

ACT UP beaten up

Yesterday lunchtime saw the first demonstration by the group ACT UP LONDON (The AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power). The group has been formed to protest at social and political discrimination against sufferers of AIDS.

Some 40 protesters gathered on Whitehall outside Richmond House, the headquarters of the DSS. The majority of the protesters were young homosexuals and other high risk individuals worried about their future in society should they contract the disease. The main thrust of the protest was against the reforms to the Social security benefits, which severely disadvantage sufferers of terminal illnesses. Since the reforms those unable to work through long term illness are only entitled to income support of £24 per week. Independent medical advice recommends a diet for AIDS sufferers costing £30 per week.

Despite a heavy Police presence, including 8 mounted officers, the demonstration was peaceful. A spokesman for ACT UP told FELIX "The demo was very successful but the Police acted like shits as usual." The only trouble occurred early in the



protest when traffic by the Cenotaph was blocked. Following this incident 3 protesters lay down on the pavement to cause an obstruction. They were removed to Bow Street Police station pending charges. Witnesses reported that the Police had been extremely violent in removing the protesters. One man was kicked in the groin and a girl had her face ground into the pavement. One protester told FELIX afterwards that when he complained to a WPC

involved that she didn't need to treat them like animals she replied 'Animals don't take it up the arse, do they?'

The meeting broke up peacefully by about 2pm and the protesters dispersed to avoid aggravating the Police. More action is planned by the group in the future including a picket of the Australian embassy to protest at the country's introduction of random HIV testing.

Union to protest on loans

Imperial College Union (ICU) will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 17th October at 1pm in the Junior Common Room.

The meeting is to discuss action concerning student loans. The House of Commons is to discuss the bill on Friday 20th October. Union President, Neil McCluskey, intends to ask students to contact their own MPs and to make appointments to see them to argue against the introduction of such loans.

IC Union hopes to arrange a lobby of Parliament next Thursday with the London branch of the National Union of Students (NUS) sending a delegation of students on Friday to talk to MPs. The University of London Union (ULU) will not be taking part as a whole, though members will be involved.

The NUS will be taking buses of students up to Manchester to support demonstrations there, under the title 'Fight for the Right to Study' on 18th October. On October 19th NUS (National) will be presenting a petition to MPs at Westminster. A 'Loans Week of Action' will be organised for November 6th until November 10th. NUS hope to set up an 'Education Shutdown' on November 16th after

negotiating with trade unions.

On November 29th the NUS aim to organise a march through central London, from the ULU building in Malet Street to the Imperial War Museum. The march is still subject to Police approval.

Most London colleges are supporting the NUS lobby on the 19th. Carol Hinbest, Vice President for Welfare at Queen Mary's College, said she would write to academics at her college asking them to write to their MPs opposing the loans. The principal of Queen Mary's is to write a letter opposing loans to students' parents.

The Polytechnic of Central London is mounting a 'Loan Busters' campaign to gain media attention.

City University is supporting the NUS (London) lobby of Parliament on the 19th. They may support the NUS national demonstration on November 29th if it goes ahead. The NUS is in the process of deciding whether to hold a strike at further education colleges in the future. Pickets of colleges may be a possibility, said a spokesman. The NUS will hold demonstrations and marches near the time of the Queen's Speech in November, when the Queen will state the Government's legislation

diary for the next Parliamentary session, which will include the Student Loans Bill.

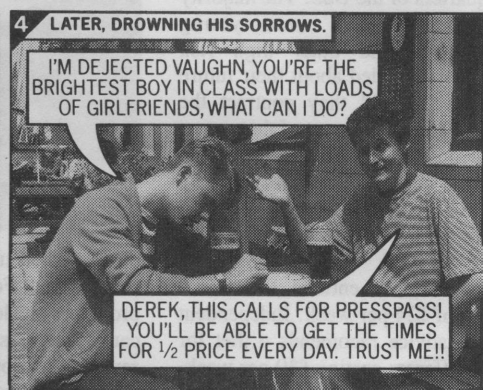
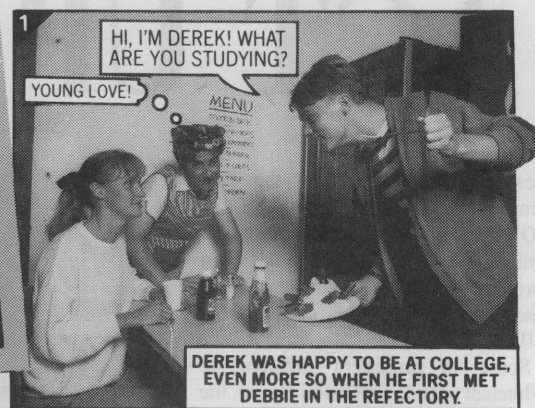
The Rector of Imperial College, Professor Eric Ash, told FELIX that he felt grants 'wholly paid for by the State are no longer tenable' and that the 'erosion of that idea was inevitable'. He went on to say that details on student loans were not known and that he could not 'shoot at a vague target'. He added that the loans proposal 'helped too little'.

On being asked whether he would take action similar to the principal of Queen Mary's College Professor Ash said he had 'not so far thought of that; I think the greater attack on the educational system is that of fees'. The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals eventually approved the idea of introducing student fees in the future, though Professor Ash voted against this saying this idea was 'diverging from Europe.' Education in this country would become too expensive for students because of their having to pay their own fees, and they would, for instance, choose to 'study in Paris', he added.

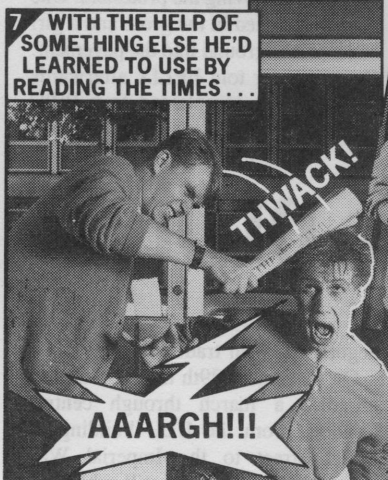
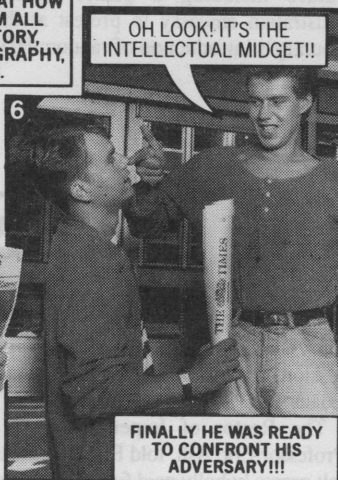
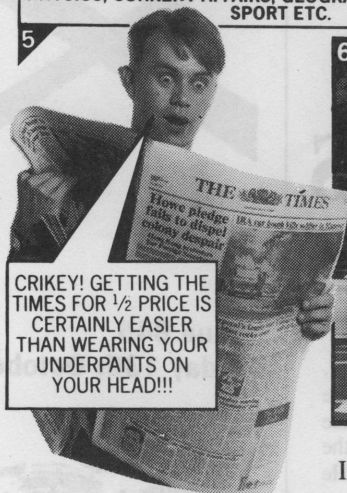
Issue 845
Friday 13th October



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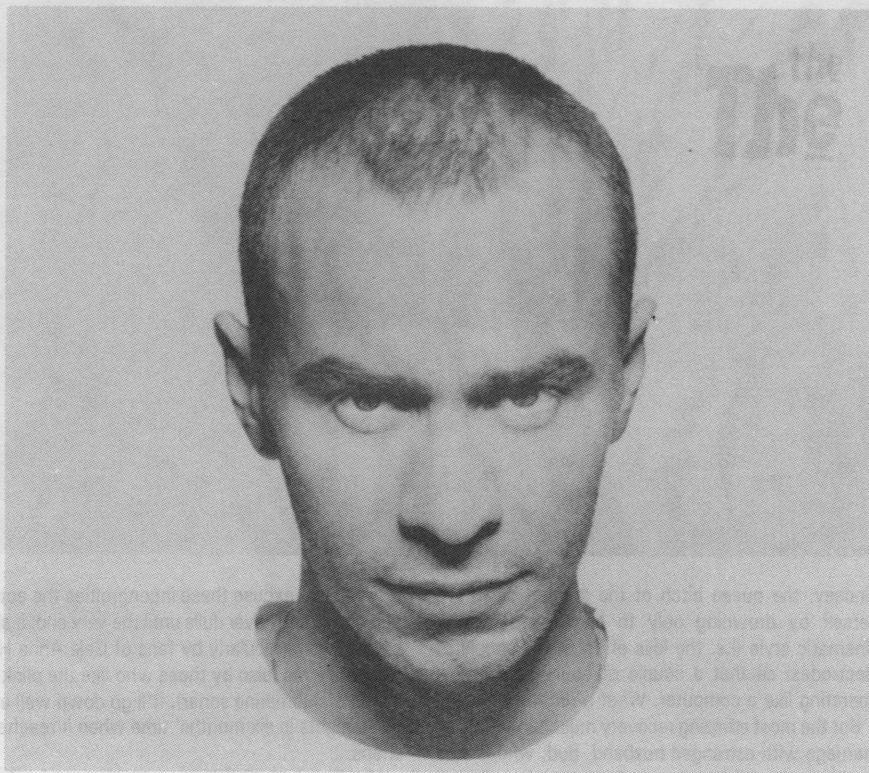
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Armageddon days are here



Mind Bomb is the third offering from *The The* in little less than a decade. For this album Matt Johnson has chosen to go for the more traditional band image with ex-Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr joining the band.

For anybody who is familiar with the previous albums, *Soul Mining* and *Infected*, the musical style is unmistakable. The most noticeable thing is the fact that the album is listenable and truly easy on the ears. Many of the tracks are cleverly mixed so that they follow well, clearly a great deal of work has been put into sound engineering.

If any one track were to stand on its own it would be *Armageddon Days are Here Again* which is the latest single release. Written a week before the Salman Rushdie affair, the track is true prophecy indeed. A definite anti-religious stab is felt from this song, which is, without doubt, a lyrical masterpiece.

The other tracks hold their own with some extremely clever use of instruments especially the piano on *Kingdom of Rain* and *August and September*.

The album ends in typical Matt Johnson fashion with a heart felt piece called *Beyond Love* where some very clever guitar work, similar in style to *Marillion's* Steve Rothery, combines with powerful vocals to remind us that all is not well in the human jungle.

Essential listening for all *The The* fans and anybody who appreciates innovative rhythms and powerful lyrics. The thinking man and woman's pop.

N.E.M.L.

Delicate sound of depression

The last few months have seen the release of two videos from those ageing hippies of the 70's *Pink Floyd*.

The *Delicate Sound of Thunder* is the visual follow-up to the album of the same title released last year. Not surprisingly the soundtrack, if not slightly tampered with, is virtually identical.

Several tracks on this video are not present on the album and this will serve to encourage all *Floyd* fans searching for the definitive live *Floyd* collection to buy.

The quality of this video is excellent. Shot on 35mm film and recorded on 48 track digital stereo, the film sadly loses something in the transfer to video format. Despite this, there is a troublesome lack of interaction between the band and the crowd. What is more worrying is the real lack of true representation of the stunning light show. The band was quoted as saying "The fans come to see the light show not us", so why are we subjected to overlays of Dave Gilmore's ugly mug upon the megawatt lighting show?

Despite this there is no mistaking the true quality of this product. At £11.99 this is a bargain buy for any *Floyd* fan. It would have been nice though if the true atmosphere of the gig had been extracted especially as 200+ cameras were used.

Released last month on the Channel Five label is the long awaited budget video release of Alan Parker's film adaptation of *Pink Floyd's The Wall*.

This film is, to say the least, shocking! We are treated to 100 minutes of visually nightmarish and gruesome scenes coupled with the powerful and, at times suicidal, music of *Floyd*.

In many ways autobiographical of Roger Waters' life, the central character is Pink played by Bob Geldoff. Sitting in an armchair watching the war film *Dam Busters*, our hero reflects on his life: losing his father in the war, being overprotected by his mother, losing his wife to a CND activist and finally his total hatred of the rock business and all that it stands for. He then loses himself down a spiral stairway to insanity becoming the leader of a totalitarian state disturbingly similar to George Orwell's *1984* and Nazi Germany, with two hammers crossed in defiance replacing the swastika.

The final scenes see Pink having to face himself at a trial charged with showing human emotions, where spectres of his past teacher, wife and mother try him.

The animation is directed by Gerald Scarfe. Since gruesome is the best word to describe this film it is not for the faint hearted and should be watched at your own peril. Essential viewing for all drug addicts and anybody who likes being depressed to the limits of human emotion.

N.E.M.L.



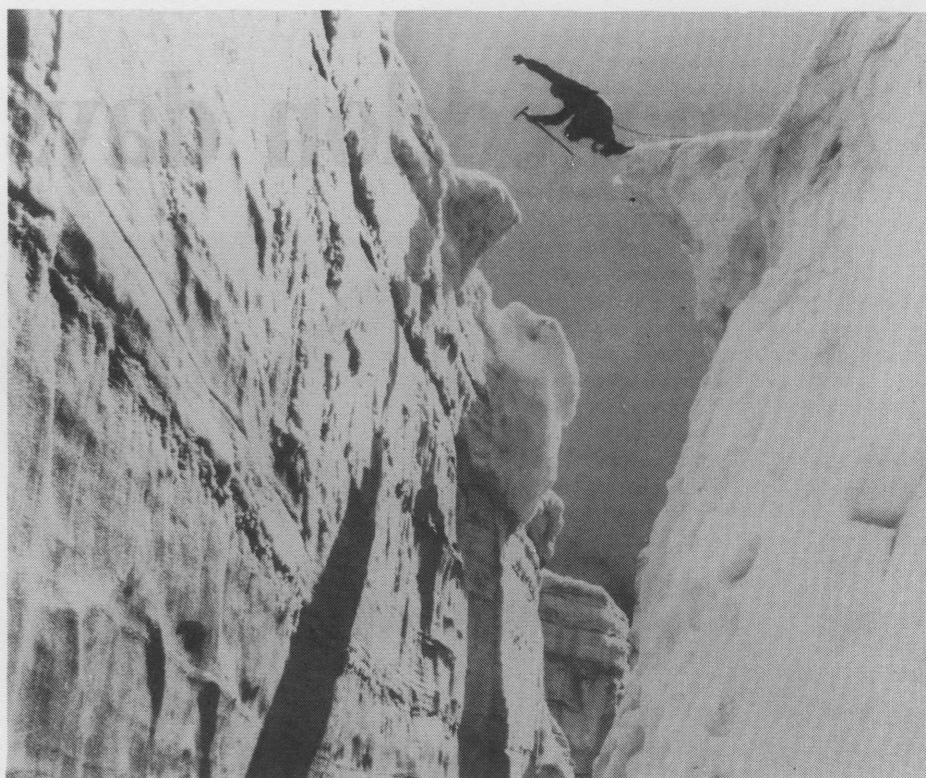
The Abyss

Question : What do you get if you cross *Alien*, *The Poseidon Adventure* and *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* ? Answer: *The Abyss*

Produced by Gale Anne Hurd (also responsible for *The Terminator*, *Alien* and *Aliens*), the story begins with a team of civilian divers working in an underwater oil-drilling habitat. They are pressed into service by the U.S. Navy to rescue a stricken nuclear submarine. Sounds promising, but beware of any film which describes itself as epic. *The Abyss* is an epic adventure which in plain English means that it was very expensive to make and much of the plot is O.T.T.. Strangely, these are two of the film's better qualities.

The special effects are pretty neat; the alien is especially stunning (it's E.T. with wings, honestly!). It's very difficult to spot the models from the real thing as most of the filming was actually carried out in massive water tanks in Los Angeles.

E.T. isn't the only thing which has been recycled. The sets of the deep sea station look uncannily like something from *Alien*; these, combined with some very nifty camera-work, result in a real feeling of claustrophobia. Luckily the crew of the station don't seem to mind. They're a fearless lot who even manage a nap after watching all the extras drown, the station flood and discovering that they have less than twelve hours to live. I should imagine that it would tire out even Rambo. The script writer (James Cameron) doesn't seem to mind these little inconsistencies and, indeed, manages even greater degrees of bull.



Lindsey, the queen bitch of the station, sacrifices herself by drowning only to be revived in true cinematic style (i.e. the kiss of life and a couple of electrodes) so that a couple of hours later she is operating like a computer. What a recovery!

But the most amazing recovery must be that of her marriage with estranged husband, Bud, who is also on the station. If they can get back together after all the *Abyss* throws at them then I would be interested to know why their marriage failed in the first place.

If you can excuse these incongruities the action is fast-paced and never dulls until the very end; it should be enjoyed particularly by fans of Gale Anne Hurd's previous films (also by those who like the plink-plink sound of submarine sonar). It'll go down well at Hall video nights in six months' time when it reaches the shops.

Like Bud said, "It's got a sphincter rating of 9.5". I would say it was nearer eight.

James Connolly gives a brief insight into the atmosphere of the *Town and Country Club* and Wednesday's *Carmel* concert.

Carmel

TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB



The vast and stately *Town and Country Club* (Kentish Town tube) is well worth a visit. It's soaring roof, wide balcony covered with tables and chairs which overshadow the twin bars below, and generally ancient decor lend an air of faded grandeur which reminds you of the fleapits of the thirties. The B-movies have been supplanted by a pageant of bands, including *Carmel*, the reclusive band who are on a small tour to publicise the release of a fourth album *Set Me Free*.

Carmel set out some years ago with songs ranging from *Sally*, a vivaciously somber mixture of jazz, R&B and social comment. It is more experimental songs such as *St Denis*, where rhythm reigns and everything underlines a bare basic beat.

With *Set Me Free*, *Carmel* is essentially unchanged. The jazz is still there but seems to be regressing towards soul and gospel. The innovative edge is still present with new African influences in parts and interesting rhythms such as those in *Life is Hard* and *Waterfall*, where a controlled, bleak atmosphere comes across.

On stage, they are entertainers as much as musicians and *Carmel* sings the grimmest songs with a wide grin across her face, and the result is elegant and restrained.

James Connolly.

Rufus Isaacs, reviews Freshers week

That was the week that was

They came, they listened and they all jumped about like crazy wild things. Another Freshers' Week over, and what a week! Whether you are an indie fan, Zimbabwean brother, rock 'n' roller, jump-jiver, disco king, acid man, gambler or just enjoy a rib-tickling chortle, it was all there. Monday's New Year Party saw the *Katydids* and the *Sandkings* in the Lounge overcoming the technical problems to give two well received sets, and a great rendition of *Pump it Up* as the *Katydids* encore. Upstairs the *Wood Children* were 'listened to' by the crowd but with the arrival of *The Four Brothers* on stage, the rhythm flowed and the soaring guitar melodies soon had people dancing.

Those who went to the Comedy Night on Wednesday were treated to three acts, with Ivor Dembina as as compere. Felix had some excellent views on sex, drink and Stoke City F.C., followed by the Crisis Twins who embarrassed each other using photographs of their childhood (he *did* look like John Craven). The final act, Sean Hughes was definitely the highlight with his *Protest Blues Song* and his futile attempts to stop the heckles. The show ended in chaos with a 'one-liner' shoot out between the compere and Jeremy (the people's poet), who somehow got a fiver from the Crisis Twins for his efforts.

And so to the pinnacle of the week, the Freshers' Ball, where all three bands gave us double helpings of 'get up on yer feet and boogie' music. First off were *Dave Puppy & The Happy Dogs* who soon had arms and legs flailing in front of the stage, followed by the *Jivin' Instructors* in the Concert Hall. A jumpin' band with a fine horn saxion, blasting out a string of old favourites and even getting the crowd on their knees to pray for forgiveness. At last the time had come for



the week's finalé. Let's hear it for the *Big Town Playboys*! What a band! What a quiff! And we just love that boogie-woogie piano! The perfect party band, they steamed through an hour of rock 'n' roll, and whipped the concert hall into a sea of twisting, pulsing, jitterbugging bodies.

The new-improved, even more spectacular than they used to be Ents Discos kept many feet groovin' when the brain was long past caring (many thanks to the Rugby cocktails) and the films and casino kept others awake.

Yet another sold out Freshers' Week over, and the Ents Crew are off for a week's rest on their Caribbean island, but don't despair! We return next Wednesday for the regular free disco in The Lounge Nightclub, followed next Friday (20th) by *The Muscle Shoal*, live on stage in The Lounge. A gig *not* to be missed. Look out for the posters next week.

Finally, a big thank you to all those people who helped out last week, too numerous to mention (I can't remember all your names).



"So....eh.....what did you get for your A-Levels?"

While the European Space Agency continues to build larger multi-stage rockets to lob 13 tonne satellites into space, an alternative is being used for projects that do not need the sheer tonnage of a communications satellite. Liz Warren investigates the lure of low-cost mini-satellites, and the legal nightmare of a space bonanza.

Cheap space

There are three main approaches to launching small satellites. The first of these includes systems such as *Scout* and *LittLEO*, which rely on tried and tested solid-rocket boosters. General Technology Systems, which is about to start the design and development phase of the *LittLEO* system, estimates that it will initially be lifting up to 750kg into low earth orbit and could possibly lift up to 1250kg.

The second type of launcher aims to launch satellites from beneath the wings of a conventional aeroplane. Orbital Sciences is the chief developer of the Pegasus system, which will be launched initially from a NASA B52 bomber. The company claims that launching from high altitudes will allow Pegasus to lift twice the payload of a ground-based system and that launches will be possible from any airport capable of accommodating the launch plane. The first commercial venture is scheduled for early Autumn this year when it will launch satellites for the US Defence Advanced Research Project Agency (DAR-PA) and NASA.

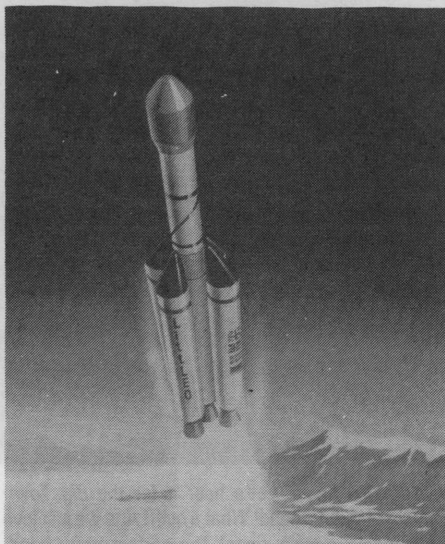
A third alternative for microsatellites, those under 150kg, is 'piggybacking' as auxiliary payloads on large commercial launchers such as American Atlas and European *Ariane* rockets. Most large rocket launchers, which can now lift three or four tons, have some spare capacity which is normally made up by ballast material. *Ariane* has developed an ASAP (*Ariane* structure for auxiliary payloads) platform which is capable of carrying six 'extra' minisatellites with the main payload.

Other aspects of cheap access to space are being investigated by Surrey University. It has set up a commercial company, Surrey Satellites, which is looking for ways to make not only the launch but the satellite itself cheaper, for example by investigating the use of off-the-shelf components in preference to more expensive high specification components.

The main issue is whether the launch systems can really deliver the performance being touted by company marketing divisions. Piggyback launchers have already proved their ability to handle microsatellites and *Arianespace* envisage up to three launch opportunities a year for small payloads. Small dedicated launchers have shown, through *Scout* for example, that they can lift microsatellites into suitable orbits. The use of conventional techniques in the larger *LittLEO* systems or the planned *Scout 2* should ensure that launches are successful.

There are doubts from all sides of the industry however about Orbital Sciences' claims for Pegasus. Dr Geoff Pardoe, Chairman of General Technology Systems reckons: 'Claims for an easy launch capability look good on paper...but it's not that simple to just take up and launch.'

Pegasus also claims that it will be able 'to deliver approximately twice the payload to orbit of an equivalent ground-launched vehicle.' As Pegasus offers up to 400kg into low earth orbit, it will soon be outstripped by the planned capability of *LittLEO* and *Scout*. Pegasus also offers up to 650kg on high speed suborbital flights which has led to speculation that one of their largest customers may prove to be the US Department of Defense.



Other problems that may arise with Pegasus particularly, and other launchers to a lesser extent, concern the legal responsibility for the satellites and launchers. Legal responsibility is enshrined in what is usually called the United Nations Outer Space Treaty. This states that 'there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies' and that 'there shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space'.

Despite this, only three nations, the USA, the UK and Sweden, have acted on any national legislation governing space. The increase in commercial ventures involving more than one state, particularly with projects like Pegasus which Orbital Sciences hope to be able to launch from any country, means that the present legal framework will become inadequate unless the law is sorted out.

Are these launch systems competitive? Principal backers, General Technology, estimate that *LittLEO* will cost less than £10 million per launch and Pegasus is quoted at \$68 million per launch. These figures are considerably lower than using a conventional launch vehicle: it is estimated that NASA will save more than \$10 million by launching their experiments on the *Scout* small launcher. The presence of new small launchers should also alleviate the backlog and delays caused by the Space Shuttle crash.

The advent of a space plane could lead to even cheaper satellite launches and affect the market for these systems, but that is considered a long term change. General Technology estimates that it will have launched between one and two hundred *LittLEO* rockets by the time a space plane becomes viable and does not see it as a commercial threat.

The interest that the companies involved with the launchers have received shows that there is a clear market for small, cheap satellite launchers, particularly in the scientific field. All the companies involved in small satellite launches feel confident that they can achieve commercial success. Describing the *LittLEO* system, Geoff Pardoe at General Technology Systems said, 'it will be the space van of the future, and we all know what a success Ford made of their transit van.'

This Week

● Animal rights campaigners have welcomed the latest manoeuvrings of the Brussels's Eurocrats. The European Commission is to announce that it no longer requires the use of the controversial LD50 test for dangerous chemicals. The test, LD literally meaning Lethal Dose, involves exposing animal subjects to the chemical until half of them die. An alternative fixed dose test will be used in future.

Both the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection claim that this is an important step forward although there are no signs of an immediate end to animal experimentation.

● Can women working at video terminals seriously damage the health of their unborn children? It has long been suspected that the radiation emitted by such displays can damage foetuses but, as yet, there has been no conclusive evidence. The evidence may come from New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine which has set up a £2 million study of some 8000 women who regularly use computers. 800 of these will be studied closely for a year during which time, the researchers hope, at least some will become pregnant.

● Environmentalists have filed a lawsuit against the American Space Agency NASA over its Galileo probe to Jupiter. The probe, due to be launched from the Space Shuttle, contains 100kg of a Plutonium Oxide fuel which could be released into the environment in the event of a second Challenger disaster. The protestors refuse to accept NASA claims that the probability of another such accident is very low indeed.

Meanwhile in Europe, the European Space Agency's spaceplane, Hermes, has hit more conventional difficulties. It has had to be redesigned and should now be launched in 1998, three years later than originally planned. ESA is also planning a second star-mapping Hipparcus satellite to replace the one currently going around the Earth in completely the wrong orbit after its engine failed. Researchers believe Hipparcus I is still usable but with a much lower resolution.

● The LEP, the latest addition to the collection of particle colliders at CERN has produced over 4000 short-lived Z^0 particles since it was started two weeks ago. In pre-LEP times only 700 such particles had been detected in all the other colliders in the World.

● A car powered by Hydrogen gas has been revealed in Washington. The car, which is actually a modified Mercedes designed and built in Germany, was being used by the World Resources Institute to publicise a report advocating the use of Hydrogen as a fuel.

The car stores its fuel in specially designed absorbing cells and can reach a top speed of 105mph. However in the great alternative transport tradition pioneered by the Sinclair C5, it has a working range of only 75 miles.

Ashley Unitt argues that ICU should stick to helping students, not playing at politics and says that we have a lot to lose if our college reaffiliates to the National Union of Students.

NUS—no thanks

Imperial is one of only a handful of lucky colleges in this country that is not affiliated to the National Union of Students. However, this could change this year when Imperial College Union holds its planned ballot on NUS reaffiliation. I and many others believe that Imperial should not affiliate to the NUS and I'd like to tell you some of the reasons why.

If we decide to reaffiliate to the NUS, in exchange for a large slice of Imperial College Union funds every member of ICU will become a member of NUS (whether they want to or not) and will receive certain 'benefits' in return.

Up until December 1984 NUS operated a system of individual membership for students at non-affiliated colleges, but so few students joined that this became a great embarrassment to the NUS and was stopped. It is very difficult to leave NUS once you are a member, many students' unions require a two-thirds majority to disaffiliate from NUS and this is very difficult to achieve when most students are quite rightly more interested in enjoying themselves and getting a good degree than getting involved in Union affairs. Why should the activist minority be allowed to speak for and spend the money of the silent majority?

The normal NUS argument is "if you don't like NUS, join us and change it from the inside". Normal membership of NUS lasts for three years for most students so it is hard for them to change things, yet it is run by extreme left-wing professional 'students'. Twenty-eight year old Maeve Sherlock graduated in 1984 and yet is enabled by NUS regulations to continue being president up until 1990, and her predecessor, Vicky Phillips graduated in 1983 and was NUS president for five years.

What will NUS spend your money on? A hefty proportion goes on conferences. "Every conference there is intimidation and violence...Too many of the left groups use violence and aggression as a tool. These groups are grossly over-represented...The ability of ordinary delegates to participate is difficult. This emanates from the structure of debate but also from the intimidating atmosphere of Conference floor." — SDP Students. NUS shows great contempt for free speech and NUS conferences are not a safe place to be if you do not hold the 'correct' political views. Over half the delegates who attend NUS conferences are from colleges of further education and do not need to be elected, hardly 'democratic'. There are also donations to such worthy causes as miners' strike funds and the National Abortion Campaign and support for such organisations as CND and the National Lesbian Custody Campaign. NUS also refuses to condemn the IRA, however it has sent public condolences to Mairead Farrell, one of the IRA terrorists shot in Gibraltar by the SAS, and the NUS President Maeve Sherlock, is on the Editorial Board of 'Labour and Ireland' the journal of a group that supports Sinn Fein and is also a patron of the 'Time to Go' movement.

What 'benefits' will the average student get from NUS? Well there's the *National Student Magazine*, which has published such well balanced and informative articles as "Thatcherism, Vote-Catching Blood-Lust in the South Atlantic", or its forerunner *National Student* which in December 1986 published a detailed recipe for making crack which it described as "staggeringly pleasurable". NUS provide ISIC (International Student Identity Cards) which they forget to mention are available to anyone over the



'Every conference is intimidation and violence....'

age of fourteen. They also claim to provide welfare services, when in fact all they do is contact an agency or charity operating in the relevant field (eg Shelter or the Citizens' Advice Bureau), these services could be obtained independently by any students' union for only a couple of hundred pounds. They provide training for sabbatical officers for an extra cost above the standard affiliation fee, these services are widely criticised as being expensive and unprofessional, indeed Liverpool University withheld half its 1985/86 affiliation fee because of this complaint. NUS Travel went bankrupt in 1976 with debts of £50,000 and in the same year NUS sold Endsleigh Insurance to Gouda of Holland. Discounts at shops, theatres, cinemas and so forth are available to all students, not just NUS members. Finally we have the claim that NUS represents students at a national level, however their demands are so outrageous and they have so little credibility that nobody listens to them, since 1962 there has been a 35% decrease in the real level of student grants under governments of both political persuasions, hardly a successful record.

Things are different at Imperial College, and we want them to stay that way. We have an excellent welfare service, our sabbatical officers are on the whole very professional and actually care about the students instead of caring about their own political careers, we get all the discounts on offer to other students in London and we don't get extremist politics rammed down our throat. I have had friends from other London colleges who have visited Imperial and are amazed by the wealth of clubs and societies we have and the lack of left-wing propaganda.

We will have to fight this year to prevent ICU affiliating to the NUS, and as with all NUS disaffiliation and reaffiliation campaigns it is going to be dirty and it is going to be hard for us to compete against the large and professional propaganda machine. We have a lot to lose if our college reaffiliates to NUS, indeed Nigel Baker (Imperial College Union President 1988/90) has called the prospect of NUS reaffiliation 'financial suicide'. The budgets of many ICU clubs and societies have been savagely cut this year, but this is nothing to the cuts that will be necessary if we have to pay NUS affiliation fees as well.

ICU should stick to helping students, not playing at politics, and Imperial College students should have their money spent on them, not on financing the political careers of left-wing extremists.



'Most students are quite rightly more interested in enjoying themselves....than getting involved in Union affairs.'

How to be a stude (note the trendy abbreviation)

1. Stude Food

Yes indeed, apart from poverty, depression and Neighbours the thing which unites all studes is food. Unless you are an Oxford/Cambridge non-stude, then once you've finished the brown paper bag of sandwiches mummy made for your train journey to College, you are left with the realisation:

"Bugger me! No one's made my dinner" and you head for a stude kitchen. The most remarkable point of a stude kitchen is the stude fridge. No one has experienced a true anarchist state until they have shared a fridge. Many do not realise that on writing 'John Bloggs' on the side of a milk carton and putting a mark at the level of the milk, they are not saying 'This is my milk' but 'It is I who contributed this to the communal milk collection'. Anyone who puts £30 worth of goodies in a fridge not fitted with a padlock, alarm, rottweiler guard dogs and embedded in concrete is doomed to wander the kitchen for the next week saying 'Isn't that my pie/egg/butter/stuffed quail?' to which the answer is invariably 'No'.

Those experienced studes who leave hall to share flats often have equally naive ideas. Picture this: Day 1 in flat, the speaker an altruistic busy-body: 'I say chaps let's organise a cooking/washing-up rota.' Everyone else: 'Yes, yes the work will be easier if we divide it.'

A fortnight later: 'I'm not cooking tonight, I cook chicken cordon bleu, veal cutlets and nightingale's tongues, and all you bastards do is hamburgers.'

'f*** you! You always have bugger all washing up. I get tons because you all drink twice as much coffee on my days'



'f*** both of you, the kitchen is in a state anyway, I'm off to MacDonalds.'

Let's look at a standard day's food:

Breakfast: This is a piece of piss. Despite extensive stude research, it is impossible to balls up a bowl of frosties and a coffee. (Unless you guard your milk so well that you keep it long enough to become cheese.)

Lunch: Also a piece of piss. Ask yourself if you want to walk over to the flat/hall, slave too long over the stove, wolf it down, leave the washing-up until evening and still be late for your next lecture. Unless you are an obstreperous wanker the answer is no. You head for QT and have a lunch with such minimal effort that you forget that you had it.

Dinner: After a couple of weeks' grand plans of

lasagne, home-baked pies and sole a l'hollandaise you realise a) it's all too much effort and b) the more stages there are, more can go wrong and more diseases can be caught off the worksurface. Most people either go to Southside for a pint and a pizza or try a bung-it-all-in-the-pot recipe like chilli. The great thing about chilli is it's a 'left-overs dish'. Many people don't realise black puddings, orange juice, coleslaw and nuclear waste can all be put unnoticed in a chilli, because no one except a girly-pooof puts less than half a jar of chilli powder in it.

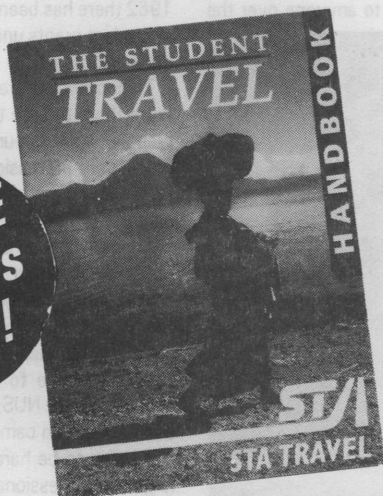
Well, I've got to go and make my free-union-card-pot-noodle now (are they deliberately trying to kill us?) so I'll sign off.

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The Delator Column

by Paul Shanley

Eyes down

Alarm Call

I was proceeding in an orderly direction down Wimbledon Broadway last Monday lunchtime. It struck me that there was a distinct lack of policemen on the beat. During my hour darting in and out of pedestrian traffic, I spotted one Bobby. One. In an hour. Not much cop is it?

Perhaps, I surmised, this was due to a large bank blag being perpetrated in Wimbledon Village. Perhaps, I pondered, this was due to large amounts of paperwork being attended to. Perhaps, I've been watching too much of *The Bill* lately...

Later, I sat down to write this week's column. Five minutes into my labours, I heard a burglar alarm go off, not far away. Pen and paper in hand, I head off to investigate. Now this has happened before—same burglar alarm, you understand (I've got such thoughtful neighbours). The last time, I reached for the telephone to ring Inspector Plod. (I'm reminded at this point by a standard letter I received from Wimbledon CID last time my car got broken into. The letter ends—"If you require the police in an emergency, dial 999". The author of this amazing piece of text was presumably on secondment from Viz, but I digress). On ringing the emergency services last time, they informed me that unless the alarm had just gone off, they couldn't do anything and in any case, I should contact my local Police station.

This time, I pre-empted them by ringing Wimbledon nick first. I was placed in a call queueing system similar to that used by the standard role model of efficiency, British Rail. My time in the queue was interrupted at two minute intervals by a very bored voice—"Sorry to keep you". After the seventh one of these, I decided I had been kept long enough and hung up. Time for Plan B—Ring the big boys. My 999 request was met with—"We'll send someone round straight away." The alarm went off at 2.50. The 999 call was logged at 3.06. One policeman arrived, mercifully not on his pushbike, at ten past four.

Now I'm not Agatha Christie. I don't even possess a doctorate in criminology. But I do know this. Any intruder breaking in to that property could have ransacked the house, made himself a cup of tea, watched *The Young Doctors* and still made it over the back fence before the Boys in Blue arrived.

So, why the delay in responding to what is potentially a call requiring a rapid response? The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (PACE), amongst its many features calls for the prioritising of crimes. This means that, rightly or wrongly, bank robberies are considered a higher priority crime than an old lady having her house burgled. Maybe this section of PACE has now been extended to cover not only the allocation of precedence to clearing-up crimes but also to response speed of reported incidents. I hope I'm wrong. Meanwhile, the alarm bells keep ringing.



Private Eye appears to have taken a step nearer its attempt to quash the record damages set against it in the high court several months ago. The apparent back-down of Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of 'The Yorkshire Ripper', in last week's appeal action seems to have added more weight to their request for a retrial.

There are clearly two issues at stake here—one on each side. The damages awarded to Mrs Sutcliffe are artificially high. They are damages that have been set by a jury influenced by awards made to Jeffrey Archer, Elton John and other victims of the tabloid press. The *Private Eye* libel, if indeed there was one, differs in that it has not wrecked someone's marriage or career. The harm done to Mrs Sutcliffe's reputation has arguably not been caused by the libel, it has been caused by the publicity surrounding her decision to take the matter to court.

The damages are way out of proportion with what the paper can reasonably be expected to afford. When *The Sun* commits a defamatory act it can afford to pay the cost because it has a readership of 5 million daily. *The Eye*, on the other hand, has a circulation

of 100,000 per fortnight. Quite a contrast.

In addition to what the paper can afford, there is also a moral issue when comparing the high court award with the amount of compensation given to the rape victims of her imprisoned husband.

That concludes the case for the defence. However, there's another side to the coin. *Private Eye* has always sailed pretty close to the wind. That is how it has made its name. It is guilty this time of gross naïvety in repeating the allegations despite being aware of the legal action pending for the original article.

On a commercial level, it is guilty on a further count of stubbornness. Former editor Richard Ingrams, and Peter Cook—both major shareholders—refuse to relinquish control of *The Eye* by floating a percentage of shares on the Stock Exchange. This would recoup this, and any future, libel damages in one fell swoop. It seems that Lord Gnome and his faithful team would rather see the organ fold than abnegate their proprietorship. If that makes sound financial sense, then I'm a banana.

Open secret Easy rider

I had to admit to a wry smile last week on hearing that a senior Sheffield official had been telephoned by Special Branch to aid in the vetting of a sabbatical officer. This, it would transpire, is not uncommon. MI5 headquarters at Curzon Street hold the details of about a million individuals in their database. All sabbatical officers are entered on such files, as a matter of course. That's not the funny part. What amuses me is that even though the story was relayed to me first hand, I've since spoken to half a dozen other people who had also heard it. It's refreshing to know that even in these post-Spycatcher days, the security organisations of the country, as well as those at Imperial, are still keeping up their high standards of secrecy.

News reaches my ears that Union Manager, Dave Peacock is practising for a new career as a National Hunt jockey. 'Peaky', as he is known to his friends, was riding through Hyde Park recently admiring all The Queen's horses (and all the Queen's men). Unable to contain himself any longer, Peaky's normally sober steed broke into full gallop. Luckily, a nearby policeman was on hand to pull him to one side and issue a stiff caution. Rumours that the Union Bookstore is to start a new line in sugar cubes, blinkers and horseshoes are said to be completely unfounded.

Ben Hardy-Smith is 94.

Harlington horror

Many freshers who attended trials at Harlington last week will have been shocked at what they saw there. Many 'experienced' students at IC will also have been shocked and saddened. The reason—what appears to be the terminal destruction of our playing fields. The explanation—money.

Harlington playing fields were built on a thick base of gravel. That gravel is worth many millions of pounds. *Streeters*, experts in the field of gravel extraction, have been contracted to remove the gravel. For this, someone in College will receive up to £3 million. After much argument and debate in Sydney Harbour-Bridge's (name changed to draw attention to himself) year as Union President, we have now been assured that these monies will be spent to benefit student sport and athletic clubs at Imperial College. Fine?

No. *Streeters* ARE experts in their field. But to my knowledge, and I have inquired, they have never had to work under sports playing fields before. Their experience is working agricultural land. They have won awards for the land that they have relaid after their work. And after being given a personal tour by our dedicated groundsmen at Harlington, of the area

that has been completed and relaid, *Streeters* should certainly win an award for that too. Because we have the flattest cabbage field I've even seen, and I've seen a few of them. It's probably great for corn too. However, it is rubbish for hockey and cricket, the two sports for which that section of ground was to be used.

The pitches already relaid were intended for use *this year*. They are clearly not ready. Many student representatives had warned Imperial College that this would be the case for several years now. Their comments have been ignored by those handling the contract from the IC end. The result is the loss of all but one hockey pitch, one rugby pitch and two spare soccer pitches.

Streeters are clearly not meeting their obligations with regard to the Harlington contract, and the reinstatement of pitches has been mismanaged. College must be made to realise that their students are suffering as a result of the delays. I anticipate that much of my time this year will be spent dealing with this matter.

More fun next week.

Benj Turner, Athletics Clubs Committee Chairman.

Lesbian and Gay

Having had six years of the 'ins and outs' of being gay at IC, I thought I would write a few words for all of you arriving here unsure of how to tackle your sexuality. Life at IC for, unfortunately, the majority centres around the various College bars. With this tends to go the associated sexism and bigotry of a virtually all-male bar environment.

Such attitudes are driven by the participants own sexual frustrations and insecurities, and should therefore be ignored when making decisions about your own life.

There are many people at IC who genuinely believe that homosexuality is unnatural. It is through contact with lesbians and gay men who are positive about their own sexuality that the attitudes of these people can be changed.

In the long run it will be much better for you to come to terms with your sexuality; accept it and 'come out'. The feelings of inner strength, self-respect and security that come from this seemingly impossible act are very real indeed. Most of the excuses voiced, internally or otherwise, tend to be of the form "What would X do/think/say" (for X read mother, father, friends, etc). Although it is very easy to pose and answer these questions (usually negatively) most friends and relatives when presented with the facts change their long unquestioned attitudes. In some cases there are real difficulties involved in coming out, but whatever the case either the Union's or ULU's Lesbian and Gay Welfare Officer should be able to offer support and advice. At present the Union post is vacant but will soon be filled. Until then the ULU Lesbian and Gay Group meets on Thursdays in ULU and is a very easy group to attend. It is also far enough away from College for the less secure amongst you to stand virtually no chance of meeting acquaintances!

Big Mac calls EGM

The issue of loans has reared its ugly head again after a long time of being out of the public eye.

On Friday 20th October, the White Paper on student loans will be coming up for discussion in the House of Commons. There has been little change in the paper since its introduction in November 1988, though there have been several feasibility reports on how to run the loans scheme.

An Emergency General Meeting (EGM) has been called to publicise the continuing action of Imperial

College Union and to explain to those students who don't already know the consequences of the introduction of the present proposed loan scheme. This will take place in the JCR on Tuesday 17th October at 1pm.

The introduction of loans has serious consequences for all students. Whether you're for or against the White Paper in its present form, it will financially cripple students in London and should not be accepted therefore. Come along and find out.

Parking permit lottery winners

Bribe cheques to be made payable to N. McCluskey, c/o IC Union.

The cars with the following registration numbers have been awarded parking permits. Please collect permits from the Union Office by 5pm, Friday 20th October. Any permits not collected by this time will be awarded to persons on the reserve list. A deposit of £5 will be required.

N.B. —/— donotes joint application.

A684 WTN	C932 WLN
UTT 677X	A671 DDC
ORA 312W	TU-53-79
PRW 594W	EOU 263W
C511 PPG	D554 YLX
TOM 337S	WLM 206X
MYT 698X	200D 127
B869 KPF/C433 ULA	EYH 981V
GCP 4W	PJE 731R
E523 LER/SBH 911W	DAD 109T
D372 CLK	E595 TKL
RIM 85W	F363 SAY

EPL 216J/FGO 511X	C998 BFK
B824 YGJ	G409 WLY
TMT 275S	C886 CYT
B280 LBY	LGN 508V
A98 HVU	NPE 121W
JLR 768V	B927 ANS
XLT 717S	FUS 820T
C259 OYD	BGC 504X
B866 YGP/RYN 485Y	DAR 165T
A193 MBA	D787 EYO
A806 GBY	EKL 410Y
XHX 631T	NYU 277Y
F928 RYE	E185 FHO
ANM 747X	VPD 372X
A278 OOT	A180 FPK
APK 192Y	F789 RUV
MFS 602X	SMF 824M
D777 JHV	RFT 162Y
JRX 465W	EMB 80Y
RAD 835	B91 NPD

LGC 770T	A510 GLP
NBW 234W	VIJ 323
GT-H-588	E657 AGC
JGT 939Y	TKK 288N
XEB 104T	C738 ULY
SGH 690V	B224 AJN
PBY 625W	RMD 484Y
B94 OLT	YPV 125Y
CLD 732Y	UKK 631X
OGD 912W	UKX 528N
BOO 593T/LHK 533V	E311 LJD
YEV 133X	E975 MOU
B360 VYO	A570 SLD
OGT 123V	B831 SVG
WOO 44SS	WLF 241X
ACN 83V	SVW 672W
XHJ 847X	PYH 730Y
UNR 792S	NM5
LYH 378X	NYW 841Y
NWT 787V	

Lawn Tennis

So many of you have enquired about what membership of the club entitles you to, so here are the main details you need to know.

Membership of the club allows play on the two tennis courts adjacent to Prince's Gardens. The availability of these courts is controlled by weekly booking sheets to be found in the Sports Centre, which are posted every Monday. To book a court, enter your name and membership number in the desired time slot on the sheet. No more than two consecutive hours may be booked. Any booking without a membership number will be scrapped as of next week—so do not say you have not been warned!

Team practice is on Sundays at 1pm, so if you haven't been to a trial yet, this Sunday is your last chance. We have club afternoons on Wednesdays—this is for social rather than competitive play.

We are arranging coaching for beginners commencing in about ten days time. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible as we can only accommodate the first fifteen people who apply for the first coaching session.

To join the club find us on the courts on Wednesdays or Sundays, or send your name and department with a cheque for £5.00 made out to 'ICUACC' to Samia Saad, Biochem 3, via the departmental pigeonholes. A receipt and membership card will be returned as soon as possible.

The club also has six grass courts at Harlington and club members will be notified in the summer term about when these are available.

See you on the courts!

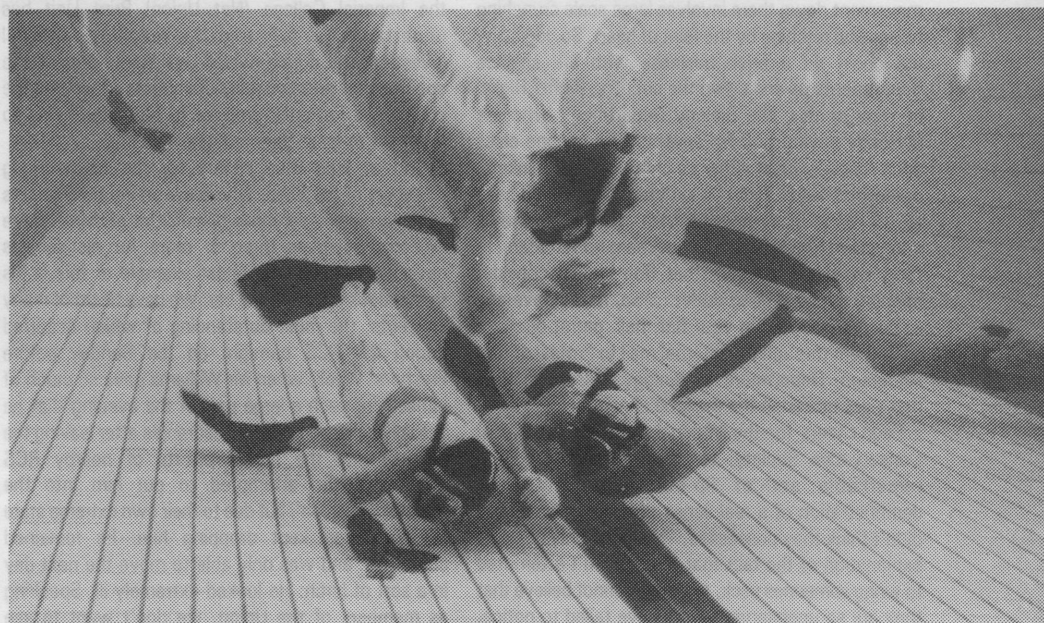
Octopush

The game of Octopush bares some distant resemblance to ice hockey but is played in a swimming pool. The goals (Gulls) are troughs placed on the pool bottom at each end of the playing area. The puck (Squid) is an 80mm dia x 30mm thick disc of lead. The stick (Pusher) is quite short (250-340mm long).

The game commences by placing the puck in the centre of the playing area. The two teams then converge from opposite ends of the playing area and try to propel the squid using only their pushers (not their hands or heads etc!) into the other team's gull.

There is an official book of rules (even though many players do not appear to have even looked at the first page) which basically outlaws all those rugby tackles, adjustments of other players' equipment during play etc.

The sport of Octopush, also known as Underwater Hockey, originated in the UK in 1954 by Southsea BSAC (British Sub Aqua Club), as a 'fun exercise in the winter'. The first rules were issued in 1967 and the British Octopush Association evolved in 1976. The game is now international with 2,500 males and females alone playing in the UK.



Once a goal is scored each team returns to its own end of the pool and the game is restarted as before. Play continues for 15 minutes, there is then a break at half time and then play is restarted for the second half. If the bar is already open the duration of play may be shortened to allow more drinking time.

If you would like to have a go turn up on a Tuesday or Thursday at 8pm at the Sports Centre pool with a mask, snorkel and fins (if you have them). Beginners are welcome as long as you can swim.

Scuba

Diving appeals to everyone wanting that little bit more out of life than the ordinary everyday existence. Not only does diving provide adventure, but it gives a purpose to holidays which others, less fortunate, have to spend just lying on a beach.

Diving is exciting, it's different and it's not difficult. Modern diving equipment is light, comfortable to wear and easy to use. But you must know what to do, so come along to the Underwater Club. We will provide free training so you can dive safely. Come along to an introductory meeting on Tuesday 10th October in Biology room W2 (just through Beit Arch on your left) and to the 'Try an Aqualung' session on Thursday 12th October to see if you really like it.

Alternatively contact either David Roberts, Physics 3 or James Derry, Chem Eng 2 via the pigeonholes.

Gliding

For a week at the end of August glider pilots representing Universities and Polytechnics from all over the country come together to compete in a battle of wits and skill at the 1989 Inter-University Task Week. Imperial College Gliding Club (ICGC) co-hosted this year's event with Surrey University Gliding Club at our mutual base, Larham Airfield.

Larham, a tiny village nestled in the unsuspecting Hampshire countryside, is the site for one of the largest gliding airfields in the country. ICGC rents a

bunk-house on the airfield and this was to be home to nine pilots during the week; the rest of the competitors slept in tents or caravans.

The weather was good enough to allow competitive flying nearly all week and several remarkable flights were made. In particular the Imperial College team entry, with Martin Jadcins in command, achieved a handicapped distance of nearly 300 kilometres in a two-seater training glider. This flight was to lead directly to their victory in the wooden glider class.

Imperial College was represented in the glass-fibre glider class by Nick Law, the ICGC captain. Although he did not win he distinguished himself by reaching some of the more inaccessible parts of the country and then landing there.

As well as the flying there was a treasure hunt car rally and plenty of evenings in the bar recounting the day's adventures. Gliding appears to share some of the characteristics of fishing in this respect: as the beer flows events become more and more dramatic.

If you would like to compete in next year's Task Week, or just find out what a glider is, come along to one of our regular meetings on Thursday at 5.30pm in Aero 254. See you there.

Water Polo

Well you've blown it now (as the actress said to the Bishop). Both free introductory swimming and water polo sessions are over.

But don't despair, if you haven't come along yet and want to swim or play polo you can still join in. The club will still give you one free training session, although the Sports Centre swimming charge will now apply.

The club is open to everyone; students, staff, union life-time members, AIFS etc. Membership is £5 for students and AIFS and £10 for everyone else.

The club is also operating a discounted Speedo swimwear service, so if you want any equipment contact us asap via departmental pigeonholes: Malena Zubcov, Chem 2 or Chris Cox, Mech Eng 3.

PS. All ladies—due to response we are trying to organise a women only water polo session on Wednesday evenings, between 6.30 and 7.30pm. Anyone interested should contact Malena Zubcov, Chem 2.

We present a completely unbiased and accurate view of recent events, as seen through the worm's eye of five year *FELIX* hack Andy Bannister, who isn't really afraid of libel actions, slander suits, or having knots tied in his extremities by the Rector's heavy mob...

We all know that Imperial College is built on a network of tunnels, right? And we all know that where you find tunnels, you find cockroaches, right? In fact the tunnels we live on top of are crawling with the things; movement down there involves large scale crunching noises and retching by the faint of heart. So, logically, we could do a brisk business with life science departments up and down the country. Right? Right. In view of this, the Biology Department, who are currently paying £60 for seventy of someone elses adult roaches, must either be brilliant lateral thinkers, or real dickheads. Right? It isn't as if they would have to go far to find them; A visit to Rob Northey's kitchens in Sherfield would set them up for years. In fact, we might suggest that Rob should consider opening a new trading outlet.... So, if you have any spare cockroaches in your flat, hall, garret or slum; send them through the internal mail to Professor Roy Anderson, Department of Biology. Assuming they don't get nicked in the mail, he should be delighted.

Four cheers for the Imperial College (Not Union) Conservative Society, for their performance of a remarkable act of lip-buttoning, and their demonstration of a real sense of humour which we didn't think they possessed. This is the only possible explanation of the fact that they haven't attempted to wring someones neck, since we cannot believe that they are so unobservant as to have failed to notice. Notice what? Oh, well if you look at the front of about one third of the booklets the little darlings gave out

to the poor unsuspecting Freshers, you will find that some naughty person has added the word 'Fascisti' to the Imperial College Crest. Who it was, we have no idea, but we would like to reassure our readers that the Imperial College (Not Union) Print Unit has undertaken a full and far-reaching internal investigation, during which we found forty-three cockroaches and two pairs of scissors. If we find the culprit, we faithfully promise to be quite unkind to them for at least five minutes.

And at least five cheers for the hardworking members of the Exec, who are working their fingers to the bone on everyones behalf. Out of those, Dave Williams deserves three or more for his selfless devotion to duty. The latest example of this is his tremendous efforts in the bar. We have heard of many incidents, the most outstanding of which occurred during the RCS barnight on the Sunday before Freshers' Week, when Mr Williams gave so much of himself for such a large part of the evening that he actually collapsed in Beit Quadrangle after leaving the bar. Despite the heroic efforts of nearby RCS members, who attempted to put him into the 'recovery position', but due to their own extreme state of exhaustion kept dropping him, he remained comatose, and was only able to move the next day in a sort of lurch: He looked extremely ill. Speaking as members of the Union, we don't want to see people making themselves ill by overworking on our behalf. Of course, it might just be that Dave's problem

ACID DROPS

is that he is a total pisshead of the first order, mightn't it?

Dear, sweet, gentlemanly old John Smith, that most mild mannered and diplomatic of college secretaries, has been about to leave Imperial College for so long that few of us really believe he will ever go. Nonetheless, one day soon he will, and a number of Sherfield officios (and fascisti?) will find their lives suddenly become quite exciting. It is a known and unspoken fact that Mr Smith is a form of job-security for quite a few admin bods who don't exactly get on too well with the Rector. In short, when he leaves, heads will roll. This may lead some of them to have a go at beating Eric Ash to the draw, which brings us to the Registrar, Peter Mee. Rumour has it that he intends to leave with Mr Smith. As for the possibility that if he didn't, he'd get the sack at Mach four, we can neither confirm or deny.

We can confirm, in the interest of ending with a touch of humour, that the esteemed Rob Northey, doubtless bored with his burger and cockroach outlets, applied for John Smith's job! Unfortunately we don't know what the Rector said when he heard, but we do know that Rob didn't get the job, which probably bodes well for the future of the College, and may indicate that the Honourable Rector is learning sense. Either that, or he recognizes a climber when he sees one, and fears for his own position? Now that would be something....

Andy Bannister.

The first correct entry out of the Editor's hat will win a crisp £5 note

Double your grant—win a fiver

In a parallel universe not so very far away, the freshers are arriving at the Metric College.

By an amazing coincidence, a copy of Metric's student magazine *Mickey* has fallen through a hole in the Space-Time continuum (left after maintenance repaired the roof) and landed in the *FELIX* Office.

We were surprised to learn that their sabbaticals are also called Neil, Di, Fiona and Dave.

We were more surprised to learn that their surnames were McCluskey, Williams, Nicholas and Smedley and we were positively flabbergasted to learn that, like our own sabs, one was fond of a bit of dance, one was female, one was Welsh and one smoked like a chimney.

By carefully reading between the lines (it's a side-effect of using parallel printing presses) we found that;

- 1. Their Fiona is President and widely believed to be female.
- 2. Their DP has been seen doing the two-step.
- 3. Di McCluskey is in fact Irish.
- 4. Neither Williams or the Hon Sec smoke.
- 5. Neither Mr Williams or Mr Nicholas is editor of the magazine
- 6. Dave and their DP are the best of friends.

But who are Metric College Union's President, Deputy President, Honorary Secretary and *Mickey* Editor and what are thier quirks?

A diagram like this may help:

	Neil	Di	Fiona	Dave	President	DP	Hon Sec	Editor	Dancer	Welsh	Female	Smokes
McC												
Williams												
Nicholas												
Smedley												
Dancer												
Welsh												
Female												
Smokes												
President												
DP												
Hon Sec												
Editor												

Entries to
FELIX Office
by Wednesday

Royal College of Science Union

CAREERS FORUM

6.30pm,
Tuesday 24th October
Senior Common Room
Sherfield

An ideal opportunity to meet people from a broad spectrum of the industrial, commercial and managerial world, able to offer objective advice regarding jobs, careers and prospects in your particular field.

An informal buffet supper will be served, at a cost of £2.50 and a cash bar will be available.

Bookings should be made at the Old Students' Association Office, Room 303, Sherfield, by Friday 20th October.

Apologies please

Dear Mr Smedley,

I am writing to ask that you publish an apology in the next issue of FELIX to Dr Jan Bradley, the previous warden of Willis Jackson House. In the article that appeared on the back page of your recent issue, your paper misquotes my recent telephone conversation with one of your reporters and hence imparts part of the blame for the overspend of our amenities account on Jan Bradley. In the telephone conversation I recall, I stated that the overspend was not as high as £750, but more like £550, owing to the fact that the accounts department had mixed up account numbers between Linstead (Jan's new tenure) and Willis Jackson, and some of their expenditure had been charged to our account. I have now recouped this 'lost' income. As a point of fact, which you may quote me on, Jan left the Willis Jackson amenities account in good shape with a small surplus. I do sincerely hope you will recognise the anxiety caused to Jan by your misinterpretation of facts and redress the slur to her excellent stewardship of Willis Jackson House as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Joe Cartwright.

I have spoken to the reporter in question, who assures me that you did say the Willis Jackson account was in debt. I feel that you owe Jan Bradley an apology. FELIX did not misquote you; you have entirely altered what you said with the benefit of hindsight.

I must also assume that you admit to my accusations of your creaming it off the students in your care, since you have failed to raise this point in your letter.

Ed.

A concert to help Chinese people...

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

In aid of The Chinese Students Relief Association

7.30pm

Sunday October 15th 1989

Great Hall, Imperial College

£5.00 (£2.50 for students)

Fa-Fa Jin conducts

a selection of music by

Tchaikovsky, Vaughan-Williams, Chopin, Shostakovich, A'Bing

You can obtain tickets by sending a cheque (payable to CSRA) and a SAE to 24 Courtside, Dartmouth Road, London SE26 4RE. Tickets are also available from the Union Office, Beit Quad, the Hub Office in Sherfield and IC Union Book Store.

Malcolm denies all

Dear Dave,

Olave House

I fear that your front page article gives a very misleading impression about the College's proposals for the management of Olave House. The editorial makes matters worse. (FELIX 844, Friday 6th October.)

The College will honour its promise and the Rector has specifically asked me to say that he has personally always insisted that Olave House be kept entirely separate from other residences. The purchase of Olave House will not result in rent increases for other residences. I thought I had made this clear when you interviewed me last week.

The Olave House accounts are maintained in a watertight compartment, preventing cross subsidy by other residences. The effectiveness of these arrangements will be plainly visible to the elected student representatives on the Students Residence Committee, just as it is at present for Wilson House.

It is most important that your readers—and their elected representatives—appreciate that there is much more to the Students Residence Committee than determination of rents. There are many issues of general management and because the same organisation is used to manage Olave House, head tenancies and Wilson House as College halls and houses obviously there are some issues which affect them all.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Aldridge,

Rector replies

Dear Dave,

I had missed your comment on the students from China in the Freshers' edition. It was only when, in the last issue, I read your apology (for which of course I am grateful), for having called me a 'conniving git', that I looked back and found it.

The impression you have of the economics of recruiting overseas students is widely held—but factually wrong. In the case of an overseas student the financial contribution comes in the form of fees. It is important to appreciate that these cover only about 75% of the actual cost, the rest being contributed by the UK taxpayer. In the case of UK students only a small part of the financial contribution is in the form of fees—the remainder is paid as a component of the block grant which we receive from the UFC. The situation is complicated, not least due to the fact that our UFC block grant is devised on a formula which is not revealed. However we know enough. Looked at purely as a financial proposition, the College is no better off by recruiting one additional person from Beijing than from Brighton.

Our aspirations in recruiting students are simple to state: we want the best.....

Yours sincerely,
With kind regards,
Eric Ash.

Common sense

Dear Dave,

I am writing to you to highlight what I feel is a growing and disturbing trend at IC, namely the growing extremism of the various political groups. It's hard to know who to start with but it's certainly easiest to start with the Imperial College Conservative Society. They obviously feel that to use the word 'Union' in their title (or in their handbook, or on the disclaimer for the above 'fascisti' organ from Imperial College Union Publications) would taint their bluer than blue, "We love the PM" image. This is despite the fact that they are part of the Union and their operations are funded by the Union.

It is interesting to note that the Government which they so adore has recently commissioned a survey to investigate student unions' spending on political activities. Unfortunately this survey found that student unions only spend around 0.5% of their turnover on political activities, so the DES buried the idea. Either way, Consoc are spending the Union's money promoting their own political garbage, money which could be better spent elsewhere. They are not the only culprits; Socialist Workers Student Society are just as bad, only they try to paint the world a different colour.

There is a lot currently happening in the student world, and we will all be worse off if either of these groups (or any like them) attempt to hijack things on the external front. One suggestion is to round them all into a field and nuke the bastards, but this is not the way of moderation. It is my belief that a student union should have no set political affiliation (IC Conservative Society believe in a national body of students but not the NUS, maybe because the NUS support the Labour party and not the glorious blues) but should decide its political stance as and when student issues occur, and represent the feelings of the students at that time. This is particularly relevant now, as we are having a referendum on the NUS this year, which both factions will try to bully in on, and, as they are not that keen to recognise their membership of the union, kicking their societies out of it would probably do everyone a favour, so that everyone else can get on with some sensible (and legal) campaigning on issues such as financial support and welfare for students. As you may have gathered, I am neither a 'leftie' or a 'Thatcherite' but rather someone with a bit of common sense and, while I would be the first to agree that there can be no way that our union can be 'apolitical' and stick its head in the sand, common sense should prevail.

Yours sincerely,
Hal Calamvokis.

OLD CENTRALIANS
invite you to a

Careers Reception for Graduating Students

6.00-8.30pm, Thursday 19 October
Senior Common Room, Sherfield

This is an ideal opportunity to discuss career prospects in most engineering disciplines and management, with OCs and their guests. Wine and light refreshment will be served. Tickets are free to members and £1 for non-members, and should be obtained from the Old Students' Association Office (Room 303, Sherfield) by Tuesday 17th October)

What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND IMPERIAL COLLEGE

FRIDAY

Rag Meeting.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.

Friday Prayers.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.

Swimming Training.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.

Water Polo Session.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.

Dramsoc Production.....8.00pm
Union Concert Hall. 'Huis Clos'—A post-view of Dramsoc's Edinburgh 89 smash hit. Tickets on the door £2.50 or £2.00 for Dramsoc members.

IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm
Southside.

Latin American Soc Party.....8.30pm
Senior Common Room, 1st Floor Union Building.

SATURDAY

RAG Monopoly.....10.00am
Meet in Union Snack Bar. Bring your A-Z and wear fancy dress. All in aid of MENCAP.

Karate Practice.....10.00am
Southside Gym.

CathSoc Pub Crawl.....7.00pm
Meet in Southside Bar for 10 pub tour.

SUNDAY

Wargames Meeting.....1.00pm
Union Common Room. All welcome for role playing and wargames.

MONDAY

RockSoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of Rock Music? Come along and have a beer.

Beginners Ballroom.....6.00pm
JCR. Dance Club.

Beginners Rock 'n' Roll.....6.45pm
Lounge or SCR.

Swimming Training.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.

Advanced Ballroom.....7.00pm
JCR.

WellSoc Lecture Meeting.....7.30pm
Physics LT1. Imperial College HG Wells Society present a talk by Rev. Polkinghorne, Author of 'The Quantum World'. Membership £1.50.

Karate Practice.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.

Water Polo Session.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.

Latin American Dance.....7.45pm
Lounge or SCR. All levels.

Medals in Ballroom.....8.00pm
JCR.

TUESDAY

Debsoc Cheese & Wine.....12.45pm
Union Dining Hall. Will include debating competition.

Ents Meeting.....1.00pm
The Lounge. All welcome.

Canoe Club.....6.00pm
Beit Quad for swimming pool session. And after in Southside upstairs lounge.

Judo.....6.30pm

Union Gym.

Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm

JCR. Dance Club

Beginners Ballroom.....8.00pm

JCR.

WEDNESDAY

Wargames Meeting.....1.00pm

Union Common Room. All welcome for role playing and wargames.

Intermediate Rock'n'Roll.....2.15pm

SCR. Dance Club.

Ten Pin Bowling.....2.20pm

Meet outside Chem Eng/Aero.

Jazz Dance.....3.15pm

SCR.

Free Disco.....9.00pm

The Lounge 'Nightclub' until 1.00am.

THURSDAY

Balloon Club Meeting.....1.00pm

Southside Upper Lounge. Come and sign up for weekends in the clouds.

Judo.....6.30pm

Union Gym.

Film 'Blues Brothers'.....7.00pm

Mech Eng 220. IC FilmSoc. 50p to members, £1.50 others.

Karate Practice.....7.30pm

Southside Gym.

IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm

Next to Southside Bar.

ICAG Soup Run.....9.00pm

Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.



Play the World's most popular board game on the world's biggest game board



**Teams of 4 to 6
Meet in the Snack Bar
10am Saturday 14th**

MENCAP COLLECTION

NEXT FRIDAY

Rag Meeting.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.

Friday Prayers.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.

Swimming Practice.....6.30pm
See Monday's entry.

LIVE BAND.....??

"The Muscle Shoal" play live in the Lounge. Late bar and disco. See Ents Committee for details.

Water Polo Session.....7.30pm

See Monday's entry.

IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm

Southside.

Small Ads

ADVERTISE IN THE FELIX SMALL ADS SECTION **FREE** IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **ICU Amnesty International** Group—There will be an introductory meeting and video on Tuesday 17th October in the Brown Committee Room at 5.30pm. We will be taking membership afterwards.

● **Imperial College Jewish Society** meeting on Nazi War Criminals by Dave Herman. Tuesday 17 October, 1.30pm, Union SCR.

● **Join Micro Club**—contact Raju Raymond (Mech Eng 3) or Neil Humphrey (Physics 3). Atari ST, BBC Micro, QL, and soon an Amiga.

● **Receding Hairline?** Captain Ego can show you how (College Radio and Pictures).

● **Hell For Three.** A coward, frustrated lesbian and nymphomaniac child murrers together forever! 'Outstanding' Review 89. 8pm Concert Hall tonight. See Dramsoc's smash hit.

● **To John & Carol**—congratulations on a year without major incidents. May all your future troubles be little ones. Rob & Pete.

● **Thanks** to everyone who helped count on Saturday—Love Rag.

● **Virgin** footballers and experienced ladies for IC ladies football. Contact Debbie Williams (Life Sci 3) via pigeonholes.

● **Band members wanted**—lead, bass guitar and drummer. Contact David Foster, Falmouth Keogh Hall, Princes Gardens.

FOR SALE

● **22 inch** frame, men's general purpose 10 speed racing bike. £40.00 ono. Contact CJ Eddy, Elec Eng 4.

PERSONAL

● **Wot No Hat**, Kevin McCann!

● **Where** did you get that hat, where did you get that hat, that hat?—The Union bar of course!

● **Lost**, C&G Hat, complete with beer mat accessories, perhaps Rag could benefit? Contact Felix....

● **Putting** on my top hat, putting on my tails, but Kev McCann isn't he?

● **For Auction**, one 2nd hand hat, several careful owners (apart from Kevin McCann), all contributions to Rag, gratefully received, contact Felix.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Vacancies**—3 flats for 6 people, 1 double, 1 male required to share double, 1 female required to share double. Rent £42 per week each, will consider single applications or groups. Phone Matthew Bridgwater on 748 0588 or int 6825.

Apology

It has been brought to our attention that Pauline Clerk, who was referred to as 'Conference Organiser' in the News Review of Issue 844, is in fact Accommodation Lettings Organiser. FELIX would like to apologise for this hideous slur on the Conference Centre, which is, after all, a good upstanding organisation within College, intent only on ripping student residences off rather than flooding them. It has also come to our attention that they are kind to animals.



Student Loans

Next week is a black week for students. The Government's plans for 'Top up loans for students' will be discussed in the House of Commons on Thursday. This will be the beginning of the end of higher education as we now know it. Since last year's student demonstrations, the press has defiantly ignored the issue and will continue to until it can pounce on a student versus police 'bloodbath' story. What disgusts me most is the bandwagon approach which is being taken up by some magazines. I received a 'Time Out' press release this week, which dutifully informed me of how outspoken the student special had been on the subject of student loans. Of course it was; Time Out was all too happy to make an attempt at a 'one of the students,' approach in order to increase its student readership. But how much do the taxpaying top dogs at Time Out care? Damn all, I would say. I predict that they will give little coverage to the matter from now on. Don't forget that the Time Out student special which we all received was not on general circulation: it was preaching to the converted with no danger of offending a regular readership.

Come on Time Out; give us more coverage in regular issues if you want us to buy you.

With the subject of student loans and preaching to the converted I should like to make a plea to everybody. Don't just sit on your backside in the vain hope that you won't have to take out a student loan; many of you will. The scheme is expected to start in 1990/91. Its effects include a halt in the inflationary increase in the student grant and the abolition of benefits for students. This means that you, yes YOU, will see your grant rapidly devaluing with an instant loss of Housing Benefit during term time and income support during the summer. If you don't want to see yourself and your predecessors in debt to the government for years to come, write to your MP, and above all tell your parents and their friends how serious the situation is. The first step you can take is to attend next Tuesday's emergency general meeting in the JCR and discuss the Union's action on loans for this year.

As a final comment on the matter I suppose I ought to add the solution to 'active or passive student resistance,' to loans, which Price Waterhouse suggest in their feasibility study: 'careful marketing.'

Life Science department

Closer to home, I would like to know what the Life Science department thinks it is playing at with undergraduate timetables. Almost every Life Scientist I know has complained to me of the incompetence of the department in this area (other areas will be mentioned next week.) Yet again they have timetabled work during Wednesday afternoons, and the rest of the week is just one huge guessing game. Students are being expected to come into College with no idea of when or where their lectures are likely to be and to happily trot around at the beck and call of academic staff. This is not good enough. The department will inevitably claim that this is just a one off occasion, but it is not. They have messed their

students around for the three years I have been here and I have yet to hear anything other than a pile of feeble excuses and a heap of bureaucratic crap at the College's Board of Studies. If I had to blame one person it would have to be Professor Anderson. This man receives this weeks 'conniving git,' award for long term conniving and sheer officiousness. Most of the students in the Life Sciences division will not have met him, since he does not deign to speak to mere mortals. In the past he has been a large part of the drive to eat away at the student union areas for his department (well its research actually) and has refused to meet with Union Presidents over the matter. He has little thought for the students in his department and is the prime candidate for the 'still in his job because he's been here so long,' award. I look forward to his retirement.

Weeks Hall lift

At last we have the name of one of those elusive men in the heavens of the College's estates section: Mr P Burrige. He was the man responsible for everybody who had to carry all of their belongings up the stairs in Weeks Hall during Freshers week. Having hired Sundance and Co. (yes they have returned), he was obviously quite happy to let them take their time over installing the lift in Weeks. Maybe he should have been in Weeks hall to help everybody carry their suitcases up to the top floor, instead of sitting on his backside in Sherfield whilst the boys from the magnolia stuff drank tea and searched for the bit they had lost from the lift.

Meeting

There will be a meeting at 1pm today and a cheese and wine this evening at 7.30pm in the office. If you fancy getting involved, please come along.

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ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS OFFERED A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH ICI OVER CHRISTMAS

The career opportunities for graduates in the 1990's seem to be becoming increasingly diverse. As a result, more and more students are looking for their first job within organisations that are international, flexible, competitive and world leaders in technical innovation.

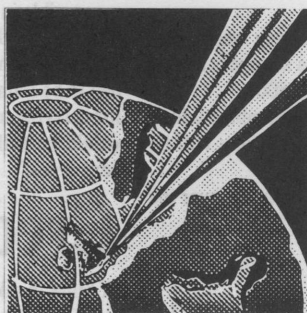
With so much to look for, it is an advantage to get an early introduction to such an organisation and meet the people within it.

ICI's engineering Christmas courses provide the ideal opportunity to find out more about the people and careers in Chemical, Mechanical and Control/Electrical engineering.

Come along to our presentation on **Monday 16th October at 6pm** in the **Sherfield Building Ante Room**, where you can meet ICI engineers and get an insight to the Christmas courses and the careers they describe.

The presentation will also be of interest to anyone unable to attend a Christmas course, but still interested in a career in ICI, one of the world's most successful international businesses.

Buffet and drinks will be provided.



ULU sabbaticals in staff-strife

There are indications of friction between elected sabbatical officers and members of permanent staff at the University of London Union (ULU) over room bookings within the ULU Building.

Imperial College Union (ICU) sabbaticals were led to believe that a 'get together' held last Wednesday night in Palms Wine Bar in the ULU Building was 'a protest to demonstrate solidarity between London sabbaticals'. They were not aware until they reached the party that it was to celebrate the 21st birthday of a sabbatical from the London School of Economics.

Members of the Union were told by ICU Deputy President Dave Williams on the way to the party that it's a case of when a club tries to book a room

they are told that if they turn up on the night and the room is free they can use it, but that they won't guarantee not to let it if an outside booking comes along.

The ruling on room bookings within the ULU building, according to Rachel Wilson, ULU Conference Booking Officer, who is responsible for arranging room bookings, is that 'all recognised ULU societies get one room in the building per week for their meetings. If they want more and I can fit them in they can have that.'

She said that she had had 'no negative feed back from any student' and that her 'priority was to accommodate students'. She added that she was 'not aware of any conflict' and that ULU President

Chris Massey 'hadn't talked to her about it'.

Mr Massey was unavailable for comment. ULU Vice President (Services), Steve Hopwood claimed that the party was simply to 'celebrate the LSE sabbatical's birthday' and that it had 'no ulterior motive'. He said that any stories of staff problems were 'gross misrepresentation' and added that he 'didn't feel ULU had any problems whatsoever' with its permanent staff.

ULU have a staff protocol that forbids discussion of staff matters without the presence of the member of staff concerned. Mr Hopwood rang Mr Williams yesterday to remind him of the protocol. Mr Williams later refused to deny his remarks on the matter to FELIX.

Marys hosts

St Mary's Hospital Medical School is to play host to the first Council of the recently formed National Association of Medical Schools (NAMS) on November 25th.

The inaugural conference of NAMS was held on September 22nd-24th at which 26 out of the 29 British medical schools were represented. Up until now medical schools have avoided political connections. Rhydian Hapgood, President of St Mary's Student Union, said 'we hope it will resolve a lot of issues'. He explained that NAMS intends to act through lobbying and through students' parents.

The executive of NAMS includes Nick Stafford, Accommodation Officer of St Mary's last year.

Carpark costly

The brick re-surfacing of Imperial College Road is to cost over £105,000. So far bricks have been laid between the Biochemistry building and the Lyon Playfair library.

Mr P Burrige, Contracts Manager, said this was 'part of the project to gently improve roadways in the College'. He explained that the price 'compared favourably' to the cost of laying the bricks around the Civil Engineering department.

Week lift

The delayed installation of a new lift in Weeks Hall inconvenienced students moving in at the beginning of this term. The old lift was removed in July, and the new lift should have been in place by the end of September. The lift is not in full working order yet.

Mr Simon Walker, warden of Weeks Hall noted that 'of course when the students came in with their luggage we had middle-aged parents slaving like sherpas up eight floors'. He also commented that the lift has been getting steadily more decrepit for twenty years and the work could have been started earlier in the summer.

Mr P Burrige, Contacts Manager, who was responsible in part for hiring ERS (Elevator Repair Services) to do the work explained that there had been problems installing the lift as a missing part had to be found. He said the lift had been available for carrying up baggage since the start of term and would be fully operational 'by the beginning of next week'.

Tiddlywinks

Tiddlywinking down Oxford Street raised £2,100 for Action Aid last Saturday. Carol Luscombe, President of the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU), claimed that the RCS had raised £971 of the total.

Hal Calamvokis said that collecting was harder than last year and there were less shoppers about. Last year participants raised £2,500.

'It was a bit of a disorganised shambles which was my fault,' he added, 'This Saturday will be much better'.

A giant Monopoly game will be played over the whole of London this Saturday.

Rugby theft

Members of Imperial College's 1st and 2nd Rugby teams returned from their first training session on Tuesday to find that about £2,000 worth of personal belongings had been stolen.

The items stolen included watches, cash and credit cards which were put in a locker in the changing room in the Union Building. There were signs that an implement similar to a screwdriver had been used to force a locker.

Team members commented that at least two non-rugby players were in the changing rooms at the same time that they had changed.

Credits

A huge thanks must go first to Andy Thompson, the FELIX printer, who performed a miracle of printing technology by printing this term's calendar and worked very late for several nights this week; many thanks to Steve Meyfroidt for designing it. Thanks also to Adam Harrington for news; Ramin Nakisa for slaving away at the advertising mailshot; Jason Lander for science; Neil Lavitt for music; Simon for some excellent pasting up; Stef Smith for managing the business; Caveh, Chris Stapleton and Doug for pics; Rose for typesetting; Paul Shanley, Liz Warren, Wendy Kite, Jackie Scott, Sydney, Ashley Union-itt, Frog for the film review, Andy Bannister, Pippa Salmon, Dave and Simon Turner for sports, Rufus, The Rector, Malcolm Aldridge and Jo Cartwright, James Connolly, Danny Shiu, and all the collators.

Sports



Thanks to all the ladies who turned up for the trials. Missed them? Well there's still a chance to play. Leave a note of your name and department on the Hockey Club noticeboard, between the Union Bar and the Union Snack Bar.

The ladies sevens turned out twenty of our finest players, unfortunately all with hangovers! All three teams produced some good hockey and it's impossible to single out any individuals. The 'A' team were one point short of the quarter finals. The 'B' team were unable to score or win a match, but played some of the best hockey of the day. The 'C' team also produced some solid hockey. It looks like a good season ahead for all.

SPORTS RESULTS

RUGBY

IC 1st XV—62	UCL 1st—4
IC 2nd XV—39	UCL 2nd—0

FOOTBALL

FRIENDLY MATCHES

IC III—1	RSM—2
IC VI—3	RSM II—2
LADIES FOOTBALL (FRIENDLY)	
UCL—9	IC—2

HOCKEY

11th OCTOBER

Mens 1st XI—0	UCL—0
Mens 2nd XI—6	UCL—0
Mens 3rd XI—5	UCL—1
Ladies 1st XI—2	UCL—0
Ladies 2nd XI—3	UCL—0

Felix

OCT
NOV
DEC

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUTUMN