

Friday 9th November  
Number 882

# zelex

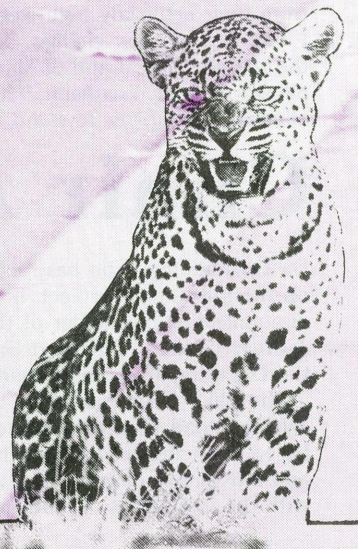


**Tom Stevens Sacked—Rob  
Northey Stays On p2,3**

**Rag Week Guide p10,11**

**London Cycling Campaign p4**

**Freedom Fighter Fang Li Zhi p12**







# The Ides of November

Tom Stevens, the Business Manager for Imperial College, was dismissed in an unexpected move last Friday. He was not given any notice and cleared his desk in three hours, after being called in specially on his day off. There has been much speculation upon the reasons behind the action, but nobody is aware of, or willing to reveal, the full official motives behind the sacking.

Questioned officials were keeping their knowledge close to their chests as rumours spread. Mr Rob Northey told Felix that he was 'surprised' by the move, although his answers were short and obviously pre-planned. It is known that Mr Northey had been quite surprised by the fact that Felix had not questioned him upon the matter earlier.

Managing Director of the College, Angus Fraser, was also keeping tight lipped over the situation. He reacted in much the same way over Mr Northey's decision to resign three weeks ago although he seemed more confident about this issue. When asked about the reasons behind the sacking he said that he was 'not going to make any comment' on why Mr Stevens was dismissed, and that he did not see the advantage in speculation. In particular Mr Fraser would not comment on the speed of dismissal or the reactions of the Rector, now in India.

The Rector was present at the time of

the meeting which decided the fate of Mr Stevens and left for India on 28th October, five days before the dismissal was made. It is thought that a decision was made that depended upon the opening of the tendered bids for Montpellier occurring on 1st November, for which the reserve price was £7.5M. It would appear that no suitable applications were received.

Mr Stevens was instrumental, in part, in the setting up of the Clayponds contracts with the estate agents Cluttons, which lost the College an estimated £300,000, and was in charge of the sale of Montpellier Hall.

Angus Fraser did say that arrangements had been made to split the responsibilities of Tom Stevens job. This naturally included Rob Northey on the catering side and Gordon Marshall, the relatively new Director of Estates, on the estates side. This split leaves the situation much as it was before the appointment of a Business Manager. He did not however wish to make any further comment on the appointment of a new person to the now vacant position. It is thought that these matters were discussed at an unscheduled meeting at 170 Queensgate, the Rector's residence, on Wednesday. People present included Angus Fraser, Peter Mee and one of the Deans from the Constituent Unions.



**Angus Fraser—No Comment**

As far as Clayponds went he said that he had 'nothing to say on that point at this time' but the matter was being pursued to finalisation, as had been planned.

Rob Northey is now staying on as Refectories Manager and is likely to be here until sometime around July. On this matter Angus Fraser said he had had a chat with Rob and that they had agreed to defer his finishing date. Previously, after Mr Northey's resignation, he had failed to persuade him to remain, despite a two hour long meeting.

## College Day Elicits Response

Yesterday, the threat of a longer college day produced the largest turnout for a Union General Meeting (UGM) this year. One motion and two bye-laws were passed, the motion being that the Union President, Paul Shanley, should convey to the Working Party on the College Day the stance that changes to the college day are not acceptable and that the, over-theoretical, workloads should be reduced from their artificial high state.

The first bye-law change, speeding up the merger of ICU and St Mary's was passed without discussion. The second, allowing sabbaticals to stand for a second

year was passed after a short debate. The bye-law change will not allow a student to have more than two sabbatical years and restricts campaigning to acts that in no way affect their sabbatical duties. Both of these bye-laws must be passed at the next UGM at St. Mary's before they are accepted.

After the bye-laws had been passed, Paul Shanley asked the assembly for feedback to take to the Working Party as he felt that he was not a representative student in this matter. Taking a series of votes, he found that most of the students present would prefer the college day to

remain as it is, although some would tolerate an extra half hour in the morning and/or evening.

Most of the objections to any changes stemmed either from traveling times and the difficulty of reaching the college early in the morning or the difficulty of getting to hall meals in time.

The RCS handed to Paul a survey that had been undertaken in various departments. The overwhelming statement made by 646 replies to the survey was that the college day should remain as it is.

## Chair Awarded

Dr Tony Ridley, who has recently worked on the Eurotunnel project, has been announced as the holder of the Rees Jeffreys Chair of Transport Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.

The Chair is sponsored by the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund who's interests are based upon the recognition that travel and movement of goods has to be balanced with the limitations of land space and

environment.

The Rector said that 'His appointment will serve further to enhance the worldwide reputation of the Department'. The Imperial College Engineering School has already been nominated by several hundred academics within the EC, in a poll, as the best in Europe and this appointment can only help to keep its status as such.

## K O!

A flying elbow sent Cathy McClay, City and Guilds Union President, into concussion last Thursday. The hit and run elbow occurred on the dance floor of the C&G Boat Party.

Cathy was tended by Warwick Mullen and Claire Kerry whilst the party continued and was taken to hospital when it ended. Cathy said that she had not been into college much during the week but was recovering.



# Print Unit Sell Off



Cuts to the College Print Unit will leave it with only two rooms and a reduced set of equipment. The lost space will be filled by Continuing Education, a section which runs outside courses to raise money for Imperial.

The move of Continuing Education from

level three of Sherfield leaves space for an International Office and a Schools Liaison Office. These offices are designed to increase the student intake into Imperial.

The equipment lost from the Print Unit, except for an offset printing press that

has been returned to the manufacturers, has been sold to the Computer Centre. This equipment included an A4 collating machine, a task which will now be performed by a collating photocopier.

## Grand Larceny Continues

Imperial College Security Officer Terry Briley has asked college members to 'show a little responsibility in shutting doors and using locks' following the recent spate of thefts.

A thief stole articles including a personal stereo from the Union Gym area this week, three bicycles were stolen, and a car was broken into at the rear of the

Chemistry building. A microwave has been stolen from Fisher hall, following the theft last week of a video recorder. Mr Briley said that as the hall had a good key system the thief or thieves 'could be one of our own'.

'Unsocial behaviour' on the part of a number of individuals caused some toilets in the Mechanical Engineering building to

be covered in excrement. Mr Briley said that this could be considered to be criminal damage.

He added that the theft of the Union Building sign from the front of Beit Arch had been noted and that the culprit was 'probably too embarrassed' to rectify the theft.

## Brighton Rock

Bo, one of the City and Guilds Unions (C&GU) inviolate mascots, completed the London to Brighton run on Sunday. Last year Bo broke down twelve miles from the target, the first time in fifteen years that it had not completed the run. This year it took five hours (including a half hour break) to reach its destination

Passengers were the President of C&GU, Cathy McClay, and the Guild's Dean, along with the C&GU inviolate mascots, Spanner and Bolt. The driver was Jonathan Edge with Robert Evans and Robert Jackson co-driving for half of the journey each.

## Dissident

Professor Fang Li Zhi from the University of Cambridge will be speaking on 'The Anthropic Principle' on Wednesday. The talk will be held in the Physics building at 1.15, venue to be announced. Everybody is welcome.

## Rag Week Plus

Handcuff-o-Grams is a new service designed by the Royal College of Science Union for this year's Rag Week. For £5 you can have two people of your choice handcuffed together all day (or until they buy themselves out of it).

Rag raised £427.15 on Saturday during the Leukaemia Research Pub Crawl. The top collectors were Pete Bowen and Martin Heighway who roused themselves on Sunday and collected £123.23 in Brighton.

## Directors

A new Director of Development has been appointed. Dr Jill Pellew will take up her post in early January. The post of Director of Marketing has not yet been filled.

## Soup

Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCAG) are looking for people to help in their weekly soup run to the homeless of London. They are also involved in the running of a playgroup for the mentally handicapped. Travel expenses may be paid, and the sessions may run late into the night. Anybody interested should contact Caroline Cruttwell (Biochem 3) or Hilary Adamson (Biology 3).

## Library Merger

The *Collection Development Working Group of the Imperial College/Science Museum Joint Libraries Advisory Committee* have been asking users of the library which periodicals they would like to have on the shelves, and from what year they should be placed into storage.

The reason for this initial survey is to make an estimation of the space available

to the working group when the two libraries merge. Imperial College Library is hoping that there will be more space made available to them.

Miss Hurst, from the Centre for Environmental Technology Library, said 'The response of the survey has not been overwhelming.'





*Before going to the clinic, Richard Eyers gets on his bike.*

# Cycling Revolution

Imagine nearly 2000 cyclists all travelling in one direction between Battersea and Trafalgar Square, with traffic brought to a complete standstill. Well, at 2.15pm last Sunday, that is exactly what happened. An organisation called the 'London Cycling Campaign' (LCC) gathered cyclists from all over London to meet in Battersea Park, and cycle to a rally in the shadow of Nelsons Column. The turnout was excellent, and was obviously due to the extensive advertising campaign that lead up to the event - if you have a bike anywhere in College, you probably found a leaflet on it at sometime before Sunday.

For those of you who never saw the handout, the rally had two purposes. The first is explained in the title 'Bike for a Breath of Fresh Air', which speaks for its self. There is definitely a pollution problem in London, and the LCC wanted to highlight this. 'One in five people are seriously endangered by air pollution in London. For some pollutants, such as benzene, there is no recognised safe level. Among those particularly at risk are children, pregnant women and the elderly.', states their leaflet in eye catching red type, though sadly they have neglected to quote the source of this information.

If you would like to see the facts about pollution (in London), I can recommend a recent article in the 'London Cyclist', Nov/Dec issue. Entitled 'Your Last Gasp? - Everything you always wanted to know about vehicle pollution (but were to ill to ask)', the feature runs through all the possible products of vehicle exhausts. It asks both how dangerous they are and what can be done to reduce their emission? It is not simply an attack on all none cycle road users and makes some constructive suggestions. It is well worth a read, even for such knowledgeable science students as those at IC, (apparently there are a few!).

The second purpose of the rally was to get better conditions for cycling. Other than improving the air quality in London, (the LCC concern themselves specifically with this city), the LCCs main aim at the moment is to see that their proposals for a 1000 mile network of cycle routes throughout London are adopted as soon as possible. A plan which has apparently been taken up by the Department of Transport and the London Cycling Forum.

## So What Happened In Battersea ?

Between mid-day and 2.15pm the crowds of cyclists gathered in Battersea Park. It was refreshing to see such a variety of cycling 'types' in one place. There were of course the stereo-type 'racing enthusiasts' with their expensive bikes and thigh clinging lycra, but they were in the minority. Ordinary cyclists

whose main interest is in using their bicycles to get from A to B (or maybe Z) were also strongly represented. It was extremely cold but entertainment by a brass ensemble and a skiffle group helped the time to pass, as did a demonstration of stunt cycling by the world champion, (at least I think that was his title).

At 2.15pm the hoards gathered to leave the park, bikes of all descriptions were then ridden out and across Chelsea bridge. The sight was an impressive one, a steady stream of riders went all the way to Trafalgar Square. The Police were excellent and traffic was brought to a complete standstill. One taxi did try to join in (obviously in support of the cyclists!) but he was soon turned back. There was some enthusiastic tooting of

emphasis was on the fact that cycle traffic has gone up 40% in the last two years and cycle accidents have gone up by a quarter in one year. This he blamed, partly, at least, on the non-wearing of helmets. It was later stated by another speaker, that statistically, injuries would be reduced far more if motorists and pedestrians were to wear protective headgear! Strangely enough mentions of Poll Tax from a minority in the crowd was ignored.

Labour M.P. Jeremy Corbyn was far more charismatic in his address, saying that if three miles of motorway were cancelled then the cycle routes could be implemented straight away, though he made no offer of exactly where they could all be put. He then went on to call for limits on private car use in the Capital



*The Campaign Banner Sported At Battersea Park*

horns which were received by cheerful waves, which must have infuriated those drivers who were tooting because they couldn't move for up to thirty minutes - lovely.

## Trafalgar Square - the speeches begin.

Once in the Square we had to stand in the cold for about forty minutes whilst various politicians said the same sort of things, but with varying degrees of success.

First to address the masses was Roads Minister, Christopher Chope. He was clearly in favour of the LCC proposals - '...too many cyclists are the innocent victims of accidents .....we must now ensure the speedy implementation of the 1000 mile network...' - though his

and for better public transport, all of which was of course popular.

Finally the other speaker worth a mention was LCC chair Paul Gasson. He stated that although bikes were the transport of the future, 'At present only 4% of journeys in London are by bike compared with up to 20% in some continental capitals'. He called for pollution monitoring and the sealing off of the capital if levels become dangerous.

The rally in its self was undoubtedly a success, but it remains to be seen whether the government can get its act together. Will they do what would benefit thousands of people, including cyclists, or will the proposals become lost in the current bout of 'who's going to be our leader?' that currently upsets the government.



# Time Off For Women



Photo: Lisa Longstaff

On October 24 at the House of Commons over 160 people, mainly women, of many ages, races and nationalities, celebrated *Time Off For Women* with a lively speakout: *Count Women's Work—Legislation Now!*. Every year *Time Off* presses governments to count women's unwaged work in every country's GNP, the basic statistic of work and wealth.

Women students in colleges and universities take part in *Time Off* each year, highlighting, for example, the work of surviving on a grant, made more difficult now with the loss of benefits, the extra work women have to do to prove themselves academically, the fact that we have less chance of earning higher wages, and the work of students who are mothers. *Time Off 90* student actions included leafletting and petitioning at Warwick University and Froebel College, South London, and a *Time Off-Day Picnic* in Oxford city centre. *Time Off* won a paid day off for women employees at Bristol Poly and Cardiff University Students' Unions in recognition of their unwaged work—a guarantee now written into their constitution.

The Speakout, co-chaired by Wilmette Brown (Black Women for Wages for Housework) and Nina Lopez-Jones (English Collective of Prostitutes), opened with news of progress towards counting women's work legislation in Britain, Europe, Trinidad and Tobago and the US. While *Time Off* presses for legislation, it

also aims to ensure that women, and not legislators, define the unwaged work we want counted by counting it ourselves. In a hall decorated with colourful balloons and banners, women spoke out about the housework of caring for families, for others and for ourselves; working on the land; fetching firewood and water; the work of overcoming the divisions between us, surviving and challenging racism, apartheid, ageism, discrimination against lesbian women, the impoverishment of mining communities, low pay, no pay, the poll tax, sex work being made illegal, rape and other violence.

Women with disabilities, including wheelchair users who with the help of the organiser had to struggle to get into an outrageously inaccessible House of Commons, made clear that people with disabilities are also 'carers', caring for themselves, children and others. Describing some of that work, Claire Glasman of WinVisible (Women with Visible and Invisible Disabilities) said: 'Most of my unwaged work of disability is not caused by my disability but by social policies are priorities which deprive us of money, services, carers of our choice, and appropriate equipment and technology to adapt our homes and the environment for our everyday use.'

The meeting heard messages of support from the Payday men's network against all unwaged work, from MPs and trade

unionists; and reports of *Time Off 90* activities in about ten Third World and metropolitan countries, and 14 towns and cities in Britain.

Selma James, founder of the Wages for Housework Campaign which coordinates *Time Off*, opened the Speakout saying that while MPs 'debated whether to give Child Benefit to some, many, or no women, as if it were a charity, in fact the money is a right—a small payment for the work of mothering.' There was unanimous agreement on the following resolution:

*This meeting is outraged that the government who have been throwing £2m a day into the Gulf feel they can spare only £1 for an increase in Child Benefit to mothers for some children.*

Everyone welcomed the coming together of black and white women from so many different backgrounds speaking out about their work as a reflection of how much the *Time Off* movement is gaining ground!

Students who'd like to take part in *Time Off*, invite speakers, or help circulate the 'Women Count—Count Women's Work' petition available in 23 languages and in English braille, contact the Wages for Housework Campaign, King's Cross Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge Street, WC1H 9DZ. Tel: 071-837 7509





# Israel

*The state of the art*

**E** The Barbican Centre is running an Autumn season of Israeli arts and culture.

The art is broadbased: painting, sculpture, photography, film and talks are all on offer. I visited the *Chagul to Kitaj* exhibition (9th Level) and *Israel—The Stormy years* (5th Level).

*Chagul to Kitaj: Jewish Experience in the Art of the Twentieth Century*, to give it its full title, is the first major exhibition in Britain to bring together a broad range of works which reflect Jewish themes and concerns this century.

The first few galleries focus on religion and the family; colours and textures are vivid. The thread then weaves Jewish culture in with its environment. There is a fascinating display of set designs produced by Jewish artists at the time of the Russian Revolution including work by Nathan Altman and Robert Falk.

Some of the greatest figures in the twentieth century are featured, such as Marc Chagall and Jacob Epstein. Their work is shown alongside that of leading Israeli artists such as Reaven Rubin and Anna Ticho.

A separate section on the Holocaust includes powerful works created both during and after the war years. They show the raw edge of personal and collective anger and grief.

On the ground floor are works which have been produced within the last ten years. Although this art is more contemporary the themes can be traced back through the entire exhibition.

A narrow wooden gangway, reminiscent of a building site leads out from the exhibition into the 'sculpture courtyard'. At the end of the gangway is an olive tree closely guarded by tall wooden ramparts. Surrounding this symbol were other images of Mother Earth and good. My favourite was the bright yellow nude astride a bright yellow bicycle peddling madly in pursuit of peace.

*Israel—the stormy years* is on the fifth floor. The exhibition is a collection of photographs by Robert Lapa and Misha Bar-Am.

Robert Lapa, a Hungarian Jew, arrived in Israel in 1936. He held a fervent interest in the new country and, but for an all powerful wanderlust, he would have settled there. His pictures are direct and, to the modern eye, perhaps even naive. His camera recorded what he saw: no frills.

Misha Bar-Am belonged to the next generation where ideals were often swamped by political complexity and bitter struggle. His photography is less direct and more questioning than Lapa's; his actual technique and its message are more subtle.

Whatever your political persuasion the Barbican's Israeli season is a fun and inexpensive cultural feast. *Israel State of the Art* (£4 full £2 concession) closes on January 6 1991. *Israel—The Stormy Years* (free) ends on November 29. Don't miss them!

Anna Teeman.

## Backstage tours of the National/I want to be a Vicar



**T** One common feature of fringe theatres, be they the numerous venues around London or the even more numerous Edinburgh sites, is their intimacy (ie they're small). Most productions use them as if they were a normal theatre, ignoring the audience. The first of these short one act comedies defies this convention, by making the audience part of the backstage tour party. Our guide takes us on a tour, not only of the 'National' itself, but of the jargon, pretentiousness and pretence that are the endemic complaints of theatrical hangers on. The word Dahlings springs to mind. Admittedly some knowledge of theatre would be useful, otherwise most of the jokes are going to leave you mirthless, but in the main this is a very funny spoof.

So, we move onto the second half of the evening - *I Want to be a Vicar*. A quirky little tale of a girl who has aspirations to the cloth. She has a welsh mum who would prefer her to be a tart, a boyfriend who has a Jesus complex and a vicar who loves babies. In the course of half an hour, one actress takes us through her life, from theological college via America to success as a transvestite vicar. The audience's reaction to the play was very mixed. Many people seemed to find it merely silly, while others were in stitches. Alcohol consumption level seemed to play a fair part in determining reaction.

The theatre is above a pub, so my advice would be:- if you fancy a drink and a bit of comedy, this may be worth a visit, if only for the National segment.

These plays are at the Etcetera Theatre Club, Oxford Arms, 265 Camden High Road, NW1. The Box Office is on 071-482-4857. Membership is 75p and student tickets cost £3.

Pendragon.

**F** —Film

**T** —Theatre

**E** —Exhibition

## Love at Large

**F** Harry Dobbs' private life is falling apart. He is on the edge of turning forty, his girlfriend imagines that he is sleeping with all his clients and he is following the wrong man. His latest, seductive and mysterious client Miss Dolan has hired him to follow 'Rick', a man she is infatuated with. Unfortunately, Rick arrived at the Blue Danube late and Harry is after Frederick King instead. Who's that following Harry, though?

The plot of this movie is more than a little convoluted, and doesn't quite manage to explain itself by the end, but I have a sneaking suspicion that isn't meant to be important. Somebody is pulling a bluff on us. The movie is trying to pass itself off as a detective film, and indeed Tom Berenger, who doesn't so much speak, as growl articulately, is the epitome of a hard-boiled detective. Really, though, in its heart of hearts, it's a love story, or at least a story about love.

The characters all have their own philosophy about love, and have a strange tendency to inflict it on each

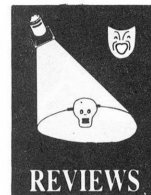


other at regular intervals. The word is love, as distinct from sex, for the two backed beast only puts in one appearance in the whole film. The relationships between the players are affected by the minor characters' own bizarre love lives. Weird but strangely affecting stuff. This is not a film that has spent much time currying public acceptance - commercialism doesn't seem to have been sitting in the director's brain as an economic conscience. Luckily the film is all the better for it. Funny, romantic and exciting, it will make a perfect evening's viewing.

Pendragon.

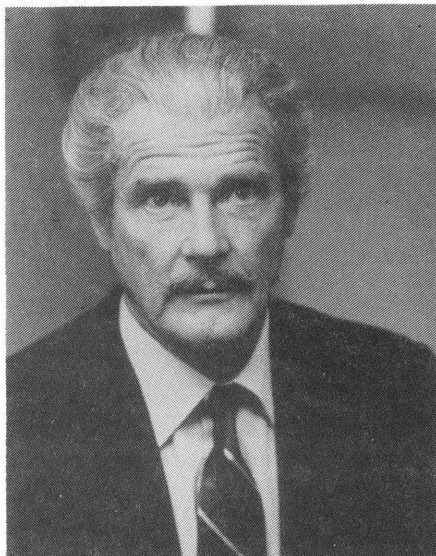


# Bullseye



**F**Mmmm. Just my luck. My first review for Felix, and it's a bit of a toughy (Fnarr). It's hard to say what the whole point of it is. The plot revolves around two over the hill villains (Michael Caine and Roger Moore) who are the near perfect doubles of two (successful!) cold fusion scientists (Michael Caine and Roger Moore), and a great deal of money. In style, the whole thing seems to be a tribute to the British comedy movies of the sixties, complete with naff film quality, naff dialogue, naff effects and naff jokes. They even seem to have gone so far as to use what appears to be a ridiculously low budget. On top of this the film is overly long, especially in the middle parts, which end up dragging horribly.

However, the end does come together much better than you'd expect, and even manages to keep a fair level of tension,



despite the fact that you know what's

going to happen, and some gratuitous cruelty to pigeons! Mr Caine is humorous in his typical bumbling way, and Mr Moore is at last beginning to show his age (all of it), which serves him right. Some light relief for all the sex-starved IC males is provided in the form of Deborah Barrymore as a young CIA agent who may or may not be the daughter of one of the heroes, and the farcical treatment of the British and American intelligence (?) agencies is brilliantly done (Yes, OK, I admit it: I like the *Carry on...* movies!). So, if you're old enough to remember the original films this will probably invoke a pleasant sense of nostalgia. If you're not, then it's a gentle way to waste a couple of hours and a fiver, but it's probably more sensible to wait for the video, get some beers in and invite a few friends around for a laugh.

**Alien Sex Fiend.**

## The Maids Tragedy

**T**Written nearly four hundred years ago this is a tale of love lost, deception, adultery and death. In total four people die, all stabbed and two self inflicted. The plot is too complicated to go into in the space available but its themes of sexual frustration and intrigue are as relevant now as when it was written.

The quality of the acting was superb throughout, no character shone above the others and overall it was a very professional and charismatic performance.

The set was definatly designed with a heavy minimalistic slant, consisting of three chairs, a table and a bed there was nothing for the actors to hid behind.

For a play written just after the Shakespearean period the language is very 'quaint' but the clothing and the set contrast against this being a mixture of both modern and 30's styles.

Entertaining and thought provoking, it is very much worth a look but you haven't got long. 'The Maid's Tragedy' plays at the Battersea Art Centre, Lavender Hill, Battersea until the 18th November. Concessions are £3, membership is £5 per annum. The box office is on 071-223 2223.

**Ian Hodge.**

### Film Choice

Goodfellas, The little Mermaid, Ghost, A Shock to the System, Bad Influence.

## Flatliners



**F**Five medical students take life, and death, in their hands in a macabre experiment exploring the limits of knowledge. One by one they submit themselves to a near death experience, controlled by their colleagues. Unfortunately the experience does not end when they are returned to the living; their sins come to haunt them, causing violence and pain.

The students each have their dark secrets (obviously) but they vary in their 'sinfulness'. It is understandable that killing somebody could produce guilt feelings that take on a supernatural form. It is less clear why the act of opening a forbidden door and startling your father, just before he dies on the road, should have the same chilling effect. Also, what is so sinful about home videos?

The answer may lie in the assertion that there is no absolute scale against which to measure a 'sin'. The measure may be your own conscience, in which

petty misdemeanors may become heinous crimes. Does this mean that a cold blooded killer will not be tormented, or will a childhood act produce misery beyond the grave?

It is a credit to the film that it gives time over to reflecting on these points throughout the story, in passages that could be construed as tedious in any other production. One catches oneself thinking 'What if?' as indiscretions well up from the dark corner of the mind that you thought you had locked.

The only quibbles I have with this film are the use of cliches such as the climax occurring on halloween and the lame and unbelievable ending. This, I feel, was concocted to leave the audience with a feeling of well being, instead of having to leave the cinema feeling depressed and unlikely to recommend the film, which, incidently, I do.

**Toby Jones.**





# Iron Maiden

Hammersmith Odeon 18.10.90



Hark, I hear a band playing! Can't still be the support. Wait, it's *Maiden*! Must have come on early so they could catch last orders afterwards.

So, unfortunately, I am unable to give my considered opinion on the first two songs. The favourite, *Wrathchild*, was next in line, sounding as hard and raw as ever. They then proceeded to play the new album, *No Prayer For The Dying*, bar about three songs, the title track, a Steve Harris number, being the most impressive. A smattering of the tried and tested classics such as *The Trooper* and *Hallowed Be Thy Name* were added to good effect, but were too thin on the ground for my liking. They even left out *Running Free*!

Throughout the set, Harris' bass lines thumped out the rhythm, the strings striking the frets giving an almost percussive effect. Janick Gers, more suited to the *Maiden* style than his

predecessor Adrian Smith, seemed to enjoy himself, clambering over the amp stacks, and was nearly up to the standard of his counterpart, Dave Murray. Nicko McBrain performed admirably on the skins, as always, while Bruce Dickinson screamed, hissed and growled (in tune, most of the time) from start to finish.

The stage set was hardly as lavish as expected, although a ten foot Eddie (see any album cover, you non-believers) did appear during the song *Iron Maiden*. Bruce kindly refrained from kicking it's head in and tearing out it's brains as he did a few short years back.

They seem to be going back to their roots, dispensing with the lavish and expensive effects. Perhaps they're strapped for cash! Nonetheless, it was a very enjoyable mosh, as always, and a must for any rock metal fan.

Up *The Irons*.  
R. Snell

# Bored!

Take It Out On You LP

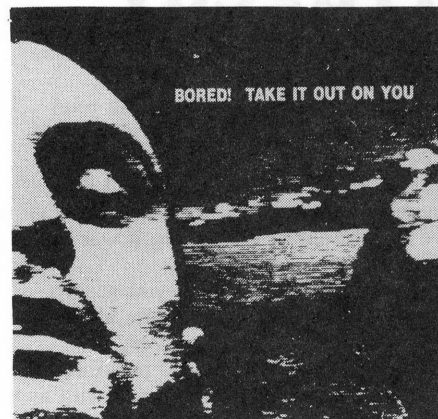
*Bored!* are from Australia and I'm going to say they sound like *ACDC* anyway. Bet that has pissed them off. There is more to it than that. The lyrics are hardcore in the *Black Flag* mould with raunchy riffs to back it up. The bass is good and twangy and is tuned to within an inch of being a didgeridoo on *Sweet Charity*.

Beneath this neo-punk exterior lurks a definitely Hendrix rooted guitar style. This is refreshing in contrast to the grinding bits, but you have to choke on your own vomit to get away with over two minutes of feedback at the end of a track, the *Final Solution*.

The production is not obtrusive and includes a variety of fade-in styles from smooth and slow to John Peel. The overall sound is probably too dirty for a wide market, sounding downright live.

All the tracks get a general 'Yeah', except, maybe, *Satellite*, which is a *Pistols* cover and unnecessary. I would just like to be the last person in this review to say the title of the last number. *Motherfucker*.

Mungo



# Nirvana

Astoria 24.10.90

Meanwhile, in the bowels of the Astoria, fans were arguing over the reset cubicle and overall supremacy of *Godflesh*. The ensuing verbal battle was academic, for on this occasion, *Godflesh* were well below their usual bowel-thrashing standard. The pounding rhythm seemed repetitive and hollow, and the stage empty after L7's over-amped guitar frenzy. Only towards the end of the set, after the addition of a second guitarist, did they seem to get into their stride with *Like Rats* and *Pulp*. Even the multitudes of crusty's seemed disappointed.

After *Godflesh*, a remarkably strange choice of support, L7's trashy overload could be only be topped by *Nirvana*'s immense opening. Powered by the nine foot human pogo, Chris, on bass and a solid driving beat, the rhythm section was rock solid and provided a perfect backdrop for Kurt's superhuman efforts at what used to be a two man job.

With the demise of *Mudhoney*, *Nirvana*

were set to take the lead in the sub-pop set. However they are at present looking for a deal with the majors 'for commercial reasons'. Sell out or not, their new single does not indicate a lowering of standards. The new sound is mellower but more diverse and shows a new side to the band.

Tonight, Chris was as tall as the stacks, and Kurt's clean guitar cut through the sludge left by *Godflesh*'s Neanderthal set. If audience reaction were to be a measure of greatness, *Nirvana* are truly gods. Old favourites *Love Buzz*, *Negative Creep* and *Paper Cato* were interspersed between the newer, mellower songs. All were received with wild stage-diving as the bouncers tried to stem the tide.

The encore proved the worth of the new single as it slipped in easily with the monster *School*, whittled down to crucial riffs and crushing. *Nirvana* have mellowed, but still shred.

Seb

# Robert Riley & the Buffalo Club

Gone Too Long 12"

This band have a stupid name. That is all there is to say, apart from that the lyrical style is sadly somehow familiar, the piano support something from a TV theme. Sod, I don't even like this country drivel about how sad some bloke is, bugger objectivity.

Mungo





# Eat Interview



The time: 5.45pm, the place: the ladies toilets in the Astoria. Ange, Michael Hutchens look-a-like and *Eats*' lead singer sat on the windowsill straddling a sink looking bored whilst Paul, guitarist, busily made a spliff. When asked why they called themselves *Eat*, Paul replied 'It's like a reflection of our concern for consumerism. Ha, no, it's probably because the first song we ever wrote together was called *Eat Eat Eat* so it seemed to fit'.

Next there was a loud bang as the toilet door flew open and in stepped an Astoria muscleman 'Get out of here you fucking arseholes', nice chap, it's really odd too, he looked like Jimmy Saville.

We restarted the interview backstage fighting to be heard over the soundcheck of the support group. *Eat* have been together for three years now although all of the members have known each other for much longer and have been in various other groups, most notably Pete Howard, former *Clash* drummer, but they have only really been a public band since February last year when they were signed up by Fiction records. The band is London-based and has a close affinity to the city. 'Our first album reflected our life in London at the time of the band forming, squatting, moving around very quickly lugging each others' gear around, living in each others' pockets'.

*Eat* don't really fall into any musical category as such. Their sound has almost a Mancunian feel about it but is saved by the rock guitar and punkish vocals. This strange mixture comes from the fact that all of the members have different musical tastes, ranging from dance to blues.

They are currently working on a new album which is due for release in February. It's taken about five weeks to record so far and should be finished soon. 'We feel that on this album we've finally found ourselves musically and we're well pleased at what we've done so far, although I don't like the new single much. It's good, but not quite right. The vocals are out of tune and the guitars aren't loud enough.'

Tonight is the last night of their UK stint which brings an end to an extensive European tour. Covering Germany, Denmark, France, to name but a few countries. 'We've really enjoyed this tour. Especially playing Denmark, it was brilliant. It's really laid back. Really

fantastically civilised. Like, the festival we played there was so cool. You could do anything, anywhere. There was even an S&M tent there if you're into that sort of thing. We played two gigs there, one in the afternoon and one in the evening since *They Might Be Giants* didn't show. The best part was when we done a one-off gig in the jazz tent, there were all of these people sitting around smoking pipes and wearing casual sweaters and we came on. The place just filled with Danish rockers. Security couldn't handle it and begged us to get off stage so that they could regain control of the place. It was great, we love one-off gigs, they're the icing on the cake.

'I remember playing with the *Wonderstuff* once in Gloucester, and we came on stage and I got this wet reeking bra right in my face, the two cups just stuck, one on each ear, it was gross, bloody funny though. My wife was going to arrange for someone to throw pants lined with philadelphia at us whilst we were on, that would have been well sick making 'cos we wouldn't have known.'

The band have no qualms about people bootlegging their concerts. 'We really like the idea of someone having a kind of record of the gig they were at, something to remember it by. I'm not so sure about the people who bootleg to make money because most of the time they are selling sub-standard copies and are basically ripping the fans off. We gave *The Mission* the idea of setting aside part of the venue you are playing at just for recording equipment so that people can make decent bootlegs. I remember talking to Wayne one night in a bar and saying you know what you should do mate and he went sort of 'Oh right, yeh, burp' as he tends to do in the evening 'cos he's usually out of his box by 5 o'clock, so he goes 'Eh...yeh...argh...mmm' and passed out, next concert they were doing it.'

*Eat* have serious money problems at the moment. The tour, although they played to packed crowds, has lost money and they are on the verge of bankruptcy. Hopefully they will get the money they need from the new album but things are going to be hard over the next few months summed up well by Paul: 'Sometimes I wish I was working in Dixons'.

Brian.







Steve Ragamuffin' verbosely speaks out on...

# Charitable Fun

By now everyone should know what Rag is. The main aim is to raise money for charity whilst having a fun time. This may seem impossible, but it does work. I feel totally justified in saying that, because anyone who turns up to a Rag Week event will automatically raise some money for the worthwhile charities we support this year and experience the best way to enjoy yourself that's legal. So what is Rag Week? This is twelve days of events starting next Wednesday. Each event is worth going to, so enjoy yourself, let your hair down, forget all about those (erm)...lectures.

Ta very much,

Steve, Happy IC Rag Chairman.

How to make a fully functioning Rag Week.

Ingredients:

*Lots of students, each with...*

*1 sense of humour*

*1 sense of adventure*

*1 monster thirst*

*1 brain*

*Stockings, basque, goats etc*

*1 sci-fi fetish*

*1 plastic bag and box of cotton wool*

*Lots of work to do*

*Some lecture notes (A4, any subject)*

*The desire to be entertained (TDTBE)*

First, we take the cotton wool, plastic bag and monster thirst and put them into the JCR on Wednesday 14th. Here we experience the **Beer Festival**. This is the traditional start to Rag Week. There are 60 barrels of beer, cider and perries. It runs from 12 noon 'till 11pm. The way it works is: you buy a glass for £3, this carries the official beer festival logo and is the only receptacle into which beer is served, and presumably quaffed. For the health food fiends, there should be curries and burgers too. The monster thirst should be allowed to soak in alcohol for any of the 11 hours of the festival. The plastic bag is for wrapping up your brand new Rag Mag, which is launched at the festival. The wrapping protects the Rag Mag from the reader, and vice-versa. If you don't have a sense of humour for your ingredients list. One can be found free, in the Mag.

Special limited edition 'Elephants Come 91' t-shirts will also be on sale from the Rag stall along with other t-shirts, mags, mugs etc. The cotton wool is used to wrap the student and/or beer glass, to avoid getting it smashed.

On the Thursday (15th) we have **Rocky Horror Disco** in the Union Lounge. This requires the basque and stockings. The night involves a bar extension, a disco, thanks to the Ents kids and also the film. The basque and stocking should then be left to stand until (i) the **Rag Raid** or (ii)

**The Mines Dirty Disco.**

Friday (16th) sees the **Hypnosis**

**Lecture.** For this, take along the sense of adventure and the brain to the great hall. Martin S Taylor is a very good hypnotist. I've even seen him hypnotise people to laugh at FELIX, or even strange, imagine that everyone else in the room was slowly taking off their clothes. The lecture is a must for anyone who's sceptical of hypnosis or just wants a brilliant night's entertainment (bring TDBTBE). If you're not sure about volunteering, don't worry. Martin has more to lose than you if he does anything naughty and he doesn't do anything too embarrassing anyway. If you're still building the Rag Week at this point, let your brain run free around the room. Let somebody else control it for a while.

On Saturday we begin to get rather busy. We have the **Sci-Fi Marathon** in the SCR where you can watch videos and play games. Bring along your sci-fi fetish with you for 12 hours of intergalactic bliss. For anybody who's stored away the basque etc, they should come in very handy at the **Rag Raid**. This is a trip to Reigate to collect for BIBIC and is lots of fun. It leaves the van park at 10am. In the evening SCAB take over, for **SCAB Night**. Don't worry it's not infectious, just the entertainment/performance people (Dramsoc, Rocksoc, Opsoc etc) putting on one big production. So give TDBTBE some exercise.

On Sunday, you have the chance to get out of your brain and socialise, with an inter-CCU bar night. Everyone should be providing a barrel (including me) so it should turn out to be very interesting indeed.

Monday plays host to **Comedy Night** in the Concert Hall. There are a couple of comics and a compere. Ents are providing a disco, with a bar until 12 o'clock.

Next comes the **C&GU Slave Auction**, on Tuesday 20th. So if you have your 'lots of work to do' ready, why not get somebody else to do it. Slaves are brought for a 24 hour period (any time) but must be fed and watered. If you plan to go for any of the tastier morsels, it's best to group-bid, as Rugby Club usually provide fierce competition. If anyone wants to be a slave they can sign up in the Guilds Office (Mech Eng, Level 3). This is followed by **Exec Initiative**, where the execs are dropped off in the middle of nowhere and have to get back to College, armed with only a 10p piece, a Rag can and chained to somebody else. In the evening we have a **Barn Dance** in the JCR, which is pretty barn-like.

It's brain time again on Wednesday 21st, with the **Bar Quiz**. There's a chance to beat that monster thirst by winning lots of beer and several other prizes too. Teams should be up to five people. On Thursday lunchtime there's plenty

happening in Beit Quad. For a few pennies you can show your appreciation of the Union and CCU execs by pouring unpleasant things over them. Meanwhile, overhead there are **Aerosoc Darts** flying around. There's a prize for the furthest and longest flights. The planes are launched from Beit roof. So, those lecture notes are A4 aren't they? At night there's the super, massive, **RCS Smoking Concert**. This is a collection of rather dubious acts. Anyone who possesses a sense of humour is welcome to enter an act. If you have any ideas, see Louise Rafferty, RCS Office, Old Chemistry.

The entire Union Building is taken over on Friday (23rd) for **Guilds Carnival**. By this point, if you feel very tired but don't want to stop, you're Rag Week is nearly complete, however first you must battle through two bands, videos, films and a couple of discos, burgers, cocktails and a 2am bar extension. Any potential helpers, see Lucia Clipstone, Chem Eng II (or C&GU).

Relaxation is the name of the game on Saturday 24th. We start with a leisurely streak back from Harrods: a leap from a truck, wearing only a parachute, outside Harrods—it's **The Sponsored Kamikaze Parachute Jump**. (No brain, but a sense of adventure required)—see Steve Farrant DoC III or at the Rag Meeting if you want to take part).

The afternoon has **Bar Sports**. So teams of people who want to show their experience at darts, shove ha'penny, backgammon etc should meet in the bar. There's also a knockout pool tournament in the Snack Bar.

On Sunday (25th) it's CCU time again. The traditional **Tug-o-War** takes place at 11am in Princes Gardens, followed by a possible **Raft Race** over the Serpentine for the CCU execs.

And then, finally, on Monday 26th we have the **Mines Dirty Disco**. The key word here is 'Dirty'. This has a reputation for being probably the wildest debaucherous party in Rag Week. It's organised by the RSM and anything goes. (Except perhaps the goats, so cross those off the ingredients list.) So get that kinky underwear out of the closet and show your perversion to a room full of strangers.

That's about it really, except there are **Hitsquad (Guilds)**, **Gnoming**, **Grim-Reapery** and **Pint-a-grams (RCS Office)** and **Killer (RCS Office)** running throughout Rag Week. So go and see the respective people for information.



# The Nominated Rag Charities 1990



FELIX

**1. The British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC)** is based in Somerset and is an old favourite with IC Rag. They are a small charity with a turnover of less than £200,000. They give remedial help to mentally handicapped children, attempting to give them back control of their bodies, teaching them how to use their muscles and limbs. They also give help and advice to their families so that they can lead a more normal life.

**2. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** was established as a channel for popular concern about conservation to create effective action. This covers conservation of the global environment alongside that of endangered species.

**3. Ele-Drive** was set up recently as a charity and is concerned with the protection of wild elephants in Africa. The protection is mainly against the slaughtering of elephants in a most horrific way for an unnecessary commodity—their ivory. Expeditions take place which carry out important information gathering and research on behalf of this charity.

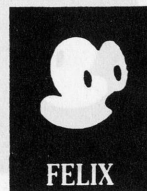
**4. Quest Cancer Test** (formerly Quest for a Test for Cancer) research into early cancer detection including work at the Galton Laboratory which is part of University College here in London. Research is currently being conducted into screening methods to detect genetic

predisposition to cancer. The cancers being studied include colon, thyroid and testicular, some of which can also affect children.

**5. Leukaemia Research Fund** are committed to the research of Leukaemia and related blood disorders and to the treatment and care of patients throughout the United Kingdom. Progress is such that up to 60% of children who develop the disease have every possibility of a cure and advances in the treatment of adults have also been made. However, a cure in many cases remains elusive.

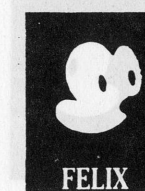
DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME	PRICE
WED 14	Beer Festival	JCR	12-11pm	£3.00
THURS 15	Rocky Horror	Lounge	8pm-1.30pm	£2.50
FRI 16	Hypnosis Lecture	Gt Hall	8-11pm	£3.00
SAT 17	Sci-Fi Marathon	SCR	11am-11pm	£1.00
SAT 17	Rag Raid		10am-5pm	
SAT 17	SCAB Night	Concert Hall	8pm-2am	£2.50
SUN 18	Bar Night	Union Bar	7.30-10.30pm	
MON 19	Comedy Night	Concert Hall	8pm-1am	£3.00
TUES 20	C&G Slave Auction	ME220	12.45-2.30pm	
TUES 20	Exec Intitiative	Beit Quad	3-8pm	
TUES 20	Barn Dance	JCR	8pm-1.30am	£2.50
WED 21	Bar Quiz	Snack Bar	8pm	£1.00
THURS 22	Aerosoc Darts	Beit Quad	12.45-2.30pm	20p/shot
THURS 22	Exec Torture	Beit Quad	12.45-2.30pm	50p/throw
THURS 22	RCS Smoking Concert	Concert Hall	8pm-2.30am	£2.50
FRI 23	Guilds Carnival	Union Building	8pm-3am	£3.50/£4.50
SAT 24	Sponsored Event		11am	
SAT 24	Bar Sports/Pool	Union Bar	3pm	£3.00
SUN 25	Tug-o-War & Raft Race	Princes Gdns	11am	
MON 26	Mines Dirty Disco	JCR	8pm-1.30am	£2.50





Roland Flowerdew investigates the history that led to Professor Fang Li Zhi's release from China.

# Freedom Fighter



Professor Fang Li Zhi, the dissident Chinese astrophysicist who has been described as "the most outspoken Chinese scientist in the last ten years", is expected to lecture at Imperial College next Wednesday. (See the news pages for more details.) Professor Fang recently escaped from China, after a year in the United States' embassy in Peking. His release was probably partly in exchange for the restoration of "most-favoured nation" trading status of China by the USA.

What part did Professor Fang play in the Chinese students' protest in Tiananmen Square, and why was he a key figure in the improvement of Sino-American relations?

During this century many changes have taken place in China, the third largest country in the world, and home to a quarter of the world's population. Until the early 1900s, China was under the rule of dynastic emperors, and enjoyed a political system much as is seen in present-day South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan: economic freedom but limited political freedom.

China's civilisation is one of the oldest in the world, but until the early nineteenth century it remained in relative isolation from surrounding civilisations. This isolation meant that China failed to react to the threat posed by the rise of imperialistic nations such as Great Britain, and it suffered in conflicts such as the Opium War in 1839-42, at the end of which Hong Kong was ceded to Britain. After this point internal troubles divided the country, whilst the West and Japan became controlling powers.

The last Chinese dynasty ended in January 1912. The Nationalist party attempted to unify the country, establish statehood and introduce democracy. However, they never had complete control over the whole country: the power was with the army and region was set against region. Minor civil wars broke out between Nationalists, Communists and local warlords.

This strife was thrown into confusion when Japan invaded in 1937, with the loss of many lives and the destruction of much of the national infrastructure. The Japanese occupation continued until the end of the second world war.

Once more civil war broke out between the Nationalist and Communist parties. The Communist party had the support of the peasants who comprised the vast majority of the population, and were perceived to have tried harder and done a lot more against the occupying Japanese.

The civil war claimed between 11 and 12 million lives, and ended when the Nationalist party fled to the island of Taiwan and proclaimed the People's Republic of China. The general population of China were pleased that the



*Demonstration outside Chinese Embassy in June last year.*

Communist party had come to power: the country was no longer in a state of civil war, but was independent and free from foreign control.

Under the leadership of Mr Mao Zedong, China turned to the USSR for advice in building a socialist superstate. In the early 1950s, all land was taken into state ownership, and the possession of machinery, property, farm animals and so on was forbidden. Slowly disenchantment began to set in.

In 1958 Mr Mao abandoned the Soviet approach, and launched the "Great Leap Forward"; organising peasants into communes, and forcing them to meet state-set production targets. During this time intellectuals criticised the Communist party, and 20-30% of university lecturers were punished for their criticisms.

The "Great Leap" did not work: the commune system had to be relaxed and incentives had to be introduced. The recognition that economic Utopia was unsuccessful did not extend to politics, and in 1966 Mr Mao introduced the Cultural Revolution.

This was an attempt to stop the emergence of an intellectual elite, and was the external effect of a power struggle within the Communist Party. It aimed to clear out all capitalistic ideas and thoughts, and wiped out all the previous economic achievements. As in the French Revolution, many people were

denounced as being "bourgeois" and "class enemies", and tens of thousands were killed.

Although many people accepted this, others began to look back and think. Perhaps a friend or relative had been killed for saying things against the state, but was anything wrong with that? They started to doubt.

The Cultural Revolution ended in 1976 with the death of Mr Mao, and Mr Deng Xiaoping came to power. At first he allowed criticism, and there was a little more freedom. Around 1977 there was the "Peking Spring", similar to Speaker's corner in Hyde Park, where people spoke out, and posters were allowed. However, people began to get bolder and started to criticise the then-current situation and Mr Deng himself, which he failed to appreciate, so the limited freedom was removed altogether.

In 1979, a Chinese worker, formerly in the army, began to criticise the Communist party. Mr Wei Jing Sheng, described as "a pioneer in Chinese democracy", said that Mr Deng should not be treated like an emperor or another Mao. He was jailed for 15 years, the official reason being that he had leaked a military secret to a foreign journalist. (Since he had no access to military secrets this is hard to believe!)

It was after the incarceration of Mr Wei that Professor Fang became more

outspoken, in open or semi-open circumstances. He made a lot of speeches at universities, and brought an insight into what was going on. Many of the ideas or thinking of the students who demonstrated in Tiananmen Square originated with him.

The students were the people who openly stated their dissatisfaction with the Chinese system. Interestingly, the demonstration in Tiananmen Square was not so much because of the lack of political freedom, although this is a major issue, but because of increased economic freedom without controlling laws and effective taxation.

What happened was that restrictions were lifted: people are able to buy small houses, to own corner shops, to own cars BUT the only people who can afford to do this are those in or who have relatives in the Communist party structure. Not only this, but supplies of goods to shops are controlled by party officials, and go

to those who know or bribe them.

Any taxation system that existed before the rise of Communism has been forgotten, hence those who have influence can make money and get rich very quickly, whilst helping no-one else. The party leaders still have absolute power, and their families make the most of it, a fulfilment of the Orwellian "all are equal, but some are more equal than others." In other words, a few people are in the position to make a lot of money (and do so), but at the expense of everyone else.

Things came to a head in May last year when the inertial "fear barrier" was broken: the students' feelings were shared by the general citizens and workers of Peking, culminating with the demonstrations. The grievances are many: the people are not happy with the bureaucracy and corruption of the present government, the low wages and high inflation, the lack of restrictions as

described previously, the lack of political freedom, the lack of true economic freedom, the lack of freedom of speech and thinking.

The night after the massacre in Tiananmen Square (4 June 1989), Professor Fang sought sanctuary in the US embassy, where he remained for nearly 13 months. At the end of June this year, he arrived in the UK with his wife, Professor Li Shuxian, and has since taken up a guest research professorship at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge.

The restoration of trade links with China has been welcomed by dissidents in this country, because they consider that sanctions will only make the country more introspective and isolated. Trade must continue so that people in China can see some of the outside world and tell others what it is really like. The campaign for Chinese democracy continues...

## Opinion: US - Arab Alliance Crumbles

Why did the United States of America, Israel's most powerful ally, condemn her over the Temple Mount Killings? The US is perceived as friendly towards Israel and inimical towards the Arab world. It was necessary to reassure her new Arab military allies where her loyalty lay.

The US presence in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia has complicated regional political, religious and military problems. To a Moslem, the presence on Moslem soil of a Jew, Christian or pagan is totally unacceptable; to be within one thousand kilometres of Mecca or Medina, the holiest of Moslem sites, is sacrilegious. The US army is the major foreign force in the Gulf—US army men are cooking sausages on Saudi Arabian soil while American women are free to walk around with uncovered faces and exposed skin.

The US, Israel's most powerful and richest foreign sponsor, is now allied militarily with almost the entire Arab world for mutual protection against the whims of Saddam Hussein. The alliance is vulnerable: precarious enough for the US to sponsor its first United Nations condemnation of Israel.

Why does the US need this alliance so badly? The US economy is a mess; the budget deficit is high and a new world recession may be imminent. One man, Saddam Hussein, controls a large proportion of the world's oil supply. The crisis could not have come at a more inopportune time. Despite all the economic reasons for military intervention, the American government must justify both its initial reaction and its escalating presence in the Gulf to the

American people.

Their first justification was the defence and maintenance of internationally accepted national boundaries. However, in recent weeks the US has introduced the phrase 'a new world order'. They claim that out of the crisis can come peace and serenity to the whole volatile region.

The vulnerability of the oil supply from the Gulf is not a new issue. During the Iran-Iraq war, the majority of foreign support was given to Iraq, which was perceived as a lesser threat to the oil supply to the West. It was at this stage that the CIA actively sponsored Saddam Hussein's rise to power in Iraq. The Soviet Union supplied arms and military hardware, while the Germans and British helped set up its chemical weapon capability. Its future nuclear capability (only five to ten years away) was aided by Britons, Germans, Italians and French.

British relations with Arab countries are ambiguous; they are tainted with the effects of international terrorism. The bombing of PanAm flight 103 was organised by a Palestinian terrorist group, based in Damascus and supported by Syrians. The attempt to bomb an El Al flight in which the pregnant Irish girlfriend of a Palestinian was tricked into carrying a bomb in her suitcase, again received back-up from Syrians. Syrians control the taking and release of hostages in the Lebanon; it seems that no hostages will be released until Britain restores diplomatic relations with Syria.

Intervention by Europe and the US on behalf of the Arab world against Saddam

Hussein can easily be interpreted as imperialistic action. This is distasteful to an Arab world which has suffered much foreign intervention in recent times.

Historically the Moslem countries were united in an Arab world and at times there were no borders. However, this was before the concept of nation and nationalities really existed. Modern-day borders are seen as hangovers from imperialistic days. Although Arabs share a common religion this has not always led to peace in the region: as always, the quest for power and yet more power on the part of a few results in strife and instability.

It was imperialistic intervention that shaped the modern map of the Middle East region. Kuwait is a principality, the creation of which was heavily supported by the British historically. For a brief period in its history Kuwait was part of ancient Iraq. However, the use of ancient borders as an excuse for invasion is invalid.

Several weeks after the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein linked a possible military withdrawal from Kuwait with an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank. At that point Israel was inextricably drawn into the conflict. The world watched and waited. The killings at the Temple Mount were a gift to Saddam Hussein. It put the Arab-US alliance under threat. Israel lost her blanket US support and her international credibility, and the first chink was made in the front against Saddam Hussein.

Anna Teeman.





# Mountain bike enthusiasts Colin and Liz discover the delights of mud, mist and more.

## Lake District Bikers



Mountain biking is an activity fast growing in popularity in this country. Certainly a quick survey of bikes chained up around IC will show that increasing numbers of people are rejecting thin slick tyres and drop handlebars in favour of chunky tyres, straight handlebars and numerous gears—the hallmarks of a MTB. But how many of these city dwellers actually jump on their mountain machines and head for the high hills for some real off-the-road terrain?

Colin and I decided to do just that. Colin was already a keen mountain biker with quite a bit of off-road experience as well as being an experienced walker and climber. I, on the other hand, am (or was) a complete novice who hadn't ridden a bike for years and I am also incredibly unfit. Gullibility is another of my traits, and with only a little arm twisting I was persuaded to purchase my very own MTB and to spend ten days pushing it up hills in the Lake District.

Despite being only a very recent addition to the vast range of outdoor activities, mountain biking's rise in popularity has been very noticeable and it has earned as many enemies as it has fans. Because of this, restrictions have quickly been introduced, only allowing mountain bikes on roads and bridleways (which prevents them from being used on some of the best off-road terrain and from reaching a lot of peaks). These restrictions include open land as well as footpaths as we discovered on a one in a million meeting with a National Park ranger close to the top of Kinder Scot on our practice weekend in the Peak District.

Because bridleways are few and far between, and vary considerably in condition with an uncanny habit of ending in the middle of nowhere, we purchased *The Mountain Bike Guide*—by Jeremy Ashcroft which was to become our Bible during our holiday. This handy



little book describes routes and rates them according to their difficulty (very similar to climbing guides).

From this we selected five routes ranging from easy to difficult, all fairly close to Hawkeshead, which we made our base.

It was raining when we set off from our respective homes on the first morning with our heavily overloaded bikes; it had stopped raining when we arrived, by some freak of nature, on the same train and almost on time. All was well. Colin said that it was only four miles to Hawkeshead if we went across the lake on the ferry, an ugly cable-driven platform that trundles to and fro across Lake Windermere all day. It was more like seven miles, and the hill up to Far Sawrey nearly killed me. It started to rain again: all was not so well. On arriving in Hawkeshead we pitched our tent and

went to check the next day's weather forecast—rain.

Our enthusiasm was unabated and the next morning we set off on our first ride: Claife Heights, the small hill which separates the valley containing Hawkeshead and Esthwaite Water from Windermere. This was the easy route, however the bridleway we chose to get onto the route was anything but. A humungous log-towing machine had been through and churned up the steep and uneven track, leaving huge puddles of that wonderful substance which attracts mountain bikers like flies to a cowpat—MUD.

If we were keen, full blooded fearless MTB'ers we would have ploughed on through and got completely plastered with the stuff, but we weren't; we got off and walked round. When we did reach the proper route, easy seemed too hard a description—a smooth wide forest track which meant a very fast downhill run to the shores of Lake Windermere where we stopped for lunch and laughed at the people trying to waterski. Then we were off along the side of the lake to the road from the ferry and up the hill (which nearly killed me the previous day) to Far Sawrey. There we continued onto a bridleway which led up to open land on the top of the hill where it became quite rocky which made the riding more challenging.

To be successful at off-road cycling several techniques are needed to overcome obstacles such as large stones, logs, holes and ruts, while still going forward. Quite a mean feat when your legs feel like jelly, you're gasping for breath and sweat is pouring off every square inch of your body. All it took was one extremely fit looking woman on the same model of bike as me to go hammering past at top speed to totally

destroy my confidence. Nevertheless we finished the route in two hours (only half an hour more than the book said) and it was back to the camp site for a Pasta Choice and an evening drying out in the pub.

The next day we moved up a grade to a moderate ride in Grizedale forest. This is an area popular with hire bikers as there are clearly marked cycle routes along smooth forest tracks. Our route, however, avoided these and went along a less-than-smooth bridleway which took us out of the forest, across the top of the hill and down to Coniston Water.

Today's speciality as far as the weather was concerned was wind, very strong wind. All attempts to ride along the grassy track on the top ended with bike and rider sprawled on the ground. Despite being our longest actual route it was fairly fast due to an eight mile blast along the road beside the lake before a steep boggy bridleway back up through the forest and then back down the road to Hawkeshead.

The next day the weather took a definite turn for the worse: it rained heavily. So we stayed in our little tent only venturing out to visit the Beatrix Potter gallery and to cook our Vesta Sweet and Sour chicken. Yummy.

Now that our aching muscles had been rested for a day we were bright and breezy, ready for an eight and a half mile ride to the start of our route, this being the Garburn Pass over the other side of Windermere to Hawkeshead. This

month's issue of *MBUK* describes the Garburn Pass as totally rideable if you're good. We weren't good enough and a fair bit of pushing was required up the pass which was quite steep and rocky. The rest of the route was rideable if somewhat boggy. We were still full of life when we started on the eight and a half miles back to the campsite. We were totally dead when we got there; twenty-five miles had definitely taken their toll, but we were soon down at the pub planning the next day's adventure.

This was the Walna Scar Road (short version), and it provided us with our first encounter with 'real' mountainbikers. Six of them appeared from nowhere as we were pushing our bikes ungracefully over some rocks. Within seconds they were upon us all rippling muscles, expensive bikes and shades. 'Team Lemming' they were called, and with a brief hello as they passed they vanished over the horizon leaving us feeling a mite inadequate.

The next two days were uneventful because one was Sunday which is, as everyone knows, a day of rest, so we only did ten miles—to and from Ambleside for lunch. On the other day my brakes failed, so we had to cycle to Windermere to the nearest bike shop to get a replacement. After that we made an abortive attempt to re-do Claife Heights but the rain poured down and half-way round we gave up and tottered back to the campsite much to my relief and Colin's disgust.



By this time the bad weather had got to Colin and he was not quite his usual bright and sparkling self. I said 'don't worry it'll be lovely tomorrow: the sun will shine and the birds will sing and all will be hunky-dory'. And so it was.

The Walna Scar Road is an old pack-horse road which leads up from Coniston past the Old Man and over a ridge south of Dow Crag, Buck Pike and Brown Pike. At the top of the pass our route left the road, going steeply down over boggy ground, along a bridleway through to a road with a steep downhill section to the main road back to Coniston. This was definitely the best route we did, no doubt helped by the perfect weather, but it was challenging for my new found skills. The terrain varied from the rocky Walna Scar Road, to boggy grassland which is awkward to ride on but makes a soft landing, to a narrow path in the forest interspersed with slippery tree roots. The scenery was beautiful and my joyous mood could not even be broken by the first fall to draw blood. On arriving back in Hawkeshead we felt we thoroughly deserved our meal in the pub.

The fact that the next day was just as nice made leaving and getting back to the city all the harder.

Although I moan of the hell at the time it was a great holiday; rain, scars, bruises, Pasta Choices, tiny tent, smelly socks and all. Mountain biking is hard work but the effort pays off; my fitness and skill improved a lot over the holiday and I'm ready for more.

Between us we spent £200 on the holiday, most of this on food (and drink). Camping made it cheaper than staying in a youth hostel or B&B but ten nights in a tiny tent was certainly my limit. Colin of course, coped magnificently; his riding was brilliant, he never complained and he waited for me all the time. Enough to put mere mortals like me to shame, but he does have a more expensive bike!







*Chris Riley reports on the recent Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (IMM) Remote Sensing conference in which two Soviet scientists out-shined the multi-million dollar satellite technology on display, with their revolutionary telepathic prospecting methods of oil exploration.*

# Where Earth meets Sky

This week saw the long awaited IMM conference on Remote Sensing at the very unmemorable Novotel in Hammersmith. Remote Sensing, as the name implies, involves surveying a planet; air, sea or land without direct contact.

Such information from airborne sensors offers a different perspective; a synoptic or broad area coverage that makes it possible to view entire mountain ranges, river drainage basins or complete weather systems. Isolated regions can be mapped and elevations, geological formations, drainage systems, water depths or land-use patterns can be recorded quickly and accurately.

The IMM Conference aimed to concentrate on Remote Sensing as an operational technology for the mining and petroleum industries. The nature of this subject brought the firmly Earth-based traditional geologists into contact with 'high-flying', image processing, number crunching computer buffs.

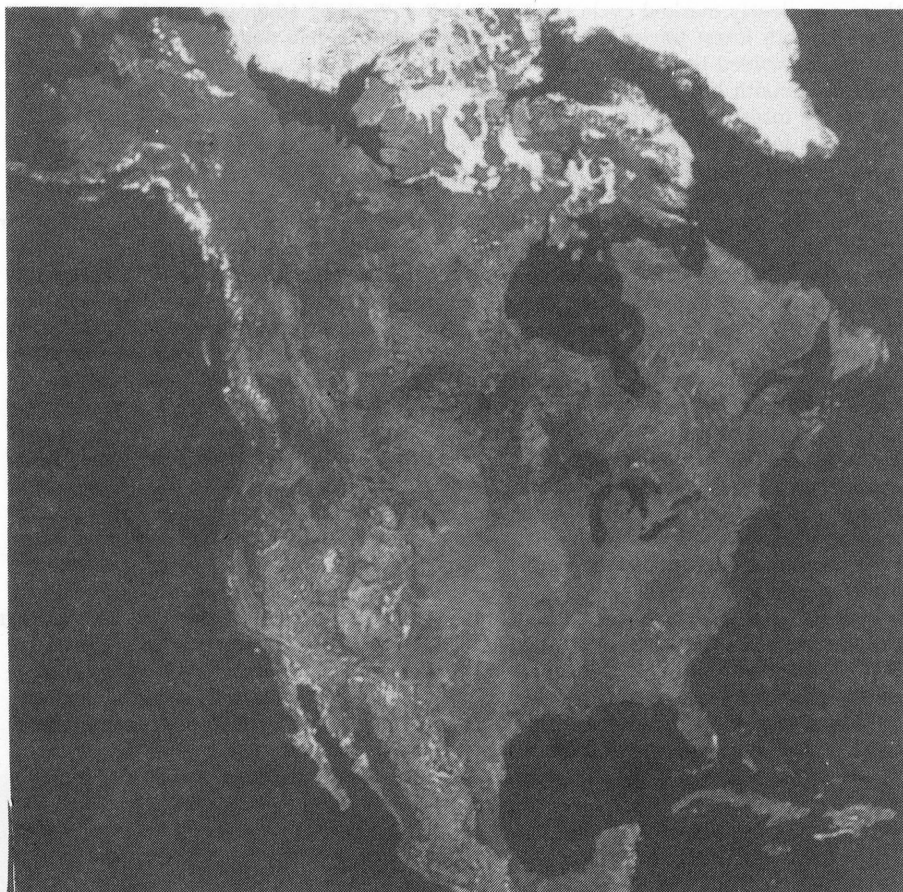
Talk in the bars, exhibition halls and restaurants was of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Raster Graphics, VGA monitors, micro, mini and super computers, parallel processing, 286's, 386's, Landsat TM (Thematic Mapper), MSS (Multi-Spectral Scanners), SPOT (the French satellite), panchromatic images, false colour composites, pattern recognition, DEM's (Digital Elevation Models), MTM's (Digital Terrain Models), band ratios, edge enhancements, drop-outs, spectral signatures, megabytes, gigabytes and 'trilobites'!!

Companies exhibiting at the conference ranged from A/S GEOTEAM (representing ENERGIA—the Russian equivalent of NASA) to the Kent-based Nigel Press Associates—founded in 1972 by a former Imperial MSc student; all proudly displaying aesthetically pleasing false colour images.

Mouses clicked and hard discs whirled, sending swirling paint box pictures of artificially coloured deserts and mountain ranges onto high resolution screens.

There were those developing software to strip away vegetation coverings from images, revealing potential mineral settings and thus prompting the real destruction of the vegetation during exploration! Others were content to develop educational software packages to teach image processing techniques to people who could then write more educational software!

All this effort was aimed at cutting



down on time and money consuming fieldwork, thus moving towards the extinction of the geologist! Colourful, glossy poster exhibitions complemented the flashy computer simulations. Two researchers from Imperial College; Q M Wang, and N P Vassos displayed their work respectively on basin analysis in China and mineral exploration in South Africa. Liu Jian Guo and John McM Moore of the Royal School of Mines presented a paper on image enhancement of gold alteration in south-east Spain.

Other speakers came from America, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Spain, China and Sweden. Geologists spoke of over-active pattern recognition software applied to images to highlight faults, roads, fences, pipelines and anything else vaguely straight. Computer buffs spoke of nauseatingly user-friendly GIS which integrated satellite images with geological maps, geochemical data, geophysical data and anything else they could lay their hands on!!

BP, a co-sponsor, blew its own trumpet deafeningly and splashed its new 'old'

green logo all over the screens.

The stars of the three days were the Russians who told of their new methods for forecasting onshore and offshore oil and gas. They talked of simply drawing concentric circles around the locations of anomalous geochemical samples. Where these circles intersect turns out miraculously to be the source of the anomaly. These circles can be thought of as spheres in three dimensions—thus providing a depth to the anomaly. The crucial radius of the circles was calculated by 'complex mathematics'; the details of which were to be kept a secret, partly due to the death of the leading scientist in a car crash.

They couldn't explain the findings and simply explained that it worked in 70% of cases. Furthermore they had collaborated with the famous mental spoon bender Uri Geller in a sort of 'oil divining' experiment by testing his predictions of new oil fields in Siberia. Stautsev and Karasev concluded their talk with the statement 'so this method works well!'



# Introducing Nigel the Biro

Nigel the Biro was one of life's footnotes, always neglected and forgotten, his friends called him NB. Once upon a time he was a humble Felix biro, but he became bored with his tiresome mundane existence. Being used to proof reviews and features was no life for an aspiring young biro. So, one day he decided to make a run for it. Leaping ball first into the office black hole, he was transported far away, never to return....

Dear Felix,  
I'm  
really  
sorry  
about  
my  
sudden  
disappearance  
last  
week.  
I  
have  
to  
say  
that  
my  
new  
life  
is  
much  
more  
interesting  
with  
my  
new  
owner.  
Love N.B.

THE FELIX OFFICE,  
BERT TRIANGLE,  
IMPERIAL COTTAGE,  
LONDINIUM,  
SCOTLAND.

Dear Chris,  
Sorry about my sudden disappearance last week, but being used on the Edwina Curry article was too much for a self respecting biro. I have to say that my new life is much more interesting with my new owner.

He's very well off and lives in a big house not far from you. He prefers to spend other people's money even though he's got lots of his own. For a knight bachelor, his sartorial taste leaves a lot to be desired, I mean really, strip and spot lighting in a panelled room? His residence is very large, so maybe I've only seen the tacky bits.

He took me along to a meeting this week, and when he left me on the table I had a chance to overhear a conversation he was having with somebody from the local council. I am so pleased to have such a generous owner who wants to build lots of rooms for young people he knows. He must like them a lot, because he's trying to keep them all together, in fact he's even giving up a nice garden (something to do with a prince I believe) for them.

The nice man from the council said that there would not be a problem with planning permission, and my owner says he can get the money from Harlington (the banks here have posh names, don't they?). I do find it difficult to believe that there won't be any interest on a £2 million loan, though. Lots of the young people eventually become accountants, so maybe they arrange it.

He wants it to be a nice surprise so he's not telling anyone about it. So keep it under your hat Chris.

Anyway, I have some nice contracts to sign, so I'll write again soon,  
Lots of love,  
NB.

# Join us for the FELIX '90 DINNER

on Friday 7th December

7.30pm for 8.00pm

*Food, Wine & More Galore!*

Students £18, Staff £24  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Contact Chris on ext 3515  
or in the FELIX Office

## WORLD LEADERS IN STUDENT TRAVEL

Low cost flights  
on quality airlines

Special fares for  
students

Weekend breaks,  
tours & group  
bookings

Well travelled  
consultants to  
guide you



*Over 120 offices worldwide*

ULU TRAVEL  
SHERFIELD BUILDING  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE



**ST/**  
**ULU TRAVEL**





# Sport

## Football

IC II—4

Kings II—0

Even though he wasn't playing on Saturday, P Gascoigne sadly couldn't turn out for IC II to solve their player shortage. Without his presence IC still managed to win, in fact rather convincingly, to leave Kings II with tears in their eyes. They were no match for the superior IC team. R Muthoo chipped the keeper beautifully from outside the box to give IC the lead. C Gilmour made it 2-0 with a close range header. The second half saw the appearance of S Barry, the fragile centre-forward, who finished off two classy team moves with ease. A biased ref was Kings' only defence against the rampant IC. An excellent team performance was enhanced by debut right back A Anwar.

Charing Cross II—0

IC IV—1

After having been beaten 2-0 (by the 4ths) and 9-1 in their opening games of the season, the 5ths decided to improve their chances by importing a player from a higher team to influence this match. Versatile may be the word of the day as Phil, the 5ths Captain, decided to do this right back in goal.

Setting aside this strange lapse of intelligence, they began the game with some attractive football, and in fact it was within these opening ten minutes that the crucial goal was scored. Initial intense pressure led to Nick Millman taking IC's first corner. The box was packed, the tension high, but the corner seemed to be curling in too close to the keeper, and the cause seemed futile.

Perhaps due to the chill wind blowing, or the imposing character of the 5ths, the opposition's keeper seemed to hesitate and then completely panic as he found himself totally misjudging the cross. Phil, standing just behind the said keeper, collapsed in an agonised heap, as the ball, to his innocent surprise, passed through the goalie's hands, hitting him on the shoulder, to rebound into the net.

From then on, IC felt justified in playing with a certain air of complacency, almost to their regret. The opposition began to pose more of a threat than was initially expected, and it was only some good defending that kept the score intact.

## Hockey

IC Ladies I—0

Southgate Adelaide II—0

The Imperial College team was somewhat apprehensive about playing on the Southgate cabbage patch after the delights of the Imperial astroturf. Nevertheless the skills of Imperial were so finely tuned that we still couldn't stop the ball or even hit it!

Imperial miraculously managed to prevent the opposition from scoring. Congratulations must go to the Imperial defence for being consistently strong throughout.

The forward line was somewhat

muddled due to the fact that it consisted of five inners. After a few hints from the Captain, Darrell and Caren worked out where the wings were but didn't see the point of using them.

We had several attacks at goal which would have been more productive if our players had remembered that it was hockey not football. We were unlucky not to score, but if the team continues to improve as it has in the last few games, there will be no stopping the ladies.

## Badminton

Imperial College Badminton Club had a promising start to the UAU season, beating Kent University at home in all three matches. Despite having three first team players out, they won their matches convincingly with the loss of only one game.

Meanwhile the second team had no difficulties white-washing the opposition—mainly because Kent seconds didn't turn up! The team, mainly made up of freshers, were disappointed to win this way—hopefully they will get a game next time.

The IC ladies also had a comparatively easy win. This year the ladies' team is a lot stronger and will hopefully progress into the latter stages of the championship.

The following Wednesday IC first team had a close shave against the visiting team from RHBNC. The match got off to

a good start with IC winning the first two games. The visitors took advantage of the lack of concentration by IC to level the score before IC got back in control, with Reshan Jumar and Richard Langford giving IC an important point coming from behind to win the rubber, set and match 17-16 to make the score 4-2.

IC firsts had to win one more game out of three. Jin Yee Lim and Alan Crow failed to do so losing a tight game 15-5, 15-17, 14-15. It was down to the reliable pairing of Bharat Popat and Trevor Kernick who wrapped up their match easily making the final score 5-4 to IC.

The ladies continued their winning streak this time whitewashing their opponents 9-0. IC men's second team repeated the score playing their first UAU match this season.

## Running

Imperial College has produced two of the best female runners in the University of London this year. Helen Macintosh and Keri Warden-Owen have been selected to run in the World Women's Student Road Relay Championships in Osaka, Japan. They will be winging their way round the world along with the other six members of the UL team at the end of November.

Ten foreign countries are represented including USSR, USA, Italy and Australia as well as 20 Japanese teams taking part. It is an international event with several Olympic athletes competing.

Helen is this year's UL Cross-Country Captain and she was part of the 1989

Ekiden team. Last year she bumped into Bono and BB King in the hotel and on their way home to London, the team were mobbed in Tokyo!

So if this has whet your appetite, the trials for next year's team start at the UL Athletics Championships in March, although participation in the current Cross-Country events will gain you preferential selection. There are six distances to run: 2 x 7.5km, 2 x 6km, 1 x 5km and 1 x 3km, so there is plenty of choice.

If you want to know more contact Helen Macintosh (Chem Eng 4).





# Sailing

The weekend of 3 and 4 November turned out to be one of great contrasts as far as IC Sailing Team were concerned.

Thirteen teams from all over the country had converged at the Welsh Harp for a weekend of sailing, drinking and bonfire making. The trouble started during the first match against IC Old Boys, who administered a sound thrashing and continued through Saturday until a short, sharp swim led to a substitution in our last race of the day.

Swansea ladies had a bad start but with a fumble at the bottom mark by our second boat, they managed to get past and they achieved a 2,3,4 winning combination. In a last bid to stave off defeat the offender took a different route to the finish to the rest of the field; only to find himself in second place across the line and IC winning their second race this term.

It was now time for the main part of the day's business: the lighting of the bonfire, the setting off of fireworks and the drinking of beer.

Unfortunately we were scheduled for the first race the next morning, but a quick search through the bodies littering the clubhouse could only locate a grand total of two team members (out of six). Undaunted, Richard Murray and Henry Nebrensky decided to compete anyway after borrowing a few people and Liam's late arrival. Just as we were leaving the pontoon, we faced UEA again. They had already beaten us the previous day, but some small battered remnant of team spirit pulled us together for a confusing hectic race that left them defeated.

We set off in a good mood for our next race. Swansea II had clearly not recovered from the night before, their defence crumbled as we swept to a 1,2,3 victory. Unfortunately the rest of our races ended up being cancelled.

## Do you need a cupboard?!

A 53cm x 90.5cm x 180cm wooden cupboard in a very good condition; used for only 3 months. It was bought for £200, but it'll be sold for **£95**.

The cupboard is in Linstead Hall Basement. If you want to have a look at it or get more information please contact:

**Maha Halabi, BSc III Computing**

# Clubs

## Dance

Dance Club activities are in full swing now, with the Ballroom, Latin American and Rock 'n' Roll lessons well attended and the teams training hard. We are starting an Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll class on Monday evenings at 6pm in the JCR. Any beginners from last year or people with some experience are welcome to come along.

We are holding a 24-hour sponsored dance marathon for the BBC Children in Need Appeal on November 16/17 in the JCR. Not quite as tiring as it sounds—participants have to dance 12 hours (minimum!) on a rota system. This way we always have a good number on the floor. Last year we raised £5,000. We'd like to do better this year, so anyone interested in having a lot of fun for a good cause can collect details from any of our lessons.

A quick plug for the 1990 London Ball on December 8. This event combines lots of social dancing with the chance to enter competitions, even at beginner level. It is a great opportunity to show off your new steps in a light-hearted atmosphere. Details available in lessons.

We will be starting new beginners classes in January for all you would-be dancers who didn't get going and join in this term. So come along and learn to dance in time for the Spring Balls!

## Enviro

The Society had its first lunchtime lecture on October 22, given by Dr Shanklin of the British Antarctic Survey on the 'Ozone hole over the Antarctic'. The title of the lecture differed from the one advertised, and we would like to apologise for this and promise that it will not happen again. The lecture was very enjoyable with some spectacular slides. Thanks to all of you who attended the lecture, and we hope to see you in our future events.

Many more lectures and events have been arranged for this term, which will be listed in the Society's newsletter sent to all current members. The list of members includes only those who joined this year, and so please renew your membership (£1.50) at the weekly meeting, which takes place every Monday at 12.30pm in the Southside Upper Lounge.

## ULU Gay & Lesbian

The three meetings held so far this term have attracted a large attendance. Michael Cashman (Eastender's Colin) spoke to us on October 11 about the need for more equality for lesbians and gays in Britain. A question-and-answer session highlighted what we could all do to help this come about.

Our first social occasion (October 18) enabled new faces to get to know each other. A new committee for 1990/91 was elected, and the society's library of over 80 books was made available to all those present. A discussion was initiated concerning experiences of 'coming out', and any lessons learnt were passed on to those who need it.

This coming week our guest speaker is Chris Smith—the only 'out' gay MP in the House of Commons. He will be talking about Labour's policy towards lesbians and gays. An opportunity for questions and discussion will follow.

We meet each week, as always, at 7.30pm in Room 2D (second floor) of the University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1.

For further information or correspondence, you can contact the committee through the society pigeonhole on the ground floor at ULU, or to me via the Geology department student mail here at IC (second floor, RSM).

Many thanks to last year's committee for a marvellous job at such initial short notice. I wish Michael Phillips all the best in Geneva.

## Photo

Do you want to learn how to develop and print your own films? If so why not come along on any Tuesday to Southside Upper Lounge at 1pm. We run lessons in developing and printing black and white and printing colour negatives and transparencies. We have our own fully equipped darkroom with all necessary materials to do black and white and equipment for doing colour work.

If you are simply looking for facilities to do your own work and are already proficient then just come along to find out more details.





# Scribbler's Corner

## Aardvark

Dear FELIX,

It's time for a whinge at the expense of Southside Bar; for today I was nearly physically expelled from the upper lounge for merely closing a window.

A group from the Orienteering Club were sitting beside the windows in the upper lounge, enjoying some food from Belushi's after a hard training session. This was until a man with a painted face came and opened them all. (Without even asking us if we minded getting cold.) As you would expect the outside air was cold and came straight in to attack us. Very shortly we all began to feel cold. I think it would have been warmer to have sat outside! Due to this I decided to close

some of the windows and stop the draft, and the waste of energy.

When I was doing this the same strangely painted man (?) approached me to leave them open. To this I explained that it was cold and we wanted to stay warm. Besides there was no one in the disco yet getting incredibly hot due to gyrating their bodies to Bros. So I closed some more windows, the chill air was now staying where it should be, outside and away from me! I did however say that I would re-open them when I left, or when the disco got going. Strangely I was told that this was impractical. (I closed some more windows.) Once he'd noticed I was informed that I'd be forcibly removed

from Southside if I closed any more.

I tried explaining in very simple words that I was cold and the disco was empty, but all to no avail. It was the House Rules that decreed that the windows must be open. He also told me that he 'didn't give a shit how many people were downstairs'.

Is this really the way in which to run Southside with stuck-up dictators who can't listen to reason? I don't think so. It is however a very Imperial College way of working.

Yours sincerely,  
Shaun West, Orienteering Club  
Secretary.

## Aardwolf

Dear Chris,

I would like to express my complete disgust at the insult directed at the Arab people and at Athena's racist conclusion that because a person's name is not Joe Bloggs (or any other 'traditional' English sounding name) that he must be foreign.

For his information:

- I am English, born and bred
- I have not invaded any of HIS allies
- British universities are as much mine as HIS.

If all Athena could find wrong with my letter was my careless use of vocabulary, then I hope he has learnt something from

the rest of it.

In future, I hope xenophobic bigots who write in stick to something they know a little bit about.

Saleem Chowdhery.

## What's On

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

### FRIDAY

- Yacht Club Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Huxley 413.
- Rag Meeting**.....12.40pm  
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers**.....1.00pm  
Southside Gym. See Islamic Society.
- Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Union Gym.
- C.U. Prayer Meeting**.....5.00pm  
413 Maths.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....6.00pm  
308 Computing.
- Swimming**.....6.30pm  
Sports Centre. New members always welcome to join in fun fitness training.
- Fencing Club Training**.....6.40pm  
Club training.
- Shaolin System Nam Pai Chuan**.....7.30pm  
Southside Gym.

**Water Polo**.....7.30pm  
Sports Centre. Come along and join in one of the most physically demanding sports ever inveted.

### SATURDAY

- Splot Soc Trip**.....7.45am  
Meet at Beit Quad Arch for first trip.  
Remember your cheque books!
- Boat Club**.....9.00pm  
Putney Boathouse
- Pub Crawl**.....2.00pm  
Meet Union Snack Bar. In aid of Leukaemia Research. Free disco afterwards.
- Kung Fu Club**.....4.30pm  
Wu Shu Kwan in Southside Gym.

### SUNDAY

- Sunday Service**.....10.00am  
Anteroom Sherfield Building. See West London Chaplaincy.
- Catholic Chaplaincy**.....11.00am  
53 Cromwell Road.

- Wargames**.....1.00pm  
UDH. All welcome.
- Yoga**.....3.00pm  
Southside Gym.
- Kung Fu Club**.....4.30pm  
Wu Shu Kwan in the Union Gym.
- Boat Club**.....9.00pm  
Putney Boathouse.

### MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and hear the latest (beer optional). All abnormalities welcome.
- Basketball Club**.....5.30pm  
Volleyball Court. Men's Team.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Rock 'n' Roll Lessons**.....6.00pm  
JCR. Intermediate.
- Swimming**.....6.30pm  
Sports Centre. New members always welcome to join in fun fitness training.



# Aaron's Beard



Dear Sir,

In reply to Athena's letter of 2.11.90.

I must question the motives of one who is prepared to take pot-shots at both candidates for the RCSU Presidential election, but is not prepared to provide his/her real name.

The election could have been better publicised, but both candidates ran extensive publicity campaigns, every aspect of which carried the dates of hustings and results. As usual, the hacks were the only ones who volunteered to man ballot boxes and one cannot expect them to stand all day. For these reasons, the voting stations consisted of a hack, a chair and a black box, the latter being the usual receptacle for voting slips. If the aforementioned Athena wishes to

question the honesty of the people who counted the votes, particularly the staff member who was present, may I remind him/her that this is a very serious allegation and should be taken up with the returning officer.

The letter did have some very valid points; the RCSU had many problems last year. Too few people tried to do too many jobs, hence the academic failure, which was rife amongst last year's officers. This had led to a poor academic image, which we are seeking to remedy.

On to the last aspect of the letter. If a non-hack standing for election and winning means 'fucking the hacks', then do it! James Briant, a non-hack, received much support from the officers during his Presidential campaign. He was shown

how the Union runs and personally invited to events and meetings. In fact, nothing would please us more than to see him getting involved with the Union, especially if he wishes to consider standing again.

We are always looking for suggestions on improving the Union. We've made a lot of changes in the last couple of months and this has been reflected in the large number of first years who have expressed interest in all aspects of the RCSU. If you have any input or want to get involved, come along to the office at any time—you're always welcome.

Suzanne Ahmet.

P.S. Got any spot cream?

# Aaron's Rod Aasvogel

Dear Chris,

Upon reading the article by Athena, I feel obliged to answer in support of Mr S Choudhery. Athena's sole purpose in his insolent article is to slag Saleem and Arab culture off. Maybe he should be reminded that parts of our culture actually originate from the Far and Middle East. Is his article the 'Last Resort' seen as the arguments are too weak to withstand any form of debate.

Yours,  
B Muratori.

Dear Chris

I was most shocked to find a horrendous slur on my character in Felix 881. In the letter 'Spotty Hacks' that slagged off the RCSU it was incorrectly stated that I was in the top 12 of the year. This is a lie and I demand an immediate apology from the letter writer (I did pass fairly well though!)

Perhaps the letter writer was confused since the Hon. Sec. of Guilds was the person in the top twelve.

Yours,  
Joe Fernley  
C&GU Vice-President

## Deadlines: Features & Clubs —Monday Lunch

## Letters, Small Ads, Whats On —Tuesday Lunch

## News —Thursday...

**Rock n Roll.....7.00pm**  
JCR. Beginners  
**Water Polo.....7.30pm**  
Sports Centre. Come along and try one of the most physically demanding sports.  
**Latin American.....8.00pm**  
JCR. Beginners/Improvers

## TUESDAY

**C.U. Prayer Meeting.....8.30pm**  
Chaplain's Office  
**Riding Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and see how it feels to have 16 hands between your legs.  
**Christian Outreach.....12.30pm**  
Elec Eng 508. 'Who or what is the holy spirit?'  
**Radio Modellers.....12.30pm**  
Southside Lounge.  
**Cathsoc Mass.....12.30pm**  
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.  
**Sailing Club.....12.30pm**  
Southside Lounge.  
**Jewish Society Meeting.....1.30pm**  
Union Building, first floor (UDH). Naomi Cohen

from SACSJ.  
**Radio Modellers.....5.30pm**  
Student training workshop, Mech Eng.  
**Keep Fit.....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym.  
**Amenesty International.....5.30pm**  
Clubs Committee Room. Weekly meeting.  
**Social Ballroom.....6.00pm**  
JCR. Beginners.  
**Judo.....6.30pm**  
Union Gym.  
**Latin American.....7.00pm**  
JCR. Bronze Medal Class.  
**Yoga.....8.00pm**  
Southside Gym.

## WEDNESDAY

**Keep Fit.....12.30pm**  
Southside Gym.  
**Cycling Training.....1.00pm**  
Meet at Beit Arch.  
**Wargames.....1.00pm**  
UDH. All welcome.  
**Micro Club Meeting.....1.15pm**

Top floor NW corner Union Building. Every week.

**Kung Fu.....1.30pm**  
Union Gym.  
**Rowing Club.....2.00pm**  
Putney Boathouse.  
**Shaolin System Nam Pai Chuan.....7.00pm**  
Southside Gym.  
**Basketball Club.....7.30pm**  
Volleyball Court. Women's Team  
**Kung Fu Club.....7.30pm**  
Union Gym. Wu Shu Kwan.  
**Chrisian Outreach.....8.00pm**  
Huxley 342.

## THURSDAY

**Fencing Training.....11.30am**  
Intermediate & advanced coaching.  
**Balloon Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.  
**YHA Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.





# Abaya

Dear Chris,

Having read the second letter by Athena, I now realise how mistaken S Choudhery was to attempt to reply with a sensible factual argument. It is clear that Athena likes being controversial and inflammatory, hoping to overcome apathy. I am, however, concerned (honest, I am losing sleep over that one!) that there may be some people out there among your readership who actually hold such views. It is quite hopeless to try to reason with such people, but fortunately the majority of your readership are quite sensible people. I thought it would be worthwhile to look at the workings of Athena's few braincells in an attempt to explain this strange phenomenon.

There are two points I would like to make here. First, I would like to apologise to all Greeks and admirers of Greek culture for the rather inappropriate name chosen by the specimen in question. To avoid confusion I shall refer to our subject as 'Ath', thus sparing Athena the humiliation of being associated with Ath.

Secondly, may I apologise in advance for my ignorance of Ath's language but I do have an excuse. You see, I come from an ancient civilisation, and while Ath's ancestors were occupying charming cave dwellings and communicating in a combination of grunts and body odours, my ancestors were already quite fluent in an ancient language. Alas, it was not English. I am, however, making an honest attempt to learn the language. This is due mainly to the fact that I am studying at one of 'his' Universities (thus subsidising the Government), and not because I have

invaded any of his allies. On that point, I don't quite see the wisdom in learning Ath's language if all I want to do is invade one of his country's allies, but on the other hand, being *allied* to Kuwait, it may be worthwhile for culturally more advanced people like himself to learn *its* language.

Back now to Ath's braincells. It is interesting to see the warped logic in minds such as his. Take, for example, his views on mature cultures. He assumes, of course, that his culture is several hundred years more mature than others. I presume he also thinks that it is better for the future of the world as a whole if all peoples of the worlds adopt his culture. I don't know about you, but I would worry if the accepted notion of a good time, in the world's most mature culture were to be: the elimination of all traces of blood from one's alcohol, followed by excessive vomiting, urinating through other people's letter boxes and abusive behaviour towards all people deemed to be of a 'less mature' culture.

Another interesting illusion in the specimen's clouded reasoning, is that whole races can be culturally immature. This obviously means that backwardness is hereditary. This could be of great value to scientific research into anthropology, since it probably means that Ath's ancestors used to relieve themselves in the entrances of each others' caves, a fact which, if verified by any excavations or such like, could explain a hell of a lot!

As for Ath's political views I think that they are not really worth examining, not even in jest, because for many people in this college including myself, it would be

in very bad taste indeed. I still meet friends who have just come out of Kuwait, and have lost contact with many others who are still there. There are people in this college whose families are still inside. Lives have been lost and many more could still be lost. The end result of all this is more frustration and oppression of those 'culturally immature' people for the sake of everyone else's political and economic interests.

Finally, let us not forget that people like Ath in positions of power are dangerous. It was not so long ago, that they were in hysterics about the backward culture coming out of Iran, and were all in favour of Saddam Hussein '...spending his money, not for the good of the people, but on arms, developing nuclear weaponry, chemical weaponry, fighting lengthy wars and killing people...'

*Yours sincerely,  
Amin El-Choly, DoC PG.*

P.S. I am expecting a reply from Ath, because my critical examination of the non-functioning of his brain reveals that he would not pass up on such an opportunity to make even more a fool of himself. I urge you to cast the same critical eye on such a reply, to witness for yourself how such 'minds' work.

P.P.S. It is quite possible that the specimen is quite aware of its sad affliction, and therefore refuses to reveal its true name. Come out of the closet Ath, it may not be curable, but we can stop it spreading.

<b>Postgrad Lunch.....</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>
Chaplains Office (10 Princes Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.	
<b>Fencing Training.....</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>
Beginners Training.	
<b>Fencing Training.....</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
General.	
<b>Gliding Club Meeting.....</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Aero 266. Come and arrange a trial flight. All newcomers welcome.	
<b>Papua New Guinea Exp. '90.....</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>
Meet W3/W2 (near Beit Arch). Three intrepid third years speak.	
<b>Keep Fit.....</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>
Southside Gym	
<b>Midweek Service.....</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>
Chaplains Office (10 Prince's Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.	
<b>Social Ballroom.....</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>
JCR. Intermediate.	
<b>Judo.....</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
Union Gym.	
<b>Social Ballroom.....</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>
JCR. Beginners.	
<b>Latin American.....</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>

JCR. Gold medal class.

**ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm**  
Meet Weeks Hall Basement to take food to London's homeless.

## Small Ads

ADVERTISE SOMETHING HERE FOR FREE.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **CANNIBALISM:** The Papua New Guinea Expedition 1990, expanded upon by George 'Cockroach' Beccalono, 'Fungus' Schoeman and Mad Bad Fernly. Meet W3/W2 near Beit Arch on Thursday at 5.30pm. Free refreshments afterwards.

● **WARNING:** If you were resident in College accommodation on October 10, are eligible to vote, but have not yet received an invoice, you will NOT be entered on the electoral roll by College. To become registered you should go to your local town hall and ask there. Any queries should be directed to the Residence Finance Office, 2nd Floor, 15 Princes Gardens, phone int 8649.

### LOST & FOUND

● **FOUND:** Scarf at Elec Eng Buffet. Contact Martin Stevenson via Elec Eng pigeonholes, particularly if young, female and attractive.  
● **FOUND:** Black Daler (artists?) diary found in Southside on October 25. If it's yours contact Shelagh on 071-603 0374 (ground floor).

### FOR SALE/WANTED

● **LOW ENERGY** light bulbs. £11.50 each. Ring Clare Smith, Env Tech ext 7204.  
● **KMD 100W** valve amp + homemade 4x12 £200 Axxeman guitar processor £150. 071-228 0187.  
● **WANTED:** 6" slide rule with case. Contact Tom Yates on internal 6757.

### PERSONAL

● **JEREMY:** you salad. Take the cabbage off my photo or prepare to be decked. K.  
● **HELP:** Is there anyone from Graffiti Soc out there who knows how to use the silk screen? Please phone Felix on 3515 and ask for Toby.  
● **RICHARD:** Hope the operation at the clinic goes well.



# Manager's Bit

i  
Bit

## Dismissal

The sacking of Tom Stevens, in a sudden move by College, has been one of the most interesting things to have happened this term. Not that it ranks as life or death on the scale of even student life at this place but just because of the monumental back stabbing that has gone into his expulsion. This being backed up by the best bit of secret keeping that we have seen to date.

As the headline suggests, it is not just the wish of an individual that has led to this action, but the culmination of many knives. It is well known that the feelings of certain people has not helped in the salvation of Mr Stevens and it is unfortunate to say the least that he failed in the conquest of his job. It is after all necessary for the establishment to guard against foul-ups, and important for us to note that it is also in our interest.

The big question is will Rob Northey stretch further his employment with College after his July deferment in a new position within the hierarchy.

## Rumours

During the whole business above I was telephoned at the office to confirm the rumour that Rob was infact staying on. The gentleman concerned was most hesitant in giving his name and wished to remain 'an interested student'.

Rumours are best kept to those you know or least can see. They are certainly not for people who utter the word 'wanker' to there friend/s as they are putting down the phone. If you want to know the inside story come along and help collate on Thursday evenings.

## Challenge

After talking to Benjamin and Shan in the office it came to light that Benj had been talking to the Editor of London Student. Oh yes I said...the girl you were with in the ULU bar last night. He looked impressed that I knew this and I simply said that I have spies everywhere. Shan then laid down the challenge to find out what he had got upto in Leeds over the last few days at a conference that he attended.

The forfeits were exchanged and my search began. So far I am quite happy to report that things are going quite nicely on my side of things. I have located his room mate and obtained a run down on half the story, and have many more leads to chase up. I will therefore be publishing a report on his antics next week and it looks like he will be sweeping and Hoovering my offices in the near future.

## Credits:

Andy and Rose for splendiferous work this week on the printing and typesetting side.

**News Editor:** Toby

**Reviews Editor:** Adam T

**Music Editor:** Sarah

**Features Editor:** Roland

**Science Editor:** Ian

**Photo Editor:** Richard

**Cartoon Editor!:** Andy Butcher

**The Team:** Adam H, Christopher Riley, James, Jeremy, The English Collective of Prostitutes and all the psuedonymed reviewers that I can't think of at this time of night.

**The Collators were:** Joe Fernley, Kevin O'Conner, Christy, Louise, Frank, Lucia, Chris Browne, Stephen Hoborough, Cathy McClay, Kate Doulton, Karl Edwin, Michael Newman, Ian, Adam T, James, and Steve.

**and from last week:** Andy Butcher, Matt Dixon, Sue Ahmet, Chas, Ric, Frank, Richard, Toby, James, Michael, and Ian.

## Staff Meeting 1pm Today.

Felix is produced for and on behalf of the Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed at the Imperial College Union Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB (Tel 071-225 8672). Manager: Chris Stapleton, Business Manager: Jeremy Burnell. Copyright Felix 1990. ISSN 1040-0711.

## FELIX (THE CAT) GETS "TOTAL RESTYLE" pt 4

NO! HE'S NOT DEAD! (THANK GOD- I'D NEED TO THINK UP A WHOLE NEW PLOT!)

AFTER A FEW MINUTES D. VEAL IS ABLE TO DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM: THE VIRUS IS HAVING A PARTY AND REFUSING TO TURN THE MUSIC DOWN. "HE MIGHT GO ON CHANGING FORM INDEFINATELY!" HE EXCLAIMS. (WHAT A JOLLY CLEVER PLOT DEVICE; I REALLY AM A JOLLY CLEVER CHAP!) BUT, FOR NOW HE'S BECOME...

\* BIG WORD!



© 1990 ALIEN SEX FIEND.



PLEASE NOTE: FOR REASONS OF CLARITY PANELS 3 TO 6 HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED OUT OF FELIX'S ORIGINAL SPEECH. HARDCORE FANS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO TIPPEX THESE OUT AND REPLACE WITH HIS ORIGINAL WORDS



PANEL 3 "PHHHTT!"  
PANEL 4 "ACKK OOP BARF!"  
PANEL 5 "ACK!"  
PANEL 6 "PHHHTT!"





# Abortion in Ireland

This week was 'Week of Action' in Ireland for freedom of information and women's right to abortion. Imperial College Union has been asked to set up a solidarity campaign with the Irish universities and colleges in their fight against this issue.

Ireland is the only EC country where it is illegal for a person to 'perform, attempt or assist in an abortion'. In Ireland abortion is still an offence punishable by 'penal servitude for life'. And now, since 1985, it is illegal even to give information on abortion.

However, the student unions in Ireland have continued to openly give information about abortion in England for Irish women. In 1988 4,000 women registered with British abortion clinics as Irish nationals but it is believed that the same number again refused to reveal their Irish addresses. At present, student unions in Ireland believe that there is a need to provide abortion information but they are facing increasing pressure from all sides.

In 1988 SPUC (The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) took legal action against the four elected student union officers of University College Dublin. SPUC got an injunction preventing them from giving information

about abortion in England. The university officers also became liable for nearly £50,000 court costs and, since under Irish law, student unions have no legal status the officers are personally liable for this money. In 1989 the same thing happened when SPUC took fourteen new student leaders to court and as a result they are again personally liable for further costs of £22,000.

If you believe that the Irish student unions should be helped and supported by British student unions in their efforts

to provide abortion information then you can personally support the campaign by going to a fundraising benefit gig organised by LSE on Wednesday December 5. Posters will be up around College at a later stage. Also, if you have any ideas on how Imperial College Union can become personally motivated in this campaign please contact the Union Office with your ideas.

**Marianne Purcell, IC Women's Officer.**

## CITY & GUILDS HITSQUAD

**Flan your friends during  
Rag Week**

£1.50 students

£3.00 notables

**Lecturers, etc, on request**

Call at the Guilds Office to book  
your hits

## St Mary's Annual RUGBY CLUB BALL

**Saturday 17th November  
9pm**

£10 single, £18 double

Tickets on sale at St Mary's  
Held at St Mary's  
Formal dress

## SCIENCE, ART & ETHICS

International scientist and poet talks about  
science and creativity.

*'Miroslav Holub is one of the half dozen  
most important poets writing anywhere'*

—Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate.

**TUESDAY 13th NOVEMBER**

**1.15PM**

**READ LECTURE THEATRE,  
5TH FLOOR, SHERFIELD**

Organised by the National Poetry Society, as a part of a national tour, and IC Humanities Department