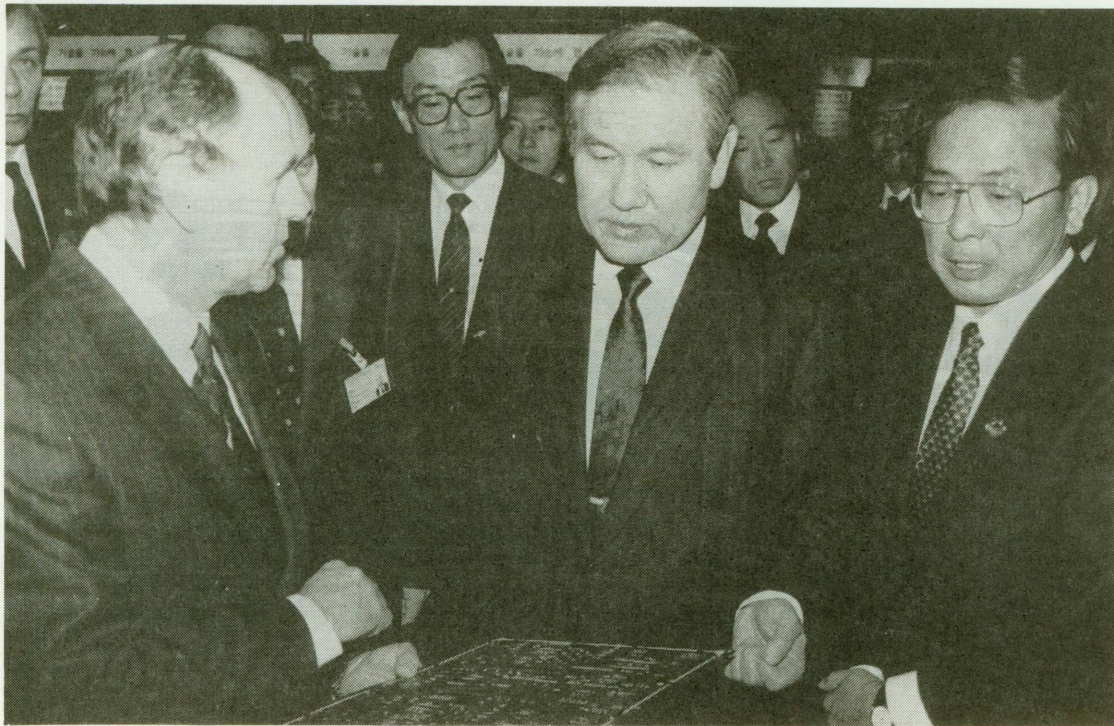


South Korea comes to IC



The President of South Korea, Mr Roh Tae Woo, visited Imperial College on Thursday. The visit was instigated by GEC-Marconi, who collaborate with IC on a number of projects, including robotics.

During the visit he met the Rector, Professor Eric Ash, who later told Felix that Imperial College's connections with South Korea had proved extremely fruitful.

Hall rents go up again

The proposed rents for college student halls next year have been released. They include a rise of 4.5% to £46 per week (excluding food) for Linstead, Southside, Weeks and Fisher halls single rooms, and no change for double and triple rooms (details in the Union page).

Both the Student Residence Committee (SRC) and Imperial College Student Union have recommended that the rents should not be increased any further as the limit students can afford has been reached. Mr John Smith, who was the College Secretary last year, put forward these

proposals despite the SRC recommendation. He told Felix that the 'SRC was, as is often the case, unable to reach a unanimous decision' and that he had 'orders to reduce the college deficit'. He recognised that high rents were detrimental to recruitment, and for that reason had decided on a compromise. He added that the rents would not be finally decided until the value of the student grant for next year had been published, which would probably be in February or March.

Professor Ash said he was 'happy to agree with this recommendation'. He told

Felix that according to the law of this country, public funds could not be used to subsidise rents. 'It's not as if we can decide rent in an arbitrary way' he added.

Mr Smith's decision to set rents after a divided meeting of SRC could mean the end of the Committee's advisory powers on rents. Mr Smith has advised the Rector that the College's new business manager may 'have views about the committee structure and the need for managers to manage.'

NUS loans march success

Students from all over the United Kingdom marched through central Glasgow last Tuesday. The action was the latest attempt by the National Union of Students (NUS) to gain public support against the Government's Student Loans Bill. Twenty thousand students were estimated to have been addressed by Members of Parliament and Education Union leaders. The venue, Glasgow, was decided because the central administration of the Student Loan Company is to be based there.

Representatives of most of the

opposition parties spoke at the rally, including Ms Diana Warwick, leader of the Association of University Teachers (AUT), Mr. Tony Worthington MP, the shadow spokesperson on education and Mr. Archie Kirkwood MP, of the Democrats.

An NUS spokesperson told Felix that the march was 'without doubt very successful' and that there was a 'mood of determination, although it was good humoured'. There was one arrest during the march and the spokesperson added that

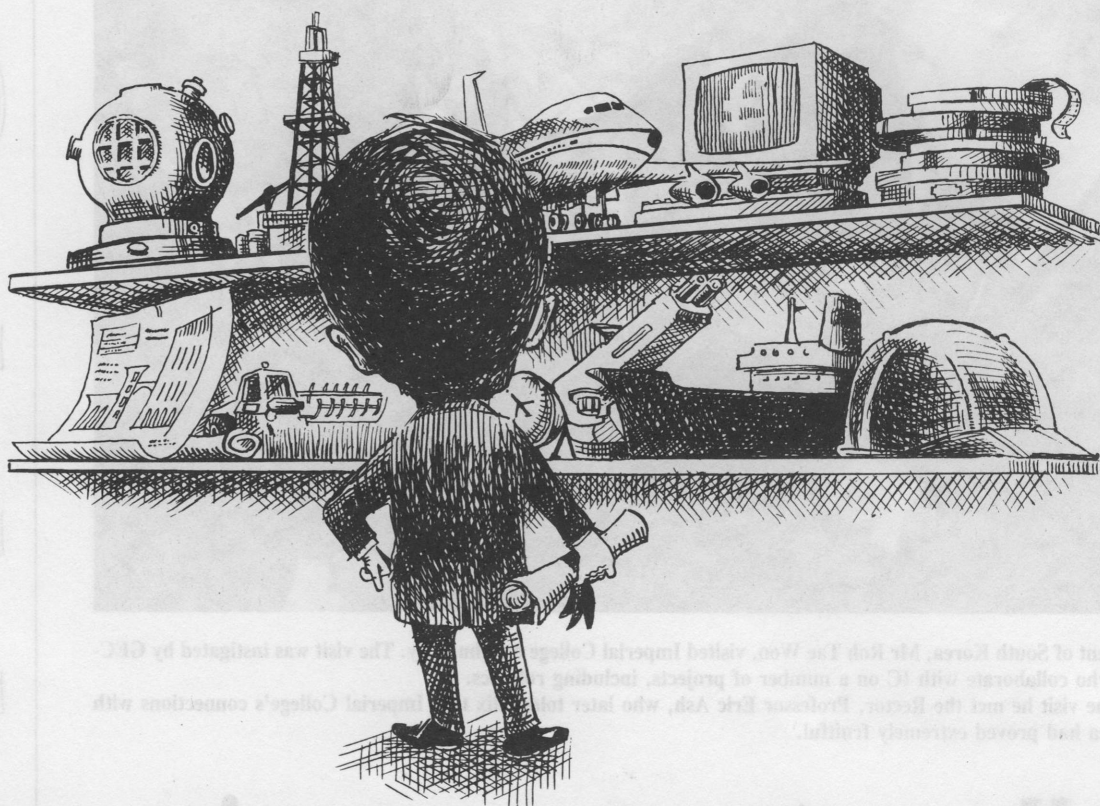
the media coverage had been poor throughout the country except Scotland.

The NUS are still deciding their next step against student loans, though they say they are optimistic about their chances of success if students and student unions are energetic in their opposition. According to a recent NUS opinion poll sixty percent of the population of the United Kingdom does not support the student loans proposals.



Issue 852
Friday 1st December





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Ghostbusters II

It's four years since the Ghostbusters saved New York City from the evil 'gatekeeper'. Since then their lives have taken a downward turn as the cost-conscious city, faced with cleaning up the marshmallow, has slapped the heroes with a judicial restraining order preventing them from ghostbusting.

When Dana Barrett (Sigourney Weaver) first met Dr Peter Venkman in *Ghostbusters I*, she told him 'You don't act like a scientist...you're more like a gameshow host'. Unfortunately, she was right! Venkman (Bill Murray) has now been relegated to hosting a cable chat show on the paranormal.

Dana Barrett's relationship with Venkman fell apart. She married another man, but that too fell apart, leaving her as a single parent with an eight month old boy, Oscar (played by the twins William T and Henry J Deutshendorf). She is working at the Manhattan Museum of Art with the distinctly odd Janosz Poha (Peter MacNicol).

Former Ghostbusters Dr Ray Stantz (Dan Aykroyd) and Winston Zeddemore (Ernie Hudson) have not fared well either. They're now entertaining at children's parties. Only Dr Egon Spengler (Harold Ramis) has retained his integrity. He is continuing his research into the effect of human emotion on the psychomagnetic energy field. This is central to the story as it is the hate and anger of the city dwellers that is causing a surge in supernatural energy.

First to be affected is Dana when Oscar's pram takes off on it's own—straight into the oncoming traffic. She manages to save Oscar, but who's she gonna call?



Of course the Ghostbusters, along with their fearless accountant, Louis (Rick Moranis), and their ever patient secretary, Janine (Annie Potts), reform to help Dana. They find the source of the disturbances, a river of slime, but fall foul of the law and end up in a mental institution. Who, or what, is going to save the city now?

I thoroughly enjoyed this film, though I thought the plot was a little thinner than in *Ghostbusters I*. Aykroyd, co-writing with Ramis, has concentrated more on human behaviour this time, which means that although there are still some excellent special effects, the quantity of ghosts is a little disappointing.

Talking of ghosts, I was surprised to see Slimer, the friendly ghost in *The Real Ghostbusters* cartoon, appearing on the Ghostbuster's side. This is odd, as

in the first film, Slimer was aggressive, and was captured by the Ghostbusters. It means that this film does not follow directly on from the first movie, but if you haven't seen the cartoon don't worry, as this is a minor detail and won't spoil your enjoyment.

The film has some very funny moments, with Murray still delivering some excellent one liners. Sigourney Weaver is still as stunning as ever, but the stars of the show have to be the twins playing Oscar. I wonder how they got them to fly like that?

I left the cinema humming the theme tune (re-recorded by Run-DMC) and wishing that I too could blast some ghosts. I just had to see *Ghostbusters I* again and I can't wait until *Ghostbusters II* comes out on video.

Toby Jones.

When Harry Met Sally Dead Calm

When Harry Met Sally... is a romance out of the classic Hollywood mould. The ground rules may be different, the time scale a little longer (11 years), but the result is never in doubt. The tale opens on the pair's first encounter, aged 21 and fresh out of college. They part after several hours and do not meet up until five years later. By this time each is well down the road to marriage (to someone else). But worry not, we'll just take a short break, and be back after the divorce. Their next meeting is a further five years on, and both marriages are conveniently in ruins. Harry and Sally finally admit to being friends and the story plods on.

The film is loosely based on the experiences of the director Rob Reiner forced back into 'the Dating Game' by a recent divorce. It seemingly poses us with two questions: Can a man and a woman stay friends if they don't have sex? Can they stay friends if they do? In divorce torn 80's America these are worthy and perhaps timely questions, but this film does not really deal with them adequately. In defence it's funny, and at times hilarious. Billy Crystal (ex-*Soap*) gives an excellent performance as Harry, sardonic, detached, and yet still sympathetic. Meg Ryan's portrayal of Sally is a little more soggy, although she does have her moments. The climax comes (dare I say it) when Sally, trying to persuade Harry of the prevalence of faked female orgasms, stops eating her lunch to give an impromptu demonstration (watched in amazement by fellow diners), and then quietly resumes her meal.

By the time the film grinds its way to its self-imposed anti-climax, 'I love you because...' to choruses of 'Auld lang syne' you feel that it has



already dragged on too long. It is interesting to note the quote from ELLE was, 'Two hours of pure joy'. The film is only 1½ hours long. I am sure that *When Harry Met Sally...* will be a commercial hit, not least because of its royal premier on Thursday, and its Christmas release, but there are better things to do with your money.

Matthew G Johnson.

Here is yet another film with a bit of sex, some violence and a happy ending for all.

Well, for everyone except the ship's dog and the psychopathic killer (Billy Zane). Oh, didn't I mention him before? He comes into the story when naval captain John (Sam Neil) and his wife Ray (Nicole Kidman) discover an apparently deserted schooner which is rapidly sinking.

Zane rows to the couple's yacht and tells them that the crew and passengers have died of food poisoning. Being a typical gung-ho all conquering hero, and generally nosey git, John decides to go and investigate, after locking our psycho friend in a cabin with a pretty ineffectual door.

Of course while John is busy finding dead bodies (food poisoning was definitely not the cause of death) and soft porn videos aboard the other ship, Zane wakes up and is slightly narked about being locked in a cabin. So, after an attempt at subtle persuasion, he kicks the door down and, when he finds out where John has gone, decides to commandeer the yacht leaving John stranded to sink with the schooner.

The rest of the film is just a glorified chase, but it must be said that there are some tense (if predictable) moments. The acting is good, particularly the scenes in which the crazed killer tries to befriend Ray. Philip Noyce's direction is careful and precise, but why did he include a shot of the ship's dog harpooned through its neck to a door when *Dead Calm* was only a 15 certificate? Worth a look, but don't go out of your way to see it.

DAN.



I do not know when you will receive this issue. This week has been the worst yet. Not only have I and some of the staff come down with the flu bug, some twit managed to cut through a 66,000 volt cable yesterday afternoon, removing our power for an hour or so. Such is life I guess.

Loans

The bug I have picked up has caused some extremely odd and feverish dreams. At the beginning of the week, everything began to take on a strange tinge of blue. I slowly started to realise how foolish I had been to complain about loans. After all, I won't have to take one out and I always received an income from my parents when I was here. Why should I care, I thought?

That was when I realised that everybody else was wearing the same blue tinted glasses. Why should I be bothered for the students at IC when all that they were concerned for was themselves? That is why I am supporting Neil McCluskey in the UGM motion in favour of loans.

Of course, you could always prove us wrong.

Rents

Rents have inevitably risen again this year. As Professor Ash has said, this was unavoidable. At least

the increases are less than inflation. Although Neil must be feeling pretty sore, since he promised to hold rents static, he must be more worried by the ulterior issues at stake. Their is clearly a strong move towards removing the rent advisory side of Student Residences Committee. This is the only point at which students are represented by the Union President on the question of rents. If SRC becomes a body which just advises the Rector on the ratio of men to women in halls and what colour we should paint the window sills, then it will be pointless.

I hope that the College does not decide to follow this route. Although committees can be cumbersome they are the only way of offering proper representation.

Credits

Paul Shanley, Chris Stapleton, Liz Warren, Adam Harrington, Jason Lander, Ian Hodge, Adam Tinworth, Toby Jones, Dominic Strowbridge, DAN, Neil McCluskey, Dave Millard, Simon, Hal Calamvokis, Ben Turner, Matthew G Johnson, Jeremy Burnell, Rose Atkins, Andy Thomson and the collators from last week: Ian Pexton, Chris Adams, Stu Hendy, Vo Ward, Tom Coombes, Liz Holmes, John Hufford, Simon Hawkins, Jeff Burnett, Nick Danson, Ian Hodge, Jonathan King, Angela Creissen, John Antoniader, Rony Douek, Paul Douek, Jim Lucy.

FELIX is published by the editor for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed by the Imperial College Union Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB (Tel. 01-589 5111 ext 3515). Editor: Dave Smedley. Business Manager: Stef Smith. Advertising Manager: Ramin Nakisa. Copyright FELIX 1989. ISSN 1040-0711

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Keep-Fit Club:** Anyone wishing to join should come to Southside Gym during a lesson. Details of classes in What's On guide. (Trial lessons available.)

● **Interested** in Competitive Cycling? Contact Rob Harwood, Life Sci III. Beginners welcome.

● **Cyril's Surreal Cerebral Entertainments** presents The Ariels, Dawson, The Keatons and Stitch live at the Lady Owen Arms, 285 Goswell Road, Islington, Saturday 9th December, 8pm. Get there early.

● **Many** thanks to everyone who helped at the Guilds Carnival—Claire & Cathy.

● **Boozy** trip to Boulogne. Thursday 14th December. If you're interested phone Rose or Dave at FELIX ext 3515.

LOST & FOUND

● **Lost**—Near Sheffield bike rack, Wednesday 22nd—Red cycle goggles. Contact Mark Taylor c/o Dave Edmondson ext 5085.

FOR SALE

● **Peugeot** racing bike, 10 gears, quick release wheels, 2 lamps, spare 10 gear rear wheel and other bike extras. Original paintwork, great condition. £55. Contact Silvano Sbicca on 231 1083 or via Maths 1 pigeonholes.

● **PC** Ditto and disk drive. PC Ditto is software that converts Atari ST computers into an IBM compatible computer. 3.5" disk, instructions, boxed as new. 5.25", 40/80 switchable, 360k. Both in immaculate condition, will sell for £95. Contact Silvano Sbicca on 231 1083 or via Maths 1 pigeonholes.

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8.30am-3.00pm & 5.00pm-7.00pm

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Corned beef hash and pasta salad.

Tuesday: Vegetable loaf with couscous, or
Lamb potage and bread

Wednesday: Mixed bean hot pot and garlic
bread, or Bo-bottie.

Thursday: Millet casserole or Sausage and
leek casserole

Friday: Buckwheat spaghetti with
mushrooms, dill and sour cream,
or Scotch pie with chips &
beans.

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Michael Carlile investigates the link between the early years of biochemistry, horse chestnuts and the first president of the Jewish State.

Conkers, Cordite and The State of Israel

Prime Minister: 'Dr Weizmann, you have saved your country! Name your reward! A knighthood perhaps?'
Dr Chaim Weizmann: 'A national Home in Palestine for the Jewish People'

That is one version of the story, resembling that subsequently told by Lloyd George, the Prime Minister in question. That version is surely a myth: top people, especially experienced politicians, do not behave that way. But the myth, like many myths, is based on truth. What did happen? The participants all told slightly different tales but the broad outline of the story is clear.

Some time between 1906 and 1913, Chaim Weizmann, working at the University of Manchester, discovered the acetone-butanol fermentation. This is a process in which a bacterium, now known as *Clostridium Acetobutylicum*, converts starch or sugar to acetone and butanol. Weizmann, as well as being a gifted chemist, biochemist and microbiologist, was a leading figure in Zionist politics, encouraging the emigration of Jews to Palestine with the ultimate aim of establishing a Jewish State.

1914 saw the outbreak of The First World War. Soon Britain was faced with a desperate shortage of acetone, needed as the solvent for making cordite, the explosive used for firing shells from naval guns and heavy artillery. Acetone was then made by the pyrolysis of wood, dry distillation of wood in the absence of air, with 100 tons of wood giving one ton of acetone. The main producer was Germany, and even if plants had been built in Britain, enormous amounts of timber would have had to be imported. With shipping shortages and the blockade, this would not have been feasible.

In 1915, Weizmann was asked by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, if he could make 30,000 tons of acetone. Weizmann, who had previously made a few hundred grams in the laboratory, undertook the million-fold scale-up that was needed. Biotechnology was born. The first pilot plant was set up at Nicholson's gin factory at Bromley-by-Bow, which had both fermentation and distillation facilities.

The project worked, but it soon became clear that the necessary raw material, half-a-million tons of maize, was not to be had in war-time Britain, nor was there a surplus of any other grain or of sugar. Boy scouts collected horse-chestnuts, rich in starch, but wars are not won with conkers. Eventually, as happened with penicillin 25 years later, large scale production was transferred to the USA. Meanwhile, Balfour had succeeded Churchill at the Admiralty, and Lloyd George had become Minister of Munitions.

By 1917, Balfour had become Foreign Minister and Lloyd George, Prime Minister. In November, the document that became known as the Balfour Declaration was issued. It stated that the British Government would use their best endeavours to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for Jewish People. The Declaration is regarded by historians as a crucial step towards the establishment of the State of Israel, as it permitted Jewish emigration to Palestine on a much larger scale.

The conversion of acetone-butanol fermentation from a laboratory experiment to an industrial process in about a year was a remarkable achievement. It was

the first time that sterile culture had been practised on an industrial scale and, in this respect, the process was the precursor of the industrial fermentations that now yield antibiotics, enzymes and an increasing range of other products.

It is unlikely that the Balfour declaration was a direct reward for Weizmann's services to Britain. His achievements must, however, have convinced Balfour and Lloyd George that they were dealing with a practical man of the very highest ability, and that the ideas of Zionism were not merely the fantasies of eccentric visionaries.



Weizmann received no civil honour from the British Government. He did, however, receive ten shillings (50p) for every ton of acetone made by his process during the war. The resulting £10,000, perhaps equivalent to half a million pounds of today's money, enabled him to devote himself full-time to Zionist activities.

Weizmann's acetone-butanol fermentation process was much more efficient than its predecessors, yielding about 10 tons of acetone and a similar amount of butanol from 100 tons of raw material. It was, however, soon superseded. From 1920 to 1960 it was gradually replaced by catalytic processes using petrochemical feedstocks. It still survives, for strategic reasons, in South Africa, which does not wish to be dependent on imported petrochemicals, the supply of which is vulnerable to sanctions.

What became of the human participants in the story? Balfour, who was getting old, retired from politics. Lloyd George's political fortunes declined with those of the Liberal Party, and in his old age he wrote his unreliable memoirs. Churchill continued his turbulent career, which culminated in his role as Britain's leader in the Second World War. In 1948, Weizmann became the first president of Israel.

This Week

Research using human embryos is, by its very nature, an emotive subject. Few people would disagree that this research needs regulating and, after years of carefully avoiding the issue, the Government has decided to act. The embryo-research bill, shortly to be put before Parliament, will come in two versions, one including clauses limiting experiments to fourteen days after fertilisation, the other banning such experiments altogether. MPs will be given a free vote, independent of party political pressures, on which version of the bill to accept. It is, after all, a matter of principle.

This is where the problem lies. Politicians and their ilk like principles. On a matter of principle, something can be either right or wrong, good or evil, black or white—there are no shades of grey. Whether or not embryo research should be allowed becomes a simple matter of belief, so obvious that it does not even need thinking about.

The issue has already become entangled with other matters of principle. The anti-abortion lobby is already out in force. Womens' groups are complaining that the bill ignores the rights of the mother. These groups and others, equally convinced of the rightness of their causes, see the bill as nothing more than a convenient weapon.

Amid all this din, the true purpose of the bill could easily be forgotten. The important issues of medical ethics and the guidelines contained within it will not be discussed. They will become irritating 'problems' associated with allowing research to continue. The politicians will be faced with a choice, either to make one 'simple' decision and ban research entirely or to face a plethora of complicated technical problems. The vote-hungry always take the easy way out.

This has already happened in Germany where embryo research is now illegal. Similarly, the American Government has refused to fund such research for the past year and has recently confirmed that this ban will continue indefinitely. On the other hand, countries such as Japan are supporting and even encouraging embryo experimentation, albeit within tight ethical guidelines.

It could be said that embryo research will continue whether Britain bans it or not: German biotechnology companies have not stopped their work but merely moved it to French laboratories.

Our Parliament will spend the next few weeks arguing over an issue with no answer. In this television age we will even be able to see them doing so and the honourable members will no doubt get especially irate for the cameras. But what will they have achieved at the end? Embryo research will not stop. It may continue here, it will definitely continue elsewhere.

I hope that Britain continues in the field. Nobody can tell what any research may bring and embryo research has already given infertile couples the chance to have children. It may help cure the victims of Parkinson's disease. There are even researchers who believe that it could help control AIDS. What is not in doubt is that if the anti-research lobby have their way, we will have achieved a grand total of sod all.

Jason Lander

Ladies hockey

IC ladies II—6

Barts II—0

Saturday's performance was absolutely outstanding. Despite being three players short, the game produced some excellent action!! Umpire, Sydney Harbour-Bridge coped well with the complaints from the Barts captain, who kept insisting that we delay the start until her team arrived!! How unreasonable can you get!! Fortunately, with the astro only booked until 3pm we had to start without them. With the return of Jackie Wilderhaber to goal, the captain was forced out of her usual position, onto the pitch. Despite the break of three weeks she bulldozed through the Barts defence on three separate occasions, to claim her first hat-trick for IC and her first goals of the season. Forward Wendy Kite and demon hitter Lisa Kiwi got some serious hockey together with Lisa powering the ball through the whole of the Bart's defence to Wendy, leaving her 30 yards headstart and two people between her and the goal. Although failing to score on this occasion she did manage to put two other goals in the back of the net, one played brilliantly off the back line by right wing Laura Betteridge. The final goal was scored by Centre forward Jackie Scott, who smashed it through the defence from the back of the circle, just as the defence thought they had it cleared. With some brilliant play from the IC defence, stopping everything Barts attempted to get through them, the future is certainly looking good for the seconds, and promotion is in sight already!!



IC Ladies II—1

Sussex Ladies II—0

On Wednesday IC ladies seconds secured themselves a place in the next round of the UAU competition. A brilliantly taken free hit by centre half Jane Bunch left Jackie Scott clear to slip the ball in under the goalkeeper in the opening minutes. Unfortunately, despite IC having the ball for nearly the rest of the game, the forwards failed to produce anything inspirational. Halfbacks Jane, Diana Hill and Anna

Gray played brilliantly, stopping Sussex every time our Forwards gave them the ball, and returning it up the pitch for us to try again!! Oona and Hazel saw very little of the ball, but tackled well when called upon. Star of the match, in her return to goal, was captain Alison Franklin, who didn't touch the ball once! (Thanks to the IC defence) With three wins, one draw and one loss we now expect a day trip to Bristol or Bath to further our UAU careers!!

Football

IC II—2(0)

QMC II—1(0)

Ha! 'It only takes a second to score a goal' and 'the game isn't over until the final whistle' were well used clichés by the time IC got to the bar. Trailing to an undeserved QMC goal shortly after half time, IC left it late to stamp their complete dominance on the game and steal the point. There should have been at least seven goals produced by an IC onslaught in the second half, but chance after chance was wasted. Goals by R Martinez and J Fordham in the 88th and 89th minutes were enough to win the game and relieve the team's frustration.

IC II—1(1)

Sussex—3(0)

The IC II bandwagon broke its rear axle in this one. Form book predictions were for an impressive victory and triumphant march into the next round. History sucks! A penalty miss in the first minutes of the game by E Coates, the IC captain, didn't help the team's confidence. This was temporarily restored by a well taken goal from A Jalan. However, the appalling referee kept stopping the game and IC never found their rhythm. Sussex were much better at playing badly than IC and stole their goals in the second half. IC sought solace in the Hammersmith pub crawl after the match, with Pip Peel being the winner.

Kings College—2

IC 1sts—1

The referee set himself up as the Robin Hood of football, stealing the game from richly talented IC and handing it to our rivals Kings. Two goals in the first ten minutes of the second half, the first from a dubious penalty that Kings didn't even appeal for, and the second from a through-ball which found three Kings players offside. To his credit, the referee gave IC an equally dodgy penalty later on but Pat Fancock lent back too far and sent the ball soaring over the bar.

IC had the better of the first half, Tone de Lyon hitting the underside of the bar with a swerving free kick, and several efforts were only just scrambled away. Kings looked menacing from a series of corners, with Pip Peel, playing an unaccustomed defensive role, hooking a dangerous ball away and Si Holden performing an acrobatic reverse dunk over the bar to avoid ending up in the net with the ball. Mike Patton's persistent hustling finally brought IC a goal just before half-time, forcing an own goal out of their defence.

IC return to Berrylands in the quarter finals of the Cup in ten days time and Kings should expect to get their arses kicked then.

IC VI—2

LSE IV—3

IC battled hard against an onslaught of opposition winging and mad, head-butting pitch invaders in this exciting two-sided match.

In the first half Jem Ellis superbly equalised after Damon Thomas had managed to head Mike Potter's leg (instead of the balls), to let in their striker.

The second half submitted to some of IC's finest football, but LSE still managed to befuddle the Pinky and Rupert defence combination, to knock in two half chances, leaving only ten lonely minutes left.

But did the team surrender? Nay, I hear you moan, as some good work from our new striker and other onlookers let Jem in to slip in his second, suggesting an exciting finish.

And what a finish it was! A lanky loony decided to head-butt our goalie to steal the match ball thirty seconds before we could score two goals, to steal victory.

All round shocked looks ensued, before the happy-go-lucky referee decided to prematurely ejaculate the players from the field. And what a loss it was!

Hockey

IC III-6

UCH II-0

Fresh from recent triumphs, IC went into Wednesday's game in a confident mood. A crowd of thousands packed the Harlington stadium to see if the team, which had won all its UAU games without conceding a goal, could continue their remarkable run by beating a strong UCH team. However, as the teams ran out onto the pitch it was clear to all in the crowd that this was a much changed IC team. Gone was IC's star centre forward, Indiana McGovern, replaced by the virtually unknown Dave Millard. Also missing from the line-up were Adam Pritchard, Rob Powell and James Larkins, replaced by newcomers, Scott Hipkins, Kevin Williams and Mike Marshal. But, by far the biggest shock and disappointment to the crowd was the relegation of Nigel to the substitutes bench.

The game started with a deafening roar of anticipation from the crowd. They were not to be disappointed as IC soon stamped their superiority on

the game with Kevin Hill converting a well executed short corner routine after just ten minutes. The huge territorial advantage enjoyed by IC did not however, bring another goal until a minute before the end of the first half when Jon Briggs' shot was stopped on the line by a foot. A flick awarded, Jon himself stepped up to slot the ball home for a 2-0 lead at half time.

As the military band left the pitch, the second half got underway. IC continued where they had left off, quickly making the score 3-0, Mike Marshal finishing off a goal mouth scramble. Three more goals were to follow; a tap-in by Dave Millard, a second for Kevin Hill—again from a short corner, and another for Mike Marshal—a superb shot from the edge of the 'D'.

It seemed inevitable that more goals would follow but it was not to be so, as the final whistle was blown to signify a 6-0 victory, the players left the pitch to a standing ovation and the crowd went home talking of the goals that might have been.

Squash

IC-4
IC-4

Sussex-1
Barts-0

The ladies squash team maintained their undefeated record last Wednesday afternoon with a win against Sussex. This fifth and final UAU group fixture turned out to be the decider between the only two undefeated teams in the London/SW area. The afternoon started at one minute past twelve with a confident win for Liz Parkin, the team's number one player. The number two, Alison Smith, had a hard struggle and eventually succumbed to the opposition. This left the remaining three members, Toni Perrott, Han-Bing Cheong and Jenny Jolliffe, anxious for at least 2 more victories to secure pole position in the section and home tie in the next round. But the worries were uncalled for and they all secured easy 3-0 wins.

Hot on the heels of this victory came another on Monday evening in the London league fixture against St Bartholemew's Hospital when Imperial secured an impressive 4-0 overall victory.

Boat Club



Last Sunday heralded the first competition for this year's novice intake, in the University of London Regatta—the Allom Cup.

The men's eight was knocked out by an experienced Hospital crew, but fortunately the men's four had more success and reached the final. They led off the start only to lose due to equipment damaged on river debris.

The women's four reached their final without difficulty and won despite an unwelcome bath

afforded by a passing launch. The women's eight won their first heat by 5 lengths, but whilst in the lead in the second round suffered a collision and were unjustly not awarded a re-row.

It is a promising start to the racing season for the club's new oarsmen and women and it looks good for the development of the novice squad during the year starting as they have done from scratch. We hope to see their training and dedication pay off as they strive for greater heights.

X-country

Developed in Sweden, the Ledin Diet advocates a lean, mean and hungry approach to cross-country racing. That the IC boys have been following this approach assiduously was clear for all to see last Wednesday at the London Colleges League. Despite severe depletion due to injury, the team salvaged second place to maintain their overall lead in the league.

The course was a testing five miles at Wimbledon Common. A surprising leader at the quarter mile stage was Dan McQueen. However, he didn't close, and slid down to finish 72nd. Better pace judgement was shown by Paul Northrop, who ran a storming second half to finish a strong second. Alex made it two in the top ten for IC, and Dave Ngugi put in another stirring effort, although he later said he needed a DIC to surge past.

Hero of the B team was Jim Watson who improved 32 places on his last run. True Harrier spirit was also shown by Steve Beverley, making the top 100 for the second time. He denied any involvement in the mysterious disappearance of the ladies team, but referred instead to a certain E Gaskell from computing.

Ten Pin

Over the last two weeks we have played two matches, neither of which have been very spectacular. The first, against Brunel, we won 6-4. It was a very close match and both the ladies and B team played very well with Roddy Winter in the B's scoring his highest ever of 211. Both the A's and C's came very close, both within 6 pins of an overall win.

The second match was against Kent University at home. Unfortunately they managed to beat us by 8-2 partly due to the absence of one of our best ladies. Although there was a valiant effort by the A team who won all their games, with a special mention to Phil Wren who played a 587 series with two games over 200. Overall we have managed to beat Kent in the league.

Bendover Turnip's boredom

The first round of College Athletic Committee and sub-committees have come and gone, and the result, I feel, is a 1-1 draw. Boathouse committee—well, no drastic changes there. Everything ticking along nicely, no major issues proposed which would affect, to any extent, the students using the facilities or the long-term future of the Boathouse.

South Kensington Sports Committee—As a result of the income element of the Sports Centre's operations and financial targets set on this committee by Athletic Committee, discussion continues to be dominated by money. A few points raised about the 'Development of the Sports Centre'—an extension to the ladies changing rooms and the multi-gym, which have now been completed. Viewpoints are very short- and middle-term. Where has that proposed multi-million pound sports complex gone? Thrown out of Westminster City Council and lost. But I hear talk of a practical, scaled-down proposal for a sports hall. I feel further discussion and nurturing of this rather good idea coming on during the year.

Of course, the main issues on the table at the moment concern Harlington, the remit of Athletic Ground Committee. The good news—the Harlington Trust, set up to administer the funds provided from the gravel extraction, will be making its first contribution towards student sport at Imperial College. The Astroturf pitch is now on its way, to be installed in the summer term along with necessary floodlighting and our own generator to provide the electricity. Discussions centred on the exact positioning of the pitch are detailed in Neil McCluskey's report in this issue of FELIX.

Further good news—there is around £1.6 million already in the Trust, being invested for us by Kleinwort Benson, with a projected total of about £3.5 million.

The bad news—the extraction is behind schedule, the pitches on the Clubhouse (North) side of the road will not all be ready for use for rugby and football until October 1991. The problem that they would not be suitable for hockey for five years has been alleviated by the promise of the Astroturf. Streeters, the

contractors, want to start work on the pitches on the South side of the road as soon as the North side has been relaid (October 1990), but before the pitches are ready for use. They obviously will not be digging up all the pitches on the South side at once but will dig one strip at a time—the first strip will take three pitches from us. Neil McCluskey and I recommended a year's pause in the extraction to allow the North pitches to catch up in the reinstatement process. However, this is difficult because Streeters would then take their extraction equipment to another site and would not guarantee a return to Harlington. They are prepared to scale down their operations so that this first strip worked on the South side would take twice as long. It seems that this is the option which we must accept because, although negotiations are underway to pause operation for a year and guarantee a return to the site, we must be sceptical about how successful these will be.

Benjamin Turner, ACC Chairman.

IZIT another ents report?

You are so lucky. Yes, you! Whatever you had planned for tonight, cancel it. You won't be disappointed. Come to the Union Lounge and see *IZIT*, the finest, funkier jazz band in this fair city. With a smokin' single at number 56, climbing up the charts, and a sound which makes you wish you could dance like James Brown, *IZIT* have originality, where many others simply re-hash standard grooves. Sitting still is not an option. Every note, every beat makes you want to get up and get down; believe me, I've seen them.

If you thought that jazz is for old men, and that funk is a strong foreign lager, come along tonight, and all

such thoughts will be blown sky high.

Doors open at 9pm, disco till 2am and late bar. Tickets are £2 in advance from the Union Office. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Get your diaries out, next Friday, the 8th, *The Milltown Brothers* will be playing live in the Union for a showcase concert (lots of record company spies on the guest list) as they are currently trying to secure a major record deal. As the old cliché goes—see them at IC before they go pan-galactic.

Seven days later, on the last Friday of term (15th), a Christmas extravaganza will grace our humble

stage. *The Energy Orchard* have just signed up to MCA for lots of wonga, and are playing at College before a European tour to promote their debut album. They played a storming gig here last year, we couldn't get them off the stage! Hard rockin' boys with bundles of energy (sic), and a bluesy melancholy reminiscent of Van the man. They love playing, you'll have a great night.

Well that's what we have lined up for you, do yourself a favour, BUY that ticket!

Rufus Isaacs, Ents Publicity.

Rag week was a success

While exactly how much money Rag Week '89 raised has not yet been extracted from the meleé of events, it looks as though this year was one of the most successful on record. By November 19th IC Rag centrally had raised more money than the whole of last year—well done all.

The Beer Festival (8th Nov) was very well attended and made over £2,000. 1,200 people managed to drink as much beer as last year before 9.30pm, which was a bit of an undersight on our behalf. The Rocky Horror Disco was well attended, with a lot of audience participation during the film. If you didn't go you missed Millan Lester (as Transport Officer) being the motorbike in the Eddie scene.

The Hypnosis Lecture (10th Nov) was incredibly well attended. A good night was had by all and we made £1,300, sorry for not opening the doors earlier.

The Poppy Day Collection was poorly attended but those who went raised a lot of money—thanks to Cath for driving. Sci Fi Marathon went well but while all the acts at the SACB Night were very good, the event needs a few changes so that it can make more money in the future.

The Raft Race (Sunday 11th) was an absolute Page 8

wheeze. Firstly I'd like to say thanks to Rob Rowe who was the only miner to turn up (which makes a three-way tug-o-war a bit difficult). Then came the race at a leisurely pace which RCS won. Then the police turned up and asked some rather awkward questions that the people in charge couldn't answer properly (I had been delayed on the tube from Islington). Anyway the police have so far said nothing, probably because they found out that our telephone request to the DoE had been processed wrongly—a bit of a balls-up on our behalf.

The Comedy Night was well attended, but unfortunately not quite well enough as we made a loss. Thanks to James and James for organising it, next year a different format will probably be tried. The Slave Auction (14th) went brilliantly, £1,063 was made—2½ times last year's takings. At the Exec Initiative that afternoon everybody cheated lots (can I have all the cans back please). The Dirty Disco was the storming do it always is.

Hit the Hit Squad was badly affected by the weather. Everyone enjoyed the Bar Quiz which went very well and we'll probably do another one soon.

The Smoking Concert broke-even and RCS will be

trying a different format next year.

£15 was made by AeroSoc darts. Not many people tortured the members of the Exec who didn't wimp out (Carol Luscombe, Rob Rowe, Chris Horne and Rachel Smith) and not enough people turned up for the monster boat race so all the free beer went begging which was a bit pathetic.

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who helped with the Guilds Carnival, we don't know exactly how much we made. I'd also like to say thank you to everyone in Dance Club who raised squidoodles of dosh for Children in Need.

The only event to start on the final Saturday was the sponsored nude Kamikazi Parachute Jump in which three very brave people raised £750 for Children in Need in seven minutes of glory—that's the spirit.

So that was Rag Week—the next Rag event is a Rag Raid to Canterbury tomorrow, fancy dress is optional, meet at 10.30 in the Union van park. For further details please come to the Union Lounge this lunchtime.

Love and Vodaphones,

Hal Calamvokis, Rag Chair 89-90.

President's piece

External Affairs Loans

After talking to more MPs, people from industry, members of Governing Body, some lecturers and judging by the lack of student interest in the whole affair I've decided that most students think that losing their rights to benefits and receiving top-up loans instead is a good idea. To reflect this feeling I think IC Union policy should change, hence my motion to the UGM to be held at 6pm on Thursday in the JCR (see motion).

NUS

Various representatives of NUS (National not London) came to talk to the sabbaticals last Friday. These people were very informative and left us with lots of information packs that NUS produce each year. I would now like to see debate open on the subject of re-affiliation to the NUS. I would particularly encourage Union Officers to find out how they and their members would benefit and then put across their viewpoint at Council, UGMs and in FELIX. The first motion on the NUS will be coming up at next Thursday's UGM.

Accommodation

Early next term there will be a survey of all students to find out their predicament as regards accommodation. The survey will take two formats: one to cover halls of residence, the other to cover students in the private rented sector. The surveys will serve two purposes: firstly the survey on halls of residences will settle exactly how the students feel about their halls; eg price, comfort, facilities, administration. Secondly, the information gathered from students in the private rented sector will provide the basis for starting up a letting agency so that students find it easier, quicker and cheaper to find accommodation. These two surveys are essential as I feel accommodation is the single most important factor when caring for the welfare of students.

Halls of residence rents

Despite representations at College Finance and Executive Committee, despite the majority of feelings

Present Rent

£44.00
£32.40
£37.70
£40.90
£41.00
£35.00
£37.00
£28.00
£24.00

Residence/Room type

Linstead, Southside, Weeks and Fisher single rooms
Linstead and Fisher double rooms
Old Beit, single rooms
New Beit, single rooms
Montpellier, upgraded singles
Montpellier, non-upgraded singles
Garden Hall and Evelyn Gardens, single rooms
Garden Hall and Evelyn Gardens, double rooms
Triple rooms anywhere

Rent 1990-91

£46.00
£32.40
£38.50
£41.70
£41.80
£35.70
£37.50
£28.00
£24.00

For Wilson House, where the tradition is to charge according to status rather than room (although all are singles)

Present rent

£35.70
£34.65
£44.00
£49.00
£105.00

Student status

Pre-clinical
Clinical
Other IC students
Other students
Non-students

Rent 1990-91

£37.50
£36.50
£46.00
£52.50
£112.00

at Wardens Sub-Committee and despite the mood of the College Students Residence Committee (SRC), John Smith, College Secretary, who chaired SRC, wrote to the Rector advocating that rents be raised for next year by up to 4.5% in some halls (see figures below)

Feelings within the Union are that any kind of increase on this year's rents is going to affect the student intake for the worse. In order to confirm or deny these feelings, I need some kind of feedback from you, the students. The perfect forum for this is a Union General Meeting. Next Thursday at 6pm in the JCR discussion will take place on this subject, if you have any feelings at all on this subject turn up and say so. If insufficient people attend then you weaken my position when trying to represent you to College. If you can't attend the UGM then write to me!!!

Athletics

At last the plans for an astroturf hockey pitch at

Harlington are to go ahead in 1990. Plans have been altered slightly. Floodlights would be essential for generating external revenue to help subsidise students playing there. Floodlights also enable several hockey teams to play in the one day. Comments were made at the College Athletics Committee to state that last year the lawn tennis courts were used only three times for matches, yet had to be maintained for twelve full months. It was decided that in order to get round the problem of planning permission for floodlights and to create a space sufficient in size for future developments then the lawn tennis courts would be removed and the astroturf placed there.

Welfare

The next welfare campaign is on alcohol awareness. Over Thursday and Friday (7th/8th December). Come along and find out what you're doing to yourself. Shed the social pressure to get drunk and simply say no!

Motions to the Union General Meeting on Thursday 7th December

Motion on Loans 1

Proposed by: Neil McCluskey
Seconded by: David Smedley

That IC Union supports government proposals on top-up loans. Furthermore, IC Union supports the removal of students from the benefit system, as detailed in the Student Loans Bill.

Motion on UGM policy

Proposed by: Paul Shanley
Seconded by: Chris Stapleton

That policy made by a UGM, lapse after three years unless reviewed.

Motion on Loans No. 2

Proposed by: Paul Shanley
Seconded by: Christ Stapleton

That an effective boycott of banks participating in the loans scheme be introduced. That the College be called upon to remove Nat West from the campus.

Motion of previous UGM policy

Proposed by: Paul Shanley
Seconded by: Chris Stapleton

That the above motion on UGM policy be made retrospective.

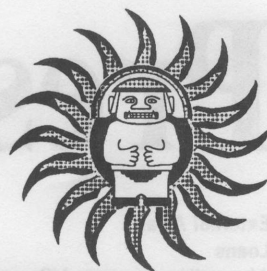
Motion on NUS reaffiliation ballot

Proposed by: Ashley Unitt
Seconded by: Jonathan David Griffiths

That the regulations governing a ballot for NUS reaffiliation be changed.

Dominic Strowbridge tells the story of the 1989 London University..

Expedition to Ecuador



There was a complete uproar around the packed galleries, as Allister, Dominic and Lynn entered the bull ring and made their way to its centre. The swaying crowd of Indians, dressed in their colourful ponchos, went wild at the prospect of some *Gringo* blood. The other amateur toreadors drew back, leaving the trembling three standing in a triangle, no more than ten yards apart; the snorting bull at their centre. It was going to charge at one of them...but which one?

This was just one of the interesting situations that we got ourselves into as members of the 1989 London University Ecuador Expedition last summer. The team of eight undergraduates came from different colleges of the University of London. From Imperial were expedition leaders Dominic Strowbridge and Basil Heaney; Lynn Hughes, a physicist, and Mark Pickersgill and Alister Clarke, from Chemical Engineering. We were joined by Emma Medcalf and Janet Dearden from King's College, and Magnum Patrick, from UCL.

We set the expedition three main aims.

- Our primary reason for going was to undertake a domestic energy survey for the Ecuadorian government in a small indian village, high up in the mountainous central region.

- Closely linked to the energy survey was a project to make a film of our experiences for the BBC as an entry to the Mick Burke Award. If all goes well, this should be hitting your screens sometime next spring.

- And once all the work was over, we set about climbing some of the highest volcanoes in the world. We reached the tops of three, the greatest being Chimborazo, a 6310m giant, whose summit retains the distinction of being the point furthest from the centre of the earth.

Our journey to South America actually started back in November of 1988, when Basil and Dominic put a small ad in *FELIX*, inviting people to apply for places on the proposed expedition. Within a few weeks, we had a team of eight, and, together, we set about developing our plans, making contact with the government and universities of Ecuador, and trying to raise the £12,000 necessary to get the project off the ground.

We arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, at the beginning of July. The old colonial city lies at almost 10,000 feet, surrounded by snow capped volcanoes. The thinner atmosphere at this height left us constantly tired, but this gave us a good excuse to acclimatise in any one of the many street cafes. We were given a more personal introduction to the city by the students of the EPN, the Escuela Politecnica Nacional, the equivalent of Imperial in Ecuador.

After five days of final preparations with the National Institute of Energy (INE) for whom we were working, we set off for Mercedes Cadena, in the province of Chimborazo, the village where we were to conduct our studies. The village was made up of about 100 families, all of them indigenous indians. They eked out an existence from the dusty fields surrounding the village. Constructed mainly of mud and straw their homes were primitive, though most were connected to the electricity supply and had access to a clean water tap.



On arrival we were met by the parish priest, Padre Balseca, who turned out to be the uncle of our contact at INE. This greatly helped our acceptance into the community. He showed us our home for the next five weeks: the communal hut, a drafty construction, which we were to share with a prolific family of mice. Sanitation facilities were basic too. Our only washing facility was a concrete trough standing on the other side of the village square. Bathtimes proved to be very popular amongst the villagers, attracting quite large crowds. On our first night, the whole village assembled, and we had to present ourselves before a mini-inquisition in the village chapel. Luckily they accepted us and gave the go ahead for our work.

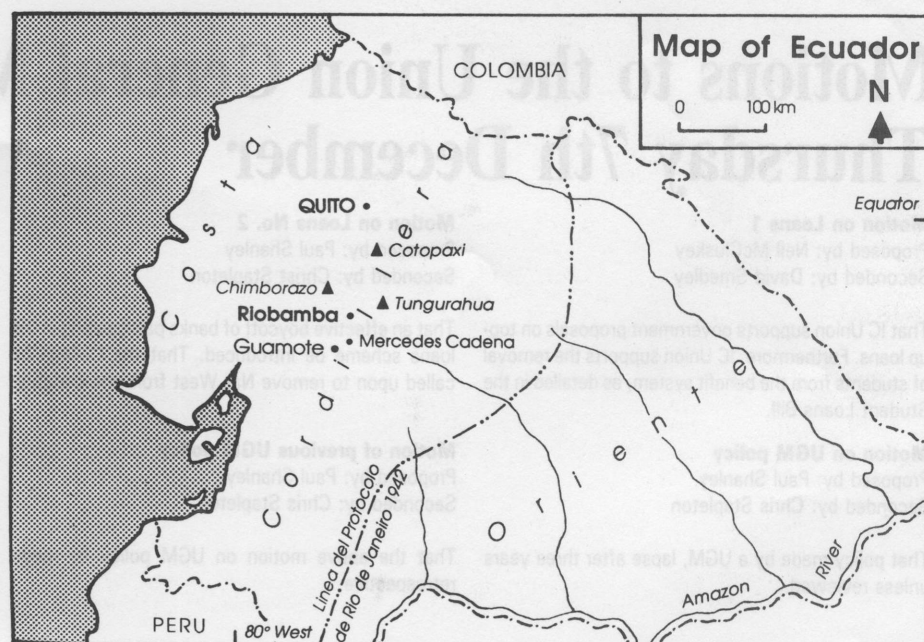
The Energy Survey

Our main purpose for staying in Mercedes Cadena was to undertake the domestic energy survey. Initially, we aimed to find out what types, and what qualities, of fuels the villagers were currently using for cooking, heating and lighting.

We began by conducting interviews with five different families, to see if we could improve the structure of the questionnaires that we had designed back in England. Once any questions had been reworded, we began completing questionnaires in earnest, interviewing half the population of the village in the five weeks of the study period.

Despite receiving the go-ahead for the survey work at the first night's inquisition in front of the whole village, individual families were, at times, reluctant to cooperate. Rumours had developed, claiming that we were a special team of tax inspectors, brought over from a foreign country to investigate their affairs. They were especially suspicious of how we insisted on knowing how many guinea pigs they owned! However, through our help to the community in other ways, such as providing free medical clinics, we were soon trusted by the majority of the people and the survey ran smoothly.

The language barrier, perhaps, provided the greatest obstacle to our work. Three of the team spoke fluent



Spanish, which was a great help. Although most of the male members of Mercedes Cadena also spoke Spanish, they did so as a second language; their first language, and that of the rest of the community, being Quechua. We were also restricted in the times when we could conduct the survey. With families leaving for their fields at about 5am, the morning had to be discounted. They tended to return between four and six o'clock in the evening. This was when we had to catch them, before darkness descended making a venture around the village too difficult a task.

As far as the energy survey went, we found that almost all homes burnt wood, cacti or straw on an open fire for cooking.

Together with the students from the EPN, we looked closely for opportunities in which appropriate technology could benefit the community. We identified two areas: agricultural tools, such as threshing machinery; and developments in the home, such as more efficient wood burning stoves or simple chimneys.

The results of our involvement in the medical aspects of life in Mercedes Cadena uncovered a basic lack of knowledge about personal hygiene and health care. We began to address this problem by holding medical clinics and by giving evening classes in elementary First Aid. We particularly stressed the importance of preventative medicine. In an effort to continue this work, we trained two men from the community in First Aid. They, along with the students from the EPN, should now be continuing with the medical clinics that we initiated this summer.

Lastly, on a more personal level, there was Hector, the team's favourite villager and expedition film star. Hector has been profoundly deaf and dumb since birth. Whilst we were in Ecuador, we took Hector to a hearing specialist in Quito, an incredible experience for him. The specialist recommended that rather than fitting him with a suitable hearing aid, which would be difficult to maintain and might result in cultural difficulties for the six year old boy, he should attend



Bathtime for Alister in the village trough

a special school in Riobamba some fifty miles away. At this school Hector would learn to express himself more clearly and communicate with others using sign language. We set up a small fund to provide the money required for the schooling and travel, and Padre Balseca, the parish priest, kindly agreed to manage the programme after we left Ecuador. At the beginning of November we heard from Padre Balseca that Hector had started school and was progressing very well.

It was during our last weekend in Mercedes Cadena that we came across the bulls. The annual fiesta in Guamote coincided with our last weekend in the area, a justifiable excuse for a special party. The fiesta lasted from Friday until Sunday; three days of eating, drinking, music making, dancing and bullfighting. The latter did not take the same form as the well known Spanish sport. Rather than the bulls being killed, the local, amateur toreadors are the ones who often end

up being hurt, usually after overindulgence in another aspect of the fiesta!

As the three team members stood trembling in the centre of the ring, the bull made its move. It went for Lynn, who did the natural thing most amateurs would do in the same situation. He turned to run, but promptly fell over. A few adrenalin filled moments followed as he disappeared in a cloud of dust and charging hooves. The bull then turned and made for Dominic, whose Iberian blood saved him, and the bull charged off to another part of the ring. Lynn was thankfully unhurt, though covered in dust. In the eyes of the crowd he was the hero of the day.

The events of that afternoon convinced even the most sceptical locals that we were really humans, just like them. Three weeks later, as Emma and Dominic were travelling to the mountain refuge on Chimborazo, over fifty miles away, their driver turned to them and said: 'Weren't you the bullfighters at the Guamote festival?'. We had made quite an impression.

Climbing the volcanoes

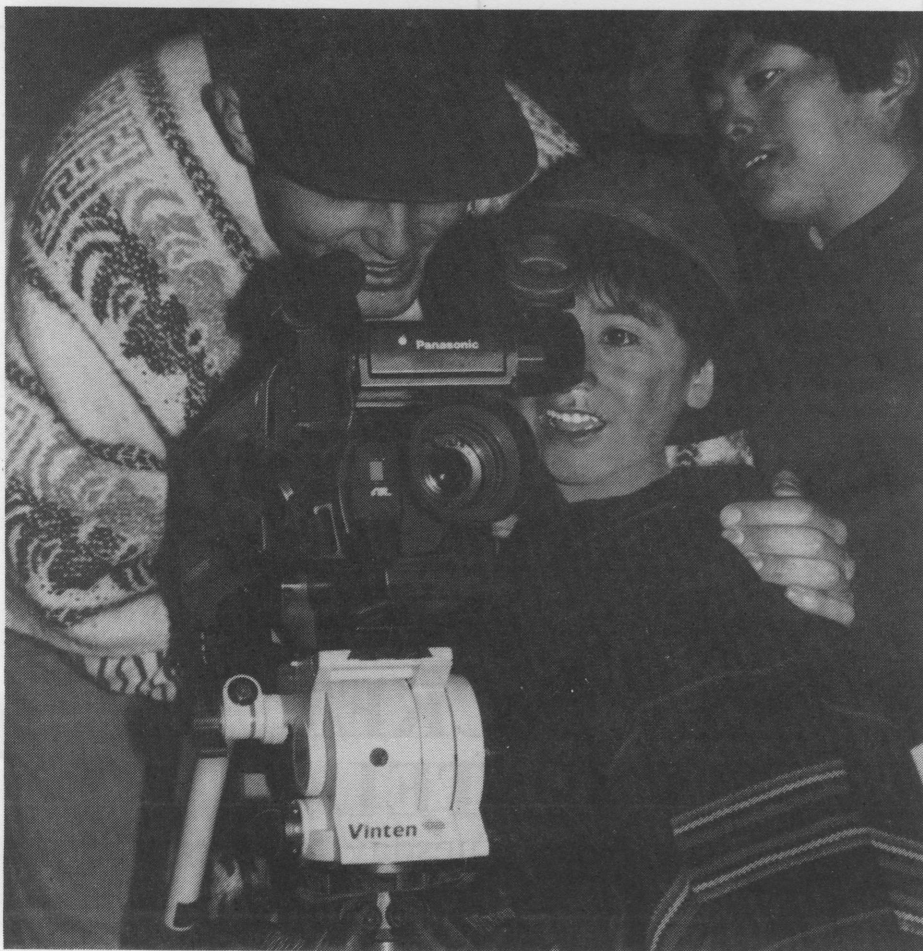
Our main climbing objectives were ascents of two of the world's highest volcanoes, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo. We also climbed a third peak for some preliminary training. Before we could begin, though, we said good-bye to two of the team, Janet and Mark, who had to return to England for academic and work related reasons.

After some initial reconnaissance, we chose Tungurahua, an active 5016m volcano, as our training peak. The first part of our ascent was an arduous trek up to 3200m. The trek took us through natural tunnels to spectacular views of the jungle thousands of feet below.

We started the final climb at 3am the next morning. The weather was appalling. We were soon the only party climbing that day as the other group, a team of Germans, gave up. The six of us carried on as the conditions grew worse; freezing rain turning into a blizzard above the snowline. We arrived at the summit in near zero visibility and stayed there for only a few minutes before making a hasty retreat.

Our second climb was up Cotopaxi (5850m), the highest active volcano in the world. It's recorded activity dates back to 1534, when the Spanish Conquistadors ventured into this area. Several destructive and spectacular eruptions occurred; the biggest being in 1877, when rivers of mud from the eruption reached the Pacific ocean, 250km away.

We were joined for this climb by Javier Cabrera, a student from the EPN and one of Ecuador's best climbers. His knowledge of the mountains (he had been up Cotopaxi more than thirty times) and his unflagging enthusiasm kept us going towards the



Hector has a go at filming

Continued overleaf

summit. After spending the evening at the mountain's refuge at 4800m, we began to climb at 2am. The slopes were steep, but the snow conditions were excellent at this time.

Dawn was an incredible sight, the huge shadow of Cotopaxi sketched out over a billowing carpet of cloud below us. Soon the wind picked up, causing a big drop in temperature and lifting up this carpet to envelope us. We arrived at the top in zero-visibility, but the feeling of elation at reaching the summit of such a high peak made up for the lack of view. This feeling turned to awe after ten minutes when the cloud suddenly cleared and revealed a most spectacular scene. The dark, active crater of Cotopaxi became visible below us, as did the many peaks on the horizon. We could clearly see Chimborazo over one hundred miles away. It looked formidable.

Chimborazo was our ultimate goal. It's summit has the distinction of being the furthest point on the globe away from its centre, due to the earth's asymmetry. We spent three days in the refuge on Chimborazo at 5000m acclimatising, relaxing and practicing ice climbing techniques. Javier had kindly agreed to accompany us up this peak as well. On the fourth day we began to climb at 1am to make the most of the good snow conditions. The reality of our awesome objective was made clear to us as a nearby avalanche threw up a chilling cloud of snow around us. At the foot of the massive serac cliff, which guards the last 500m to the summit, the team split into two groups. Dominic, Alister and Magnum made the more usual traverse under the seracs to reach the summit around the north side of the mountain; while Lynn and Basil took an unconventional direct route. Both groups made it to the summit. Javier and Emma made their own attempt the next day, reaching the summit and descending in a grueling twelve hour marathon. For all six of the remaining team to successfully reach the summit of this daunting mountain at their first attempt was an incredible achievement. It had defeated many better but, perhaps less enthusiastic, climbers before. We felt good!

Following the end of the mountaineering, the expedition's field activities grew to a close. The remaining team divided into two groups for the return to England: Alister, Emma, Lynn and Magnum spent a couple more weeks in Ecuador, exploring the jungle, swinging on liana vines and catching pirana fish, and also finding time to relax on the Pacific coast; Dominic and Basil went off in search of more South American adventures, making their way back to Old Blighty via Colombia, Venezuela and a rather hurricane damaged Caribbean. By the end of September, everyone was home.

Thanks

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of many people. We would especially like to thank Panasonic, Broadcast Europe, Vinten Broadcast, The University of London, French Protestant Church of London, British Petroleum, Sir Frederic Snow and Partners, Phillips Communications and all those fashion victims who bought expedition T-shirts!

BEAN'S CLUB

Xmas Dinner
Friday 8th December
Meet at Holbein House, 7pm

The 1989 London University Ecuador Expedition

If you would like to organise your own expedition and would like to know more about this year's expedition, and have a sneak preview of the film, the team will be giving a presentation on **Tuesday December 12th at 1pm in Lecture Theatre 220 Mechanical Engineering.**

CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION 38th DINNER & DANCE

9th FEBRUARY, 1990

cocktail reception ★ 4 course dinner

★ wine ★ port ★ coffee & petits

fours ★ band ★ magician

£75 DOUBLE TICKET

WALDORF HOTEL

Tickets from Guilds Office on sale 9am, Tuesday 5th December

BE ON TIME—THEY SELL OUT VERY QUICKLY

Introduction

Alcohol awareness is the theme of the second welfare campaign of this year taking place on Thursday and Friday (7th and 8th December).

The whole aim of the campaign is not to force you to stop drinking alcohol but to promote an *awareness* of how much you are drinking and what effect that drinking has upon you. Over the two days Riverside Health Authority will have a display in the JCR which will have information leaflets available and friendly personnel to offer advice. On the Thursday evening there will be a bar quiz held in the Union Snack Bar with special promotions on selected low alcohol drinks and free samples of others.

Why do we drink?

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why you drink alcohol? You may come up with the answers; to relax, to feel happy, to forget or to socialise (some of you would even say simply to get pissed). All of the above are applicable but cast your minds back to your first days as a Fresher, did you feel an overwhelming social pressure to drink? Most people certainly would say yes. Especially in institutions such as Imperial the choice of whether to drink or not seems to have disappeared. But you do have a choice.

Once you've freed yourself from the social pressures to drink you can then make a choice of whether to drink or indeed how much to drink. To help you in your choice you should consider the following.

How much do we drink?

Awareness of the health hazards of drinking to excess is quite high (liver disease, heart disease, brain damage, overweight, etc).

Awareness of the recommended *limits* is relatively low (14 units for women 21 units form men per week).

Awareness of *how much* we actually drink is practically zero.

To help you to help yourself a drink diary has been produced so that you can easily keep a tab on what you've been drinking. Try doing this for a week and you're certain to surprise yourself. Simply cut out the diary and keep it with you.



IC UNION GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7 December
JCR, 6pm
Be there or be shat on!

HOW MANY UNITS OF ALCOHOL IN YOUR DRINK?

BEERS AND LAGERS

Ordinary strength beer or lager	½ pint	1
	1 pint	2
Export beer	1 can	1½
	1 pint	2½
Strong ale or lager	1 can	2
	½ pint	2
Extra strength beer or lager	1 pint	4
	1 can	3
	½ pint	2½
	1 pint	5
	1 can	4

CIDERS

Average cider	½ pint	1½
	1 pint	3
	quart bottle	6
Strong cider	½ pint	2
	1 pint	4
	quart bottle	8

SPIRITS

1 standard single measure	1
1 bottle	30

TABLE WINE

(including	1 standard glass	1
cider wine and	1 bottle	7
barley wine)	1 litre bottle	10

SHERRY AND FORTIFIED WINE

	1 standard small measure	1
	1 bottle	12

1 UNIT ALCOHOL = 1 STANDARD DRINK

DRINK DIARY ALCOHOL CONCERN

[illegible]

Produced by Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB

More Cyprus Mary's reply Horrific

Dear Dave,

We were moved by the vigour of the letters in the previous issue of FELIX about Northern Cyprus. However, the anonymous authors, unfortunately appear to be the victims of the thriving Turkish propaganda. To restore the truth, we want to clarify the following points:

Ever since the Declaration of Independence of Cyprus in 1960, Greece, Turkey and Britain have maintained their forces in Cyprus as guarantors. Greek armed forces have to be present on the island to ensure that the agreement is honoured, at least in the part that remains independent, and to protect the population against another incident. To say that these forces are occupying Cyprus, implies that British forces are occupying Cyprus too, which, of course, is not true.

The claim that the Turkish-Cypriots have now finally found peace in N. Cyprus away from the 'Greek tyranny' does not really explain why many Turkish Cypriots have stayed in S. Cyprus, while many others flee there to find the so-called 'oppression and suffering'. It is also worth noting that Ozgier Ozgour, the leader of a Turkish-Cypriot party recently asked the Turkish Government in Ankara to withdraw all Turkish troops from N. Cyprus for peace to be finally restored among the Cypriots. This statement was quickly covered by the Turkish government.

Every informed person knows which country is ruled by a military regime under which human rights are despised, as is repeatedly pointed out by Amnesty International.

As for the 'breathtaking historical monuments' that were advertised in these letters, it is needless to say which of the two civilisations created them.

The United Nations consider Cyprus as a country under invasion and partial occupation; their decision is that Cyprus is a self-determined country. It is distressing that the Turkish government with its Unilateral Declaration of Independence of N. Cyprus is clearly attempting to perpetuate the division of Cyprus and its people at a time when in Europe walls are being torn down.

We wish to invite the authors of the letters in the previous issue to meet us to debate on this subject. We believe that open-minded people, as students are, will soon arrive to a conclusion which is acceptable for both sides and not tarnished by prejudice.

Yours sincerely,

The Committee of the Hellenic Society of Imperial College.

Turd in pool

Dear FELIX,

Just when you thought it was safe to go into the water...

As a regular visitor to the IC Sports Centre, I wish to complain about the state of the pool.

Most people swim on the surface and they are spared the horrors of the deep end. The amount of hair, hairbands and earrings is appalling but I suppose not surprising. Even marbles and golfballs can be seen by anyone diving down to the deep end, but coming face to face with a killer turd? I dread to think how this revolting object came to be on the bottom of the pool but all you swimming without goggles, beware stay off the bottom or you might come in contact with the objects of the deep.

Name withheld by request.

Dear Editor,

I felt that it was necessary to comment on the controversy surrounding the Dean of St Mary's binning of FELIX, Issue 850, November 17, 1989.

The pictures accompanying the article were degrading and irrelevant to the somewhat 'scanty' content of the article. You obviously misunderstood the reasons behind the Dean's actions. I am confident that his reasons were sound and now firmly believe that FELIX are inexperienced in approaching a controversial subject such as pornography in a professional manner. Spending some time with patients in sexually transmitted disease clinics would alter your viewpoints. You should also consider the whole of the Dean's memorandum.

Secondly, in reply to the letter headed 'Mary's Whitehouse', this further underlines the ignorance of Imperial College students regarding the way St Mary's works and the position of the 'students' already in a semi-professional role. The Students' Union is an integral part of our Medical School but maintains its own principles and ideas. I feel the arrogant assumption that decisions are made for us is unjustified and misinformed.

Finally, I note the anonymity of the letter. This is hypocritical, as a student should 'feel free to say and print their opinions of him and his actions' without the fear of getting bad references from the college.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Klava,

Vice President, SMH Students' Union.

Kurds & why

Dear Dave,

It is encouraging to see the friends of Northern Cyprus condemn human rights violations, but their concern and cries of outrage seem to diminish whenever the subject changes to Turkey's oppression of its Kurdish minority, which incidentally numbers well over 12 million. To say the least, the Kurdish language, folklore or any sympathies are still forbidden and are punishable offences in a country which seeks membership to the EC and which to this day does not officially recognise its Kurds as a minority group. No wonder they would rather burn alive than return there.

Evidence on this matter and plenty of it is available from Amnesty, an organisation whose reputation only an ignorant bigot would challenge.

As for the 'disreputable record', the authors might have been wiser to leave this phrase out, as it only serves to disrepute the Turks or at least their governments. History speaks for itself, so clearly there is no need to remind our dear friends of certain sad and terrible events earlier in this century, as it will not help in any way to solve current problems.

Surely the friends of Northern Cyprus would condemn all violations of human rights anywhere in the world including Turkey's, if they were sincere. And it would be shocking to hear any excuses explaining these injustices or brushing them aside. Instead they should sit with their fellow Greek Cypriot students and work towards peace and a solution to their problems, (and the Kurdish problem with the Kurds) instead of haggling about who started it.

After all, we have the key to the future.

Yours sincerely,

D A H Sherif.

Dear Dave,

'My cellmate was taken to the courtyard. They stripped his chest bare, forced him to lie, his back on the ground, and placed a heavy stone on to his chest. The heat was almost unbearable. He died after a few hours, probably after repeated heart attacks, which was the official cause of death.'

This is an account of what happened to a Prisoner of War in Turkey, a couple of years ago. About 1,700 Greek (including many Greek Cypriot) POW's went missing after the invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Very few of them have been seen again. This is an answer to allegations, in last week's FELIX, that the Turkish Army invaded Cyprus to 'protect human rights'.

The Turkish dictatorships have, in this respect, undergone some progress: in the 1920s, Suyma's (TS?) Greek area was burned together with its inhabitants. Some had the time to throw themselves into the sea. Most had their arms chopped off as they tried to climb onto ships. The grandchildren of some of the others are amongst us.

Although the Turkish Army certainly doesn't nail people to trees, through their stomachs, or induce them with honey to be eaten by insects anymore, torture described in the beginning of the letter is bad enough.

Thousands of Cypriots found one day that they would never go back to their houses. Some of them are members of ICU and they can't sunbathe on their 'unspoiled beaches with crystal clear seas'. They would just pray to be admitted in their hometown and villages for a couple of hours, to fill a jar with earth from the fatherland, to have something to soak up their tears.

Enosis—Union with the Hellenic Motherland—now and forever, is for Cyprus the only guarantee of Peace, which we all ardently desire. This letter is not a provocation, I don't want to have an argument with anyone, nor is it a product of hatred which I do not have for anyone. Just bitterness, that sorrow of so many humans is drowned by the 'crystal clear seas' and the 'Turkish delights' that the anonymous authors of last week's FELIX advertised.

Emmanuel Saradakis, Physics 2.

Dean support

Dear Mr Smedley,

I am a medical student at St Mary's Hospital Medical School and am writing to you to express my whole hearted support for our Dean, Professor Richards. My experience of reading FELIX in the past is that it is not particularly stimulating, informative or serious in its nature. Indeed the attitude of the Editor and some of the correspondents in this issue is incredibly childish, short-sighted and irresponsible, as was the publication of explicit, pornographic material. Apart from the possible exposure to patients to that material and the damage to their sensibilities, in Paddington we are exposed to the sex industry day in and day out we do not need it plastered over a student magazine as well. I would like to end with an appeal to the Editor of FELIX to realise that some of us live in a harsh and very real world of human suffering and that it is irresponsible for students to increase that suffering by gratuitous and mindless actions. Next time THINK about the consequences of your actions.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Dunkley.

Satanist!

Dear Dave,

Men and women concerned about their personal rights should stand up and say NO! to IC Christian Union Committee. Their letter in last week's FELIX was frightening enough to make all moral rights junkies piss their pants.

They've credited us with the mental age of fifteen year olds who get Jekyll and Hyde symptoms when they see a bit of rumpy pumpy on the telly.

They think they know the difference between sex and love, well I think they can't know much about love if they want to 'reserve' sex until after marriage, like a business appointment. And as for marriage being 'specially stable', I wonder how long your marriage is going to last when you realise that your partner doesn't turn you on just as much as you had anticipated—don't self-righteously push sex under the carpet or save it like a box of chocolates, it's a very important and enjoyable part of loving someone. So how dare they tell me that my sexuality is God-given, what it's for and when to use it.

It is frightening that people with blinkered views can assume responsibility for the moral standards of others because they think they can do better. A very real example of this is the current tide of religious fever in America bringing about the possibility of abortion being banned: 'Sixteen years old? Poor? Pregnant? Well, UNCLE SAM say you'll have to get married 'cos we ASSUMED you would want a baby and be happy all the time, there are no such things as battered children, murdered wives and barbaric religious laws.' Don't you find that scary?

Even more terrifying is religion itself—a constant reminder of the imposed reality in which we exist (like Tie Rack, McDonalds and battery hens)—and the hold it has on people to the extent that you can't reason with them (yes, shock-horror, a direct attack on religion). When will they realise that Jesus probably died for his own sins and I don't even know God so how can he love me? (How do they know anyway??)

And did you see the letter by that yawling potato chip Richard Maret? He stresses that all pornography comes from Satan, the evil one, God's enemy; he ALSO reckons that Jesus paid for my sins. Don't worry, Richard, Heaven's just like Disneyland, and as long as you're a good boy, sing loudly in church and don't get laid before you marry, you can have your place there guaranteed (well that's what it's all about isn't it??...).

Fancy a dictatorship under Runcietollah? Relax and watch it happen...

Yours sincerely,
Rupert Seldon.

Bantoff

Dear Dave,

Never one to claim praise where it isn't due (what?), I must reluctantly point out that the mascotry article in last week's issue was not actually my work, but that of Chas Randles (RCSU VP) with Paul Errington (RCSU TO). I merely supplied the photos which you didn't use.

Surely having experienced my literary efforts in old Broadsheets, you can't have mistaken this well reasoned lament of RSMU for my usual drivel?

Humbly yours,
Simon Banton.

Annosis

Dear Dave,

The Tumor of Annosis.

I do personally believe that (and I am sure anybody in his/her right mind will agree with me) the solution to the Cyprus problem lies at the delicate hands of the surgeon who is capable of removing completely, without leaving any trace behind, **the tumor of Annosis** from the minds of people living on the west side of the Aegean Sea. The surgeon is called 'the wisdom of seeing the reality'. The rest is nothing more than the buzz of a fly.

Yours Cyprusfully,
Dr Sedat Ozbilen.

History

Dear Dave,

After reading the letters on Cyprus in last week's FELIX we feel that a brief account of the recent history of Cyprus is essential, as the so-called friends of 'Northern Cyprus' have grossly distorted it.

In 1960 Cyprus became an independent republic. According to the constitution the 18% Turkish Cypriot community was given cultural and religious autonomy, 30% of the posts in the Civil Service, and 40% in the police. The Turkish Cypriots elected the Vice President, who could veto any presidential decision and appointed 3 out of 10 ministers. In parliament 15 out of the 50 seats were reserved for Turkish Cypriots, a separate majority required for a Bill to become law.

In 1963 the President of the Republic suggested amendments to the constitution to the Turkish Cypriot leadership. Turkey rejected them on their behalf and engineered an intercommunal crisis. Turkish Cypriot leadership withdrew from 1960 constitution institutions and set up Turkish military enclaves in Nicosia leading the Turkish Cypriots into isolation and promoting partition. In 1964 Turkish air-force bombarded Cyprus, stirring up intercommunal trouble that caused deaths and casualties among both communities.

On 20 July 1974 Turkey invaded Cyprus, in an operation code named by the Turkish army as 'Atilla' after the infamous barbarian, using as a pretext the coup against the Cyprus Government organised by the Greek junta. An act in violation of the UN Charter, international law, and human rights. On 23 July the Greek junta fell and on 28 July constitutional order was restored in Cyprus. Turkey nevertheless continued the aggression and on 14 August mounted a second attack. As a result 37% of Cyprus is still occupied, 40% of the Greek Cypriot population are still refugees, and 1,619 people are still missing. Today 65,000 settlers have been transplanted from Turkey to the occupied Cyprus, while cultural heritage in the occupied areas is systematically destroyed as reported by the Council of Europe.

What the Government and people of Cyprus want and have proposed, is that the occupation army leaves, Cyprus is demilitarised, and all Cypriots are left alone to live peacefully together in a federal Republic. Unfortunately at a time that Europe is coming together, Cyprus is kept divided, by the Turkish army, against the will of all Cypriots.

The Cypriot Society,
(Friends of the whole of Cyprus).

Statistics

Dear Dave,

Following last week's letters from the so-called 'Friends of Northern Cyprus' may I note that none of them actually comes from Cyprus since they would have known that:

a) The only official census of 1960 showed that the then population of Cyprus was approximately 660,000 of which 82% were Greek Cypriots and 18% were Turkish Cypriots.

b) Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 with the pretext of restoring constitutional order in Cyprus after a coup d'etat staged by the then Greek Military Junta. Instead they occupied 37% of the northern part of the island, which ironically had a less percentage of Turkish Cypriots than the South, purely for strategic reasons, and forced 200,000 Greek Cypriots out of their homeland (equivalent to the UK is about 20 million).

c) In order to change the demography of Cyprus to what the 'Friends of Northern Cyprus' make now 30%, Turkey transplanted 65,000 Turkish Anatolian settlers to the occupied area. The settlers together with the occupation troops (35,000) will soon outnumber the indigenous Turkish Cypriot population, and they certainly impose their political view to the Cypriots want the unification of the island.

d) The position of the democratically elected Cypriot Government ever since independence, was never that of 'Enosis' (Unification with Greece). 'Enosis' is just the vision of Turkish expansionism who would like to incorporate Northern Cyprus to Turkey.

Finally a plea to the prospective holiday maker. The majority of the land, homes and hotels in Northern Cyprus belong to people who are not allowed to visit them and are forcefully and illegally (by international law) deprived of.

By visiting Northern Cyprus you are granting approval to an unjust situation, and you are making our struggle for a united, just and free Cyprus that more difficult.

Kypros Pilakoutas,
(Refugee from Northern Cyprus)
Earthquake Engineering, Civ Eng Dept.

Personal

Dear Dave,

In response to Mark Page's letter in the last issue of FELIX there are some issues I would like to put straight on the matter of Nicky Fox's resignation as Conservative Society Chairman and what she did/didn't tell FELIX. I was the person who interviewed Nicky for the article printed 3/11/89 during which she mentioned the personal and political reasons why she had stepped down. The article was submitted and, as with most news items, was edited down to the space allowed. In a letter 17/11/89 Nicky mentioned that she had told of her personal reasons. I would like to ask what more Mr Page requests; that Nicky reveal in detail what her personal reasons were?

As someone who is most definitely outside of ConSoc I would find the volley of retaliating letters amusing if it were not for the underlying facts that Nicky didn't resign purely on political grounds and that she has a right to privacy on personal matters.

I hope that this has gone some way to clarifying the matter.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Waller.

What a load of shish

Dear Dave,

Referring back to the letters published in the last three issues of FELIX, on the subject of Cyprus, the unfair pressure put on STA not to advertise holidays to Northern Cyprus by a few Greeks, but ill-informing them, is totally unjustified.

It is unfortunate that there are hardly any Turkish Cypriots from the Republic of Northern Cyprus in Imperial College who can make their voices heard. The Greek Cypriots repudiated the 1960 agreements, which formed the legal basis of the Republic of Cyprus, by their conduct from 1963 to 1974. They cannot possibly be regarded today as the lawful government of the Republic, which was by its very

nature a bi-communal state. The Turkish Cypriots had no choice but to establish their own state. British troops, United Nations troops and 'guarantees' having failed to protect the Turkish Cypriots from 1963 to 1974, they are justified in regarding Turkish troops on the ground in Cyprus as the only reliable guarantee to their existence. The Turkish Cypriots accepted the 1986 UN plan, which both the British government and the Secretary General endorsed as a good basis for a settlement, but the Greek Cypriots rejected it and still hold out for 'better terms'.

Yours sincerely,

Friends of the Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Names withheld by request.

Come on Dave!

Dear Dave,

I would like to respond to a couple of points raised last week concerning the quality of FELIX.

Last year FELIX was an excellent newspaper. It was interesting, informative and often amusing. It was a delight to read, and was extremely popular.

This year I have been extremely disappointed with FELIX. Issue 851 was the first I actually enjoyed, though this was more due to the readers' letters than any particular effort on your behalf. FELIX is padded out with monotonous ball-by-ball football commentaries, uninformative record and concert reviews, recycled 'Film '89' film reviews and boring

interviews.

John Patterson last week suggested you should reduce news coverage to save paper. I don't think that is possible. ICU's 20 page newspaper has two pages of news, relegated to the front and back covers. You should increase news coverage, and cut out the above-mentioned dross.

Oh, and bring back the Baron.

Yours sincerely,

Ultan McCarthy, Physics 2.

PS. Please confirm that the UGM on Thursday 7 will be at 6pm. This seems a very silly time to hold it, even by ICU standards.

Edited

Dear Dave,

Has Mark Page considered the possibility that FELIX may not have printed the whole of the interview conducted with Miss N J Fox about her reasons for resigning as the Chairman of the Conservative Society. It is not unheard of to cut certain news items in order to make way for others deemed more interesting to the average Imperial student.

Yours sincerely,

Anita de la Motre, Chemistry PG.

Hand it over

Dear Dave,

Following the article in last week's FELIX concerning Mascotry, a meeting took place between the two Unions concerned. At the meeting everyone realised that there had been several misunderstandings which lead to the article. We now feel that its content was ill-considered.

We decided that our Unions will now communicate and cooperate on the handover of Davy.

We hope that this will lead to more understanding between the members of the two Unions, and we hope to have the handover early next term.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Rothwell, Vice President RSM.

C H R Randles, Vice President RCS.

Alumnus Day

Before I started working at Imperial College, I always thought that the Alumnus Office was a fausty backroom full of files collecting layers of dust. I was wrong. It is in fact an office of hectic bustle and hi-tech.

The word Alumnus derives from the Latin Alma Mater meaning Educational Mother. Alumnus being the child of the Alma Mater/University body.

Alumni Relations is currently one of the fastest growth areas in UK universities with Imperial at the forefront. Although Imperial has long kept in touch with its Alumni through the Old Student Association, the Alumnus Office (part of the Development Office) has only been in existence in its present form since 1986. It was established to promote and enhance the relationship the College has with its Alumni and now has a database of 72,000 names and 36,000 addresses worldwide. This is continually being updated by an enthusiastic crowd of students employed by the office.

Alumni are kept in touch by a minimum of two

mailings a year. A magazine is planned and other major projects are underway. The Imperial College Address Book is imminent and will be published in three volumes reflecting the three colleges, beginning with City and Guilds.

Imperial has just launched its Telethon campaign, the third to do so after Edinburgh and Oxford. Designed to bring Alumni into closer contact with the College, a team of students phone Alumni giving them the opportunity to air their views on Imperial, Alumni Relations and to donate to the Imperial College Fund, the proceeds of which go to new student accommodation and young lectureships. All the signs show that it will be very successful. Each campaign will be regional culminating with a social event. The present campaign is centered on London with the London Alumni Reception at the finish.

This reception is being held on Friday December 8th as part of Alumnus Day—the climax of the Alumni calendar. All Alumni have been invited to return. The departments will open at 2pm with displays and

laboratory demonstrations. In the Sherfield Building there will also be displays from Archives, Press Office, Continuing Education, Alumni Fund as well as the OSA Hospitality Suite. The Queens Tower will also be open especially for the day.

As this is the first year that this event is being held during term, Alumni will be able to meet current students and we hope they will receive a warm welcome.

Alumnus Day, Friday December 8th.

A summary of the day's events:

- 2.00pm Departments open
- 2.00pm Queens Tower opens
- 4.00pm Departmental Reunions
- 5.15pm Rector's Address
- 6.00pm London Alumni Reception
- 6.00pm Buffet Supper
- 8.00pm Imperial College Choir Concert

The Delator Column

Felix

By Paul Shanley

This week's column is a slight departure from the norm. Instead of opining endlessly on some topic or other, I'd like to present an alternative hypothesis to why natural phenomena occur.

One part of the Queen's Speech last week, set a stream of consciousness going. From reading about research using embryos, I digressed to thinking about the whole concept of nature in general.

My original thought concerned recent discoveries in the field of medicine. The breakthroughs being made with the onset of new ideas occur because methods are evolving to solve old problems. This year saw our race coming a step closer to fighting cancer. In the future, maybe 20-30 years time, we will be near to finding a vaccination against and maybe a cure for AIDS. Advances in DNA research may find changes being made to our genetic make-up to make some handicaps a thing of the past. Spinabifida, Cerebral Palsy etc will belong in history books.

The question I asked myself is; are these changes desirable?

Firstly, some history. There exists in geographical economics, a rule called Malthus' Theory. This hypothesis, controversial when first introduced in the 1770s, states that population will increase until there is no longer enough food to sustain life. The remedy, says Malthus, is to curb population growth artificially.

One theory that springs to mind—and it is probably not unique—is that such curbs already exist in an intrinsically occurring form. They emerge as natural phenomena such as earthquakes, famine, flood and the like. These tragedies are not freaks or accidents. They appear by design.

Life is being prolonged in many forms. Heart transplants, new drugs etc. By prolonging human life in this way, we are breaking some of the laws of nature. This is often illustrated very dramatically in books or on film by The Great Book. The Great Book is a huge tome with details of how long everyone should live for, what the future has in store for them. Everyone's destiny is contained within The Great Book.

Well, I wouldn't be quite so dramatic as that. Assuming the existence of an 'Encyclopedia of Mankind' infers a belief in some form of deity. I'm not so sure about this. Instead I suggest, that there are set laws of nature which could quite easily be committed to paper. These do not control an individual's destiny, but they do place some form of restriction on a planet's growth—what mathematicians would call an upper limit. The basic law goes something like this:

- The total population of a species in any planet is bounded by a set figure.
- When this figure is approached, measures are taken to reduce it. These can be in the form of any type of natural phenomena.
- These measures may occur in an area distanced from the vicinity of population build-up.

This last condition is important. If there is a population explosion in one area, say China, the law may curb growth in another area, such as an earthquake in San Francisco.

Life prolonging schemes violate these laws. There are two remedies:

The first is to cease any research into medicine that extends human life. This is an extremely grey area. Where does one draw the line? Are heart transplants to be stopped? Is a block to be put on further research into presently incurable diseases such as cancer or AIDS? To take matters to extremes, do we put a stop on use of donated blood, as this is also an artificial way to prolong life? Any blood donors, like myself, would be horrified by the idea. However, the Jehova's Witnesses—one of the more public pressure groups—have been saying this for years.

No, the answer is not with the first solution. Any mother whose baby daughter needs a life-saving operation, anyone who is carrying the HIV virus, anyone afflicted with Parkinson's Disease or Asbestosis or Herpes would agree.

The second solution—the favourable one—is to accept the consequences. Life-saving research must continue but it must do so at a cost of not knowing what is around the corner. When another Ethiopia or San Francisco occurs, it must be accepted as Mother Nature's way of tipping the scales back into balance.

These ramblings are just another hypothesis. The long-standing religions would argue the case for ultimate control of our planet and others alike resting in the hands of some higher force. Others, the atheists of this world, assume that life is made up of what we see and nothing more. My scenario is no less probable than that of the Christian or the Jew or the Muslim. The unanswered question remains—how can we tell which one of us is right?



Calling all Postgrads

I am currently researching an article into postgraduate life at Imperial. Recently, I've spoken to a number of PGs who are in some way hacked off with the College. The message, however, appears to be not only what the College can do for them but also ways in which the Union can help. Recent grouses include:

- Theft of research work by supervisors who subsequently publish under their own name.
- Isolation for new arrivals to college, particularly foreign students.
- Not enough social events organised for them. Despite its very high ratio of PGs, Imperial seems to revolve its leisure pursuits around undergraduates.
- Poor academic representation.

If any postgraduates have similar complaints or some new ones, please write to me at FELIX. Obviously, all correspondence is confidential.

What's On

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

FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and get high.
- Rag Meeting**.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Keep Fit**.....6.00pm
Southside Gym with Janet.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....6.00pm
Room 308 Computing.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Fencing Club Meeting**.....6.40pm
Union Gym. Every week.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- ICSO Concert**.....8.00pm
Great Hall. Featuring Dvorak, Symphony No 9 in E minor (from the New World). Students £1 (£1.50 on door), £2.50 to others.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

SATURDAY

- Karate Practice**.....10.00am
Southside Gym.
- Rag Raid**.....10.30am
To Canterbury (meet Union van park). Fancy dress.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.

SUNDAY

- Table Tennis Closed**
- Championships**.....10.30am
The Union Building.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners Class.
- RCSU Night in the Bar**.....7.00pm
Meet in the Bar. Every week.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of Rock Music? Come along and have a beer.
- ICCAG Meeting**.....12.45pm
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Cross Country & Athletics**.....5.30pm
Union Gym. Jogging in Hyde Park and socialising later in Southside.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- 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. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR.
- Wellsoc Meeting**.....7.30pm
Physics LT1. 'Golden Ages: Past and Future'—a talk by Geoffrey Ashe.

- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Latin American Dance**.....7.45pm
Lounge or SCR. All levels.
- Medals in Ballroom**.....8.00pm
JCR.

TUESDAY

- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
Union Senior Common Room. Cheap records, tapes and videos. Order on Tuesday and collect on Thursday.
- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge. Sign up for racing, dry slope skiing and trip to France.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Riding Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge to sign up of Wednesday and weekend trips.
- Christmas Concert**.....1.00pm
Sherfield, walkway level, outside SCR. IC Concert Band.
- AstroSoc Meeting**.....1.00pm
Physics LT2. Visiting lecturer every Tuesday.
- Ents Meeting**.....1.00pm
Union Lounge.
- Amnesty Group Meeting**.....5.30pm
Brown Committee Room.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....5.30pm
Mech Eng. Student training workshop.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....5.40pm
308 Computing.
- Mass for the Martyrs**.....5.45pm
More House, 53 Cromwell Road. Organised by West London Catholic Chaplaincy.
- Wine Tasting**.....6.00pm
Union Dining Hall. A tasting of New Zealand wines by Montana.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Dance Club
- Beginners Ballroom**.....8.00pm
JCR.

WEDNESDAY

- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Outside Southside for sailing.
- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....1.00pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Intermediate Rock'n'Roll**.....2.15pm
SCR. Dance Club.
- Ten Pin Bowling**.....2.20pm
Meet outside Chem Eng/Aero.
- Wutan Tai Chi Chuan**.....3.00pm
Union Lounge. Instructor Hong Chun Lai. Martial art for all ages and sexes.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....3.15pm
SCR.

- Jazz Dance**.....3.30pm
Union Gym.
- Ladies Only Water Polo**.....6.30pm
IC Sports Centre. Enthusiastic new members welcome—any ability.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Experts class.
- FREE DISCO**.....9.00pm
In the Union Lounge Nightclub until 1am.

THURSDAY

- Christian Union Meeting**.....8.15am
Chaplaincy.
- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- IC Fencing Club**.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Every week.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- Environmental Soc Lecture**.....12.45pm
Mech Eng 342. 'Recent developments in wind and wave power.'
- ICSF Library Meeting**.....1.00pm
- YHA**.....12.30
Southside Upper Lounge. Sign up for weekend break. Everyone welcome.
- ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from 1700 books.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and check us out, sign up for a weekend in the sky.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Messiah**.....7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Rd. Queen's Gate Chorale Gore Company of Players conducted by Timothy Roe. £6, £4, £2 (students).
- FilmSoc Film**.....7.30pm
Mech Eng 220. 'Good Morning Vietnam'. 50p to members, £1.50 others.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Next to Southside Bar.
- ICCAG Soup Run**.....9.00pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.

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.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
See Monday's entry.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

FELIX DINNER

Friday 8th December
Will Bill Goodwin make it
to the FELIX ~~Club~~ dinner?
Come along and find out

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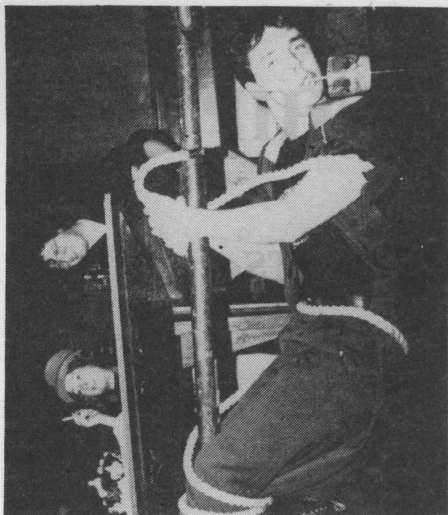
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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS DECEMBER 31 1989

MacMascot



IC Union President, Neil McCluskey, was slave for a day to the Royal College of Science Union yesterday. Tied to a pole, he was used as a mascot at their UGM

Power cut

Most of the West End of London lost power for an hour yesterday, when a 66,000 volt cable was sheared by construction work at Lodge Rd Substation in St John's Wood. 660 MegaWatts were lost as secondary faults occurred leading to a failure spreading from Hampstead to Carnaby Street.

Egg winners

The winners of the City and Guilds 'Great Egg Race' were the Civil Engineering team, comprising of Alison Pickles, Edward Norton, Jonathan Saunby and Jeremy Sneddon. Their task was to build the tallest, lightest tower possible out of everyday materials. It was noted that if Civil Engineering had not won this task it would have been extremely embarrassing for them.

SPORTS RESULTS

Football

IC 4th—2	UC 4th—7
IC 1st XI—1	Kings—2
IC 3rds—2	Kings 2nd—2
IC 5th—2	LSE 5th—3

Rugby

IC—10	St Thomas—21
IC 2nds—32	St Thomas 2nds—4

Hockey

IC 2nds—1	St Barts 1sts—1
IC 3rds—1	RSM—0

Ladies Hockey

St Barts—1	IC—1
IC 2nds—3	QMC 2nds—0

Goodwin lost?

Last year's Felix Editor, William Goodwin, has been refused permission to appeal against the court ruling that he was in contempt of court after refusing to hand over documents or reveal his sources.

Mr Chris Barrie, of 'The Engineer', the magazine for which Mr Goodwin was working, said that his last chance was in the appeal that the company that owned the magazine, 'Morgan Grampian', hopes to make against the judgement passed on them.

No furniture for Evelyn

Students at Imperial College are expected to live in sub standard accommodation in Evelyn gardens because the college is not willing to fund the residences any further.

A resident of Holbein house explained that furnishing within the house was minimal and that the showers were not in a fit state to be used. Mr. K. Young, warden of Southwell house said that Mr. Peter Leeson, superintendent at Evelyn Gardens, ought to be fighting for more money from Mr. Peter Hallworth, Manager of Student Residences, and that 'not enough pressure was being put on the college'. He revealed his irritation with the administration in that they felt unable to act despite the fact that cookers did not function fully, that there were not enough fridges and that the residents had to watch television sitting on the floor. Mr Hallworth responded by saying that he had no report of this. He also said that he was putting constant pressure on the college for more funding and there 'would be more furniture when we've got the money'.

Students say they live in totally unacceptable conditions in some halls, and are getting frustrated at the nonexistence of cooperation between wardens and the residence manager. Dr. Murphy, Warden of Fisher Hall, where there is very little furniture after the recent refurbishment, commented 'we're getting there—rather like British Rail'.

Antidrug scheme

The Westminster Borough Council is launching a new 'Anti-Drugs Ribbon Award Scheme' for 1990. The entrants are to complete a project diary in one of six prescribed activities.

Prizes will include money and equipment. Those interested should contact 'One Stop Services', Westminster City Hall, tel. 01 798 3100

Competition winner

The winner of last week's Motorquip rally competition was J. Lauder of Maths 3. The prize tickets can be picked up from the FELIX Office any time today.

Pool turd

A small pile of excrement was discovered at the bottom of Imperial College's swimming pool on Tuesday 21st November. Mr EC Spooner, superintendent of the sports centre, said that this happened occasionally at all pools. 'Its not exactly common', he said, 'but it's not unknown'.

After a protracted argument he conceded that the offending animal byproduct did not necessarily have to be human—it was suggested that a wacky student may have taken in a dog's doings concealed in a lunchbox. He explained that it would be rather difficult to ascertain the origin of the offending article once the water had made it expand.

Be on radio

The BBC Radio Science Unit is to hold a 'science retrospective' quiz in the Union Concert hall on 14th December. The quiz will look back at the last ten years of science by getting its competitors to try to identify obscure pieces of scientific apparatus.

The competition will be between two teams. On the academic side will be Professor John Albery, Dr Harry Rosenberg and Sheila Anderson. Representing Radio Four's Science Unit will be Dr Geoff Watts, Georgina Ferry and Peter Evans. The competition will be presented by Alun Lewis, and will be broadcast sometime after Christmas.

It will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 14th December and tickets are available from the IC union office. Mr Alun Lewis told Felix that hecklers would be encouraged to offer tips and suggestions to the teams.

Vandalism!

The office of the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) has had its door vandalised, following the recovery of their stolen trandem, 'Jane'. A spokesperson from the RCSU said that the door had been attacked with a stanley knife last Saturday Evening.

The vandal left 'Horace was here' carved in the door, and is estimated to have caused £1000 worth of damage.

The RCSU pointed out that Jane is an inviolate mascot, and as such cannot be stolen. They added they were following their own line of enquiries.

Silwood sellout

Part of the science park at Imperial College's Silwood Park is going on the market. The 'fully equipped research facility' has a 25 year lease on it, previously owned by BP Nutrition. The condition attached to the leaseholder is that they work in conjunction with Imperial College—BP had previously built greenhouses which had been used by the Biology department.