



FELIX

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION Friday 20th June 1980 Issue No 558



Rich Parker

?

7686369774870 x
2465099745779

= 18947669177995426462773730

Shakuntala Devi, the woman who can multiply faster than a computer, visited IC on Wednesday. She solved the above thirteen by thirteen digit multiplication in 28 seconds!

Besides performing multiplications, Shakuntala demonstrated her skills at finding roots of large numbers.

She calculated the 5th root of 69343957 in a few seconds.

In between calculations many students in the packed Maths Lecture Theatre asked her to name the day of the week on which they were born. Immediately after they announced their date of birth, Shakuntala gave the correct answer.



Photo above: Shakuntala Devi in action

Colin Palmer

Habemus Imperatrem

John Passmore is of academic standing and will be next year's ICU President.

John was handed the chair at last Monday's meeting of Joint Council.



At Council, Dr Ken Weale was presented with an engraved tankard to commemorate his retiring as College Tutor.

Joint Council Report page 3

NER-A-CAR LIVES

The Ner-a-Car is a 1925 vintage motorcycle belonging to City and Guilds College Union which has been restored over the past year.

Yesterday, after standing motionless for twenty-five years, the Ner-a-Car once again burst forth into life. It completed several circuits of College before retiring for a well earned rest.

Whipped

Last week a group of students from QEC took the 'Whipping Post Lane' road sign from the Union Bar. They managed to run out of Beit Quad but were stopped outside the Iraqi Embassy by Diplomatic Police. IC students chased after the gang from QEC and on arrival at the Embassy the IC contingent complained that their road sign had been nicked. The Police gave us back the sign and questioned the students from QEC for several minutes... while we returned to the bar.

Below: Shakuntala asks students for problems to solve

Colin Palmer



Rescue

The Union transport fleet ran into more problems this week when the Cricket Club tour was stranded in Bristol.

The traditional end-of-season tour to the West Country ran into difficulties on the first day. The team set off from College early on Tuesday morning for their first match in Bristol.

By mid-afternoon, the Club was forced to call the Union for help.

It seems that the Union Transit crewbus had a cracked engine block and that it was not possible to continue using the vehicle for the rest of the tour. However,

Chris Fox and Martin Watson leapt to the rescue and took a Union landrover down the M4.

So, not only has Union Transport been badly hit this year by crashes, breakdowns and a financial crisis, but Cricket Club are still bedeviled by bad luck.

Throughout the summer, bad weather has led to many cancellations; and when the sun shone, the opposition cancelled. Unfortunately, this breakdown and the current heavy rain means that there seems to be no change in fortunes for the team.

LETTERS

Dear Colin

Inspired by the pool of intelligence that wrote last week's letter on the

- hardness of concrete
- virtues of grass
- disgusting inaccuracies

flaunted by Mr O'Boyle.

I have decided to add my piece to the ever increasing anti-concrete/pro-grass/Beit Quad-sectors plea.

Firstly, I am aware that the first aim of the designers was not that of beauty to Imperial College students. No: they had a larger scale of things in mind. They thought (honest, they did) only to make it a lovely sight from the sky. You know, the beautiful radial spokes patterned out in stabs and the intrinsic beauty of the barbecue pits. I really believe they were merely thinking of the air passengers stuck over London with absolutely nothing to do except stare with rapture at our newly constructed marvel.

I feel this well meaning scheme has been grossly slandered. How could we fall and break our arms on grass? As Messrs Attenborough, Bellamy, Attenborough and Evans

stated grass has soothing properties. However the wisdom of the design is obvious — who likes being soothed? Everyone likes to wake up in the morning, jump out of bed, breath in fresh air and get threatened by a concrete slab.

Golly, whoppee, gosh, goodness is it not wonderful to know that all the decisions made here have been based totally on concern for the citizens of College, nay, not College, for England, nay not England but the world!!!

Yours with a sincere feeling of safety in the hands of such decisions, Perry, I even sing about it, Como Kevin, I always play on it, Keegan Michael, I wish it was there, Brown (Maths 2)

Dear Sir

With reference to the letter on security which appeared in FELIX, may I throw more light on the subject of which Messrs Clark and Stevens should make themselves aware.

Back doors in many cases are left open by students and staff who

are too idle to use main entrances after the said doors are locked. At Physics, it is usually people from Huxley who come to the main entrance to gain easy access to Beit Hall, and once opened these doors must be locked again by key and bearing in mind the fact that only one security guard operates at weekends, the building could, and is sometimes, open for an hour or so at a time whilst the guard is doing his rounds. Situations like this occur in most buildings, and yet the College will be cutting the numbers of guards and messengers. I would now like to talk about Southside security having three years experience in that department on night security.

Who breaks the glass in doors and windows to allow access to the intruder? Usually drunken students.

I cannot count the number of times the glass in the entrance doors to Keogh Hall have been smashed during the night.

The entrance door to Stan's Bar (which I think should be done away with) is often latched back by students on leaving, after it has

been secured. I once put it to Mr Mellows and the late Mr Dawson that instead of students having access keys to Keogh-Selkirk and Falmouth-Tizard entrances everybody at night uses the main entrance and if necessary have their passes checked. (This would possibly have eliminated the rape, and would certainly help to keep out intruders.) It would also prevent students from wedging the doors open to allow late friends to gain entry to parties, etc and sleeping in the baths.

I have on numerous occasions found it necessary to evict people (strangers) from the Union Room above the Radio Room after they have been given a key to sleep rough. After four years on night security I would say that most of the non-security is caused by lack of cooperation from students and staff, and a severe lack of manpower.

Yours

F Adamson

Messenger Bio/Chem

PS: If you would care for a wider view on College security come and see me.

Good Time Had By All At FELIX Rally

The Annual FELIX Motor Rally took place on Sunday 15th June. The event was won by a team from City and Guilds College Union with ninety-four points. The team members were: H Curwen, J Armitage, B Stevenson and S Ridd. An Imperial College Union Executive team was second with seven-two points and a team from the Royal College of Science Union third with sixty-five points.

The event consisted of three

sections. Firstly, each team had to collect twenty items of treasure. These items ranged from a kettle to a photograph of Ian Botham to a fifty pence postal order made payable to IC Charity Rag. The organiser of the event was most disappointed to find that no team handed in a certain item — a copy of the 1980 'Mayfair' calendar!

The second section consisted of a series of clues around

London. Each team were given the location of the answer and the appropriate clue. The answers ranged from eighteen inch high letters on the side of a pub wall (Fine Beers and Spirits), which three crews spotted, to the tiny maker's name of a type of socket on a drainpipe in the City. Surprisingly, no teams spotted that one!

The final part of the rally was a series of clues taken from

engraving and plaques located around College. The teams were not told the locations of the answers — they had to find them. One of the clues referred to the plaque under the Union Archway only six feet from the FELIX Office door — only half the teams spotted the answer!

Generally, a good day was had by all who competed and finally, congratulations must go to the winning team from City and Guilds Union.

Martin Watson

PINBALL — Past Feelings on this 'sex machine'

This letter was first printed in FELIX on 28th February 1975.

Dear Sir

During the one and a half years that I have been at this college I have noted with interest the strange and ostensibly emotional involvement many male students have with Mr Gottlieb's game of pinball. I would like therefore with your leave, to examine this phenomenon using the much ridiculed and maligned, though basically correct, techniques and theories of psycho-analysis developed by Jung, Freud and the more obscure T Endur.

It does not require very deep analysis to expose the motivation of this 'game'. The pinball machine is merely an extension of the phallus, whilst the operation of the flippers (nipples?) with passionately convulsive pelvic thrusts is a sub-conscious sexual intercourse. Attaining an orgasm is thinly disguised as the 'replay'; the 'tilt' when exuberant thrusting has affected the machine is the selfish premature

ejaculation due to insufficient selfcontrol. The cacophonous bells and buzzers and flashing lights of the submissive, reclining machine all serve to hold reserved for the beauty of the female body. Pinball has become a primitive sex substitute. How often do you see women 'playing the silver ball' and have your readers never been struck by the incongruity of this sight?

I think that my observations will make clear to many of your more sensitive readers the truly primitive nature of the lusts and desires of many students at our illustrious college. The promulgation of the image of the Imperial student as a beer drinking, pinball playing, super virile male and the competition between rival factions within the college for supremacy I find pitifull and nauseous. I hope that my analysis, the truth of which cannot be doubted, will serve to lead those who are penitent towards the path of truth, beauty and virtue.

Floreat Collegium!

Annabel Listz

PINBALL UPDATED

Pinball originated in the days of the ancient Greeks who used to play a game with rocks and holes on a hillside. Through the ages, the ancient game has captivated a wide variety of participants from seventeenth century schoolboys to the members of the court of Louis XIV. In 1836 Charles Dickens referred to a contemporary version of the game in the 'Pickwick Papers'. He described the Peacock Tavern where members of the Pickwick Club "beguiled their time chiefly with such amusements as the Peacock offered, which was limited to a bagatelle board on the first floor".

Bagatelle remained a fairly popular pastime which still survives today. However, in the late 1920s the introduction of a coin-chute heralded the beginning of a new era and started a new industry.

(continued on back page)

JOINT COUNCIL a biased report by Fox

Joint Council: Some call it a festival of hacks, some a crashing bore, but whatever, this year's was eagerly awaited.

The meeting started twenty minutes late at 14:20 after Anti-Apartheid Group and a Holy Alliance had teamed up to lobby members of the Committee on the Boat Club boat issue.

First off were the apologies, never have they been so closely scrutinised, the "who was repping for who issue" being thrown in with the "are they eligible to?"

Matters arising arose and straight away the agenda was tampered with to bring all matters pertaining boats together. The motion disallowing any lending of boats to SAs was proposed by Mary Attenborough (Rep for K Pratt) and was spoken to by Dare Afolabi (Rep for Dave Lyons). E Lindsay (speaking for herself) spoke against the motion. Another round of speeches was called for and D Everett (Rep for F Sinclair) further enlarged the case and T Hillyer (Rep for J Passmore) against. Dare summed up and a vote was taken on the motion, which was carried.

At this point and during the subsequent hour many of the representatives then departed. Thereby leaving those they claimed to represent, unrepresented, and

those who cared about democratic discussion of student affairs to carry on for a further five hours.

Next up came a discussion on College security; this reared its head again in motions. IC Radio outlets in Evelyn Gardens was then discussed, J Armitage opposing this increased amenity on grounds that students might not be able to use the on-off switch. However, despite a spirited attempt to vote IC Radio out of existence, a decision to push for outlets in the Gardens was made.

Malcolm then went on to present a large portion of his Annual Report verbally and the meeting managed to remain in open session even though LST was mentioned. The Annual Reports were accepted in a pretty passive way.

The ICU Reps on the College committees were then elected/chosen/coerced. Governing Body and F&E Reps being voted by STV giving Wodger a chance to show his credentials as a vote counter extraordinaire, John Passmore, Rae Snee and Bob Bradley (next year's ICU AAO) eventually winning. Just before a recess was taken the Hon Sen Treasurer, Dr Ken Weale, was presented with an engraved tankard to commemorate his retiring as College Tutor. The President pointed out that Ken has been Union Treasurer for twenty-five years and he hoped that he would continue for a lot longer. Council then gave Ken a standing ovation.

After a break of three-quarters of an hour, which included the sampling of

Breakspeares and plastic bread, the meeting returned to order and started to debate the many motions that had been submitted: dayglo paper, mileage rates, Southside Residents on the Mews Residence Committee and PWP were discussed. However, the most discussion came on College Security, the Nuclear Technology Course and IC Radio in the bar.

The meeting voted on quite a strong policy calling for tighter security. It was decided that it could not morally press the College to reject its students because of their nationality and that the Bar Committee Reps should press for the removal of the speaker in the Union.

With very little further drama the Chair was handed over by Fox to John Passmore, who then went straight into the awards.

Malcolm Brain, Tim Hillyer, Jo Armitage and Chris Fox were awarded pots and Honorary Life Membership. Roger Stotesbury, Suki Kalairi, Frank James and Dave Crabbe, Honorary Life Membership. Mr John Shuttleworth was awarded the Dave Chance Memorial Award (which is a Dummy).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19:40 and the barrel closed at 22:30.

So there we must leave them, as the sun sets over the Union year, the resilient members of Council already gone, the others? Well they'll be stored over the summer, revived in October, dusted down wheeled out and set in motion for another season of Union Councils.

A career in chartered accountancy is indeed open-ended, but only to those who start it with clarity and determination. It can make you a local or international professional. It can make you a specialist or a generalist. It can make you an adviser, a problem-solver, a trouble-shooter or a local community leader. But successful accountants are realists as well as imaginative. They

requires. It's a tall order training a chartered accountant.

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Remember our brochure?

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PG TIPS

Elections

At the Annual General Meeting of the PG Group on 12th June, the following people were elected next year's posts:

PG Affairs Officer: John Whitehouse (Chem)
Secretary: John Habershon (DSES)
Treasurer: Graham Green (Chem)
Social Secretary: Douglas Armstrong (Chem)
Welfare Officer: Marcus Karolowski (Chem Eng)

Trip To Cambridge

There will be a highly subsidised PG Group trip to Cambridge (costing only about a pound each) on 25th July. Like last year this it will coincide with the last day of the Cambridge Beer Festival. As we are in a position to hire only two coaches, see that you buy your tickets well in advance. Tickets will be available by the first week of July and can be bought either from the Union Office, any of the PG Group Committee members or departmental PG reps. In any case notices will be put up giving detailed information about the trip and names of the people from whom tickets can be bought.

Silwood PG Event

The PG Group is subsidising a barn dance and barbecue at Silwood on 27th June. The charge would be £1.50 per person and will entitle each ticket holder to two drinks (real ale or wine). Those of you who are interested in attending this event can phone up Chris Endacott on Silwood 240 during the day or on Ascot 23911 ext 9 in the evenings. You would probably have to make your own travel arrangements.

JCR In The Summer

Here is a word of warning to those PGs who may get into arguments with the Day Bookings people in the JCR during the summer vacations. The JCR **DOES NOT** belong to the Union during the summer vacations. It is hired out to people by College and the Union gets two-thirds of the revenue. So don't get unduly perturbed when you find the JCR being used by conference delegates while you may think they are taking over facilities which first and foremost belong to you rightfully. During the summer vacations they don't. So please bear these facts in mind as arguments such as the ones pointed to above have in the past led to a reduction in the revenue to the Union from hiring out the JCR.

M Phil/PhD Supervision

In the last instalment of PG Tips you were informed about what the Graduate Studies Committee was doing about ensuring proper supervision of research students. Well the efforts have proved to be fairly successful and as of now at least eighteen departments in the College either already have or have agreed to take one or more of the following steps to ensure the welfare of research students: (i) appointing a PG staff/student committee; (ii) appointing a PG tutor; (iii) appointing an 'advisor' to each research student in addition to his/her supervisor; (iv) appointing a thesis committee to regularise transfer from M Phil to PhD; (v) limiting the number of students under one supervisor at any one time, and (vi) having an annual review of the research students in the department.

MSc Nuclear Fuel Technology

You would perhaps remember that the safety aspects of this course were discussed in these columns before. But more serious than that is the fact that the College has no policy regarding restricting admission of students from countries that have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to this course. This I think is a rather pathetic situation. Considering that it is very debatable as to which aspects of nuclear technology can be used for civil purposes and which for military, it would only seem prudent to take adequate policy measures to restrict admission to this course.

Over And Out

In this last instalment of PG Tips I would like to mention the names of those who devoted a considerable amount of their time to the activities of the PG Group. They are Frank James, Peter Mitchell, Steve Gunn and John Whitehouse. They deserve the thanks of all PGs for the effort they put in.

Bharat Bhushan
PG Affairs Officer (outgoing)

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IN MEMORIUM

A year of writing illegible articles for *Broadsheet* followed by this year of FELIX hacking has left me, finally lost for words.

But deep down I know that this is my last opportunity to wax eloquently (or otherwise) to an assembled mass of 2-4000 persons, depending on how many FELIXes get collated.

In the past I have tried smart-assed writing, I've tried cynicism and I've tried downright nastiness. Well don't expect me to change my style now!

The problem of how to write one's own obituary has, however, disturbed me. I picked up the "Guide To Fading Into Obscurity" by J M Berry and flicked through the opening paragraphs: "Recreations", "Humble Thanks" and "Graceless Comments", but to be frightfully honest it wasn't helpful.

Four years have now passed since I arrived on the IC scene and now lie like so many calendar pages in the dustbin of my mind. But what else is in the trash can.

I rummage. What do I find? Torn election posters from two different campaigns, a punctured rugby ball (a symbol of my athletic career) and about 100 old dinner menus. Can that be all that remains of this exciting and formative period? Of course not. Further delving being careful not to cut myself on the empty Swan cans, and in amongst the half-eaten curries my 'Salad Days' unfold.

I remember that Ten Tors trip in my first year which taught me so much. I recall how in one weekend I learned that the secret of achievement lies in the desire to achieve and the belief that one will. Was it this quickly emerging super-confidence that persuaded an unknown rugby player to become President? Who really cares?

Digging and stirring in the bin I've now found countless fragments of memorabilia evidence of dozens of events all important in their own way and welling inside me I feel almost nostalgic.

Almost is however the operative word, four years is a long time and it is time I left, a postgraduate prevarication would be unhealthy (and out of the question), so I'm looking forward to setting foot into the outside world!

'Reviews of the Year', verdicts and comparisons really serve no purpose as patently, mankind never learns by its mistakes even if it manages to identify them. Anyway I've written two already.

I will say though, that I have enjoyed the challenge of this job and that I nearly enjoyed the job itself. A brief plummet into statistics reveals the following:

Estimated Breakdown Of The Work Of Fox:

Telephone calls answered — 40000
Letters written — 2100
Meetings attended — 750
Pints drunk — 2800
Dinners attended — 37
Campaigns organised — who me?
Cups of coffee drunk — 500
Bullshit shifted — 25.37 tonnes

"Hello: 3915"

"Can I speak to the President please?"

"Hi there; Chris Fox speaking"

"Oh! I wanted John Passmore"

"OVER AND OUT"

"The King is dead; Thank God!"

taveerso and bye FOX (x)

Campaign on Repressive Technology

If you sell someone a weapon, knowing that it will be used to kill an innocent person, do you share in the guilt of killing?

Apart from the sale of weapons for national defence, British firms conduct a large export trade in guns and other equipment such as radios, television cameras and computers which they know will be used for the suppression of internal dissent. The Pye radios found among the bodies at Idi Amin's 'State Research Centre' in Uganda are an example.

Amnesty International, which exists to protect people from persecution for their opinions, is conducting a campaign on repressive technology. In January the chairman of its British Section asked Mrs Thatcher to widen export controls, which at present apply only to weapons in the narrow sense and even then not if they are sold to the Commonwealth, the United States, Pakistan, Ireland or South Africa. She refused, saying that such action would "have significant implications for our trade and our relations with other countries". Concern about the morality of British profits from this trade prompted a parliamentary request to Lord Strathcona, a Defence Minister of State, to name the countries which would be represented at the British Army Equipment Exhibition

next week in Aldershot. He refused.

On 23rd June the Director of Amnesty's British Section, Cosmas Desmond, will appeal to Francis Pym, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, to name the countries, in order to allay public suspicion that we are selling arms to regimes which torture and murder their citizens. The Imperial College group of Amnesty is asking for the support of the Union President, Chris Fox and the Rector, the Lord Flowers, for the appeal.
Charles Penman

Communist Society

The Communist University of London 1980 Nine Days of Marxist Discussion will be held between 5th and 13th July at the University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1. The CUL 1980 offers over fifty different courses including 'Introduction To Marxism', 'Euro-communism Where Now?', 'New Technology: Politics of Nuclear Power', 'Gays and Politics', 'The Women's Movement Today' and a wide variety of international topics, including China, Southern Africa, Ireland, etc. There are evening events and self-contained weekend courses for those who are working during the week. The whole event is well worth devoting a week to. Over 1,000 people attend each year and speakers are drawn from all areas of Left and radical politics.

Propectuses are available from Mary Attenborough, Rm 640 Huxley (x4338) or write to CUL Organiser, 116 Kings Street, London WC2.

Leaving College This Year?

Does the thought of missing your weekly copy of FELIX, leave you in a quivering mess (*remember, Steve Marshall is editing it next year*). Well.....

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Jesus Christ, do you honestly think I would want that bag of crap defiling my letter box every week/**Boy oh boy, would I like FELIX to be sent to me every week for one year. I have enclosed cheque/postal order/cash for £6.00*.**

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IC Cricket Club vs Kenton Traders

With two IC players at a meeting and temporarily unavailable it was in IC's interest to bat first. The captain of the day was Andy Harris who duly lost the toss, but luck was with IC as the opposition put IC in to bat first.

Kenrick and Turner opened. Kenrick taking his first and last strike giving catching practice to square leg off the first ball of the day. Harris came in and made 27 before edging a catch to the keeper. Scoring was slow due to Arthur not being able to find his lawn mower and boundaries were hard to get. With only forty minutes to tea and the score on 74, Turner was out for 33 attempting to hit a ball onto the M4. He missed. From a position of 74 for 2 wickets fell fast. At 92 for 7, Morton, who had been dragged out of a meeting was sent in to hit out and to get 150 runs on the board by tea but the booze at the meeting must have gone to his head; the first ball was missed (perhaps the ball was difficult to see through the haze of alcoholic fumes) and the second he was out caught. A useful 17 not out by Mitchell gave IC a final score of 119 before the last wicket went down in the last over before tea.

Kenton Traders made an auspicious start to their innings. IC's bowling strength, in the form of Bob Dean, lumbered out of the long grass to let his first ball go. The outside edge was struck and Harris made a superb catch at second slip. Dean's second ball was similar to his first, the batsman played the same stroke and Harris made an

identical catch. At this point the remaining nine fielders wanted to know whether they were required or could they go to the bar and watch Dean and Harris finish the game!

It was not that simple. Dean took another two wickets in his fourth over and another in his fifth when the score stood at 19 for 5. The Traders then made a recovery to 102 for 8 and were well on their way to winning the match with one batsman scoring fast but Morton was to redeem himself by unsuspectingly throwing down the wicket at the bowlers' end when the batsman was just ambling to complete what should have been an easy run.

With only one over to go before the close of play the Traders defended their remaining wicket solidly to make sure of a certain draw. With fielders clustered all round the bat the last ball of the day was bowled by Silva; the batsman gave the catch IC so badly needed and Fifield, looking death in the face had he dropped it, held on. A match which could have been lost, drawn or even tied was won on the last ball. Who said cricket was a boring game?

Team: M Kenrick, P Turner, A Harris (capt), P Silva, R Fifield, A Hunter, P Hewkin, T Mitchell, N Morton, G Brereton, R Dean.

WATER POLO

On Tuesday 10th, IC had their last game of the season against Penguin. Exams badly affected team selection and we only managed to get seven players in the pool and no substitutes.

Cliff Spooner opened the score for IC with a clever shot, positioned in front of the goal. Penguin were playing very aggressively and their marking was rough and rather dirty, so they managed to score three goals in succession and took the lead. Andy Smith scored our second goal, after receiving the ball from Dimitri Papaconstantinou, to make the score 3-2 to them at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter Cliff Spooner played at the goal and our performance improved markedly. Pat Porter and Nick Last tightened their marking in defence and they did not let Penguin score again. After a goalless second quarter, we equalised at the end of the third quarter with a shot from Phil Mills, despite their continuous dirty marking, which resulted in five of them being sent off during the game. Steve Taylor organised our game in midpool and we scored two more goals in the fourth quarter, with Phil Mills and Andy Smith. The final score was 5-3 to IC.

This game was for the fourth division of the Middlesex League. We have won all the matches this year and, with two more matches to be played in October, it is more than certain that we will be promoted to the third division next year. Every player of the Water Polo Club should be congratulated for this remarkable achievement.

Team: Steve Taylor, Cliff Spooner, Pat Porter, Andy Smith, Phil Mills, Nick Last, Dimitri Papaconstantinou.

Cheers!
Dimitri

REVIEW

FAME (AA, Alan Parker)

Following the enormous success attained by *Midnight Express*, director Alan Parker has chosen a rather unusual subject for this, his third film project. *Fame* is a musical drama set in New York's High School For The Performing Arts — a state school which gives needy children the chance of going to a sort of stage school. Here they learn dance, drama and music as well as the normal school subjects.

The dramatic content is basically designed to show the realities of success and failure, tracking the development of eight main characters during their time at the school. Comedy and music are contrasted with the tragedies of life in New York, as well as the risks of being a performer.

The film is split into sections, ranging from the auditions to their eventual graduation. Starting at a lively, happy pace a noticeable change occurs midway through the film as tragedy and suffering start to play a large role as they did in "Express". This is not necessarily a bad thing, but I personally found the ecstatic jamming in the school café far more enjoyable than the latter scenes. The music is very enjoyable too — especially the electronic creations of Bruno, a young man who thinks he can replace the music teacher's orchestra with banks of organs and synthesisers.

The various developments in the plot are expressed through a sequential look at the eight characters. This immediately leaves gaps and you may find that particular characters receive inadequate time. Unfortunate as this may be, the switching from one person to another maintains the sort of pace which is necessary for a film lasting over two hours. The climax is a graduation ceremony which ends very abruptly and left me wondering what happened to the various people in the end — did they make it or not? Did they capture the elusive "fame" that they sought? I don't think that even a follow-up could explain.

Director Alan Parker attended the screening, which was especially designed for students. He was faced with the ordeal of a question and

answer session afterwards, but managed very well to brush off a barrage of "pseudo" questions, mainly from hypersensitive art students. Money, he admitted, was the primary reason for the project, but this also meant that the film should be broadly entertaining. I think he succeeds admirably and manages to provide a fascinating insight into an unusual subject.

My advice is to see the film if you are at all interested in a piece of well presented entertainment. Don't leave it too late, however as it is really a period piece and will not mean very much when the mood is different. *Fame* opens on July 24th at the Empire, Leicester Square.

Films to look out for over the summer: at the end of the month *Nijinsky* will be released as well as Romero's *Zombies* (a real sickie). In July *The Black Stallion* reaches our shores, after making a great impact in America. Clint Eastwood appears in *Bronco Billy* and Allan Carr's *Can't Stop The Music* (with the awful Village People) will no doubt crash into our lives. A new Neil Simon, *Chapter Two*, should soon arrive as well as Kung Fu in 3-D with *Dynasty*. I shall be awaiting a date for Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*, which stars Jack Nicholson and should be a real stormer.

Have a good summer.

Mark Smith

ACCOMMODATION

The Welfare Centre has just received details of a number of inexpensive flats for October in the Brixton area for two to four people. Contact the Welfare Centre for further information.

For sale frame pack for mountain climbing (made in USA) in good condition with padded shoulder straps and hip belt. Any offers? Contact **Beth Marcus, Falmouth Hall.**

PINBALL (continued from page 2)

The very first pinball machines, like the machines of today, were simply for entertainment and amusement. They provided a few, much needed minutes of pleasure to anyone who had time to kill or who was looking for some new form of diversion in the depressing times that prevailed at the start of the pinball era.

Many students at Imperial College are attracted to the brightly lit machines in the halls of residence and Union Building. Listening to players who are able to talk about how they feel about pinball can give an insight into its strange appeal.

Roger, a young hot blooded student, who has been playing the game since his early days as a student says: "Obviously all the aggression you put into a game must have some cathartic effect if you need to get rid of aggression. But it's a bit double-sided in releasing frustration. I mean, if you want to get rid of frustrations you've faced with the problems that you might just run up a series of bad games and that in itself will produce other frustrations.

"So you're balancing between frustration and satisfaction and maybe this delicate balance produces the urge to keep trying.

When asked how good he was at it, Roger replied: "I wouldn't say I was a particularly good player, but that's one of the great things about pinball. You don't necessarily have to be all that good to enjoy the game because you're learning all the time. The more you play the better

you get as long as you're willing to let yourself get involved."

Mike, a student who regularly plays pinball said: "It's a special form of satisfaction. Not a compensation for any lack of achievement in your day to day life. I get a lot of satisfaction from studying during the day but I still like to come along here afterwards.

"Pinball provides a little bit of extra excitement. It's a self-imposed challenge. Nobody forces you to play. There's no punishment for failure and there's no threat involved. The only contest is between you and the machine.

"It's a simple diversion, a compact do-it-yourself entertainment kit. A mechanical form of solitaire. You challenge the machine on strictly defined terms which really give the machine the upper hand. Push it around too much and it will tilt and you lose your score. There's no way you can penalise the machine — except by beating it. But even then all you get out of that is a replay — just another chance to enter the one-sided contract.

"But naturally you're only too happy to take on the challenge again. If the machine beats you after that you don't mind too much because you know you've had your share of success."

Tom, a computer scientist, said that he sees his battle with pinball as a form of protest.

"Machines and computers control so much of our everyday lives and there's not much you can do about it. So it's nice to meet a machine you can fight.

"There's normally no way you can get your own back on other machines and computers. Sure, you can kick them and shout at them, but that only increases your frustration. With pinball you get a chance to beat a machine on its own terms.

"There's a lot of skill involved. It's you against the machine. Your reflexes, knowledge, assessment and timing against the machine's efforts to get that ball out of play. And getting that ball out of play is the only way a machine can beat you.

"In a game lasting only three or four minutes, a player can run the whole gamut of emotions: the joy of a superbly timed skill shot; intensifying excitement as a bonus builds; suspense as a ball hovers gently, trembling on the lip of a high-score rollover; fear as the ball rockets swiftly towards the flipper gap; panic as the ball screams out of the firing chute, straight down the playfield and out of play without scoring; love as luck plays her part and guides ball after ball away from the exit lane and down the run-on track to the flippers; despair as luck deserts the players and lets the ball spill from the run-on track's rim down the exit lane; hope as jubilation at the hard crack of the replay frustration and dejection as the machine tilts . . . all this compressed into less than five minutes! If a film director could inspire half those response from an audience in an hour and a half he'd be lauded as a genius — yet you can find it all in Pinball."

EDITORIAL

The speed of Shakuntala's multiplication will be recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. Why don't we try to break more records next term at IC? How about a team attempting to break some of the more obscure records for RAG Talking of RAG - we have raised £20,000

Martin Watson did a grand job with the FELIX Rally, last Sunday, despite the National Front arranging a Rally outside RSM! which resulted in all parked cars being towed away from Prince Consort Road. Thank you to Tim, Dave, Ian, Maz and also to Clive Dewey for being a guest paste up artist this week.

If you'd like to have your copies of this year's FELIX bound then bring a set into the office ASAP. (by next Friday).

Just before I say Cheers! for the last time I've got space to include some of the highlights from my annual report to Council.

My first issue of FELIX was published on Friday 10th August 1979. This edition and the next eight were published while I was Acting Editor of FELIX. Three issues were published during the summer vacation for the Post Grads. These concentrated on the High Court injunction served by John Shuttleworth, but also included articles describing the redevelopment of Beit Quad and several film reviews.

The Freshers' FELIX was hurriedly put together a week before term started because the result of the High Court case was only known a week before the start of term. There had been obvious problems concerning the court case and resignation of a member of the permanent staff.

FELIX has encouraged advertisers by inserting details of advertising rates in the major directories. Phone calls to past advertisers have also helped to make 1979/80 a good year for revenue.

In the autumn term of 1979 the size of FELIX on average twenty pages per week. Many students helped collate and fold FELIX and I was pleased to have the support of the CCU publicity officers in being able to include regular comprehensive articles on Guilds, Mines and RCS. The ICU Exec also provided articles; some serious, some amusing.

The letters page during the autumn term was full of controversy. Frank James caused much correspondence by writing that 'anti-intellectuals take charge of the CCUs and thus perpetrate their own kinds of beer-swilling lout'. The Occupation of the Senior Dining Room on October 16th caused much comment and several other topics including: abortion, lack of photo credits, policy passed at ICU UGMs all helped to increase the size of the FELIX letters' page. Some weeks three pages of FELIX were devoted to letters.

The spring term began with IC ladies rugby team getting extensive coverage in the national press. FELIX were the first to realise the journalistic potential of the ladies, but I regret that the coverage in the Express and Sunday People was bad publicity for the team and IC.

On February 1st FELIX was able to photograph panellists attending IC for the BBC Radio Quiz and by the end of the recording we were able to present Barry Took with a finished copy of FELIX. This demonstrates our aim to be as up-to-date as possible with news coverage in FELIX. However, this has meant that the printer, Ian Morse, has had to work late on Thursday nights. News coverage was helped by the co-operation with the IC Radio News Dept. FELIX gave news copy to IC Radio for their bulletins and ICRN helped FELIX with its news coverage.

On 19th February I was involved in an accident while running to take photographs of a 'bank raid' at the College bank. During my two week stay in hospital, Roger Stotesbury became Acting Editor of FELIX. He was ambitious and produced three good issues of FELIX. I was pleased to hear that many students helped Roger during this period.

The summer term, far from being uneventful has produced some of the major stories to affect IC this year. The siege of the Iranian Embassy and the demonstrations by IC students caused many letters to be written to FELIX.

On Friday 13th June FELIX published a photographic review of the year containing over sixty photographs.

Summary

This year has seen several new ideas including the questionnaire, a greater emphasis on photographs, the start of a regular section on IC Radio. Many first year students have worked on the paper and hopefully everyone has gained from getting involved in FELIX.

There have been many problems. I wish that I had had more time for preparation, but taking over in the summer vacation meant that I had to learn the job as I went through the year. I would like to thank everyone for their help especially since my accident in February.

Good luck to Steve Marshall — it's a hard job — there's nothing like being Editor of FELIX.

Cheers!

COLIN PALMER
FELIX Editor

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