

Burns Philp are to take over Imperial Biotechnology Limited (IBL) by the end of the month, if IBL shareholders approve. The move will alleviate cash flow problems within IBL which have resulted in the company making an operating loss of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million pounds last year.

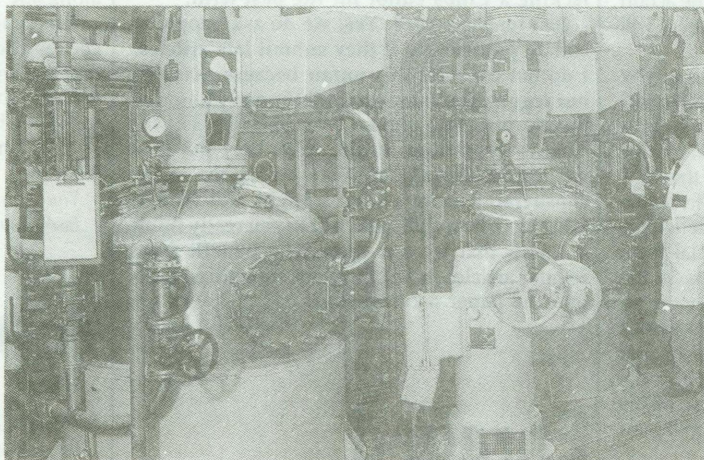
A letter has been circulated to IBL shareholders detailing Burns Philp's intention to 'buy out' IBL. Imperial College, the second largest shareholder, has already announced its intention to sell its 88,473 shares, worth an estimated £600,000.

Imperial Biotechnology was set up five years ago to research and market enzymes for the food industry. The company took over redundant fermentation units in the Biochemistry Department and was given office space at a nominal rent in return for shares in the company.

The company has been making a loss for some time. College Finance Officer, Malcombe Aldridge told FELIX 'the Company is not insolvent in a technical sense, but if it continues with its present staffing levels it will need additional capital before much longer.'

He added 'We've allowed them fairly soft credit. Its not in our interests to put them over the trunk'

Sources within College say that the company owes Imperial £150,000 in wages for the eight technical staff who operate the fermentation unit. The College now



IBL's fermentation unit, once owned by IC

say that they have reached an agreement with IBL to pay back the money in monthly instalments of £30,000.

College Secretary, John Smith, a member of the IBL's Board of Directors told FELIX that company had performed badly because the market had been slow to adapt to new products. 'The sales before Christmas were very good' he said 'but they tailed off in January, February and March.'

Burns Philp bought a large number of preferential shares in December of last year in conjunction with Investors in Industry and Protein Technology. The deal was said to be worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  million to the Company.

IBL have recently been awarded the DTI Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology. The award will pay for 75% of the costs of research into the way enzymes can be used to speed the maturation process of Cheddar Cheese.

## FELIX Says

This is a black day for British Technology. Britain has once again given away one of its leading technologies to a foreign competitor.

It is a sad indictment of ten years of Thatcherism that British firms are unwilling to invest in an area of research which has so much commercial potential.

The Australians have been quick to realise the possibilities of biotechnology one of the most rapidly developing industries.

The market is not yet ready to accept the techniques developed by Imperial Biotechnology and this has resulted in an uphill financial struggle for the company.

But when the market place does catch up, those British investors who refused to back the company in its recent attempts to raise more capital will be left in the cold.

## Tube strike hits exams

Imperial College Union has prepared emergency measures to help students taking exams if the threatened 24 hour tube strike by the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) goes ahead. The College has made similar plans for members of staff.

The strike was announced on Wednesday when negotiations between Unions and Management over proposed changes in staffing and promotion for the bus and underground services broke down.

Bus services should run normally on Monday but a series of one-day stoppages on every second Monday from May 15 is threatened depending the result of yesterday's ballot.

Some departments will be rescheduling examinations and plan to inform students of any changes that are made whilst others are considering allowing students to sleep overnight. In some cases the starting time of examinations will be delayed with a greater leniency for late-comers. The College say that individual departments will keep students informed of the changes.

The Students' Union plan to provide a minibus service for those students affected. The service will be available for the duration of the strike for students who register with the Union Office before 2.00pm today.

In addition, the Green and Brown Committee rooms in the Union Building will be set aside for use as a 'crash pad' on Sunday and Monday evenings.

Union President Nigel Baker commented 'there are showers for men and ladies in the gym loos.' He added that the Union Snack Bar would be available for meals as usual but warned students to bring their own sleeping bags.

The College has sent a circular to members of staff urging them to 'make every reasonable effort' to

cont. on back page



## AUT Response

To Richard Spencer and Charles Brereton.

I have been urged by members of my Association to respond publicly to your letter concerning the AUT action on examinations, which was addressed to members of academic staff in the College.

The decision to withdraw from the examination process is a serious action which has never been taken before in the history of the AUT. It is seen by members as a last desperate measure to persuade the CVCP to listen to our demands. You may be interested to hear that the action has finally had the effect of extracting an offer. On 26 January the CVCP made an offer of 3% to AUT from April 1989 and a lump sum equal to 3% from January to March 1989. The CVCP themselves admit that the figure is derisory and the AUT are awaiting a more sensible offer. As soon as the CVCP can make an acceptable proposal the action will be called off and the examination process will be recovered very quickly.

My colleagues are therefore questioning why you are not writing to our Rector over this matter. The Rector is a member of the CVCP and it is to him that representations should be made, to urge the CVCP to make an acceptable offer to the AUT as soon as possible. We were recently told by the Rector that the projected accumulated deficit for Imperial College, indicated in the financial plan, now amounted to about a million pounds. In the circumstances the Rector could not support an increase above the 3% offered. However, it has just been announced that the College in fact expects to be in credit this year. Perhaps the Rector will now be able to support those of his colleagues on the CVCP who wish to make an acceptable offer to the AUT.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Parry, President ICAUT.

## Not boring

Dear Bill,

I am writing concerning your policy, or lack of it, on clubs and societies.

In last week's copy of FELIX we read how you 'would like to see Clubs and Sports pages expanded' which you then claim you cannot do unless the clubs 'are willing to submit articles'. In the same issue we see that you chose to head a letter as 'Boring' which was complaining about your treatment of 'One shitty clubs article' (apparently your words).

Going back a few more issues we read that you cannot guarantee to print club articles and that you are offering to break the nose of anyone who insists that you print their letters etc (FELIX 829).

I have tried to submit articles on ICCAG on a number of occasions and have got steadily more and more fed up with being told that either I would have to collate, when collation takes place at the same time as the ICCAG Soup Run, or that you might print it if there was space (which invariably seems to happen).

Having chosen to spend most of this year treating ICCAG, and presumably other clubs, in this high-handed manner it is too much to expect us to come running back with articles just because you have decided that FELIX is looking a bit thin and needs some more pages whilst your regular contributors get their revision done.

You have to make up your mind on clubs articles and not expect clubs to put a lot of effort and time into a submission only to be told that it won't be printed or that they must spend more time and effort collating for you. So do you want them or not?

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Goodall,

ICCAG Publicity Officer.

P.S. Wouldn't it be awfully funny if you came up with some witty heading to this letter such as Boring, or even better don't print it due to lack of space.

**I'm sorry to hear that you have had problems with your articles, why don't you call in and discuss it with me—I don't bite. Most of the problems have arisen because we have been lacking a Clubs editor for the past term.**

**Just for the record. Yes, we do ask people to collate particularly if they submit late articles. I do not consider this unfair because many of our regular staff stay up until the early hours of the morning on a regular basis to collate FELIX. This is in addition to the work they put into writing and laying out FELIX during the week, considerably more effort, I might add than it takes to write a clubs article. Do you really think it unfair that we ask clubs who benefit from regular articles in FELIX to put something back into the paper occasionally?**

## Enraged

Dear Bill,

I would be very interested to find out who the selfish, thoughtless idiots were who organised the carnival outside my room in the middle of my final exams so that I can stand outside their room playing deafening music and shouting at the top of my voice at 3am in the middle of their exams.

Yours,

Enraged Beit Hall Resident.

## Priorities

Dear Bill,

The students of the LSE have recently shown how far ahead of us they really are. By voting Winston Silcott as their Honorary President last week they recognised that he is a hero, a victim of the institutionalised racism of our country.

Why can't ICU be more like LSE and stand up and fight for once, instead of contemplating its own navel? ICU should be campaigning on real student issues such as police brutality and their oppression of the working classes, instead of moaning on about so-called priorities such as bar

prices or welfare. And what about homophobia? It may be legal now (homosexuality, not homophobia that is) but you try telling the police that. Again where is ICU?

It is up to students to mobilise to bring these issues into the open, yes even IC students. Hillsborough again showed the Police in their true colours, an instrument of oppression. Where is ICU?—at home looking after its own.

Yours,

James Nathan, Mech Eng 1.

## Satire lives

Dear Bill,

How wonderful it is to see that the art of satire is not yet dead. That truly inspired piece 'Jesus Votes Tory' (issue 833) should be regarded as an all time classic and its author Dylan James (is that a pseudonym?) placed in the satirists' hall of fame alongside such people as Swift and Stoppard.

This beautifully crafted piece combined all the clichés and false truths beloved of those on the far right with the bland unthinking rhetoric of the worst of the evangelists and yet was so over the top that it had to be regarded as a joke. Just think! If 'Mr James' really believed all that he had written, it would be frightening. Perfect Satire!

Yours faithfully,

Jason Lander.

## A mere facade

Dear Mr Goodwin,

In response to the article 'Jesus Votes Tory' of 28.4.89 issue.

This is a matter which concerns both Christians and Non-Christians alike and about which we feel very strongly. The main objection we have to this article concerns the continual comparison between the welfare 'state' and charity. D James obviously fails to understand that we are the state, and that the welfare state is publicly funded. Whether or not individuals, over and above taxes, choose to give money to charity, is a matter of their own personal choice. The introduction of the welfare state was surely proof that we cannot rely solely on charity for the provision of the basic necessities of life.

Can we point out that the early Church 'held everything in common and all sold their land and gave the profits to the disciples to use for the good of the community'. Is this not a contradiction of private ownership which is fundamental to the philosophy of Toryism.

The self-righteousness expressed by the writer is offensive not only to us, but also to those who are dependent on the welfare state for survival, and who do not wish to be seen merely as the recipients of charity.

It seems that D James is using Christianity as a mere facade in promoting his dangerous political beliefs, which we sincerely hope are contrary to those held by most Christians.

Julie Healer, Biology,

Bil Paxton, Biochemistry,

Katherine Jones, Biology.





# Editorial

## Blackmail

The nice people from 'Time Out' decided to present FELIX with a bottle of champagne at the end of last term. The champagne is currently in the possession of Ruth Benzimra, the ULU President. An irate Ruth rang up yesterday and threatened to drink the champagne if I did not make the following correction to the news story entitled 'Angry' which appeared in last weeks issue.

Ruth would prefer the paragraph which read 'The ULU exec has decided not to publicise the demonstration' to read 'Members of the ULU exec decided not to publicise the demonstration.'

She would also like us to point out that she is the ULU President, not the acting ULU President...Can we have our champagne back now?

## Congratulations

To Ramin Nakisa for completing the Alternative Prospectus. He has done an excellent job.

Leafing through the official prospectus it becomes apparent how important it is to present a students-eye view to prospective undergraduates. When it comes down to it, the prospectus is little more than a glossy recruitment brochure complete with colour enhanced photographs. It glosses over many of the problems which students will be likely to face at Imperial.

The Alternative Prospectus is not there to dissuade students, but it is there to let them know exactly what they are letting themselves in for.

Take the accommodation costs for example. The Official Prospectus lists the current accommodation prices but ignores the fact that accommodation costs will have increased by £10 a week when the students actually reach Imperial. This misleading presentation of information is grossly unfair to prospective students.

In many ways the Alternative Prospectus is not independent enough from the College. Currently departmental articles are vetted by the Staff Student Committee. It is reasonable that Departments should check articles for factual accuracy, but the problem with using the Staff Student Committee as a forum is that the Departmental Reps are forced to be very careful what they write. It takes a lot of guts to submit an article which is anything other than one hundred percent praiseworthy when you know that the academics you are presenting the article to will also decide what level of degree you will be given.

## Weather

What nice weather we have been having recently. It's so nice to be able to sit in the sun and not worry about exams. In fact it's so nice that I think I'll cut this editorial short and go back to sleep.

**Thanks** to Stef Smith, Ramin Nakisa, Liz Warren, Tony Spencer, Adam Harrington, Andy Clarke and Sumit, Rose and Dean, Jason Lander, Gary Hastings and Michael McCarthy, Marge, Penny Gamble, the collators, and everyone I have forgotten.

## DO YOU HAVE EXAMS NEXT WEEK?

Because of the **TRAVEL STRIKE** by all forms of public transport next week the Union will be running a minibus shuttle service for those **STUDENTS WITH EXAMS**.

If you wish to benefit from this service fill in one of the forms available from the Union Office. This must be done by **2pm FRIDAY 5th MAY**. A timetable of pick-up times and places will then be published in the Union by 5.30pm that day which will include who shall be picked up at each point.

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION—**  
Serving You Better

## Smallads

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Keyboard** lessons: Rock, blues, improvisation, MIDI.

Hammersmith/Clapham (24-track studio with modern keyboard) first ½ hour free. Isabel 498 0781.

● **The Health Centre** has decided to inaugurate a new patient participation group to meet once every term. This group will be in addition to the health service users advisory committee. Its purpose will be to enable past, present and future patients of the Health Centre to discuss with Health Centre staff how services could be improved. The first meeting will be at the Health Centre on Tuesday 18th May, 4.30-5.30pm following the meeting of the existing users advisory committee. So that we can have some idea of numbers please tell Marion Clarke, Secretary to the Director, if you intend to come (int 3088 or 584 6301 or drop a note in). Your views will be very welcome.

● **Dinner Dance**, Saturday 6th May, JCR. Live band, buffet, dance demonstrations. Tickets £5 from the Haldane Library. All welcome.

● **Vacancies** exist for two assistant subwardens in Falmouth Keogh Hall. Application forms are available from the Student Accommodation Office. The deadline is May 16th.

● **LeaRonol**, the world's leading independent supplier of proprietary plating processes, presently wishes to recruit a student for the summer vacation. The student, who should have some knowledge of colloidal chemistry, will work in the Research and Development department on a variety of projects. LeaRonol is situated in Buxton in the Peak District and is easily accessible by train, car or bus. Would anybody interested in this position please contact Dr M Goodenough at the following address: LeaRonol (UK) plc, High Peak Laboratories, Ashbourne Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SS (tel: 0298 71122).

### LOST & FOUND

● **Lost**—Heavy silver chain bracelet. Lost at Union Friday 28th April. £10 reward for return. Contact Honey on ext. 7488.

### FOR SALE & WANTED

● **Bike** wanted: Men's racer, will consider anything. Phone Rose on 3515 (FELIX).

### ACCOMMODATION

● **Hamlet Gardens**. Twin rooms available for Summer Term at £38 pp,p/w, situated in luxury flats for six persons. All interested parties contact Matthew Bridgwater (aka Baldrick) on 748 0577 (evenings) for more details and a guided tour.

● **Summer**—Fulham Broadway tube, 4 large double rooms with ensuite bathrooms. Well equipped kitchen—washer-drying and dish-washer. £100 per week, per room inclusive. Phone 348 2389.

● **Shared room** available for female IC student in Evelyn Gardens for the summer term. £25 per week. Contact Anne 351 4582.

### PERSONAL

● **Suze**—Why is your head in the toilet each morning.

● **Dylan**—I'm surprised to hear about my son's views. God.

● **Dylan**—Would you like a job? D Jenkins.

● **Dylan**—Are you trying to put me out of a job? S Milligan.

● **Dylan**—Why don't you write a book about it? E Currie.

● **Dylan**—Loved the Story—Sunday Sport.

● **Dylan**—If only I'd known about you when I was looking for a deputy—J Anderton.

● **Joan** Collins is a virgin—D James.

● **Dylan**—A minority of one is a madman—G Orwell.

● **Dylan**—I know nobody else is going to believe we're in contact: Never mind J.C.

● **Dylan**—Ever thought of running for RCSU President? N Johansen-Allison.

● **Has** Jo gone down on the beach yet?

● **New RIP(?)** Soc babyfood. Free metal detector with every ten labels.

● **The DramSoc** stagecrew sincerely hope that the three girls we rescued from the crush are alright now, with love and kisses, Nick, Pete and Dave xxx.

● **Did** you know Ian Batt is a Kylie fan? Je ne sais pas pourquoi.

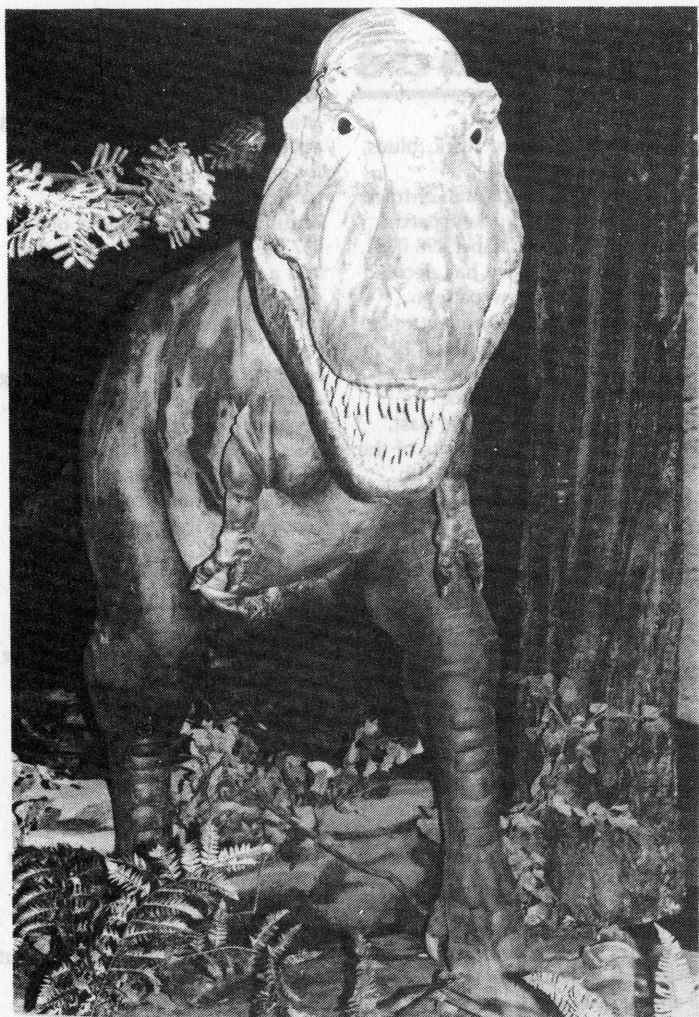
## FOOD IS JOLLY SCRUMMY!

Why not try some?

*The Caterpillar Café*  
(Beit Quad)

Open 8am to 8pm weekdays





A prehistoric friend visits South Kensington

# Growl, Roar!

This Easter, the Natural History Museum opened an exhibition called 'Dinosaurs Live!'. As the title suggests, the display is supposed to convey the impression of being in the presence of some long dead creatures, which have been mysteriously brought back to life. This amounts to a cross between a history programme, and a prehistoric chamber of horrors.

The atmosphere is rather impressive; there are jungle noises, dimmed green lights and the odd plastic palm. The 'Dinosaurs' are in small enclosures, from which they tower impressively over the human form. The larger dinosaurs are built to half scale, but even so, the Tyrannosaurus manages to leer down quite successfully.

The creatures are built from a metal framework, and are driven by compressed air. This is all covered by a convincing rubber skin, upon which is modelled the features of the dinosaur, as guessed at by scientists everywhere. The heads (including eyes) and a few other parts of the dinosaurs' anatomy are animated, moving to the commands of a preset program. These sequences have been well designed; the dinosaurs look down to the place where people are most likely to stand, and although this is not exactly frightening it is, to say the least, unnerving.

However, there are drawbacks to the display. Since the automated

metal skeletons are powered by compressed air, there is an audible hiss whenever any part of the dinosaurs move. This is with the sole exception of their eyes; they click whenever the dinosaur casts a quick glance in either direction. However, their main fault, occurring only with the larger skulled models, is that their heads are too heavy. Whenever the head stops moving, it seems to do so too quickly, because there is a significant wobble whenever they come to rest.

On the press day, there was an added attraction, which will not be joining the rest of the display; an eight foot tall walking Tyrannosaurus Rex. Unfortunately, this dinosaur was not of the robotic kind. Instead, it consisted of a man inside a rather sturdy inflatable rubber suit. This, to the press, was much more interesting than the display, and the organisers had to threaten to take it away, to bring the journalists and photographers back to the display.

The exhibition also has many spin-offs; there is a dinosaur shop situated next-door which, if not built specifically for the occasion, will certainly benefit from the increased enthusiasm in dinosaurs.

Altogether, I would say that the display is an interesting part of the museum and admission is free in the last hour so it is well worth a look.

# Crazy Carnival Mayhem

The Union building was packed as full as fire regulations would allow with an estimated 1200 students present at the Carnival last Friday. The event made a £200 loss which Ian Morris, the Union Hon Sec, claims was predicted before the event.

There were three bands, and a variety of comedy acts performing. The first band to open was *Stop laughing*; a concoction of heavy metal guitars with weak-sounding vocals. The audience judged the band by emptying the hall rapidly. Following this were the comedy acts, which were not well received; there were shouts of obscenities throughout most of the performances. One comedian was narrowly missed by a full beer-can thrown by a member of the audience.

The other bands were *The Butterfield 8*, a rhythm and blues band, which produced some good dance music, and *Bad Manners*; a

band with a style of their own. There was some doubt as to how long *Bad Manners* would be playing, since they walked off the stage refusing to continue after they were prevented by the Dramatic Society from taking a bucket of water onto the stage. After a small pause the band took their places back on the stage; without the bucket of water.

There were objections on the grounds that the carnival might

have an adverse effect on examinations. One finalist commented, 'I had had two exams that day and was feeling a bit knackered'. He said that he had been unable to sleep, adding that he had also had an examination on the Tuesday following the carnival. Another student living in Beit said, even though he had attended and enjoyed the carnival, 'Nobody slept on this landing that night'.

Ian Morris replied to this by saying that a questionnaire asking whether people would object to the carnival had been put under all residential doors in Beit Hall, asking if there were any objections to the carnival taking place. This was circulated prior to Easter, and there were no objections to the event taking place. Ian Morris assured FELIX that the carnival would have been cancelled if there had been any objections beforehand, but none were received.

## The Summer is Approaching

and you have to wear a swimming costume  
DON'T PANIC!

On Mondays, starting 8th May, there will be a ladies only session at the Multigym, from 7.45 to 8.45pm. An introductory course will be given during the first two sessions.  
Pop into the Sports Centre for more info.

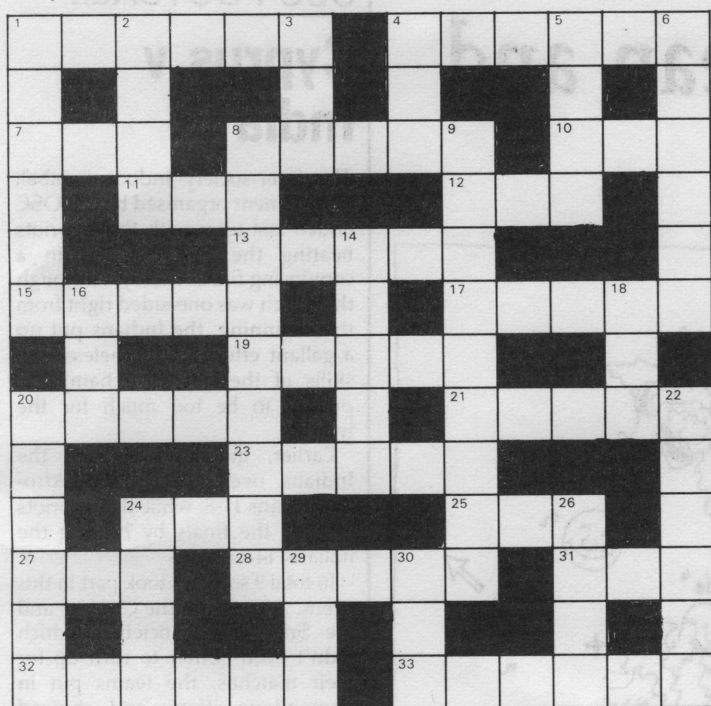
# Prince Philip (nearly) visits ICU Carnival

Last Friday, as students were starting to turn up for the Carnival, security cordoned off the Sherfield Building in readiness for the arrival of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince was attending the annual dinner of the British Antarctic Society held in the Staff Senior Common Room.

In a joint security operation between the Royalty Protection squad, the local police and ICs own security staff: the doors to Sherfield were locked and a number of policemen patrolled the college. Security Chief, Geoff Reeves, said later that the security arrangements went 'very smoothly'.



# Cryptic Crossword



## Clues:

### Across

1. Substance of woven fabric? (6)
4. It erased a French letter (6)
7. You and me back to back with a bird (3)
8. Good sorrow, Charlie B.! (5)
11. Partial retreat of unsung animal (3)
12. Shining shaft (3)
13. Imitation idol? (5)
15. Bare teeth and growl at tangle (5)
17. Time for bed sir! (5)
19. Broad speaking rustic (5)
20. Flies lightly and lifts (5)
21. Shanghai tiger holds key to the island (5)
23. Palindromic note (5)
24. PA's health resort (3)
25. Rector has burnt matter (3)
27. & 10A: Sweettoothed scrooge? Rubbish! (6)
28. Fibre found in many long stockings (5)
31. Beer in the meadow (3)
32. Make a grout stew! (6)

33. A crime since time began (6)

### Down

1. Taster of free entertainments (6)
2. Cosy hideaway for guns (4)
3. Receiver (3)
4. Regret messing around in the ure (5)
5. Young woman, perhaps? (4)
6. Greet ron first of all, then feel sorry (6)
8. Imperial Engineer (9)
9. He's neither frog nor prince (9)
14. Professional in an overall (5)
16. Score at start of match (3)
18. Over seasoned stolen property? (3)
20. Raft he reconstructed for his son (6)
22. Clothe in underwear (6)
24. Self-satisfied mugs! (4)
26. Loathe the heat (4)
29. Up till now (3)
30. West African sorcery involving Japanese sash (3)

## Answers to last term's crossword

### Across:

1. Broadside, 7. Rhea, 9. Male, 10. Liberal, 11. Enumeration, 12. Instead, 14. Runt, 15. Lien, 16. Satanical.

### Down:

2. Reel, 3. Desecration, 4. Deal, 5. Orchestra, 6. Levantine, 8. Aliment, 9. Marital, 12. Inca, 13. Diva.

# Dear Marge



**Dear Marge,**

I am having to work 72 hours a week for my final examinations. I am exhausted and fed up. Can you help me.

*Yours sincerely,  
A medical student.*

**Marge says:** Don't worry luvvy—in a few weeks it'll all be over and you'll be able to start your career as a junior Doctor.

**Dear Marge,**

I've just been turned down by the blood transfusion service. Is this normal?

*Yours sincerely,  
A Stone.*

**Marge says:** that's not funny.

**Dear Marge,**

Can you help me? I've just been sent an absolutely enormous telephone bill. I simply can't afford to pay it. What should I do?

*Yours,  
ET.*

**Marge says:** take the next flight to Rio.

**Dear Marge,**

People just don't understand that the mega powerful, X-ray laser I have constructed in my lab has nothing to do with the SDI programme. It is simply part of a project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture to find a faster way of poaching eggs.

*Yours,  
Harry Blacket.*

**Marge says:** Of course I believe you. All scientific research is pure and innocent. Just don't point it in my direction.

**Dear Marge,**

I'm into sex, drugs and rock 'n'

roll. Have I come to the wrong College?

*Yours,  
Ian Morris*

**Marge says:** What are you doing on Friday evening luvvy?

**Dear Marge,**

Why, o why, do people insist on walking down the pavements in London? Why can't they use the pavement like everyone else?

*Yours,  
Deranged.*

**Marge says:** It baffles me too dear.

**Dear Marge,**

**I suffer from biscuit phobia.**

*Yours,  
Jason McVitie*

**Marge says:** crumbs

This is awful - Ed.

**Dear Marge,**

saewr jlnu sdkl jiej mnsd e?kj df ndir jaej d ?alkjf jdf a e f ejkfj a?kd da d fje fdfwer iml?uq ?q edre alcohol qwee WP ESDS qwe qwe w q. erer, qewrwe...

*Yours,  
Stoic*

**Marge says:** erp adf ip nop werere au poqq.

**Dear Marge,**

I am overcome with guilt because I am the man who invented the easy to open milk carton which sprays milk all over the walls of the fridge when you open the spout. What am I to do?

*Yours in desperation,  
Shamus O'Milk*

**Marge says:** Don't worry. I'll drop in in person with a few dozen friends and we'll sort you out.



## SCIENCE $\Psi$

The recent claims for the discovery of fusion at room temperature by Drs. Pons and Fleischmann raise some interesting questions about the future, assuming the claims prove to be justified.

If what they have found is indeed fusion, or even a new form of chemical energy, then the potential benefits for mankind could be enormous. The process seems to produce no unwanted by-products such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or long-term radioactivity. Large scale use of this new form of energy would be a lifesaver for the ecology of the planet, giving us a real chance to reverse the damage already done to the environment.

It seems that we could be at the dawn of a new age of cheap power, something that would not only help the development of the third world, but would also help reduce the American budget deficit. It would see domestic and commercial energy bills cut drastically to the benefit of both rich and poor.

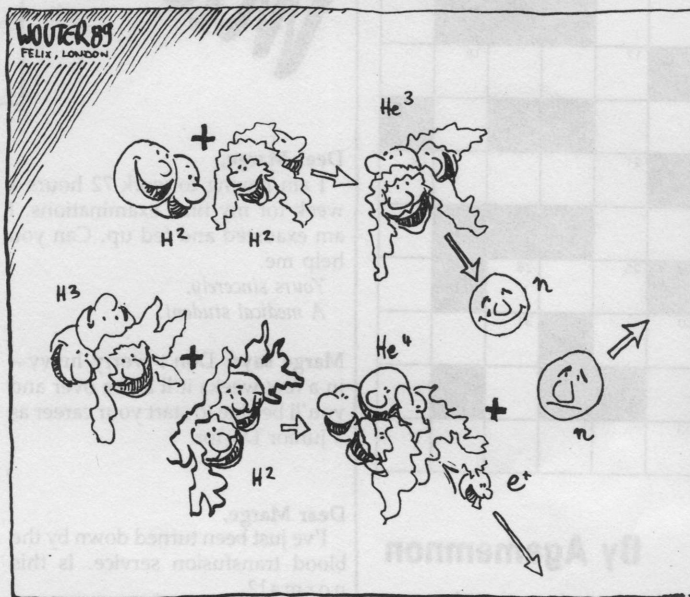
Clearly such a new source is essential if the Third World is to develop to anywhere near Western living standards. Last year America, with about a twentieth of the World's population accounted for 43% of the World's oil consumption - there is simply not enough fuel available for the rest of the World to live like this.

Dr. Hagelstein of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has already applied quantum mechanics to cold deuterium fusion. He claims it may be possible to produce fusion driven lasers, small fusion generators, reverse fusion (What! - Science Ed.) and new exotic fusion reactions. The idea of suitcase sized power stations may be exciting, but the real revolution would be small portable fusion generators.

Provided that such generators were small enough, say the size of an internal combustion engine or less, and were relatively cheap to make and service (presumably heavy water and palladium and platinum electrodes are not that expensive), it is conceivable that they could be self-contained, with a solar panel to provide the initial

If Fleischmann and Pons are right and cold fusion is possible — what, asks Tony Spencer, will be the consequences?

## Cheap, clean and doomed?



### "Neutron dance"

'push'. With a life expectancy in excess of twenty of thirty years, such generators would be essential for the rapid development of the Third world, enabling power to be available cheaply, and without transport costs or problems with the fuel supply. This, coupled with the environmental benefits, make it a very attractive proposition.

As with any new radical idea, whether or not it gains widespread acceptance largely depends on vested interests. Cold fusion could destroy some industries. Oil companies would probably suffer most, along with gas and electricity generating companies. The internal combustion engine could become as outdated as the steam engine, and there is the danger that a lot of Engineering jobs could be lost and equipment made redundant.

Large corporations wield a lot of power and influence, and it is possible that these organisations may seek to inhibit the development of such a revolutionary idea. As with the everlasting light bulb and rust-proof stainless steel cars, multinationals are likely to buy up the patent and sit on it, smothering the development of a new idea.

With so much at stake, there is a real likelihood that there would be major opposition to the widespread development of this new fusion process.

For better or worse, in order for this new technology to see the light of day, we may have to encourage oil companies and other affected parties to develop and commercialise the fusion process themselves, allowing them to diversify. With care, this could be handled to everyone's satisfaction: the new applications could be developed and the oil companies could use their stocks for essential chemicals.

Failure to take these implications into account may result in the technology being 'still-born', leaving the Third World, Mankind and the ecology of the planet back at square one, with the continued squandering of resources and the world taking a step backwards rather than a leap ahead.

**Tony Spencer**

## SPORT

### OSC FOOTBALL

## Cyprus v India

The inter-society indoor Football Tournament organised by the OSC ended last term with the Cypriots beating the Indians 19-5 in a convincing finals victory. Although the match was one-sided right from the beginning, the Indians put up a gallant effort. Nevertheless, the skills of the reigning champions proved to be too much for the Indians.

Earlier, in the semifinals, the Indians overpowered the Afro-Caribbeans 11-8, while the Cypriots entered the finals by beating the Italians 14-12.

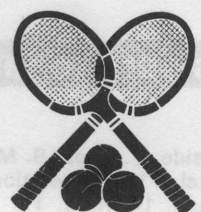
In total 9 societies took part in this event. Apart from the Chinese and the Sri Lankan societies, which didn't even bother to turn up for their matches, the teams put in tremendous efforts and showed much anticipation and eagerness. Despite the high standards displayed each of the participating teams this year, there can however be only one, single winner, and the Cypriots yet again emerged as the champions.

### TENNIS

## Start of Season Thrills

The tennis season is upon us (so please tell the weather!), and it is not too late to join IC Lawn Tennis Club. Membership of the Club allows play on the two tennis courts adjacent to Prince's Gardens, and the availability of these courts is controlled by weekly booking sheets at the desk of the Sports Centre.

To join the Club, send your name and department with a cheque for £4 made out to ICUACC to Roy Harrison Elec Eng 4. Further information, a receipt and a membership card will be returned as soon as possible.





# Italian delights

FELIX culinary expert, Yishu Nanda continues his gastronomic exploration of Italy. This week Yishu samples the delights of Milan and Verona and brings you the recipes for two authentic Italian pasta dishes.

## Part 3

### Fine food in a Milan home

The Italians have a profound love for their food. Even in Milan the fast city lifestyle cannot detract from a proud display of cooking at home. I hope to give you a flavour of the *casalinga* that one could expect to enjoy.

Staying with the Rossies in Milan was an opportunity to see how the lovers of food tread the compromise between enjoying food and a fast lifestyle in which both husband and wife work. I cannot enjoy good food without giving some in return, so I took three home-made fruit cakes with me to present to friends in Italy.

On Saturday morning I accompanied them to a street market to buy the cheeses, cured meats, vegetables, fruits just as I do in Chapel market in Islington. They bought some *Parmigiano*, *pecorino* (an ewes milk cheese), *fontina*, *mozzarella*, *scamorza*, *ricotta* cheeses. The *ricotta* cheese must be enjoyed as fresh as possible and was bought to be consumed at lunch that day. The cured or cooked meats were also bought in generous proportions. We chose to get *spek* Tyrolean, *prosciutto crudo*, salami and some *pancetta*. The cheese and meat products are not inexpensive, but they give the Italians the flexibility to feed themselves and their guests conveniently. I was to discover that wherever I went the Italians would offer a platter laden with razor thin slices of the cured meats, another with the cheeses on proud display and a basket of bread.

A simple salad such as tomatoes and capers in an olive oil and lemon juice dressing would also be passed around.

The home cooking that I enjoyed in Milan included a simple fusilli pasta flavoured with butter and cinnamon. The *timballo* (macaroni baked in bechamel sauce, tomatoes, black olives) is an impressive pasta dish when brought piping hot from the oven to the table. I also admired



A selection of cured meats.

a simple dish of red peppers cooked in tomatoes, onions, garlic and herbs. It is rare that peppers are enjoyed on their own.

The Rossi family also provided a display of cooking which requires a little more effort. A visit to Milan would not be complete without trying a risotto Milanese so it was prepared for me. There was also the *torta salata*, a pie made from spinach, *mozzarella*, *fontina*, *parmegiano*, eggs and nutmeg.

I also enjoyed a spaghetti al pesto. The pesto is a sauce made from garlic, basil and pine nuts. The Rossies make it a few times a year. It is frozen and used a little at a time. Another successful way of enjoying flavoursome sauces without the toil.

Serve the spaghetti pesto with ground *pecorino* cheese as the Genovese do.

No trip to Italy is complete without a trip to a wine cellar. I had the opportunity to visit the *enoteca* *Limbaridi della Certosa di Pavia* near the Certosa monastery in Pavia. The reds

## Some Recipes

### CRESCENTINE

350gr white wheat flour  
1.5 wine glasses of water

25gr yeast  
1tsp sunflower oil  
½tsp salt

#### Method:

Make the dough and leave it covered in a warm place for ½ hour. Roll out apple size balls into face size oval discs. Shallow fry on a medium flame for several minutes, turning a few times, until both sides are cooked.

Zelina spoke of the revival of the use of chestnuts in the cuisine. She gave me her recipe to make *castagnaccio*, a cake made from chestnut flour. During the Second World War the *castagnaccio* was eaten as a bread because chestnut flour was available much more easily than wheat flour.

### CASTAGNOCCIO

500gr chestnut flour  
200gr milk  
Some saltanas  
Some pin nuts  
½tsp baking powder  
2tbls cocoa powder

#### Method:

Bake for ½ hour at 165°C or until cooked. After it has cooled pour some liquor over the cake.

produced in this region are considered to be better than the whites.

## Eating out in Milan

I recommend going to the La Spaghetteria di Via Solferino, 3 Via Solferino (Tel. 872735). The chef prepares a sauce which is served with spaghetti. Everyone is offered a small bowl of the pasta and the surprise sauce. If the sauce does not tempt you then you can wait for the sauce of the next round. One can carry on eating for as many rounds as one likes. The meal for everyone at the table is offered free if any individual can break the record number of rounds of spaghetti consumed. I think the record stands at about 45. The portion offered in each round is not large so that one can sample as many sauces as possible.

## Part 4

### A taste of Verona—Veronesi

tutti matti!

The 'mad' Veronese pride themselves for their *Pera* and *Polenta*.

I saw the *polenta* made in the traditional way. The coarse ground maize was continuously stirred by arm for about half an hour as it absorbed the boiling liquid. It was served in the shape of a mound on a wooden platter. Slices of the *polenta* were served with a sauce made from porcini mushrooms. In Verona they also eat it with thin slices of salami and gorgonzola cheese. A good *polenta* should be moist but firm. A good texture of finish can only be achieved with years of cooking experience.

The mushroom sauces that pervade Italian *casalinga* are the finest. Often the mushrooms have been hand-picked in the nearby woodland. I was shown some whole porcini mushrooms which had been sealed individually for freezing. Alternatively, the mushrooms are sliced and dried. My thanks to Eleo Arrighi for presenting me with a packet of his hand-picked, home dried mushrooms.

The *pera*, a favourite in the local cuisine, is a sauce made from adding bread crumbs to a broth containing marrows. It is served in generous proportions to accompany *bollito misto* (slow cooked meats) and vegetables.

I would like to thank the Rossies, Arrighies and Zullios for making this tour a great success.





# The INDEPENDENT

ELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAVELLERTRAV

## —Cycling in India—

**Gary Hastings and Malcolm McCarthy spend three months cycling in India.**

We spent a week in Dehli preparing and planning our trip and set out on a hot and humid November morning, with only a vague idea of where we were going. Our only aim was to experience the splendour of the Indian Himalayas.

It took twenty minutes for the first problem of the tour to arise: I had a puncture and we were in a crowded bazaar on the outskirts of Dehli.

A crowd started to gather as soon as we stopped. The crowd grew to at least 200 people and children pushed their way to the front only to be ejected by adults wishing to witness the spectacle.

The 'crowd' is a characteristic of urban living in India. It's like living your whole life in a crowded London tube station. There is no such thing as privacy or personal space.

The traffic on the highway was chaotic but colourful. Every conceivable mode of transportation was on the road: rickshaws, carts, donkeys, dogs and cows.

The only rule on the Indian highways is: if it's bigger than you, get out of the way. Since the highway has only one lane, smaller vehicles are regularly forced off the road into the dust tracks on either side of the highway.

It wasn't long before we were unceremoniously dumped in the dust and, since the dust seemed to be littered with razor sharp thorns, we were soon repairing more punctures.

Tourist buses regularly drive lorries off the road and all along the route one can see overturned lorries, their cargoes strewn everywhere. Unperturbed drivers can often be seen relaxing amongst the wreckage and consuming the cargo (if it's edible), presumably waiting for help to arrive. We could not envisage the same tranquility being shown by a driver on the M1 suffering a similar fate.

At midday, the heat of the plains

is unbearable, so we decided to pull into a dhaba for much needed refreshments.

Initially we had planned to cook our own food but it didn't take us long to appreciate the convenience, not to mention the excellent food, of the dhabas which were littered along the highways.

This dhaba was far from the cleanest we had ever seen; the normally appetising Indian sweets were covered by a layer of flies and wasps. Dust covered everything else, including the owners of the establishment who were squatting on a clay ledge which housed an oven fuelled by slabs of dried dung.

Undaunted we entered and were introduced to the delicious beverage: chai. Geared to the very sweet tooth, the beverage is prepared by endlessly boiling buffalo milk, water, tea and copious amounts of sugar. Our enthusiasm for the concoction and its energy giving qualities were immense. We downed five cups immediately and, still thirsty, we tried some campacola (India's answer to Coca-Cola).

We pulled into the 'Red Robin' lodge near Sinipat at the end of the first day. These lodges are all named after birds and litter the highways of the Harayana.

We set out early the following morning and, after stopping to repair another puncture, we reached Paniput which, according to Moslem legend, is the most fly infested area in all India.

We stopped at a dhaba and left the crowds to ponder over our mountainbikes. Usually, in such situations, there is an on-hand expert to explain the finer specifications to the, exclusively male, audience. These 'experts' assume the right to touch, prod and tinker with whatever takes their fancy without considering to ask you if it's okay. This particular expert pointed knowingly to our water bottles and said, 'petrol!'

Soon we reached Karma Lake lodge ten miles outside of Kamal. The chowkidar tried to convince me the place was full even though it was obviously empty. Politeness



was not going to sway this man's mind but when I threatened to write to the Harayana Tourist Board we were offered a tool shed behind the lodge. After inspecting the shed I decided that going back to Karmal was by far the more attractive of the two choices.

Meanwhile, Malcolm had made friends with an engineer who took a great interest in our bikes. This man seemed to have a magical control over the chowkidar and, with a wave of his hand, had managed to secure us a room and for chai to be brought immediately.

This type of incident was not uncommon; whenever we were down, someone always came along and provided us with invaluable help. People were forever asking us if we required their assistance. Indeed, all one had to do was look at a map in a public place and aid was immediately offered without having to ask.

Despite the inaccuracy of our Indian maps, we found the turning for Nahan and thus began our journey around the edge of the Punjab and into the mountains...

*End of part 1, part 2 next week.*



*Sheep blockage on road to Shimla.*





## The Plantagenets

Shakespearian historical soap operas have become fashionable theatre entertainment. After the lavish seven-play history cycle staged at the Old Vic earlier this year, which expunged the word 'anachronism' from every critic's pen; comes a more traditional, yet no less spectacular three-play extravaganza, reworked by the RSC from Shakespeare's Henry VI parts I, II, and III and Richard III.

The plays spread a colourful length of history. Illustrating a nation's collapse from prosperous stability and conquering patriotism, through the horrors of civil war, a reign of tyranny and on to a conclusion of harmonic optimism. Intricate webs of political intrigue are woven, and violent, bloody battles are fought in this chronicle of a fascinating 65 year period in English history.

Three kings of starkly contrasting character sit in turn upon the throne of England: Henry VI, a pious saintly figure, ill-equipped to tackle the politics of power; Edward IV, a lewd sensualist; and Richard III, a crazed tyrant, full of malicious intent.

### Henry VI

Ralph Fiennes is superb as the uncertain, wimpish Henry; a reluctant ruler proclaimed King at nine months old. As his realm is split by war, intrigue and factions, he seeks peace and consolation in religious books and study. The members of his court vie for power; the French army, headed by Joan of Arc and the Dauphin, drive the English out of France; and the feud between Lancaster and York intensifies, but Henry stands aloof and innocent as chaos unfolds around him.



### VIDEO

## High Spirits

In the heart of the Emerald Isle lies Castle Plunkett, majestic and masterful, ancient and knackered. The hotel, as the building purports

### The Rise of Edward IV

Much of the second play consists of scenes of military or civil warfare, as Richard of York strives for Henry's throne. The ruinous feuding of the nobility is parodied by a peasant rebellion led by the ribald Jack Cade, who believes himself to be heir to the crown.

Battles ensue and fortunes meander with dizzying intricacy. We see elaborate displays of swirling flags, glittering armour, blood strewn fights and frenzied motion. Unfortunately, the brutally unsettling battlefield scene in which Queen Margaret splatters York's face with the blood of his dead son is wasted in mayhem.

After York's death his sons rally and defeat the Lancastrians, and so Edward, the eldest, becomes king. Immediately, the scene changes to one of voluptuous frivolity, with a giant golden disc hanging over a court of loitering lovers. In amongst this, the warped figure of Richard, Edward's brother, stands out as a soured misfit.

### Richard III, His Death

There is an obvious difference in style between this and the previous plays. The bombastic vertiginous evolution of the first two plays contrast with a more subtle and emotive play on greed and tyranny, significant of a more mature bard.

The play opens with Richard in a drunken stupor, declaring 'Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious by the son of York', an interesting twist to the more traditional opening.

Richard schemes his way to the crown. One by one his foes line up for execution. One by one they exit offstage into a corridor of light to meet the axeman's blade, as the atmosphere becomes grayer and more sinister with each of Richard's conquests.

Anton Lesser is mesmerising as Richard. He is quirky, unpredictable and revels in his manipulations, deriving a genuine sadistic pleasure from his actions.

After a particularly gruesome

to be, is empty and under threat of a take-over from an American who wishes to transport the castle to Malibu and make a theme park of it.

In a desperate move to save his home, Peter Plunkett (Peter O'Toole) advertises the place as a haven for ghosts, and is then treated to a party of American tourists, a mixed bunch including a nymphomaniac with desires on a young priest, and a parapsychologist and family.

The castle staff employ themselves in a bungling series of ghostly fakes and completely fail to impress the guests, including the

death scene for Richard, in which one is left wondering whether the actor would rise for the curtain call, the Earl of Richmond steps forward to take the throne and signal a new era of national unity and Tudor rule. After all the carnage and pageantry, the cycle ends with simple understatedness.

In general, the acting throughout the production is of a very high standard, although lesser roles are not as memorable as the 'War of the Roses' series. There is no Michael Pennington or Sion Probert injecting life into a minor character.

Penny Downie as Queen Margaret is the one link through all

the plays. Her degeneration from sexy young queen, to power hungry bitch, to ranting senile woman is impressively convincing.

Inspired set and costume design, as well as Adrian Noble's flamboyant and confident direction, pull the production together into a glorious tapestry of Shakespearean drama; although nine hours may be a bit too much.

*The Plantagenets* continues at the Barbican until July 3rd, with the whole trilogy played every Saturday until then. Ticket prices start at £6 per play.

Sumit Guha.



'Too damn right I've got the hump!'

kids. Didn't you ever see *Nightmare on Elm Street*? The castle is doomed.

The real ghosts meanwhile decide to do something about this—they don't want to live in California. While they create mayhem amongst the staff and visitors alike, a couple of love-hate relationships are becoming mixed up in the background. But the real world and the spectral world cannot intertwine, except once a year. Thank god it's Hallowe'en tomorrow.

*High Spirits* is amiable enough, with a wonderful script and a good cast. Steve Guttenberg and Daryl

Hannah play the lovers, sweetly and innocently, the victims of events. Amongst a hoard of ghoulish creatures, the delightfully comic O'Toole is often the most moribund, even without makeup.

The castle itself is convincingly atmospheric, and provides an appropriately characteristic setting for the occasional visual effects which intersperse the chaos. For all its musty tincture there is a definite glint of emerald green running through the film, and that makes it all the more appealing.

Well worth a look.

Andrew Clarke.



## THIRD WORLD FIRST

### Nestlé kills babies!

IC Third World First is participating in the Nestlé Boycott campaign which was relaunched this March. This article explains why.

Four years after the end of the last Nestlé boycott, Dr Raj Anand, a paediatrician from Bombay told a press conference in Washington 'Bottle feeding is killing babies...say no to Nestlé.'

The initial campaign started in 1977 following worldwide exposure of the devastating effects of baby milk promotion. Illiteracy, lack of hygienic conditions, clean water and fuel for sterilisation combined with poverty and made bottle feeding lethal. Despite this, baby milk companies continued to use aggressive marketing techniques to make a killing. Massive advertising, sales reps dressed as nurses, sponsored baby shows and free samples all contributed to a decline in breast feeding and rise in infant illness. James Grant, director of UNICEF, estimates these practices caused a million extra deaths worldwide each year.

This campaign forced Nestlé to sign an agreement with protestors and the boycott was lifted. But today Nestlé are up to the same dirty tricks. Nestlé continues to dump baby milk supplies on hospitals in over 20 countries, particularly Africa and Asia, in direct violation of the World Health Organisation International Code of Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes, adopted in 1981. These supplies inevitably get distributed and impede breast feeding. 'Free samples are not charity, they are a marketing ploy to increase profits: breast feeding stops so the mother has to buy Nestlé's milk.'

To make the boycott most effective cut out Nescafé.

Other Nestlé products include: Rowntree Mackintosh, Polo, Nescafé, Blend 37, Nesquick, Cello, Ideal, Fulcream Custard, Elevenses, Sarsons Vinegar, Chambourcy, Darkly, Le Grande, Chamby, Nouvelle, Robot, Jacky, Fox's Mints, Milo, Mix-o-Choc, Superquick, Flo-lite, Fine Blend, Findus, Eskimo, Lean Cuisine, Hippopota, Bonjour, Flamby, Fromage Frais, Creme Vienna, Kremby, Sun-Pat, Kit Kat, Animal Bar, Milkmaid, Flo-Mix, Karima, Maggi, Libby, C Drinks, Moonshine, Carnation, Coffee-Mate, Slender, Build Up, Go-Cat and Dog, Gales, Buitoni, Original Cookie Co., Caro Coffee Substit., Tip Top, Ashbourne Water, Alta Rica, Crosse & Blackwell, Waistline,

Branston, Bonne Cuisine, Cook in the Pot, Rice & Things, 4 Seasons, Pasta Choice, Dish of the Day.

As a far better alternative to Nescafé, try Oxfam's Nicaraguan Coffee, the profits of which go to the people and not to Western owned companies that exploit Third World workers. Nicaragua has suffered greatly because of its debts and the US trade embargo, and Coffee pickers have often been the victims of attacks by the US aided Contras. (Traidcraft also sell non-exploitative coffee and teas.)

For more information contact C Wong, Physics or Baby Milk Action, 6 Regent Terrace, Cambridge CB2 1AA. Tel: 0223 464420.

I am prepared to sell Traidcraft and Oxfam's teas and coffees on a strictly non-profit basis. Filter or decaff coffee is available. Tea is available in loose packets or 120 one or two cup bags.

## SCOUT & GUIDE

### Calling all outdoor types

Scout and Guide, being generally all-round people, decided it would be a jolly nice idea to go to Scotland during the Easter hols just gone (alas!). It was therefore decided that Glen Shiel would be the place to go and do our all-round outdoor type of thing. However, somewhere along the way, someone decided it would be a terrific idea if we were to set off early in the morning to travel during the day. So, there I was, stood outside Beit Arch at 7am on a Saturday morning wondering where the hell I had left my brain. Those ever-so-luxurious union vans needed to be packed, and then the people somehow crammed in on top (why is it that the people come last?). Then guess what? The bane of every club trying to get away on time, the people who turn up late. Now we had one guy who was coming all the way from Germany just to go away with us, you think he would have had the decency to turn up on time wouldn't you? He did finally arrive of course, not too late in the end, and off we set. One van was to go up the old M1/M6 (ie the obvious route) and the other one was to go up the East coast route. Why? Because one of our number had left his kag at a friends house in Ripon, of course, it's quite simple really! Also we were due to pick up some 12 year-old in Durham, a younger version of one of our number no less.

Well to cut a long (oh! so very long) story short, we eventually

arrived at our humble abode in the Highlands at around 10pm. By the way, thanks very much to Louise and to Mike and Rupert's mum for providing much needed refreshments along the way! For those of you who aren't quite sure of where Glen Shiel is, take out a map of Scotland, find Skye and then move your finger down and to the right a bit. The aforementioned 'humble abode' by the way, was a 3-storey shooting lodge on the shore of a very beautiful loch. This meant of course that we had real beds to sleep in for a change, and that our meals were served onto a real table in a real dining room! The plastic bowls and mugs which we use did seem rather incongruous, but as most people are simply interested in stuffing their faces then trying to steal somebody else's as well, nobody complained.

Glen Shiel offers an enormous variety of things to do, so long as it involves walking or scrambling up mountains! There are the Brothers and Sisters; the Saddle and friends which can be reached by a great scramble; the South Glen Shiel Ridge with its seven Munros and many other variations and routes taking in various combinations of these. All of these, and others, were attempted by members of the group, and a great time was had by all. To be precise, two Swedish guys, the bloke who now lives in Germany, plus numerous other stragglers from all reaches of the UK.

The only problem that some of us had all week was sunburn! Yes, you can forget the Med. just pop up to Bonnie Scotland and be very, very lucky. We went during the last week of the hols, so there was reasonably fresh snow on the tops of the mountains. We also happened to hit a sunny patch in the weather, so walking along the tops was a really dazzling business! Walking over virgin snow in bright sunshine is really rather strange, because your eyes have a hell of a job trying to focus on something. You have to look at the end of your boots or at some distant piece of rock otherwise you are likely to fall flat on your face because your balance goes! The snow did, though, provide ample opportunity for sledging or sliding around and generally playing silly buggers. One particular decent from a mountain simply involved putting on waterproof trousers and sitting down—gravity did the rest!

As for the rest of this term, nothing too strenuous with the big E's and all. This weekend we have our Annual Dinner in Derbyshire, then after the exams a weekend of cream teas in Cornwall, then for those lucky enough to be going, the summer tour is to Norway for three

weeks!

Some of our number though have organised an expedition to Peru for a month or three. I would like to wish them the best of luck on behalf of all the members of S&G, and to those of you that haven't bought a T-Shirt from them, do so soon. Good luck chaps, don't go falling off anything!

## O.S.C.

### Elections

The Overseas Students Committee will be having elections for the new Committee on Thursday 11th April at 12.45pm in room 408 Elec Eng.

The posts that are up for grabs are:

1. Chairman.
2. Vice-Chairman
3. Secretary
4. Sports Officer
5. Publicity Officer
6. Liaison Officer
7. Welfare Officer
8. Events Officer
9. Treasurer
10. 5 Ordinary Members.

All overseas students are eligible to stand and to vote in the election. The nomination papers are up on the OSC board in the Sherfield walkway (nearest the bookshop).

The Overseas Students Committee oversees the various national societies and runs the International Week in February every year.

## ENTS

### Carnival

**Carnival**  
This was a storming success with one of the best bands we've had at College for a long time.

Apologies to anyone who had to wait for a long time to get the minibus home. One of the buses had been taken by St Mary's Rugby Club when it wasn't booked by them and the other had to make an unscheduled trip to the hospital with one of the evening's casualties.

Many thanks to all who helped and who've helped all year, particularly Milan Lester for driving the van practically until dawn.

## Elections

There are still a few posts available for next year as Union Officers (and for this year unfortunately). Please contact myself or Nigel or sign up with ten seconds opposite the photo machine in the Union Building.



## What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

### FRIDAY

- Consoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
ME569.
- Friday Jamaa Prayer**.....1.00pm  
Southside Gym.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....5.30pm  
308 Huxley. Time for prayer, worship and discussion.
- Shotokan Karate**.....6.00pm  
Southside Gym.
- Poetry Readings**.....6.30pm  
University of London School of Oriental and African Studies Room G57.
- Fencing Club**.....12.30pm  
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock.

### SATURDAY

- Karate**.....10.00am  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.
- IC Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.

### SUNDAY

- Sunday Mass**.....11.00am  
West London Catholic Chaplaincy, More House, 53 Cromwell Road. Also at 6pm (followed by bar supper). All welcome.
- Shotokan Karate**.....1.00pm  
Southside Gym.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm  
Senior Common Room. All Welcome.
- ICSO Rehearsal** 3.00pm  
Rehearsal for Friday's concert in the Great Hall, only 7 days left.
- Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
- RCSU Night in the Bar**.....7.00pm  
Union Bar.

### MONDAY

- Rock Soc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Anyone interested in any form of rock music come along.
- Artsoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Union SCR. Sign up for shows. Membership £2.
- Yacht Club Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Upstairs in Southside.
- Recitation of Holy Qur'an**.....1.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens (Basement).
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Improvers Ballroom**.....6.00pm  
JCR. 80p.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm  
UDH. 80p.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm  
JCR. 80p.
- Karate**.....7.30pm

Southside Gym. Build your fitness and confidence.

### Latin American

- Dance Class**.....8.00pm  
UDH. Cha, Samba, Rumba, etc. 80p

### TUESDAY

- CU Prayer**.....8.15am  
308 Huxley. For those who think prayer is more important than sleep. Free.
- Remote Controlled Modelling Club**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper.
- Sailing Club**.....12.30pm

Brown Committee Room (top floor Union Building).

### Meditative Prayer

- Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. Come and join us for some peace and quiet. See West London Chaplaincy.
- Keep Fit**.....6.00pm  
Southside Gym. Stretch class.
- Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm  
JCR. 80p. All welcome.
- Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
- Karate**.....7.00pm  
Southside Gym. Build your fitness and confidence.



- Boardsailing Club**.....12.30pm  
Southside Lounge.
- Audiosoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.
- Roman Catholic Mass**.....12.40pm  
Mech Eng 702. Mass followed by lunch. 50p.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.45pm  
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want to try racing? Come and find out more.
- 3rd World First**.....1.00pm  
4th Floor, Env Tech, 48 Prince's Gardens.
- Beatles Hour**.....1.00pm  
For all the best Beatle and Beatle-related material on Cd with Spenser Lane.
- Qur'an, tradition of Prophet**.....1.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens.
- Almroth Wright Lecture** 5.00pm  
Almroth Wright Lecture Theatre, St Mary's Hosp. Med. School. F Y Liew, Ph.D. speaks on 'Regulation of the immune response to infectious diseases by cytokines.'
- Amnesty Meeting**.....5.30pm

- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm  
JCR. 80p.
- Caving Club Meeting**.....7.00pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone interested should come along.
- Improvers Ballroom**.....8.00pm  
JCR. 80p.
- Mountaineering Club Meeting**.....9.00pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Beginners always welcome.

### WEDNESDAY

- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Sailing Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Outside Southside.
- Caving Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
- Micro Club Meeting**.....1.00pm  
Third Floor, Union Building. If you're interested in computers come along.
- Hamsoc Meeting**.....1.15pm  
Third Floor of Union Building. Amateur Radio Society regular weekly meeting.
- Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll Class**.....2.15pm  
UDH. 80p.
- Jazz Dance Class**.....3.15pm  
UDH. 80p.
- Karate**.....3.30pm  
Southside Gym. Build your

fitness and confidence.

- Open Circle Study**.....4.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.
- Kung Fu**.....7.30pm  
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.
- Basic Christianity**.....6.30pm  
Senior Common Room, 7th Floor. A meeting held by University Christian Outreach examining the life and claims of Jesus.

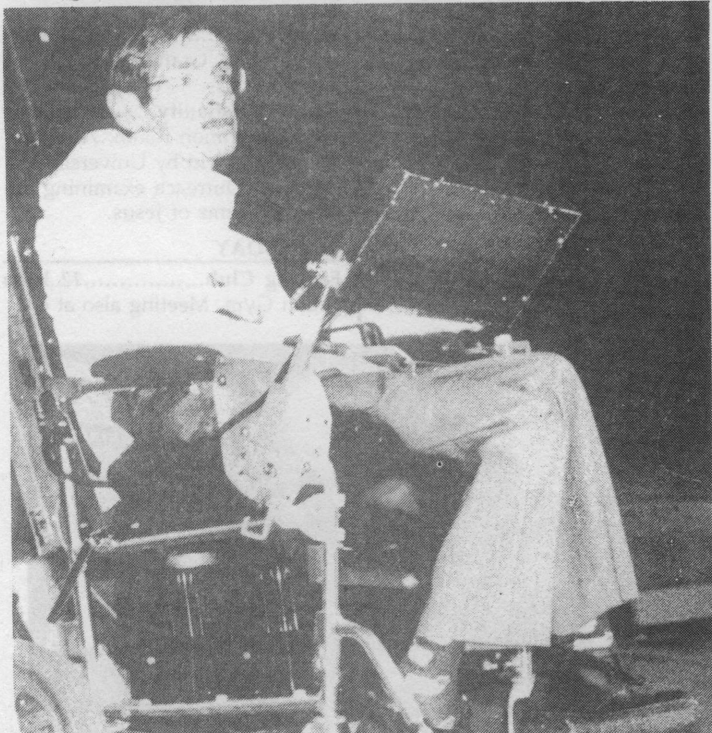
### THURSDAY

- Fencing Club**.....12.30pm  
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6

- o'clock
- ICYHA Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone welcome.
- Audiosoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Union SCR. Cheap records, tapes etc.
- Ski Club**.....  
The Ski Club will only meet on Tuesdays this term.
- Debating Society**.....1.00pm  
Room 341 Maths (Huxley).
- Arabic Lessons**.....1.30pm  
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Prayer Meeting**.....5.30pm  
Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. All Christians in College are welcome to come and pray for the work of Christians in College.
- Cricket Nets**.....5.45pm  
Meet in Mech Eng Foyer. Sign up on cricket noticeboard. Everyone welcome.
- Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
- Shotokan Karate**.....7.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Soup Run**.....9.15pm  
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).



# Hawking at IC



Staff and students packed into the Great Hall on Thursday evening to hear Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, give a lecture on 'Imaginary Time'. Hundreds of others were unable to attend because of shortage of space.

The lecture was the second of the Schrodinger Lectures, named in honour of the quantum mechanics pioneer, and was chaired by the Rector, Professor Eric Ash.

Professor Hawking, who is confined to a wheelchair and is severely disabled makes use of a computerised speech synthesizer.

Professor Hawking said that the synthesiser gave him an 'accent' which had been described variously as American, Scandinavian or Irish.

He is probably best known as the writer of the scientific best-seller 'A Brief History of Time' which has

topped both the British and American best-seller lists and been translated into 22 languages.

Professor Hawking said that he knew the book was a success when he heard that it had been translated into Servo-Croat.

In the lecture the Professor described the theory that time may not be a simple 'linear' quantity moving steadily from a beginning to an end, but two quantities, the 'real' time we measure or think we measure and an unobservable 'imaginary time'. By travelling in imaginary time we may be able to travel into the future or back into the past of our own universe and even into other so-called parallel universes. It may also provide the key to combining relativity and quantum mechanics into a single theory.

# AUT EGM

The extremely short and not particularly well attended EGM held yesterday, discussed just three motions supplied by Union President Nigel D Baker.

The first of these dealt with Union policy towards the AUT action which supported their aims but criticised their policy of not marking exam papers. The motion was passed with amendments from Thomas Wyatt which noted that the universities no longer have the money available for the pay rise being asked for by the AUT. Nigel will write letters to the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), the AUT and the Rector detailing the new stance of ICU towards the AUT, and condemning the CVCP for withdrawing from the negotiation process.

Course changes were covered in the second motion especially Geology courses which have been changed from the description given in the College Prospectus. It was agreed to ask College to withdraw the disclaimer in the Prospectus which prevents students from suing them in the event of a course change (as happened to Aston University).

cont. from front page

turn up to work. The circular states that four or five mile walks are not 'unreasonable' and says that flexible working hours, including work at home, can be arranged with Heads of Department.

Those staff who are not in possession of parking permits have been asked not to bring their cars into College, but a car sharing scheme is available by contacting the Registry on extensions 3309 and 3310.

An NUR spokeswoman told FELIX that 'the Union will talk with London Transport right up until the deadline.' She expressed sympathy with student examinees but added 'if you students had only a one year contract for a job and a family, you would probably feel just as desperate.'

London Transport described the NURs' action as 'somewhat stubborn' and has gained a High Court injunction to prevent the strike.

The departments and years that will be affected are: Maths I, Geology (Mining) I, Geology II and III, Mineral Resources Engineering (Petroleum Engineering II, III and IV), Electrical Engineering III and IV and Chemical Engineering III and IV.

# Civ Eng students angry

Irate second year Civil Engineering students claimed they had been 'messed around' this week when the Civ Eng department rescheduled an exam that had been postponed by the AUT strike.

Students were given only eight days notice of the exam when they returned from the Easter break. This is despite assurances that the exam would not be held in May and that there would be two weeks notice of the date.

A petition calling for the exam to be boycotted was signed by about eighty per cent of the class.

Students approached Union Honorary Secretary, Ian Morris on Tuesday, calling for the exam to be cancelled. Mr Morris and Union President, Nigel Baker ICU conducted a straw poll amongst Civ Eng II later in the week and were told that the exam should be canceled. If this was not possible, said the students, they would like the exam to go ahead on the original date rather than have it interfere with the rest of their exams.

The Head of Section, Mr Chiat, was not prepared to cancel the test,

but agreed to provide sample questions. He said the standard of the exam was easier than in previous years, and agreed to release the distribution curves from this year and last year so that students could be sure they were being fairly treated.

Mr Sharma, one of the lecturers responsible for the course, told FELIX that the exam was only part of the course and that success in the course was not dependent upon passing it. He claimed that students had been provided with three unscheduled hours of help in the week before the exam. He went on to say that the date had been set in consultation with the Civ Eng Dep Rep and said that the exam would have been too close to the main exams had 15 days notice been given.

Students in the department said after the exam that it was 'a pathetic exam, set out of a bloody-minded desire to have an exam at all costs' and that they 'should have asked for the exam mark to be reduced as a proportion of the course'.

# IC cleared of legionella

An independent report has pinpointed cooling towers in the Science Museum as the source of the recent outbreak of legionnaires disease in South Kensington.

The report rules out towers at Imperial College as the source of infection, but the Health and Safety Executive have placed a prohibition order on the College's towers until their recommendations can be implemented.

Head of Health and Safety at IC, Dr Hargreaves, said that the College intends to phase out cooling towers and install heat pumps before the hot weather starts.

Mr David Evans of the maintenance section said this was 'impossible' and expects the work to be finished by October. Work on the Biochemistry tower is due to begin within a month, followed by the Mechanical Engineering tower,



WEEK

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1	2	3	4	5 Silwood Ball	6	7 Brighton Run
8	9	10	11	12 C&G May Ball	13	14
15	16 Old Centralians AGM	17	18	19	20	21
22 Welfare Survey II	23 Guilds Handover UGM	24 Dave Williams' Birthday	25	26 FELIX Wine Tasting	27	28
29	30 Guilds Joint General Committee UGM in the JCR	31				

5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19 Joint Council	20 AGM in the JCR	21 Last FELIX of the Year and FELIX Party	22 Rose's Birthday	23
26	27	28	29	30

3	4 Bo Manchester to Blackpool Run
10	11
17 FELIX Club Cricket Match	18 RCSA/RCSU Cricket Match
24 FELIX Motor Rally	25

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