

Export Strength

Imperial College has won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1990. The award recognises the increase of income by £4.5 million derived from foreign research contracts and overseas student fees during 1987/89.

The college's official figures show that the numbers of overseas students rose by 21% to 1229 (about 20% of total student numbers) and fee income rose to a total of £7 million.

Revenue from research contracts rose

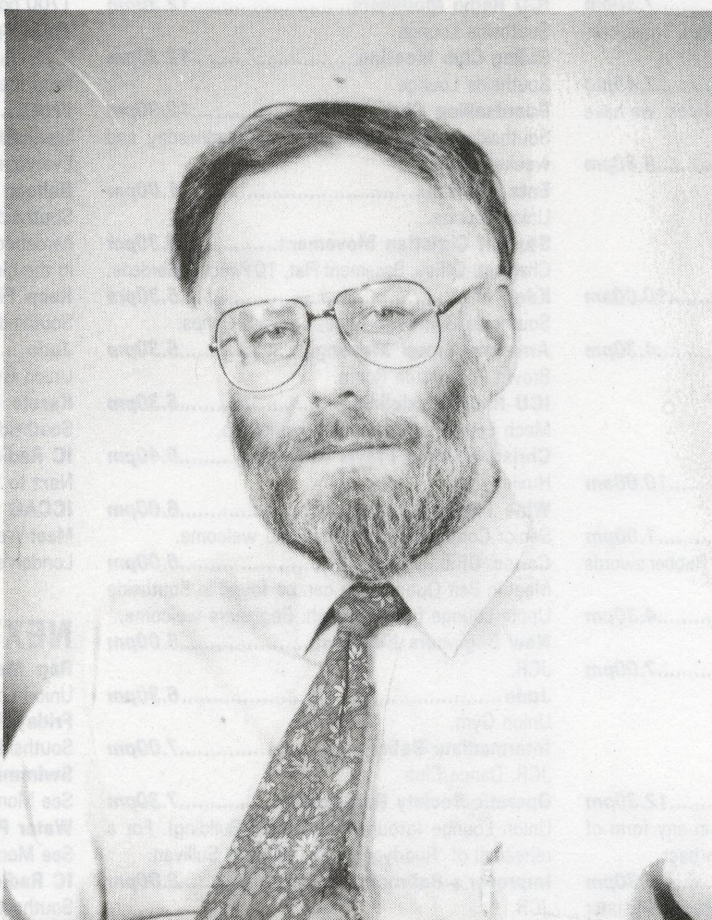
by 141% to £4.8 million over the period. The college is making headway in the USA and Japan for such contracts, and research groups in the college are continuing studies into healthcare and ecological issues for third world countries.

Vote for IC

Imperial College Union will be putting forward candidates for the local government elections on May 3rd. The candidates standing will be Dr John Finley and Dr Chris Owen for the Knightsbridge ward of Westminster City Council, and Ken and Paula Young for the Courtfield ward of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Dr Finley, Warden of Beit Hall and a tutor in the Aeronautics department, said that he was not standing on dogmatic views. 'I think I can listen and be human', he said. He added that he thought the college needed a voice in the local council, but though there were potential problems in being a local councillor as well as his two other posts there would probably be no clash of interests. This is because most of the council meetings were at about 6.00pm and, he said, 'being a warden is not very time consuming one just has to be available'. Dr Finley said he had been at the college for 23 years.

Neil McCluskey, President of IC Union, was asked by Felix to comment on the candidature. He said 'read the article' and yawned. In the article he says that if all the students at IC vote for 'the IC party' the candidates will have a very good chance of winning. He says that at the moment the college has 'virtually no say in its own planning' and has to seek permission from the local council which 'has been refused time and time again'.



Creative cookery

The IC Union Snack bar has lost £12,647 since August. This compares with the deficit of £1,114 for the previous year.

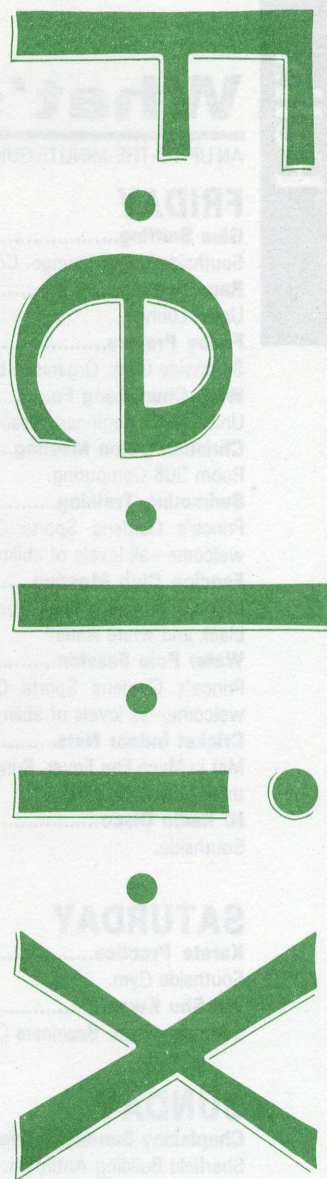
Union Deputy President, Dave Williams, said that this was due to the 'downturn in turnover' of the outlet, but he added that there was no plan to close the facility, at least for the next few months. He explained that he thought the Snack Bar had attained the 'right formula'. It no longer sells tasteless food and now

persues a 'dynamic' approach he said.

Mr Williams added that the union intends to advertise the facility to attract new customers.

Dave Peacock, Union Manager, said that there was 'no chance' of the Snack bar being closed, and again blamed the deficit on a low turnover. ICU President, Neil McCluskey told Felix that the idea was 'a load of bollocks as far as I'm concerned.'

Mr Williams claimed that there was no official projection for the deficit of the Snack Bar at the end of this year. The Union has put £30,000 into the Snack Bar over the last three to four years to keep it afloat. Mr Williams said the Snack Bar would never be able to repay this and added that the debt would be written off sometime this year.



Issue 866
Friday 28th April



What's On

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

FRIDAY

- Glue Sniffing**.....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.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....6.00pm
Room 308 Computing.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Fencing Club Meeting**.....6.40pm
Union Gym. Every week. This week creosote—is it a black and white issue?
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Cricketer 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

- Karate Practice**.....10.00am
Southside Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.

SUNDAY

- Chaplaincy Sunday Service**.....10.00am
Sherfield Building Anteroom.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union Building. Rubber swords provided.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners Class.
- RCSU Night in the Bar**.....7.00pm
Meet in the Bar. Every week.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of Rock Music? Come along and have a beer.
- Cross Country & Athletics**.....5.30pm
Union Gym. Jogging in Hyde Park and socialising later in Southside.
- MethSoc Meeting**.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office.
- 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.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Latin American Dance**.....7.45pm
Caesar's Palace. 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.
- CatSoc Mass**.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 702. Followed by sardines.
- Soiling Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.
- Sky Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside TV 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.
- Student Christian Movement**.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office, Basement Flat, 10 Prince's Gardens.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Alice, Smith & Jones.
- 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.
- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Dance Club
- Operatic Society Rehearsal**.....7.30pm
Union Lounge (ground floor Union Building). For a rehearsal of 'Ruddygore' by Gilbert & Sullivan.
- Improver's Ballroom**.....8.00pm
JCR.

WEDNESDAY

- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Outside Southside for sailing.
- Keep Fat**.....12.30pm
Southside Gym with Buster Bloodvessel.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- 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. Enthusiastic new members welcome—any ability.

- Wu Shu Kwan**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Experts class.
- FREE DISCO (he's innocent)**.....9.00pm
In the Union Lounge Nightclub 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.
- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Aero 266. Come along to arrange your first flight.
- ICSF Library Meeting**.....1.00pm
ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from 1700 books.
- Train Spotting**.....1.00pm
ICTS Library (Below the Belt). Members can borrow from the 1700 on platform 4.
- 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 Bar.
- ICCAG Soup Run**.....9.00pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.

NEXT FRIDAY

- Rag Meeting**.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Swimming Practice**.....6.30pm
See Monday's entry.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
See Monday's entry.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

ASSISTANT SUBWARDEN Falmouth Keogh Hall

A vacancy exists for an Assistant Subwarden in Falmouth Keogh Hall from late September. Falmouth Keogh is a mixed hall and the appointment attracts rent-free accommodation suitable for a single person. Applications are invited from postgraduate students having at least two years remaining at IC.

Application forms are available from the Student Accommodation Office,
15 Princes Gardens.
Closing date: Friday 4 May.

Film

Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure

First, the conclusion. If you want to see a film make a fool of itself and at the same time have a good laugh, this is that film.

I had to put the conclusion first in case you didn't make it through the review. Quite simply this is an everyday story of two young idiots who want to form a band. Unfortunately they can't sing nor play the guitar. This doesn't stop them, however, from becoming a new cult religion that everyone looks up to...if they pass tomorrow's history test that is.

This is where Rufus comes in. He comes from the future to ensure that they pass (otherwise civilisation as he knows it disappears). He gives them the ultimate cheat sheet, a time-travelling phone box (sounds familiar?).

Our two 'dudes' take off into the past. From Ancient Greece to the Wild West they kidnap all sorts of people and bring them back to modern day American to see the sights and to help with their history presentation.

Of course, things get predictably out of control, as Joan of Arc takes over an aerobics demonstration and Napoleon eats his way through a bowl of icecream.

What can I say about this film? It's so ludicrous that it grows on you: I think that the ending is a bit too long and some of the gags were repeated too many times. The device 'If tomorrow I go back in time I can get us out of this situation' was amusing once but three times in succession?



Still, most of it is funny, and the effects are pretty good. I just wonder how they got the two heroes to be so dumb? As a complete mickey-take of time travelling teen adventures, this wins first (or last)

prize.

Don't forget 'Be excellent to each other'.

Toby Jones.

Theatre

Pericles



A question mark—I kid you not—learned historians see this play as barely Shakespeare. Indeed if the great bard new the RSC's *Pericles* I'm sure he too would wish to disassociate himself from it. As usual with the RSC, no expense is spared; costumes are extravagant and the set innovative. The RSC squanders technical expertise on a script ten times more tedious than *Neighbours* but given the full *Hamlet* treatment. The company with few exceptions threw itself whole-heartedly into some really abismal 'ham' Shakespearean acting. *Pericles* is very miserable.

Anna Teeman.

Film

Uncle Buck

Buck Russell, played by John Candy, is a carefree bachelor who uses any excuse he can not to do any work. In fact, if it wasn't for his brother asking him to look after his nephew and two nieces for a few days, he might have had to work for his girlfriend (Amy Madigan). That was close. He drives to his brother's in the moving trash-heap he calls a car and wakes all the neighbours. Uncle Buck is the last person you'd want as a baby-sitter but he pulls through admirably.

At first he has some trouble with the house and kids, for a start he can't remember their names! The nephew, Miles Russell, assaults him with the longest, quickest running question session before accepting Buck as a role model. The youngest niece, Maizy, thinks he's cuddly and the elder niece, Tia, thinks he's a slob. This is not surprising as his eating habits put mine to shame! Have you ever seen a six foot pancake before?

As Tia tries to avoid him, Buck takes special care to look after her. This makes her hate him even more, especially when he insists on driving her to college in his wonderful car. Tia's boyfriend, Bug (he's that type of guy that makes you wonder what she sees in him), tries to interfere 'Ever heard of a tune up?', 'Ever heard of ritual killing?' comes the reply before a cloud of smoke covers Buck's exit.

All the characters are well cast, especially Macaulay Culkin as the eight year-old Miles. He's a likable kid who has some great lines. When Buck comments on Miles noticing the hairs in his nose, he replies 'I'm a kid. That's my job'.

Mostly though the humour comes from John



Candy. No one else could have 'filled' the character as he does. He has the sort of humour you either can't get enough of or find a bit tiresome. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Any film that can make ME start to shed a tear must be worth watching!

Toby Jones.

Film

A Short Film About Love



This film is of the type sometimes referred to as a 'study'. That means that the plot, such as it is, is not the main point of the film. It is the characters and the film's observations that matter. Filmed in Polish, it has English subtitles, but for once I found that the sense of detachment added to the film. Aptly, we are studying the characters from a distance.

Tomek, a young post office worker, has been spying on Magda, a thirty year old woman in the block of flats opposite, for over a year. He phones her up without speaking, sends round gas men when she brings home boyfriends and intercepts her mail. When one of her many men leaves her crying over spilt milk, he finally confronts her and tells her what he's done. At first she dismisses him violently but finally they meet in her apartment...

At first, the film revolves around Tomek. We see Magda only through his telescope—the audience themselves become the voyeurs. The only sounds we hear are from the boy's apartment—the only sounds that reach us from the woman's apartment are her voice on the telephone when he phones her, otherwise she inhabits a silent world. This enforces the feeling that they are completely separated, mutually incompatible.

It is to prove this to him that Magda leads Tomek to her apartment. She maintains that he cannot be in love with her as love does not exist, just biological reactions. She can make love but can not be in love. Tomek as her opposite, cannot take the place of her other men and flees her. She is both right and wrong. Love is a biological reaction, but what are we but animals dependent on love, as necessary as food and as crippling if not sated?

As the film draws to an end, neither happy nor sad, we feel no emotion towards either Tomek, a pathetic if disgusting figure or Magda, a cold, manipulative woman. Perhaps this is to show that there can be no feeling after all.

If you go to this film just because it is an 18, you'll be disappointed. I think this signifies that anyone younger wouldn't understand this film (there's no car chase). I'm not sure I understand it consciously myself, yet it touched on something that made me sad. A personal film.

Toby Jones.

Film

Monsieur Hire

Society would class M. Hire as a pervert. He has a conviction for indecent exposure and spends his evenings watching the girl in the flat opposite through his window. He is hated by his neighbours, but he doesn't care. He is a man who prefers silence and solitude. Then one evening he sees something happen in Alice's room that will change his life...

Made by a Frenchman whose past films have in general tended towards comedy, it is a dark and disturbing film. M. Hire lives in a room into which light rarely falls. He never switches on the light and spends his evenings indulging in his voyeuristic tendencies to a background of Brahms. Alice lives in a lighter, airier environment and lives a fairly normal life - if you ignore the fact that her fiancée is a criminal. Slowly the two begin to merge, we see new facets of the characters and our perceptions begin to change. The plot is simple, the pace is slow but the developments intriguing.

Michel Blanc's portrayal of M. Hire is perfect, bringing across the necessary elements of both threat and despair that are inherent in the character, while leaving him as a human, albeit an unusual one. Alice is less well portrayed, her emotions and motivations never becoming clear. It is difficult to tell though, whether this is a failing of the actress (Sandrine Bonnaire) or of the script.

The few other characters in the film have little in the way of personality - they are merely devices to allow plot development. The film is primarily one of relationships, but fails on one simple count. One cannot feel any sympathy for (or empathy with) either of the central characters. The viewer is always the outsider looking in on a situation that is of little relevance to his/her life. Thus while it provides an interesting 80 mins it has little lasting appeal.

Adam T.

Film

The Hunt for Red October



Before the USSR began to crumble, the naval games which continue today were played out with fleets of similar ships and subs. Stalemate. But what would have happened if one side had discovered a silent propulsion system? A devastating first strike would be possible. But what if the commander of the first sub to be fitted with this major advantage decided to steal it?

Markus Ramius (Sean Connery) does just that. He steals the Red October, the Soviet's latest submarine, and sails it towards America. Strangely he informs his superiors as to his intent and they deploy everything to get him back or blow him up.

Back in the USA, CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Alec Baldwin) is called upon to brief senior Whitehouse officials on the latest sub technology and to explain the strange behaviour of the Soviet Fleet. He decides that Ramius is trying to defect. If he is right, the Americans will have their hands on the latest technology. If he is wrong...Someone must intercept Ramius and learn his true intent. Good old, expendable, Jack Ryan.

Even though we live in a post-glasnost era, this thriller hits the mark. Connery plays Ramius with ice in his veins contrasting with the eager but inexperienced Ryan played well by Baldwin. Crew members on the USS Dallas are all played by authentic Navy submariners giving a touch of reality to the faithfully copied sets.

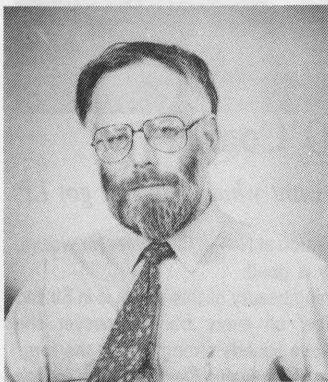
As for the underwater effects, Industrial Light & Magic used a combination of smoke and computer graphics and a 500-foot model of the Red October. As expected, they are superb and seem perfectly natural.

Director John McTiernan (*Die Hard*) has kept up the suspense throughout, only letting us relax for some wisecracks. You can tell how keyed up everyone is when a quite funny joke gets a huge response from the audience. It's quite a long film at two hours sixteen minutes but I certainly didn't notice.

Quite simply, a film that I urge you to see as much as I did *Black Rain*.

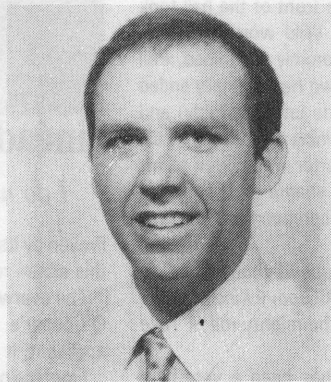
Toby Jones.

How to win elections and influence people



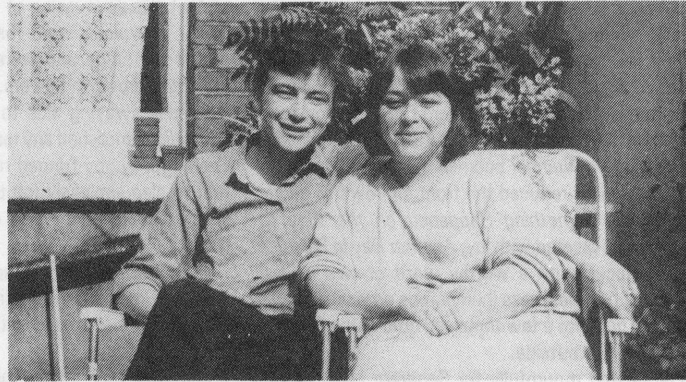
JOHN FINLEY

X



CHRIS OWEN

X



KEN YOUNG

X

PAULA YOUNG

X

You should have your poll card soon, if not already. You will also have had your poll tax demand. You must have seen the posters about the elections for the local Council. What are you going to do come polling day, on May 3rd?

Well, you could turn out and vote. To forestall questions about this, consider the following thoughts. Why will my councillor do me any good? The local Council directs the expenditure of the very large sum of money raised from personal poll tax, business rate poll tax and the Rate Support Grant. This adds up to a significant fraction of a billion pounds a year, and apart from blanket services like refuse collection, students (who pay like everyone else) see surprisingly little of it. Whether this is because the local Council never gets to hear our views, or actually doesn't want to, is unanswerable. But whichever block exists, it could be removed by direct representation.

Planning and licensing are also dealt with by the local Council, and if you've ever been annoyed by your hall's inability to get a bar, or your inability to get a hall place because there aren't enough, then you might think about getting yourself a voice. We don't claim that a couple of councillors will work miracles overnight, but do you know whether people spoke on your behalf the last time a planning application was considered? Or whether they were heard if they did? A couple of local Councillors dedicated to putting over the world according to Imperial College could help a lot. Who should I vote for? ICU has got it's finger out and assembled a team of candidates for the two wards with most students in them:

Kingsbridge Ward, Westminster (all of Prince's Gardens, Montpelier and Beit) and Courtfield Ward, Kensington and Chelsea (Evelyn Gardens). Knightsbridge will be contested by Dr. John Finley (Aero. Eng., Warden, Beit Hall) and Dr. Chris Owen

(Space Physics, Sub Warden, F-K Hall), and Courtfield will be contested by Ken (Warden, Southwell Hall) and Paula Young. Candidates were selected primarily on the basis of their record of working for students, as well as ability to communicate and put their point across.

What are they standing as?

They are all standing as IC Party candidates, which will be abbreviated to ICP on the ballot papers. Many people ask why they should vote for an independent candidate, when a party candidate will at least have his or her fellow party councillors' votes. This is true, but the only way a party with a majority on a Council can get things done is to ensure consensus between all members before the Council meets, then require all members to vote with the agreed result. And when they're talking about the various issues that the Council will discuss, how high on the agenda do you think the problems of IC students will come? The only way to get a particular voice to the level of the Council meeting is to have a candidate who specifically stands for that voice. There are other independents, but a vote for them loses the backing of a party vote without increasing their voice on your behalf—if anything, it decreases it, because even independents stand on platforms dedicated to a particular group, and if you're not within that group it may be hard to get your councillor's ear. The bottom line is that party political votes have always been wasted at local Council level, because nothing the local Council can say or do will affect policy coming down from Westminster. The wise vote in local elections has always gone to whichever candidate seems to be able to do most for you; we hope that the choice is clear for you.

When, where and how can I vote?

Polling is from 8am to 9pm on Thursday, May 3rd. If you're in Prince's Gardens, Montpelier and Beit you can vote at Linstead Hall, and if you're in Evelyn Gardens, you can vote in the Armenian Church on the corner of Cranleigh Gardens and Evelyn Gardens. You don't need your poll card to vote, but it makes it quicker if you do have it on you. You also have several votes; two if you're in Westminster and three in Kensington and Chelsea. In Westminster we ask you to cast those for John Finley and Chris Owen, in Kensington & Chelsea to cast two for Ken and Paula Young and to withhold the third—any use of the third vote will make it harder for Ken and Paula to get in. You can vote on the way into college or the way home, it takes only five minutes, and it could be the best spent five minutes that day.

Why me?

Primarily, why not? You've had to pay for your vote, you may as well use it. But also, we don't have a huge voting base in college. Certainly, if all students turn out and vote ICP then we should be able to swing the election our way; but it's a close run thing even if you ALL turn out, so we need every eligible student to appear on the day and cast their vote for ICP. Really, seriously, every single student, or the day is lost. Any further questions? Please feel free to address enquiries or comments to ICU (internal 3500). But if your questions have been answered, then please vote ICP Party X on May 3rd

Published by Neil McCluskey and Tom Yates (Imperial College Union, SW7 2AZ)

I.C. PARTY

X

Phil Collins

Royal Albert Hall, 22.4.90

'Phil, we love you' they screamed and they *did*. Phil Collins is a man with a cult following of ten million. This is frightening. As one of the heretics who queued for tickets on the door, I was treated to extensive and detailed coverage of the great man's bald spot.

Glinting like a silver football in the light he thundered through the instrumental opening. The granny contingent went wild; the yuppies in their £500 a time touted seats yahed appreciatively. Phil rode roughshod through *Who Said I Would* before slowing to the all-time misty eyes fave *Against All Odds*. Funky sax. Soulful backing vox. Phil galloped into *Doesn't anybody Stay Together Anymore* amidst a truly awesome drum farrago from Chester Thompson and then dropped three gears into another slowly. *Don't Lose My Number* boomed out triumphantly; *Do You Remember* reduced the front six rows to gooey candyfloss. *Something Happened on the Way to Heaven* was greeted with joy; *Another Day in Paradise* was prefaced with a worthy word or two on the subject of homelessness (humorous no less) and was probably good for a few thousand quid to the Prince's Trust buckets outside.

Phil dueted mournfully for *Separate Lives* before launching like a diminutive guided missile into a drum battle with Chester which packed more energy in than Kylie's entire career to date (not saying much really).

That's Just the Way it is is closed the 'not an enormous hit' section of the concert before we arrived at *One More Night* which was the only one which left me cold, but it went down a storm with the rest of the audience. *Colours* did the, by now, obligatory redress-in-South-Africa bit before *In the Air Tonight* brought the house down. *In the Air Tonight* was **awesome**. *You Can't Hurry Love* segued neatly into *Two Hearts* at which point the crowd burst out of their seats and wholesale invasion of the front of the hall took place. The place went mad. Wild women tried to mount the stage and were forcibly restrained. Phil started to drown in flowers. *Two Hearts* finally ended (audience swaying side to side uncontrollably) and *Sussudio* demolished any remaining reserve in the hall. Even your floppy-fringed reporter was driven to his feet to clap aimlessly (oh the shame of it) and then with a cataclysmic shriek of bereavement Phil was gone.

He came back of course (phew! thoughts of an imminent riot clear) and he did *A Groovy Kind of Love*, closing like a demi-god with the mighty roll of *Take Me Home*.

Phil was very good. This has been a very hard review to write.

Stone.

Carter T.U.S.M.

101 Damnations LP

Lyrical inspiration of *The Smiths*. Energy and fun of early *Fuzzbox*. Danceability of the best Scallie bands. They're rather good, get some.

DEL.



Sinéad O'Connor

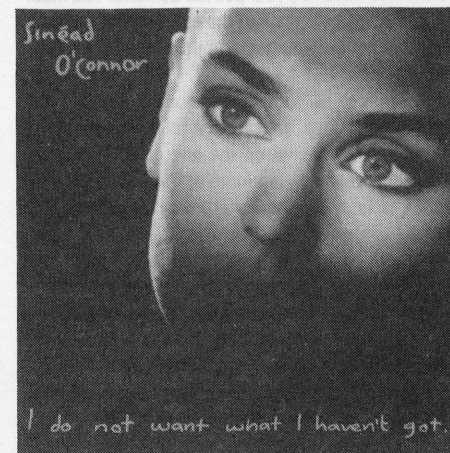
I do not want what I haven't got LP

Proven by its position at No1 in the charts for weeks, this album really is good.

The overwhelming beauty of this album is in Sinéad O'Connor's voice; on every track, however she applies it, it always sounds strong and to the fore.

From the politically activated *Black Boys on Mopeds* to the sparse vocal title track *I Do Not Want...* all of the songs are from Sinéad's heart, sung with true emotion. The track everyone knows for its chart topping success, *Nothing Compares to You* is still brilliant, but seems out of place. A beautiful album.

DEL.



The Beat + Friends of Harry + The Trudy + Goat

Finished your exams and need to let your hair down? Maybe you need a night off from that hectic revision schedule? Can you think of a better way of spending tonight than to come to the Exam Blues Ball in the Union Building? No I thought not! There will be bands galore, disco frenzy, cocktails, late bar, burgers, films and maybe a casino.

Topping the bill in tonight's carnival is *The International Beat*, formerly *The Beat*. Yes, they have reformed and play their first UK gig tonight at Imperial College. For those of you who don't know *The Beat*, maybe when you were young, pop music was just something that happened to other people, they were a very successful ska band in the early 80s with such songs as *Mirror in the Bathroom* topping the charts. The line-up is very similar to the original with only two members leaving to form *Fine Young Cannibals*.

Supporting them upstairs in the Concert Hall is *Friends of Harry*, a pop, reggae, jazz, funk fusion band with an excellent soirée of danceable ditties guaranteed to get you on your feet and wear away the soles of your shoes.

Headlining downstairs in the Lounge is *The Trudy*. These out of this world manic popsters are coming to present their own inimitable style of crazy pop/rock. The final band on the bill is *Goat*.

But of course to be the best fun and value for money for miles around (£3.50 advance from the Union Office and £4.00 on the door (if there are any left)) we don't only present bands. We have the Lounge Disco pumping out those Scallie tunes, plus some songs from other parts of the country until 3am. Also on offer is a selection of films, burgers in the Quad and maybe even a Casino. If by chance you need a

Imperial College Union, Tonight

little liquid stimulation, come on—this *is* Imperial College, we have a late bar until 2am and some lethal cocktails served up by those very friendly Rugger boys.

But to ensure entrance to this most magical of evenings you must (a) have bought a ticket (most important) and (b) bring your Union Card (also most important). If you follow these two simple instructions a great night will be had by all.

Finally, if you are genuinely interested in helping out on the Carnival tonight and joining the Ents Committee free of charge, then meet at the Union Lounge at 1.30pm today.

Competition

We are now in a position to offer someone two free tickets for tonight's Exam Blues Ball. All you have to do is answer the questions and tie break (in no more than 20 words) and give your answers to Michelle in the Union Office before 1pm today. The prize will be given at 1.30pm in the Lounge so make sure you are there. The Ents Chairman's decision is final.

Question 1: Name the two front men of *The Beat* who are now with the *International Beat*?

Question 2: Name the two bands that initially emerged from the break-up of *The Beat* (the *International Beat* is not one of them)?

Tie Break: I would like to go to the Exam Blues Ball because..... (not more than 20 words)

NECROPHILIACS GUIDE TO GRAVE DIGGING

Friday April 27

CORPSE OF THE WEEK:

The Trudy +Imperial College Union
Ultra Vivid Scene.....Borderline

Saturday April 28

Faith no More + Prong.....Bixton Academy
The Quire Boys.....Hammersmith Odeon
Phil Collins.....Wembley Arena (all week)
Ultra Vivid Scene.....Borderline

Monday 30 April

The Trudy.....Subterrannia

Tuesday 31 May

Felo-de-se +
Meltations + The
Strange +
48 Hours.....Lady Owen's Arms, Angel

Wednesday May 2

The Soupdragons.....Subterrannia

Thursday May 3

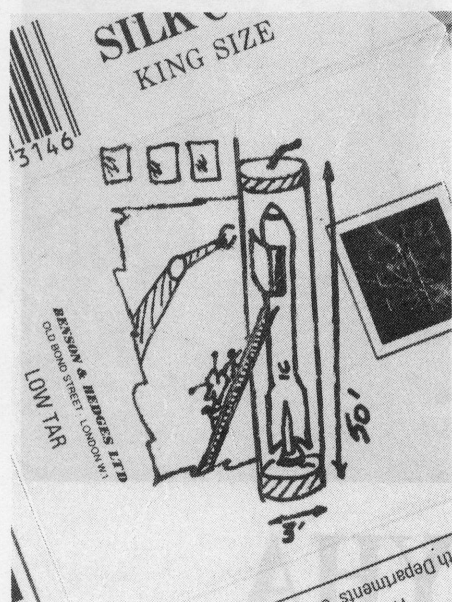
My Bloody Valentine.....ULU

Friday May 4

My Bloody Valentine.....ULU

Intrepid FELIX reporters Tony Drambuie and Ed de Menthe reveal details of the recent government scoop on a potentially secret projectile launching system...

Queen's Tower in satellite scandal



Over Easter the Queen's Tower, Imperial College's prestigious symbol of fertility, has been seized. HM customs, acting upon classified information to the effect that QT was to be a new military satellite launcher, took control and pronounced a 20 metre exclusion zone around it. Following delays in both the American and European space programmes potential was seen for a reliable and cheap land based launcher for satellites and other projectiles. Government experts are thought to believe QT a prime candidate with its good road and rail links, discreet location and fast access to Europa Foods.

The government agency MIS has had Imperial under close scrutiny since the appearance of a giant 'candle' some 16 months ago. Under the pretext that this would be built and lit in order to raise money for charity, it is supposed in fact to be a scaled down prototype for the, now possibly installed, system in QT. FELIX has obtained confidential blueprints of the design when the tube was attached to the side of the Mechanical Engineering building. This experimental version was used to test access for satellite or cargo loading and determine the length of the fuse for detonation, known under the codename 'wick'. Apparently a consortium, the British Unilateral



Launcher of Low-orbit Satellites and High Industrial Technology, has so far provided funds for such a costly venture. This is composed of several industrial concerns, the Temms Water Authority and the recently formed IRC for Missile and Bomb curious people. The Baron of Cheapskate was unwilling to comment on the matter.

A potential carcinogen and dangerous poison, Cadmium, is still commonly used for household products. Manufacturers will have to decrease levels to remain environmentally friendly in the '90s reports Shadi Khoroushi.

Heavy metal

The concern over the presence of heavy metals really started after the Second World War, because of accidents occurring in, for example, Minamata, Japan and the better understanding of their effect on man's health and his environment. Cadmium occurs naturally, but as ever the problem starts when man and industry are involved with its manufacture.

Cadmium is generated during zinc manufacture either as a by-product or a fraction of the waste. Over the past 40 years cadmium has been used as surface-coatings, pigments, in rechargeable batteries, stabilizers in PVC as well as detergents and fertilisers. In all these areas substitutes are available, but cadmium with its high stability and resistance to heat, cold and light seems to be the ideal choice for the manufacturers. With detergents and fertilisers cadmium occurs as an impurity in phosphate rock formations. This heavy metal is removed during the production of detergents but not fertilisers.

Cadmium can get into the ecosystem via air, water and soil. It moves through the environment and is finally deposited in the soil, where it is taken up by plants and enters the food chain. Over the years

emissions of cadmium into air and water have been controlled but now this leaves food as the major source of exposure to the general public.

The environmental impact of cadmium is not significant and so efforts have been concentrated on protecting man. Cadmium accumulates in the kidney and if its concentration rises above 200 parts per million then it can cause damage to organs and lead to chemical complications. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers cadmium oxides as a potential carcinogen, but they are still prevalent in working environments. Studies have shown that cadmium does not influence the health of cattle or their milk. There might be a problem with sheep as they eat large amounts of soil, but this has not been studied yet. Plants on the other hand take up cadmium through the soil. The acidity of the soil is important, as the more acid the soil the more cadmium is taken up. The type of vegetable is also important. Lettuce and spinach take up more cadmium than cabbage, cauliflower and beans. Smoking and poor health both increase susceptibility to the effects of cadmium.

The Acceptable Daily Intake level for cadmium is 400 micrograms per day, while in Britain the average daily intake is about 140 micrograms. However this intake level is increasing all the time. Another factor is that cadmium concentration is usually 2 to 3 times higher in the home. Therefore any control programme has to involve lowering emissions, as well as the use of cadmium in products. The EEC directive bans the use of cadmium in many plastic products, as stabilisers and plating of metallic plants and equipment. The aim of the ruling is to make companies seek alternatives to cadmium.

A few manufacturers (mainly European) have started to decrease the levels of cadmium in their products, although Britain seems to be lagging behind. With 1992 approaching the companies substituting cadmium are bound to be in a much more favourable market position as well as being regarded as environmentally or maybe it is more appropriate to say humanly, friendly.

Shadi Khoroushi, Life Science 3.

Sailing Challenge

The Imperial College European Sailing Challenge (ICESC), with six members from IC, went to France and competed in the Spi Dauphinne Regatta over Easter. The idea of the regatta being each team consists of two boats, one sailed by the university students, and the other by the team sponsor. The ICESC had two main sponsors, Symbol MSI, a High Tech company, and Sema Graph, a CAD Engineering firm, as well as sub-sponsorship from IC, Douglas Gill and DPSC International.

The team quickly earned a good reputation with the race organisation. In fact, after Rory Barrett and Pierre Grosgeat free-climbed a 55 foot mast to pose for the cameras, the ICESC was voted best representative for their sponsors in the regatta, by Le Figaro the biggest French national newspaper. Conditions varied greatly, with winds between 0 and 60 knots. The race was tremendously well organised with a night race, a 24 hour relay race, one day race and one olympic race. Conditions were perfect giving everything from roaring 16 knot spinnaker runs, to critical light wind beating.

Next year the syndicate hopes to raise more than the £15,000 it was worth this year, and is aiming to win the Spi Dauphine 1991.



Eastern Orienteering YHA

Easter is a vacation for orienteering. This year we went to Southampton to run the British Student Championship, and to Scotland to run an international event.

In Southampton it was more important to enjoy yourself than to win. But we did win something, Shaun West got the wooden spoon (after spending over 7 hours in the forest!) and again we won the boat race—this time by the girls.

The weather was on our side, and most of us

managed to get sunburnt after two days running.

During the Easter weekend we ran in Perth in Scotland, competing with national stars from Norway, Sweden and the UK. William Power did the best run, ending up as number 7 in his course after being 2nd the first day. This was really good, with the hard competition and the difficult orienteering. Both Dave Knight and William Power had good runs for the men's first team in the relay, but they couldn't take up the hard Scandinavian competition.

The cold morning started with a bowlful of porridge and a dash of treacle (we feeble sassenachs couldn't take the traditional salted porridge). Then the discussion of where to walk today. After the fun job groups soon emerged; those who were going on the long walk, and those going on the short one.

The long walk was a fifteen mile one around a fractal coastline. As fate would have it, this included crossing a raging torrent. One member of the group thought he had found the perfect route but suddenly, he was neck deep and being swept into shark-infested waters (a little exaggeration perhaps, really it was a gentle stream, he was waist deep, and the waters were infested with seals).

The short walk actually remained on the beach and turned into a 'beach bum' party. This included such delights as throwing stones at other stones, attacking each other with pieces of seaweed, and (of course), taking in the atmosphere of the Misty Isle. We did have our exercise of the day, though—the 200ft walk back to the van was uphill!

At the end of the day, after the evening meal of haggis and swedes/potatoes, it was off to the pub to discuss the day's exertions over a glass (or two) of the local whisky, Talisker.

All in all, a pretty successful day in our 10-day trip to the Misty Isle. I can't wait for next year's Easter trip.

IC Rifle and Pistol beat Holland Club

At the end of last term we shot a combined rifle and pistol match against the Holland Club. Rifle and pistol shooters from each club were paired according to ability and then shot against the corresponding pair from the other club. The winner was taken to be the club who won the most pairs.

Holland Club pairs

Rifle	Pistol
N Royal.....193	P Hems.....185
S Turner.....181	J Pilner.....176
C Raves.....180	N Royall.....171
P Woods.....168	C Raves.....163
W Bodinksi.....167	V Brashko.....163

ICR&PC Pairs

S Cane.....195	A Menzies.....176
R Hambleton.....194	T Griffiths.....175
S Taylor.....193	J Hurr.....171
Lachlan.....182	S Taylor.....166
T Griffiths.....179	R Hambleton.....158

So ICR&PC won 4 pairs and the Holland Club won 1 pair meaning that ICR&PC won the match, although the aggregate scores were quite close (1750-1789).

Could all members of the club please note that this term the range will only be open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons as we have to do at least a couple of hours revision before our exams.

Go fly a kite

by Mike Tarry

Having been involved with the Hang Gliding scene for the last three years I have watched the increase in popularity of paragliding with both interest and concern. The latter results from the inevitable swamping of 'our' sites by 'them', those lucky buggers who each time they fly down to the bottom of the hill only have to carry 3kgs of sailcloth back to the top, whilst we struggle under 30kgs of glider. There's no prizes for guessing who sweats the most! This weekend the former of these two factors got the better of me, so I paid my £35 for a one-day hang glider to paraglider conversion, and off I went in the direction of the South Downs (W Sussex).

My instructor was the same guy the IC Club has been using to teach our members to hang glide for the last few years (with no accidents so far!), ex-SAS, ex-mercenary, easy-going Eddie Bilous—CFI Free Flight Hang Gliding School.

Saturday started with blue skies, and I started at the bottom of the hill learning how to 'ground-handle' 24 square metres of sailcloth—possibly the hardest part of this new sport. As the temperature crept up to 22°C I slowly crept up the hill, ten feet per flight, always under the watchful eye of Eddie. Eventually I found myself at the top of the hill. Helmet, harness, check the risers (strings), airspace clear, tug the front risers, CRACK!—the canopy inflates above me, quickly onto the breaks, check inflation, canopy stable, breaks off, run to the edge. 10m, 20m, 30m, 50m the ground drops away beneath me. Below, people shrink from six feet tall to the same number of centimetres. Unfortunately I fly out of the lifting air from the hill, and sail down to the ground. People begin to grow back to their normal size. The grass gets nearer—feet together, progressive pull down on the breaks, and my toes touch the ground with less force than jumping off a 2ft wall. If only hang-gliding had been this easy!



Several flights later the day ended with me being awarded my F1, the first licence (of three) which says I'm not a complete nutter with kamakazi tendencies.

Sunday started much the same—blue skies and a gentle up-slope breeze. Today was a day for converting onto a higher performance glider—the much talked about (in these circles anyway) ALIEN. The increase in performance was stunning, and with this beauty I ended up right down the bottom of the valley. In fact I was so impressed, 'I bought the company'. Actually I didn't, but I did place an order for an ALIEN of my own, and at £1,300 a time shows just how much fun paragliding is.

The IC Hang Gliding Club still has some training money left in its account, and anyone interested in

joining the club and possibly getting subsidised tuition onto paragliders had better get in on the act soon, because I can see all our ££'s disappearing quickly.

Eddie will be available for training throughout the Easter break, and will take you any day of the week, but will especially love to see you on weekdays. He charges £35 a day and unless you've got a good few hours flying hang-gliders, it'll take more than a day to get your F1.

Since paragliding has only been around for about a year, no club exists at IC (to my knowledge), and no club has the relevant equipment. I shall be talking to RCC to see if we can raise any money to buy a suitable canopy, but we'll have to wait and see.

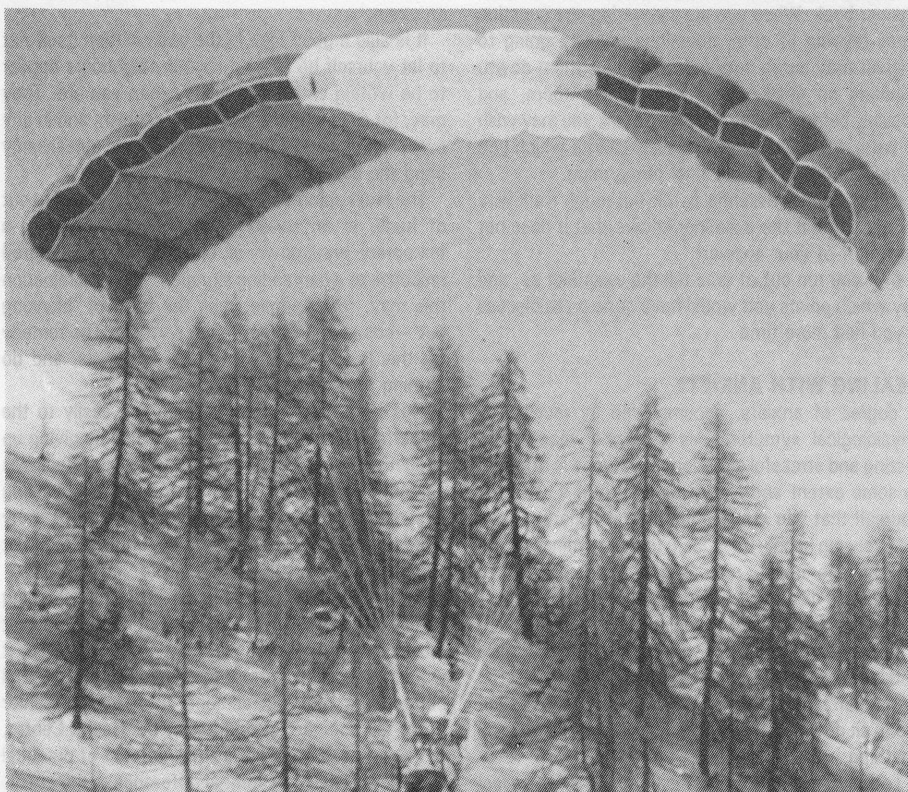
If you want to have a go, here's how to do it.

1. Call Eddie the night before you want to go. Mention my name, that you're from Imperial and want to learn how to fly a paraglider. If you intend going down by train, tell him to collect you at Portslade (between 9.30 and 9.45am) the next morning. His number is 0273 411239 and it's best to call between 6.00 and 7.00pm to catch him in.
2. The trains go from London Victoria to Hove (then to Brighton) at 8.20am everyday. Get off at Hove (9.23am) and change onto the west-bound train (9.28am) which goes through Portslade (and onto Worthing).
3. Eddie will pick you up in a small light blue Bedford van at 9.30am with hang-gliders on top of it.
4. To get back to London follow the reverse process. You should be back in the smoke by 8pm.
5. If you want any chance of a subsidy from the Union, get a receipt off Eddie on something that looks rather more like a receipt than an old chocolate bar wrapper.

I can see a great future in paragliding. It's a fantastic sport. If you want any more information my home number is 01-352 4007, or get in contact via the Aero 3 pigeonholes.

So put those books down for a few days, forget exams and 'sky out'. It's the best high I've had for a very long time. Good luck and happy flying.

Mike Tarry, ICHGC Chairman.



Taking the brain strain

by Don Adlington

Written, formal examinations have a hallowed place in academic life and while from time to time, educationalists have espoused alternative methods, they are widely accepted as the fairest and most efficient means of assessing students' knowledge and understanding.

The written examination is not however by any means a precise instrument. It is certainly possible, for example on individual papers, to come up with a 'fluke' result, that is a result markedly better than the student's actual ability would have led one to expect. It is also unquestionably possible to come up with results that are worse than either the student or his teachers anticipated, and which do not fairly reflect the student's ability.

The risk of systematically underperforming in a set of examinations is linked to two separate, but closely related factors: (a) an inadequate technique for playing the examination game, and (b) an inadequate recognition that a formal examination, like any form of testing situation, can generate levels of anxiety which in themselves may have an adverse effect on intellectual functioning.

PLAYING THE EXAMINATION GAME

Examinations are to some extent an abstraction from reality, an artificial construct. They are a sort of game in which the participants are invited to demonstrate what they know, in writing, on a blank piece of paper, in a set time. An important component of the game is that the examiner is forbidden to give credit on any other evidence than that presented in the script. It is an astonishing fact that despite this elementary point, some students insist on abandoning commonsense to the extent, apparently of playing another game altogether. A common manifestation of this is the student who spends an hour and three quarters (out of three hours) writing, re-writing, polishing and perfecting one answer out of four or five required.

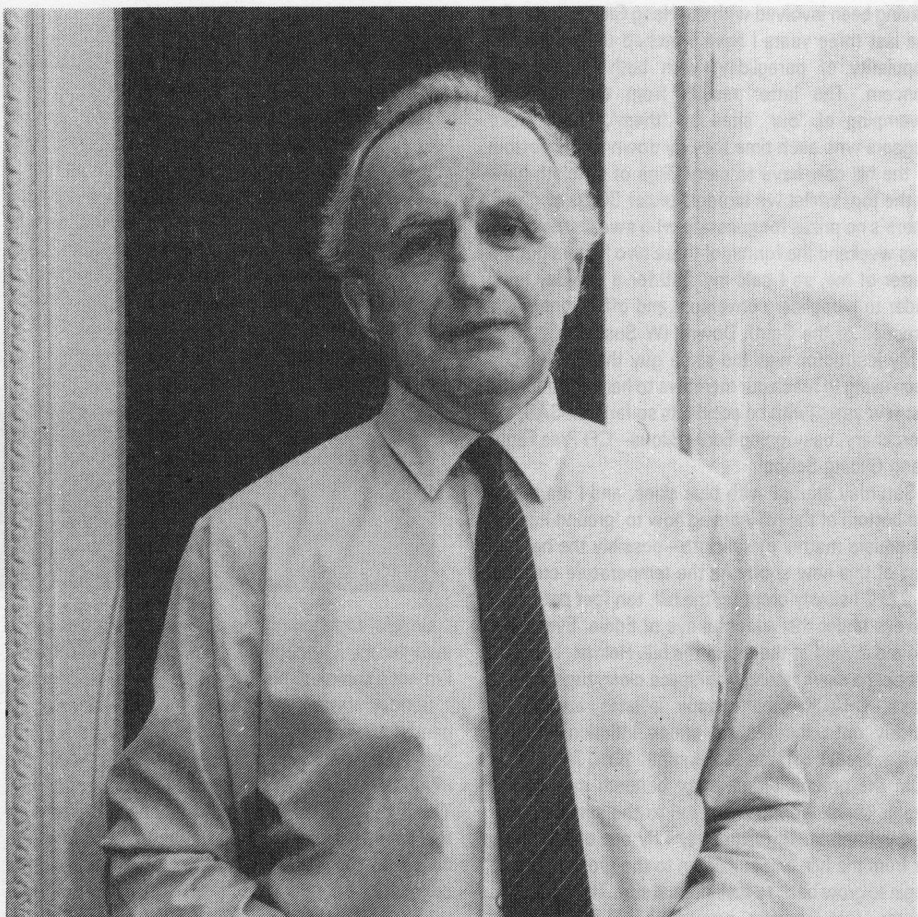
Another common departure from the rules consists in writing out the answers without properly reading the questions. There are two, equally devastating variants to this: (a) not selecting the questions which optimise the candidate's chances of scoring high overall, and (b) misreading individual questions and subsequently writing an answer to a question which in effect is not there.

Some basic and well recognised components of a good examination technique are as follows:

1. Read the question paper carefully, preferably twice. Errors of perception are highly correlated with heightened anxiety.

2. Select the questions you are going to answer, put them in order, and write out a simple timetable, allowing the same time to all questions (assuming the same maximum marks for each). Allow fifteen minutes for the planning and five minutes at the end for finishing off. Some people find that it helps to make quick notes on each question at this stage.

3. Be disciplined in adhering to the timetable. Recognise that the first few marks accruing to a question can be obtained far more easily than the last few—and it is the total mark which counts. If you get stuck in the middle of a question leave it and deal with the next one. You can always return to the unfinished answer later, and indeed the very act of disengaging from the difficulty may allow a resolution to surface while your mind is actually focussed on something else.



4. Answer the easiest question first, so that you can proceed to the others on a psychological 'high'.

5. Don't be afraid to make rough notes in your answer book. When you are answering one question ideas relating to other questions you are going to answer may come into your head—jot them down. Similarly on entering the examination room, and possibly before reading the paper at all, you may wish to write down very quickly salient points which you have memorised in your final preparation.

It is, of course, essential to rule out rough work very clearly, so that the examiner knows that it does not form part of your answer!

6. If you run out of time tell the examiner so, and say which points you would have gone on to discuss if you had more time.

DEALING WITH ANXIETY

A degree of anxiety, accompanied by recognised physiological symptoms, is a normal reaction to testing and stressful situations. Everyone is affected to some extent and should be aware of it. You tell yourself that you are anxious, that it is natural, and that you can handle it. In doing that, you minimise the risk that the anxiety may escalate to a point where it becomes disabling. Again there seem to be some commonsense ways of handling this problem.

Arrive early—it is far better to be biting your nails outside the examination room, than sitting in a traffic jam at Earl's Court. Once you are in the examination room, sit down and relax a minute or two before doing anything.

To a certain extent anxiety is contagious. If you feel that this is a hazard for you, then 'keep yourself to

yourself' before admission to the examination room. It may also be worthwhile resisting the impulse to compare notes with all your friends immediately after an exam.

It is also a good idea in the examination itself not to let yourself be thrown if your neighbours appear to be writing with more facility than you are. They may, for all you know, be writing rubbish, and in any case, inordinately long answers do not necessarily bring the best results.

The most common symptom of anxiety getting out of hand, is an overwhelming sense of panic, a temporary breakdown of our rational and ordered response to a demanding situation. In an examination this may, for example, take the form of 'blanking out'—completely forgetting everything. The remedy for this is to switch off, close your eyes, and do nothing for a while.

This is far better than yielding too easily to the powerful impulse to resolve the tension by giving up altogether. When you feel that the anxiety attack has abated, try getting your mind working again by using a 'scribble technique'. Just write down words—any words—which lead to other words, until you feel that your faculty of recall is available to you again.

A final point. If you have a history of becoming particularly anxious at exam times, or if for contingent reasons you think that you may do so this time, it would be sensible to talk to someone about it well beforehand. Tell your personal tutor or your senior tutor, talk to a doctor or nurse at the Health Centre, or come to see me. Just a small amount of practical help may make a substantial difference in the event.

Don Adlington, Student Counsellor.

DEP. PRESIDENT**Spenser Lane proposed by S. Parkus**

Spenser has a strong personality which is competent, imaginative, and compromising. He has been involved with countless student activities, and previous responsibilities have included representing his year on the staff-student academic affairs committee, assistant manager at ICR, and external secretary of Wellsoc. This year, his work as SCC HJT has been outstanding, with his likeable and understanding nature enabling club treasurers to learn the new procedures. Above all, Spenser is hardworking, approachable & the most responsible person for DP.

S. Parkus (SCC Chair)

I aim to introduce fresh ideas benefiting student finances and welfare, whilst upholding personal safety and liberties. Its all very well being vociferous, but I aim to enact student views.

BETTER SECURITY:- I will take precautions to rapidly decrease the theft and violent crime occurring in College, and press College to accept their responsibilities for student safety in halls.

BETTER EXTERNAL SERVICES:- I will be

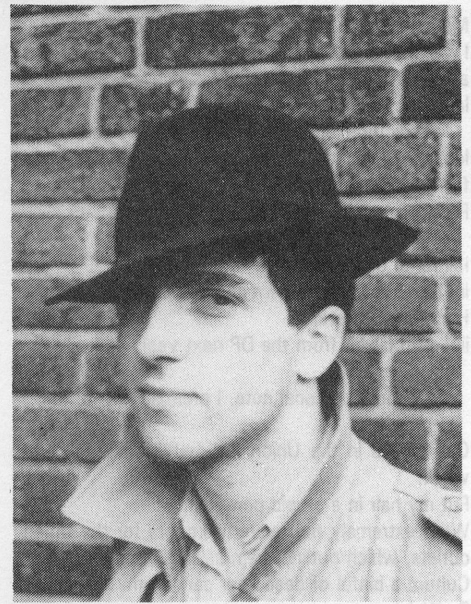
responsible for ensuring better off-campus services by writing to shops in Kensington (eg Tower Records) to negotiate discounts for IC students, and liaise with ULU to start campaigning for student rates on London Transport.

BETTER UNION OUTLETS:- In light of increasing inflation and decreasing student finances, I will endeavour to make union establishments the most economical for students. And for committees that I chair, to bring in new ideas gained from working externally in bars, bookshops, and catering companies.

BETTER TIMETABLING:- Before the new academic year starts, I will check *all* student timetables to stop illegal timetabling.

BETTER SABBATICAL:- As a member of the exec, I will ensure that student views are heard at all relevant levels and that action is taken.

KEEP SMILING—FRESH IDEAS FOR A FRESH UNION.

**DEP. PRESIDENT****Graham Littler proposed by Doug King**

With four years at I.C. behind me I can honestly say that I have had enough experience of the college and the union to be able to do the job of DP effectively. Good working relationships with several of the people that I will have to deal with, if elected, already exist. They will make my job easier and allow me to devote more time to you, the cuddly student populace (don't be too sick).

Without wanting to appear egotistical, I feel that I am simply the best suited candidate for the job.

Why? -

Because of my ability to get along with people—this is surely a prerequisite of being a sabbatical. Because I have no blatant union 'pedigree' but know what goes on.

Because I have no bias towards or against any particular group

Because I am an efficient administrator without being too supercilious

I am a serious and committed contender for this post. If elected I will simply do my best for the union and you.

Before I finish I'd like to say this. At a time when the Rector doesn't accept that your Union is representative of student opinion perhaps it wouldn't hurt if as many of you as possible voted. Whoever you vote for doesn't really matter, though obviously I'd prefer you to vote for me. Every vote will be for IC Union so please support the only representation you have.

**DEP. PRESIDENT****Benjamin Turner proposed by Dave Osborne**

In four years at Imperial College, Benjamin has been heavily involved with student life. He is the Athletic Clubs Committee Chairman, was the Captain of a successful sports team and has made invaluable contributions to Union Council and Finance Committee. He represents Imperial College externally as Vice-Chairman of the Southern Universities Athletic Union.

All those Union members who have had contact with Benjamin admire him for his efficiency and efforts. Following the last election, the Felix Editor described him as 'the best Deputy President candidate for a long time.'

I hope that you will agree with me and vote Benjamin Turner 1.

Dave Osborne.

The Deputy President is responsible for a turnover of over £2 million. You must choose a candidate who will be able to manage this business. I have the background and ambitions to do this, and have ideas for development and expansion of the Union's facilities. These include adding new outlets,

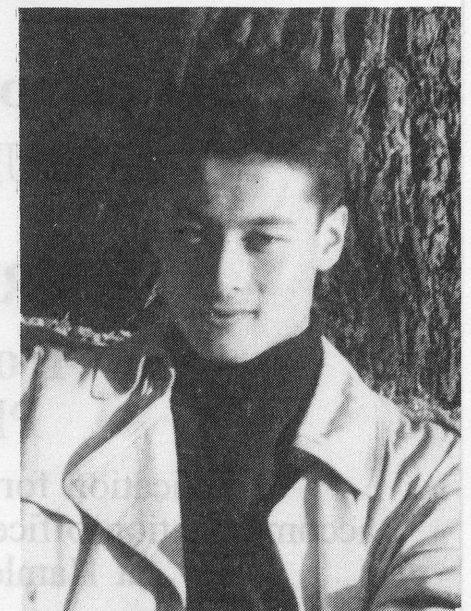
preventing the closing of the Snack Bar and developing it into a complement to the Union Bar, and turning the Ents Lounge into a facility students want to visit during lunchtimes.

I intend to reduce the emphasis on the Union's management sub-committee structure where time is wasted on petty issues—this will allow trading outlet managers to get on with what they are good at.

I will tighten up the security of the Union Building and the personal security of students attending functions.

I want to see Harlington reinstated fully and developed for letting out to clubs when students are not using the ground. Proposals for a Health Suite and a Sports Hall in Princes Gardens are being discussed, and I want to see these instigated for general student use.

To support future development plans, vote for our representatives in the forthcoming Council Elections.



DEP. PRESIDENT**New Election proposed by Anon**

Many thanks to all those who voted for me last time. I was thrilled to win the post of Deputy President, but all of the fun was in the race. I enjoyed it so much last time that I have decided to run again.

I am pictured opposite in true chameleon style. My looks may change, but my policies have not. I stand for the right to choose. If you elect me as Deputy President again, I can promise even more.

- i) A rerun of the election.
- ii) The nervous breakdown of the FELIX Editor and the Honorary Secretary.
- iii) Less bullshit from the DP next year.

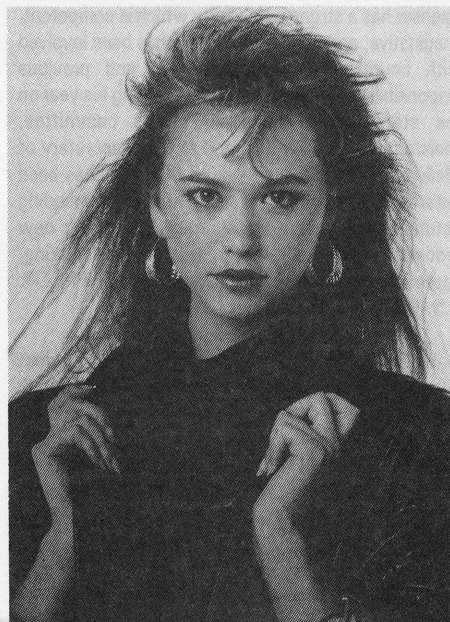
On a more personal note, I promise not to:

- Get legless in the Union Bar just before freshers' week.
- Put my hair in a stupid pony tail.
- Write extremely naff advertisements for the Union outlets, which outline them selling 'handy things.'
- Culture a binful of dead beer cans in my room.
- Be Welsh.

Remember. Vote NEW ELECTION 1 on Monday 30th April and May 1st.

APOLOGY

FELIX apologise to Graeme Littler (proposed by Doug King for the post of ICU Deputy President) for the misspelling of his name at the top of his manifesto in this issue. Benjamin Turner (proposed by Dave Osborne) and Spenser Lane (proposed by S. Parkus) are also standing for the post of Deputy President



**THERE WILL BE BALLOT BOXES FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
ELECTION IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS ONLY:
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,
PHYSICS, THE JCR AND ST MARY'S
YOU WILL NEED YOUR UNION CARD TO VOTE**

HAMLET GARDENS OPEN DAY

**For viewing of four and six person
twin bedroom flats**

Rent £49 per person per week (exclusive of bills)

THURSDAY 3rd MAY 1990

AND

FRIDAY 4th MAY 1990

from 9.30am to 4.30pm

Please report to flat 28

Application forms can be collected now from the student accommodation office, 15 Princes Gardens and will also be available at Hamlet Gardens on the day of your visit

The friends of Tito

by Craig Kenny

Long before the astonishing changes in Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia had a reputation for being the most liberal of these states. Signs of this were everywhere: shops full of food, fashionable clothes, graffiti and even pornography in the newspapers. The only shortage I noted was of the famous bread queues. There is also a burgeoning tourist industry, bringing in hard foreign currency. They need it: inflation runs at a crippling 2,000%. To give you some idea, 20,000 Dinar is worth just 40p! If you want a room, take some dollars, sterling or marks. And though you don't need a wheelbarrow for your Yugoslavian notes, a big, fat wallet helps. Loadsamoney indeed!

The political situation is far from idyllic, as ethnic violence and Serbian nationalism blight this beautiful country; a nation fabricated after the Great War from various Balkan states, formerly of the old Austro-Hungarian empire. On the walls, one slogan persists:

and accordingly dull. Undeterred by this, the good citizens would travel miles out of their way to lead us to places we were looking for, taking us to bars on the way and trying to teach me their impossible tongue. Most young people spoke some English, which surprised me, as I had been warned that only German (and Russian) was in common usage in the Eastern Bloc. But youth culture, we must remember, is written in American.

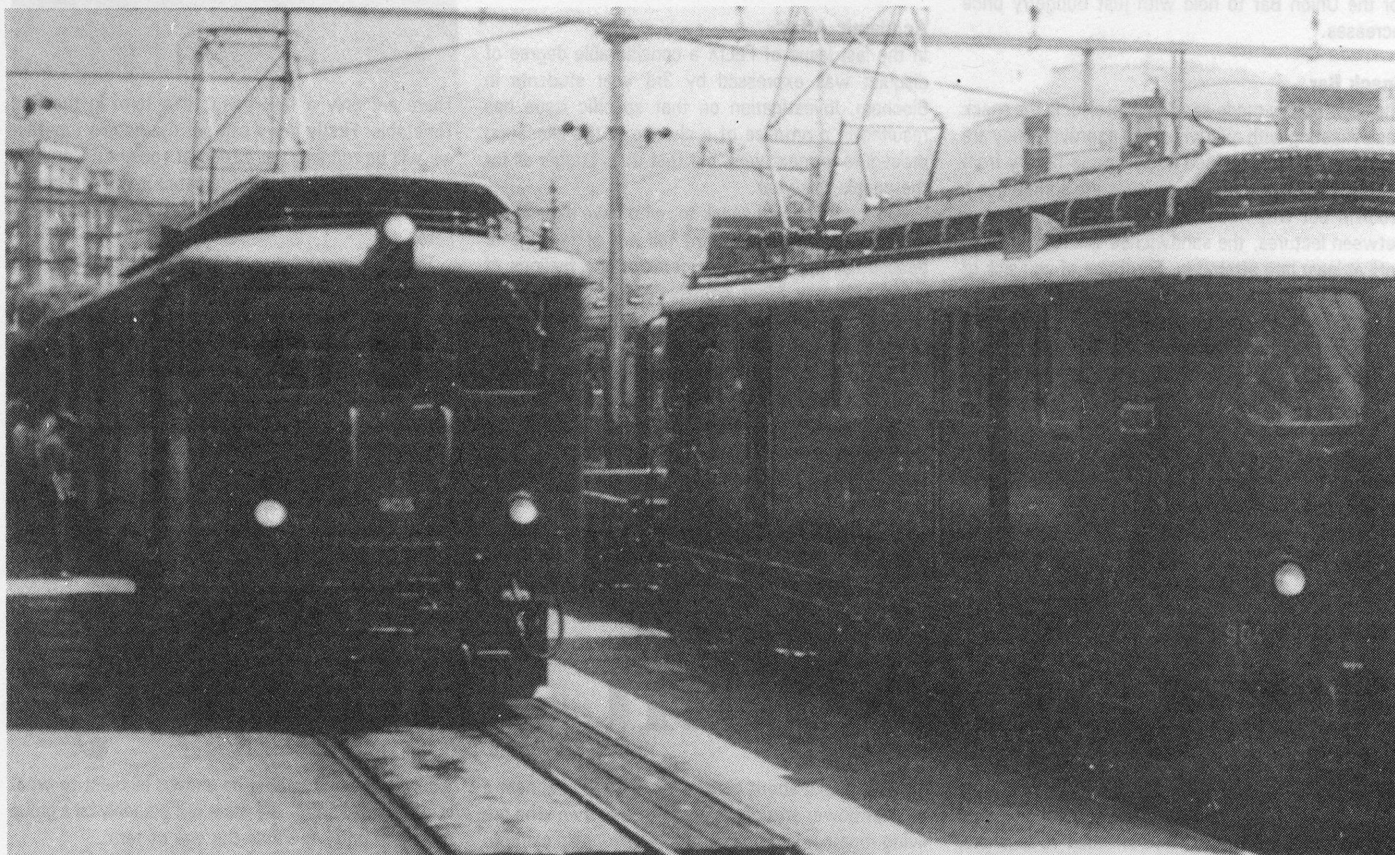
Our next destination was Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast and the magnificent medieval walled town of Dubrovnik. En route, the train was suddenly stormed by hordes of chanting youths, who packed into the cars. Expecting something like the xenophobia of a Newcastle United supporters club outing, my companion and I sat in tactful silence by the window. The young boy next to me offered me a cigarette. 'We are going to join the army', he explained. 'This is very exciting for us'. The natives were friendly, but mad,

at the darkness.

The next morning they were gone. In their place was a student, who wanted to know if we were Americans. His way out of the monotony of life and unemployment was to be a steward on an ocean liner in the Caribbean. He was highly critical of the Yugoslav economy and the country's leaders, though he confessed to know no remedy. Then he said something that would make a cold war-monger's ears prick up. 'Have you read any Lenin—The Dialectic of Nature?', he asked, betraying his education.

'Didn't Engels write that?', I said, betraying mine. He seemed delighted and began to argue philosophy with me, always cosier than politics.

Most young Yugoslavians were desperate to see something of the world. Unlike me, they weren't full of questions about what life was like under a different political system: they only wanted the freedom to go and see for themselves. As is the case in most of



'Duge Tito' which means 'friends of Tito' someone explained to me. Most Yugoslavians see their present difficulties as beginning after his death and he remains a genuinely popular figure. Every shop seems to bear his portrait, frowning serenely, or flashing his superbly white teeth. I took this at first for an enforced personality cult (as was true of the then living Ceausescu), but soon realised that he stands as a unifying figure in a deeply divided country. Tito was no Gandhi—ruthlessly massacring thousands of opponents after the war—but he still seems to have friends.

The people of Zagreb are perhaps the kindest in South-East Europe. Despite its exotic name, it is a clean modern city somewhat in the German mould,

I decided. A young French traveller decided to speak up for la liberté. 'How can you say this', she protested. 'the army is about killing. They treat you badly. If there was a war we would have to kill each other.'

'Yes', the lad agreed, a budding Svejik if I ever knew one. 'But we get to see places we haven't seen before. Then we must return after a year to our towns to work and probably won't travel again for a long time.'

The army satisfied their curiosity for travel. Better watch it, I thought, since armies don't usually take kindly to Wanderlust. So we shared cigarettes and bottles of water with the six green conscripts throughout the hot Mediterranean night. At every station, they would lean out of the window and wave

Eastern Europe now, these restrictions are no longer Bureaucratic, but financial. My steward friend had been lucky: one girl told me her father earned the equivalent of just £60 a month. They wanted to see and to be there, not just read about it in newspapers, even if what was printed was more truthful now. Just like young Europeans, and you can't argue with that.

The next day we caught a coach to Dubrovnik; jewel of the Adriatic, a beautiful resort, maybe too beautiful to make interesting reading.

Craig Kenny.

Deputy President Rag

Term Planners

Hopefully everyone has picked up a term planner this week. They are a fairly new venture, both IC Union and the production company are testing the water this term and we hope to extend the project next year. As such any feedback would be very useful.

Bar

I am sorry that the bar had to close over Easter but the manager desperately needed a holiday and it was only fair. We are still trying to recruit an assistant for him. I have every confidence that the bar and snack bar should be able to remain open during the summer vacation.

Over Easter prices went up in all College bars due to the Budget price increases. The College bars are keen to implement a further price increase to cover a forthcoming wage increase, however considering the level of surplus that the College bars are projecting this year £60-70k (a 30% increase on last year) I believe that the prices should be held as they are. Although it is yet to be confirmed, it should be possible for the Union Bar to hold with just Budgetary price increases.

Snack Bar

The new 'freshly-made-sandwich' project in the snack bar is meeting with overwhelming approval. They are certainly the tastiest food in College (a far cry from the carpet burgers in QT!). Queues are sometimes a problem but why not come during a free period or between lectures, the sandwiches will remain fresh until at least late afternoon. For those of you sick of the stale, noisy atmosphere of the MDH or QT sitting out in the sunshine in Beit Quad makes for a pleasant summery change. What could be better than a fresh butty, a cold beer and an afternoon of sunshine?

Bookstore

Recently the bookstore half-year accounts were received by the Bookstore committee. The figures showed that the heavy investment made by the Union last year are beginning to pay off. It will be a couple of years before we see a sizable real return but it is

in a much healthier condition. An area for expansion we are considering is a student stand-by ticket office: seats would be available from 10am the day of the performance. We are also starting a mail order programme to sell alumni t-shirts, ties, etc. Feedback on these ideas would be appreciated.

Union Building

This summer will see a large redecoration programme covering the top floor of the Union Building and a re-fit of the Concert Hall. This will finish a four year programme of renovation/redecoration which means it will be time to start again. I am constantly disheartened by the level of simple-minded vandalism which takes place in the Union. Toilet lock, internal windows and toilet fittings all become targets; is this really the behaviour to be expected from a population with an IQ of 140+? The state of repair of the Building reflects on you the student and how outside visitors perceive Imperial College. The cost of repair is also reflected in the cost of beer, the cost of food and how much clubs and societies are subsidised.

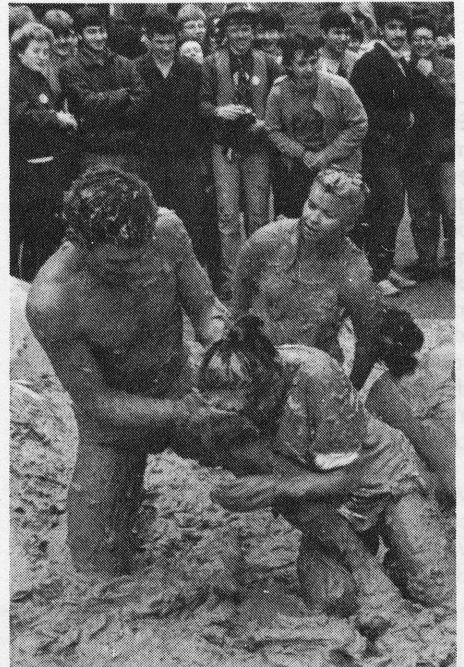
Academic Affairs

In the last issue of FELIX a considerable degree of disquiet was expressed by 3rd year students in Biochem. Investigation on that specific issue has resulted in a promise of a change in the allocation procedure for next year, but that does bugger all for the people this year.

The more people I speak to, who have experience of the Biochem department tell me of feelings of despair, at the lack of concern for the feelings of undergraduates. Most express dismay at their sense of abandonment which the academics within the department leave them with.

It is time the department started giving a damn about its students, time it started a structured tutorial programme instead of the sham that exists at the moment and time that proper consideration was given to timetable consideration in the whole of the Life Sciences.

Dave Williams, ICU Deputy President.



There are only a few things this term in the Rag Timetable: Firstly if we can get the people together we will be running the casino at tonight's Carnival, if not enough people are interested it won't happen. The only 'big' Rag event in May is the 'traditional' Rag Fête.

This was previously on May 12 but unfortunately there are several problems with this date (mainly it clashes with several other things). May 12 is also the Lukeamia Research London flag day so if we could get a decent group of collectors we could probably raise more money for less hassle doing this. So anybody with any views on the subject please turn up to the Rag meeting today (12.35pm) in the Union Lounge—again if nobody shows any interest nothing will happen and no money will be raised.

Hal Calamvokis, Rag Chair.

ULU Lesbian and Gay

Thanks to a very active committee, last term saw a varied and full programme of events for the ULU Lesbian and Gay Society, which included 15 speakers, 4 videos, 2 trips and a partridge in a pear tree.

The videos we saw were: *Jubilee*, Derek Jarman's portrayal of a future Britain where anarchy and pop rule; *Law of Desire* a Spanish film about a gay director; *Hairspray*, a John Walter comedy attacking 50s American racial segregation and showing you don't have to be anorexic to have fun or go out with the lead actor; and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, a comedy with Steve Martin and Michael Caine (not all the films seen have a message).

Mixed in with these videos were various speaker meetings: Paul Hegarty came from the bookshop *Gay's the Word* to tell us about the problems his shop encountered when trying to import a number of American books. A couple of weeks later, Derek Jarman, director of films such as *Carravagio* and

Jubilee, spoke about his life, work and living near a nuclear power station. A group of five men who are living together in a polygamous relationship came to tell us about how such a relationship keeps going, their basic philosophy of life and who does the washing up.

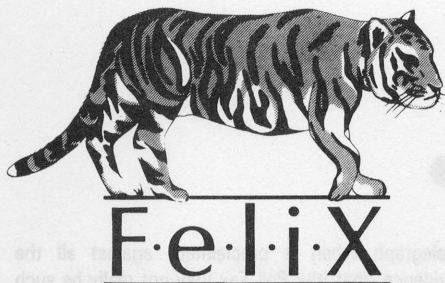
Speakers representing the four main political parties (Conservative, Labour, SLD and Green) came to speak about the future of lesbian and gay rights in Britain. We also had a discussion about Haringey's 'Positive Images Campaign' by a Conservative councillor and prospective Labour councillor from the area. The group also went out for an Indian meal, and to a lesbian and gay disco at City University.

Next term's events will include a talk about safer sex. A gay Christian and humanist will discuss what the Bible has to say about homosexuality. Hopefully one of the producers of Channel 4's 'Out on Tuesday' and Matthew Parris (former Conservative MP and TV presenter) will both come to speak to us. Various

videos will undoubtedly be shown (subject to what is in the video shop) and there will probably be a group meal and party towards the end of term.

The meetings usually start with either a video or speakers, followed by drinks and a chat. The society is open to all, students and non-students, lesbians, gays, bisexuals or anyone. We meet from 7.30pm on Wednesday evening in the University of London Union building in Malet Street—the room is advertised in the building on the right, as you enter. To enter the building either have your ULU card, or say you have come for the lesbian and gay society, and the stewards will let you in.

For more information either go to one of the meetings or write to Gaysoc Pigeonhole, ULU, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY or ring Peter Brent on extension 6705.



The Union

Sometimes I despair of this College's student union. Deputy President, Dave Williams summarised his position quite clearly this week. He said that the Union Snack Bar did not need any bad publicity. He argued that the students should not be told how much money the snack bar is losing, in case it dissuades them from eating there. I believe that the food in the union snack bar is now both good value and good quality. I also believe that students have a right to know if it is losing a lot of money. The snack bar is owned by the students who constitute the union, and as 'shareholders' they should be told of its financial predicament.

Dave has written a report in this issue which is really a PR exercise. He seems happy to mention the predicted surplus for college bars as £60-70k, whilst failing to mention how the union's bar has performed. He makes no mention of the snack bar losses.

The Deputy President's job is not one of Public Relations, it is one of management. At the beginning of this year, Dave blamed a large part of the snack bar losses upon the incompetence of his predecessor. After two terms, this is no longer credible. Although the changeover to a sandwich bar style outlet has been a success, the snack bar is still operating at a deficit. The union does not, and should not, have any intention of closing the snack bar. It does not have any clear plans or ideas for combating the deficit either. When we asked Dave Williams for projected losses for the snack bar, he said there weren't any. This is an atrocious state of affairs. The union employs a finance officer and a business manager, and yet it still does not ask them to compile projected losses and profits for its outlets. Mr Williams is running outlets for which he has no plans it seems. The sad matter is that if the union snack bar continues to make a loss, the people who stand to lose their jobs are the permanent staff, not the sabbaticals, who will leave at the end of June.

Elections

You have a chance to do something about the snack bar losses by voting in the election for Deputy President. Do not pick someone who is likely to spend the first part of the year blaming his predecessor for the faults in the union, vote for someone likely to knuckle down and rectify the situation. This may be the last chance you will have to save your snack bar. If we have another poor DP, the outlet will be run into the ground, along with its staff.

Local Council

Having complained about the union, I should like to praise it for standing candidates in the local council elections. The idea is a simple but good one, which Tom Yates and Neil McCluskey have worked very hard on over the Easter. Please vote in the elections, and don't forget, you must mark the paper with a X, rather than a number in the local council elections.

The Day Nursery

I give up! All of the information contained in the news story in issue 866 was obtained from staff working in the day nursery. I refute Saskia Daniel's closing comments with this very point. As for the letter from

the parents of children in the day nursery, what a waste of ink. The letter only repeated the points raised in the original article and was signed by, amongst others, the very person who came to FELIX complaining at the state of the day nursery. (I would add that he is also the bore from whom Paul Shanley and Neil McCluskey fled through the window of the FELIX Office.)

Staff Meeting

There will be a staff meeting on Tuesday at 1pm in the FELIX Office.

Credits

Firstly, good luck to everyone taking exams at the moment. Thanks to the following from City and Guilds Union for collating last issue: Cath Drake, Ralph Greenwell, Christie White, Chris Horne, Chris Browne, Mike Mullen, Steve Farrant, Martha Black, Tim Newton-Smith, Kevin McCann, Gavin Pearson, Cath McClay and Henry Marshead. Thanks also to Sarah for collating and helping deliver the last issue and to

Jeremy and Ian for helping collate. Thanks this issue to Shadi Khoroushi, Simon Haslam, Ian Hodge, Jeremy Burnell, Richard Evers, Adam Harrington, Toby Jones, Adam Tinworth, Kenneth Brylliantine, Mike Tarry, DEL and Stone, Don Adlington, Andy and Rose, and Craig Kenny. Lastly a big thanks and apology to:

Steve Meyfroidt

who designed and produced the cover to the Easter Issue. (I forgot to credit him.)

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ULU TRAVEL

He's back...

In a final desperate bid to understand the concepts behind the Poll Tax, FELIX asked the Rt. Hon. Kenneth Bryliantine, the minister responsible for stapling together the original Green Paper, to explain.

'Firstly, fundamentally, foremostly and principally let me first say this. It is not, I repeat not, a 'Poll Tax'. It is the Community Charge and it's the best thing since sliced bread.

'Indeed, like sliced bread, the Community Charge may have been ridiculed at first, but it will be accepted. I repeat, it will be accepted and I will repeat this repeatedly until you accept the inherent acceptability of the scheme, OK. I mean, why should you eat a thin, pasty and overpriced socialist loaf when the Conservatives can provide a chunky wholemeal loaf at a fraction of the cost. And it's better for your health!

'So why, if the Poll Charge is so wonderful, are people rioting in the streets about it. I will tell you, this tiny minority, a couple of millions at most, have been misled by the evil, yes that's the word, evil left wingers in the press.

'I believe that the BBC has deliberately ignored all the thousands of pro Community Tax meetings which, I'm sure, have been happening throughout this great country of ours. Left-wing infiltrators MUST HAVE deliberately sabotaged the leaders in the Daily



Kenneth Bryliantine

Telegraph when it proclaimed, against all the evidence, that 'the Poll Tax may not really be such a good idea after all'

'Even this prestigious magazine is not blameless. Not once, have you published an article describing all the benefits of this wonderful scheme. This distortion of the truth is typical of the kind of thing one would expect from the Guardian and the rest of the REAL gutter press.

'And let me just say this. If Labour had tried to introduce the Community Charge when they were in government, in real terms, they would have been much less efficient than us, which just proves my point.

'Listen to me, do not believe those few million anarchists and Militant readers, who quite deliberately set out to burn all those Porches and smash all those windows of all those nice shops, while pretending to hold a peaceful demonstration. Something must be done.

'I personally myself have been in favour of the scheme since I was first told to be and you all should be too. In fact, I am so in favour of the scheme that the deputy under minister at the Department of the Environment has told me that I can accept all the credit for the scheme in future. Isn't that good news.

Competitions

A £100 travel voucher, generously donated by STA Travel, could be yours if you can answer **ALL** the following questions correctly:

1. What is the capital city of Liechtenstein?
2. What is the capital city of Denmark?
3. What is the capital city of Finland?
4. What was Tanzania formerly known as?
5. What was Zimbabwe formerly known as?
6. What was Sri Lanka formerly known as?
7. What is the name of the highest navigable lake in the world?
8. How long is the Great Wall of China?

9. The summit of which mountain in Ecuador has the distinction of being the point furthest from the centre of the Earth?

In the event of a tie the winner will be the first out of the hat.

Entries for both competitions should reach the FELIX Office no later than 12.30pm on Wednesday May 2.

The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The competition is open to all full members of Imperial College Union, excluding the Editor of FELIX.

Here is your last chance to enter the two competitions featured in the Easter issue of FELIX last term. Firstly we are offering some *Jesus Jones* goodies courtesy of Streets Ahead, including 3 copies of their latest 12" single, 3 copies of their promo video and 3 copies of the band's debut album. All you have to do is answer the following question:

Name one of the other British bands that joined *Jesus Jones* in their recent 'British Rock for Romania' tour.

Ideal Holmes?

Dear Dave,

In FELIX issue 865, the last issue before the Easter break, a letter from Craig Holmes (ME3) was printed. In this letter Mr Holmes wrote at length about his opinions on the CCUs and made several wild comments about their role in IC. We found this letter worrying to say the least and would like to point out that most of the information was incorrect.

The CCUs do have a real role to play in Imperial College and between them provide academic representation, many social events, the Balls, sports and social clubs and activities for ALL students at the College. Examples of the different ways in which the CCUs represent their students include the campaign by Guilds to protect the ACGL, the letter writing campaign by the RCS on the loans issue and the Mines' Foreign Students' Week. Next year this role will be strengthened as fire regulations are forcing us to hold the Freshers' Reception on a Constituent College basis.

The student officers (the 'hacks') work hard to ensure that the CCUs run smoothly. This is no mean task when trying to keep up with a degree. Most officers give up their lunchtimes and many evenings to do this work and from personal experience, the CCU presidents often spend over 30 hours a week on Union business.

Cheap motors

Dear Dave,

I am curious to know how Mr Holmes arrived at his figure of £5,000 a year budget for each of the CCU's motorised mascots (FELIX 865, page 31 refers). The budget I have for the renovation and upkeep of Clementine is about £1,500 this year and I know that both Bo and Jez receive a grant which is similar in value to Clem's (in fact less) — £5,000 is easily more than all three of our budgets put together.

It is not just Rag which warrants the ownership of our vehicles. Many people take immense pleasure from being involved with the upkeep of Clem, Bo, Jez and Derrick (and have done for the past 30 or so years Clem and Jez have been at IC and the 55 years that Bo has been here). In this respect, the three motor clubs are no different from any other IC society. Why should those students have to finance their particular interest, especially as they frequently spend their own free time (and often money) preparing the vehicles for events that will raise money for Rag? I suggest that nobody is going to join a society if they have to pay for everything themselves and certainly far fewer people would be involved in raising money for Rag if they had to pay all to do that. The mascots provide an excellent means of representing the College to the

Of course some students take up union posts for CV points. This is true for any club or society and is almost impossible to prevent. What surprises us is that Mr Holmes wrote his letter in spite of the fact that he is the Mech Eng Society Chairman and therefore an officer of Guilds with direct input into how the unions runs its affairs. During this year Mech Eng Soc has gone from being one of the most active departmental societies in IC to having virtually no activities. The only event which we are aware of was the 'Revue' which was organised by a group of students who were not aware that Mech Eng Soc existed. We hope that one of the organisers will have the strength of character to rebuild the Society next year.

Hopefully Mr Holmes' letter will stimulate interest in the CCUs. If you want to know what they offer then visit one of the CCU offices any lunchtime and ask — do not rely on secondhand information! May we finish by reminding Mr Holmes that people in glasshouses shouldn't throw stones.

Yours,

Chris Horne, President C&GU

Rob Row, President RSMU

Carol Luscombe, President RCSU

Rhydian Hapgood, President SMHMSSU.

public both in charity raising events and other College activities.

Mr Holmes also appears to have a misconception about the owners of the mascots. They are not the College's, they are not ICU's; they belong to the students of their respective CCUs. If they were sold (or self-financing) the money raised wouldn't go anywhere near getting a new careers librarian, it would just go back into the Union to fund another Union activity.

If you take away the motorised mascots you are not just losing four old vehicles you are taking away an excellent means of collecting for Rag, you are taking away part of the history of the students at IC and an opportunity to be involved, as a student, with veteran/vintage vehicles, an opportunity unique to IC and one which will most probably not occur again after leaving College. In short, you are losing a valuable asset to the students of the CCUs. After all, isn't it part of your education to be able to be involved in activities which you will never have the chance to do when you enter the working world?

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Laing,

Captain of the RSM Motor Club.

Day nursery rebuttal

Dear Dave,

As the parent of a child in the Day Nursery and as the non-academic staff parent representative on the Day Nursery Committee which advises on the running of the Nursery, I should like to take issue with your headline 'Day nursery is a health hazard' which topped the article on page three of the last edition (21.3.90).

The information contained in your article does not justify this headline. As your article itself states, the Nursery passes safety checks frequently and complies with all the necessary Health and Safety regulations. It therefore is not a health hazard. Your headline only reflects the sensation-mongering attitude prevalent in the tabloid newspapers and is not good journalism.

Your article consists of unconfirmed reports and claims which the headline presents as fact. If you had bothered actually to do some proper research for the article you would have discovered that the real picture is very far from that presented in your story. Our children play happily in the good conditions provided by the Nursery. They do not sleep on mattresses on the floor, but on special folding cots and are cared for by people who deserve more than to have the corrections they would have made to this article ignored.

Yours sincerely,

Saskia Daniel, Registry.

See editorial for reply.

Small Ads

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Juggling**; interested in JugSoc? Demonstration on the Queen's Lawn Monday 12.30pm (if fine) or contact Yant Maths PG (ext 5769) or G Keogh, Chem 1.

● Naff term planners available from the Union Office. Tastefully reproduced in illegible grey.

PERSONAL

● **Whichever** bastard stole my bike on Tuesday outside Haldane, I will find you and you will die — from the very pissed off owner.

● **Doctor** requires estate agency minded accountant for busy Herts practice. Must enjoy beer, good wine, black olives and eating! Please ring for an appointment.

● **Gauntlet** requires desperate heros for dangerous work. Contact Maths 'S' pigeonhole.

● **IQ of 140+?** more like 40.

● **TLMB** where are you?

● **Sunglasses** from Milan, beard by Jacobs. Tres chic!

FOR SALE & WANTED

● **IBM compatible** XT PC III machine, 640K ram memory, 20 Mbyte hard disk and controller card, 5.25" floppy drive, 14" super 5 resolution green monitor. 101 keys AT keyboard, 8087 math co-processor, witty serial mouse and control card, multi I/O card, printer port and software, installed with virus immunise. The whole lot for £650. Phone 0372 726140 ext 2189 (ask for Jack) or 0372 274074 (evening).

● **Wanted** Any sub 125 motor cycle, suitable for a learner. Contact Dave Williams ICU Office ext 3502.

● **Bicycle** for sale. £40 including chain and lock. Ring Andreas on 727 3095.

● **Elderly drunk** for sale. Answers to a simple grunt of 'ib'. Contact 'The Queens Arms,' for further details.

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NINO OF ITALY

38 THURLOE PLACE, SOUTH KENSINGTON

TELEPHONE: 01-589 1054

Our day nursery is not a health hazard

Dear Sir,

RE: Day Nursery is a health hazard (FELIX 865)

As parents of the children who are currently attending the Day Nursery we were absolutely appalled by today's front page article purporting to be an accurate description of the conditions in the Nursery. The Day Nursery is NOT a health hazard.

1. The Nursery premises are maintained by the College and any necessary repairs are carried out as soon as is practicable.
2. Any infestations by insects are dealt with immediately. Since the building is old this is not unusual and regular visits are made by Rentokil to avoid any possible health problems.
3. The amount and type of space provided for the children has been approved for their use and is considered adequate by the local authority which licenses the Nursery.
4. Those children which have a sleep in the afternoon do not sleep on mattresses on the floor but on small camp beds in an area which was approved for that use on the recommendation of the local authority day-care adviser.
5. The fact that the children go to sleep soon after their lunch is perfectly normal for active young children as they are all between the ages of 18 months and three years.
6. The staffing levels are above that required by the local authority and the Nurse-in-charge has a supernumerary post to cover staff sickness etc.
7. During the lunch break half the staff are always present in the Nursery.
8. As you observed there are adequate fire exits and the Nursery can be evacuated in three minutes considerably quicker than most buildings could be.
9. The parents already spend considerable time and effort in fundraising to buy the necessary books, toys and equipment and consider that painting the premises is the job of the College authorities as it is their building.

We would agree that the premises are not ideal and are not up to the palatial standards of some modern workplace Nurseries which benefit from the employers being able to subsidise the costs. However our children are very happy and are looked after by a dedicated band of Nursery nurses who could quite easily get far better paid jobs elsewhere.

In the meantime inaccurate articles such as yours do not help the Nursery in its constant battle to stay solvent by putting off prospective parents of children who might otherwise have considered sending them to it.

By all means start a campaign to re-locate the Nursery, we would support you all the way, but please get your facts right before you start.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Maconnachie, Mech Eng; K Rudlin, Residences; J Dowley, Lyon-Playfair Library; A Curley, Elec Eng; S Daniel, Registry; B Costello, Chem Eng; S des Clers, Env Tech; S Essery, Life Sci; I Malsanda, Min Res Eng; Nizam, Civ Eng; C Boey, Maths; C Pantelides, Chem Eng; J Kilner, Mats; C Lowe, Biochem; P McDermott, Queen's Gate; J Pretty, Civ Eng.

See Editorial for reply.

Easter rip off

Dear Dave,

Today a notice was put up by the Housekeeper of Southside, informing all students to return the Easter Vacation forms stating if they required accommodation or luggage storage facilities over the Easter period. There is no objection to requesting students to do the above; the part which I found offensive, was that which informed students that if they did not return their forms it would be assumed that they would be staying in their rooms over the vacation! This I believe is in contradiction to the contracts that we all filled out before taking up residence in October. The reason, I believe, that we have been told to return the forms, is so College can make money out of students who do not give in completed forms. These residents assumed the same procedure as at Christmas would be followed. This money will contribute to bailing College out of its financial difficulties (re. accommodation deficit).

From para' 35 of the College 'Terms and Conditions of Residential Lettings, 1989 ed' it says that the student must leave when the letting has terminated, unless alternative arrangements have been made. The periods of lettings are, as from the yellow contract, box F, as quoted below:

'Noon Saturday 30.9.89 to Noon Saturday 16.12.89
Noon Saturday 6.1.90 to Noon Saturday 24.3.90
Noon Saturday 21.4.90 to Noon Saturday 23.6.90'

From this it can be seen that the note posted to the students is in violation of the above contracted letting periods. Therefore the College can not bill students for the Easter period unless the student has specifically requested to stay for the Easter vacation.

I would therefore like College to not bill students who do not return forms concerning residence over the Easter period. This letter has been circulated to the Rector, Prof G New, Miss L O'Callaghan, Mr R L Chandler, Miss K Rudlin, Falcon and FELIX.

Yours sincerely,

S S West, RSMU AAO.

More hack-biting

Dear Dave,

After my hack-baiting letter in the last issue, it has come to my attention that I made an error regarding the sums of money for running their inviolate mascots. I admit my error and I apologise most humbly for it. Instead of the £5,000 per vehicle that I originally quoted, I should have said that both Jez and Bo each get about £1,200, and Clem (the Mines-mobile) has a budget of £1,500. The extra money being used to cover the extensive overhaul that Clem is receiving at present.

However, despite my error, the points that I made about the CCU's still stand and I do not apologise for those. I would like to say as a final note on the subject that some good has come out of the last letter. I have heard on the grapevine that there has been some positive interaction between the CCUs, and that they have actually agreed with each other about something...THEY DON'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH.

Yours, in exile,

Craig Holmes, 3M.

Having a dig

Dear Dave,

RE: Banning of Diggers Club from Union Facilities
I was rather shocked today when I read your article about this year's Diggers Dinner.

The dinner took place on a Thursday and not a Friday. One member of the Club *did* vomit on the table after one spoonful of his starter.

Your reporting of the incident involving Mr Harbour-Bridge was inaccurate and I feel your informant may have had his/her memory clouded somewhat.

Mr Harbour-Bridge was initiated into the Club that night. He removed his shirt (as must any new initiate) and then proceeded to drop his trousers and boxer shorts, before downing his pint with consummate ease. He then made a fatal mistake. He challenged one of the more vocal members of the club to be more disgusting than himself (as he produced his dick for all to see). It was then that the urinating incident occurred.

Your article failed to point out that we cleared up after the dinner so that the UDH was in pristine condition. Mr M Williamson (Duty Officer for the evening) said that the condition of the UDH afterwards was totally satisfactory.

One of the catering staff commented that 'this dinner wasn't as bad as RSM's'. I hardly think the Union will be in a hurry to ban them.

I was rather surprised that the Union has not written to me regarding the incident. I would have been prepared to come and discuss the events of the evening with the Union officers.

However, having to hear of their decision through FELIX was inconsiderate to say the least. In the last few years the Union has consistently shown a negative attitude towards social clubs and I think this article confirms this.

Diggers was formed 14 years ago (when most of the Union officers were playing conkers in the school playground). It has maintained a consistently active role within the hall and the clubs' members help out considerably with the smooth running of Southwell Halls' social events.

Yours, ready for a DIG,

Nick Blades, President Diggers Club 89/90.

Red & cross

Sir,

A Bailey misses the entire point of my letter, however, that is his problem. I will take him to task on his statement 'Patients are dying every day due to the ambulancemen withdrawing their labour'. This is a gross insult to all the Army, Police, Red Cross and St John's Ambulance units who attended over 13,000 calls in the Chelsea area alone whilst the LAS crews were locked out of their place of work. Perhaps he/she could furnish me with details of how many people died who otherwise wouldn't have?

By the way the College Ambulance did 1,200 road hours and 2,600 man hours service and attended to over 600 patients during the dispute. The 'Imperial College Ambulance Fund' is to raise £20,000 for a new vehicle as the existing one is now 17 years old.

Yours, with 240 hours voluntary ambulance service,

Mr Nicholas Royall, Geology.

Cutting comment

Dear Dave,

It has come to my attention that Nick Blades has written to FELIX regarding my involvement in the table wetting incident at the Diggers Dinner. I am afraid I cannot deny my involvement as a key character in the scenario that led up to an individual urinating on the table. I must point out that it would appear Mr Blades' memory has also become clouded. For Mr Blades has unfortunately got the sequence of events somewhat muddled and it would appear that he also misheard the challenge that I laid down to the incontinent individual. I was merely asking him to recount a story of his revolting behaviour. I do not blame either of them for mishearing my request as it was very difficult to hear anything at the time as most of the room was either goading me into removing my underwear or pleading with me to put my legs away and not make a speech.

The whole incident was very embarrassing and unpleasant and I must hold myself partly to blame. I feel it is rather unfair of the Union to ban a group of individuals in a case where the actual culprits, and in that I include myself, are so easily identifiable.

The Union has carefully outlined disciplinary procedure that should have been used. Is Mr Blades aware that the Diggers are entitled to appeal against a decision? I feel that they should, as it seems unreasonable that Diggers cannot hold a dinner again whilst the individual concerned could attend, for example, his Rugby Club dinner next week and behave in the same manner.

Whatever might be determined as fair and reasonable punishment in the end I believe a good one might be to make the table wetter wear a large nappy for the whole of next year's Rag Week and collect money for a charity related to people with bladder problems!!

Yours sincerely,
Sydney Harbour-Bridge.

Pain O'Polntax

Dear Sir,

I was walking past Southside Bar the other day when I was shocked to see a poster saying 'Pay no Poll Tax!' I wondered if the Union knew this?

The poster belongs to Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Group. It is not surprising that Haringey has an anti-poll tax group, because they have the highest Community Charge in the country. This is because the council wastes money on such 'worthy' causes as 'Gay black lesbian babies against the bomb'. If this council was more efficient, like Wandsworth or Westminster, they too would have a Community Charge of under £200.

Back to my original question. Does the Union know about this poster? if it doesn't, may I suggest that they get it taken down because the Community Charge is fair and just and everyone should pay it.

It is not for any person or Union to encourage others to break the law, and if the Union do know about this, what law-breaking activity will they advocate next?

'Mug the elderly', perhaps or even 'A Murder a Day Keeps the Doctor Away'. Where will it end?

Yours,
Alan Bailey, Chem.

Poll cat

Dear Dave,

In the last issue of FELIX a member of the Conservative Society in the difficult position of defending the indefensible poll tax chose to deride the use of a local income tax (LIT) to fund local government. How can it be unfair to ask people to pay for local services based on their ability to pay? Whilst I agree that people who pay nothing towards rates had nothing to lose from electing a high spending council, there are more equitable means of getting contributions. Why is it that when I leave Imperial I shall pay just over 3% of my income in poll tax, whilst my sister will have to give up over 10% of hers? Does the Conservative ethos really run like this: graduates etc work harder by getting their 17 year-old sisters (and pensioner grandparents) to pay their contribution to local services. Well I shall not further take up readers' time discussing a tax system which shall fade away like the Prime Minister who introduced it. However, whilst the whole argument of local government funding is under question I would like to make the point that poll taxes, roof taxes, and floor taxes are unworkable and very often unfair. The crux of the matter is that we do not all have the same incomes. LIT is nothing new, it has been used in Philadelphia since 1939 and other States in the US as well as Sweden, Japan and Denmark. So I wonder how long it will take the other two parties to borrow this piece of Liberal Democrat policy?

Regards,
Andrew M Waller.

No more!

Dear Dave,

I hate to harp on about the 'Asian Soc Issue' but I think Mr Bartendu Vyas' letter of last term (FELIX 865) deserved an honest reply.

I am a 'real' member of Asian Soc and I have no connection with either Mr Vyas or Anil Loadwa (whoever he/she may be) so I cannot really comment on Mr Loadwa's letter, but Mr Vyas' was in parts almost laughable.

To quote Mr Vyas 'Election papers for every post including president for this year's committee (89/90) were put up on November 27 and every member of the Society was informed of the exact time and place of the elections about two weeks prior to this!'

I do not know where exactly these posters were put up but I certainly did not see or even hear about them. And to suggest every member was informed of this event is downright annoying, considering I got a leaflet in my pigeonhole two weeks after the event informing me of it and telling me that 'my vote is important' and that it is essential I attend. (With publicity like this no wonder Mr Vyas was voted in President!)

And that leaflet I hasten to add is the only thing I have ever received from Asian Soc after joining (I know the internal mail system is bad but it can't be that bad!!) where has my £1.50 gone?

But I do have to admit that at least Asian Soc wrote to me telling me where and when I could give them my money, I mean 'join', which is more than India Soc did.

I signed up at the Freshers' Fair and have heard nothing from them since.

Yours,
A 1st year who doesn't give a damn anymore if Asian/India Soc write to them.
Name withheld by request.

No more correspondence on this please—Ed.

'Sausage' award

Dear Dave,

I am disgusted by the attitude the College demonstrates in applying for an award for export achievement for its teaching and research work. The announcement that we have won an award is not cause for celebration, but cause for deep worry as to the motivation of the College authorities.

The attitude this award demonstrates is that the College sees overseas students (and probably students in general) as a product, in just the same way that Bowyers sausages are a product, and the export of an 'educated' student after receipt of fees is the equivalent of shipping a crate of these sausages abroad. The same is also true of College's attitude to research.

The award, says the press release, is due to the increased earnings the College is receiving from overseas students and collaborators. It says nothing about the quality of this export commodity, nor how well the students coped or were treated during their time here. The students are not people they are boxes, and to make more money you must ship more boxes. It is therefore not surprising that complaints from overseas students about their treatment are on the increase. I saw plenty of these as Post Graduate Officer last year, and have seen other problems much closer to hand. As the College says, there are 'no degrees for sale here' (yet) but there are certainly places for sale, and once here a foreign student is often left to sink or swim with little or no support from department, lecturers or supervisors.

And there is another side to the coin. In their continuing desire for 'export income' the standards for entrance of foreign students to the College seems to be dropping. The tales of 'simultaneous translations' from English to Chinese in Computing lectures, and my own experience with some undergraduates clearly demonstrates that the College is not applying suitable entry standards in spoken English.

The reason people come here, and the reason that IC graduates are in demand is not because of the quality of the current product. It is because of the quality of the IC product over the past 10 or 20 years. This reputation is currently being strip-mined by College to boost student numbers, and thereby, increase short term income and 'profits'. Doing this at the same time as reducing the staffing level will inevitably lower our standards and shatter our reputation. It is time that the Rector, academics, students and governors started looking after the long term interests of IC. There must be new appointments of young, innovative lecturers to replace those lured away to America and Oxbridge. Students from overseas must be selected on quality, not ability to pay, and must be given adequate, if not excellent, support while at the College. The same is really true of home students as well, and every effort should be made to reduce the costs to all students of studying at IC, rather than having them milked by the refectories and residences (and in some cases by the Union as well).

In some areas IC's reputation is slipping already. Unless some action is taken soon, we may merge with RHBNC in ten years time with our science departments in as poor a state as theirs.

Dave Clements, Physics RA, PGOA 88-89.

Transfusion

The next mass blood transfusion will take place in Southside Gym on May 8th. Anybody can sign up at the City and Guilds Union (C&GU) office or in the Junior Common Room on May 1st.

Chris Horne, president of the C&GU, said that there had been 130 donors last time, and all these donors would be welcome again. He said that the transfusion should take half an hour for each person.

Passing on

The head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Professor Tom Hubbard, will be resigning his post at the end of September.

Professor Hubbard told Felix that he had been very happy at Imperial College and had left to become the Vice-Chancellor of Salford University.

Professor Hubbard's successor will be decided by the Rector, Sir Eric Ash, in the near future.

New books

Mr Michael Newman, a zoology graduate from IC, launched a collection of writings by H. G. Wells over Easter. H. G. Wells was a biology graduate of the college during the last century.

The book, called 'Breaking the Shackles', condemns current education policies and continues the debate into free and liberal education. The book is available from the IC Union Bookstore at £1.95, the profits from which will go towards a conference on 'bullying.'

Two students from St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Gerard Short and Nick Stafford, have been given the go-ahead to compile a book entitled 'Studying Medicine—a Student Guide to Medical Schools in Britain'. It will be published this summer.

Gerard Short was elected to the executive of the 'National Association of Medical Students' just before Easter. This is a new organisation set up to 'increase communication between medical schools in the country', said Mr Stafford.

Marathon

Night Security superintendent, Mr Bob Dickens, completed the London Marathon last Sunday in 3 hours 50 minutes. He was running for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

More misery

Students will cease to be eligible for housing benefit as from next September. In addition, no provision for special repayment conditions for disabled students will be given, despite four amendments made to the Student Loans Bill by the House of Lords.

The bill passed through Parliament on Monday and now awaits the formality of a Royal Assent. The bill has made its journey largely unaltered with the four amendments overturned by the Commons. Two of these amendments applied to the continuation of housing benefit for students. Any alterations are now up to the Government which promises to add an amendment allowing the Education secretary to award provisions to disabled students as he saw fit.

The Department of Education and Science announced its intention last month to increase student support funds by £10 million, which they claim is to aid students in financial difficulties, particularly those living in high accommodation cost areas.

Closing

Ward closures at St Mary's Hospital starting on 4th August and lasting until 1st September, and possibly further closures for 2 weeks in the winter will lead to the postponement of all non-emergency operations in the hospital. There are claims that this could badly affect teaching.

Neil Goodwin, General Manager of the hospital said that the move was expected to save £400,000. The hospital has been set a savings target of £2 million for next year, with a budget of £50 million. He said that clinical activity had increased by 20 percent in the last three years, but that the cutbacks would not affect the teaching of students in the adjoining Medical School.

A spokesperson for St Mary's Hospital Medical School said that the closure would affect teaching as students are taught all year round, though the spokesperson admitted that as the budget had been overrun, 'nothing can be done'.

Theft

One of the two computers stolen from the Mechanical Engineering Department before the Easter vacation (Felix 865) has been recovered. Two men have been arrested in connection with the theft.

Silenced

The editor of last year's Felix, Mr Bill Goodwin, was fined £5000 plus costs for contempt of court this Easter. The House of Lords, the final appeal court in the country, decided that Mr Goodwin was acting illegally in not handing over documents to the court which could reveal the source some of his information.

Dave Peacock, the Union Manager, and Toby Jones of Elec. Eng 1 won £20 each from the 'Free Bill Goodwin' sweepstake by guessing the penalty correctly.

Homeopathy

The College Health Service will offer a homeopathy service from this week. Ms Helen Phillips will be giving consultations every Tuesday afternoon at 14 Princes Gardens, the Health centre.

Ms Phillips told Felix that she thought her expertise would be welcome in the college, and she explained that homeopathy was a method 'to stimulate the immune system' by administering remedies tailored to personal needs.

The service's other alternative practitioners include Ms Hla Myat Saw, an acupuncturist, Ms Pauline Wetherell, an Alexander teacher and Mr Colin Henshaw, an osteopath.

The RCS May Ball

will be held on Friday

May 4th

in College
and the
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