

FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Sheffield document dispute

Philippa Dodd, the President of the Sheffield Student's Union, has provoked great debate amongst NUS member unions. The concern centres around a report in *The Times* stating that she had circulated a draft proposal to Mr John Patten, the Minister for Education and Science, arguing that student unions should accept the idea of voluntary student's union membership.

Laura Matthews, NUS Press Officer responded to the action, claiming it was 'short-sighted', 'naive' and even 'publicity-seeking'. Her opinions were reflected in many other student's unions across the country.

Whilst there are those within NUS member unions who would wish to keep this whole matter 'under wraps', the publicity surrounding Miss Dodd's proposal has ensured that this will be impossible. The story has been covered in both *The Independent* and *The Times* this week and Mark Samuels, the President of ULU, has called a meeting for University of London sabbaticals to discuss a 'London response' to Miss Dodd's proposal. The President of Warwick Student's Union, Mr Ian Corfield, said that he was 'very unhappy' about Miss Dodd's actions but, didn't want to give the story any more publicity by

speaking out. It was later revealed that Mr Corfield had personally phoned Miss Dodd to express his dismay at her outspokenness.

A spokesperson for the NUS said that they had wanted to keep the option of voluntary membership for when the Government made 'specific threats' towards the NUS and this is why they have reacted against the Sheffield University document with such vigour. The Spokesperson continued that this matter was one that should be dealt with through internal reform and not through submitting proposals to the government. The NUS spokesperson felt that Miss Dodd must have had no other motive than self-publicity and that the proposal from Sheffield in no way reflected the opinions of the NUS or student unions in general.

According to the Sheffield Student Newspaper, *Darts*, of the sabbaticals who have phoned Miss Dodd from other universities, only Birmingham's have expressed any support. ULU, Durham and Bristol student unions and National Labour Students were all vehemently opposed to the submission.

When *Felix* tried to get in contact with Miss Dodd she was unavailable for comment. However, 'one of her sabbatical team' was able to defend their actions. The Women's Officer, Sara Whittiker, stood by the proposal, saying 'it was very much a joint decision'. Ms Whittiker denied that anyone from Sheffield had sent the proposal to Mr Patten, asserting instead that the proposal was merely a discussion document, meant for, and solely circulated to, NUS student unions. She said that

cont. on back page col.3

Imperial joins Hungary in music tour



Imperial College Syphony Orchestra in rehearsal

An east-west collaboration between Imperial College's Symphony Orchestra and Budapest's Academic Choral Society has proven that music is truly the international language.

Starting off their joint tour in England on Tuesday 13th September, the two groups performed Verdi's *Requiem* at the Royal College of Music on 16th September and then at Cambridge University's Concert Hall on 17th September. After that, they plan to move on to Budapest to repeat performance. In Hungary, the orchestra will also perform two other concerts with work by the

English composers Britten and Walton along with Mahler's *Fourth Symphony*.

The Imperial College Orchestra has been long regarded as one of the most adventurous on the student music scene while the choir is known as one of the finest amateur groups in Hungary. In 1989, at the International Eisteddfod in Wales, the choir won the title 'Choir of the Year'. Since many of the students are studying science, engineering and medicine, organisers hope that the exchange would provide relevant career experience to students and further cultural links.

APOLOGY

In Issue 940, *Felix* accused Stanholpe Properties of owning part of Furse House, a property that Imperial College is interested in buying. *Felix* recognises that this allegation is completely untrue and withdraws it unreservedly.

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Beit Back

Winter is over in the People's Republic of Imperial College Union and spring is about to burst into full bloom as the new year starts. For the sabbaticals the lazy period of their one year tour of duty is over and the new year is about to start. So have the 'new' sabbaticals been broken-in and house trained by their respective members of staff?

Mr Beavan hasn't done any whoopsies on the carpet since the last issue of Felix 6 weeks ago, but my, that was a biggie. One potential law suit that was thankfully cleared

up, and an irate ULU President complaining about blatant breaches of their staff protocol. Naturally, we apologised and explained that we had never received a copy of it. Felix attempted to obtain a copy earlier this week, only to be informed that said article was 'under negotiation'.

The whole issue of staff protocol is bound to crop up every Friday. Although there are reasons behind staff protocols, it would seem from last year's evidence that they are invoked to cover up any and many potentially embarrassing situations. Recent press reports concerning the Dianagate tapes and the Mellor football fantasies have not been received with a mass call for a 'Royal Protocol' or a 'Minister for Fun Protocol'. National media personalities must regrettably accept that their personal lives could

appear in the popular press in the public interest. Most people agree with this principle, the question is what is in 'the public interest'.

Student Unions are a microcosm of the real world. We have our own government, our own elected representatives, our own civil service, our own laws, discipline system, and our own shops. It is therefore up to the main media in this union and college to conduct themselves responsibly.

No one has published which members of college management have been sleeping with each other (or discussing which football strip they wear in bed), though we would have no hesitation in doing so if there was a whiff of financial irregularity. Similarly, what sabbaticals get up to in their own private rooms is up to their own conscience and the Metropolitan

Police, if they get caught. However, their activities when they are representing the Union, or in the Union building, is well within the student's right to know.

Details of the staff/sabbatical working relationship may be common knowledge amongst the regular users of Union facilities, though the rest of the students remain in ignorance. Under a staff protocol they would have no right to know how the sabbaticals and staff are working, and working together, but yet is there not a right for the students to know how their elected representatives are behaving?

Views expressed in this article are not necessarily shared or supported by the editorial staff of Felix or Imperial College Union.

Break of Consuetude

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending me the July issue of FELIX. Unfortunately there are two comments I must make about the article 'Sabbaticals asked to leave'.

The first is that the article insinuated that the Sabbaticals were asked to leave by the University of London (ULU). The officers were, in fact, requested to leave by the member of Wye College staff

responsible for the course's accommodation.

My second disapprobation is that the article referred to members of staff by name. This is a serious breach of the consuetude which staff consider requisite to working in a Students' Union.

I hope FELIX will publish an apology for acting unprofessionally.

Yours faithfully,
Mark Samuels, President.

Rector Response

Dear Mr Beavan,

There is no need for a student newspaper to be benign; ruffling the feathers of those presumed to be in authority is part of an ancient tradition. I do think however that you should have commitment to factual accuracy. You owe this to your readers—students, staff, governors. Your front page article in the 31 July issue contained numerous errors of fact—facts which were readily available had you preferred them to fiction. I will touch on just two, both relating to

Furse House.

Neither Mr Stuart Lipton nor his company own any part of Furse House.

The College has not abandoned the intention of purchasing Furse House. We remain eager to do so, if we can acquire the property at a realistic price. The agents acting for the owners, the Ministry of Defence, are fully aware of our position.

Yours sincerely,
Eric Ash.

Small ads

●THE Wednesday vaccination clinic at the Health Centre will be cancelled for the first six weeks of term and will resume on Wednesday 18 November at the usual time. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

●MANY THANKS to the postroom staff in Sherfield for being

so darn nice about accepting hundreds of envelopes. Also apologies and thanks to the departmental security staff who took the time to help out. Stef.

●GINA MORTLEY previously; Maths 1, MRE 1 (Oct 90), MRE 1 (Oct 91) can now be found in MRE 2. Congratulations.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE Union

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- Ensuring the building is secure
- Identifying **any possible** sources of trouble and informing security well in advance

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editorial

As more observant readers of the front page will notice, Felix narrowly avoided a libel action in issue 940. Although our behaviour in printing an untrue allegation about a member of the board of Governors is reprehensible, the reaction of Senior members of the College raised some questions in my mind.

During the course of my somewhat justifiable 'ticking off', I was told several things. Firstly, I should discourage any negative information about people 'who generously give up there time and energies to help the College'. While I accept that printing lies is wrong, I cannot, under any circumstances, withhold criticism from those who deserve it, whoever they may be. Members of Governing Body are among the most experienced and professional people in the country. Does this make them above

criticism? I think not, even if it is only the editor of a student newspaper who passes this judgement.

The other implication from this affair is that Student Newspapers are in some way 'out to get' people in authority. How can this be true? What purpose does it serve to antagonize individuals simply for the job they do? It is even more presumptuous to accuse all those people across the United Kingdom who produce Student Newspapers of such bigotry. Is it possible that a special breed of humans exist to upset Senior Management? If so who are they? Should they be rooted out and destroyed? How do they breed? And more importantly what motivates this strange group? Clearly such a creation is a product of an imagination so paranoid that, the only reason they find to get out of bed, is because the duvet is

plotting against them.

Most worryingly, a member of the Felix office told me that 'Governments grant freedom of speech' and thus we should not abuse those in authority too much. Freedom of Speech is an essential human right enshrined in an United Nations declaration and the American constitution. If those who presume to run any organisation, be it a country or a university, try and control that expression, they are at fault, not the media.

At the risk of accusations of 'negativity' I have another complaint. This week I became involved in a futile and childish argument with a Union Office Sabbatical. After having apologised for my behaviour, a rumour reached me that this sabbatical had threatened to get me thrown out of Halls because I share a room with my girlfriend and I should not 'piss

off important people' because I could get into trouble. Not exactly a crime of the greatest proportions, but certainly worth frowning on. What I object to, is the double standards of someone who knows something is happening but, only mentions it for personal gain. So, here I am, I have confessed, my guilt is plain for all to see. But, at least I do not have to worry about intemperate threats, from those who presume themselves to be in authority.

**Deadline for
contributions to the
Freshers' Issue is
Monday 28th
September.**

Who's Popped off with my Wednesday

We have noted, with mounting unease, the widespread increase in certain time anomalies over recent weeks. I will try to be as gentle as possible as I do not wish to cause undue alarm, but bizarre occurrences around the office are

resulting in paranoia and mass hysteria, frenzied itching and hair behavioural problems. I would also like to apologise for the panicky and unreasoned passage I am writing, but I'm frightened, and must leave a document behind in case no-one

here gets out alive.

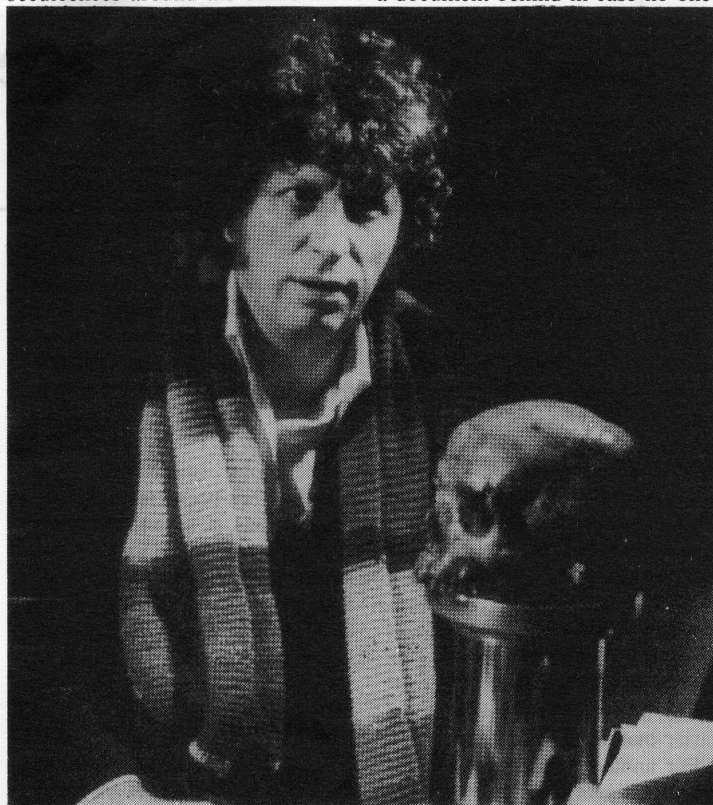
It began quietly enough; a hot balmy day in the youth of August, a Thursday, if I recall, was passing normally, even, I daresay, joyfully, until one of the handbook editors and a man of most excellent judgement, declared that the day was, in fact, Wednesday. We, of course, paid close attention to his assertion, with one eye wryly cast over his 72-hour wakened state, before informing him that the day in which we were habiting was known to one and all as Thursday. This was vociferously challenged by said handbook editor, who eventually conceded that the weight of numbers were against him, but swore vengeance on some cruel and sneaky pup for having it away with his Wednesday while his back was turned. It was cause for some mirth, I can tell you, because days don't get stolen, do they...?

Then it happened to me. A mere week later, I became aware of a misplaced Wednesday of my own. The Lard Clock remained resolute and lumpy, and would not yield the truth. I searched and searched, but couldn't find it anywhere. I remembered, with a pang of dread, the recent loss of that other Wednesday, and sought advice from the aforementioned dispossessed individual. Alas, his heart lay in twain, broken by the loss of a very personal and private

day. Even the Metropolitan Police, stalwart chaps though they are, were unable to help. To this day, the disappearance remains a mystery.

For a few weeks, time passed quietly and remained in its proper place; we thought we were safe. Then, suddenly and without warning, while the office was busy collating the handbook last week, not just a Wednesday, but a Thursday also, snatched from existence, and from under my very nose. Probably while I was putting a slab of delicious squashy brie onto a hunk of french stick, with maybe a slice of cervelat, a tomato or two, perhaps some freshly ground black pepper, or maybe when I had that Twix, or was sitting on the toilet, some wolfish chronavore happened across a substantial chunk of my week, thought 'Ah! I could do with some of this!' and vanished before you could say 'Oh no and fucking red hot apfelstrudels, some wolfish chronavore has nicked a substantial chunk of my week!'. Since then, it has spread like a nasty contagion, bringing people out in festering sores and very noses. I cut myself shaving this morning, too.

We know little of our vampiric assailant; perhaps it is acutely sensitive to peak handbook activity, perhaps we'll never know. I'll leave you with a warning. Watch your days carefully...



A Time Lord: keeping stum or killing time?

Scientists under Scrutiny

Samin Ishtiaq examines the ethics of the education of scientists.

Perhaps Stephen Hawking's book, *A Brief History of Time*, re-started the whole debate. The last part of the book, with its 'ominous' prediction about cosmologists discovering the mind of god, brought out orthodoxy and radical alike. We are now showered with more books, articles, even TV series (BBC2's *Pandora's Box*) about the place of science in society. Is science evil? Has science corrupted our souls?

This is an old debate, of course, probably unlikely to be resolved. Mainly, I think, because the whole debate about the 'goodness' and 'badness' of science and technology is on the wrong plane. We may as well be arguing about the weight of yellow. Science, like Oscar Wilde's

Robert Pursig describes it best 'science is a pile of amoral objective matter.'

Art, is not moral or immoral. Robert Pursig (whose latest book *Lila* was opinionated-at recently in this column) describes it best: 'science is a pile of amoral objective matter'. In other words, science just is. Pursig, in fact, links the current moral confusion to the fact that scientific analysis, having led the intellectual revolution in the 60s, is not able to deal with morality.

But this does not mean that science should not be criticised (Although Joe Schwarz describes the lack of critics of Science in his article 'Defiance of Science' (*Guardian* 13th June 1992). Just because no moral analysis of science can take place does not mean that it should be left to get on with itself. One of the main reasons for this is that science is powerful. This cannot be overstated enough. The ability of science to alter the structure of society within the

medium term (say 50-100 years) is awesome; the Pill has given woman physical freedom, the machine gun has given a soldier massive firepower; robots have replaced entire communities of work-forces; the car has altered the way Western society thinks and functions. There is little in anyone's life that is not connected with what scientists and engineers did some years ago.

Not that these examples are of a sociological nature. They affect the fundamentals of society. Whether Newtonian physics is overturned here is of no concern. Whether computers use silicon chips or gallium arsenide ones doesn't matter. It's the long-term effect on society that is important.

For this reason alone scientists need to be—must be—taught an alternative view of science. They need to be aware of what science does to society. It is not enough to teach them the history and philosophy of science; they must be taught a sociological analysis of the impact of science. This is not just to silence critics of the scientific establishment by arming the scientists (that would be a very destructive reason) but to make the scientist think about what he/she is about to do.

And this is the key point of this article: scientific establishments like Imperial College produce 'well-behaved' scientists. Scientists who are not aware—not taught? not willing?—of what studying science does to the community. Scientists who are unaware of the history of science from a 'small man's' point of view.

Perhaps there is some kind of vicious circle here: industry wants well-behaved engineers and institutions want industry's funds and goodwill. I am not suggesting a conspiracy; I am neither a fanatic Marxist nor of the new breed of Green terrorists. I am just mentioning the possible instance of a destructive relationship between those who demand scientists (industry, government, education) and those who supply them (institutions like Imperial). The fact that some spaced-out theory like a capitalist-technocrat conspiracy should even be mentioned is even more reason to support the

education of a reasoned, sympathetic scientist.

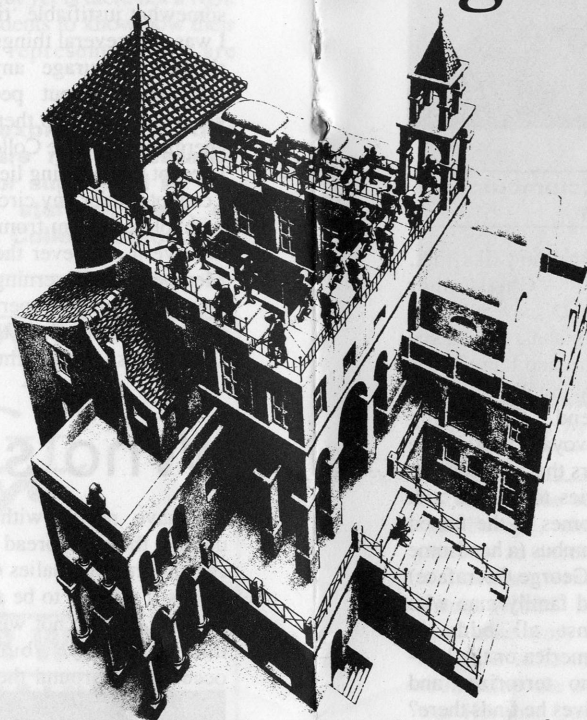
Of course, institutions will say that they already run 'humanities' courses for their scientists. But giving a third-year undergraduate a humanities option is not enough. There are several reasons for this. For one, what will stop the student from studying Friedman on economics rather than Karl Popper on scientific discovery? Our student will think: which of these humanities courses will look good on my CV? Which course will give me 'useful' background to the 'real' world? Is a business studies course easier than a philosophy one?

For another, and this reason is more pertinent, by the third year our student has already become a trained (brain-washed even?)

scientist. He/she works with 'nice' theories, which always have reasons, answers, connections, measurements. Is it now possible for him/her to go back and question the very need for his/her knowledge?

The point about inadequate scientists has been made. I think a solution lies in scientists learning about relevant humanities subjects. And learning about them when it matters. For instance, for a Computing Sciences student, 'relevant subjects' would mean courses with topics like 'The ethics of programming', 'Public and Private: the ethics of privacy', 'Automation and Alienation'. He/she could even be taught general courses in philosophy and sociology. But it is definitely not enough just

Imperial College Ltd.



for well behaved engineers

to tell him/her to be mindful of the Data Protection and Computer Misuse Acts; the underlying philosophic ideas of privacy and hacking should be understood. And by 'when it matters' I mean early on—quite definitely in the first year—before a scientific mode has been fitted-on the student's brain.

'Sure, good idea', people will say. 'But aren't our courses already overloaded?' But what can you say about a university year that is based on some archaic Church calendar (I refer to Michaelmas, Easter, etc terms)? And how come Norwegian universities manage to run compulsory philosophy courses for all undergraduates? And what is more important: a better understanding of and more integration with Nature? Or

alienation of and purpose-less science?



While David Spooner replies, making gratuitous use of Oscar Wilde.

We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it. The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely.

Herein is a value statement. It is from the preface to 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde, where Wilde outlines the principles of aestheticism. A value is a property of that which belongs to a system of ethics, or what we call 'good'. With this in mind, what, then, is perception worth?

Science is a human-devised system of discerning and limiting universal laws of which we perceive little, it is part of the progression of humanity and its societies, and is as valuable to some societies as it is worthless to others. That some would consider it worthless is not in doubt, and then we have something which is of a similar value structure to art. Therefore, I will not patronise my audience, by telling them they need to study philosophy to parallel their science-based intellectual development, as philosophy is not adequately proficient at dealing with ethics. No more so, at least, than our systems of law which are already evident to the senses and require only our adherence. Though I can offer no alternative, greater awareness predicates a clouding of the issue within the philosophy of ethics. The structure of this article is my point; I have demonstrated here exactly how useful philosophy is. A business studies course probably is easier, and will no doubt be far more useful in a free market arena. The price of everything, and the value of nothing; more fool him that studies something of value.

The article opposite suggests that scientists need to observe science from another viewpoint, i.e., the layman's, in order to fully comprehend the effects of their work, and that a course of something like philosophy or sociology would cover up the perceived deficiency. That there is a deficiency at all is the biggest question; who, for instance is not astute enough to recognise that

the telephone made a significant difference to personal communication, but is also a limited medium that cannot transmit interactive and non-verbal signals, that the television is a 'window on the world', and brings comedy and drama into one's own home, but is a mass media tool despised by cultural elitists and has been condemned for distorting reality, that replacement limbs are of inestimable value to disabled people, yet were the basic ideas behind cybermen and other stories of humanity dehumanising itself. A trite example, maybe, but one that makes a salient point concerning human intuition, i.e. that it is capable of interpreting danger in the future from its

I have demonstrated here exactly how useful philosophy is

scientific pursuits. Granted, some effects are recognised in hindsight, such as acid rain correlated to industry, but debated material like the social effects of virtual reality demonstrates how society is attempting to question all eventualities regarding its technology.

I may be wrong. There could be a yawning chasm between a scientist's knowledge, and his perception. But how many of you, as children, learned of mustard gas, zyklon-B, anthrax or the atom bomb, and imagined that another, non-human species had devised them? These are human names, given to developments within the disciplines of chemistry, biology, and physics. This is obvious; is it therefore necessary that this article, such as it is, alongside Samin's, should exist at all? Or is it enough that they do?

Film

The New Queer Cinema

This season celebrates all aspects of contemporary gay and lesbian filmmaking, without being judgemental. The aim of this project seems to be merely to present Queer Cinema to the audience so that they form their own opinions rather than choosing the pieces for their artistic merits in the first place. It presents pieces from the brilliant, to the obscure, to the frankly dire. The epitome of the spirit of this venture is 'Flesh Histories', a series of 'shorts' shown together in two, hour-long, programmes. All that binds these blips of brazen film together is the sexuality of the director/writer and/or actors. They range from the superb and shocking, 'I Object' and 'Yes Means Yes, No Means No', through the enlightening and educational 'Safer Sex is Hot Sex' and 'Kissing Doesn't Kill', to the clichéd symbolism of entering various doors, (the entirety of the film 'Getting In').

The effect of the whole programme is to leave you stunned, as it is rare to see such a collection of starkly sexual and bizarre images in such close succession. It is worth seeing this programme because the good outweighs the poor and clichéd (and you get to see some erect penes).

The season also includes 'the Hours and the Times', a film which fantasizes what may have happened between Brian Epstein and John Lennon whilst they were on holiday together in Barcelona. I loved the use of the beautiful Gaudi architecture as a backdrop for the close but awkward relationship between the two men. The fact that we are still left uncertain as to how far their relationship went, does not diminish the impact of the film,

Music

Bone Machine, Tom Waits

'Originally I was going to take sounds of machines I'd recorded and add a really strong rhythmic sense; I was going to try to build songs out of the rhythms. But then it didn't really develop that way. The stories kind of took over. So it's more bone than machine. *Bone Machine*...we're all like bone machines, I guess. We break down eventually and we're replaced by other models. Newer models. Younger models. *Bone Machine*...sounds like a superhero, doesn't it?' Thus Waits describes



William Dafoe in *White Sands*

which transcends all the technical difficulties they encountered to become a rather touching vision of human relationships. The fact that it is about two famous people in a real situation, which was the topic of much contemporary debate, was not as important to me as the way that the film dealt with the effects of having a close friend who is gay. Having said this, Ian Hart is quite a convincing Lennon and the whole film is an interesting piece of speculation.

The New Queer Cinema Season also includes a conference on the 19-20th September debating and looking critically at contemporary gay cinema, a Bruce La Bruce film called 'No Skin off my Ass' and a sneak preview of 'Swoon' by Tom Kalin.

Mad Granny.

● Showing at the ICA until 27th September for more details phone the Box Office.

White Sands

This film is a hell of a lot better than the blurb suggests. Superficially, it is about a small town cop

investigating a suspicious death and the half a million dollars found with the corpse. The sheriff's attempts to solve this mystery lead him into the seedy world of undercover FBI agents, sultry heiresses and international gunrunning.

The weak-sounding plot is saved by the stunning backdrop of the New Mexico desert and commendable performances by Willem Dafoe (as Deputy Sheriff, Ray Dolezal), Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio (the horn interest) and Sam Jackson (the 'ethnic minority senior FBI officer without... a bug-stain on his record'). The script has enough pace and twists to maintain interest and keep you guessing. Apart from an excruciating Rodeo scene, an even more cringe-worthy rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and an overenthusiasm for killing minor characters, this film is surprisingly well done.

Mad Granny and Fluffy Bunny Feet.

● 'White Sands' is on general release.

Christopher Columbus: The Discovery

Land ho, or something like that. John Glen's 'Christopher Columbus: The Discovery' has some nice scenery and a few choice bits of acting here and there but is mostly a dreary retelling of the Columbus legend. Chronicling Columbus' first voyage to America and the five years that preceded it, director Glen tries to play it both ways when it comes to the famed explorer. Is Columbus (a handsome but lightweight George Corraface) the good-natured family man who succeeds against all odds in 'discovering' America or the half-mad zealot who terrorizes and plunders the natives he finds there? The movie never makes clear and by the end, you really don't care. Rachel Ward makes a grating Queen Isabella but Tom Selleck doesn't embarrass himself too badly as King Ferdinand. The rest of the cast is undistinguished except for Marlon Brando who shines as the head of the Spanish Inquisition.

Kevin McCandless.

● Now showing across the country

Ariadne on Naxos

The central theme of *Ariadne on Naxos* is regeneration through love, this Strauss shows by introducing *opera buffa* characters into the scenario to enliven the archaic form of *opera seria*. The Prologue explains this juxtaposition of styles. A *nouveau riche* or social aspirant, has commissioned two operas, one serious, one comic, to entertain his guests. At the last moment he decrees that the two are to be performed simultaneously. The crux of this Prologue is the confrontation between the putative Composer of

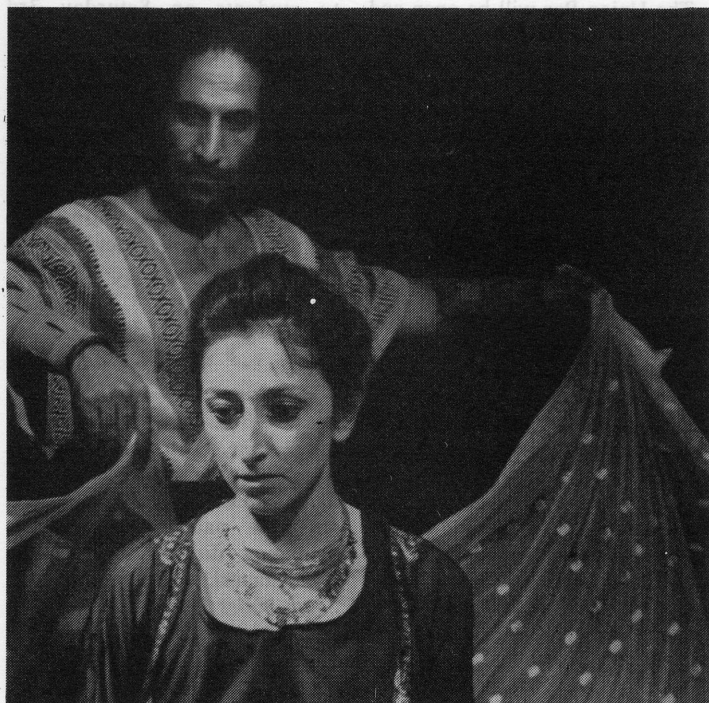
Colliseum' ('They're especially good for an election year' jokes Waits) to the dark storytelling songs like 'Murder in the Red Barn' and the demonic 'Black Wings'. Indeed, Waits is best when telling stories, highlighted by 'The Ocean Doesn't Want Me'. He's still the poetic wierdo/poet/hipster. Let him whisper in your ear.

John F.

his first, entirely new, album since 1987's 'Frank's Wild Years', apart from the live 'Big Time' album and recently the soundtrack to Jim Jarmusch's 'Night on Earth'.

He's developed a new percussively-led grainy style which has a homegrown, backyard feel (Waits has used various old tape recorders, and recorded the thing in his own shed using various metal objects and crowbars instead of chains'. His subjects are more experimental, going from 'issue-oriented' tracks like 'Earth Died Screaming' and the political 'In the

Theatre



Hecuba, Pic by Simon Annand

Hecuba

Continuing the series of six plays for Europe, the Gate Theatre presents an excellent performance of *Hecuba*. Written by Euripides around 425BC is a complex and passionate story of the impact of immense suffering on the human soul. After the end of the Trojan war Hecuba, Queen of Troy, and the Trojan women are transported to Greece to face a lifetime of slavery. After losing her city, her husband and all but two of her children during the war now she loses her daughter Polyxena, sacrificed by the Greeks to satisfy the ghost of Achilles. Her youngest son is killed by the King of Thrace, a friend in the past who is only worried about his own prosperity

now. So Hecuba forced to the brink of human despair, finally seeks revenge.

Ann Mitchell is excellent in her performance as Hecuba. She manages to get through to the audience all the pain and suffering Hecuba goes through. The chorus of Trojan women stands by her and fills the small theatre with songs of sorrow. The style of the play is remarkably rhetorical and there is a considerable amount of music and song. It belongs to the group of plays which explore the character of individuals driven to extremes by immense suffering. A highly recommended play for this season.

Zorbas.

● Gate Theatre until 3rd October.
(Box Office: 071-229 0706.)

Ariadne—Rita Cullis, and the *buffa* character Zerbinetta. At this point ENO's revival sensibly withdraws all extraneous characters allowing the inspired music to unfold without the rumbustiousness favoured elsewhere in the Prologue. Also prominent is the agile-voiced, Dancing Master (Anthony Mee pictured).

The set is appropriately makeshift. Indeed, elaborate scenery is unnecessary when Ariadne's opening monologue receives a performance of the calibre of that given by Janice

Cairns. Cynthia Sieden sacrifices only a little impetus to bring breathtaking precision to Zerbinetta's aria.

The firm tenor of Alan Woodrow copes admirably with the taxing music of Bacchus, although slightly squeezed on the highest notes. Conductor Alexander Sander unearths the subtleties of Strauss's scoring, while not stinting the more Wagnerian moments.

Patrick Wood.

Books

Dosh

A colourful paperback about the life and times of a certain Doreen Spink (Mrs), that is written in an almost thought mode giving the impression of a diary made public reading. This is strange, but then the whole book is a bit pear shaped anyway. The story line is of a middle aged woman whose husband has an affair. After the two are reconciled the husband chooses voluntary redundancy, their unpleasant next door neighbour's son promptly dies, they move to a small village in Norfolk and the rest of the book continues in this medium with unfolding minor upsets and mishaps. A slow starting book with no amazing storyline or direction, but strangely interesting - possibly human nature creates fascination with someone else's problems for a change... Not an amazing read but if you happen to have a few hours to spare and nothing else to do, try it.

Alex.

'Dosh' is written by Sadie Smith and is published by Transworld.

Something Blue

Life is going great for Lucy; her long-term relationship with her boyfriend, Jasper, her illustrating work just about to reach the big time, her best friend Julia, an apartment-sitter with acting ambitions.

Then an old college friend (a loosely-used term) turns up on her

doorstep having left her husband-to-be on the morning of their wedding, leaving a note for her sister reading "If I stay here and do this I think I might die." Something Blue is a part-emotional, part-humorous account of three women in New York, their friendships with each other, their relationships and their experiences in the world.

It is an easy-to-read book (although written in a weird tense) which is, at times, impossible to put down. Definitely a good read.

By FBF.

● Bantam New Fiction.
Paperback £4.99.

The Gotti Tapes

My advice to any one with a personality and a brain is: Do not bother to buy this book.

I'm sorry but I was not impressed, or amused or even enthralled. I was expecting some kind of analytical review of Gotti, his life and times; what I discovered was a transcript of a set of 'tapes' that were supposedly Mr. Gotti talking about his feelings. Even the exciting revelation that it included a testimony by someone called Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano could not encourage me to read beyond the first page.

However if any body else would like a copy of this book please contact us in Felix, there is one going free.

Sam.

● Arrow Press, £4.99



Ariadne on Naxos, Pic by R. Workman

Imperial, Earth-Summit link

Imperial's Global Environment Research Centre (GERC) is hosting a symposium which intends to examine the implications of the Rio Earth Summit.

The two-day symposium, which will be held in October, aims to concentrate on Agenda 21, the major agreement on environment and development. Emphasis will also be placed on the implications for energy policy and pollution control.

The symposium will be addressed by senior figures from environmental groups such as Greenpeace; The Department of the Environment; and companies such as ICI.

Professor Iain Thornton, Director of GERC said that 'Imperial College is playing a leading role ensuring that the environment remains a priority for both government and industry.'

New management post for planning Director

Imperial College now has a Deputy Managing Director. Following the creation of the post of Managing Director in 1990, Rodney Eastwood has been promoted to the post of Deputy Managing Director.

Mr Eastwood, formerly Director of Planning, is now responsible for improving what has been described as 'service quality across all sections of (College) administration'. It has not yet been

revealed how this quality is measured, or how the improvement is to be achieved.

The post also carries the responsibility of overseeing catering, a job previously performed by Caroline Fox, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services. The task is being transferred due to an 'increase in demands' on her section.

Library stops periodical loans as merger continues

Due to financial pressures and the amalgamation of the Lyon Playfair and Science Museum libraries, from October students will no longer be able to borrow any periodicals from Imperial College central libraries.

This decision brings the new joint Imperial College and Science Museum libraries into line with most other large academic libraries, where periodicals are usually reference only. Previously, Imperial College usually had more

than one copy of important periodicals on campus. Increasing periodical costs mean that in order to maintain a large range of titles only one copy of each could be afforded. Central Libraries have claimed in a recent press release.

In order to cope with the decreased availability of periodicals, the Library aims to increase the number of photocopying machines available and relocating them throughout the building.

Bar reopening

The Union Bar will be open and ready for business next Saturday 26th September, after the refurbishment has been completed. An opening invitation-only party, to be held on Friday 2nd October, will be hosted by a surprise media personality.

The Union Bar has been renamed Da Vinci's and will officially open

to students on Saturday 3rd October, at the start of the New Year. The revamped Bar will have raised areas and a 30 foot long bar, with extended Snack Bar opening times.

Assitant Bar Manager, Gervase Lorriane said that there will be 'promotions galore' during the coming year to attract students

Prize for IC Student

A postgraduate student at Imperial College has won the West Wales final of the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme. Twenty-year-old James Baker from Swansea, who is studying an M.Eng. degree, has beaten eight other applicants and will now go on to the Wales regional finals. He is

one of 750 participants of this year's programme. Each was placed in a small firm for eight weeks to work on a project. James developed a software package which the managing director said to be 'fundamental to our business'. *South Wales Evening Post*

Gardens closure over

Gardens restaurant underneath Southside hall of residence was closed on Friday 14th August.

The decision to close the catering outlet was taken by Management and Planning Group on Thursday 9th July. Reasons given for the closure included high staff costs,

brought about by seven day opening, and a lack of customers.

The Catering Department has assured all students that Linstead Hall and Conference Suite food services or the Belushis Pizza and Snack Bar will be unaffected.

Terry Neville to leave Imperial

Director of Finance, Terry Neville, is to leave Imperial College after a almost a decade of employment. He is to take up a similar post at the University of Hertfordshire (formerly Hatfield

Polytechnic). Although no successor has yet been announced, an announcement is expected before Mr Neville leaves at the end of October.

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the Times article was completely inaccurate and their real aim was not 'publicity-seeking' but an attempt to 'influence debate and get the issue to a wider audience'. She felt that as the only paper on the issue under discussion was the 'extreme right-wing' Conservative Collegiate Forum report, they should offer an alternative. Miss

Whittiker stressed that students had allowed the imposition of student loans on them, so they had to work to influence this issue. She said that the Government had already committed itself to voluntary membership and that the NUS had a 'bury your head in the sand policy' on this issue.

Credits

Chris, Steffff, Sam, Stuart, Rose, Andy, Boris, Kevin, David (for space filling A and B the C of D), Emma, John, Steve, Gina, Hugh, reviewers whose names are too obscure to mention, Toby, Patrick Wood (sorry...), Jeremy, Catherine, Rachel, Rick, Chris, Dom, Samin Ishtiaq, all the people who helped with the Handbook, James, Simon and Declan for hospitality.