

'Shocking and disgusting' Rag Mag banned

# Exec Rag Mag Fiasco

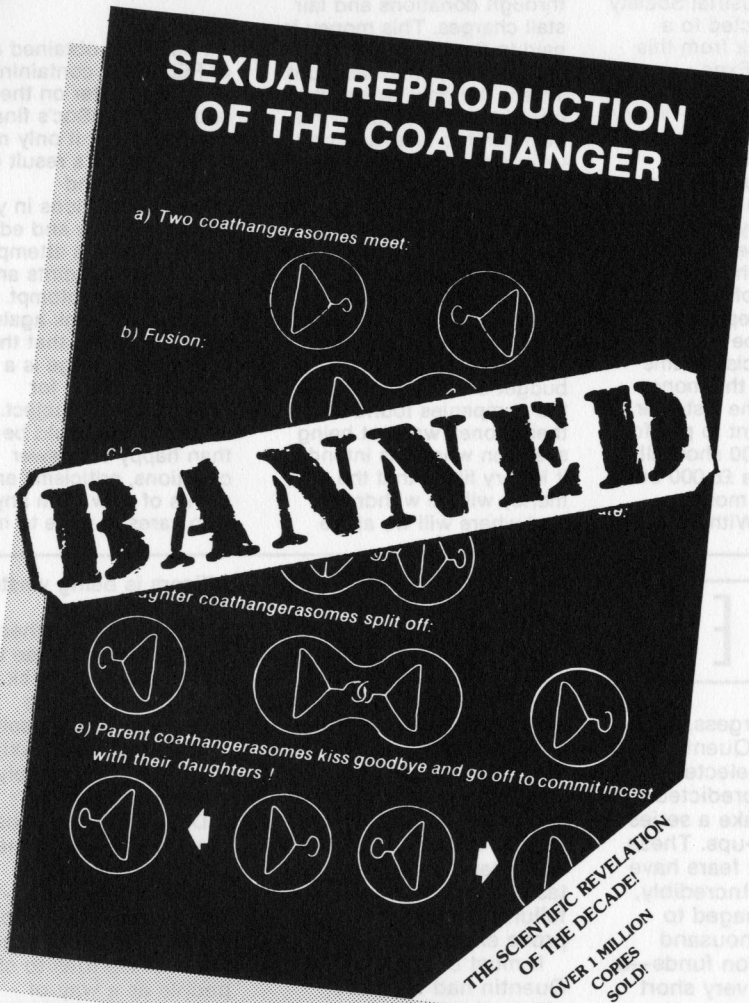
The 1985-86 Rag Mag has been banned. The Rag Mag was in such bad taste it would ruin the reputation of Imperial College, the Executive decided. Guilds President and Executive Member, Roger Preece told FELIX 'If we're not careful Imperial will become more renowned for it's obscenities than it's excellence'.

The Union sabbaticals are given the power to edit the Rag Mag and remove any jokes that may be offensive. Union President, Carl Burgess, had the Rag Mag he edited severely censored. Mr Burgess was the only sabbatical to read any of the completed artwork and he only checked a proportion. The Union sabbaticals say that they trusted Rag Mag Editor, Tony Spencer.

They say that Mr Spencer included jokes that he had been instructed to remove. Mr Spencer says, though, that only jokes that have been included and he was asked to remove are in his editorial. Only Mr Burgess suggested that he include them in his editorial.

Within hours of the Rag Mag's delivery on Tuesday, Mr Burgess realised that the Rag Mag would have to be banned. He told FELIX that the Rag Mag was designed to shock rather than amuse. He described it as 'shocking, disgusting and appalling rubbish'. An emergency Executive meeting was called and the decision was taken to ban the Rag Mag. Mr Spencer complained that Mr Burgess failed to give him time to present his case. He says that at 6.00pm he was instructed to go straight to the Union office. As he was about to go out for the evening, he couldn't go and so was unable to present his case.

At the meeting The Executive discovered that not only was it offensive but it didn't give the printer's address. This means that the Rag Mag in it's present form may be illegal.



If the Rag Mag ban isn't revoked by the UGM, the Union will have spent £1500 on a Rag Mag that can not be sold. Yesterday, the executive were looking into ways of removing the offending material. The Executive were also trying to get the printers to pay for having the address added as the printers had removed it from the artwork.

Many members of Rag Committee believe that the Rag Mag isn't offensive. Rag Chairman, Jon Ingham, said he didn't find the publication offensive.

The Rag Mag was last banned in 1981. In that year a UGM decided the Rag Mag should be

removed from circulation. The decision was later reversed, but rag lost a large amount of money that year as a result.

## Late News

The Executive have decided to reprint some of the pages of the Rag Mag with the offensive jokes removed. This means that a new Rag Mag may be available for Fresher's Week. The cost of reprinting is unknown at present. Tony Spencer is attempting to prevent the reprinting arguing that the UGM will reverse the ban.

**FELIX** The Newspaper of  
Imperial College Union

# LETTERS

## Boat Bonanza?

Dear Sir,

I have been most concerned by articles and letters in the two most recent editions of FELIX (710 and 711) dealing with two of IC's most successful clubs. On the one hand, the Boat Club has received an unexpected and, I believe, unwarranted boost in the shape of a new boat, while Industrial Society has been subjected to a concerted attack from this and last year's Exec.

To deal with the Boat Club first, I would ask this - Why should Boat Club, a relatively small though highly successful group, receive an effective £6,000 extra next year when many clubs, with far more members, are faced with severe cash shortages? In these times of financial pressures I accept that cut backs have to be made, but the whole exercise seems pointless when the money left over from the last year, which was meant to pay for this year's £4,000 shortfall, gets blown on a £6,000 boat. Where's all the money coming from? With the

ridiculous end of year claw-back of unspent money in the MSC's you expect some spending sprees, but this demonstrates how ludicrous the system really is! I trust however, that the current IC Union Exec will have the good sense to veto this farewell gift of Ian Bull's to ACC.

And so to a more serious matter, not least because INDSOC's membership is close to a thousand. Imperial College Industrial Society, almost uniquely among Union Clubs, actually achieves something useful.

As a result of these industrial contacts, INDSOC also makes a sizeable amount of money for itself, through donations and fair stall charges. This money is paid to the Industrial Society and placed in their account. This is the only money that goes into the account - no membership fees, and no Union money. The Union, ever on the want for more funds, eyes this account greedily and wants to integrate it with the SCC account. However, this money is given to INDSOC by Industry for their use. Not to spend on, for example, CND SOC going £300 over budget on useless films! If the companies found that their money was not being spent on what was intended, it is very likely that the money will be withdrawn. And where will we all be

then? As for the account being uncontrolled and unaudited, I have been assured by certain INDSOC committee members that some of the country's most prestigious accountancy firms would be only too happy to provide their services, free of charge! As it stands, the Union is likely to lose a great deal of good will, and a great deal of money as well. I only hope that the Exec consider the position very carefully.  
*Dave Clements - SCC Miscellaneous Clubs Rep.*

## Indsoc Bore

Dear Sir,

I have just obtained a copy of FELIX 711 containing half of my last letter on the subject of IndSoc's finances. May I say that it only needed to be 'epic' as a result of the many errors and misrepresentations in your previous article and editorial. It was a serious attempt to redress these points and was treated with contempt. In future, I will think again before deciding that the FELIX Letter Page is a suitable medium for discussing the subject. Meanwhile, I would be more than happy to answer questions, criticisms and points of view from anyone who cares to write to me via

the Union Office. I welcome correspondence particularly from IndSoc members.  
Yours annoyed,  
*David Green.*

## Risky Rag

Dear Editor,

When Aston University's student newspaper printed an article making fun of the Bradford football fire, just a few weeks ago, this was reported prominently in the Guardian, Daily Mail, The Times, The Daily Express, The Birmingham Post and the Birmingham Evening Mail — as well as the Bradford Telegraph and Argus. With headlines such as 'Degraded, Despicable and Disgusting' and even a question in parliament to Mrs Thatcher, is this really the sort of publicity Imperial College needs??

As for Rag Mag Editor Tony Spencer's letter in the last FELIX, I would like to see him presenting the same justification to a relative of one of the Bradford victims when they hear about this sick 'humour' — and from my experience at Aston I can assure you that Bradford and the rest of the country will hear about Mr Spencer.  
Yours sincerely,  
*Julian Rose  
Aston University*



# Editorial

### Executive

When Carl Burgess, Dave Kingston and Quentin Fontana were elected, many people predicted that they would make a series of major cock-ups. These peoples' worst fears have been fulfilled. Incredibly, they have managed to waste over a thousand pounds of Union funds—a commodity in very short supply—by banning the Rag Mag. Tony Spencer set out to produce a Rag Mag that was 'over the top'. The sabbatical Union officers were warned (see FELIX 712) that the Rag Mag needed to be edited severely. However they failed to do this. They failed to do their job properly.

Over the summer Union sabbaticals are not over worked. On many days Carl, Dave and Quentin have occupied themselves by playing Risk and doing the Times crossword! Yet they were unable to find time to check the Rag Mag

properly. Union Sabbaticals were given the power to alter the Rag Mag to ensure that it would not be banned. It was the Union sabbaticals job to ensure that IC Union had a Rag Mag that was sufficiently tasteful to be sold. Their failure to do this is going to prove expensive.

It must be said that Quentin had worked efficiently when one considers that he had little experience of the way the Union worked. Regretably, however, the banning of the Rag Mag is not the only cock-up by Dave and Carl.

Carl has already developed a reputation in College for being an easily-ignored incompetent. He has regularly turned up to important meetings with influential College officials not knowing what is to be discussed. The Union is failing to get its views, on issues such as teaching standards, across. Much of the hard work by last years sabbaticals and Union

officers is being wasted by Carl's appalling performance. Furthermore people trying to use the Union office are sick of RCS hacks making nuisances of themselves. Yet instead of chucking them out, Carl merely encourages them.

Dave Kingston runs around like a mad man. He panics about people wasting fifty pence, yet he has already managed to waste over a thousand pounds. He tries to shout at people as a way of imposing his authority. Anyone with any self-respect laughs in his face.

So far the Union sabbaticals have muddled along because they haven't been put under any pressure. In just over two weeks time the College will be full of new students. Union Committees will begin to meet. Carl's and Dave's actions will be under their scrutiny and they are unlikely to be impressed with their performances to date.

If Carl and Dave don't get their acts together quickly the Union will face chaos.

### Guilts

Having criticised someone I thought I ought to praise someone. Symon Corns and Dave Page have worked really hard to ensure Spanner appeared this year. They have done a really good job.

### FELIX

Freshers FELIX will be out in just over two weeks time. Letters, small ads, *What's On* entries, sports reports and club articles must be handed into the office by 12.30pm next Friday. I know this is a little early, but Freshers' FELIX is going to be a bumper issue so we need a bit more time to get it completed.

### Credits

Thanks to Nigel Atkinson, Rosemary Hosking, Nick Shackley, Tony Spencer, Tony Churchill, Simon Banton and John Coupe.

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## Frank Chickens

Greenwich is probably a little far to go for a gig. However if you want excellent value for money I suggest you visit Greenwich Borough Hall on Saturday 21 September at 8.00pm when the Frank Chickens will be playing. Admission is only £2.50. The Frank Chickens are one of London's most witty live acts. They were nominated for a prestigious Perrier award at the Fringe this year.

## Cosi Fan Tutte

Those of you who have never been to the opera should try to get along to the Coliseum in the next few weeks. The English National Opera is performing Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte*. It's an excellent opportunity to see one of Mozart's best operas performed by one of the worlds top companies. If you think opera is boring go and see this, you'll be pleasantly surprised.



## Pineapple

Pineapple Dance Studios offer over 700 courses for dancers of all standards to develop. There are courses in tap, jazz, ballet, aerobics to name but a few of the subjects. Pineapple also offers members showering and changing facilities, body control studios, beauty studios and cafes. Membership is £30 a year and courses cost between £2 and £2.50. The courses are more expensive than those offered by Keep Fit and Dancing but if you can't make the College courses, Pineapple is an alternative.

# Capital I·D·E·A·S·

Capital ideas is going to continue next term so if you think a gig, club, film etc should be listed, contact us in the FELIX Office.

### Films

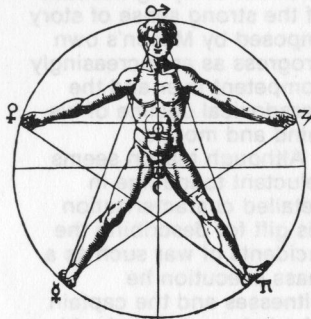


The Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley (opposite East Finchley station) is one of London's excellent independant cinemas. Admission is exceptionally good value at only £2.50. Especially recommended is *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* which is showing at the Phoenix for seven days starting on Friday 27 September. The film was one of the few films produced during the Second World War that wasn't excessively patriotic. Colonel Blimp was prepared to question the system. Programmes start at 4.55pm and 7.55pm.

### Fringe Theatre

Now that the Edinburgh Fringe Festival has finished many Fringe groups have returned to London Fringe theatre is an opportunity to see the best young professional performers for next to nothing. Particularly recommended are some of the acts appearing during the ICA's International Season of Visionary Humour and Charabanc Theatre. *Now you're Talkin* which is on at the Drill Hall. For full-details of what Fringe theatre is on in London look in Time Out or City Limits.

### Poetry



The Poetry Society is an organisation based at the National Poetry Centre, 21 Earls Court Square. It runs lectures at various venues around London, a poetry library, a critical service

and awards for poets. If you're interested then write to the society at the above address or pick up a leaflet with details of the events they've organised from the Union.

### Black Music



If your into soul or funk don't miss the London Festival of Black Music sponsored by the GLC. Chaka Khan, Junior and the Weather Girls are just some of the stars playing at Wembley on September 27, 28. Tickets are a bargain at £8 and £10.

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# Reviews

## Amandla Riverside

Amandla is the cultural ensemble of the African National Congress. They were formed just over five years ago in Angola and have since performed throughout Africa and Europe.

The production is stunning. Music, dance and poetry are combined to show how the suffering of the African people in South Africa and how the ANC will win. The music has strong modern western influences — Electric guitars, for example, are used by the backing group — but remaining distinctly African. The dance is traditional and stunning. The poetry can best be described as powerful.

My only criticism of Amandla is that it tends at times to ram a political message down the audience's throats. Everyone in the audience is likely to support the ANC yet Amandla insisted on making statements all evening. The performance would have been more effective if the group had concentrated on showing the audience the cultural heritage of South Africa.

## Chickenhawk Robert Mason

When Robert Mason dreamed of flying as a child his dreams never included incompetent superiors and a nightmare war fought to save a country from its own inhabitants, but these things were precisely what he encountered in his year as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Mason takes a strictly autobiographical approach to his subject and does not attempt to take an overview of the war but instead shows, in close detail, the reality of the war for him as a participant. The book's focus follows Mason from flight-struck childhood (very briefly described) and through training before

reaching Vietnam. Here the newly qualified Mason learns the tricks of combat flying; flying in formations where rotor tips are only a few feet apart, chopping through trees with his tail rotor and taking off in an uncontrolled spin to increase power.

Chickenhawk never becomes boring as might have easily happened to a book with so much emphasis on the actual business of flying because of the strong sense of story imposed by Mason's own progress as an increasingly competent flyer and the paradoxical decline of his mind and morale.

Although Mason seems reluctant to indulge in detailed characterization his gift for describing the incidents of war such as a mass execution he witnesses and the captain who is forced to order his own position bombed in an attempt to save his command for provides adequate compensation.

At times the sheer insanity of the scenes described recalls *Catch-22*, but Mason does not aim for humour and *Chickenhawk* is not a comic novel; if Mason's war seems to be mad then it probably was.

## Brewster's Millions

Richard Pryor is a very talented comedian. Films such as *Richard Pryor Live in Concert* have made him



Monty Brewster (Richard Pryor), Warren Cox (Stephen Collins) and Angela Drake (Lonette McKee) in a scene from the dull film, *Brewster's Millions*. With excellent shows like *Amandla* and *More Bigger Snacks Now* on the stage in London you've got to desperate to go and see this film

a household name. To many people, Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy are the only black American comedians. Unfortunately in this film Pryor is not allowed to shine. A weak director and poor script manage to stifle Pryor's natural ability.

The plot is quite simple. Monty Brewster (Richard Pryor) has to spend thirty million dollars in a month. Unfortunately he can't tell his friends, gamble the money give it to charity etc. As you can imagine Brewster has some fun en route. A few of the scenes are very funny. However the jokes become repetitive. When the film finished I was amazed to discover it had only lasted about one hundred minutes. It really did drag.

If you're a *Trading Places* fan then, you might like to go to see this film. Much of the humour is in that vein. I warn you though, that it is nowhere near as good.

## FigARO

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



When Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais wrote *La Follee Journee, ou Le Mariage de Figaro* in 1778, it took him three years to get the play

performed publicly. The authorities were alarmed by the political satire in the piece. Louis XV1, the then king of France, exclaimed when he read it 'This man mocks everything one should respect in a government. This is detestable it will never be performed'.

*Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart's opera based on Beaumarchais's work, is now performed regularly in all the world's leading opera houses. People regularly praise the work as one of Mozart's finest pieces of music. Rarely, though, do people appreciate the political message of the work. The new adaptation of the work by Tony Britten and Nick Broadhurst manages to get Mozart's message across. The production is set in the sixties. As a result the hypocrisy appears to be far more vivid than it ever does in traditional grand opera.

This is one of the best pieces of theatre on in the West End Stage at the moment. A strong play and strong acting combine to make this production essential viewing. This isn't traditional grand opera, but it is an excellent example of how opera can be adapted for a young audience used to modern theatre.

## More Bigger Snacks Now ICA

More Bigger Snacks Now is part of *Wipe That Smile*, an international season of visionary humour at the ICA. The play contains mime with sound mimicry and words in a piece about money, miracles and poverty. Four desperate people plan escape routes and fantasies from a dirty living room, with its encompassing everyday petty problems which feed fear and paranoia, in a surreal, brilliant and dazzling series of sudden emotional leaps and breakneck comic routines. Everything is covered, from air travel and expensive holiday, to a religious apparition and a very funny restaurant sketch. Highly recommended.

Runs until 21 September  
8pm (Doors open 7.50pm)  
£ (ICA Day Pass 60p)