

Access Fund, Your Flexible Friend ?

In response to the loss of benefits to students, with the introduction of the Poll Tax, the Government has responded with an access fund allocation to Universities and Higher Education establishments across the country. The fund to be re-allocated annually is not meant to replace housing benefit but is intended, by the Government, to fund students who would otherwise not come to University for financial reasons. In light of this both the NUS and ULU considered that the money should be used to support the loss of benefits.

Out of the £9.5 million put into the fund, London will receive £2 million, reflecting the higher cost of living. Imperial College is to have an allocation of over £250,000 with a recommended split of £105,800 to undergraduates and £153,600 to postgraduates. The disproportionate shares, compared to the eligible number of students in each category, exists because of the higher number of self supporting postgraduates, the larger number with families, and because they are not able to apply for student loans. At Imperial over a quarter of the eligible postgraduates fund themselves.

A working group sat to discuss

the method of distribution amongst the eligible students and worked out guidelines to share the money. The Union were invited to contribute to the meeting and a number of the recommendations were taken on board. For most students this will probably mean little or no money. This will affect those who receive a grant and are eligible to take out a student loan.

For undergraduates those with the most need will benefit first. This will include such categories as; self financing; parentally estranged (no parental contribution being paid); disabled; students with families; and single parent students. If the total allocation had been split equally between all the eligible students it would have only given each of them £63.26.

The claims procedure will involve applying to Senior Tutors, with claims over £500 being referred to the central committee. Postgraduates will follow a different system which will probably exclude most of those with SERC awards. The awards are likely to be larger but fewer in number. An appeals committee will exist to allow people to contest decisions made by the central committee, or Senior Tutors.

The Department of Education has said that "Each institution is free to decide how to allocate the total among the eligible students". The recommended split between postgraduates and undergraduates is included in this. Imperial is planning to move around £30,000 to the undergraduates from the postgraduates. The committee will also hold back between 20% to 30% of the total fund until the middle of the academic year to allow for students whose situations alter drastically within the year.

Imperial College is lucky in respect that it receives a higher allocation per eligible student than any other colleges in London, and probably the country. Next year is going to see some fierce competition during the battle for higher re-allocation, although the fund is supposed to increase with inflation. Said Benjamin Turner, Deputy President, "Don't blame College if you don't get what you want. It's the bloody Government's fault."

Jelly riding out,

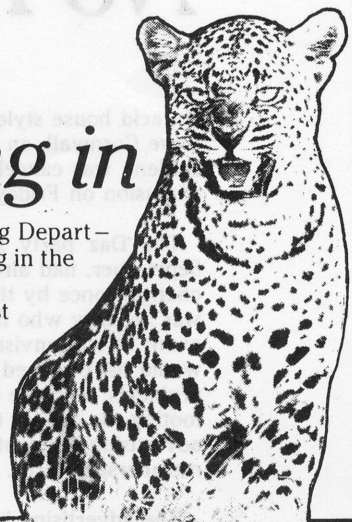
After three years service, Adrian 'Jelly' Johnson, the Union Bar Manager resigned last Friday after gaining a place at Imperial once more. Before becoming Bar Manager, he was in the Aeronautical Engineering Department but dropped out. He now goes on to study Mineral Resource Engineering in the Royal School of Mines.

His resignation comes at a difficult time for the Union who are in the midst of recruiting the new Union Manager, a process taking up most of their time. They also have to consider the appointment of a new Bookstore Manager for the end of January. It now means that an added and urgent burden exists in the form of finding a new Assistant Bar Manager by the beginning of the Autumn term. This in time for the ensuing chaos of Freshers Week.

Mr John Riding, previously the Bar Steward, will replace Jelly as the Bar Manager, and Tracy Sedgwick will become the Bar Steward.

Dr Finley, Jelly's Senior Tutor in Aeronautics first commenting "What! He's going back to School" later said that "despite despondency in the past I wish him all the best now."

John Riding in



Friday 7th September
Issue 875
Afternoon Edition

Managers Bit

The Government has introduced an Access Fund which it claims is intended to bring to college students who would otherwise not be able to come due to financial constraints. This clever bit of educational buffing has killed two birds with one stone. It fulfils their promise to encourage more people to go on to further education, though in a very poor way. And, although they state it is not intended to replace housing benefits, it does smooth the wake in the transition period. Now they can happily exclaim that the money is there and if you're not getting enough then it's the colleges' fault. Pity the poor college administration, for once. Let's not forget who screwed the system up in the first place by bringing in the Poll Tax et al. Enough of this rant. The credits this week go to me for the writing, typesetting, printing and everything in fact, except Benjamin Turner who helps inspire some of the headlines. **PS This issue is coming to you literally hot off the press.**

Felix is published by the Manager for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed by the Imperial College Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB (Tel 071-589 5111 ext 3515). Manager: Chris Stapleton, Business Manager: Jeremy Burnell, Advertising Manager: Chris Adams. Copyright Felix 1990. ISSN 1040-0711.



Mrs Clare Ash



Mrs Thatcher

PPS Has anyone noticed the similarity between.....

No Rave for Dave

An acid house style rave organised by Dave Cornwall, an ex-Imperial student, was cancelled after much confusion on Friday 24th last month.

The 'Daz' party, set for the 15th of September, had already had its date changed once by the Union, although it was Security who finally banned the event. It was envisaged that the event would have caused too many security problems. Because of this Security are footing the bill for the £180.00 of advertising handouts, staff cards and membership cards.

The advertising handouts were being

distributed outside of College to the general public from record shops and by pavement distribution. Events in the Union Building require that either the users are members of the College (students or staff) or that they are present on a formal guest list. It was this problem that prompted Security to bar the event.

Dave Cornwall was the Chairman of Afro-Caribbean Society, which held a troubled party in the JCR. Allegations of mugging and drug pushing were made, and this can not have helped the decision by Security.

Pure Genius

Whilst a film crew was shooting an advert for Beamish, a thief walked into the unlocked and unattended dressing room and took personal possessions from the area. The items stolen included over £200 in cash, a £250 wrist watch and other assorted items such as wallets and lesser value watches.

The robbery followed hot on the heels of two others within college and it is thought that it could have been the same person or persons that perpetrated all three crimes.

Carson in Court

Andrew Carson the Assistant Bar Manager who disappeared over a weekend, last January, with £1430 from the Union Bar safe was in Snaresbrook Magistrates Court on the 17th August. He answered to a first count of defrauding the Union Bar and a second charge of feigning to defraud.

He was found guilty on both counts being given a sentence of twelve months suspended for the first charge and two months suspended for the second. The Union Bar is to receive no compensation for the money taken.

Cashless Box

Following the break in to the International Enrichment office, a cash box belonging to them was found in one of the offices next door. Hidden by a sofa, the box was found by Benjamin Turner, Deputy President, when moving the furniture around. The box had seemingly been forced open with a screw driver and the cash bag contents emptied and taken. The small change had been left.

The Police were called in to check for finger prints and record the new evidence. No useable prints were found. Ironically some of the American students over here at the moment have been studying in the room for the last month. If the evidence had been found earlier the prints might have been of some use, said a Union spokesperson.

Veni Vidi CV

I left Imperial last summer, clutching my 2:1 in Chemical Engineering in my sticky little hands, and determined to get a job in a completely different area to my degree discipline: journalism. After two months job hunting, this book fell into my hands (while I was in the FELIX office copying another dozen CVs) and I seized on it, wondering if it would provide some extra insights that would finally land me a job. The title is an obvious parody of Douglas Adams' book, right down to having the words 'Don't Panic' on the inside front cover. Unfortunately, I have to say that in places the Job Hunter's Guide is almost as eclectic as the Hitch Hiker's Guide, if not as inaccurate.

The book would be better described as a job hunter's guide to writing a CV and attending interviews (admittedly this is not such a snappy title). In this respect, it is excellent. There is advice on setting objectives, organising yourself, where to look for jobs, how to approach interviews and perform in them and what to do

afterwards. The other half of the book is devoted to how to prepare a CV. As the author earns a living by doing exactly this for clients, he certainly knows what he is talking about.

However there are several important omissions from the book. Stephenson completely fails to mention the issue of references and referees. As I've never applied to a job where they didn't want to at least see evidence that someone would give a reference, even if they didn't take it up, this omission can only be described as appalling.

The other glaring omission is the lack of any information on how to fill out company application forms. Stephenson offers the advice that having filled out the form 'attach a copy of your CV to the back of it. In that way you will have complied with their rules, but still be presenting yourself in the way YOU want.' but gives no help whatsoever on how to fill out the form. Since forms are used 'to compare 'like withlike'', as Stephenson points out in the preceding paragraph, they are as important as the

CV and some information on filling them out should have been given. Having said that, the book does handle the areas it covers very well and probably is worth its price of £5.50, although it would have been nice if he'd included an index as well as a contents page. It's extremely well written and very easy to read (I read the whole thing in about an hour). Stephenson's CV design may not be to everyone's taste, but it provides a lot of ideas and helps you avoid most of the pitfalls.

This book didn't really tell me anything that I didn't already know, but if you've never looked for a job before, it would be a great help. It's a lot more practical than the sterile books usually produced on the subject which seem to bear no relation to the real world. By the time you read this, I hope I'll have got a job and can forget about all this until the next time.

Liz W.

Cosmetic Surgery

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) to thank everyone in the area who kindly supported our walk for Laboratory Animals which took place in London on Sunday 19 August. The ten mile sponsored walk around Clapham Common was a huge success attracting more than 400 enthusiastic walkers. We anticipate that the event will have raised over £20,000 towards the BUAV's campaign to end cosmetic tests on animals throughout Europe.

In 1989, 12,090 animals including rabbits, mice, rats and guinea pigs were used to test cosmetics and toiletries in the UK alone. Many more animals died in European laboratories. Products such as lipstick, toothpaste and suntan lotion are force fed to animals, applied to their raw, shaved skin or dripped into their eyes.

The BUAV is leading the way to end these cruel tests on animals with our highly effective 'Choose Cruelty Free'

campaign. We have been successful in persuading major companies such as Benetton, Avon, Revlon, and Estee Lauder to reject animal tests. And to help consumers in choosing cruelty-free products we now list 200 approved companies who meet a strict no animal testing criteria.

Our latest move to achieve a complete ban on these tests throughout the European Community needs your support. Without it thousands of animals will continue to suffer and die each year. Please help by making a donation towards the campaign fund and write today for your free EEC information pack which includes a list of cruelty-free companies and details of how you can support the campaign.

Thank you,

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Karakoram Expedition

Today, 9am, Charles English and Philip Gribbon, from the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Physics, set off on an expedition to the Karakoram Highway. Starting in Islamabad, Pakistan, they will be attempting to run the Highway over to Kashgar in Western China. The run is raising money for the charity Intermediate Technology, which aims to make technology work for the Third World.

The Karakoram Highway is a branch of the Silk Road and will take them up the Indus valley to the Hunza, the semi-mythical valley of Shangri-La fame. They will climb to the Khunjerab Pass at a height of 15,000 feet and then descend to the oasis town of Kashgar. It is believed that the journey has never been attempted before in this manner.

The run is likely to take around four weeks with a two day bus ride back to Islamabad. When asked if they were nervous there was some uncertainty. They said that they were sort of nervous but after all the training, they just wanted to get out there and do it. During the journey they will collect some of their food and water from the passing trucks on this the highest metalled road in the world.



Southside Fight S by SE

Two employees of the refectories, a kitchen porter and a casual, were banned from Southside following an incident last Friday night. A fight broke out after inflamed arguments in the bar which resulted in them being requested to leave by Rob Northey, Refectories Manager, and Roger Pownall, Bar Manager.

After leaving the bar it was reported that one of the men began 'knocking ten tons of shit out of him'. The victim fell to the floor and the assailant continued by kicking him in the head. He then became unconscious and was taken to hospital with a gash across his face.

Security in the Southside lodge called the Police and Ambulance services. An unmarked car and a Police van arrived at the scene and the attacker was taken away for questioning.

The assailant was charged with assault and battery and both men have been dismissed from their college employment.

The last three days have seen the filming of a six part television drama for children in the Union Building. The film, a sequel to 'Just Ask for Diamond' is being made by Red Rooster films for Television South, Disney Channel and Avro, a Dutch company and is being co-produced with IDTV in the Netherlands.

The scenes being filmed include an auction based at Sotheby's in which the hero of the day, the young Nick Diamond, saves a Russian Diplomat from being blown up. The auctioneers hammer having been rigged to detonate a stack of dynamite on it's fall after the last bid.