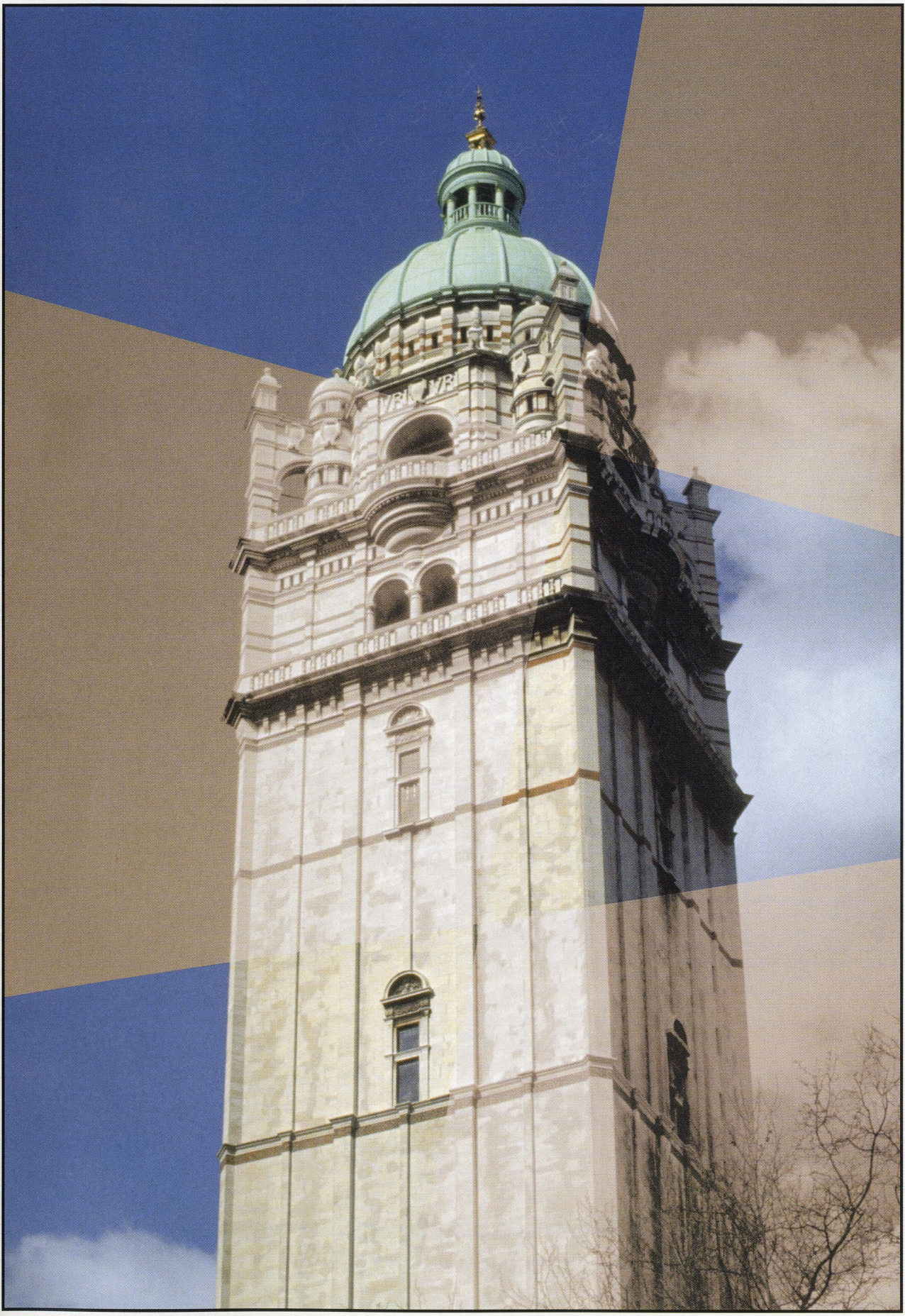


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# Felix

Friday  
27th May  
1994



1000th Edition



**WITH  
STA TRAVEL  
STUDENTS CAN AFFORD  
TO SEE IT ALL**

**The Walkway  
Sherfield Building, Imperial College**

ABTA IATA



**WHEREVER YOU'RE BOUND, WE'RE BOUND TO HAVE BEEN.**

**STA TRAVEL**

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# A Time of Change and Opportunity

1949 –  
1959

Felix was born in an era that saw the first green shoots of student rebellion and it very quickly showed that it was not going to be left out of the proceedings.

Anarchy reigned in the very first issue (9th December 1949) with a scathing attack on the police for breaking up students' Guy Fawkes Night celebrations. The police hosed both the bonfire and the assembled students and in the ensuing chaos they arrested 16 people. Readers were asked to "dig

Consort statue to discolour the light. Several sets of antlers had also been removed from stuffed animal heads on the walls of a dining hall and replaced with bicycle handlebars. The club was renamed '28½' and a funeral was held in Silwood Park.

In the annual Morphy Day boat race competitions in November, the Royal College of Science won the Lowry Cup for the first time since 1948.

Issue 60 (March 1954) congratulated students on the statistic that more debaggings

there and I wanted a smoke, so I jumped."

February 1956 ended with the NUS organising a house to house collection to raise £30,000 for a new student hostel in London. Issue 87 reported the impending demolition of the Imperial Institute to make way for the expansion of College. Internationally, the Suez Crisis reached its conclusion towards the end of the year.

Weeks Hall was paid for by Vickers Ltd in March 1957 at a cost of £150,000. The Jubilee of Imperial College's Charter was celebrated by a visit from the Queen Mother on 28th May.

The Wolfenden Report was published on 4th September, recommending the legalisation of homosexual acts between adults in private. The Jodrell Bank radio telescope came into operation on 11th October.

The future of the Queen's Tower, part of the soon-to-be demolished Imperial Institute, was under speculation at the start of 1958. An ex-Imperial College geologist, Dr John Stephenson, reached the South Pole with the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition in January. Christopher Cockerell's newly-invented hovercraft was patented on 23rd May.

Controversy surrounded Imperial College's arts magazine Phoenix in February 1959. Its editor, David Irving, was dismissed by the Students Union at a packed Union Meeting for "his unwillingness to cooperate with the Board of Directors". He was later appointed editor of the Carnival Times, a rag magazine organised by ULU.

The Haldane Library was officially opened at 13 Princes Gardens on 8th May. A Union Meeting in December voted to boycott all goods from the Union of South Africa. The first hovercraft Channel crossing took place on 25th July. Post codes were used for the first time in Norwich on 3rd October. On 6th November, two motorists were killed in an accident on the M1, which opened earlier that week.



The RCS crew won the Lowry Cup on Morphy Day, 1953

	<b>1949</b>
Britain recognises Israel	Jan 29
Parliament Act passed	Nov 29
First issue of Felix	Dec 9
	<b>1950</b>
Britain recognises China	Jan 9
	<b>1951</b>
RSM centenary celebration	Oct
First British atom bomb tests	Oct 3
Zebra crossings introduced	Oct 31
	<b>1952</b>
King George VI dies	Feb 6
NUS disaffiliates from IUS	Nov
	<b>1953</b>
ULU debate on abortion	Feb 6
Mt Everest conquered	May 29
Coronation of Elizabeth II	Jun 2
	<b>1954</b>
Four minute mile achieved	May 6
Food rationing ends	Jul 2
	<b>1955</b>
Pittdown Man hoax confirmed	Jan 21
QM elected Chancellor	Mar 3
1st 2-seater cross-channel glide	May 14
First commercial TV broadcast	Sep 22
	<b>1956</b>
NUS organise hostel collection	Feb
Last British troops leave Suez	Jun 13
	<b>1957</b>
First Premium Bond prizes	Jun 1
Weeks Hall paid for by Vickers	Mar
IC Charter Jubilee	May
Wolfenden Report published	Sep 4
	<b>1958</b>
Ex-IC geologist reaches S. Pole	Jan
The hovercraft is patented	May 23
	<b>1959</b>
Irving dismissed from Phoenix	Feb
Haldane Library opened	May 8
Post codes used for first time	Oct 3
Two killed on new M1	Nov 6

deep" to help pay their fines.

In the outside world, the British Government officially recognised the Communist state of China (9th January 1950) and Foreign Office officials Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defected to Russia (May 1951). The Suez Crisis began to develop as British/Egyptian relations worsened.

The National Union of Students (NUS) removed itself from the International Union of Students in November 1952 after failure to confirm it would not have to be involved in the political side of the organisation.

A University of London debate on 6th February 1953 recommended the legalisation of abortion. This was also the year when Derek Bentley was hanged, despite 200 MPs pleading for a reprieve.

July saw the death of the infamous '29 Club', a group of practical jokers responsible for putting coloured paper all over the lamps in front of the Prince

(removal of someone's trousers) per person per hour took place in the previous week than ever before. On 6th May, Dr Roger Bannister ran the first sub-four minute mile at the Iffley Road track in Oxford.

On 3rd March 1955, the Queen Mother was elected Chancellor of the University of London. Frank Irving and Lorne Welch of the Imperial College Gliding Club made the first two-seater glider flight across the English Channel on 14th May, landing in Belgium after a flight of 250 miles.

The first commercial television broadcast took place on 22nd September, prompting the BBC into scheduling the death of Grace Archer in 'The Archers' radio serial as a counter-attraction.

A second year Physics student jumped from the second floor of the Royal College of Science on 9th December. He announced: "A friend of mine was handing out fags down

# That Was The World That Was

The 1960s was a decade of indecision over Imperial College's relationship with the National Union of Students (NUS). After cutting its ties with the national body in 1948, Imperial College Union (ICU) again voted not to re-affiliate. The decision was made on a majority of seven votes at a Union Meeting on 3rd May 1960.

That summer, the Anderson report on student funding recommended the abolition of State Scholarships. The new Physics block was opened on 20th October by Sir John Cockroft. This was the same day that the trial of Penguin Books (for publishing DH Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*) began. The company was acquitted of an obscenity charge on 2nd November.

9th April 1961 saw the Cross Country Club complete a Land's End to John O'Groats relay in 99 hours 14 minutes.

Britain's first satellite, Ariel, was launched from Cape Canaveral in America on 26th April 1962. Felix began to be printed internally in June. This was in order to halve the cost of printing – Felix was losing £250 a year at the time. The printing equipment was donated to the Union by the College Governing Body. As part of the expansion of Imperial College, Imperial Institute Road was permanently closed on 22nd October. The satirical television programme 'That Was The Week That Was' (TW3) was first broadcast on 24th November.

The debate on NUS affiliation continued during the early part of 1963. A Union Meeting on 7th February voted by a majority of 16 to join the organisation, but this was overturned at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 7th March by a majority of 61 votes. The first students moved into Falmouth and Tizard halls of residence on 11th May.

In the outside world, MP John Profumo resigned from the Government on 5th June after a scandal. The Criminal Justice



*The Sports Centre under construction in 1967*

Act came into force on 1st August, raising the minimum prison age to 17. The Great Train Robbery took place on 8th August. Approximately £2.5 million was stolen from the Glasgow to London mail train.

Technology became a major focus of coverage in 1964 as BBC2 began transmission on 16th April and it was announced on 6th May that Imperial College was being given an IBM 7090 computer. The first British space flight (of the 'Blue Streak' rocket) took place on 5th June. In November, the Board of Studies decided on regulations to keep Wednesday afternoons free for RCS students to allow them to take part in sports. The rules were implemented the following year.

In 1965, the Royal School of Mines Union changed their mascot from a 'Michelin man' to a three foot model of a Davy lamp (18th May). The University of London nuclear reactor was opened at Silwood Park on 22nd June.

Students were shocked in October as the accounts of London Students' Carnival Ltd, a rag organisation, showed it had not given any money to charity in the previous year due, in part, to administration costs. The month ended with Parliament abolishing the death penalty for murder for an experimental five year period.

1966 began with the casting of Mike the Micrometer, Imperial College's new mascot.

The Rag Carnival Board were devastated in February by the news that Chelsea police would not allow street collections during the Carnival in May. An appeal to reverse the decision was rejected by the Home Office, but late in April the police finally agreed to allow collections.

Work on isolating the Queen's Tower as a free standing campanile began on 14th March.

Controversy erupted in November when the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) passed a motion to rejoin the NUS. In what was almost a repeat of previous events in ICU, the decision was overturned at the next RCSU meeting. It was also rejected by a referendum held soon afterwards.

Foundations for the Sports Centre were finally laid around the start of 1967, four years after the original plans were finished. Mike the Micrometer was retrieved from University College in February, after being stolen the previous December. It had been set into a block of concrete in the College's bar. The Royal School of Mines Union suffered a setback in October when Clem, its Morris Lorry, failed her MOT.

Nationally, Britain applied to join the EEC in May, only to have its entry vetoed by France on 19th December. The liner 'Queen Elizabeth II' was launched on 20th September.

## 1960 – 1967

Year	Event
1960	Oct 20 – Lady Chatterley trial begins
1960	Oct 20 – New Physics block opened
1960	Dec 31 – National Service abolished
1961	Apr 9 – ICXC Club finish country relay
1961	Sep 12 – Bertrand Russell jailed at 89
1962	Apr 26 – Britain's first satellite launch
1962	Jun – Felix starts internal printing
1962	Oct 22 – Imperial Institute Rd closed
1962	Nov 24 – First broadcast of TW3
1962	Dec 30 – Worst snowstorms since 1881
1963	Mar 7 – NUS affiliation overturned
1963	May 11 – First residents in Southside
1963	Jun 5 – Profumo resigns after scandal
1963	Aug 1 – Criminal Justice Act in force
1963	Aug 8 – Great train robbery takes place
1964	Apr 21 – BBC2 begins transmission
1964	May 6 – IC to get IBM 7090 computer
1964	June 5 – First British space flight
1964	Nov – Wednesday afternoons decision
1965	Feb 18 – ICU reaffiliates to NUS
1965	May 18 – RSMU mascot changed
1965	Jun 22 – Consort Reactor opened
1965	Oct 8 – Post office tower opened
1965	Oct 28 – Death penalty abolished
1966	Jan – Mike the Micrometer cast
1966	Mar 14 – Queen's Tower work begins
1966	Jul 30 – England win World Cup
1966	Oct 21 – 144 killed in Aberfan disaster
1966	Nov – RCSU reject NUS membership
1967	Jul 14 – Decimal Currency Act passed
1967	Sep 20 – QE2 launched
1967	Oct – Clem fails MOT
1967	Dec 19 – Britain refused entry to EEC

# Students Fight For Their Rights

1968 –  
1975

Felix produced a special issue in January 1968 which reported the purchase of 54-56 Evelyn Gardens by College for student accommodation.

Less than a fortnight later, a fire in a Falmouth Hall room caused Felix to call the Hall's fire precautions into question. The fire had been quickly and enthusiastically put out using extinguishers by several fire fighters who then proceeded to dispose of furniture and various other articles through a window. Rather than evacuating the area, a crowd of sightseers gathered on the staircase to watch.

In March, 2,500 students attended a National Union of Students (NUS) rally in Trafalgar Square in protest at the Government cutting student grants. The Royal Commission on Medical Education recommended a medical faculty for Imperial College in a report published in April. After American civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King was shot on 4th April, James Earl Ray was arrested for his murder at Heathrow Airport on 8th June.

The Sports Centre opened in early October, but was beset by several cases of vandalism within a week of it opening. At the end of the month, Morphy Day was marred by two people being seriously injured in fights.

Imperial College launched a public appeal on 9th January 1969 for £2 million to pay for student and staff accommodation.

Student militancy erupted in February as the London School of Economics temporarily closed after internal problems in its dealings with students' political views. The militants, who staged a sit-in at the University of London Union in protest at the closing, were condemned by a meeting of the City & Guilds College Union but supported by a subsequent Union Meeting.

A referendum on the Imperial College Union (ICU) constitution held on 24th February revealed that students

wanted top Union officials to be elected by a campus-wide ballot. ICU voted to rejoin the NUS in early November in the first Union Meeting to take place in the Great Hall. The new College block, including the Sheffield Building and library, was opened by the Queen in November.

After eight years of negotiations, the proposed merger between Imperial College and the Architectural Association was

was imposed on 30th March after heightening violence. The Murray Report, which was published on 14th November, recommended alterations to the make-up of the University of London, including forcing IC to get its money from the University and not directly from Government.

Britain and the Irish Republic formally became members of the EEC on 1st January 1973.

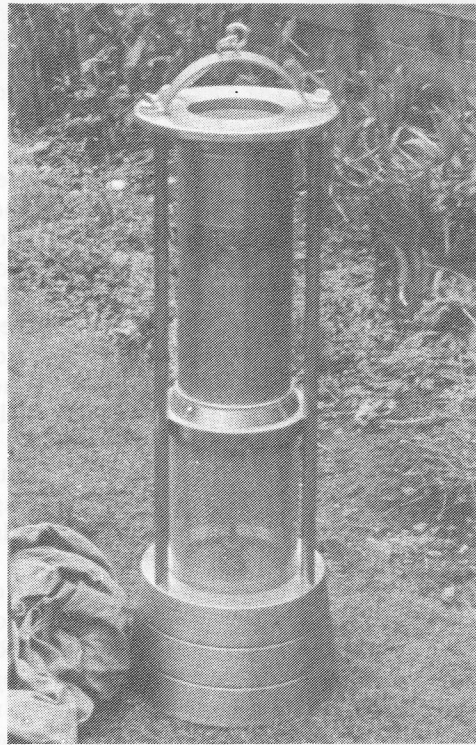
The first Union General Meeting of the year (in January) saw students oppose direct action in the form of a rent strike to protest at Government grant cuts. Felix 330 (27th February) reported Union Council plans to merge Ents, DramSoc, FilmSoc, OpSoc and the Folk and Jazz Clubs into the Social & Cultural Amusements Board. A Refectory Committee Meeting in March was told that it would cost £3,350 to clear refectory areas of cockroaches and mice. The Government introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) on 1st April.

The Government finally gave way to pressure on the inadequacy of student grants in June 1974 and announced a 25% increase.

The first McDonald's hamburger restaurant opened in London on 1st October. The IRA bombed two Birmingham pubs on 7th November killing 21 people and injuring 120. Lord Lucan disappeared on 11th November after Sandra Rivett, Lady Lucan's nanny, was murdered.

Two workers at Windscale died from leukaemia on 10th January 1975. At the end of the month the City & Guilds College Union, after stealing the Royal School of Mines Union mascot 'Davey', managed to trick them into paying £50 for a wooden replica.

IC Radio received an indication from the Home Office in early November that they may be granted test licence.



'Davey', the RSMU mascot

abandoned (January 1970).

November was the month in which the Government issued a consultative document on the financing of Student Unions. A demonstration march against the proposals in central London attracted 20,000 students (January 1971).

The Open University began television broadcasts on 3rd January. Decimal currency came into operation nationally on 15th February, 'Decimal Day'. On 2nd December, the House of Commons rejected a move to retain British Summer Time during the winter months.

The miners' strike began on 9th January 1972, causing widespread disruption to industry. Direct rule of Northern Ireland

	1968
54-56 Evelyn Gdns bought	Jan
Martin Luther King shot	Apr 4
First decimal coins issued	Apr 21
Sports Centre opened	Oct
	1969
Voting age reduced to 18	May 1
Oil discovered in North Sea	Jun 20
Queen opens College block	Nov
	1970
IC merger abandoned	Jan
The Beatles split up	Apr 9
	1971
Union financing protests	Jan
OU begins broadcasting	Jan 3
Decimal currency in operation	Feb 15
	1972
Miners strike begins	Jan 9
Murray Report published	Nov 14
	1973
Britain becomes part of EEC	Jan 1
SCAB to be formed	Feb 27
VAT introduced	Apr 1
	1974
Grant increased by 25%	Jun
Birmingham pub bombings	Nov 7
Lord Lucan disappears	Nov 11
	1975
Two Windscale workers die	Jan 10
C&GU trick RSMU over £50	Jan 31
IC Radio test license hopeful	Nov

# Donations, Death and the Devil

1976 –  
1983

An anonymous donation of £350,000 was received by the College in January 1976. The money was to be used to build an extension to Linstead Hall.

The summer of 1976 was the hottest on record since 1727 and the drought was the worst in Britain for 500 years.

A barman at the Union Bar was stabbed on 19th February 1977. The assailant was held overnight at Gerald Row Police Station. He was released after questioning due to insufficient evidence.

The Rector of Imperial College, Sir Brian Flowers, joined students in Malet Street for the start of an NUS demonstration on national grant and tuition fees on 9th March. This was the first demonstration of this kind he had attended.

Later that year, on 28th October, Yorkshire police began a hunt for the serial murderer, the Yorkshire Ripper.

A £13,000 facelift for Beit Quadrangle was agreed by the Rector in February 1978. A large area was to be paved and new shrubs and trees were to be planted. The Biophysics section of the Physics Department opened on 9th June in the Blackett Laboratory. Later that month, the world's first test-tube baby was born at Oldham General Hospital on 25th July.

A Union Meeting on 5th December decided to hold a 24 hour boycott of the College refectories in protest at their poor quality and high prices.

A Royal College Of Science Union (RCS) meeting on 16th January 1979 voted to kidnap HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and ransom him for half the Queen's income to raise money for RCS Rag.

The Imperial College Governors agreed on 16th February to allow the Union a fourth sabbatical post – that of the Deputy President. They did not, however, grant the Union any additional money to fund it.

Three 'firsts' occurred over the following summer: Margaret Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister on 4th May, STOIC broadcast for the

first time in colour on 10th May and the first heart transplant was attempted at Papworth Hospital on 18th August. Later that year, Margaret Thatcher donated £5 to ICU Rag during the City & Guilds Union carol singing in December on Downing Street.

April. A British Task Force was sent to re-capture them on 5th April and the Argentinian troops surrendered on 14th June.

The Thames Flood Barrier, designed to protect London from flooding, was raised for the first time on 31st September.



The winning Imperial College team on University Challenge

On 30th April 1980 the Iranian Embassy in Kensington was taken over by armed men who seized 20 hostages. Parts of Imperial College came to a standstill on 5th May as the hostages were freed by SAS troops storming the building.

John Lennon was murdered by Mark Chapman in New York on 8th December.

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was sentenced to life imprisonment on 22nd May 1981 after being charged with the murders of 13 women.

Over 100 protesters from Imperial College joined a CND demonstration of 250,000 people in Hyde Park in October. A Union General Meeting in November voted to ban the year's Rag Magazine due to its overly offensive nature. The decision was changed after a second vote a month later, allowing it to be sold only to IC students.

In January 1982, Imperial College won three consecutive heats of the television quiz University Challenge, against Aberdeen, Reading and New Hall, Cambridge.

Argentinian forces invaded the Falkland Islands on 2nd

In October, the Royal College of Science Union returned the King's College Union mascot, Reggie, after demanding that they donate 100 pints of blood to the Blood Transfusion Service and raise £40 for IC Rag.

An attempt was made in March to set up a Devil Worshipping Society. It was thought the aim was to poke fun at the Social Clubs Committee, the group to which the society would have belonged. It would have had such posts as High Priest and Virgin Procurer.

Wheelclamps were introduced by London police on 16th May in an attempt to stop illegal parking.

A student from Chelsea College was shot dead on the Imperial College Rifle Range on 10th November. The student said he was interested in joining the University of London Rifle Shooting Club and was shown how to fire a gun by the rifle range superintendent. On leaving the range, the superintendent heard a shot and found the student shot through the head. The police treated the matter as suicide.

1976	Jan	£350,000 donation to College
1976	Aug	Hottest summer since 1727
1976	Oct 20	IC student intake up by 10%
1977	Feb 19	Barman stabbed in Union Bar
1977	Mar 9	Rector attends NUS protest
1977	Oct 28	Yorkshire Ripper hunt begins
1978	Feb	Quadrangle facelift agreed
1978	Jun 9	Biophysics section opened
1978	Jul 25	First test-tube baby born
1978	Dec 5	Refectories boycott decided
1979	Jan 15	RCS vote to kidnap Duke
1979	May 4	Thatcher is first woman PM
1979	May 10	STOIC in colour
1979	Aug 18	First heart transplant attempt
1980	Apr 30	Hostages at Iranian Embassy
1980	Dec 8	John Lennon murdered
1981	May 22	Yorkshire Ripper sentenced
1981	Jul 29	Prince Charles' wedding
1981	Nov	Offensive Rag Mag banned
1982	Jan	IC University Challenge wins
1982	Apr 2	Argentians invade Falklands
1982	Nov 1	First broadcast of Channel 4
1983	Jan 17	Breakfast Television begins
1983	Mar	Devil Worship Society attempt
1983	May 16	Wheelclamps come into use
1983	Nov 10	Student shot at IC Rifle Range

# Housing Less Than Accommodating

1984 -  
1989

1984 proved to be a year full of problems for student residences. On 2nd March, Felix reported that Southside may have to be closed following a fire inspection by the Greater London Council. Later in the year, residents were in uproar over fire alarms regularly going off during the exam period in June. On 4th April, bailiffs were called in to evict anti-nuclear protesters from Greenham Common. In November, 50 students set up a squat in University College London buildings in protest at the lack of student accommodation. They were presented with a

same month, City & Guilds College Union held a Union General Meeting (UGM) in the second carriage of a Circle Line underground train after being left without a room to hold their meeting in.

1986 began with students boycotting lectures, labs and tutorials on 15th January in support of a strike called by the Association of University Teachers protesting at cuts in funding. In February, the College was awarded £850,000 in damages by the High Court for design deficiencies by the architects who built the Electrical Engineering building.

ICU gained control of profits from gravel extraction at the Harlington Sports Ground from the College on 15th September. The money was given to an independent trust which invested money on the Union's behalf.

Four student rooms in Lexham Gardens were declared to be too small for occupation by a Borough Environmental Health Officer on 18th January 1988. February proved to be a more humorous month with ICU President Ian Howgate changing his name by deed poll to Sidney Harbour-Bridge to raise money for Comic Relief.

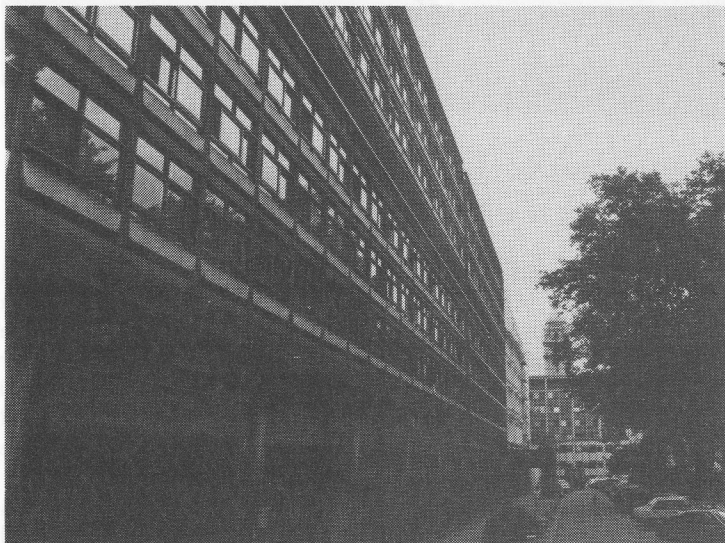
That summer, the College announced its plans to convert the main house at Silwood Park into a conference centre amidst protests from postgraduate students there. On 6th July, an explosion on the North Sea oil rig Piper Alpha killed 150 men.

A report in Felix on 8th September told of the College's purchase of Olave House, a new student residence in Earls Court. In October, residents in Fisher Hall decided to hold a rent protest after the College failed to tell them about rent increases before they moved in. October was also the month in which the Secretary of State for Education Kenneth Baker announced plans to introduce loans to 'top up' students' grants.

Student politics dominated the headlines in 1989 with a lobby of Parliament by ICU over student loans in January. A UGM on 31st January 1989 defeated by 150 votes an attempt by the Union Council to abolish UGMs.

A death sentence was imposed by the Ayatollah Khomeini on author Salman Rushdie on 14th February. His book, 'The Satanic Verses' was regarded as insulting to the Islamic faith.

Later in the year, the Union took measures to minimise the disruption caused by a tube strike during the exam period. This included setting up a minibus service and the arrangement of alternative sleeping accommodation within College.



Student housing was beset by problems in the 1980s.

possession order but refused to leave.

On 18th January 1985 Felix reported that student houses in Evelyn Gardens would be closed to carry out repairs costing £250,000 after all six halls were found to be in contravention of the Housing Act. The College Estates division decided to evacuate Willis Jackson house for repairs, but reversed the decision on 15th February following a request from Imperial College Union (ICU) that the work be carried out during a vacation. Riots at the Heysel football stadium on 29th May killed 41 supporters. At the start of the new academic year, ICU entered into discussions with College management with the idea to take control of the running of the Union Bar. In the

The Chernobyl nuclear reactor in the USSR exploded on 26th April.

Felix reported the possibility of a merger between the College and St Mary's Hospital Medical School in May, when a working party was set up to discuss it. On 31st July the Biochemistry building was flooded. Four fire engines were needed to pump the water out. The M25 was completed on 29th October.

Near the end of the year, ICU began to press College administration for control of the QT Snack Bar in the JCR because its profits were not benefiting students. A student boycott of QT in January 1987 forced it to close. Terry Waite was abducted in Beirut while negotiating for the release of other hostages on 20th January.

	1984
Southside fails fire inspection	Mar
Greenham Common eviction	Apr 4
Libyan Embassy siege	Apr 17
IRA bomb Tory conference	Oct 12
	1985
Estates order hall closures	Jan
Heysel stadium football riots	May 29
GLC abolished	Jul 16
	1986
AUT strike supported	Jan 15
IC awarded £850,000 in court	Feb
Chernobyl reactor explodes	Apr 26
M25 finally completed	Oct 29
	1987
ICU boycotts QT	Jan
Terry Waite abducted	Jan 20
ICU gets Harlington profits	Sep 15
17 killed in record hurricane	Oct 16
Community Charge announced	Nov 17
Kings Cross fire	Nov 18
	1988
Piper Alpha explosion	Jul 6
Fisher Hall rent protest	Oct
Edwina Currie salmonella scare	Dec 4
	1989
UGM rejects Council ban	Jan 31
Death threat issued on Rushdie	Feb 14
Hillsborough football disaster	Apr 15



# Buildings and Bombshells

The new decade started with an unfortunate turn for Imperial College (IC). Winds of over 100 miles an hour on 25th January 1990 caused an estimated £10,000 worth of damage to College buildings.

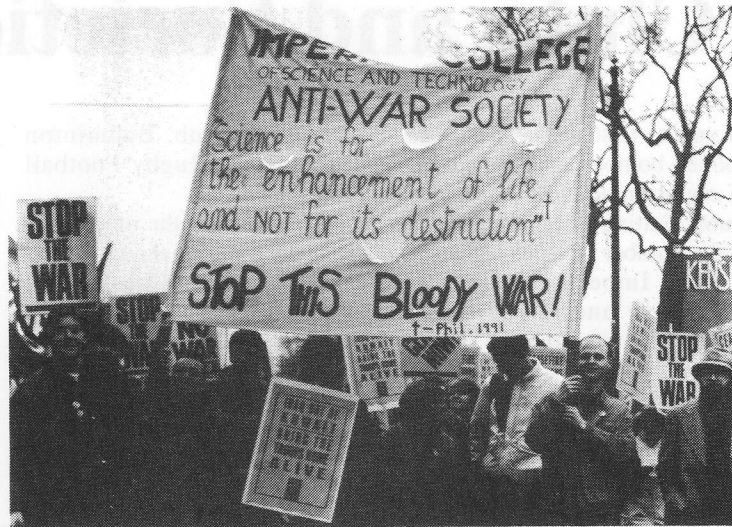
Tizard Hall was hit by tragedy on 9th June when a student died after falling from the top floor of the building. Over the summer, the Clayponds site in South Ealing was purchased by College to provide accommodation for 405 students. The development was expected to cost around £11 million, to be partially funded by the sale of Montpelier Hall.

The Government was rocked in November by the resignation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on 22nd November, after controversy within the Conservative party over her leadership. She was succeeded by the Chancellor John Major on 28th November.

Also this year, the elected Felix Editor & Print Unit Manager Chris Stapleton was unable to take up his sabbatical post after failing his exams (he later re-took the year). He was appointed to the temporary Union staff post of Print Unit Production Manager. Andy Butcher was elected as a non-sabbatical Felix Editor in the ballot in early December. A student referendum held at the same time rejected the idea of extending the College Day to 9am-6pm. The idea was proposed by a College Working Party chaired by Professor Alan Swanson. It was later accepted as College policy.

A new centre for Population Biology at Silwood Park was opened by Margaret Thatcher on 9th January 1991. Later in the month, the Rector announced plans for a new science park in South Wales. The project, located in Newport, was developed jointly by Imperial College, the Welsh Development Agency and Newport Borough Council. The first phase involved the building of a £2 million technology centre, 'Imperial House'.

After the start of Operation



*Imperial College students protest against the Gulf War*

'Desert Storm' in Kuwait on 16th January, an Iraqi student at IC was given 28 days notice by the Home Office to leave the country (20th February). Imperial College stated their full support for the student's appeal.

The Government scrapped the Poll Tax on 8th March after national campaigns against it. Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, joined Russian astronauts in the MIR space station on 19th May.

On 18th October, a student was seriously injured during an attempt to stop a mascot from being stolen during a mascotry raid. He underwent two operations on his leg after being run over by a van that was driving away with the mascot.

Issue 924 of Felix was stolen by members of the cast of the joint DramSoc and OpSoc production 'Grease' (31st January 1992). 3,500 copies were removed from departments soon after they had been delivered. The culprits felt that a review of the production in that issue could have damaged ticket sales. Union President Zoë Hellinger admitted she was partly responsible.

A rally in London protesting at student debt organised by the National Union of Students (NUS) on 12th February attracted 25,000 students.

There were rumours in June of a serious split in the College management over the possibility of buying Furse House, the

former Ministry of Defence Hostel on Queen's Gate Terrace. The College would have needed £3 million to buy the building, which would be used for student accommodation. Felix reported the existence of a discussion document on demolishing Southside halls to make way for a conference centre (issue 938).

Plans for Imperial College to become a 'medical super-school' were revealed in October. On 11th December, two female students were assaulted and attacked by five men outside the Huxley building on Queensgate.

Felix was the first to reveal leaked details of the Higher Education Students' Charter in issue 958 (19th February 1993), including proposals to strip Local Education Authorities of grant and fee paying powers.

In November, the NUS announced it was to split into two parts to protect itself from imminent legislation on student reforms. One of these sections would be a registered charity.

Speculation about the defederalisation of the University of London grew in the same month, as some Colleges sought the right to award their own degrees. The Government's official verdict on the Tomlinson enquiry came on 23rd June, with reports that ten London hospitals could be closed.

## 1990 - 1993

<b>1990</b>	
Jan 25	46 died in winds of 110mph
Apr	Strangeways Prison riot
Jun 9	Student died in Southside fall
Aug 8	Iraq declared Kuwait annexed
Nov 22	Thatcher resigned
Nov 28	Major became Prime Minister
Dec 4/5	Students voted against 9-6 day
<b>1991</b>	
Jan 16	Operation Desert Storm began
Feb 14	Birmingham Six released
Feb 20	IC protested at Iraqi expulsion
Feb 28	Ceasefire in Gulf War
Mar 8	Poll Tax scrapped
May 19	Britain's first astronaut
Jul 22	Major outlined Citizens Charter
<b>1992</b>	
Jan 31	Grease cast stole 3,500 Felices
Feb 12	25,000 student protest at debt
Jun	Split over buying Furse House
Oct	IC to be medical super-school
<b>1993</b>	
Feb 19	Felix reveals Students Charter
Jun 23	Gov response to Tomlinson

# Looking Back Over 80 Years Of Clubs and Societies

*Wei Lee  
and Juliette  
Decock look  
at how the  
clubs and  
societies of  
Imperial  
College  
Union have  
changed  
since 1911.*

In your first week of college you are bombarded by hundreds of opportunities to join various clubs. Getting lost and confused in the number of clubs and societies at Imperial College is quite easy and if you try to understand the structure it gets worse! Clubs, committees, sub-committees, we've tried to unravel them, look at their origins and how they've evolved since their formation.

Imperial College Union was born in the autumn term of 1911 with Sir Arthur Acland as its father. The idea was to provide the students from the three constituent colleges (City & Guilds, Royal College Of Science and Royal School Of Mines) with a club based along the lines of the unions at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The main objectives of the clubs of Imperial College Union were to unite more closely the students from the constituent colleges and to help secure a reputation for Imperial College parallel to the standard of the academic one.

The ten years following the creation of the Union saw the appearance of approximately a dozen clubs which still remain today. These include traditional sporting clubs such as the Association Football Club, Lawn Tennis Club and the Boat Club which started just after the First World War. Other sporting clubs that existed in the twenties are the Golf Association,

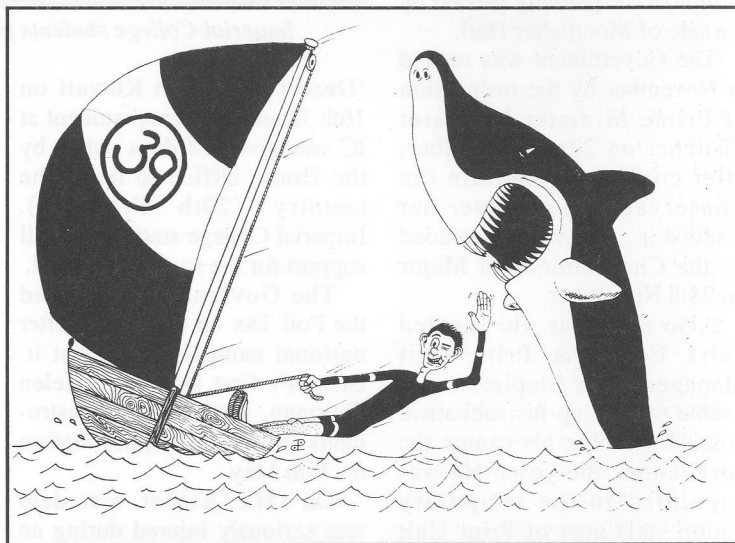
Swimming Club, Badminton Club and the Rugby Football Club.

Sport was not the only interest at the time, as shown by the existence of the Chess Club, Christian Union and the Wine Tasting Society, which is notable for having met in the same place (the Union Dining Hall) for over 70 years.

Some clubs no longer exist in their original form but have

was the springboard for the rock band Queen, Brian May having studied at Imperial College.

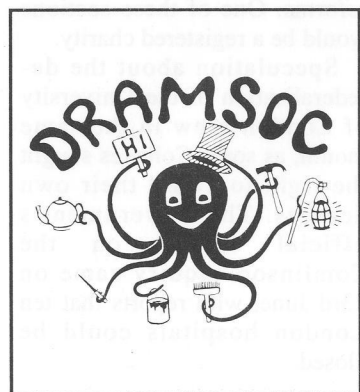
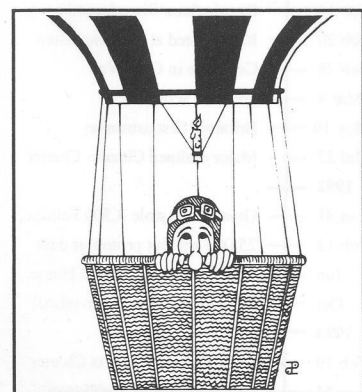
The next major step was the reforming of the existing clubs into two committees, the Athletics Clubs Committee and the Social Clubs Committee. One of the reasons for this change was to enable the Athletics Club Committee to award colours while the Social

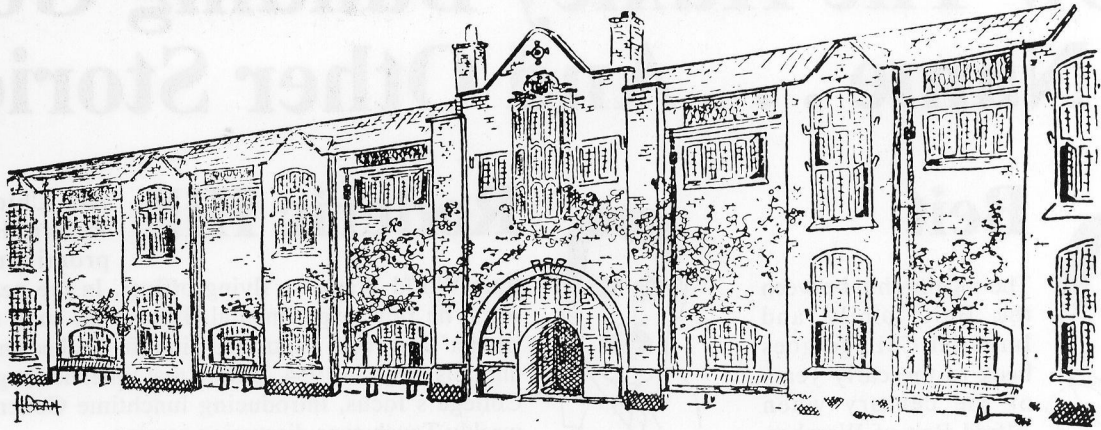


split and given rise to various daughter clubs. This is the case of the Literary & Debating Society which has split into the Arts Appreciation Society and the Debating Society. The Musical & Dramatic Society has given rise to a number of clubs. Amongst these are the Dramatic Society, Choir, Symphony Orchestra and the Jazz and Rock Club. The latter

Clubs Committee could not. (Colours are awards for services beyond the call of duty to a particular body of people within the Union.) This reason was soon forgotten as all committees now award colours.

As the number of clubs within the Union increased, the Recreational Clubs Committee separated from the Social Clubs Committee.





*An artist's impression of the Imperial College Union Building in the 1930s.*

Throughout the years more clubs started, reflecting the broadening interests of the students. These included the Gliding Club (1930), Sailing Club (1949), Billiards Club, Film Society, Jewish Society (1951) and the Underwater Club (1957).

The seventies saw a boost in the formation of clubs. This gave rise to the formation of the Social & Cultural Amusement Board in 1973 which grouped together all the 'performing' clubs. Soon to follow was the Publications Board in 1976 due to the increasing interest in media clubs. After Felix, which began in 1949, S.T.O.I.C (the Student Television Of Imperial College) started in 1969. I.C. Radio was formed at about the same time, but they only got a licence to broadcast on medium wave in December 1978.

The last committee to emerge was the Overseas Students Committee, at the beginning of the eighties. This reflected the growth and importance that Overseas societies were begin-

ning to have within the Union.

In the past 15 years Imperial College has seen a considerable number of changes among the style of its clubs. The 'traditional clubs' still exist, but the main changes have occurred in the recreational and social clubs.

The Tiddlywinks Society disappeared at the end of the seventies. The practice of this 'sport' is now restricted to the length of Oxford Street on the second Saturday of the autumn term - one of Rag's most popular events.

The Croquet Club, which used to play on Queen's Lawn, only existed during the seventies. 1975 saw the beginning of the Pimlico Connection Society. It is within Imperial College that the scheme itself was formed and it has now spread to many other universities around the country. 1976 saw the beginning of completely different type of club: the Wargame Society.

In the eighties, the advance in technology led to the emergence of the Micro-computer and Science Fiction Societies.

Social changes also led to new societies like the PATA (or Pro-life) Society, United Nations Society, Third World First Society, CND Society (which stopped in the early nineties) and the Vegetarian Society (VegSoc). It is rumoured that VegSoc ceased to meet after a group of people became members and held a barbecue on behalf of the society in Beit Quad!

New sports societies include the Parachute Club, the Fitness Club and the Wing Chun Club.

On the other hand, the eighties saw the end of some of the old societies like the Astronomical Society, Railway Club and the Transcendental Meditation Society (which reformed at the start of this year). The Graffiti Club and HG Wells Society lasted slightly longer but both died out in the late eighties.

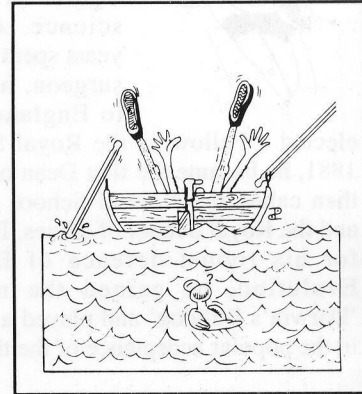
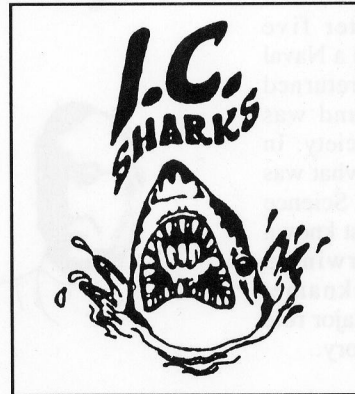
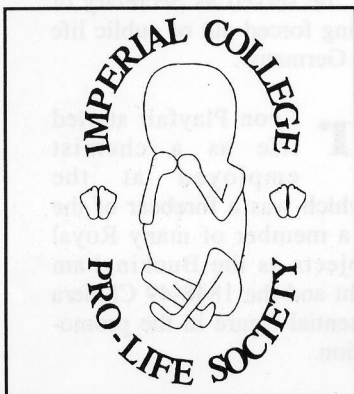
New born clubs included Splot Soc (a paintballing society), the Computer Graphic Society and the Science & Ethics Society.

At the beginning of this

academic year there were 122 Union clubs and societies listed in the Imperial College Union Handbook. Bearing in mind that there are also numerous clubs within each of the four Constituent College Unions, it looks as though Imperial College students are not as apathetic as some people claim.

The Constituent College Union societies tend to have a more academic nature. Some of these were originally Imperial College Union societies which reformed under a Constituent College Union. This is the case with the Astronomical Society which is now a Royal College Of Science society.

Currently Imperial College Union spends more money per student on its clubs and societies than any other University's Union in Britain. What the future holds for all the societies within Imperial College Union is dependant on the funding that can be allocated as well as the motivation, interests and enthusiasm its students.



# How The Huxley Building Got Its Name . . . And Other Stories

## Beit



The relationship between the Beit family and Imperial College goes back to the early years of the century when Alfred Beit of Wernher, Beit & Company gave the College a total of

£244,000 from the firm and his private fortune. Beit had become extremely wealthy through the South African diamond trade and had already given money for academic purposes in Johannesburg and Hamburg. After Alfred's death in 1906, his brother, Otto (pictured above), succeeded the estate and continued to support Imperial College. He was knighted in 1924 and a memorial plaque was unveiled in Beit Arch after his death in 1930.

## Blackett



Patrick Blackett began his academic career studying physics at Cambridge with Lord Rutherford. During the war he worked with

Tizard applying Operational Research to such aspects of war as anti-submarine activity and strategic bombing. Controversially he argued that the atomic bombs had been dropped for political not military reasons and he was viewed as a voice of conscience within the scientific community. He became a Professor of Physics at Imperial College in 1953 and Pro-Rector from 1961-64, receiving a life peerage in 1969.

## Huxley



Thomas Henry Huxley was one of the big figures in Victorian science. After five years spent as a Naval surgeon, he returned to England and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1881, he became the first Dean of what was then called the Normal School of Science and the Royal School of Mines. Best known for his robust defence of Darwinian Evolution, he gained the nickname, 'Darwin's Bulldog' and played a major role in the popular acceptance of the theory.

## Roderic Hill



Air Chief Marshal Sir Roderic Hill first came to prominence during the

First World War as a flying officer. In the period between the wars, he flew experimental flights into such subjects as wing 'flutter' and radio controlled aircraft. He became Rector in 1948 until his death in 1954. During that time, he sought to broaden the College's focus, introducing lunchtime General Studies and a weekly Touchstone discussion session.

## Haldane



Richard Haldane was the prime mover behind the Charter of Incorporation of the Imperial College of Science and Technology of 1907. Always interested in education, it was mainly because of Haldane's encouragement that Imperial College became a part of the University of London.

Haldane studied philosophy and wrote a book on the implications of relativity. As a liberal M.P., he served as Secretary of War and Lord Chancellor, before being forced out of public life in 1915 because of his close ties with Germany.

## Lyon Playfair



Lyon Playfair started life as a chemist employed at the

Museum of Economic Geology, which was a forebear of the Royal School of Mines. He was a member of many Royal Commissions studying such subjects as the Buckingham Palace drains, the Irish potato blight and the 1848-49 Cholera outbreak. Playfair became an influential figure in the promotion of widespread scientific education.

## Penney



William Penney has been called the 'father of the British Bomb'. A student and an assistant professor at Imperial College before the Second World War, he was one of the few British scientists who were sent to Los Alamos to work on the Manhattan Project. He saw the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki and it was the power displayed there which led him to understand that Britain needed a deterrent, too. However, the release of recent papers has somewhat dented Penney's reputation as it appears that he fabricated the first tests of the British hydrogen bomb in order to prove the project was progressing.

## Bessemer

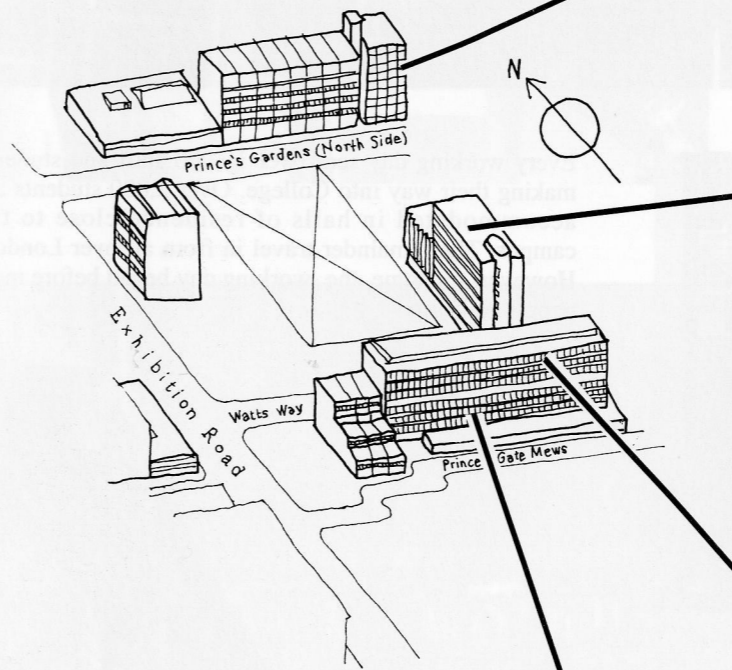


Henry Bessemer was a one-time student at the

College of Chemistry which was one of the precursors of the Royal College of Science. After his death a memorial fund was set up in 1903 in his honour. This raised £15,000 for the building of a metallurgical college which became part of the Royal School of Mines.

## Imperial College

University of London



## Weeks



Lord Weeks was the Chairman of Vickers Ltd from 1949-56. As part of their corporate plan to advance technical education, Vickers gave Imperial College £150,000 to build a hall of residence which was opened in 1959.

## Linstead



Patrick Linstead was a chemistry student at Imperial

College who became a member of staff, gaining an international reputation in organic chemistry. After various academic appointments, he worked at the Ministry of Supply during the war, returning as Head of Chemistry in 1949 and becoming Rector in 1955.

One of his most troublesome moments was caused by his support for the proposed demolition of the Imperial Institute. This resulted in a huge public outcry which eventually saved Queen's Tower. He also oversaw the redevelopment of the halls of residence in Princes Gardens. The establishment of both the Haldane and Lyon Playfair libraries and the expansion of the Harlington Sports Ground displayed his concern for the wider issues of university life.

## Tizard



Henry Thomas Tizard was described as "probably the best scientist in government service" during the 1940s and certainly he was highly influential in the scientific progression of both wars.

He flew in the Royal Flying Corps testing aircraft and bomb sights during the First World War. Afterwards, he worked on aero engine fuels before becoming College Rector in 1929. In the same year he was also made Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

In his additional capacity as Chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Survey of Air Defence, he encouraged the development of radar. During the war he worked with Blackett in Operational Research and was involved with the development of the 'bouncing bomb', Whittle's jet engine and the transfer of technical information from America. He stepped down as Rector in 1959 to become President of Magdalen College, Oxford.

## Keogh

Sir Alfred Keogh was the second Rector of Imperial College, from 1910 to 1922. An organiser and administrator of the first rank,

Keogh was an army medic. As Director General of Army Medical Services, he totally overhauled military medical organisation and training prior to the First World War. In 1914 he was recalled to his old medical post by the direct intervention of Kitchener and only returned as Rector at the end of hostilities.

## Sherfield

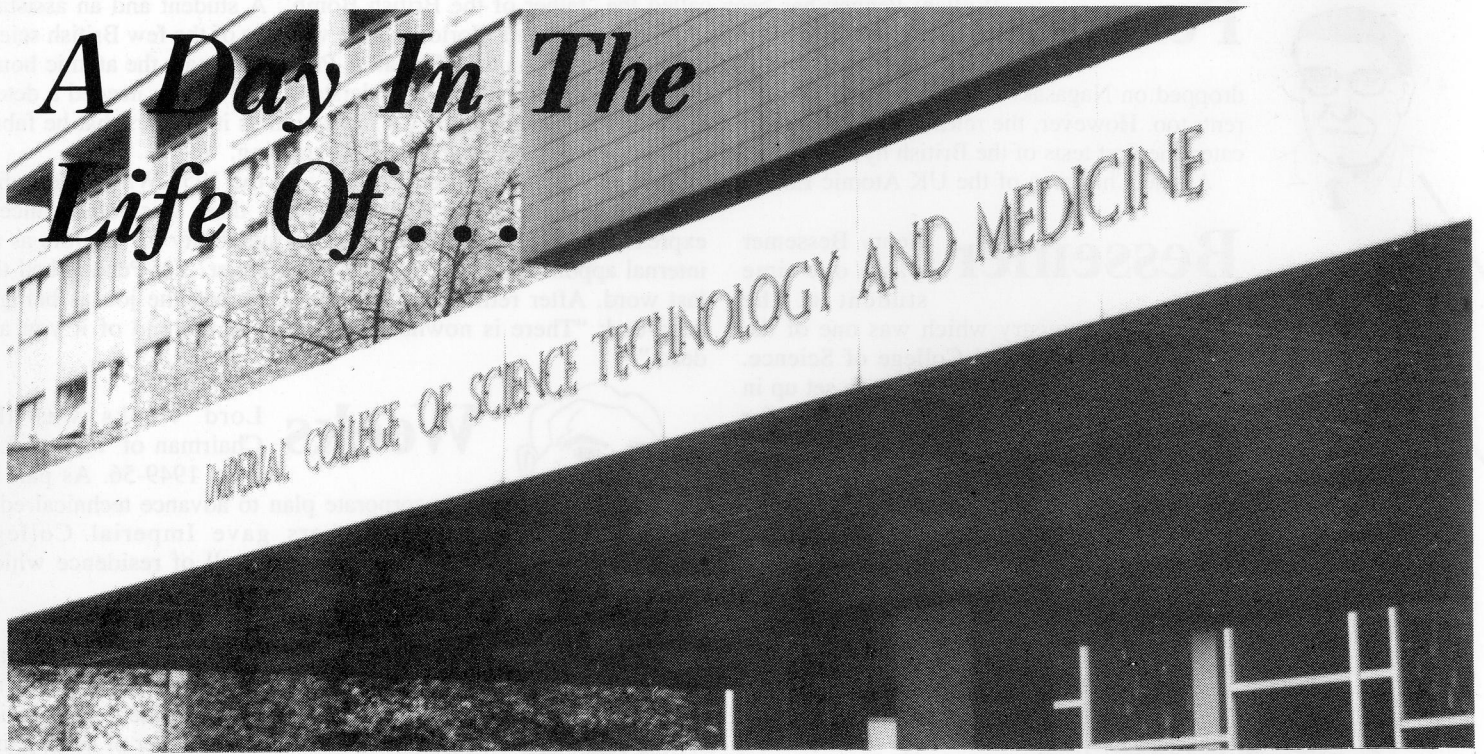
After training as a lawyer, Sir Roger Makins joined the Foreign Office. He was sent to the American Embassy in 1945 and was involved with the transfer of atomic secrets between Britain and America. In 1953 he was sent back to Washington, this time for a three year period as Ambassador.

He became the chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority between 1959 and 1963 and it was during this period that he was appointed the Chairman of the Governors of Imperial College.

After being made Lord Sherfield in 1963, his competence in the area of science policy was recognised by another appointment, this time as Chairman of the Lords' Select Committee on Science and Technology.

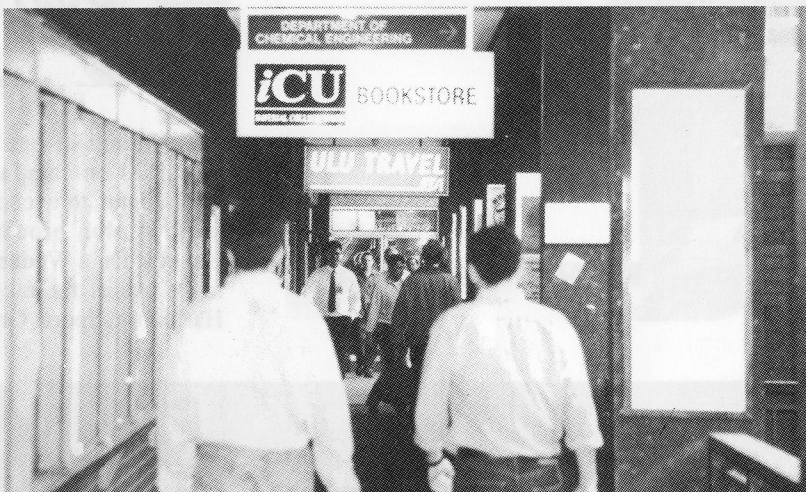
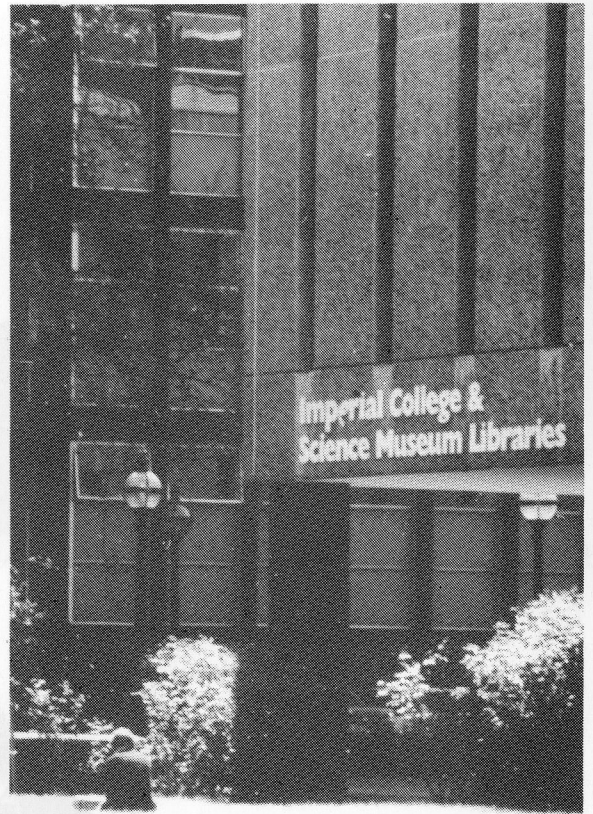
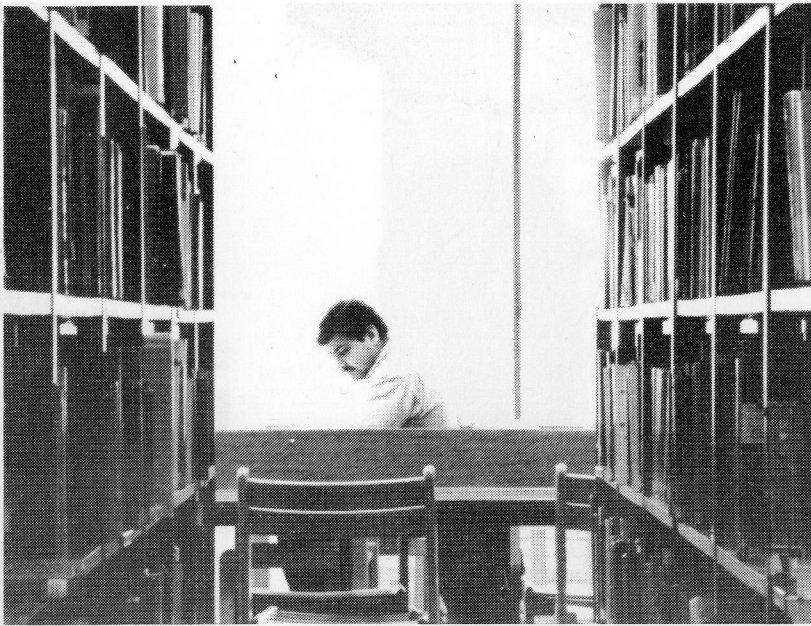
The Committee's final report suggested that a cabinet post should be created for Science and Technology, but Margaret Thatcher was not one of Sherfield's most successful audiences.

# A Day In The Life Of...



Every working day sees over 10,000 staff and students making their way into College. Over 2,000 students are accommodated in halls of residence close to the campus. The remainder travel in from all over London. However, for some, the working day began before most people wake up.





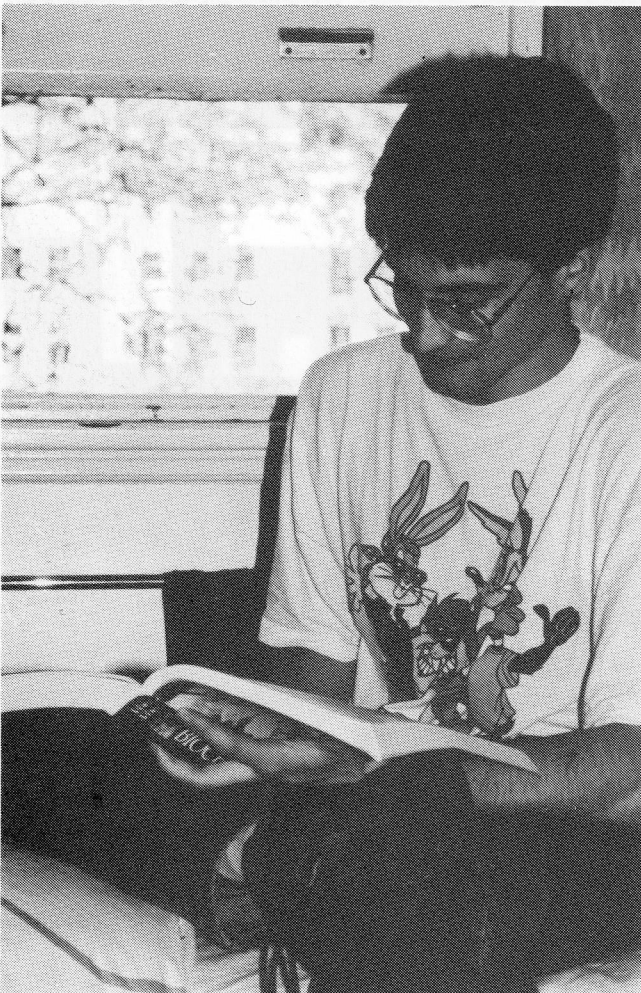
The Imperial College Libraries recently merged with the Science Museum Library, providing a more extensive range of facilities. The library contains both fiction and non-fiction books as well as a selection of music cassettes and CDs. Amenities elsewhere on the campus include a bookstore and a travel agent used by both the students and staff.





After lunch at one of the many snack bars or cafeterias on campus, there is much available to the students to occupy their free time. The student radio station broadcasts 24 hours a day to the campus. On a Wednesday afternoon many students make use of the range of outdoor facilities at the Harlington Sports Ground near Heathrow.

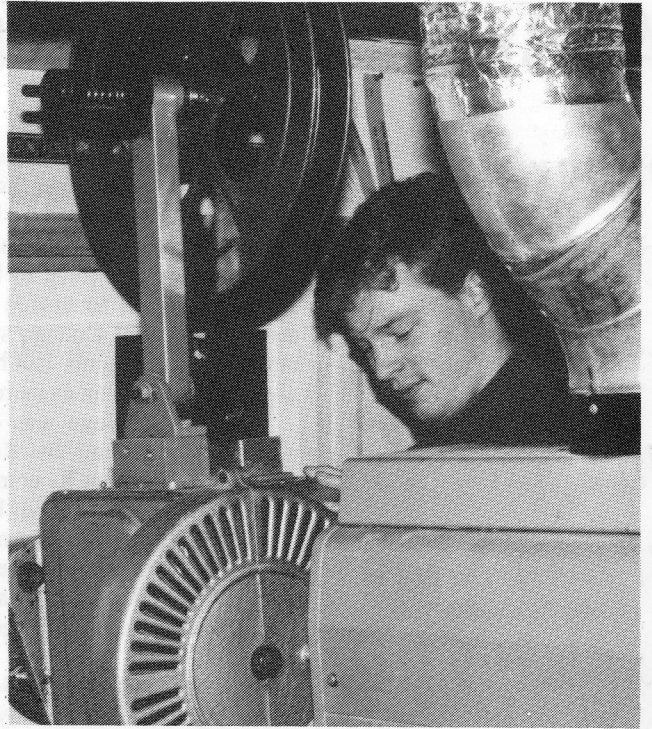




Many students remain on campus for lectures or practical work. Others go to the library or back to their rooms to study. Should any problems arise at any time during the day or night the Imperial College Security staff are always around to assist.







The Union Bar and Cinema provide a cheap way for students to relax in the evening.



# A Brief History Of Imperial College

*Imperial College is 87 years old this year. Simon Shaw explains its short but complex history.*

*Below: The proposed Union Building. Today it forms the north side of Beit Quad.*

With the prospect of Albertopolis looming large over South Kensington, attention has been focused on the area's architecture. You do not have to have both eyes open to notice that most of Imperial College sticks out like a sore thumb. But has it always been such an eyesore?

Imperial College was officially established by Royal Charter in 1907 but its complex history can be traced back another half century. Complex in that its birth was preceded by no fewer than ten name-changes and almost as many changes of premises.

The present site in South Kensington is owned by the Royal Commission For The Great Exhibition Of 1851. It was purchased as part of Prince Albert's plan for the development of South Kensington as a centre for education in art and science.

The Prince was also chiefly responsible for the three national museums (the Science Museum, Natural History Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum) being situated in such close vicinity. Most of the College's

departments, however, originated elsewhere and gradually accumulated at the South Kensington site between 1872 and 1891.

## The Origin Of The Royal School Of Mines

Imperial College has always been a union of constituent colleges. The oldest, the Royal School Of Mines, can be traced back to the *Museum Of Economic Geology* which opened in 1841 in a house in Craig's Court SW1, adjoining the old Scotland Yard. From the outset, it enrolled a limited number of pupils but its teaching function expanded when it moved to Jermyn Street in 1851. There it offered courses in mining and applied sciences. At this new location, it was reopened as the *Museum Of Practical Geology*. Its founder, Henry De La Beche, went on to establish the *Government School Of Mines And Of Science Applied To The Arts* later in that year. This new school was staffed by a group of eminent scientists and held courses relating to all theoretical and practical areas of mining and geology.

## The Origin Of The Royal College Of Science

The Chemistry Department of the Royal College Of Science traces its descent from another foundation. *The College Of Chemistry* was founded in October 1845 and from December of that year, with Queen Victoria's consent, it became known as the *Royal College Of Chemistry*. It sought new premises at 16 Hanover Square which had an impressive frontage on Oxford Street.

## A Marriage Of Sorts

In 1853, the Royal College Of Chemistry became part of the Government School Of Mines And Of Science Applied To The Arts in a bid to solve its financial problems. As a result, students on the mining school course found themselves sharing the laboratories at Hanover Square with chemistry students.

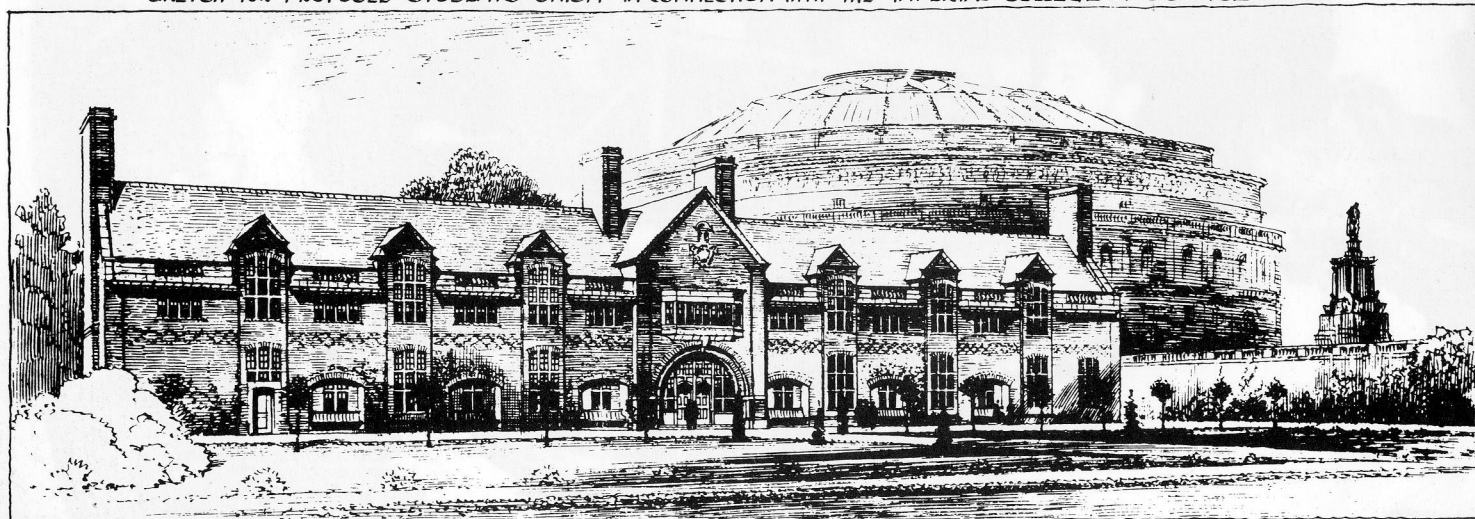
It was hoped that the School would broaden its educational scope and in the same year yet another name change was instigated. It was now to be known as the *Metropolitan School Of Science Applied To Mining And*

### Students' Union

*Plan and elevation of the Students' Union Building now being erected in Prince Consort Road by The Governors of the Imperial College, at an estimated cost of £15,000.*

*The building is expected to be ready for occupation at the beginning of Session 1911-12 and will be for the use of members of the Unions of the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College.*

SKETCH FOR PROPOSED STUDENTS UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.



SKETCH OF BUILDINGS FROM THE PRINCE CONSORT ROAD.

*John Sell & Co. 1911*

*The Arts* to indicate that it was to become the metropolitan centre of a whole group of institutions for practical science to be established throughout the country.

In 1863, the Government School Of Mines was renamed the *Royal School Of Mines* in an attempt to re-establish its own identity amidst the merging faculties. However, following a report on scientific instruction by a Select Committee to the House of Commons, a Royal Commission was set up in 1870 to investigate the education and advancement of science. This Commission recommended that the Royal School Of Mines be moved to South Kensington, where it would be consolidated with the Royal College Of Chemistry.

On the new site, laboratories were provided for practical instruction in physics and biology (hitherto entirely lacking); a Chair of Mathematics was established and the School was to be made available for the instruction of science teachers.

The South Kensington site was chosen because the Government had acquired twelve acres of land there, from the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, for use by the Science and Art Department. At the time, the site was a wasteland of sheds and temporary buildings except for one building of curious design on Exhibition Road. It was said to have been erected for the Royal School Of Naval Architecture, but the School chose alternative premises at Greenwich in 1873. In any case, the building (known then as the Huxley Building) was quickly occupied by departments of the Royal College of Science.

By moving into larger premises, it was possible for the departments to expand. This had not been possible at Jermyn Street and Hanover Square.

### **City & Guilds College**

In 1878, the *City & Guilds Of London Institute For The Advancement Of Technical Education* was created. In the following year, classes in chemistry and physics were instituted at temporary quarters in Cowper Street School, Finsbury. From this grew the *Finsbury*

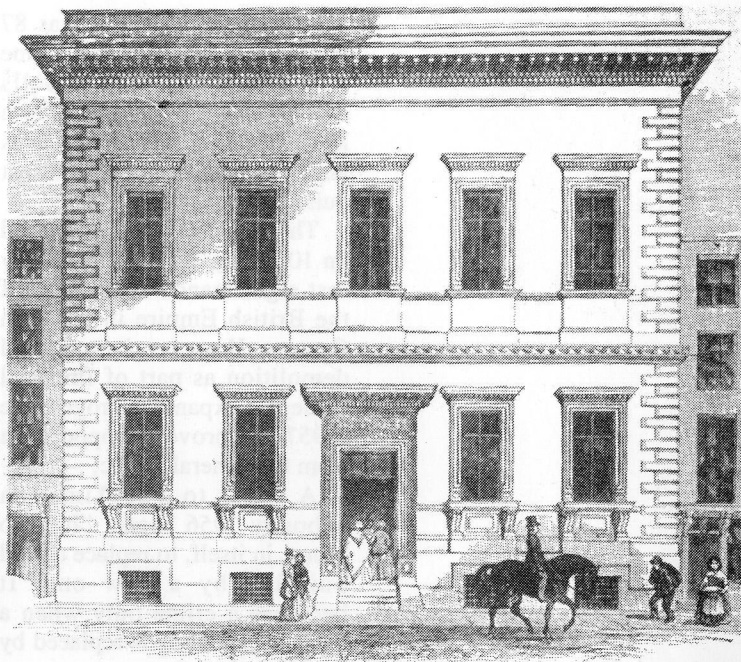
*Technical College* which opened in 1883. The Institute's chief aim was realised when it founded the *Central Technical College Of The London Institute* on Exhibition Road in 1884. The College's function gradually narrowed to the teaching of engineering and in 1873 its title was changed to the *City & Guilds College*.

### **Imperial College**

So, by the turn of the century there existed on the South Kensington site, three separate colleges covering between them the whole field of pure and applied science. Inevitably, through overlapping subjects, the three institutions worked closely together and on 8th July 1907, *Imperial College Of Science and Technology* was established by Royal Charter. City & Guilds College took a little longer to be incorporated into Imperial College, but by 1910 all three were linked and, as a whole, were established as a School of the University Of London.

### **The Imperial Institute**

To commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) had proposed the Imperial Institute in the summer of 1886. The *Imperial Institute* (stretching the length of what is now



Above: *Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street.*

Imperial College Road) was intended as a museum and exhibition centre dealing with Indian and other colonial affairs, encouraging emigration and expanding trade.

Since it was true to Prince Albert's aspirations for the South Kensington site, the Institute was advocated by Queen Victoria. The architect T.E. Collcutt designed a grand series of neo-renaissance buildings stretching over 200 metres and bridging three towers. It was built on the site of the former gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society. The central

Below: *City & Guilds College on Exhibition Road. It was demolished in the early sixties.*



tower, Queen's Tower, was 87 metres tall, had a copper dome and held a peal of ten bells donated by a Mrs Millar from Melbourne. At the time it was built, it was one of the tallest buildings in London.

The Imperial Institute opened on 10th May 1893 but gradually lost significance as an icon of the British Empire in the 20th Century. However, its proposed demolition as part of Imperial College's expansion programme (1957-65) provoked opposition from the general public.

A letter to The Times in February 1956 began: "It is no crime, in itself, to replace an old building by a new one. It becomes a crime only when a good old building is replaced by a bad new one."

It went on to explain the dilemma: "If the Imperial College is to play, in London, the role chosen for it as a great scientific and technological centre, the area now occupied by the Imperial Institute and its adjacent buildings will be required." As a compromise, the Queen's Tower (then known as

Collcutt's Tower) was left standing, requiring substantial reinforcements to keep it erect. The Imperial Institute, meanwhile, became the *Commonwealth Institute* and moved to Holland Park in 1962.

### The Expansion Programme

It was the aforementioned expansion program which has moulded the College into what we see today. Imperial College was accepting more and more students and was hungry for extra space. Comment in issue 87 of Felix stated that if the opponents to the expansion scheme "went behind this façade that faces the Royal College Of Science they would realise that the fire hazard in the draughty wooden corridors and the galvanised tin roof makes a mockery of the wedding cake frontage."

Few original buildings now remain in their entirety: the City & Guilds College was demolished, the Chemistry Department was rebuilt and nearly all departments other than the Royal School Of Mines were given new

premises. The Huxley Building on Exhibition Road was abandoned and a 'new' Huxley Building was erected in 1975 on Queen's Gate. The old building is now the Henry Cole Wing of the Victoria & Albert Museum.

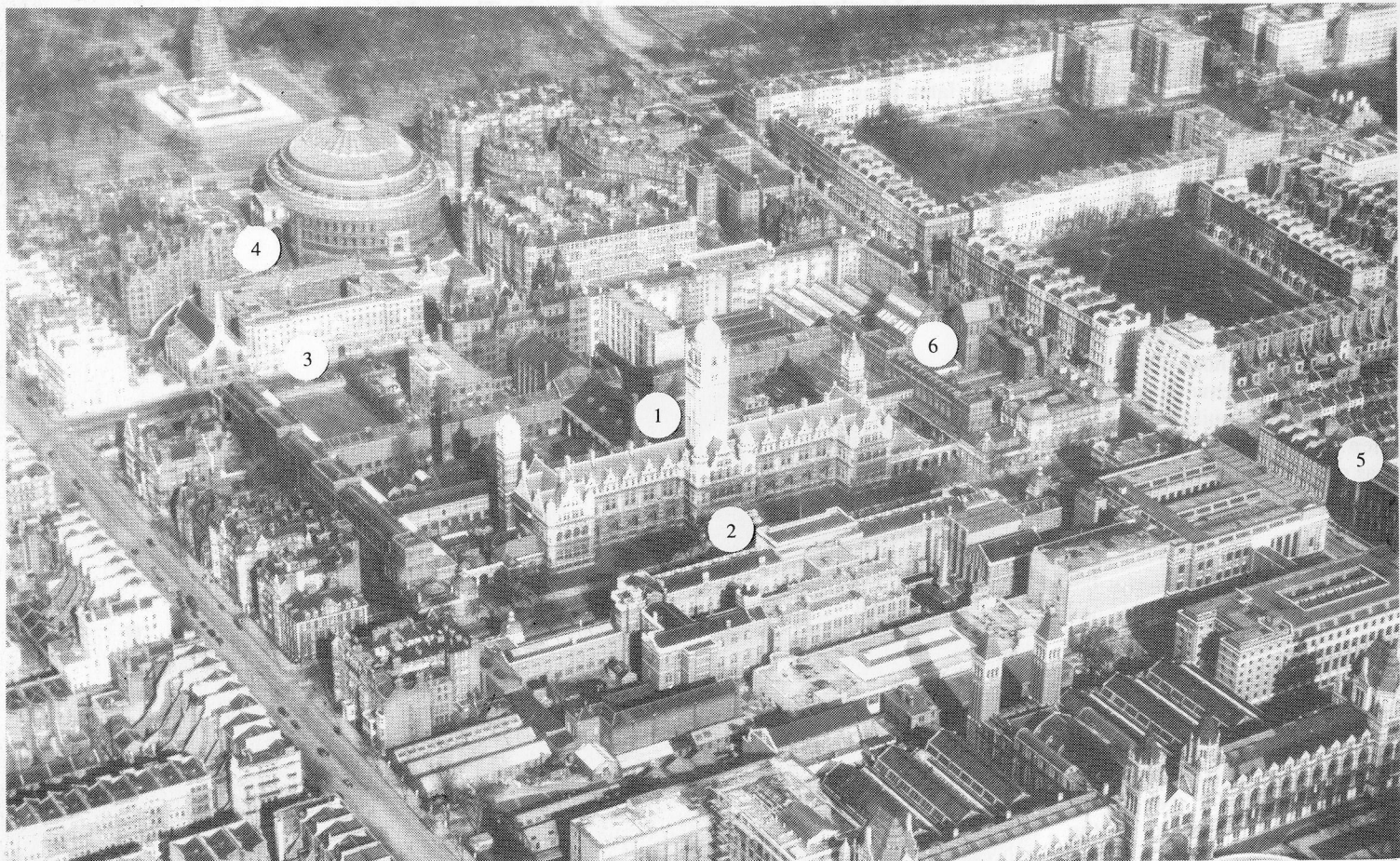
Referring to the changes to Beit Quad, issue 79 of Felix reported that "Beit Quadrangle will be laid out as a semi-formal garden with grass lawns and York stone paths and some central feature which may be a fountain. The tennis club have received extra courts at Harlington as compensation for the loss of its old courts on this site."

The picture of today's Imperial College is completed by the addition of St Mary's Hospital Medical School. St Mary's Hospital was founded at Paddington and enrolled its first two students in 1851. The Medical School, founded in 1854, became part of the University Of London in 1900. In 1988 it merged with Imperial College adding another discipline to the College's name which became *Imperial College Of Science, Technology And Medicine*.

*Below: Aerial shot of Imperial College in the 1950s before the massive expansion programme.*

*Below opposite: Imperial College in 1970 when most of the construction had been completed.*

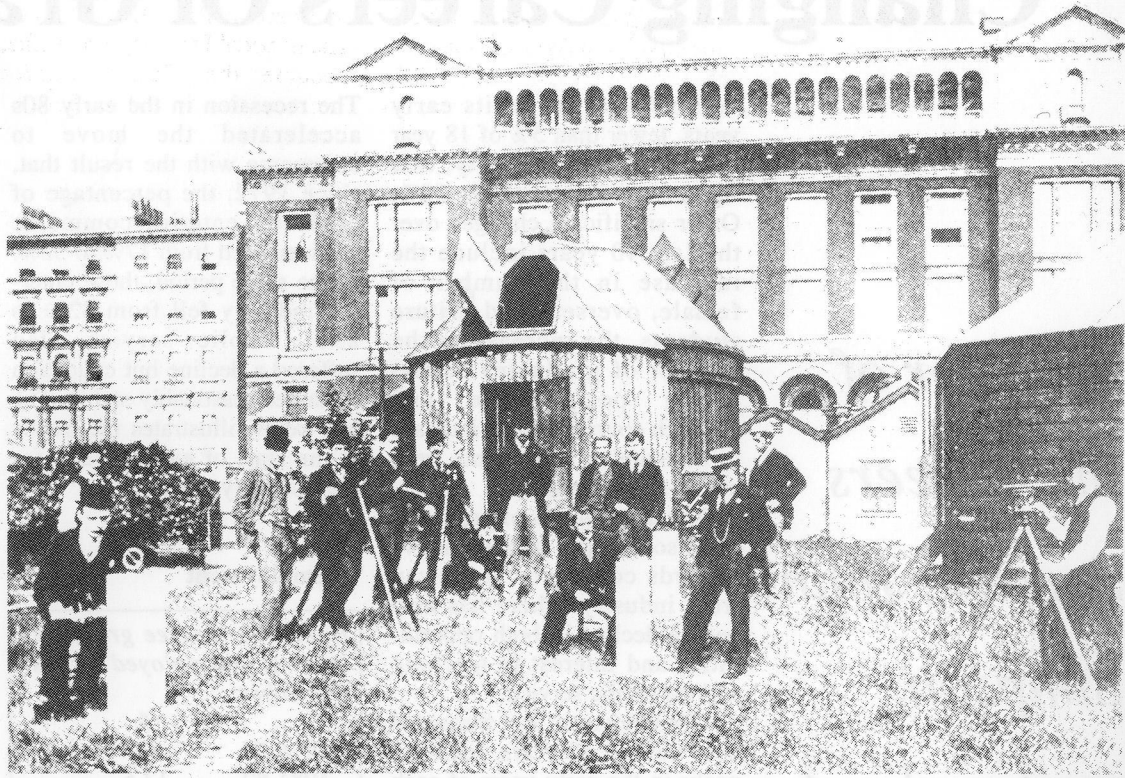
*(Photos provided courtesy of Hunting Aerofilms.)*



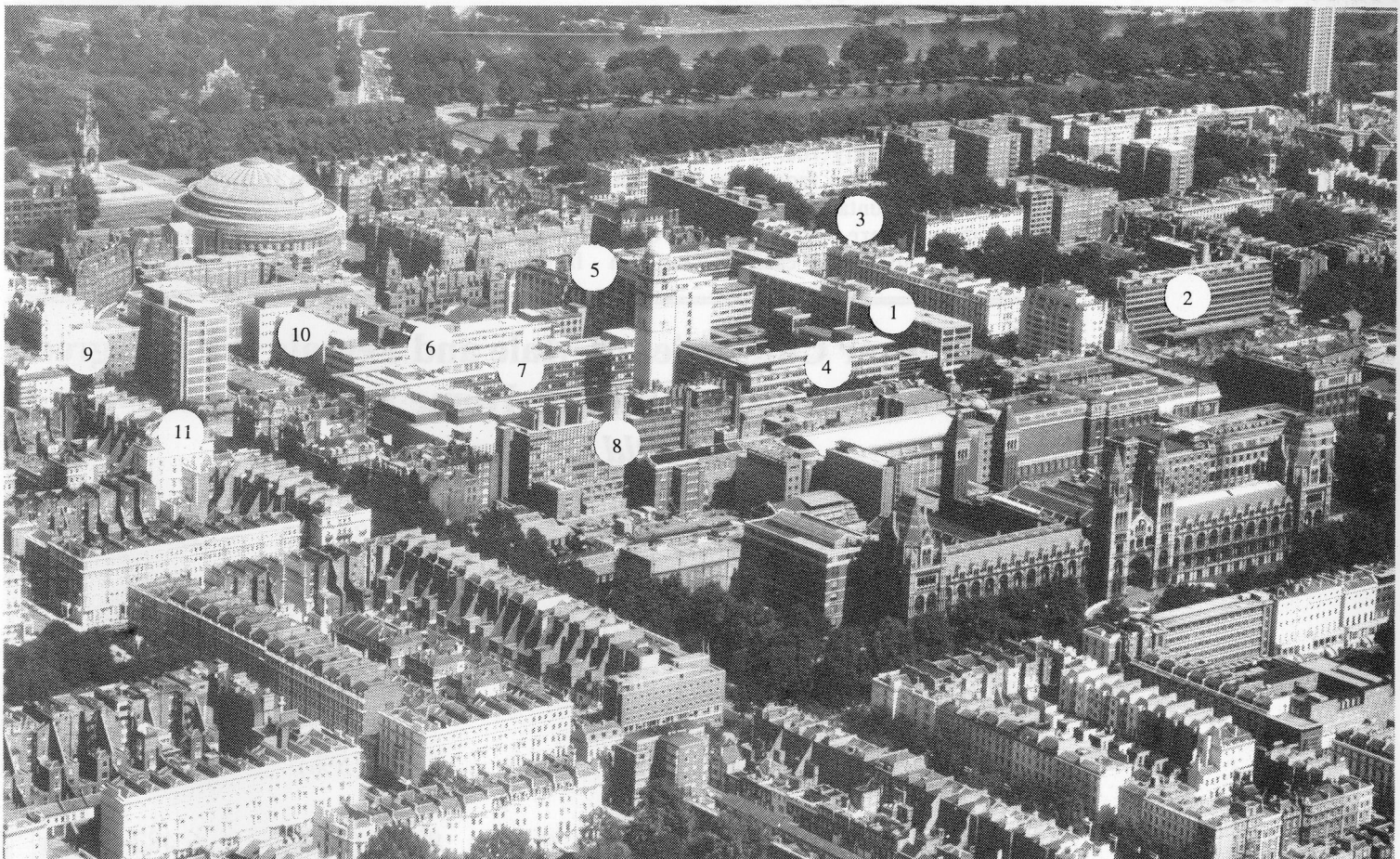
The Imperial Institute<sup>1</sup> is clearly visible in the centre of the photograph. Across Imperial Institute Road (now Imperial College Road) are the Chemistry and Physics Departments<sup>2</sup> of the Royal College of Science. Perhaps the only recognisable College buildings are those in Beit Quad<sup>3</sup>. The Union Building<sup>4</sup>, however, has yet to receive its two uppermost floors. The former Huxley Building<sup>5</sup> is just visible opposite the Science Museum and the City & Guilds College<sup>6</sup> still stands on Exhibition Road.

The College also owns various properties outside central London. Silwood Park near Ascot was acquired in 1947 and a Field Station was established there. The Royal School Of Mines has owned the Tywarnhale Tin Mine in Cornwall since 1909. Imperial College also has an affiliated project in South Wales. Imperial Parc began development in Newport in 1991. It is a science park dedicated to research and development and has strong links with industry.

The next substantial development affecting Imperial College could be Albertopolis. Although plans are still sketchy and attracting a healthy amount of criticism, some redevelopment looks inevitable. The College has recently been described as an eyesore in the South Kensington area by a writer for a national newspaper. Perhaps today's administrators realise that the appearance of the College can be as crucial as its research papers in the interest of self-promotion.



Above: Students at the Solar Observatory on the grounds of the future Science Museum. In the background is the old Huxley Building, now the Henry Cole Wing of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Picture circa 1893.



A solitary Queen's Tower remains after the expansion program. The City & Guilds College has been replaced by the Mechanical Engineering Department<sup>1</sup>. The Southside Halls<sup>2</sup> and the Sports Centre<sup>3</sup> have been built, as well as the Civil Engineering<sup>4</sup>, Electrical Engineering<sup>5</sup>, Chemical Engineering<sup>6</sup>, Sherfield<sup>7</sup>, Chemistry<sup>8</sup>, Blackett<sup>9</sup> and Roderic Hill<sup>10</sup> Buildings. Some space has been cleared for the new Huxley Building<sup>11</sup> on Queen's Gate and the Union Building now has two extra floors.

# Changing Careers Of Graduates

*Director of  
the Careers  
Service, John  
Simpson,  
writes about  
how the  
destinations  
of Imperial  
College  
graduates  
has changed.*

When Felix was in its early years, fewer than 5% of 18 year olds went to University; this figure is now approaching 30%. Other significant changes over the last 40 years include the increase in the number of female, overseas and mature students, the increase in the number of graduates undertaking postgraduate and research courses and an increase in the number of students from ethnic minorities.

The destinations of graduates has also changed with the move towards commerce and away from industry. There has also been a decline in both opportunities and interest in teaching and the public service.

Unemployment has fluctuated over the last 40 years, reaching peaks in the early years of each decade.

### The Decline of Employment in Industry

In the 50s and 60s, graduates in engineering and science began in careers related to their degree subjects. All this started to change in the early 70s. With industry suffering from the recession, accountants realised that there were graduates looking for alternative careers.

The recession in the early 80s accelerated the move to commerce with the result that, since 1972, the percentage of graduates entering commerce has increased from 17% to 32%. In the same period, those entering industry fell from 32% to 23%. Public service also suffered a decline but education remained reasonably stable. The box below illustrates the trends at the start of each decade for the last thirty years.

### Unemployment

<i>Home first degree graduates believed unemployed at 31st December:</i>	
	%
1976-77	5.9
1981-82	13.5
1986-87	6.2
1991-92	11.6

A feature of the 50s and 60s was very low graduate unemployment, with figures of less than 5%. We consider unemployment to be bad in the early 90s, but a glance at the figures above shows the extent that unemployment has fluctuated since the mid 70s.

One interesting fact is that women have consistently

experienced lower rates of unemployment than men.

### Teacher Training

In the mid 70s teacher training was still popular, but the actual numbers choosing this option fell steadily from 5,946 in 1977 to 2,355 at the height of the yuppie boom in 1989. They have only crept up to 3,789 in 1992. One can understand the concern of the Government as they try to persuade more scientists to take up teaching. One incentive they are operating is the award of bursaries in subjects with a shortage of students.

### Further Academic Study

Those following further academic study in the UK totalled 6,229 in 1977 and remained stable until 1990 when the total reached 7,223. By 1992 the numbers had increased sharply to 10,287.

This is partly a reflection of the difficult job market, but it is also a recognition that a post-graduate qualification can be a help in starting some careers. Unemployment rates for post-graduates have been lower than the rates for graduates.

## Employer Categories of Male and Female First Degree Graduates Entering Home Employment (Old Universities)

	1971-72	1981-82	1991-92
Total Entering Home Employment	20,798	29,008	28,796
Public Service	6,845 (33%)	7,839 (27%)	7,527 (26%)
Education	1,665 (8%)	1,538 (5%)	2,034 (7%)
Industry	6,637 (32%)	8,676 (30%)	6,487 (23%)
Commerce	3,494 (17%)	8,538 (29%)	9,300 (32%)

### Imperial College

Imperial College experience has mirrored much of what has been going on in other Universities, but it has also reflected the uniqueness of Imperial College and of London.

In the 50s and 60s, Imperial College was a very male dominated institution. This is not surprising when statistics show that nationally only 37 women graduated with an engineering degree in 1962 compared with 2,539 men. The numbers of women at Imperial College have increased significantly since then to the present total of 26%.

London has always attracted large numbers of overseas students and Imperial College has certainly benefited from this, especially in respect of postgraduates. Similarly, large numbers of ethnic minority students wish to study in London and many choose to come to Imperial College.

Imperial College has not attracted large numbers of mature students. The reasons for this are debatable, but probably reflect the high entry standards demanded for all the courses.

Employers from industry have targeted Imperial College for many years for the high quality of our technical graduates. Accountants and other City employers soon recognised that Imperial College graduates had the skills needed in the financial services industry. As a result, about 20% of Imperial College first degree graduates entering UK employment went into this line of work.

The high reputation of our research has encouraged above average numbers of Imperial College graduates to stay on to do research.

### 1993 Destinations

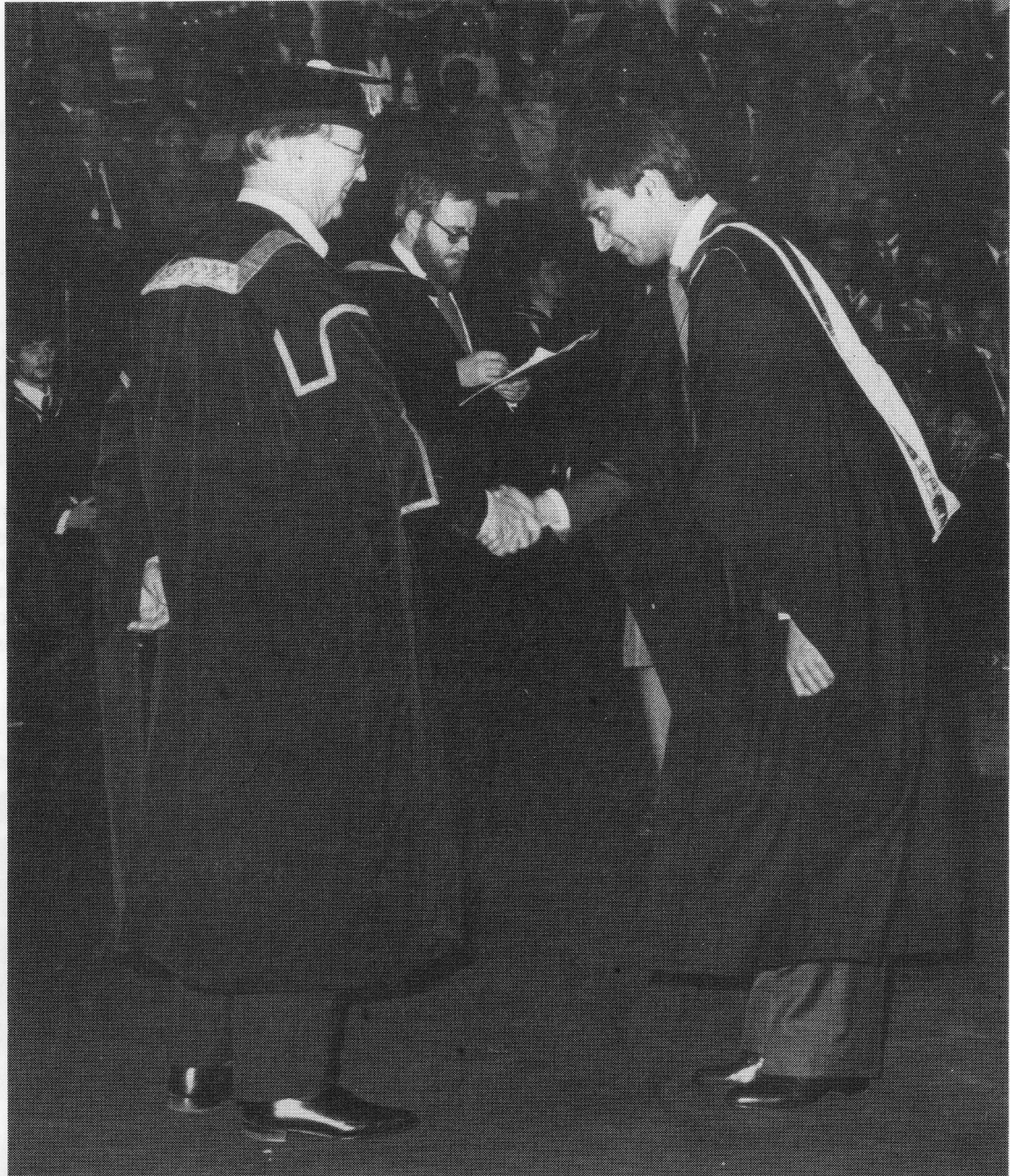
We know the destinations of over 90% of Imperial College home first degree graduates who graduated in 1993. At 31st December, under 11% were unemployed, 38% went on to do higher degrees and 33% gained permanent employment in the UK. The major destinations of those gaining permanent employment included 9% in the public service, 51% in industry and 34% in commerce.

Imperial College home higher

degree graduates recorded only 3% unemployed, 19% went on to further higher degrees and 58% gained permanent employment in the UK. Types of employment included 11% in the public service, 17% in education, 53% in industry and 4% in commerce.

expect their staff to keep up to date. You will also want to develop personal and interpersonal skills to enable you to perform effectively in different organisations and when working on your own.

In the fifties and sixties, students found jobs in their



### Future Careers

Today's graduates will experience many changes in their careers. You cannot expect to join an employer and have a secure career for the rest of your working life. You must equip yourself with the skills to change and to develop throughout your career, both technically and personally.

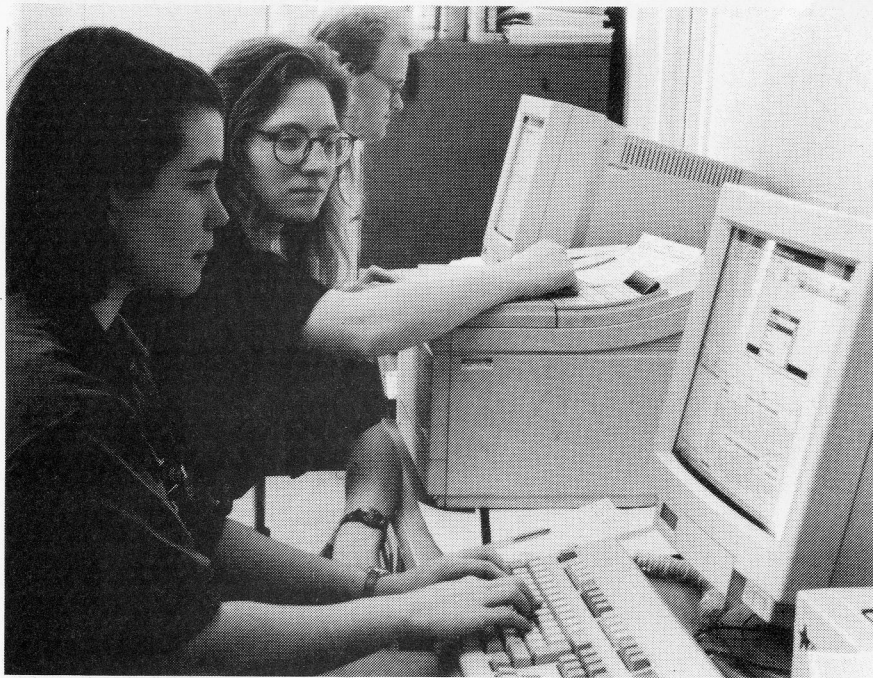
Continuing professional development is recognised by the professions as crucial to their members. Employers

chosen fields without much help from the then embryonic Imperial College Careers Service.

Nowadays, students use the Careers Service to assist them with their choice of careers and their search for jobs both before and after they graduate.

If you find yourself between jobs in a few years time you are welcome to make use of the Careers Service at any time. It is located in room 310 of the Sherfield Building.

# A Week In The Life Of... **Felix**

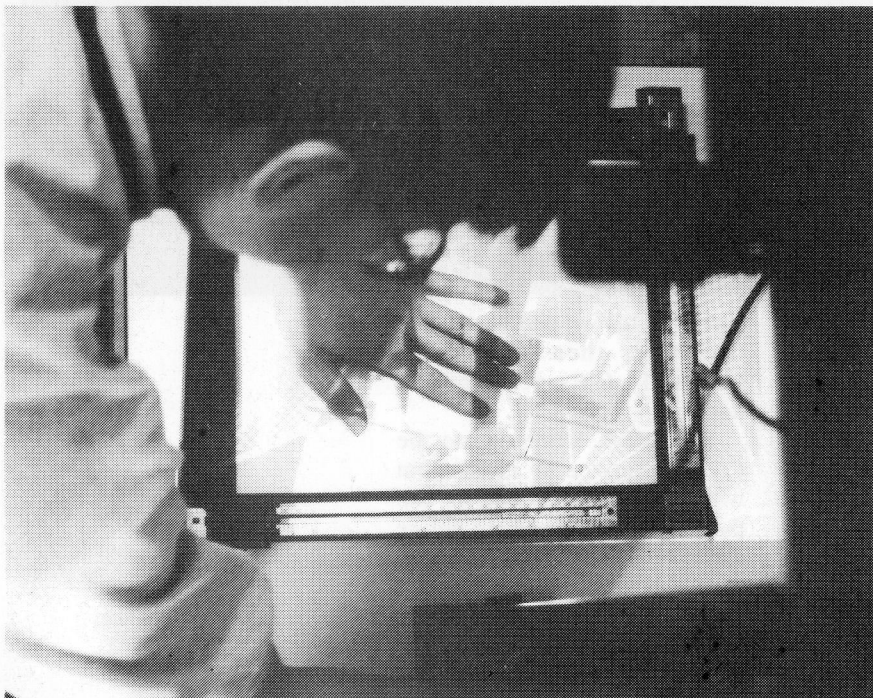


*Articles are written and reviews are typed in on Monday and Tuesday.*

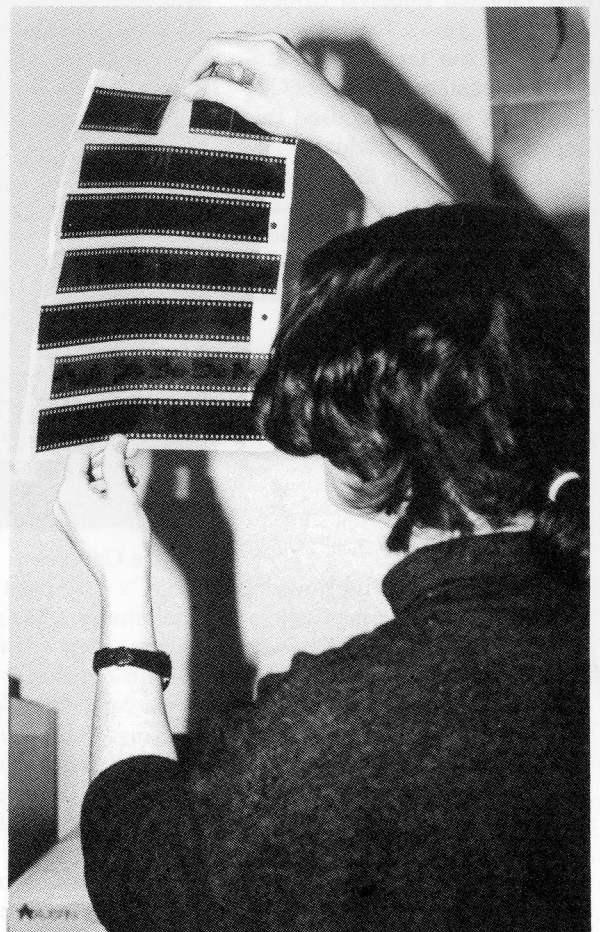
Felix comes out every Friday during term time. An elected sabbatical officer edits the magazine. Its production, however, is still dependant on help from the student sub-editors and contributors. In the space of a week Felix has to be planned, written and printed.

Friday is the deadline for articles although contributors frequently operate their own timetables. Sub-editors begin to arrange previews of films, plays, books and music all of which form an integral part of the paper.

Articles are written and reviews are typed in on Monday and Tuesday. Sub-editors lay out their pages and decide on the photographs they will need. The pages are then proofed and corrected. A dedicated group of photographers take, develop and print many of the photos in our own darkroom.

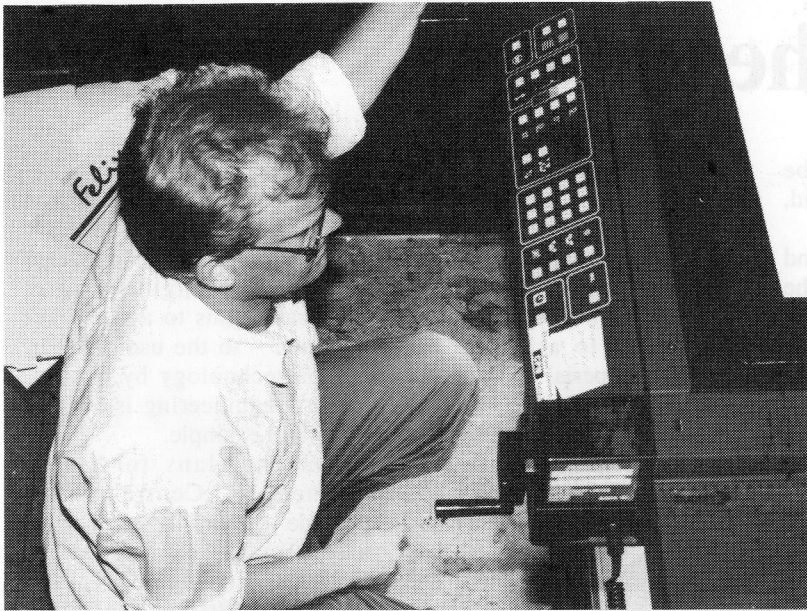


*Photographers take, develop and print many of the photos in our own darkroom.*

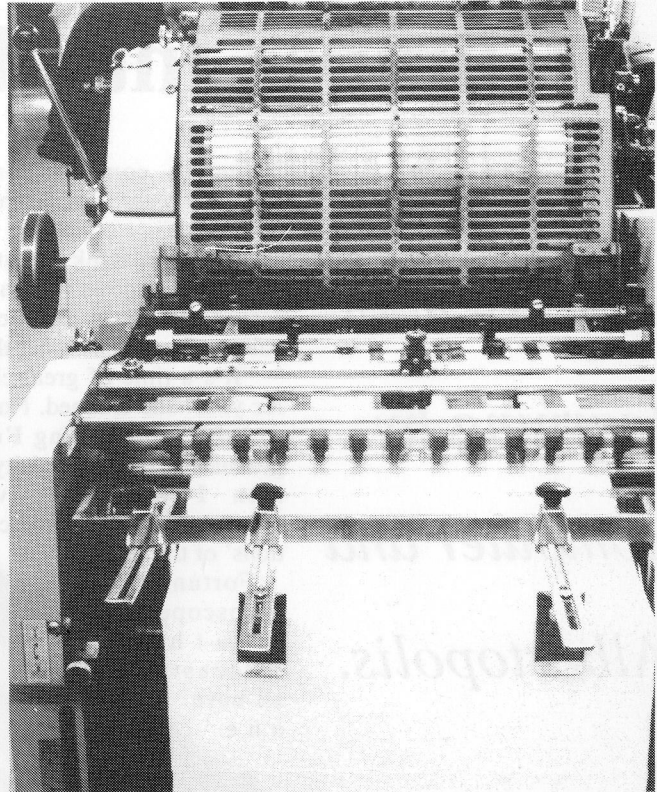


*Sub-editors decide on the photographs.*

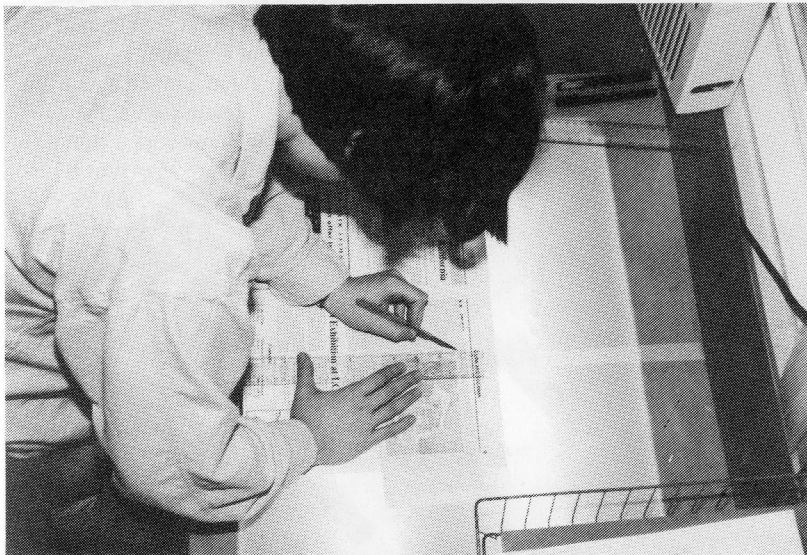




*The chosen photographs are bromided.*



*Felix is printed in the Imperial College Union Print Unit.*



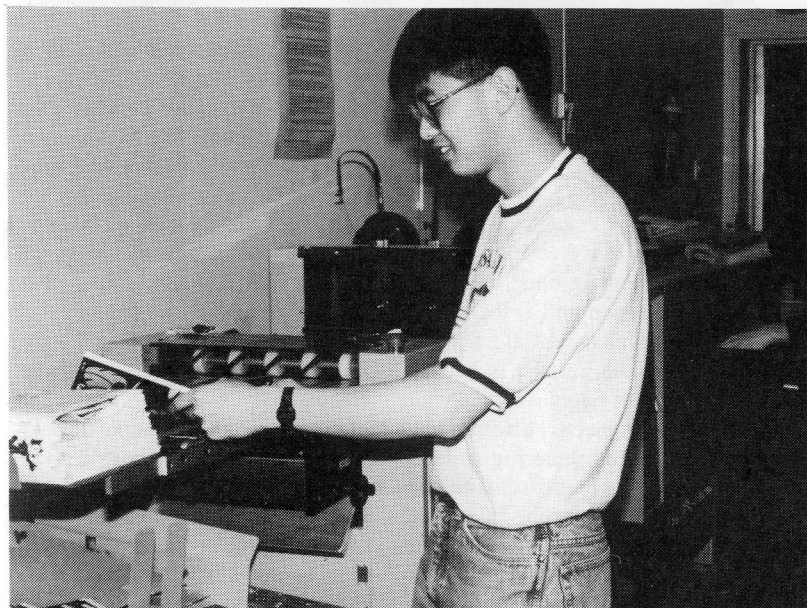
*The pages are then stuck down onto paste-up sheets and the photos are positioned and cut to size.*

The chosen photographs are bromided, a process that transforms a photograph into dots so that it can be printed. The pages are then stuck down onto paste-up sheets. The photos are positioned and then cut to size.

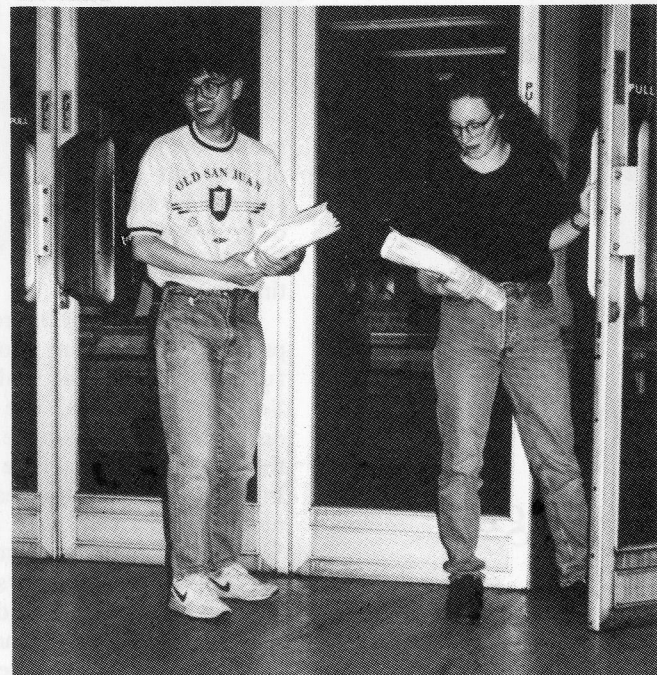
Felix is printed by the Imperial College Union Print Unit. Printing begins on Tuesday and carries through to Thursday afternoon.

Once printing has finished, a group of students use the collating machine to staple and fold 4,000 copies of Felix. This takes most of Thursday evening.

Finally, either late on Thursday evening or early on Friday morning all the copies of Felix are distributed to the departments around the College.



*Students use the collating machine to staple and fold 4,000 copies.*



*Finally, all the copies of Felix are distributed.*

# A Glimpse Into The Future

*A medical super-school, learning by computer and Albertopolis.*

*Joe McFadden investigates the future of Imperial College.*

*Above: Will South Kensington look like this in the twenty-first century?*

"Come in, come in, don't be shy. You want your future told, don't you?"

The room stank of cats and camphor. Shadows wreathed the fortune-teller as she took my palm and traced the lines there.

"It's a time of great change for you," she crooned. No great surprise, considering I'd just graduated from university. But then I was never very impressed by any 'predictions' of the future.

Fortune-telling, horoscopes and weather forecasts all have one

I'm not sure what I'll do," said one student; a sentiment echoed by many in their final year.

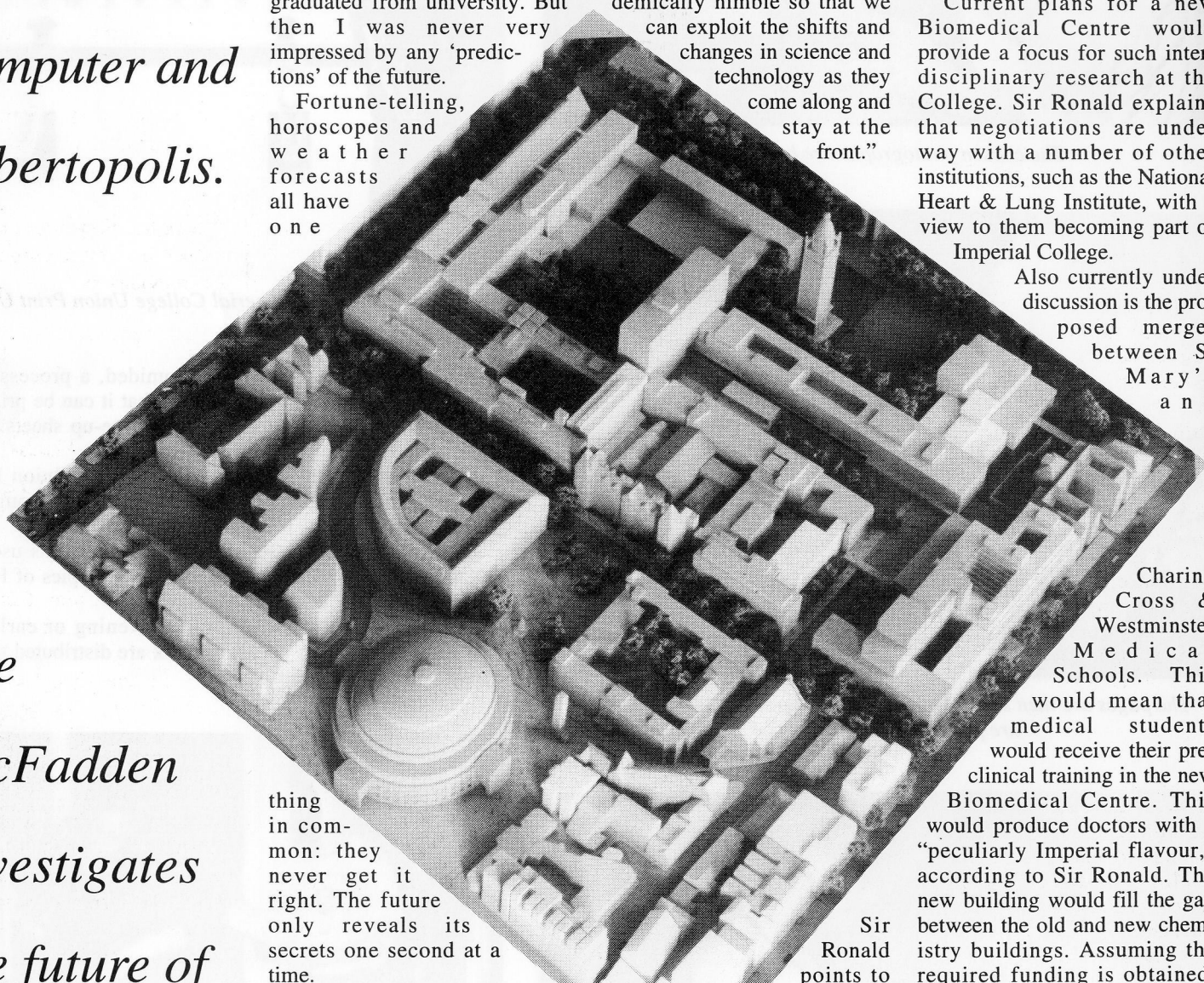
But what about the future of the College itself, what predictions can we make about that? Who better to ask than the Rector of Imperial College, Sir Ronald Oxburgh. He believes that the College must "stay academically nimble so that we can exploit the shifts and changes in science and technology as they come along and stay at the front."

## Life Becoming Hard

Examples of the interaction between the life and hard sciences range from biocompatibility – the engineering of artificial organs to avoid tissue rejection – to the use of information technology by doctors. Genetic engineering is another important example.

Current plans for a new Biomedical Centre would provide a focus for such interdisciplinary research at the College. Sir Ronald explains that negotiations are under way with a number of other institutions, such as the National Heart & Lung Institute, with a view to them becoming part of Imperial College.

Also currently under discussion is the proposed merger between St Mary's and



thing in common: they never get it right. The future only reveals its secrets one second at a time.

Which leaves an interesting problem when writing about the future of Imperial College. Some predictions are safe enough. For example, the thousands who graduate from Imperial College every year will mostly follow well-worn paths. Some go to jobs, some stay on for PhDs, while others will leave with little or no idea of what to do next: "I'll go home, I expect and try to get some temp job to clear my debts. After that,

interdisciplinary research such as biomedical science, environmental science and information technology as essential areas for Imperial College if it is to stay at the cutting edge.

He foresees chemistry, physics and engineering as having important applications in biomedical research. In effect, the life sciences will become increasingly shaped by the 'hard' sciences.

Sir Ronald points to

Charing Cross & Westminster Medical Schools. This would mean that medical students would receive their pre-clinical training in the new Biomedical Centre. This would produce doctors with a "peculiarly Imperial flavour," according to Sir Ronald. The new building would fill the gap between the old and new chemistry buildings. Assuming the required funding is obtained, medical students may arrive at the South Kensington site before the end of the century.

## Learner Drivers on the Data Highway

Stronger links for departments involved in environmental research at the College along with greater attention to information technology are also priorities for the future. Information technology could have a profound effect on

College life, particularly to methods of studying. Sir Ronald predicts that "within five years if we could afford it, or maybe a little bit longer, I'd expect the whole College to be on a fibre-optic net, with outlets in all College premises and in student residence rooms. People could simply take their laptop, plug in, get the week's problems, do them, then transmit them back. Maybe examinations will be done that way." Lectures and conventional libraries will still have their place, however.

**Alien Science**

For Sir Ronald, encouraging interdisciplinary research efforts at the College is the most important thing he could achieve while Rector: "For the future vigour of the College, we are going to have to move into interdisciplinary areas. We've done that effectively in some areas but not in others."

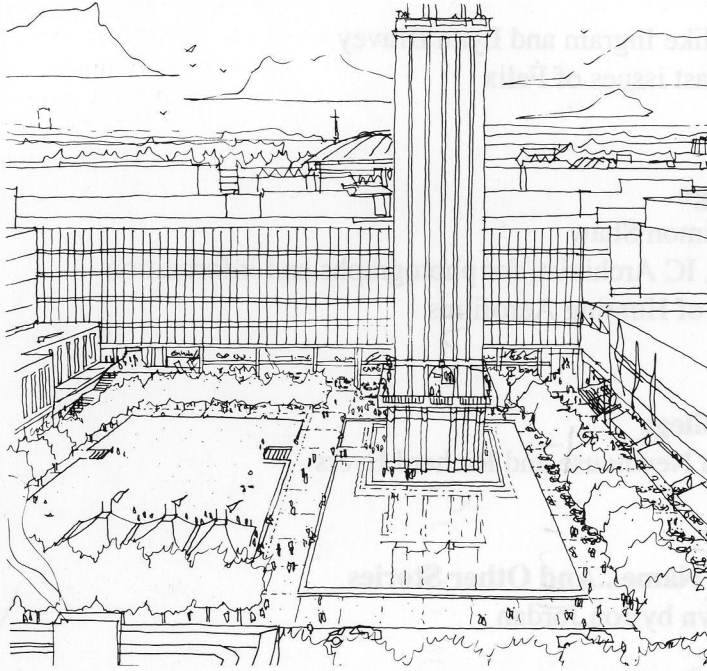
He adds that the divisions between subjects are as much a matter of historical accident as logic. "If an alien being arrived on the earth tomorrow, looked at the sum of human scientific and technological knowledge and was then asked to divide it into convenient chunks for teaching and administration, it's not clear that the subjects of physics, chemistry and biology would emerge," he explains.

As the future role of Imperial College as a university takes shape, the face we show to the outside world may soon be altered dramatically. A scheme to revitalise South Kensington as a centre for science and arts in the next millennium was announced earlier this year, under the title of 'Albertopolis'.

The proposal is the result of two years of discussions between Imperial College and other institutions in the area. The challenge was how to improve the South Kensington

site to meet the demands of the next century.

It quickly became apparent that the aims of individual institutions could benefit from a joint development of the surrounding area. The idea of Albertopolis emerged naturally from these discussions.



*The Albertopolis plans include a remodelled Queen's Lawn with the Queen's Tower surrounded by a reflecting pool.*

**Designs on the Future**

Sir Norman Foster and Partners were the architects chosen to produce a plan for the area. Their proposed solution would provide better public access and amenities. It would unify the institutions physically and allow them to interact more easily with one another.

The project name – a working title – is a tribute to Prince Albert, whose original vision led to the South Kensington we see today.

In the twenty-first century, an Imperial College student would arrive at South Kensington underground station to be greeted by the Millennium Mall – an underground street running the length of Exhibition Road. It would provide direct access to the three museums and the other Albertopolis services, including information centres, ticket offices and shops.

**A Facelift for Imperial College**

Most important for Imperial College are the plans to remodel its unattractive façade. The main change would be improvements to the Queen's Lawn area

to give the College a social focus. More green areas would be created and car-parking would be relocated from Imperial College Road.

Meanwhile, a new building would be built on top of the current mechanical engineering building. Professor John Archer, Pro-Rector of Imperial College describes the new building as "a shop window for what we do at Imperial, providing facilities for lectures and exhibitions. I would hope that it would allow the public to get a better understanding of the science going on at the College."

Exhibitions focussing on the future by the Royal College Of Art would also be displayed.

According to Professor Archer, the Albertopolis project means that "the site could be restored to some of its former splendour as a centre for science and the arts."

Albertopolis will be expensive, so the future of the project depends on money from the Millennium Fund. This is being set up from proceeds from the National Lottery. The Fund is intended to finance a range of projects to commemorate the next century.

Ian Caldwell, Imperial College Estates Manager, thinks that the Albertopolis bid has unique advantages: "It's more large scale than the others...it is, in a sense, a regeneration project and has the extra economic benefit of helping science, technology and medicine."

Some have made grand claims for the Albertopolis scheme: "This could become a model for the rest of London," says Spencer de Grey, who leads the design team.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh is more cautious: "I don't see that great or profound an effect, but it would make Imperial a far more attractive place to study."

**What The Students Think About Albertopolis**

"They should change the name!"

"Well, they can't make Mech Eng look any worse."

"I'm not going to be here, so I don't care."

"It might make South Kensington more expensive for students."

"I'd rather they spent the money on better student accommodation."

**The Year Ahead At Imperial College**

"We're negotiating a big expansion of Union facilities at present, with the first priority being a second-hand bookshop."

*Lucy Chothia, next year's Union President*

"Accommodation at the moment is variable...it doesn't really seem what tomorrow's scientists should be living in while students and that's a high priority for me."

*Dan Look, next year's Deputy President (Finance & Services)*

"My main aim next year is to get more sponsorship for clubs and societies."

*Ian Parish, next year's Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)*

# Credits

## **That Was The World That Was**

Written and researched by Mike Ingram and Lynn Bravey  
Information obtained from past issues of Felix

## **A Brief History Of Imperial College**

Written and researched by Simon Shaw  
With thanks to Anne Barrett, IC Archivist, for photographs and information  
Aerial photographs courtesy of Hunting Aerofilms

## **A Day In The Life Of Imperial College**

Photographs taken by Steven Newhouse and Richard Eyers

## **How The Huxley Building Got Its Name...And Other Stories**

Written, researched and drawn by Jon Jordan

## **Looking Back Over 80 Years Of Clubs And Societies**

Written and researched by Juliette Decock and Wei Lee  
Information obtained from past issues of Felix, Phoenix and the ICU Handbook

## **Changing Careers Of Graduates**

Written by John Simpson, Director of the Imperial College Careers Service

## **A Week In The Life Of Felix**

Photographs taken by Steven Newhouse and Richard Eyers

## **A Glimpse Into The Future**

Written and researched by Joe McFadden  
Photograph by Richard Eyers  
Sketch courtesy of Sir Norman Foster and Partners

## **Felix Icons From The Past**

Artwork prepared by Rebecca Land

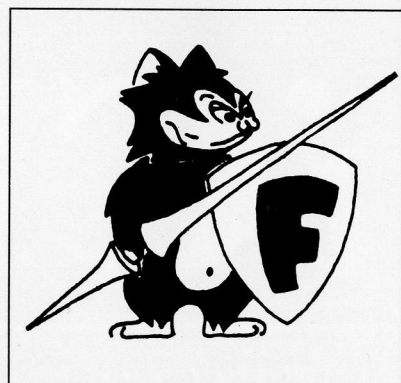
*Cover photograph taken by Richard Eyers*



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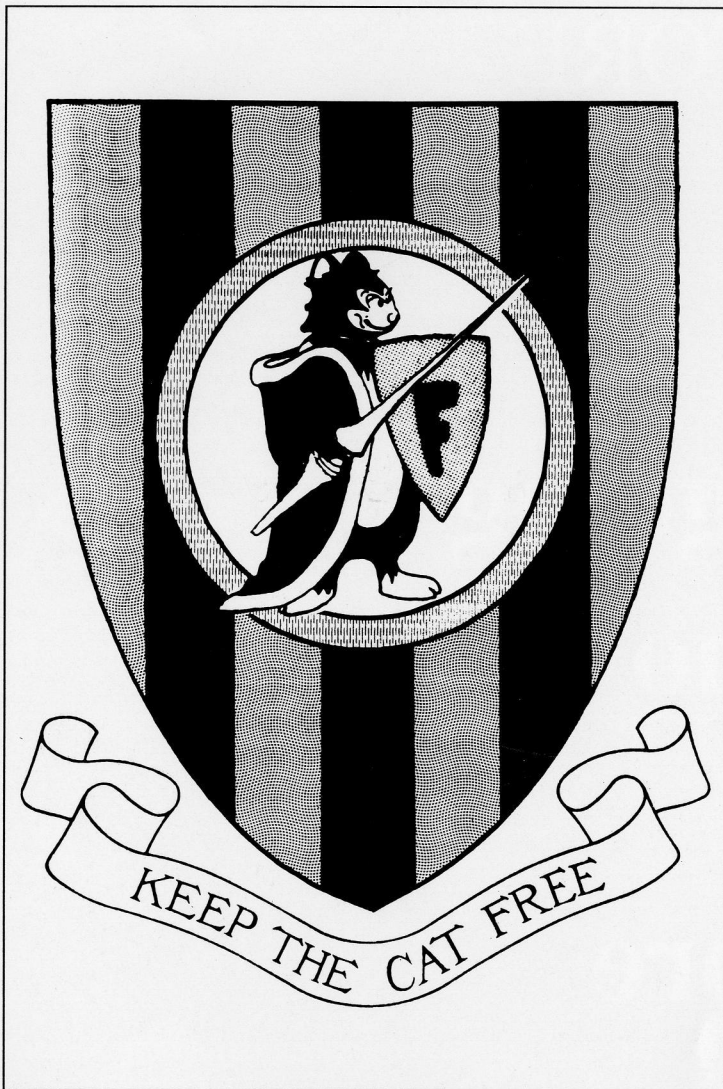
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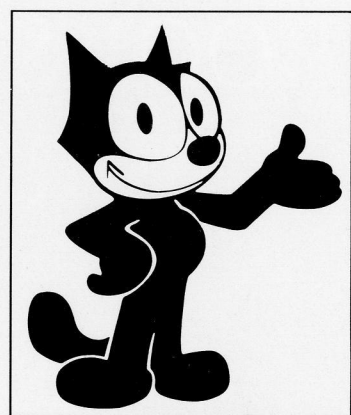
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1987/88



The motto of Felix



1993/94



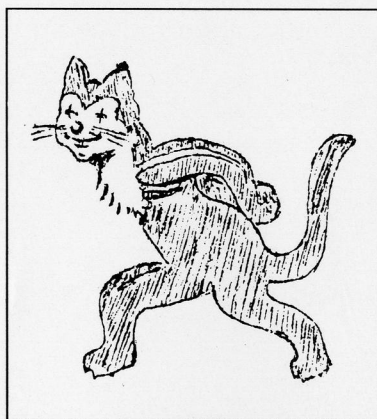
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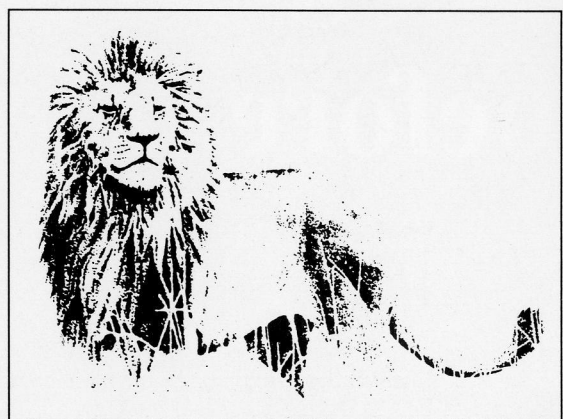
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1949/50



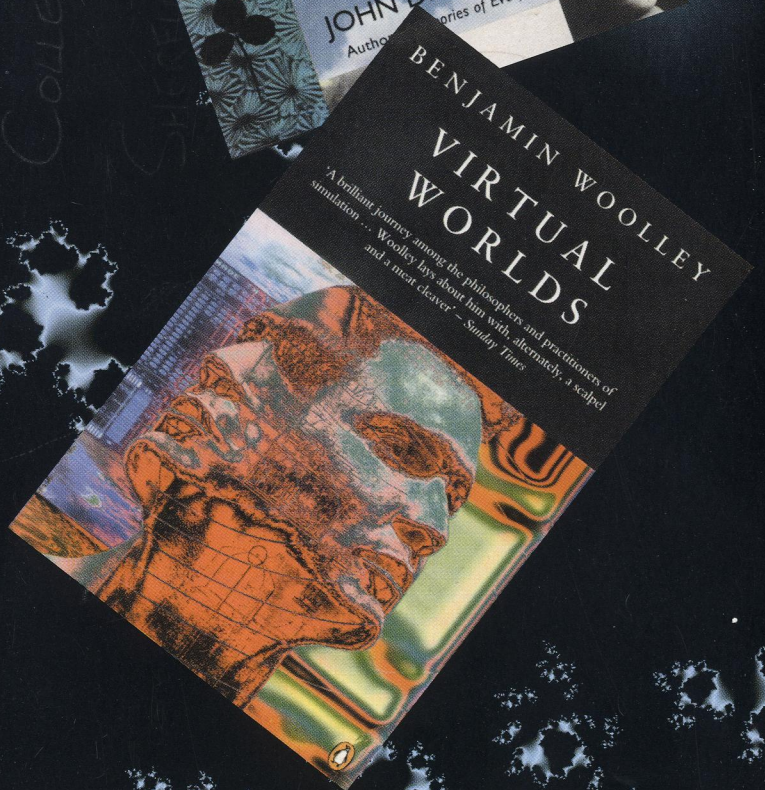
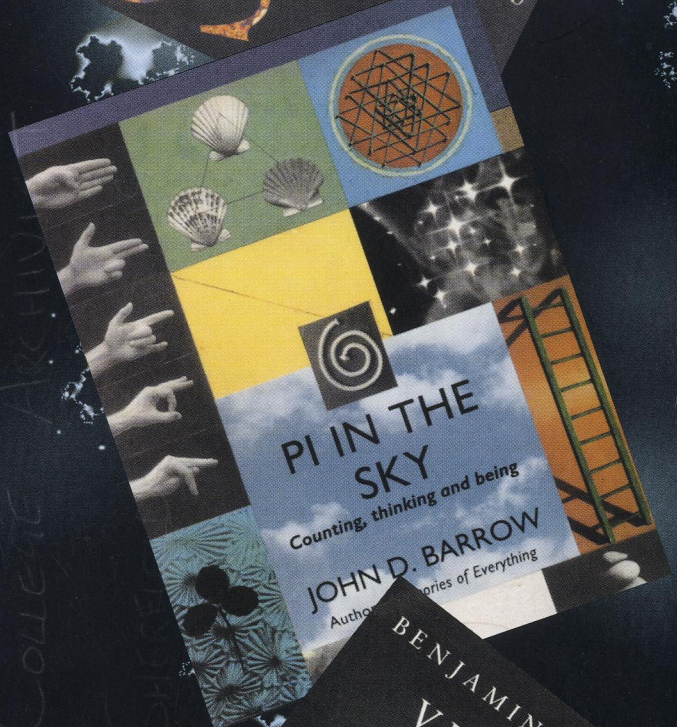
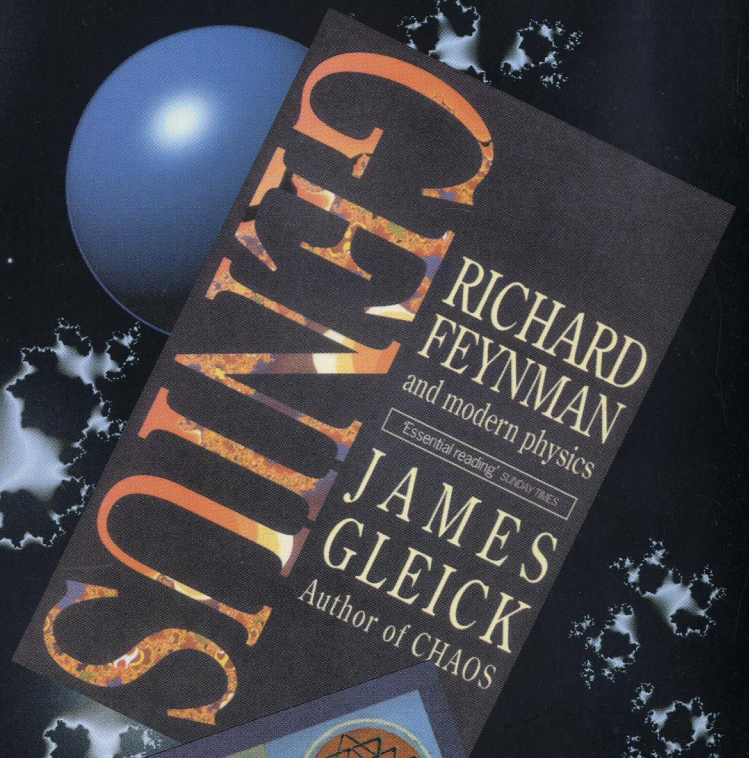
1991/92

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2047

# Felix

Issue 1000

27th May 1994

# Felix

# 1000th Edition

## Catastrophe On The Eve Of Felix's 1000th Edition

BY OUR NEWS STAFF

On the eve of the publication of *Felix 1000*, disaster struck the Imperial College Union Print Unit. The litho, which is used to print *Felix* every week, broke down at around midday yesterday.

*Felix 1000* was due to be produced in two parts: a normal *Felix* (containing news, reviews, letters and articles) and a special 1000th Edition Supplement. By the time the litho broke down, the supplement had been printed, but only a third of the

normal *Felix* had been completed.

The printer, Andy Thompson, attempted to repair the litho in order for the printing to continue but, despite his extensive printing experience, he was forced to call the maintenance engineer.

The engineer was unable to assess the situation until early this morning and Mr Thompson was unsure, at the time of writing, if the litho was immediately repairable. Even if it could be repaired within a couple of hours, this would still be too late for *Felix 1000* to be completed

in time to be distributed with the Supplement. In order to explain the situation, this flyer was photocopied late on Thursday evening.

It is hoped that the litho will be functioning again in time for printing *Felix* next week. Any articles submitted for today's issue will be carried forward to next week.

The *Felix* staff would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused and hope that you enjoy reading the Supplement.

**FELIX**

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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