

# Congratulations Rosemary and John

## Rag Mag: Bad Taste?

The Imperial College Rag Mag was used as an example of racism in British universities by the Guardian. A joke from the 1981-82 Rag Mag was used to start the article which was a description of 'The pressures of being a black woman studying in the New Right's latest recruiting ground: Britain's university campuses' that appeared on July 30th. The article was written by Chinyelu Onwurah.

Ms Onwurah claims in her article that 'Extreme nationalism is...far too fashionable.' She criticises organisations such as the Libertarian Alliance, a faction within the Federation of Conservative Students, for advocating the hanging of Nelson Mandela and Arthur Scargill. The attitude of this group to black people, she claims, is blatantly racist. In an interview with FELIX, Ms Onwurah said that she could not speak for all black people at IC. She alleged, though, that in her view the College establishment and the Union did not support black students. She described the atmosphere at IC as right wing and hence hostile to black people at IC. The article, she said though, wasn't about IC but Universities in general. Ms Onwurah said The South African bar night, the Royal School of Mines Union attempted to organise last year, was an example of racism at IC.

Union President, Carl Burgess, wrote to the Guardian saying that he 'had never been subjected to any form of racist activity'. He told FELIX that he found it incredible that someone who had only studied at one university for one year could write an article for a national newspaper on racism in universities. He criticised Ms Onwurah for not contacting IC Union about racism at IC.



The Guardian article

This year's Imperial College Rag Mag will contain several jokes about the Bradford City fire. The printers, Technoprint 2000, have asked to have their address removed from the publication because they fear that being based in Leeds, they may offend some of their neighbours who lost relatives in the fire

Union sabbaticals have the right to edit the Rag Mag. They used this right to remove many of the racist jokes and all the jokes about the famine in Ethiopia. ICU President, Carl Burgess, told Rag Mag Editor, Tony Spencer that he thought the jokes about the fire were in bad taste. He advised Mr Spencer to remove the jokes. Mr Spencer phoned the printers who said they would print the jokes. Mr Spencer and Mr Burgess then agreed that the jokes would remain in the Rag Mag.

Mr Spencer has written to FELIX justifying his decision to print the jokes. He claims that 'We have to be able to laugh things off and soldier on with life'. He adds that the jokes are included 'To make people think about the situations, and why they think they are funny. This is in a hope that they will then realise that what they are doing is terrible and want to do something about the situation'.

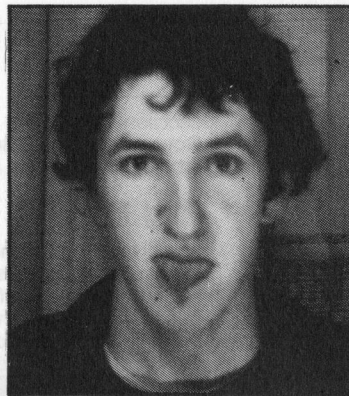
The Rag Mag will be on sale from the start of September.

• Tony Spencer's letter and editorial comment on page 2.

## Rosemary Weds

Rosemary Ivor-Jones, the FELIX typesetter operator, married John Hosking last Saturday at St. Leonards, Hythe. The couple are now on honeymoon in the south of France. FELIX would like to congratulate the couple and wish them well for the future.

## This is your Leader



Gareth Fish

Gareth Fish is the new Postgraduate Group Chairman. Last Wednesday's meeting of the PG Group failed to elect a PG Group Chairman as nobody decided to stand for the post. The meeting gave Chris Hendy, the outgoing PG Group Chairman, the power to appoint a Chairman which he did later on in the week.

Other officers of the PG Group elected at the meeting included Secretary, Helena Bramwell and Treasurer, Chris Martin. The only post still vacant is that of PG Handbook editor. Hugh Stiles, last year's editor, urged anyone interested in doing the job to come and see him. He stressed that no previous experience was needed.

**FELIX** The Newspaper of Imperial College Union

# LETTERS

## David J Green Cont.

meeting were either unavailable or not at College. 9. Carl Burgess and Dave Kinston thus took direct and rapid action, basing their decision on less than half the facts.

10. At no time has Indsoc objected to the principle of its external bank account being monitored or audited. I am also disturbed by the allusions of mismanagement in your editorial and would like to make clear a number of points:

1. The Society's external account is run along the same union guidelines as our SCC account.

2. The Union does indeed have a duty to ensure that all clubs do look after their money properly. We can look forward to an effective and absolutely efficient Union this coming year if the whole Union clubs' finances are given the same attention as ours is receiving at present.

3. I doubt that many societies have a turnover as great as ours simply because few other clubs organise nearly as many events during the year. To give some

examples—speaker meetings, visits to factories, business games, a Careers Fair, a summer tour, a river cruise, a magazine and that was just last year. In total we organised over 35 events last year, spread over just two terms. Next year will be even busier.

4. From conversations I have had with members of other societies, I understand that they too have had difficulties with Union accounts, particularly Summer Tour accounts.

5. Until 10th June, no-one had been given any formal notice that we would be disciplined. There have been rumours, second-hand information, but no direct approaches and no justifications.

6. The Union's action has brought home to Indsoc the need to establish communication between the two bodies.

The matter is now under full discussion and I hope that we will soon be able to come to a permanent and appropriate solution to a difficult problem.

David J. Green  
Chairman, Industrial Society

## Rag Mag

Disasters are always nasty things, though for some inexplicable reason, apparently more nasty and tragic if they are closer to home (for outsiders that is, not bereaved next of kin).

As explained at length in the Editorial to the Rag Mag, most humour and hence jokes are based on the misfortune of some person or animal (where they are not jokes about ridiculous or impossible situations), especially so when they are topical. Most rag mags (including ours in the past) include one or two topical jokes, often about disasters such as airline crashes, hotel bombings and so on. These may offend a few people, but on the whole, more people find them amusing because although tragic situations are not nice, tragedy does occur in life, and we have to be able to laugh things off and soldier on with life. It is both difficult and unfair to pick on one set of jokes and say that they are more offensive than others, (to a particular set of people they might be, but not to other, different people) and so the exclusion of a particular set cannot be justified—if one goes, they all go and there would be no Rag Mag, and therefore no income for Rag

to distribute to people who suffer from misfortunes, and are often forgotten and pushed under the carpet.

Fuller reasons for the inclusion of jokes are given, as I said, in the Editorial to the Rag Mag, which you will be able to read in early September, when the Rag Mag will be available, but basically they are included to make people think about situations, and why they think the jokes are funny. This is in a hope that they will then realise that what they are doing is terrible, and want to do something about the situation.

If these jokes serve to keep these ideas about how to prevent these tragedies happening again alive in people's minds, then they will have served their purpose, even if they appear as just to be in bad taste. When all the problems of the world are solved, then such humour will become meaningless, and I am eagerly awaiting that day.

Tony Spencer  
Rag Mag Editor

Editorial Note: The two letters printed have been cut. We can not guarantee that letters published will not be edited. We can not guarantee that letters will be published if they arrive in the office later than 1pm Monday.



## Editorial

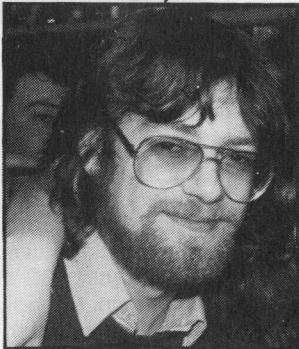
### BBC

Press freedom is crucial if a state is to be truly democratic. The Press has a duty to question and challenge the Society in which we live. However it also has a duty to be responsible. The recent decision by the Governors of the BBC to ban the 'Real Lives' interview with Sinn Fein was not a responsible editorial decision. It was a decision made because of political pressure by the government. Had the Governors made the decision before Leon Brittan's appeal nobody would have condemned it as being anything other than a legitimate editorial decision. Now, though, comments about the climate of public feeling are only poor attempts by the Governors to justify their weakness in bowing to political pressure. Sinn Fein are a legitimate political party. Giving them access to TV and radio enables people to judge their arguments, something that is essential in a free society. Hopefully most intelligent people will see how shallow Sinn Fein's beliefs are. FELIX supports the NUJ in its campaign against the decision. If you feel strongly about the

decision write to the Governors of the BBC protesting about the ban.

### Rag Mag

It is disgusting for the sabbaticals to use, as they have, the principle of editorial freedom to defend the decision to include jokes on the Bradford City fire in the



Tony Spencer: The Editor of the Rag Mag

Rag Mag. It is almost an insult to BBC journalists. Editors must always attempt to use their power responsibly. The Bradford City fire was horrific. Over fifty people lost their lives in the disaster. I'm sure the people of Bradford and Leeds are still exceptionally sensitive about the whole

subject. To risk adding to their sense of loss is extremely irresponsible. Nothing is gained by including these jokes. Editors can risk hurting people if, by doing so, they do some good to others. The Union Sabbaticals are elected to act as editors of the Rag Mag, the Handbook etc. It is an accepted part of their job. It is not censorship for a senior to edit a junior's work. They are ignoring their responsibilities when they claim they are protecting Tony Spencer's editorial freedom.

You may be thinking that this issue doesn't affect you. It does. The Rag Mag has the words Imperial College plastered all over it. That means people form their opinions of Imperial College and you by reading this publication.

### Accommodation

Student Services have asked me to tell you that accommodation is still available in Garden Hall, Lexham Gardens and Southside for the rest of the summer.

### Credits

This issue would have been much naffer without Nigel

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Atkinson, Kathy Tait, Tony Churchill, Sarah Kirk, Chris Edwards, Dave Clements, Oligo, Tony Spencer, Judith Hackney, Diane Love, Dave Kingston and Alan Rose.

FELIX would like to apologise to Mr Ian Bull for the comments made in the last editorial. Everyone we talked to before that issue was published had claimed that Mr Bull was responsible for the decision to purchase a boat. Mr Simon Errington, ACC Chairman, has now admitted to taking the decision to purchase the eight. FELIX hopes that anyone who feels strongly that the decision was not in the best interests of IC Union will blame Mr Errington rather than Mr Bull.

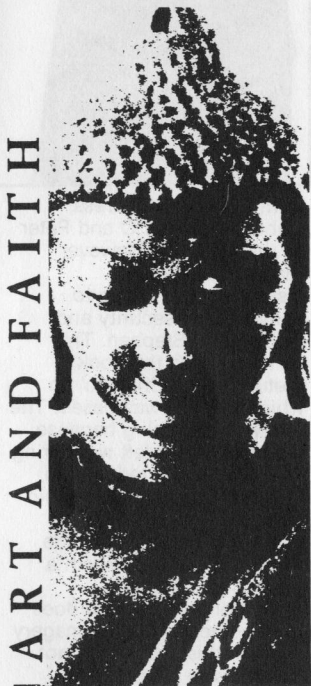
IC Sunday 11th Cricket: There are only two more matches this season - on August 18th at Silwood Park, and September 1st in Morden. If anyone wants to play, please sign up outside the Union Bar as soon as possible, or see me. For the Silwood match, we shall meet outside the Physics department at 12.00pm. Tea provided. Robin Graham - Ext. 6729.

## ●The 85° Show

At the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens this week there's the Time Out sponsored '85° Show'. It's premiering the work of graduates from the 16 London Art Colleges. It's within easy walking distance and open 7 days a week from 10am to 6pm.

## ●Buddhism

You've got lots of time to see the Buddhism 'Art and Faith' Exhibition at the British Museum as it's running until 5th January 1986. It's a



chance to get a look at the Far Eastern Buddhist cultures; there ideas, beliefs and traditions. Admission is free and the museum is open 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 2.30-6pm Sundays. It's in Montague Place, WC1 and they have a special recorded message giving all the details on 01 580 1788.

## ●German Art

I doubt many of you have ever been into the Goethe Institute even though it's only in Princes Gate. Now you've got an excuse as there's an exhibition currently running there which gives you a glimpse at the new German Art Movement, and the work of 'Eight Young German Artists' (The exhibition's title) who received scholarships enabling them to work in London during 1984/85. Entrance is free.

# Capital I·D·E·A·S·

## ●Shakespeare

It's no secret that I'm a great fan of RSC's Roger Rees so I'm certainly going to see their production of 'Love's Labours Lost' at the Barbican Theatre this week. It's also got Josette Simon as Rosaline. What more could you want? All details can be obtained from the Box Office on 01 628 8795 or 01 638 8891.

## ●Carmel

Don't forget that Carmel is playing Ronnie Scott's on Sunday 18th August at 8pm. Tickets are £5 in advance and £6 on the night.

## ●Summer Pops

My only claim to fame is that I went to the same primary school as the BBC Young Musician of the Year, Emma Johnson, so I feel that I ought to recommend that you go to the Barbican Hall on Wednesday 14th August. She'll be playing the clarinet along with Kenny Baker on trumpet and Johnny Dankworth conducting. It's part of the Daily Mail/LSO Summer Pops season running from 8-15 August. Also, on the night after, there's the very patriotic 'All British Night' with the likes of Richard Stilgoe, George Chisholm, Sarah Brightman and Paul Miles-Kingston. Both shows start at 7.45pm and tickets are £9,£8,£7,£5.50,£4 and £3. Box Office 01 638 8891.



## ●Sound and Light

Remember reading about Son et Lumière productions in your French books at school? If you do and you wouldn't mind going to see one then there's an English production at Horseguards Parade, SW1, every day next week at 9pm. The 'Son' is courtesy of Antony Andrews, Peter Barkworth, Penelope Keith, Sir John Gielgud and Edward Woodward to name but a few.

## ●Ancestry

If you've a day or even a week to spare then why not research into your ancestors? All the relevant records will be in St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, WC2. It's a lengthy process but admission is free and copies of certificates can be purchased for just £5.



## ●Alternative Edinburgh

On Saturday Chelsea Town Hall are staging the 'Not Quite The Edinburgh Festival'. It's for all you poor souls who can't afford to go to Scotland this year and performed by all those who couldn't afford to go up there either! The show is compered by Andrew Logan and stars John Cooper Clarke. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available from all the usual agents at a price of £5/£4.

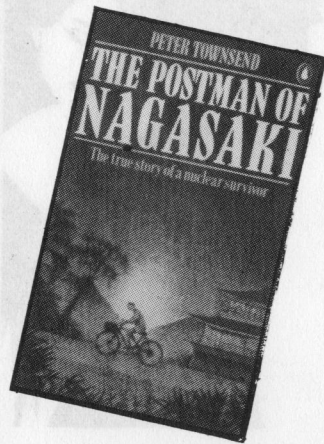
# STA TRAVEL

## Don't worry we're still here

## If you're flying off drop into the new (temporary) travel office in Southside (01) 589 5111 ext 3507

## Back in Sherfield from 1st September

# Reviews



By now everyone should have realised that August 1985 is the 40th Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic bombings. To commemorate this, there have been television documentaries, radio shows, newspaper articles - and books. The Postman of Nagasaki is one of these.

By centrating on how the terrible effects of a single (0.2mton) atomic bomb nearly ruined an individual life, Peter Townsend emphasises a fact that many world leaders, then and now, appear to forget; that every single one of their subjects matter, not just the uncomfortably bunkered civil servants who 'deserve to survive'.

Although Sumiteru, the 16 year old postman provides the main biographical interest, the tragedy of many other victims and hibakusha (survivors) is used to underline the way that the 'little people' were wantonly destroyed. Apart from Sumiteru, who had all the skin on his back flayed off by the heat before being tossed to the ground by the pressure wave, we are told of the children who had waved to him moments before who became 'small white shapes, reminding him of leaves scattered by an Autumn wind; or the little girl, found by a British POW, sitting still from shock;...she had appeared unhurt but...the other side of her small body was charred black. Where her right eye had been there remained only a blank white cavity'.

The tales of the internal political machinations of Washington and Tokyo are revealed, but not totally, one suspects. The temptation to simplistically portray Truman as a monomaniac egotist has not been avoided. The old argument that the dropping of the first bomb at least, was necessary, is rejected as a fallacy - the President's two

senior military advisors apparently tried to dissuade him from the drop. Japanese people are represented as the innocent victims of two insane governments.

This book cannot make up its mind whether to be a documentary, a biography or a condemnation, but skillfully manages to be each in different places, though the dearth of accurate statistical information lets down the documentary side a bit. Not recommended for reading whilst depressed or listening to Pink Floyd's 'Final Cut', but a must for anyone who wants to judge the nuclear arms question with anything like an unbiased view.

## Millennium John Varley

Millennium by John Varley (Sphere £1.95) appears in a silver jacket with a pretty piccy in a cut-out. All in all it looks as big a hype as a book can get. Do Not Be Deceived: this is a good book, dealing with the serious problems involved with time travel in a



Even though a picture may paint a thousand words, the written form has been the major form of handing down information, especially of abstract ideas, even in recent history. As Scientists, we are trained to observe and record briefly and precisely. It can be fun, however, to write not factually, but in imagery. For instance, this football match was a World Cup qualifier in the early 'seventies, between Brazil and a Scandanavian team, and Pele had scored the best goal I had ever seen.

'Pele! Pele!', chanted the Santos crowd, as the master organises his team mates, conducting a Brazilian orchestra of skill to strike at the opposing defence. The football player was outrageously flamboyant, but a delight to watch and the eleven tormented Swedes

very intelligent way. It's told from two view points (mostly): that of an aeroplane crash investigator, and that of a woman from a dimly depressing future some 50,000 years ahead, who's been rescuing people from air and other disasters. The handling of time travel and the paradoxical situations is on the whole intelligent, but with some strange oddments thrown in like, a paradox travels through time at a speed of 200 years per hour. These all serve the plot well, though, as the paradox which has been created races into the future to end a world that had almost died out anyway.

The ending is somewhat deus ex machina (almost literally) but it all seems to fit in. I enjoyed it, and suggest you ignore the cover and read it too.

Millennium is available SFSoc library, which is open every Thursday lunchtime during the term.

## Fruits of Passion ICA

The Fruits of Passion is a French/Japanese production dealing with obsession, absolute love and solitude. It isn't exactly the best thing to watch after a hard days work. The story is of a beautiful French woman, O, who, due to a tortured upbringing, falls

could only join the crowds applause. In acknowledgement to Pele, King of football.

Or how about this discription of the final, deciding bowl (inspired by Doug Armstrong playing Mark Maddison's Mum in Hyde Park) in a championship match.

The all-white of the players, reminiscent of pre-war cricketers, was vividly contracted by the immaculate green. A cautious whisper of Good Luck showed that sportsmanship had survived through the worlds troubles as an age old idea in these age old bodies. The years of experience guiding, calculating the team, speed and trajectory of the bowl which spun and swerved, turning into the little target - now reached. It sighed heavily and slowed to a stop. Indeed this was poetry in motion, performed with the grace of precision.

If you can come up with anything heavily-laced with descriptive, imaginative terms, send them via the FELIX Office. It can be a long piece or just a phrase, eg. Michael Robinson (then Liverpool) '...was an elephant, playing in a herd of gazelles...' Again a £10.00 prize for best entry. Please also note last issue competition is still open.

in love with the sadistic Sir Stephen (Klaus Kinski). He tests her love by making her agree to prostitute herself in a Chinese brothel and takes great pleasure in watching as she is left at the mercy of all comers. A sound performance



from the French actress, Isabelle Illiers as O and Peter as the Madame. However Klaus Kinski was disappointing failing to convey the insecurity and madness of Stephen. This contrasts with the book 'Return to the Château' on which the film was based. The film was confusing because the audience is left wondering why Stephen is reduced to watch O like a pornographic peep show. Stephen eventually commits suicide when O falls in love with a young, communist revolutionary. The film does have some wonderful imagery in it but this sadly does not compensate for the appaulingly bad script.

The Fruits of Passion is a very arty film with English subtitles and unlikely to appeal to the average IC student. It is erotica verging on pornography but very tasteful. Perhaps a fellow critic summed it up when she stormed out in the middle shouting 'How can you perverts watch this shit?'.

## Winston Tong ICA

Winston Tong has an amazing stage presence. Few performers could sing along to backing tracks for almost an hour without moving and not become boring. One could criticise the quality of the backing tracks, the irritating French accent that Winston Tong appears to adopt and several other small points. To do so, though, is stupid. The evening was an excellent demonstration of quality singing and quality music.