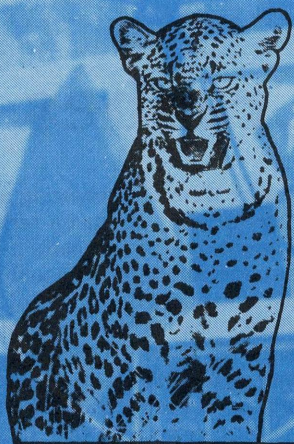


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8 February 1991

Issue Number 892

Felix



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Computer Company Crashes

An authorised Apple Mac dealer, CSS, called in the receivers last Friday, leaving among its creditors some Imperial students with no means of legal redress. Such students had paid cash up front to the Apple Centre, Knightsbridge, a CSS outlet, and have not received the hardware ordered.

The receivers, Levey Gee and Partners, are liaising with Apple regional sales. However Apple UK states that it has no legal responsibility but that it is monitoring the situation carefully.

So will the Imperial Students get either their money back or the hardware they ordered? The first priority of receivers is to pay the wages of the staff of the company involved. Funds are usually raised by an asset sale, including stock. Their next priority is to pay outstanding debts, eg rates, then creditors, then shareholders. Creditors, in this case students at Imperial, may receive as little as 25% of their money if the receivership follows its normal course.

Apple UK has not been specific about the role it might play if creditors were not fully recompensed. Apple UK has made it clear that it acknowledges the distress caused to prospective Apple Mac customers by the CSS receivership. Apple UK sees today's student customer as tomorrow's corporate buyer.

Students are strongly advised not to pay by cash or cheque for any large item in advance. If you do have to pay up front then use a credit card. If the company in question goes bust, the credit card company will refund the lost money.

Why did the students pay up front? The answer is simple. According to one student, the staff at the Knightsbridge Apple Centre refused to order hardware unless it was paid for fully in advance. According to another authorised Apple dealer this is not normal practice. Five to ten percent of the total cost may be asked of the customer as a sign of good faith, and the hardware must be fully paid for on delivery.

So why were CSS following a cash in advance policy? CSS had a serious cash flow problem. The company has long been undercutting its competitors in the Apple Mac market. In times of recession profit margins narrow and companies such as CSS feel the squeeze.

Since other Apple Mac dealers have stated that they were aware of CSS's possible financial problems, it can be surmised that Apple UK was not totally in the dark. Indeed, one of CSS's creditors is, of course, Apple UK.

The receivers are compiling a list of all creditors and monies owed and this list will be passed to Apple UK. If you ordered hardware through CSS, parted with money and have not yet received your equipment, contact Anthony Lester, Chem Eng III. Mr Lester is compiling a list that will be passed to the CSS's official receivers. Students in difficulty should also apply to the Access fund (room 344 Sherfield) today.

SERC Cuts Funding

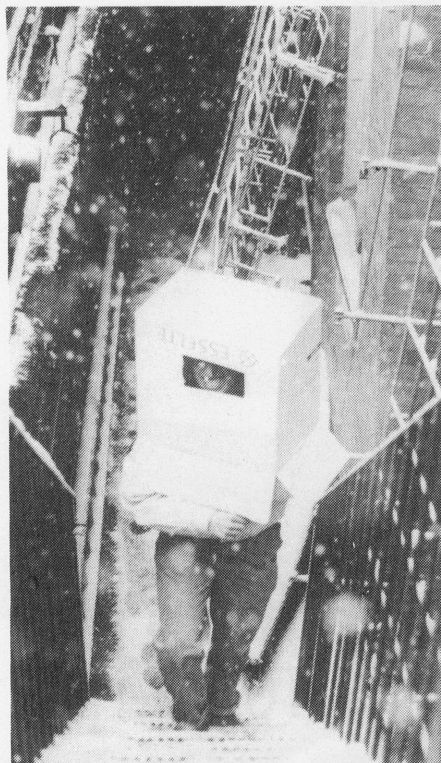
The Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) have been forced to cut back on research spending, it was announced on Wednesday. Of concern are plans to close the Nuclear Structure Facility (NSF) at the Daresbury Laboratory, to reduce the neutron

facilities at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and to pull out of the European Laser facility.

Other reductions in funding include 'sharp cutbacks' in information technology, the pulling out of research into gravity waves and less spending on engineering design.

The rector, Sir Eric Ash, said that the shortfall of £40m in SERC's budget would have 'some effect' on the research departments at Imperial. He went on to say that the College is 'one of the biggest customers' of SERC, but added that he did not expect the effect to be drastic.

IC Student Invents The SNOW-BOX (World Patents Pending)



Expert List

The College Press Officer, Karen Peplow, is compiling a list of 'experts' at Imperial. This will contain the names of those academic staff who are willing to be interviewed by the media on their specialist areas.

Other institutions have made such lists available to the media, including the London School of Economics (LSE). This explains the preponderance of LSE staff interviewed on television and radio.

Karen asks that any member of staff who has not returned the questionnaire do so immediately, as the list is due to be published mid-February. Any member of staff who has not received a questionnaire should contact the Press and Public Relations Office on internal 8628 as soon as possible.

Silwood Disco

Drunk 'n' jivin' is the name of the game next Friday when the Silwood Park Valentines Evening makes its annual appearance. Relax in the splendour of the conservatory or recline in the historic lounge as the band play their up-tempo brand of jazz. Elegantly sweep across the dancefloor as you and your partner glide in perfect unison, the picture of bliss. Alternatively, drink ten cocktails from Wac's Bar, take off your jacket and jump-jive like a lunatic as that last Daquiri takes effect.

Either way, this promises to be a great party night, in the most picturesque part of College. Get your tickets from the Union Office; only £3 in advance. Coach provided at 6.30pm from outside the Union, return to London around midnight.

Resignations

The newly vacated post of Felix Music Editor has been filled by John Furlong. The ex-Music Editor, Sarah Harland, said that the combined pressures of college work and the constant chasing up of reviews during the week figured in her decision to resign. Better luck to John!

This week we also say goodbye to Toby Jones, stressed ex-News Editor, who's resignation letter contained the following sentiments: 'Too tired, too stressed, too far behind on coursework, NOT fed up with doing news.' The post has been temporarily filled by Anna Teeman.

Calling Impoverished Students

The registry has only received 220 applications for the £259,400 available to students in economic hardship. The money, given to the College by the Government, forms what has become known as the Access fund.

Mr Cullen, from the Registry, contacted Senior Tutors over two weeks ago, expressing his concern at the subdued flow of applications. Although the tutors were asked to further publicise the

existence of the fund in their departments, no flood materialised.

The good news for those who have applied this year is that Mr Cullen plans to distribute all of this year's fund. This is also good news for future years as it prevents the Government cutting next year's lump sum.

Mr Cullen has said that the Access fund is his number one priority. He will read over all applications next week and will

start making his golden handshake decisions soon. The applications are not, as rumour had it, going to be discussed by a committee. They are seen only by Mr Cullen who may consult with college tutors, Julia Higgins and David Goodgame.

For those who are not totally apathetic, application forms are still available from room 344 Sheffield. The nominal closing date is TODAY.

IC Anti-War Society March Through London

Despite the cold weather, a group of around twenty Imperial College students marched through central London last Saturday as part of the largest British anti-war demonstration since the beginning of hostilities.

The procession of over 30,000 took nearly three hours to reach Hyde Park from the Embankment where they heard speeches calling for an immediate ceasefire from Tony Benn, Bernie Grant and others involved in the anti-war movement.

During the course of the march there were many shouts of 'well done Imperial', from onlookers and a steady stream of ex-IC students enquiring about the activities of the peace movement at the College. These included Piers Corbyn, a past Union President (69-70), who had been involved in anti-Vietnam War campaigns at I.C. and is now a part-time weatherman and lecturer at South Bank Polytechnic.

Groups from a wide political spectrum were present including those from the Green, Liberal and Labour Parties. There was also the brief appearance of a 'Victory to Iraq' banner at the back of the rally.

On the same day twelve people visited the Cenotaph in support of the war.



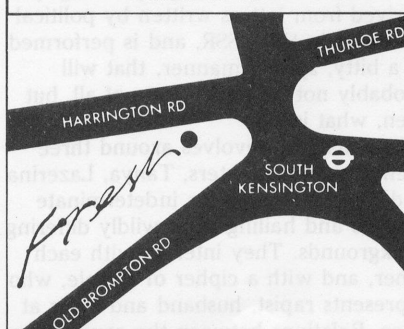
Union Finance Manager Appointed

Louise Van Der Straeten has been appointed Union Finance Manager. Louise has already worked at Imperial for seventeen months as Union Assistant Finance Officer, coming from a sabbatical post with the Vice President's Division at the University of London Union (ULU).


Her new appointment was not automatic; Louise was one of fourteen applicants out of which six were interviewed. The appointment was part of a general restructuring of the Union Finance section.

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The Grifters

F The opening shots of *The Grifters* is rather reminiscent of Woody Allen's *Manhattan*—black and white shots of a city, complemented by a 'big' score. However this is not New York but Los Angeles, and the director does not have the same love affair with the metropolis as Woody Allen—not surprising since he is the British director Stephen Frears (with *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *Dangerous Liaisons* to his credit). Instead what Frears has produced is a marvellous thriller with rather risqué sexual undertones.

The story revolves around Roy Dillon, his girlfriend, Myra, and his mother, Lily, played excellently by John Cusack, Annette Bening and Anjelica Houston respectively. Roy has spent his adult life 'grifting', a grifter being the same as a con-artists. He is strictly a small-change man, a buck here, a buck there—no one's going to worry about a couple of dollars, so life goes on for Roy. That is, until his mother appears after eight years without any contact whatsoever. Lily works the numbers for the mob, placing bets to



shorten the odds at racetracks. However, Lily commits a crime from which Bobo Justus (sic), her boss, will make her pay dearly.

Myra, meanwhile, is the sexually charged girlfriend whom Roy finds impossible to trust. She will, in fact, do exactly what she feels she can get away with—normally involving the charms of her body. Myra and Lily hate each other—Myra tells Roy that she mistrusts

his mother. Lily, on the other hand, declares Myra a slut. And Roy...what's he supposed to make of all this? Well, poor Roy doesn't know who he wants to fuck more—his girlfriend or his 'ma'.

Everything comes together in this film—the script is sharp, the acting good, and the direction slick. Oh yeah, there isn't, strictly speaking, a plot, but you probably won't notice.

I.H.

Metropolitan



F You know those old black and white films that they show on BBC2. The ones with the marvellous acting, the simple but intriguing plot lines and the complete and utter lack of extraneous action. Do you like them?

If so then you will probably appreciate the subtle humour of *Metropolitan*. Set on the island of Manhattan, the film concerns the lives of some 'preppies' (UHP's) over the Christmas season of prom balls and after prom parties.

However, amongst the party of UHP's is an outsider. A man from a lower class background than the others. *Metropolitan* deals with his integration with the prom set while trying to stay true to his conscience.

So, who's in it? Certainly nobody that I've ever heard of. This seems to be a good thing; no-one is trying to upstage anybody else and the actors work truly as a team. This film is most definitely a 'Classic'. Go see it.

Stef.

Flying Ashes



T A question: is mere performance enough to sustain a piece of theatre? Exchange Productions' performers certainly know their stuff, and the performance was on the edge of modern theatrical technique, with the right amount of emotional intensity for the subject matter. The play is largely derived from letters written by political prisoners in the USSR, and is performed in a bitty, sylsised manner, that will probably not be to the taste of all, but then, what is?

It principally revolves around three archetypal characters, Tanya, Lazerina and Irina, relocated for indeterminate reasons and hailing from wildly differing backgrounds. They interact with each other, and with a cipher of a male, who represents rapist, husband and lover at once. Relations between the sexes seem

restricted to a purely sexual level, whereas those between women are allowed more room, although they do stray into the territory of the homo-erotic at times.

That's your lot, really. The point the play seems to be making is either impenetrably obscure, or depressingly simplistic. To wit: it isn't any fun being a political prisoner. If this is all the play is saying, we have a chronic waste of talent, thrown away on an inadequate play. On the other hand, maybe i'm just too dense too see the point. Interesting...

Flying Ashes is showing at The ICA, the Mall. Concessionary tickets cost £5.00, with day membership costing £1. Alternatively, student membership can be bought for a year at £9. The Box Office is on 071 930 3647.

Pendragon

Three Men & A Little Lady



F Hooray ! We're back ! There are three things you need to know about this film : 1) It offers an unrivalled chance to hear the late (great) Jim Henson at his best with a superb rendition of the seminal classic 'Rubber Duckie'. 2) The butler is mad. 3) Tom Selleck is a nicer example of humanity than the entire AA put together (for our older readers, see Felicity Kendall re: *Little Mermaid*) The cast includes three men and a little lady, and a big lady. And another bloke. As well as a vicar (phwoarr !), a headmistress and an incomprehensible (and possibly incontinent) shepherd.

So basically, the story goes : the little lady has grown up from a baby (in a rather suprisingly short time, ie about five minutes of 'endearing' snapshots) but she still has three daddies (none of whom are engaged below the waist) but just the one mu/ommy who is about to be. But (and this is a big but) not to any of the aforementioned three men but to an Intruder (even though she secretly loves Magnum, PI. Even better, he loves her too) and naturally none of them are happy about this, especially since it means abodage in Good Old Blighty (if there isn't such a word as abodage there should be). It turns out that Intruder is Not A Very Nice Person; he vivisects live sheep, spits in elevators and EVEN WORSE he's NOT VERY GOOD WITH CHILDREN. Now Magnum, as well as his pals The Guy From *Police Academy* and Sam from *Cheers*, can tell this at some



six thousand miles distance and set off to right matters, naturally involving much hijinks and apoplexy. Excuse us, there's a good bit on the telly.

For our more devoted fans (and we know there are many, many of you) there is nary a poodle in sight. Magnum somehow resists solving the mystery by grinning charismatically and getting the crap beaten out of him and settles for a desperate if abortive snog sesh with headmistress. Suffice it to say that once more everything comes out happy bunnies in the end and rounds off a very nice movie very nicely indeed. On the minus side: The big lady has a nine mile wide grin and refuses to stop using it and

Minis get more bad coverage in this film than in the entire back catalogue of Jacques Cousteau.

This film is better than it has any right to be, as well as including a few willy gags. Nice acting and superior direction make for an elegantly observed drama of social mores with tension drawn in every line (spesh the bit where Sam the barman enters in Drac bloodsucker costume). We liked it better than *Look Who's Talking* (and we liked that better than parthenogenetic sex). But is it great ?

Alan Freeman says 'Not arf, pop-pickers !'

The Amazing (And Original) Flying Gerbil Machine

Dances With Wolves

F The film opens in the midst of the Civil War in Tennessee. As a reward for an act of bravery Lt. John Dunbar (Kevin *Field of Dreams* Costner) chooses reassignment to the Western Frontier—wanting to see the frontier before it disappears. On arrival he finds that the post has been deserted but he elects to stay there and wait for replacements to arrive.

He soon comes into contact with the Sioux Indians and tries to communicate with them. With the help of Stands with a Fist (a white woman adopted into the tribe as a child) as an interpreter, progress is made, albeit slow at first. As Dunbar gets to know the Sioux he learns their language and their customs. He wins the trust of the tribe and, having fallen in love with Stands with a Fist, marries into it. By this time he has a Sioux name—Dances with Wolves—and he does not want to see the Sioux way of life disappear, although he knows it is inevitable.

Although a very ambitious project for Costner's directorial debut, it seems to



work well. The screenplay was written by Michael Blake (an old friend of Costner's),

based on his novel of the same name.

The minutiae of Sioux life were reserached painstakingly for this film: their dress, customs and even the language ,Lakota, which is spoken in the relevant scenes in the film and subtitled in English. All the Red Indian characters in the film are played by Native Americans.

However, in all this laudable attention to detail there are a couple of anomalous points: Why is Stands with a Fist the only woman in the tribe not to wear her hair in plaits? Also, although she only appeared to be about five years old when adopted into the tribe, she can recall words such as 'holy' and 'honour' but not words like 'stand' or 'bird', yet she can tell Dunbar if he's guessed the word correctly after she writes it.

Overall though, the film is a realistic and detailed portrayal of Sioux life in the last century. It is a very moving film, with plenty of action, humour and, of course, the obligatory love interest. Well worth a visit and, at just under three hours long, good value for money.

JLW.



CLUBS

Clubs and Sports

Hang Gliding Judo

The Inter-University Competition in Hang Para Gliding will take place in Swansea between the 23rd and 25th March. The tasks will suit the abilities of the participants. Anyone with an EPC+ or F1+ can take part.

The Easter course starts on Saturday 23rd March. The costs of the course are as follows:

First certificate (EPC, F1): £135 for the whole course (£30 deposit required)

CPC: £25 per day

F2: £25 in total payable on the first day

Accommodation costs will be about £13 pw (£3 deposit). If you would like more information join us on Fridays at 12.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge. Alternatively contact Yasmin Saudi, p/h Maths UG.

Lebanese

Thanks to the increasing number of Lebanese students which enabled us to set up the Lebanese Society. It's constitution was presented to Imperial College Union and was passed according to normal procedure.

Our main activities will be to try and organise parties, set up sports teams.

Huxley

Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, one of the principal originators of the Steady State theory of cosmology, and one time Chief Scientist to the Department of Energy and the Ministry of Defence, will be speaking on 'Science and Religion' this Thursday. He is President of the British Humanist Association and as an active humanist has won international awards for his work. He is a strong believer in the duty of scientists to tell society what science is about. As Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Society and author of such books as 'Relativity and Commonsense', and 'The Universe at Large' his talk will not only be riveting but also authoritative.

'Science and Religion' is the title used by Prof T H Huxley in his lectures over 100 years ago as Dean of the College. He coined the term agnostic for his beliefs. Come and hear Bondi follow this tradition at 1.15pm in Huxley 231.

The following Thursday Michael Newman will be talking about the theme of his book 'Breaking the Shackles', the history of Huxley, Wells and Imperial College.

Last weekend saw the British Student Judo Championships at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, where members of IC Judo Club helped re-affirm London University's position as the country's top judo university.

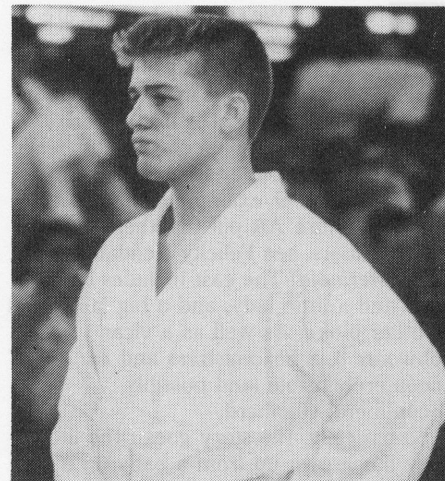
In the under 71kg category, brown belt Simon Lloyd convincingly won his first round pool, throwing all his opponents with full ippon scores in short time. Having qualified for the knockouts, he was very unfortunate to lose after getting through to the last eight.

Fighting in the highly competitive under 78kg class were black belts and IC judo club coaches Jon Lean and Peter Swettenham. Jon destroyed his first two opponents, one of whom recently represented Cambridge in Japan. In his last fight he conceded a score to another London fighter, which by the rules of contest was just enough to prevent him fighting in the knockouts.

Peter showed his customary efficiency in his first three fights, throwing all his opponents for full ippon scores, using techniques including a spectacular and rarely seen 'pick-up' throw, dropping the unfortunate recipient from almost six feet cleanly to the mat. In his first knockout fight he strangled his opponent but was unfortunate to go out in his next fight due to some dubious refereeing.

The whole squad's sympathies go to blue belt Reg Cook, a hot medal prospect in the under 60kg category. Reg nursing a severe shoulder injury showed tremendous spirit and determination but was forced to withdraw. His physio will not be pleased.

Sunday saw the team competitions

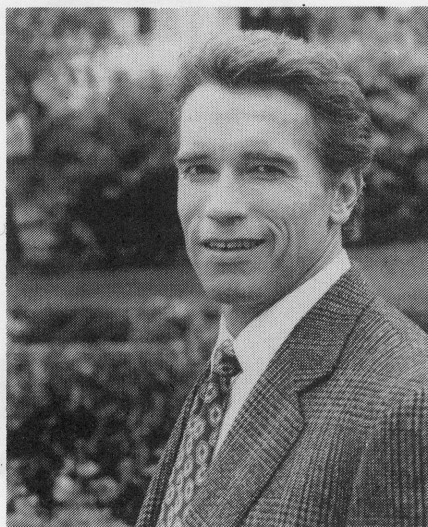


comprising of a five man university championship, and a ten man area event. London had lost the five man title to Glasgow, in Glasgow last year and were out for revenge. They made short work of UWC Edinburgh, and then faced hotly tipped Southampton. It was a hard fought contest, with London going through on a judge's decision.

Which leaves the final, against Glasgow once more. Nothing could stop London with IC players Pete and Jon, and it was all over in three fights. Peter once more won the decisive fight.

Then came the ten man competition. Peter, Jon and Simon fought first against the South. Jon, fighting first man, managed to get a passivity warning with zero seconds on the clock cancelling his winning score. London went through anyway to face Scotland in the final. Jon and Pete both won in superb style. Jon giving away 2½ stone in weight. Peter strangling a medallist. Simon, fighting tenth man, drew tough fights and lost but showed real skill and determination. With five wins apiece it went to points with London losing 43 to 40.

ICSF—Total Recall



The film beyond your imagination with a body count bigger than the special effects budget.

Arnie, who plays a simple muscular construction worker, is very surprised to find his mind has been messed around with. After the bodycount has reached double figures he decides to see a specialist. He recommends a relaxing trip to Mars and a sex change.

The script for this film, adapted from a Philip K Dick short story, was written ten years ago. Only recently have the special effects advanced enough to do Mars in its full glory and has to be seen in cinemascope.

ICSF will show this film at 7pm on February 12 in Mech Eng 220. Entry fee is 80p to members, with membership £2 which includes free entry into the film.

Anna Teeman faces up to the monetary realities of war...

Gulf Economics



FELIX



Back in August, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait precipitated a massive increase in the price of oil. The cost of oil rose a staggering 100% to over \$40 per barrel. Iraq posed a threat to the world economy on two fronts: it jeopardized the supply of oil - a crucial raw material - and now had the power to impose global inflation on a world still in the grips of a recession.

But where did the magical \$40 per barrel come from? The increase absorbed the following: the loss of the Kuwaiti contribution to the world oil supply (8% of the total), the winter increase in oil consumption and what is known as a 'war risk premium'. This premium was the dominant factor. It was calculated on the assumption that Iraq had the military capability to cripple oil production in other Persian gulf states including Saudi Arabia.

Why then has the price of oil now fallen to well under \$30 per barrel? Winter has been milder than predicted (difficult to believe after wearing woolly gloves in a lecture theatre) and the 'war risk premium' proved to be an overestimate. If Iraqi scuds are inaccurate enough to hit the villages of beleaguered Palestinians, sympathetic to Iraq, then they pose a barely credible threat to the defended oil installations of the Gulf.

The international oil community, in allowing the price of oil to fall, has not considered the obliteration of Kuwait's oil

infrastructure by a retreating Iraqi army. The original rise in oil price was partly based on the current loss of Kuwaiti oil not on the possible destruction of the entire oil industry. Such an event would herald a rise in oil price and global inflation.

Britain has already felt the warmth of the Gulf's inflationary flame. Because of the initial rise in oil price the inflation peak came later in Britain last year than earlier. The Conservative government is obsessed with controlling inflation and sees it as not just a primary factor of economic policy, but the only one. The government keeps interest rates high, sledge-hammering inflation and deepening recession. Britain is trapped in a recession fuelled by high interest rates and now by war. War walks hand in hand with recession because, during wartime, consumer and business confidence is shattered. People are too scared to spend money, so they save instead, reducing the volume of transactions and thereby sparking a recession. Additionally war costs money; money that must be removed from the remainder of the economy. The less money in the economy the greater the recession.

In the past week the British economy has been further weakened by a rise in German interest rates and an associated rise in German exchange rates. Put simply, the pound Sterling is now worth

less in relation to the Deutschmark. The Germans are portrayed as selfish and irresponsible to make such a move at a time of not only recession but war. They have, of course, made a hefty financial contribution to the communal coffers - sniffed at because they haven't even sent 'their boys' to be butchered in the Gulf. And what of Japan, another cowardly custard, throwing its coins into the box? How can countries which, by their post-Second-World-War constitutions, are forbidden to take part in international conflicts sail gung-ho to the Gulf?

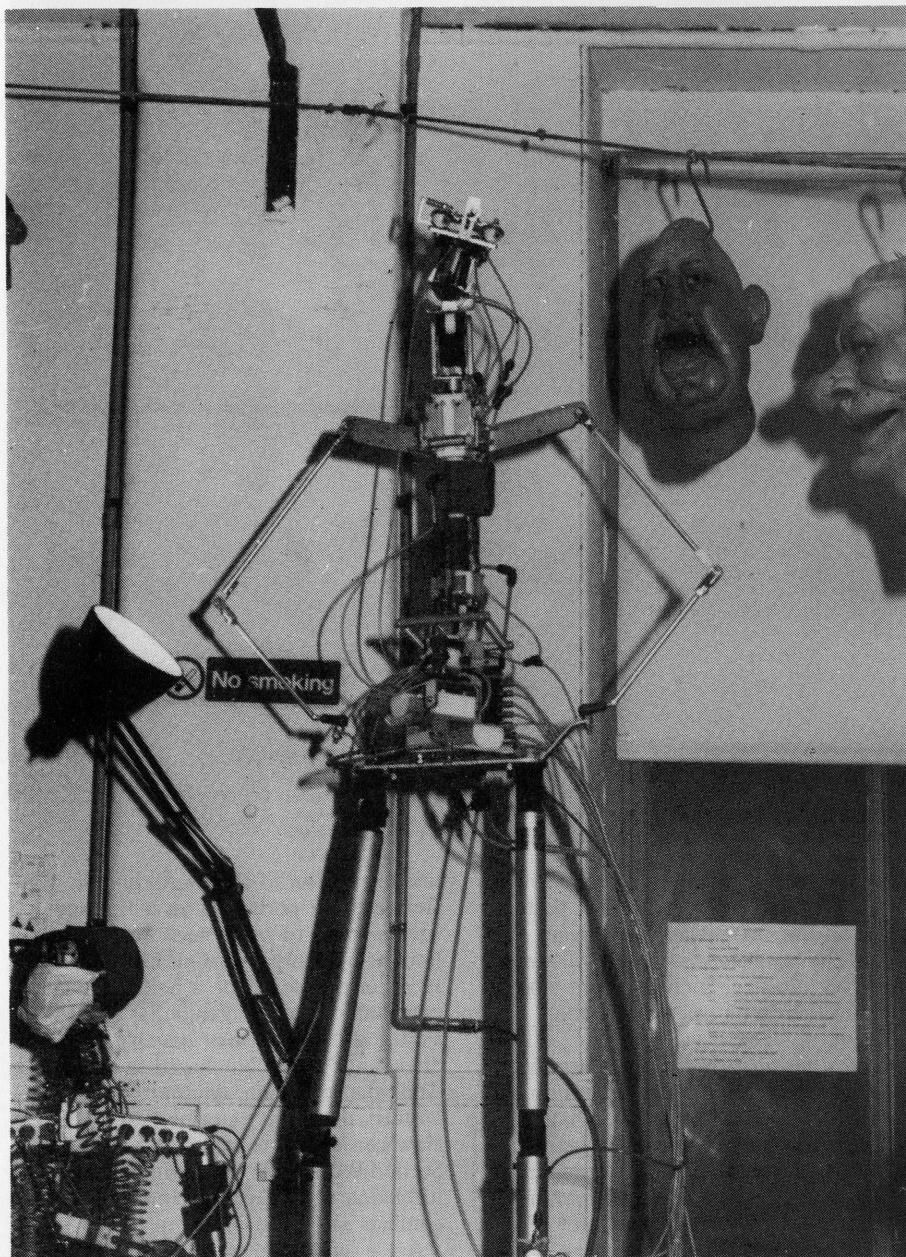
A 1% fall in growth rate is forecast for both the German and Japanese economies. America, on the other hand, is about to receive billions of dollars from around the world to fund the predominantly American force in the Gulf. However the American force in the Gulf is paid for: the equipment is bought and the wages are already budgeted. Admittedly there will be additional costs; the loss equipment and use of live ammunition. However economists are predicting a considerable surplus. How will this surplus be spent? Not on defence: significant cuts in the American defence budget were announced by Mr Bush last week. There are other deserving causes including a burgeoning budget deficit and a crippled economy.



Richard Eyers and Mick Jagger investigate...



Spitting Image Unmasked



How it begins—the guts of a model

Covent Garden, home of the busker and street entertainer has just been taken over by, amongst others, Margaret Thatcher. This out-of-work ex-PM can now be found regularly appearing in a tacky budget game show. Lickety-Lick forms the centre point of a new venture in Covent Garden.

Peter Fluck, already well known for the satirical and generally offensive 'Spitting Image' has brought his characters and skill to the 'Rubberworks'.

Since 15th December 1990, Prince Charles has been seen prowling the streets around the Royal Opera House trying to entice people into a small dark tunnel that leads into what looks like a

small disused warehouse. In a small dark quadrangle you're met by ex-President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, and a policeman dressed in boxer shorts. Sound strange? You're right, it is, and by now your pocket will be £2.90 lighter, with nothing to show for it. Suddenly doors are thrust open and you are enticed into a dark dingy room. And then the fun begins.....

It starts with a twitching of a giant tongue, and as the lights go up, the panel of Lickety-Lick are revealed. The chairman of this well known game-show is none other than Sir Alastair Burnet. His illustrious panel consists of Maggie, Neil Kinnock and a couple of well known

Royals, namely the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The show lasts for about ten minutes and is very reminiscent of the TV show.

Whilst watching the show, which is only just too long, it is easy to imagine the real characters in action. There is the almost friendly bickering between Maggie and Neil, the odd suspect comment about the Chinese from the Duke, and an interesting relationship is struck up between Sir Alastair and the Queen, although the Duke, posed with his trusty weapon, actually a blunderbuss, seems none too bothered by this.

The difference between the TV version and this show is that the characters are 'live'. There are no puppeteers, instead a series of carefully arranged fire-hosing, latex and silicon chips bring the characters to life. Lickety-Lick demonstrates some of the newest technology in the puppet world, and after the performance you get a chance to see behind the scenes. The Rubberworks has a full workshop set up, with a demonstrator guiding you through both the history and the technical background of Spitting Image. Unfortunately, what most people don't see is behind the scenes of Lickety-Lick, where all the technology is pulled together.

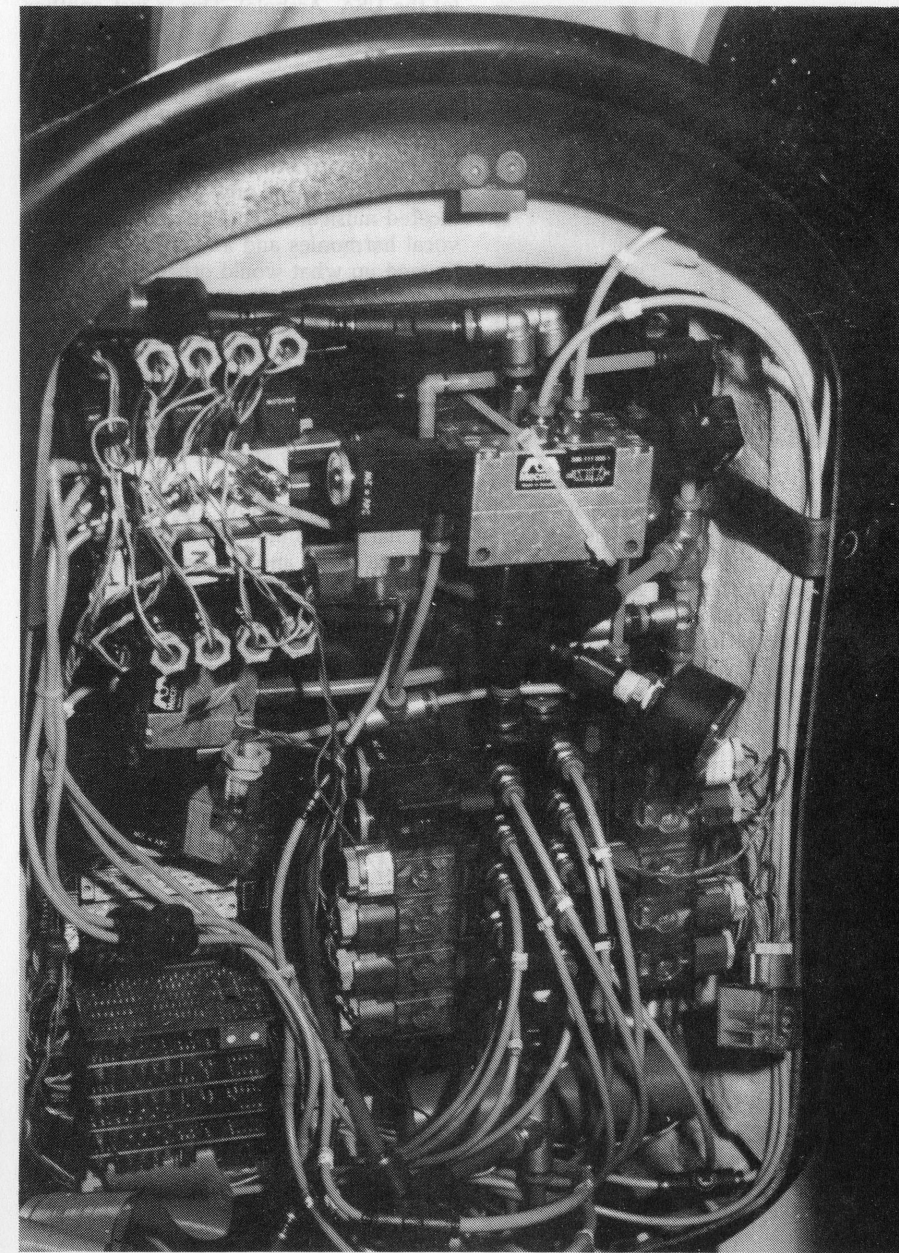
In a system invented by Peter Fluck and Jim Hennequin, sophisticated computer programming synchronises pre-

recorded voices with a full range of bodily functions. It is the Flexator that has made all this possible, an artificial muscle worked by air. It provides life-like movements that wouldn't be possible with conventional hydraulics. These are then clothed and covered in the rubber mould of the desired character. (Yes, even Ronald Reagan was desired once!) A complex collection of circuits and valves can then be linked to a computer, a joystick and a compressor and then the programming begins. It can take a skilled operator up to three days of computer time to fully program the character. Once built, a fully automated, talking model will have cost between £30,000 and £40,000.

Margaret Thatcher was the first to be produced; she was finished in the middle of 1989. It then became possible to hire her for the day to speak to any audience anywhere, and have her say anything, something the Conservatives never quite managed with the real one. Following her successful debut, further characters were built for hire. The list is now long and distinguished including such stars as John Major, Oliver Reed and Gazza for example. They cost a mere £2,500 per day which includes the speech of your choice.

If all this seems a little expensive, a conventional model can be made for around £7,000. They may be cheaper but

Mick and Jeremy, or Jeremy and Mick?



The brains and brawn of a character

they can require between three and five people to operate them, with their hands controlling various parts of the puppets anatomy, depending upon what the character requires. For example, Mick Jagger's lips require one operator on their own.

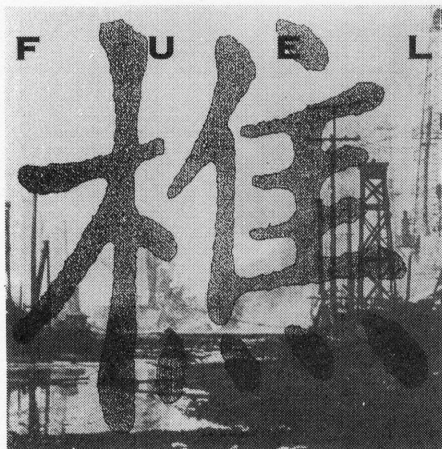
The next series of Spitting Image begins in March, and with a cast of at least 500 characters as diverse as Gorbachov and small parrots, the cost of each episode will probably be in the region of £40,000. There are bound to be some new characters, with the potential for controversy better than ever at the moment.

These models have also appeared in adverts around the world. The 'Halls Mentholyptus' advert with an elephant's trunk and a giraffe's neck growing out of a commuter are typical of Spitting's approach. They offend people, but because they amuse more than they offend they get away with it.

In the future it can only get worse or better depending on how you feel, with Peter Fluck diversifying further and further. The venture in Covent Garden is just a taste of what there is to come, no-one is sacred, and there are plenty of people that still deserve to be ridiculed by rubber and compressed air.



Fuel



F***in' A Positive. It's this kind of record that makes you wanna' ditch the last reefer and flush the last of your stash. Power of positive thinking and all that.

At first sight it looks like a dodgy Japanese hardcore import but at closer inspection you may realise it comes straight and direct from the West coast

(of the USA. Asshole). This is just another confusion tactic to hide its undeniable DC roots.

They draw extensively from the sound characterised by Washington DC's 'Dischord' label (made famous by *Minor Threat/Fugazi*) but there are subtle changes of what is now a rather single-faceted musical ideal. The addition of vocal harmonies and a bit of pace have livened up what would otherwise be another record with the DC sound.

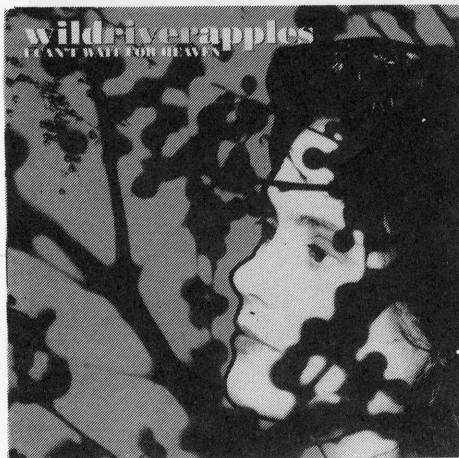
The underlying philosophies (optimised by *Minor Threat's Out of Step with the World*)—Don't drink, don't smoke, don't f***, but at least I can F***in' think) are still there. This music is however subtly different. Heavily stylised metal riffs are layered over a bassline which controls both pace and melody. The vocals range from harmonics (almost) to a full on hardcore shout and the lyrics deal with aggressive, right on, politics—preaching the straight edge way.

The music is aggressive—if you wanna by hyped enough to chew your balls off—buy it.

Seb

Wild River Apples

—*I Can't Wait for Heaven 12"*



A short slide guitar intro drifts into a gentle acoustic strum and as the female

vocal starts, I feel myself transported to another time, another place. It's some halcyon daze—I could be a repentant northern man returning home for a reunion with my father whom I haven't seen in ten years, or maybe I could be a woman sitting in a Beate overlooking the sea. I sip my coffee and ahh, the sun breaks through the clouds and, yes, I can go on another day!

This is pseudo-hippy nonsense at its worst. The song is totally inoffensive, full of life and happiness but their sincerity is completely misplaced (oh such a sad plink-plonk harp solo). The nearest comparison I could make could be an inner-city *All About Eve*. Having said that it would sound 'good' on daytime radio but it's way too twee for me.

Harry Cross.

Milltown Brothers

—LP

—*Borderline 5.2.91*

Walking down the stone steps I had a stong feeling of déjà vu, was it Bonanza or The magnificent Seven? The rather tacky surroundings revealed nothing of what was to come.

Sitting down, avoiding the authentic splinters, I surveyed my surroundings again. Did they have ultra-violet lights and projectors in the Wild West? I hope not.

Ten minutes later I was pulled from my seat by the soft drifting vocals of one lady and the strumming of a guitar. I know the tune but not her name. Was it a cover or had I seen somebody famous and not realised?

Three or four songs later she left with what can only be described as intermittent applause. I don't know her name but she was good.

Next, *The Love Kittens* performed well despite one of their amps failing in the first minute. A combination of indi rock mixed with a few slower numbers failed to liven up the audience.

They seemed to suffer from recurring intro disease, every song sounded the same and each time it reminded me of *The Charlatans*. With a little more imagination they could become very good.

Despite their efforts the crowd failed to respond. When they left the stage the only sign of their presence was a few moving heads and ten seconds applause.

The crowd grew and the tension mounted as everybody waited for the arrival on the *Milltown Brothers*. Fifteen minutes later they appeared, with new haircuts. Gone is the sheepdog look, now more like a terror.

A instant hit with the audience everybody (well the front half) were soon jumping up and down and creating general mayhem.

Four songs in and all hell broke loose with a brilliant rendition of their single *Which way should I jump?* The answer, anyway you wanted. It soon got very dangerous and very sweaty but definitely not to be missed.

They continued for half an hour during which time the crowd began to get heavily into the mood. They combined heavy numbers with slower ones so that you could spread your energy and last the distance.

When it was time for them to leave, the audience called them back for more.

The encour consisted of two more songs and a final and very lively repeat of the single. At this stage I was beginning to fear for my feet and on several occasions the steal toe-caps saved the day.

A group not to be missed, I haven't sweated so much for years. Brilliant.

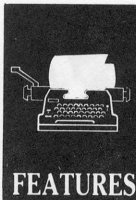
Anna B

MUSIC REVIEWERS

Could all music reviewers please contact the FELIX Office a.s.a.p.

The RCS go walkies...

Ten Tors '91



Every year the RCS Union enters one or two teams for the Ten Tors competition. This is a 55 mile hike over Dartmoor. The object of this is for teams of six to walk from checkpoint to checkpoint, which are situated at the summits of the Tors, passing through ten over two days. The event has been running for about 30 years, and is open to young people from both military and civilian organisations. Too easy? Please read on...

This year's 'Ten Tors' takes place on 18/19 May, and we hope to enter two teams. Those selected will be driven down to Okehampton on Friday 17 May, where we will stay at the army base. The walk begins at 7am on Saturday morning. Each team will then walk for 10 to 12 hours, stopping only for food and 'blister control'. We hope to cover about 30 miles (six tors) before the checkpoints close at nightfall, then, breaking camp early on Sunday morning, cover the remaining four tors (25 miles) by 5pm.

Matt Jarman's account of the expedition last year gives a further insight to this challenge:

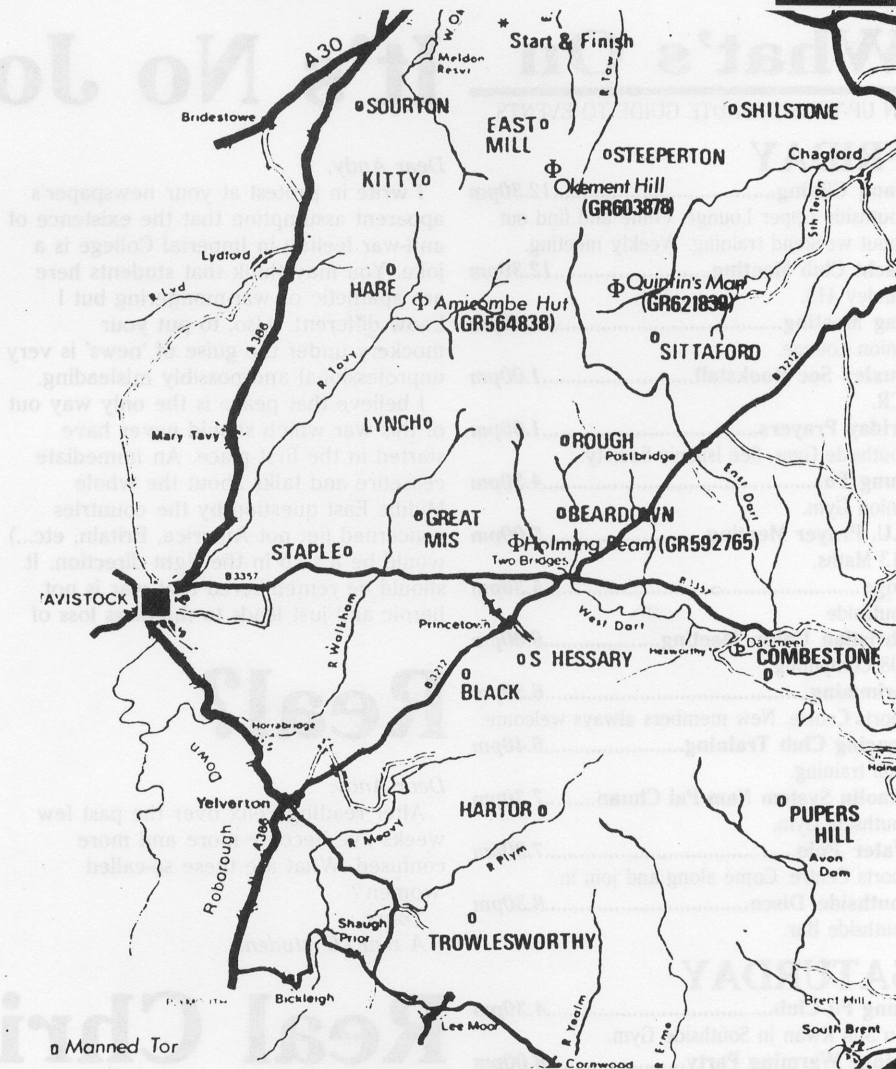
'... having made the long drive down to Okehampton on Friday afternoon, we stood in line for the various kit checks necessary for the team to be passed 'ready' for the following two days. This was followed by a short film on 'Safety on Dartmoor'.

With all our checks completed, an 'interesting' meal was cooked and eaten, and, as darkness fell, we settled down to sleep. It seemed only moments later when we were rudely woken by the sounds of 'Chariots of Fire' blasting over the tannoy. This was followed by a medley of songs including 'The long walk home', 'Here comes the rain again' and 'Keep on running'. We completed our last minute kit check and made our way to the start.

Having been addressed by the visiting



dignitaries, we chatted to some of the other teams at the massed start (about 2000 young people), and then we started our 'Ten Tors'. It was a distinct disadvantage that we had never been to Dartmoor before: it is a lot less rugged on the 'Guildford Downs' where we had been training. However, we walked on regardless both of the pain in our feet



and, sometimes, the direction in which we were heading.

Although our expedition was to cover 55 miles, there are 45 mile and 35 mile hikes too. This makes for some confusing path crossing, as everyone seems to head in random directions.

We walked on, arriving at the sixth tor at around five pm. We continued until it got dark, whereupon we stopped for the night in the quiet of the moor.

The following morning saw the team tired and footsore, slogging on from tor to tor, desperately trying to stay in touch with the finish time of 5pm. At each tor we were urged to keep going, as our card was checked, and the time marked down. If you do not reach a tor by a certain time, the team is 'crashed out', retired for its own sake.

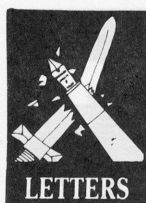
Finishing was a sight for sore feet, as by now only sheer determination kept us going. Pete sympathetically loaded us into the minibus, and the long drive back to London gave us time to tend our many blisters and aching legs. Although we could not walk very well for the next week, all the team agreed that our effort had been well worth it.

This challenge is not for the weak-hearted. It is a severe test of stamina, endurance, enormous care in planning, hard training, skilful navigation and, above all, fitness and team work. We hope to begin training soon, starting with fitness and stamina, leading on to walking, navigation and team-work skills. The fitness training should not be too time-consuming, taking about two hours a week. We hope to get out onto wilder terrain later.

There will be a meeting for all those interested on Monday 11 February, at 12.30pm in Southside. Priority will be given to RCS students, but there will be places for G&G and RSM members. If you are interested please contact:

Matt Jarman Materials II
or
Peter Galley Ten Tors Manager RCSU.

Finally, if the Ten Tors sounds too demanding, or if you think last year's team were a bunch of nancies and YOU could run round the course, do not be put off, it is well worth it, even though it may hurt a little!



Scribbler's Corner..

What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS.

FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and find out about weekend training. Weekly meeting.
- Yacht Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Huxley 413.
- Rag Meeting**.....12.40pm
Union Lounge.
- Huxley Soc Bookstall**.....1.00pm
JCR.
- Friday Prayers**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. See Islamic Society.
- Kung Fu**.....4.30pm
Union Gym.
- C.U. Prayer Meeting**.....5.00pm
413 Maths.
- Yoga**.....5.30pm
Southside
- 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

- Kung Fu Club**.....4.30pm
Wu Shu Kwan in Southside Gym.
- Fridge Warming Party**.....8.00pm
Linstead Hall Bar.

SUNDAY

- Sunday Service**.....10.00am
Anteroom Sherfield 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.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. All abnormalities welcome.
- Safety for Women**.....12.30pm
Read Theatre Sherfield. All female members of college are invited. Videos and advice.
- Basketball Club**.....5.30pm
Volleyball Court. Men's Team.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.00pm
JCR.

It's No Joke

Dear Andy,

I write in protest at your newspaper's apparent assumption that the existence of anti-war feeling in Imperial College is a joke. You may think that students here are apathetic or war-mongering but I know different. Also, to put your mockery under the guise of 'news' is very unprofessional and possibly misleading.

I believe that peace is the only way out of this war which should never have started in the first place. An immediate ceasefire and talks about the whole Middle East question by the countries concerned (ie: not America, Britain, etc...) would be a step in the right direction. It should be remembered that war is not heroic and just leads to mindless loss of

life on whatever side. It's time that people (and the press especially) took a more human attitude to this conflict. In my view, a bit of talking—even if it means swallowing national pride—never hurt anyone.

All that aside, any view on this very serious situation which concerns us all, is valid and should be taken as such—not made fun of. Peace campaigners are not a bunch of cranks, just people who value human life and believe aggression only makes things worse.

Jim Watson, EE 2

P.S. I haven't forgotten what Saddam Hussein has done but the 'Allies' are just as bad for retaliating in such a massive and brutal way.

Real?

Dear Andy,

After reading Felix over the past few weeks I've become more and more confused. What are these so-called 'women'?

Yours,

A real I.C. student.

Really?

Dear Andy,

Fish on a bottle melting through time.

Yours,

A Surreal Man.

P.S. Lightbulb.

Real Christian

Dear Editor,

I feel that the real man/woman debate in your letter column is sadly missing the real point of life.

It's not easy being a real Christian at IC but then Christianity is not all about being on a cop out option, is it?

After all, just because I believe in Big Mr G doesn't make life a bed of roses.

You know what it's like. After a hard day in College you meet up with a few of your brothers and sisters and head on down to the church to renew your faith in Christ.

After a few prayers and the odd psalm things are really starting to move and the old Holy Spirit is really livening things up.

It's looking really mellow and even the Trinity is starting to make sense when suddenly that old devil temptation rears its head. Whether it is too much wine or not enough bread it's hard to say but before you realise what is happening sharing in the Love of Christ starts to take on a whole new meaning.

So you slide on over to the nearest sister, hit her with a few lines from Romans, slip in that quote from John and

before she can catch her breath its into the Old Testament for a bit of Genesis.

By now things are really heating up as Satan gives your soul a few more turns in the big microwave down below but it's too late to turn back.

You move in for the kill. A quick body blow with Revelations and she's all yours.

So it is back to her place. Of course, you don't carry condoms but it's OK because she's a Catholic anyway. It's just as well because two sins don't make a right.

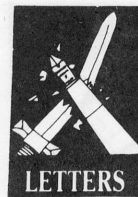
After a heady night of indulging in Forbidden Fruit she's off down to confession while you're feeling smug because you're a protestant and Martin Luther has freed you from that.

The inevitable happens. By the Grace of God she conceives but this one ain't no Virgin Birth and anyway it's old Archangel Gabriel's day off.

Abortion is out of the window so she has the kid and life is wonderful.

Personally, I sold my soul years ago. At least then you can have a God shag and be honest about it.

With all my love and prayers,
Alan McLean, Physics 2.



The Other Hand

Dear Felix,

Having just finished reading Carrie Miller's letter in Felix 891, I feel I must write to air my views on abortion.

Firstly, have no allusions that I think that the termination of a human life so young, yet to experience the joys and hardships of life's rich pattern, is right. Any taking of a human life is fundamentally wrong, in a civilised society, but unfortunately many people get on their high horse over a principle without seeing the wider picture. If abortion was illegal, what are the alternatives?

One is that the woman endures nine months of hardship and prolonged feelings of guilt or insecurity, only to let her baby go up for adoption, causing more pain...

The other, is lowering herself morally to go to a backstreet room where some shyster, with dirty knives, is only too happy to relieve her of her cash in her time of total and utter degrading shame.

As the law stands, it is possible for her to have an abortion cleanly and efficiently in bona fide clinics with trained and experienced counsellors to help her through this trauma. This leaves her free

to get back on with her life sooner (which she'll have to do anyway...).

It is all very well saying that if, God forbid, a girl was raped, then 'if only we ask Him, God will give us courage to go through with the birth', provided you are a practising Christian and are lucky enough to have 'faith'. No one, however, can force that girl to go through with the birth, simply because a minority of the population feel it is wrong.

As the law stands, everyone is catered for. Anti-abortionists do not need to have an abortion if they so wish, but it is important that this option be available to those who do need it.

In many respects it is a sick world we live in, so we might as well try to make our insignificant presence here as comfortable and as trouble-free as possible.

Yours,

James Stones, Chem 2.

P.S. Maybe Mr Alan Bailey should refrain from playing the Devil's Advocate or else take up the more than generous offer of a public debate to try and defend his bigoted (I never was one for originality!) views.

Uplifting Account Satire

Dear Andy,

There are few things in life that really bug me. I can live with the rantings of Alan Bailey and Athena in your letters page. I can put up with the above-inflationary price rises in train fares. And I can even stomach Sadman Insane's terrorist threat to the world.

The real bane of my life has to be those wretched lifts in the Mech Eng Building. Could someone explain why if you call a lift on the ground floor, you can watch as all the lifts seem to be stagnant on levels 5 or 7. And what really gets my goat is when you see a lift come down and stop at level 3! Hence, you have to wait for the lift to go from level 5 to 7, back to level 5 then eventually down to level 2, whilst the lift on level 3 is still on level 3. (Confused eh!)

Can't they just get shot of them and replace them with some escalators?

Yours (still on level 2),

Spenser Lane, SCC Chairman.

Dear Editor,

Another Friday; another Felix. A chance to catch up on the doings of IC undergraduates through the letters pages. I notice the usual annoying God-squad diatribe, a few sad attempts at student 'humour' and then something truly special. A jewel of a joke; one of the funniest pieces of satire I have ever read. Congratulations Jean-Francoise Lucas. Your piece on the joys of accountancy had us in fits, and what a killer of a last line; '...but when the social life starts...well...I'll leave that up to you to find out!' Er, it was a joke wasn't it? Long live Arthur Putey, sorry, Andersen.

Yours from a favourable tax position in mezzanine finance with due regard to leveraged buy-outs, and don't forget to remit your blocked funds,

Stef Kukula, RA Aeronautics.

What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS.

Swimming.....6.30pm
Sports Centre. New members always welcome.
Beginners Rock 'n' Roll.....7.00pm
JCR.
Water Polo.....7.30pm
Sports Centre. Come along and try one of the most physically demanding sports.
Latin American.....8.00pm
JCR.

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
UDH (1st Floor, Union).
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

Improvers Ballroom.....6.00pm
JCR.
Canoe Club.....6.15pm
Beit Quad store or 8.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge.
Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
Total Recal.....7.00pm
ME 220. Organised by SciFi Soc.
Ballroom Bronze Medal.....7.00pm
JCR.
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.
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.
Diving.....6.30pm
Swimming Pool.



What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS.

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.
FBI Soc Event.....12.30pm
Maths 139. Actuaries 'Bacon & Woodrow'.
'Religion & Science'.....1.15pm
Huxley 231. Prof Sir Herman Bondi speaks on a Huxleyan theme. Organised by Huxley Soc.
Fencing Training.....1.30pm
General.
Gliding Club Meeting.....1.00pm
Aero 266. Come and arrange a trial flight. All newcomers welcome.
'Love in the Lab'.....4.45pm
Haldane Library. Jo Shapcock reads her poetry and discusses science and art. Organised by Haldane Library.
Keep Fit.....5.30pm
Southside Gym
Midweek Service.....5.30pm
Chaplains Office (10 Prince's Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.
New Beginners Ballroom.....6.00pm
JCR.

Judo.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
Improvers Ballroom.....7.00pm
JCR.
Valentines Day Party.....8.00pm
Linstead Hall Bar.
Intermediate Ballroom.....8.00pm
JCR.

Southside Disco.....8.30pm
Southside Bar.
ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm
Meet Weeks Hall Basement to take food to London's homeless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- GOT ANY free time? People needed to talk to pensioners in Sth Ken area. Contact Caroline Crutwell, Biochem 3.
- FBI rendezvous in Maths 139 at 12.30pm on Thursday 14 Feb. The password is Actuaries—Bacon Woodrow.
- BADMINTON—look at noticeboard for revised timetable. The committee would like to apologise for inconvenience due to non-availability of Great Hall.
- FBI Soc elections on Wednesday 20 Feb at 12.30 in Maths 340.
- FOR SALE**
 - SHELF dividers—50p each from Monica in Development Office (3044).
 - TECHNICS amp. SU-V450, 45 watts RMS. Good condition. \$100. Ian Pexton 071-370 6201.
 - NIKKOR AF 350-70mm. Lens to fit Nikon AF and MF cameras. Excel cond. \$70. Andreas 081-961 5703.

Suffering

Dear Andy,

Hmm, interesting...Sorry, just imagining the next Felix compared to this one I'm looking at now (891). I mean, the editorial; it seems to be saying that you 'aint too pleased with these Christian types shooting off at the mouth with opinions and things what they believe in and you don't. Funny old thing, but looks to me like most of the letters page is people letting fire with their own opinions, saying who's right and who's wrong. I mean, take that Athena thing (can't say bloke or some such on account of it being too scared to give its name): must be into thousands of words of opinion by now. If I was editor I'd be getting a bit tired of it. But you don't pick on it, you pick on a couple of Christians instead.

Seriously though, I don't see any consistency in your complaints. After all, a good portion of Felix is opinion (thankfully: pure facts are so boring!) so you can't really pick on one, even if you don't like it and/or the way it's presented. Yet you rip into Carrie explaining her views on abortion with great vim and vigour (at least she gave you an argument, rather than an opinion like—for instance—all veggies are a 'miserable ill shower' (quoting Alan Bailey). She also made it clear it was her own personal belief. Nor were you over-tolerant of David's letter ('if you can't answer his/her questions', you said, in

your rant) when one with similar failings by Mr Pendragon in the previous issue went without comment.

In short you have two options: accept that anyone can say what they like in opinion areas of Felix, or ban anyone from having opinions at all. The former would mean you'd have to stop picking on Christians (and others), the latter would probably get you on good terms with His Rectoriness...

Finally, I know Christians have a long history of persecution (it's actually good for you: 'Blessed are you when you suffer insults and persecution for my sake' (Matthew 5:11) but I'd rather get my blessings in a way that meant you weren't storing up trouble for yourself). If you want to continue it that's your business.

Yours awkwardly,

Andy Cooksley, Physics 3.

P.S. For the record, yes I am (another) Christian.

P.P.S. No, I haven't shoved the gospel down your neck, nor do I intend to drag the entire Felix staff into the nearest church. If you want to know about Christianity, there are enough Christian groups in college for you to go and talk to. At least then there's a chance for a real time argument (on those lines, if anyone wants to come back to me on this, drop me a line via the Physics pigeonholes).

Art and Money

Dear Andy,

In the (hopefully) last blast of the arts subsidy debate, I will attempt to answer the points I either (a) forgot, or (b) didn't make clear enough in my last reply.

1. Don't be silly, Alan. Of course arts aren't the only subsidised leisure activity. Look at sports centres and training courses subsidised by local government. They exist. I know because I've been in/on them.

2. Aren't we a clever bunny, Alan (pass the shampoo...)? Taking a quote out of context is just about the oldest trick in the book. What I was implying by that statement was that people just don't think about the theatre as a possibility. Apathy rather than antipathy.

3. Alan asks why we don't solely produce musicals etc. This is just like asking why TV doesn't show game shows

all the time. They may be popular, but they are intellectual popcorn, fun, but with no nutritional value. This is really our fundamental difference. Alan believes that money is all important. I like to think that there is more to the way we live our than that.

4. Good and successful are not synonymys. It is an unfortunate fact of life that sometimes the trash succeeds. Look at the success of Kylie Minogue...

5. I, and everyone else, called Alan a bigot for one good reason. It's the best word.

As for the rest of Mr. Bailey's comments, all I can say is that he is steadily destroying what small credibility he once had.

Yours finally,

Pendragon (aka Adam Tinworth)

Editorial



I'm sure you've all heard the analogy where you imagine life as a big roller coaster, with you strapped in the front car. Roller-coasters, by their nature, tend to go up and, er, down quite a bit, thus representing life's successes and, er, little (?) problems. All fairly simple stuff. What the analogy doesn't tend to cover is what happens when the tracks finish in mid-air...

Disaster. Depression. And Exams.

It's been one of those weeks...First two of the section editors resign due to the pressure of their courses. I've got exams, so I haven't been able to do as much as I should to make up for this loss, and, as any astute readers may have realised, Felix is not as big as it usually is. There are several reasons for this, but the main one is our printing press. It's broken. Badly. Or it was, but due to the super-heroic efforts of Andy and Chris, it is no longer. Unfortunately, it was broken for long enough to totally throw our printing schedule into an orbit of Ursa Minor, thus causing the smaller edition you now hold.

All these factors, combined with some personal ones (from which I will spare you, as I'm such a generous guy) have combined to give me the feeling that the track has definitely stopped (but the car I'm in didn't). To top it all off, the latest issue of *Legends of the Dark Knight* (a Batman comic which has been uniformly excellent for months) is crap.

So, time for some medal awarding. As noted above, I haven't done much for

Felix this week. Thus all the remaining staff deserve a massive round of gratuitous back-slapping, for being incredibly stupid and doing loads more work than they should have to do. Andy and Rose, of course, have been brilliant. Chris now ranks alongside Batman and Lobo in my estimation of super heroness, and Adam T. deserves every award I can give him, but he'll have to wait until I'm Prime Minister.

Things that annoy me. Quite a bit.

These are not unrelated to the above...

Exams: At some point in my life someone will explain to me just why sitting in a large, intimidating hall, surrounded by nervous people and trying to remember facts and theories that you're supposed to have memorised (even though, in a job involving them, you'd be able to look them up) gives College and thus potential employers a good indication of your academic abilities. At least they could let you take in your notes and/or textbooks. After all, the ability to find the relevant piece of information from such sources is just as important to you in real life than the ability to remember it, if not more so (you can always look it up again, in real life). Yes, I'm aware that the usual reply to this is that exams provide an abstract scale to measure people against, etc, etc, but why not provide a more realistic scale?

Staff: Two of the best staff Felix has have had to give up their posts, because of college work. This is basically because

they'd been having to do so much for Felix. This in turn is because not enough people come in to help us! In the last few weeks there have been some hiccups with the distribution on Friday morning (my fault). People have come in or rung up to find out what happened. The letters page normally gets at least one letter each week complaining about something to do with the content etc of Felix. This is great, I love to know what people think, and that people miss Felix when it's late. But (BIG but), for whoever's sake, if you are interested, come in and give us a hand! (please!)

Credits

Typesetting & Printing: Rose and Andy

News Editor: Anna Teeman

Arts Editor & Night Watchman: Adam

Features Editor: Roland

Music Editor: John Furlong

Photo Editor and Distribution: Richard

The Team: Stef, James, Ian, Toby, Matt Jarman and pseudonymed reviewers.

Collaters: ICSF - Steven, Stephen, Paul, Rebecca, Nick, Alex and the Ghostbusters. Heroes from last week's Battle of the Collating Machine - James, Steven, Nick, Jeremy and Chris.

Felix is produced for and on behalf of the Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed at the Imperial College Union Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB (Tel 071-225 8672).

Editor: Andrew Butcher, Manager: Chris Stapleton, Business Manager: Jeremy Burnell. Copyright Felix 1991 ISSN 1040-0711.

Next week is the ...

Valentine Special

So if you're a romantic, loving, caring individual, or even if you're a 'real' man/women, or even just for the hell of it:

SAY IT WITH FELIX

Write a personal message to the one you love/want to love/whatever, and FELIX will make sure that he/she/it sees it (as well as about 6,000 other people).

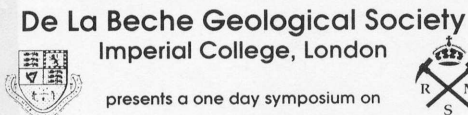
All messages to the FELIX office, Beit Quad by Tuesday the 11th.

And...on March the 1st it's the

Travel Special

And as we at the FELIX office are all too poor to go anywhere nice, we'd like you to give us a hand. If you've travelled anywhere in the last year, write an article for US become famous!

Deadline for submissions 1pm Monday 25th February



De La Beche Geological Society
Imperial College, London
presents a one day symposium on

Exploration Geology for the 1990's

(in the petroleum and mining industries)

Friday 22nd February

Geology Department,
Sutton Lecture Theatre
(starts 10 am)

Sponsored by:

**Chevron UK Ltd, BP Exploration,
RTZ Mining and Exploration**

Themes: Global exploration - the next 10+ years
New techniques in Exploration Geology
Enhanced recovery for existing deposits

Contributors: R James / G Mitchell (BP)
A McLaurin (RTZ)
I Wilson (ECC)
R Hardman (Amerada Hess)
G Mattingley (Chevron)
and others to be confirmed

Contact: Robin Leinster, Geology Dept, Imperial College
London SW7 2BP tel: 071 225 8540

icsf
PRESENTS
an ARNIE/BODYCOUNT production

TOTAL RECALL

Tuesday 12th February, 7pm
80p to members (membership £2)
Mech Eng 220
KUATO LIVES!

SILWOOD PARK ENTS PRESENT...

Friday 15th Feb Valentines Jazz & Cocktails Night

*'Come to the Manor House
for an evening of
drunk 'n' jivin'*

Coach leaves IC Union at
6.30, returns at midnight

Tickets: £3.00 in advance
from Union Office

SMART DRESS ONLY

R.O.A.R.

GULF WAR MEETING

**GREAT HALL
Tuesday 12 Feb
12.45pm**

Mr Ken Livingston
(Labour MP)

Professor Stephen Rose
(Chemical Warfare Expert)

Organised by IC Labour
Club and IC M.A.W. Soc