



FELIX

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

Kings students in mindless raid on IC Union office

Filth! Outrage!

Students from King's College plastered the Union Office with eggs and flour and threw human excrement when they 'raided' the IC Union Building on Wednesday afternoon. Several hundred pounds worth of damage was done to the office and to people's clothing. Two IC students were abducted and taken to King's College for part of the afternoon. They were later returned to IC by car.

Prior to the raid, two King's students had called at the Union office, pretending to be representatives of ULU entertainments committee. They said that they wished to 'go for a drink' with Union President Christine Taig to discuss a joint Rag meeting. Because Ms Taig was occupied, Rag Vice Chairman Judith Hackney and FELIX photographer Dave Burns agreed to go. Shortly after they left, 6 King's students charged into the Union office and threw flour and eggs indiscriminately. There was no attempt to find or remove any ICU mascot. Union Receptionist Kathy Tait was covered in eggs and flour in the incident. One student threw a plastic bag containing human faeces (his own) across the room; this narrowly missed Ms Taig and struck one of the office windows.

The intruders then withdrew swiftly, but UGM Chairman Hugh Southey and ICU Hon Sec Dave Colley gave chase and managed to apprehend one of them. He admitted to being from King's after Mr Colley (weighing 18 stone) hit him several times.

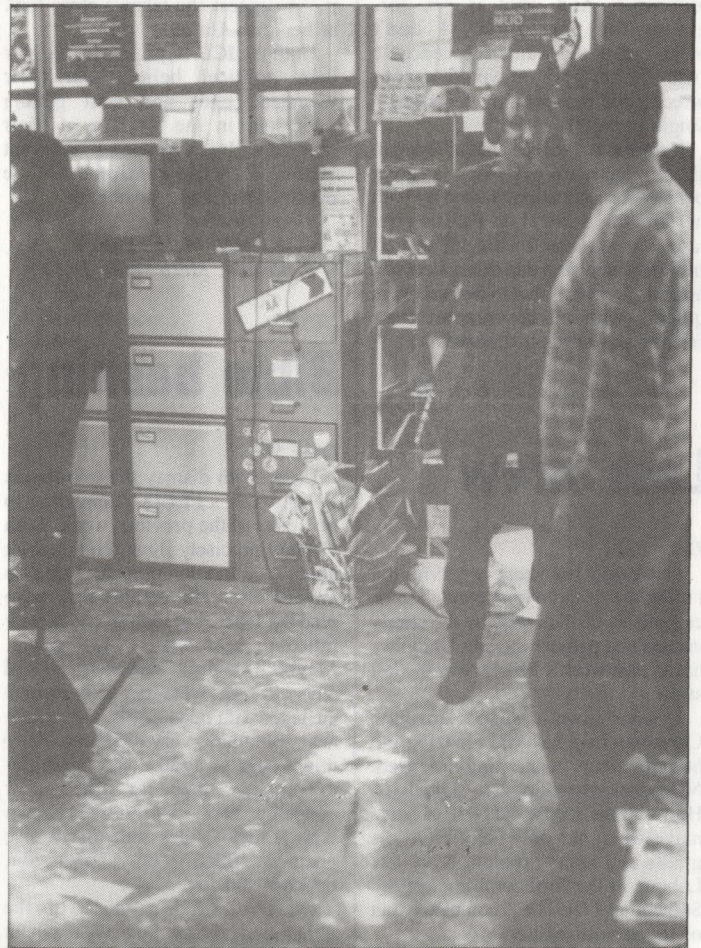
The Union office was then cleared for the rest of the afternoon as the raid had left it in an unusable condition. Ms Taig rang King's College immediately. Though she could not contact any King's Union officer at once, the call was returned by Rag Officer Al Steger-Lewis (Mr Steger-Lewis is also Communications Secretary-elect, the equivalent of Union President). He denied any foreknowledge of the raid, other than the plan to abduct an IC student, and said that he did not know any of the students involved in the raid. Ms Taig demanded that Ms Hackney and Mr

Burns be returned immediately, and that no demand for a ransom be made. She also said that all cleaning bills would have to be met by King's Union, unless the offenders returned to clear up themselves. Mr Steger-Lewis rang again shortly afterwards and said that he had 'identified some of the students.' (Mr Burns and Ms Hackney were in the room with Mr Steger-Lewis at the time, and later told FELIX that the raiders were present, and reported to have advised Mr Steger-Lewis to pretend he knew nothing). Ms Taig said that she wanted letters of apology from each of the students. Mr Steger-Lewis said that the raiders would not be willing to return to clear up the Union office because they said they feared reprisals.

Mr Colley and External Affairs Officers Adrian Johnson (22 stone) went to King's (Strand site) to pay a serious call. By the time they arrived, Mr Burns and Ms Hackney were already being returned to IC, having already escaped once, only to be recaptured. However, Mr Burns had spent one hour in handcuffs and Ms Hackney had had an egg broken into her hair.

A firm of contract cleaners were brought in to clean out the Union Office on Wednesday evening, and the Office was re-opened on Thursday morning. All bills for cleaning and for repairs to the office are being forwarded to King's. They will also be charged for an afternoon's wages for the ICU permanent staff, who were unable to use the office after the attack.

King's College Communications Secretary Frances Taylor rang yesterday and apologised profusely for the incident, adding that she would



fully support any action taken by ICU. Ms Taig has also written a letter of complaint to the Principal of King's College, Professor Sutherland.

Ms Taylor told FELIX that King's would definitely be disciplining the

students involved; she added that matters of this nature were normally left to the Union, though she added that Professor Sutherland may choose to take action directly.

Sabbatical Election Manifestos Inside

Abortion

Dear Dave,

Abortion—one of the apparent few, who thinks that a woman has the right to choose what is to happen to her body, on contraception failure.

I've been amazed recently by opinions voiced in discussions of the 'Miss S and Mr C' court case. Not only do we have to absorb the negative female imagery in everything from hard porn to the subtle (and more disturbing, as many people are disgusted by snuff movies) advertising...but can witness an ex-boyfriend daring to force a woman to carry a child for 9 months plus a "health endangering birth" (her GP).

This woman is being treated as a baby machine (the violation of which, incidentally, is worth less than that of property, according to the male judiciary). And what is sex for, except for conception?—I don't believe that she wanted to conceive (who, in her position would want to wreck good prospects by becoming a single parent?)

I refuse to accept that a woman should have to pay such a great penalty for a situation created by both her and this man, (I do question her taste). If she has an illegal, or self inflicted, abortion due to a successful appeal I hope that she recovers quickly with all the support from friends she needs a deserves.

Yours,

Clare Murphy, Civ. Eng. III.

Last straw

Dear Felix,

I have only been here two terms but I think that is quite long enough to be completely disillusioned by the utterly useless and pathetic student Union we have. Last week's FELIX was the last straw.

I have always found anything Christine Taig has said amazing but her comments concerning the recent NUS demonstration were ridiculous. How can she accuse the NUS of being naive when her only solution to the grants and loans problem is to vote Labour in the forthcoming election. Sometimes I feel she is completely out of touch with reality.

In the same article was a report on the ULU march protesting against the proposed 50% cuts. How many IC students knew about this march? How many IC students knew about the 50% cuts and how this affects them? They certainly weren't told about it by our own Union yet this should be an important issue for many IC students. I, myself, live near the ULU facilities which are certainly considerably better than anything IC can provide, and since our Union seems unable to organise suitable entertainment for its own members, it will be a sad loss if the proposed

cuts are implemented.

Another subject is the proposed (or has it been passed?) government legislation preventing students from claiming housing benefit. Now I'm the typically badly informed student who knows nothing about this. Shouldn't there have been some opposition to this? Or at least I feel we should be a little more informed on what is a very relevant concern for all students.

Back to FELIX. I nearly died when I read the end of the President's piece. She actually says when referring to College administration, "this lack of information and communication is doing a great deal to damage any sense of community that the College has. Life would be a lot easier and more relaxed for everyone at College if those in possession of information didn't wait for aggrieved students and staff to come knocking on their doors before being prepared to distribute it." I suggest she takes a close look at her own Union.

Until the ICU stops promoting their own political beliefs and their oversized egos and start getting interested in the welfare of their members by promoting relevant issues I will continue to be disillusioned and "apathetic."

Yours sincerely,

C W Gray, Mech. Eng. I

P Bayada, Mech. Eng. I

Bible bashing

Dear Sir,

I read with dismay the two letters in last week's FELIX responding to my letter of the previous week. Both of them precisely illustrate the point about not having time to listen to anyone else. The authors may have read the letter, but they so completely failed to hear what I was saying. Maybe if Andrew and Matthew and others as well, were to quietly re-read the letter with open hearts, they might hear something very different. They might hear of a God who is not out to threaten them, or criticise or condemn them, or to tie them down with a set of rules, but one whose heart is filled with compassion, openness and love.

On the criticism made of the quotation and New Society, maybe it would have helped if Andrew had read the article first. He would probably have found that it actually coincided with his own attitudes towards down-and-outs. As for me, I have friends who are or have been prostitutes, heroin addicts, alcoholics, or tramps and I love them dearly. I know some of their life histories and it breaks me just to hear of them. I'm sorry Andrew misinterpreted my attitude.

Open, searching hearts are the only ones that will ever find God.

Yours,

Rob Brown, Civ. Eng. PG.

Felix

Promises, Promises

Though the Executive might wish to deny it, IC union, like the rest of Imperial College, is a slave to bureaucracy. As the "administration" continually expands, there is little opportunity for new initiatives to get off the ground. Though we are supposedly seeing a move towards "forward planning" this year, the progress so far has been for a sub-committee (the Union Planning Group) to set up three sub-committees (working parties) which may eventually report back to a major committee (Council). To date, one working party has decided something, one has decided nothing and the third may have decided something.

General meetings are frankly useless as a means of communication with the student body as a whole. It is asking too much of anyone who does not have exceptional patience to sit through hours of petty procedural squabbling. This is not going to change until somebody takes it upon themselves to re-write those pages of printed drivel known as standing orders.

This is why the sabbatical elections are so important. The officers you elect next week will, as far as the Sheffield sharks are concerned be next year's IC Students' Union. The elections are one of the few opportunities all students have to affect the running of ICU. It is imperative that the right candidates are elected—College administration have no qualms about treading all over weak Union officers if it suits them to do so.

There is no harm in being severely cynical when weighing up the election promises the candidates make. The important question is, "why are you standing for this post?" Nobody who stands for a sabbatical does so because they "feel they are the best man/woman for the job." This is sort

of altruism is confined to saints and deities—and there are none of either at IC. Every prospective sabbatical is interested in whether the year will benefit them. I mean no disrespect to people whose concern for ICU is entirely genuine, and I am not implying that candidates are after extra Brownie points for their CVs. The reality is that sabbatical candidates stand because they feel it is a positive way for them to spend a year; it is their reasons for thinking this that give the best indication as to who will do the best job.

Felix and things

As usual, as the end of term is approaching, there will be no FELIX next Friday; instead there will be a final issue on Wednesday March 18th. There will also be a small results FELIX on Wednesday 11th. Please submit What's On entries on Monday 9th at the usual time (1.30pm). For all other copy, the deadline for the end of term issue is 1.30pm next Wednesday.

Credits

A very tight schedule this week, so special thanks to all the following, Dave Burns, David Rowe, Charles Robin, Pippa Salmon, Francis Miers, Judith Hackney, Chris Edwards, Aaron Kotcheff, Mark Cottle, Chris Martin, Andy Bannister, Al Birch, Bill Goodwin, Neil Motteram, Sean MacRae, Dave Colley, Christine Taig, Drain, Hamster, Aidan Kershaw, Liz Holford, Alex McNeil, Sarah Kirk, Gail Turner, Steve Kilmurray, Chas Jackson, Rachel Black, Pete Wilson, David Williams, Nigel Whitfield, Sunny Bains, Rose Atkins and Steve Shackell.

David Jones

Public Warning

All copy submitted to FELIX should be written **double-spaced** (ie on every other line) on **single-sided** A4 paper. There are very good reasons for asking for articles to be presented in this manner—we are not just trying to be difficult. Please submit What's On entries for Friday March 13th to Tuesday March 17th by next Monday 1.30pm, so that they can be included in the 'Results issue' on Wednesday 11th. For all other copy, the deadline for the final issue of term will be 1.30pm the same Wednesday

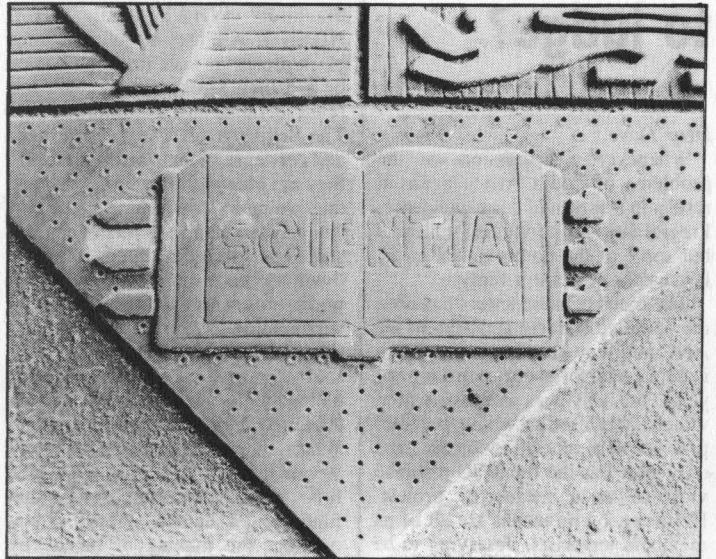
Win a Holiday for two!

● With the sponsorship of STA, FELIX is offering you the chance to win a weekend for two in either Paris or Amsterdam. The competition is being run over five issues of FELIX; there will be two questions in each publication. In each pair of questions there will be one "identify this" photograph, and one general knowledge question. All the questions will be based on Imperial College. Answers should be submitted to the FELIX office every week; there will be an additional weekly prize of £10 for a randomly selected entrant who submits correct answers to the two questions before Wednesday 1.30pm of the following week. Later entries will be eligible for the overall competition, but not for the weekly prizes.

The overall winner will be Announced at Rag Fete on Saturday May 8th; if there is a tie, the competition will be decided by raffle. The winner will be able to choose between a holiday weekend in Paris or in Amsterdam.

● All entries should be addressed to the FELIX office, and must be marked "STA Competition". For further information please contact either FELIX or Mark Fletcher, in the STA office on level 2 of the Sherfield building

This week's questions are;



- 1) What part of College is shown here?
- 2) Who was Rector of Imperial College before Lord Flowers?

Answers to the FELIX office by 1.30pm Wednesday, please.

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Engineers at IC can join one of the world's most exclusive clubs. Money can't get you in, but the talent that made you a Guildsman can.

Collectively, the club's members know most of the answers, most of the time. People with industrial street-wisdom covering public and private sectors, from social work to systems analysis. The club is called the OCs.

The OCs helps you benefit from hard-won experience in so many fields. Experience which would otherwise take years of trial and error to acquire.

Join if you can. Unless, of course, you would rather face the trials and make the errors.



OCs: A very special link

Old Students' Association Office, Room 303 Sherfield Building, Imperial College. Telephone 589-5111 Ext. 3026

Who are we to judge?

Dear Dave,

Whenever a discussion on the problems of South Africa arises it results in a stream of correspondence. I regret that I am continuing this trend but some of the points raised in the last weeks warrant a reply.

The focus of these letters has been the so-called terrorist activities of the ANC and they seem to imply that it is per se a terrorist organisation. For years, the ANC was an actively non-violent organisation whose peaceful protests were met with violence, and only after this did the ANC resort to violence as a means of protest. However, by no means are all of its members terrorists, deserving to be annihilated 'as efficiently as possible' simply for being a member of the ANC—as Mike Allen implied in his letters. These too are innocent people who deserve protection or would you say that all members of the ANC are terrorists? These people who are not allowed freedom of speech in their own country and have to seek refuge in other countries are to be killed as efficiently as possible. How can Mr Allen sit on his butt in this country and judge the actions of these oppressed people? They have next to no rights in their own country and have fought patiently for the peaceful reform which the white government is now offering, as a gift, with numerous conditions attached. What moral right has a South African government, which has committed such atrocities as the killings of peaceful demonstrators in Soweto in 1976, to insist that they will have no discussions with the ANC until it renounces violence? Also, what moral

right does this government have to follow refugees into another country and kill them, when it arbitrarily enforces a state of emergency in their own country and orders a news blackout. Why must they have a news blackout? WHAT ARE THEY HIDING? Are they simply ushering black protestors back into their homes or are they killing people who are relatively unarmed and unprotected? The British government can sit here and condemn Botha's activities until they are blue in the face but what are they doing to stop him or cause him any substantial discomfort? They say sanctions will reduce funds and slow down the pace of reform but is it a poor government that invades surrounding countries to eliminate relatively few people?

Some people use the argument that under white management South Africa is the richest country in Africa. What other country has such cheap labour that it can exploit with such little regard for their safety and fundamental human rights? In my opinion, the making of money by these means is totally amoral—the Blacks work and live in appalling conditions and the Whites enjoy the profit. I agree that many African countries are unstable but it is a difficult process uniting people with many religious and tribal differences—a problem evident in the conflict in Ireland. The good news is that most of these countries are working towards a better future for all their peoples. In the system of apartheid the non-white races in South Africa don't have this chance.

There is one point on which I will agree with Mike Allen. I found the behaviour of the protestors outside Mr Goosen's talk offensive and counter productive. Offensive in the reverse racism practised by the loud labelling of some of the white people who entered the room as racists. Counter productive because they were probably very well informed about the facts and figures on South Africa and could have asked very pointed

questions that would have made Mr Goosen very uncomfortable indeed. Of course, one of the most informed people about the reforms in South Africa will be Dennis Worrall, the former South African Ambassador to the UK who resigned his position to contest the forthcoming elections on a platform campaigning for faster implementation of these reforms. I sincerely hope that these peaceful reforms are the way forward for South Africa but the actions of the present South African government do not suggest that it will give the blacks and coloureds in South Africa real rights which will reflect the fact that they are a majority and make the South African economy what it is today.

Yours sincerely,
Kemi Adenubi, Civ. Eng. II.

berk Francis Miers I am confident that sound philosophical thinking is returning. I say drop the bomb, oblivion now!
Mark Cottle.

A lower life form writes a letter

Dear Dave,

(Sounds like the Razzle letters page, this). I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms about the slander which is being perpetrated about me in the pages of FELIX. OK, so I admit that most of it is true, but I must register most vehemently my disgust at being branded a hillman imp owner; I wouldn't be seen dead in such a prickmobile! I must now live with this embarrassment for the rest of my life. Since the article in question appeared, I have been harangued by drunks making farty imp noises at me, and I have been reduced to a figure of ridicule.

Yours faithfully,
J Ninery.

It's a depressing world

Dear Dave,

Until I read FELIX last week I had thought it would be forever dominated by mindless bores regurgitating pointless propaganda for outdated political clichés. However, having read the excellent article by notorious

If the 'group of postgraduate civil engineering students' contact the FELIX Office (internal 3515), I will publish their letter. Names can be withheld by request, but I cannot include anonymous material.

David Jones

MEGABRAIN

Crossnumber

Mobius has presented me with another of his tricky crossnumber puzzles. Each square contains one digit, none of which are zero. As usual, there's a £5 prize for a randomly selected correct solution handed in before 1.00pm Wednesday at the FELIX office. I normally try and do a full page puzzle special at the end of term, so if any of you know any good problems that I could use then please send them in, thanks.

1	2		3
4			5
6	7	8	
9			10
	11		

Crossnumber clues

Across

1. A multiple of 11 across.
4. A prime number.
5. Odd.

6. Digits all different; their sum is 10.
- 9: Digits all different.
11. A prime number. The sum of

the digits is more than 5 and less than 11.

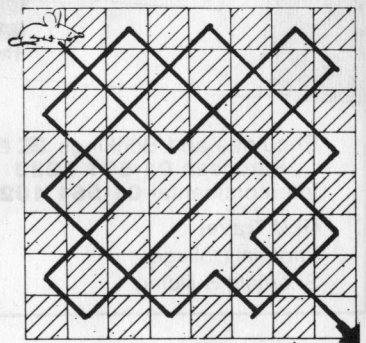
Down

1. Odd. Each digit is greater than the preceding one.
2. Sum of digits is greater than 11.
3. The same two digits as in 4 across.
5. A perfect cube.
7. Even. Sum of digits is 19.
8. A perfect square.
10. A perfect cube.

Ratty Problems

This problem was more accessible to analysis than the previous, similar, rat problem, as most of you who entered probably realised. The £5 prizewinner was A J Perkins, Chem Eng 4, who explained it quite well. The minimum solution is 16 turns which can be seen as follows. Other than the finishing and starting squares there are 12 edge squares to be visited and the path must make a turn in each. Paths connecting

the edge squares that make no other turns form three rectangles, and moving from one to the other of these rectangles takes two more moves. Finally, to complete the path, you have to turn off, and back onto, the center diagonal. This makes sixteen turns in all. Within this basic pattern there are several actual paths that can be followed, one is shown below. Well done if you got it right.



Collective Defence

by David Burns

Last week at Imperial, Tony Benn MP advocated a British withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and political association with the non-aligned states. Such arguments have gained momentum recently, moving hand-in-hand with the continuing prominence of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. However, if such a move was self-evident we would not have remained a member of NATO for the last thirty-eight years. As this is an issue which affects us all, it is worth asking why is there a NATO, why are we part of it, and what would be the price of our withdrawal?

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed on 4th April 1949, initially with twelve member states—now increased to sixteen. It provides for collective defence against a perceived post war threat from Soviet expansion in Europe.

During the years immediately following the Second World War, the United States pumped cash aid into Western Europe, while the Soviet Union gradually established communist systems in the nations which had come under its control. Marshall Aid from the US was declined by these countries. As a consequence, they never realised their economic potential in the way that Western Europe had done. Meanwhile, in the West, the economic revitalisation continued at a pace, reinforced by the security offered by NATO. When the Federal Republic of Germany was admitted to NATO, in May 1955, it took the Soviet Union nine days to implement its own plans for collective military operations, by producing the Warsaw Pact, a mirror of NATO. Whether the formation of the Warsaw Pact was prompted by a fear of increased Western military potential on the frontier of its sphere of influence, or by the need to enhance its own offensive capabilities, is unclear. Whatever the motive, the European divide, the "Iron Curtain" as Churchill described it, was firmly in place across the continent.

The segregation of Europe, and the prolonged Cold War which followed, have led to difficulties in gauging the precise nature of the present Soviet "threat". There may once have been a real intent on the part of the Soviet Union to increase its sphere of influence in the European theatre, possibly involving the unification of Germany. The establishment of NATO has undoubtedly dispelled

such ideas, for the present. Such is the nature of deterrence. The threat from the Warsaw Pact is still there, but its own severe internal problems, and the very presence of NATO, make the prospect of the Red Army rolling across the plains of West Germany a very unlikely one.

The Soviet capacity for massive conventional and nuclear assault upon the West is still a real threat. Of course, the large conventional and nuclear counter which NATO deploys, can be regarded as a threat to the Soviet Union, and so the endless "Catch 22" arguments, as to precisely who is a threat to who,

Germany, Britain's contribution is key. It is a responsibility that we cannot afford to shirk.

In the, at present unlikely, event of a full scale Warsaw Pact attack on Western Europe, NATO's major problem is that its largest available force is rooted on the other side of the Atlantic. In such a situation the US reinforcement of current defences would undeniably take time, and it is Britain's contribution to NATO, along with the other "front line states", which would buy this time.

The British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) is stationed in Germany to avoid the necessity of bringing it

school of strategy in the Soviet Union is a worrying one. Increased Soviet naval activity world wide can only be read as an indication of a more aggressive military stance. This may be due to a change in Soviet military thinking following events in the Second World War, of which so much is made. They may now consider offence to be the best defence, and could respond to any perceived western "threat" in a more aggressive manner.

So, with the above in mind, what would be the price of a British withdrawal from NATO, and is such a move feasible? Financially, the savings made in defence expenditure from a British withdrawal from NATO would be enormous. It is very easy simply to slash the BAOR and the majority of our navy, scrap Polaris and cut back the Royal Air Force. Such a move could hardly be considered as wise. It would leave our NATO allies in the lurch, destabilise Europe, alienate the US, and isolate us from the rest of Europe. We may make friends in the Third World, but this cannot be considered as a desirable trade-off for throwing the whole of Europe into turmoil.

With the current concern about the stability of the US, and their dominant political and military role within NATO and the Western alliance as a whole, it might be better to consider a more unified European approach to defence and the political scene. This might well act as a restraint, and a greater guiding influence on US policy, as well as demonstrating more clearly to the European public that we are indeed part of an "alliance". Opting out of the European political scene by becoming a non-aligned state is just pie-in-the-sky fantasy, totally out of British political character.

NATO is a defensive necessity, and as such should be retained intact. Whether or not its heavy reliance on nuclear deterrence is wise, is a matter for further debate. In order to counter the large Soviet conventional threat, which although different in nature from our own forces, is still massive enough to be considered as ultimately overwhelming, we presently have to rely on nuclear deterrence. It might be possible to increase our conventional forces to the point where they could halt a Soviet attack, but with no nuclear deterrent behind them, they would be open to destruction by the Soviets' nuclear arsenal. It is a reality we have to face in a nuclear world. There is no head-in-the-sand, non-aligned, soft option.



continue. The real clue as to the intent of the opposing factions is in the way in which they train for the situations they are likely to encounter. Whereas NATO forces constantly train to repel large scale Soviet tank incursions, and projected invasions on the Northern front (Norway and the Baltic), the Soviets train for amphibious assaults, airborne assaults, and massive movements of armour. The message from this is clear. No matter how much the Soviet Union may claim that they retain their forces for defensive purposes, they are trained in a highly offensive role. As such, the Soviet Union must continue to be considered as a threat to the NATO nations.

Britain's rôle in the defence of Europe, through NATO, is a crucial one. Each military force in NATO has a particular task assigned to it. With the third largest navy in the world, and a substantial military presence in

forward from Britain in the event of attack. Such delay could conceivably lead to the Warsaw Pact overrunning Western Europe before even half our defences had been brought into place.

The Royal Navy's task is equally important. The logistical impossibility of transporting troops to the front in sufficient numbers by air, means that there must be sufficient maritime strength to carry US reinforcements by sea. The Royal Navy provides 70% of NATO's maritime capability in the Eastern Atlantic, its chief job being anti-submarine operations. The Soviet submarine building programme of recent years has mushroomed, and as an almost entirely landlocked nation, its naval growth can in no way be justified as defensive. Nor can its continued maintenance of the largest land based maritime air force in the world.

The trend towards a "blue water"

The case for NATO

Christine chatters

The Inevitable Bit
When I became President a year ago, I promised myself that I'd try and increase the turnout for this year's sabbatical elections. After several weeks build-up and campaigning it was really depressing that only 20% or so of the electorate bothered to vote. When there are so few candidates standing it's quite difficult to drum up enthusiasm, but none the less I feel compelled to try! So, please vote on Monday and Tuesday in your department... a Union sabbatical gets free accommodation and £3,500 a year on your behalf; and is expected to speak for you on all sorts of issues. If you don't vote, don't be surprised if your representatives end up talking rubbish on your behalf. If you're not impressed with either candidate in an election, you can register an abstention. This is *not* the same as not voting—you write 'ABSTAIN' on the paper; and if abstentions outnumber votes the election has to be re-run.

More Elections

ICU and its constituents aren't the only ones holding elections at present. The race is also on for the ULU posts of President, Vice-president (services) and Vice-president (finance and administration). The elections are held at the annual meeting of ULU's General Union Council on which ICU has nine voting representatives. If anyone wants to find out more about

the candidates in these election, or to talk to the nice GUC delegates about which way their votes should go, come to the Union Lounge today at 12.30pm. All the candidates have been invited to a hustings meeting—the usual format of short speeches and questions will be followed. Everyone welcome—GUC delegates please come along.

AIDS Campaign

There's a meeting of ICU and campus trades unions along with College personnel and welfare staff, next Tuesday lunchtime, to discuss a co-ordinated, College-wide AIDS information campaign. As AIDS is something which affects us all, staff and students, I hope we can organise one campaign, effectively and sensibly. If anyone's got brilliant ideas for posters, leaflets or any other campaign materials, come and see me, before Tuesday if possible.

And Finally

I can't be the only one who's longing to get away from Imperial College for a while. If you're feeling that way too, don't forget British Rail's big discounts on 'Saver' fares this month for railcard holders. Tempting thought? I gather Roy Harper's playing in the Lake District next weekend...

*Happy travelling,
Love, Christine.*

**University
of
London Union**
Sabbatical and
Executive Elections
Hustings Meeting
Friday 6th March
12.30pm
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Amnesty locking up

Every hour of every day men, women and children are being locked up, incarcerated, enchained, beaten, taunted, tortured. In Russia the recent release of 140 dissidents pales almost to insignificance beside the thousands who remain behind bars. In Chile, in China, in Syria, in Algeria, in Turkey, in South Africa the situation is hardly any different. We in Britain can hardly imagine the fear of living in a country where to speak your mind, even among friends, is to court imprisonment.

But Amnesty International exists to try and bring the cases of unfortunate prisoners of conscience to our attention. And to those who say that the goings on in foreign countries have nothing to do with us, Amnesty will answer, "Not true! And what's more you can do something about it!"

In order to publicise the plight of prisoners of conscience everywhere IC Amnesty Group will incarcerate itself in a concentration camp in the JCR for 24 hrs on Thursday March 12th. So come along and give your support. We'll also tell you more about Amnesty and show you how easy it is to write a letter so that you too, with almost no effort, can help Amnesty work.

If you can't make it on the day then please sponsor any group member who asks you—Amnesty's work can't be done for nothing.

Remember, Amnesty International works for the release of all political prisoners who have neither advocated nor used violence. It is totally impartial in this effort. The organisation also campaigns unconditionally against torture and capital punishment. And, Amnesty works: since its beginnings more than 30,000 cases of prisoners have been taken up; over 25,000 of these cases are now closed. You can help too—join us.



"Gay's the word"

Robert Daniel

I treasure the knowledge of my sexuality more than anything else in my life (that's not to say that love and friendship don't come a very close second!) People I have met tend to assume that they know everything there is to know about homosexuals simply because they understand that we are attracted to members of our own sex.

What saddens me is that many people think that all there is to heterosexuality is sleeping with a member of the opposite sex. I feel that heterosexuals have lost out in not having had to explore their feelings fully, as I have done.

Because lesbians and gay men are born to heterosexual parents and in a het-dominated society they do not realise their true feelings until the onset of puberty and adolescent yearnings for sexual experience.

At this age of about 14-19 heterosexuals and homosexuals split; while heterosexuals continue along the path already laid down for them, homosexuals must try and decide what they really feel inside. It was at

this age that I first began noticing the changes in my body, and beginning to appreciate the graceful curves and the exciting possibilities of developing bulging muscles. Soon I began to realise that there were many bodies much more attractive than my own, sleek and well developed upper torso's abounded on a hot summers day! This sounds very narcissistic, and it is—but that's part of my sexuality. Everyone has their own unique sexuality; no two people are attracted by exactly the same things.

I spent a year or so agonising about whether or not I was 'queer'—no one told me then that being gay is OK.

Another plus about being homosexual—not that I'm recruiting because either you are or you're not—is that because we have to discover most things for ourselves we are not bound by the false morality that blinds many heterosexuals. I'm not suggesting that homosexuals either are or should be promiscuous, but that a society where people can discuss anything openly and honestly

must be healthier than one where 'taboo' subjects are swept under the carpet.

What I'm trying to say is that everyone, in order to be happy within themselves, must explore their feelings and discuss things with friends or relatives openly and frankly—surely this is the place to complete the transition from adolescent to adult.

If you feel you might be gay or lesbian and you need to talk to someone, some useful phone numbers are as follows:-

Lesbian and Gay

Switchboard—01-837 7324

Lesbian Line—Women only—

Mondays and Fridays 2-10pm

Tuesday to Thursday 7-10pm

—01-251 6911

Parents Enquiry—01-698 1815

These switchboards will have other numbers and addresses to contact, there is also Nightline on int. 6789. The first two numbers are manned by homosexual volunteers only, and may be busy—keep trying.

The "Gay's the Word" bookshop is also a good place to go—books like "Out in the Open" are very useful if you're just trying to come to terms with your sexuality. Their address can be obtained from the L/G Switchboard, and also ask about the opening hours for the general public.



Felix

SABBATICAL ELECTION MANIFESTO SPECIAL



Your vote counts!

Hon Sec extraordinaire Dave Colley gives a beginner's guide to voting in next week's sabbatical elections.

This year is a good one as far as counting votes goes, as there are no more than two people running for any of the sabbatical posts. Although this should make the voting easier too, it's amazing how many people still manage to cock the whole process up and spoil their votes. This might sound a trifle patronising, but from my experience this year and last, people still change their minds even when only two candidates are running, and ruin votes.

The STV (Single Transferable Vote) system of marking the ballot papers will be employed. This involves putting numbers, beginning with one (1) and ending (this year and last) with two (2) (of course you don't have to put a 2 down if you don't want to.)

A student goes to vote

Student doesn't want to vote for A candidate but prefers B candidate.

Candidate A	
Candidate B	1

If student prefers A candidate to B candidate

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	

If you think the other candidate is a good candidate but not as good as the

candidate you voted first for then put a two (2) in their box

Candidate A	2
Candidate B	1

If it is a dead heat after the first count, then the number of people who put 2's in will count, so that the majority of people's wishes are accounted for.

Another legitimate, recognised option is the abstention. To abstain from the election the voter must write "ABSTAIN" across the ballot paper. This is the only spelling of the word that will be accepted (it will be printed on the ballot paper, so that's easy.)

Lots of people think abstaining is ruining or spoiling a vote, this is not so. If both candidates in your opinion are 'real divs' then don't vote for them and abstain. If enough people feel the same way then they'll abstain and if the amount of people who abstain is more than the number of valid votes cast for both candidates then the election must be re-run from the beginning ie papers go up again so others can stand.

Do not write anything else on the ballot paper other than that which has been explained above. If you do, your vote will be totally disregarded.

Summary

1. Vote in order of preference using numbers: 1, 2.
2. Write "ABSTAIN" if both candidates are unacceptable to you.
3. Bring your Union Card with you or you won't be able to vote.

VALID PAPERS

Candidate A	
Candidate B	1

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	2

Candidate A	ABSTAIN
Candidate B	ABSTAIN

NOT VALID PAPERS

Candidate A	X
Candidate B	

Candidate A	4
Candidate B	3

ABSTAIN: Because they are both jerks!	
Candidate B	

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	2

Inside: lies, damned lies and manifestos from all this year's sabbatical candidates except for Alan Rose who was returned unopposed as Deputy President and was too lazy to write anything.

PRESIDENT

Bill Goodwin, proposed by Sarah Allsop

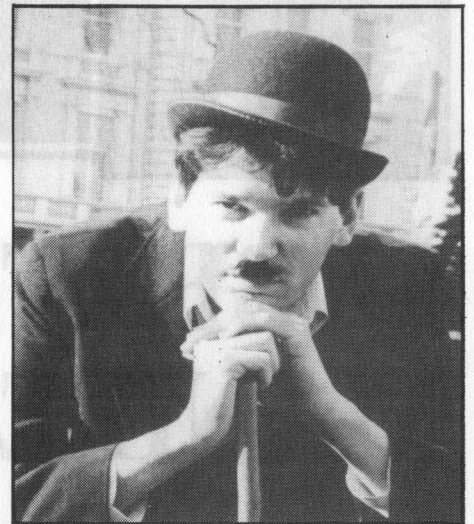
Bill Goodwin is a second year undergraduate in the Mechanical Engineering department. While at Imperial College he has taken an active and constructive role in the Union. As FELIX News Editor he has taken a strong interest in Union and External Affairs. These affect all students, not just hacks. Bill has also been acting President of QT Soc and an Ac-Rep in Mech-Eng. He was responsible for producing the first 'Ac-Rep News' for students in his year group, which many have found useful. Bill has proved himself to be an able candidate for President. He has the experience and ability to bring about improvements for students next year.

Sarah Allsop

The time for joking is over. The Union has been misled too many times by joke candidates masquerading as serious ones. It is too easy to be blinded by the seemingly credible rhetoric of power-crazed canvassing sycophants intent on ego-masturbation. However while they babble on about

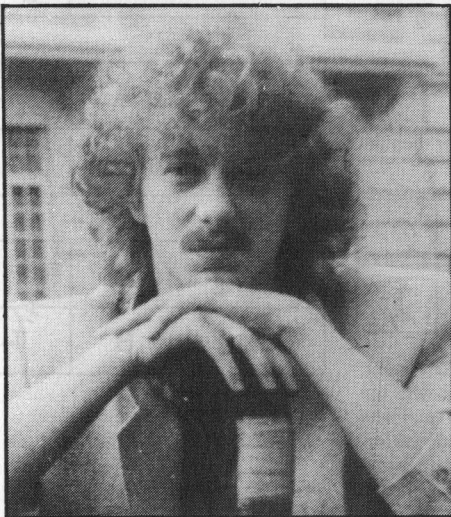
residential impregnability and refectory boycotts, I have formulated a workable set of practical policies that tear down all the old cliches. The duplicity of College administration and the impressionability of Union Officers has led to us losing large tracts of the JCR, ignoring the chance of gaining other rooms in Sherfield. We have been distracted by facile arguments on the CCUs without taking the time to look at how they really work. At the same time we ignore important parts of IC such as Silwood Park and the gravel extraction at Harlington. These things are merely peripheral to the standard campaigner who is more interested in the winning than the thrill of the chase. Until, at the denouement of every election we witness the schizophrenic simultaneous orgasm: the ejaculation of joy of the successful candidate, and the cries of relief of the crowd.

Bill Goodwin



PRESIDENT

Ian Howgate, proposed by Tom Brandon



I have been a student at IC for almost four years now and will be returning for a further year. In that time I have been:

- Captain of RSM Hockey Club;
- Student Coordinator for the RSM
- Openday;
- Geology Departmental Representative;
- Student Residence Committee Union Representative.

At present I sit on ten student committees and four College committees. As many Presidents have said their job involves a lot of boring committees. Well believe it or not I actually enjoy committees and general representational work.

My knowledge of Academic Affairs, Welfare and Accommodation is extensive, but I do need to work on my knowledge of External Affairs. I have complete confidence in Alan Rose's ability to do the DP's job and feel we can work together well.

I have many plans for the Union, most of which would bore the average student silly, but include; Union reorganisation, pushing for better

accommodation and sports facilities, continued improvement of the College refectories and a drastic reorganisation of the entertainments machine to incorporate more CCU involvement and participation. I feel I have a good working relationship with College staff and only a few days ago Mr Northey agreed to give free chips away if I held UGMs in the JCR.

There is far too much of a 'College versus students' feeling at present and these barriers need to be broken down so we can all work together for the best results.

I became involved in the Union last year when I was so annoyed at the lack of representation I and friends were getting in halls and in my department that I took up these jobs myself. I now wish to work for all of you to make this College a better place for everyone.

Please remember that even though there are only two candidates it is still very important to vote.

Ian Howgate

HON SECRETARY

Symon Corns, proposed by Mark Ball

I've known Symon for nearly three years, and have been impressed by his involvement, enthusiasm and commitment to a job. He is also well-versed in Union matters and pretty friendly to boot.

Symon Corns is the perfect candidate for the job, and I urge you all to vote for him.

Mark Ball

Hello. My name is Symon Corns, and I'm standing for ICU Honorary Secretary, because quite simply I feel that I'm the best person for the job. I'm a final year Chemical Engineer, and in my four years at College I've been involved in both Guilds Union (as Vice-President last year I was involved in committee work, administration and finance as well as organising and running events) and IG Union (I've been on Rag Committee, Transport Committee—transport is a major area of responsibility for the Hon Sec—and the Union's governing body, Council). I thus consider myself to be ideally experienced for the post.

The whole structure of ICU is under review, and

it is very possible that next year the Hon Sec's responsibilities will be radically changed, and it is here that my wide range of experience will be invaluable, as it will help me to undertake whatever extra responsibilities come my way.

Imperial College Union should provide a service to every student at IC and I would try to ensure this, both in my individual capacity as Hon Sec and as an Executive Officer of the Union. Officers must not allow themselves to become bogged down in self-interest and bureaucracy whilst the 'ordinary' student suffers. We should be electing someone to help run an organisation for the benefit of us all. I believe that I am that person.

I hope that I can count on your vote. Thank you.

Symon Corns



HON SECRETARY

Chas Jackson, proposed by Hugh Southey

The Hon Sec needs to be somebody who is going to work hard for the Union. Chas has shown that he is prepared to do this. As Union Publicity Officer, Chas has produced tons of posters, being one of the people who ensured that the QT boycott was a success. He has served on working parties to reorganise the Union and has helped in the office doing the jobs that nobody else has time to do. Chas, though, has not just become involved this year in order to become a sabbatical. He has been interested in the Union for longer than he and I care to remember. Vote for Chas Jackson for a hard working Hon Sec.

Hugh Southey

Next year there are a number of important changes which must be made to the Union Office and organisation. The Hon Sec and all the sabbaticals must be closely involved with this. An Hon Sec must also be a decision maker with proposals for the good of the Union. Amongst my concrete proposals are:

Duplicating

As the Union Office now has two gestetners and two electrostatic scanners, I will try to set up a gestetner with a scanner for the use of clubs and societies.

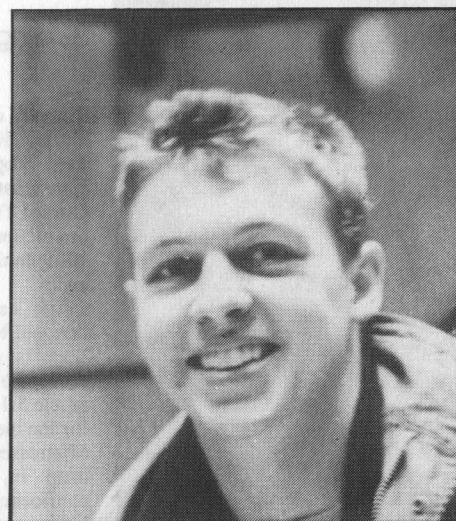
Exec News

It is vitally important that students are kept informed of the actions of Union Officers and sabbaticals. If elected I would produce this fortnightly and print it in FELIX. I hope that it will include adverts for discounts in local cinemas and shops.

Transport

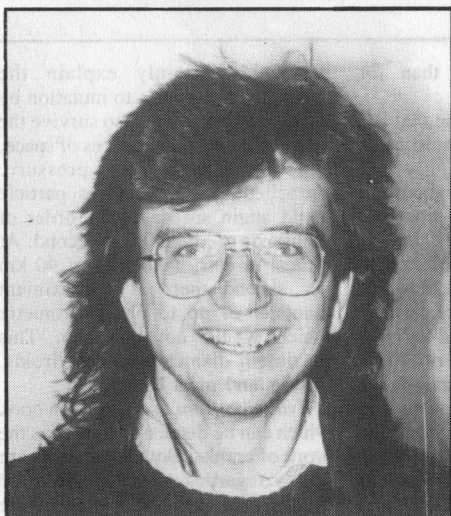
Expansion of the fleet would mean that more non-RCC clubs could use the vans at weekends. However I will examine possible alternatives to buying new vans. Perhaps contract hiring could provide an answer. At the moment, outside hire of vans at weekends is very expensive.

Chas Jackson



FELIX EDITOR

Chris Edwards, proposed by Adrian Johnson



Over the time that he has been involved with FELIX, Chris has become one of the most regular contributors to FELIX and other publications in College. He has taken on, at various times, the mantles of News Editor, Features Editor, Designer, Cartoonist and Columnist on FELIX, introducing new ideas in layout and in writing. This makes him the most experienced candidate for Editor, with enough knowledge of where to make major changes.

Chris was brought in to edit Phoenix last year in order to revamp its image, a task which he did in style to produce a truly seductive magazine. It was described in FELIX at the end of last term as "the best produced Phoenix ever".

All in all this makes Chris the best all-round candidate for FELIX Editor.

Adrian Johnson

For years now, FELIX has been stifled by lack of imagination and planning to end up with a paper that won't last for a Friday lecture let alone the

whole morning. Successive editors have plodded out a safe course trying to avoid new ideas and controversy. However, now you have a chance to make Friday mornings worth reading once more.

I have stood for FELIX Editor in order to breathe new life into the paper. This will involve restructuring the paper, making it more flexible to sudden developments. News and features will be expanded with controversial topics and extra background to flesh them into real articles.

Humour, so often relegated, will be given special prominence with regular cartoons and sharp satire.

It would be easy to produce just another FELIX, and many could do it—but to pick it off the floor and deliver real entertainment on a Friday means just one candidate.

For FELIX Editor, vote Chris Edwards.

Chris Edwards

FELIX EDITOR

Judith Hackney, proposed by Ciaran Hassett

Judith Hackney is one of the best candidates ever to have stood for the post of FELIX Editor. She has made a substantial contribution to FELIX under three different editors, and is best known for editing the excellent ICU Handbook. As a senior staff member she has a thorough knowledge of all production techniques, including writing, typesetting, laying out and printing. She has held several important Union posts, including two years as Publications Board Junior Treasurer and Vice President of RCSU. But of much more importance she is reliable, hardworking and enthusiastic. She is also a strong believer in teamwork and always encourages other people's input into a project. All these qualities combine to make for the best possible FELIX so put a '1' against JUDITH HACKNEY's name on Monday or Tuesday.

Ciaran Hassett

FELIX is produced to provide information, entertainment and criticism. It must cater for as wide a range of students as possible. It is not enough

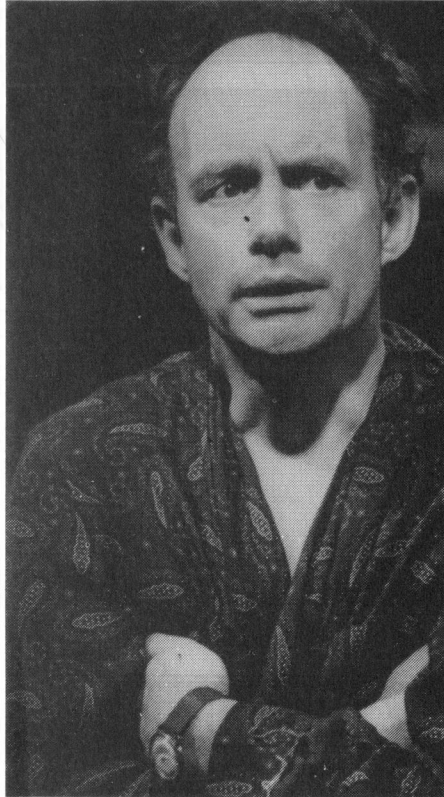
to be proficient at producing a newspaper. The Editor must be able to generate a tight and well-formatted publication with quality news and sports coverage; encourage articles from both regular and occasional contributors; inspire and advise the staff; run the Print Unit efficiently and competently.

As Editor, I intend to restructure FELIX with definite sections for news, features and sports. Each section will have its own style; a well-ordered, easy to read news section with background and analysis of events plus external news of interest to students; a magazine-type features section including previews/reviews, cinema and theatre listings, music and fashion; a more comprehensive sports section that reports on and previews matches with a weekly, up-to-date results table.

If you want to see my kind of FELIX next year, vote HACKNEY 1.

Judith Hackney





Comedy

Largo Desolato

Comedy can be a strange thing and Vaclav Havel's latest, adapted by Tom Stoppard, a fellow Czeck, is somewhat less than normal. The Orange Tree, Richmond, houses this production on a stage of about 10' by 10' with the audience an arm's length away.

The centre of the show is Dr Leopold Kopria, played by Geoffrey Beevers, a philosopher who has been accused of 'intelligent hooliganism—article 5.11.1' and so is forced to wait for the inevitable knock on the door. Mistresses, friends and supporters drop in, aiming to bolster his confidence, but merely create an insane atmosphere of repetition. There is a strong feeling of 'them' and 'us', although we never find out who 'they' are or where 'there' actually is—all very reminiscent of Kafka's *The Trial*—and we quickly wonder who it is that's actually mad.

Mr Beevers' performance is certainly that of a character slightly unhinged, terrible nervousness, his preoccupation with the doorbell and manic pill popping. Time and time again we hear lines repeated, by different characters, and the second half is almost a mirror image of the first, although not quite. The incessant repetitions soon show Dr Kopria's life for what it is, yet we wonder whether perhaps we are the root of the insanity and maybe he's just an innocent victim of society's introspective view of philosophers.

The comic elements are masterly played, or perhaps the audience's laughter is pure relief—anyway we laugh, the millworkers proving that timing makes comedy. As a whole show it is entertaining although as a millworker aptly states "someone's got to be sensible," yes, but who?
Aidan Kershaw.

Music

Pink Peg Slax

Today sees the welcome return of Leeds' band *Pink Peg Slax* to Imperial. Since they were here last year, when most people missed them, they have had several *Radio One* sessions and recently an appearance on *The Tube*. Their brand of Rock 'n' Roll with tongue firmly planted in the cheek is more fun than a maths tutorial, and provides more laughs than a cruise on the Titanic. The party is being held jointly with Richmond College, and support is provided by College's lovable psychobillies *Dave Puppy and the Happy Dogs*. If you have shied away from College gigs because you've never heard of the band, you owe it to yourself to break with tradition. Doors open at 8.00pm and the whole shebang takes place in the Union Lounge (tickets £1.50). See you there—Yee Hah!

Books

Evolution from Space

The concept of 'spontaneous generation'—the idea that organisms originate from basic material such as earth and water—persisted from Aristotle (384 to 322 BC) right up until the mid 19th Century. This belief persisted even in the face of experiments such as the one conducted by the Italian physician Francesco Redi in 1668 in which he demonstrated that maggots would not form in meat if flies were kept away from it. It was Louis Pasteur who finally delivered the coup de grace to the spontaneous generation doctrine with a series of cleverly designed and decisive experiments.

But this does not explain the origin of life—the actual instant when life can be said to have 'occurred' or 'come about'. The generally accepted theory is that the formation of the molecules essential to life—the DNA molecule, able to replicate itself, enzymes capable of catalysing reactions at a rate far faster than they naturally proceed—came about as a random event, occurring in what is rather loosely referred to as 'the primordial soup'. This theory would seem to have been confirmed by various experiments, an account of which can be found in Carl Sagan's excellent book *Cosmos*.

In *Evolution from Space* the authors Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe reject the idea that life originated on Earth, and back up their alternative theory with some convincing evidence.

Enzymes are proteins with highly complex structures that can be split into at least three levels. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe invite the reader to consider the probabilities involved in the random evolution of even simple enzymes. The total probability for obtaining a working enzyme—and a small one at that—comes out as one part in 10^{20} . And when we face the fact that there are about two thousand known enzymes, the probabilities become truly vast.

The authors also point to histones as evidence of the general improbability of life. Histones are proteins which help to pack the DNA complement of an organism into the nucleus—no mean feat when you consider that the DNA of one human chromosome is 5 cms long. Histones are one of the most highly conserved proteins known—over the whole of the plant and animal kingdoms the amino acid order of the histones of various organisms is remarkably invariant. The probability of randomly deriving the simplest

histone is even smaller than for enzymes.

In short the authors argue that life is simply too improbable to have originated on Earth.

Hoyle and Wickramasinghe don't stop here; they go on to point out many other discrepancies in the generally accepted view of things. Many bacteria can withstand doses of X-rays millions of times greater than they would ever be exposed to in the course of normal life on Earth. (This point becomes of great importance later on). Many insects respond to wavelengths of light not found on the surface of the Earth. Why were these capabilities ever developed! If it was in response to conditions that existed many millions of years ago, why are those capabilities still in existence, with no selection pressure to keep them going? In addition, the fossil records of Earth, if examined, show that evolution on Earth took place in relatively large strides. This is exactly what Darwinian evolution does not account for. There is no evidence for a gradual change in the organisms of the planet.

Having knocked out Darwin, Hoyle and Wickramasinghe present their own hypothesis; if life is too improbable to have originated on the Earth, because the numbers are astronomical, then might not the solution also be astronomical? Could the DNA which started life on Earth arrived from off the planet, in the form of virion (virus particle) or even in a dormant cell? Calculations certainly show that such particles are the right size to be accelerated by radiation from stars; many bacteria and viruses are indeed the ideal size—between one tenth of a micron and 3 microns. If this is the case then

it would certainly explain the resistance of bacteria to mutation by X-rays. Bacteria can also survive the extremely low temperatures of space, and the almost zero pressure. Propelled by light a virus particle could attain speeds of the order of thousands of kilometres a second. At typical re-entry velocities of 40 km per second there is a maximum diameter of up to one micrometre which would not burn up. This maximum diameter admits viroids, viruses and most bacteria.

Evolution from Space is not a book which can be dismissed lightly as the work of cranks. Both the authors are highly regarded scientists; Sir Fred Hoyle has received worldwide acclaim for his contribution to astronomy, and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe is a leading authority on interstellar matter. This review really does the book injustice, summarising in a few paragraphs what really needs chapters to fully explain. The ideas that abound in *Evolution from Space* are not wildly thrown out, but carefully reasoned and presented with the appropriate evidence. The conclusions drawn are unwelcome—they go against the grain of what we have been taught in school and by textbooks.

Evolution from Space is a fascinating read. And before you dismiss it, remember that the true essence of 'scientific method' is moving in the direction in which the evidence and Nature points, no matter how unwelcome from a human point of view that direction may seem.

Evolution from Space, by Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe is a Palladin Book, published by Granada in paperback, costing £1.95.

Go for Gold

Athletics

Any budding Steve Crams, Yvonne Murrays, Fatima Whitbreads etc who would like to be considered for a place in the IC Athletics Team for the University of London Championships and are not yet known to any of the athletics officials should try and turn up to a talent-spotting and training session at Battersea Park track on Wednesday 11th March at 2.00pm. Everyone coming should sign their names and events on the sheet on the athletics notice board. Anyone unable to come but wanting to be considered for the team should also sign the sheet and should put their personal bests down as well. For anyone who does not know, the athletics noticeboard is in the main Union building entrance hall to the right of the main terrace. If anyone wants more information or just needs to get in touch, the best person to contact is Clive Roberts (ICAC Sec.) in Mech. Eng. I.

Sixes

Football Sunday 1st March

It was Sunday, and the day that everyone had been waiting for had arrived; the day of the RCS sixes at Harlington—the most prestigious tournament since the last World Cup! 12 teams of brilliant fooballers lined up for battle.

IC IVs started their campaign with a tough match against Selkirk A.



Red Star South Kensington, about to merge with Dynamo Skegness?

Before Selkirk had even touched the ball however, Batstone planted it firmly in the net. In the end Selkirk can feel lucky to have only conceded 6 as Batstone scored five times and Greenwood added another. 6-0 to IC IVs. A game against 22 Drinking Club ended in a rather lucky 2-1 win for the IVs with Batstone and Prior scoring. The final game of the group was against Southwell House, led gallantly by the grit of Parkin and the skill of Coneybear, Southwell scored first but the IVs equalised thanks to a thundering header from Greenwood. 1-1 the final score.

The next round was again in the form of groups and IC were paired with Physical Chemistry and a team from the 1st XI. A goal for Physical Chemistry early on in the game saw the IVs looking ragged but a tremendous drive from Morris and a run and shot by Greenwood sealed a 2-1 win for the IV XI. Next game was a tough one against the IC 1st XI but even they couldn't stop the scoring power of Batstone. The IVs played with an air of superiority and two

goals from Batstone saw the IV eleven team get to the final. The IC 1sts were well beaten. Inorganic Chemistry were the other finalists. IC dominated the early exchanges but missed several easy chances. However, in the second half Batstone sealed a superb victory with a well taken goal. IC IVs were champions! Thanks to Paul Savage for organisation. A mention must also be given to the Inorganic Chemistry goalkeeper Simon Anderson, who after good goalkeeping, unfortunately fractured his shinbone in the final.

Cruising away with it

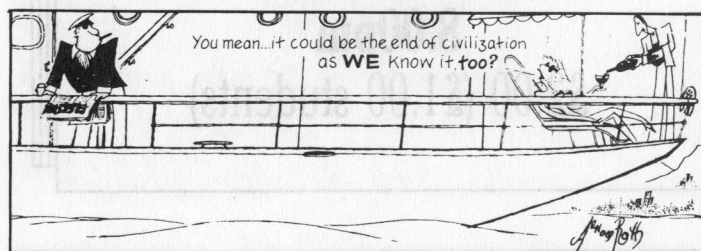
Sailing Saturday 28th Feb.

Saturday February 28th saw the IC sailing team take to the water at our home reservoir for a series of races against Bristol, Bristol ladies, University of London seconds and UL ladies.

With Imperial's recent run of

success, 10 wins in the last 12 matches, prospects for next year are looking good; future opponents beware!

Team: Sam Page (Capt.), Richard Brimelow, Apostolos Leonidhopoulos, Richard Jarman, Charles Oxley, Adam Stork.



Big Ripples

Rowing Saturday 28th Feb University of London Head

Imperial College won the University of London Head last Saturday. Imperial College came third. Imperial College only entered three eights—they are not greedy.

The Head is an annual race for eights from constituent colleges of London University. This is rowing's equivalent of the Gutteridge Cup. The other colleges must have felt rather overwhelmed by IC. Our first eight finished almost two minutes faster than University College, the fourth fastest crew. Rowing at Imperial is in a different league. This is not to diminish the achievement; it was quite remarkable by any standards.

Over the past few years the boat club has grown in size and gathered prestige. There is no doubt that IC ranks as the top college in London for rowing; the question is now how Imperial compares with other universities. IC can be counted among the country's top six rowing universities, with Oxford, Cambridge, London, Durham and Reading.

It is interesting to speculate on which of these is the best. The question is not merely of academic interest. Channel Four is thought to be evaluating the possibility of an "Alternative Boat-Race." This race would be between the fastest university and the fastest club crew in the country. The race is still very much on the drawing board, but is already making big ripples in the rowing world.

There is as yet no competition to establish which is the fastest university crew. The Oxford-Cambridge boatrace takes place on 28th March (12.55pm). For the first time in history the main spring event for eights—the "Tideway Head"—will take place on the same day (3.45pm). Over four hundred crews, several from abroad, will compete on the same stretch of water as the Boatrace. Imperial will be racing along with the best clubs and universities, other than Oxford and Cambridge. IC should perform well. It would be a remarkable result if Imperial College could beat some of the big names, indeed it is premature to suggest that Imperial could pull off any major upset. But IC's gathering strength will be a force to be reckoned with in years to come, as our growing reputation attracts some of the best junior oarsmen.

Hockey

IC 1st XI 10, LSE 0

IC maintained their top of the table position with one of their best displays of the season, against a middle of the table LSE side.

Attacking straight from the start, the team went 2-0 up in the first five minutes with goals from Nick Collie and Phil Oliver. Half-time saw the lead increased to 3-0 with Imperial controlling the midfield through Paul Coleman, Nick Collie, Justin Brooking and tireless running from Mark Lewis.

The second half started slowly with Imperial consolidating their lead until the last twenty minutes of the game, when the superior fitness and stamina of the Imperial forwards resulted in an avalanche of goals. An excellent team effort reached its climax when the left back, Alan Newman, showing devastating speed and agility wrong-footed the defence to score in the dying seconds of the game.

Scorers: P Henharen (3), N Collie (2), P Coleman (2), P Oliver (1), H Vamdevhan (1), A Newman (1).

Aliens in Mech Eng

This week, Thursday 12th, IC Film Society presents the smash box office hit of 86, *Aliens* in Mech. Eng. 220 (doors 7.30pm).

In the recent spate of sequels, *Aliens* stands alone as the only entertaining and different one I can think of. Calling it a sequel to the highly successful *Alien* is possibly unfair, as it is more of an extension of the story on a totally different line.

Sigourney Weaver, who was a major part of what made *Alien* such a classic, is the only surviving character from the original. Again Weaver steals the show giving a performance of electrifying skill.

If you want to have a great night's entertainment, then come along, you won't be disappointed.

PS. Note *Aliens* is playing in Mech. Eng. 220 not Physics LT1.

Martin Gans

£1.00 non-members, 50p members.

PPS. If anyone lost a watch at *Prizzis Honour*, and wants it back, please contact Richard Squire Elec. Eng. II with a description of the watch.

Greek Bonanza

International Week—Greek Evening.

The IC Cypriot Society has demonstrated that even small societies can organize big events. The party on Thursday, with attendance of over 300 people, was one of the best parties of its kind. Lots of food, drink, live music and Greek dancing all in the 'Zorba' spirit as promised.

We thank all those who attended the party and we hope next year we will get even more University of London societies together.

Who?

ICSF is pleased to announce that its second, one day convention of 1987 will take place on Saturday 7th March from 10am in the Union SCR and Union Dining Hall. This will also be the second WhoDay that SFSoc has run.

Now some explanation for those of you who don't have the faintest idea what I'm on about. WhoDay is SFSoc's TV science fiction convention. Last year it was devoted entirely to *Dr Who* and the good Time Lord will certainly be heavily featured this year. We will be showing a complete story from each of the 6 doctors (William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davidson and Colin Baker) and

Well?

Although the term is drawing to a close now, WellSoc is planning to go out with a flourish rather than a whimper. We've got one more speaker meeting left, and then we finish up with the Annual Dinner at Luba's Bistro.

March 9th will see our AGM which will be held at 7.30pm just before the evenings lecture which will be given by Martin S Taylor from the Department of Computing. He is best known for his extremely popular

Hmmmmmm?

Well, it's been a very successful weekend. Twenty students signed up for the second course of this year and spent Wednesday and Thursday evenings doing ground training, and on Saturday everyone got their first jump. The weather was excellent and the majority of the first timers got a second jump as well. Ian Muriss really got his money's worth and made his jump last twenty minutes longer than anyone else's—suspended high up in a tree. He wanted to avoid the runway, so ran straight down-

"Hypnosis" lecture, but will be talking about gambling. We don't promise to make you into millionaires overnight, but I did hear he'd invented a method to win at blackjack...Oh yes, the AGM. Papers are up now (see Small Ads) and we desperately need committee members. Why don't you give it a try?

The Annual Dinner details haven't quite been finalised yet, but will have been by the time you read this. If you're interested in knowing more contact Liz Tingley (Chem. III) or Mark Oram (Biochem. II)—as places are limited, tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Liz Tingley, Chem. III.

wind—into the tree. However he wasn't discouraged and went up for another jump.

We hope to see all the new comers down at Headcorn for future jumps. And don't forget your receipts.

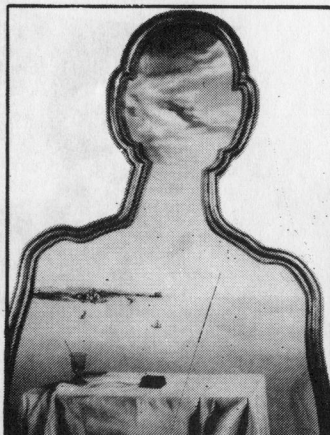
As for the rest of us, when people look like ants, you're alright but when ants start looking like people, you're in trouble.

For anyone else that's interested, our meetings are on Tuesdays in the Union Lounge.

Max Hunt von Herbing.



will have guests who have featured in the programme. Nicolas Courtney, who played the Brigadeer for many years will be leading the list of *Dr*



Who guests. We will also be running a parallel programme of other TV Science Fiction of many different types, including *UFO*, *Space 1999*, *Blake's 7*, *Randall & Hopkirk (deceased)*, *The Tomorrow People* and much more besides. We also have a guest who spans most of TV Science Fiction in many years of acting experience, from *Dr Who* to *Blake's 7*, *Space 1999* to *Survivors*. This is Brian Blessed, whose fine performances have featured in all of these programmes.

So now you know what you are doing next Saturday, WhoDay will be open from 10am but come along at any time. Guests will be appearing after lunch, and the two video programmes will be running continuously. Take some time off, and see some good escapist television. You know it makes sense.

Liz Shaw

Ghostly

Yes, those DramSoc people are at it again, hogging the Concert Hall, all for the sake of 'Art' with a capital 'A'. The more observant reader will have noted, with some apprehension, the appearance of evil black posters at strategic locations about College. They announce the arrival at IC of Strindberg's answer to the question of "life the universe and everything..."

Written towards the end of Strindberg's life "The Ghost Sonata" reflects the disillusionment of a lonely dying man. This is no play for the faint of heart. It is unremittingly gloomy in outlook and yet, through his language and symbolism, Strindberg infuses it with a ghoulish beauty. The end result is a piece of theatre of the highest order, a play in which mood is all. For the playwright has set out to make us share his despair, to experience his emotions without the need to understand them. We, the audience, are asked not to pity him through the character of The Old Man (Aidan Kershaw) but to feel his pain. We are left unable to judge the The Student (Miles Henderson) as he turns to share the cynicism of the elder generation.

"Ghost Sonata" is playing in the Union Concert Hall from the 10th to the 14th of March at 8pm. Tickets are available from the Union Building, Beit Quad, at lunchtimes all week and in that Den of Iniquity—the DramSoc storeroom.

Roger Davies, Director.

Why?

QTSoc—Why Day

As I sit here in the FELIX Office contemplating this election madness and writing an article no-one will read for a club no-one cares about, I can't even be bothered to ask myself why. And the few who set out to climb the mountain, dragging behind them the weight of the superficial, reach the summit to find futility. Whatever happened to the dreams we dreamed in the foothills—they were only dreams. Death and the slow cancerous death of the unthinking haunt me now and I wonder...(I wa-wa-wa-wa wonder)...and I laugh at the witticisms which contrive to maintain my sanity.

Oh, to hell with it, why don't you join me on Tuesday. The location—the Union Bar—the event "Why Day." Come and make merry—or drown your deepest sorrows. I look forward to your company.

Luks.

What's On

FRIDAY

Guilts Motor Club .12.30pm.
Marshals required for PCT (see Sunday). Come to Guilts Office for details and to arrange lifts.

Friday Prayers12.55pm.
Union Building, Halaal food provided. See Islamic Society.



Christian Union.....6.00pm.
"There be dragons" a video presentation by IFES. Music Room, 53 Prince's Gate. Buffet provided.

Fencing Club6.00pm.
Beginners and experienced fencers welcome.

Cricket Club7.00pm.
Upper Lounge. Pre-season cheese and wine. £1.50 for 1st years and £2.50 for...er...'senior professionals.'

ICSO Concert8.00pm.
Great Hall. ICSO play the classics—Hindemith, Vaughan Williams, Liszt. £1.00 students, £2.00 others. See ICSO.

SATURDAY

WhoDay '8710.00am.
UDH and SCR. Dr Who, Space 1999, UFO, Randall & Hopkirk, Blake's 7 and much more on video, plus guest speakers: Nicolas Courtney (the Brigadier) and Brian Blessed. £2.00 to members, £2.50 non-members. See SF Soc.

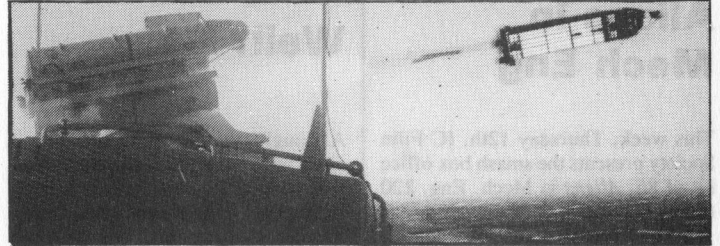
Commonwealth Hall Party.... 8.00pm.
"The Final" Dave Puppy and the Happydogs Disco. Cheap drinks, late bar. Members 50p, Non-members £1.50. Russell Square Underground.

SUNDAY

Guilts Motor Club ...9.30am.
At Pete's Pit. Production car trial. Marshals required, (10 championship points). See Friday.

IC Wargames.....1.00pm.
Union Dining Hall.

OpSoc Rehearsal2.00pm.
The Music Room, 53 Prince's Gate. Rehearsing "Trial by Jury" and "HMS Pinafore."



AstroSoc Lecture.....1.00pm.
Physics LT2. New results on activity in galactic nuclei, Dr Penston (from RGO). FREE. See C Pinches.

Guilts Election UGM 1.00pm.
Mech. Eng. 220. See Guilts.

Recitation of Qur'an 1.00pm.
Prayer Room (9 Prince's Gate). See Islamic Society.

IC Amnesty Meeting 5.30pm.
Brown Committee Room (venue may be different and will be specified on posters etc. See S Boscher—Chair of IC Amnesty.

Beginners Rock 'n' Roll5.45pm.
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

Alsale Wine Tasting .6.00pm.
Union SCR. A tasting of quality wines from this special French region. £2.00. See Wine Tasting Soc.

Judo.....6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners Welcome.

Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm.
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

The Automatic Barrier Show.....7.00pm.
On IC Radio. College bands.

OpSoc Marathon Rehearsal .. 7.30pm.
The Brown Committee Room, Union Building.

AudioSoc Presentation 7.30pm.
Holland Club Function Room. Election followed by a demonstration by RUARK loudspeakers—true 'HiFi'. See AudioSoc.

Chamber Orchestra Concert . 7.30pm.
The Music Room, 53 Prince's Gate. Performance by the IC Chamber Orchestra and Wind Octet. Tickets available on the door—price includes one free glass of wine and nibbles. £1.00. See Chamber Music Society.

DramSoc8.00pm.
"The Ghost Sonata" by August Strindberg. In the Union Concert Hall.

Improvers Ballroom .8.00pm.
Dance Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

Nigel On The Wireless9.00pm.
Aural Titillation on IC Radio. 999Khz Medium Wave.

MONDAY

ICCAg Meeting12.35pm.
ICCAg Office. See Y Scott, Physics III.

Concert Band Rehearsal 5.45pm.
Great Hall. Last rehearsal—everybody on time please. See IC Concert Band.

ULU Candidates Meeting..... 6.00pm.
ULU Building, Malet Street. Question the candidates for next year's ULU posts yourself. Everyone welcome. See ULU Elections Committee.

Beginners Ballroom .7.00pm.
Dancing Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

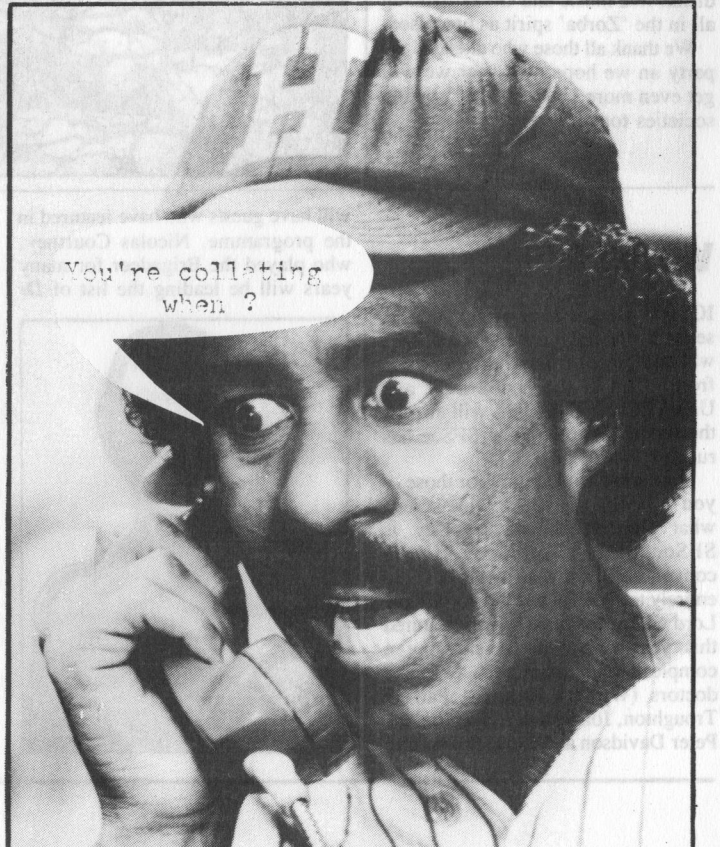
Medals Class8.00pm.
Dancing Club in the JCR. 70 pence.

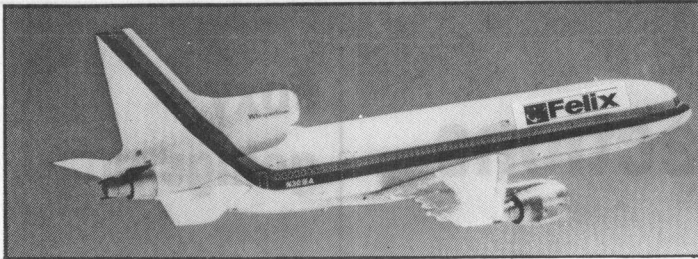
TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting8.15am.
Christian Union in the Union Upper Lounge.

Mass12.40pm.
Chemistry 231. All Welcome.

Concert Band Concert 1.00pm.
Mech. Eng. Foyer. Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' and others absolutely FREE. See IC Concert Band.





Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **ICCB Concert**—Don't miss another FREE lunchtime concert brought to you exclusively by kind permission of the Mech. Eng. Department. IC's greatest Concert Band is performing for one lunchtime only in the Mech. Eng. foyer at 1.00pm on Tuesday 10th March, with special guest, internationally renowned pianist Christopher Stubbs.

● **Easter Ski Trip**—If there is anybody out there who wants to go skiing this Easter Hols (28th March—4th April), come to Room 207 Civ. Eng. Dept. at 1.15pm on Monday 9th March.

Invitation is extended to everybody (any standard), from those already in groups intending to go, to those who want to go but can't find anyone to go with! If enough interest is shown and a consensus on resorts etc. can be reached, we could all have a cheaper and good fun time—suggestions also welcome. See you there!

● **Union Room Bookings**—For next term can be booked only after March 16th. Please contact Kathy—IC Union Office.

● **Wanna Job?** Film Society's election papers for next years posts are up now, on the FilmSoc noticeboard in the Union Foyer. Sign up before papers come down on March 18th. AGM on March 19th.

● **Copy/Audio Typing.** CV's, Dissertations, Letters, Reports etc. for more information and prices call 370 4844.

● **Be amazed** at the talent of Hindmith, Liszt and Vaughan Williams, be thrilled by the genius of ICSO. Be at the Great Hall at 8.00pm tonight only £1.00.

● **Can the person** who left his watch behind after Film Soc's showing of Prizzis Honour last Thursday in

Physics LT1 please contact Richard Squire, Elec. Eng. II.

● **Winter Nets at Lords**—The noticeboard has been moved to the Union lobby (by the main stairs in the Union building). Continue to sign up. If you haven't signed up then please do not turn up as we get blacklisted for safety reasons, for having too many in the nets.

● **Become Ronald Reagans Penpal**—Amnesty's campaign against the death penalty in the USA. IC Amnesty tuesday 5.30pm Brown Committee Room (unless otherwise stated).

● **Special Notice**—If you have any belongings in the Garden Hall Storage Room in the basement of House 12 Prince's Gardens, please make sure that they are marked with your name and room number clearly. During the Easter break, the storage room will be cleared of all items not marked accordingly. The Warden and Subwardens take no responsibility for items which are thrown away because they were not marked clearly, or those items belonging to non-hall residents, who have not made prior arrangements.

FOR SALE

● **Olivetti M28 Personal Computer** IBM Ate compatible, 1mb RAM, 20mb hard disk, 1.2mb floppy disk drive, enhanced colour card and screen, real time clock, parallel and serial ports, all manuals and lots of software £1700 ono. Contact S. Segal Doc III via pigeon holes or ring 01-992 2415/2179/8249

● **Unused Philips car radio** with pre-selection facility plus used Pioneer TS-160 dual cone speakers (20w/channel). Offers complete but will split is necessary. Call int. 7416/7447, Dr R Coutts (Pure and Applied Biology).

● **IBM PC Compatible,** 640k, 2x360k drives 12" taxan monitor, colour graphics adapter, parallel and serial ports and 50 disks. £600 ono. Contact J Khan, Doc III pigeon holes or phone 01-206 0134 evenings. Money needed to placate potentially violent bank manager.

PERSONAL

● **Hack, Hack, Hack.**

Q. What was that? someone cutting down a tree?

A. No. the IC elections!

Q. What has four eyes, a forked-tongue, and creeps about before elections?

A. RCS HJTS

Q. Who is Joe Ninety?

● **To Goot Doot**—luv ya!

● **Mozart Sandwich?** There's no stopping the Chamber Orchestra. (See Whats On, Tuesday).

● **To my one and only polar bear**—I just wanted to say that I love you!

● **Morse part 4**—"73" = best regards (signing off) dah-dah-di-di-dit di-di-di-dah-dah.

● **Chris**—I love you lots and lots and lots. Pesty.

● **A Brummy** wishes to get over 20 members to form BrumSoc (official). Contact A Bourne (again), Physics 1st year.

● **Congratulations John** on becoming a merchant.

● **Belated happy birthday** Steve.

● **Does anybody know** why Alsace is a special region? Find out Tuesday 6.00pm Union SCR.

● **Wine Society AGM** Tuesday 10th vote for next year's committee.

● **Vernundo**—go for it with big 'L' anything is better than fish-face or the dragon

● **Deepka**—happy birthday, love Wendy.

● **Hoots Mon!** Where's Niki Aryana! is he chasing after the French girl, the English girl or the American. No, he's just running another jumble sale.

● **Farida**—congratulations, oh and don't forget to call me about the project.

● **Alex**—I want a tape of your voice.

● **Niki**—You must stop making me hot.

● **Female lovers note:** by the time you swear you're his, shivering and sighing, and he vows his passion is infinite, undying—lady, make a not of this: one of you is lying (D Parker 1893—1967)

● **You've seen the posters** now hear the music—Great Hall, 8.00pm for only £1.00.

● **Keep Blue Ted** warm for me I.L.Y.L.Q.H.S.

● **Rumford**—when will you learn to look after 'Teddy'? Luv Dafydd!

● **Happy Birthday Chris** L.O.L.F.Q.H.S.

Q. How do you set up H.A.C.C. in a small business?

A. give them a large one and...wait. B.

● **Thanks Brian** for all your help at the Guilds shoe shine stall last Friday, Dave.

● **If the Autons** don't get you then SF Soc will.

● **Randall's partner** is a ghost!

● **Recall UNIT**

● **I am a person** not a number. I will not be briefed, debriefed, stamped, filed, catalogued...But I will go to WhoDay.

● **What does** September 13th 1999 mean to you?

● **Please wash your hands** before using—The MGT.



New JCR approved

The plans to build a new JCR in the same building as a new sports hall have been provisionally approved by Imperial College House Committee.

A proposal to support the scheme, put forward by ICU President Christine Taig was approved, pending a feasibility study.

Ms Taig's paper also recommended that ICU be compensated for any loss in conference income resulting from the presence of the QT Burger Bar in the current JCR. This was also approved; Ms Taig and ICU Deputy President Jackie Peirce will be negotiating a sum with College Secretary John Smith. This will be included as part of the annual Union subvention.

The UGM directive to pursue Union control of the JCR bar was also discussed. Mr Smith said that he would prefer a profit share; the matter was referred back to a special meeting of House Committee.

Occupation Ends

Students at the London School of Economics ended their week long occupation of Connaught House, the school administration building on Tuesday of this week. The occupation, which was in protest against the investment of more than 10 per cent of LSE's assets in companies with South African links ended peacefully after the schools administration obtained a high court injunction against the students.

The occupation was meticulously organised, with cooking rotas, cleaning rotas and security rotas. Smoking and drinking were barred, offices were opened up as study rooms and separate dormitories arranged for men and women. Pete Wilcox, General Secretary of LSE Students' Union told FELIX that the occupation was for publicity purposes, rather than to cause long

Boring Elections

The seven sabbatical candidates spoke to an unpacked Great Hall at the Hustings UGM yesterday. After a short delay due to duplicating of minutes, the usual reports were accepted without question. Returning Officer Dave Colley started the Hustings but this was immediately interrupted by a procedural motion to move to an emergency motion, both proposed by Mark Cottle. This was opposed by Dave Lowrie who then called quorum when the procedural motion was carried. A 'count' revealed that there were 301 students present making it quorate. The

emergency motion, which suggested that the option of abstaining should be allowed to be publicised, was eventually passed.

The Returning Officer's report was then continued with Bill Goodwin being the first Presidential candidate to speak. During this proposer Sarah Allsop was abducted. Mr Goodwin was forced to conclude the speech himself. Ian Howgate then spoke and the two candidates answered written questions, during which Miss Allsop was rescued.

The rest of the Hustings was very boring.

...and More Boring Elections

The Royal College of Science Union Top Five elections took place this Monday in all RCS departments. Next year's Executive will be Clare McErlane (Physics) as President, Fiona Nicholas (Physics) as Vice President and Gordon Brignal (Physics) as Hon Sec. David Williams (Physics) narrowly beat Julian Race

for the post of Honorary Junior Treasurer. Both the posts of Hon Sec and HJT were won within two votes. Jackie Godfrey was returned unopposed as Academic Affairs Officer. President Simon Singh was "very disappointed with the low turn out," as the number of votes cast was less than quorum.

term problems for the school, and as such was a success. No doubt they were also aware of the huge fine for damages that landed on the Sussex students at the end of their recent occupation.

A spokesman for the school promised that a meeting would be held with the protestors in the next

few days. "We stand ready to talk with the students, which was our original intention before the occupation," he said. The students however say that they have been listening to talk for the last eleven years, and were optimistic that the bad publicity would cause the school to rethink their position.

Foxy goings on

Last Tuesday lunchtime several hundred people did not pack into the Read Lecture Theatre to hear a talk by Mr James Barrington of the League against Cruel Sports. Mr Barrington reviewed the arguments against fox and cub hunting using packs of hounds, saying that the practice was unnecessary and inhuman. He stressed that foxes were only pests in lamb and free-range poultry farming, which accounted for less than 10% of the total agricultural industry, and that numbers of foxes were best controlled by environmental factors such as territory size.

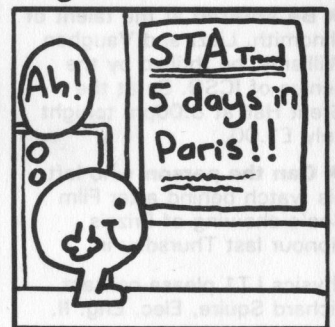
Several slides of hunts were shown, demonstrating their brutal nature—hounds are being trained by allowing them to tear cubs to pieces, and the digging out of foxes that have gone to earth by sending down terriers to



fight them. Mr Barrington argued that abolishing dog pack hunting, including, for example, mink, deer and hare hunting, need not result in unemployment of hunt servants and shooting of hounds (which are shot half-way through their natural life anyway) since artificially laid drag trails could be used to give, in effect, a bloodless hunt. Drag hunts would also have the advantage of avoiding valuable crops and domestic gardens where there is a danger of household pets being killed by hounds.

MR MEN

No.4 Mr Easy gets cynical!



By Mark