

## Furse Row as Southside faces demolition

Reports on a split in College Management over the decision to buy Furse House have not been denied by Mr Angus Fraser, the College Managing Director. Furse House is the former Ministry of Defence hostel situated on Queen's Gate Terrace which may be bought as IC student accomodation. The Rector, Sir Eric Ash, is reported to have clashed with Mr Fraser and Director of Estates, Gordon Marshall, over the purchase.

Sir Eric recently told iCNN that 'it would be a thousand pities' if the hall went to another institution, and that he would 'give an arm and a leg' to buy the hall. The college needs to raise £3 million to pay for the hostel. This sum is regarded as extravagantly high by both the Finance and Estates divisions of College, and the Directors of these divisions are reported to believe that already overstretched Residences accounts could not cope with this additional burden. Mr Fraser told iCNN last night that 'the effect of the purchase on the accounts cannot be ignored.

The dispute came to a head before the Residences Strategy Working Party meeting yesterday. The meeting was due to approve a residence report drawn up by the Working Party which included the budgets for the residences accounts for 1990/1 and 1991/2. *i*CNN has learned that the loss shown on the 1992 budget was to be used by the opponents of Furse House to argue against the purchase.

The residence report was heavily criticised by wardens and subwardens of several college residences who drew up an eight page document detailing factual inaccuracies in the residence report. Professor Geoff New, the chairman of the Advisory Group of Residences, who also sits on the Working Party, threatened resignation from the Working Party if his name was not removed from the report. Prof New refused to comment on this allegation, but stated that he had not been directly involved with writing the



document. Sir Eric Ash who was described as 'cold with fury' over the wardens' response, used these inaccuracies to cancel the publication of the residence report, and it was not discussed by the meeting.

The news of the Rector's decision was broken to the Working Party by Angus Fraser. It is believed that the Rector briefed Mr Fraser in a meeting on Tuesday afternoon, but the decision to effectively stop the report came as a surprise to most of those present at the meeting yesterday (Thursday). Mr Marshall was reported to have been 'flabbergasted' and afterwards was overheard to remark that Mr Fraser had not briefed him on the Rector's decision.

Speaking to iCNN, Mr Fraser said that some comments had been made at the meeting about the report. 'There were some questions, mainly about the presentation of the report and the strategic aims of the report,' he said, adding that following the

Rector's intervention, the figures in the appendices to the report were being 'revised'. 'The report will then be issued to the original distribution,' he said.

Mr Fraser said that the report 'will be worked on between now and the autumn.' Opponents of the purchase of Furse House are outraged at this timescale. They point to sealed bids having to be entered for the property by 8th July, and say it is no accident that the report has been deferred until so long after the Furse House decision has been made. Mr Fraser refused to deny that he had difference of opinion with the Rector over the purchase. 'We are clear on the programme on which we are working,' he added.

The purchase of Furse House is of strategic importance in what is understood to be a plan to demolish the Southside Halls of Residence. *i*CNN has learned of a discussion document which suggests the replacement of Southside with a conference centre. We understand

that the Southside Halls were given a twenty five year lifetime when they were built over twenty seven years ago. There are currently reports that the foundations of the halls are beginning to crumble, though no-one from Estates was available for comment on the story yesterday.

The suggestion was fuelled earlier this week when it was announced that Simon Westerman, College Catering Manager, had proposed the closure of the Gardens Restaurant, and the moving of Southside Bar and Belushis to the Sherfield building. iCNN has since been informed by reliable sources that the proposal has been discussed at the highest levels of the Estates division, and that a written record of this discussion exists. College Managing Director, Angus Fraser, denounced the reports as 'totally unfounded'. He added that there were 'no plans for the demolition or replacement of Southside. Southside is a student residence and will always remain one.'

### Fiscal Probity

Dear Adam,

I cannot accept any claims of financial irresponsibility. We have a large team of financial advisers retained, Barlow-Clowes, Keith Best, the Maxwell Brothers, Alex Lodge to name but a few. Rectitude and Fiscal Probity is the name of the game for us.

Imagine my surprise on 3 June 1992 when Felix or rather ICU Print Unit sent me two bills for work done. One of them had nothing to do with us, the other included work already paid for. Between us paying and the new bill arriving the prices for the work carried out had changed. Bizarre! Surely financial incompetence if ever I say it.

Guilds President, Tim Proctor, was so shocked by this incompetence, that he has experienced some hair loss. Sources close to him say he is considering sueing for damages.

On a more serious note we all appreciate the credit service run by Felix for their photocopier, but if it's too difficult to do—then don't do it.

C Tomkins (with tongue firmly in cheek), Guilds HJT.

You'll be glad to hear that we are getting a card system for the photocopier very soon. The details have not yet been sorted - but it will be advertised in Felix. - Adam

#### Felix Bound Editions

Issues 909 to 939 inclusive, from 25 July 91 until 24 June 92. They cost £32 each and can be collected from the Felix Office during late summer. Please supply your full name, address and telephone number as well as what name is to be inscribed on the volume. Cheques should be made payable to 'ICU Print Unit' and should be provided with the order, made by 27 June. For enquiries, phone the Felix Office on 3515.

# Anonymity

Dear Adam,

May I draw your attention to your editorial in Felix 923 (24 January 1992), where regarding the letters column you laid down your editorial policy:

'...although I do allow names to be withheld on occasion, this only occurs if the letter's author persuades me in person that they would be in danger from retailiation if their authorship was known. Mere embarrassment is not enough—don't be a coward—stand up for your views.'

I can only assume that this policy has been changed viewing the anonymous letter in this week's Felix (937, 5 June 1992) commenting on the City & Guilds article in the issue (Felix 936, 29 May 1992). It is unclear what retribution the author could fear as the executive committee of City & Guilds is more than open to constructive comment—perhaps you now feel that in some cases cowardice is a justifiable reason for protecting someone's identity.

Yours sincerely, Tim Proctor, President, City & Guilds College Union.

I Congratulate Mr Proctor at being able to read. Am I correct in assuming that he had no complaint about the witholding of authorship until the one letter which referred to his parish? He knows who wrote that letter because the individual told him. I really don't see the problem. Perhaps he found it difficult to fault any comment in that letter so he decided to attack its author or myself. I'm afraid that's not very convincing.

The comment in the editorial was a statement of intent - what should happen rather than what does. I have to bend to the wishes of my correspondents. But I am unclear as to why he bothered to write the above letter. It wouldn't be because of a deep dislike of me, would it? Surely the President of the City and Guilds Union would not risk dragging the entire organisation through the mud because of an infantile tendency to protect his non-existent integrity? That really would be stupid. Such a President would be rightly considered as a blethering airhead who has done more damage to his Union in the few hours a week he spends with it than a College Newspaper editor ever could. Fortunately, this is all conjecture, as I am far too responsible to do that - I have to put up with the comeback in.. ooh.. one more Felix this year, I think. I can match Mr Proctor in snideness anytime. I have had much more experience.

-Adam

## Mickey Mouse

Dear Adam,

Regarding your report on the Sports Centre Felix 937: When the plans for the Sports Centre changes first mooted, management' claimed that by not going ahead with the plans they were losing x thousands of pounds, where x was a large number that was considerably more than the shortfall between income and expenditure of the Sports Centre. When I queried this with Valerie Straw (facilities manager) I was told one had to consider the losses in terms of opportunity costs. That is, although the Sports Centre had a shortfall of about £40,000, because (so College management claimed) it could make say, £100,000 profit, it was actually losing £140,000!

I would like to apply this principle to the loan ICU is making to IC for the Sports Centre. If the money were invested, according to my accountant a return of 14%-20% per annum would be expected, depending on whether the investment is at home or abroad and amount of risk. Assume that the UK achieves its target of 4% inflation, then £650,000 compounded over 12 years would be worth roughly between £2 million to £3.6 million at today's rates. The Felix article does not make it clear how College intend to repay the loan. Assuming it is repaid in equal instalments of £54,000 and each year ICU invested the returned money on the aforementioned terms, after 12 years ICU would have between £1.1 million to £1.6 million. Some may consider my assumptions a little optimistic, however they are far more credible than the Mickey Mouse business plans put forward for the Sports Centre.

So what does ICU get for its

### -WANTED-

I'm writing a booklet on accommodation and would like to talk to you about your experiences of renting a flat, bedsit or mansion. All sorts of stories needed—good, bad and indifferent—so if you've got a tale to tell, please call me, Liz Carr, on extension 8638.

money? You attribute our president as claiming that the money will provide better sports facilities. Where are these then? The additions are a Jaccuzzi, steam room and sauna. Hardly sports facilities. Attract better students? This will be secondary, since the prime motivation for the aforementioned facilities is to attract 'middle aged executives' (quote attributed to Gordon Marshall in an earlier Felix).

Your article also claims the changes have been agreed with the widest possible consultation. Who was consulted? When the plans for the changes were orginally put to the College Athletics Committee those present got the impression from Valerie Straw that student views had been sought and that they were keen on the changes. In fact they did not even know about them (a remarkably similar scenario to that on the front page of Felix 937 regarding car-park privatisationunions, which also has the commonality of flexible financial information that can ebb and flow to suit the argument of the day, but is never available for scrutiny). Further, one should bear in mind that 'consult' does not exclude 'ignore.' For anyone who thinks that 'the management' would not be so dastardly, consider this year's pricing scheme for the Sports Centre and the debate, but not change, it caused. And of course even higher fees are ont he way. The current management practice is that proposals are first approved by management and then the consultation takes place. The fear that this 'consultation' is more akin to imposition was voiced at the Academic Staff Assembly last year.

It was also claimed that the changes are in the best interests of students now and in the future. Difficult to justify since current students will not have a Sports Centre for five and a half months, as for future students, £1 million or an old bubble bath? It is a tough choice, but, I think I will go for...

Two more little questions: Why was it that the redevelopment was supposed to be done over summer vacation—which is only three months, and now is going to take over five? And why has the budget—provisionally of £350,000 (Note to MPG 1991) shot up to over £650,000, even though the works are less extensive than originally planned?

A. C. Jones,

Electrical Engineering 6.6.92.

### Union Business

The AGM may seem a long way away, if you consider a week and a half to be a long time. Some meetings are actually worth attending and this is one of them. What exactly have the sabbaticals been doing over the last year?

You may find that a difficult questions to answer but then again, so may the sabbaticals. The AGM exists to provide this information to the students along with the answers to many more varied questions. There are also elections for the Union posts of: Haldane Record and Book Buyer, House Committee ordinary members, Felix Business Manager, Post-Graduate Affairs

Officer and Transport Officer.

All of this and more takes place at 1pm in Mech Eng 220 on Tuesday 23rd June.

Polytechnic of West London

Some students have requested use of their facilities (namely the bar). We now have a reciprocal agreement with the above institution. If anyone wishes to use their bar they will require a 'bar card' available from the Polytechnic of West London Union office (before 5.30pm, any weekday) and a passport photograph as required.

Enjoy the rest of term,

Steve Farrant, ICU Hon Sec (Events).

### HUB's Midsummer

A gentle game of croquet on the lawn, sipping pimms and feasting on strawberries, unwinding to the strains of Richard Strauss Serenades—what could possibly be a better way to celebrate the end of a hectic term. **Midsummer '92** is on Friday 26 June 1992.

So here's the events for everyone—stylish and elegant, but with a sense of carnival!!

6.00—Sip Pimms, spritzer, punch or beer from one of our special bars. Croquet—play with style!

6.30pm—Richard Strauss' Serenades—the IC orchestra conducted by Richard Dickins.

7.15pm—International pavement café—serving hors d'oeuvres from

some of over 220 overseas societies represented at IC. Street entertainment: jugglers, dancers and musicians.

8.30pm—Dine alfresco (weather permitting) indulge in the culinary triumphs of the resident team, Musical interlude.

9.30pm—Twirl the night away to the toe tapping sounds of our favourite jazz band...

At Dusk-Festive Sparklers

All activities take place at Sherfield/Queens Tower. Tickets are £9.50 to include all musical entertainment and dinner, are available from HUB room 355, Sherfield extensions 3021/3405.

The ways of the media are strange Who would have beleived that a quarter page box in Felix asking for people to collect their artwork - you may remember 'Ye Olde Felix Jumble Sale' - could be newsworthy enough to reach the pages of the 29th of May issue of the *Times* 

Higher Education Supplement. There it was again, rewritten as a slightly humorous account,

### FELIX Staff Photo

For all those who contributed to Felix this year.

Meet at the Felix Office on Tuesday 16th June at 5.00pm

### editorial

presumably giving insight into the machinations of a student newspaper. Of all the possible bits of news to be picked up on, that would not even have crossed my mind. I am truly glad that we now have evidence that even reputable papers know what a space-filler is. The Last Issue

My last ever issue of Felix will come out on Wednesday 24th and will probably be in more than one part. The positively last deadline for submissions is this Monday at 12.30pm. After this time I may well have devised a page plan, and extra articles will not be fitted in. As I am not bound to this place for much longer, there are no restraints on my being appallingly rude to people handing things in late. If anybody comes in with an article after Monday, I will tear it up in front of them and ram the pieces where the sun don't shine.

Credits

Declan, Stefs R and S, Simon, Poddy, Catherine, Mario, Sam, Rose, Jonty, Ian, David, James, Scott, Andy, Steve, Ian, the flying flow and the Baskerville Bastard.

### Scones

When up in Scotland, this quaint word I come upon I have to snip it short, and call it scone.

And yet we have a Coronation Stone
Brought down from Scotland from a place called Scone,
Where toasted cakes with butter spread thereon
Are called by the same name, but ryhmed with shone.
But down in England's Southern Shires, when I'm alone,
I love soft, mellower sounds and call it scone.

## The Enemy Within's Response Answered

Dear Adam.

For the benefit of IC ConSoc, a brief summary of 'The Enemy Within.'

- 1. The implementation of the students' charter now looks imminent. It will be discussed at a meeting in Ten Downing Street on 19 June.
- 2. Conservative Students are setting the pace in student reforms, and are exercising an influence far in excess of their status.
- 3. The students' charter will be used by Conservative Students to launch yet another attack on the NUS.
- 4. This attack is euphemistically known as voluntary membership.
- 5. Voluntary membership will seriously, if not fatally, damage all students unions, threatening all the activities and societies that they fund
- 6. IC ConSoc received £520 of

union money last year and has bid for £535 this year.

7. It is not unreasonable to assume that this money will be partially used to campaign for voluntary membership.

8. In this way, ConSoc is using union money toseriously damage IC Union. ConSoc is the 'enemy within'.

Now compare this with the points of relevance in their letter of last week:

- 1. IC ConSoc does not use union money to affiliate to the Conservative Party in any form.
- 2. IC ConSoc does, however, affiliate to the Greater London Area Conservatives, at the cost of £10 from ConSoc membership subscriptions.
- 3. Money received from the union is not used to stimulate greater student interest in centre-right (sic)

politics.

Such pathetic evasion. If ever there was a letter that failed to answer an article, this is it. The letter says nothing, absolutely nothing, about the students' charter, the influence of Conservative Students in setting Government policy, or the effects of voluntary membership.

The information which I gave about affiliation to Conservative Students came from both the chairman and national secretary of Conservative Students, in live interviews broadcast on IC Radio. To be absolutely sure, I had this information verified by a former chairman of IC ConSoc. This year's ConSoc chairman doesn't seem to be aware of his own position. Is Mark fully aware of the facts?

As for centre right politics, what exactly is he talking about? Centre

right normally means right of centre, and that certainly isn't ConSoc. If Mark is redefining centre right as right of centre, surely even that is just a tad socialist for the offshoot of the Federation of Conservative Students?

The personal attacks are best ignored. Being a firm follower of the *Guardian*'s Will Hutton, I regarded the 1992 election as one to lose. Incidentally, anything about the collapse of IC Labour should be referred to Mark Schaeffer.

Perhaps ConSoc will make a more constructive response in future. Hopefully, they won't take so long about it next time.

Wishing you fruitful travelling in the land of the East. Enjoy your deserved retirement (OBN), Declan Curry.

(Still) News Editor.

# Eat -Old Trout

Ak

Jessica Rabbit is surveying the Old Trout from on top of a speaker stack. Her feminine eye is supervising Eat's every move, and her head is touching the ceiling. Not that Eat actually make that many moves that need supervising. It takes Ange (the lead singer, a he, find out why he's called Ange next week) three songs to introduce the band. 'Hello, we're Eat.' Oh, now there's a surprise. He follows this extravagnza of crowd interaction

with 'Bellytown', the first really good song of the night.

After this, he becomes more involved, baiting the audience with Rick Astley jibes, prowling a round the stage in a game of one man peek-a-boo, and leading the band through the set, highlights being 'First Time Love Song', 'Fatman' and the obligatory 'Golden Egg'. Eat are a feverish experience and well worth catching.

#### Lise Yates

• Eat play at the Town & Country Club tomorrow night. The single 'Golden Egg' is out now on Fiction/Polydor.

# Silverfish -Organ Fan

## Album

Don't be misled by photos in the inkies. Leslie F. Rankine is not a happy smiling girl, harmless and flowery. No. No. No. The nearest this fearsome celt gets to flowers is the fourth song on this album, 'Petal', and that is, if I'm not mistaken, and I probably am, about oral sex. Sod that, most of the first side is about that particular radio-friendly subject.

So, assuming you keep this album away from grandmothers, Radio 1 DJs and other sensitive types, and

you never meet Lesley Silverfish in a 'Silverfish are crap' t-shirt, what can you expect to hear on this album? A solid wall of noise, chunks of guitar from Mr Fuzz, (not, I am assured, the Mr Fuzz of PWEI), 'Piqsqueal' from 'Fuckin' Drink or What?' ep, a cover of David Essex's 'Rock On'. (David Essex!), the rather excellent 'Joos' (as in orange) and, if you're quick, a free 7" single with live version of 'TFA'.

So what are you waiting for? Oh right. Monday.

#### Lise Yates.

• 'Organ Fan' is out on Monday. Silverfish play at the Astoria next Friday.

# Cud, Sensitize - Underworld



Cud missile.

The first half of Sensitize's set is rather samey and monotonous, with one song being virtually indistinguishable from another, and only 'Try' standing out. But then, about half way through, they get their act in order, and with their last four songs, 'Untitled', 'Falling Through', 'Beautiful Home' and 'Watertight', they introduce variety, life, and humour (with their closing comment, 'If you want to abuse us, abuse us. That's what we're here for.'). If only they could keep this up throughout the set.

First on the stage is Steve, the drummer from *Cud*, music press figure of ridicule, closely followed by the rest of the band. Lead singer Carl gets cries of 'fat bastard' which he quells most succinctly. Last time I saw *Cud*, in December 1990,

positioned as they were in a *Ned's-Stuffies* sandwich, they sucked it big time. Now on major label, they are almost transformed. But any of their songs could break into 'Rich And Strange', their well-deserved chart hit. Is it just a characteristic sound, or do all their songs sound exactly alike?

And after that song, when the ephemeral fans have drifted off, towards the end of the set, I feel an unwilling smile creep across my face. Carl Puttnam has control of my face muscles and I want it. He also has the world's worst line in anecdotes, which generally consist of forfilling his submarine fetish. After this, a hint of variety creeps into their set too, closing with the serene 'Love In A Hollow Tree', which itself concludes with a drum solo. First up, last to go.

#### Lise Yates

• Cud's 'Rich And Strange' is out now on A&M.

# Del Amitri -Change Everything

Abum

Justin Currie is clearly a soul in torment. But torment brings forth the artist, as this masterful collection of ballads and catchy guitar bits shows. There's none of that 'beloved misty glen' syndrome à la Runrig nor even a mention of 'wee dram' or a 'bleak city' (i.e. Glasgow), all of which seem to be becoming consistent themes of Scottish bands these days.

Del Amitri are rising to the

stature of *Deacon Blue*, in that every track has the potential of charting successfully. Currie's voice shines through 'Always the Last to Know' and 'Just Like a Man'. It's bound to go straight to the top of the Scottish album charts from sales to their substantial celtic following, but might just scrape the top ten here for a couple of weeks. Indeed a worthy successor to 'Waking Hours'.

Stormingly fantabulous.

MacWomble.

# Jerry Burns -Jerry Burns

# Album

Nice to see you've dumped Mick, you silly Texan; now that's what I call a chocolate bar. 'A last request, Gringo' 'Huh, jus' lemme che-ew on this Texan Bar here'. Then the emaciated skeletons of the Mexican Militia would succumb to the ale, the sun or the pox, leaving our erstwhile condemned beefcake free to slowly wander, slowly chewing. Burns? I should say so, the rate

you're moving at. Whither speed? beauty?

It's attractive, sweetly-voiced, stuff. So sweet, in fact, it's suppurating. Buy it. Buy an ounce of tobacco. Buy the tarry discharge and set it in your lungs. Buy Emphysema. Despair all you like so long as something positive comes out of it; aren't I just the surliest? Give me more ssss... Groove, you bitch, do something, hit. It promises, hints at, alludes to, leaves before it delivers; One wonders, 'If?'. Like everything else. Love it for that.

#### Angalas.

Out now on Columbia.

# Pop Will Eat Itself, Wobble Scorpio Rising -Marquee

About a year ago I would rather have gone on a Croatian weekender than go and see Scorpio Rising play live again. Come to think of it, for a while this evening sitting on the Marquee staircase while they played also seemed like a better proposition. However, it came to be that I was led (some would say deceived) into standing slap bang at the front middle of the stage when Scorpio Rising appeared. The point is, and you don't know how much it pains me to say this, but Scorpio Rising were...erm...good. Very good actually. However, in my defence they were erm...too loud and too erm...funny or something. Don't you hate it when that happens? You're just dying to slag something off and then they go and be good...gits.

Pop Will Eat Himself (as my mother insists on telling her friends they are called) are incredible this evening. Right from their merchandise prices to their encores they really are something out of the ordinary. They whip up such a frenzy in here tonight that they actually induced the much fabled gas chamber effect. You know the one, it's where everything goes blurry and you pass out and get trampled on then wake up in the



Arising, the one eyed messiah of Scorpio.

middle of a well wicked stage dive...that sort of thing. I was however later informed by a friend that these feelings of chronic exhileration and exhaustion followed by acute asphixiation may have been a result of too much fizzy lager, constant manic dancing and bugger all ventilation. While all arguments are, I admit, perfectly reasonable, I still blame my own near death experience on the band themselves. When I saw them at Reading last year they easily stole the show from the other so-called headliners. Somehow though, the

threat of new material made a repeat performance seem a little unlikely. Oops! Big mistake! Major misconception. Pop Will Eat Itself are still the dogs bollocks when it comes to playing live. Sixteen different flavours of heaven and every one better than a Haagen Das, yessir! Catch them if you can.

McCarter.

• Scorpio Rising support Eat tomorrow night, and have a new single 'Saturnalia' on July 6 on P.W.E.I. 22. Chapter 'Karmadrome' is out now on RCA.

# Box

TONIGHT The Belltower, The Hinnies Underworld, £5 Camden Town Lisa Stansfield, Distant Cousins Academy, Brixton The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, etc Grand, £6

SATURDAY Eat, Scorpio Rising, Some **Have Fins** 

Clapham Junction

Town & Country Club, £6.50 Kentish Town

SUNDAY Jonathan Richman, Scarlet Subterania, £7 Ladbroke Grove

MONDAY Trash Gossips, 69 Dean St. Leicester Square

TUESDAY Suede Camden Palace, £2/4 Mornington Crescent

FRIDAY 19 Silverfish, God Machine, Hair & Skin Trading Co. Astoria, £6 Tottenham Ct. Rd. The Telescopes, Adorable. ULU, £6 Russell Square, Goodge St.

**SATURDAY 20** Boo Radleys, etc. Venue, £5. New Cross (Gate)

**MONDAY 22** Jerry Burns, etc. ICA, The Mall, £7.50 Piccadilly Circus

**TUESDAY** Jerry Burns, etc. ICA, The Mall, £7.50 Piccadilly Circus Sensitize, 3½ Minutes Marquee, £5adv/£6 Leicester Square. Some Have Fins, Bowlfish Borderline, £5 Tottenham Ct. Rd.

In the summer issue—Eat, The Adventures, and some other things. Possibly.

### Sensitize -Falling Through

Three tracks: In reverse order. 'Rely' is, and there is no discussion involved, The Wonder Stuff's 'Give, Give, Give me More, More, More', 'Teenage Kicks' is, and should remain, by the Undertones and 'Falling Through' is justifiably the lead track, comparatively. bearable, and quite catchy.

Lise Yates.

Out now on Food.



### Pele -Fair Blows the Wind for France

The best track on the album by far'-Felix 932.

I thought it then and I still think

See, Polydor listen to us, oughtn't you?

Lise Yates.

Out now on Polydor/M&G.

# Straight Talk

# Johnny Suede

There is nothing special about this film apart from the fact that it stars Dolly Parton and James Woods. If you are ardent fans of either of them you may just about appreciate what it has to offer.

It's supposed to be a musical comedy, but it's nowhere near; poor screenplay, poor direction, poor me for having to sit through the film. Holy Moley.

I think the film is trying to wing it on Miss Parton's popularities(!) as well as using it as a vehicle to restore her acting credibility. James Wood's talent on the other hand is completely wasted.

I suppose I should give a brief outline of the story, though it has been done before and seen before this rags to riches saga.

Well, there is a small-town dance instructor Shirlee Kenyon (Dolly Parton) who becomes rich and famous when she lands a job as a radio talk-in therapist. She dishes out her honest, home-spun philosophies to those who need it:-a true 'doctor of the heart'. Enter Jack Russell (James Woods) a hardheaded news reporter. He befriends Shirlee as an attempt to expose the fact that she is not the college educated doctor her image portrays her to be. With a little imagination you can figure out the rest.

A happy ever after story, gushing, but thankfully not overly sentimental. To end with I must pass on some advice many poor I.C. souls will cherish, 'It's your life, so you've gotta honk your own horn.' Honk away...

Aga

Opens today around London.





## Film

Johnny Suede is another film which opens this Friday. I saw this movie last term so my recollection of it is not terribly good. Anyhow, I'll try my best.

Compared to Straight Talk it is not your usual American commercial movie. It is more on the lines of an off-beat Jim Jarmusch film. Written and directed by Tom DiCillio, starring Brad Pitt of the Levi's advert where he walks out of jail in his boxer shorts.

A darkly comic fable, packed with the symbolism of objects and dreams. Set in the shadows of a modern American metropolisit looked more like a deserted area of ruined tenement buildings.

Johnny Suede (Brad Pitt) is a poor, naive and not quite a musician with a 12 inch hair-style. Johnny meets and falls in love with Darlette (Alison Moir). Their relationship doesn't last as she is involved with an older, quirky man. As he tries to keep his band together, Johnny meets Yvonne (Catherine Keener). Yvonne is warm, caring and generous-the complete opposite to Darlette. An uneasy relationship develops between them which begins to threaten Johnny's illusions of himself.

The characters are well written, though the pace of the movie is slow. At times it was strange when dream sequences are used to express Johnny's intuitive response to the changes in his life. But they proved to be rather interesting. On the whole it is well directed and suitably acted.

Aga.

• Opens today at the Chelsea Cinema and around London.

# The Lawnmower Man

This is mainly a display of Virtual Reality - a computer generated universe where man is limited only by his imagination. There is a plot, very loosely based on a Steven King short story, to tie the special effects

together. Pierce Brosman plays Dr Angelo, a peaceloving virtual reality specialist who works for the sinister 'shop'. He is encouraged to take a hiatus after his most advanced chimpanzee goes rampaging though the corridors of the shop, it's aggression level raised to such a point by virtual reality that it has to be killed by a security guard.

Upset by the violence in the world around him and left by his girlfriend, Dr Angelo takes the simple Joab, his Lawnmower Man, into his tutorage. The use of drugs and a peaceful version of VR produces a highly intelligent, if very innocent, man. So far everything has gone to plan for Dr Angelo until The Shop get interested again and supplant the aggression back into Joab.

This is where Dr Angelo's dream of a superior peaceful human race falls to pieces and Joab's decision of his own destiny to rule the world as a benevolent dictator take over. Jeff Fahey's performance as the simpleton turned genius is engaging and Pierce Brosman's scientist looks very harassed but very unconvincing in the intimate scenes. The film itself does not raise many questions for us to mull over as we leave the cinema since the effects are all that hold it together.

The Phantom

• The Lawnmower Man opened last Friday and is currently showing at the MGM cinema, Kings Road.

# Love & A Bottle

# Theatre

London, 1700, a little known Irish playwright is trying to survive in a world seemingly populated by scatterbrained fops and their matching empty headed women. The critics hate him, he owes his landlady umpteen weeks back rent (to be payed in sexual favours if he can't scrape the money together). George Lyric is on the way down.

Being a man of some dignity he decides to bring as much of the world crashing down with him. He starts to write a play featuring the fops of the day (as every other play written by his contemporaries). The fat pigeons strut their stuff on the stage, while the playwright introduces one final character; a fox known as George Roebuck, a man with as few morals as the fops, but lacking their 'all for one' principles of comradeship and camaraderie. In other words a dangerous man.

Roebuck, having left two lovers and a bastard son in Ireland, comes to London to escape his 'attachments'. Unfortunately, all three follow him to the Capital. The result is a comic and often black farce involving not only the lovers but their relations, all of which get embroiled in the complex plot of lies and seduction. George Lyric,



the playwright appears on stage from time to time, to moderate his characters, but fails to keeps Roebuck under his control.

Written by George Farquhar and adapted by Declan Hughes, this is one of best farces I have ever seen. It manages to retain a serious thread throughout its length, and Rough Magic (the theatre company) manages to change smoothly from

shallow comedy to serious drama.
An excellent performance by
Phelim Drew as George Roebuck.
Stef.

•Love and a Bottle is showing at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road. It is running until the 27th June and tickets can be bought from the box office on 071 328 1000.

# Grave

# Theatre

The play is about a family dealing with the loss of one of its members. The deceased father figure is a vicar, and so the subject of the play is supposed to be the collapse and regeneration of faith...

Unfortunately a play needs much more than a dead vicar in order to attempt an intricate subject such as human faith. The scenes are too numerous and short to develop any meaningful point. All the usual psychological profiles were present: the son, suffering from acute Oedipus complex, the mother, rediscovering sex, the rebellious daughter...All too typical!

Fortunately Mary Peates, the director of the play, manages to make full use of the potential present in actors such as Ben Robertson, thus enhancing the few positive points in the text. These usually consist of humorous dialogues about the marital status of the different characters or monologues about the church.

If you're going to see a play this week, see one of the others on this page.

M.A.

● Playing until 20th June at the Finborough Theatre Club (above the pub), 8pm, Monday to Saturday. Tickets are £6 to £4 from the Box Office (071-373 3842)

# **Falstaff**

# Opera

At the heart of Verdi's Falstaff, the fat, philandering knight of the title, having failed in a seduction attempt, is flung into the Thames in a basket of dirty laundry. In ENO's revival of Verdi's final opera, Benjamin Luxon's portrayal of Falstaff's transformation from overweening pomposity to abject, wheezing panic, and a coup de theatre from producer David Pountney unlock the full comic potential of this famous scene. At other points during the evening, however, the production is slightly less successful at tapping the vein of hilarity that runs through the work.

Musically, all is well and much



is first rate. Luxon's Falstaff is well- rounded in every sense, his ample tone matching his girth, his acting capturing the larger than life exuberance and appetite his role requires. Outstanding amongst the four ladies are Susan Bullock as Mistress Ford, for her beautiful tone and clear diction, and Alison

Hagley's sparkling Nanetta. Bonaventura Bottone, as the latter's lover Fenton, though vocally secure and pleasing, is rather less characterful.

In the pit, Mark Elder gives a detailed, well-balanced reading of Verdi's orchestral score; the singers are never overwhelmed and subtle

masterstrokes such as the doubling of piccolo and cellos in the first scene are tellingly realised.

#### Patrick Wood

• Falstaff at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, at 7.30 on the 15th, 17th and 20th of June. Tickets from £4 on the day.

# The False Servant

# Theatre

Two hundred and sixty years after it was written by Marivaux, The False Servant has its British premiere at the Gate Theatre. Written at a time when the French aristocracy was beginning to show signs of decadence, it is a play full of deceit and disguise. A young lady of considerable fortune is supposed to marry someone chosen by her brother. Wanting to meet him and find out his 'real self', she disguises herself as Chevalier, becomes his friend, and seduces his mistress. It is a complex play in which no one is simply in love, but everyone has a lust for financial gain; the aristocrat Lelio whose criterion for marriage is the yearly earnings of the bride and Trivelin the servant of Chevalier who is ready to sell every secret he knows or he thinks he knows. Each character puts on a mask in order to impress and manipulate. Crispin Redman as Lelio and William Hope as Trivelin play their parts excellently. The settings of the play are interesting and together with the music and the costumes they help to create the atmosphere of the period. However the acting of two of the main



'Darling can I eat your earring?' characters is a bit disappointing.

Zorbas.

• The False Servant is showing at the Gate Theatre (above Prince Albert pub, 11 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill) from June 3 to July 4 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 + £1 membership. Box Office: 071-229 0706

# Expatria

### Book

The descendents of Expatria's first colonists from Earth have rejected technology. When Mathias, heir to the primacy of Newest Delhi, wants to reintroduce the old technologies he is framed for his father's murder and has to flee. He gets recruited by a research team trying to relearn technology and ends up discovering messages are coming from Orbit. Surprise, surprise, after a millenia of silence, Earth has come back.

This book is described as being rich in atmosphere, characters and ideas. To be quite honest, I found it boring. Halfway through, Mathias has only just joined the research team with no sign of earth whatsoever. The plot isn't rich, just cumbersome and in the end I put the book down and didn't pick it up again. This is the first book in a two book series. I'm not going to be buying number two. The ideas are old, the characters lack character and the atmosphere is non-existent. I can only asume the author knew the publisher. A book well worth ignoring.

Fob.

● Expatria by Keith Brooke is published by Corgi.

# Pond Life

# Theatre

This superb play uses the story of a day in the life of a group of friends in a South Yorkshire mining village to explore the insecurities and uncertainties of growing up. Around the tale of the day and of the fishing expedition that night there is a great deal of humour, with some of the funniest moments being where the watcher is reminded of her or his own childhood attitudes and behaviour. It is not all laughs, though, and the ending leaves you in a thoughtful mood.

The characters are very easy to identify with, each one having recognisable echoes of us all. A whole gamut of ages is presented, from early teens to early twenties,



Fishing for compliments

reflecting the difficult stages of growing up.

The acting was excellent at all times, and the set was extremely well designed and put together.

Watch out for the pond!

This is brilliant! Sod Wayne's World, spend six quid on this, it is far, far better!

Colin Church.

### SUMMER Union Snack Bar

The Union Snack
Bar will be closed
from June 29th
until September
21st. Food will be
available from the
Bar during this time

• Pond Life by Richard Cameron. Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush Green. Tickets £8 (students £6) plus membership (50p). Box Office: 081-743 3388. A group of nine students and former students of Imperial College will, this summer, be embarking on a unique adventure to the Pamir mountains of Tadzhikistan. All members are part of IC Scout and Guide Club and have spent the past seven months carefully planning the expedition. The area they will be visiting lies at the northern end of the Himalayas in one of the republics of the former Soviet Union. This area has recently hit headline news in this country as mass demonstrations over communist rule led to violence in the country's capital, Dushanbe. This has since calmed down after the government allowed Muslims to take up ministerial posts, and the general feeling in the country is one of general relief. There is also a feeling of general relief amongst the expedition!

The Imperial College Pamir Expedition 1992 will be one of the first to explore the southern end of the mountains due to the pervious barriers of Soviet Bureaucracy and the Afghan war, and this has also meant that few Soviet climbers have also reached the region. One of the few other expeditions that have reached the Pamirs was that led by the expedition patron, Lord Hunt (who led the 1953 Everest Expedition) in 1962. These expeditions, however, travelled with the authorities to huge international camps where most of the peaks are regularly ascended. The Imperial College expedition, on the other hand, will be travelling independently to a much more remote area, having built relations with Russian mountaineers and Tadzhik scientsts with whom they will be working with in the moutnains. These contacts have already proved very useful since they have been sent maps of the area-none of which existed before in Britain since they were illegal to posess before the break-up of the Soviet Union, and are still very hard to obtain.

To reach the area entails two air flights, followed by a truck drive on dirt-tracks for 150 miles, and then travel on foot and with local animals to reach base camp. Since this will

The non-climbers will be heading the scientific projects, which will be carried out by all the members (all are scientists and engineers) and helped by scientists in Tadzhikistan. Botanical material will be collected for the Natural History Museum who have no specimens from this

# Horlicks at 21,000 ft



Phillip Wickens
describes a
forthcoming
expedition to the
Himalayas.

take much time, the expedition is arranging for a Soviet helicopter to pick them up from base camp for the return journey. From base camp the climbers will set up several advance base camps from where they hope to make the first British ascents of peaks up to 21,000ft (Mont Blanc is a mere 15,770ft), and to explore the area for future expeditions. The information and photographs that they will bring back will be of great value to the Royal Geographical Society, British Mountaineering Council and Mount Everest Foundation, all of whom support the expedition and are keen for it to go ahead.

area at all, and so the findings will be of great importance. Collections will be made from mobile scientific camps that will be placed over a range of altitudes and habitats. The scientific projects have attracted the attention of David Bellamy, who has agreed to become the expedition's other patron. The material will be identified and analysed upon return by the museum and in Germany, and used in studies on ozone depletion and global warming at high altitude.

Over the past few months the expedition has been raising funds and obtaining help with food supplies and equipment. All their food must travel with them and they must purchase the necessary clothing and equipment for survival in the harsh environment. Great financial help and advice has been given by the Exploration Board and the University of London, with smaller, but equally important, dontations from a number of other organisations. The expedition has been helped by Unique Tours of Piccadilly and there has been a tremendous response to our equipment appeal-Kofiach Boots, Phoenix, Casio watches, Duracell batteries, Ambre Solaire, Horlicks and Ovaltine and are all but a few. All that remains now is to pick up and pack the supples, then hit the road to Heathrow.

Philip Wickens.



If you have an accident or fall ill in your home country you should know where to go for help and what to expect. Would you be as well prepared elsewhere in Europe or the world though? Do you know if you can get free hospital treatment while on holiday in Greece? What would your rights be if you had an accident in Guyana?

#### Travelling within the European Community

The UK has reciprocal healthcare arrangements with the 11 other EC countries. This means that you will be entitled to treatment under a particular country's state healthcare scheme if you fall ill or have an accident there.

in the UK should obtain their E111 from the Overseas Branch of the Department of Social Security. The address can be found on page 19 of booklet T2.

If you need treatment in another EC country, follow the instructions given in the booklet as procedures vary from country to country. Failure to do this could result in you being charged private fees and you may not be able to get a refund. In most EC countries emergency treatment in hospital or from a doctor is normally free with an E111. There are exceptions though. In France, for example, you have to pay a percentage of the cost of treatment yourself; in Greece you

#### Travelling outside the European Community

Travellers intending to go further afield will probably need to plan further in advance than would be necessary for trips within the EC. Information on emergency treatment, vaccinations, diseases and insurance recommendations can all be found in booklet T1-Health Advice for Travellers Outside the European Community (also available from the Welfare Office or Union Foyer). The booklet contains advice on precautions you should take before travelling and information on how to deal with emergencies once you are abroad. You should make sure that you have adequate insurance to cover all eventualities and should seek to consult your doctor at least two months before travelling if any vaccinations are likely to be required. Details are contained within booklet T1, so read it now and don't wait for an emergency!

### **Protecting** your Holiday Health

**HEALTH ADVICE** FOR TRAVELLERS 🖺

OUTSIDE

HE EUROPEAN COMMUNIT

HEALTH ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Stefano Ruis, ICU Welfare Adviser, on the dangers of going abroad.

In order to receive emergency medical treatment in an EC country with the minimum of fuss you will need form E111. Anyone who is ordinarily resident in this country and is either a UK/EC citizen or a stateless person/refugee is eligible for form E111, confirming their entitlement to free (or reduced cost) emergency medical treatment in the Community. To obtain your E111 complete the form at the back of booklet T2-Health Advice for Travellers inside the European Community (available from the Welfare Office or Union foyer) and take it to any Post Office for validation. The form lasts idefinitely provided that you remain ordinarily resident in the UK. Students who are nationals of another EC country but are resident may have to pay for things like Xrays and lab tests. In some countries you are required to pay for treatment at the time and then claim back the money later. Full details can be found in the T2 booklet.

Although form E111 can save money and hassle in emergencies it is no substitute for proper travel insurance. An E111 won't cover private treatment nor will it meet the cost of repatriation in the event of a serious accident or illness. Good travel insurance will normally extend to such eventualities-but read the small print! Generally speaking, it will normally be worthwhile paying for a suitable policy so shop around and make sure yor requirements are met adequately.

Before you travel anywhere in the world, follow the health care advice given in the booklets, especially the sections on vaccinations and HIV/AIDS. Your GP should be able to answer any specific queries on particular healthcare matters.

INSIDE

Imperial College Health Service offers a Travel Advice/Vaccination Clinic between 1.30pm and 2.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact the Health Centre at 14 Prince's Gardens for details.

If you have any practical queries about health care matters (for example, problems with obtaining an E111 or travel insurance difficulties) I am available for assistance during the following times:

Mon 11.00-1.00, 2.00-6.30 Tue 10.30-1.00, 2.00-5.00 Wed 2.00-5.00 Thu 10.30-1.00, 2.00-5.00 by appointment only Fri

The Welfare Office is located on the first floor of the Union, inside the general office. Telephone advice is available on ext 3507.

An up-to-the-minute guide to events in and around Imperial College. The deadline for entries for this page is the Monday prior to publication.

FRIDAY	
Hang Gliding	12.30pm

Southside Upper Lounge. Conservative Soc......12.30pm Physics 737. Union Lounge. Everyone welcome. 3rd World First......12.45pm Upper Southside Lounge.

Labour Club Meeting......1.00pm Maths 408. Club members welcome. 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** 

308 Computing. Swimming ...... 6.30pm Sports Centre.

Fencing Club Training......6.40pm Club training. Shaolin Kungfu System

Nam-Pai-Chuan......7.30pm Southside Gym. All welcome.

**Dance Club** SOCIAL DANCE......7.30pm

JCR. Free nibbles. Water Polo......7.30pm

Sports Centre. Southside Disco.................8.30pm Southside Bar. 

Union Lounge.

SATURDAY

Kung Fu Club..................4.30pm Wu Shu Kwan in Southside Gym. IC Shotokan Karate......10.00am Southside Gym. Ladies Tennis......12.00pm At college courts. Membership £6. All new members welcome.

Cycling Club......10.30am

Meet at Beit Arch. SUNDAY

West London Chaplaincy Sunday Service......10.30am Anteroom Sherfield Building. Live Role Playing......10.30pm Victoria Station. Gates to platforms 11-12. Men's Tennis Team Practise ...... 11.00am College Courts. Players of any ability. Annual membership £6. New members welcome. Catholic Chaplaincy Mass.11.00am 53 Cromwell Road. Wargames ...... 1.00pm UDH.

Kung Fu Club.................4.30pm

Intermediate

Wu Shu Kwan in the Union Gym. Catholic Mass................6.00pm 53 Cromwell Road.

MONDAY RockSoc Meeting......12.30pm Southside Upper Lounge. Broomball Soc......12.30pm Southside Upper Lounge. Parachute Club......12.30pm Brown Committee Room. Yacht Club Meeting......12.45pm 253 Aeronautics. New members most welcome. Sailing most weekends! Basketball Club......5.30pm Volleyball court. Men's Team. Southside Gym. Beginners. JCR. R'n'R/Latin. Adv/Medals. Afro-Carib Meeting.........6.00pm Concert Hall. Sports Centre. JCR. Beginners' Rock 'n' Roll. IC Shotokan Karate......7.30pm Southside Gym. JCR. Latin Beginners.

### TUESDAY

Southside Bar TV Room.

Chaplain's Office

C.U. Prayer Meeting......8.30pm

Jazz & Rock Club Meeting12.30pm

3rd World First.......12.30pm Coffee, tea, chocolate sale in JCR. OXFAM Lunch......12.30pm Mech Eng Foyer. Bread, cheese and pickle lunch. £1.00. Environmental & Appropriate Technology Society......12.45pm Southside Upper Lounge. All ideas welcome. Riding Club Meeting......12.30pm Southside Upper Lounge. Boardsailing ...... 12.30pm Southside Upper Lounge. AudioSoc Meeting......12.30pm Southside Upper Lounge. Cheap records and equipment hire. Radio Modellers.....12.30pm Southside Lounge. Cathsoc Mass......12.30pm Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch. Ski Club Meeting......12.30pm Southside Lounge. Put you name down for this year's ski trip. Sailing Club......12.30pm Southside Lounge. AstroSoc ...... 1.00pm Upper Lounge. STOIC News......1.00pm PhotoSoc ...... 1.00pm

Ents/Rag Office. Up two flights on

the East Staircase, first office on the

Southside Lounge.

Southside Gym. Organised by Fitness Club. Radio Modellers.....5.30pm Mech Eng.

Fitness Club..................5.45pm Southside Gym. Intermediate. Amnesty International......5.30pm

Clubs Committee Room. Dance Club..................6.00pm JCR. Improvers Ballroom and Latin. Beit Quad store or 8.30pm in

Southside Upper Lounge. 

Union Gym. Stoic Nostalgia Night......7.00pm

Imperial College in the sixties, seventies and eighties. 

JCR. Adv/Medals Ballroom & Latin. Yoga ......8.00pm Southside Gym.

Caving Club Meeting......8.00pm Southside Upper Lounge.

Bike Club......12.45pm

#### WEDNESDAY Fitness Club......12.45pm

Southside Gym. Intermediate.

Southside Lounge.

Cycling Training......1.30pm Meet at Beit Arch. UDH. All welcome. Micro Club Meeting......1.15pm Top floor NW corner Union Building. Union Gym. Shaolin Kungfu System Nam-Pai-Chuan......7.00pm Southside Gym. All Welcome. Basketball Club......7.30pm Volleyball court. Union Gym. Wu Shu Kwan. Club DMS................9.30pm Ents Club Night in Union Lounge. Dance Music Society.

THURSDAY
Fencing Training11.30am
Intermediate & advanced coaching.
C
Balloon Club Meeting12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.
YHA Meeting12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge.
Postgrad Lunch12.30pm
Chaplains Office (10 Princes
Gardens).
Fencing Training12.30pm
Beginners Training.
Legs, Bums, Tums1.00pm
Southside Gym. Every week.
Gliding Club Meeting1.00pm
Aero 266.
Fencing Training
General.
STOIC News
Fitness Club5.30pm

Midweek Event......5.30pm Chaplains Office (10 Prince's Gardens). JCR. Intermediate/Advanced Ballroom & Latin. Step Fitness Club...........6.30pm Southside Gym. £1 for students. Excellent fitness training. Judo Club..................6.30pm STOIC. Into The Night.....7.00pm 'Exceptional Evening Entertainment' JCR. Beginners Ballroom & Latin. Real Ale Society Union Lounge. Lots of good booze. IC Shotokan Karate......7.30pm Southside Gym. JCR. Improvers Ballroom & Latin. Southside Disco.....8.30pm Southside Bar. ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm Meet Weeks Hall Basement.

### Small Ads

• FORD ESCORT 1.3L, Y reg, 5 doors, 4 gears. Red. £700 ono. Phone A Turner on ext 4120.

•GRADUATES want to sell colour TV-£70 and washing machine with dryer-£300. Phone 071-221 1048.

• A FRENCH family is looking for accommodation for three weeks in July (from 11/7-1/8). 2 adults, 3 children. Please phone Marc on ext

### Careers Info

• What next after the milkround? Enrol in the Careers Service for this seminar on Wednesday 17 or 24 June at 2.30pm. Further seminars will be held in the Summer vacation if there is sufficient demand.

Penultimate years. Start thinking about your future now, especially if you have no idea what you want to do. The Careers Service is well equipped to help you with information and advice. Drop in and speak to a Careers Adviser between 1.30 and 2.30pm or phone 3251 for advice or an appointment.

Finalists—Start job hunting when your exams finish. Don't rely on the Summer Fairs. Make speculative but well targetted applications. Come to the Careers Service for advice.

For further information come to the Careers Service, Room 310 Sherfield—open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Felix Bound Editions 91/92 will cost £32. Please place your order with your cheque (payable to 'ICU Print Unit') with the Felix Office (3515) before 27 June.

Legs, Bums, Tums......1.00pm Southside Gym. Advanced.

## 'Stop theft' call

Students have again been asked to guard their belongings while in College buildings. The advice follows three mysterious cardigan thefts earlier this week. The garments were contained in separate bags stolen from outside the Maths department library on Tuesday afternoon. The bags also contained cheque books, cheque cards and College security cards. The Maths department, unlike Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, does not provide lockers for students using the departmental library. College Deputy Security chief, Terry Briley, told iCNN that students who lose their swipe cards should contact Sherfield Security immediately on extension 3372.

The thefts come after two incidents on Friday night. The Fire Brigade arrived at Beit Quad just after midnight in answer to a hoax

call. The call is believed to have been made from the telephone box beside the Royal College of Music (RCM), and the hoaxer is reported to be a student of the RCM who was evicted from the Quad by duty officers earlier in the evening.

The second incident occurred in the Prince's Gardens area, when a beer glass was thrown from the roof of Southside Bar to the pavement below. The assailant is believed to have thrown the glass from between staircase 3 and 4, on the third level of Tizard Hall. This follows an attack two weeks ago, when a police van was damaged by a glass thrown from the same area. The police had been called to investigate a fictitious fight outside Southside Bar. Police are reported to be interested in enforcing the Southside Bar licensing laws following the incident. (iCNN).

### CVCP cash plea

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) has asked the government for an extra £450 million. The CVCP, which represents the heads of all UK universities, stated that £165 million was needed to improve pay of existing academic staff and another £39 million would be needed for new staff to teach increased student numbers.

The report also stated that over £95 million would be needed in each of the next three years to bring university buildings up to a safe standard. The committee also recommended that hardship funds

should be increased by 10% above inflation per annum.

The move is in the light of polytechnics being granted university status. Polytechnics can now apply direct to the University Funding Council (UFC) and will be in direct competition for funding with universities. The polytechnics would be very capable of competing on equal terms with the established universities as their annual intake is twice that of universities. Polytechnics currently teach more than half of higher education students. (Independent)

### Council elections

A meeting of the Joint Imperial College Union Council will be held in the Union Dining Hall on Thursday 25 June at 2.00pm. Candidates eligible for election to the College Committees have been notified that applications must be returned by Thursday 18 June. The

elections are for posts in the College Committees on Departmental Computing, Radiation Safety, Undergraduate Studies, Wine, Humanities, Safety Council and Bar and Catering. The post of Council chairman will also be filled at this meeting. (iCNN).

### Supercollege

The Government has granted permission for the foundation of a 'Super-College' in Sheffield. The new college, which will cater for 44,000 students, will be created by a merger of six of the city's further education colleges. The amalgamation of the existing colleges should be finished by April 1993.

The new college will teach academic and vocational courses to almost all of the city's sixth-form students, as well as providing a large number of adult education courses. It will be the second largest educational establishment in Britain, with the University of London, including Imperial, remaining the largest.

It is reported that the decision was taken to stop potential competition between colleges once they became responsible for their own finances. It is thought that the larger institution will be able to obtain funding more easily from a new further education funding council. (Guardian).

### Medical poll

The operation of the Patient's Charter is to be smoothed by a new survey launched at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. The nationwide inquiry is to examine the quality of care in hospitals from a patients perspective by asking what they think of their treatment. A questionnaire will be sent to five thousand patients in 36 randomly selected hospitals, and the results are expected to help hospital staff

meet charter standards.

The survey is being funded by a 15 month grant worth £284,548 from the Board of Directors of The Commonwealth Fund. North East Thames, North West Thames, Oxford and Yorkshire Regional Health Authorities are funding the cost of surveying additional hospitals within their areas. (iCNN).

### Lecturer pay hit

Imperial College lecturers are facing the prospect that their future pay rises will be linked to their teaching abilities in lectures and seminars. The possibility of performance related pay has increased following a letter from the Department for Education to lecturers' employers. The letter suggests that education ministers are urging the introduction of civil service style pay checks, where individual performance is ranked annually on a one to five scale, and awarded consequentially in the pay packet.

The letter emulates the ideals expressed in the Citizens' Charter, launched by the Prime Minister in July 1991. At the Charter launch, pay review bodies were exhorted to take more account of performance when assessing pay claims in the public sector. At the time, this measure was implicitly targeted at British Rail and London Underground employees. Performance related pay was one of the constituent elements in the proposed Students' Charter. The idea was originally floated in Downing Street last January, and will be discussed again on June 19. The plan had the support of the then Education Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, and this enthusiasm is shared by the current Education Secretary, John Patten.

The letter follows work by senior academics which questions the entire thinking behind performance related pay. Derek Torrington, of the University of Manchester Institute of Science Technology, has alleged that there is no evidence to suggest that relating pay for academics to performance in teaching or lecturing would lead to higher standards in either. He suggests that performance related pay tends to demotivate the majority of the workforce. 'An examination of schemes running in eight large organisations suggests that performance-related pay seldom achieves what its advocates claim

and can present considerable problems,' writes Mr Torrington.

Staff appraisal currently exists in the university sector, having been introduced in 1987. At the time of introduction, an undertaking was given that appraisal was not to be linked with promotion or disciplinary matters. Appraisal is only used in deciding the pay awards to polytechnic heads of departments and senior staff. The letter from education ministers is the first formal connection between appraisal and university pay levels. This new connection is set against the background of continual disruption in the university pay negotiating system. The 1991/2 university pay round has not yet been approved by the Government, with the Association of University (AUT) Teachers delaying performance related salaries by having the matter referred to a working party.

The AUT has not reacted 'authoritively' to the performance pay letter, as it 'was not addressed to the AUT.' Speaking to iCNN, the AUT stressed that the 1991/2 pay agreement negotiated with employers 'already takes full account of the Government's declared interest as detailed in the Citizen's Charter.' They added that the AUT 'policy making council has for some time spoken its clear opposition to discretionary pay," though Government ministers are reported as believing that the deal does not go far enough. In particular, they have singled out the figures of an across the board rise 6%, compared with a discretionary element of only 1%. The Education Department letter, which has been described as having the Treasury's finger marks 'all over it', firmly states that it is trying to introduce performance related pay 'within the context of a pay offer no greater than it otherwise may have been.' This suggests that lecturers may be facing a pay cut if they do not pass appraisal tests. (iCNN)