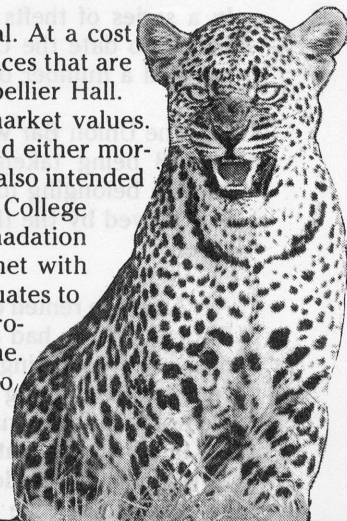


New Hall in Ealing

The site of the new hall in South Ealing which will provide 405 new student places. Originally required to be available for some students from the beginning of October, the first residents will now be moving in at the end of this year.



A new development, situated in South Ealing, has been bought by Imperial. At a cost of around £11 Million in total the site will eventually provide 405 student places that are much needed. Funding for the enterprise will come from the sale of Montpellier Hall. It is expected that this sale will raise between £7M and £10M at current market values. The finance deal has yet to be finalised but will involve an effective cash and either mortgage or lease back arrangement. The funds from the sale of Montpellier are also intended to allow money to be used for 'planned improvements and additions to other College property'. The sale of Montpellier Hall means the loss of dedicated accommodation for Postgraduates. Plans to re-house them in the Old Hostel, Beit, have met with concerns from within Sheffield. The worry is about the reaction of Postgraduates to the new, less adequate accommodation represented by Beit. Also there is a problem from noise coming from the Union Building, particularly during term time. The deal comes at a time when the cost of local accommodation available to students is escalating beyond their means. Especially with the loss of benefits with the introduction of the Poll Tax. A number of the leases on other college residences are also coming up for renewal and it is unlikely that the College will be able to afford new leases, even if the options are available.



Friday 17th August
Issue 874

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No Salvation

In the first three weeks in July the Salvation Army held a joint conference between Imperial and Wembley. The Refectories planned catering for the Salvation Army conference, held in the first three weeks of July, fell into disarray. Around 2900 registered delegates from all over the world attended the conference together with an English contingent of up to 25000 on some days. Jointly held at Imperial College and Wembley Conference Centre, the expected attendance for meals at the College Refectories fell drastically short of the numbers that had been prepared for. Some of the food had to be sold off or returned and most of the temporary staff booked for the week were laid off.

The confusion was caused by the Salvation Army's organization of meal tickets for the event. The common practice of issuing tickets redeemable only at the conference venues was not used. Because of the problems imposed by a split site and the large fluctuation of delegate numbers, Luncheon Vouchers were issued instead. This enabled conference attenders to purchase food from many outlets in London.

After 18 months of organisation some of the large stocks had to be sold



off or returned in a matter of days. Rob Northey, Refectories Manager, said that "it's been one of the hardest things I've ever done."

Of the stock purchased, 40 gallons of cream was returned and Imperial College Union bought some of the remaining stock for the Snack Bar. The remainder of the food was used by replanning the menus offered to the delegates.

Out of the 67 staff that were to cover the event 47 were laid off. All these were

temporarily booked for the week. None of the 14 permanent refectory staff were effected and 6 temps were kept on.

The Refectories catered for around 2000 people a day instead of the expected 5-6000 originally planned for. This number increased towards the end of the week as delegates moved away from using the catering facilities at Wembley. The Salvation Army agreed to underwrite the losses as long as the Refectories made every effort to sell excess stock.

Multiple Thefts

In a series of thefts over the summer period to date the Union Building has suffered a number of losses.

The Union Bar was hit with a total of £38 being taken from the till. A camera belonging to the Bar Manager was moved by the thief but not finally taken.

An office rented out to International Enrichment, plc had a panel forced out of its door allowing a cash box to be removed containing £300. The burglar did not manage to make off with any of the larger items contained in the office as the hole in the door was too small. The door has since been repaired but

more secure measures are being taken to safeguard this area in the future.

Tread marks similar to those found on the soles of Martial Arts shoes were discovered on the forced panel, but it is not known whether this was the method of removal.

The STOIC studios lost one of their video cameras during a daring raid which appears to have taken place while members of STOIC were present. The studio is split into two rooms; a filming area and an edit suite. Society members were working in the edit suite at the time it is suspected that the theft took place.

Dead

Pigeon

A dead pigeon was found in a water tank on the west side of Beit Quad at the beginning of August. The body was already partly decomposed and the matter was dealt with by the estates section who repaired the covering doors. The tank was drained and disinfected.

It is thought that the doors were damaged in the January storms. No health threat was posed as the water tank did not feed any drinking supplies.

Salvation Lost

During the Salvation Army Conference a float of £250 was taken from the old kitchen on the 2nd floor of the Union Building.

The theft occurred on Tuesday 3rd July at around 4pm. The entry pro-

cedure used by the thief was similar to that of the break – in at the Union office on the 28th January and it is believed that the two cases are related. In both incidences beading from around a window was removed and the glass taken out.

A good set of prints have been taken from the glass and the Police are confident of finding the culprit. Security, at cost price, which was offered to the organisers by the Union, was turned down.

Passers and Failers

Next years three Union Office Sabbaticals have passed their final examinations and gained Degrees.

President, Paul Shanley, gained a 3rd in Mathematics, Deputy President, Benjamin Turner, gained a 2-1 in

Chemical Engineering and Honorary Secretary, Murray Williamson, gained a 2-2 in Mechanical Engineering.

Chris Stapleton, Felix Editor, failed to pass his final year in Aeronautics and

Material Theft

£15,000 worth of platinum crucibles have been stolen from a safe in the Materials Department. The theft was discovered on Monday 2nd July, but it is possible that the crime was perpetrated up to two weeks earlier.

Mr Geoff Reeves, Chief Security Officer, said that the safe had been opened with the key. The suspect obviously had a good knowledge of the working practices of the department, as the crucibles are only used, on average, every two weeks.

The crucibles, used for reaction

testing due to their inert properties, have a scape value of £10,000. Insurance on the safe will cover the loss. Procedures for obtaining the safe key are being looked at.

The Police have been issuing statements to metal dealers requesting them to be on the look out for any suspicious exchanges of platinum. Geoff Reeves commented that these things are very difficult to follow up. There are a lot of casual deals that go on within the metal dealers markets, where often no questions are asked.

Sacked

Laurens Alexander, the Bookstore Manager, was sacked on Saturday 28th July, after only five and a half days of employment. His dismissal was due to 'unacceptable conduct' which included turning up late to work.

At the start of his appointment Mr Alexander took out a £200 advance and

currently owes the Union £2.37.

Last years Union President, Neil McCluskey, has been appointed on a short term contract to replace him. The appointment started from 1st August and will last for 6 months, while a permanent manager is sought.

Managers

Bit

I hope you will taking an interest in the news stories that appear this week. Some interesting things have been happening. In particular spare a thought for Desmond Heatherington, currently lying in Westminster Hospital suffering from Asbestosis. Don't just have pity on him, think about how he got into that condition. If you don't then probably a lot more people will fall foul of the same problem and the next time it might be you. Much more on that issue in a FELIX of the future.

Chris Stapleton (Manager)

Credits

Many many thanks to Andy Thompson for staying up as late as I did to produce this issue. Particular thanks for not even shouting a bit. Other than the two of us thats it for the team.

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Cellnet Impact on IC

On the 3rd August Cellnet, one of the portable telephone connecting companies begin using a ground station based at Imperial. The deal organised by Paul Docx of the Impact group means an income for the college of £25,000 a year.

The CO2 and Nitrogen recovery plant in the basement of Physics has been re-organised to make space for the operation and Aerials have been placed on the roof of the building.

Initially many of the research groups in the Physics department feared the consequences of operating the transmission aerials due to the sensitive nature of their experiments. A number of tests were carried out to ensure that no disruption occurred to research.

During the initial tests some interference was observed in the Solid State Experimental department. The follow up tests sorted out these problems. Omni-directional aerials placed on the roof to begin with are now not going to be used unless the express permission of the college is first sought, commented Mr Docx.

Some people had also been expressed concern on the health and safety aspect of these aerials because of their close proximity to the weather station. During a meeting between Cellnet, Impact, a Health and Safety Officer from college and a research student from Physics, it was established that no danger was present. The matter is now irrelevant as these particular aerials were not to be used.

The interference problems were solved by using directional aerials facing away from the building. The Physics department still has problems running some experiments during transmissions from the embassies on Queens Gate. Unregulated frequencies are used by some of the embassies but no legal measures can be taken as the buildings constitute foreign territory.

Mr Docx said that the decision to accept a deal with Cellnet was taken after much consideration. It was "better within and controlled rather than without and uncontrollable," he said, after he explained that other possible sites around the college area would have meant the college being in the path of transmissions.

Asbestos Attack Crisis

Desmond Heatherington who worked in the Chemistry department for around five years is lying in hospital suffering from Asbestosis. His condition, which 'mushrooms' after nine to ten years was diagnosed three months ago.

Mr Heatherington worked as a fitter in the department, often dealing with the heat exchangers in the basement. He eventually left the college five years ago due to back trouble. During his service

with the department he often complained about the spread of asbestos rubble and dust that occurred during descaling of the exchangers. The contractors were reprimanded for the mess caused during their work but no further action was taken.

Another employee of the department, Mr Alfie Winston, died three years ago, after suffering for a long time from respiratory problems.

The Union Office was in turmoil on Wednesday this week. The main power circuit for the front office was off due to a tripped fuse box.

Although a key was available that fitted the lock and turned it would not fully open the fuse box. None of the computers, tills or photocopier could be operated. Said Mr Shanley, the Union President, "it's a nightmare, I'm just waiting for Freddy to appear from Elm Street!"

Assistant Sacked

Andy Knight was sacked from the Union Bar staff last Wednesday following his failure to lock up the front door of the bar on the previous night.

The incident followed earlier in-action when he did not secure the safe after closing up. At that time a reprimand was issued and it was stated that further action or in-action which

could lead to financial loss would result in instant dismissal.

The problem of several losses from the Union due to thefts has highlighted the situation. The Union President refused to comment on the occurrence as it was a personnel matter.

Complications ensued when the photocopier engineers appeared to service the machine. An extension lead had to be pulled through from the back office and when they were looking at the copier they discovered that several parts were completely missing.

On that point, high technology doesn't seem to be the Union's forte this week. On passing the passport photo machine, two service engineers were seen to be in action. Acting much like gynecologists, one turned to the other and said "let's face it, it's fucked innit".