



College sign agreement with RCA for 60 year lease in Evelyn Gardens

200 places in Evelyn for Imperial College

Imperial College looks certain to gain 200 places in student accommodation for the next academic session. Last Friday the College exchanged contracts with representatives from the Royal College of Art, the previous leaseholders of the Evelyn Gardens property. This effectively finalises the deal, though the College is still waiting for the Charities Commission to give formal consent for the project.

Negotiations over the property have been going on for some time. Two weeks ago College administrators were hopeful that they had clinched the ten Evelyn Gardens houses, but this later appeared to be in doubt when another party put in a higher bid. After further discussions, IC reached a final agreement to buy the lease for £4.8 million, which is to be paid in installments, and have been given planning permission for conversion work.

Imperial College will now have control of the 200 place residence for just over 61 years, after which the lease, originally taken for 70 years in September 1987 by the RCA, comes to an end. This means that the lease will expire at about the same time as the rest of the College's residences in Evelyn Gardens.

It is expected that the new houses will enable the College to maintain the guaranteed places in residence to all first year undergraduates and first year overseas postgraduates, at least for the immediate future. For the last two years, these guarantees have looked in considerable jeopardy, when residence places came to be allocated at the end of the summer vacation. In an interview with FELIX earlier this week the Rector, Professor Eric Ash, said that the 200 places would be "an enormous help" in preserving the guarantees of College places in residence, and described the project as "one of the most cheerful

things of recent times". Union President Christine Taig has expressed her support for the Evelyn Gardens project throughout the discussion period, despite the inevitable increase in student rents. At last Tuesday's ICU Annual General Meeting she confirmed that the

project was likely to go ahead, explaining that money was better spent on cheaper accommodation for as many students as possible, as in Evelyn Gardens, rather than on a new "luxury hall" on the Northside of Prince's Gardens, as has been proposed.

The most immediate effect of the new residence in Evelyn Gardens will be a significant rent increase in all other College Halls and Houses. Though the exact level of the increases will vary significantly depending on interest rates, which may be affected by the result of the General election, there are provisional figures for increases as from next autumn. On average College rents will have to increase by £3.50 from October, with further increases of £2.50 and £1.83 in October 1988 and October 1989. The distribution of these increases is still to be decided by the Student Residence Committee. It is expected that the rent increases in student houses will have to be more than those in the more expensive halls of residence in order to prevent the hall becoming too expensive for most students.

College Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur said that some of the 200 places should be ready for students by October, but thought it unlikely that the new residence would be in full use at the start of term, bearing in mind recent delays in conversion work carried out over the summer.

Of the 200 new places, there are likely to be 75 in single rooms, 74 in double rooms, and a further 74 in triple rooms. In addition there will be between 27 and 32 places in student flats.



Temporarily shelved: an artist's impression of Northside Hall

Gay one

Dear Dave,

Having read the last issue of FELIX, with its letters on the subject of gays by Andrew Thomis and Hugh MacKenzie, I would like to add my own comments on this issue.

It is a great pity that Mr Thomis was unable to read the closing statement of Hugh MacKenzie's letter before he decided to base his argument purely on the act of sex.

As Mr MacKenzie so correctly stated, the issue should hinge on "What is the right relationship between sex and love?"

I fail to see what is so "unappealing aesthetically" about two people, of any gender, "making love" but I do, however, find this of two people "having sex".

It should be realised that the most precious gift anyone can give is that of their love. Bodies can be bought or sold but love can only be received or offered, and it is this incorruptibility which should be the basis of our actions.

If we have, in the words of Mr Thomis, "A desire to extend an emotional relationship physically" we should be able to do so without villification no matter what the sex or race of our partner. To go on, however, as Mr Thomis does, to say that the act of sex is the "desire to demonstrate your affection" is very wrong for love does not need demonstrating where it exists already.

Therefore I see no need for Andrew Bannister to say how much blood there is about when he does it (FELIX, March 18th) just as I have no wish to hear about who does it with who around College. It should be accepted that if two people love each other this is a beautiful thing. Still more importantly we should see that you can have love without sex and, perhaps unfortunately, you can have sex without love.

Yours sincerely,
Alistair Goodall (Geology I)

Gay two

Dear Dave,

In his letter to FELIX (Letters 15th May) the one thing that Andrew Thomis seems to lose sight of is that we are talking about fellow human beings. This includes many of my friends and probably many of his. The least Mr Thomis can do is to face up to his prejudices rather than couching them in mock, sociological and anthropological language.

Yours,
Chas Jackson

Gay three

Dear Dave,

Last week's FELIX published two letters from people who had something to say about the issue of homosexuality, which between them managed to raise some rather interesting points. They were printed under the respective headings of 'Imperial Gay not Okay' and 'Confusion and Corruption', and I will deal with them in that order.

The first came from Andrew Thomis, who after some background preamble made the point that the family unit in all great societies has been a fact, and is a necessary cultural norm. Sure, I agree with that, and with Mr Thomis' assertion that such a unit is needed for the development of our children, although I might be a little less rigid than he is about the definition of a family unit.

This point, we were told, implied that certain types of sexual behaviour are abhorrent; namely rape, indiscriminant sexual intercourse, and—wait for it—homosexuality. Well, I must agree that I find rape horrifying and inexcusable, and if I thought that Mr Thomis was suggesting I wanted to make it acceptable I would be furious...but he isn't, is he?

Indiscriminate sexual intercourse, in my view, doesn't do anyone any good, mostly because I suspect that it leads to emotional damage, but also in these troubled times it can be dangerous.

Which brings us to homosexuality. Mr Thomis describes this as a socially useless, even damaging activity, and one which is aesthetically unappealing. Well, I obviously have to leave that last bit to personal opinion, although I might add that if you think about it, just about any conceivable sexual act, heterosexual or otherwise, if viewed in the cold light of day is pretty bloody unappealing anyway. But socially useless and damaging? I can't agree. Any act of physical love—emphasising the 'love'—should be a fulfilling and heart-warming experience, which apart from bringing the two people involved closer together, will also help them to relate better to those around them: Anyone who is glowing happily this morning will know what I mean. As a cynical addition, I might say that homosexual acts create no battered or abandoned babies, and do not add to the world population problem.

As a final rejoinder to Mr Thomis, I suggest that before he makes remarks about pointless hedonism and a desire to be penetrated yourself, he should make sure he knows what he is talking about! I don't go round making ignorant remarks about the hedonism of man penetrating woman, so give me the same consideration.

And now, taking a deep breath, I turn to the second letter, written by Hugh MacKenzie, who asks what is the right relationship between sex and love? If you ask that sort of question in a lecture, the prof coughs and says: "I'm glad you asked me that..."

In other words, I'm not sure. I don't think there can be just one right relationship, but I believe that love is the most important aspect, without which sex in itself is more or less worthless, a mere scratching of a physical itch. If sex is part of a loving relationship, it can help to bring a couple closer together in a very wonderful way. I reckon that's about all I'm qualified to say on that subject.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Bannister, Gay and Lesbian Welfare Officer

Gay four

Dear Dave,

Unfortunately I feel obliged to add a section of comment to the debate about the Gay and Lesbian Welfare Officer. Since my election, I have been informed by many people that they expect me to fold the Gay Society and remove the G/L Welfare Officer from Council.

I am sorry if my saying that I have absolutely no intention of doing any such thing disappoints those people and friends who elected me, but unfortunately they disappoint me with their short sighted and narrow minded attitude; it was this kind of attitude that necessitated the establishment of these institutions to protect gay people's rights.

More concerning is the fact that some people have confided in me the information that others threaten physical violence towards the high profile members of this society. Although I stand by the ideals of majority rule I will not stand for victimisation, violence or oppression. In general people who demonstrate hatred or violence are merely showing the symptoms of fear or paranoia. There is no reason to fear gay people; they are extremely unlikely to want to harm or harass anyone. In fact all those I have met are exceedingly friendly and reasonable. At the same time I can assure the reader that they are far more worried about AIDS than you ever will be.

It is all very well everyone discussing the rights and wrongs of the matter of homosexuality through the FELIX letters page. But how many of these wise and wonderful people have ever sat down face to face with a gay person and discussed it with him or her?

Anyone ignorant enough to go out 'queer bashing' obviously does not realise that they are not at all likely to change the sexuality of a gay

person by the means of fear. For if this was true, AIDS would have achieved this ages ago. All it would do, would be to push them into oppression and hiding and then no one would know where they stood. There would be far more success to be gained by beating me up, as it might scare me enough to stop me supporting the rights of these intimidated individuals. Then again it might make me all the more determined!

This whole issue does not just relate to gay people, but to all of the world's minorities who live in fear. As a note for anyone who judges anyone on religious grounds I would just like to say, "who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls" (Romans 14:4).

Finally I must point out that it has come to my attention that certain persons have been calling me a heterosexist. I have been trying to attain a clear definition of what this term means and have found it to be impossible. If as it appears, it means that I prefer relationships with women, then too damned right I do!

Yours,
Ian Howgate

Managers in clover

Dear Sir,

Should student managers be paid £100 per hour? (*per week, I think—Ed*). This is currently the case in some Imperial College accommodation...and the student residents foot the bill.

In one particular head tenancy, the manager and his wife enjoy a flat which would cost students over £70 per week (over £3,600 pa) and have this and their electricity and gas paid by the other residents. An apparent abuse of this latter privilege has meant that the student manager's latest electricity bill at approximately £270 for 15 weeks exceeded the sum of costs attributable to all other 22 residents. In return the manager's duties occupy about 3—4 hours a month.

I do not criticise this particular manager, or others, for taking advantage of the free accommodation offered—who would not do so in their place?—and indeed in this case the manager fulfils those duties expected of him adequately. It does, however, appear very irresponsible that the current arrangements concerning managers' residence fees should stand as they are, especially when their income is 3 or 4 times that of the students paying! As for students paying the manager's electricity, etc, doubling their bills in some of the above cases, clearly this would be hard to justify. The fact that students

continued on page 4

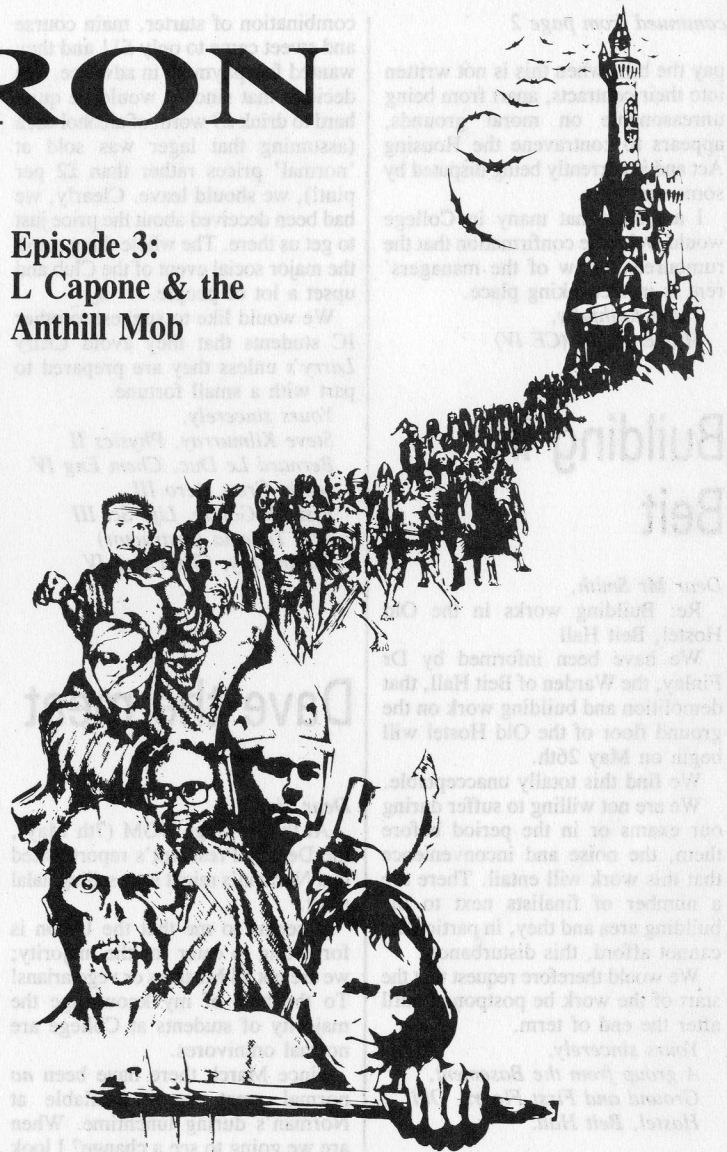
THE BARON

Deep in the dungeon of Beit castle, Ian Whygate and Alan Ego were practising their handshakes. In a few weeks' time they would be taking over as head citizens of Cheap skate, and since all the powerful people in the Surefield fortress were members of the Band of Bricklayers, Whygate and Ego had decided that they should become members too. Everyone in Surefield was a bricklayer, except for Arthur Michael, whose wrist was never stiff enough for him to be able to shake hands properly. Whygate and Ego had spent most of the morning congratulating each other on being elected to head citizen and deputy head citizen. Whygate thought he had been very clever again. He had spent a whole year talking as loud as possible, for as long as possible, on as many committees as possible; in the end all the citizens had promised to vote for him on condition that he kept quiet from now on. Ego thought that Whygate had been very clever, too, but he had fixed his election in a much more subtle way. Ego had stood very close to the list of candidates for deputy head citizen, and whenever another citizen tried to

write their name up he had trodden on their toes. Funnily enough, he had been the only candidate applying for the job when Gutters had come to collect all the names.

When he had finished practising handshakes, Ego finished his twelfth pint and hurried across Cheap skate to the rent collector's office. As well as wanting to be a bricklayer, Ego was already a member of the 'Minions', a secret society founded by Cheap skate rent collector Lesley Grievous Bodily Harm, who had recently changed her name to L Capone in order to save ink. The other Minions, Kettle, Custard and Hamster were already there, and were taking it in turns to fill L Capone's glass for her. As usual, L Capone was talking about Arthur Michael and Hardlyworthit, the Cheap skate house builder. "Something has got to be done, boys", she was saying. "All the ceilings in Hardlyworthit's houses keep falling on the citizens' heads, and every time it happens Hardlyworthit and Arthur Michael just sit back and giggle. I think I may have another job for you, boys". Kettle, Custard, Hamster and Ego

Episode 3: L Capone & the Anthill Mob



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looked at each other and groaned...

Unaware of what devious plans were being hatched in the rent collector's office, Arthur Michael was sitting in his room in the Surefield fortress and concentrating very hard on stirring his cup of coffee. Arthur Michael was feeling very pleased with himself. While Ms Plague and Mummylonglegs, the citizens' leaders, were not looking he had gone out to buy a new rubber dinghy for his favourite group of citizens, the paddlers. The paddlers had wanted the citizens' treasury committee to buy them a new rubber dinghy, but had asked for so much money that they had been told that they had to wait for a year. The paddlers, who were very keen to have a new dinghy, had asked Arthur Michael to buy one for them without telling the rest of the citizens. Arthur Michael had bought a new dinghy very cheaply, and now he was trying to persuade Ms Plague and Mummylonglegs to give him the money back. He couldn't understand why they weren't pleased that he had saved them so much money.

Suddenly, Arthur Michael's phone rang. He was horrified to hear John Secretary asking him to come up to his office: Arthur Michael had been

terrified of John Secretary ever since the Cheap skate Board of Gnomes had decided to throw 100 people out of Cheap skate. He was afraid that John Secretary was going to take the opportunity to sack him at last. In fact, when Arthur Michael got to his office, John Secretary was deep in conversation with Derek Dash. Derek and John Secretary were planning a devious scheme to make all the citizens get up earlier; Derek wanted classes at Cheap skate school to start at 8.30 instead of 9.30. Suddenly there was a shout in the corridor outside. Derek looked outside to see his wife, Mad Dash, running past the office, waving her citizen's "awfully nice person" tie about her head. "Quick", shouted Derek to Arthur Michael, "go and ring Ms Plague. She'll keep her quiet for a few hours"...

- Will Arthur Michael lose his job?*
- Will anyone notice?*
- Will Whygate join the bricklayers?*
- Where will L Capone strike next?*

Find out (perhaps) in another installment of the "Baron of Cheap skate".

continued from page 2

pay the bill, when this is not written into their contracts, apart from being unreasonable on moral grounds, appears to contravene the Housing Act and is currently being disputed by some residents.

I am sure that many in College would welcome confirmation that the rumoured review of the managers' rent is in fact taking place.

*Yours faithfully,
M S E Robin (CE IV)*

Building in Beit

Dear Mr Smith,

Re: Building works in the Old Hostel, Beit Hall

We have been informed by Dr Finlay, the Warden of Beit Hall, that demolition and building work on the ground floor of the Old Hostel will begin on May 26th.

We find this totally unacceptable.

We are not willing to suffer during our exams or in the period before them, the noise and inconvenience that this work will entail. There are a number of finalists next to the building area and they, in particular, cannot afford, this disturbance.

We would therefore request that the start of the work be postponed until after the end of term.

*Yours sincerely,
A group from the Basement,
Ground and First Floors, Old Hostel, Beit Hall.*

*cc Warden, Beit Hall
President, ICU
Editor, Felix*

Larry's Larceny

Dear Dave,

We are writing because we would like to warn other IC students about the experiences we had last Friday at *Crazy Larry's* (on the corner of King's Road and Lots Road), and we thought that FELIX was the best way to do this.

We had planned to go to *Crazy Larry's* for the annual dinner of IC Underwater Club. When we rang to enquire about the price, we were told it would cost £15 for a 3-course meal and as much wine/lager as we wanted until 12 midnight. When we rang again to book, this price was confirmed.

When we arrived, we found that the price had gone up! They wanted us to pay £20.00 per head, or £12.00 per head for the meal only with no alcohol included. Also, the most expensive

combination of starter, main course and sweet came to only £11 and they wanted full payment in advance. We decided that since it would be quite hard to drink £9 worth of alcohol each (assuming that lager was sold at 'normal' prices rather than £2 per pint!), we should leave. Clearly, we had been deceived about the price just to get us there. The whole thing spoils the major social event of the Club and upset a lot of people.

We would like to suggest to other IC students that they avoid *Crazy Larry's* unless they are prepared to part with a small fortune.

*Yours sincerely,
Steve Kilmurray, Physics II
Bernard Le Duc, Chem Eng IV
Jason Grey, Aero III
Elsbeth Goldie, Life Sci III
Rolf Tietema (Instructor)
Judith Day, Chem Eng IV*

Dave the meat

Dear Sir,

At the hustings UGM (7th May), the Deputy President's report stated that Norman's might start selling halal meat.

It seems to me that the Union is forgetting to cater for the majority; we are not all Muslims or vegetarians! To the best of my knowledge the majority of students at College are normal omnivores.

Since March there have been no normal meat meals available at Norman's during lunchtime. When are we going to see a change? I look forward to hearing a reply from Norman, since it appears the Snack Bar takes little notice of the students verbal comments during the lunchtimes and evenings.

*Yours omnivorously,
DP Tyler*

Burbage Burbles

Dear Dave,

I am writing to complain about the completely lackadaisical way in which Social Colours have been handled this year. I am involved in two Major Subcommittees, and in both there has been an element of farce surrounding them.

Firstly, on Publications Board the thirteen, read it, *thirteen* colours awarded by FELIX are a joke. If you have thirteen outstanding and unbelievably worthwhile contributors, and the regular staff too, why hasn't FELIX been absolutely brilliant every week? Not to say that any one of those awarded did not deserve colours—one cannot know—but those who would know and have

a fair chance to debate them were this year denied this opportunity. The Pub Board Chairman, Chris Martin, decided to break with the usual tradition of a meeting between himself, the FELIX Editor, the STOIC Chairman and the IC Radio Station Manager, and instead merely asked for 'objections' which would have been difficult to justify unless each individual case was discussed which, as I have said, was not. The colours Committee, who awarded the colours, naturally knew nothing about individual contributions to clubs, and therefore could do little but accept them all.

Secondly, the Social and Cultural Clubs Committees (*No, Dave, the Social Clubs Committee—Ed*). With amazing incompetence the SCC Chairman, Richard Eccleston, for the second year running, managed to completely mess up the awards for all the clubs involved. Last year, the invitations for nominations were sent out the day before they were due in, with the result that many clubs missed out. This year, not even one day was given—no notification whatsoever was given to any clubs on SCC. Then how did the actual colours awarded get decided? At one point it was thought that the 'nominations' were one per club, but the apparent truth is that names from the attendance of SCC meetings were used! I need not comment further on how plain silly this is.

With the present arrangement of colours awards, it is time that those club committee chairmen who have messed up (and I only have experience of these two—there may be more!) took their responsibilities seriously. There are many people within Pub Board who now feel their

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colours devalued, and many more on SCC who, on receipt of last week's FELIX felt shocked and surprised to find their names missing, or in print on the list!

It would be nice if everything ran smoothly, wouldn't it?

Dave Burbage, Doc III

*Ed's note:
I love you too,
Jane xxx*

Felix

Accommodation

Barring any major hiccups at the very last minute, the College appears to have 200 more places in residence in their grasp at last. This is probably the most significant thing that College has done so far this year, at least as far as students are concerned. If only a portion of the 200 places are available for allocation at the start of next session it should help to avoid the now familiar chaos in the Student Accommodation Office, when too many incoming students are squeezed into too few rooms. In the light of the College recruitment drive aimed at overseas students it is difficult to be enthusiastic in the long term, though. When more fee-paying students are attracted to bring in more money, more needs to be spent on accommodation. There remains a serious lack of College-maintained residences at Imperial, and though the new premises in Evelyn Gardens are a great step forward the search for new accommodation must still be number one priority.

Yet more on Gay news

As expected, we have a page of letters devoted to the gay/lesbian issue this week. I was quite amazed to read in Ian's letter that he has been approached by students who fully expect him to try and close down an IC Gay Society and dispense with any representation for the gay/lesbian community. Though several readers may be getting bored with the continued priority I am giving to this issue, I would suggest to anyone who wishes to see the support for gays and lesbians come to an end that they write in and express an opinion as quickly as possible; this issue is here to stay, and there are enough people who think as I do to prevent it being ignored.

Credits

Many thanks, as so often, to Chris Edwards, Kamala Sen, Judith Hackney, Pippa Salmon, Chris Martin, Francis Miers, Dave Williams, Dave Burns, Pete Higgs, Pete Wilson, Chas Jackson, Christine Taig, Al Birch, Steve Gutteridge, Sunny Bains, Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle, Liz Holford, Rachel Black, Neil Motteram, Steve Kilmurray, Steve Shackell and Rose Atkins.

David Jones

FELIX is published by the Editor for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed by the Imperial College Union Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB (Tel 01 589 5111 ext 3515). Editor, David Jones, Business Manager, Jane Spiegel. Copyright FELIX 1987 ISSN 1040-0711.

Gross hypocrisy

Summer is very definitely on its way; I can tell because the level of craziness in the Office has risen to new heights, even if the amount of work hasn't decreased. Visitors to ICU Office shouldn't be surprised to see various of us singing operatic excerpts, skating round the floor on bits of cardboard and generally showing distinct signs of craziness. I wonder if it's possible to last more than a year in any job without cracking up completely?

Meanwhile, the endless round of College and Union committees becomes considerably more lively as caution and diplomacy are thrown to the wind. The best example of this so far was Dave Colley at last Friday's Governor's meeting, normally the most formal of occasions. Dave, having a go at the College Secretary over parking permits, was enjoying himself so much that Jackie and I were rolling up our sleeves and preparing to restrain him, should he have attempted physical violence.

But now, on a more serious note

Freedom of Speech

The College has drafted a set of guidelines in response to the Education (No 2) Act 1986 (Section 43—Freedom of Speech in Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges). The basis of this is that the Union cannot refuse to hold a speaker meeting on its premises (so long as it is a legitimate club activity) on grounds of policy or beliefs or objectives of the speaker or his/her organisation. If it's felt that such a meeting will cause trouble, the matter can be referred to the College Secretary for a binding decision.

This document is unlikely to affect IC Union in its current state as our 'political' activity is almost non-existent. The Act has already had real meaning though for colleges like the London School of Economics. There, the Union was forced to allow meetings of extreme right-wing groups to take place on its premises

even though a clear majority at a UGM objected to *their* premises being used for these purposes.

I am not debating the rights and wrongs of 'No Platform' policies here. However it is worth noting that the Education Act—which effectively reduces the power of colleges to determine what happens on their premises—coincides with the introduction of the Public Order Bill, which gives the police power to veto any demonstration or gathering in a public place. It is also interesting that, at a time when the government is reducing funding to colleges and expecting them to become more financially autonomous, administrative and political restrictions such as this are multiplying. I for one see this as gross hypocrisy.

AIDS

I apologise for the apparent inactivity on the AIDS information campaign. I am currently waiting for the Health Education Unit to send me 8000 booklets which I ordered several weeks ago. If this is a measure of the

urgency which the 'official' national bodies accord to such a campaign then I am more grateful than ever that the Terence Higgins Trust exists, to supply confidential help and advice to *anyone* worried about AIDS. I am very glad that IC Rag have decided to support the Trust throughout the 1987/88 session.

The Terence Higgins Trust helpline can be reached on 833 2971 (7—10pm weekdays, 3—10pm weekends). A selection of leaflets are available from: IC Union, Campus Trades Union Offices, The Health Centre, The Welfare Centre and the Personnel Office).

Finally

When you leave, wouldn't you like to be able to carry on using College and Union facilities and to keep involved with your favourite clubs and societies? If so, you can become a Life Member for the paltry sum of £15.00 (minimum). See Kathy in IC Union Office for further details.

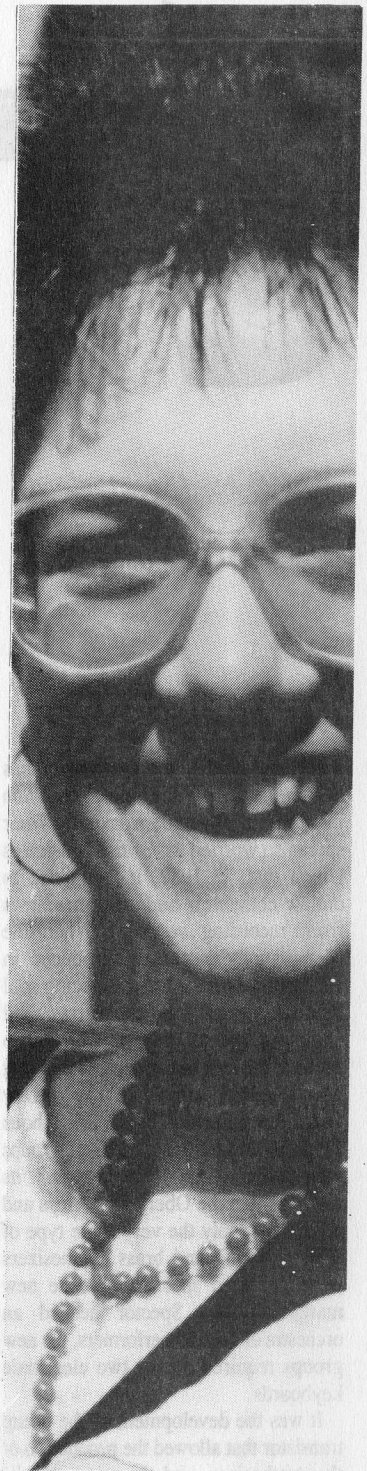
That's it for now,

*See you,
Christine.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Would all clubs and societies who still haven't given me the info of your next year committee, Please do so ASAP or there may be problems with your Freshers' Fair stall and various other little goodies for next year!

*Thank you,
Kathy Tait, Union Receptionist*



TIZARD AND SELKIRK HALLS

Sub-wardenship and Assistant Sub-wardens

Applications are invited for the posts of sub-warden and two of assistant sub-warden in Tizard Hall and one post of assistant sub-warden in Selkirk Hall. The posts are open to all students and staff of the College, but preference will be given to postgraduates or final-year undergraduates who have experience of living in student residences.

The roles of the sub-warden and assistant sub-warden are to assist the warden in the day-to-day organisation of the social life and discipline of the Hall. Applications comprising a CV and names of two referees should be sent by 1st June to the Warden, Dr M H R Hutchinson, Tizard and Selkirk Halls, Prince's Gardens, London SW7.

HAIR BRAINED

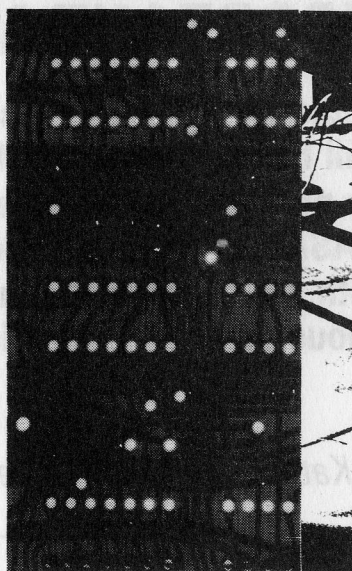
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THE ART OF NOISE

Since the 1960's, the synthesizer has become one of the most common instruments in modern music. Their spread so worried the British Musicians Union that, in 1982, it threatened to outlaw computers and drum machines from recording sessions. When the Moog synthesiser was introduced in 1965, Phil Spector was producing soul records using full orchestras and choirs—it was the only way he had to produce the lush background sounds that he wanted for songs like *You've Lost That Loving Feeling*, by the Righteous Brothers. Just ten years later soul groups were using a single Moog, and its relatives like the Oberheims, Arps and Korgs to supply the very same type of effects. String and brass synthesizers were designed specially for the new market. Where Spector needed an orchestra of over 30 performers, the new groups required one or two electronic keyboards.

It was the development of the cheap transistor that allowed the production of the synthesizer, and the microchip its proliferation. Electric keyboards from firms like Casio are now replacing electric organs in the expanding home market. The sounds of one-fingered versions of *Vive Espana* to *Bosa Nova* rhythms played on cabinet-sized organs are giving way to pre-programmed songs backed by sophisticated drum machines no larger than a briefcase. But attempts to design synthesizers have been made throughout the 20th century; their efforts always thwarted by the lack of technology capable of taking their ideas.

The first attempts at producing music using electricity, in the closing stages of the 19th century, were mere toys compared with the vision of Thaddeus Cahill, a keen inventor and musician



from America. Elisha Gray, more famous with his battle over the invention of the telephone with Alexander Graham Bell, had designed a machine he called the "musical telegraph". He had found his nephew playing with a strange electrical circuit involving a metal reed vibrating against a metal bathtub in the summer of 1874. Inspired by this, he designed a set of parallel circuits to produce an instrument that played over an octave's range. However, Gray dropped the project to continue his research into the telephone system. It was taken up by German, Ernst Loran, who, in 1885, devised a way of controlling the sound envelope—the way a note begins and ends.

Along with the 'Singing Arc' of William Duddell, an English physicist, these instruments were mere drawing room curiosities. Cahill's Telharmonium project was a far more serious attempt, prevented from success by the lack of suitable technology at the time. His idea was to broadcast the sound from his instrument over the telephone lines to listeners wearing headsets far away, or to loudspeakers hidden discreetly behind aspidistras in hotel foyers.

The method he used to generate the individual notes in the machine was to

the noise put out by the motors could have easily drowned the music.

have a 'rheotome' (a type of primitive alternator) for each note. It consisted of a brush rubbing against a cogged wheel; the intermittent contact would produce an oscillating electrical signal, in this case a pure sine wave. Thus the note produced by an individual rheotome

would have similar tonal qualities to those played on the higher keys of a flute. Cahill was a keen student of tonal physics and realised that this sound would be too thin and reedy, and so for each note he used five rheotomes, corresponding to the fundamental and the various harmonics. These harmonics could be taken out if desired, but if left in gave an effect akin to a real musical instrument. His original specification called for 408 individual rheotomes, but he only ever used 144 in the last, and largest instrument. After demonstrating a small prototype version to prospective backers, he was put in touch with various investors by George Westinghouse of the now multi-national electrics company. With this financial support he built his second Telharmonium—an instrument that weighed 200 tons and used up to 15 kilowatts of power. At the turn of the century there were no vacuum tubes, no way of amplifying a signal to any great degree. This meant that each rheotome required an eleven inch shaft of steel, each note about 6 feet, and a whole octave, 30 feet. In order to supply the required six or seven octaves the machine had to be massive. It was fortunate that the output of the Telharmonium was transmitted; the noise put out by the motors themselves could have easily drowned the music.

In 1906 the machine was upgraded to its final form and moved to New York. However the telephone transmissions brought complaints about interference with the network, and imperfections in the machine itself caused the business to fall apart in 1911, despite widespread interest.

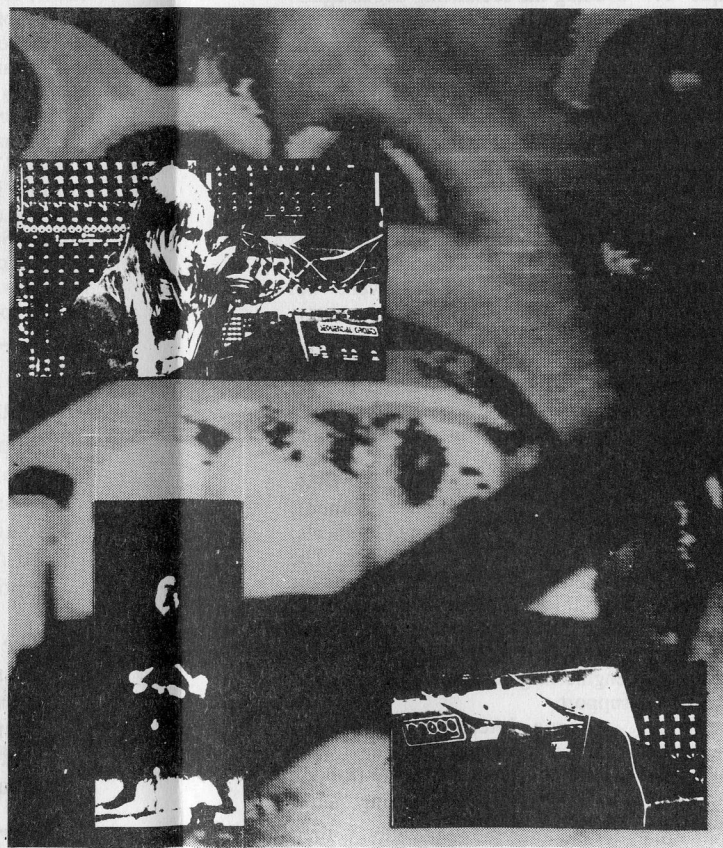
In 1920, Russian scientist Leon Theremin developed his own instrument, using the newly invented technology of the wireless. It had no moving parts, and so may be described as the first totally electronic musical instrument. The Theremin, as it was later christened, was played by moving the hands around two aerials protruding from its cabinet—one controlling pitch and the other loudness. This way of controlling the instrument was its major downfall; it meant that it was only ever capable of producing rising and falling glissandi effects. While impressive at first, they quickly bored composers. Until the invention of the modern synthesizer, the Theremin found a niche in movie sound effects—used quite prominently in the science fiction classic *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. Despite its short-lived popularity, the Theremin appeared once again forty years later, when Robert Moog, inventor of the Moog synthesiser, financed himself whilst getting his physics doctorate by selling a transistorised version of the Theremin at 50 dollars apiece. One of those instruments then featured on the Beach Boys' *Good Vibrations*, and it is still being used by avant-garde

performer Youssef Yancy.

The Theremin spawned renewed interest in electronic music, and related instruments quickly appeared. The 1930s brought a new emphasis. Up to this point the new technology was designed to produce brand new sounds, but now electric organs and electric pianos were beginning to be developed—instruments that would mimic their acoustic counterparts, using similar tone-generation principles.

The first electric organ, designed by Laurens Hammond in 1929, used the same tone wheel idea as Cahill's Telharmonium. But Hammond had the benefit of the newly invented thermionic valve and the associated amplifier circuits. Modern organs now have totally electronic oscillators, but Hammond paved the way for the organs that would be used by jazz and rock combos around the world. The Hammond itself, despite being in essence a very primitive device, lived on right into the seventies, forming a great deal of the sound of groups like Procul Harum and Van der Graaf Generator.

The other instruments to be developed at this time were existing ones that were to be electrically amplified rather than imitated. The piano was the first to be given the treatment, developed by classical piano makers, Bechstein and Son in the late 20s. Individual pickups over each string converted the vibrations into electrical impulses to be fed through valve amplifiers. Similarly the electric guitar was introduced by the Electro String Company using Adolph Rickenbacker's designs during the early



30s. Ironically, it took the further development of synthesizers for composers to realise that these instruments could easily be treated to produce new sounds. The modern fuzz-box was made only after rock musicians of the 60s found that their valve amps distorted the output from their electric guitars by a process known as 'clipping', producing a much rawer-edged sound. The fuzz-box produces the same effect without seriously damaging an amplifier, coupled with the fact that the newer transistorised versions do not distort in quite the same way. Other effects such as Wah-Wah and Distortion Multipliers were soon to follow.

The first true synthesizer was produced by RCA in 1955, and named after its designers, Harry Olson and Herbert Belar. The machine took up the better part of the studio it was housed in—like the computers of the day, any ambitious synthesizer had to be that big to house the required number of valves. The tone generators were electromechanical, like the Telharmonium and the Hammond before it, this time an arrangement of tuning-fork oscillators, conforming to the twelve note scale. Hammond himself had tried to introduce an instrument—the Novachord—in 1939 which featured over one hundred valves, and unprecedented sound-shaping controls. The machine, however, was plagued by technical difficulties surrounding the complexity of the instrument; difficulties that had been ironed out by the mid-50s.

Olson and Belar had foreseen that the largest use for a synthesizer would be in the popular music market, and

designed it to imitate existing instruments rather than to produce entirely new sound. As such it had more in common with the modern home-organ, but it was a premonition of the string and brass synthesizers that were to appear twenty years later. Despite their original intention for the machine, popular music artists were never able to use it. The majority of its use came from experimental composers and researchers into using computers in music.

It was the invention of the transistor that opened the door to mass-produced synthesizers for the popular market.

barking dogs, choirs and scraped paving stones could all be played like a piano.

Working independently, Donald Buchla and Robert Moog were developing very similar systems, introduced finally in the mid-60s. The new approach to music-synthesis was a voltage controlled system, which defined pitch, tone, modulation and the envelope characteristics of a sound. It meant that oscillators could affect other oscillators to produce entirely new waveforms, and in turn control other features of a sound. Even the tone generators were now an electrical circuit—the transistor circuit that appears on many a problem sheet.

The Moog design quickly became the most popular, despite Buchla's use of a sequencer, not least due to the fact that the Moog had a traditional keyboard while the Buchla had a touch-sensitive plate. The original Moog design was a modular studio system, too fragile to go on the road with bands. This was soon remedied by the introduction of the Mini-Moog, a smaller and far more robust version. Other companies soon began to introduce their own models based on the voltage controlled system, like Oberheim, Korg, Roland and EMS. The EMS VCS3 was the first that many musicians ever toyed with as it was far cheaper than many of its counterparts, and also quite unreliable. These early synthesizers were all monophonic—only one key would play at a time. This fact caused a lot of ridicule for synthesizer players from their more highly trained contemporaries playing guitars and pianos. Bands like *Queen* and *Boston* proudly displayed "no synthesizers used" on their record sleeves in the hope that virtuoso playing meant better music. Queen eventually succumbed to the lure of the artificial in 1979 by featuring an Oberheim quite heavily.

By this time polyphonic keyboards had been introduced by Moog and Oberheim, as synthesizers moved in to take over the electric organ market. Simple computers were soon incorporated into the instruments with the introduction of Sequential Circuits' best seller, the Prophet 5. This keyboard



could remember patches that a player had programmed in before and call up the settings automatically. This idea became the basis of Casio's range of home synthesizers, sophisticated toys that could remember tunes as well as sounds and replay them to pre-programme backing tracks.

Home-computers quickly saw the impact that built-in sound generators could have in their machines and soon introduced the VIC-20 and the Sinclair Spectrum. They were vastly inferior to their true synthesizer parents, but showed how useful computers could be in music-production. The Commodore-64 featured a far more sophisticated sound-system, but the truly professional system, such as those used on the Apple, required separate keyboards and synthesizer units.

Even Moog's design was not ideal; a new wave of digital machines was being introduced, the first being the Synclavier (1975). The advent of the integrated circuit had made it possible to make synthesizers that worked on frequency modulation rather than the old style amplitude modulation, as in the Moogs and Oberheims. The digitisation of waveforms made it possible, at least in theory, to shape them on a microcomputer to produce custom-built sounds of great complexity. As computer speed increased, so more detail could be packed into a waveform. The result was the Fairlight Computer Musical Instrument, unveiled in 1979. It made it possible to design complete sounds on a computer screen and then play them over a six octave range, it also had the feature of recording sounds through a microphone and analysing them into their components so that barking dogs, choirs and scraped paving stones could all be played like a piano. The sampler had arrived.

Such was the complexity of the machine that unless a musician was willing to spend months training on the instrument, as artists like Peter Gabriel and Larry Fast had, special technicians had to be drafted in to program them—creating a whole new breed of instrument technician, mid-way between a session musician and a roadie. Numerous samplers followed, ranging from £700 'toys' like the Casio SK-1 with its tiny noises through to Synclaviers costing over £30,000.

With these new machines there seems to be little room for development, apart from the addition of more memory to produce clearer sound—the only goal left now is to make them easier to use, and cheaper.

But in less than a century, progress has moved at such a rate that one electronic instrument can almost replace all others. Whether this is good for the music industry, or merely setting upon the road of endless records using identical bland sounds of massed choirs and orchestras, still remains to be seen.

AMNESTY

Remarkable story

In the state of Virginia, if you are accused of capital offence then you won't get justice unless you can afford it. If you want to appeal against a death sentence then you'll have to pay; and pay well because the average legal fee is around \$10,000. The state will not help you: it may have forked out a colossal \$687 to pay a lawyer at your trial but clearly it doesn't see any value in the appeal process. Clearly Virginia State is not interested in proper justice.

One woman struggles against this injustice. One woman takes it upon herself to persuade lawyers to represent poor prisoners on death row. One woman believes in justice.

Imperial College Amnesty International Group will show a video portraying the struggle of this one woman: Marie Deanz. (Tues 26th May at 1.00pm in the Senior Common Room, Union Building). Please come and see the remarkable story of this woman.

RAG

All it needs to do now is snow!



Rag is going carol singing!

The date: Thursday, May 28th

The time: 5.45, outside Beit Arch

The place: Covent Garden, and after that, the nearest pub

Bring along any woolly hats, scarves, overcoats, etc. (wear a T-shirt!). There is a (small) prize for the

highest collector and your bus/tube fares will be refunded. The Trombone Trio will (probably) be accompanying us. This may well be the last Rag event this term, so try and support it, and give all the tourists an interesting tale to tell when they get home!

See you there!

GUILDS

Spanner in the works

To the clubs, departmental societies, and departmental reps in City and Guilds Union.

Work on Spanner, the annual guide to City and Guilds College is due to begin shortly. Traditionally, Spanner contains articles submitted by Guilds clubs and societies, explaining the activities in which they are involved, and the events they have organised. As Spanner will provide Freshers with their only introduction to your club or society it is important not to miss this opportunity. Clubs should have already received a letter requesting submissions for inclusion in Spanner.

The deadline for clubs articles is June 1st. As a guide, 200 words is an acceptable minimum although most clubs submit articles substantially

longer. Particularly welcome are any photographs of clubs in action, Guilds events, or embarrassing pictures of the Exec. All photographs will be treated with care and respect and will be returned when finished with. Photographs are welcome anytime before the end of term.

We are also looking for general interest articles on any subject. Suggestions include alternative pub guides, a guide to College refectories, mascotry, cartoons, amusing verse, etc. If you have any ideas please contact the Editor, Bill Goodwin, via the Mech Eng Undergraduate pigeon holes.

Contributions should be sent to: The Spanner Editor, City and Guilds Union Office, Mechanical Engineering Building

BOAT

More success for Fours

Last weekend saw more success for the boat club; on our home water at Putney Town Regatta and at Holme Pierpoint at Nottingham City Regatta.

At Putney, the coxless four rowed well, despite only having trained together as a crew for about a week, and shrugged off all signs of illness to win the senior A fours event.

At Nottingham, on Saturday, the two IC fours raced; one in a coxed boat and the other coxless. Having borrowed a boat which was too small for the crew in the coxed event, they rowed well to finish only 1/2 a length behind the Leander crew, these two being well in front of the rest of the Elite fours. In the Elite coxless fours, IC was confronted by a high class field of club and university crews and by the Notts County Rowing Association four, who were silver medalists in last year's world championships.

In a close fought race, the IC crew came from well down in the last 500 metres to finish second to the Notts County crew. The only win at Nottingham on Saturday came in the Elite Double sculls where the IC crew

surprised themselves and their coach, winning by some two lengths from Leander Club.

On Sunday both IC fours raced in the Elite coxless event and both made the final. Here, the 'heavyweight' four had a very close race with Notts County, which they were unlucky to lose to by only 1/2 a length. The 'lightweight' four finished in third place, also beating all the university and club crews. In the single sculls, both Tony Reynolds and Vince Roper shrugged off their problems of the day before and won senior C and senior B sculls respectively. The IC double scull, racing 'lightweight' on Sunday, had a few problems at the start with a computer which said they didn't exist despite their presence in the programme. They did, however, go on to win their second event of the weekend convincingly. Another member of Imperial College Boat Club, Nick Burfitt raced with the GB national squad at Mannheim Regatta on both Saturday and Sunday. His crew finished third on both days, in coxless fours, only some 2 seconds behind the West German world champions from 1985.

boring enough to be Indsoc

Boring Frenchies visit

Early last term 26 students from IC were entertained by students of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie in Paris. At the end of term 31 French students sont arrivés at IC.

In Paris we were received at the British Council. Drink, and conversation in English, French and Français abounded. The first two raisons d'être for the visit had been fulfilled. The following day we saw the ESPCI, listened to industrial talks and then were hustled into cars for an exhibition of student driving à la mode français. We were driven to three French companies (Air Liquide, Procter and Gamble (France) and Roussel (UCLAF)). I visited Air Liquide. The technology was impressive, as was the champagne and caviar at the reception afterwards. This reception proved to be the start of the blur between education and the socialising which followed.

Lessons in dancing and hairdressing at the Folie Bergère was next, then the old boys reception, then the Magnetic Terrace Jazz club and finally a game of 'hunt the hangover' in the clouds around the Eiffel Tower.

A reception at the Institut Français, followed by a jazz party in the union opened our response. The next day, visits to the Chemical and Electrical Engineering departments, a talk by Dow Chemicals and visits to Air Products and British Gas showed the

French students that Britain does still have some vigour and high tech. That evening the socialising began again. A carvery meal at the Strand Palace Hotel. A bloat rather than a slurr. The next day the French students were sent off on a prize quiz of London's landmarks. This allowed me to make a quick trip to Sainsbury's to stock-up for the inevitable party. Professor Ash provided an excellent informal reception at his house which we followed with trips to Les Misérables or Breaking the Code. Fortunately, the theatrical themes were not recreated at The Inevitable Party, much.

Now the crucial point. All this was achieved at a cost of £36 per ticket to France, thanks to generous support of industry for this educational and social exchange of ideas. We are particularly grateful to ICI, IBM, Procter and Gamble (France), International Point, Dow Chemicals, Kodak, The Old Centralians, The Anciens élèves of the ESPCI, and the ESPCI for financial support totalling more than £4500, and the Rector and the Chemical and Electrical Engineering departments for material support.

Anyone interested in helping organise the same thing next year should contact R J Murray through the Chemical Engineering letter racks.

RESTAURANTS

Texas Lone Star

Take a walk down Gloucester Road and you can't help but notice a giant fibre glass Indian, slightly the worse



for wear, guarding the entrance to the Texas Lone Star. This all-American restaurant has been one of the more popular student haunts in recent years, due largely to its enormous

portions and value-for-money prices. Its proximity to both Evelyn Gardens and the College central make it an excellent venue for group meals.

It does have its disadvantages, however. If you choose to visit between 7.30pm and 10.30pm there is invariably a queue for tables, and at peak times this can mean a wait of up to ¾ hour—some students make valuable use of this time at the bar, where you can eat as many crisps with spicy dips as you like. The best time to go is about 7.00pm when you can be instantly seated, stuffed full and out before the crowds arrive.

Drinks tend towards the expensive but the food works out at about £5 a head. The best value is undoubtedly the 'Slab of Ribs' at £4.95 which includes a side salad, potatoes (chipped, au gratin or baked) along with a foot long slab of barbecued ribs. Other items on the menu include Chicken Enchilada, Mexican Chilis, enormous salads, steaks and tacos. Should you still have room left for afters, then there's blueberry ice cream, cheesecake, or even chocolate fudge cake served hot with cream.

The service is quick and friendly with the working policy of get 'em in, fill 'em up and then get rid of 'em pronto. They also do take-aways if you don't fancy waiting at peak times.

Thoroughly recommended.
Judith Hackney

RESTAURANTS

Dehli Brasserie

When IC students eat out, it almost invariably seems to be a question of "going for a curry". The Dehli Brasserie, 134 Cromwell Road (just past Sainsbury's), is in a class of its own if you are looking for Indian cuisine in the local area. The restaurant has only been open for just over a year, but in that time it has built up quite a considerable clientele of Imperial College students. Though the range of dishes is a little more limited than at some other restaurants in the area, I have not found any of the food it serves prepared as well anywhere else. You will not find any spectacular variations from 'normal' Tandoori cooking on the menu, but

you will almost certainly find that they do the more familiar dishes as well as any other restaurant you can name.

The service is just about the friendliest you are likely to come across, which makes the Dehli Brasserie an excellent choice for more intimate eating out. The waiters always present all the ladies with a carnation when you leave the restaurant.

Though it is fractionally more pricey than better known local Indian restaurants, such as the Kwaliti, the Dehli is still excellent value and I thoroughly recommend it for any occasion.

RESTAURANTS

Kowloon

The laid-back café atmosphere of the Kowloon makes it an ideal place to pick up something to eat before hitting the clubs and cinemas in and around Leicester Square. The last order is at 12 midnight so you can even crawl there when they chuck you out of the pub. The best idea, I find, is to skip the set-meals and head for the soup's page. Feeling hungry? Go for a noodle soup—there's a selection of about 8 but I would definitely recommend the Won Ton Noodle Soup (the restaurant's speciality) at £1.80. If you're still feeling

hungry—just the soup can be sufficient if you're eating very late—turn back a page in the menu and you'll find the noodle and rice dishes. These range from about £2.80 to £3.60, ask for an extra bowl as one rice or noodle dish will feed 2 people, I would recommend the Chicken and Chinese Mushroom Rice/Noodle or the Braised Brisket Rice (this can be a bit heavy-going).

If you find yourself wandering around this area of London during the day pop into the Kowloon for tea and cakes. The tea is obviously Chinese tea and the cakes are made downstairs in the bakery and are very unusual, I would recommend the Lotus Paste, Melon Paste or the funny little Coconut Ball (thingys) at about 40p each, they're great fun and you can spend as long as you like taking in the atmosphere of Soho on a Sunday (or any) afternoon.

Rose Atkins

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MUSIC

Tesla/Little Angels

With all the hype, Tesla were guaranteed a good turn out. Neil Murray, Atomik Tommy, M Buttz and Spike, even Barry Norman was spotted outside by yours truly.

To be sure of getting in I had to arrive early enough to get wet in the queue and to catch the support band, *The Little Angels*. However, they were to spoil the whole show; nothing could follow them. They completely blew Tesla off stage!

They are a Scarborough five piece with a mean line in catchy riffs that don't just make your feet tap, they come straight out and shake your whole damn leg.

Their sound is somewhere between Van Halen and Bon Jovi, but their true strength comes in the way Jim and Bruce Dickson (no relation) integrate keyboards and guitar like I thought only Deep Purple could.

With songs that are clean, guttzie

and presented by the most instantaneous and (dare I say it) perfect bands I've ever seen, there is only one direction for this band!

After all that, Tesla were a let down. Although their songs are strong and presented in a manner that would make *The Scorpions* very flattered, it lacked the spark that makes a gig something special.

Despite having an uneasy vocalist and a PAW on guitar, the musicianship was faultless and at times inspiring, the best moments coming where they cranked it down for tracks such as *We're no good together* and *Modern Day Cowboy*.

On the whole, Tesla were a band whose music grows on you and perhaps given, a few listens, I might have enjoyed the show as much as the rest of the crowd.

David Williams

FALL OUT THEATRE GROUP
presents

Galaxy's Guide to Survival

Thursday 28th May

7.30pm

Holland Club Function Room

Folk music in the main
bar area—to follow

*(During the performance the BBC will be filming
some sequences for the BBC 2 Open Space
programme in the Quiet Room of the Club)*

IMPERIAL COLLEGE CONCERT BAND
presents

Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture

(with fake cannons and real bells)

Wednesday 27th May 1987

Queen's Tower

1.00pm

Imperial College

Also featuring:

Leonard Bernstein: Overture to Candide

Sammy Nestico: The Blues

Gustav Holst: Second Suite for Band

Utterly Free • Ridiculously Noisy

Totally Fabulastic • Everyone Welcome

RAG CAROL SINGING

Thursday 28th May
Meet 5.45pm Beit Arch

*Bring woolly hats and
scarves (don't worry
about anything else,
you'll swelter!)*

Flasher macs required

COLLEGE SUMMER SPECIAL BUFFET SUPPER

Tuesday June 16th 1987
Sherfield Building
Reception 7pm-7.30pm

*Free bucks fizz on the Queen's
Lawn (weather permitting)*

Dancing from 9pm onwards
Dinner 10.15pm till 11.30pm

Tickets

Students—£9.00 single
Staff—£10.00 single

Bar and wine bar

*Tickets available from 533
Sherfield and IC Union Office.*

REWARD

Given to anyone who
picked up a gold chain at
the Rag Party on Saturday
9th May. It has a lot of
sentimental value.

Please contact me on ext
3500 or IC Union Office.

*Thanks,
Kathy Tait,
Union Receptionist*

CHILDMINDERS WANTED

Do you know anyone who lives near College and
would like to be a paid childminder? Imperial
College Day Nursery particularly needs people to
provide daycare for babies for whom there is not
yet room in the nursery.

Applicants should contact Sue Thornett, Nurse in
Charge, Imperial College Day Nursery, 8 Prince's
Gardens, London SW7.

What's On

FRIDAY

Friday Prayer1.00pm.
Union Building. See Islamic Society.

MONDAY

Recitation of Holy Qur'an1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

Dai Rocking11.00pm.
IC Radio on 999kHz. The best in hard rock music thro' midnight including the featured album every week with David Williams. FREE!

TUESDAY

Prayer Meeting8.15am.
Union Upper Lounge. See Christian Union.

IC CathSoc Mass ..12.30pm.
Chemistry 231. Quiet and contemplation between lectures or exams. Food provided (50p). All welcome.

Holy Qur'an Recitation1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. All standards Welcome.

OpSoc Tour Rehearsal7.30pm.
53 Princes Gate. See OpSoc.

Nigel on the Wireless9.00pm.
IC Radio, 301m, 999kHz. Make tea, not love. Rather a screw loose than a loose screw. Free.

WEDNESDAY

Explanation of Holy Qur'an1.00pm.
9 Prince's Gardens. Talk given by Dr Darsh. See Islamic Society.

IC Gay Okay12.30pm.
Green Committee Room, Top Floor of the Union Building. See Andrew Bannister.

THURSDAY

Ski Club12.45pm.
Above Southside Bar. Come and collect any ground hire money owed to you from last term's ski lessons.

Science Fiction Society1.00pm.

Green Committee Room, Union Building. Anarchy, occasional events, use of the library, find out what we're doing in the weeks to come. Free to members

Science Fiction Things1.00pm.

Green Committee Room, Union Building. The BBC epic "Hordes of Things"—serialised at SFSoc every thursday. All this and the library too. Free to members.

Judo6.30pm.
Union Gym. Beginners Welcome.

Gay/Lesbian Group ..7.30pm.
ULU Building, Malet Street. Mens group room 3a, womens group room 2e. Meet weekly for speakers and booze.

Soup Run9.15pm.
Weeks Hall Basement. FREE. See Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCG).

● **Wine Tasting II**—the sequel. Just when you thought it was safe to go out on Tuesday evenings. Tuesday 26th SCR, be there else we'll send Simon round to talk in your room.

● **ArtSoc End of Year Dinner**—Monday, 15th June. If you would like to go sign up on the list on the notice board. Any suggestions for a venue would be greatly appreciated.

● **Learn your Urinal Ballistics** and stop p....g on the floor. Beit Hall HB 1st Floor.

● **Fall Out Theatre Production**—'Starwars Guide to the Galaxy'. Thurs 28th May 7.30pm in Holland Club. BBC2 to be filming sequences for an Open Space programme. Entry free.

● **The Railway Children** The Africa Centre with special guests the Walltones and DJ Wendy May. Doors Open 8pm. £4 (adv) £4.50 (on the night).



Guilts motor club on Friday

ACCOMMODATION

● **Earl's Court**, flat-share. Large double bedroom in nice flat, 1 min Earl's Court tube, 74 bus outside door, £271 per calendar month. Available now. Contact Cameron (int 3670) at 8.30/9.00am.

● **Flat** for 1 or 2 people available from June 28th to Sept 10th only. 1 min from High St Ken Tube. £40 p/w plus bills. Contact C Oxley (Mech Eng UG pigeonholes, 01-373 8714 flat 12) or A Gelder (Chem Eng UG pigeonholes, 01-373 1736 (flat 7)).

PERSONAL

● SZKKB YRIGSWZB MRTVO

● "How was that then?" "Beautiful, Tony!"

● **Q:** What's 5 foot 8 inches tall and has a 6 foot prick?

● **A:** Astrid.

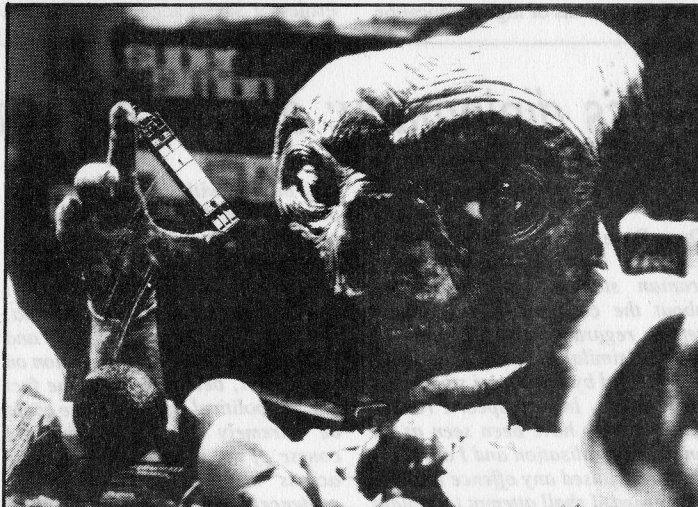
● **Mike & "The Witch"**—Congratulations, publicity was excellent. Thanks for all the effort. Love ICSO.

● **Tony Neal**—where is he now?

● **Two places** left in voyage to the Dyke (offa's) on 13th June. "Ride a tortoise back through medieval castles and savour the flavour of the Dark Ages". Apply Humphrey D'Umfraville c/o his FELIX collection box. (Don't plague Dave Jones).

LOST & FOUND

● **Lesley Drake** lost something in Stan's on Friday night? It's in Sheffield Security.



Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Ski Club** members collect any money owed to you, from last term's ski lessons on Thursday, 12.45pm, above Southside Bar. It's your last chance!

● **City & Guilds Colours.** Nominations to S Corns, c/o Guilds Office by 22nd May. 50 words on why nominee should be awarded colours.

● **Learn** to control your bladder, Beit Hall, 1st Floor. The smell and mess is getting unbearable.

● **Big Wines**—Back by popular demand the Wine Tasting Society presents (in glorious red and white and monotone sounds)...wines from the New World. £2.00 Tuesday 26th Union SCR. 6.00pm.

● **I'm looking** for an experienced electronics enthusiast to help build Kinetic Art and Empathic Art working models. All expenses will be paid. Contact Amardeep Cheema on 928 8322 (daytime) or 898 4228 (evenings).



UGA for Pub Board chair

Publication Board Chair Chris Martin and former Recreational Clubs Committee Chair Tim Palmer were awarded Union General Awards at Tuesdays AGM. The UGA is the highest award which ICU makes and is normally given for outstanding



Publications Board Chair

service to the Union over a period of three years. Making the awards, Union President Christine Taig said both Mr Martin and Mr Palmer had supported the Union and helped in the running of the Union Office. Other recipients of UGAs were ICU Deputy President Jackie Pierce, Hon Sec Dave Colley and FELIX Editor David Jones. Ms Taig was awarded a UGA at the last meeting of IC Union Council.

—NEWS IN BRIEF—

Platform for all

Freedom of speech is guaranteed to any guest speakers of Imperial College Union societies as from next year. Section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act, entitled "Freedom of speech in universities, polytechnics and Colleges", comes into effect on September 1st 1987. Under this Act, any person or group of people involved in governing such an institution has the duty to ensure, as far as "reasonably possible", that no-one is denied the use of any premises of the establishment on grounds connected with their beliefs or views. The University may still act on advice from the police that the holding of a meeting is likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and speeches inciting violence or racial hatred are still unlawful.

All institutions of higher education

have to draw up orders of practice to help them prevent a disruption of controversial meetings.

IC's draft version names the College Secretary, John Smith, as the man in charge of arrangements for any such meeting.

Sour grapes

The proposed merger with St Mary's Hospital Medical School was supported by a large majority at a meeting of the Board of Studies on May 6th. However, opposition to the merger was expressed by Professor Sayers, Head of the Department of Computing and Dean of City & Guilds College. He said that the merger would make Imperial a more average institution, jeopardise its existing links with the medical world and could lead to financial embarrassment for the College. Professor Sayers added that he would

prefer a form of association rather than a merger with SMHMS, in such a way that academic benefits could be gained without taking the risks inherent in amalgamation.

Rise and shine

Students in some departments may be faced with lectures at 8.30am next October. The College's Development Planning Group are looking into the "regionalisation of use of lecture theatres". As from October, departments will be trying to timetable most lectures for one undergraduate year in the afternoons, and, in general, use of lecture theatres and rooms will be timetabled on a regional basis. It is envisaged that 8.30am to 9.30am lectures may be required to provide additional flexibility. These measures are being considered as a revision of a College Plan which was approved in 1985 for a three year period.

Gross diplomacy; a letter from the President

Re: Annual Report—Iranian Students

Dear Dave,

I have been approached by an Iranian student who complained about the comment in my annual report regarding Iranian students facing "similar pressures" to those experienced by some Iraqi students at the College. In retrospect I realise that this may have been seen as an unfair generalisation and I am sorry if I have caused any offence to those concerned. I shall attempt to explain some of the background to my comment.

Throughout the year I have tried to support those Iraqi students at College who have been subject to any kind of interference from their Government with their activity and study in this country. My involvement

was in line with current IC Union policy and at the request of a number of the students concerned. As I know little about the issues or organisations involved at the start of the year I checked through national media, Amnesty International, NUS and other student union documentation on the subject, being aware of the fact that the political issues at stake could be extremely complex. During the course of my investigations I came across much documentation and evidence relating to problems faced by some Iranian students. These may have been based on a different national situation but appeared to follow a similar pattern. It therefore came as no surprise to me to be approached by some Iranian students who, having heard of my involvement with Iraqi student issues, informed me

that they, too, had experienced problems. My remarks in the annual report were intended to acknowledge this rather than singling out one group and ignoring others. This may have been naive and misleading of me, in which case again I apologise. However I am unwilling to believe that I was misled by the Iranian students who spoke to me; and as long as any students of this Union have a genuine problem I will continue to support them.

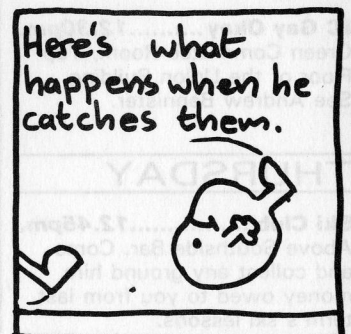
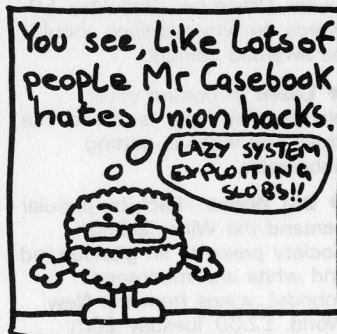
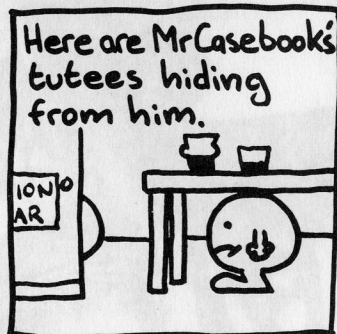
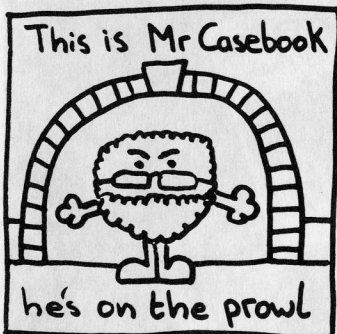
I hope this sheds some light on the matter which, I appreciate, is a delicate one. Incidentally I was happy to think that somebody actually got as far as page 4 of my Annual Report in the first place!

Yours,
Christine Taig

MR MEN

No 7.

Mr Casebook the Senior Tutor.



By Mark