

Founded in 1949

The Newspaper of Imperial College Union



# Letters to the Editor



Dear Steve

I must confess that I was most surprised at the mildness of your attack on Meet IC '81 in last week's FELIX. However may I congratulate you on the manner with which you captured the salty tang of Capt Lindley's (RN Retd) remarks.

In my opinion, as an assistant at one of the exhibits, I thought that the event was a complete flop. In order to understand how and why this utter failure occurred the following questions should be asked of the appropriate College authorities.

- 1. Does any one seriously think that such an obvious propaganda exercise will exert the least influence onorganisations such as the Knightsbridge association when it comes to future College planning applications?
- 2. How many local residents attended the event?
- 3. How many letter of thanks were received afterwards?
- 4. Can anyone provide a full analysis of the cost of the event? i.e. what was the cost for the flowers, the posters, handouts, food and (not very good) wine, the overtime of the staff kept on late. And last, but by no means least, an estimate of the cost of the time put into the event by members of the academic and non-academic staff and research students. If these figures cannot be provided, why not?
- 5. What was the cost of specially importing cleaners to clean the stairs in the main Sherfield Building?
- 6. What was the cost of printing the invitations?
- 7. How many outside cars arrived for the event for which a traffic warden was specially provided?

- 8. At which entrance to the College was Mark Carlisle supposed to arrive and which entrance did he actually arrive?
- 9. How long did Mark Carlisle have to wait while people looked for his car?
- 10. Does anyone think that Mark Carlisle was sufficiently impressed with the efficiency of the event to make him change his mind on College cuts?
- 11. How many invitations were sent out?
- 12. How many acceptances were received?
- 13. Did the answer to question 12 suggest to anybody that the event should be cancelled?
- 14. Who decided that the event should begin at 6:00?
- 15. Who decided that no food or drinks should be served until an hour and three quarters after the event began?
- 16. Was it thought that the exhibits were of such stunning interest that people would be mesmerised for 105 minutes without nourishment?
- 17. Whose responsibility will it be to decide whether or not there will be another event of this character in the future?

Tours sincerely
The Sherfield Mole
PS: I happen to know the answers to some of the questions.

Dear Sir

In pursuit of the matter raised in last week's letters page by Mr A Rizvi, I would like to inform any interested readers that as a Beit Hall (mixed, 40% women) resident, I recently found, slipped under my room door, a questionnaire addressed to "Residents of Mixed Halls" intended for the guidance of the Student Residence Committee.

Assuming that this questionnaire is not three months late being circulated, the SRC are to be commended for the promptness of their response to the outery about the decision taken on how Halls should be mixed. However, there are a few things about it which I would like to point out.

One is first asked one's sex and one's Hall of Residence, then, and I quote "Bearing in mind the composition of IC," to rate the proportion of females in one's residence on a scale from "much too high" to "much too low", and finally, in one's own opinion (and "Please inform us if anyone tries to influence your response" — is there a mafia around College I hadn't heard of?) to say whether the present ratio is ideal, or very unacceptable, or somewhere in between.

Well, surely one's answer to the last question is a direct consequence of his answer to the question above it, and is as such redundant, and, more importantly, one's answer to the above, most significant, question, given the phrase "Bearing in....of IC" quoted above, ceases to be one of personal opinion but one based, on the contrary, purely on fact rendering this question redundant also.

So, this leaves one to answer the first two questions, and I think that the SRC's initial request for only one response to each is most unfair to those of us who may be unsure of their sex or who may perchance inhabit four residences simultaneously.

I would therefore, sir, like to complain.

Yours in eternal praise of women, Mark Komondouros Maths 1

Dear Sir

We are writing to you because, for the second week running it has been discovered that decisions concerning student hall accommodation for next year have been taken by College authorities and ICU without prior consultation with those most directly involved-the students and those concerned with running the halls in question. Apparently it has been decided to merge Selkirk/Tizard and Keogh/Falmouth following the early retirement of the Keogh Warden and subsequent nonrenewal of contract offered to Selkirk Warden. The Warden of Tizard will now be responsible for Selkirk, and the Warden of Falmouth will be responsible for Keogh.

While we in no way question the ability of the Wardens concerned, we would like to make the point that in view of the special situation of small halls like Selkirk, we feel that they require the full attention of just one warden. In the past Selkirk has been particularly successful in providing a supportive and stimulating environment for the students allocated to it. Its size has meant that the warden and subwarden have been able to give their full personalised attention to those who need it, directly assisted by the overall conducive social environment engendered by the warden's close involvement with a small hall. There is a need for such small halls in complex College environment with its many demands and pressures placed on students with varied hard students with varied personal needs and response. No matter how well intentioned or hard working the new overseeing warden is, he will now have his attention split between two halls. This individual attention will be sacrificed for the sake of the rent gained on the old warden's flat. Which is worth more: the wellbeing of students catered for by the special, personalised social environment of these halls, or a

few thousand pounds a year in rent?

Even if such arguments are ignored, surely such a merger would better be tried out in Keogh alone (whose takeover was intended on retirement of the warden anyway), rather than simultaneously now on the recommendation of ICU. Did they ask us?

Like the situation complained about in last week's FELIX by the subwarden of Beit, this is yet another example of the failure of the authorities responsible to consult the opinions of the people involved, who may have a perfectly valid input to make. This failure is particularly reprehensible on the part of ICU (who supported the merger) since it is they who are supposed to represent the student interest and have, as on previous occasions, singularly failed to do so.

K Baldwin, Sclkirk Sub-warden
J Atkinson, Selkirk Secretary
A Warby, Selkirk Treasurer
C A Milner, Acting Hall
Treasurer, 1981/2
Helen Bolt, Acting Hall Sec,

Dear Sir

I am writing this letter concerning the recent political crisis in Northern Ireland, and the attitude adopted by the British press, particularly *The Times* towards the situation there.

In an article on the recent funeral of the hunger-striker Mr Bobby Sands, Mr Christopher Thomas of *The Times* stated on May 8, 1981: "The 2,000 victims of his collaborators will never be as famous."

The only logical conclusion one can draw from this is that Mr Thomas is totally unaware of the fact that Loyalist paramilitaries are responsible for almost half of the civilian deaths in N Ireland, not to mention those innocent people shot by the British Army.

The other possible interpretation of this statement is that Mr Thomas thinks that the IRA, the British Army, the UDA, UVF, etc are collaborators!

No one is denying that the IRA has been responsible for a lot of deaths in N Ireland but Mr Thomas and fellow British journalists seem to have lost all sense of perspective, if not truth.

The fundamental reasons for the disturbances in Northern Ireland have once again been conveniently forgotten by the British Government, and the British press. The roots of violence in N Ireland can be traced directly to British policy which succeeded in establishing the quasi-fascist state of N Ireland where one party rule existed for lifty years, against the wishes of the majority of the

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# Physics Open Day Fiasco

Three hundred and fifty sixth formers attended an open day in the Physics department last Friday. The event, organised by students, was intended to give A Level students interested in science a chance to look at an undergraduate department, and was not intended to be any form of recruiting exercise.

The sixth formers were given a chance to see many aspects of student life. Professor Butterworth, Head of Department, gave a short welcoming speech, which was followed by a talk on studying physics at IC by the departmental rep, Mark Gillett. To give a general view of student union activities, ICU Hon Sec, Liz Lindsay, also gave a

speech.

The most interesting part of the visit was probably the tour of first vear laboratory projects. These are prepared every year in the department as part of the first year lab course and are normally displayed to students and staff of the College. The display was extended to a second day to allow the sixth formers to witness the wide variety of topics covered. These ranged from studies of microprocessor and laser applications to biophysics, and even included a fascinating reconstruction of "Practical Physics" in the nineteenth century. There were some fifty projects in all.

To give a wider view of undergraduate life a short lecture on

astronomy was also included in the programme.

The open day was considered a great success by staff and students alike and is likely to be repeated next year.

# Rag Fête Fiasco

ICU's ANNUAL RAG Fête took place last Saturday afternoon on the Queen's Lawn. About 600 people attended, and over £500 was raised for Rag. The fête was opened by the President of the National Deaf Children's Society. Julian Jacattet.

The Queen's Tower was open, and other entertainments included a jelly slurping stall and

the Guilds Hit squad.

The fête was slightly marred by some horseplay towards the end, which included Mr Nicholas Morton hitting onions with a cricket bat.

Links Club quoits were won by D Haywood Brown, Mech Eng 2. Bowling-Dr P Isherwood, Mech Eng; Golf-K Baldwin, Physics

### Yacht Fiasco

IT SEEMS likely that ICU's yacht "Impetus" will be sold by the time you read the word "unlikely" in FELIX today. However VAT difficulties may delay this.

The Union has had the yacht for four years. It was not new when the Union bought it, and it was run aground when in use. There have been difficulties concerning insurance claims, and mooring fees at Gosport have had to be paid.

# Mascotry Fiasco

AN RCS mascotry group broke into into the Mines Building in the early hours of Wednesday morning in an attempt to steal Davy, the Mines mascot. The group entered the building by breaking a <sup>3</sup> <sub>8</sub> plate glass window, showering glass over delicate instruments inside. Boltcutters were then used to break a padlock. Davy, however, was not there, so they left empty-handed, leaving a note of apology behind

Mr Rich Archer, handed in his resignation as RCSU President on Wednesday evening, but at the time of going to press, no statement has been issued by

# Warning Sign Fiasco

NEW ORANGE signs around College, many with the inscription "2WE cylinders Hazchem multistorage" have recently been installed to protect emergency services, especially firemen. The code on the signs tell firemen how dangerous the contents of a building are, how to extinguish a fire, what protective clothing to wear, and of the building should be evacuated.

# Ten Tors Fiasco

At 4:15pm last Sunday, beaten by the time limit, the RCSU Ten Tors team was taken out of the event at Lynch Tor, their ninth.

The Annual Ten Tors Test takes the form of a gruelling walk/run across Dartmoor, visiting checkpoints at ten prominent rocks, known as tors; hence the name. Most teams are made up of service cadets, police cadets and schools. RCSU, in particular, has a good record in recent years, completing the longest 55 mile course in both the last two years.

The event began at 7:00am. 400 teams of six setting off from Okehampton Camp into "heavy showers clearing later". The hours of training paid off for RCSU with a good time for the first twenty miles. However the lack of walking experience began to show late in the first afternoon with wet ground and high winds slowing the pace.

Despite every effort, the team could not make good the lost time. Having camped on the moor overnight and starting early next morning, the march

continued into worsening weather. Sadly, Jim Noakes was forced to drop out by a strained knee at mile forty.

Allowed through Great Mis Tor by the skin of their collective teeth, the rest of the team had to face enormous swollen rivers, and vicious hailstorms on the way to Lynch Tor. Exactly why this ninety minute walk took three hours and included an extra. unexpected and unnecessary tor is not at all clear.

Nick Last, co-navigator, who suffered the blame for this minor disaster had some consolation in the form of a twenty-first birthday present waiting at Okchampton. As befits a scholar, it was a book-The A.A Book of Country Walks.

In congratulating those who took part it should be noted that many teams, trained on Dartmoor, had given up in the face of the vile weather long before RCSU

TEAM: Nick Last (leader), Bill Durodie, Alan Edwards, Marco Ledwold, Jim Noakes, Andy Smith, Tom Owen (reserve).

# Social Clubs **Fiasco**

Do you want your clubs to be financed properly next year? Then come along and vote at next Tuesday's UGM at 1:00pm in Mech Eng 220.

Ian Hanley SCC Chairman

# Mining House Subwarden

Applications are invited for the post of sub-warden which will be vacant in

In Mining House, 51, 54-56 Evelyn Gardens there are 80 undergraduate and postgraduate students, male and female, from all departments of IC. The role of the sub-warden is to assist the warden in the running of the house both from a domestic and social point of view.

The successful applicant will be a registered postgraduate student preferably with two years of his/her course left. Accommodation is provided, free of rent, which is suitable for a single person only.

Please forward written applications to the Warden, Mining House, c/o Student Services Office, 15 Princes Gardens giving details of any relevant experience by May 29,



# BLACKLIST

The following clubs, societies, union community groups and CCUs are blacklisted, as outlined in FELIX last week: Cricket, Karate, Afro-Caribbean, Latin American, Pakistan, Iranian, Egyptian, Bridge, Darts, Electronic Music, Exploration, Hang Gliding, Model Aircraft, Model Aircraft, Surf, Pottery, Communist, Gay, Badge, ICWA, RCSU, RSM, RCC

Don't say you weren't warned, I'm talking now to you who are the president/chairman, etc of any of the above groups, who couldn't be bothered, either through total lack of competence, literary talent or just plain bloody laziness, to have submitted even a blank sheet of paper to me for this year's Handbook. You are the dregs of the Union. I shall have great pleasure in writing some of the articles e.g. Rag, Iranian Soc, etc, and especially (as I am a Guildsman) the RSM and RCS articles. (Steve has told me he has some great photos that he hasn't dared to print this year and I am eager to get my hands on them.)

If you haven't got the message so far, then don't bother writing your article because I won't accept it.



(continued from page 2)

Irish people. This state, with an immoral foundation based on Protestant ascendancy, discrimination against Catholics, and repressive legislation CAN NOT work.

The current violence is a symptom of the underlying sick society that the British have created and insist on maintaining in N Ireland.

It is going to take a lot of courage from the British Government to reverse the political stance in which they now find themselves entrenched. A new political initiative is required which will satisfy the legitimate desire of the Irish people for a united country, and which will guarantee the rights of the Protestants in the North.

In order to obtain the courage necessary the British Government might look to the one consistent, inescapable fact to have emerged in the last sixty years—Northern Ireland does not and cannot work.

Gerry O'Reilly Pet Geol PG

Dear Sir

Thank you very much for publishing "CND—A Comment" by Frank James in last week's FELIX. He expressed what is my considered opinion on CND, that supporters are "misguided idealists", etc., in a very excellent logical argument.

I do regret that we actually need to spend so much on defence, but I don't think it can be avoided. Russia apart, imagine if some other extremist government decided that they wished to impose their views on the rest of us, if they managed to develop their own nuclear weapons and

knew that the rest of the world had disarmed. I believe that even this is a small threat compared to the threat from Russia.

I have talked to many other students and staff at IC who are also opposed to CND, and it appears to me that a large proportion of IC is opposed to CND—possibly a majority?

We have heard so much about the CND point of view recently. I'm glad the opposing point of view found its way into FELIX last week.

> Linda Cornwall Physics 3

Dear Sir

With regard to last week's article by Frank James in FELIX, commenting on CND.

First of all, he considers members of CND to be "genuine idealists, but . . . misguided, because they have not considered all the facts." How can he make, this generalisation? (The only facts he himself considers are those supporting his point of view). There is a tendency to admire realists for their coolheaded approach, but when his idea of 'realism' is an escalating arms race, far beyond any need for deterrence, with enough nuclear weapons to kill everybody on both sides several times over, then something is wrong.

"A nuclear war would be an evil thing... which every person should work to avoid." Well what are nuclear weapons protagonists doing to avoid a nuclear holocaust? There have been multilateral disarmament talks for many years now, but the total number of nuclear weapons has been growing all the time. By increasing the number of missiles in this country, and improving our own nuclear capability, do we make nuclear war less likely, or its effects less terrible?

"Better red than dead" is not particularly a CND slogan, true though it is.

"CND thinks that the threat to our security comes from Russia rather than America." Where does Frank James think the threat is coming from? (The answer lies in his fourth paragraph: "we in Europe must be prepared to resist Russian aggression.") Why should America threaten to occupy us, and if they did, what chance would we stand on our own when most of Britain's nuclear weapons are controlled by NATO (which is controlled by America)? Anyway, it is precisely the idea of the so-called 'Russian threat', and the division of the world into East bad. West good that we dispute.

"The only thing that they understand is power" (with reference to the Russian system) is a Russian human being all that different from an American one, or are they some sort of animal devoid of human feeling? "The Russians would not have any moral scruples about using nuclear weapons." But the Russians have tried to initiate disarmament negotiations at least as much as America has. This is true, if you consider all the facts.

However, apart from all these disagreements, my major objection to Frank James' support of nuclear deterrence is that the whole idea is out of date. Nowadays, with Cruise missiles accurate to within 100 metres. America reckons on FIGHTING a nuclear war in Europe. I don't deny that Russia and Britain are prepared or preparing for this, but that only makes it worse. The whole thing getting absurdly out of proportion, and it's about time something positive was done to reverse this trend. Britain could start by disarming unilaterally.

Tours sincerely Robert Kelsey Civ eng 1

Dear Sir

On Friday I was interested to look round the first year Physics projects, some of which were involved with the experimental reactor. Fascinating though these experiments are, the nuclear power programme raises more questions than are answered in the undergraduate physics case.

The 1976 Royal Commission

The 1976 Royal Commission on Nuclear Power and the Envionment (chaired by our own Sir Brian Flowers) recommended that there be no large scale expansion of nuclear power until the problem of radioactive waste disposal had been solved.

It has not, although there are hopeful developments in the synthetic rock substitute in which to incorporate the waste. However, the timescale over which high level radioactive waste must be isolated and lack of monitoring experience plus the irreversible consequences—the waste is ultimately intended to be non-retrievable—make this part of the nuclear cycle a serious gamble.

Proliferation of nuclear weapon states as a byproduct of civil programmes is unavoidable; the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been ineffective in preventing this. South Africa is probably the latest country to develop nuclear weapons, this being its acknowledged intention; it certainly now has its own reprocessing facilities. Imperial College may have mades its own contribution to this disturbing development by running a nuclear technology course with students sponsored by the S African government.

The economics of nuclear power do not take into account the unknown costs of decommissioning and waste disposal. the fact that most research and development has been done under military budgets (admittedly this could be regarded as a spin-off), nor the government subsidy in taking over most of the insurance provision for the nuclear industry. (This insurance provision, a maximum of £50m, is pitifully inadequate.)

Britain's nuclear programme in particular is in serious trouble; the early Magnox reactor's useful life is coming to an end, whilst the AGR programme which superceded the Magnox program has been described the ex-Chairman of the CEGB as disaster we must not repeat". Dungeness AGR has still not been completed, over ten years behind schedule, whilst Hinkley Point and Hunkesten have suffered serious accidents-the latter occurred when seawater was let into the reactor in an operation contravening safety procedures, and cost £10m (plus £40m lost electricity) to repair. The alternatives now are to continue with this program or to develop an imported design such as the American Pressurized Water Reactor (one of which will be built at Sizewell).

The recent Commons Select Committee on Energy censured the CEGB for having no coherent plan and disregarding downward trends in energy growth at a time when it and the SSEB (which is still going ahead with the construction of Towness nuclear power station at a cost now approaching £2billion) already have high generating overcapacity.

The Department of Energy has still not provided figures on the relative benefits of an energy conservation programme versus a power plant building program, and the government has cut back its energy conservation programme, is attempting to run down the coal industry (which will have to expand as oil prices rise), and provides lukewarm support for research into new coal combustion technologies, renewable energy sources, and energy conservation such as combined heat and power schemes.

The government is trying to defuse the environmental aspects as the nuclear power debate whilst the industry is currently increasing the already considerable sums of money decreed to providing its simplistic (if not actually misleading propaganda, especially in schools (and presumably universities).

The failure to adopt a more realistic and less restrictive energy policy will be disastrous.

> Ian Heavens Physics PG

(The last two letters have been edited due to lack of space-Ed)

#### **ICU Social Colours**

General

Dave Wheatley, Publicity Officer Shezi Abedi, INCOST Nick Stock, INCOST Annegret Pelchen, INCOST Chris Rich, INCOST John Murphy, INCOST Ian Cairns Fiona Sinclair, SCAB, Opsoc Bob Bradley, AAO, AP, INCOST

Sue Telling Caroline Waitt, Nightline Pat Baker (RA) Jen Hardy-Smith (RA) Dr Ken Weale (RA) Martin Parsons Malcolm Aldridge John Smith Arthur Turner Prof J Sutton Tom Cottrell leuan Thomas (RA)

**Academic Affairs** 

Mark Gillett, Physics, INCOST Mike Booty, Maths Dept Ang Htun, Min & Met Sci Colin Batchelor, Mech Eng Dept

Phil Webb Tony Morgan, Rugby Club Steve Gunn, Weights Club Steve Veats, Football & Transport Roger Davey (RA) HJ Treasurer Andy Lorans, Secretary Nick Morton Dave Burtenshaw

ICCAG

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lan Hanley Monson Enayet, Islamic Soc Richard Martin, Catholic Soc Christopher O'Brien, WLC Bryan Steele, WLC K C Mann, Sci Fi Soc Alan Rogers, Pimlico Connection Clive Chandler, Pimlico Conn Dr Sinclair Goodlad, Pim Conn Mark Clegg, Con Soc, PWP Tim Lawes, Con Soc Jonathan Miller, Jewish Soc Mark Brown, Industrial, INCOST Kevin Courtney (RA), Soc Soc Stephen Goulder, SCC, PWP

PG Group

Douglas Armstrong David Wood

Rag

Alan Edwards Crispin Dobson Paul Johnson Ruth Hildebrand + INCOST Barney McCabe (RA)

Silwood Park

Stuart Jefferies Chris Endacott

Annie Lathaen (RA)

**Transport** Ray Parkinson (RA)

# **Athletic Colours Full and Half**

#### Association Football

**Full Colours** 

S Veats (EO) K Reeve (RA)

G Okunienski

S Ward

#### Half Colours

M Curran P Mulhall

G Elliott Niccolls (RA)

J Rowley

M Carr A Hartland

G Rickard (RA) D Dean (RA)

#### Badminton

Full Colours

A Mitchell (EO) B lons

H K Wong

Half Colours

L Horrocks

I Bull P Smith

K Frase

#### Basketball

**Full Colours** 

A Kakas (EO) R Wormsley M Ainsle (RA)

Half Colours

J Pooley

#### - Boat Club

Full Colours

S Webb (EO) J Hillier (EO) G Griffiths

N Ray A Burgess C Weir

#### Cross-Country

S Digmore

J Hayward

C Smith

#### Fencina

Full Colours

P H Bird

C Wachincki

R Parkins

#### **Sporting Motor Cycle**

P Bagshaw (EO)

**Full Colours** 

J Clarke

R Davey

Half Colours

B Franklin, G Ayres L Rich, M Cope

P Butler, C Riley

S Parker

S Bell

#### Hockey (Ladies)

Full Colours

C Crossley (EO)

J Clarke

**Full Colours** 

M Kelly (EO)

G Longhurst

Half Colours

P Holdsworth

P E Coleman (EO)

Half Colours

**Full Colours** 

Hockey (Mens)

P Hughes (EO)

S Gatley

T Coatesworth

Half Colours

A Coates

Judo

Full Colours N Audin (FO)

Half Colours

M Johnson K Stevenson A Kellagher

Karate

Full Colours H Basi (EO)

Kung Fu **Full Colours** 

J Dixon (EO)

Half Colours

B Notariarn

P A Schmacker C Earle D Hope

Orienteering Full Colours

S Kirk (EO)

Half Colours A Britton

A Maynard A Parker K Warren

Rifle & Pistol

**Full Colours** J Sackett (EO)

A Jolleys (RA) G Swan A Briers

A K Phillips

Half Colours S J A Harrison

D Sleath G Bowser

Golf

Full Colours P Johnson (EO)

Half Colours

M Fairhurst N Windson

Rugby (Mens)

**Full Colours** R W B Smart (EO)

A J Morgan T S Johnston

J A Manzoni

A K A Lorans Half Colours

P Richards S Johns G Fazackerly

W King F Toole

Rugby (Ladies)

**Full Colours** M Harrington (EO)

Half Colours

L Horrocks C Crossley J Wilks

Salling

Full Colours C Murray (EO)

C J A Lewis J Baxter

Half Colours G Butler

D Chadwick P Mills

G Kennedy M Younghusband J Redman

Ski

Half Colours

**Full Colours** 

S Ferno

K Palmer

P Smith (EO)

Squash

R Thompson (EO)

Half Colours

**Full Colours** 

G Kitchen R Jeffries D Gibson

W Jones M Smith Swimming & Water Polo

D Roberts (EO)

B Ashwin P Porter S Wilton

J Heffernan

N Last

Half Colours

J Hillier

Table Tennis

Full Colours

A Tye (EO)

Half Colours

C Einsiri

R Millar C Nicolaides P Walker

Ten Pin Bowling

**Full Colours** J Knight (EQ)

A McMullan B Macgowan (RA) D Lau (RA)

Half Colours R Cook (RA)

M Banasiak (EO)

S Anbariotis

P Walker

K Sommer H Szyszko

S Gunn (EQ)

M Harrison

Volleyball Full Colours

Half Colours

Weights **Full Colours** 

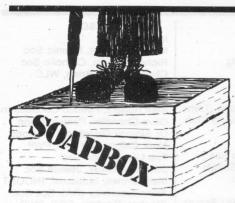
Yacht

Full Colours

J S Manning (EO) J Griffiths

Half Colours P Adams

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# or complacency? By Owen Greene

THE NUCLEAR arms race has been accelerating over the last thirty years and nuclear war now seems a probability. The international tensions which have generated it, and the role of various vested interests, are complicated and urgently require analysis so that people can act to reverse the process before it is too late. Unfortunately, articles on nuclear disarmament and CND are often simply a mixture of mystification, pseudoanalysis and complacency. Frank 'James' 'Soapbox' article in last week's FELIX is just one more example of this.

Firstly, "better red than dead" is not a CND slogan. Many people think that it contains a grain of common sense, but to present it, as Frank James does, as central to CND's position is ignorant. The rest of the article only boils down to a reassertion of the views of the military, Reagan, Thatcher, etc. That is that due to the inherent expansionism of the USSR, we (i.e. NATO) must continue to develop our nuclear arsenal, particularly in Europe and China, in order to contain and deter it. By campaigning against this policy, CND is accused of making nuclear war more likely. There are so many assumptions, omissions and implications to be challenged in such assertions that I cannot hope to take them

The US has always been in the lead in the nuclear arms race. Although the USSR has recently caught up in terms of the total explosive power of its missiles, the US is still years ahead in terms of technological sophistication and accuracy. Since the US had several years head start, has always spent at least as much as Russia on nuclear weapons, and has a more highly developed economy and skilled workforce, it would be amazing if this wasn't the case. The present phase in the exalation has largely been the responsibility of NATO. I neither admire or trust the USSR and condemn the invasion of Afghanistan, etc, etc, but facts are facts.

Both sides had the capability to obliterate a large proportion of the others population by the early 1960s, and yet the race continued. "Deterrence" has been obsolete as a meaningful justification for over a decade, and is now only retained for its propaganda value. This was officially confirmed around 1975 with the Schlesinger doctrine and Presidential Directive 59. Nuclear war is now not only thinkable in the strategist's mind but also maybe "winnable". NATO is now prepared to use nuclear weapons first in conflict (i.e. "flexible response"). The aim is to limit the holocaust to the European "theatre". This would clearly involve the total destruction of European civilisation but the US might survive relatively intact with only acceptable losses (up to about 20 million deaths). Such a strategy holds little attraction for the USSR since its obliteration would be certain.

Most of Western Europe is littered with NATO nuclear weapons, nearly all of which are entirely under US control. It is in this context that CND, along with many other disarmament movements in Europe, is campaigning for unilateral nuclear disarmament. Since over 70% of NATO's nuclear warheads are in submarines it is silly to suggest that such disarmament would leave the West with no "deterent". However it would certainly force strategists to abandon the idea of a "theatre" war

'limited" to Europe.

Frank James can't even find room to pay the customary lip service to multilateral negotiations. To those who do pin their hopes on them, I ask you to reflect on why they have failed up till now. Unilateralists fully accept the crucial role multilateral agreements will ultimately play in securing world nuclear disarmament, but experience shows that unilateral actions are also crucial. After all, each step in nuclear armament is unilateral. Either way, being a (genuine) multilateralist means working hard for disarmament too! There isn't much time.

# **Bookshop News**

The Great Seasons-David Bellamy & Shirley Mackie-Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95.

Pan Travellers Phrase Book (£1.00) have been specially developed from Gallop Research to provide for the REAL needs of today's travellers. Titles available are German, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Greek, Portuguese, Serbo-

The year is 50BC. Gaul is entirely occuppied by the Romans, well, not entirely village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders! We now stock all the Asterix titles in paperback

A special exhibition of books published by Van Nostrand Reinhold will be on show in the Bookshop for the next ten days.

Last week of Book Sale still further reductions.

#### To All Tutors

As you know we now have to start ordering recommended books for the coming academic year, to ensure the books are in stock at the start of your courses we must have the recommended lists returned to the Bookshop no later than June 15. If by chance you have not had a list, contact your Head of Department or Roy Hicks at the Bookshop.



#### NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

320 people contributed to this Service during a recent visit. Their help is appreciated.

THANK YOU

BLOOD DONORS ARE VITAL

# Chicken Centre

Hi! We have just opened near South Ken Station (2A, Exhibition Road) and are offering a student discount on all our food (on production of Union Card).

A few sample take-away prices

1 chicken...50p 2 pieces...80p chips...20p curry...80p rice...30p apple pie...20p etc...

7:30am. - midnight

# Small Ads

•Gents 10-spd Raleigh cycle, excel-

ent condition. Phone Roger 4595.

Nice flat for 2 or 3 people within walking distance from the College is offered for accommodation during the summer. For more details phone 584-7490 any evening. •Flatshare: Girl wanted to occupy own room in wonderful Fulham flat

own room in wonderful Fulham flat during summer. £75pcm. Keen Henry Wood prommer preferred. Phone Martin S Taylor, 4179. **FFurnished flat for couple,** Water-loo, SE1, 2rms, kitchen, bathroom with shower, £38.50. Contact Student Services

Student Services

•Room to let in Paddington for July and part of August, newly decor-ated, £15 weekly. Contact Niall,

•Flat for 4 available end of June in Hammersmith, 2 dble rms, spacious lounge, kitchen, bthrm, £19.85pw each. Contact S Collier, Physics 3 or call at 38 Hamlet Gdns.

Two large flats to let for summer months only. Just off Leicester Sq. rent negotiable. Contact N Last, Physics 2 or B Ashwin, Civ Eng 2.

Suzuki GS550. Now is your chance to purchase this superb example of Japanese engineering!! S reg, 18,000 miles, lots of new bits like tyres, chain, exhaust, never ridden (all winter). Offers (serious) to Simon Buckley, Min Tech 2 or 385-7537.

•Beer and Bangers, Tuesday, May 26, 5:30-7:00pm. Names to Jen by 12:00pm, Tuesday, May 26 (early preferably).

•Nuke the Jasper badges available. Defy the CND and join the latest cult started by an ageing overweight trendy. Apply to room 373, Keogh Hall.

Traveller's set of Mah Jong (brand new), £10; 22" Handsaw, £5; Phillips Hairstyling Set (new), £5; Headphone, £5; Fujica ST801 camera, £60ono; BM Espana guitar (with cover), £20; Micro Talkbook with new tapes and adapter £15ono; Single polyester quilt, £3. All must be sold. Contact E Shum (Ms), DOC 3 or phone 373-2067 (eves)

•Incrimination, retribution and piss-takes. Contact S L Clarke or D A Ellerman, Chem 1 (Felix small ads a speciality!)

es Regd Honda 'Camino' (50cc

•S Regd Honda 'Camino' (50cc moped), lady owner, stored indoors, very good condition, £125 ono. Contact Mr M J Hudson, int 4095.
•Yamaha X5500D, T reg, excellent condition, many extras, extremely reliable, moderately cheap to run, £495.
Contact J Wright, Chem 2.

•One Springsteen ticket (June 2) for sale. Contact Mark, 731-3139.

•Stereo, Rega Planar, Cambridge, A&R. Owner down-grading. Contact N Last, Physics 2.

•Congratulations Chris and Mariko on your engagement!

Best wishes for a very happy birthday to Helen at IF, Friday, May 22, love Caroline.

# Well Hung!

OVER THE EASTER Bank Holiday weekend, the wind was a moderate easterly and the sky was blue with a few scattered clouds. Perfect weather conditions to go flying at Pandy in South Wales. I had also borrowed one of the new fifth generation hang gliders for the weekend and set off early to Wales with it strapped down to the roof-rack.

When we arrived I rigged up quickly and was in the air in forty minutes having launched from an 800ft spur that sticks out from the end of the ridge. The glider felt superb and I soon gained 1,000ft above take off and was heading out along the seven miles of barren Welsh mountains that lay between myself and "the Gap". This is an upwind jump of about a mile which has to be crossed before reaching the end of the ridge. I had been forced to land there two days earlier and I made sure of crossing it with a ground clearance of 2600ff

The end of the ridge was Hay Bluff. A huge barren block with vertical faces chopping 1,500ft on all sides. I flew along its NE face for a half an hour just beating backwards and forwards, feeling the way I was thrown around in the air as a thermal came through and learning how to circle in the region of best lift. I was joined by another pilot and soon after a huge thermal came through

and we both circled back over the Wye Valley and away from Hay Bluff which grew smaller and smaller below me.

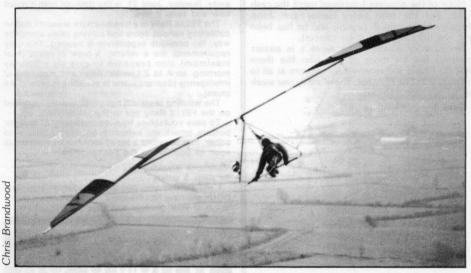
At 3,500ft I set off downwind and glided five miles to Telgarth where I picked up another thermal and lazily corkscrewed into the now perfectly blue sky up to 4,000ft. I could just see below me the other glider landing, he had left the thermal too soon and had been caught in the surrounding downdraft.

I flew off down wind in search of my third thermal but this time things were not so easy. The lift was weaker and I circled for thirty minutes drifting downwind slowly covering the miles. I was again getting low and was desperate to find some more lift....but no....I had to choose a landing field clear of pylons but near habitation. I found one three miles south of Brecon and on landing I was met by three amazed local farmers who gave me local cider and let me phone for my pick-up.

The twenty-five miles from Pandy to Brecon via Telgarth had taken me over two and a half hours spending most of the time over 2,000ft above the valleus below

Surely no other human experience could more closely approach birdlike flight

Bruce Goldsmith



# C&G **Motor Club**

LAST THURSDAY EVENING, the club held its annual dinner at the Schooner Inn in Panton St (breaking the tradition of Mooney meals). The event went exceptionally well and everybody enjoyed it enormously (especially those who collected prizes for winning various Motor Club events). There were in fact forty-five people present (we counted them!-or was it 46?)

Undoubted star of the evening was Mr Ian Bracey, the guest speaker, this after dinner speech commanded the attention of everyone in the room and tears of laughter were visible in many an eye. His speech started by dealing with the early days of his career. After leaving school with 'the best education money could buy' and two O Levels, he built his first racing machine, the 'Tiger Strike' where the driver's head was the back of the car and his feet the front, with the engine mounted alongside. Mr Bracey then went on to recount some of the more amusing events that befell him while racing the car, concluding with its demise when he got a lapful of red hot engine remains.

Progressing to his fortunes at Le Mans (the most prestigious race in the world) he related his problem of torn loyalties in the year of the Queen's Jubilee. Deciding to go to Le Mans he took with him a 22ft flag pole in sections which he duly raised in the paddock on arrival. Having taught himself to play the bugle, he proceded to ceremoniously raise and lower the flag at the beginning and end of each day. This infuriated the French who never like to be outdone on the patriotic front, especially by the British!

In short, Ian Bracey is an Englishman of the true tradition and is a credit to his country. On a ridiculously small budget, he has held his own in a British car against the might of the factory teams such as BMW, Porsche and Renault. On behalf of the Motor Club and College as a whole we would like to wish him the best of luck in this year's 'Le Mans 24 Hours'

John Vedy and Mike Harrison

# SF Soc

Now for one final climactic paragraph as the SF Soc bulletin pushes ever onward, further up and further in. As our secretary once said, "It's the handfuls of fruit that bother me". Our library has expanded beyond belief. Not only have we bought fourteen new books, but we have placed those we already have further apart. There will be no library meetings until further notice. So long folks, here's waving dangerous flags at you.

Lucas Aid and Call-me-Kenneth

# SPORT

# Stephenson Cup

FOLLOWING THEIR 2-1 massacre of Guilds, RCS met Mines last Wednesday. The result was a humiliating experience for Mines, the present holders of the Stephenson Cup. Although the half-time score was 0-0, RCS had dominated the game, attacking continuously. Only good defence by Gatley, Newman and some other guy saved Mines from conceding several goals.

The second half saw the continued plight of a besieged Mines side. Fortunately, for Mines, the pressure was relieved when RCS retreated to the half-way line following an excellently worked free-hit just outside the 'D'. Parker and Hughes working together to produce a good shooting chance for Cope. the shot although saved was slipped to Sharpe, who duly drilled the ball home.

The game then became deceptively even. as RCS slacked off, but RCS clinched the game, when a shot by Taylor was half saved by the goalkeeper. But a bit of GBH on the goalkeeper by Hughes eventually resulted in the ball hitting the back of the net. But no one quite knows who scored; although general sympathy was in favour of Taylor.

RCS's triumphant return to IC was somewhat alcoholic, although John Daving insisted that the minibus was only weaving because of the steering.

TEAM: Cape, Sharpe, Parker, Taylor, Hughes, Williams, Moran, Leinster, Riley, Farrington, Rogers.

# **Football**

THE CLUB has had its most successful season ever with five of our six teams winning their divisions and the thirds coming fifth in the same division as the seconds. The fifths also won their cup, beating LSE IV 1-0 in the final at Motspur Park.

I should now have the cups and medals and players who have won them should see me as soon as possible (Union Office, lunchtimes) to collect them. We will be having a few drinks in the Union Bar on Tuesday evening, May 26, when the silverware will be on show and medals will be available.

Our firsts have been invited to play in a charity shield' match against RHC at Motspur. Anyone who would like to come along and support should put their name on the list on the Club Noticeboard just outside the Bar. If there is enough interest the coach will leave at about 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 27.

Congratulations to Mines 2nd XI for winning Division 4R and many thanks to all the people who ensured the club's success this season.

Steve Veats

## Snooker

THE DYNAMIC new Committee are now gradually taking over in preparation for a tremendous, fun-filled, record-breaking time next year, so be prepared.

The doubles champions are Proudlove and Tripp, and just to be boring, they have decided to contest the open final between themselves as well. The really interesting tournament, the Handicap, seems to be progressing slowly, so stop revising (??) for a moment and go and find your opponent. Put a notice up on one of the boards if you're not sure who he is, and arrange a time, or face immediate and complete disqualification.

Clever that I am, I detected a tinge of sarcasm in Mr Tolstoy's letter today. You thought last week's issue short measure at only six pages, didn't you? Others have not been slow to express similar views.

Is it not unfair of you to expect me to feel inspired to produce lively, witty, entertaining multi-paged journalism every week? John Passmore and Rae Snee have been dull all year, I was only dull last week—it's just not on,

I've had my fair share of news making, but I feel that the onus is really on YOU to do things for FELIX to report. Okay, so lots of people are revising—fair enough, but most of them have been revising since they were born.

Students at IC seem to spend the first two terms practising to be boring in the third term.

Maybe you're all just naturally boring people and I expect too much of you. This College may turn out some highly qualified graduates but most are so bloody dull! On the other hand, you have the tediously slow-witted members of Union Council, most of whom exude stupidity as if it were a virtue (e.g. Rich Archer).

#### A Protest Song

(To be sung to the tune of Anarchy in the UK) Why doesn't someone commit suicide? Kill a few Iranians?

Or disfigure John Passmore?

Let's stir up a bit of interest Let's throw eggs at Victor Mooney Let's break the Rector's windows, And Captain Lindley's legs.

Let's call a spade Daré Afolabi A feminist an emasculated man And Princess Anne a piece of puss.

Let's boycott refectories Vomit in Sherfield lifts as a protest And tell Victor Mooney Just where to put his baked mince beef roll. C'mon, Let's go.

#### Blacklist

Paul Donovan (Handbook Editor) requires all Handbook articles by 5:30pm on Monday. Those clubs and societies (etc) whose committees are too stupid, too apathetic or simply too incompetent even to attempt to promote interest in their activities by means of the Handbook or Freshers' FELIX articles, will be blacklisted. Other club and society secretaries (etc) can gloat over a list in next week's FELIX of the comatose, inefficient or recalcitrant groups who don't want any new members next year

#### Min and Met Soc Lecture by JOE GORMLEY

President of the National Union of Mine Workers Monday, May 18 at 4:30pm, Mining LT, RSM.

Not far from Weatherspoon's cottage there is a long, straight path which crosses a bridge over a long, straight section of river. The path is not at right angles to the river, and the land in the acute angle between the two has been Weatherspoon's allotment for as long as anvone can remember.

On the allotment there is an old pig-sty (a mathematical 'point' pig-sty, with position, but no size or shape) and Weatherspoon is toying with the idea of getting some fences together, and building a pig-pen to keep a pig in.

Now, the pig must be able to get to his sty. And he must be able to get to the river, so that he will have a ready supply of fresh drinking water. And it would be convenient for Weatherspoon if he could get to the pen from the path without crossing the rest of his allotment; in other words, the pen must extend up to the path.

But fences are expensive, and Weatherspoon wants to keep the total cost of the pen as low as \*possible, so can you help him by telling him how to find the positions for the fences which will enable him to use the shortest possible length of fencing.

Now before you start muttering things like "non-linear trigonometry" and reaching for textbooks on the calculus of variations, I should warn you that while this is the kind of puzzle which will take several hours if you go about it the wrong way, the right approach will

give you the answer in about fifteen seconds. Have fun!

Solutions, comments, criticisms to me c/o FELIX Office. There is a prize of £5 (donated by Mend-a-Bike) plus two tickets to the IC Choir concert on Thursday for the correct solution randomly selected at 1:00pm next Wednesday.

#### Last Week's Solution

Eleven years. The sequences of marks he can allocate are

 $\begin{smallmatrix}1&2&1&0\\2&0&2&0\end{smallmatrix}$ 

2 1 2 0 0

3 2 11000

42101000 521001000

6210001000

72100001000

21000001000

9210000001000

10 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 Congratulations to John G Murphy of Mech Eng 2, one of two people who submitted a

correct answer.

The problem was originally set on the maths paper of the Cambridge entrance exams in 1970. I didn't think it was that difficult, despite the fact that when recalling the problem for this column, I realised that the answer I submitted at school, marked correct by the maths staff, was wrong!

Anyway, this week's is easier; I don't normally reveal the sources of puzzles I have borrowed until after the solutions appear (for obvious reasons) but this week I can't resist making an exception; after a Cambridge Scholarship question last week-this week's puzzle is an old O-Level question.

# What's

#### Friday, May 15

 Christian Union Meeting on the theme 'God's Wisdom' and fellowship, 6:00 to 6:30pm, Music Room, 53 Princes Gate.

#### Saturday, May 16

•Woody Allen's film Manhattan, 7:30pm, International Hall, Russel Sq tube, 50p.

#### Monday, May 18

•Talk: A Caver's Role in the RGS MULU Expedition by Tony Waltham, with slides, 7:30pm, RSM LT 303, 30p.

#### Tuesday, May 19

•STOIC Broadcast: Stars on STOIC - Mark Caldwell talks to and is insulted by the Orstrilian housewife/superstar Dame Edna Everage, 12:45pm. Your name doesn't have to bke Bruce or Sheila to watch this, but it may help. Riding Club Meeting, 1:00pm, Elec Eng 1110.

#### Thursday, May 21

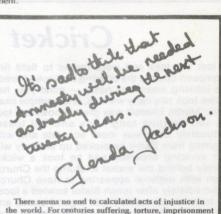
•STOIC broadcast with Newsbreak - THE chance to catch up on what you've missed during the past week, find out what's on over the next few days at College and elsewhere, including reviews of a recently released films and watch other exciting items provided by your local

•Hang-Gliding Club Meeting, 1:00pm, above Stan's

•IC Gliding Club Meeting, 5:30pm, Aero 254.

•ULU Gaysoc Meeting, 8:00pm, Room 2D, ULU, Malet

•Natural History Soc Elections, 12:30, Botany Base



the world. For centuries suffering, torture, imprisonment without trial and persecution for beliefs has gone on unopposed.

unopposed.
Yet today a glint of light glimmers for all those persecuted and unjustly imprisoned. The light is called Amnesty International and it has now been burning bright as a symbol of hope for twenty years.

Lighting the way
Amnesty's work is effective. Amnesty has lit the way
to freedom for many thousands of prisoners by
researching, documenting and bringing to light
their individual plight to the world at large.

their individual plight to the world at large.

It is estimated that every day four of Amnesty's adopted prisoners of conscience are released.

And those still in prison can take hope they have not been forgotten. Please, do not forget Amnesty International in this its twentieth year. Your help and support is vital. Fill in the coupon now and let us tell you more about ourselves, or give us a call no 10-836 5621.

us a call on 01-836 5621.

