



# FELIX

The Newspaper of Imperial College Union

## NO BALLS!

The tradition of a Royal College of Science Union Country House Ball at Silwood Park will not continue next year. This is the result of many years' abuse of the facilities which culminated this year.

The main complaints this year were damage to the library table and the state of the floors which, according to Prof Way, the Director of Silwood Park, will take months to rectify. The library table was badly stained by red wine and hot water and this was after RCS President-elect Eric Derbyshire had been told not to use the library for anything but a cloakroom.

Damage was also caused to the front lawn when one of the coaches drove across it. This has particularly annoyed the residents since the lawn is held in great esteem at Silwood.

This was in addition to allegations that the place was not cleaned properly. It was because of this that the Silwood residents complained to the warden and as a consequence Prof Way informed former RCS President Karl Schmidt that RCS would have to find an alternative venue for the Ball.

Last Friday Mr Schmidt met Prof Way to discuss the matter but was unable to persuade him to change his mind. This was because Silwood residents did not want RCS to use their facilities any more, and while Prof Way sympathised with RCS, he said that his residents must come first.



## Poof in Boots?

Nick Gardner, IC's resident eccentric, has entrusted FELIX with a Czechoslovakian riding outfit for use by the FELIX Editor on formal occasions.

Mr Gardner explained that he has long been disappointed that

the FELIX Editor has no official dress and he feels that the riding outfit fills this long-felt want admirably.

The outfit is too small for the current Editor, Martin S Taylor ('too big for his boots' as the staff were quick to point out) so it is here shown being modelled by Union President Stephen Goulder in his capacity as President of the FELIX Club.

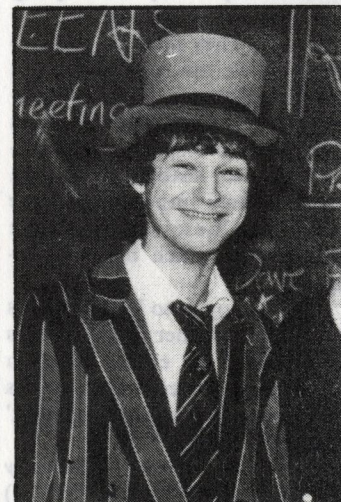
## Chas to Sue?

Charles Fuller, RCS Honorary Secretary and acting President, is considering suing ICU Deputy President John McCallion and FELIX Editor Martin S Taylor over allegedly libellous comments made in the Deputy President's annual report and the FELIX Editorial.

In an exclusive interview on Wednesday afternoon Mr Fuller told FELIX that he had not yet seen his solicitor but was waiting to see what was written about the matter in today's edition.

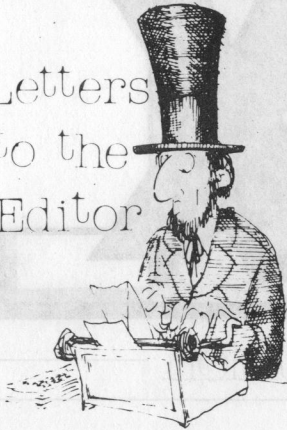
His concern stems from a paragraph on transport in the Deputy President's report in which Mr McCallion alleges that a Union van was used for mascotry purposes when Mr Fuller was well aware that this is prohibited under Union rules. Mr Taylor in his editorial supported Mr McCallion, and described Mr Fuller's attitude as 'incredibly petty'.

*Editorial comment—page 3.*



Chas Fuller

Letters  
to the  
Editor



## No News Editor is Good News

Dear Martin

Congratulations on yet another wonderful front page last week; the headlines were as usual witty, controversial, wildly exaggerated and almost totally irrelevant to any news that followed, but highly artistic. What a shame that all this small text has to be included; you could dispense entirely with it and have the front page made up solely of headlines consisting of random permutation of the words Slam, Fume, Louts, Profs, Snubbed, Ripped Off, Flashed and so on *ad nauseum*.

On the subject of creative journalism, several people have complained about last week's story, so tastefully titled 'Exam Students disrupt Window Cleaners'. These tiresome and narrow-minded people, incapable of seeing FELIX as a Work of Art which will contribute to an exciting portfolio for prospective employers, insist on quibbling over such trivialities as window-cleaners reportedly interrupting final exams on a Bank Holiday Monday. They must be made to see that we are considering not window-cleaners but the concept of Window-Cleaners, which goes to make up witty, controversial, etc headlines. This is particularly important in the case of Chemistry Lecture Theatre B, which has no windows.

My apologies to Brian Stevens and Jim Boucher (who was, as reported in an earlier issue, in Holland last week) and thanks to Jon 'my accent's slipping' Barnett.

Yours spherically

The News Editor (Retired)  
...before he was sacked—Ed.

## THE Cromwellian

Entrance on:  
3 Cromwell Road, SW7.  
Tel: 584 7258



(Opposite Natural History Museum)

### COCKTAIL BAR

Open

Mon-Fri 6.00-11.00  
Sat 8.00-11.00

Happy Hour

6.00-9.00  
Cocktails £1.50

Monday Special

Cocktails £1.50  
all night

### NIGHTCLUB

Open

Tues-Sat  
11.00-3am

Party Night

Wednesday  
Drinks 9Op  
Cocktails £1.50  
all night

### SUMMER OFFER

Entrance to Night Club half price on  
presentation of Imperial College cards

## Accommodation for September

No retainer

## LARGE & SMALL FLATS

and 1 house

Phone 385 9882

## UNION BAR

PROMOTION

TOBY  
BITTER  
40p per pint  
Fri 10 June

of discontinued lines  
including  
Acrylic IC scarves £6.95  
Sweatshirts £6.50-£4.50  
T-shirts £2.90-£2.20  
and a selection  
of ties £2

SHOP SALE

SOUTHSIDE

## Small Ads

### FOR SALE

- Universal Cycle, 3-speed, dynamo, basket and stand. £30 ono. Steve Legan, int 3531, or 589 5111 ext 1149.
- Citroen 2CV, 1979 (T registration), 17000 miles, 1yr MoT, £1,000ono. Evenings and weekends 589 5100 ext 381.
- Motorcycle clothing for sale: Bell Star II helmet (size 7 1/2) £30; Belstaff waxed cotton jacket (38") £15; lined gloves £5; all in good condition, offers considered. Contact Karen Scrivener int 3434 or 373 6914 (eves).
- Laser 48172, a single handed dinghy. Good condition, complete with sail, rudder bag, cover, trolley. Can have a try out sail. £500ono. Phone 979 6054.
- Squash rackets: Classic 003 £12. Also selection of US-made Manta rackets. Contact Dave Molesworth, Mining 3 on 731 6301 (eves).
- Bicycle, 5-speed racing cycle, good condition, £35.
- For sale: 3 Sea Panther sail boards complete with regatta sails suitable for beginners and those more able to windsurf. Price £150ono. Contact Andy Grimshaw, 2488 or 3915.

### ACCOMMODATION

- People required to share flat off Gloucester Road starting October. If interested see Barry Franklin in Union Office any lunchtime.
- Summer Accommodation: well furnished flat, only 100m away from College is available to 2-3 persons from the end of June. Contact Andreas 584 7490.
- Accommodation required for summer for four, close to College if possible. Single rooms. Contact Mike, 3703.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Live Music Southside Bar tonight after 9pm 'Why Lie?'
- All friends of Simon and Sally are invited to their engagement party at 8:00pm tonight.
- Make some extra pounds: Bartender/helper wanted from 7:00 to 11:00pm June 15. If interested please telephone 584 9011 as soon as possible.
- Squash Club Elections: Tuesday June 14, 1:00pm, Southside Bar. Details at Sports Centre.

### PERSONAL

- Andrew Hamiltonian watch out; Chris P is about!
- Ann—No computer could ever take your place in my heart—Pron.
- Mark—I still admire you secretly—DB.
- The only mail which I want posting under my door is 5ft 10ins tall and blond haired—DB.
- Are the little birds still around, Andrew?
- Maxine, I still desire your body, Floppy (SJWH).
- Purrrr crack! Meeowwww, Montagu.
- Bad luck, Frank—I always knew all real guildsmen were wankers!
- The Hissing Sid phrasebook: for 'gorgeously sexy' read 'kicks like a mule when provoked' for 'leather-clad blonde' read 'festooned with heavy metal and spikes'.

### ●Renelly

Gentlemen's Hairdressers  
Discount for students and staff!  
Cut: first visit £3, second visit and after £2.50. Cut and Blow Dry: first visit £4.40, second visit and after £3.95.  
Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm  
Sat 9am to 12noon  
Renelly, 154A Cromwell Rd, SW7  
(Next to British Airways Building)  
Appointments not always necessary.

# EDITORIAL

## The Red Rag

Last week I described Chas Fuller's attitude as incredibly petty when he threatened a no confidence motion in the Exec. Because of my comment he has now started talking of taking legal action against me.

I suppose one should feel sorry for someone whose personal pride is so great that he reacts so violently to criticism, but I really find it quite impossible to take Chas seriously any more, and I know most of the senior Union officials do too.

So here you are Chas: I do not retract anything I wrote last week—indeed, I feel that you are being more petty than ever in your threats of legal action (which I believe to be quite empty). Nevertheless, if you still feel as strongly as you did on Wednesday then go ahead and sue me. I look forward to receiving your writ with anticipation:

## Next Week's FELIX

As expected, this week's FELIX has turned out rather smaller than usual and many of the regular features have been cut; not that many of you are going to be reading it, of course, with national news being a little more

important than the future of the Silwood Ball.

Next week, though, I hope to produce a bumper issue with all the regular features and several pages of special articles for the summer. In particular, there will be a double-spread of Pinocchio puzzles (his final bow), a light-hearted news quiz on the goings-on throughout the year, an article by Stephen Goulder on RCS, an article by RCS on Stephen Goulder, a sporting review of the year from sports editor Chris Mallaband and an *unsporting* review of the year Below the Belt which will contain all the incriminating stories and photographs we haven't dared to print sooner.

Copy deadline was 5:30pm yesterday (I warned you last week) but since there is quite a bit of controversial material in this issue I've extended the deadline for letters until Monday 9:30am.

Naturally I would appreciate as much help as possible from staff members past and present

in putting it all together, and vast quantities of unskilled labour will be needed to help collate next Wednesday evening.

Publication date is next Thursday morning. Don't miss it!

## ACC

The ACC elections are on Tuesday evening at 6:30pm in the Lower Refectory and it is essential that all captains, both new and old, turn up.

## Car Rally

Pinocchio and I have done the bulk of the work on setting lots of witty and entertaining clues for you to solve, so I hope there will be a good number of teams entering.

Several people have told me they would like to enter, but have no car; others have a car but cannot get a team together, so if either of these predicaments apply to you, be not deterred but come and give your names to me as soon as possible and I'll match up carless teams with teamless cars.

The rally starts at 9:30am on

Sunday June 19 and goes on until about 1:00pm. If you feel it will be any help to you, last year's clues are on display in the FELIX Office.

## Impossible Without.....

Melanie Steel (and Lady Olga Maitland) for the interview, Diane Love for What's On, Andy Grimwash for Exec News Part 2 (the boredom continues), Nick Pyne who must take most of the blame for the avant-garde page 2, Karl Schmidt for the news, Dave Jago, Lee Paddon and Peter Rodgers for pasting up, and Maz and Pete the Print.

Special thanks to Adrian James who was news editor until last week when he resigned due to pressure of work. Many of you will by now have heard that Adrian's last lead story in last week's FELIX (Exam Students Disrupt Window Cleaners) was completely fictitious. I was totally fooled, and after I had recovered from my initial annoyance I found the whole thing very funny; apologies to anyone who did not.

Adrian has made plain his dislike of this year's headline style in his letter on page 2, and so this week's headlines are dedicated to his memory.

Martin S Taylor

Nick Hopwood Promotions  
presents

## End of an Era Party

Disco  
late Bar

STUNNING  
LIGHTS DISPLAY

JCR

Friday  
June 10  
8pm

Imperial College

£1.00

Nearest Tube: South Ken. Nearest Bus-stop: Albert Hall

£1.25 AFTER 10pm

# Avoiding a Holocaust?

Following the CND issue of FELIX (number 644, May 13) Consoc, quite rightly, insisted on their right of reply and their chairman John Pattison arranged for FELIX to interview Lady Olga Maitland.

Lady Olga Maitland (Mrs Hay in private life) is married with three children. From being a face of the 60s, she became the 'Fleet Street hackette' of the 70s, writing the gossip column for the *Sunday Express*, and is now best known as the founder and voice of the 'Women for Defence' movement.

FELIX visited her at home in London N1 to discuss her views on unilateral disarmament and civil defence, and to find out more about the 'Women for Defence' movement. We spoke for over an hour, so what follows is necessarily a summary of the interview

## Women for Defence

**FELIX:** What prompted you to start the 'Women for Defence' movement?

**Lady Olga Maitland:** At the end of last year I began to think more and more about peace movements, and I had a feeling that at Greenham Common in particular there's more to it than 20 or 30 lesbian women wearing woolly hats.

You cannot criticise any movement unless you take the trouble of finding out. So in January I spent two days at Greenham Common. I sat round their camp fire and just listened. And what was more obvious than anything else what that, first, they were middle class and educated, and secondly, that they came from all over the country, drawn by this great, almost suffragette movement. And I came to realise that women together had strength, so that's how the 'women' element got started.

I totally sympathise with their fears—everyone should be frightened of a nuclear holocaust. But where we are on a totally different track is that they have been fed with deliberate misinformation. They are also amazingly and depressingly ignorant. They made statements like 'Cruise is a first strike missile'. Sweeping, emotional—which I can understand—but wrong.

I came back to London and felt that the only way was to form a group, to go out and reassure the women of this nation about the facts of the defence issue—why we need to be sensibly and responsibly defended. This was the original intention of 'Women for Defence'.

From our first meeting to the launch, on the Tuesday of Holy Week, was only five weeks. I knew people would respond so fast that I made a pledge—that on Easter Sunday we would have red tulips on war memorials all over the country, laid in memory of those who died in the last war to give us the freedom which we enjoy today. It was wonderful, it was moving, but those flowers were laid, from the Channel Islands to Caithness, East Anglia, Wales, everywhere.

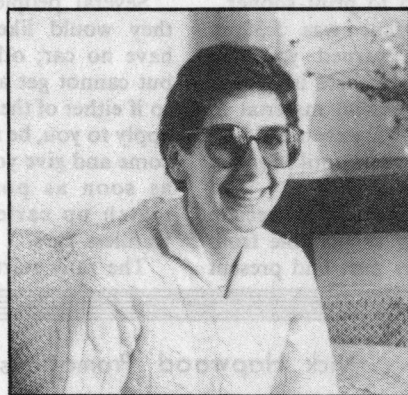
We went on to get a petition signed, urging the Russians to positively and urgently negotiate for multilateral nuclear disarmament. It was presented at the Russian Embassy and rejected as 'litter', which became rather a by-word!

Although Conservative in conception, we have had support right across the board.

Defence of your nation is a national not a party political problem...I felt the petition represented a growing voice of the silent people of this country. I have no doubt that what we're doing is absolutely right. The response we've had is—I'm so glad that at long last somebody is standing up and speaking about the real feelings of the people of this country. And the noisy minority of these so-called peace movements are not the true voice of Britain.

**FELIX:** How come this 'true voice' hasn't spoken up sooner?

**OM:** The thing is, it's very easy to be a rebel. Also, people in this country tend to take the view: 'We vote with our feet; we



Melanie Steel who conducted the interview for FELIX

care about our country, we entrust our governments with the responsibility of defence.' Till now both Labour and Conservative have been quite consistent in their attitudes towards our defence responsibility. The great divide has come today, in this election, and we will see on election day who is right, how strongly the people feel about one-sided disarmament.

**FELIX:** The way you come across in the media, it seems you have far fewer members than rival groups, such as CND.

**OM:** And we have not been going for twenty-five years, we do not have twenty-six paid organisers, and we do not have the millions of pounds that the CND have at their disposal. We survive totally on five weeks of existence; we survive on making a plea for donations of '£1 for peace'. We went nationwide within five days; that is the strength of our movement. We are asking the private person individually to rise up in this country to support us, and that is what they're doing.

**FELIX:** What are your views on the CND?

**OM:** I personally have talked and debated with the CND, on TV and elsewhere, and the fact is that the leading elements in the CND are in sympathy with Moscow; they are in sympathy with ultra-left-wing leaders and pro-Communist supporters. For them it

is no horror to be living under a régime that is totalitarian, ie a Communist régime. Because they don't feel any fear about it, they see nothing odd in becoming a one-sided disarmed country; they don't see the need to protect ourselves. Now the majority of people in this country do actually care very much about our freedom. We care about the way we live, that's what we're protecting. I think sometimes people forget why we are defending ourselves.

**FELIX:** How far are we prepared to go in defending ourselves?

**OM:** I think we have to make it absolutely credible that we have them (nuclear weapons). We have to have what I describe as the minimum nuclear deterrent, unlike the Russians who have the maximum plus.

**FELIX:** What if the Russians see the nuclear weapons we have not as a deterrent but as a threat, and attack for that reason?

**OM:** They outnumber us in every field of weaponry there is, and will continue to do so. The threat is on the other side.

The Russians are top of the class when it comes to masterminding propaganda. It is appalling to find that people in this country are falling to their insidiousness, believing that the poor Russians are threatened. How have they ever been threatened? NATO has always been a defensive alliance, not an aggressive one. NATO has never taken over one single country. Since the war, Russia has backed the communist take-over of twenty-eight countries. I'm not saying that the followers of CND are Communist, but they are being manipulated by people who know what they are doing. They are frightening people, saying 'You don't want your baby blown up, do you? Well how can you justify having nuclear weapons?' It would be more realistic to say 'You don't want your baby blown up do you; you want your child to grow up in a free world don't you? So how are you going to make sure that will happen?'

**FELIX:** Do you think that having nuclear weapons is the best way of achieving this?

**OM:** I think it is the only way. The Russians will not invade if we show our determination to defend ourselves. They only invade countries which are weak and vulnerable.

**FELIX:** Are you not concerned that with so many nuclear weapons around the world, something could go wrong with one of the early warning systems?

**OM:** This is a very natural fear. There is a positive agreement, a hotline between Moscow and NATO and Washington, that there can be no accidental letting off of nuclear weapons. If there is a NATO or Warsaw exercise, the first thing each side does is inform the other of what they are doing.

**FELIX:** Do you trust the Russians on this?

**OM:** Well, it's worked for the last 38 years. It's a proven method.

**FELIX:** Even if you trust the Russians to play fair.....

**OM:** —I don't trust the Russians...oh, yes, on the early warning system.

**FELIX:** ...as countries outside NATO acquire their own nuclear weapons, do you trust them also to play fair?

**OM:** We have to go in for a similar sort of agreement. Countries like Iraq, Iran, Argentina, Libya, are all planning to have their own nuclear weaponry. The evil of nuclear weapons is that they exist and will not go away. I have no control over the Libyans but I feel sure that there will be arms control talks with them, just as much as there are with Russia.

**FELIX:** What are your views on the European countries that refuse to have nuclear weapons?

**OM:** I think they are trying to have their cake and eat it, relying on NATO protecting them.

Finland is in a slightly different position, having a frontier with Russia and not being as strong as Germany. I am certain that if Finland had tanks rolling over her frontier we would rise in her defense.

**FELIX:** What would we do? Would we use nuclear weapons?

**OM:** We would meet weapon for weapon. A nuclear weapon would be an ultimate last ditch resort.

**FELIX:** The Russians have far more tanks than we do. How many tanks would you plan sending in?

**OM:** It's an interesting point. They have more and better tanks with greater firing power. So there will be breaking point when NATO would have to decide, can they cope with conventional weapons. If it becomes apparent that they can't, then they must deploy retaliatory weapons. But that is a last resort, Russia would have to invade first. NATO will always be a defensive alliance, and would never attack another country.

**FELIX:** But under the right circumstances, NATO would be prepared to use the first nuclear weapon?

**OM:** If it was necessary. It has to be a credible weapon. There's no point having it unless you're prepared to use it. But I think we have a much better chance of ensuring that a war doesn't even begin if we show that we have a credible minimum deterrent.

**FELIX:** What is your attitude to Switzerland, where, instead of spending money on nuclear weapons, they spend it on realistic civil defence?

**OM:** It is a much smaller population and that in itself makes it a lot easier. But the

real fact is that they are protecting themselves under the umbrella of NATO—I think it's a cheating way of going about things.

**FELIX:** Is it cheating to have an effective civil defence plan?

**OM:** No, no. It's responsible if you can do it. It is naive to stick your head in the sand. The Swiss have a small population with new houses being built, therefore it's much easier to have underground shelters, etc. This is why I support a civil defence plan in this country; it's common sense.

**FELIX:** Do you think the civil defence plan in this country is an effective one?

**OM:** I'm afraid I don't see how it can ever be truly effective. There is no ultimate defence against a nuclear bomb attack.



Lady Olga Maitland putting the case for a credible nuclear deterrent

**FELIX:** So why should we have plans for civil defence?

**OM:** Because not everyone would be killed. Of course 'Protect and Survive' (the official Home Office pamphlet) is unrealistic in the sense that it is impossible to survive if you're in the middle of it, but people on the perimeter could survive if they take precautions. The principle of the document must be right; people must be told what they can do in the event of attack.

I think one has a duty to think...how dreadful a holocaust is and what the appalling effects would be. But the important thing is to make sure that such an event will never, ever happen, and that's why we must have a deterrent.

**FELIX:** One last question—you have criticised the CND for appealing to people's emotions. To some extent isn't your movement also relying on people's emotions by saying 'your parents and grandparents died in previous world wars for your freedoms'?

**OM:** Are we not all appealing to each other's emotions? I am saying that we are appealing to the right ones. We look at history; we look at the present, and at what we want in the future: people died in the past for the freedom we enjoy today. I want to continue the freedom we have today; you may not but I do, and the majority of people in this country want it too.

## Personal Speculations

This interview, the correspondence on the FELIX letters page over the last few weeks and the articles in the CND issue have together raised most of the issues of the nuclear debate. The arguments both for and against unilateral disarmament have been persuasively put.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, former Chief of Defence Staff, said in a House of Lords debate (Dec 1979): 'I believe that the retaliation would totally destroy this country and almost all the inhabitants in it,' and the authors of *London After The Bomb* clearly show that the government's planned civil defence measures are neither practical nor effective.

CND says that without nuclear weapons the threat of nuclear attack on Britain would not exist. They suggest that, as a potential victim, Russia will see our weapons as a threat rather than a deterrent and, at a time of tension, will resort to attack as the best form of defence.

Yet Lady Olga Maitland argues, apparently just as logically, that Russia will not attack a country that is prepared to defend itself. She also presents CND as a communist-infiltrated tool of the Russians, inducing moral disarray in the basically patriotic nation.

Both views could be valid. Which is 'right'? Will the uncommitted make their decision based on an orator's eloquence? What are the facts, as opposed to the biased opinions, of the debate?

I do not believe that the facts of such an emotive and politically tangled issue can every be put clearly to the 'man in the street'. However, I do believe that there are some fundamental questions, answers to which might help us make up our minds:

What is the Russian threat—are we scared of nuclear explosions or of a communist take-over?

If we are afraid of the curtailment of our 'freedom' are we prepared to destroy this country to preserve it? (NB Lady Olga's answer to this one is: 'Those who prefer to be red—go off to Russia, and take a one-way ticket'...which rather misses the point.)

Robert Kelsey quoted Bertrand Russell, saying 'Remember your humanity and forget the rest.' But, as well as being capable of higher thought and love, man is an aggressive animal. Even multilateral nuclear disarmament would not change human nature and nuclear arsenals could rapidly be restocked with equally horrific biological weapons. Would we then be any better off than we are now?

Are we concerned with the future of our planet ('Green' politics), our our quality of life from day to day (traditional party politics)?

## Bookshop News

In the Bookshop Window until June 15 publications from Prentice-Hall International. From June 15 to 24 International Labour Office will be showing management titles.

### New Titles

*Soft exercise* - Balaskas & Stirk, Unwin Paperbacks £5.50

*Concise English Dictionary* - Collins £7.95

*Pocket life sciences dictionary* - Longman 90p

*A message from the Falklands* - Hugh Tinker, Junction Books £3.50

*Man and the planets* - Duncan Lunan, Ashgrove Press £9.50

*Taming the atom* - Ian Blair, Adam Hilger £6.50

*The South Downs Way* - Westacott & Richards, Penguin £2.50

*Vintage Stuff* - Tom Sharpe, Pan £1.75

*Return of the Jedi* - James Khan, Futura £1.75

*Amazing grace and flavour* - Michael Smith BBC £1.00

*Sophie's Choice* - William Styron, Corgi £2.50

*Indian Cookery* - Madhur Jaffrey, BBC £4.25

*Discovering birds* - Tony Soper, BBC £3.50

*No comebacks* - Frederick Forsyth, Corgi £1.95

*Twice shy* - Dick Francis, Pan £1.75

*The man from St Petersburg* - Ken Follett, Corgi £1.95

To whom it may concern, recommended reading lists for next academic year should be in to me by June 15.

## STOIC

G'day and welcome to the last week of STOIC broadcasts this year. This week we will mention absolutely nothing about examinations; we will not be asking whether the Conservatives will introduce a workers cull or reintroduce the death penalty for people who walk behind the bowler's arm in cricket. We will though, be poking another edition of 'Turn it on again' between the ---- (don't say that word!) on Thursday. This is your last chance.....

## ΨΦ Soc

Out in the darkness the B-52 stood with the elastic bomb in its belly—pregnant with death. One of the ground crew, dwarfed beneath the bomber, lit a cigarette, patted the huge nose wheel and said,

'She's pregnant with death, this one.'

'So's the wife,' the companion answered and spat on the tar-mac in a gesture of defiance to the world.

Little did they notice the peculiar shape that darted from across the runway to the yawning bomb loading bay. Tentacle-like limbs grasped the cold metal and as silently as it had appeared, the rod-like shape disappeared into the plane.

Don't miss the last thrilling episode of *The Ultimate Elastic* in the next issue of *FELIX*.

Lady Clea

## Industrial Society

Industrial Society are having a summer tour, Monday June 20 to Friday June 24. Cost £15, including travel, accommodation and food (heavily subsidised).

### Schedule

Mon 20: visit to British Aerospace Dynamics at Bristol (including satellite assembly).

Tues 21: visit to Ford Motor Company's new Bridgend plant.

Wed 22: Visit to Wiggins Teape's paper mill at Cardiff.

Thur 23: visit to Monsanto's chemical plant.

Fri 24: visit to the world famous Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Cement Company.

To go on the tour, contact Chris Day, Mech Eng 2, stating your shoosize (for safety equipment). Cheques payable to Imperial College Industrial Society.

## Touche Ross & Co.

Do you remember our brochure?

"It's the career that matters"

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

This means that our training philosophy is bound to be tough. We need students who are capable of active as well as passive learning. people who will not only assimilate what we teach them but take the initiative, think for themselves, think

We will be represented at a number of summer recruitment fairs

For further information contact James Phillips, Touche Ross & Co., Hill House, 11 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR

## Wanted: Subwarden for Beit

Applications are invited for the post of male subwarden in Beit Hall. The appointment will be made for a two year period and would suit a postgraduate in the first year of his research programme. Accommodation is provided and the job entails a commitment to assist the Warden, working with the committee of residents to encourage the social life and maintain the order of the community. Applications should be addressed to Dr C Halls, Warden, Beit Hall. Interviews will be held during the last week in June so please respond promptly if interested.

## Southside Bar

Friday 10 June  
Live Music

Cocktails — from £1.00

Over 200 to choose from

Also in stock — Jack Daniels

Old Grandad

Strathconon -single malt

Cocktails now available at all times.

# EXEC NEWS

## Part 2

## LATE REPORTS

### Annual Report: Silwood Park Committee

This academic year has proved to be a very successful one for the Silwood Park Committee. Attendances at committee meetings have trebled and involvement in activities, notably overseas students, has increased generally. As should be obvious the Committee is entirely self-sufficient in providing facilities, and has the capability and necessity of introducing any new activity independently of South Kensington. This is for the benefit of the 100 students resident, and the 350 students that visit here from South Ken each year.

The total grant received by ICUSPC for 1982/3 was £2,560, with extra revenue from the table football and snooker light machines. Though this was an increase on the previous year, it did not go as far, owing to notably the initiation of an Overseas Student Society, which is a new concept at Silwood. This has rapidly increased the involvement of these students from a few, to the majority resident here. It has been the previous scepticism, and hence inactivity of these students, which has allowed us to survive on a relatively small budget in the past.

### Union Business

(a) **Constitution:** There have been major changes this year to update the organisation of the Committee for the expected increased in numbers of students at Silwood and their increased activity. The major change is the introduction of a new Exec Subcommittee for day to day matters.

(b) **Accommodation:** The notable success this year, was the removal of any residence subsidy to the refectory. This was important, as most of the residents eat there only as much as the staff, and yet they were the only people subsidising it. The result of this was that the effective rent increase was in line with the % grant increase.

Much progress has been made in trying to make the standard of the accommodation equal, however this has been hindered by attempts from the College to perfect the new blocks, only for their ceremonial opening at the Governors meeting here in June. A demonstration may be organised against this on the day.

A great amount of cooperation has been achieved on the Residence Committee to clarify students right and priority to rooms, and the paying of debts etc. This has resulted from a case where a debt in excess of £2,000 was allowed to be built up, by the warden, while the College policy will cause this debt to increase the rents, if it is not paid off by the student. A motion passed by the Committee objects to this policy.

Students involvement in assessing the cost of their residences, and how the cost can be kept down, have also been successful.

(c) **Union Equipment:** Silwood Park has successfully obtained a Land Rover from the Exploration Board at IC to cover the recent lack of transport facilities here for students. Though this vehicle was not in wonderful condition on purchase, it is now in good working order and a great asset to the Committee. The students here would prefer a minibus, as the cost of running a Land Rover and the difficulty in driving it long distances are great. It is hoped that the Land Rover would maintain a good resale value if a minibus became available. A Windsurfer has also been purchased this year.

### Sports

This area of activities has been very prolific this year even if the array of talent is limited. External competitions have been played in football, cricket, snooker, and volleyball. Of these perhaps the snooker has given us greatest local acclaim. Our football team has a good record against other IC teams. Other high participation sports include, tennis, squash, badminton, aerobics, karate, windsurfing. Rugby is starting in the near future.

### General Activities

Again the Nat Hist Society has been successful, with a weekend to the Lizard (Cornwall) and a weekend to Kent to see most of the British Orchids. Next year it plans to spend a week in Spain.

The Film Society has also been an important part of alternative entertainment at Silwood and it hopes to incorporate a video section for less popular films next year.

Entertainments of the social nature have also been greatly increased this year, with the notable additions of the first Silwood Park Beer Festival, a Fringe Theatre Musical (the first live theatrical production in living memory at Silwood) and numerous parties. A boat trip is planned for later this summer.

This has been a great year for ICUSPC, with a greater understanding between students and staff. With a promise that things can only get better from the newly elected chairman, activities can only increase, especially amongst the overseas students. We only hope that ICU will maintain an interest in us.

I would especially like to thank Chris Endacott, Jeremy Holland, Rosy Hailes, Mark Hankins, Andy Adams and Prof Way for their help at Silwood and Stephen Goulder and Andy Grimshaw without whose interest in Silwood this year would not have been a success.

Andy Sheppard

### Annual Report: Recreational Clubs Committee Chairman

RCC has had a good year, with many of the younger clubs becoming established and the older clubs carrying on their traditionally high levels of activity. We have continued to cater for a wide variety of activities from the low cost indoor clubs to the higher cost outdoor and flying clubs.

The running of RCC has gone as smoothly as ever this year and particular thanks for this must go to Frank Potter and Karl Skinner. Frank, as Senior Treasurer has always provided gentle advice and support in addition to the task that he shares with Karl, that of finance. This has involved Karl in much boring but highly necessary work which he has always done when needed and without complaint. I would recommend to all branches of ICU that they consider adopting the RCC computer accounting system. This gives a weekly report of individual club finances, eliminates the need for most book-keeping by junior treasurers and renders the audit preparation relatively painless.

Transport is a major item of expense and frustration for many clubs. The centralisation from RCC and ACC to ICU has not provided entirely happy results, although the system has at last been supported by a specific transport grant from ICU.

This year I have attempted to give the low-cost high membership clubs a better deal, with Snooker and Wargames Clubs particularly benefitting from this policy. Gliding Club, Balloon Club and other of the higher cost clubs have been traditional targets for attack by some sections of ICU. Part of the justification for students unions must be that they provide facilities for activities that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive on a student's income. The number of internationally and nationally known ex-university figures in some of these activities reflects the validity of this argument and I trust that ICU will continue to support these areas.

I have become firmly of the opinion that the priority expenditure of ICU should be in support of its clubs, whether they be major sub-committee or CCU based, provided that they are democratically run and accountable to their members and ultimately to ICU as the provider of finance. Some clubs, particularly within the CCUs have no real membership, no subscriptions and are accountable to nobody but the relevant CCU committee who are in turn not accountable to ICU. It is manifestly wrong and unfair that these bodies should be parasitic on the democratic components of ICU and the CCUs.

A final word of thanks to all those that have helped me this year: Frank, Karl, Mick, Kathey and Chris from RCC, Jen, Jo, Pat, Steve, John and Christine from ICU and Ian, Johnathan, Mike and Matthew from the other major sub-committees. Also my best wishes to all of next year's officers for a successful term of office.

Colin Butter

## SOCIAL COLOURS

### ACC

I Matthews, Cycling  
T Bell, Pedal GB 83  
D Molesworth, Squash  
Jeff Walker, Rugby Tour  
Paul Jarra, Judo Trainer  
Jeff Walker, Judo Trainer  
Chris Mallaband, ACC Exec, FELIX  
Barry Franklin, ACC Exec  
Sarah Pearson, ACC Exec  
Madeline Spottiswoode, ACC Exec  
Dr Dave Chadwick, HST

### Welfare

N Pyne, many activities  
D G Potter, help this year  
A S Gujral, Nightline

### Pub Board

Hugh Southey, AP  
Mark Simms, STOIC  
Tony Atkins, Phoenix  
Neil Sykes, IC Radio  
Neil Collins, IC Radio  
Christopher Martin, IC Radio  
David Walker, IC Radio  
Adrian James, FELIX  
Paul Philippou, FELIX  
Lee Paddon, FELIX  
Tim Noyce, FELIX  
Nick Bedding, FELIX  
David Rowe, Phoenix  
Peter Rodgers, Handbook

### SCAB

Andrew Wood, Orchestra  
Mike Withers, Op Soc  
A Moore, Music  
Dr D M Edwards, IC Wind Band  
Mark Priestly, Dramsoc

### Ents

D Chaplin, Ents films  
P Belford, Ents Secretary  
G Livett, Ents films  
A Owens, Ents  
S Porter, Ents Treasurer  
A Fasey, Ents disco

### RCC

D B Ludd, Chess & General  
Sarah Jane Smith, Wine Soc  
Richard Williams, Dancing  
Simon Carter, Dancing  
N R Daud, Dancing  
Sean Davis, Snooker  
Nick Gaskill, Snooker  
Paul Holt, Snooker  
Chris Jennings, Snooker  
Richard Barron, Scout & Guide  
Jenny Crompton, Scout & Guide  
Michael Harris, Wargames  
Karl Skinner, RCC Vice-Chairman  
Bill Pennington, Audio Soc  
Steve Lane, Caving  
Mike Bull RCC Hon Sec

**SCC**  
 Steve James, Catholic Soc  
 Roger Elkes, Christian Union  
 Robert Kelsey, various  
 John Pattison, Conservative Soc  
 John Sattaur, Third World First  
 Tippy Sheriff, Islamic Soc  
 Robin Graham, Jewish Soc, Veg Soc  
 Stephen Barnett, Sci Fi Soc  
 Susan Watts, WIST  
 Louise Nahon, WIST  
 Steve Parr, WLC  
 Nigel Rennie, SCC & CU  
 Jon Stanley, SCC, Labour, HRW  
 Alistair Kirk, SCC, Ind Soc, Careers  
 Mike Mallick, SCC, Soc Soc, WLC  
 Neil Anderson, SCC, WLC  
 Dr Robin Smith, HST  
 M Skeates, Ind Soc, WLC, CU

**Rag**  
 D W Parry, most active  
 Mike Bartlett, most active, general

**ICCAG**  
 Alan Cook, books, handicapped  
 Alan Thew, soup run  
 Eamonn Platt, soup run  
 Marianne Parkinson, transport  
 Sarah Best, Secretary

**Silwood Park**  
 Chris Endacott, Silwood Park Bar  
 Jeremy Holland, Silwood Park Bar  
 Antony Brown, Silwood Park Bar

**College Block**  
 Mr David Burtenshaw, Estates  
 Mr Jack Parry, Estates  
 Mr Terry Whodcoat, Registry  
 Mr Colin Springgay, Registry  
 Mr Eric Goto, Life Sci Div.

**General**  
 Rebecca May, Dancing, ICCAG  
 Chris Millard, C&G, Motor Club  
 Ray Parkinson, RSMU, Mining Hse  
 Alan Bevan, Pedal Car GB  
 Rakesh Chandraker, Pedal Car GB  
 Andy Shaw, Pedal Car GB  
 Jane Evans, Meth Soc, Orchestra  
 Steve Cook, Linstead  
 Colin Butter, RCC, Balloon  
 Ian Bull, ACC  
 Matthew Tonks, SCAB, Dramsoc,  
 Opsoc  
 Andy Sheppard, Silwood  
 Stephen Goulder, ICU President  
 John McCallion, ICU Dep President  
 Andrew Grimshaw, ICU Hon Sec  
 Steve Bishop, C&GU  
 Karl Schmidt, RCSU  
 Nigel Walls, RSMU  
 Jim Boucher, AAO

Simon Rodan, EAO  
 Jon Barnett, Welfare  
 John Passmore, PAO  
 Byll Waterson, Ents  
 Ken Young, Community Action  
 Ged O'Shea, Chem Dep Rep  
 Peter Burt, Life Sci Dep Rep  
 Martin S Taylor, FELIX  
 J Miller, SCC  
 Phil Nathan, Liberal, Life Sci Dep  
 Rep  
 C Teller, acting-DP 3mths  
 P Knight, Red Cross  
 A Dziwior, Gliding, HG Wells  
 I Lacey, Cycling, Dramsoc

**Honorary Life Membership**  
 Mr Brian Lloyd Davies, Financial  
 Secretary  
 Mr Ieuan Thomas, Domestic  
 Manager  
 Mr Richard Hermitage, Finance

## ALL COLOURS TIES ARE AVAILABLE ON PRODUCTION OF A UNION CARD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SHOP

# ATHLETIC COLOURS

### Association Football

Full Colours

K M Reeve (ex-officio)

A Page

M Curran

S Dunhill

G Rickard (RA)

Half Colours

A Harlow

J McGuckin

D Griffiths

D Stevenson

J Rigby

### Badminton Club

Full Colours

Chris Mallaband (ex-officio)

Ian Bull (Re-Awarded)

Peter Gadd

Dave Marshall

Half Colours

John Scott

Jane Radford

Janet Ellis

Janet Foulkes

John McGlynn

D Demico

Lee Yap

Chris Hufflet (RA)

Steve Willis (RA)

Andree Rickard (RA)

### Basketball Club

Full Colours

A Muddle (EO)

### Boardsailing Club

Full Colours

A Grimshaw (EO)

Half Colours

Christian Leuchtenberg

Panos Alexandrou

### Boat Club

Full Colours

Martin Greaves (EO)

Half Colours

Chris Adams

Andrew McConnell

Alistair Rowe

Mark Alloway

Ian Simpson

VP McKee

Alison Doyle

### Cricket Club (1981/2)

Full Colours

John White (EO)

Guy Simpkin

Steve Bell

Simon Tear

Half Colours

E Helsby

Stuart Walter

Steve Bussey

William Hinners

Phillip Eastland

Neil Clarke

### Cross Country Club

Full Colours

Jon Frost (EO)

Hugh Dixon

Mandy Tindall

Half Colours

Graham Harker

Robert Morrison

### Cycle Club

Full Colours

Ronan McDonald (EO)

Half Colours

Roger Williams

Gary Hotchkiss

### Fencing Club

Full Colours

Madeleine Spottiswoode (EO)

Peter Baines

Graham Barfleet

Half Colours

Simon Brock

Kathy Hollinshead

J Kemp

Maurice Tsui

### Golf Club

Full Colours

A P Black (EO)

Half Colours

D Gladman

D Bonney

### Hockey Club (Men)

Full Colours

B J Franklin (EO)

G Ayers

C P Jones

A Whitehead

A L Garms

Half Colours

M Bansal

A Stewart

M Lyons

J Ward

S Witter

P Cunningham

C Eldridge

P Dubenski

### Hockey (Ladies)

Full Colours

Sara Halbard (EO)

Alison Wall

Half Colours

Jo Hannah

Sara Shelbourne

### Judo

Full Colours

Gabby Sheilds (EO)

Tim Stockings

Paul Warren

Keith Stevenson (RA)

Half Colours

Mark Tizard

Andrew Binding

Caroline Scott

Kathryn Markham

Graham West

Mark Smith

### Karate

Full Colours

P Barry (EO)

D Chaplin

Half Colours

S Budzinski

George Chan

### Kung Fu

Full Colours

Chris Doyle (EO)

Diane Hope

Half Colours

David Ogaram

### Lawn Tennis (1981/2)

Full Colours

A Waas (EO)

D Gladman

Half Colours

R Dand

C Langevin

R Easton

G Pike

M Sheppard

### Lawn Tennis 1982/3

Full Colours

D Gladman (EO)

Sue Matthews

Michael Shepherd

Christian Langevin

Half Colours

A Kappagoda

John Sear

Jim Mansbridge

Rauf Daud

R Easton

Sven Taylor

Mike See

Karen Smith

### Netball

Full Colours

Emma Hickling (EO)

### Ladies Rugby

Full Colours

Marrabelle Anderson (EO)

### Orienteering

Full Colours

A Maynard (EO)

Simon Errington

Half Colours

Michael James

Bruce Bricknell

Bill Steen

Ian Tidswell

Paul Wood

### Rifle and Pistol

Full Colours

S J Harrison (EO)

G J Smith (RA)

N J J Lindsay (RA)

M Bourke

N A Wood

G P Bowser

T J Higgs

Half Colours

J R Symons

A Hamilton

P Pike

### Rugby

Full Colours

John Davies (EO)

P Richards

S Thompson

P Verity

W King (RA)

Half Colours

M Windsor

S Johns

P Eastland

G Pike (RA)

C Henderson

M Thompson

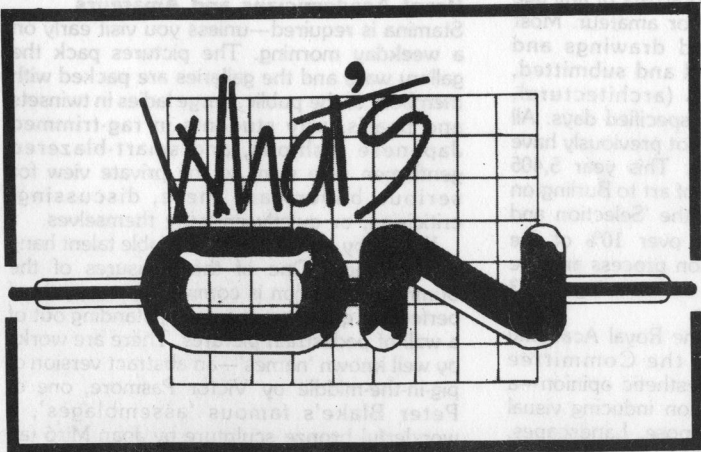
J Whittle

### Sporting Motorcycle

Full Colours

Kevin Ash (EO)

continued.....



## Today

**1230h JCR**  
Liberal Club bookstall

**1255h Union Concert Hall**  
Islamic Society Friday prayers

**1830h Music Rm, 53 Princes Gate**  
CU meeting. All welcome.  
Coffee at 1800h

**1900h** 340  
Huxley  
Latin American Society film:  
'Battle for Chile' part 2. In  
Spanish with English subtitles.  
30p members, 50p non-  
members.

## Athletic Colours continued

### Sailing

*Full Colours*

David Chadwick (EO)  
Graham Kennedy (RA)  
Jim Redman  
Graham Dalton

*Half Colours*

Richard Tostevin (RA)  
Kate Bennett-Clarke  
Phil Bevan  
Graeme Castle  
Peter Howarth  
Andy Jones

### Ski Club

*Full Colours*

Bill Steen (EO)  
Lillian Harrison

*Half Colours*

N Hashem

### Squash Rackets

*Full Colours*

Dave Molesworth (EO)  
Laeque Daneshmend  
Rupert Wilkinson  
Ian Grindall  
Lucy Clarke

*Half Colours*

John Wittrick  
Bassam Burgan  
Martin Houston  
Rich Clarke  
Simon Roberts  
Mark Bilsland  
Clare Wood

### Swimming & Water Polo

*Full Colours*

J Boucher (EO)  
Rich Leach  
Martin Burnett

*Half Colours*

Paul Edwards

### Table Tennis

*Full Colours*

Chris Nicolaides (EO)  
Robin Millar

*Half Colours*

W Forsyath  
J P Ridd

### Ten Pin Bowling

*Full Colours*

C J Wells (EO)  
Wai Man

*Half Colours*

Jeff Quinn  
Dave Smith  
Martin Smith  
Kevin Short

### Volleyball

*Full Colours*

P G Dias-Lalcaca (EO)  
Man Lam  
Andy Green

*Half Colours*

Nadawel Yassir  
Francois Grey

### Wing Chun

*Full Colours*

Nigel Lewis (EO)

### Weight-Training Club

*Full Colours*

C Derohan (EO)

### Yacht Club

*Full Colours*

P Caiger-Smith

## 2100h

Southside Bar

'Why Lie' a College band, play Southside Bar, where cocktails will be on sale from £1.00.

**2230h Falmouth Kitchens Soup Run**

## Sunday

Su 0915

**0915h** Sheffield Building. Look for sign on Consort Gallery door.

WLC Prayer Meeting

**0930h** Beit Arch  
Cycle Ride

**1000h** Consort Gallery  
WLC Communion Service with coffee afterwards.

**1100h** More House  
Catholic Mass

**1300h** Union SCR  
Wargames Club meeting

**1800h** More House  
Catholic Mass

## Monday

**1230h** Rag Committee Office  
Community Action Group meeting

**Lunch** JCR  
IC CND Bookstall

**1930h** JCR  
Dancing club beginners' class.  
Admission 50p.

## Tuesday

**1230h** Southside Upper Lounge  
Boardsailing club meeting

**1230h** Elec Eng 606  
Pimlico Connection Soc  
weekly lunch

**1245h** Southside Upper Lounge  
Cycling club lunchtime meeting

**1230h** Chem 231  
Catholic mass and lunch

## 1300h

Southside Upper Lounge

Squash Club elections for next year's captains. Nick Maxwell vs Rupert Wilkinson and Hugo Douglas-Dufresne. Joanna

Billing vs Jane Glascodine and Boi Lansam. If you can't attend, please leave a signed vote at the sports centre.

**1730h** Brown Committee Room  
Amnesty International meeting

**1730h** Volleyball Court  
Ladies training evening

**1930h** Music Room  
Opsoc rehearsal for 'The Gondoliers'.

**1930h** JCR  
Intermediate dancing class.  
Admission 50p

**2230h** Falmouth Kitchens  
Soup Run

## Wednesday

**1300h** Union SCR  
Wargames club meeting

**1315h** 9 Princes Gdns  
Islamic Society Quran Circle

**1300h** 341  
Huxley  
Senior Christian Fellowship  
The Gospel of John: Study 5

**1345h** Beit Arch  
Cycling club training ride.

**Afternoon, 401 RSM**  
Microcomputer club meeting

**1830h** JCR  
Bronze medal dancing class

**1930h** JCR  
Beginners' dancing class

## Thursday

**1300h** TV Lounges  
STOIC 'Turn it on again' part 2  
(repeated at 6pm).

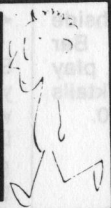
*-Just when you thought it was safe to sit in front of the TV again.....*

**1730h** Aero 254  
Gliding club meeting



## WALKABOUT- LOOKSEE

by Mobile Optics Inc.



Wimbledon and Ascot, grass pollen counts, county shows and church fêtes, are the universal constants of an English summer. And even if it pours with rain and strawberries cost a pound a punnet, one summer tradition remains unaffected by the weather: the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition which this year is supported by IBM United Kingdom Ltd, the first time in its 215 year history that the Summer Exhibition has been backed by industry.

### The ritual of selection

'The toil of months, experience of years Before the dreaded Council now appears' So run the first lines of a pamphlet written by a disappointed painter in 1875.

The exhibition is open to artists of any age or nationality, professional or amateur. Most media are accepted and drawings and paintings must be framed and submitted, unpacked, in categories (architectural, miniatures, prints, etc) on specified days. All must be original and must not previously have been exhibited in London. This year 5,405 artists brought their works of art to Burlington House, to be sent before the 'Selection and Hanging Committee. Just over 10% of the works survived the selection process and the 1983 exhibition includes an amazing 1,483 works, by over 500 artists.

The artist members of the Royal Academy Council who comprise the Committee represent every facet of aesthetic opinion—a sure recipe for an exhibition inducing visual indigestion, one might suppose. Landscapes, portraits, pop art and abstraction are all on show, but by exercising care and imagination over the hanging, a sense of unity has been created from wall to wall and gallery to gallery, making the exhibition both lively and enjoyable.

### Royal Academicians and Amateurs

Stamina is required—unless you visit early on a weekday morning. The pictures pack the gallery walls and the galleries are packed with members of the public. Large ladies in twinsets and pearls, arty students in rag-trimmed Japanese fashions, and smart-blazered gentlemen who went to the private view for serious buyers are there, discussing, criticising, or quietly enjoying themselves.

Works by artists of very variable talent hang side by side. One of the pleasures of the Summer Exhibition is coming upon aspects of perfection quite unexpectedly, standing out of a wall of pedestrian pictures. There are works by well known 'names'—an abstract version of pig-in-the-middle by Victor Pasmore, one of Peter Blake's famous 'assemblages', a wonderful bronze sculpture by Joan Miró (an Honorary Academician), and drawings by Linda Kitson, the Falkland artist. There are also delightful discoveries to be made—the peaches and cream skin of William Thomson's nudes, the secret thoughts of Mel Calman's worried little man, a rose-tinted pointilliste teapot by Lucy Smith, and the fine detail of Claire Dalby's postage-stamp-sized wood engravings.

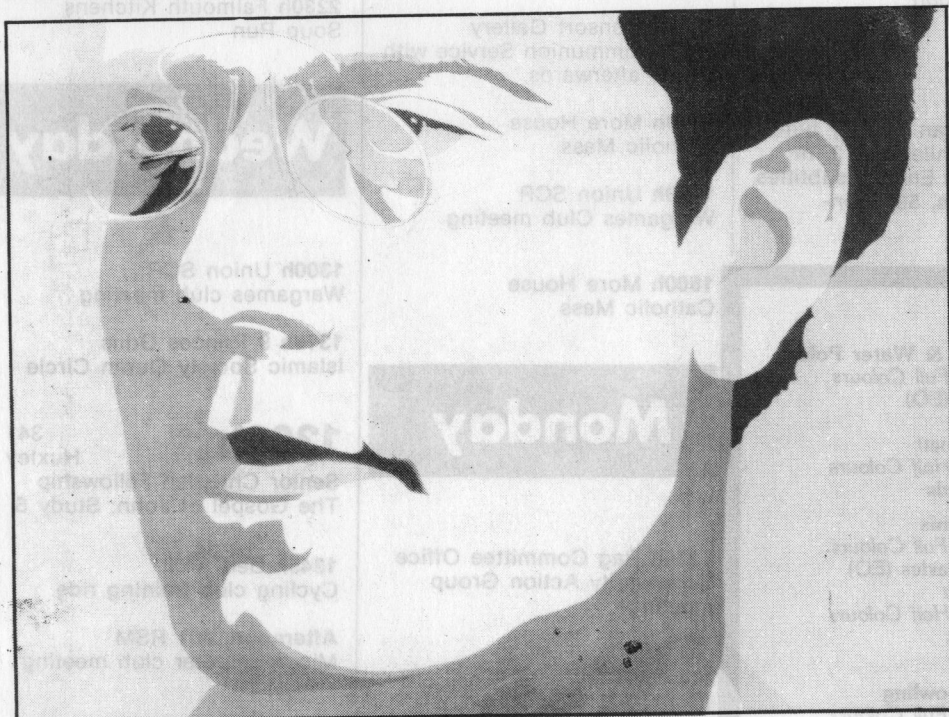
Nearly all the works are for sale to the public, at prices varying from £25 to £15,000. If my grant was sufficiently elastic, I should find it hard to resist Kaname Konno's 'Goddess of the Sky'. She emerges in luscious curves from a cabochon shape of polished bronze, oozing Japanese sensuality to the very tips of her exquisite fingers.

### Music at the Royal Academy

Between 2:00 and 4:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays till July 17, concerts are held by students of the Royal Academy of Music and the RCM in the courtyard of Burlington House. In addition, four Youth & Music Cushion Concerts will be given at the RA, taking place weekly from June 30. The price of the concert ticket includes a private view of the Summer Exhibition, from 6:30pm until you grab a cushion and sit down to listen to the music at 7:30pm. For further details contact the New Youth & Music Shop at 78 Neal Street, Covent Garden (379 6722).

### Where? When? £?

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition is at Burlington House, Piccadilly, until August 28 (closed June 14 and 15). It is open daily, 10:00am to 6:00pm. The admission is £1 for students (otherwise £2), except on Mondays when admission is 50p for everyone, thanks to IBM.



'Cushion Concerts?' Mahler looks dubious at the Royal Academy

## Fools and Transvestites

**The Perfect Fool (Holst) and The Island of Tulipatan: A double bill by Imperial Opera**

In *The Oxford Dictionary of Music* Scholes dismissed *The Perfect Fool* in only seven words: 'Composition of an original and personal character' and despite its rapturous reception at its first performance in 1923 it has been largely ignored since—certainly as a staged opera.

Perhaps the reason for this is the difficulty of knowing at what level to pitch the humour of the piece. Imperial Opera, according to their programme, believe 'that a spirit of high comedy should be maintained throughout'. If this was indeed their aim, then I feel they failed in it; there just isn't enough natural humour in the libretto to do this. In the first twenty minutes or so, for example, there is very little dialogue at all—certainly not enough to make

comedy from.

No, Holst's reputation rests on his abilities as a composer, not a humourist, and it is the music which makes *The Perfect Fool* what it is. Happily, the singing was strong and confident, both by the soloists and the chorus, and the orchestra coped admirably with Holst's technically demanding score under the baton of Michael Withers.

Where there is opportunity for comedy, the cast certainly made the most of it, especially when the jokes are in the music. Particularly effective were Richard Cartmale and Ellis C Pike disputing whether the music should degenerate into a parody of Verdi or Wagner, and Deborah Miles-Johnson's facial expressions over her disenchantment with the wizard.

And so to *The Island of Tulipatan*, a broadly farcical tale of transvestism which doesn't even merit a mention in the Dictionary of Music at all.

Hardly surprising, really, since the opera is complete rubbish—a mish-mash of badly orchestrated tunes accompanying an apology

for a plot which makes Gilbert and Sullivan appear sophisticated. Nevertheless the opera's shortcomings were more than made up for by the professionalism of the company and Tess Alps's crisp production.

All five principals gave superb performances, especially Tim Johnson as the grand Seneschal (whatever that may be) and Virginia King as his pretentious wife, squeezing laughs from the most pathetic jokes imaginable. Their acting was set off well against the singularly slick chorus work. Special mention here must go to Roger Middlebrook who, although only a member of the chorus, was making the most of the opportunities denied him in the title role of *The Perfect Fool*.

Finally, congratulations to the company who, in four fully staged light operas, still seem determined to stay away from the amateur operatic's staple diet of Gilbert and Sullivan. One can only wonder what long neglected show they will dig up for their next production. Whatever it is, I shall recommend it.

Martin S Taylor