



Felix



NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

JOHN SMITH REPRIEVES FLATS

Students to keep Penthouse for 2 years

Two of the Southside penthouse flats are to continue to be let to students until the present Southside Wardens complete their contracts, it was revealed this week. In a clarification of his earlier statements College Secretary John Smith said that this would mean both flats being occupied by students next session and one the following session, after which they will both be used by academic staff wardens.

There are four flats on the Southside penthouse level which were originally all occupied by wardens, one for each of Selkirk, Tizard, Keogh and Falmouth Halls. Two years ago two of these were let to students and the number of wardens reduced to two. It has now been decided that when the present wardens, Dr Paul Jowitt and Dr Henry Hutchinson, finish their terms of office two wardens will be appointed to replace each of them, so reverting to the original situation with four wardens for four halls.

This leaves the reason for the change even more obscure than before. It was thought that opposition from the present wardens to students occupying the flats was a major reason, but this now seems unlikely and indeed was strongly refuted by Dr Jowitt in an interview with FELIX this week. Dr Jowitt also said he was not bothered one way or the other regarding the appointment of the additional wardens now or next year. Both wardens had agreed that John Smith could appoint the additional wardens this year if he wished, but they would not object to students continuing to occupy the flats.

PG Handbook

A Union working party are to put forward proposals for an ICU Postgraduate Handbook. The aims of the publication will be to explain to final year undergraduates what research is like, and to provide a general introduction to the PG lifestyle for fresher postgraduates.

The handbook will have two functions. It will be distributed to present undergraduate students, at IC and elsewhere, who are considering applying to do a postgraduate course or research at the College.

The Handbook is the brainchild of Hugh Stiles, RCC Chairman and a first year postgraduate in Chemical Engineering. He explained that the idea for the Handbook came from a document he saw whilst at the NUS Conference in Hull. He set up a working party including Chris Hendy (PG Affairs), Robin Graham (SCC) and David Rowe (FELIX Editor-elect) to consider the problem. This group will put forward their proposals to the Joint Council meeting on 22 June.

Sinclair Gdns sunk?

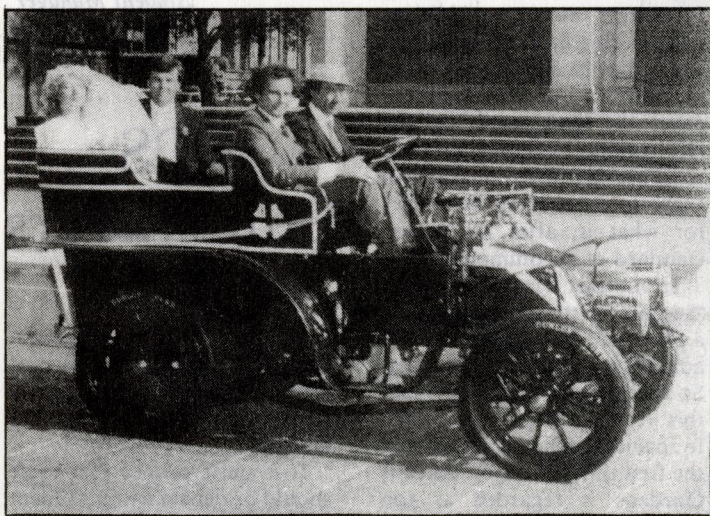
Residents of the Head Tenancy flats in Sinclair Gardens are protesting about the College's decision to drop the accommodation next session.

The decision not to renegotiate the agreement with the landlord was taken as long ago as last summer and was approved by the Student Residence Committee in October. Student Services Officer Michael Arthur told FELIX that it was impossible to keep the flats full in the summer vacation since they were a small isolated unit of only four flats with 26 beds in total. It was uneconomic to employ a summer lettings manager for such a small number so it could not be let in the same way as Hamlet Gardens. Few students wanted to live there in summer, and so as a result a lot of money was lost. In 1982/3 as a whole (including the summer

vacation) the flats lost £4,516.

In a letter to FELIX (see page 2) Student Manager Caroline Low claims the flats offer perfectly good accommodation and have only been losing money as a result of the Student Services Office's failure to let them in the summer.

Miss Low has offered to attempt to let the flats personally over this summer, if this will lead to a review of the College's decision. The College will have to keep the flats on until September in any event as the present agreement does not expire until then and they have been included on this year's summer accommodation application forms for IC students. But the College is unlikely to reverse its decision unless it is confident that no losses will be made in the future.



The motorised mascots of RCSU and Guilds Union repaid a debt on Saturday by providing the bridal car and fire engine escort at the wedding of the son of Mr A Dowden, supervisor of the Mech Eng workshops. Jezabel and Boenerges are serviced and repaired in the workshops and the mascots Mike, Theta and Spanner & Bolt were made there. Mr Dowden's son, Storm, was marrying Elizabeth Wakefield, secretary to the Head of the Department of Mineral Resources Engineering. After the wedding the mascots gave joy rides around College for the guests and children.

Head Tenancy to Close

Dear Pallab

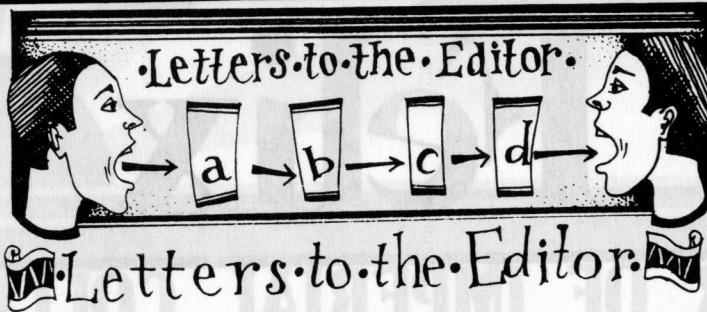
As Student Manager of the Head Tenancy at Sinclair Gardens I think that the threat of its imminent demise should be brought to notice before lack of discussion is taken for compliance and the matter is allowed to slide under the carpet.

Sinclair Gardens was acquired three years ago as four newly converted flats purpose-built as a Head Tenancy by the landlord of Hamlet Gardens—the co-ordinator of the Head Tenancy Scheme (with Michael Arthur). Like all such places it has its problems but, in general, the flats represent a high standard of spacious accommodation—in contrast to that generally available for second/third years and PGs.

Michael Arthur feels that the rent levels are too high and is (quite rightly) concerned with the loss of income during the Summer Vacation. Equally, it should be pointed out that no loss is made during the nine months of term time. The losses in question were £4,000 the first Summer, when the flats were left virtually empty, and a further £1,800 last Summer as a result of Student Service's haphazard method of assigning Summer accommodation places. This has resulted in an element of £2.50 per week being included in our rent levels to cover the anticipated loss for *this* summer. Despite this our rents are directly comparable to those in other Head Tenancies for what is, after all, higher standard of accommodation.

In contrast, Hamlet Gardens 'Summer Letting Scheme' made a profit of £245,000 last year by advertising on the open market. So successful is the scheme that this year it has been expanded to include Lexham Gardens for the first time: however, Sinclair Gardens is regarded as too small a unit to participate.

I have been told that our lease will only be renegotiated if I can personally guarantee that there will be no vacant places not *this* summer but that of 1985! Since inclusion under the Summer Letting Scheme has been deemed unsuitable, I have suggested advertising to students in either London, or



another university, or letting to the general public *via* a legal holiday-let lease. This could most easily be accomplished by letting Sinclair Gardens as 'family flats' over the entire three month period—thus avoiding administrative hassle.

I am perfectly prepared to do all I can to help Student Services, but their rejection of my suggestions leaves me in the impossible position of being responsible for filling the flats but with no obvious way of achieving this.

In the last few years Student Services have done well in obtaining a large amount of accommodation suitable for first year undergraduates in order to attract them to the College. However, it seems a great pity that a first, badly needed, step in improving the standard of accommodation for second/third years and PGs (who do, after all, constitute 75% of the student body) should be abandoned and 26 more students condemned to bedsitter land.

Caroline Low
Student Manager
Sinclair Gardens

FCS Shit-stirrers

Dear Pallab

At the risk of prolonging a somewhat tedious exchange of views, I shall briefly reply to last week's letter from Jonathan Gerson.

It is quite proper that there should be debate within student unions about the merits or otherwise of affiliation to the National Union of Students. The Federation of Conservative Students have chosen to espouse the case against NUS membership, but it appears that they have adopted the tactics of sensationalism in their campaign by making a series of unproven allegations about

incidents occurring at NUS conferences. Jonathan's letter provides no evidence to show that the NUS did not act impartially in the handling of this year's Easter conference. I suspect that far more students would respect Jonathan's stance against NUS if he was to back it up with reasonable arguments (of which there is certainly no shortage) instead of with provocative rhetoric, no matter how tongue in cheek this may be.

It would be dangerous for Imperial College Union to incite the student unions of other colleges into disaffiliating from NUS. We owe it to our fellow students elsewhere to provide them with an impartial view of the consequences of disaffiliation so that they can make up their own minds before taking such an important decision. Furthermore, IC Union has policy stating that it is a non party political body. I have no intention of going against this policy and pursuing a blatantly party political course of action of the whim of Jonathan and a small minority of students at IC.

Yours sincerely
Peter Burt

PS: Lest your readers suspect that there may be a trace of animosity between Jonathan and myself, may I hasten to assure them that we are, in fact, good friends.

Accident not forgotten

Dear Pallab

Following the publication of Giovanni Vacago's observations on RCC's safety policy last week, I feel obliged to explain a few points in rather more detail.

Firstly, whilst as far as the club were concerned the accident of Christmas 1981 had been forgotten, College had not

dismissed the matter so quickly and were, when the Safety Policy documents were submitted, on the point of contacting the Union regarding club safety. College was especially concerned about the fate of a document produced in June 1982 laying down various rules in a code of safety practice. Whilst well intentioned, the proposals were impracticable and unwieldy principally because the widely differing interests of the clubs concerned had not been taken into account.

It was because RCC had this unimplemented document hanging over it that in November last year I took steps to produce a more workable scheme.

At a meeting of the clubs concerned, it was decided by consensus to draw up individual safety policy documents featuring:

1. A formal agreement to maintain a log book of the names of participating club members along with names, contact address and, ideally, telephone numbers of next of kin and to take this log on all outings. This log would be left in a readily accessible place in order that notification of persons missing or dead could quickly be passed to the relatives.

2. Further safety standards which the club in question might wish to adopt.

Thus it is the clubs themselves who decide just how much individual freedom will be curtailed and not, as might be construed from Mr Vacago's article, the RCC Exec.

The log book was felt to be necessary because in the Christmas 81 accident there was considerable delay in next of kin being informed since no one knew the dead student's surname—obviously an unacceptable state of affairs.

Finally if, as Giovanni puts it "another accident came to shake our consciences" I would most certainly hope that the nature of, and the events leading up to, the accident would be scrutinised to see if anything could be learnt rather than dismissing the idea of further 'restrictions' out of hand.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Stiles
RCC Chairman

Yours sincerely

Hugh Stiles, RCC Chairman
Steve Lane, IC Caving Club
President and RCC Ass Hon Sec

Links MCPs get off scot-free

Two senior Guilds Union members who chanted 'no women in the bar' to a number of female students in the Union Bar have not been disciplined by the Union Executive. A complaint was brought by Diane Love, AP Editor, and Hugh Stiles, RCC Chairman, about the offensive behaviour of about a dozen members of the Links Club, including Jim Boucher, Guilds Academic Affairs Officer, and Steve Bishop, last year's Guilds President. The Executive met last Friday to consider the complaint, and decided merely to write to the students concerned expressing the hope that such incidents would not be repeated.

The incident took place on Thursday 24 May shortly before closing time when the group of students entered the bar. It was clear they had already been drinking for some time. They proceeded to chant phrases such as 'no women in the bar' and 'get

your tits out, girls'. This caused considerable embarrassment to the five women present in the bar.

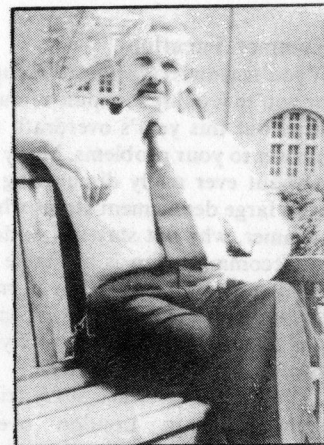
In a letter to the Executive Miss Love said she felt that it was intolerable that 'individuals ritually harass women who are enjoying their right and privilege, as members of IC Union to drink in the Union Bar.' She also went on to say that she did not object to the singing of bawdy rugby songs since these songs, although crude, only concerned fictional characters. She felt that by chanting 'no women in the bar' the Links Club were insulting real people to their faces, simply because they are female.

The Links Club is an all male drinking club, elected from members of Guilds usually from Guilds Union. IC Union President Gaynor Lewis told FELIX she did not object to this type of behaviour and did not think it would put women off coming to Imperial.

Badge of Honour

It was learnt this week that Roger Serpell, a technician in the aeronautical department, has been awarded the Badge of Honour of the British Red Cross Society. The Badge is given by the Society in recognition of exceptional service and carries special significance for Mr Serpell since it's more normally presented to retiring members.

His involvement with the BRCS goes back twelve years but it is during the last eight years, whilst working as a technician in Aero, that he has made an impact on College life. During that time he founded the BRCS Detachment at College (of which he is commandant), helped to obtain the College ambulance



which was purchased with Rag funds in 1978, and taught many hundreds of students first aid at his regular courses.

Parsons narrowly beaten

Britain's top high jumper Geoff Parsons, a first year student in the Mineral Technology department, narrowly failed to automatically qualify for the Olympic Games when he was beaten by his rival Mark Nayler at the Crystal Palace Olympic trials on Wednesday.

Although both athletes cleared the same height of 2m 22cm, the Olympic qualifying standard, Mark Nayler won because he took fewer attempts.

free! DIRTY WEEKEND for two in

If you have successfully answered the questions in last week's travel quiz you are well on your way to winning a fabulous weekend for two in Paris! All you have to do now is to answer the remaining questions and send in your answers to the FELIX Office by 1:00pm Tuesday. The winner will be the person who has the most correct answers, so it's still worth entering if you do not have all the answers. In the event of a tie the winning entry will be randomly selected.

PARIS

donated by STA Travel

1. What caused the death of Napoleon Bonaparte?
 - a) A firing squad.
 - b) Poison
 - c) His wife
 - d) AIDS
 - e) A Mooney meal
2. It is well known that Count Dracula lived in Transylvania. Of which country is this now a part?
 - a) Bulgaria
 - b) Romania
 - c) Tasmania
 - d) Estonia
 - e) Senile Dementia
7. Which of the following explorers discovered Galapagos giant turtles?
 - a) Scott of the Antarctic
 - b) Captain Cook
 - c) Thomas Cook

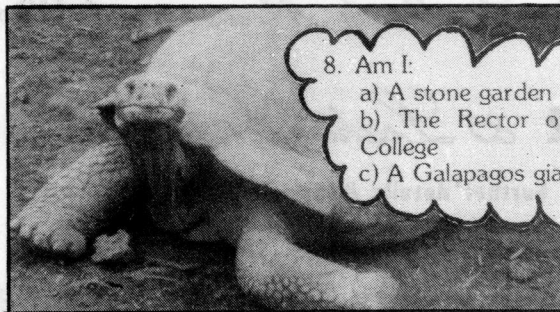
- d) Charles Darwin
 - e) Neil Armstrong
4. In which country rather than travelling 1st or 2nd class are you give the alternatives of hard or soft class?
 - a) Republic of Ireland
 - b) United Arab Emirates
 - c) Russia
 - d) Madagascar
 - e) None of these
 5. Which famous Eastern European city used to be called Constantinople?
 - a) Istanbul
 - b) Sophia
 - c) Rejkavik
 - d) Bucharest
 - e) Oranjeboom
 6. Which of the following pairs of

monuments were designed by the same person?

- a) Les Invalides and St Pauls Cathedral
- b) The Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower
- c) Marble Arch and The Arc de Triomphe
- d) The Queens Tower and the Blackpool Tower

e) Mount Rushmore and the Empire State Building

7. On page 24 of the STA Travel Manual (available at the STA Office on Campus) there is a picture of two seedy Italian types selling something. What are they selling?



8. Am I:
- a) A stone garden seat
 - b) The Rector of Imperial College
 - c) A Galapagos giant turtle?

ACCOMMODATION

Summer Vacation

If you're wondering how to occupy yourself over the next three months or you're looking for some remunerative employment in an attempt to wipe out this year's overdraft, then staying in London could be the answer to your problems. Many students spend three years in London without ever really discovering the city and since London abounds with large department stores who regularly seek extra staff during the summer, why not stay in London and combine work and holiday?

Accommodation is available in IC Halls and Head Tenancies for both staff and students at term time rates throughout the summer. Although the closing date for applications has officially passed, we do still have a few vacancies, so if you're interested collect an application form from Student Services.

You may also have some friends or relatives who want to spend some time in London over the summer. Again we offer accommodation at cheap rates so why not call into Student Services for further details.

Next Year

Obviously many of you are now anxious to start the search for accommodation for next year. Although October may not seem far away to you, unfortunately most private landlords/ladies do not plan their accommodation this far in advance and therefore Student Services don't become informed of the vast majority of accommodation until September. We do have a limited amount of accommodation for next session on our noticeboards at the moment, so if for any reason you can't use September to find accommodation it is worth calling into Student Services to see if we can help.

If you are able to come down to London in September, this is by far the best time to look. We should be able to accommodate you in an IC residence any time up to 22 September, just give us a ring on 01-589 5111 ext 2033 a couple of weeks before you come down. After that there should be crash pad accommodation in the Student Union (just bring a sleeping bag). In September Student Services should have comprehensive lists of vacancies and an accommodation guide to give you hints on where to start. You may not discover the home of your dreams, but with a little patience, footwork and a lot of 5p pieces you should be able to find something reasonable.

Karen Stott

College flats for next session

(All for groups of four)

2 *Southside Penthouse* £145 pw

1 *Southside Mews* £115 pw

2 *85 Lexham Gdns* from £93 pw

Further details & application forms from

STUDENT SERVICES, 15 PRINCES GDNS

Closing date Monday, 18 June

Your grant 1984/5

As most of you are probably aware the undergraduate rates of grant for 1984/5 were announced in April. For those of you who missed the original announcement, the figures are reproduced below. Also for those students (and their parents) who want to plan their finances ahead I have included the new scales for parental, spouse's and student's own contributions to the grant which should enable you to make an approximate calculation of how much money to expect from your local education authority. The basic rates of grant have been increased by 4% but there is bad news for those students living on a minimum grant as this has been halved to £210 for the year. The other significant change is the doubling of the travel element in the grant from £50 to £100 but remember new students will no longer be able to claim any excess travelling monies on top of this and current students will only be able to reclaim expenses above £250. I have included this year's grant figures as a comparison.

Main rates of grant (UG)

	1983/4	1984/5
Living away from home	1975	2100
Living at home	1275	1435
Minimum grant	410	205

The postgraduate rates of grant have not yet been announced.

The Means Test

Undergraduate grants are means-tested against parental, spouse's and student's own income leaving very few students collecting full grants from their education authorities. Grants are means-tested against residual income. Residual income equals gross income for the financial year preceding the start of the academic year in question, less certain allowances which for 1984/5 are:

- Dependents (other than children or spouse) £980
- Domestic assistance in certain circumstances £780
- Parent who holds a statutory award £400

In respect of each dependent child (other than the student) the following deductions will be made from the assessed parental contribution: Non-award holders £80; Award holders £225.

1. Parental Contribution

The scale of parental contributions is given below. The 1984/5 scale slightly decreases the burden on parents whose incomes are below £11,000, but increases the burden on those with higher incomes. This is likely to increase students' dependence on their parents at a time when many will already be suffering due to the halving of the minimum award.

Residual Income	1983/4 Contribution	1984/5 Contribution
7100	20	—
7500	77	—
8000	148	77
8500	220	148
9000	291	220
9500	353	291
10000	416	370
12000	666	703
14000	916	1036
16000	1038	1370
18000	1237	1703
20000	1391	2036

Rate of contribution is assessed at £1 in £7 between £7460 and £9700 and £1 in £6 from there on.

2. Spouse's Contribution

The scale of spouse's contribution is as follows:

Residual Income	1983/4 Contribution	1984/5 Contribution
5500	10	—
6000	110	30
7000	310	230
8000	510	430
9000	710	630
10000	810	790
11000	910	890
12000	1010	990
13000	1110	1090
14000	1210	1190

Rate of contribution is assessed at £1 in £5 between £5400 and £9600 and at £1 in £10 from there on.

3. Student's Own Income

Any student who has a term time income of over £400 (vacation earnings don't count) will be expected to contribute to their own grant. Any additional income above £400 is deducted £1 for £1 from the grant. However there is an additional disregard of £580 for scholarships or payments from employers and a special disregard of £850 for National Engineering Scholars.

Karen Stott
Student Services

NO BOTHA! NO APARTHEID!

This was the message that reverberated through the streets of London last Saturday. A mass demonstration and rally against the visit of Mr P W Botha, prime minister of South Africa, was organised jointly by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Greater London Council in which a number of Imperial College students took part.

After assembling at Speakers Corner around midday, the demonstration set off through the streets of London. It was expected to be the biggest ever response to the Apartheid regime of South Africa. The lines of demonstrators spread throughout the city confronting everyone in sight with the unified voice "We, the people of Great Britain, do not wish to play host to this racist leader."

Arriving in Jubilee Gardens for the rally, the marchers were met by even more demonstrators who clapped and cheered as they arrived. Flags were waving and banners held high. There was a joyous sense of victory. The warm sunshine, the pleasant music, and the unified strength in numbers. It took over two hours for everyone to flow into the Gardens and the speeches had to begin before all had made it.

Opening the rally Paul Boeteng thanked everyone for showing their support and estimated the numbers at over 30,000. He thanked the organisers, the GLC in their year 'London Against Racism' and the AAM for the quick response to the situation in this their 25th anniversary year.

The proceedings were then handed over to Robert Hughes, Chairperson of AAM, who introduced the speakers representing the Labour Party, the Liberal Party, African National Congress, SWAPO, Women's sections and the black communities of Great Britain.

The greatest ovation of all came as the leader of the GLC, Ken Livingstone, was introduced. He had to speak above continuing applause and cheering. He told of the way in which the media was against the demo. To ensure that an accurate

portrait of South Africa appeared in the newspapers, the GLC had paid for advertising space in all newspapers, only to be undermined by *The Times* who censored their advertisements.

Messages of support and encouragement were read out, ranging from leading figures in the African struggle to a young boy who couldn't make it down from Scotland to attend the rally. A message from Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC of South Africa made a clear distinction that summed up the whole day.

"We in the ANC have always believed that a distinction should be drawn between the British government and the British people, between those who aid and abet the apartheid regime and those who support our people's struggle for freedom. We hope the British people in a unified and massive demonstration will disassociate themselves from Mrs Thatcher's action and reaffirm their abhorrence of apartheid."

All the speakers agreed that Mrs Thatcher had not invited Mr



Demonstrators congregating at Jubilee Gardens.

Botha in order to rid South Africa of the apartheid system. This is not the way of our 'Iron Lady' and one speaker compared her hospitality to that she gave the leaders of Argentina, the miners or the Socialist parties. This is a lady of, in her own words, 'no compromise'.

S M A L L A D S

FOR SALE

- **Technics SL-5** linear tracking turntable, vgc (6mths old), £95, D Lim, 213 Linstead.
- **Honda C70**, V reg, vgc, low mileage, top box inc, £750no, Caroline Scott, EE2 or 350 0237.
- **ICMC Ecuador** T-shirts £3.75 now on sale in the Sports Shop.
- **Ovation guitar** with pickups, good condition, £300, Mike Homer, Physics 3.

WANTED

- **Wanted urgently:** mid/end June 3/4 bed flat, max £120pw. Preferably west London. Telephone Anne or Jackie, 731 2143.
- **Can you teach French** to a beginner. Flexible hours, day or evening, on College premises. If interested ring internal 4199 after 6:00pm.

ACCOMMODATION

- **Two people** for double room/one person to share—male/female as long as they know which! For Hamlet Gdns. Flat for 8 mixed. Caroline Scot, EE2 or 350 0237.
- **Three person private basement flat**, South Kensington, 10mins walk from College. Shared room available next year for 1 male, rent £23pw. Contact Dave Evans, Physics 2 or 373 1959.
- **Mr Christian still has a few single and double bedsits** and some flats for 4, 6 & 8 people bookable now for next year. Properties in Fulham, Putney and South Ken. Rents from around £26 per person and no retaining fee required for summer vacation. Contact: Mr Christian, 546 8159 or Mrs Belforte 731 0922.

JOBS

- **Computing/Image Analysis Summer Projects:** Biophysics Section (Physics Dept) offers summer bursaries (up to

10 weeks) at £70pw for students of computing or for those with a strong background in computing. Projects involve developing and optimising software for the Sirius microcomputer (with TV frame grabber) to be used for analysis of electron micrograph images of periodic biological structures. Biological expertise is not needed, but for one project knowledge of 8086 Assembly code is essential. Contact Dr J M Squire, Huxley Room 734, int tel 2222, or Dr P K Luther, int tel 2146.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Flower Power is Back!** Yes, the Nat Hist Soc once again pays its annual visit to see the orchids this coming Thursday (14).
- **Alan Bennet:** Please contact Jez before we move from present address in June: Ring 603 9727, Moss & Doig & Co.

PERSONAL

- **1954...** A good year for the Diels Alder Gang—Kurt and Otto.
- **Are your hair follicles** joining the 3 million? Why not try Gerson's 'Quick-Thatch' hair restorer?
- **Diels Alder** are to Chemistry what Boy George is to Rugby League.
- **Dearest Darling Reflection,** love you always—Joe. PS: Dig those tight white trousers!
- **The Diels Alder Gang—**Who are these guys?
- **Definition of 'unemployed'**—an increasing number of Jonathan Gerson's hair follicles.
- **Dear Sue,** Basically I'm yours—if I get up in time—Dave.
- **Sayings to the Bagwhan:** "I'm allergic to nuts."
- **Skilled craftsman required,** antique reupholstery and general salvage job, Keogh 188.

FALMOUTH KEOGH HALL

Appointment of Assistant Sub-Warden

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Subwarden of Falmouth Keogh Hall. The Hall has 190 residents (25% female, 74% male) and the essential duties of the post are to assist the Warden with day to day running of the Hall. Rent-free accommodation is provided in the form of a study bedroom.

The post requires someone who can combine conscientious application, enthusiasm, initiative and a responsible outlook. The successful applicant will probably be a postgraduate, but others will be considered. Applications should be made in writing, detailing any relevant experience to reach the Warden, Dr P W Jowitt, by Friday 22 June.

SOUTHSIDE BAR

Fri 8 June

AUSTRALIAN BAR NIGHT
FOSTERS LAGER 50p/pint to people in Australian dress only
& DISCO — Jamie Bell

Tues 12 June

LIVE MUSIC — Al King Band

Thurs 14 June

LIVE MUSIC — Second Hand Suits

Fri 15 June

SWAN LAGER — 50p/can

For more than 40 years the refectories at Imperial College have been the target for much criticism. For more than 30 years Mr Victor Mooney has been in charge of the refectories. As Mr Mooney begins his final year in office, FELIX reporter Hugh Southey has been behind the scenes in the refectory system to find out what really goes on.

A moving story of unfulfilled dreams and empty stomachs as FELIX goes behind the scenes to spill the beans on the torrid and steamy events in the

REFECTORY



(L-R) Victor Mooney, Refectory Manager—leads from the front, Martin Parsons, Deputy Refectory Manager—incompetent. Hugh Southey, Reporter—gullible.

The day can begin as early as 6:30am for some refectory staff. Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, there is a pilgrimage to London's Covent Garden market where Mr Mooney buys salad vegetables and fruit. Most of the other food such as vegetables and meat is delivered to College by wholesalers; students get through £5,000 worth of food every week!

By 8:00am the full time cooks have arrived in the Sherfield Building. They start work immediately, preparing for the day's meals. At 9:00am they have breakfast—but this is the last break that they are likely to have until 2:30 or 3:00pm.

After breakfast, begins the long slog preparing lunch. For the next five hours the cooks will be working non-stop chopping vegetables, preparing the food and lifting heavy pots and pans full of food. And all this goes on in an increasingly hot and sweaty atmosphere.

In the past, the refectory has been accused of being unhygienic. FELIX has regularly reported cockroaches in College kitchens. However my experience was that the staff follow the health acts scrupulously. Work surfaces are cleaned at least twice a day, no one is allowed to smoke and store rooms are

cleaned once a day. Anyone who disobeys this is likely to lose their job.

At 2:30pm after the last students have had their meal, the refectory staff have to clean the kitchens before they have their lunch. The hour's break seems short after five hours solid work.

After lunch the staff come back to work for another one and a half hours, preparing food for the next day. Often, though, there may be a formal dinner in the evening in which case the cooks can expect to work until 8:00 or 9:00pm.

As well as the Sherfield kitchens there is another large kitchen in Southside. Most of Southside food consists of food cooked in Sherfield which is then frozen and transported to Southside. The staff in Southside have less work to do than those in Sherfield since they only have to re-heat the food.

The food in Southside may sometimes not be as well cooked as that in Sherfield when the frozen meals have not been heated properly.

The work that Mr Mooney's kitchen staff put in is impressive. The raw materials bought in are of the highest quality; the cooks put in many hours hard slog, working harder

than most industrial workers. What, then, is the reason for the sometimes poor quality of the finished product?

The food that leaves the kitchens is not ideal. This is because the number of staff in the kitchens means that, by their own admission, they can not always put on the finishing touches that can make the difference between an average meal and a really good meal.

This problem is compounded by the fact that at the same time that most members of staff are working on the lunches for students, some will be preparing food for formal dinners, and some for 170 Queensgate, the Rector's residence. The money made from formal meals subsidise students' refectory meals.

Another major problem is the way that the food is served, and the way that it is stored before serving. Many of the serving staff are friendly—however some are downright rude and seem to have no idea of how to make food look attractive on a plate.

As in most catering operations, there is a high turnover of serving staff in the refectory, which makes it difficult for Mr Mooney to organise a proper training scheme. In the past, the staff selection procedure has been poor (resulting in many of his staff coming from one family in Fulham!). However in recent years Mr Mooney has made a positive move in improving selection procedures. Many of his younger members of staff are on day release catering and management courses and are of a very high standard.

Mr Mooney is generally agreed by his staff to be a very good refectory manager. They respect him because of his willingness to 'lead from the front'. He quite often rolls up his sleeves and mucks in with his staff. Many of his staff would not consider working for anyone else. His major shortcoming is in his financial administration of the refectories. There is a feeling within the Union and College Block that his accounting procedures are unbusinesslike and still in the financial stone age.

Mr Mooney has been criticised for refusing to take the advice of College's finance section. The reasons are complex, but are said to originate from the College expansion in the sixties and seventies.

In the fifties Mr Mooney ran an extremely popular refectory. However Imperial College expanded and the system was not able to cope with the increased demand. The quality

of food suffered and Mr Mooney simply lost track of the financial workings of the enlarged refectory system.

To help revitalise the refectory system College brought in Captain Lindley, domestic secretary at the time. However there was a clash of personalities between Captain Lindley and Mr Mooney. To prevent Captain Lindley meddling in the refectories Mr Mooney fudged and said there was no proper financial information to act on. Mr Mooney is said to have been on the defensive ever since, fending off all suggestions on how he should bring his financial house in order.

It was suggested to Mr Mooney that using up to date computer stock control methods it would be possible to monitor the cost of individual items of food and price them accordingly rather than price them in the current 'guesstimate mark-up system'. Mr Mooney is dragging his heels in computerising the refectories. Deputy President Christine Teller succeeded in persuading refectories to adopt a stock monitoring system in the bars resulting in a reduction in the price of a pint. To quote from Miss Teller's annual report:

"The advantages (in adopting a computerised stock monitoring system) for the refectories as a whole could be immense. However despite the fact that apparently all parties agreed to the value of this element of control, the thoroughness with which this has been prevented has led me to two rather unsavoury conclusions, either College is so incompetent that it cannot set up one localised financial management/stock control system or this project is being deliberately hindered for some reason."

Others feel that the College did not fully support the refectories as much as they should. The argument is that College should have provided the necessary back-up when the refectory system expanded, rather than expecting Mr Mooney to cope with a vast and sudden increase in the capacity of the refectories.

Other management staff come in for a great deal of criticism from kitchen staff. They are felt by the staff to be over-paid and incompetent. Martin Parsons, Mr Mooney's deputy, is the target for some of the fiercest criticism. Mr Parsons is said to have lost 10,000 cigarettes last year and to leave sums of money unattended. Many staff have no respect for him at all. They certainly don't want him to take over as refectory manager.

The Verdict

I hope this article has presented a balanced view of the refectory system. Undoubtedly in recent years a great deal of effort and hard work has been put in by Mr Mooney and the refectory staff to improve the food and service in the refectories. The Sherfield Refectory in particular compares favourably to any commercial refectory outlets.

Mr Mooney has faced considerable problems in dealing with the expansion of the refectory system. Other universities facing the same problem reduced their outlets and settled for a skeleton service (most of which lose money).

Mr Mooney has faced a great deal of criticism in the past, often unfair criticism. Irrational, personal attacks on him have resulted only in Mr Mooney closing his ears to any constructive comments or suggestions. Mr Mooney quite firmly believes that he is the catering manager and he knows best.

An area in which things could quite definitely be improved is in the financial running of the refectories. There is no reason at all why the College should not have a sensible accounting system for the refectories.

Mr Mooney retires next year and College will have to consider carefully who replaces him. Mr Mooney's successor must have wide experience of traditional catering methods, because Mr Mooney does know a lot about this. However they must also be prepared to find out about fast food, something Mr Mooney knows little about. They must be able to lead his staff as well as Mr Mooney. However they must be able to take constructive criticism in a way Mr Mooney sometimes seems unable to.

Hugh Southey



Preparations for a formal dinner in Southside.



Cooks from the Sherfield Refectory.

THE GAS PEOPLE WORKING FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD TODAY.



If your home uses gas — and the chances are it will, since British Gas is the largest single supplier of heat in Britain — then you are benefiting from yesterday's planning and investment in advanced technology by the gas people.

Yesterday's research anticipated the needs of today's customers, and some of the developments produced by the gas people were revolutionary.

Did you know, for instance, that the gas people helped to pioneer the technology for transporting gas across the world's oceans — gas which would otherwise be wastefully flared-off? This was done by cooling the gas into liquid form at minus 160°C and carrying it in specially designed tankers. The transportation of LNG is now a major world trade.

The gas people also saw opportunities in newly available gas-making feedstocks and developed the Catalytic Rich Gas process for making gas from oil, rather than coal. Advances like these underpinned the transformation of an ageing industry into a highly competitive and rapidly expanding modern business.

The gas people went on to exploit the natural gas which they had helped to discover around our shores. To achieve this they constructed a network of underground high pressure steel pipelines to the highest standards. A great deal of money and technical expertise were expended in devising a means of inspecting these pipelines, and a sophisticated electronic and mechanical device called an 'intelligent pig' was developed. It works inside the pipeline while the gas is still flowing.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

Yesterday, the gas people solved what would have been today's problems, and we've given you just a few examples. But you may be more interested in the work we're doing today to solve tomorrow's.

For instance, in readiness for the time when Britain's indigenous supplies of natural gas begin to decline, and nobody knows when that will be, the gas people have already developed the technology for producing substitute natural gas from coal. The results of this pioneering work are being viewed with great interest in many parts of the world. Whichever feedstock is available at a competitive price, however, the gas people intend to have the technology to produce a substitute natural gas from it.

And because gas will still be there for tomorrow's customers, the gas people are helping to develop a new generation of appliances for tomorrow's low-energy homes. They are starting to apply ways of recuperating waste heat in industrial and commercial applications by using gas engine-driven heat pumps. These reverse the normal process by which heat flows from a high temperature to a lower and so can consume less energy than they deliver! The gas people are even looking at new ways to avoid traffic congestion — by replacing underground gas pipes without the need for digging up the road!

Much more is going on besides, so if you'd like to find out about today's high-tech gas industry, write to the Public Relations Department, British Gas, Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL.

Gas

**WONDERFUEL GAS FROM THE GAS PEOPLE-
WORKING FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD TODAY**

Twickenham Regatta

Boat club double triumph

Last Saturday the Boat Club's elite coxless four entered their first regatta of the summer at Twickenham. The course was 1100 metres long, upstream on the River Thames.

In the first round, the crew faced the might of Reading University, who will probably be one of their opponents later in the summer at Henley. The IC crew, who had had difficulty steering in training, had problems on the twisting Twickenham course. Off the start they quickly took a one length lead and then rowed and steered as badly as possible, still holding their one length lead. Just before the finish, Reading sprinted reducing the deficit to half length on the line.

In the final the IC crew faced a four from University College. The IC four once again had difficulty steering, but once straight quickly pulled away to win by 3 lengths.

★ EDITORIAL ★

Papers are up for posts on the ACC Exec next year. I would like to encourage people to stand for a post. Anyone requiring information about the job is welcome to contact the current holder of that post via the Union Office. Please note: the ACC Chairman doesn't *automatically* get to knock off the President next year!

You probably won't have noticed the ad for Sports Day on this page. Sports Day is a good chance to have a relaxing day out after the exams. Contrary to popular belief, it's not a 'hacks' day out, but a chance for anyone in College to have a run, whether they can run or not. Oh, yes I almost forgot, there's a good bar at Motspur.

In the last FELIX on 20 June, I will do a Sports Review of the Year. Unfortunately, I've forgotten who's done what, so could clubs list their achievements this year and send me any good pictures as well by Wednesday 13 June.

John Scott

SPORTS DAY

Wed 13 June

Motspur Park

Mens & Ladies Events

Enter through CCU offices

Free coaches

Trophies & Medals

Coaches leave Beit at 1pm.

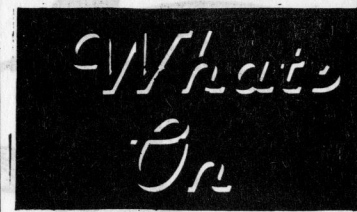
Cricket

Record Score

A winning draw for IC was memorable for a superb undefeated 136 by Chris Cole which was the highest ever score by an IC batsman recorded at Harlington.

Acting captain Lionel King lost the toss and rapidly had his pads on and off as two quick wickets fell for 22. This brought Chris Cole to the wicket and he immediately showed his disdain for some absolutely rank bowling by not bothering to play himself in and dispatching the ball to all parts of the ground. Cole, striking the ball hard and clearly, with particularly impressive straight driving, scored his runs in better than even time and removed QEC skipper Madelin by taking 36 off his final two overs.

At 136 stand-in opener Tom Nicholls was out for a slow 25 and with John Collins not troubling the scorers. Kenny Jarret joined Cole at the wicket. Soon afterwards Cole reached his century with his 12th four. The partnership had thrashed 95 when the innings was declared at 244-4



friday

Jubilee Hall
Covent Garden
1000h
First International Feminist Book Fair from 1000h to 1900h, 50p admissions. Come to see the large selection of books. Meet many of the authors including Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winner and Petra Kelly (Green Party, W Germany).

saturday

Jubilee Hall
Covent Garden
1000h
First Internal Feminist Book Fair, second day, from 1000h to 1800h.

Meet Beit
Arch
1130h
CND demo. 1200h March from Hyde Park; Direct Action at US Embassy. 1400h Rally in Trafalgar Square.

thursday

JCR and Hall
TV sets
1300h
STOIC broadcast 'Turn it on Again' Part 2—a review of the spring term including the hypnosis lecture, the UCL raid, the Mines Review, and an interview with Pallab Ghosh! (well, almost).

Downe Bank Orchid
Reserve, Kent
1700h
Natural History Society visit with Dr and Mrs Palmer. On Tues 12 a final list of members will be drawn up. Names asap please to Rich Archer, Biology 3. Names are also required for the visit to The Otter Trust on Sunday 17.

Hall
TV sets
1800h
STOIC repeat of 1300h broadcast.

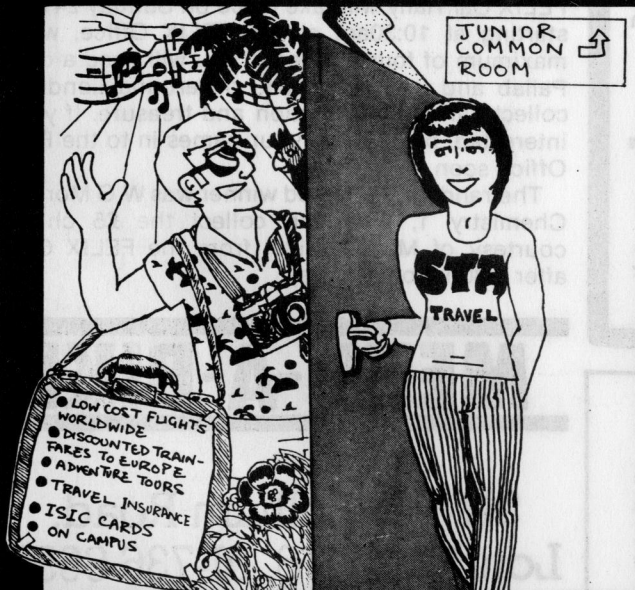
"DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN

PLEASE TAKE YOUR MISSILES WITH YOU WHEN YOU GO"



Meet Beit Arch 11.30 am

ULU Travel is now on campus



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Postgraduate Handbook

A handbook for postgraduates is long overdue and certainly good news. If it succeeds it will allow students to make a more informed choice as to which postgraduate courses or research to undertake and to get a flavour of what life as a postgraduate is like. Comments about the content of the handbook from staff, students and anyone interested in postgraduate study should be sent to Hugh Stiles, c/o the Union Office. There is an open meeting about the handbook on Tuesday at 1:00pm in the Union Upper Lounge for anyone interested.

FELIX Motor Rally

The fabulous FELIX Motor Rally will be held on Sunday 24 of June so keep that date free in your diaries. The FELIX rally is a treasure hunt and involves careering around London collecting various items from a list, for which points are awarded. The only requirements are a vehicle, a crew (four maximum) and plenty of cunning. A good time is usually had by all and the winners have their names inscribed on the FELIX rally pot in the Union Bar. Entry forms can be picked up in the FELIX Office from Monday.

Last Issue

There won't be a FELIX next week, the final issue will be a fun packed bumper edition on Wednesday 20 June. This will contain all those things we dared not print earlier this year, so don't all rush home till you've read it! Keep sending in letters, small ads, etc, copy deadline is 1:00pm Tuesday. Help and ideas for the last issue will be welcome, especially needed are people to help collate on Tuesday evening.

A Memory That Lasts A Life Time

Just a reminder that you can have your copies of FELIX bound in beautiful black leather, tastefully embossed in gold. Just bring your copies of FELIX into the FELIX Office before the end of term. Don't worry if you have gaps in your collection they can be made up from our file copies.

Free Film Tickets

There are about 100 free tickets for Rutger Hauer's new film *The Osterman Weekend* which are now available from the Union Office.

Credits

Peter Rodgers, Hugh Southey, David Rowe, J Martin Taylor, Hugh Stiles, Ulysses, Len Moulder, Jon Jones, Diane Love, Martin Atwell, Dave Parry, Maz and Pete.

Pallab Ghosh

Sub-Wardenships and Assistant Sub-Wardenships, Tizard and Selkirk Halls

Applications are invited for two posts of sub-warden and two of assistant sub-warden effective from September 1984. For the posts of sub-warden, preference will be given to postgraduate or post-doctoral staff who intend remaining at Imperial College for a period of at least two years. The function of sub-wardens and assistant sub-wardens is to assist the warden in the organisation of the halls and to take an active role in the promotion of social activities. The successful applicants will receive free accommodation. Applications with details of relevant experience and referees should be sent to Dr M H R Hutchinson, Tizard Hall, before 29 June 1984.



ULYSSES

Since it's exam time, you're probably too busy to try difficult puzzles, and I'm too busy to set them, so here's an old chestnut which isn't too difficult.

I went into Primelia College bar last night to find out if the rumours were true that some Queen's College students were drinking there. All Primelia College students, of course, are wonderful, honest people and always tell the truth. All Queen's College students, on the other hand, are nasty, despicable sorts and always lie.

I found three people sitting at a table, and asked the first one "Are you from Primelia or Queens?" His answer was slurred and unintelligible so I asked him again "Are you from Primelia or Queens?" This time, the second one said "He said he was from Primelia, and he is, and so am I." The third person then said "The two people you asked are from Queen's and I am from Primelia."

From what they said, which College does each belong to?

Good luck everyone.

Solutions, comments, criticisms to me at the FELIX Office by 1:00pm on Wednesday please. £5 cheque, courtesy of Mend-a-Bike for the randomly selected winner.

Last week's solution

Whoops! Having written a puzzle to advertise the date of the FELIX Car Rally and made it pretty easy, I made it easier than I thought because there were two solutions:

'20 June, meet FELIX Office, 10:30am, maximum of five in a team, car not needed' AND

'24 June, meet FELIX Office, 10:30am, maximum of four in a team, car not needed.'

The answer was meant to be the second one. The FELIX Car Rally will take place on Sunday 24 June, starting at 10:30am at the FELIX Office, with a maximum of four in a team; you will need a car as Pallab and I will send you off around London to collect various information and treasure. If you're interested, please give your names in to the FELIX Office soon.

The randomly selected winner was W G Morley of Chemistry 1, who can collect the £5 cheque, courtesy of Mend-a-Bike, from the FELIX Office after 1:30pm on Monday.

MEND-A-BIKE

917-921 Fulham Road,
London SW6, 01-736 8655

FULHAM CYCLE STORE