



FELIX

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

Keys resolved

New system for Linstead

It was announced at Student Residence Committee on Wednesday that a new key system is to be installed in Linstead Hall. College's 'Davidson Committee' working party said that the new arrangements will involve having two locks on each door. The used during the term will be a high quality Assa system, which will be put out of action when the rooms are let in the vacation and the cheaper locks used. The changeover will take two or three keys and is intended to improve the security of the Assa keys. Welfare Officer, Tom Meliar-Smith estimated that the locks will be installed by the summer term.

The new locks will be accompanied with better key security in general. Even the subwardens and warden will no

longer hold master keys, although the warden will have access to one. Another change will be that students who lose keys will have to pay £45 for a new lock rather than paying for a new key as at present. Despite the greatly increased cost, the decision was welcomed by student members Ian Howgate and Mr Meliar-Smith, who have campaigned strongly for increased security.

drought

Angry residents have presented a petition to College Secretary John Smith, complaining about the lack of water and heating in Weeks Hall. The residents have been without water between 10am and 12pm since January 15th.

The problem is due to burst pipes causing a reduction in pressure and the lack of a pump to supply water to the storage tank. This has been aggravated by the recent installation of water meters of the

wrong size, which constrict the flow. Showers, sinks and toilets are currently unusable and students have been forced to obtain water from fire hoses and to take showers in the sports centre or very late at night.

Student Accommodation Officer Lesley Gillingham told FELIX "The situation to the students involved is totally deplorable and we hope it will be resolved as quickly as possible".

Southside

The Student Residences Committee finally decided on the future of Tizard and Selkirk Halls' kitchens on Wednesday. A small-scale survey of the residents of these Halls produced a majority in favour of gallery-level kitchens with fridges in cupboards on staircases, and this scheme, which was favoured by the wardens, was accepted without further argument.

Our Steve makes it



Thumbs up from Steve "Ready when you are" Shackell, FELIX off-set litho operator, as he sets off on an emergency mission to collect a box of plates from King's Cross station. Steve is 27.

MPs attack Government

A Parliamentary select committee has called for a significant increase in student grants. A report last week by the committee accused the Department of Education and Science of giving misleading information about the grants situation and criticised it for failing to research student costs.

Whilst the committee did not discuss student loans, it decided that some form of award system is essential to national needs. The report calls for a decrease in parental contributions and provision for student welfare benefits.

The MPs, chaired by William Van Straubenzee, attacked the DES for giving misleading information about student maintenance costs. As recently as 1981 the Department had stated that grants were based on an objective assessment of costs

which was not the case. There is no research unit in the DES to monitor student costs and information appears to come from parties with a vested interest.

Harry Greenway, Conservative MP, said "it is extraordinary that they do not have a research department. They are always about three years out of date."

It is not certain what effect the select committee's report will have upon the grant settlement for next academic year or upon the Government's own enquiry whose chairman, Junior Education Minister, George Walden, is presently in the United States, examining its system of student support. It does appear to be part of a move towards a more favourable attitude amongst the Government towards student claims of hardship.

Red faces in College

It was red faces all round in College Security after they installed a high security metal gate to protect the Nat West Bank. The ASSA lock with which they chose to secure the gate has a latch device on the inside of the doors. Unfortunately the gap between the bars is wide enough for a hand to reach round and open the door.

When FELIX pointed this out to

College Security Chief, Geoff Reeves, he announced his intention to install a magnetic lock. He added that a similar lock would be installed on the door to the Quiet Room in order to protect the Holland Club. A further security screen is to be installed in the Gents toilets which also provides access to the club.

Day of action

Most London colleges will be taking part in the ULU Day of Action next Tuesday. The campaign "Defend the three R's" is against the proposed 50% cut in central funding.

Much of the action will be centered on the central precinct in Bloomsbury, with the smaller colleges joining forces with the Trade Unions. A picket of the Central Services will be mounted

from 11.30 am until 2.30 pm.

University College are to picket all their entrances, and John Pope, ULU Sports President will run to as many colleges as possible during the day.

In the ULU Building itself a meeting will be held at 1.00 pm to discuss plans for the rest of the day, and there will be a free disco in the evening with specially mixed "50% cuts cocktails."

Letters

Consoc apology

Dear Dave,

I would like to pass on Mr Goosen's apologies to all those who turned up to hear him speak on South Africa's future. As you will know, the meeting had to be cancelled because Mr Goosen had gone down with food poisoning.

I would also like to assure you that IC Consoc will be arranging another meeting as soon as possible and preferably before the end of term. IC Consoc like Anti-Apartheid looks forward to the end of Apartheid in South Africa and we believe that Mr Goosen's talk should be of great interest to anyone concerned about South Africa's future.

Yours sincerely,
Simon Jarvis
External Affairs Officer,
IC Conservative Society

PATA response

Dear Dave,

When Paul Kapusta was allowed to revive PATA (Positive Alternatives to Abortion Society) it was after some discussion. This was to the effect that in keeping with the aims of this society he would have to discuss alternatives as well as presenting the anti-abortion case. Sadly, I have to date seen little or no evidence of such a discussion. Perhaps he could enlighten us on this seemingly underpublicised area of his activities.

Yours,
Chas Jackson



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Felix

South Africa

This week's news section includes, in the report of the cancelled Consoc speaker meeting, details of an interview with Mr Peter Goosen of the South African Embassy. Mr Goosen cancelled his visit to College because of food poisoning. Much of what he said would have formed the basis of his talk and, as he says, he is keen to come to College to put forward his views. We have printed what he said as accurately as possible. The interview he gave FELIX was taped by the Embassy, and Mr Goosen asked to be shown the copy before publication. We agreed to this; in the event the only changes he advised were minor ones—not affecting the article in any way other than to amend a couple of genuine inaccuracies.

What we have printed is, of course, a series of "Press Office" statements from the South African Government. Personally I find nearly all of what Mr Goosen has said condescending and rather offensive. At the same time I do not think it helpful to adopt a "no platform policy" in our press coverage of the South African situation. I have sympathy with the view that groups whose ideologies are particularly extreme should be prevented from broadcasting their point of view, but this is not a constructive course of action. The South African regime is not going to be harmed by a lack of publicity.

NUS Feature

This week's main feature is a condensed version of reports written by Chris Martin and Bill Goodwin, who attended the NUS conference last month on behalf of the ICU External Affairs Committee. In the last few years there has been some debate within the Union over whether or not to send observers to these conferences. I recommend that you take time to read what they have written. Few of us at this College know a great deal about the workings of the NUS. Too many of those who fervently support one side or the other base their opinions on third hand information. Chris and Bill have both reported their impressions of the conference honestly and accurately, and either of them will be happy to pass on copies of their full-length reports to anyone who is interested in the NUS. They can both be contacted via the FELIX Office.

EGM and JCR

Today at 12.30 pm there will be an 'Extraordinary General Meeting' of ICU in the JCR where the Union's response to the College's plans for the refectory reorganisation will (hopefully) be decided. Despite a series of prominent news items in FELIX it seems that most students are still oblivious to the controversy which has arisen since the switch of the JCR and the Main Dining Hall was halted. Jackie has written at length about the issue on page 4, and has given a useful summary of "the story so far." It may be that the meeting will decide that the situation as it stands is the most desirable. Whatever the outcome it is imperative that the Union officers should have, and be seen to have, the support of the student body on this issue. If you value your Union please make every effort to turn up to today's meeting.

ICredits

Yet again this is a much thinner issue than I would have hoped to produce. This week we have had only two days to prepare FELIX since Monday and Tuesday were taken up with a training course on our new typesetter. On Wednesday morning, after as much copy as possible had been keyed into the new machine the previous evening, the power unit failed and we had to revert to using the old model. Yesterday afternoon FELIX printer Steve Shackell had to collect a box of plates from Kings Cross Station after the Print Unit ran out and our regular suppliers did not have them in stock. In short, it's been much the same as usual. Particular thanks, therefore, to Judith Hackney, Chris Martin, Chris Edwards, "he whose name I cannot mention", Nigel Whitfield and Pippa Salmon for bailing me out once again. Thanks also to Kamala Sen, Dave Burns, Bill Goodwin, Gail Turner, Neil Mottram, Sundi, Liz Holford, Alex McNeil, Richard Bleasdale, Pete Wilson, Adrain Johnson, Jackie Peirce, Steve Shackell and Rose Atkins.

David Jones.

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Rag Conference 1987

From 6th-9th January, four of us from Imperial Rag descended on Loughborough, scene of this year's Rag Conference, where we collected ideas and information on how to run Rag more efficiently and enjoyably. The conference consisted of sessions during the day and social events in the evening, and the thirty-five Rags represented participated enthusiastically (sometimes over-enthusiastically) in both. Man Tai was made to attend the discussion on effective committee work, and Nigel Baker, Rag Treasurer, at last discovered how to deal with VAT (ignore it!) whilst Mike Copperwhite's favourite sessions seemed to be those spent in the bar...

One of many guest speakers was Vicky Phillips, who spoke on Rag's relationship with the NUS, but since Rag doesn't have any relations with the NUS this wasn't a lot of use. NUS was considered to be a political body and the unanimous feeling was that Rag should be apolitical, although the subject of relations with individual student unions provoked a more heated discussion. We are obviously

lucky in that we clash very little with ours.

A session on Rag Mags saw Imperial in the firing line for having a mag with traditionally the sickest and most offensive material, but a number of delegates informed us that they still considered our mag to be the most original. Having read several other Rag Mags (which seem very much like one mag duplicated several times) I must confess to agreeing with them,



and whilst not condoning offensive material, it has to be remembered that our mag is not sold on the streets as others are. However, the point has

been taken and more thought will go into the content for next year's mag.

On the second evening we were entertained by two very impressive professional acts - Sally Barker and Tom McEwan - who we're going to try and book for IC in the near future. Look out for them - they're well worth seeing. In the Rag Revue on the last night we were given the chance to display our astounding thespian skills, as well as getting drenched in the ensuing water-fight.

All in all, we learnt a great deal from the conference and if you want to know more about it, or simply want to take a more active role in Rag yourself, then come along to the next

meeting which will be advertised in FELIX.

Emma Barrett
Met and Mat I

FELIX Retraction; IC Tomb Horror

Last week's FELIX carried a story entitled "IC Tomb Horror" as one of the back page news items. This article was a spoof news story, and "reported" the deaths of 3 students in a Lexham Garden flat. Neither the positioning nor the presentation of the article made it clear that it was not a genuine news story. I had originally planned to include this in a humour section, and to include a photograph which would convey instantly the tone of the article. Because of a lack of time in the later stages of production, the story appeared as straight news. I accept that on first reading it was not absolutely clear that the article was not serious, and I apologise if anyone was offended by its inclusion.

David Jones

MEGABRAIN

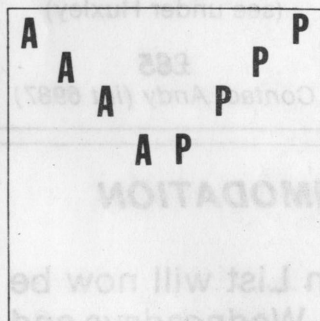
More Groping

You may remember the argument the infamous Groper family had a while back about the garden at Lurch mansion. Well, not contented with living peaceably for a while, they've come to blows again over the orchard. After Grandma Groper 'croaked' a few months back there was much excitement over who would get what from the old bat's last will and testament. But, being the grouchy old goat that she

was, she thought she'd leave a few argument causing clauses, since she knew exactly what reaction they'd provoke. The orchard was to be divided equally between Mr. and Mrs. Groper and the two brats, simple enough you'd think, especially as the orchard is square in shape. The problem is that there are four apple trees and four pear trees in the orchard arranged as shown.

Of course each member of the family insists on having one of each type of tree in their share. Not only that, but they also insist that the orchard be divided between the four of them so that each share has exactly the same shape, as well as the same area!

'Impossible' you say? That's what evil Granny thought, but she was mistaken. This week's problem is to stop the plates flying at Lurch mansion by showing how the orchard can be divided up as required. Answers, comments, new problems...etc to me at the FELIX office by 1.00pm Wednesday. £5 prize for a randomly selected winner, as usual.



Barrel of beer - solution

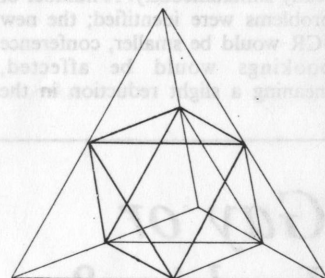
Yes, you all guessed it (well most of you anyway), the only way of solving the problem is to empty the barrel! Horror of horrors! But the rules don't say where you have to pour the beer, and into the gullets of the assembled crowd is perfectly legal. Admittedly the people at the stall weren't exactly pleased when we suggested this, but we promised to pay for the barrel if we didn't complete the challenge. There are several ways of doing it once you realise that you have to empty (drink) the barrel. Here's one of them. Fill up the 5-pint; fill the 3-pint from the 5-pint and drink the contents of the 3-pint leaving two pints; transfer these to the 3-pint; refill the 5-pint, giving seven pints in all. Now the fun part, drink the rest of the barrel! Empty the seven pints back into the barrel; fill the 3-pint and empty it into the 5-pint; fill the 3-pint from the barrel again, leaving one pint in the barrel; fill the 5-pint from the 3-pint leaving one pint in the 3-pint; drink the contents of the 5-pint and, finally, fill it from the barrel leaving one pint in each glass.

Lots of correct solutions to this one (I gave too many hints, I suspect) out of which Steve Porter, Comp 2, was selected as the £5 prize winner, well done.

Pyramid problems - solution

This did cause a lot of problems. Even with last week's clue I still only got three correct answers. The problem of finding the pyramid's comparative volumes can easily be

solved if you can construct one from the other. It happens that you can construct a large tetrahedron from four half-sized ones, and two half-sized square pyramids, as shown below.



The two square-base pyramids are put base to base forming the octahedron in the centre, with the tetrahedra forming the corners. The large pyramid shown has twice the dimensions of the smaller ones and thus eight times the volume. So we get, simply, $4T + 2P = 8T$, and thus $P = 2T$.

It was pointed out in several answers that it's also possible to build a square based pyramid from 4 tetrahedra and 6 small, square based pyramids, but as it's completely impossible to draw I'll leave that as a supplementary problem for the rest of you! The winner was Simon Hall, Physics 3, who I must say signs his letters in the most intimate of terms! Collect your £5 after Monday lunchtime, please.

JCR—to be or not to be?

Deputy President Jackie Peirce puts the Union's view forward on the fight for the JCR.

IC Union By-Laws state "The Governing Body has set aside, free of rent, certain rooms for the use of the Union, including "Junior Common Room—Sherfield Building (during term time)".

How is it then that Junior Common Room (JCR) has apparently, and without consent, become part of the College refectory system? Two years ago ambitious plans to revitalise the catering in the Sherfield Building were hatched. These centred around the relocation of all the catering facilities on level 2. This required the swopping of the JCR with the Main Dining Hall (MDH).

On level 2 the main theme would be a large food hall, roughly where the Buttery is, but stretching into the Senior Common Room/Senior Dining Room (SCR/SDR). This would serve students and staff, and would have seating areas in the present SCR and JCR. In one corner of the JCR a take-away burger bar, "QT", would be built. Downstairs the new JCR would be formed.

The agreement was made. All conversion work would be carried out so that both areas would be ready simultaneously. A number of problems were identified; the new JCR would be smaller, conference bookings would be affected, meaning a slight reduction in the

Union's income (we get an average of £12K a year from conference bookings).

Then things started going wrong. On November 15 1985 the then Union President, Carl Burgess, was forced to write to the College Secretary stating that unless the completion of both areas was simultaneous, the deal was off. Yet over Summer 1986 the only work carried out was some refurbishment in the SCR; in the JCR the bar was moved and QT was built in its place, and a new bar put on level 1.

"QT" opened for the first time just before the start of the autumn term this year. Almost immediately it was a great success. Trade was soon at levels predicted in the final targets for next year. Then somebody noticed "QT" wasn't a take-away after all. If you stuck it in a room full of seats, people sat in them to eat their burgers! All further plans were halted whilst College went away to decide that, actually it really wanted the Main Dining Hall and the Junior Common Room for refectories.

The plan then became MDH on level 1 and on level 2, "QT" would have half of the JCR, only the Buttery would be turned into a mini food hall serving into the SCR and JCR.

At this stage we found that no food hall would serve into the JCR.

Which meant everyone, including students, would be going into the SCR, ergo JCR. The academic staff protested loudly, with the result that, if their members' poll agrees, the SCR will not only be restored but enlarged and refined.

So now we are at the stage where (possibly!);

1) QT gets half of the JCR during every day.

2) The staff SCR expands into the Buttery and gets revamped.

3) The Main Dining Hall stays where it is, with the addition of grill and salad bars.

4) The Conference Office loses more space, we lose more money.

5) The student body gets...new ceiling tiles! and loses effective control of its largest room. (Are you following this?)

On the lost income, College has said that can be made up in increased subvention but booking charges are expected to rise by 10% next year. Will that be mirrored in increased subvention? And already we have lost around £2K in 1986 and will certainly lose more in 1987.

But income, however desperately needed, is not the main issue. We have been losing space left, right and centre and now we are losing the JCR. It has even been threatened that, if we block these plans, we will lose the Southside Gym instead!

In an effort to halt this, a proposal was put to College that the outlets in the JCR became student controlled. The answer was no handing over of QT, no handing over of the bar, no say in when either should be opened or closed. And the reason: students obviously like things just the way they are, they are voting with their feet. Over 2000 transactions a day is saying this is the right solution.

Jackie

President's Piece

Sorry this is so short—this seems to be the busiest week since the start of October. Just a couple of things...

Junior Common Room—yet again

Please, please, please come to the Extraordinarily Exciting General Meeting this lunchtime, 12.30 in the JCR. It's absolutely necessary that Jackie, Dave and I have a firm mandate on what action we ought to be taking over our Common Room. Come and tell us what to do.

ULU Day of Action

Next Tuesday, 27th January, is the Day of Action over the proposed 50% cut to ULU. Please watch out for more details—read the leaflets, sign the petitions and take part in any last-minute actions that may be taking place!

Lesbian and Gay Rights

Last Monday Council co-opted Robert Daniels to look into ways in which the Union can improve lesbian and gay rights and welfare, and to provide a contact for any lesbian, gay—or other—students with problems or relevant suggestions. You can contact Robert via the Union office. If you've any comments or queries about the Union's plans or views on the subject, or about Council's decision, I suggest that you come and see me—as I proposed co-opting Robert in the first place, and will be working with him.

Christine

Gay or Lesbian?

Last Monday, ICU Council co-opted me (Robert Daniel) onto Council, the ICU Welfare Committee and the College Welfare Committee. My position is to investigate how best the interests of lesbians and gays at IC can be served by the Union. The Council co-opted me because I first put the suggestion to Christine Taig. We decided on 6 areas requiring attention:—

1. The homophobic atmosphere at College.
2. Provision of lesbian and gay social events.
3. Provision of advice and information for lesbian and gay students.

4. Representation of lesbians and gays on issues within College.

5. Liaison with other lesbian and gay organisations.

6. Provision of long term commitment to lesbian and gay rights.

Having stuck my neck out this far I have decided to set up a Lesbian and Gay Society which I hope will be well attended. Perhaps this way I will also gain other peoples views on the matter. Keep an eye out for posters detailing the launch of the Society, hopefully early next week.

I would also greatly value letters from lesbians and gays (in total confidence) with any suggestions about things they feel need to be done, and all offers of help would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted at the Union Office by internal mail—either addressed to me personally or to Lesbian/Gay Welfare.

Lastly there will be a questionnaire circulating College

sometime soon, and apparently one question will be on sexuality. Since these questionnaires will be the most comprehensive recent survey of the College population it would be very good if an accurate figure could be put on the number of homosexuals at IC. My estimate (based on national statistics) is 500. If you are a lesbian or gay student make sure you get counted because this will help identify how great the need for a Union Officer is.

Robert Daniels

FOR SALE

Honda CB 175 (L reg)

Buckled front wheel, dead battery; otherwise in generally sound condition (see under Huxley)

£65

Contact Andy (int 6987)

FROM THE ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

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The conference was split into 'sessions' of about 4 hours each, starting on Friday afternoon, and finishing Monday morning; there were nine sessions in total. Six of the sessions were 'conference sessions' with the delegates gathered together in the main hall, two were 'sector meetings' (the three sectors being Universities, Public Sector Higher Education (Polytechnics), and Further Education). The remaining session was taken up with 'commissions' workshops where delegates were given a chance to question members of the National Executive.

The conference began with the National President, Vicky Phillips' opening remarks. She outlined a plan for the restructuring of the NUS. She argued that the conference was getting too large and taking up too much of the time of the NUS, and it was time a study was undertaken in the way the NUS works. How all the sectors fit together within the NUS and so on. She defended the No-Platform campaign for racists and fascists, held by many student unions and the NUS itself, but warned of the dangers of extending it any further, to "anybody we don't agree with" as she put it.

Throughout the conference individual delegates regularly suspended 'standing orders' (the rules by which the conference is run) in order to make some point to the rest of the assembly. The issues raised included vegetarian meals at the hotel and students rioting in France; to do this a delegate needed 50 other delegates in support, and, initially anyway, it seemed that 50 delegates could be found to support almost anything. Such interruptions occurred so frequently that it seriously hindered the running of the conference and resulted in many delays and the loss of various items off the agenda. This was very definitely a case of too much democracy, and this was a theme all the way through the conference. The chairing of the meetings left a little to be desired—it was not until the

Imperial at NUS

Imperial College Union left the National Union of Students nearly ten years ago. At the time the NUS was under fire for being undemocratic, expensive, and too concerned with party politics. Last term Chris Martin and Bill Goodwin attended the NUS winter conference as observers. Here we present an edited version of their reports of the conference.

last session that a 'strong' chair took over and cleared a lot of business out of the way.

The Friday evening session had timetabled some of the important motions on 'Housing', 'Student Financial Support' and 'Grants, Benefits and Housing'. This rather odd situation of having three motions on related subjects was due to a difference of emphasis in the NUS between the 'soft-left', NOLS (the National Organisation of Labour Students), and the 'hard left', SSIN (Socialist Students in NOLS).

Firstly, however, a seemingly innocent constitutional change carried over from the afternoon session caused a major row. The change was about the number of part time students that are equivalent to a full-time student, when calculating how many delegates to conference a College should have (currently 1 delegate per 1,000 'full time equivalent' students). The change would decrease the number of part-time students that made up one full-time student from 10 to 5, thus benefitting the Further Education Colleges within the NUS who have a large proportion of part-time students. This was opposed by the National Executive, as it would make the conference bigger and more expensive.

Then the fun started. They had a vote, and then a count. The motion

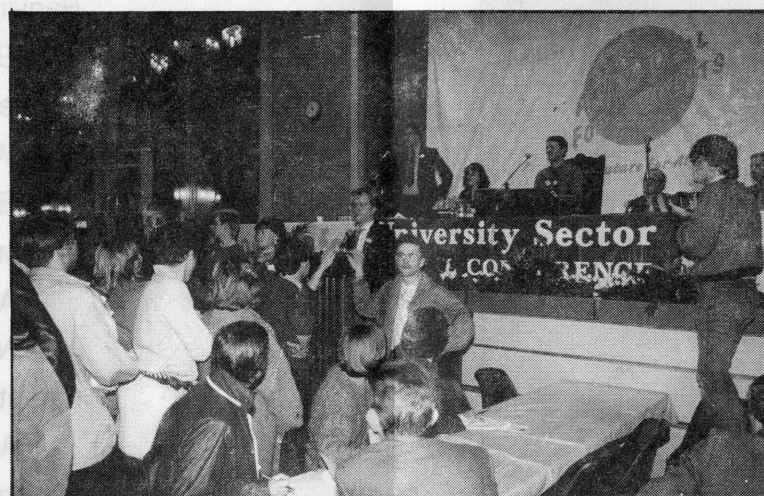
was not passed by the two-thirds majority it needed, but only missed it by a slender margin. There was a request for a re-vote, which was not in the constitution, and then there were indicative rulings, a Presidential Ruling, votes about votes etc etc. In the end, about an hour later, they decided to have another vote, this time on paper, which defeated the change by a larger margin. Again this was a case for too much democracy—if the NUS had stuck to its own rules, the problem would not have arisen. Some delegates were allowed to get away with breaking some the rules, and the result was chaos.

A short way into the debate we unfortunately had to leave the conference; as IC Union was only partly subsidising the trip we had to leave in order to travel to some cheap accommodation some distance away from the conference. This was a definite nuisance and we missed parts of several debates as conference went on. From what I could gather afterwards from talking to other delegates, the 'moderate' motions about opposing the 'Fowler Review', cutting Housing Benefit and other Housing support for students, was passed, and the 'Loony Left' ideas like, for example, nationalising land ownership, were thrown out. There was a strong feeling that any campaigns should not only be based around Higher Education (Universities and Polytechnics), but should bring attention to the problems faced by further education students as well. The motion as passed calls for a 'Major Housing Campaign'.

Saturday saw the University Sector meetings and workshops. I attended a workshop on student union autonomy in Universities, and came across some real horror stories—the Vice Chancellor at Reading, we were told, was trying to get a member of the University staff into the Union to control any money the Union paid out. The National Executive were asked to prepare a 'defend your union' pack to collect together the individual experiences of student unions around the country to circulate to other Colleges if they are faced with similar problems.

Sunday saw the 'commissions'

where delegates had a chance to question members of the National Executive, and from the ones that I attended, they had a hard time of it. The 'finace and services' commission discussed the NUS's annual accounts; they have a large problem in that the amount they budgeted for telephone and travel for their part-time executive members has been exceeded by a considerable amount because these members have been doing far more work than they used to in the past, this was part of the reason why they



undertook to investigate the structure of the NUS.

Elections took place on the Sunday afternoon to the NUS Elections Committee, Steering Committee (which looks after the organisation of the conferences, etc) and a few others. During this a candidate stood up and used his election speech to put forward the Federation of Conservative Students' (FCS) position on the NUS. He was heckled by the floor, and judging by the reputation of NUS conferences, this was not surprising. What was surprising was the number of delegates who immediately afterwards stood up and defended the candidate's right to have his say the same as everyone else. The hecklers were very definitely in the minority.

Monday saw 4 hours left to get through nearly half the business of the conference, due to all the time lost because of debates overrunning and various interruptions. First on the agenda was a debate on economic policy—criticising Government policy and the effect it was having on students, making the point very strongly that education was not an issue that can be taken in isolation. The depth the debate reached, even in the short time allocated to it, indicated that the NUS were not just interested in 'more money for students', but realised that a national organisation campaigning for students must have a longer term view and a deeper understanding of the economics and politics of government. To suggest that a debate on economic policy is not relevant to a body representing the interests of 1.4m students nationwide in further and higher education, especially since it is the economic policies of the present government that are doing so much damage to the education system, is just not realistic.

By the end of the conference a great deal of useful work had been done, but there could of been more



BILL GOODWIN

The NUS decides its policy at two national conferences. Delegates from the constituent universities and polytechnics are elected by campus-wide ballot to vote on behalf of the students they represent. Imperial College Union External Affairs Committee decided to send myself and Chris Martin to the 1986 winter conference as observers.

The most significant motion was that of Grants, Benefits and Housing, on the policy document 'The Fowler review on Social Security', which precludes students from claiming during holiday periods and which was criticised because it would reduce access to higher education. The Baker review, which calls for the implementation of student loans, was also condemned, and the NUS claim for a £35 weekly grant for all students in further education was reaffirmed.

The motion on AIDS resolved to give support to the Trevor Higgins trust, which is researching the disease, and to undertake an educational programme designed to remove the 'gay disease' prejudice and to promote 'safe sex'. The policy also seeks to ensure that students and staff suffering from AIDS or possessing AIDS antibodies should be free to continue their work as normal, and that confidential treatment should be provided.

My initial impressions were that the organisation of the conference was very good indeed—surpassing GUC (University of London) and ICU's UGMs by a long way. Unfortunately, as the conference progressed, a huge proportion of the conference was wasted by delegates suspending standing orders at every opportunity. This facility allowed delegates, with the approval of 50 members of conference, to halt the proceedings in order, for example, to make speeches or have indirect votes in support of their pet issues. Although many of the issues raised

were important, the facility was consistently abused by delegates persuing the course of one-upmanship. As a result there was no time to hear the guest speakers, or to consider emergency motions on subjects such as US involvement in Nicaragua, cuts in art courses, Barclays' continuing interests in South Africa, or to debate the Executive's reports. I was disappointed at the way major motions had to be rushed through without adequate debate. It was difficult to see how democracy could operate in a situation which did not give delegates time fully to understand what they were voting on. I was not surprised when one delegate, almost in tears, told the conference that she didn't have a clue what was going on; she was given a sympathetic round of applause by the conference.

I was disappointed, given the conference's support for 'oppressed minorities', that delegates should choose to heckle the few speakers who admitted to being members of the Federation of Conservative Students.

In conclusion, there is much which could be done to improve the effectiveness of NUS conferences; in a sense the NUS is too democratic for its own good. Whether the situation will be improved by the much-publicised restructuring remains to be seen.

Is the NUS worth joining? I think there is a definite need for a national student organisation. It has to be asked, though, whether the NUS has lost its way?

CHRIS MARTIN

The NUS is making great efforts to represent all the students in this country; not just the university and polytechnic students, but all those in Further Education Colleges as well. This is only right, especially since a lot of these students are great deal worse off than university students. Suggesting that there should be separate national unions for each of the different sectors is like

suggesting that there should be a separate union for rich and poor students. Splitting the student campaigning can only be a bad thing, and can weaken the overall position of student representation.

One thing you may have expected in this report is accounts of political in-fighting within the 'left' groups at the conference. In fact, on the conference floor, there was very little. The arguments and debates seemed to centre around issues, and not dogma. Outside the conference hall, however, there were as many political groups all lined up and trying to give you a bit of paper. The absence of party-political slanging matches on the floor of the conference was surprising, as it was not what I had been led to expect. Of course political manoeuvrings happened behind the scenes, but the issues themselves, it seemed, were primary on the conference floor.

Should IC join the NUS?

Most of the people I talked to at the conference seemed amazed that a College the size of Imperial could get by without the NUS. There was no shortage of criticism of the NUS at the conference, indeed delegates seemed to revel in it, but in spite of this, I did not hear one delegate or College mention that they were thinking about disaffiliating. The few disaffiliation ballots that have taken place recently have all overwhelmingly supported the NUS. I never cease to be amazed by the 'knee-jerk' anti-NUS reaction of some students, who while knowing next to nothing about the NUS, criticise it only because that is what the previous year did. Since I have been at College, there has been a complete lack of reasoned factual debate about the NUS; students here, apparently, appear to rely on the prejudices.

I am not going to get into the arguments about why IC should be in the NUS; all I will ask is this—Is the NUS so bad, why is, almost without exception, every other student and Student Union in this country in the NUS, and Imperial outside?



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Theatre

Miss Julie - Strindberg
Judgement - Kafka
Intimacy - Sartre

At the Cafe Theatre of the Bear and Staff pub, 37 Charing Cross Road.

This triple bill of works by Classic writers is an ambitious undertaking by the Artuad Company and provides one of the most interesting theatrical programmes on in London at the moment.

"Miss Julie" tells of how a Count's valet, Jean, exploits the infatuation that Julie (his masters mad daughter) has for him in order to get enough money to get away and start a new life. The play is performed frequently and can be tedious and clichéd, but by using updated language, Paul Hick's production remains fresh and original throughout, and this is helped by Adam Maxwell's portrayal of Jean as laid-back yet calculating. However there are times when the play flags and Shane Valey sometimes goes over the top as the insane Julie.

"Judgement" is Micheal Almaz's adaptation of Kafka's writings dealing with his early life and emotional conflicts over his dying father, his fiancée whom he does not love and his suppressed homosexuality. The play never reaches any satisfactory dramatic climax, but does portray Kafka's isolation and confusion with subtlety and clarity.

It is notoriously difficult to write a convincing female rôle, let alone an all-woman play. Hence Jean-Paul Satre's "Intimacy" is a gem. Two best-friends have man-trouble; Lulu is about to leave her impotent husband for a young lover, and Rirette is now alone. The play studies their individual feelings, and what happens when Lulu finally leaves Henri, and the sexual attraction they have for one another but that they try to ignore. "Intimacy" produced some of the most imaginative staging of the evening, and I found it most enjoyable.

All three productions deal with the strong sexual drives that can force people into making unwise, even fatal, decisions. Despite some dubious acting, all were memorable and rewarding versions of fine plays. The Theatre programme changes regularly and plays can be seen singularly or together, but it is not only the actual shows that make it well worth a visit, the theatre itself and the pub beneath are excellent and the whole atmosphere is warm, friendly and inviting.

Liz Holford

Road - The Royal Court Theatre

Road has returned to the Royal Court Theatre for short run from the 19 January to the 28 February. It is short considering the amount of effort that turns the whole of the stalls of the theatre into a walk around stage. Jim Cartwright's play ended another short run last summer after it was transferred from the much smaller theatre upstairs. I saw the play last June when Eddie Tenpole, of Tenpole Tudor and Sex Pistols background took the leading part, this time it stars Ian Dury as a man of the street in this small Lancashire town. The play, as it rambles on from scenes inside houses on a council estate, eavesdrops on short snatches taken from the lives of the inhabitants. It is an attempt to recreate and follow the lives of people in an informal walk-around manner. One simply walks on and around the action, never more than six feet away from the dialogue. The audience too becomes part of the play; I made a terrible acting debut when I had to dance passionately with a young girl!

I should also mention how disconcerting it is to have people acting in front of your face, to speak and look into your eyes, without the glare of stage-lights. The whole play is two-way, sometimes the audience can't look at its own shame of being there, so intimately involved. At other times the cast look to be enjoying this magnificent play too much to be consistently depraved.

More than that, if you like Ian Dury, its likely to be the closest you ever get to him.

Richard Bleasdale



Film

Rocinante

This film made by the Cinema Action group is a rather strange mixture of fantasy, fact, illusion and realism with no obvious running theme.

It centres around a character called Bill (John Hurt) who leaves his projections of landscapes in a derelict cinema and goes in search of the real thing in his aimless meanderings around the Wild West country of England he is trailed by a present day jester, whose strange appearance and uncanny powers are well portrayed by Ian Dury.

Bill crosses paths with Jess (Maureen Douglas) who is trying to infiltrate the computer network of the Coal Board shortly after the miner's strike. Both she and the jester seem to be enticing Bill to adventure with their strange words and dark secrets, but rather disappointingly nothing actually comes of it.

However, if you don't go into the cinema expecting Crocodile Dundee and don't try to derive too much meaning from particular events, the film's rather bizarre characters and its almost surreal images can be appreciated.

Once you realise that Bill does not have and ulterior motive or reason for his actions and that you know just as much about what he's doing as he does, it is possible to identify with him; then, you can just sit back and enjoy the spectacular views of the English West Country. Viv

Heavenly Pursuits

In 'Heavenly Pursuits', Tom Conti plays a remedial teacher (Vic Matthews) in Glasgow, whose atheist views seem to make him a prime target for a whole host of 'miracles' designed to convert the unbelieving. The concept of miracles is not new to him as he teaches at a small Catholic school named after Edith Semple, a former 'miracle worker' who lived at the turn of the century. Vic struggles hard to quash rumours that he is the next Edith Semple, aided by fellow teacher Ruth Chancellor (Helen Mirren), and instead channels his energy into improving his pupils' literacy.

Much as I like Tom Conti, he gets the film off to a bad start by wandering around like a love-sick puppy. However, he soon redeems himself and gives a good performance as an ordinary man driven mad by 'miracle hysteria', Helen Mirren is pleasingly cast as Ruth, good at below-the-belt retorts. The story-line however meanders along and at times disappears completely.

'Heavenly Pursuits' is a harmless comedy that will give an evening's entertainment, although personally I would not rush out to see it.

Helena Russell

Film Society

IC Film Soc's next presentation, this Thursday 29th in Physics LT1 (doors 7.30pm) is **Beverly Hills Cop** starring the one and only Eddie Murphy.

Eddie Murphy plays a very unconventional wise-cracking cop. His best friend comes to visit him and within a couple of hours is gunned down by hit men. Murphy goes to Beverly Hills to track down his friend's killers, and that's where the fun starts.

The comedy is fast and furious and Eddie Murphy will make you believe he could talk his way out of a room with no doors.

If you've seen **48 Hours** or **Trading Places** you can't miss Eddie Murphy's best movie to date, **Beverly Hills Cop**.

Just booked-films include **Cocoon**, **Hitcher**, **Fright Night** and **The Sword in the Stone**.

50p members, £1.00 non-members.

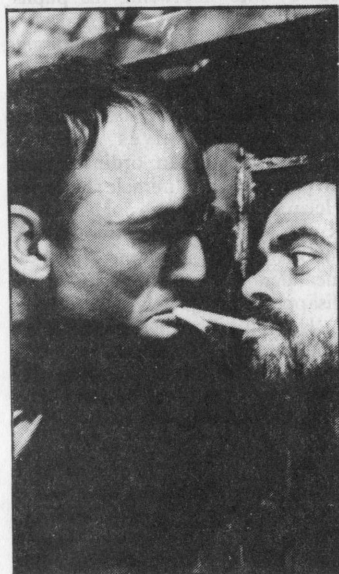
Martin Gans

Real Ale

We have a special meeting today (Friday 23rd) with the head brewer from Gales Brewery coming to speak, and of course Gales beer. The meeting will be in the Lounge (Ground Floor, LHS Union Building) which is hopefully warmer than our usual venue! See you there for 7.00pm.

Cricket

Winter nets have started at Lords Cricket Ground on Tuesday nights from 9-10pm. Sign up in the third glass case from the Bookshop



outside the JCR on the Upper Walkway. For the period do not sign for more than two nets. Roger Wilson, our Treasurer, will be collecting subs from you. Whites must be worn along with soft soled shoes (also white). If you have a bat, pads etc then please bring them along. Balls and the kit will be provided. Any queries contact Gareth Fish, Hon Sec, Mech Eng PG int 6289 or Rob Kelly, 1st XI Capt, Chemistry PG int 4642.

Micro Club

If you think that computing is just hour-long debugging sessions or the high score on Space Invaders then Micro Club have organised four events this term to change your mind and prise you from the keyboards:

(i) Visit to Rediffusion Flight Simulators — Thursday 12th February.

(ii) A talk by Sir Clive Sinclair — Thursday 26th February.

(iii) Transputer Demonstration by INMOS — Tuesday 3rd March.

(iv) Double bill film night with ICSF — T.B.A.

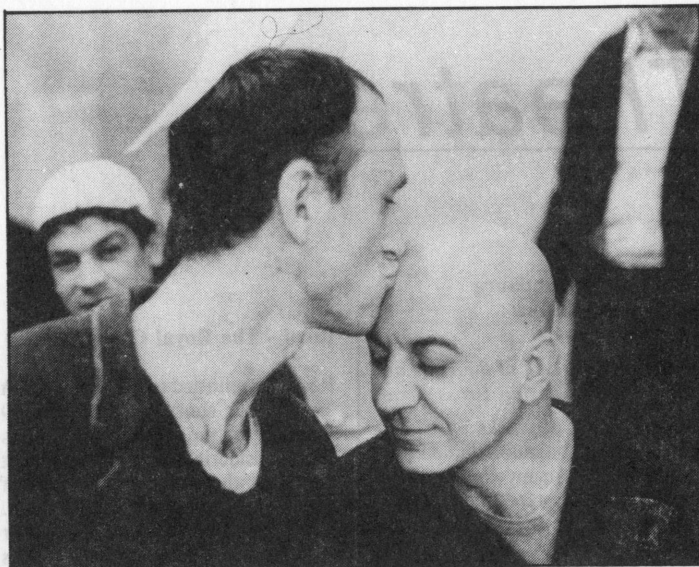
For more details and membership come to Micro Club any Wednesday at 1.30pm (clubroom is at the top of the West Staircase in the Union Building), or contact Dave Bass, Physics 2 via the Physics pigeonholes.

QT

Having succeeded in bringing last week's UGM to a halt with a carefully concealed telephone, QT Soc is now embarking on its ultimate plan to take over Imperial College. An Extremely Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on Thursday at 1pm to discuss our presidential campaign. Our candidate, Alky Jim of Alcoholics Anonymous, is raring to go! The campaign will be worked out in detail on Thursday. We need as many members as possible to turn up, particularly anyone with good ideas, and anyone interested in producing posters and canvassing.

Abortion

Olivia Gans, Director of American Victims of Abortion, has agreed to come to Britain for the 1987 SPUC Students' Division Lecture Tour. IC PATA have arranged that the meeting for Central London takes place at Imperial College, Lecture Theatre 213 in the Huxley Building, at 7.30pm on Monday 26th January. Olivia has had an abortion herself and will be talking not only of her own experience, but



also of recent research on post-abortion syndrome. The lecture is open to all students.

Soc Soc

We are still active this term with meetings every Tuesday (unless there is a speaker meeting) in the Green Committee Room at 12.45pm (Top floor, Union Building).

We have **Tony Benn** coming on February 16th in the Great Hall. Also former broadcaster **Austin Mitchell** at a date to be arranged this term.

Anti Apartheid

Thank you to the many people who turned up outside the planned Consoc talk on Tuesday. Unfortunately the representative of the South African Embassy did not turn up due to 'food poisoning'. Anybody with a conspiracy theory about this should keep their ear to the ground; Consoc are trying to arrange another date for the talk to go ahead.

BUNAC

It is now that time of year, with the wind blowing its strongest and the temperatures low enough to keep brass monkeys indoors, when all the big holiday firms begin to tempt us with brochures full of sun-kissed beaches and cities offering all imaginable forms of pleasure. Unfortunately for most students these holidays are not priced with the dwindling grant in mind.

There is, however, an alternative. The British Universities North American Club (BUNAC) was formed to assist students who would like to visit the United States but would otherwise be unable. BUNAC offers three

schemes to help finance that once in a lifetime trip:

Work America: You are provided with a directory of employers who have taken on students in the past. You write to the one you fancy and if you are accepted BUNAC will then assist you in getting a temporary work visa, which is essential and can only be obtained through us. Alternatively if you know someone over there who will act as a sponsor you can go without a job offer.

BUNACAMP: Your chance to spend the summer looking after young Americans. All interviews for this scheme are carried out in England by BUNAC.

KAMP: For those who don't warm to the idea of spending their time with the kids but would like to work on a summer camp this is the one for you. The camps are situated in some of the most beautiful surroundings imaginable and you would usually have access to all the facilities.

BUNAC is a non-profit making organisation fully endorsed by the American authorities and has offices in the States to assist anyone in need.

For more details see us in the JCR at 12.45pm most Thursdays.

SPORTS

Ski

The 1st and 2nd ski teams hit the slush last Saturday, to demonstrate the slalom prowess recently acquired on the Tignes pistes. The influence of the New Year trip was evident, with the 2nd team being dragged from the bar to compete in their events. (They slid happily into last place).

Unable to make 'the double' the 1st team came 2nd overall, narrowly thrashed by St. Thomas' Hospital. Cheers folks! Next race 22nd February. For future events come to our Thursday meetings.

FRIDAY

Christians in Industry ... 6.00pm.
Music Room, 53 Princes Gate.
Christian Union. Free.

Fencing Club 6.00pm.
Union Gym. Beginners and
experienced fencers welcome.

Comedy Bar Night 6.30pm.
Meet in Southside, or at 7.30pm
outside "The Bush Theatre" in
Shepherds Bush; one of
London's leading comedy and
cabaret venues. Guilds.

IC Radio Disco 9.00pm.
Southside Bar, 'til 12.00pm. Free.

SATURDAY

FELIX Shock All Day.
IC Students in shock when no
what's ons appear for today in
FELIX

SUNDAY

Student Riots 2.00pm.
Large demonstration outside
FELIX office protesting about the
lack of weekend 'what's ons'. IC
Apathy Soc.

MONDAY

FELIX Deadline 12.30pm.
All Small-Ads and What's Ons to
be in to the FELIX Office for
publication the following Friday.

**Wellsoc Speaker
Meeting** 7.30pm.
David Bergals of the Magic
Circle talking in Physics LT 1.
Membership £1.50 on the door.

Oliva Gans Lecture 7.30pm.

213 Huxley. A lecture on Oliva's
experience of abortion and on
recent research into post-
abortion syndrome. IC PATA.

**Dance Club Beginners
Ballroom** 7.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

**Dance Club Medals
Class** 8.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Linstead Bar Program 9.00pm.
IC Radio 'til 11.00pm. Subsidised
beer — all welcome.

TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting 8.15am.
Christian Union, Union Upper
Lounge.

FELIX Letters Deadline 12.30pm.
Letters for Friday's FELIX to be
into the FELIX office.

Jazz and Rock Club .. 12.45pm.
General meeting for all members
in the Jazz room.

What's On

Skilling Club 12.45pm.
Above Southside Bar. Cash back
for all last term's dry slope
skiers.

Beginners Rock 'n' Roll 5.45pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Wine Tasting 6.00pm.
Union SCR. Quality Rhône
Wines. £2.00.

Judo 6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

Canoe Club 6.45pm.
Meet in the swimming pool.
Normal sports centre entry fees
apply.

**Dance Club Intermediate
Ballroom** 7.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

Cricknet Club 7.45pm.
Meet for the nets at Lords indoor
cricket club. Mech. Eng. Foyer.
Sign up on lists outside
Bookshop.

**Dance Club Improvers
Ballroom** 8.00pm.
JCR. Cost: 70p.

IC Radio 9.00pm.
On the air from Falmouth Keogh
"Hole in the Hall". Buttery and
Bar also open.



WEDNESDAY

Skilling Club 12.30pm.
Above Southside Bar. Come
Skiing with Ski Club. Bring £6.00
(£3.00 returned) and some
indestructible clothing.

Rock 'n' Roll Routines . 3.00pm.
UDH. Dancing Club. Cost: 70p.

Tap Dancing 5.00pm.
Lounge. Dance Club. Cost: £1.00

THURSDAY

Youth Hostelling Club .12.30pm.
Meeting in Southside Upper
Lounge.

Fencing Club 12.30pm.
Union Gym. Professional
coaching for beginners and
experienced fencers.

Ap Tech Soc 12.45pm
Dr Alan Heyes of the Department
of Energy on "Renewable Energy
and the DoE". Elec Eng 403A.

BUNAC Information ... 12.45pm.
Everything you want to know
about working and playing in
America. JCR.

ICSF Library Meeting ... 1.00pm.
Green Committee Room. Access
to our vast library, organisation
of future events and news from
all over the SF world. Members
only.

Mopsoc Lecture 1.30pm.
'Visual Image Processing by the
human brain: what happens
when it goes wrong?'. Dr K.
Ruddock. Free to members, 50p
to non-members.

Judo 6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

Charlie Chaplin 7.00pm.
IC Radio. A documentary — Al
and Bill take a look at the life
and works of a great comedian.

Beverly Hills Cop 7.30pm.
Film Soc showing in Physics
LT1. 50 pence members, £1.00
non-members.

ARTSOC Video Evening 7.30pm.
Meet in the Union Lounge. Main
feature (to be announced) and
Californian students sitcom.

Small Ads

WANTED/FOR SALE

• **Ballgowns** — All different styles
and colours. Sizes approx 10/12
plus. For further details, contact
A. Driver; Elec Eng Pigeonholes
or Guilds Union Office.

• **Good home wanted for Korg**
Mono/Poly Synthesiser. Contact
R.G. Fincher, Chem 2.

• **Wanted:** Lift Up North
(destination Glasgow) on 30-1-
87, or back down on 1-2-87. Even
Birmingham would be a good
start!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **International Week — Coming
Soon.** Watch Out!

• **IC Caving Club** invite you to an
'Expedition Symposium' on
Saturday 24 January at 3.00pm in
B303, RSM. We will be showing
slides of past Expeditions to
Morocco, Peru, Greece and
Canada, and also a talk on
Antarctica, where a former
Caving Club member worked for
two years. All welcome.

• **Dear students,** Just a short note
from STOIC in case you
wondered what has happened to
us. We are at the moment in the
process of building a new studio
in the Union Building, and so we
are unable to produce our
weekly programme. All being
well, we should be able to
transmit in time for the
Sabbatical elections. Yours, S.
Allsop, Secretary, STOIC.

• **You're never alone with a
Rhône!** Taste these quality
French wines at a knock-down
price. Same time — Same place.

• **IC Darts Team** wish to attract
new players through a free
competition/practice. Players of
all standards welcome. Southside
Bar, Tuesday 27 January, 7.00pm

PERSONAL

• **Expert ice climbing** instruction
available from Kath ICCC.

• **For advanced ice climbing**
lessons in Black Shiver
Shakehole see Kath.

• **Sponsored endurance** talk on
ice climbing, we pay, YOU listen.

• **That's enough ice climbing — ed.**

• **Ninja p42-46,** pillow talk from R
Collcot.

• **Just when you thought it was
safe to go back — Jaws 87.** Term
has begun and the shark reserve
is operative again. Contact Zac
or use—Chem Eng III, Hammy or
the tall blonde one — Physics III.

• **Q: What is the connection**
between a squirrel, a random and
a stone road? A: A lot of 6X!!!.
Rock on Pete.

• **Sarah is 99% definite,** about
what though?

• **FELIX must have** a contact
name (not for publication) for all
Small-Ads, otherwise we are
unable to print them. All Small-
Ads for next FELIX to be in by
12.30pm Monday please.

ACCOMMODATION

• **Single Room, £45pw** including
heating in Hamersmith. Rent
rebate about £20. Contact D
Cribb, Chem III or 01-748 3449.

• **Wanted: 1 person** (m/f) to share
large room in W14. Very close to
tubes and 25 mins from College.
£35pw. Phone 603 8104 eves or
weekend.

Goosen for the gander

Tuesday's meeting of the Conservative Society was cancelled at the last minute. Mr Peter Goosen, the Third Secretary at the South African Embassy, was unable to attend, as he had food poisoning. Despite this, and the apparent secrecy surrounding the visit, a sizeable number of protestors turned up outside room 139 in the Huxley Building.

Dave Burbage, ConSoc Chairman, said that there had been the usual amount of publicity for the event, but the Union Office and College Security were not aware of the talk until the FELIX Office phoned them for comment.

FELIX visited Mr Goosen at South Africa House on Wednesday, where he said that he is still very willing to come and talk. Mr Goosen asserted that there is a "large amount of confusion" among South Africans as to why international pressure on their country is increasing now, when the pace of reform is also quickening,

and told FELIX that the Government is committed to the abolition of Apartheid, free government and a universal franchise. On the subject of the creation of a "New South Africa", he said "We feel the ball is very firmly in the court of the radical groups in South Africa". He claimed that all that is needed to bring about the creation of the new state is negotiation, and the National Statutory Council Bill, currently going through the South African Parliament, provides for a forum for these negotiations, which will decide the form of the new Government.

Saying that South Africa admits the mistakes of the past, Mr. Goosen told FELIX that "All people should look to the future of South Africa" and said that all that needs to be done before negotiations can begin is for the "terrorist" groups to renounce violence. There is nothing, he claimed, to prevent the first steps occurring tomorrow.

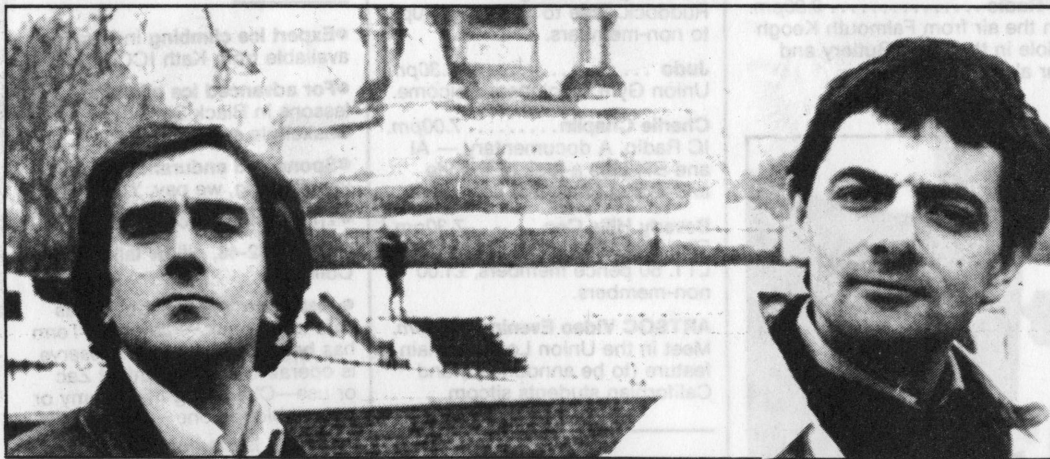
One of the major forces for reform is considered by the South African Government to be the growing economy, which necessitates employment of all races if enough labour is to be found, and Mr Goosen said that sanctions would slow down the pace of reform, especially in cost-intensive areas such as housing; a housing shortage means that there has been little visible effect. About half of the black population in South Africa is under fifteen years old, and it is estimated that one million homes are needed now, as well as the jobs and other facilities that will be needed when these people reach adulthood. Mr Goosen stressed to FELIX that change will take place "as soon as humanely possible," but pointed out that the imposition of sanctions will, in the view of the South African Government, make the funds necessary for such reform virtually unobtainable.

On the African National Congress, Mr Goosen said "We

don't deny that the ANC was for many years a peaceful organisation", and that it does represent a certain portion of the views of black South Africans, but he also pointed out that the leaders of the ANC have publicly condoned the practice of 'necklacing', whereby a rubber tyre filled with petrol is placed around the neck of the victim, and then set alight, and outlined in graphic detail how death occurs. The continuing violence of the ANC - nineteen people were killed by a single car bomb in 1983 - and of the other, less well known, organisations, is seen as the obstacle to negotiation.

Mr Goosen's view was that the terrorist should leave his gun outside, rather than bring it in to the conference room with him.

In closing he told FELIX that he would be willing to come and field questions from anti-apartheid supporters, and said that he "would be over like a shot" as soon as a date could be arranged.



Rowan Atkinson and partner pictured on a tandem outside College earlier this week. Mr Atkinson is rehearsing in the Union building.

Fever-pitched excitement

Excitement is reaching fever-pitch on the run-up to the Great IC Union 'Push for ULU' Three-legged Pram Race, being held on Tuesday. The race is being held as an off-beat part of the Day of Action.

Prizes include ULU designer T-shirts and case of lager, and will be awarded for first-past-the-post, whackiest team name, silliest mascot and for any other reasons the organising committee can dream up.

Entry forms have been circulated to the CCU offices and the ICU Office in the Union Building. Teams consist of two people and four-wheeled non-motorised vehicle of any type, which must negotiate a course around Imperial. Teams must have a mascot, which is to be placed inside the vehicle. Forms will be available on the day of the event if there are still places left on the starting grid.

Teams from the FELIX Office and ICU Executive have already entered, and halls, houses and departments are all welcome to join in. The competition is also open to members of staff.

The starting gun will be fired by a mystery celebrity at 1.00 pm on Tuesday from the base of the Queen's Tower.

campaign

London colleges have announced a campaign to protest against the Government's policy on Grants, Benefits and Housing (GBH). The two week campaign which is planned to begin on February 9th is designed to increase the public's awareness of the issues. It will feature leafleting, picketing, campus occupation and a major march.

A spokesman for the IC delegation to the GBH Committee said the meeting had been very useful, and added that IC Union should stage a 24 hour work-in to support the campaign.

Residents shocked

Residents of Beit Hall were shocked at the appearance of scaffolding reaching to the roof of the Old Hostel on Tuesday. Students were not warned about the scaffolding, which has been built so that some of the baths can be replaced with showers. Dr John Finley, who has been the Warden of Beit for just over a year, explained that he was only informed that the work would go ahead at the beginning of the week. It was supposed to have happened before he took up the post, he added.

When asked about the security

implications, especially for those bedrooms which are accessible from the scaffolding, Dr Finley admitted, "Beit Hall has virtually no security," and said he did not think this would change until students were persuaded to close the doors and so on. A sensible thief would use the front door rather than the scaffolding, he suggested.