



18 January 1991 Issue Number 889

Felix

**Cover: The Iraqi Embassy in the
calm before the Desert Storm**

**War: Who needs it, and was it
necessary? p9, 10, 11**

Union Bar Brawl p2



Bar Brawl

A man was arrested at the Ents Disco last Friday, the 11th of January. There had been a bar extension until 1.00am and the disco was due to finish at 2.00am. Union Deputy President Benjamin Turner said 'The building was absolutely packed'.

Mr Turner was clearing up in the Lounge Bar at around 1.20am when a Union life member brought to his attention a coloured gentleman who was harassing girls and following them around. The gentleman, about 5' 10" and aged between 25 and 30, was asked for his Union card but he replied 'I'm not a student here.' He was then escorted into the quad with assistance of other Union members.

At this point the man became violent. Witnesses at the scene said '...he went mad!' and 'He was totally fucking loopy!'. He began flailing his arms wildly and screaming and appeared to be either excessively drunk or under the influence of drugs. He refused to be calmed down and so was carried out of the quad.

Reentering the Union, he assaulted three Union members who did not retaliate. The injuries received included one black eye, two split lips and a broken tooth. As a result of these assaults the Police were called who promptly removed the man. He has been charged with grievous bodily harm.

Security Roundup

There have been several walk-in thefts around college. A hold-all, cheque book and cards were stolen from the kitchen area of the Southside basement and another theft occurred on the sixth floor of Mech Eng.

Two more bikes have been stolen. These were left outside the Science Museum Library using chains rather than D-locks. Please, take note: chains are NOT secure. Security are noting an average of one crime per day so look after your belongings.

A new trend is emerging, that of car break-ins. A car outside the Chemistry building was broken into over the weekend, though the owner foiled the attempt to remove the radio. This makes five cars in a month.

Due to the current situation in the Gulf, students are asked to be vigilant for suspicious bags or people. Posters will be put around College asking whether you have let accommodation for cash or sold a vehicle for cash. If you have any suspicions you are asked to phone the Anti-terrorist branch on 0800 789321. All calls are confidential.

College Break-ins

Two break-ins occurred during the past week. On Sunday, two storage rooms were forced open below Linstead but nothing was taken. One door was removed from its hinges, the other broken.

Alan Larsen, Southside Bar Steward, said that the rooms lie off the bar's empty keg store and that he thought that the burglars assumed that the rooms held Southside's spirit store. The rooms actually contain furniture.

The basement of 12/13 Princes Gardens was broken into on Wednesday night. The Office of the Kensington Friends of Overseas Students were entered but the only equipment taken was £700 worth of tools belonging to a contractor. This included a pneumatic drill its transformer.

The contractor, who had only arrived the previous day, had had equipment stolen in the same manner the previous time they had worked at Imperial, before Christmas.

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STOP PRESS

At approximately 12.25 am our time, on Friday the 11th January, Iraq launched a missile attack on Israel. Although at this time (1.05 am) the details are not clear, American Military sources report the launch of at least five SCUD missiles, the type most likely to be used in a chemical attack. These were launched from mobile launchers, despite the UN forces attempt to destroy all of the SCUD launchers with air attacks.

Air-raid sirens were sounded in Jerusalem, and there are three confirmed hits on Tel Aviv. The other missiles have hit population centres to the south of Tel Aviv. A CNS reporter in Tel Aviv reported at least seven or eight explosions within the city.

At 1.30 am it was confirmed that at least one of the missiles delivered a chemical warhead containing nerve gas. Israeli authorities have issued instructions to their people to don gas masks and stay inside sealed rooms. Israeli hospitals have already taken in casualties from nerve gas. Soon after the Pentagon denied this.

Israel was apparently well prepared. Gas masks and shelters have been distributed, and the populace have been instructed in the procedures for their use.

An Israeli spokesman at the Pentagon felt that the reaction of Israeli people would be to launch '...an attack very soon, possibly within the next few hours'. He also stated that it is likely the attack would be '...massive...'. Another spokesman speaking from Israel said 'This could signal the end of President Hussein within 24 hours'. American statements indicate that they expect a response to occur. Whether or not this has already happened was not said. Concern was expressed as to the magnitude of the response, and whether it would be '...justifiable...'.

Security at Imperial



Statement by Valerie Straw, Facilities Manager, on behalf of Imperial College

'The Security Forces have given the College reason to believe that there is no cause for concern about the nature of the people or material in the Iraqi Embassy or the surrounding area. The police presence around the Embassy has reverted to the normal levels that would be expected in the present political climate. They are there for the protection of the Embassy staff and in case of possible demonstrations.

There is no reason whatever why the activities of the College should not carry on as normal.'

Statement by Benjamin Turner, Union Deputy President, on behalf of Imperial College Union

Many students may have heard various rumours concerning the Iraqi Embassy on Queensgate.

New Scotland Yard have confirmed that NONE of these rumours are substantiated.

The most popular rumour is that large quantities of nerve gas are stored in the basement of the Embassy. This rumour was initiated by a poorly researched article in the *Daily Star*, some two months ago, and is unfounded.

Without referring to statements from authorities, various responsible people within departments, notably Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical

Engineering and Geology, have been announcing to lecture theatres full of students that the rumours are correct. They are often advising students not to come into College.

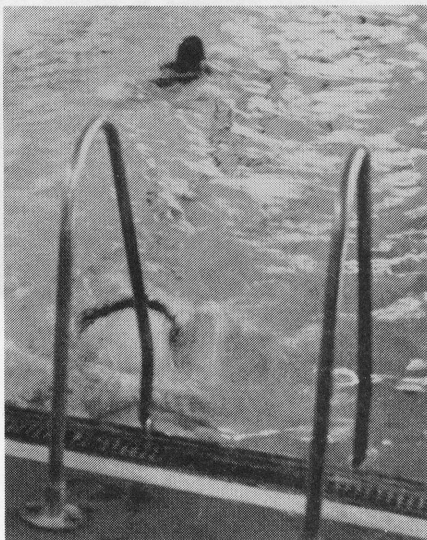
Clearly, there is no College policy that students should not come onto campus. If such a policy had been necessary, it would undoubtedly have originated from specific instructions from the Security authorities to the Rector, and students would have been advised of this policy without delay.

I advise the students of Imperial College to ignore such scaremongering.

Swimming Pool Off Colour St Mary's Beds

Imperial's swimming pool was closed on Wednesday morning due to discoloured water. An official at the sports centre said that chemical levels in the pool were normal and were not unsafe. He added that the pool still had to be closed for safety reasons since the bottom could not be seen.

The Sports Centre was partly closed on Monday whilst lockers were replaced in the changing room. The new lockers require 10p piece which is not returned. This has annoyed users of the centre, who must now pay each time they wish to lock-unlock the lockers. The current annual student season ticket rate is £12: regular users may now have to pay more than £12 extra per year just for the privilege of locking their clothes.



It was rumored this week that beds at London medical schools, including St.Marys, could be used for war casualties. Injured soldiers could arrive in London two weeks after hostilities begin although students at St.Marys have not been informed of any planned use of beds.

Casualties brought to London would undergo non-emergency operations performed by hospital doctors rather than medical students.

Bomb Scare

A bomb scare closed South Kensington Underground station briefly on Wednesday. After an alert at 1.25pm, the station was closed for an hour, interrupting services on both lines.

London Transport are not releasing details due to the current climate but did say that there had been several scares during the day.

Pumps, Comets and Computers

Next Wednesday, 23 January, Dr R Henderson, FRS, of Cambridge University is expected to lecture in the Physics department on 'Proton Pumps in Nature'.

The detection of light in the retina of our eyes is a quantum process, and the key is a protein called rhodopsin. Dr Henderson will ask (and answer?): how does this proton pump work? What is its structure? Is there a model? The lecture is in the main Physics theatre, level 3, at 1.15pm.

'From Comets to Computers' is the title of an inaugural lecture to be given by Professor R. Hynds next Thursday. It will be held at 5.30pm in Lecture Theatre 213 Huxley.

Professor Hynds, from the Computer Centre, will be speaking on the high pace of change in computing technology, touching briefly on the ULYSSES project and low-energy particle experiments.

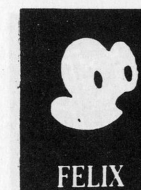
Awards

And now the results for 'Research Grant Stakes'. This month's trophy goes to Professor C. Hopkins who has secured \$454,436 over 38 months from the MRC for the 'uptake and intra-cellular processing of cell surface receptors.'

The 'Free-Market Economy Booby Prize' for tight-fistedness goes to the Production Engineering & Research Association of Great Britain. They have awarded Professor D. West £750 over 7 months to research 'metal-mix composites.'



The Careers Advisers give Felix the rundown on Employers' opinions of IC Students...



So What Is Wrong With Us ?

The date that is firmly fixed in our diaries is January 16; the start of the 1991 Milkround. For the next eight weeks or so, we know that 'if it's lasagne it must be Tuesday...' Why? Because every day the Careers Advisers take the visiting employers to lunch in a corner of the SCR, and talk to them. Not only do we attempt a marketing job on all the IC applicants to their organisations: 'they're bright, streetwise, ambitious and have highly developed analytical skills'. We say confidently across the lunchtable. 'And they're used to working hard...'

But lunchtime conversations, like interviews, are two way processes and we thought you might like to ponder on some of the less flattering things employers said about people like you last year. Competition for sought after jobs is much fiercer this year and to be successful you really need to plan your strategy carefully—so we've given a few pointers to help you get over the first interview hurdle, at least. We've divided the 'quotes' up to reflect the different stages of the interview, rather than in order of importance.

Some of them don't even know their way around the College

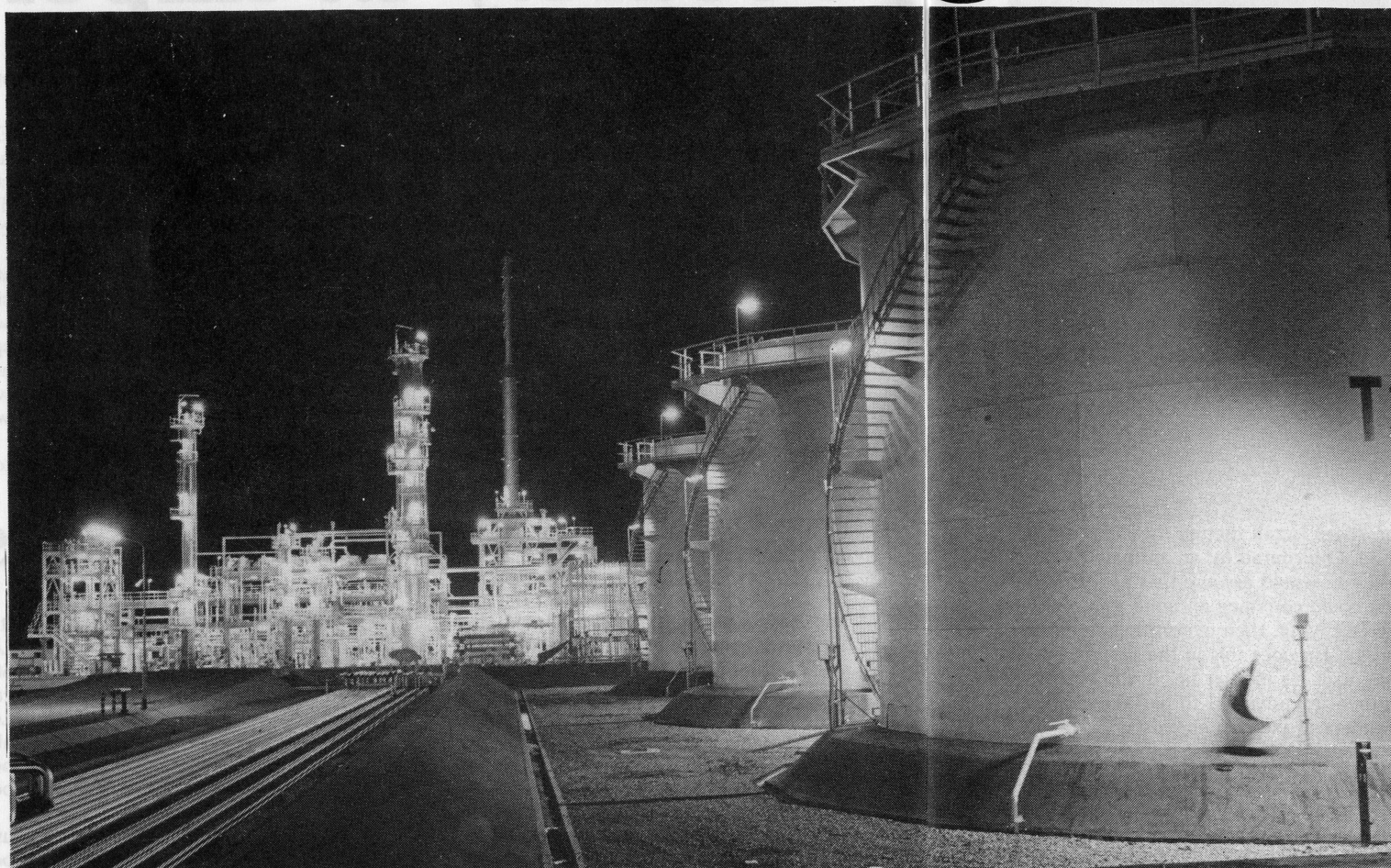
Lots of Milkround interviews take place in departments and not in the rooms around the Careers Service. If you find that you will have to find a room in an unfamiliar building it's worth discovering its exact location well before the event. Turning up late, and out of breath, will do you no favours.

Some candidates are so nervous it's impossible to find out about their suitability—or otherwise.

It is nervewracking attending an important interview, but try to do everything possible to relax beforehand. You'll give a much better impression to the employer if you appear calm and can concentrate on the exchange of questions and answers. Being fully prepared, so that you feel confident about handling general questions about yourself, your skills, experience and ambitions related to their area of employment will help. Practice the sorts of things you may say in response to the obvious questions (including the difficult ones) either with a friend or on your own, safely locked in the bathroom!

Conversely

Some of your students are very full of themselves, feel they will be doing us a favour if they deign to join us. With very few exceptions, most employers are put off by an extravagant show of confidence. Be aware of your abilities and your track records, but don't



push it at your interviewer. Remember, if you are offered a job it will be because of your potential, rather than your past. Most employers view graduates as very raw (but valuable) material.

A common one..

Interviewing some of your people is very hard work—like getting blood out of a stone.

If you don't tell them about yourself how will they be able to assess your suitability? 'Yes' or 'No' answers won't get you the job and most interviewers will deliberately ask you 'open' questions to prevent you giving very short replies. Remember that you are marketing yourself during an interview, building on the information already provided in your application. Think of your 'selling points', and consider what sort of person specifications your interviewer will have in mind for the work that interests you. And tell them why they should be interested in you.

There's always someone who can't remember what he put on his application form.

Don't let it be you! Always keep a copy of your application and read it through before the interview.

The work...

It's amazing how many people apply for work that they know nothing about.

Every year some jobs become very fashionable. Names like 'Strategy Consultancy' or 'Corporate Finance' are bandied around. Whatever you apply for, make sure that you understand the aims of the department and how the staff work together to achieve targets. Do this by talking to people already established in similar jobs, by reading the appropriate trade magazines and national press. It's much easier to bluff in an application than face to face...

They say they're planning a career in our business, but they haven't bothered to read beyond our brochure...

The information available to everyone in the Careers Office is just a starter—especially for the most competitive areas. Read as much background material as you can find (Business and Institute Libraries can be a wonderful source of information). Possibly set up a file of useful articles and notes to look through before the interview. Speak to as many people as possible about the industry in general and develop your own opinions

about how things may change over the next couple of years. If you do this, you should be able to handle most questions, including the awful 'In your view...how is this likely to affect X?' with a fair show of confidence. Your answers don't have to be right, but there has to be an obvious rationale to them.

We look for analytical skills and expect this to stretch into personal awareness and career planning...

Not every employer will expect you to have firm ideas about where you intend to be in five, or ten years time. But most will expect you to have applied some analysis to yourself—what skills, experience and personality you can contribute to their organisation. A careers adviser will help you tackle this, if necessary, and there are some useful workbooks in the Careers Service to help you get your head in order.

How can some of them be so out of touch with current affairs?

Surprise, surprise—lots of students don't listen to, or read the news—and certainly don't really think about how world events may affect their career choice. Coming up to interviews, it's worth reading a 'quality' paper most days—and if you are considering high flying finance or

consultancy, then *The Economist* should be included on your list along with the *FT*. Scan the business pages for anything that involves your chosen employers—it's deeply embarrassing not to be aware that, for instance, the company interviewing you is in the midst of merger talks, or planning major international expansion.

I'm not convinced that any of them have really thought through the process of studying for professional exams in addition to a real job.

This comment—made mainly by chartered accountants, is very important, if you are serious about gaining your chosen qualification. Your interviewers will expect you to have a plan, be aware of your most effective methods of study and have thought about the effects the combination of work and study will have on your leisure activities—especially team sports. They're also looking for real motivation to achieve the qualification. Evidence shows that people who are not absolutely committed to gaining such professional status—regardless of cost—are much more likely to fail exams, or drop out. The employers don't want to take that risk—it's expensive.

Why do some of them feel everything happens in London?

Many employers require considerable mobility during training. It's helpful to be open-minded and flexible about your preferred locations.

Towards the end of interviews you will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

We keep being asked about our international opportunities—they don't seem to realise that we can't send them abroad until they can make a real contribution.

Analytical skills again—read the brochure, speak to people and be realistic in your expectations. Sometimes students give the impression that they're applying because of the opportunity to travel, rather than because they could make a real contribution to the work of an organisation.

They're all asking about 'the package'—salaries, holidays, perks, etc. I begin to wonder if they're really interested in the job.

It's wise to hold onto most of these questions until you've actually been offered the job. Often people doing campus interviews really don't know the answers to these questions, and it can leave them feeling that you weren't interested enough to ask questions about the work you have applied to do.

I'm not convinced that everyone I see is really interested in our jobs.

Too true...many of you will be interviewed for jobs that are second choices. Others will attend early interviews to gain experience of answering questions. But if you are really interested in an organisation, don't be afraid to show it. Do your research thoroughly and think carefully about the skills and experience that they are looking for, that you can offer. Be enthusiastic and smile!

Some of them ask questions that have already been answered elsewhere.

Don't ask questions that have already been answered in the brochure/video, or at the presentation or even earlier in the interview. Some candidates have prepared questions that they seem to want to ask regardless of its worth at this stage.

Of course, most employers say very flattering things about their IC interviewees—let's hope you will be one of them!

Good luck from the Careers Advisers.

Russ Clarke
Shiona Llewellyn
Bill Fox

WANT TO KNOW MORE!

You can contact any of the above advisers on ext 3251

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Child's Play 2

F Have you ever seen film and not been able to work out if it's meant to be a joke? That's the problem I had upon seeing this film. The first two-thirds of the film are filled with scenes that are laughable in the extreme, but you're never sure whether or not this is deliberate.

I confess to not having seen Childs Play (although on the strength (?) of this sequel it's doubtful that I will), but it appears to have revolved around the possession of a toy doll by the spirit of a psychotic mass murderer who dabbled in voodoo as a side line. He committed this foul and evil act of subjugation in order to cheat death at the hands of the Police (yawn).

Surprisingly enough, however, the doll wasn't his first choice, but the only body nearby at the time. Now he faces a problem; unless he transfers his spirit to a human soon he'll be trapped forever in the body of the doll (isn't it convenient how the laws of magic make for useful plot devices?).

So in the first film the baddie attempts to take over the body of a young child, killing several people in the process (you can't teach an old mass-murderer new tricks), but ends up being fried in some form of explosion.

The sequel begins after the Police investigation into the murders, in which the child testifies as to the guilt of the



doll, as does his mother. She is promptly locked up in an institution, and the kiddie sent to a home. The company who manufactures the dolls get hold of the offending little chap and rebuilds him in an attempt to stave off the bad publicity, and reassure their stock holders.

The kid then gets adopted, the newly remade doll runs amok, and you can guess most of the rest. In all it's not a very good film; the only thing about it that's actually scary is putting yourself in

the shoes (small though they are) of the child. Confronted by an animated killer doll you would assume that as long as you could convince an adult that you weren't lying, then everything would be alright. He does this in the first film, and they lock his mother up. If you must see it, then my advice is to partake of the wonders of modern chemistry beforehand. You'll find it more amusing.

Alien Sex Fiend.

EndGame

T Weird is the best way to describe this, weird but interesting. It is a study of a person's twilight years that can be all too depressing yet has enough humour to avoid being too moribund.

The acting is very good, with all four characters coming across well, despite the fact that you only get fleeting glimpses of two of them (they're in dustbins).

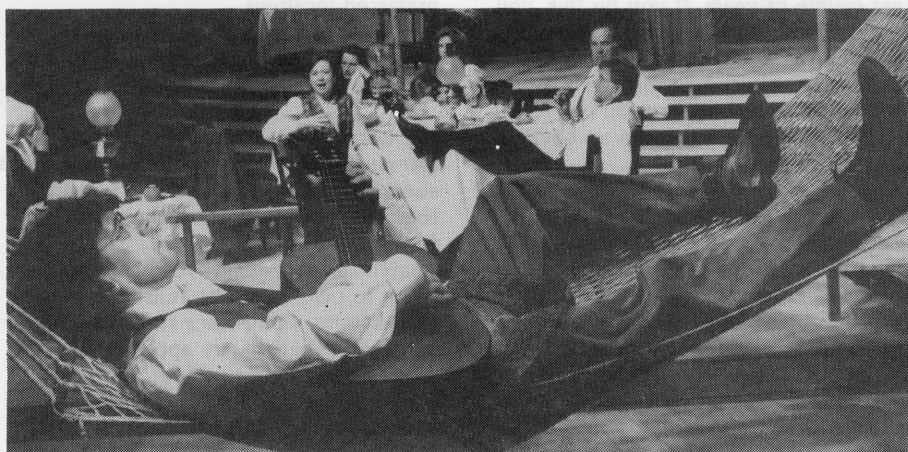
The main themes: life, death and not wanting to change from one to the other, are very proudly and capably handled. The result, a play that captures your heart and mind and holds them until the very end.

Ian Hodge

F —Film

T —Theatre

Piano



T A lot of people find Chekhov dispiriting, depressing and even stuffy but there's no denying that, for his time, he dissected the Russian aristocracy with great precision and psychological accuracy. In *Piano* Trevor Griffiths distills Chekhov's four major plays into one where the characters are still recognisable as being 'Chekhovian'—the lively doctor who is reluctant to go out into the night to tend to a dying peasant, the eternal student who can't get the other characters to listen to his prediction of imminent doom for the ruling classes (presumably the 1917

revolution). And then there's the what-shall-we-do-next party which graphically shows the helplessness of the drifting bourgeoisie.

Superb performances (starring Penelope Wilton and *Butterflies* Geoffrey Palmer) and flawless direction go to make *Piano* one of the most amusing and exhilarating plays I've seen in a long time. Student standby's are available from The Cotteslow (NT) box office quarter of an hour before the show at £5.00.

Hurry, it closes on Saturday!
Fruit.

The Fool



F It is sad how infrequently a British film comes before us, and equally sad how few of them actually succeed. Most recently one thinks of *A Fish Called Wanda* and, in a limited way, *Nuns on the Run*. Apart from those, only the grand period pieces of the early eighties spring to mind—*A Passage to India*, *Chariots of Fire* and *Little Dorrit*. This new film comes from the same stable as the last and is also set in Dickensian London, although it is an original piece.

It tells of a clerk called Mr Frederick (Derek I Claudius Jacobi) who lives a bizarre double life. Much of the time he is the accountant for a small London Theatre, yet he hob-nobs with the very elite of Victorian Society having adopted the role of the reclusive Sir John who owns the Theatre, but never ventures out. We are presented with a morality tale of money and social injustice that has obvious parallels with the state of the City and other money markets today.



The acting, as one would expect from the range of talent on offer—everyone from Michael Horden through Miranda Richardson to Joan Sims—, is superb. The period detail, on both rich and poor levels is flawlessly recreated and the basic plot is a very interesting one. So why doesn't the film quite succeed?

It is, in a word, flabby. It runs for over 2¼ hours, yet the real plot only really comes into its own in the last hour or so. Much of the rest of the space is taken up with little glances of people and situations and people of whom we see and learn little more. The viewer is left confused by the panoply of characters, without any real idea of what it is he is watching. To have to sit through an hour of what verges on boredom (I saw at least one of the more elderly critics doze off) for a sparkling last half hour is not the way to an audience's heart. This should have been great, it is merely average.

Pendragon.

The Rookie



F This is a deceiving film. It sounds like a good idea. It has sexy posters. It's got Clint Eastwood (always good for laugh) in it. Unfortunately it's not very good. The film follows strictly formula plot lines that you've seen far too many times, the dialogue is jerky and uninspiring (not to mention ridiculous in parts: I quote Charlie Sheen's script; 'It's time for me to stop being scared. And for other people to start.'). and above all nothing surprising happens.

Okay, so I lied. There is one interesting and surprising scene: Clint gets raped by the head female baddie.

Really it's up to you guys and gals to decide if you want to shell out a fiver to see a film you've seen before at least two dozen times.

Alien Sex Fiend.

Narrow Margin



F WARNING: Don't see this film if you suffer from a heart condition. If you didn't have one when you went in you will when you come out.

The plot is a fairly tired one. An unseen witness to a mob killing refuses to give evidence, the mob find her, they try to kill her (with a helicopter gunship!) and the police try to protect her. There then follows a chase across Canada on a trail full of tension and suspense.

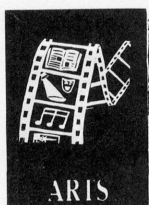
Gene Hackman (as the attorney protecting the witness) delivers a very good performance but it will still take something very special to surpass

Mississippi Burning. Unfortunately, the best actor in the film, M Emmett Walsh who plays Sergeant Benti, is killed off far too early. His happy, jolly personality would have contrasted extremely well with the overall tense nature of the film.

Any complaints? Well, the filming of some of the scenes left much to be desired. The model trains are very reminiscent of my childhood days! Surely they could do better than this?

A good film that deserves to do well, in which there are enough twists and turns to keep you guessing until the very end.

Ian Hodge



Frankenstein Unbound

Here Felix presents a new technique in film reviews: The in-film dialogue!

Alien Sex Fiend: Er.. Chris, can you lend me six quid? (grovel, grovel)

Christ: SIX QUID !!!

Inside the theatre...

Pendragon: Who wants some popcorn?

All: Munch, munch, munch...

There follows various comments, including, but not limited to: 'Cor! Wouldn't mind seeing that!', 'Adam, get me a ticket to that. Now!', 'Hah! I've already got the press release!', and 'Double Hah! I've already seen it!' etc, etc.

The film starts...

Pendragon: Cor! It's just like the book!

A S F: I've never read it. What happens?

Pendragon: Heathen!

Christ: My god! Look at those suits!

A S F: Yep, it appears that silver is 'in' in 2031! Sexy car! It's some concept thing that some Italian company made sometime ago. I think...

There follows a stunned silence at the level of tackiness contained within the time travel sequence...

A S F: Mmm... I didn't realise that the monster could talk...

Pendragon: That's 'cos you haven't read the book, heathen!

Christ: This is crap... munch, munch.

A S F: Hang on. Does this mean that they expect us to believe that 'ole Franky-stein was a real guy, or that he's gone back to an alternate reality, or just that the film's crap...?

Pendragon: ..and what's Mary Shelly doing in her own book?

Christ: This is crap... munch, munch.

A short time and several dodgy scenes later...



All: Urghhh...That was a bit yukky!

Christ: ...and crap... pass the popcorn.

Another pause...

A S F: Here! That's the guy from Lost Boys, you know, the older brother?

Pendragon: No it's not, it's Lord Byron!

A S F: Who's that?

Pendragon: Heathen! Here! That's Kylie's boyfriend! You know, the guy from INXS!

A S F: No it's not, it's that poet Shelley! Hah!

Pendragon: Heathen!

Some time (and film) passes, then Mary Shelley says 'Percy and Byron preach free love. I practice it...'

A S F: Is this ridiculous or what? No-one's ever said that to me!

Pendragon: Well, maybe you haven't met another cave-women yet...

Christ: Crap acting...

Pause...

Christ: WHADDYA MEAN, THERE'S NO POPCORN LEFT!!! Well, that's it, I'm leaving!

(He doesn't go)

Pendragon: Touch of the Back to the Futures about this...

Christ: This is really sad (and crap).

Another tacky and equally crap time travel sequence follows...

Pendragon: Oh dear.

A S F: I don't believe it!

Christ: This is crap.

The film ends...

Christ: I need a drink...Pub?

All: Oh, if you force us...!

In the Pub...

All: Yes, that really was crap!

Pendragon: How's your beer, Chris?

Christ: That's crap too.

And so it goes...

Alien Sex Fiend, Pendragon, and Christ.

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FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY

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MONDAY 28TH JANUARY

DUSAY (rock)

TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY

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WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY

ANDY MCCULLOCH (clarinet) **GEOFFREY STEVENSON** (mime)

SHERFIELD ART GALLERY

with daily lunchtime classical music in the SCR, Imperial College

War, What is it Good For?



**Some 4,000
people
have been
tortured
and killed
under Iraqi
rule since
August**

With the US and Britain firmly committed to War in the Gulf and the allies adopting an inactive position, Christopher Riley talks to European students about their support for the task force, conspicuous by its absence.

This week Kuwaitis in Britain breathed a sigh of relief as the UN deadline on Iraq arrived. They have been called for the 'rescue' of their country from the ruthless clutches of Hussein ever since information about the atrocities started to reach the west. Some 4,000 people have been tortured and killed under Iraqi rule since August. They argue that the inevitable further deaths that war will bring to the 19 million Kuwaitis still left can only be an improvement to the slow, agonising torture and death they have been experiencing over the last six months. But do the Kuwaitis left want a 'liberating' war or a unity with Iraq? What may sound ridiculous is simply an irreconcilable difference of cultures between the Middle East and the West.

In Monday's German newspaper *Die Welt*, Dr Karl Bertzel stressed the growing importance of the two Arabic movements in the Middle East. The first follows the example of Libya, Egypt and Iraq itself, calling for the present feudalism, to be replaced. The alternative is an, as yet, undefined political system which, through Islamic influences, will differ from a western style democracy. The second calls for the founding of a Pan-Arabic nation. Is the Invasion of

Kuwait simply a movement towards such a Pan-Arabic state, which cannot be halted by external forces such as the UN resolutions? 'It is crucial to see both sides to the argument', explains German student Michael Gross. 'The situation in the Gulf has been brought about by the west. After the First World War the UN carved up the Middle East with almost arbitrary straight lines. It was misguided to assume that the newly synthesised Arab countries would be content with the UN's artificial borders. Clearly Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to behave as he pleases. Iraq can justify its actions, believing that they have a right to Kuwait as their tenth state. Meanwhile the US is bent on its blinkered style of democracy.'

'In the west we smile at the profits made by selling Iraq the constituents for chemical weapons and nuclear capabilities during 'peace time', but once the tables are turned, we condemn the use of such artillery', explains French engineering student Frank Vialaron. 'Such an issue can only be settled by the Arab nations, through a Middle East summit.'

If the UN seriously wants to protect freedom and democracy they would demand a referendum within Kuwait to replace the present UN demands. The current 'get out or prepare for war' ultimatum does not allow an option for Hussein to back down gracefully without losing face. If employed from the start such a referendum would at least allow a back door to Hussein, so important to the Arabic system. Bertzel suggests that it

would include the whole of the Kuwaiti population, not just the ruling elite and proposes the following alternatives: removing the present state of feudalism, independence or unification with Iraq.

'It is naive to think that the US has sent troops to the Gulf to protect democracy. Why then was an international task force not sent to South Africa to eliminate apartheid. When Iraq declared war on Iran nothing was done. When China invaded Tibet in 1956 the UN turned a blind eye. The UN has never acted strongly to preserve human rights, preferring simple declaration' suggests Italian Chemical Engineering student Mauro Costantino. But the French perceive Kuwait, as a little western island of capitalism in a sea of Arab fundamentalism, the 'Bank of the Middle East', a major supply of oil and 'a paradise of duty free fun'. It is their own interests which are driving the US into war. 'In Panama Noriega was once a puppet of the USA. But once he'd overstepped the mark and his actions no longer suited the US, they invaded without hesitation to 're-establish democracy', points out Mauro. Saddam Hussein is no General Noriega and the Gulf is no Panama. Casualties will not only be coming back in body bags, but in lead-lined coffins.



FELIX

Anna Teeman discusses one of the major factors in Arab culture, and its part in the current crisis:

The Importance of Face

As you read this the infamous midnight deadline will have passed. At 5am our time on Wednesday 16th of January 1990 young men and women might have already lost their lives in an unjustifiable and worse an avoidable war.

How did our 'mature' international or rather American leaders bring the Middle East to a war footing. American foreign

policy in its arrogance and ignorance has steam-rolled intelligent diplomacy in favour of juvenile war mongering.

American and Arab rhetoric was matched in its hateful content but it meant different things to the two sides from which it came. The Americans heard their own rhetoric and to them casual war mongering became a firm

commitment to conflict. Underlying Arab rhetoric was an Arab obsession with not losing face. An example: An Englishman was staying in a hotel in Cairo as he pulled back his bed covers he found a bed infested with bugs. He went downstairs and collared the manager. 'There's bugs in my bed' the man said, 'Impossible, there must be some mistake. I suggest an arm wrestle.' The Englishman in his naivety battled hard on the first wrestle. Then seeing the Arab's face he saw his quickest way to get new sheets. The Arab won the second and third arm wrestles. As if by magic new sheets, crisp and clean, waited in his room upstairs. The moral of this story is, in Arab culture it is vital never to lose face.

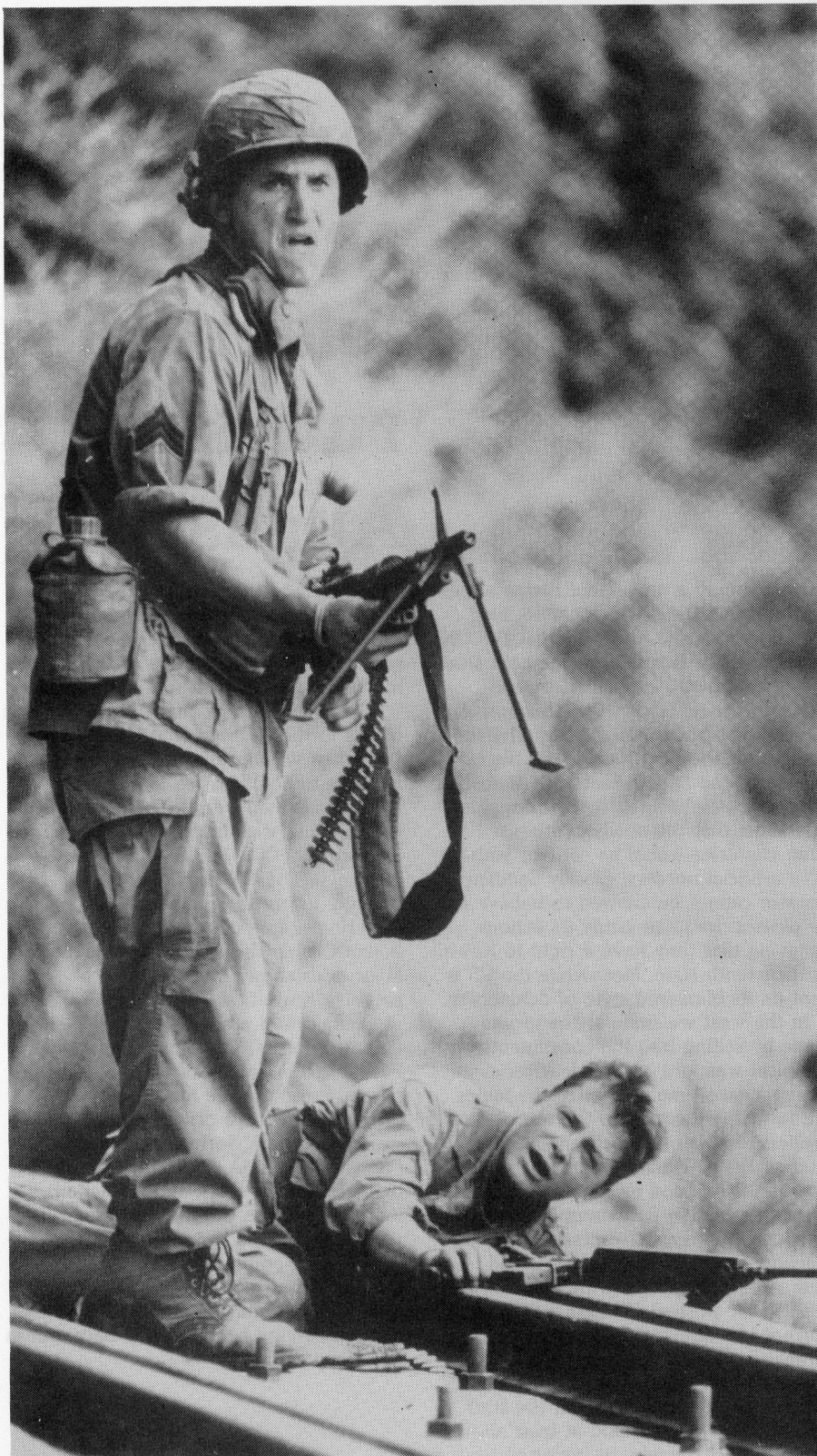
The French are highly adept in Middle Eastern diplomacy. They don't judge the Arabs but they work with their culture. The French have learnt that although an Arab will not lose face, infact because an Arab will not lose face, they are masters of fine and subtle negotiation. It can be said that in our Western culture we too do not want to lose face, but rather than negotiation we arrive at confrontation.

The French peace package has two conditions. First an Iraqi promise of withdrawal from Kuwait and second an international conference on the so-called 'Palestinian problem'. Why is the rest of the Western Alliance so resolute in it's near hysterical rejection of this life saving compromise? Public opinion in Israel itself is constantly pushing for a peaceful end to the blood-letting on the Gazza Strip and the West Bank.

What will be Israel's role in the near certain conflict? Israel has an 'offensive' defence policy. Under threat of attack Israel will cripple her offender. In all her wars, on the strength of this policy, Israel has won and the confrontations have been short. But how short would a conflict with Saddam Hussein's Iraq be?

Israel is the wild card in the pack. Her participation in any conflict transforms alliances now standing. Egyptian policy is clear. Egypt will fight alongside the Western Allies against Saddam Hussein but, once Iraq is in conflict with Israel, Egypt would then ally with Iraq. The Middle East conflict would then become a bloody and bigoted 'jihad' or so-called holy war. Never has there been such a contradiction in terms.

Every war must come to an end and at every end there is a peace conference at which all sides must compromise. Even after the horrors of the Second World War the compromises at its end laid the foundations for our mature and stable Europe. The Americans are willing to sacrifice infinitely precious human lives so that they will sit around the table of compromise later rather than sooner. Who is the madder of the men, Saddam or George?



Adam Harrington presents his opinion on the current crisis:

Is War A Solution?



Throughout the past months the media and the politicians have been talking blithely about war as though it were no more unusual than buying half a dozen eggs.

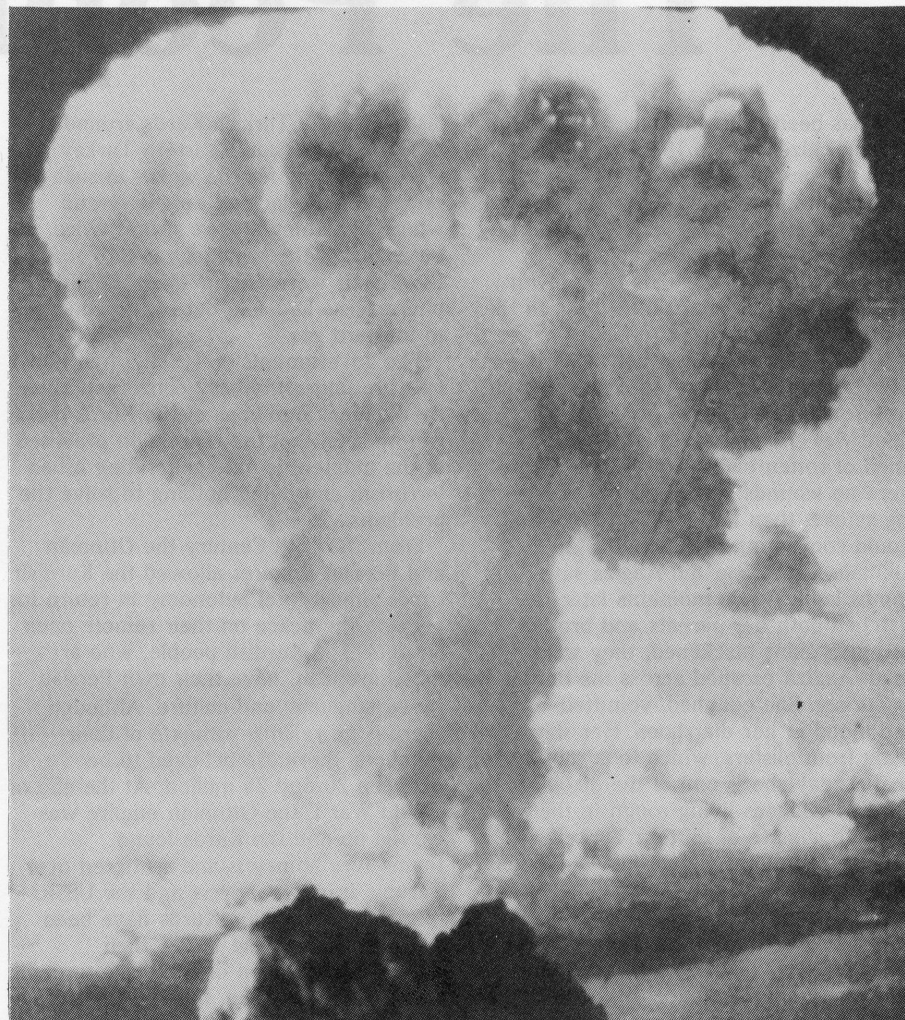
'Of course we don't want war', they say, 'but principles must be upheld'. Anybody who can even consider war as a viable option has a seriously bad attitude towards human life.

I don't want to discuss the issues involved in the present game of toy soldiers because in twenty years time they will all be forgotten. All that will be remembered is that hundreds of thousands died, if it remains a local war, or millions if it doesn't. Why do I think this? Because out of the hundreds of wars that have been fought, who, apart from historians, can say why they were fought? The reasons must have seemed fairly compelling at the time. There is only one war that a fair number of people know the cause of and that is the last major one, 1939-1945. What is better known about that one is that it killed about 40 million people, bankrupted a continent and resulted in half of that continent being kept under a grossly unpleasant political system for the best part of fifty years.

Who knows the reason for the Vietnam and Korean wars? Who the Yom Kippur and Six day wars, the Spanish Civil war, the First World War, the Crimean, the Boer and the American Civil war? It goes on and on. The reasons may be different, but the result is the same. Somebody somewhere thinks that people are more useful as bags of fertilizer. I happen to think I am more useful alive, and I think everybody else is too.

An extraordinary veil comes over the eyes of many people when massive pain and misery occur. This veil has an obvious purpose—to protect the individual's sanity from what the individual cannot cope with. But this veil will probably be the undoing of this civilisation, if not of this species. In any other situation, if I was to promote the idea that thousands of individuals should be destroyed, I would rightly be considered to be mad. Yet because 'the State' says it's for some nebulous 'ideal' it's fine, and anyone who says otherwise is a danger to 'the State' and its people.

I daresay that there is a number of people who disapprove of my views. Well, to be quite honest I don't care—I'm not going to remould my conscience because of what they say. They have the right to their own views but they have no right to actively promote the killing of thousands. They are playing right into the hands of the politicians. The two most common arguments against anti-war views are that 'if everybody was like you then we would be overrun by a state we didn't like' or something similar. I would



say that if everybody had my views on the subject, nobody would overrun anybody—life is too short to play games like that. That is a pie-in-the-sky ideal, I know, but so is defending any ideal, like democracy or the American dream, for instance.

Another argument would be cowardice. Anybody who volunteers to be killed when somebody tells them to is not, in my opinion, brave but rather dim-witted. I don't deny that I have a healthy sense of self preservation—anyone who didn't would have died a long time ago. Trying to stay alive is a fairly natural trend, and anyone who claims otherwise is talking rubbish. I am certainly not frightened to put my views forward, and the only reason I am taking the liberty of doing it now is because I feel it's the only method open to me to try to put a halt to the approaching obscenity.

It depends on your definition of the word, but I would not consider the views set out here to be a study of pacifism. 'Certainly, all forms of violence against fellow humans are to be discouraged—nothing unconventional there—but violence in personal self-defence or defence of those close to you is bound to happen, and I wouldn't like to say that I'd

never do it. The mere difference in scale between attacking somebody about to rape your sister and a full scale war and the fact I accept one and not the other may be considered odd. Bear in mind that attacking a rapist will not destroy the human race and that the rapist or the attacker has the opportunity of running away when they have had enough—so there is a safety valve. If you are part of an army then your own conscience has to be subjugated to the orders of your superiors. You cannot run away, the fight will continue with no safety valve until there aren't enough people left to continue it.

My basic argument against this and any other war is the simplest one; it kills lots of people. If things start getting very serious everyone will have to examine their consciences—is it really worth killing or dying for? Many people have many different answers—mine is 'no', and I am not going to be associated with this most ridiculous and disgusting trait of human behaviour. I sincerely hope that there are enough civilised people in the country who have a similar point of view to make those who start war think twice about its effects.



During the countdown to potential chemical warfare in the Gulf, Christopher Riley remembers the consequences of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapon atrocities on the Kurdish people two years ago and examines a seventy year problem, sadly neglected by the United Nations' Human Rights' Commission.

The People That Time Forgot

Iraq has been using chemical weapons on its own citizens since 1989, when over sixty villages were gassed. On March 17, 1988, about 6,000 died when the town of Halabja was gassed. At about 6.00am on August 25, 1988, Iraqi war planes dropped chemical weapons over seventy Kurdish villages in north east Iraq. In the Bassay valley, alone, 200 families perished. Survivors described what it was like: 'the planes dropped bombs, they did not produce a big noise. A yellowish cloud was created and there was the smell of rotten parsley or onions. There were no wounds, people would breathe the smoke, then fall down and blood would come from their mouths.' In Aikmala, eight year old Aagiza saw bombs land. A few moments later she watched both her parents and brother fall, their skins blackened, they were dead. Aagiza escaped across the border to Turkey. She coughed, vomited, and had blood in her diarrhoea. Her skin stung from blisters, which took months to heal. Today she is one of the 30,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees living rough in the extreme climate of Eastern Turkey.

In the round-ups which followed, 3,000 villages were razed to the ground. Livestock was killed and 500,000 people were removed from their homes. Many of the men were killed and much of Kurdistan has been made a 'free-fire' zone, where all humans or livestock are shot on sight.

Since the invasion of Kuwait, sanctions on Iraq have sterilised the economy of roadside shops on the Turkish border. With the UN deadline fast approaching

last week, the Turkish Kurds around the Silopi Valley in south-eastern Turkey were preparing for the worst. In such an erratic region, lacking sanctuary and where lightening always strikes twice, buses out of the regional capital Diyarbakir were fully booked up and pharmacists had sold out of the antidote to mustard gas.

The governments of Turkey, Iraq and Iran are understandably concerned about the Political ambitions of the Kurds but it can be seen that the repression practised at the moment is only generating urban terrorism and doing nothing to solve the problems.

From the 16th Century the Ottoman and Persian Empires allowed the Kurdish tribes almost total autonomy in return for keeping the peace on their remote open borders. The Kurdish people, who are Indo-European, have their own Persian based language and culture. Although there is no reliable estimate of their numbers, there are believed to be between 20 and 25 million. At the end of World War I, the Ottoman empire was carved up and the Kurds found themselves homeless and scattered over Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the USSR.

In Iran five million Kurds have been suppressed since the 1920s: their language, in spoken or written form, and their culture, banned. In 1946 the Kurds of Mahabad succeeded in declaring an independent republic, but it only lasted a few months before authorities hanged the ringleaders. Since the Islamic revolution Tehran has refused all requests for Kurdish autonomy.

In Iraq there were numerous revolts. During the late 1980s chemical weapons were used on a holocaust scale not seen since World War I. Within a week, tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds, many bearing fresh wounds from chemical weapons were arriving in Turkey. This was hardly the place to seek sanctuary. Turkey had turned a blind eye to the Iraqi attacks of the 1980s, allowing rape of border villages by Iraqi troops.

In Turkey almost ten million Kurds are forbidden to use their own language despite the fact that many Kurds can only speak their Kurdish mother language. Even the word 'Kurd' is banned. They are officially known as 'Mountain Turks'. In the 1920s and 1930s the Kurds rebelled against this discrimination. In response the Turkish authorities suppressed them, with great force, deporting up to one million people westwards from their homeland.

When the Kurdish member of Turkey's parliament publicly stated 'In Turkey there are Kurds. I too am a Kurd', he was found guilty of 'propaganda aimed at weakening national feelings' and condemned to two years imprisonment with hard labour. This Turkish apartheid has been in force for sixty years now and has resulted in the rise of a Marxist guerrilla group, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) fighting for independence. In desperation they have had to resort to violence: attacking government forces and those who cooperate with them.

During my travels around Turkish Kurdistan, in 1989, I found a lot of resentment for the Turks, whose silent



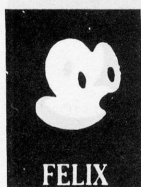
cooperation with Iraq and Iran seems to be dedicated towards the total annihilation of their 'parasitic' minority people. But the Kurds are a proud race and refuse to see the death of their language and culture. In the ancient lake-side town of Van, I found Kurds singing Kurdish freedom songs in the basement of their kilim shop.

*'When the snow comes to the high Mountain,
When the nightingale is sad,
I can feel freedom and see freedom,
But cannot catch it—I can only drink the water
That comes from the mountain,
And then I think I touch freedom.'*

*When I see the Snowy Mountain,
and when I think of you my lover
My soul starts to dance in my body.
I am afraid my lover, I will not see you again,
My eyes are filled with tears,
For there are two things in life of which I am afraid.
Parting and death.'*

(continued overleaf)

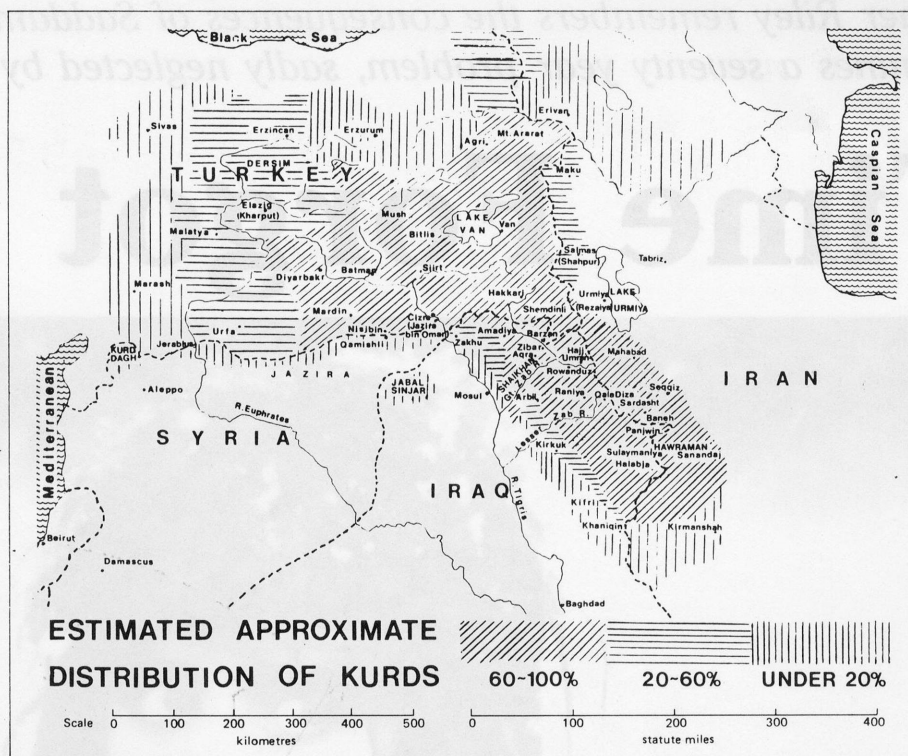




Mehmet, the owner of the shop, was a human rights lawyer, preparing to start his PhD in Europe. Abdol, a childhood friend, helped to run the carpet shop. In their youth they had both

been arrested and beaten with truncheons. Like many other Kurds, their national identities had been forged and nurtured by this suppression. Punishment and tortures they had witnessed involved forcing women to sit on broken bottles, or being stripped and blasted with high pressure water. After the abduction and murder of his parents, Abdol's younger brother left home to join the PKK guerrillas in the mountains. For over a year Abdol tried to contact him searching the countryside, armed with photographs. Such is the secrecy of the PKK's movements that he has not seen his brother since he left home. Most Kurds disapprove of the PKK's violent methods, but with government brutality on the increase Abdol's pride in what his brother is doing is also increasing.

There are allegedly over 400,000 troops in the Kurdish areas, arbitrarily arresting villagers and frequently beating up and torturing them to obtain information about the PKK. Many detainees die under these conditions. In January, 1989, a mass grave was reportedly found in a refuse tip outside Siirt. A government inquiry was 'inconclusive'. Over 300 local Kurds remain unaccounted for, following such arrests.



There is a real danger that if Kurdish communities are not allowed to practise, and cultivate their culture, political groups will turn to violence to fight the life threatening conditions deliberately inflicted on them by their neighbours. The actions of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, need condemning on the international scale which has proved so effective in

forcing change in unacceptable government policies elsewhere in the world. Iraq is in violation of the 1948 Convention on Genocide, yet no country challenged it, undermining the credibility of this international law. Without condemnation, there is nothing to stop other governments from exterminating their own minority people.

STUDENT LOANS

As from January 11th the office dealing with student loans will be Room 335, Level 3, Sheffield Building.

For the first weeks only the arrangements are as follows:

The office will open from 1.15 to 3.15 every day and students wishing to apply for a loan must book an appointment in person via the Student Finance Office, Room 344, Level 3, Sheffield Building.

In the light of demand these arrangements may be subject to review after January 25th and any revisions will be advertised in advance.

Full-time home undergraduate students wishing to establish their eligibility for a loan from the Student Loans Company Ltd should not come to the office unless they can bring with them the following documents:

a) **For students born in the United Kingdom—**

Birth/adoption certificate

or **For students born outside the United Kingdom—a** passport and a letter or other document from a responsible person—a minister of religion, doctor, lawyer, teacher, established civil servant, police officer or consular officer—which contains particulars of the student's date, place and country of birth and the student's names at birth.

b) Letter of advice from a local education authority confirming a mandatory award.

c) Evidence of a bank/building society account, i.e. the production of a cheque book, passbook or bank statement which shows clearly the account number and sort code.

Without these documents we cannot process requests for a loan.

January 1991

T Cullen
Assistant Registrar

THE WEST LONDON CHAPLAINCY OXFAM LUNCH Tuesday Lunchtimes Between 12.30pm-1.30pm

'Oxfam believes in the essential dignity of people and their ability to overcome the problems and pressures which can crush and exploit them. These may be rooted in climate or geography, or in the more complex area of economic, political and social conditions.'

(Field Director's Handbook)

The West London Chaplaincy is currently running an Oxfam Lunch in College every Tuesday lunchtime from 12.30pm-1.30pm. The idea is to come along and eat a simple meal consisting of bread and cheese. For this we ask for a donation of £1.00 and the proceeds will then be given to Oxfam—a charity organisation which is committed to working alongside people internationally on a wide range of development issues eg. concerning the environment, human rights, economics and education.

We can be found in the Foyer of the Bessemer Building (off the walkway between Mech Eng and Elec Eng). Everyone is welcome to come along.

A rundown of some of the facilities available at the Sports Centre in Princes Gardens.

Make a Splash



The Imperial College Sports Centre is open to all students and staff of Imperial College and to members of the public. Situated opposite Southside on the northside of Princes Gardens it offers many facilities to its, users from Squash courts and a weights room to the 25 metre swimming pool. Compared to public sports amenities it is very cheap and to further the cause of cost cutting, season tickets can be purchased for the year.

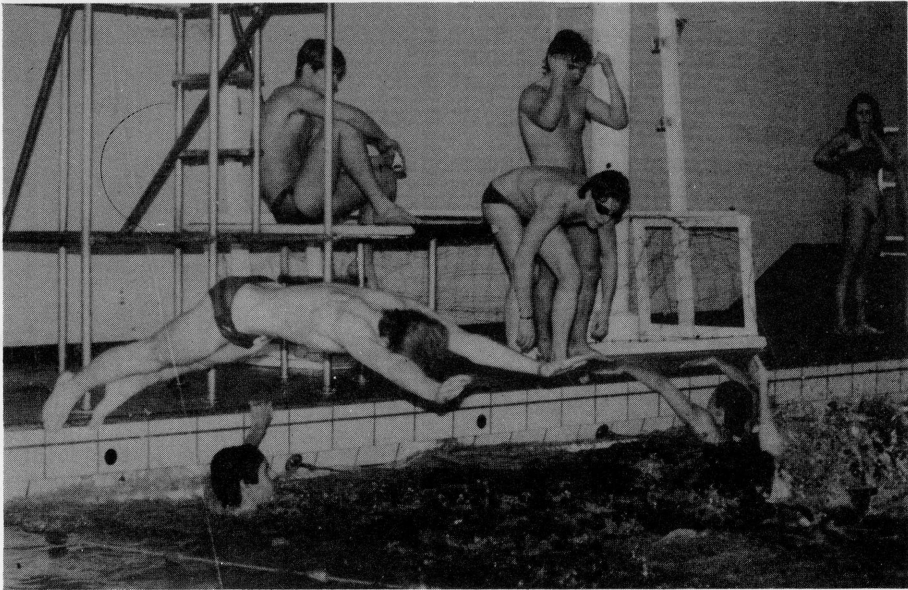
Instruction in swimming is based around levels and age groups to suit your needs and includes tuition for children. Lessons are available for adults on Wednesdays and Fridays (Women only)

for beginners and improvers. Lessons cost £2.00 per session and are held in the evening.

For children there are two sets of lessons for the under and over fives. The under fives can begin on this Saturday, the 19th, with sessions beginning at 10am and 10.30am. The lessons are held every saturday and more information can be sought by contacting Soussi Kerman from Mini Muscles Ltd on 071-235 3807. The fives and overs are taught by Norman Jones with lessons on Monday to Friday, costing £21 for 6 sessions. People are urged to book early to avoid disappointment as they have already started!

A Bronze Medallion course in life saving can also be obtained by training at the centre. Sports centres are always looking for casual staff and a 'Bronze Medallion' is a prerequisite of employment. A certificate is practically a guarantee of work!! The course is run on Thursdays and goes on for ten weeks. It comprises a theory and practical section which run consecutively from 8.30pm to 10pm. The cost from Imperial College Students is £30 and to others £40.

For further information on any of the above call in at the Sports Centre or telephone on 071 589 5111 extension 3038/9.



WOMEN ONLY WEIGHTS SESSIONS

Monday 6-7pm
Thursday 1.30-2.30pm

SQUASH COURTS

8.15am-9.15pm
(9.00-4.30pm Saturday)

WEIGHTS GYM

8.00am-9.00pm
(8.00am-4.30pm Sat)

Please note: at times marked 'school use', the pool is still open for general use.

	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10
MONDAY	LANE SWIMMING	SCHOOL USE			LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE		CHILDRENS LESSONS		SWIMMING CLUB		WATER POLO CLUB	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
TUESDAY	LANE SWIMMING	SCHOOL USE		SCHOOL USE		LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE	CHILDRENS LESSONS		CANOE CLUB		SUB AQUA CLUB	PENGUINS WATER POLO
WEDNESDAY	SCHOOL USE LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE			LANE SWIMMING			CHILDRENS LESSONS		ADULT LESSONS BOARD DIVING		GENERAL SWIM	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
THURSDAY	LANE SWIMMING	SCHOOL USE	SCHOOL USE			LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE	CHILDRENS LESSONS				SUB AQUA CLUB	LIFESAVING COURSE
FRIDAY	LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE			LANE SWIMMING		SCHOOL USE	CHILDRENS LESSONS	WOMEN'S LESSONS WOMEN ONLY	SWIMMING CLUB		WATER POLO CLUB	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
SATURDAY	SCHOOL USE									AVAILABLE FOR HIRE		AVAILABLE FOR HIRE		AVAILABLE FOR HIRE



Carter

-Blood Sport For All 12"



Oh god, this sounds like *The Sweet*. Very glammy. The horns list immediately in their glorious hideousness, but the guitars will probably grow, despite the essentially continued and over-produced nature of the thing.

The introduction is promising apart from the horns, but by half-way through seems to lose its way and gets very repetitive in a Radio One sort of way which is the whole point of this record—

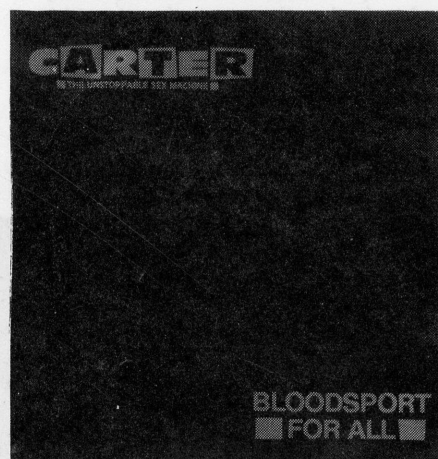
Carter want a hit and appear to want it bad. Having said that this is probably a lot better than most of what gets played on 'Wonderful Radio One', and if you like them before you'll probably still like them now.

The first B-side, *2001: A Clockwork Orange* is an exact carbon copy of Oz by *Casandra Complex*, with an extremely unimaginative dub over the top. God and Theomania yourself and listen to the real

thing.

The second B-side is possibly even worse. Think of *Creaming Jesus's Forest*, make the cover about a million times worse, remove the humour and you'll have an approximation of Carter's version of *Bedsitter*. Mark Almond must be spinning in his Bryl-Creamed hair. This made me shake.

The Paleoethnobotanist.



Blackbird

-Compilation Album



Blackbird are two brothers. *Blackbird* are American. *Blackbird* have toured with *Red Lorry Yellow Lorry* and it shows. The same driving rhythms and repetitive guitar riffs can be found on this album, a compilation of their 'bent' tracks so far.

Unfortunately for them, the *Lorries* similarity doesn't quite come off. *Blackbird* haven't got quite enough power, enough black in their hearts, to

deliver a crushing enough beat. The ordering of the album does them no favours either, jumping fairly randomly between the rockier side of their nature and an almost electro sensibility. Again, you get the feeling this isn't quite working as well—soft tinged electro is to nobodies taste. And the music pales into insignificance when compared to stablemates *Revolting Cocks*.

Oh, I've run out of things to say. Perhaps this is significant—the album leaves you feeling slightly numb in a soporific way. It's mainly the voice, the one constant factor throughout the LP. It's strong, but so's a lump of steel that's hardly interesting.

One track is quite interesting—a Lou Reed cover seemingly heavily influenced by some sort of electro-beat, perhaps the best song on the LP and pointing the way to the future?

Blackbird may have a future ahead of them if they can escape their influences and learn to live a bit. Even the *Lorries* changed eventually.

The Paleoethnobotanist.

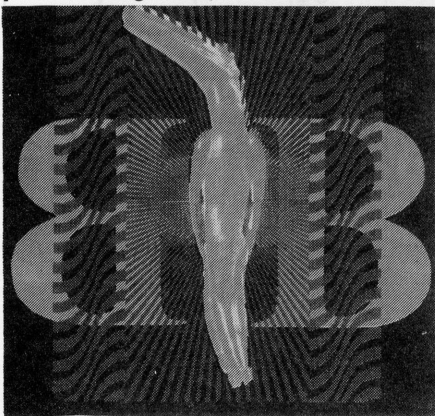
The Real People

-Let Me In 12"

CBS have obviously gone looking for the 'trendy northern sound' and have come out the other side with *The Real People*. Sure, they have nicked *The Farm's* twiddly guitar line and *The Charlatan's* baggy bits to achieve an 'authentic' Manchester sound that nicely fits the accepted mould, and it lollops around at its own happy-go-lucky pace, perfectly at home vibrating your rib cage on the dance floor and ust as well on the five watt stereo.

So this begs the question, do accountants and businessmen have taste? No, of course not. The likes of *Dee-Lite* have shown the way forward, effectively stealing the wind from Manchester's sail, and seeing as CBS have tried to find 'the cutting edge' they've shot themselves in the foot, as they are about a year behind everyone else. Still, why believe me—my hot tip for the year is *Abba*.

John.



Union Pages.....



College Day

Following Monday night's Council: An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Union will be called to discuss (hopefully for the last time) any proposed changes to the College day. This will be the only item of business. I hope to invite several members of College staff to participate in the debate. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 January, 1.00pm in the JCR.

At its next scheduled meeting on Monday 28 January, I anticipate the working party will make its final report—this is thus potentially your last chance to voice your opinion on the matter.

Also, I recommend that all students who either agree or disagree with working 9-6, write an appropriate letter to their head of department, copying it to the Rector, Sir Eric Ash and myself. This gives me more information to bring to the working party.

Census

Anyone interested in earning \$410 over Easter for approximately two weeks work helping with the 1991 census please ask for an application form from the Union Office.

Research Assistants

Moves are afoot to give RA's on a three year course of study, full Union status. Watch this space for more details.

Paul Shanley, ICU President.

A.C.C. Bit

ACC Elections

Nominations for ACC Honorary Secretary are needed. The Election will be held on Thursday 27 January at the ACC General Meeting. Grant claim forms to be in to all Treasurers' pigeonholes by Friday 25 January.

Note to all users of the Union Building.

The Union Building is closed strictly between the hours of midnight and 8.00am on weekdays and Saturday mornings, and between midnight and 9.00am on Sunday mornings.

Any person or group requiring access during these hours should contact Benjamin Turner, Deputy President, to arrange access in advance.

UNION BAR

open

**FOR RUGBY UNION
INTERNATIONALS**

**19th Jan, 2nd Feb, 16th
Feb, 2nd March, 16th
March**

FROM 1.30pm ONWARDS

games televised on big screen

ICU BOOKSTORE SALE

Selected lines of books, stationery and cards are to be cleared at ridiculous prices

UP TO 50% OFF!!

**Monday 28th January
to
Thursday 31st January**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE *Union*

SNACK BAR

the new 'cosmopolitan' range

★Homebaked Italian pizzas (7" & 12")

★Pitta break with chicken tikka, taramasolata, tzisiki, homous, smoked mackerel

★Samosas & onion bhajees

Plus:

Toasties, doughnuts with custard, apple and jam fillings

Orange and apple juice, hot chocolate and a wide selection of the world's finest teas

As well as:

The usual cooked meals and freshly prepared rolls and sandwiches

SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions for records for the Juke Box OR machines for the Games Room. Let us know in the Union Office.

GAMES ROOM

After the weekend, the games room will reopen with new décor, a pool table and a different range of machines.



In the early days two Jamaican lads worked together as welders they were both to become legends, one was Bob Marley and the other Desmond Dekker.

From such humble roots this former superstar now has risen to such a height as to play, for the first time ever, Imperial College Union. Desmond's mix of reggae and ska with a wicked funky upfront boogie has brought the inimitable sound of Desmond Dekker into millions of homes throughout his incredible career. Most famous of his hits is *The Israelites* which sold over five million

again.

In complete contrast the *Love Kittens* have a much more up to date sound. At first sight they appear to be a typical indie pop/dance crossover following the recent upsurge in popularity this music is having at the moment. But they are not, they have something that the rest of these bands, eg *Northside/The High* etc do not have which is originality. Rave reviews from all the music press have made this one of the finds of 1990 and a sure thing for success in 1991. When they are on Top of the Pops later this year remember

As usual there are other forms of entertainment happening tonight such as a casino, where fortunes can be won or lost; cocktails, where your guts can be won or lost, and the same for the bugers' stall. Some films will be shown if you like films, dark places or you love to put your hands down your pants for a long time and not get caught! The IC Ents Disco will be going strong and loud with the last tunes in recent months, years or decades until 3am. And what is probably most important to the boys with attitude problems and large bellies is a late bar



copies worldwide and was the first reggae single to reach number one in the UK. Now used for countless TV commercials Desmond is hot stuff at the moment. Definitely one of the highlights of the year.

Also playing tonight are three other superb bands: *Sax Appeal* (yes Sax!) are another funky outfit. They are an instrumental band with eight sax players, guaranteed to make even the heaviest shoes groove to the funky sound and make the limpest of wrists become erect

where you saw them first. Oh yeah, they are not from Manchester!

The last band of the night, yet the first to appear, will be *Boy Girl Soup*. Anyone who saw them at Freshers' Week will know they need no introduction. But if you missed it then they are a young band in their infancy in Rock 'n' Roll terms, on the verge of signing a large record deal. Their influences stem from *The Wonderstuff*, *PWEI*, *Band of Holy Joy* etc. A very professional and again original band, not to be missed.

until 2am.

The whole evening starts at 8pm in the Union Building and will cost you £3.50 if you buy in advance from the Union Office. If you have an ents card you can save a pound. If you want to try and get in on the door, and if there are any tickets left then the cost is £4.50. Everyone though make sure you are in possession of your Union card which will allow you entrance and to admit two guests. Have a good evening and enjoy!!!

BJ, Ents Chair.

E G M

Extraordinary General Meeting

**Tuesday 22 January
1.00pm in the JCR**

This meeting has been called to discuss the proposed lengthening of the college day. It is vital that anyone with feelings on this subject attend, as the working party have discounted all previous referendums and meetings, claiming them to be unrepresentative.

**THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO TELL COLLEGE TO FUCK OFF BEFORE THEY
SHIT ON US FROM ON HIGH.**

Clubs & Socs



Wing Chun

The Imperial College Wing Chun Kung Fu Club has had an excellent Autumn term with standards of achievement and training maintained at a high level by the expert knowledge of Master Sid Sofos. Events included gradings, charity events (raising over £1,000 for deaf children) and our annual Christmas dinner.

A demonstration of the principles of Wing Chun will be held on Wednesday 23 January at 1.30pm in the Union Gym. A new beginners class will start on Wednesday 30 January. By training in Wing Chun you develop a means of self-defence which increases self-confidence increasing self-respect, but Kung Fu is much more than fighting.

It is a way of disciplining the mind to achieve higher mental concentration and a fascinating insight into your own personal emotions and behaviour.

So much for the martial, Wing Chun is also an art hence the term martial art. The art is revealed in the beauty of the physical movements and the philosophies opening up a world many overlook.

Come along to the demonstration you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Conservative

After last week's article in FELIX on the Labour Club, it is only fair that the ConSoc has its say.

The ConSoc is still by far the largest, most active and most enjoyable political society in College. Just in the last term we have two very successful speaker meetings with Cecil Parkinson and Edwina Currie, a couple of parties—one of which was at the House of Commons. Some of our members were able to meet the new Prime Minister, Mr John Major and congratulate him personally.

This term, we have even more events to come of both political natures. For example, members may come to our prestigious Annual Dinner, with special guest Enoch Powell.

Despite what you may believe, our members' views reflect the entire spectrum of opinion within the Conservative Party.

To find out more about our activities, do come to our lunchtime meetings every Friday at 12.30pm in Physics 737.

Scout & Guide

For all you gruesome turtle dudes who missed out, here's a taster of what happened last term. For starters we had spaghetti bolognese up in the Peak District. The weather was good, as always, except for the cloud and rain which lasted all weekend. A good laugh was had as we convinced freshers that throwing yourself off rock faces in the freezing cold is THE thing to do. During dinner Phil 'I know how to prussok' Wickens found himself stuck, and had to eat suspended (rather painfully) from the ceiling. A search for sanity led us to the local pub and then the silly games began...

The next weekend we all piled into the back of a minibus with our gear and headed up to the Midlands. Okay, so there are no mountains in the Midlands, but there are canals. Equipped with two barges we managed to wreak havoc on the British waterways through non-stop waterfights, bridgehopping and extremely bad driving.

After a couple of weeks drying out we packed our bags once more and headed off to South Wales this time. Destination the Black Mountains staying in a village hall for the weekend. Most people went off walking in extremely strong winds, although the hard-core rock climbers managed to make it to the local cafe. The highlight of the weekend was a visit to Abergavenny's trendiest pub packed with Sharons, Tracys, and Kev the Lads. Thanks go to Nick and Jim for nearly getting us kicked out.

By the end of term most people were worn out, and so only fourteen of us set off to Yorkshire. This turned out to be the laziest and most luxurious weekend ever. The hut had thirty beds, showers, baths, a TV, a pool table and a microwave oven. After crawling out of bed at 11 o'clock a couple of us lept on to our bikes and cycled over the Whernside plateau and up Ingleborough Hill. Reaching the top at 4 o'clock we rode back down in the pitch black, thankfully without falling off. Whilst some managed to go out walking, others preferred to stay in watching Wac-a-Day and visiting the pub opposite.

Over the Christmas holiday the winter tour went up to Fort William in Scotland for a week, but that's a long story. If this sounds like your Pot Noodle look on the noticeboard under Beit Arch for further details. Dib, Dib, Dib. Be prepared.

Canoeing

The trip to the Upper Dart at the end of last term was eventful to say the least. Arriving at the campsite on Dartmoor at two in the morning and pitching tents in inches of snow ended of course in a snowball fight. The journey down to the river on Saturday was a bit hair raising, with one in five slopes covered in snow. 'Where's the road?', was a good question, but Eric the driver could handle anything.

On to the canoeing and the five mile stretch of river we tackled was supposed to be a challenge for this year's beginners. The larger rapids, aptly named the Washing Machine and the like, I'm afraid I can't comment on except to say I was fished, spluttering out of most of them.

The next morning, we decided against frozen wetsuits and took the small canoes sledging, racing six year-olds down hills, canoes against plastic trays. That was the perfect end to a fun weekend, one of the best so far.

Snooker

The more observant among you will have noticed that the long awaited token meters are in operation. This effectively means that only members can use the club facilities.

To get your tokens come to the Club with your membership card any lunchtime.

The quota is three tokens per member, per week, four if you pay an extra £1.00 (one-off).

FELIX DEADLINES

Mon Lunch - What's On, Small Ads, Letters

Tues Lunch - Prearranged Features, Reviews, etc

Anytime - News

Call the Felix Hotline

Ext 3515

What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND IMPERIAL COLLEGE. IF YOU WISH TO ADVERTISE AN EVENT HERE COME INTO THE FELIX OFFICE BY MONDAY LUNCHTIME.

FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and find out about weekend training. Weekly meeting.
- Conservative Soc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Physics 737.
- 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.
- 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.
- Southside Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside Bar.

SATURDAY

- Boat Club**.....9.00pm
Putney Boathouse
- Kung Fu Club**.....4.30pm
Wu Shu Kwan in Southside Gym.

SUNDAY

- Sunday Service**.....10.00am
Anteroom Sheffield Building. See West London Chaplaincy.
- Catholic Chaplaincy Mass**.....11.00am
53 Cromwell Road.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
UDH. All welcome.
- Yoga**.....10.30am
Southside Gym.
- Kung Fu Club**.....4.30pm
Wu Shu Kwan in the Union Gym.
- Catholic Mass**.....6.00pm
53 Cromwell Road, followed by supper.
- Boat Club**.....9.00pm
Putney Boathouse.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. 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.
- 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.
- Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Cathsoc Mass**.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.
- Sailing Club**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- PhotoSoc**.....1.00pm
Southside Lounge. New members to join.
- Jewish Society Meeting**.....1.30pm
Union Dining Hall. AGM. Contact Andrew Preston (Maths 2) for further details.
- Radio Modellers**.....5.30pm
Student training workshop, Mech Eng.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Amenesty International**.....5.30pm
Clubs Committee Room. Weekly meeting.
- Wine Tasting Soc**.....6.00pm
Union Lounge. Weekly meeting. Everyone welcome
- Social Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. Beginners.
- Canoe Club**.....6.15pm
Beit Quad store or 8.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Latin American**.....7.00pm
JCR. Bronze Medal Class.
- Yoga**.....8.00pm
Southside Gym.
- Cricket Nets**.....9.00pm
Lords. Meet at 7.45pm in Mech Eng Foyer. Must bring whites.

WEDNESDAY

- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm
Southside Gym.
- No war in the Gulf meeting**.....1.00pm
Mech Eng 220 with speaker Tony Benn.
- FBI Society Meeting**.....1.00pm
Maths 340. Negotiating skills with KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock.
- 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.

THURSDAY

- Fencing Training**.....11.30am
Intermediate & advanced coaching.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.
- YHA Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Postgrad Lunch**.....12.30pm
Chaplains Office (10 Princes Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.
- Fencing Training**.....12.30pm
Beginners Training.
- Fencing Training**.....1.30pm
General.
- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Aero 266. Come and arrange a trial flight. All newcomers welcome.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym
- Midweek Service**.....5.30pm
Chaplains Office (10 Prince's Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.
- Social Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. Intermediate.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Social Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Beginners.
- FilmSoc Film 'The Wall'**.....7.30pm
Mech Eng 220.
- Latin American**.....8.00pm
JCR. Gold medal class.
- Southside Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside Bar.
- ICCA Soup Run**.....9.15pm
Meet Weeks Hall Basement to take food to London's homeless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ATTENTION all IC Radio members! There will be an important station general meeting for all members on Jan 24 at 1pm in Northside. Bring along your union and membership cards.
- THERE ARE STILL a few tickets left for the Guilds Dinner and Dance in the Park Lane Hotel. Available from the Guilds Office, Level 3, Mech Eng. Price £85.00 per double.
- WED 23 JAN. Maths room 340 at 1pm. Negotiating skills with KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock.

ACCOMMODATION

- FULHAM FLAT SHARE. Non-smoking PG wanted for single room. Rent £51 pw. Contact Anna on 955 7472 (day) or 731 1375 (eve).

WANTED

- WANTED: Small car for under £500. Contact Chris on 589 8672 (int 8672).

Scribblers' Corner..



Correct, Just Bullshit

Dear Sir,

John Major says that he wishes to create a classless society and I believe he's sincere. They say actions speak louder than words, so he should start by withdrawing all government aid to the arts council and the arts industry as a whole. Last year they received £500 million (including tax exemptions). I am an ardent Chelsea supporter and last year the club paid £1.61 million in taxes. Only football—the culture of the masses—is taxed and the money given as a subsidy to the arty-farty culture vultures who enjoy ballet, opera and serious theatre, i.e. the performing arts. In the main those pursuits are enjoyed by a monied minority who have their pleasures subsidised by the massive majority. I don't expect to be given money or get cheaper tickets to watch football. So why should pretentious prats in bow ties?

Well I am informed that the arts are British culture. British culture? What, a fat lot in a dress, prancing up and down the stage singing in a high voice. Or maybe British culture is men with cricket boxes stuffed down the front of their tights,

chucking about an anorexic woman. Well that ain't my culture.

I am also informed that the arts are beautiful to watch. Well I find a 40 yard pass by Andy Townsend to find Kerry Dixon, who then scores, as beautiful, but again this is not subsidised.

Last year the RSC had to close two of its theatres in the Barbican because it couldn't afford to keep them open. We were told how terrible this would be for the country. Quite obviously no one gave a toss. What normal people are concerned about is if they can get a bed in a hospital or their elderly parents have enough money to survive.

The government, quite rightly, refused to subsidise unprofitable pits which caused the miners' strike. Nor did they subsidise the unprofitable docks which used to be in the heart of the East End. So what is so bloody special about the arts?

As a free marketeer I don't believe anyone's leisure activities should be subsidised. But if the government insists on doing this let's subsidise pensioners' bingo, or I'll have some of the money, so

me and my friends can go out to the pub, have a game of darts and then go and have Pie, Mash and Jellied Eels. £500 million would go a very long way!

The money should not be spent on pathetic government bashing ethnic fringe theatres or on stuck up groups of wealthy aristos. It should be given to the NHS which is in need of funds. Talking of stuck up groups of people, I bet Matthew Salter likes the arts. Who knows, that money could be spent on giving him his badly needed brain transplant. After John Major has finished with the arts industry he should turn his eye to the matter of public schools and 'the old school ties'. However you must feel sorry for those privileged few. Particularly when you see what the schools have made them into.

Yours,

Alan Bailey.

P.S. In the last few letters against me there have been five references to xenophobic, four bigots and three racists. Come on lads let's have some new insults. Or how about describing my letters as they really are. Correct, just and sensible.

Pro

British Defence

Dear Andy,

In his letter last week, Jason Pike stated that, 'All those writing against the right to abortion have invoked God as the authority justifying their case'.

I would like to point out that the ICU Pro-Life Society is non-religious, and any letters or articles written on behalf of the society have not and will not 'invoke God'.

Our members' belief that human life must be respected at all stages of development stems from their own particular moral code. Naturally for some this is part of their religious belief, but for those who do not ascribe to any religion, the seemingly widespread opinion that anyone sympathetic to the Pro-Life cause is a religious fundamentalist can be very irritating, not to mention damaging to the way people view the society.

In short, we welcome members of any persuasion—atheists and believers (of any variety).

I hope this sets things straight.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Walter, Secretary ICU Pro-Life.

Dear Andy,

Please convey my thanks to Amin El-Kholy for another supereilious, derogatory and patronising letter, this time directed at me.

This business of cultures is so obviously trivial that I'm amazed he bothered dragging it out longer. I hope I can settle the matter once and for all.

It all began in FELIX 882, when Amin made some unpleasant remarks about the British, suggesting we are a nation of belligerent, xenophobic drunkards. In 888 he denounced these remarks as tongue in cheek, and I accept they probably were; nevertheless I feel they should never have been made. I wrote back in 885 saying, hold on! Britain ain't that bad! For daring to defend my country's reputation I am branded 'narrow, nationalistic and bigoted'.

Bigoted? Definitely not. It's quite true that I hold strong opinions on many subjects, opinions which I will voice and defend if I can be bothered. However, I always encourage debate, argument and discussion. Constructive criticism rather

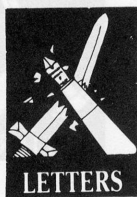
than insults from Mr El-Kholy would be welcome.

Nationalistic? Perhaps. All I said were a few words about what I like about Britain. I could have done the same about Ireland, France, Bulgaria, Morocco, or any country I know anything about. Anyone has the right to dislike this country, and to try to change it; I ask for the right to defend the things in Britain I consider worth retaining. If that is being nationalistic, then so be it.

Narrow? This is a pretty broad subject. I think I'll pass on it.

In his last paragraph Mr El-Kholy reached some quite interesting conclusions from the one sentence I wrote pertaining to the Gulf Crisis. Interesting, and mostly wrong. Keep it up, Am.

I went to the anti-war demo in Trafalgar Square, to observe rather than participate. What particularly annoyed me was the tremendous anti-American feeling expressed in placards and speeches, and the naive attitude that America is the sole source of all tension in the Middle East.



Athena Speaks

Most people called for an Arab solution to the crisis. I pointed out to a steward that the solution the Arab countries reached was to ask for 'Western' help. The surly steward, a Leninist to judge from his plethora of badges, said bluntly—we shouldn't help them. To justify this view he recited a list of other places we allegedly failed to help, such as Afghanistan, Panama, Czechoslovakia, South Africa (?) and others. Well, I suggested, wouldn't this be a perfect opportunity to start helping oppressed people around the world? 'Piss off', was the eloquent response. I fear it reflected the IQ of a large number of the protestors.

*Yours sincerely,
Ultan McCarthy, Physics 3.*

Who?

Dear Andy,

I'd like to bring to your readers attention a much more explosive problem than that of Mr Hussein's imminent demise.

What I'm talking about is this: You get in from a tough day at college. You then wander down to some bar. You have few pints with the lads, brag about what happened last night, and then, unlike most of the 'men' here, go and chat up some dopey bitch. You go back to her room/flat. All you want is a good shag with whassa her name. So you tell you love her and pull on a condom. The woman thinks you're responsible, 'cos you're wearing the thing. You think you're safe. Guy's, you with me so far?

So you bonk her more stupid than she is already is. You're just thinking about leaving now you've sobered up enough to see her face clearly. You look down. Shit, the balloons up, the rubbers ripped. It's not you're fault that you're a real man, is it?

I ask you, what are British Standards coming to? The pride of the British workforce has gone to pot! It's bad enough that you've got to wear a raincoat on your knob, just 'cos the pill is out of fashion with today's 'liberated', ie easy, women. Some tossers might write letters to you saying how wonderful Britain is, but what state are we in when a man can't even be free to use his God given right to sex when he wants it, without worrying about catching something? Not to mention the hassle of some bitch knocking on your door in three months time. It wouldn't be so bad, but they never take 'F**k off' for an answer!

*Yours,
A Real Man,*

Dear Sir,

I have a number of points to make this week.

1. My first point is that I shall try to number them all so that when people like Amin El-Kholy talk about my letters they can give an Issue number and a point number when discussing my assertions.

2. Mr El-Kholy says his 'first reaction, however, was not to waste time on a reply since the arguments presented were so weak...' Surely if they were so weak they would not take long to brush away? I'm afraid that that sort of reply is always looked upon as a last desperate bluff, whether rightly or wrongly.

However, I shall try and work out which points he was on about. If he was discussing the letter in issue 883 (the only letter since his first effort) then here is my reply:

The first 43 words discuss the necessity for exact use of vocabulary in an argument eg 'no proven correlation' and 'proven no correlation' are two totally different statements made up of the same three words. I will expect no argument on this part.

The next 70 words deals with the FACT that hostages must not be used for bargaining. If I hold a gun to my bank manager's head and ask for a million pounds and I am not punished, then I and everyone else will try it again. You will get a million pounds, you will not actually have to hurt anyone, and it will soon become daily routine.

Then comes 98 words on the same lines as the Amnesty International article in issue 888. No arguments here I hope. The rest is the choice of Athena as a name which could result in endless irrelevant discussion as I'm not changing it.

3. About sanctions. While I would prefer sanctions to war, it is clear that Saddam does not worry about his people, indeed he has used Chemicals on them. So he will not notice sanctions until it begins to hurt his Military. This will take several years. He is also close to developing nuclear weapons, which he will use as he used Chemicals. So there is good reason to believe that sanctions will fail.

Thus it is vital that Saddam believes that he will eventually be attacked if he does not withdraw, otherwise he won't withdraw.

The UN has set a date, by which he must be withdrawing from Kuwait. He has already had since August 2. He has had enough time. If on that day the UN agrees to allow more time, it says to him

'ok, but if you don't get out on xxx you'll die. Ok, if you don't get out on yyy you'll die.' etc. It would be reminiscent of the Robin Williams sketch on Khaddaffi's Line of Death: 'You cross this line, you die. Ok, you cross this line you die. This line. This. Ok, you knock on my door, I'm not coming out, nyar.'

I might be able to understand the thinking that 15 January is too early; though I might not agree with it, I could see the idea came from a relatively sane mind. However the date has been set. It cannot now be changed without convincing Saddam he can stay as long as he wants.

4. I hope that after reading my article in 885 I clarified my dislike of any organised religion. The point should now be clear that the Islamic countries now have the same degree of religious belief as did Europe approximately four centuries ago. They have a culture based heavily on their religion, and the theocracy has a similar power to the Catholic church of European history. It is for this reason that I state that the Islamic nations are four centuries less culturally mature than the West. It is not meant as a slur of intelligence. The fact is that it takes a long time for a population to come to terms with the fact that the theocracy distorts a religion for its own purposes. It is the same for communism, Islam, the Roman Catholics; the people at the top are corrupt. For example:

Saddam has called for a Holy war. Sura 109 of the Koran finishes by saying about unbelievers 'To you your religion, and to me mine'. And in Sura 2 'God loves not the aggressors. Slay them wherever you come upon them.' And yet it was Saddam who invaded Kuwait. The UN should perhaps follow the Koran and slay Saddam?

5. Here's one, primarily for Christians, but also for any 'eternal life' religion. God says to forgive a man his sins, the one lost sheep being the most important etc. To get to Heaven you must be compassionate and not tolerate a man suffering, even if he is your enemy. So how can there be anyone in Heaven? To be in Heaven, and know that uncountable souls are suffering for eternity in Hell, must cause you incredible anguish. Heaven will be your own private Hell! and if you are content to see people suffer in Hell, then you do not deserve to be in Heaven! I can't wait to hear your arguments on that one!

6. Ok Pro-Life time. First let's talk about the six GUYS that wrote this letter (issue 885, Da Capo). they're GUYS! God-squad for that matter. No doubt you believe a

continued...

Editorial

A
S
F
Bit

Well, just to be totally radical I'm going to take the immortal advice of Basil Fawlty and not mention the war. I'm going to talk about something much closer to our hearts. No, not the nerve gas in the Iraqi Embassy, but:

Things that suck, no. 1: Extending the College Day

Right, let's get a few things straight (don't even think it). The whole thing (I was going to say idea, but that gives it much more credit than it deserves) started with two goals in mind. By the way, when I say 'started' I mean that it has now. Whether or not the Rector had gone as far as to think up a justification for screwing us all before setting up the 'Working' Party is not certain. Anyway, the excuses they're giving now are:

(i) To ease the pressures on such places as the QT, refectories, and the Union Snack Bar that are caused by a uniform lunch hour.

(ii) To provide more lecture and lab space by giving more hours in the time-table.

In order to ease these problems they proposed to have different lunch hours for different groups within the College, and to start earlier and/or finish later. In case you haven't realised, the first would screw clubs that meet at lunch time, the second, well, think of a problem (hint: There's loads: Cleaners unable to finish work before college starts, women travelling home later, staff having trouble getting to and from home, not to mention the stress of longer hours at work for students and staff, etc.etc.)

So, what have they done? Well, typically enough for a committee, very

little. As yet none of the staff, cleaners, security or students have been formally consulted, and neither have any of the unions concerned. ICU itself is a little better off, mainly because even His Rectoriness couldn't stop Paul Shanley (ICU President) from sitting on the Working Party.

Consequently some of the CCUs have organised surveys, and ICU (under the steady hand of El Presidente) has organised both UGMs and a referendum, in order to present the opinion of the students to the Working (?) Party. Guess what? In all of them there was a resounding 'fuck off' (about 90% against).

And guess what else? They've ignored them. Totally. Apparently the CCU survey was carried out in a manner that was 'weighted against the proposals', and as there were only just over 500 papers completed in the referendum it was 'unrepresentative of the general feeling of the students'. By the way, a UGM only needs 300 to be quorate, and therefore pass a motion which could have a huge affect on college. As to the UGM result: who knows?

They are now proposing a College day of 9-6, with a one hour lunch from 1-2. That's really going to help point (i), isn't it? As to point (ii), staff that I've spoken too think that the problem is more one of organisation and co-operation between departments. To this end College, in a totally uncharacteristic fit of clear-headed sensibleness, have decided to have a space audit (kind of like a financial audit, but with rulers instead of the Fraud Squad). We live in hope as to its results.

Our last chance to do something comes next Tuesday (the 22nd) lunchtime, at 1 pm, in the JCR when the Union is holding an Extraordinary (read EMERGENCY) General Meeting, or EGM for those of you that like initials. For God's sake, for OUR sake, for anybody that you care about's sake, BE THERE! It's only an hour of your time, and without it, we're at the mercy of whatever the fuck they want to do. Pretty please.

Things that suck, no. 2: War

Okay, so I lied; I am going to mention it. A quick review of the situation up until midnight our time on Wednesday the 9th. (Bear with me for a sec, there is a point. Honest).

Saddam Hussein claws and back-stabs his way to power. Time passes. He goes to war with Iran, with Western (not just American) backing. The war lasts eight years. In this time his economy takes a dive (surprise), so he borrows lots of dosh, mainly from other Arab states, including the very rich Kuwait (remember that - it's important). The war ends inconclusively. Saddam has big debts, and an economy that makes America look healthy. He also has an overwhelming

ambition (publicly stated many times) to see a combined Arab nation (guess who he'd like to see in charge. Remember this - it's important). Kuwait starts to call in its loans. Spurred on by this example (remember the word 'example' - it's important) several other Arab nations do the same. Saddam can't pay (surprise).

His own solution to this problem is, as they say, history. By invading Kuwait he kills three birds with one stone (clever move. Or so he thought): He makes an example (told you it was important) of Kuwait, thus discouraging the other Arabs from trying to get their money. He also planned to loot the rather overladen coffers of Kuwait, easing his economy (not to mention the oil). Lastly he takes step numero uno towards domination of the Middle East. What a clever chap (I'm actually being sincere).

Unfortunately for him... Well, you know the rough story. I don't think anyone would deny that Saddam Hussein (notice that I refer to him, not Iraq. He is to blame for the actions of his country) had no right to invade Kuwait (arguments that revolve around events that occurred nearly a century ago are idiotic). There is no moral justification for why he has done it, and whathe's been doing since. He cannot be allowed to stay. Kuwait, even all the other Arab nations couldn't and can't stop him.

But, as I've said, war sucks. However, for negotiations to be effective there have to be two willing participants. Men like Hussein cannot be allowed to do as they wish. They must be stopped, just as Hitler had to be stopped. Thus we come to the crux of the problem: War sucks, but negotiation won't work. The UN have decided on their course. Before we condone or condemn, we must think what we would do, and be honest in our appraisal of how realistic our suggestions are.

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COCK UP!

Yes, the gremlins of Editorial idiocy have struck again.

Due to mental regression caused by high stress levels the letter from Athena begun on the previous page will be continued not here, but in next weeks issue.

Felix would like to sincerely apologise to all concerned.

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