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Issue 868
Friday 11th May



College wasters

The College staff publication, *Network*, is to receive a 20% increase in its budget for next year, according to figures submitted for the next Finance and Executive sub committee. The increase represents £3000 onto *Network*'s current £15,000 budget.

Mr Eric Stables, the editor of *Network*, said that 4000 copies of the magazine were produced every month. Mr Stables told Felix that he did not know the figure for last year's *Network* budget, but he said that far less than £15,000 was used. He said that there were 'no plans to use that amount'. Mr Stables said that there were plans to start advertising in *Network* 'to stabilize the financial situation'.

Last year, Felix was budgeted for £12,167. The proposed increase is 12.9% to £13,734 for next year.

The College's budget also proposes an increase of 12.5% from £32,000 to £36,000 for the HUB office. Lady Clare Ash, who co-ordinates HUB, said that she 'didn't know what the figures are based on.' 'I think someone has made a mistake... I would be much amazed if we spent half of that,' she said 'Most of what we do pays for itself,' she added

University slammed

A recent report in the 'Daily Telegraph' has claimed that the University of London is on the verge of disintegration. The report says that the more powerful colleges in the University are being slowed down by the cumbersome bureaucracy of the system and are making overtures to leave.

In the report Sir Eric Ash, Rector of Imperial College, made a statement condemning the centralised administration of the University. He also said that the University does not have the status its talent deserves.

The report concluded that the future for the federation of London Colleges looks grim.

Disrupting meeting

Imperial College Manufacturing, Science and Finance trade union (ICMSF) will discuss the possibility of 'disruptive action,' at its branch meeting on the 23rd May. The talks are in response to a dispute with College authorities over redundancies.

Three members of staff have been given severance terms for compulsory redundancies from the recently bought company 'Imperial Biotechnology Ltd'. (See Felix 865, 21 March and Felix 858, 9 February).

Ms Susan Sharp, ICMSF Branch Secretary, claimed that all other alternatives had been turned down by the college, and that the MSF 'reject that it is unreasonable to accept alterations...none of which are of significant cost considering college resources.' She said that it 'was likely' that the members of the ICMSF would agree to disruptive action starting from any time after the meeting on the 23rd May. The action would affect examinations and conferences.

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Union funds cut

Imperial College Union will get £10,000 less than it asked for from the college next year. Dave Williams, ICU Deputy President, said he was unsure of the exact figures but told Felix that ICU had asked for £452,026 next year, a 9.5% increase on the £412,900 it was given last year.

He said that the college will probably grant a 6.2% increase, or a shortfall of £10,000. He said that this was because the college thought the £100,000 surplus that ICU had accumulated 'looks bad'. 'Through good housekeeping we have accrued the reserve—let's spend it on students,' he said, and added that the surplus was to 'be spent on specific projects' like refitting the Union Dining Hall. The money will also go towards writing off half the snack bar debt.

He said 'they will force on us or make us accept the position to reduce the surplus'. The shortfall will either be taken out of the surplus or from the union clubs.

Malcolm Aldridge, IC Senior Assistant Finance Officer, said the college was facing a very large deficit next year and savings had to be made. He said that the union's surplus was 'roughly 25%' of their grant. 'We have not "instructed" the union to withdraw its reserve... I am extremely careful not to tell the union how to run itself', he said, 'It's up to them if they run down their reserves or find other ways of economising.' He was asked why the college was under such financial constraints. 'It boils down to Government's funding of higher education not keeping up to the pay demands of academic and other staff', he said.

Hay fever study

Hay fever sufferers are in demand from the Centre of Environmental Technology. The centre is studying the symptoms of the allergy over the summer and needs students who will be living in London over the summer vacation to act as subjects.

There is no problem if you are taking medication for the condition. All interested parties should contact Geoff Gunner at the Centre for Environmental Technology, 48 Princes Gardens.

Grotty initiations

The Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) initiated next year's RCSU executive in the time-honoured way last Tuesday.

This year's 'mixmaster', Nancy Reading, said that the mix which was poured over Sid Hiimae (President), Gina Mortley (Honorary Secretary) and John St Hill (Vice President) contained beer, milk, cooked pigs tails and squid, escargots, blue spaghetti, rice and the left overs from passing lunches.

IC Party second

The Imperial College Party (ICP) came second after the Conservative Party in the Local Council Elections in the Knightsbridge ward of Westminster. Dr P J Finley, warden of Beit Hall and ICP candidate attained 420 votes, compared to 852 for the next highest, Conservative, candidate. It is estimated that 60% of the students in the ward took part in the election.

In the Courtfield Ward, the ICP came 7th after the Conservative party which gained 2595 votes between 3 candidates. Ken Young (ICP) got 279 votes and Paula Young got 254 votes. This means that probably 280 students voted out of 520 in the ward.

Dr Finley told Felix: 'By god, we scared the pants off them'. He said that the ICP had 'put down a marker' and had ensured that the other parties would take notice of them next time. 'It was fun.... both Tom (Yates) and Neil (McCluskey) have worked very hard,' he added.

Tom Yates, ICP co-ordinator said 'I'm bloody glad we did it...we achieved a lot through it short of actually getting a councillor in. If we hadn't done it they would never know that IC had a grievance.'

World record

Craig Shergold, a seven year old who is dying of brain cancer, has an ambition to gain an entry into the 'Guinness Book of Records' by receiving the biggest number of Get Well cards.

All those who would like to help should send a card to Craig Shergold, 36 Shelby Road, Carshalton, Surrey SN8 1LD.

Bloody success

The mass blood transfusion organised by the City and Guilds Union (C&GU) last Tuesday 8th was 'a storming success' according to Chris Greenwood, Academic Affairs Officer of the C&GU.

154 people turned up and 132 made donations after the obligatory checks were made. This translates into about 100 pints of blood. The next mass transfusion will probably be in November.

Stop me & buy one

The Union Snack Bar ('The Caterpillar Cafe') will be serving ice cream within the next three weeks, as soon as new refrigerators have been installed. There will be the usual range of ices sold at the recommended retail prices.

University College Union loses room space - one way or another

University College Union (UCU) is to lose a third of its building in a deal made by University College administration. A UCU spokesperson said the union will lose its gym, its theatre workshop and an area called 'the Garage' which is used for dances and other large scale events. UCU caters for 8000 to 8500 students.

According to the spokesperson, the College has not decided to compensate the union and will make about £4 million from the deal in a 'goodwill gesture' the buying company will give for the use of college facilities.

The spokesperson claimed that the loss will severely affect sports and theatre. 'Where are students going to learn to write and act? It will kill it,' they said. The spokesperson added that the gym was used for 70 hours a week, and the University of London Union (ULU) next door could offer only 16 hours a week at awkward times as a replacement. 'We will kick up a fuss if the Provost (Dr Derek Roberts) is unwilling to help.... Students are going to lose out and quite a few societies are going to die.' The spokesperson said that the Union was not opposed to the redevelopment but to the loss of Union facilities.

Mr Steven Montgomery, Director of External Services at UCL, denied that the company concerned, *Eisai*, a Japanese pharmaceutical company, was going to affect the union building. He said that they would be housed in two new buildings adjacent to the union. He added that a redevelopment planned by the Medical Research Council (MRC) would involve demolishing some of the Union building. He said that these plans were only in formation, but part of the Union building would have to be demolished anyway to make way for an Interdisciplinary Research Centre.

Mr Montgomery said that much of what UCU had said was 'patently untrue', but admitted that he couldn't 'guarantee the space for their exclusive use will be identical to now'. He added that there would only be disruption during the building work and that it was 'absolutely vital' that the MRC was housed close to the Biology, Pharmacology and Physiology departments of the college.



Dr Derek Roberts, provost of University College

He stressed that the MRC 'was not committed', but that plans would be finalised before the end of the year.

In response, the UCU spokesperson said 'I don't care what he says—we understand it as the Provost explained it to us.... basically nothing can go up without demolishing our facilities.'

Mr Fred Atkins, a consultant to *Eisai*, told Felix that nothing had been agreed as yet and nothing had changed hands, though the college would 'benefit

substantially' from any deal. 'I see no reason why the Union should be so upset', he said and added that there were already two similar establishments on the college campus. He said that the company had nothing to do with redeveloping the union building and would only be involved in using land that was presently occupied by prefabricated huts.

He said that the decision would be made by the end of May. 'At this stage it is all conceptual,' he added.

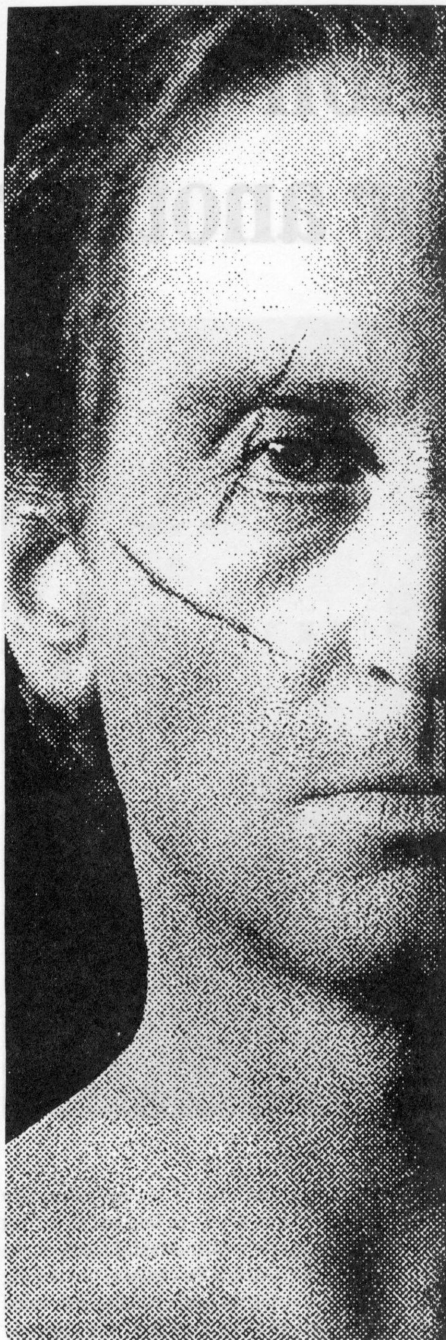
IC Union goes shopping with Dai

The Union Office is considering the purchase of a new computer system. Dave Williams, IC Deputy President, said that the 'current technology is slow and inefficient.... they (the computers) are beginning to wane in their operation'. He said that the new system will be able to expand and develop and he was looking at a maximum price of £25,000, though this was dependent on funding by the Industrial Relations Committee equipment fund. He said that the system to be used had not yet been decided, and he estimated that the old equipment would be sold off at £300 per computer.

Reggie Blennerhassett, Union Finance Officer, said that he thought a £10,000 system was more likely. This would include two personal computers between the two financial staff in the office linked to a personal computer in the Bookstore. He said that the old computers would be used by the Honorary Secretary and the Union President. The remaining computer would be available to Union Club executives. The restricted access on this machine would be to guard against hacking and computer viruses. He said that no-one would buy the old computers at £300 a piece.

2nd issue of RASP

RASP, a magazine produced by graduates to help graduates choose their career path, is distributed free with FELIX today. This issue concentrates on media careers in print journalism, radio, film and advertising sales. The articles are written by graduates from an unbiased standpoint. Copies of RASP are also available from the FELIX Office.



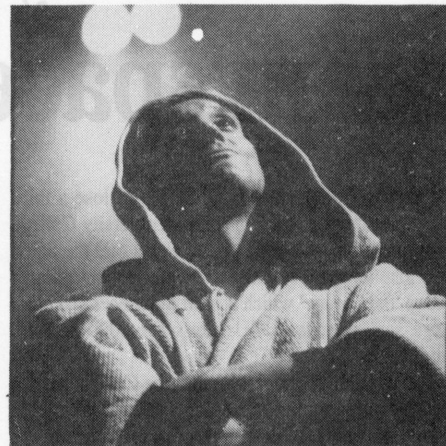
Coriolanus

Rome. Long before the days of the Caesars it is little more than a city-state at war with its neighbours, the Volscians. Famine has hit the city and the plebeians are up in arms against the ruling classes, the patricians. Most hated of all is Caius Martius. The outbreak of war halts the riots and in the siege of the town of Corioli, Caius Martius earns himself the title 'Coriolanus'. He soon finds out that the wartime hero has less of a role in peacetime and before long he loses all popularity with the people. His own arrogance leads to his banishment from Rome and plans for revenge.

Coriolanus is the last of Shakespeare's tragedies and quite probably the most political. It is a tale of the people against the ruling classes and the destruction of a man who is an anachronism, the last remnant of a dying system. The Tarquins have been driven from Rome and the republican system is beginning to rise. Caius Martius Coriolanus is a man of great military prowess. An arrogant man but one who hates to hear himself praised. One who sticks to his own principles, refusing to bow to the people even when it will lead to his political destruction. A complicated and many faceted character that could have easily degenerated into a one dimensional stereotype in the hand of a less talented actor than the one who turns in such a superb performance here, Charles Dance. He even looks exactly right for the part, that 'lean and hungry look' that was to worry Caesar many generations later, and manages to dominate the stage at all the right moments for example as he stand at the open gates of Corioli, drenched in blood.

More light is shed on this central character by the equally splendid Volumnia, played by Barbara Jeffard. She comes across as a woman who is very different from the traditional female role (as personified by Virgilia, Coriolanus' wife) she actively drives her son into battle so he can win the glory that she desperately wants. A strikingly forceful portrayal that is thrown into sharp relief by the later scenes where she has to beg for the safety of the city.

The rest of the patricians make little impact but they do not play nearly as an important role as the plebeians, the mob, the common people. They are portrayed as people whose opinions are easily swayed by the orator, but who have great power when they



act together. Careful casting has allowed individual 'characters' to emerge while still retaining a group identity. They also carry spears when required with great finesse.

Their representatives, the Tribunes, are conniving, cowardly and often extremely funny. The RSC really are able to lift apparently bland lines to great comedic effect. There are times when one is able to forget that one is listening to formalised language from three centuries ago. Their clothes changing from plebeian black to patrician white after they banish Coriolanus is also a nice touch.

The costumes throughout reflect the important class divisions in the play. Apart from those mentioned above, the warlike Volscians are dressed in blood red, and the patrician women are dressed in a white/black mix that possibly implies a slightly lower station than their husbands. Interestingly the only time Coriolanus appears dressed mainly in black is when he is fighting—the only time he has the approval of the plebeians. The actual design of the costume reflects traditional Roman dress without slavishly following it, giving us a slightly abstract period sense.

The intimidating scenery and climactic music all add to the sheer dramatic force of this production. Terry Hands and John Barton have taken a difficult play and produced a superb slice of theatre. This really is a must see. The RSC at their very best.

Adam T.

Theatre

As You Like It

As you seat yourself in the reasonably comfortable Barbican theatre, the scene is already being set. On a pristine black stage a group of actors in evening dress gyrate gracefully. They retire to the back of the stage as the doors close in their eerie fashion, and the play commences. Thus unfolds a commonplace tale of wicked uncles and brothers, shepherds, fools, cross dressing and love. Rosalind lives at the court of her uncle, Duke Frederick who has usurped Rosalind's father. Rosalind is banished after she falls in love with Orlando, the youngest son of a friend of the usurped Duke. She then flees to the forest of Arden where her father is hiding. Orlando also flees there because of his maltreatment at the hands of his elder brother, Oliver. When they meet Rosalind is disguised as a shepherd boy, and so Orlando doesn't recognise her...

As you might have guessed Shakespeare comedies can have somewhat complicated plots. In this case much of the above is high on totally irrelevant to the main thrust of the play, and is only used to set up the situation that develops in the forest. Its certainly a much lighter play than *Coriolanus*, and one that leads

to you leaving the theatre with a generally healthy and optimistic attitude to life in contrast to the very dark ending of the Roman affair.

As the play progresses and more and more of the central characters end up in the forest, the segments of the black stage are lifted away revealing a grassy environment beneath. Eventually, at the beginning of the second half, we have a pastoral scene complete with anorexic trifflids and some extremely naff flying butterflies.

Against this changing background the characters themselves change. Rosalind moves from the restrained girl at court to the ebullient and perky 'Ganymede', Celia from the formal girl at court to the carefree shepherd girl and even Orlando from embittered younger brother to enamored lover. The cast manage all this without any problem especially Sophie Thompson as Rosalind, who gives an enrapturing performance. Also of note is Mark Williams as Touchstone, the fool, who transfers the humour of Shakespeare's words into even funnier gestures.

A fairly gentle, almost pastoral, romantic comedy, it has a wonderful sense of fun that seeps out into the audience, infecting them. A glorious production whose only faults are those inherent in the play, and those butterflies, of course.

Adam T.



Internal Affairs

Film



Who watches the watchmen? A loose translation of a rather well known latin phrase, it makes a point. In the case of the Los Angeles County Police it's the Internal Affairs Division to which Raymond Avila (Andy Garcia) has just been promoted. Assigned a partner—Sergeant Amy Wallace—he starts work investigating a cop who is suspected of planting evidence, using excessive violence and taking drugs. Soon though, the investigations start to focus on Dennis Peck (Richard Gere), a well respected, streetwise cop who seems to be a little too well off. The closer Avila gets the tougher things become, until eventually his wife becomes involved.

A cop thriller with a twist (cops hunting cops), the film is rather liberally sprinkled with stereotypes and clichés. The cop whose marriage is in difficulty because of the amount of time he spends working, the butch lesbian ('tactfully' referred to as a 'dyke'), etc....None of the roles are particularly involving, each

performing much as expected, and never giving any of the actors a real challenge. Thus, unsurprisingly, acting is perfectly adequate throughout.

This should have been enough to kill the film stone dead. Somehow it wasn't. The plot, not so much a whodunnit as a 'how's he gonna get him' movie, has sufficient twists to keep one interested. The violence is sickening without being graphic, merely serving to highlight the nauseating nature of Peck's actions. It is one of two devices used to relieve the incredible tension that is built up at certain times through the film, and by far the most common. The other is humour, but good 'ole comic relief plays little part alas. It is this tension that is critical to a film of thriller genre, and this film has it in abundance. So what we have is an above average film, which somehow contrives to be more than its component parts and which is well worth a look 'if you like that sort of thing'.

Adam T.

Reanimator II

Film

This film has everything: Necrophilia, a fruitbat, small cute furry (dead) animals, gratuitous amputations and buckets—count them, buckets—of blood.

Reanimator 2 follows on in the same vein (sorry) as its predecessor with the continuing adventures of Herbert West (mad scientist) and Dan Cain (poor misled soul). This time the boys aren't reanimating but creating (so we're told) and naturally they decide on a fine figure of a woman (in great horror tradition). To achieve this noble goal Herb takes to petty pilfering from the hospital morgue (a sequence of unimpeachably good taste) and takes them to the CELLAR. The CELLAR, as you might expect, is chock-full of much extrovert glass tubing and fluorescent liquid. We are then treated to some very bad scientific method and much hysterically unconvincing rationalisation (the amniotic fluid of a lizard reanimates, would you believe?). It is at this point that the acting begins to come into its own; Jeffrey Combs as Our Man deadpans through the best lines in the movie 'She is my creation! I will not be shackled by the failures of your God!' and is nobly supported by Bruce Abbot as the Faithful But Unfortunate Sidekick, Dan Cain. Claude Earl Jones plays a cop who senses There Is Something Wrong and flips his badge at everyone (and everything). Mel Stewart plays the

pathologist No-one Will Believe when he stumbles across the secret of the Reanimation fluid and brings the head of Dr Hill from the first film back to life.

Special Effects are by Screaming Mad George, who not only brings an eyeball and four fingers to life but also a whole CELLAR-full of bizarre freaks. Things to look out for: 1) the genuinely disturbing asylym sequence 2) The maiming of the dog 3) The heroine backing away from something nasty into something nastier 4) the odd fleeting reference to H P Lovecraft to whom this whole story is apparently due, albeit with severe editing 5) Various gratuitous spurts of blood 6) The line 'My God, they're using tools!'. One of the notable sequences is when the Bride finally gets up and running (well not quite) and goes through an elaborate Greek tragedy about the sadness of being unloved, half skinned and dead. This is made all the more tragic by the fact that the cast are busy losing their lunches and/or gibbering and the audience, similarly.

Reanimator 2 (which features the appalling subtitle *Bride of Reanimator*) is badly acted, badly scripted, delightfully camp and absolutely brilliant. If you can't take the gore stay out of the CELLAR. Oh yes....there really is a fruitbat. Watch out for it.

The Amazing Flying Gerbil Machine.

Why Men Are the Way They Are

Book

by Warren Farrell, PhD

The simple answer is that women make them that way. Every day women push men to conform to the mould, and the pressure is great, you either conform or are called a wimp or jerk.

The basic concept that is the hub of the book, is the fact that men and women both have a primary fantasy, something that they want desperately to come true. Man's is to have sex with beautiful women, preferably more than one, and for women it is to become secure, normally in financial terms.

This may seem sexist, misguided and in this modern society, old fashioned, man the provider of money in return for sex with a beautiful woman, but too much of what he says is true for it to be complete rubbish.

Take the issue of women's magazines, in his words 'female pornography'. How can women buy magazines like 'House and Garden' which advocate marriage and home life and yet ask why men expect them to become housewives?—They want to themselves! Even the supposed liberated new woman magazines confirm that a woman's ideal man is one with money that can provide her with security, giving her the option to work or not. This option is never considered by a man, you work or you starve, is this fair?

'New Woman' is for liberated working women who want to be treated equally with men. If this is true why is it that the majority of the advertising is for beauty and fashion products? Does wearing the latest French perfume make the office more productive? The male equivalent, in terms of business, something like 'Business News' is full of adverts for office chairs, computers, all things that are slightly more useful and relevant.

Warren Farrell explains all this and more, including a good chapter on the 'new sexism', the sexism against men that is not perceived as such by women. Why is it fair to ridicule men about his intellect but to do the same to women is deemed sexist. I recommend all women to read at least this part and if they see no truth in it, there is no hope for equality.

Women may find what he says hurting and unfair, reacting against it by saying 'I'm not like that!', but the truth hurts. Women have double standards—they want men to be open with their feelings but if they go too far they are called weak and feeble. They also complain that they have changed, so why can't men? The answer is that men would be more than willing to change but what exactly do women want?

Reading the book as a man I have empathy with much of what he says, most of it is common sense if you are reasonable. Is it unfair to expect women to pay their way, to share the financial burden as much as they want men to share the housework?

I recommend this book not only to women but men as well, but don't take everything to heart or it could damage your life in a way it was never intended to.

Ian Hodge.

Who moved the ground? Lenny Kravitz competition

5.5.90

Who Moved the Ground? were undeterred by a setting lit by a strip of fairy lights and with only two monitors to hold back the raging masses. Tonight this pub hosted five youths, full of determination, conviction and down-right cockiness.

During the exhausting two hours set, *Who Moved the Ground?* showed their talent for taking what is best from the best of the indie scene and putting it together in an irresistible combination. The *Birdlandian* intro swelled into a melodic energy and an enthusiasm only *Neds* could match. The crowd was ravenous for more. Other songs had more than a hint of *Dinosaur Jr.* but with the determination of *New Model Army*.

Numerous covers included the *Stuffies' Unbearable* and *51st State* by *N.M.A.* adding to both their own zest and energy. Nevertheless, their own songs were so engulfing and varied that covers were unnecessary. As well as Richard (lead vocals and guitar) both the other guitarists took lyrics with the bassist's *Another Day* being the best slam so far.

The greats have to rest. During the break, even the ice-cubes were warm and mist threatened to short everything as the lights dimmed again. Pint glasses trembled to their version of *Happy Birthday* to before settling down to show *Ride*-ish qualities. The last half included a raunchy *Just Like Heaven* by *The Cure* for all you wierdos' and *The Cult's She Sells Sanctuary* which literally shook the place. With *Shadows* came a change of mood for the more powerfully sinister and then back to moshability with *The Man Who Lost His Job*. The climax came with a new song which varied from almost sedentary to manic *Bomb Disneyland*-ish with total togetherness.

They left us completely dehydrated to a racing 99 *Red Balloons*, too exhausted to clamour.

If you like the best, watch out for *Who Moved the Ground?* as they hit London.

SJH.



Lenny Kravitz competition

WIN A CAR for a week of your choice courtesy of Streets Ahead, if you are the winner of this competition. All you need do is answer the following question:

Who is Lenny Kravitz married to?

Runners up will receive one of 30 copies of *Let Love Rule* album or one of 30 copies of an exclusive *Live in Amsterdam* limited edition bootleg LP.

Send your answers with your **name, address, telephone number** and **COLLEGE** by **June 30** to 'Streets Ahead' competition, 8 Granville Park, London SE13 7DA.

Entrants must have held a full clean driving license for a year and be in full time education.

My Bloody Valentine

Glider EP



Standing in the Indie charts at number two the new EP, *Glider* by *My Bloody Valentine* carries four tracks. What was the best track, *Soon*, has just been destroyed in a dance remix entering the network chart at 42. With some of psychedelic pop's best, the EP's worth looking at but forget the single.

GBH.

The Cure

—Entreat

The Cure! What more need be said? This free promo contains all the tracks from *Disintegration*, bar four, recorded live at Wembley last summer. They have been well mixed to capture the introversion of studio and the spontaneity of live performance.

It is available from HMV. What more need be said? Except 'You should have been there'.

SJH.

Winners

The winners of the *Jesus Jones* competition are Stuart Harrison, Matt Rammell and Chris Store with runner-up Liaket Ali. Please come to the Felix office any time today (Friday) to claim your prizes.



A LIQUIDISER'S GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED

Friday May 11

Underneath What + We Are Going
to Eat You.....Astoria
New Fast Automatic Daffodils.....ULU

Sat May 12

I've Lost Sarah.....Bull & Gate Kentish Town

Sunday May 13

Mega groovy gig of the week:

The Wedding Present + The Darling Buds +
Mega City 4 + The Groove Farm + A whole
host of other groovy bands.....Brixton Fridge

Tuesday May 15

Cut Cut Emma.....Trap Door
World Domination

Enterprises.....Islington Powerhaus

Thursday May 17

Nearly just as groovy:

Jesus Jones + Ned's
Atomic Dustbin.....Kilburn National
Peter Murphy.....Town & Country Club
The Family Cat + Cud.....ULU

Michael Newman interviews ex-IC student and secretary of the British Communist Party...

Nina Temple—interview

On Tuesday May 22 1990 a very historical event will take place at Imperial College. Over one hundred years ago, in the wake of the creation of state education in 1870, students were busy debating at Imperial College the purpose of education and whether the College fulfilled it. One of the students, who helped to initiate the debate, was a poor trainee science teacher called H G Wells. The arguments were very relevant to the students, as they were amongst the first trainee science teachers for the new system. Some, like Wells, had won scholarships that were meant to encourage bright working class people to go into teaching. Only several years before teachers were 'trained' like apprentices, on the job as pupil-teachers. Something Wells started off as.

What also made the issue particularly exciting to the students was that their Dean was Professor T H Huxley, a genius of a scientist, writer and teacher who fought for free schools for all. He was a working class hero, promoting free libraries and museums as a part of the education system. He most importantly saw the purpose of education not to train but to liberate, to free the mind through excited inquiry and questioning. He consequently fought against the state support of religious schools and against religious preaching in state schools, these were an anathema to his concept of developing open minds. This, to him, was liberal education. Wells was greatly inspired by Huxley's ideas and teachings.

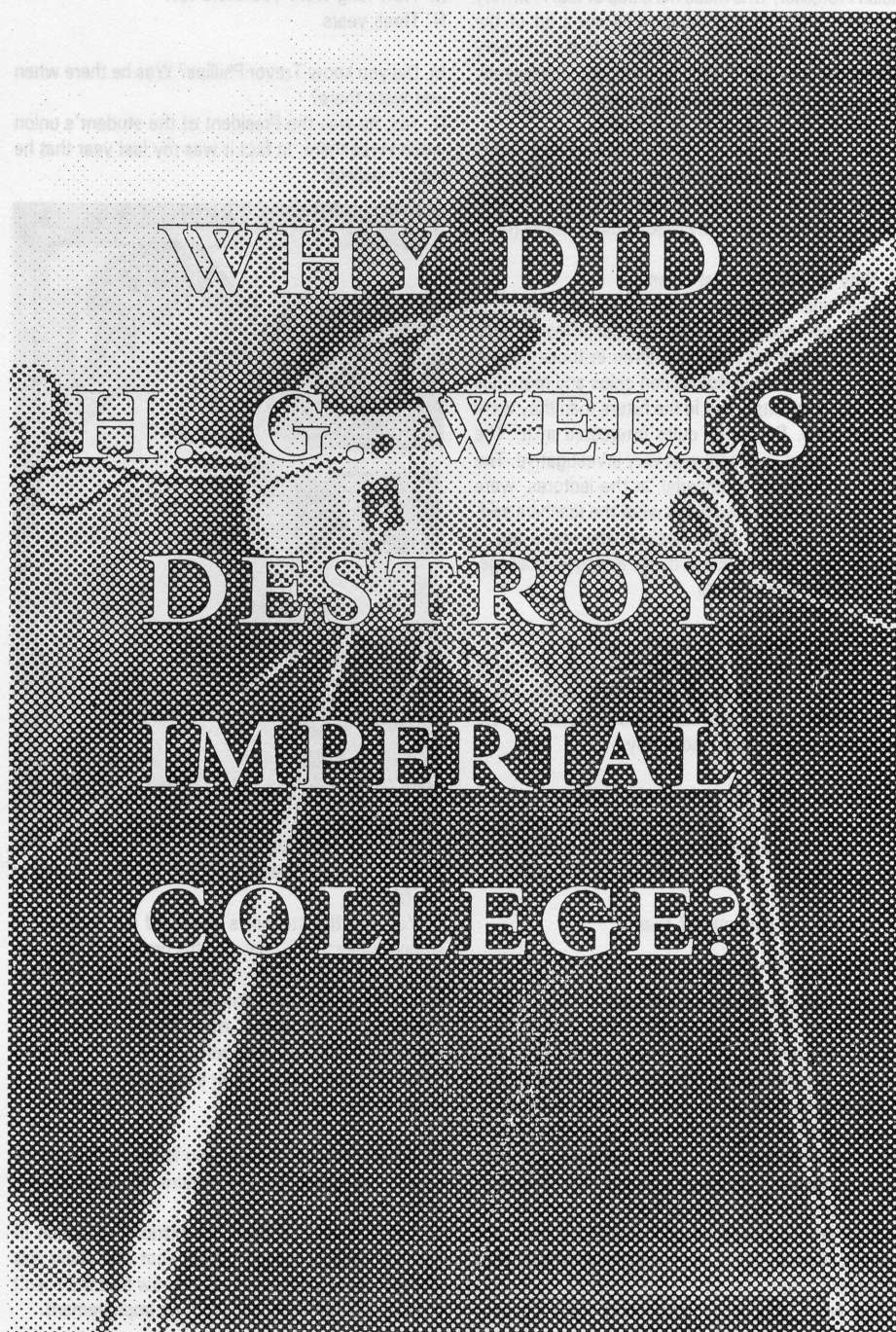
Because it was during the throes of the beginning of state education there was a lot wrong with the methods and philosophies used. Exam results were used to determine how much money the schools would get. Cramming, rather than learning and understanding, was the predominant activity of students and pupils. Wells' bitter disappointment at the lack of liberal education at Imperial College led him to write harsh criticisms of it in his autobiography. He also describes its destruction in the first serialisation of *War of the Worlds* and in the short story *Argonauts of the Air*.

On May 22 you can hear the arguments come back to life. Have things really changed over the last one hundred years? How relevant are Wells' criticisms today? Can we learn something about what is happening in the changes in education now by looking at the past?

One of the speakers in the debate is Nina Temple, an ex-student of the Royal School of Mines. She is the first woman to become Secretary of the British Communist Party. As a student she was a communist. What was it like at Imperial College for her? Read her interview. Come and hear her speak, alongside Trevor Phillips ex-ICU and NUS President and now Editor of LWT, proposing that the College should be 'razed to the ground'. You might be surprised, you might find yourself agreeing with her, and H G Wells.

Win free tickets to see the martian lasers 'destroy Imperial College'

By picking up one of the leaflets advertising the debate you could win tickets to see the fantasy laser show based on Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of *War of the Worlds* at the Laserium, or you could win the double album! See how the Martians might have destroyed your college.



M. When were you at Imperial College?

N. I think I finished in 77. I studied material science, in the Royal School of Mines.

M. A very male dominated college?

N. Yes, dreadful

M. Was there a lot of sexism?

N. When I was there the freshers' fair at the Royal School of Mines was a dreadful experience. In fact I nearly left after the first day because they had all these very public school type, male, rugby, ritualistic introductions to the college. And there was the Master of Pornography...

M. He was there when I was there.

N. The President of the Royal School of Mines had to drink a piss pot full of beer in front of the students. I thought it was absolutely dreadful. There were other women on my course, we formed quite a tightly knit group that went around pulling down the pornography in our part of the college. It was a very common thing, one of the tutors used to keep a lot of pornography in his draw in the lecture hall. So one day to embarrass him we put all the pornography up behind the heavy electronic backboard. When he came to push the button all his secrets were revealed. And there was the male only bar, the Union bar. Part of it, a room

beyond the bar was male only. It was quite extraordinary, having been brought up in a girl's school in central London, with peace and love. I didn't know very much about the college before I came. I came late. I hadn't applied to go to university that year. I had decided to take a year off, and then I thought I might as well get on with it. I went through on the clearing. I went in to meet one of the members of staff, who was great, he was a very eccentric Indian Professor, who made me a cup of tea. I felt very at home with him and he showed me a lot of the equipment, the electron microscope that I was very interested in. So I decided to go, completely unprepared and knowing nothing about the culture of the place. So it was a bit of a shock.

I had some very good friends who were men there, all the men there weren't like that. In fact it was the mining students who were most like that. Material Science were a kind of civilised enclave in the RSM.

M. Why go into Material Science?

N. The kind of science I did at school was very modern, it was Nuffield Science. In the physics course they had a unit on materials. Even in those days it seemed sort of likely that silicon chips and materials would be more important in the future than they were at that time. So I was quite interested in it. The science I learnt at school was very investigative. The teaching methods at Imperial, in the lectures, were just sitting there writing down what the teachers said. For me it was like going back to the stone age. I enjoyed the practical side of things at Imperial College. The open ended projects.

M. What did you intend to do?

N. I was quite into science. I suppose I thought I might be a material scientist. At the end of the day I was to fall into the opposite direction really. I was also very interested in politics in those days.

M. Did you get involved in student politics?

N. No, not at all. I had lived in London so I was very involved in lots of politics outside the college, so I never really got involved in the student's union.

M. Were you a Communist then?

N. Yes

M. Was that known at the college?

N. It became known quite quickly after I was there. People were quite shocked. I think they thought I was the first one that had ever been to the Royal School of Mines. The political ignorance among some of my fellow students was quite shocking. It was quite a long time after the coup in Chile. A woman, who was quite intelligent, was saying to me 'Oh there is a Marxist government in Chile, isn't there', about five years after the fascist coup! I suppose people just weren't interested in it, they were interested in their subjects.

And when, the first time, I told them I was a communist, quite soon after that I took a day off college, a bomb went off at Oxford Circus and they literally thought it was me, in some way. They weren't sure it wasn't me anyway. They just weren't used to it. Once they got to know me later they respected me for what I am.

M. Was there a women's group or an active campaign to change the College?

N. There was a women's group in the student's union, but I never really got involved in the student's union. They operated on an IC level. I just, sort of, survived with a much more informal group of women friends who just did things that we felt needed to be done.

M. When I was at college I know that there were some young women who did leave because they felt that the attitudes of the place, especially the ignorance in terms of politics and social issues were so strong, they just couldn't stand it.

N. Yes I did think of leaving. But I suppose I am just a very stubborn person. I don't like to see people drive me away from something I have chosen to do.

M. How long were you there for?

N. Three years

M. Did you know Trevor Phillips? Was he there when you were there?

N. Yes, he was the President of the student's union when I was there. In fact it was my last year that he was President.



M. So it was quite political then, because it was in the NUS?

N. Yes, but the student's union did not involve the students very much, that was the problem. There was a section that was political, the ICS (Imperial College Socialists) was always the more political sort of bit. Certainly the students from Mines were never involved in IC Union, they were involved in the Mines Union. The main union never actually engaged a very large number of students.

M. Do you think that what you found at the college was a reflection of the nature of science and technology?

N. I think it was probably an extreme reflection of science. Well, I mean, I hope that the place has changed quite a lot since then. I know that there isn't a male only bar now, which is an improvement.

M. They have the plaque up there. They proudly exhibit the plaque on the shelf at the back of the bar. They still have men only drinking clubs. When I was there they still had the 'Hon Pornographer' and they organised 'Hon Porn Night'. One year they had a foreign students bar night on the theme of South Africa, they were going to draw a line down the bar. Some were going to blacken themselves up and stand one side, the others standing on the other. All the societies got together and protested, and involved the press. Reuters phoned up and the Rector Lord Flowers put pressure on the Union to stop it, though it was not democratically stopped.

M. What do you think of the involvement of the college with companies linked to South Africa?

N. I thought it was dreadful. I was involved in an occupation of the South African Embassy when I was at the School of Mines. I got in because I said I was a student there and I was interested in working in South Africa. So it was no problem at all, straight in! I pulled my banner out later on. It was an Anti-apartheid demonstration.

They showed us some films sometimes about South African gold mines, which were meant to impress us with the technology and everything. It was dreadful, the conditions that people were expected to work in, the temperature and the humidity. They have to give the black workers physical training to survive down there. I think that most people would be horrified, including the non-political white students.

M. Would you recommend any young woman to go to Imperial College?

N. I think it would depend on what they wanted to do really. I think in terms of becoming an engineer, yes. It is the best place to go in terms of the quality, especially the equipment. I think the fact that the college is doing so much military research means it has a lot of very high tech equipment that other colleges don't necessarily have. I think they would have to go with their eyes open about what it is like, and hopefully be a part of opening it up and changing it.

M. When you were at the college did you realise the history of the place? H G Wells or T H Huxley?

N. Something of it. Not a great deal. Like I said, the RSM basically saw itself as a very different entity. I didn't find out about IC as a whole, I was more kind of in the RSM!

M. Do you ever relate what it was like, in terms of politics and social, to what you do now?

N. Yes. I think you are very much formed by your history, your experiences. Being at the college helped make me into a feminist. I found other women gave me strength to have self-confidence to do things I would not have been prepared to do on my own. I also went on industrial training with ICI, I did a summer working with them, and a project with them in May last year. I found that a valuable experience, in the sense that they gave us a lot of training about how ICI was run, union, planning, the environment etc. They also took me around a lot of the industry in the North West. I was based in Runcorn. That helped me get the feel about what industry is about, which if you are talking about politics is quite important.

M. In the Communist Party itself are you, in terms of the management structure, the person with the most experience in terms of industry, science and engineering?

N. I think I am the only person with a science degree, but there are other people who have worked in industry longer than me, as workers in industry.

M. Are some people surprised when you tell them your background? Are your opponents outside the party surprised about your background in material science?

N. I think they find me a surprising person to be head of the Communist Party anyway. I don't know whether it is just the fact that I have a science degree. I think it is more the fact that I am a youngish woman. They don't expect me to be interested in doing this. Mother of two...

Neil McCluskey goes on about Local Elections, Loans, Athletics, Welfare, Nightline and yet more Elections.

The President rambles

Welcome back to the summer term and the first in my series of concluding reports. Good luck to everybody who has got exams. For those of you that have already finished, have a great time, relax, enjoy the sun but do have a little consideration for those students still doing exams.

Local Government Elections

Most of you will have noticed that Imperial College had candidates standing in the local council elections. John Finley and Chris Owen in the Knightsbridge Ward of Westminster and Ken and Paula Young in the Courtfield Ward of Kensington and Chelsea.

Although we did not succeed in actually getting councillors elected we most certainly worried a number of parties and got ourselves recognised as a credible, well organised and extremely large group of residents. Most prospective and elected councillors were respectful of the fact that, of the residents presently living in halls of residence appearing on the electoral roll, well over 65% turned out to vote for their own candidates.

This operation has certainly got you, the students, noticed and will go a very long way to maintaining discussions on the matters that we would have wanted discussing if our own councillors had been elected. Those discussions will start very soon.

Thanks must go to a very large number of people. Primarily you the students who went out to vote. Secondly to the candidates for standing. Thirdly to the helpers both before-hand and on the day. In particular; Tom Yates, Liz Warren, Doug King, Michael Paton, Claire Stewart, Jackie Scott, Sydney Harbour-Bridge and everybody else who ran round halls persuading people to vote.

Special thanks to David Smedley and the FELIX crew for producing promptly, cheaply and efficiently much needed publicity.

I feel that this is an exercise that should certainly be repeated in future and from now on close relations should be maintained with the councils concerned.

Loans

The student top-up loans bill has passed through parliament and is now law.

From reading a letter written to the FELIX Editor (4.5.90) it appears that at least one student is still unaware that along with the top-up loans scheme, students are to be removed from the state social security system. This student also seems to be of the opinion that a student union can wave its magic wand and persuade the government to change its mind. Sadly my magic wand is limp and lifeless from the vigorous activities of recent months, so a miracle I cannot thus perform. I wonder how many more students are deaf, dumb, blind and brainless enough not to notice the situation they're going to be in come October 1990!!

On the subject of removal of benefits it is likely that this amendment to the social security act will be discussed in Parliament some time in May or June. Judging from the replies we've had from MPs it seems unlikely that the government will change its mind. All we can hope for is that discussions will go on for so long as to delay the bill until the parliamentary recess.

I have already requested at the College's Governing Body that College sets up a hardship fund, along

similar lines to the housing benefit, into which it can put the government 'access' funds (funds put aside by government to replace the state benefits). Students presently claim approximately £69 million per annum and the access funds only total £25 million per annum!

Athletics & Sports

Harlington—Contracts have now been signed to start work on the astroturf. Work has already begun even though we have not yet got local planning permission. **Southside Gym**—There are plans in hand to convert Southside Gym into a commercial fitness club with preferential rates for students. This is likely to affect a number of clubs but hopefully not too adversely. Talks will be held soon to discuss everybody's requirements. The fitness club could generate a large amount of external income for disposal on student clubs/societies. If anybody has any ideas then please come and talk to me soon.

Welfare

There are no formal welfare campaigns this term but from a week's time onwards a house hunting information pack will be available from the Union Welfare Office. This contains essential information on the do's and don'ts of entering into contracts with landlords, etc. Yve Posner and I are also hoping to stage a 'roadshow' in Evelyn Gardens and Prince's Gardens to promote the pack to unsuspecting first

years who have probably never rented a place (other than at College). Well, somebody's got to do what the accommodation office should be doing.

Nightline

Further discussion with College Welfare Committee, the Nightline Steering Committee and the Rector have led almost nowhere. Anne Conlon, the Chairman of the Nightline Steering Committee, has tried unsuccessfully to find alternative accommodation but the Rector is still insisting that the notice to quit at the end of June will be enforced. What does UGM/Council think of the idea of adopting Nightline as a Union society, picking up the administrative burden ourselves and possibly even having Nightline in the Union building? Incidentally, the last of these suggestions I'm reluctant to implement since, if Nightline is to remain on campus, it might as well stay where it is!

Elections

Congratulations to Ben Turner on being elected Deputy President. His posters have caused a minor hassle but I fully support Fiona in her decision to allow the posters to be used. I refuse to be drawn into further discussion on this matter as the event is not over and all posters should have been removed. Good luck to all the sabbatical-elects in their exams.

Neil McCluskey, ICU President.

ASSISTANT SUBWARDEN

Selkirk & Tizard Halls

Positions available starting in September

We are looking for bright, enthusiastic, hardworking, organised people who are interested in students' welfare and who can solve students' problems sympathetically and effectively.

These positions pay nothing, but do come with free College accommodation.

Application forms are available from the:
Student Accommodation Office, 15 Princes Gardens
NOW

Completed forms should go to:
The Warden Selkirk & Tizard Halls, Prince's Gardens SW7 1LU

Closing date: Friday May 18

Forgotten by society, ignored by politicians, threatened by greater violence, the prostitute is out in the cold. What are we doing to help? Matthew Johnson investigates.

Can't buy me love

Prostitute, whore, harlot, hustler, hooker, meretrix, courtesan, woman of pleasure, fallen woman, working girl, call girl; she may not have a prestigious profession, but she definitely has the oldest. No matter what century or which country you look at, you will find women selling sex. From Mary Magdalene to Cynthia Payne, history is full of examples. In Victorian London, it is thought that there was one prostitute for every three men, quite a contrast to the prevailing public morals! But just as the question is universal, the diversity of our reactions is equally broad. In some countries prostitutes are free to carry on their trade in peace, in others they can pay with their lives. We cannot look at this in isolation. Sex, money and marriage; the issues lie just too close to home.

Who are the victims of this trade? Is it the prostitute who values her body at the level of a simple commodity? Or possibly the client, who, so frustrated by a lack of sexual fulfilment, is forced to such desperate measures? Maybe even the whole of society is degraded, its structure and morals threatened?

Policing

Although payment for sexual intercourse is not itself illegal, the whole range of legislation (see box), makes it very difficult for a prostitute to stay on the right side of the law. This makes her much more vulnerable to criminal exploitation, and generally renders her safety in doubt.

The effect of the Street Offences Act, 1959 is to give the police draconian powers in their treatment of prostitutes. It is not necessary for a prostitute to actually tout for trade to be arrested. It is enough for her simply to be seen loitering in an area, where a constable suspects her to be for the purpose of prostitution. Any woman who becomes known to the police can easily be victimised, for when such a case comes to court, it will simply be her word against that of the police. It literally gives a mandate to the police to arrest her as often as they please.

More recently, with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act, 1985, the emphasis has at least started to move in the opposite direction. The police have been targetting the clients as well as the women. The bill now going through Parliament, is intended to further tighten this legislation.

The police, however, have already developed a fairly effective way of dealing with the clients. Rather than push them through the legal system (which they do on occasions), they use a joint method of formal warning and the sending of letters to their homes.

It is accepted by the police though, that the long term effects of such action is fairly minimal. When there has been a blitz on one area, the result has been that the trade has simply re-established itself in a neighbouring area. Overall the legislation has been aimed at reducing the nuisance to the public, but without tackling the problem at source, these measures have only had minimal success.

The Government is supporting the new Sexual Offences Bill to strengthen the 1985 act on kerb crawling, and so it is likely to become law in the near future. Apart from this, there is no other action either planned or discussed by the Government. Not only

that, none of the major political parties has a policy either. Prostitution is clearly a difficult issue for any politician to enter into, (sexual matters normally end in resignations, not in increased popularity!) At the moment the law forces prostitutes into a dangerous underworld, and affords them little protection. As far as these women are concerned, nobody in power seems to care one iota.

afforded few rights. However, the injustices do not finish there. Once charged with the offence of soliciting, a woman is attributed the legal title of **common prostitute**. This is a label that sticks for life, and can be brought up at any time, and for any charge. If you have raped someone, committed grievous bodily harm, or even murdered, then your conviction cannot be mentioned for fear of prejudice. If you have

for the money. The financial climate is an integral part of the problem. When Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979, she pledged to lower taxes in order to encourage enterprise. Moving into the twelfth year of her government, many people are starting to re-examine the basis of her approach. A low tax economy may be effective in germinating new business, but the stark reality is that less of the

Sticks & Stones May
Break YOUR Bones But
Whips & Chains Excite ME!

4-93-17



Life on the Game

Clearly the decision to enter into prostitution is not an easy one. So what is it that makes a woman decide to go on the game? The major incentive is of course money. Charging an average of £10 to £15 per client, it is possible to earn considerably more than a common nine-to-five job. Working hours are often more flexible, and in general shorter. This can be of a significant help to single mothers, who are more free to arrange their work around child-care arrangements.

But this is really where the advantages cease. Going on the Game, is akin to becoming a second class citizen. The powers afforded to the police almost give them the right to arrest her on sight. She could be going to do her weekly shopping, and still be arrested for soliciting. These cases can and do occur. The prostitute is thrust into a criminal underclass, and

been convicted of soliciting then you are a common prostitute, and must prove your innocence.

Perhaps even worse is the treatment prostitutes receive from society in general. People often value themselves by the work that they do. The prostitute does not have this luxury. If she is asked what she does in life, she must lie or risk immediate condemnation. This secrecy becomes a common feature of her life. What does she do when her boyfriend (or girlfriend) asks the same question? If she has children, then she risks having them taken into care, being marked as an 'unfit mother'. She does not lose basic needs, they just become harder to fulfil.

Poverty

Prostitution, however, is not simply a social issue. As we have seen this difficult life is often only taken up

country's wealth is spent on public services: hospitals, schools, disabled people, single mothers. The gap between the rich and poor gets even larger, and more women are forced onto the game. Of course not all women choose this option, but for those close to the poverty line, the incentives can be great. It is no coincidence that recent increases in prostitution have coincided with declines in state benefits. With the freezing of child benefits, the pressures on single mothers are particularly bad.

It is an amusing reflection that these women have taken the name of **'Thatcher's Girls'**. Perhaps the great lady should be proud of the initiative that these women have shown in exploiting such a strong and lucrative market.

Sex in Society

At first it might seem difficult to decide why our treatment of prostitutes is so bad, but when viewed in the wider context of general perceptions, the problem becomes a little clearer. Judeo-Christian society has always had a discrepancy between its treatment of men and women. From the mention in the old testament, of wife amongst oxen and sheep, to the glorification of the Virgin Mary, unsullied by sexual experience, justice for women has been hard to come by.

Britain in particular is known in Europe for its puritan attitudes. Sexuality is never an easy topic, but the British seem to be more paranoid than most. Sex is dirty and sinful, and only to be sanctioned under the need for procreation (and then only within the safe walls of matrimony). Our language is still strewn with such references: dirty magazine, dirty joke, dirty old man (almost as if old men had less right to sexuality than younger men). With the decline of Christianity, and the growth of secular society, these values are on the wain, but it would be naïve in the extreme to believe we have already outgrown them.

Historically, the onus for limiting sexual intercourse

THE LAW

Sexual Offences Act, 1956

- Illegal to encourage someone to be a prostitute
- Illegal for man or woman to control or direct prostitution, or to gain financially from it.
- Illegal for a man to **persistently** solicit a prostitute in a public place.
- Illegal for anybody to be involved in the running of a brothel, or for a tenant or landlord, to allow their premises to be used as such.

Street Offences Act, 1959

- Illegal for a prostitute to **loiter** or solicit in a public place for the purpose of prostitution.

Sexual Offences Act, 1985

- Illegal for a man to **persistently** solicit a woman for the purposes of prostitution, from a motor vehicle (kerb crawl).

At the moment there is a bill for amending the Sexual Offences Act, 1985. It will make it an offence for a man to solicit from a motor vehicle on **any occasion**, and not only when he had been doing so persistently.

It should be noted that there is no law against the payment for sexual intercourse.

fell on the woman. It has always been she who reaps the penalties of unwanted pregnancy. Her lover can easily desert her, and has traditionally done just that. With modern means of contraception, such dangers have all but been eliminated. The more recent risks of sexual transmitted diseases (STDs), and particularly AIDS fall on both man and woman. The imprint of those older influences, however, remains strong. Consider for example, the overwhelming positive image of a male sexual conquistador, a Don Juan or Rudolf Valentino. Contrast that with the corresponding female image; a woman who goes to bed with many men. She is nothing but a slag and an easy lay. When young men were told to go and 'sow their wild oats', their female counterparts were told to save themselves for marriage.

These gender sex roles are clearly distorted and unjust, both to men and to women. But much as we would like otherwise they still prevail. It is for men to

a very positive role in educating their clients to the possible dangers.

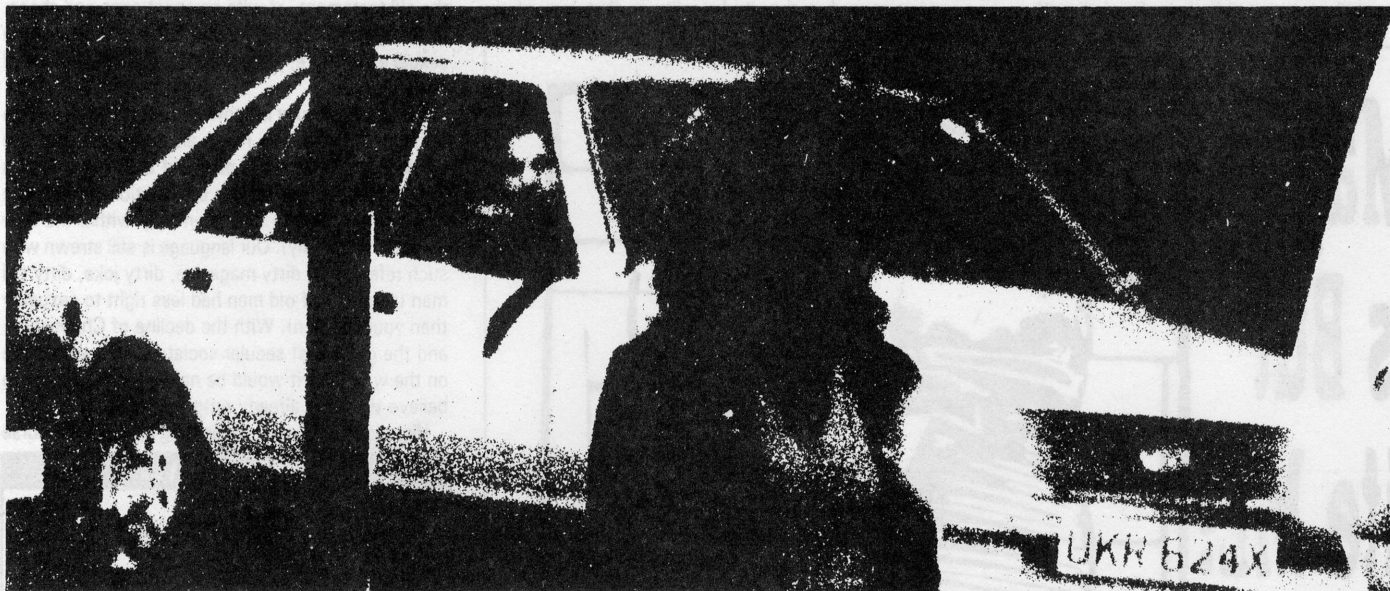
Hillary Kinnel (Central Birmingham Health Authority), *'We have found that working and former prostitutes to be the most effective communicators. The clients tell us that they learn about HIV from the prostitutes themselves. If Health Authorities can find ways of making resources available, prostitute women should be enabled to educate and deliver services themselves, and not only to their clients. They have a great deal to teach us all about the true sexuality of the society we live in.'*

The next consideration is, if prostitution were de-criminalised, would it be beneficial to enforce a registration scheme similar to that in place in Germany, making health checks compulsory on a regular basis? The question might well be decided on political expediency rather than practical issues. It could be difficult to be seen relaxing laws on

others. This is a commendable cause, and should be encouraged. That young girls have been persistently propositioned, simply because they have been in an area frequented by prostitutes, is worrying indeed. This among other problems must be tackled. However we have to be clear of exactly what our aims are.

Although Christianity is now a minority religion, its influence is still strong. Prostitution goes against such teaching, and some people would be pleased if it were banned outright. Many more feel uneasy, and would favour legislation to discourage it, but we must consider such arguments carefully. We also have a large Moslem community who would discourage the consumption of alcohol, does this mean that we should consider banning that?

Where the actions of some citizens infringe upon the freedoms of others, then we must act to protect those affected, that is the purpose of the law, but when those actions take place in private, between



lust, and women to choose. When a prostitute goes on the street and offers herself for sex in return for money, all she is doing is exploiting this situation. It would be pleasant if the sexual needs of all people were catered for within respectful and loving relationships. The realities are that this will never be the case either for men or for women.

Sex Education

Since the discovery of AIDS in the 1980s, we have become aware of a new danger in sexual relations. This issue though, must be treated with care, as we have already seen how it can be used as a stick to beat an already oppressed minority. Despite much evidence to the contrary, AIDS has been labelled as the gay plague, revenge from God on the unholy; regardless of the fact that in Africa the primary transmission method has been heterosexual sex.

There has been no evidence to suggest that the degree of HIV infection is any higher among prostitutes than among the general population. The statistics supplied by the Department of Health, show that the number of cases of HIV infection attributable to heterosexual transmission in Britain stood at 167 in September 1989 (including partners of bisexual men, and intravenous drug users). Clearly having more sexual partners increases the risk of catching the virus, however wearing a condom during sex substantially reduces them. The material of which the condom is made is impervious to the virus, and providing that it stays in place during intercourse without breaking, then the chances of passing on the virus are negligible. Many prostitutes use condoms, and, in addition, they are more than usually skilled in their use. In fact it has been observed that far from being a danger to public health, prostitutes can have

prostitution, without applying some counteracting restraints.

If we look at the practical criteria, the evidence weighs against it. Where drop-in clinics have been opened, such as the Praed Street Project connected to St Mary's Hospital, the response has been excellent. Legislation is more likely to be effective in dissuading women from coming forward than encouraging it. Those not willing to be registered by the State as prostitutes, would be even less likely to come forward.

Dr Sophie Day (St Mary's Hospital), *'Licensing will create a two tier system.'* This indeed has been found in places where licensing has been applied.

We should also consider for whose benefit such measures are taken. It has been shown that the chances of male to female transmission, are much higher than female to male transmission. Thus not only are the women much more at risk of the disease, they also have a much lower chance of passing it on.

The medical evidence is clear, people don't die from AIDS by having sex or from injecting drugs. They die through ignorance of the dangers and ways to avoid them. The advantages of de-criminalisation would be that, without the fears of prosecution and police harassment, more prostitutes would come forward for medical help, and would receive necessary advice. This is adequately summarised by a comment from Dr Helen Ward (Royal Infirmary, Glasgow).

'The definite advantages of de-criminalisation far outweigh any possible disadvantages.'

Thoughts for the Future

Nobody pretends that it is possible to legislate prostitution out of existence. The stated aim of existing laws has been to reduce the nuisance to

consenting adults, then they must be left in peace. At the end of the twentieth century, we are well past the time when the state should be meddling in the moral behaviour of its citizens.

The legislation so far has been ineffective in two major regards. Firstly, it has largely failed to remove the nuisance of prostitution from the streets, managing to keep it moving from area to area. Secondly, it has substantially degraded and endangered the life of the prostitute, forcing her into an already overburdened legal system. The obvious solution would seem to be to repeal the section of the Sexual Offences Act 1956, referring to the keeping of a brothel. The prostitutes would then be able to carry on their trade in private. This would not only remove the need for women to walk the street, and so remove the nuisance of kerb crawling, but would allow these women to carry on their lives without coming into continual conflict with the law.

It would be a courageous government indeed that dared to take this step. Puritanism retains a firm grip on public morality, and the moral backlash might be severe. However, there are some very compelling reasons why we should risk such a reaction. Firstly, it might eventually succeed in removing prostitution from the street, freeing both police and the courts to get on with something much more useful. Secondly, it would free an already oppressed minority. Finally and perhaps most importantly, it would promote better health practices amongst prostitutes, far outweighing the problem of any possible increase. So far, large government health campaigns have only been marginally effective in increasing awareness. Perhaps prostitutes could succeed where the ad agencies have failed?

Downright slaggings and bussed-in grannies. Local elections are even dirtier than IC Union's. Liz Warren gives an inside view of the IC Party campaign.

Knockers and Tellers

History was made last week when Imperial College put up candidates for the local council elections in the two wards where their halls of residence are concentrated: Knightsbridge in Westminster and Courtfield in Kensington and Chelsea.

Although we did not win, we certainly fulfilled one of our aims, which was to make our local councillors sit up and take notice of the students and their needs. One of the victorious Conservatives candidates in Knightsbridge said on polling day, 'If I win I'll certainly be around to talk to you. You've shown us we can't ignore you.'

The elections also gave some of us a fascinating insight into how elections are fought: a whole world that is hidden from the ordinary voters who simply turn up at the polling station and cast their vote. Having decided that my revision could look after itself for a while, I promised to spend the whole of Thursday May 3rd, polling day, working for the good of the IC Party. My obvious enthusiasm to turn up before 8 am, when polling started, also earned me the further privilege of being asked to attend the count the following morning as one of the IC Party's counting agents.

Arriving at quarter to eight, I headed for the nerve centre of operations, the party 'committee room', which had been set up in the Union President's office. There was a second committee room for the Courtfield ward in Evelyn Gardens. From here the actions of the various helpers were coordinated throughout the day by the election agents, Union President Neil McCluskey and Union Council Chairman Tom Yates.

My first task was being sent over to the polling station to 'tell'. This involves collecting people's polling cards, polling number or name and address. These are then ferried back to the committee room where they are checked off against the electoral roll. They are also checked off against lists of known supporters. Usually for a party this means the people who have said they will vote for that party when canvassed prior to the election. In our case we were checking off the names of students in halls, since this was where we thought our support was most likely to be.

This leads on to the other main process, 'knocking up'. Lists were made of all those students who had not yet voted and we then visited their rooms reminding them that the election was happening and asking them to go and vote. This process began around lunchtime and continued throughout the day until polling closed.



I hadn't realised just how effective knocking up can be until after I came back from covering my first hall. Only about five people from the hall had already voted before knocking up began. A lot of people didn't seem to be in and I spoke to only a dozen or so: this was a little dispiriting, as about seventy people lived there, but at least most of them had said they intended to vote. A few minutes after I got back to the committee room, some telling returns came in; about half the student votes were from people in the hall I had just been to. My doubts about slogging up and down stairs and talking to people I had never met before receded somewhat.

Later we left notes in the rooms of those people

who were out, telling them we had called and this also seemed effective in encouraging the students to vote. Towards the end of the day, knocking up becomes ever more vital and can dig out those people who might otherwise not have bothered voting. It also became frantic as we had too few helpers to cover all the halls as often as we would have liked. One of the helpers met two others on the sixth floor of Linstead. 'What are you doing here?' he asked. They replied that they had just started knocking up the hall. He told them that he had just finished it. It had taken him an hour and a half, so long we had forgotten we had sent him!

I became very aware of why all these activities were so important since I had to explain to a large number of students during the day just why it was I wanted their polling cards or their name. This helped relieve the tedium of sitting outside the polling station, as did having to constantly redirect people because the entrance to the polling station had been altered from previous years.

Another aspect that enlivens telling is the chance to chat to the other tellers who are there. The Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats hadn't sent tellers since they didn't expect to poll many votes and wouldn't want to knock up, but I had some very interesting conversations with the Conservative tellers who I found myself matched with. It was a pleasure to meet one resident who said she thought the students were very courteous 'since they always turn their music down around eleven o'clock at night and don't bother us at all' and who seemed more than happy to share her local area with us. This was very

THE RESULTS			
Votes Cast Knightsbridge		Votes Cast Courtfield	
Bailey Liberal	39	Conservatives	880; 855; 830
Cooze Labour	100	Liberal	627; 627; 519
Finley ICP	420	Ken and	
MacKeith Liberal	37	Paula Young ICP	279; 254
Michaels Conservative	852	Green	185
Moreland Conservative	857	Labour	189; 182; 155
Owen ICP	404	Residents Action	
Searle Labour	74	Party	55
Total Votes Cast	1419		
Linstead Hall	1143		
Kinnerton Street	265		
Postal	11		

different from the normal way we encounter the locals: complaining about the noise our parties make.

Telling is basically a co-operative affair, since it is impossible for each teller to get every number. We soon worked out a fine system whereby we wrote down the numbers and the Conservatives received the cards. Telling is also a chance to hear the comments people make as they leave the polling station, which can be very funny. I think the IC Party provided some particular gems on this occasion. One voter, on being told that every Conservative vote was crucial since the students were turning out and voting for their own candidates, was heard to exclaim, 'Do the students have votes? How terrible! It shouldn't be allowed!' Later an old lady pushing another in a wheelchair, who had been brought to the polling station by Conservative helpers, was heard to say as they left, 'There, that wasn't so painful, was it?' Another Conservative voter was heard to say, 'I know students have to have the vote, but why do they have to have it here?'

Another area that produced a certain amount of amusement was the name of the party. Actually standing for 'Independent Counsellors', but abbreviated to ICP on the ballot papers to ensure the students knew who they were voting for, there were some rather odd guesses from some of the other voters as to what it might stand for. These ranged from 'Independent Candidates' (quite close) to 'International Communists' (we're a bit worried that might have created the wrong impression).

During the day the two committee rooms kept in touch with each other by telephone and exchanged helpers as the number at each site fluctuated. In the early evening, the Evelyn Gardens committee room was to be augmented by two paid students. Tom, directing the Union Office committee room, phoned up Neil in Evelyn Gardens to ask if they had arrived and to request the return of some helpers he had sent down there earlier. Suddenly Tom exploded into a fit of expletives and starting shouting 'They're not supposed to do that, it's illegal. You'll get five years in prison. More to the point I'll get five years in prison!'

Calming down a little, he explained (to the enlightenment of both Neil and those of us sitting in the committee room who were bemused by this outburst) that it is illegal to pay canvassers and that knocking up could be classed as canvassing. This was apparently what the paid helpers were doing. Tom then reverted back to demanding the students were taken off knocking up. 'If the Conservatives find out....' Eventually Neil managed to get a word in edgeways and point out that the students had actually agreed to work for free and that the law wasn't being broken at all. Tom flopped back into his chair in relief.

During the day, the members of the local Conservative party also provided us with a lot of amusement. When I started telling at 8 am, I met the local branch chairman. He seemed a little surprised we had sent tellers, but confined himself to remarking, 'Oh, so you're the people who are giving us a run for our money, are you?' The second teller had a long argument with one of our other helpers, in which she appeared to believe both that students were very important (because they had votes), but that they were really second class citizens (and shouldn't have votes) because 'they're only here for three years, while we've lived here all our lives'. She completely misunderstood that while individual students are only around for three or four years, and most only get the chance to live in hall for one year, the student body as a whole has been in the area since at least the fifties when many of the halls were built, probably longer than most of the so-called 'long term' residents.

During the morning Tom and others had been addressing first year lectures, urging those in hall to vote. In at least one lecture theatre he received rapturous applause. Meanwhile ex-Union President

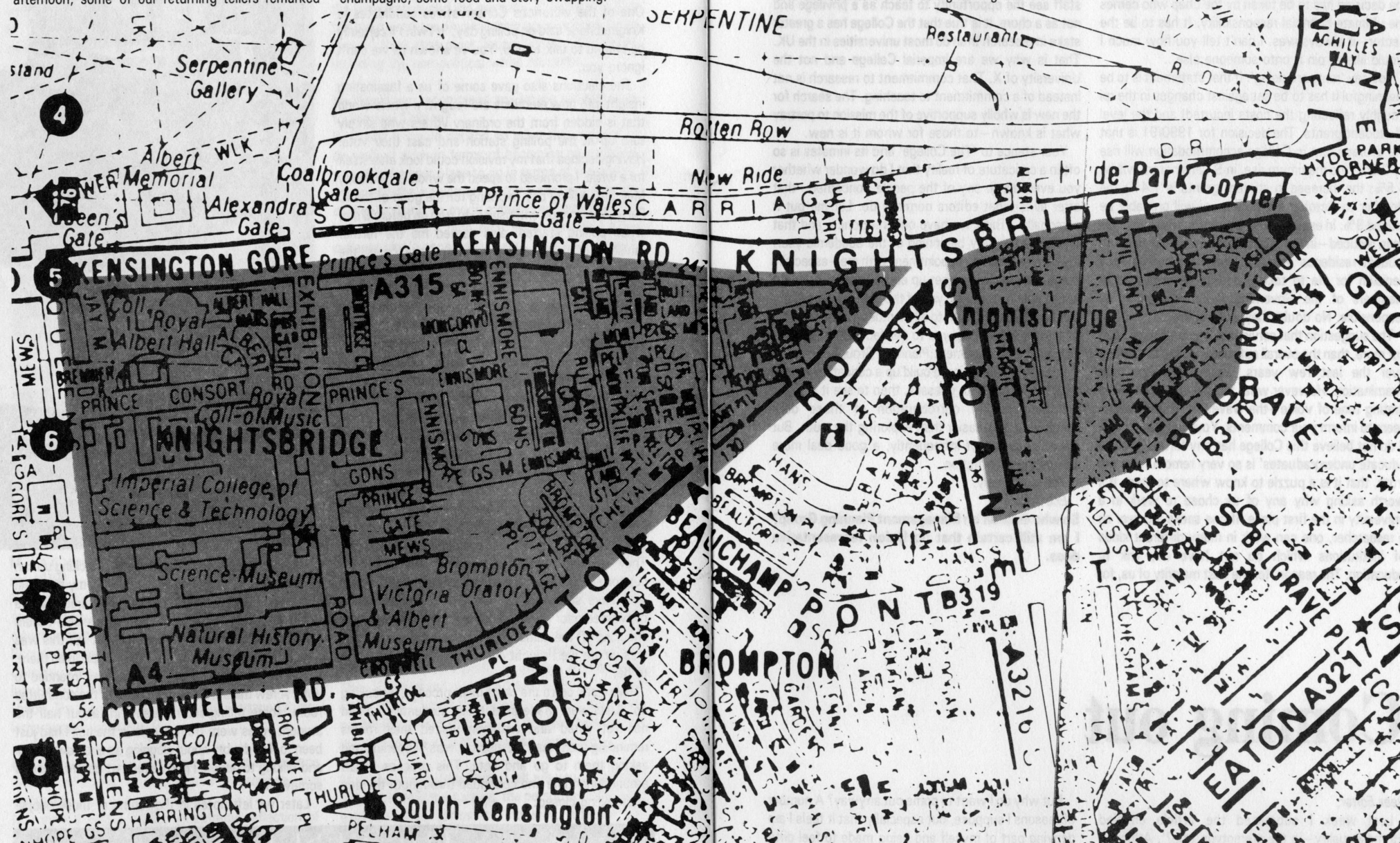
Sydney Harbour-Bridge attempted on at least two occasions to talk to students but on arriving the at the designated lecture theatre found that the lecture had moved.

Because of these efforts, there was a rush of students voting as they returned to hall for lunch. Suddenly, between 12.30 and 1.30, we realised we had nearly half the votes from the Linstead ballot box, meaning we had about 40% overall. (There was another, smaller ballot box in Kinnerton Street, on the other side of the ward.) The Conservatives, in their committee room, must also have realised it as well and began to panic. Although it is normal for them to bring in by car those voters who have difficulty walking, and although this normally happens in mid-afternoon, some of our returning tellers remarked

have turned out and are voting for their candidates and, you know, we're in danger of losing this ward for the first time ever, and that would be terrible'.

The amusing side for me was that, having been in the committee room, I now knew which polling numbers belonged to students. There were several young people who weren't students, but looked like it. Needless to say, she didn't ask them and so her telling returns, on which she was marking definite Conservative votes, looked far worse than I felt the real situation was.

Finally nine o'clock and the end of polling crawled on. We trudged back to the Union Office with the last telling sheets and then headed to one of the candidates' flats for a celebratory bottle of champagne, some food and story swapping.



rather unkindly that 'it looked like they'd been digging them out of the grave'. I am sure they would not have got some of the older people out to vote if it had not been such a glorious day.

As evening drew on, we realised that our share of the votes had fallen somewhat and we knew that we were unlikely to win unless large numbers of the surrounding residents had heeded our canvassing and had deserted the Conservatives for us. This seemed unlikely. However the public face of the Conservatives was still panicking. This was an old lady who was stopping obvious Conservative voters after they came out of the polling station and asking them which way they had voted. (This is not illegal; asking them on the way in is, however.) When they replied that they had voted Conservative, she would harangue them 'Oh, do please tell all your friends to vote. The students

The Evelyn Gardens polling station appeared to have produced as many amusing incidents as Linstead. A Liberal Democrat candidate, having realised that we were knocking up in the halls of residence, tried to gain admittance to do some canvassing. In vain. Students sitting at windows on the ground and first floor completely ignored his impassioned pleas. Knocking on one door, it was opened by Ken Young, the warden. With a sinking heart the Liberal Democrat recognised him as one of the IC candidates. Bravely ploughing on, he asked if he might come in to canvass. He received a curt no and a slammed door in the face. Later he was evicted from one of the other halls when found wandering about by the warden.

We retired to bed eventually. Westminster is sensible and holds its count the following morning rather than into the small hours after polling closes.

The count itself was held in Porchester Hall, north of Hyde Park, and began at 9 am. We had been warned that our ballot box was not likely to be opened until at least 10.15, but we decided to arrive early to work out what was going on. In the event, the Knightsbridge box was not opened until after eleven, so we had plenty of time to look at everything as well as get a cup of coffee.

I arrived first and after wandering around to see if I could find the others (our two candidates, John Finley and Chris Owen, and Tom, the election agent), I watched what was happening. I had already talked to a friend who had given me a good idea of how the count works, so I rapidly picked up what was going on. They had just opened the first set of ballot boxes and the counters were straightening out the ballot

success of the IC Party.) Feeling a little smug with my superior, if recently gained, knowledge, I explained.

Each teller is given a template. This is a strip of card divided into blocks matching the size of the blocks containing the candidates names on the ballot paper. Each of the blocks on the template is coloured according to the corresponding candidate's party: blue for Conservative, red for Labour, green for Liberal Democrats and white for all other parties. The counters hold the papers against the strip, instantly being able to identify which candidates have been voted for by colour and saving them the difficulty and possible error of reading the names. Each paper containing a 'ticket' vote, that is a vote for all the candidates of one of the three parties mentioned above party, goes into a box labelled with the

deal with and it took quite a lot longer than usual to count. Our totals on the sheets looked particularly satisfying. But of course we had no ticket votes to add to them. After the votes are counted, and if the result is close, the election agents are told the results and have the opportunity to ask for a recount. This happened in Bayswater, one of the first wards to be counted. Then the results are announced by the Returning Officer from a microphone in the middle of the floor.

The counters sit facing outward at tables arranged in a large rectangle. While they are counting, the observers stand on the other side of the table. Observers are not supposed to talk to the counters, except to point out any mistakes in allocating papers to the boxes. I seemed to be spending most of my time rescuing votes for the Liberal Democrats from the Conservative box.

When the results are announced, the observers from a particular party usually cheer their candidates if they think they've won. The Labour cheers were exultant and joyful and they clapped and stamped their feet. The Conservative cheers were altogether different and disturbing: they had an element of small schoolboy rivalry or football hooliganism about them. The subtext implied 'We stuffed the opposition' and seemed very ugly in comparison. The whole election count experience left me with the impression that Conservatives en masse are some of the most horrible people in the world.

We didn't think we'd win, and we didn't think we could put up much of a cheer, as there were only four of us compared to more than a hundred Conservative supporters. However we promised each other that we would cheer if we got over four hundred votes, believing we'd got a little less than that. When John Finley's name was announced with 420 votes, we managed to raise a jubilant shout. I'm sure the rest of the nearly silent hall thought we were completely mad.

The two Conservatives were returned with around 850 votes, while Chris Owen also got more than 400 votes. We were easily the second party, with the nearest candidate, from the Labour Party, receiving 100 votes. We left soon after the Knightsbridge result was announced. Lady Shirley Porter, Leader of the Council and the Conservatives, was flouncing around, trailing crowds of pressmen behind her. The shot of her draped over the ballot boxes like a movie star, which appeared on the front cover of the Evening Standard, was typical of her behaviour throughout the morning.

The news from the Kensington and Chelsea count was less good. Ken and Paula Young had only managed seventh and eighth out of thirteen, behind both the Conservative and the Liberal Democrat candidates. Some of this could be blamed on the fact that the Liberals were a much stronger second party and some on the fact that a smaller proportion of students were eligible to vote than in Knightsbridge.

So, what did we achieve? Well, we didn't get our candidates elected, but we can still feel quite proud of ourselves. We got 60% of the students in Princes Gardens to turn out and vote. Since the overall turnout was 50%, this means we got more of 'our' electorate out than the Conservatives did of 'their' support. We also proved it is possible to mobilise the students on major issues and disproved the tag that we're all apathetic. We got 30% of the votes cast and were clearly the second party. We scared the Conservatives out off their smug indifference and made them fight to keep a seat they seemed to think was theirs by divine right.

Perhaps they really will come and talk to us and find out what we want. Perhaps the next time we apply for a bar licence or planning permission for a new hall of residence, our local councillors will provide us with a voice on our local council. If we've achieved that, then we really have achieved something.

papers, counting them into bundles of fifty and clipping them together with clothespegs. This was to allow the total number of papers to be counted to ensure that they matched the numbers of papers handed out at the polling station. When it came to our box, they initially miscounted and had to recount, finding an extra five votes, which seemed to satisfy them.

At this stage, Tom arrived and I explained what had happened so far. Tom then surprised me by asking how they actually counted the votes, since each paper had two or three crosses on it. At this point he revealed that he had never helped in elections before, beyond doing a few hours telling and had no idea how the count worked. (I would never have guessed. Tom ran the committee room in an extremely professional manner and deserves a great deal of the credit for the

appropriate colour. All other votes (mixed parties, independents or containing less than the maximum number of votes) go into the 'non-ticket' box. The ticket votes are then counted into bundles of fifty and clipped with clothes pegs of the appropriate colour.

Any 'doubtful' votes, where the voting intentions are not entirely clear, are adjudicated on by the returning officer in the presence of the election agents. The non-ticket votes are then counted. This is done by giving each pair of counters a sheet with the candidates' names and a grid of small boxes. One counter reads off the names on the ballot papers and the other marks ticks against that candidate's name. These are then totalled and added to the ticket votes. IC caused some confusion because our votes were all non-ticket. This meant that instead of having about 200 non-ticket votes they had considerably more to

Small Ads

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Why did H.G. Wells** blow up Imperial College? See the bookshop display. Buy the book 'Breaking the shackles' and read the evidence (only £1.95). Come to the Great IC Debate on May 22.
- **Tom Yates**, Happy Birthday on the 12th. Your pension book has arrived. Please collect it from the FELIX Office c/o features.

WANTED

- **Bicycle wanted:** I'd like to buy a secondhand bicycle immediately. It must be low-ish and preferably a ladies bike. Please contact Sarita C, Room 234. Linstead.
- **Cox** required for racing women's crew. Contact Diane on ext 7425.

ACCOMMODATION

- **Six person**, twin bedroom flats available in Hamlet Gardens for 90/91 session, £49 pp p/w (exc bills). Contact warden on 081 746 3205.
- **Single room** in large Fulham flat with 3 IC PGs. Non-smoker. Rent £47 pw. Call Anna 071 731 1375 ansaphone or 071 955 7087 day.

FOR SALE

- **Knebworth concert tickets** 3 tickets at £33 each to see Pink Floyd, Paul McCartney, etc. Phone Chris Eddy EE IV (071 373 0879).

F.A. CUP FINAL

Saturday May 12th
The UNION BAR will
be open from 12 NOON
until 11PM
*The match will be shown live
on a 50" screen*

Neil Lavitt

Please return Andy
Thompson's 'Mighty
Lemon Drops' tape to
the FELIX Office.
Andy has started
making threats

We love you, we need you

Dear Dave,

It is hard to catch all of the missiles which you throw in the general direction of the Administration, and perhaps specifically towards me. Just now and again I feel I should react to one or two. Take rents: students are fully involved in giving advice on this issue; but the decision has to be taken by the chap who carries the ultimate financial responsibility. It has to be the Rector—it always was. I can't tell you how much I would like to pin it onto someone else...

You say 'rents are rising'. If that statement is to be meaningful it has to be set against changes in the rpi (roughly reflecting the costs incurred) and the level of student grants. The decision for 1990/91 is that the average rent in College accommodation will rise by 2.8%; the maximum rise, in S Kensington, will be 4.5%; the increase in student grants is 7.4%; the October to October increase in rpi will probably be around 9%. In essence, the real rent for next year has been reduced—in the face of a mounting deficit in the student residence account. That was not an easy decision for me to take. I cannot assume that all members of the Governing Body will see it as responsible. No doubt they will tell me.

The suggestion that services to students have been cut more, than the overall cut sustained by the College over the last few years, again does not bear examination. However what worries me most is the grating tone of voice—the waves of nihilism which seem to inform your comments. Your suggestion that 'I do not believe this College has any further wish to educate undergraduates' is so very remote from the truth, that it is a puzzle to know where to start. It's worth asking why any of us chose to work in a university in the first place. If one seeks a career as a researcher, one can work in many different kinds of institutions which do not have any link to education. The reason, for the vast majority of us, for

seeking a university career is that we enjoy teaching, both at undergraduate and at postgraduate levels.

Before I came here I did rather a lot of teaching myself—first year students as well as MSc students. I worked with a group of PhD students. When I leave here I hope to do a bit more of both. Most academic staff see the opportunity to teach as a privilege and not as a chore. It is true that the College has a greater stake in research than do most universities in the UK. That is why we are Imperial College and not the University of X. That commitment to research is not instead of a commitment to teaching. The search for the new is wholly supportive of the mission to portray what is known—to those for whom it is new.

Your stance to 'The College' and its inmates is so often a caricature of reality that I do wonder whether you ever *talk* to any of the people concerned—that after all is what editors normally do. Let me put it personally. I think we have only met once, and that briefly, at the very beginning of the academic year. It's easy to make an appointment with me—especially if you are prepared to get up early. I might, or might not be able to persuade you of the commitment of my colleagues, and myself, to all members of the College. At least it would help you to get facts right (eg who sits on the Management Planning Group).

In a sense it is easier to build up a caricature in your mind, to feed it with guesses, then to see it in print, providing further corroboration of those dark suspicions. It is easier than exploring the truth. But Dave, truth is, not infrequently, a good deal more interesting than fiction.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Ash.

**So who does sit on Management Planning Group?
I am still certain that no Union representative
does.**

Coming out

Dear Editor,

Last week I submitted the article entitled 'Homosexuality—is the stereotype true?'. Although it was probably a little clumsy in its ideas it was meant to put forward the view that homosexuality, and gays in person, aren't as bad as they are often suggested to be. The reason for writing the article was primarily to put forward that view but I had also hoped to use it as a vehicle for 'coming out' myself. However at the last moment bravery went out of the window and I asked for my name to be withheld. So what stopped me? Good old fashioned fear of course. Not just the fear that I could have the shit beaten out of me (that is possibly one painful outcome), but more importantly the fear of being rejected by those around me, i.e. those on my course and in my hall. That fear is one probably everybody can identify with and thus it is not surprising I remained anonymous.

But why do I want to come out anyway? A number of reasons I suppose, but especially that it feels I am denying part of myself and being made to feel dirty and ashamed when I do anything to justify those emotions. I haven't had any 'relationships' but even if I had, would that really make me worse than everybody else? However the main reason why I want to come out is that being gay very often means keeping your feelings (anger, pain and joy) to yourself and very often struggling on alone. So I suppose like many other people, gay or straight, I'm just looking for a little extra emotional support and of course for people to say it doesn't matter. Whether that will be the case is another point entirely. If nothing else, perhaps I will learn a hard lesson in the benefits of keeping my mouth shut!

Yours,

Jason Fisher.

Rag's fate?

Dear Dave,

As the person ultimately responsible for Rag Fête I would like to throw some light onto the events surrounding it. In January I wrote to the conference office giving them the date for Rag Fête as they wanted to know so as not to book something that would clash with it. I went to see Mr Northy's secretary about the details of Rag Fête at the end of March. Mr Northy's secretary (who was very helpful) checked up in their diary and said that there was a function provisionally booked in the MDH and that I should come back a few days later. Unfortunately College shut down before she could find out definitely and I could get back in contact with her—so Rag knew about the problem from then.

Rag Fête then ran into a second and far more serious problem—nobody was willing to do bugger all for it, aside from the CCUs and ICCAG (who represented the majority of what went on at last year's Rag Fête). The only part of the Union to respond to requests for help with Rag Fête came from Wing Chung who said they couldn't think of anything they could do at Rag Fête so they would make a small donation towards it which was heartfelt and I would like to thank Wing Chung on behalf of Rag for their donation. Last year's Rag Fête made just under £800 (excluding costs such as posters etc) and I seem to remember the weather as being quite nice. We really could not hope to raise more than last year's fête and so doing it again this year would require a lot of work by a lot of people to raise the same amount of money that could be raised by ten good collectors in an afternoon. The Leukaemia flag day in London on May 12 gave us the opportunity to raise more money than Rag Fête would have for less work. So for these reasons Steve Farrant and myself decided to cancel Rag Fête. Unfortunately only two people (mummy, the superstar she is, and myself) were willing to spend a couple of hours or so to go out and raise money.

When I asked at the last Rag meeting whether anybody would be willing to raise any money tomorrow, nobody was forthcoming and many came up with excuses like 'But it's the FA Cup final'—this would not bode very well if we had tried to run Rag Fête and money would be wasted if nobody turned up.

This is really the main problem with Rag—if no one is willing to put a bit of time in for Rag then no money will be raised. Rag was very active last term—by the end of term we were running two Rag raids a week and we raised a lot of money but were relying on a very small group of people. Rag would raise a lot more money if a lot of people were willing to put a small amount of time into Rag every now and then, if only just to show they care.

I would like to remind Dave Williams he is an ex-officio officer of Rag and receives minutes so should know what is going on. I would also like to congratulate Joe Fernley and John St Hill for their election as C&G and RCS Vice Presidents—they have already put in as much work for Rag as the current VPs have done since October.

Finally I would like to make a plea: if nobody gives a shit about Rag no money is made for charity so if anyone has got any time to spare tomorrow and is willing to help raise some money for Leukaemia research could they either turn up at the Rag meeting today in the Lounge or at 10.30am tomorrow in the Snack Bar.

Love and course work hassle,
Hal Calamvokis, Rag Chairman.

None so blind

Dear Dave,

We are writing to you concerning the letter *No Benefit Given* as published in last week's FELIX. The writer of the letter raised a number of valid points. It is very difficult to get reasonable accommodation and the accommodation office is not much help. All this means that the writer of the letter will have to use his or her initiative and go out into the private sector.

Unfortunately we do not think that the writer of the letter has any initiative at all. It seems that (s)he was unaware that housing benefit was being scrapped for students. If (s)he had actually read FELIX this year (s)he would have found out all about the Student Loans issue.

Your editorial in FELIX 845 said on the subject of student loans, 'This means that you, yes YOU, will see your grant rapidly devaluing with an instant loss of Housing Benefit...'. You went on to encourage your readers to do something about it, to turn up to the EGM on Loans, to write to their MPs and to generally get off their apathetic backsides.

Throughout the first two terms almost every FELIX contained something about loans. As editor you have done your job well in informing us, along with Neil McCluskey, who has done a great deal of work, with reports in FELIX and in UGMs if anyone bothered to turn up.

The writer of last week's letter has no right to complain that the Union officers were doing nothing. A number of them spent a great deal of time writing to every Tory MP personally. All the debates in the House of Commons and even the Standing Committee were attended. If the writer hadn't been so lazy (s)he would have known that his or her Union officers have got views about it.

Perhaps the author of the letter should have signed it: 'Brain withheld by request'!

Yours,
Names not withheld,
Joe Fernley, Chris Browne.

Thanks

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for support and encouragement throughout my campaign for IC Deputy President. The list is endless, but there are a few people I think merit a special mention. In particular, I would like to thank the St Mary's crew for introducing me to two of the curry houses in the area, and the FELIX team for a very enlightening artwork session. And also, Julian Dyson for representing me at the count, which I was unavailable to attend due to 10% of my degree (!) having to be typed up and handed in the next day.

As to the criticism I received from Benny 'Krueger' Titner (FELIX passim) regarding the possible nightmare he predicted, he should remember that there's one thing that people hate more than a sore loser, and that's a bad winner!

If we learnt one thing from the campaign, that is that we can run an election in a week, so Union please remember for the future. Anyway, it was interesting to compete, losing is not all gloom and doom.

Keep smiling,
Spenser Lane.

More thanks

Dear Dave,

At the local elections last week we failed to elect any Councillors. However, up to 60% of the eligible students turned out and voted, and it scared the opposition badly. Our councillors in both wards are now highly receptive to our needs as well as those of local residents, and we met them on amicable terms as competent human beings, so a lot of good was done by the process.

I hope that those who confused us with the Architectural Monstrosity Party or the Utter Lunatic Group have overcome these handicaps—I'm glad to see there are so few students like you around.

Now—the credits (sorry!): a very very big thank you to every single person who voted. It's done the College a lot of good, and I hope it wasn't too painful.

Thanks are due to many people, who dropped what they were doing to help. These include, but are not limited to, Ric Davis, Murray, Dougie, Ben Turner, Jackie Scott, Liz Warren, Louise for dropping her dinner, Rose for typesetting the oddest things, Andy for printing DayGlo, Jen, Michelle and Fi for addressing a lot of labels, Dave Smedley for arranging the printing of everything with very little notice and vast grace and patience, Syd and Cosmic for all the work, John and Chris and Ken and Paula for standing, and for all that that entailed, and above all, Neil for doing absolutely everything well and smiling through it.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Love,
Tom Yates, Space Physics PG.

Disgrace!

Dear Mr Smedley,

We strongly believe that you, as FELIX Editor, should have withheld certain aspects of the 'Delator Column' of the last issue (no 867), produced under the pseudonym of Carolyne Toynbee.

The subject material of the first paragraph was of a highly personal nature, and we find it offensive that peoples' private lives can be exploited in a manner which so strongly resembles the gutter press. If you are going to stoop to publishing such material then you should at least have the courage to admit the true identity of the authors.

This column has come close to causing offence before, but we feel that the naming of the people concerned, without obtaining the prior permission, is totally inexcusable, particularly as the article would have been far more effective had their names not been mentioned.

You have shown total disregard for the personal feelings of the people concerned, and we believe that an apology is in order. We trust that you will never lower yourself to this level again.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hillier (ME1), Neal Hewitt (ME1), Mark Bland (ME1), Dan Homolka (M2), Phil Sharp (M1), Richard Jones (Physiscs 2), Malcolm Myers (EE2), Martyn Reynolds (Physiscs 2), Gaurang Chadba (EE1), Nina Mukhojee (EE1), Tara Wright (ME1), Alison Sampson (ME1), Aled Jenner (CE1), Alex McLintock (DoC1), Fye Davison (EE1), Zayeed Alam (CE1).

Rumours of strawberry emotion lotion and handcuffs have reached the FELIX Office. A £5 note is waiting for the best anonymous informer on the subject—Ed.

SplotSoc splat the reds

On April 29 Splot Soc's postponed trip to Premier Paintball on the Kent coast took place. After exams, storms and flood we were finally there, and with perfect weather. Well, almost perfect. John Preston was forced to remove his cammo jacket and play in a rather conspicuous white t-shirt. Splot Soc was split into two teams, red and yellow, at eight and seven players.

Game one saw both sides make an unsettled start. Luke Morales of the reds achieved the distinction of the first player to be killed on the day. After some time the reds made a breakthrough and Karl Gill returned the flag. Game two, played on the same area, had the yellows make a hesitant attack which soon collapsed as Gavin Watson returned the flag for the reds.

Game three was played in trenches, with a stream separating the sides. A stalemate developed, but the late capture of a bridge allowed Lester Lim to return the flag for the reds. Game four, also in the trenches, looked like becoming a certain win for the yellows. Warren Hurst captured the red flag, but was shot returning it. Some lucky long range shots by the reds then evened the sides and reduced the game to a race between Gavin Watson (R) and Pat Hall (Y), which was won by a matter of seconds by the reds.

Game five saw the reds defend a village, with the yellows making little progress in attacking it. Game six had the yellows defending. Some clever individual play by Steve Halkyard confused the reds for some time though they eventually stormed the village and returned the flag in the dying seconds.

Game seven was the 'Top Gun' competition—every man for himself. Warren Hurst of the yellows won the title convincingly with six kills.



The final game was played over the whole site, with both sides searching for a neutral flag, and then taking it to the enemy base. This also looked like being a certain victory for the yellows when Warren Hurst found the flag straight away and a charge on the red base began. Warren was then shot and the flag taken up by John Preston (Y). He was also shot and the flag fell briefly to Adam Wacey (R). He was shot by Craig

Breed (Y), who then took the flag on a final run on the red base. Before getting there he was shot by Vince Ting (R), who then took the flag and ran the whole length of the site to put the flag in the yellow base.

This gave a final score of red 920, to yellow's 150. A good day was had by all and further trips to this superb site are planned in the future.

ProLife—embryo research

Don't pass this article by. It is not a pointless discussion, it involves life and death, and you have the chance to help save some lives.

The Human Embryo Experimentation bill, along with the attached Abortion amendment clause which came before parliament a fortnight ago proved to be a disaster for all those who respect the life of the unborn child. Once more; parliamentary procedure was the enemy of those seeking to improve the rights of the unborn. Confusion amongst Pro-Life MPs led many of them to mistakenly vote in opposition to their true intentions. As few as 31 MPs were present during parts of the debate, although the bars were very busy, so many of the remainder relied on the less than objective summing up statements to decide their votes. Consequently, Britain now has the most liberal abortion laws in western Europe.

Although the time limit for abortion was reduced to 24 weeks, all restrictions on the abortion of potentially handicapped fetuses were removed, allowing abortion up to birth in these cases. The horrific effect of this is that if, during a normal delivery, a baby is seen to be handicapped in any way, including trivialities such as hare lip or club foot, it may be killed even then, for it is not until 'detachment from the mother' that it receives protection under the Infant Life Preservation act. Although most mothers come to love their handicapped child, it is recognised that they often experience temporary feelings of shock and

fear upon hearing that their child is handicapped, and it is whilst in this unbalanced state of mind that the mother will have to make the decision to allow abortion, a decision she may later regret. This amendment was passed as a measure to 'decouple' the Abortion act from the Infant Life Preservation act. It's terrible effects were not dwelt upon during the summing up before the vote.

Experimentation on Human Embryos up to 14 days from fertilisation will now be allowed. MPs were convinced by a report on the potential for screening against genetic disorders offered by such experiments, even though to date only the gender of the embryo can be detected and simple statistics can show that it would take hundreds, even thousands of years of continuous screening to remove the simplest disorders from our race, assuming detection will become possible at all. Another report, showing that the study of human eggs rather than embryos has far greater potential for the elimination of disorders, faced delays in publication and was not released until a couple of days after the debate. Although it would seem to make the experimental use of embryos redundant, it was not considered by those who voted on the matter.

However, all is not lost. The select committee is due to report on May 22, and further amendments may be tabled at this point. Pro-abortionists are proposing to allow just one doctor to give permission for an

abortion up to 12 weeks pregnancy. This, along with the RU486 'Abortion Pill' will allow abortion on demand during these first 12 weeks, reducing the significance of an abortion to the level of a routine method of birth control. This must be opposed. Pro-life members will be tabling amendments to limit the effects of the bill, by proposing to ban the use of embryos in drugs testing and raising pressure for a vote to include a time limit for abortions involving handicap.

It is imperative that you write to your MP urging him/her to support the pro-life amendments and oppose the one doctor clause and to press for a vote on time limits for abortions in exceptional circumstances. No MP will want to admit to having made a mistake when voting for this bill, so tell them that they were misled by Kenneth Clarke about the benefits of embryo experimentation and the motives behind allowing abortion up to birth in some cases. A brief letter is all that is needed, I urge you to spare a few minutes during the next week. Even those of you who do not oppose abortion surely cannot agree with the proposed degree of liberalisation. Please give us your support. The address for writing to all MPs is the House of Commons, London SW1. Don't waste this chance to help save some lives.

Rob Crompton, Elec Eng 1, President IC Pro Life Society.



F·e·l·i·X

Prostitution

I found myself surprised and disturbed by this week's feature on prostitution. On the surface, I was most shocked by the fact that a prostitute on the streets will charge only £10-15 for sex. I then felt disgusted with myself. By thinking that £10-15 was a low price, I had accepted that sex is a commodity with a price upon it. Can you place a price on somebody's pride and self-respect? Is prostitution something to be ashamed of anyway? It is easy to take a moral attitude on behalf of 'society' but it is not so easy to take one on behalf of the prostitute. The sad fact is that the prostitute is the loser in an all too frequent story of poverty and social stereotypes.

Over this week I have begun to feel torn over the issue of prostitution. I feel sickened by the way that prostitutes are driven underground and victimised within our society, and yet I still cannot bring myself to accept a valuing of sex in monetary terms. To agree with prostitution you have to be able to divorce sex from love. Maybe it's an old-fashioned viewpoint, but I do not believe they should be separated. This may seem a very religious stance to take, but I do not see why the church should have a monopoly on this precept. People will inevitably argue against prostitution on the basis of religion, but I still feel that if you search within yourself, you will find far stronger reasons for opposing it.

In an ideal world people would not have to enter prostitution. Sadly, an ideal world is just that; a world in our minds. The most that Britain's prostitutes can hope for is an improvement in the country's benefits system and the removal of the labelling of 'common prostitutes'; those people we still see as guilty until proven innocent.

FELIX

My term of office is rapidly nearing its end, much to my own relief, and that of others, no doubt. I find myself more and more disillusioned with the college, the students' union and this purile microcosm which I find myself trapped in. The only thing that I still see as worthwhile at times is the production of FELIX. I often wonder why we report on a large part of the goings on around the college. So much of it seems so trivial, and yet so many people get so upset about it all. I am coming to the conclusion that FELIX should promote greater discussion of topics outside the college. Imperial seems to be the home of the navel contemplator, maybe this week's issue will raise a few heads.

Staff Photograph

This year's staff photograph will be taken at lunchtime next Wednesday. Anybody who has worked on FELIX this year is welcome to turn up. We will meet in the FELIX Office at 12.45pm. The whole process should only take about half an hour away from your revision.

Credits

Many thanks to last week's collators from the Royal College of Science Union. Unfortunately I did not take a list but I recognised Nick from Broadsheet and Sid. I'll print a list next week, if somebody sends me the names. Thanks this week to Matthew Johnson for the feature on Prostitution. Matthew spent a lot of time finding information on the subject and I believe his

efforts have resulted in the best feature so far this year. Thanks also to Liz Warren for helping with the prostitution feature and for the feature on the local elections. Thanks to Doug King for driving the getaway van; Adam Harrington for news; Adam Tinworth, Toby Jones, Ian Hodge, and the amazing flying gerbil machine for reviews; Sarah and nothing but the Sarah for Music; Michael Newman for the Nina Temple interview; Andy Thompson for printing at ridiculous hours and coping with the flood in the print unit without tearing his hair out; Rose Atkins for typesetting and putting up with my grumpy mood this week; **Edna Broadbent**, and everybody I have forgotten. I now proclaim this the best FELIX so far this year.

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GOOD LUCK

*From the Union to Rory
Macnamee and Catherine
for their wedding on
Saturday.
Stag night in the Union
Bar tonight*

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What's On

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

FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding.....12.30pm**
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and get high.
- Rag Meeting.....12.35pm**
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers.....1.00pm**
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu.....4.30pm**
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Christian Union Meeting.....6.00pm**
Room 308 Computing.
- Swimming Training.....6.30pm**
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Fencing Club Meeting.....6.40pm**
Union Gym. Every week.
- Water Polo Session.....7.30pm**
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Cricket Indoor Nets.....7.45pm**
Met in Mech Eng Foyer. Bring your whites, we have three nets this term.
- IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm**
Southside.

SATURDAY

- 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.
- 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**
SCR. Beginners.
- Latin American Advanced.....8.15pm**
SCR.

- Medals in Ballroom.....8.00pm**
JCR.

TUESDAY

- Audio Society Meeting.....12.30pm**
Union Senior Common Room. Cheap records, tapes and videos. Order on Tuesday and collect on Thursday.
- CathSoc Mass.....12.30pm**
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.
- Sailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm**
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.
- Ski Club Meeting.....12.30pm**
Southside Lounge.
- ICU Radio Modellers.....12.30pm**
Southside Lounge.
- Riding Club Meeting.....12.30pm**
Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm**
Southside Lounge to sign up for Wednesday and weekend trips.
- Ents Meeting.....1.00pm**
Union Lounge.
- Student Christian Movement.....5.30pm**
Chaplain's Office, Basement Flat, 10 Prince's Gardens.
- Keep Fit.....5.30pm**
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Amnesty Group Meeting.....5.30pm**
Brown Committee Room.
- ICU Radio Modellers.....5.30pm**
Mech Eng. Student training workshop.
- Christian Union Prayer Meeting.....5.40pm**
Huxley 411.
- Wine Tasting.....6.00pm**
Senior Common Room. Everyone welcome.
- Canoe Club.....6.00pm**
Meet in Beit Quad or we can be found in Southside Upper Lounge from 8.30-ish. Beginners welcome.
- New Beginners Ballroom.....6.00pm**
JCR.
- Judo.....6.30pm**
Union Gym.
- Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm**
JCR. Dance Club
- Improver's Ballroom.....8.00pm**
JCR.

WEDNESDAY

- Sailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm**
Outside Southside for sailing.
- Keep Fit.....12.30pm**
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Wargames.....1.00pm**
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- 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.....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 1,700 books.
- 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.
- ICCSG Soup Run.....9.00pm**
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.

NEXT FRIDAY

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

FELIX Staff Photo

All FELIX contributors
and helpers are invited
to be in this year's
FELIX staff photo.
Meet in the FELIX
Office Wednesday 16th
at 1pm