

Rag mag banned at Keele

Imperial College's Rag Mag has been banned from Keele University Campus for the second successive year. Keele University Student Union (KUSU) has written to the Rector, Sir Eric Ash, and Mr Neil McCluskey, IC Union President, complaining that the publication was highly offensive, but not giving specific examples.

Mr Hal Calamvokis, Rag Mag editor for this year, said that he believed no example was cited as none would stand up to their criticism. He claimed that accusations of racism were 'ridiculous' since neither he nor his fellow editor, Mr John St Hill, were of British origin. He said that in his view the only faintly sexist joke was one referring to women drivers.

He said that the magazine went through a censorship committee comprising of the 3 Union sabbaticals, the Rag Mag editor

and chairman, the officer for lesbians and gays and it would have contained the women's officer had there been one at the time. They approved the publication.

Warwick University have also banned this year's edition and Leicester University banned last year's. Mr David Williams, IC Union Deputy President and last year's Rag mag editor claimed that along with Aston University and the medical colleges, IC's Rag Mag is independently produced and as such has gained a reputation for originality which is popular with students. He added that this fact irritated other Universities and they probably banned it without even looking at it.

Mr Williams claimed that any change in the style of IC's Rag Mag towards conforming with other editions would compromise its selling capability. He said that the purpose of rag mags was to raise

a laugh and raise money.

The Deputy President of KUSU said that the rag mag had been banned because it was 'racist, sexist, ablist and heterosexual and generally offensive.' She expressed surprise that the publication had gone through a censorship committee and said that it had not contained a blue pull-out section containing the most offensive jokes as agreed last year.

She claimed that if Imperial did 'clean up' the rag mag then KUSU would be happy to support them. She added that though they had received a reply from the Rector, no reply had been forthcoming from IC Union.

Mr McCluskey said he would not comment on the matter until further decisions had been made.

MSF picket meeting



Over 100 members of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance (MSF) Union picketed a meeting of the Management and Planning Group (MPG), the College's highest executive body, on Thursday. The picket was held to highlight objections to possible compulsory redundancy for seven MSF members. Chris Stringer and Susan Sharp, IC MSF Chairman and Secretary, read a statement to the meeting on behalf of the IC MSF.

IC MSF were supported by members of the MSF from other universities, including King's College, Queen Mary and Westfield College and Manchester University.

Chem Eng in disgrace

The Chemical Engineering Departmental Dinner last Friday was a disgrace according to many who attended it. At the event, held in the Senior Common Room, both academics and students behaved in a compromising manner in front of the guest speaker, Dr Peter Williams of Oxford Instruments plc.

Allegations have been made concerning the behaviour of Professor Lester Kershenbaum towards catering staff during the evening. He denied them categorically. 'It was more rowdy than usual,' he said, 'but not excessively so—it

would have been nicer if it had been less rowdy'.

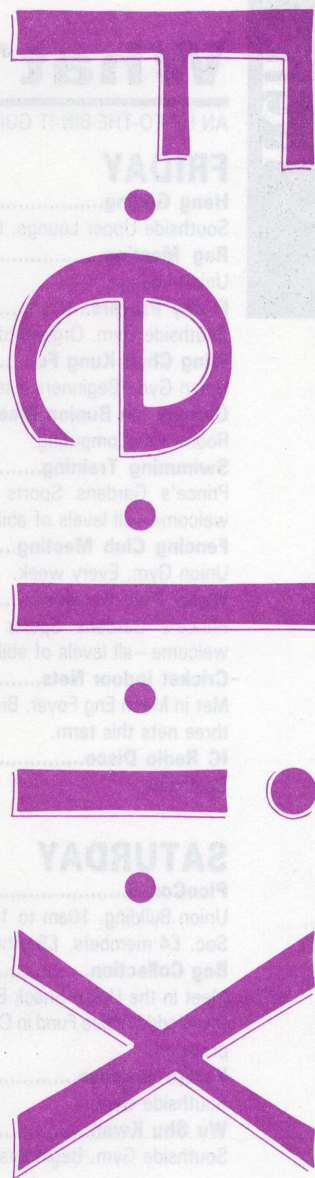
Mr Rob Northey, IC Refectories Manager, said that he had 'expressed disapproval' to the department and added 'I think that senior academics should keep control'. He said that the damage that he and his staff had to clean up comprised mainly of vomit and broken glass and certainly did not add up to £5000 as rumoured, but he declined to elaborate further.

Chem Eng Society has been billed for £15 for a turntable broken during the

event, and a spokeswoman from Chem Eng Soc said 'I didn't enjoy the evening as much as last year'.

Other academics in the department have expressed anger over the whole affair, and many Chem Eng first years received an admonitory lecture on the following Monday morning.

Professor Bill Wakeham, head of the Chemical Engineering department, is rumoured to be very unhappy with both the students and staff involved, but was unavailable for comment.



Issue 862
Friday 2nd March



What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-BIN-IT 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.
- Chrusty 'un Bunion 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.
- Cricket Indoor Nets**.....7.45pm
Met in Mech Eng Foyer. Bring your whites, we have three nets this term.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

SATURDAY

- PicoCon 8**.....10.00am
Union Building. 10am to 10pm, organised by Sci Fi Soc. £4 members, £5 others.
- Bag Collection**.....10.30am
Meet in the Union Snack Bar for collection in aid of the World Wildlife Fund in Covent Garden. Panda suits provided.
- Karate Practice**.....10.00am
Southside Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.

SUNDAY

- Chaplaincy Sunday Service**.....10.00am
Sherfield Building Anteroom.
- Whoregames**.....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. Bring your own laser printer.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of Rock Music? Come along and have a beer.
- Cross Country & Athletics**.....5.30pm
Union Gym. Jogging in Hyde Park and socialising later in Southside.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Improver's Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. Dance Club.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm
SCR.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Spacious underwear provided.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- WellSoc Speaker Meeting**.....7.30pm

Physics LT1. Michael Newman gives a talk entitled 'Why did HG Wells blow-up Imperial College?'

- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Latin American Dance**.....7.45pm
SCR. Beginners.
- Latin American Advanced**.....8.15pm
SCR.
- 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.
- CathSoc Mass**.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.
- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Riding Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge to sign up for Wednesday and weekend trips.
- Ents Meeting**.....1.00pm
Union Lounge.
- Jewish Society Meeting**.....1.30pm
David Lerner speaks on 'Soviet Jewry'.
- Student Christian Movement**.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office, Basement Flat, 10 Prince's Gardens.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Amnesty Group Meeting**.....5.30pm
Brown Committee Room.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....5.30pm
Mech Eng. Student training workshop.
- Christian Union Prayer Meeting**.....5.40pm
Huxley 411.
- Wine Tasting**.....6.00pm
Senior Common Room. Everyone welcome.
- Canoe Club**.....6.00pm
Meet in Beit Quad or we can be found in Southside Upper Lounge from 8.30-ish. Beginners welcome.
- New Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Indeterminate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Dance Club
- Improver's 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.
- WellSoc 'The Prisoner'**.....1.00pm
Union SCR lock-in.
- Cycling Club Training**.....1.00pm
Meet Beit Arch.
- Midweek Service**.....1.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road.

- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....1.00pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Ten Pin Bowling**.....2.00pm
Meet at Gloucester Road tube.
- Wutan Tai Chi Chuan**.....3.00pm
Union Lounge. Instructor Hong Chun Lai. Martial art for all ages and sexes.
- Ladies Only Water Polo**.....6.30pm
IC Sports Centre. New members welcome—any ability.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Experts class.
- FREE DISCO**.....9.00pm
In the Union Lounge until 1am.

THURSDAY

- Christian Union Prayer Meeting**.....8.15am
Chaplaincy.
- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- IC Fencing Club**.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Every week.
- Methodist Society Speaker Meeting**.....12.30pm
Chemistry 231. Everyone welcome.
- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Aero 254. Come along to arrange your first flight.
- ICSF Library Meeting**.....1.00pm
ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from the 17.00 from platform 3.
- YHA**.....12.30
Southside Upper Lounge. Sign up for weekend break. Everyone welcome.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. All newcomers and hardened balloonies welcome. Sign up for weekends in the clouds.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Next to Southside Boar.
- ICCAG Caviar Run**.....9.00pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's hooray Henrys.

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.

ICU drivers cards will be issued on 8th & 9th March 1990 between 10am and 4.30pm in the Union Office. They will only be issued to drivers who have passed the mini-bus driving test. Please bring with you your Driving Licence and a passport size photo. Please don't ask for the card before these dates.

Born on the Fourth of July

Film

A filofax is a popular contraceptive. On the same lines, calling a film starring all-american Tom Cruise *Born on the Fourth of July* is enough to put anyone off their popcorn. Trite highschool dances, Ultra-Brite teeth and those good 'ole Independence Day Parades: At first sight it reeks of Jingoism.

But this film is really about the American Dream and Jingoism, turned sour. Tom Cruise plays small-town boy Ron Kovic who, after highschool, for the want of something better to do, joins the Marines. 'There's nothing finer, nothing prouder than to be a United States Marine', he's told. This is a debatable assertion at the best of times, but at the beginning of the Vietnam War....

Ron survives in Vietnam for two years, witnessing and even committing varied atrocities until he is near fatally wounded and is sent home, paralysed from the chest down. This is where the real fight begins: As a 'vet', Kovic returns to a country that doesn't feel proud about him, as he was once lead to believe, but feels sorry for him. He also finds out that he has been effectively sterilised: 'Will I ever be able to have children', he asks, 'No, but we have a very good psychologist.' His fight is to create a new life for himself when that of his youth has been shattered beyond repair.

Oliver Stone (also director of *Platoon*) has produced an intelligent and mercifully non-sentimental film which is bound to outshine all the other Vietnam Films that the distributors have imposed upon us recently. Stone collaborated with the real Ron Kovic (the film is his life story) on both the screenplay and on location making the proceedings startlingly realistic. At 2hrs



25mins, it is not a short film; but to compensate this the range of characters and situations employed coupled with the imaginative photography is more than sufficient to hold one's attention.

Perhaps the most startling thing about *Born on the Fourth of July* is Tom Cruise. His portrayal of the lead

role was utterly convincing and was of a quality that few young actors can attain; definitely worthy of his Oscar Nomination and he alone is worth the price of your ticket. Tom, we all love you.

Born on the Fourth of July opens today.

Adrian Pagan

Trop belle pour toi

Film

Bernard, a young successful businessman, is happily married with a beautiful house, beautiful car, two beautiful children and an arrestingly beautiful wife, Florence. Suspecting an infidelity with his secretary, she bursts in on him at work, but upon beholding the plainness of her imagined adversary she dissolves in tears of relief: what attraction could a woman hold, whose form can barely be distinguished from the office furniture which surrounds her? Nonetheless the affair develops, and the subsequent shock-wave threatens to wipe out not only his own marriage, but those of his circle of friends.

Trop belle pour toi is a wonderful mix between sparkling parable and comic tragedy. Florence, who pleads to be accepted as an equal, is an icon of beauty. Her life of endless admirers has not equipped her to comprehend that at heart she is, as she desires, completely ordinary. Colette (the secretary) however has led a quiet life untroubled by the attention of others. Those few who pause to look into her eyes and wonder what lies beyond, are by nature very different. They are the sensitive vulnerable ones.

The director Bertrand Blier, who also wrote the screenplay, clearly enjoys confounding expectations. His clever use of intercuts allows, without loss of direction, the various stages of the plot to meld into one more concise whole. He also enjoys several cinematographic jokes aimed at American cinema among others, but you will have to stay awake to catch them. All three main actors (Josiane Balasko, Carole Bouquet and Gerard Depardieu) give superb performances, though Josiane Balasko's portrayal of the dumpy secretary is particularly magical. Her



sensuous love scenes reflect her ability to transcend physical limits, showing us a character rich in both emotion and compassion.

In conclusion *Trop belle poi toi* is a love story, but one which is neither formulaic nor overly sentimental. It well deserves the special jury prize that it won at Cannes in '89 and will lift the soul of all but the most hardened pessimists.

Trop belle poi toi opens at Chelsea Cinema, The Lumiere and Camden Plaza tonight.

Matthew G Johnson.

Dad

Film

Well we've had the thirtysomethings and their babies, so now its time for the thirtysomethings and their parents. John Tremont (Ted Danson of Cheers notoriety) is a successful businessman who is too busy to visit his parents much of the time. All this changes though when he hears that his mother has had a heart attack. Dropping everything he flies to his parent's home. There he finds his father a sorry sight—barely able to care for himself, reduced to senility by inactivity. John decides to devote himself to restoring his father to health, growing closer to him in the process. Then Dad himself falls ill...

The film tries to mix comedy and drama, and in that aim it is largely successful. Some of the scenes between John and Jack Tremont (Jack Lemmon) are genuinely moving although, to be honest, they can get just a little too sentimental at times. The comedy is also good, especially a scene in which Bette (Olympia Dukakis) is talking to her son about her sex life, and John can't believe his ears. Unfortunately they rarely manage to blend the two, tending to alternate between them with depressing regularity.

Although the impressive cast do their best, they are struggling against a badly constructed script. John seems to be able to take unlimited time off from his job, Jake falls ill and gets better rather too frequently to be believable and the whole thing seems overlong. What could have been a good study of the relationship between parents and children has not been kept under tight enough control, leaving the film to meander aimlessly, obscuring the point. A nice first attempt from producer Goldberg, better luck next time.

Adam T.

When I Fall in Love

Film

Released originally in the US under the title *Everyone's All American*, *When I Fall In Love* is one of those movies that traces people through a good portion of their lives. Although it is being promoted heavily as a love story this is but one of the threads of the plot.

Gavin Grey (Dennis Quaid) is a sports hero at Louisiana State University. Leading the 1956 American football team to win the superbowl, he acquires the nickname 'The Grey Ghost'. He goes on to play the professional game, pausing only to marry his long term sweetheart, that years Magnolia Queen, Babs Rodgers (Jessica Lange). 'Did you ever see two more gorgeous creatures than Gavin Grey and Babs Rodgers?' fawns a member of the crowd. Over the years they breed like rabbits while Gavin's nephew Donnie spends the whole time madly in love with Babs. Donnie (Timothy Hutton) has a successful academic career while Gavin's goes down the tubes and Babs embarks on hers. All the tensions come to a head at a college reunion in 1981.

The passage of time over the 25 years the film covers is marked in a variety of ways. Very little reference is made to real-world events apart from a



perfunctory nod to black right campaigns through the character of Narvel Blue (Carl Lumbly). Instead we are treated to a wide range of fashions and haircuts on Ms Lange and variety of style for Hutton too. The soundtrack has also been designed to reflect the period each scene is set in, with a variety of 'contemporary' music used throughout.

The specially filmed football scenes are intercut with real NFL footage, and so are shot on 16mm film instead of the normal 35mm, giving it a realistic grainy effect. Otherwise the camerawork is competent but uninspired, the most obvious angle being used much of the time.

The acting is, on the whole, adequate but Quaid does not turn in a particularly impressive performance, making Grey seem a very stereotyped person. Hutton makes the most he can of a fairly undemanding part and Lange makes a good job of portraying the 'southern belle with brains' character of Babs. The revelation of the film is John Goodman, who plays a friend of Gavin's. Best known for his portrayal of Roseanne Bar's husband in TV's *Roseanne*, he is both comic and tragic as a man whose life collapses due to a gambling and drinking problem—a great performance.

Unfortunately the film tries to hit too many targets and ends up missing them all. It has no real sense of purpose and one never really feels that you care for the characters. A very weak and uninspiring film.

Adam T.

Romero

Film



Romero is a film that succeeds in doing what Oliver Stone's *Salvador* failed to do. *Romero* tells the story of El Salvador through the eyes of the one man who has become a symbol of the suffering and hope of the tiny Central American republic: Oscar Romero, who is portrayed with great sensitivity by Raul Julia. The film is not without its faults; for example, although the dialogue is in English, many of the characters, particularly the smaller roles, speak with such heavy accents and bad pronunciation that it sounds as if they are having trouble communicating, rather than simply giving a more authentic flavour to the film, and some of the dialogue is a little clichéd. None of this, however, detracts from the immense power of the film.

When Oscar Romero is appointed archbishop the priests working to make the church more committed to the poor are dismayed; Romero is a conservative, a man whose reality is a world of books and the comfort afforded to El Salvador's elite. When his close friend, Father Rutulio Grande, (who is played by Richard Jordan) is murdered by a death squad for organising peasants to defend their rights, Romero's

eyes are opened to the suffering and violence around him. Romero becomes a voice for the voiceless and he comes increasingly into conflict with the government and the armed forces. As repression increases against the mass organisations and the church, Romero is even more outspoken. In his Sunday homily in the cathedral, Romero orders the soldiers to stop the repression. The film ends the next day when, while saying Mass in small chapel, Romero pays for his commitment with his life.

Romero is a balanced and moving study of a country torn apart by poverty and civil war. It is also a beautiful portrait of a man who undergoes the most painful conversion. Romero is, perhaps, an unusual character for a Hollywood film: an overweight, be-spectacled and staid archbishop, yet the film shows him, in his own way, to be a remarkable hero. The release of this film, just three months after six priests who worked with Romero were murdered for their commitment to the same cause, makes its impact even more poignant.

Julian Bommer.

Valued Friends

Theatre



A lot of us have experienced the anguish of organising a flatshare. Your so-called friends 'gazump' you at the last minute, and you and your pet hamster are left with a luxury apartment for six. But imagine what it would be like if you were to invest 30k of your hard earned readies into an Earl's Court Basement with a group of friends one year and the next you find that your loyalties as well your friends' loyalties have changed and that the flat has doubled in price: in most peoples' experience, Friends and Money don't mix.

This is approximately the scenario in *Valued Friends*: Four ex-students have been living in the same basement for ten years and their new yuppie landlord tries to blackmail them into moving out so he can redevelop the whole block. They resist and, with a typical sweep of Thatcher-esque logic, decide to buy. Interestingly, since the play was first performed over a year ago and interest rates have gone through the roof (as it were) the play has been endowed with an unintentional twist: 1990 is NOT the time to buy property.

Writer Stephen Jeffreys has produced a funny and highly intelligent study of Eighties moeurs. His acute observations and the actors' precise characterisation go a long way to make a delightful evening. Miss it at your risk and peril!

See *Valued Friends* at the Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage. Box office 722 2301.

Adrian Pagan.

The Diviners

Buddy Layman is a boy with a genuine gift for detecting water. He can not only find underground water in order to dig wells, he even knows when it is going to rain, even though there is not a cloud in the sky. He also has a phobia about water and refuses to touch it under any circumstances—even to wash.

The villagers all know of Buddy's gift and although they wonder at its accuracy they accept it for what it is and indeed make use of it. Apparently Buddy fell into a river when he was five and was under the water a long time, in fact he almost drowned. His mother died saving him. Both of these incidents have made a great impression upon Buddy for when he is asked, after finding a well for Basil Bennet, a neighbouring farmer, how he detects the water he replies that 'he just closes his eyes and thinks of his Mama'. This search for his Mama and a failure to understand where it is that she has gone, or even why, is a recurring theme in the play.

One day a stranger arrives in the village looking for work. It is at the height of the depression and Ferris Layman, Buddy's father, cannot understand why a man would leave a perfectly good job at such a time. He refuses to employ him until he knows what his previous job was. C.C. is forced to tell Ferris that he was a preacher. Not having had a church or preacher for ten years this news spreads round the town like wildfire and from then on C.C. has no peace from certain members of the community who cannot believe he has given up preaching.

Buddy soon makes friends with C.C. who tries to help him cure his fear of water, if only to help cure him of an everlasting itch which is gradually getting



worse. C.C. also falls in love with Jennie Mae, Buddy's sister, who tries to look after Buddy as well as she can in default of their mother.

Nicholas Cannon is excellently cast as the sixteen year old Buddy. He is childlike and simple and very credible in the role. In fact the casting overall is very good.

The play is set in Indiana, USA and maybe the cast would have been better to reset the play elsewhere or at least not bother with the American accents which were, in the main, appalling. Richard Hamilton as Basil, had the best accent and even this was not at all convincing.

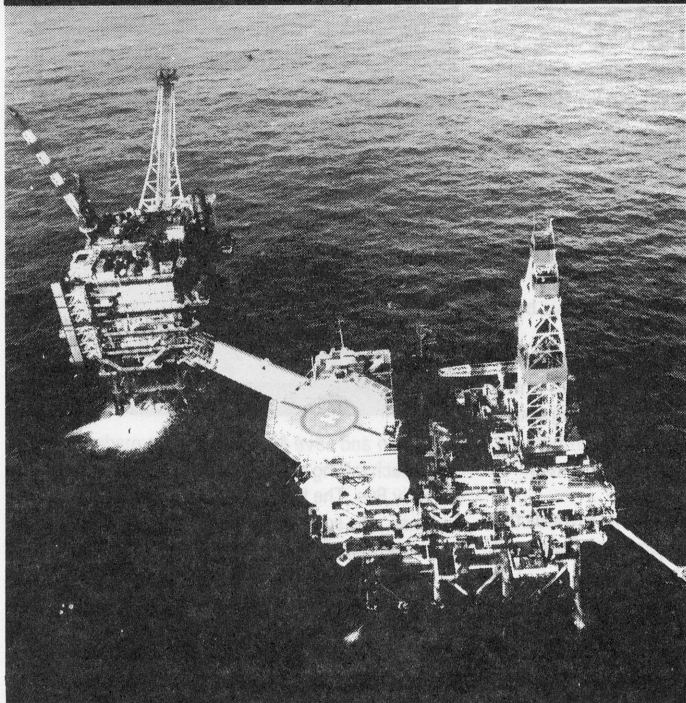
Apart from this the play was very enjoyable. The plot is original and interestingly dealt with and the play

is very well written. The acting is good—the casting helped this. This is the second play in the series 'Women in the Moon', run by the Man in the Moon Theatre Club, highlighting the work of women directors and as with the previous play *The Dutch Courtesan*, very few props are used and very little background scenery—much of this is left to the audiences imagination. Even the ending of this play is very powerful leaving a good impression—an essential feature of any play.

The Diviners is on at the Man in the Moon Theatre Club, 392 Kings Road, Chelsea. Concessionary tickets cost £4. Ring the box office on 351 2876 for details.

J.L.W.

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Bomb Disneyland

—Camden Palace 27.2.90

Bomb Disneyland are monsters of thrash, but were met by an audience of metal heads, misguided casuals, tourists, energetic sadists and a barrage of Camden regulars. But by half way through *Suicide 999*, the sheer volume, naked chests and the unleashed liveliness of the crowd separated the men from the boys.

If you listen to Aerosmith, or suchlike, at double speed, add the vocals of a pregnant pig and a headless chicken, you may just get the general idea.

They crunched and ground their way through twelve songs, massacred the Rolling Stones *Paint it Black* and terrorised us to slam to *Faster Bastard* (that's the headless chicken one.) Dare to enter the void of the dancefloor, to quench the body's brutish desire to slam, at risk of severe bodily dismemberment. Oh to die with a smile on my face!

Totally irresistibly slammable.

SJH and DEL

The Blue Aeroplanes

—Jacket Hangs 12"

Aeronauts write with guitars. After tasting the instantly compulsive guitar riff, it comes as no surprise that they have just toured with REM. Sadly *Jacket Hangs* does just that. It collapses lazily through pointless lyrics about helicopter blades, contact and other plane jargon.

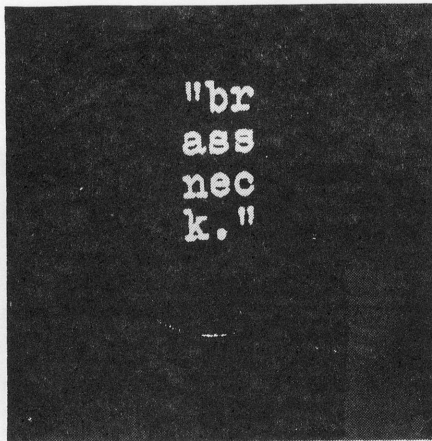
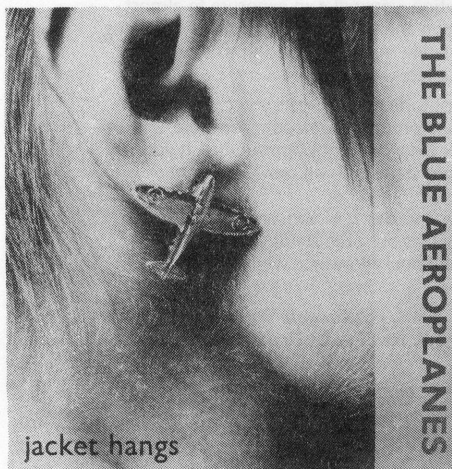
The Blue Aeroplanes could quite easily start a new trait of hypnotism. The blunt riff rams you like a rusty sledgehammer and then pounds on to reach screaming tedium. It's totally addictive and persistent. It haunts at night and terrorises by day. It's the Terminator of music.

The next two tracks, *Razor Walk* and *Different Now* used to be one, but the edge of the vinyl got in the way. Bristol is a lot closer to the USA than Manchester, it seems. Are there any head noddors out there?

They finally make it into the *Big Sky*. It's all a ploy to get you to turn the record back to side one, because it's *Jacket Hangs* in a different order. Who are they trying to kid about freedom? Not Bono.

Listening to *Jacket Hangs* is like drinking alcohol; it's good until you get sick, but it won't leave you alone. Totally compulsive.

SJH.



Wedding Present

—Brassneck

Brassneck is exactly the same as every other Wedding Present song so far. Same jolly guitars, same inaudible annoying vocals. They can't say a lot else about tracks as boring as this except if anyone can decipher why its called *Brassneck*, please let David Gedge know. Oh, there is a slow meaningful bit. He's turning into the pogo-ers' Morrissey. 'I've just decided I don't trust you anymore....'

The B-side, *Don't Talk, Just Kiss*, is different, almost. It's refined. But just when you think it's safe to start listening, it's back to the old three Wedding Pressie chords in REVERSE! In fact, this sounds like an entire demo album condensed into one track. Incidentally, the endings of both sides are absolutely identical.

Kill David Gedge and you might salvage the B-side. SJH and J.

Furniture

—Food, Sex and Paranoia

This excellent album may start the Modern Romantics revival, but let's hope not and be contented with it as seemingly a classic Modern Romantic album of the early 80s which still seems to find a place in today's charts. It makes an excellent change from current mainstream chart material, though unfortunately it is destined to reach only a limited audience.

Beginning with *One Step Behind You*, which is a brilliantly catchy track with choruses whipped straight from the early 80s singer and main vocals sounding totally like early *Spandau Ballet*, it would make an excellent single. Though it seems the risk was too much and instead *Slow Motion Kisses* has been released already as the first single. This is a soft and subtle, whispering track. It's sad too and makes me think of *INXS* (not totally unconnected) but it's got no chance as a single, though in the context of the 80s it would have had a chance. Perhaps this band are just eight years too late.

Swing Tender is beautifully balladic, sleepy and cosmic, definitely a step forward in time, but to where (when?). Aaargh, I speak too soon, the backing vocals have just got me....whoosh, so it's back in time we plunge, but then it's gone. So back again....zoom....whoosh....zoom....etc.

A Taste of You would have sat merrily towards the top of the charts in '82 behind *Spandau Ballet* and suchlike, eight years too late again.

Zoom...here we go again. *A Plot to Kill*, though still sparse with vocals and guitar is intricate but it's brash and takes us up to classic '85 *Duran Duran*-ish.

On a Slow fuse gives a converse atmosphere mellow, but is both sad and sorry. *Subway to beach* is about a chant of an unashamed love plea. *Song for*

Ents

Spring has sprung, the grass is high, I wonder where the Ents gig is? It's a night off for the Lounge Nightclub tonight because we couldn't take another Friday night missing Whicker's World and Jonathan Ross...could we?

The last three gigs of Spring have something for everyone, the usual alcohol induced dancing frenzies, and a cracking set of bands.

Next week, the 9th, sees the welcome return of Basil Gabbidon's *Bass Dance*. Four years ago they played their upfront roots rockin' reggae to a packed Freshers' Week. Since then I've seen them at the T&C 2 and Cambridge's Strawberry Fayre, there's always an electric atmosphere as the bass line thumps through your body, swinging along to the choruses. Support is from *Red Ten*, recently described in a highly revealing interview with the IC Ents Chairman as 'Quite Good'.

Rock night is on March 16, heralding the second coming of *Stagefright*, IC's most successful rock band of the last ten years. *The Hamsters* are lined up to top the bill, a blues based rock band, making classic rock guitar sounds, tempered with good ol' 12 bar blues as in their rendition of *Down to the Doctor*. It's like *Thin Lizzy* and *The Blues Brothers* as one band. The boys are back in town, but it's dark and they're wearing sunglasses. Hit it.

The finale; the crowning glory of this term's Friday nights is on March 23, with *Death Bang Party* blitzing the lounge. Think about their name and you might get the idea. Music papers have described them thus: 'Scandal, cocks, vulgarity, grisly exhibitionism...' 'They promise plenty if you happen to like James Brown...' 'The band's main aim is to create a total party atmosphere with music and dancing and a touch of outrage...' 'Brilliant musicians but the emphasis is on having a good time.' Says it all really.

With a quote from Jengiz Kahn, the Mongol Emperor, in their publicity and band members going by the names of Doris Day, Squeaky, His Excellency, Hammond (on keyboards) and Johnny One-note, they may just live up to their reputation. Come along and see if the reality fits the reputation, you won't be disappointed.

Tickets on sale from Monday at £2 in advance from the Union Office, for *Bass Dance* and *Red Ten*.



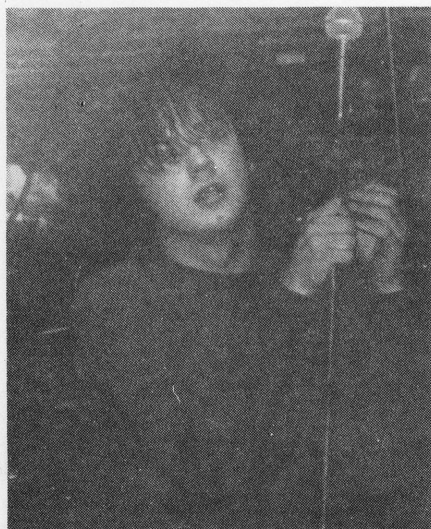
Doberman and *Love Me* seem almost made for each other, each talking of the unfairness of love, sung from the early 80s. The first from a woman and the second by a man who sounds like Julio Inglesias on a bad day. Heartwrenchingly tiresome.

Friend of a Friend, aaargh will this never end? *Hard to Say*, sit in a corner and die to this after splitting up with your lover. An excellent album at first, especially if you like early 80s music but profoundly shows it's nice to reminisce but we can't live in the past. This does.

Del.

The Telescopes, Kitchens of Distinction, New Fast Automatic Daffodils and the Chairs

—ULU 22.2.90



The Chairs, who knows, nobody else bothered to turn up either; they probably got sat on.

The New Fast Automatic Daffodils sounded uncannily like *The Happy Mondays*. Not only because the lead singer, Andy Stearpoint, is a Manc, but because of the tom-tom drum beat leading the near oratory vocals over a field of wavering, whingeing and near pointless guitars, down a track to jollity and mindless dance music. They even brought along their own Bez, who played the toy drums with his hands for a couple of tracks and just buggered off for the others; no-one minded, he just made up the numbers.

Their set was fast, furious and almost fun, not quite *The Happy Roses*, but the Manchester attitude was in there somewhere, calling for 'Scallies of the world to unite,' and they did.

Now, Scallies are misguided and harmless sorts, who could even pass as trendy in down-town Manchester or perhaps bopping away in the *Hacienda*, but, at a gig where slam dancing and stage diving are the norm, they're so out of it that it makes them far more entertaining than the *New Fast Automatic Daffodils* (that's not saying much). To see a Scallie stage dive is reminiscent of a kite, flares flapping in the wind, and to see a Scallie try to slam dance is reminiscent of a total dickhead.

Onward to the *Kitchens of Distinction* was a definite easterly move.

While the singer sings songs with bitterness from a moral and political stance which can most easily be likened to *Morrissey*, the guitarist is on another planet, entirely alone but observed by droves of bemused fans. He dances around the stage, a victim of far too many rock videos in his youth, the stage is his, well what's left after the vast floor space taken up by a multitude of effect pedals.

They came to ULU from outer space, fresh from a European tour and played an excellent set for thirty minutes, with strong feelings and striking lyrics, backed by a manic guitar sound, pummeled through numerous effect pedals, giving a totally unnecessary sound.

Each song relied on the bass and vocals to carry it through, as the guitarist and his hyper-active ankle leapt around from effect to effect, seemingly randomly, but all with the same overall useless effect.

The most popular songs (though still not down on vinyl) were *The Third Time They Opened The Capsule* and *Prize*, which carried to the whole audience (and cost less than a pound of bananas). They were both danceable for the straggling Scallies and new-found fans on the dancefloor and still sounded excellent (really it did, to some of us), to the more reserved hugging the walls and up on the balcony.

The band are now heading studiowards and won't be touring again until May. Let's hope they realise how fraudulent and useless the guitar sound is before continuing or eating any more Creme Eggs.

This is going on for evaaaaaa.....aaaaaargh!

The *Telescopes* were pretentious wankers and were dragged through a brilliantly irate and moody set by lead singer, Steven (or was it Jim Reid), for thirty minutes until finally the illusion they had constructed self-destructed.

Songs like *The Perfect Needle* and *Anticipating Nowhere* were fiercely mellow whereas *Violence* and *There is no Floor* threw the crowd into a fierce mosh fuelled by Steven's strangled and screamed vocals. Though moshing was limited by the sweatbox atmosphere of ULU; wot no ventilation? The idea to turn the house lights on for five minutes during the set was a bit of a scorcher too!

When someone spat at Steven it was the final straw: 'A pound of carrots please Mr Jones the Greengrocer,' said Steven. 'We're not gonna play another song, until that fuckin' wanker who spat at me gets up here.' Who did he expect Sparticus or



Meteoric Telescope Attack

perhaps Mr Jones the Greengrocer. A tortured version of *To Kill a Slow Girl Walking* ended the set and they didn't come back.

At a glance they were *The Jesus and Mary Chain*, they have the same attitude (problem). Their sound has more direction and ebb and flow, in and out of guitar spurred frenzies, never does a sense of consistency or conformity fall upon a track. But each track ultimately depends on Steven's tempestuous moods.

Ooh, Steven we love it when you get angry, go on do it again.

Del, the whole Del and nothing but Del (except the crap photos), so God help us.

THE GREENGROCEER'S GUIDE TO DOMESTIC FRUITS

Friday 2nd March

Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine

+ Senseless Things + Nutmeg.....ULU

The Creatures.....Town & Country Club

James Ray's Gangwar

+ Asylum.....Fulham Greyhound

Spandau Ballet.....Docklands Arena

Saturday 3rd March

Coldcut.....Brixton Fridge

Sunday 4th March

Loop + Godflesh.....Town & Country Club

Monday 5th March

Cud + Flik Spatulata + Barbel.....Dingwalls

Tears for Fears.....Wembley Arena

Chicago + Marilyn Snaps.....Hammy Odeon

Tuesday 6th March

Strawberry of the Week:

Felo-de-se...Op. on the Green, Shepherds Bush

The Railway Children.....Subterranea

Well Loaded.....Fulham Greyhound

The Other Side

+ Some Have Fins

+ Spectral Temple.....Marquee

Tears for Fears.....Wembley Arena

Wednesday 8th March

Kiwi Fruit of the Week:

Red Hot Chili Peppers

+ Gaye Bikers on Acid.....Astoria

Pale Saints

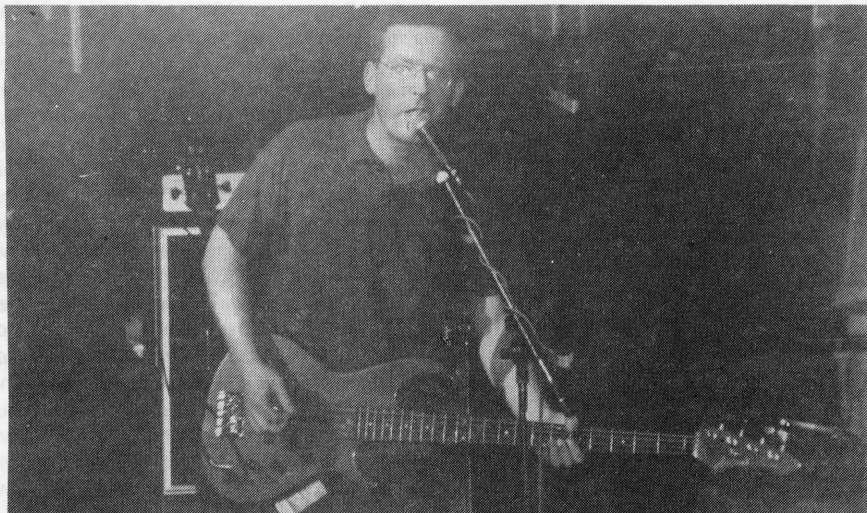
+ The Real People.....ULU

They Might be Giants.....Powerhaus Islington

Friday 9th March

House of Love.....Royal Albert Hall

Ride.....LSE Student Union



Kitchens

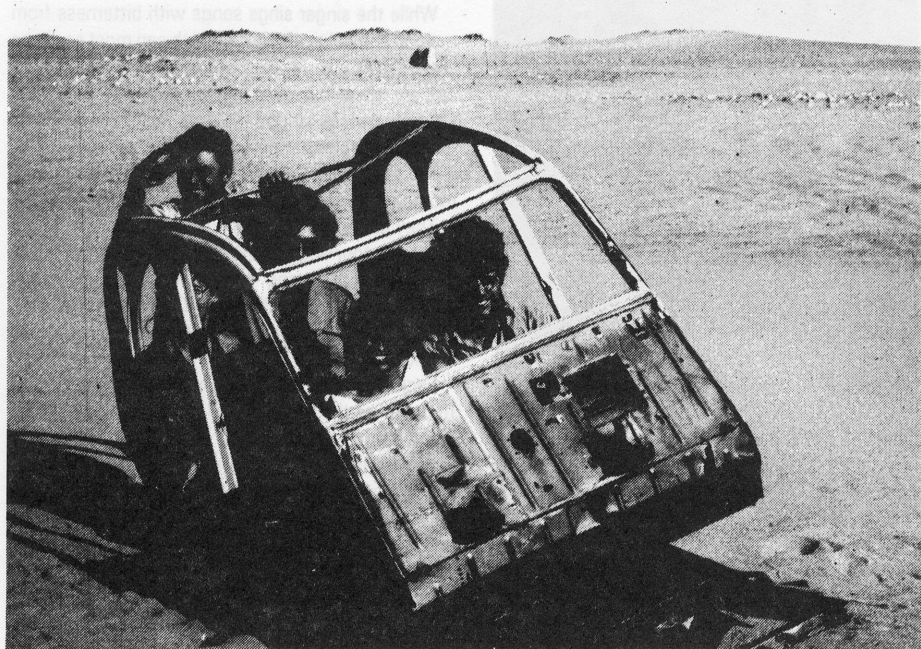
Charles English describes his trip to the Sahara last year.

Nomads on wheels

There was a time when the trade routes across the Sahara were used by Tuareg nomads, working the immense salt-caravans between such mythical places as Niane, Djene and Timbuktu. Today, though, much has changed. The sons of the salt-traders who crossed and recrossed the desert in caravans of up to 60,000 camels that would go from Northern Algeria, to Timbuctou and Niger and back again are now more likely to be seen racing a Toyota Land Cruiser around downtown Tamanrasset. But little of the Tuareg mentality has changed, only the means with which he accomplishes it. Hoary dromedaries, gargling and spitting their way between nomad settlements have been supplanted successively by Land Rovers, and now by the more reliable Toyota Land Cruisers that fly past on sand tyres cobbled together with string. The swaying salt-caravans have been swapped for Berliet and M*A*N trucks, steaming through the sand with a tail of dust flying up behind like some fantastical sand-borne combine-harvester.

Into this clash and fusion of cultures has come a new ethnic minority; the white man. In days of yore the European tourist would be regarded as an alien, of immense wonder and excitement, to be treated as public property to be examined, experienced and digested by the group. But now he is commonplace; a symbol of wealth, a source of money, spare parts, and BIC biros. There is much so-called 'tourism' here now, though the 'tourists' do not think of themselves as such. To most, 'Tourism' implies Benidorm or the Costa Brava. 'Explorers' is more like it, doing battle with an unknown and dangerous desert—yet to the tribesmen they take things very easily, sticking to the main routes and drinking too much water.

Among these exists the new breed of Saharan traders. These are tough, young Europeans, many German, in search of an adventure on the cheap. Their routes are usually traditional, taking either the fast, flat and empty piste across the Tanezrouft, or the more interesting road across the Hoggar mountains. Their transport and merchandise, though, have changed and been rolled into a single entity: a



secondhand Peugeot or Mercedes. These cars can be bought in France or Germany, or indeed the UK, for four or five hundred pounds, repaired a little, and driven across the desert where they are highly prized by wealthy and enterprising Nigerenes. Their sale can easily cover the cost of petrol, food and the flight home. For most it can provide them with an invaluable and free holiday; for some, drivers of almost new Mercedes 190s and the newer Peugeots, it has been developed into a profit-making business. Sales of such vehicles are usually arranged in advance, the purchaser is often an agent for some rich and powerful 'patron' behind the scenes.

Those taking a car, however, should be very selective as to make and model. Secondhand Peugeots pretty much have the market cornered in West Africa. Spares and mechanics are hard to come by, so any car other than the ones that are well known

and for which parts can be salvaged from the scrap heap are of little value unless a complete set of spares is brought with them. Also, the more 'wideboy' the image, the more valuable the car becomes. Stickers, metallic paintwork and anti-static strips will all increase the value of a car to be sold. It is perhaps a bitter irony that the car-sticker proclaiming 'Turbo' will increase a vehicle's value hugely in Niger, a country with a 90.2% illiteracy rate.

For those making the long, dusty drive South, Niger is a promised land, the end of the heat and strain of the desert. Here spare parts can be obtained, cheap beer can be bought, fresh mangoes can be found in abundance. Deep in the tropics, it is in the south of Niger that the dense greenery begins. Yet further South is the edge of the tropical rain forest. Like a vast experiment, humid and steaming, it is a place of superlatives; spiders are the biggest, snakes the most poisonous, fresh fruit the tastiest and diseases the most virulent. Everything from elephants to malarial mosquitos to greenery grows faster and larger than in more temperate climates.

Most, but not all, make it. The track South of Tamanrasset to Assamakka is littered with burnt out shells of Peugeots and VW buses that have broken down or even exploded, usually as a result of storing petrol cans on the roof in the sun. This is not often terminal as the next passing truck usually has room for a couple more passengers, or at least enough water to spare. Yet still some tourists die almost every year. At the Algeria/Niger border of In Guezzam this year are four Peugeots all-but covered over by the creeping dunes. They had belonged to a group who had decided to skip customs on leaving Algeria to save themselves some cash, avoiding the main track past the border point and taking a diversion some 30 miles to the West. All four had variously broken down or become stuck in the sand. They sat and waited for help to come for two weeks, maybe less, in the end drinking the water in the radiators of their cars. But no one came until too late, and the Peugeots have since been brought to the border post. Sinking slowly into the sand, they recall hauntingly the desert's slow, almost gentle irresistibility.

Charles English.



An adventurous holiday need not cost the earth, writes Ian Hodge.

Cheap and cheerful



Before you jet off to the four corners of the world perhaps you should stop and think again. Rather than spend hundreds of pounds flying to dark dank destinations think about staying somewhere a little closer to home (and more sociable).

The Youth Hostel Association is a charity originally set up to allow young people to unearth the delights and pleasures of Britain without it costing a fortune. The hostels are open to all, but the initial aim persists and the prices are kept as low as possible.

Almost without exception the hostels are converted buildings ranging from schools to vicarages and farmer's cottages in some of the more remote locations.

It will never be up to five star standard, could you afford it if it was? but it will be very friendly and informal with the warden making you feel at ease very quickly. The atmosphere is not cliquy at all and new members are made more than welcome.

The prices range from £2.60 for a simple hostel, no more than a hut with toilets, beds and a kitchen, to £7.50 for the equivalent of the Hilton with carpets and a television. There is a full range of prices between to match anyone's budget and even food is available if you feel like having a break from your own cookery.

The hostels are not all in national parks with many of them in seemingly uninteresting parts of the country, but this is the one of the delights of staying in a hostel. You can discover the true nature of the country, find the hidden character and enjoy yourself much more than if you were tramping up the mountains with thousands of others.

If the idea of sleeping in dormitories worries you then do not fret, they are not long stark rooms with

beds lined up like soldiers on parade. The rooms have about twenty beds in them, normally bunk beds, and they are light and clean and not oppressive at all.

All hostels have a member's kitchen so that you can cook your own food. The cutlery, crockery and all cooking equipment is provided. One small tip is to take your own matches and a tea towel, they should be available but both tend to become damp and not work very well.

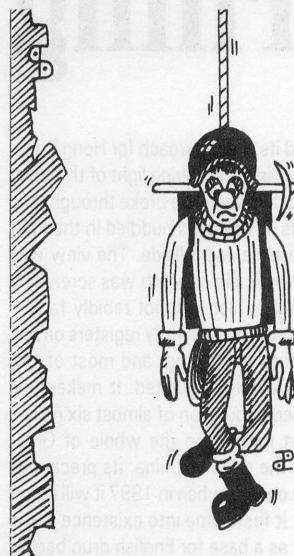
In addition to the basic needs of sleep and food the hostel will have a small communal area with soft chairs and books. You should soon find yourself talking to people you have never met before and will never see again.

A key to enjoying your stay in any hostel is not to be reserved and stilted, everybody else is in a new environment so muddle through together.

To help keep prices as low as possible you will be asked to perform some sort of task in the hostel. This never takes up much time and sweeping the floor is not much of a hardship and remember its saving you money!

Membership this year is £4.00 for under 21's and £7.60 if over. If you would like to try hosteling but don't want to become a full member until you are sure then go to any hostel and ask for a guest pass. It will cost you £2.60 and allows you to stay in any hostel for two nights. If you decide to become a full member you can use the pass to get a two pound reduction on the membership fee. If you know somebody who is a full member then they can take you to any hostel for three nights and you will only be charged the normal hostel charges.

Membership does have other advantages, it entitles



you to a ten per cent discount in all YHA adventure shops (there's one south of Covent Garden) and their prices are already the lowest around. You will also be entitled to discounts in various shops and museums throughout the country; every little helps.

To become a member send your money to the Youth Hostel Association, Trevelyan House, 8 St. Stephen's Hill, St. Albans, Herts AL1 2DY.

The youth hostel network is a national asset, don't allow it to die from lack of use. There is a whole country out there for you to explore so before you jet off to far flung countries find out where you come from first.

In Wales, it hails!

Last summer, after finishing my exams with a mad rush of relief, I felt like a holiday; nothing fancy, just to get away from the pressure that had been surrounding and enveloping me for the last few months.

I had joined the YHA the year before to go to the Isle of Wight, a stones throw from my home town of Portsmouth. Perhaps a little further from home this time so I began to search through the handbook for a suitable destination.

My first thought was to try York, a historic city that I had never visited and with plenty to do. My hopes were dashed as the hostel was booked for the next two weeks and I started a job in three.

As a second thought I tried several of the Hostels in north Wales and I hit lucky. Both Lleder Valley and Idwal Cottage had room available when I wanted to go. Within a week I had booked my rooms, bought my ticket and was on my way.

The journey was an uneventful one, British Rail managing to keep to its timetable for once and after three and a half hours I arrived in Llandudno Junction only to have to wait an hour and a half before a train to Betws-y-Coed.

I stayed for three nights in Lleder Valley during which time I managed to climb one small mountain and wander over some of the bleakest and windiest country that I had met for a long time. The views from the hills were fantastic and were well worth the effort put in.

The hostel was an old cottage and had about seventy beds and was a grade 4, middle of the range. Inside there was plenty of space and a lovely wooden floor in the dining room. The kitchen itself was supplied by a gas cylinder of propane that was visible from the window, perhaps a bit dangerous?

During my stay I met a very friendly and normal American (yes, they do exist) and together we had a long discussion about the American presidential election. Even then there were jokes about Dan Quayle, 'I wouldn't buy a used car from him' was a remark that has stuck in my mind.

Travelling on to the second hostel the weather turned nasty and so my initial aim of climbing another peak had to be abandoned. Idwal Cottage is situated on the A5 trunk road to Holyhead and so the traffic can become a little heavy, literally. At one stage a lorry came along the road that filled almost both lanes and was accompanied by four police motorcyclists.

Unfortunately when I arrived at the hostel I was a couple of hours early and the hostel had not opened yet. Waiting for two hours in the pouring rain was not fun but finally the door opened and I could begin to dry off.

My troubles were not over as a school party arrived and brought all the things I had been trying to forget, noise and disorder. The main body of the hostel was an old farmer's cottage but I was in the annexe that was a converted chapel with an iron gate and three inch thick oak door.

The kids did not manage to ruin my stay but they did begin to grate after a few days. They spent most of the night swinging from the rafters but after a few well placed words they eventually stopped.

The local scenery was very rocky and there were several geologists that were making surveys of the rocks in the area. Regrettably for all of us the weather closed in and nobody could do anything for almost two days.

I did manage to get to Llandudno and see The Great Orme and the pollution that is the Irish Sea. The town is a typical seaside town and there is a shop that sells the largest walnut whirls in the country. Four inches high and 50p, most of it is cream but they taste great.

When the weather did clear it was time to go home, regrettably I did not manage to climb many large peaks, not even Snowdon. It now costs nearly ten pounds to go up by train, and the summit was cloaked in mist the whole time I was there.

It was a fun holiday, I had enjoyed myself greatly as all the people I had met had been friendly, and it was well worth the money spent.

The cost had been about thirty pounds to get there by train, twenty for the accommodation and the same for food. Added to this was about ten pounds for miscellaneous expenses making a total of eighty pounds. The transport was by far the most expensive part and from now on I'm going everywhere by coach.

Matthew Johnson takes the opportunity to experience Hong Kong's frenetic lifestyle, before the colony and its six million people are handed over to Chinese rule.

Turning Cantonese

As the plane entered its final approach for Hong Kong, I strained my eyes against the glaring light of the cloud which enveloped us. Suddenly we broke through, and I could see hundreds of buildings huddled in the tight space between shoreline and hillside. The view was static, and yet the hectic life beneath was screaming at you. It is an image which will not rapidly fade.

Hong Kong is so small that it hardly registers on any map, it is barely thirty miles long, and most of this space is still only sparsely populated. It makes one marvel at its crowded population of almost six million people, who export more than the whole of Great Britain. Perched on the edge of China, its precarious existence is soon to change when in 1997 it will revert to Chinese control. It first came into existence in the nineteenth century as a base for English drug barons who wanted a site from which to conduct their trade with the Mainland. Unhindered by heavy taxation and political upheaval, it has continued as a centre for trade and capital. It enjoys the second highest standard of living in Asia behind Japan, and its lust for profit might make even Mrs Thatcher blush.

Those who seek after a little enclave of England in the Orient will be disappointed, for Hong Kong is vibrantly Chinese. The principles of Feng Shui (the balance of nature) still hold sway over architectural science, and the many traditional temples stand as a testament to the the continuance of Taoist ways. But this is not to say that it is an ancient society, quite the opposite. In fact it is hard to find a building that is older than about thirty years. Once a building is no longer needed it is torn down and another built in its place. The bamboo scaffolding used in the construction of even modern tower blocks is an interesting witness to this unique blend of cultures.

This intriguing mix of cultures makes Hong Kong a marvellous place for the traveller. The range of possibilities is astounding: from the mountainous terrain of the New Territories to the simple life still to be found on many of the little islands to the chic shopping arcades and skyscrapers of Central. Its reputation for fabulous shopping is also well earned. The price of consumer goods, walkmen, calculators, cameras etc is generally between one half to two thirds the British price, though you should check if it is possible to obtain an international guarantee (avoid the tourist trap of Tsim Sha Tsui, go to Mong Kok for this sort of thing). Hand tailoring is also well established, and it is often possible to have garments custom made for a price equal to or less than the price



of an equivalent item off-the-peg in England. If you want reasonable quality, it is best to leave 4-5 days for completion. But some of the best buys are undoubtedly to be found in the craft section. The silk embroidery and hand crocheting are really beautiful, and still quite affordable (try Chung Kiu or Nathan Road).

Although the principal language is Cantonese, most notices are also written in English and it is spoken in most shops, banks, restaurants etc. The traveller should find little difficulty in communicating. Food is another good reason for visiting Hong Kong. Most of the different styles are represented (Cantonese, Shanghaiese, Peking, Vegetarian...), including many from overseas (Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean...). There is really no lack of variety, or quality. For those of you bored stiff by sweet and sour pork or beef chop suey, try real Chinese food for a change. It is three times as good.

However one of Hong Kong's strengths is also one of its weaknesses: its pursuit of profit has become one of its principal cultures, a culture which could equally well belong to many other nations. Under the fairly benevolent rule of the British the colony has thrived, but it lacks the knowledge of democracy and the surge of nationalism which might assist its survival. In this regard Britain is much to blame. Having held the territory for about a hundred years, that it should wait until the last minute before granting to the people of Hong Kong that which its own people enjoy as a right is really a scandal. That is not to say that Hong Kong could live independently: not only is it physically joined to the Mainland, but depends on it for both food and water. Considering how much blood was shed to preserve the liberty of only two thousand Falkland Islanders, it seems a travesty that we should dismiss six million people so carelessly.

With the return to Chinese rule imminent, the outflow of skilled people is considerable. There is no one who has not considered such an option, though for the vast majority escape is impossible. It has been argued that Hong Kong is too much of a jewel for the communists to risk damaging its future and their own chance for economic revival. But it is also a source of ideas of liberty and justice. For a sick gerontocracy, driven to massacre its own people to retain power, one may well ask whether this will prove simply too dangerous for them.

Matthew G Johnson.



A visit to Peru can provide high drama and some of the most dramatic scenery in the world.

Martians in darkest Peru



The final leg of our 24 hour journey to Bolivia was in a small Lloyd-Aero-Bolivair plane from Line to La Paz. The Lufthansa flight could go no further than Lima, as La Paz Airport is 4000m up and the atmosphere is too thin to allow jumbos to land, even with the runway double the length. Getting on the plane we were greeted with a 'Buenos noces' from a stewardess and an incongruous party atmosphere. Incongruous at 2am local time. We were closely followed by the jubilant Bolivian football team who must have just beaten Peru and we resigned ourselves to clapping and cheering them with the rest of the passengers as if they were our home team. At La Paz we were greeted by television cameras and a bleary eyed 'Welcome to Bolivia' by our tour courier.

The advantage of travelling with your parents is that you don't have to pay. No more slogging away at the local newsagents for months before; just persuade them when they next have a windfall (like a retirement lump-sum for example) that it would be wonderful to take a family holiday in some choice exotic location. Simple. But there are drawbacks: you have to go at their pace and on our tour, the average age was 55 and there was no one the right side of thirtysomething.

Altitude was not only a problem for aircraft: many of our party suffered from headaches and altitude

sickness and one woman had to be given oxygen and was flown home. Things at 4000m go very slowly, including the Bolivians, and their economy. Throughout this part of South America, one cannot escape the feeling that the Spanish conquistadores raped the country and, with independence, Bolivia was left to pick up the pieces. La Paz has a unique hybrid cultural heritage of Spanish and Inca elements. The Churches are built in the 'Mestizo Baroque' style which compromises Christian saints with pagan Inca gods, basically so that the indigenous population could identify with Christianity. But with its economy largely based on fluctuating tin markets and the coca leaf Bolivia hasn't much more than its football team to celebrate.

We crossed Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, by hydrofoil and landed in Peru. Immediately as we stepped onto dry land vendors of llama rugs, sweaters and wall hangings were upon us. This was to become a recurrent theme during the holiday. With inflation running at over 1000% our American dollars were particularly sought after. We paid a visit to the increasingly commercialised floating reed islands of the Uros Indians and the next day we took a fifteen hour train ride through the Andes to Cuzco, the Inca's ancient capital. The train was hard even in 'luxury' tourist class but fortunately the, now

irritating, vendors were largely excluded from our separate carriage. The scenery was not as spectacular as one had been led to believe either; flattish planes instead of dazzling white mountains. At dusk we came to a sudden halt, at first we feared it might be Maoist terrorists. In fact, in the fading light, the driver had failed to spot a drunk lying on the line and had run him over. We arrived five hours late, but by this stage no one seemed to really mind.

The next few days were spent admiring the feats of the Inca civilisation: its architecture, metalwork and craftworks. We toured many a crumbling temple or fortress including the legendary Machu Picchu (The Lost City of the Incas) which was stunning. We stayed overnight in the hotel adjacent to the site and at sunrise the feeling of worldlessness was quite unimaginable.

For the remainder of the holiday we descended the Andes by coach and drove up the coast through deprived Peruvian towns with little to recommend them as far as package tours are concerned. At Nazca we flew in light aircraft over the 2000 year old Nazca lines. Animal shapes, often 100 metres across, etched in the desert and only visible from the air. Why the Nazca civilisation should draw figures that it could not see itself remains a mystery. One hypothesis is that the lines were created by Martians as one of the figures resembles an astronaut!

Our final stop was Lima. A city of ten million people, most of whom live in shanty towns. It's not surprising then that 80% of tourists fall victim to either theft or attempted theft. One of our party was punched in the back and another had his trousers irreparably slit in an attempt to steal his money belt. Our courier asked him whether he had lost anything; 'only my dignity' he replied. Fortunately, for my trousers at least, I succumbed to the inevitable food poisoning for the last two days and was confined to bed. During this there was a hotel strike, a prolonged powercut and general civil unrest in the adjacent Plaza des Armas. Mercifully I was attended by one of the three doctors in our party: one advantage of going on a package holiday for the bourgeoisie. It's also a lot safer travelling en masse; one lone British backpacker in the high Andes was captured by the Maoist terrorists, given a mock trial in the village square (for being British) and promptly shot by firing squad. But don't let this put you off going—it's all part of the adventure.

Adrian Pagan.



Touring across America reveals unknown delights.

On the road



This summer, I spent two weeks in the United States of America, travelling around New England. This was as part of a travel award scheme set up by International Paints PLC. After getting through to the finals of the award process, I was given one of the ten travel bursaries awarded this year, in order to visit the Interlux Yacht Finishes plant in New Jersey. The award was for one thousand pounds, to cover all travel expenses. In return for this, I had to spend three days looking around the Interlux plant, and on my return to England write a brief report.

So, having made all the necessary travel and insurance arrangements, my boyfriend and I flew out from Heathrow on Kuwait Airlines, arriving at J F Kennedy airport in New York. Although we arrived in New York at 8.00pm Eastern Standard Time, it was of course 1.00am GMT, and it felt like it! We took a cab into Manhattan, where we were going to stay at the Vanderbilt YMCA. This is right in the skyscraper district in Midtown but nevertheless quite reasonably priced. We stayed in New York for a couple of days, and explored Manhattan mainly on foot—the best way to get a proper feel for the place, although we did use the subway once or twice. One afternoon, we walked all the way from Midtown to Battery Park on the southern tip of Manhattan, a distance of about four or five miles. This was an interesting experience, and enabled us to see many different districts and types of buildings (some of the 'districts' were as small as one block, such as a fabric merchants' district).

From New York City, we travelled to Boston by train, where we were to pick up our hire car (this worked out cheaper and more interesting than hiring a car from an airport in New York). In Boston we also stayed in the YMCA, but this wasn't as pleasant as the one in New York. After struggling through the one-way system of central Boston (complete with the old London favourite of no left/right turns in places), we set off across Massachusetts heading for New York State, before heading south to New Jersey and the Interlux factory. We made the 250 mile trip in one day, although it was dark by the time we checked in at the motel where we stayed during our time visiting the factory.

The Interlux staff were very friendly and accommodating, giving us easy-to-follow directions as to how to get to the factory in the first place, and when we were there, giving us a very comprehensive tour of the facility. The outfit in New Jersey is not very

large as factories go, as a large part of the development work on new products takes place at other locations. This is especially the case when it comes to field testing of new products, and in fact the main function of the New Jersey plant is a manufacturing one. However, the plant did seem very efficient, and the staff friendly, making our visit very enjoyable.

After seeing the factory, we left New Jersey and headed northwest through New York State to Niagara Falls. On the way, we passed through the Catskill Mountains and National Park—magnificent, wooded mountains which were just turning to the reds and

golds of Fall. We also drove round the Finger Lakes, some of which reach forty miles long. The scenery in this area is very reminiscent of Switzerland or Austria. Apart from the language, it was very easy to imagine that we were in Europe, instead of 3000 miles away.

The town of Niagara Falls (on the American side of the Falls proper) is actually a rather tawdry town, with little to recommend it apart from the beauty of the Falls themselves. These are extremely impressive, even in the rain, and the boat ride on the Maid of the Mist has to be one of the most exhilarating experiences open to tourists (you can always go over the Falls in a barrel, a feat which has been survived by nine people, but this is only recommended for those who really want to go to extreme lengths to acquire exciting holiday tales!). Even just taking the boat ride, you get completely soaked, despite the provided oilskins.

From Niagara, we then proceeded along the shore of Lake Ontario, finishing this stretch of our trip with an excursion to Wolfe Island, just over the border into Canada. From Cape Vincent, the ferry stopped on the US side, we then drove southwards again, through the Adirondack Mountains, across Vermont, and into New Hampshire. Having about five days left, we decided to try and get back up to the Canadian border by going up along the East Coast. In the end we only got as far as Maine, one of the northernmost States. Despite the tourist traps, Maine is a very beautiful place, with some striking scenery, in particular the Acadia National Park on Mt Desert Island. Once we had looked round there, we had regretfully to return to Boston, give up our (very large and comfortable) hire car, and return to New York City by train. This time, we took the subway to JFK airport (this being less expensive than a cab!). The subways are uncannily like the London Underground, even down to the sudden emergence into daylight halfway from the city centre to the airport. However, in London you can't see the tops of the skyscrapers from Heathrow! Also, the subway trains are airconditioned (which is very welcome) although the stations themselves can get very warm indeed.

Our flights both ways were on time, and all in all we greatly enjoyed our stay in the United States. There's much, much more to see than we managed to, despite the fact that we covered over 2,000 miles in our two weeks, and we'd love to go back.

Anna Stebbings, Chem 3.



STA—on campus travel

With the vast expansion of the independent travel market in the past few years, STA has established itself as a leader through its use of well-travelled consultants and low-priced, flexible tickets. At the ULU travel student office we have all travelled extensively and as College graduates are sympathetic to your requirements—the back-up provided by the STA organisation worldwide is second to none, with over 100 offices in 20 countries, staffed by multi-cultural, experienced consultants.

Here at STA we are all encouraged to travel as much as possible in order to keep our own travelling experiences and knowledge up to date and to ensure that, unlike some other sectors of the travel industry, we do not become divorced from the realities of the world that we live in. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the momentous changes that have recently occurred in eastern Europe.

For a few hardened (and dedicated) western stalinists the mystique of the communist bloc has always been a very strong magnet. The disintegration of the stalinist orthodoxy in eastern Europe has galvanised the interest of the public at large, but independent-minded travellers specifically. Even the briefest of examinations would reveal that eastern Europe has always had much more to offer than statues of Lenin and collective farms. Within its confines it is possible to discover some of the most magnificent cities to be found anywhere—Prague, Berlin and Cracow to name but three—all strangely preserved by their encasement for years in a neo-Stalinist order. These countries also boast some of the most spectacular scenery, from the rich forests of Czechoslovakia, to the rolling plains of Hungary (where one can still get a genuine feel of the feudal way of life of the Tartars) to the Carpathian mountains

of Romania; where medieval castles mingle with ski resorts in a bizarre testament to the privileges enjoyed by the communist party elite.

It is often difficult to comprehend that all this is within easy reach, and can now largely be done on an Inter-rail ticket. (Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia are all included) even with the expansion of package holidays to such areas as Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania, eastern Europe still remains largely unexplored and underdeveloped. However, this situation is unlikely to remain for very much longer, especially with the urgent need for hard currency to shore up delapidated economies. At STA we have been instrumental in helping to create an awareness of travel to this and many other areas of the world not covered in an 18-30 brochure and this is something that we intend to maintain. A healthy commitment to travel.

Competition

Where oh where oh where would you like to go with a free £100 travel voucher? STA have generously donated a £100 travel voucher for use on any travel costs booked through them. A weekend away or travel abroad could be yours with this prize. The competition will be in three parts, with each section becoming progressively more difficult. This week's questions are:

What is the capital city of Lichtenstein?

What is the capital city of Denmark?

What is the capital city of Finland?

KEEP YOUR ENTRIES. DO NOT HAND IN ANYTHING YET. THERE WILL BE TWO MORE SETS OF QUESTIONS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. ALL QUESTIONS WILL BE REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE COMPETITION.

This Week

● Improve your sex drive and light up your life.

Neurologist Professor Russel Reiter of the University of Texas believes that light from the blue end of the spectrum will fool the pineal gland in the brain into reducing the quantity of melatonin it produces. Melatonin has a depressive effect on the reproductive system and has been linked to Seasonal Affective Depression, which strikes victims in the darker months.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science in New Orleans have been giving people powerful lamps to carry around. They claim light baths have had dramatic effects; one previously suicidal woman is having the best winter of her life using light as a drug. More advice from Prof. Reiter: 'Keep the bedroom light on...and you should get your old drive back.'

● **The chance of a child developing leukaemia** is significantly linked to the father's exposure to radiation. This is according to a report published a couple weeks ago by the Medical Research Council concerning the population in the vicinity of the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

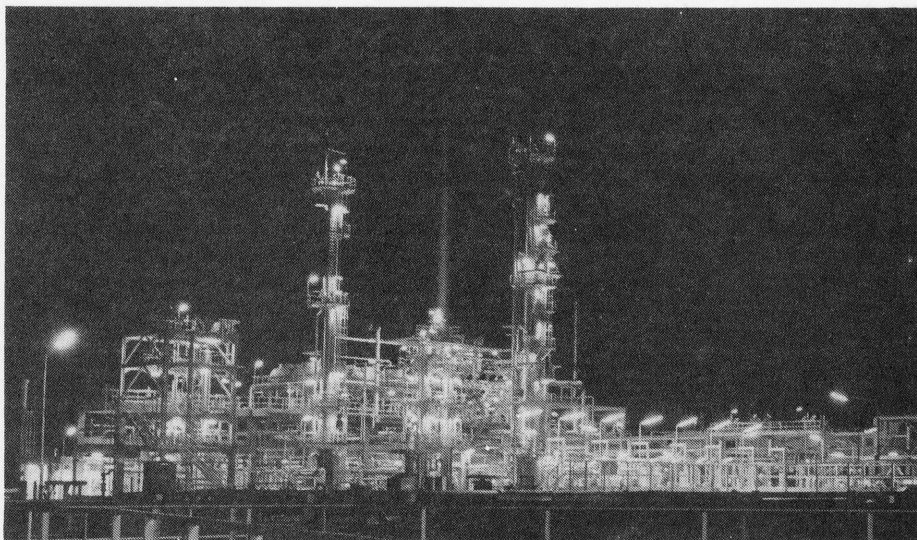
The present maximum allowed dose for radiation workers is 50 milliseverts (mSv), although two years ago the National Radiological Protection Board recommended reducing this to 15 mSv. The report concludes that workers who received more than 10 mSv six months before conception increased the risk of their child contracting leukaemia by six to eight times.

● **A film of microscopically grooved plastic** could make significant savings in fuel for airlines. The ribbed film entirely covers an aircraft's fuselage except for sharp curves such as the edges of the wings. It has been tested for a year on an Airbus A300, owned by the airline Lufthansa, and has not been damaged or clogged up. The grooves in the film help to lower turbulence in the layer of air next to the aircraft's skin. Predicted fuel reductions are about 1.5% corresponding to 70 tonnes for aircraft on short haul flights and 310 tonnes for those on long haul flights per year. These represent monetary savings of £10,000 and £40,000 respectively.

● **The European Space Agency (ESA) are trying to revive Giotto**, a deep space probe. In March 1986 it met Halley's Comet with an accuracy in tracking equivalent to hitting a dinner plate in Hyde Park with a bullet fired from Edinburgh. It appears that Giotto has survived almost without damage after this encounter. Although the probe and its antenna are not orientated correctly, ESA have been able to make contact and hope to instruct it to reposition. It has enough fuel to pass close to Earth this June in order to send it off into a new orbit to coincide with another comet, Grigg Skjellerup.

Liz Warren presents an overview of the Process Systems Engineering IRC at Imperial.

Safe simulations



Process simulation packages allow designers to model processes, for example a chemical plant composed of different process units. They allow complicated interactions, such as parallel chemical reactions, to be calculated and processes such as startup and shutdown to be tested. They also allow on-line control and optimisation of plants. Packages can either model steady state situations or they can shed light on the time dependent behaviour of plants. The Chemical Engineering Department at Imperial has developed such a package, known as SPEEDUP, which it has made into a commercial success.

Any process can be represented on SPEEDUP if it can be written down as a mathematical model. SPEEDUP's main advantage over many of its rivals is its ability to handle time dependent equations. It is also capable of dealing with plants in a 'non-sequential' manner, that is, it does not have to know everything about all the previous units in the process as long as it has sufficient information overall to solve the problem.

SPEEDUP has been under development at Imperial since 1979. Initial work was funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC). In 1986, Prosys Technology of Cambridge, who were already involved in the simulation market with their own process database, began marketing SPEEDUP on Imperial College's behalf. Clients include companies such as BP and Dow Chemicals. Prosys are now responsible for the commercial development and marketing of the package, while further software development is being carried out at Imperial College in the new Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) for Process Systems Engineering, which was set up last summer under SERC funding.

The existing SPEEDUP package is already a sophisticated tool. A valuable application is its use in training plant operators. Plants can be modelled and incorporated into other programs, such as a graphical interface. Training modules can then be devised which will allow trainee operators to learn to respond to changes in the modelled plant, such as a variation in feed quality, without losing real products or endangering the safety of a real plant.

SPEEDUP can also assist more experienced operators in two ways. It can help operators optimise plants on-line by linking the plant's control system to a model of the plant. The second way in which

SPEEDUP can help experienced operators is by building up an 'expert system', or knowledge base, which can advise operators on the best course of action in particular circumstances.

Current development is progressing in several areas. Pioneering work is being carried out on generating the equations which provide the rigid mathematical description of the plant from a less rigid description such as the kinetics of the reaction and physical configuration of the catalyst in a reactor. The system would build the necessary equations and ask for sufficient physical data to solve the problem.

Another major area of development is to extend the ability of SPEEDUP to handle both discrete and continuous processes within the same model. Most current dynamic simulators can handle complex continuous processes but are unable to model discrete events such as startup and shutdown. Programs which can handle this sort of event are usually unable to model all but the simplest continuous process. The combination of the two types of event in the same program is increasingly important as the chemical industry places greater emphasis on batch processing.

A third area in which the system is being developed is batch optimisation. This will handle the situation in which process equipment is used with different feeds in varying combinations to produce a range of products. This can be a complex problem when there are a large number of desired products. The system will be able to provide the optimum schedule for the batches to be processed to allow the greatest profit to be made. Again the increase in the use of batch processes stresses the importance of this development.

Dynamic simulators such as SPEEDUP also give plant designers several advantages. Many plants are designed using steady state simulation and this can lead to overdesign and unnecessary cost. Dynamic simulators also allow designers to seriously consider the operability of the plant early in the design stage and allow them to explore plant control without any risk of accidents. A combined discrete/continuous event simulator also provides the opportunity to design and test controllers and control strategies.

Dynamic simulators are at last providing design engineers with a real opportunity to produce better, safer designs at less cost.

IMechE

European industry is preparing for a home market of 320 million people. UK companies seeking a competitive share in this market will soon be recruiting professional engineers from a pan-European pool of talent. The European Commission is committed to enabling qualified members of a profession to practice anywhere in the European Community. Young engineers graduating in the UK will therefore gain many opportunities to extend their horizons. There will be strong competition for their skills, but anticipating employers initial uncertainty over the relative standards of engineering qualifications, job seekers will need to be prepared.

The Eurling title is a move to obtain common recognition across Europe of a professional engineering education. An engineer who achieves chartered status with an Institution such as the IMechE or IEE, is qualified to apply for the Eurling title. Many have done so already. They see it becoming a 'passport' giving them greater mobility and recognition for working in Europe. The Federation of European National Associations of Engineers hopes the move will lead to greater coherence for the engineering profession in Europe, promoting our competitiveness with Japan and the USA.

The implications of the Single European Act for engineering and a checklist for the providers of engineering education and training will be presented in an IMechE lecture on March 6. Professor Jack Levy, the Director—Engineering Profession of the Engineering Council, will also describe the Eurling title and how it reflects the engineering profession's commitment to heightened activity and mobility for 1992. The Greater London Young Members' Section would like to invite you to attend this lecture, to be held at 6.30pm in room 342 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College. We hope this will provide an opportunity for both students and practising engineers to find out how best to qualify for a career in Europe. Coffee will be served from 6pm and after the lecture there will be a buffet and time for informal discussion. We would also like to enable those who offer education and training in engineering to discuss the challenge of Europe with Professor Levy, a former head of department at City University.

RockSoc

At the beginning of last term, RockSoc staged its first ever gig with a live band and rock disco. It was a great success and since then we've continuously been asked to do it again. On March 8 we're putting on an even bigger and better show.

With backing from ULU RockSoc, we've got ETA and support and a disco all for £2. ETA have recently been playing the clubs around London and last week supported *Excalibur*. They play a mixture of mainly original material plus a few covers (*AC-DC*, *Georgia Satellites*, *Motley Crue*). Their music will appeal to almost all rock fans being neither out and out thrash metal or sleazy glam rock. Needless to say this is an event not to be missed and will start in the Union at 8pm.

When set up three years ago, RockSoc didn't originally intend to put on these shows, so the large budget required to do so was never applied for. The club's objectives have now been changed to include such events. Next year we hope to expand this and put on more bands, but we need support. We know there's an interest in College, so if you want to see more Rock music at IC come to the RockSoc AGM on Monday March 5 at 12.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge.

WellSoc

How would you like to run around 27 acres of woodland shooting people with paintball guns? On March 14 WellSoc will be holding its annual Skirmish trip to Bullswood Skirmish site in Surrey. We will be leaving from College at 12.45pm, returning when it gets too dark to continue. If you are interested in an enjoyable, muddy afternoon killing people, send a cheque for £11 (please write membership number on the back) to N Williamson, Physics 2 or see any committee member. This will cover transport and entry to the game. Extra ammunition will be available at £2 for 12 rounds and hire of camouflage jackets and trousers will be available.

WellSoc members may well receive a subsidy but ICSF are also invited along for the same £11. Hurry: with this discounted entry, places will go quickly.

Vino!

On Tuesday we were given a real taste of Australia. Orlando produces about 20% of all Australian wines including 'Jacob's Creek'—Australia's number one seller. Penfold, Lindeman and Orlando (referred to as the PLO) alone are responsible for 50% of Australian wine production. In spite of these impressive credentials Orlando remains relatively undiscovered in this country.

Simon Ladenburg of the Orlando UK office introduced us to the high-tech side of the Australian wine 'industry' with a corporate video depicting stretches of huge stainless steel fermentation tanks, labs filled with scientists analysing samples and halls of roaring automated bottling lines. For all this technology, however, it is still the palate of the master winemaker, Robin Day, who judges the merit of the wine in the bottle.

Appropriately, we began with a Jacob's Creek Dry White retailing at £3.29 and tasted our way up a superb 1986 St Hilary Chardonnay for £7.20. A little confusion was generated by the '1989' vintage of the Jacob's Creek which Simon resolved by explaining that the Australians harvest their grapes in February/March—six months ahead of the Beaujolais Nouveau hype. This summer you may even see some 1990 Australian wines on the shelves.

The reds were started off by Jacob's Creek Dry Red, which is marketed in Australia as 'claret' although it contains 65% Shiraz: a distinctly forbidden grape variety in Bordeaux. Clear favourite of the three reds was a 1986 St Hugo Cabernet Sauvignon (£7.20) which Orlando considers its best—a deep wine with ripe berry/blackcurrent flavours and a very long finish.

The evening was rounded off with a curiosity: a fortified port-style muscat from the Morris family in Rutherglen who have been making it for generations. It charmed us all with its thick sweet figgy flavours and long warm nutty finish, a steal at £7!

Don't miss next Tuesday's Sherry tasting, given by the Sherry Institute of Spain, which is sure to convert you if you're not already an addict. Put into your diary the tasting of white wines from Bordeaux by or Hon President and Editor of *Decanter*: Dave Rowe (March 13), the Coffee tasting (March 15) and lastly the tasting of Alsace wines (20 March). For more information contact Kevin McKeen, Physics PG, room 612, ext 6851.

Cheers, sport!

P.S. Don't forget the March 21 booze cruise costing ca. £10.

OSC

International

Election time has come round again and this also means election time for the Overseas Students Committee. Since hardly any soul walking around at Imperial College knows what this committee does, let us just try to explain some of our activities.

What is the OSC?

The Overseas Students Committee (OSC) is one of the Union Major Sub-Committees (MSCs) supervising and cooperating with the functioning of the overseas students societies. These are the various national and international societies at Imperial College. The members of the OSC are the sports, welfare, events, liaison and publicity officers, 7 ordinary members, the secretary, the treasurer and the chairman.

What does the OSC do?

Throughout the year, the OSC organises inter-society sports tournaments: volleyball, soccer and others. It submits the societies' grant claims to the Union (after a detailed inspection) and defends the Overseas Students rights and welfare interests on several Union and College committees. The Welfare Officer and Chairman are allowed the joys of sitting on a large number of Union and College committees, all very enjoyable and rewarding. When there are problems with the organisation of societies, the OSC attempts to solve these problems. The highlight of the year is without doubt the International Week, which is coordinated by the OSC and is guaranteed to be a lot of fun to organise.

When are the elections?

Hopefully you now know a bit more about the OSC. Our elections will be held in the last week of term. Before then, feel free to get in touch with us.

The Overseas Students Committee.

PicoCon 8

Just when you thought it was safe to open FELIX again...the PicoCon article strikes back! Tomorrow Imperial College Science Fiction Society is holding PicoCon 8, the eighth (you don't say) in its line of annual SF Conventions. With videos, guest authors, silly quizzes and more there is something for every taste in the SF and Fantasy range.

For those interested in reading SF (and the authors who write it) we've got talks by Bob Shaw and Dave Langford, both well known as British SF writers. If TV and Film is your line, we've got a video programme including *Blake's 7*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *The Prisoner*, *Monty Python* and more.

Space enthusiasts can hear talks on Space Tourism and Terraforming, while wargaming types can see a live role-playing demonstration courtesy of Wargames Society.

We also have traditional fun in the form of The Quiz—watch teams from Britain's great universities (plus O****d and C*****e) do battle with each other. See authors expound on the Discussion Panel, and listen to SF hacks sing at the Folk Workshop! Or just wander around our dealer room.

PicoCon 8 runs from 10am to 10pm on Saturday March 3. Admission is £4 for members, £5 for non-members. All events take place in the Union Building. Absolutely no train spotters.

Fencing win UAU final

Last weekend, Imperial College Fencing Team confirmed their status as Britain's best university fencing team by winning the final of the UAU team championships in a tense, action-packed competition.

Despite appalling organisation, including lack of presidents and electric scoring apparatus, the semi-finals eventually started on Saturday, with IC meeting ancient rivals UCL. From the outset, UCL looked shadows of their former selves and were obviously in awe of the formidable IC team. The sabre team (Jorg, Maurice and Nick) were in good vocal form. Next, the foilists went to work and despite a slight contretemps near the start (resulting from the president not knowing the rules) Peter, Nick and Simon Laight brought off a very respectable 6-3 victory. With the overall score at 13-5 going into the épée, IC needed only 1 bout for a place in the final; when it came with the score at 14-6, UCL conceded defeat, meaning that épéeist Simon Evans did not even get to walk onto the piste. Meanwhile, Bristol

had beaten Manchester in the other semi-final and watched us storm to victory with fear in their eyes.

On Sunday the organisational fiasco continued: firstly, the sabre president had to be woken up and called to the venue. Bristol had by then realised that they would have to resort to dirty tricks if they were to beat us and insisted at the last minute that the match be fenced in the order foil-sabre-épée instead of the usual sabre-foil-épée which had been used in the semi-finals. Naturally, IC captain Dave Matthews protested strongly, but rather than keeping a consistent format, the ineffectual organisers settled the dispute by tossing a coin, which went in Bristol's favour. Thus, our sabre team, who had spent the past hour warming up both mentally and physically, had to wait around while the foil match was fought. Foil was apparently Bristol's strongest weapon, but IC were more than a match for them, with Peter fencing brilliantly and Gully and Nick also putting in excellent performances. The score in the foil was 6-3 to us as

the sabreurs prepared to secure the match. However, it transpired that the IC sabre team were not only competing against Bristol but also against some quite appalling judging from the 'neutral' Manchester team. Despite spirited performances by Jorg, Maurice and Nick, the sabre match rapidly degenerated into some sort of sick joke and IC lost 4-5, a disgraceful travesty of justice and fair play. This brought the overall score to 10-8 and it was left to the épéeists to finish the job. Could they regain the 'surfin' spirit of last season? The answer was an emphatic 'yes', with Peter again fencing to the max and Simon Evans starting to return to form just when he needed to. Nick Hills completed an extraordinary 3-weapon performance as he stuffed in an aggressive prise-de-fer action to win the decisive bout, driving the IC team wild and making the Bristol team suddenly very silent. The eventual score in the épée was 6-3, making the overall result 16-11.

Cross Country

The London Colleges League reached its glorious climax in a 10km road race in Battersea Park. After an astounding early season, the team challenge had crumbled to fall 100 points behind perennial rivals Oxford Poly, so this time individual performances were the order of the day.

As the superior Chaston romped away to his third win in the series, Paul settled for second, waiting until the last 50 metres before opening his legs and showing his behind to the ailing Thames Poly man. This assured him the overall individual title by just two points and sealed a stunning debut season for the bi-mathematician. Always plugging away in the chasing group was Dave Flannel, who found it harder to function on this unnatural surface, but nevertheless

found the strength in the later stages to pull up to 24th, and secure tenth in the overall individuals.

Pride was at stake lower down the field, as Bill Skailes, Jim Watson, Ian Williams and Dan McQueen enjoyed another close scrap. It was Bill who gasped his way up to 56th, leaving the other three to finish within 20 seconds of each other and all in the top 70. With the track campaign now about to begin, we look forward to stuffing the opposition more thoroughly next autumn.

None of this was possible without Alex Gaskell and Frank Dudbridge, whose contribution the club acknowledges. While they organised just about everything going this year, we look forward to them actually participating in some races in the future.

Sailing

IC Men's & Ladies v Manchester
IC Men's & Ladies v London

On Saturday Feb 24, Manchester travelled down to North London to race against Imperial and the University of London. Manchester are at the head of the northern BUSA league for both men's and ladies and showed a very high standard of sailing.

Imperial raced Manchester men first and due to a bad start by Imperial, Manchester sailed into first and second place. Tactical sailing by Imperial blocked their third boat from gaining the third place until the last leg, when superior sailing by the Manchester men's team allowed them to win 1-2-3.

Imperial then went on to race Manchester ladies. This time Imperial started well, gaining first, third and fourth places, good team racing then allowed Imperial to pull up to 1-2-4. However catastrophic gear failure led to a collision at the first mark causing 2 boats to retire. This led to Imperial winning 1-2.

Racing was then abandoned as gusts in excess of 20mph were leading to an unacceptable amount of gear failure.

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Boat Club

On Saturday 17th the IC first eight taught the Cambridge Blue Boat a lesson in head to head racing. Cambridge had ventured down to London for their first pre-boat race warm up and challenged IC to two eight minute races. The first race ended after five minutes when the crews collided, the second race saw IC gain an early lead and although Cambridge challenged hard they were never able to get back on terms and IC took the spoils.

On Saturday 24th the Boat Club travelled to Nottingham for its first competition of the year. With six members at Great Britain trials, the men were slightly understrength but still managed three victories. The 1st four smashed all before them to win the overall race by a considerable margin. The second and third fours also recorded easy victories in their divisions. For the novice men this was their first taste of racing and they were extremely unlucky to lose by only one second. The new found strength of the Ladies Boat Club was in evidence during the race, they performed well above expectations and scored a notable victory over Oxford.

Wu Shu Kwan

Last Sunday, Wu Shu Kwan held a grading in the Union gym. A large number of Kung Fu students took part, many of whom were beginners going for their first belt. The standard displayed was excellent (particularly by our own club), with some powerful, graceful forms and exciting sparring. The event went well and the club expects a very high pass rate.

Badminton

UAU Semi-Finals, York 1990

Last weekend the Imperial men's 2nd team travelled to York University for the UAU semi-finals. After a successful qualifying competition in which both the first and second teams qualified as group winners, the 2nd team were drawn at home against Nottingham, who had been the victors at the same stage the previous year. It was always going to be a difficult match but the fact that IC's 3rd pair weren't up to their usual standard only served to exaggerate this. The top pairing of Punit Khare and Tim Bartle managed to win all their 3 rubbers although there were a few dangerous moments against Nottingham's very competitive 3rd pair. The score was level at 4-4 and so attention was focused on the final rubber and after much doubt Carl Edwards and Jin Yee Um won a close contest to secure a quarter-final place against Cardiff. This proved a somewhat easier task with everyone performing well and the stalwart Tim and Punit again contributing to the overall score of 6-3.

In the semi-final stage they played Leeds, the holders and overall strongest badminton playing university in the country. The IC team of Tim and Punit, Carl and Jin Yee and Julian Jenggi and Patrick Khoo made the long journey with high spirits, but unfortunately these were not to be realised. Despite many extremely close rubbers, Leeds were winners by 8-1, although it is fair to say that the final score could have been considerably closer than that. It was unfortunate that IC's involvement in the tournament should end at the semi-final stage. We are convinced next year we can go at least one better.

Invasion of the killer ballot boxes

by Fiona Nicholas, Returning Officer

On March 5 and 6 the whole of the campus will be invaded by a species known as 'the ballot box'. This black creature reaches a height of about 18 inches and exists on a diet of ballot papers.

There is a very particular way to feed a ballot box. Each example will be accompanied by a 'minder' who will check your Union card and punch a hole in it. He or she will then hand you 4 ballot papers (one for each sabbatical post).

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) System is used in the selection of candidates. You place a 1 next to the candidate who, in your opinion, is the best. You can stop here or, if you wish, choose a second choice by putting a 2 next to another candidate, and so on until there are no candidates left or until you think no more are worthy of a vote.

You cannot give candidates equal preference and numbers must be in consecutive order starting with 1.

Every ballot paper has the choice of 'New Election' on it. If you make this your first choice you are making a very serious statement. You are saying that there are no suitable candidates for the post. If you make it your second choice then you are saying that there is only one candidate which is suitable and that you would rather have a new election than have anyone else winning. If you vote for New Election for a joke then you are partially responsible for the waste of about £1000.

Do not mark your ballot paper with anything but numbers or it will be deemed invalid.

Ballot boxes are open between 10am and 5pm. They stay sealed until the count begins. A candidate must pass quota to be elected. Quota is half the total votes minus spoil (invalid) papers plus one. Mathematicians among you will realise that it is impossible for two candidates to achieve this magical

number. During the first round of counting only first choices are counted. If a candidate reaches quota at this point then he is elected. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is taken out of the running and his second choices are reallocated to the remaining candidates. The disregarded candidate may have had some ballot papers with only a first choice on them. These cannot be transferred; the total number of votes is decreased and so is quota. This process of reallocating votes continues until one candidate reaches quota or until the only remaining candidate does not have enough votes to pass quota. If the latter situation arises, the election must be re-run.

Just to end, here are a few examples of valid and invalid papers:

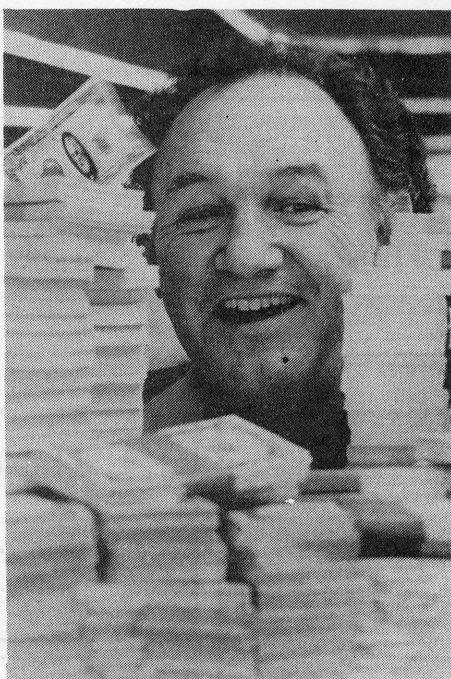
Valid papers

Candidate A	4
Candidate B	2
Candidate C	3
Candidate D	1
New Election	5

Candidate A	
Candidate B	1
New Election	2

Candidate A	
New Election	1

Invalid papers



How much for your vote?

Candidate A	
Candidate B	X
Candidate C	
New Election	

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	
Candidate C	
New Election	3

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	
Candidate C	1
New Election	

Candidate A	THEY'RE BOTH
Candidate B	DICKHEADS
New Election	1



F·e·l·i·X

Elections

They've spouted their twaddle and written their scrawl; now is your chance to decide. Voting for sabbatical candidates is on Monday and Tuesday next week. You will need your Union Card. The dirty tricks department has been working overtime since last week; a full page of dirt now seems appropriate for the next issue.

Chem Eng dinner

Academics will be fuming today. Professor Wakeham, the Head of the Chem Eng department, said he wanted to talk to FELIX on our information. His secretary told us that he would not be happy about us going to press without speaking to him. Funnily enough, Prof Wakeham has made no moves to contact FELIX, despite repeated attempts on our part to talk to him. People seem to believe that putting it off until Friday is the way to avoid bad press in FELIX. It isn't. The department of Chemical Engineering is in disgrace. It seems it has no answer for the behaviour of its students and lecturers at the dinner. This is the true disgrace of the situation.

The Union and the CCUs

IC Union and the Constituent College Unions have decided to help themselves to your money in order to follow a frivolous computer bargain basement buyout, it seems. Without recourse to any more than seven students, £8000 has been spent and a further £8000 has been earmarked. A full report on these dubious dealings will appear in next week's FELIX. Suffice it to say for now that the CCUs have taken an outrageous advantage from their united block vote this year.

MSF

The Manufacturing in Science and Finance trade union is right to defend its members against compulsory redundancies. I fear that the jobs at Imperial BioTechnology Ltd (IBT) are not the greatest of their problems. College is faced with a diminishing grant from government. Soon it will start to look for monetary savings. It has already started the privatisation of NUPE employees' jobs in the gardening sections. Who will be next? I believe the College will push for privatisation of porters, cleaners and repairmen. Having seen the results of the College's attempts to get work done by external contractors, I strongly doubt the merits of such a privatisation. The College has a serious cash-flow problem and often has difficulties paying its bills on time. This must have a strong influence on the overpriced, shoddy work which is performed by private contractors around the college.

I believe the College is in for a rough ride with the trade unions, which will not improve as the pennies are further pinched each year. If you are a member of College staff reading this, watch out; you could be next.

Travel

This week's issue concentrates on travel. If you

haven't planned a holiday this year, there are a number of ideas you may consider worth reading through in this issue. If you like the idea of a travel special, please let me know (you don't have to write a letter, just drop in a note or pop in for a chat.)

Survey

Over the next few weeks, I intend to carry out a survey on people's views on FELIX. If somebody wanders up to you and starts asking you questions about FELIX, please give them your views and ideas. This is your newspaper, and this is your chance to put your ideas into it now.

Credits

Thanks to last week's collators, Jim Lucy, Richard Evers, Andy Bannister, Chris Stapleton (Thomas Wyatt is also standing for the post of FELIX editor, but did not help on FELIX last week), Fiona Nicholas and Mike Newman. Thanks this week to Adam Harrington, Liz Warren, Emmajane Lamont and Liz Rickwood for News; Pippa Salmon for oodles of help; Simon Haslam, Jon Radcliffe and Liz Warren for science; Charles English, Ian Hodge, Matthew Johnson, Adrian Pagan and Anna Stebbings for travel; Fiona Nicholas for her tips on voting; Adam Tinworth, Julian Bommer, Adrian Pagan, JLW, Matthew Johnson and Toby Jones for reviews; Sarah, Sumit and Del for music; Richard Evers, Roland Flowerdew, Chris Stapleton (Thomas Wyatt is also standing for the post of FELIX editor) and Jeremy Burnell for pics; all the clubs and societies and Janus, who is desperate to use his new found powers.

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BLOWING-UP IMPERIAL

Why? Who? When?

The story behind H G Wells' plot.

Monday 5th March

7.30pm Physics LT1

see exhibition in Haldane Library

Why?

Dear Editor,

It is not often that I feel very annoyed at any of the letters in FELIX but I feel I have found an exception. Dylan James has apparently never noticed that a significant proportion of all higher education students live in accommodation provided by their colleges. Consequently none of the rent they pay covers the rates charged for that residence and therefore the Poll Tax is merely an extra charge that their, already meagre, grant has to cover.

Perhaps he thinks we should write to the University Grants Council to request subsidy for this ridiculous charge since they will no longer be paying the rates for College accommodation!

Also, it seems unlikely that the landlords who are overcharging many students for private accommodation, (since they are only shorthold tenants) will find it within their hearts to decrease the rents when the Poll Tax arrives.

Take the blue rosettes out of your eyes Mr James and you will see how ludicrous it is to introduce a 'fair' tax in a grossly unfair society.

Dave Matthews, Elec Eng 1.

Oh Why?

Dear Dave,

RE: Asian Soc.

I would like to disclose a few facts which I think everyone has a right to know (especially the members) about the lifestory of Asian Soc, and raise a few questions.

Firstly the only reason Bhertendu set up an Asian Soc was because he knew no one would have elected him as President for the Indian Soc. It was an ego trip. The setting up was helped by 'contacts' eg former India Soc president Kob and by his dear friend Wouter (OSC Chairman) who pushed the motion through the Union.

I am a member of the Asian Soc and the reason I joined it was because it was meant to represent a more cultured part of Asia. This is why Asian Soc was not merged with the Indian Soc according to Bhertendu. The actual reason the two societies did not merge was because they would have had to have re-election for which Bhart was not too keen on.

I have yet to go to any cultured event Asian Soc has organised. There have been a few discos which really don't justify the purpose of the society. If I wanted to go to discos, I could have gone to a lot better ones elsewhere.

The actual running of the society is questioned. The treasurer resigned due to, quote 'dictatorship'. That the society is in debt I find hard to believe, since Asian Soc boasts to have over one hundred members with membership at £1.50, this already amounts to £150. This plus Union subsidy is more than any newly formed society could want. The tickets for the first event were sold at an average price of five pounds, I was not present at the function but trustworthy friends told me that there were at least one hundred people there. Therefore all this adds up to a substantial income. So surely (as the JCR is free to hire) we must search for the money in Swiss bank accounts?

Why hasn't the Union or the OSC made a sufficient enquiry on this matter. Or are they afraid of losing face? Or did Bhertendu's ego write cheques his society couldn't cash?

Yours,

Anil Loadwa, Mech Eng 3.

What?

Dear Dave,

I feel compelled to write to you to answer the letter titled 'Obscure' in FELIX last week (issue 860). The 'ICU sabbatical' mentioned is indeed me, and I admit that the alleged comment is attributable to my very lips.

I believe that your correspondent is referring to a remark I made about the behaviour of the former RCSU Vice President at the Civil Engineering Freshers' Dinner. I stand by this statement even today, the reason for the letter you received is that I objected to being quoted in a motion to an RCSU General Meeting without my permission, and on a matter I, incidentally, did not support. Without this clause in the motion the proposer was forced to withdraw it, and as such his personal crusade against the former VP was thwarted.

I am sorry that your correspondent has blighted your pages with such a pointless, anonymous stab at an anonymous victim. The author drinks with me in the Bar most nights, so I see no reason as to why he could not raise the issue there. Anyway, Captain Cunt here is your reply.

Yours,

David Williams, ICU Deputy President.

Small Ads

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Postgraduate women:** Lunch 12.30pm Friday 23 Feb. Club Committee Room, 3rd Floor Union Building.

● **Granada TV** invites you to join their audience for a recording of 4th Dimension (a series on science and the environment) at College on March 3rd at 10.45am. You can either just turn up, or you can book a seat by ringing Tessa Lecomber on 877 0606. Please bring your friends, all are welcome.

● **Anyone** interested in two Tears for Fears tickets for 6.3.90 at Wembley. Contact P D Hillon, Physics 2.

● **Subwarden** Weeks Hall: This position is shortly to become vacant and applications are invited from grand funded postgraduate students who expect to be at College for a further two years.

The starting date is the end of term/Easter vacation. Please apply to Dr S.P. Walker, Warden.

● **Jewish Society** will be meeting on Tuesday 6 March at 1.30pm in the UDH (1st floor, Union). The speaker is David Lerner who will be speaking about Soviet Jewry. Contact Andrew Preston (Maths 1) for further details.

FOR SALE

● **Bike sale** Five bicycles of different sizes are for sale at very low clearance prices. Please contact Abdol ext 4817.

LOST & FOUND

● **Lost:** 1 trolley, wooden, squeaky axles, asymmetric front with ICUC painted on it. It is private property not college's and we want it back. So if you see it return it to outside the FELIX Office or contact Pete Bowen BC 2.

PERSONAL

● **Q. How** many College painters does it take to paint a Chem Eng corridor?

● **A. Only** two, but it takes them a month.

● **Vote Chris Stapleton** for FELIX on Monday and Tuesday next week. Thomas Wyatt is also standing for the post of FELIX Editor.

● **Congratulations** to Jon, Craig and Teea—IC heroes—for getting to the RAH Valentine Ball. From Southwell Hall's 'No ticket, no problem—baffling beats buying' Soc.

● **Mim Marseglia**—you've seen that film more times than I've seen Star Trek IV. Love and burps Lucy.

Oh Why?

Dear Dave,

I would like to point out the 'misinformation' which Dylan James chose to propagate in his letter last week (FELIX issue 860).

Mr James states a figure of £5.25 for a typical student rates bill. What he conveniently fails to mention is that most students are entitled to a 80% rebate on their rates, thus paying only £40 per academic year.

As for Westminster's Poll Tax of £200, this can be attributed to the fact that the City has an unusually large number of businesses which will be crippled by the uniform business rate.

Anyone who suggests that Poll Tax is a fair system is either thick or Conservative, the two not necessarily being distinguishable.

Yours sincerely,

S A Ghouse (Chem Eng 3).

GUILDS RUGBY SEVENS TOURNAMENT

This Sunday, 4th March
Coaches leave the Union for Harlington
at 10.00am

Sponsored by Fullers Brewery
Ladies as well as men, are of course
welcome

Sign up in the Guilds Office or on the Union Bar noticeboard. No more than 3 IC Squad or CCU 1st team players in any team. Total cost per team is £15 including travel to and from Harlington.

Be a celeb

The BBC has recorded interviews with students in the Mechanical Engineering department for its programme on scientific topics called 'Antenna'. The programme will be concerned with the future of the nuclear industry and the economics of energy.

Professor Goddard, head of the Nuclear Powers section of Mechanical Engineering, said that the BBC had approached him to ask for his help on studying the future availability of professional staff to keep the industry running safely.

The students are all taking the Nuclear Engineering option and the programme is expected to be screened on the 28th March this year.

Two episodes of the Channel Four programme 'Fourth Dimension' will be filmed in a tent on the Queen's lawn this Saturday (3rd March). The series looks at current science issues.

People interested in taking part in the debate, entitled 'the Greening of Science', should turn up at 11.00 am on the Queen's Lawn. At 5.15 a second filming run will include more features on Imperial College; Professor Davies from the Aeronautical Engineering department will be on the panel.

Complaints

The ICU Elections Committee, who are responsible for overseeing the way in which the ICU sabbatical elections are run, dismissed a complaint about the conduct of a Presidential candidate on Thursday.

The complaint was lodged by two other candidates for the post of President. The candidate denied allegations of breaking publicity rules by fixing stickers and handouts to walls. The Elections Committee felt that there was no proof that the candidate or his supporters were responsible for the location of the stickers and handouts and dismissed the complaint.

The candidate was told that if any candidate or any candidate's supporters were caught breaking election rules, they would be excluded from the election.

Sellout

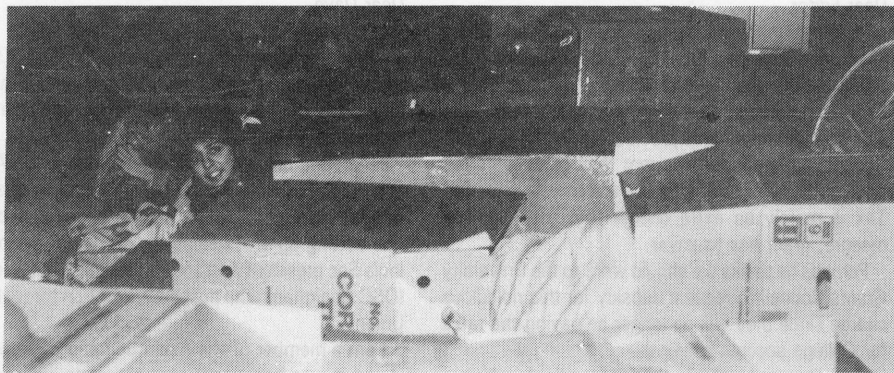
St Mary's Union President, Rhyddian Hapgood, has agreed to a plan for the proceeds of the sale of tennis courts at St Mary's Hospital Medical School's sports ground in Teddington to go towards building a new IC hall of residence. The money will be donated to the Imperial College/St Mary's Merger Appeal fund.

A condition of the donation to the fund is that Imperial College must also make an 'appropriate contribution' towards the cost of the hall.

Lecture I

Constantine S. Nicandros, President and Chief Executive of Conoco Incorporated, spoke at IC on 'The Innovation Imperative' last Tuesday. It was the first 'Sir Barnes Wallis lecture', to be held annually, sponsored by the Institute of Patentees and Inventors. A good attendance of over 100 people was reported.

Sleep out



Students slept out on the college walkways in cardboard boxes last Tuesday night to help the Centrepoint Soho charity for young down-and-outs.

Thirty-five students from the West London Chaplaincy attempted to sleep from 10.30pm until 9.30am the following morning outside the entrance

to the Electrical Engineering Department.

Ms Rachael Kitley, a second year Life Scientist, said that each of the students had been sponsored for roughly £30-£40 each. 'It wasn't a very cold night, but we were still not able to sleep properly', she added.

Lecture II

The director of the IC Humanities department, Mr Eric Stables, will be giving a talk under the title 'Satire on Campus: Universities and the Comic Novel'. It will be held in the Read lecture theatre, level 5 Sherfield, at 1.15pm on Tuesday 6 March.

Prizes

An award of £750 was made to Alan Smith, an IC Petroleum Engineering MSc graduate, on the 23rd February. The money was given by a British oil company in recognition of his high standard of work and 'maturity and leadership qualities' according to his former tutor, Dr Raad Issa.

The same company also gave £500 to Andrew Scott, an IC Chemical Engineering undergraduate, in January.

Competition

A two week tour of Japan is a prize for an essay competition organized by the Japan Information and Cultural Centre (465 6500). The essay is entitled 'Japan-European Relationship in the 21st Century'. The offer closes on the 10th April. Details are available from the Union office or the Japanese Embassy (number given above).

Obituary

Friends were saddened and profoundly shocked by the death of Juan Martinez in a motor accident on February 26th. He first came to Imperial College in 1986 to undertake a MSc course in the Physics Department and continued his studies for a PhD Degree of which he was already in his 3rd year. Friends will miss his happy smile and great sense of fun which touched so many of the lives around him. He was a very special individual and a credit to his family.

Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend a Requiem Mass to be held on Monday March 5th at the Brompton Oratory, Old Brompton Road at 12.30pm in his honour.

Rugby win

A strong IC team took to the field at Motspur Park to loud support from over 100 IC supporters on a windy rainy Sunday. Scoring a try virtually from the kick off, IC soon consolidated with two penalties to lead 10-0. By the time St Thomas' had their hooker sent off mid-way through the first half (for injudicious use of the knee), the general feeling in the crowd was not whether we would win but rather by how many. Two more tries gave IC a lead of 18-0 at half-time.

Playing into the wind in the second half, IC scored another try before St Thomas' even bothered the scorer. However, stout defence by IC restricted them to two penalties whilst IC ran in another try to give a resounding victory of 26-6 at full-time. Fine performances from all the team both in attack and defence combined to ensure everybody had an excellent reason to spend Sunday evening engineering a massive hangover for the next morning.

Elections

Almost 200 people attended the hustings for the four Union Sabbaticals took place last Thursday in the Junior Common Room. A hustings was also held at St Mary's Hospital Medical School last Monday.

Voting will take place in all departments on the 5th and 6th March. A special results edition of 'Felix' will be brought out on Wednesday 7th. Please be ready to produce your union cards at the ballot box.

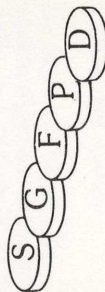
Auction

The government's plans to expand Britain's Universities could result in Universities 'bidding' for students at prices recommended by the Universities Funding Council (UFC), according to a report in *The Independent*.

The University of East Anglia believes that this will result in a fall in the number of science applicants because the tuition fees will be more expensive per science student than for an arts student.

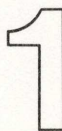
There are rumours that the mandatory payment of tuition fees by students' borough councils will be phased out. This would be replaced by charging the student directly.

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