



# Felix

The Newspaper Of Imperial College Union

Founded 1949

## IC rents hit roof

**Rents in College accommodation will rise by up to £5.00 from the start of next term. This will mean that students in Weeks, Linstead and Southside Halls will be paying over £35 per week for a single room.**

The rent increases were approved at the last meeting of the Student Residence Committee (SRC) on Wednesday. The new figures have been calculated by increasing the current rents by 5%, and then adding a figure of £3.50 to cover the costs of the ten new houses in Evelyn Gardens. There is likely to be a small adjustment to the rents for Weeks, Linstead and Southside to make the charge the same for all three Halls.

The substantial increases have been expected ever since the acquisition of the new houses in Evelyn Gardens looked likely. Though the new rents are a significant increase the College is hoping that they will still be good value for students, in anticipation of moves by a Conservative

Government, if returned, to scrap housing benefits for students in private accommodation. (Students living in College maintained Halls or Houses are already ineligible for Housing Benefit).

Subject to these final adjustments, rents in Weeks (presently £31.20), Southside (£30.00), and Linstead (£31.00 single not including the refectory service) will all rise by approximately £5.00. Rents for Beit Hall will be £32.90 for the New Hostel and £30.07 for the Old Hostel. In Garden Hall single, double and triple rooms will cost £29.02, £21.25, and £17.36 respectively. In Evelyn Gardens a single room in one of the upgraded houses will now cost £29.02 and a double room £21.25. For non-

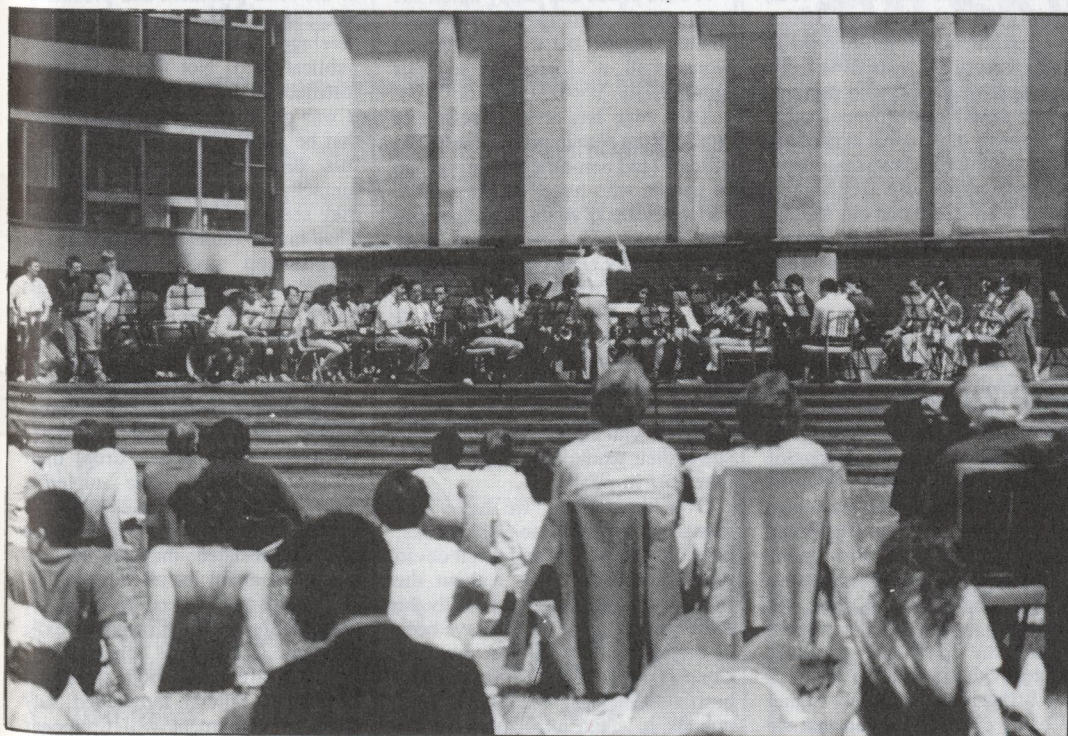
upgraded houses the rents will be £27.34 (single), £19.57 (double) and £15.68 (triple). In the new houses, recently purchased from the RCA, the rents will be £31.33 (single), £23.45 (double) and £17.15 (triple).

The wardenship of the new Evelyn Gardens Hostel was also discussed at length at the Students Residence Committee. Most members of the Committee, including current Evelyn Gardens wardens, are keen to see the new accommodation divided into two 'Houses' and two new wardens appointed. The alternative, which appears to have the backing of College administration, is to appoint only one warden, who would be a member of academic staff, and senior to the other wardens in Evelyn Gardens. College Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur submitted a paper to the meeting, supposedly outlining both sides of the argument. A version of this will go to the Rector's Policy

Committee under the signature of College Secretary John Smith. Most members of the Committee felt that this paper was biased in favour of the one warden option and will be drafting a fresh document for the Rector's Policy Committee, the Body which will make a final decision, though the Rector is not present himself.

Speaking to FELIX yesterday, Mr Arthur said that the College had to take a "wider view" than was represented at SRC and that it was essential to have a senior staff warden if he or she were to have overall control of 600 residents.

Earlier in the week Mr Arthur commented "I've never heard of a six-pack, I always buy mine in threes!" He went on to say "If Ian Howgate were David Owen it would increase my chances of voting Alliance."



IC orchestra, during their performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture on Wednesday

## Princess Anne launches LIVE-NET

Princess Anne officially opened the University of London's LIVE-NET system yesterday. LIVE-NET is an interactive video network allowing communication between any four of up to sixteen sites at one time. Presently linked to the LIVE-NET system are Imperial College, University College, Kings College, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Birkbeck, Queen Mary College, University of London Computer Centre and Senate House. Princess Anne spoke to academic staff, LIVE-NET staff, and students on each site, about the network. Prof Ernest Freeman of Electrical Engineering chaired the Imperial College contribution and Colin Grimshaw was in charge of the technical presentation.

## GaySoc Defended

Dear Dave,

Why are students at this College so paranoid about homosexuality? Homosexuality has always been present in our society and undoubtedly it will continue to be so. If we acknowledge or accept homosexuals as a part of our society will it corrupt us all? Are we going to become 'bent' because we hear a gay song, see a gay play, read a gay book or, my God, actually meet a gay person?

The establishment of a GaySoc at IC should be supported for 2 reasons:

1. It provides a supportive outlet for gay students to express themselves.

2. With time (centuries?) it should be seen by all IC students as just another society which caters for the interests of a minority (ArtSoc exists to give theatre-lovers the chance to 'come out' and say they *enjoy* going to see Shakespeare. Hopefully they are not classified as abnormal just because some IC student's idea of a good night out is 16 pints of lager, a vindaloo and a voluminous throw-up).

Since leaving the ignorant shores of Ireland (where, as you know, everybody lives in big happy families with at least 13 children and homosexuality does not even exist) I have been constantly shocked by reports of child abuse, wife-battering, rape within marriage, incest, child prostitution, paedophilia, abortion and divorce. These, Mr Thomis, are the horrifying threats to 'the family unit' in our society today, not homosexuality.

I hope to God that people of our age and education can see the difference between acts of sexual violence and expressions of sexuality.

*Yours sincerely,*

David Currey, Software Engineering (Chairman of ArtSoc)

## Prejudice Attacked

Dear Dave,

I would like to add my 2p-worth to the 'gay-rights' debate. People have prejudices. The mood around College at the moment is that these are in some way wrong—a sickness to be cured. I do not agree with this. People eat meals and enjoy them—but when they are told what was in it, they change their mind—a result of human prejudice. We all know what we find attractive in the people we meet—and

we all exercise our prejudices in sifting friends from our acquaintances. 'Homophobia' and racism are prejudices which are unpopular because most people cannot sympathise with them. However if a racist wishes to avoid the company of the races he dislikes then good for him, because to attempt to overcome his feelings would create tension and difficulties—and the same goes for 'homophobes'. When these people go out 'queer bashing' or 'nigger bashing' is when it all become abhorrent.

Open expression of prejudice is often damaging and hurtful, but the feelings themselves are not. The biggest mistake of the lot is to attempt to ignore or fight our prejudices.

*Andrew Allum  
Physics I*

## Procreation Revisited

Dear Dave,

The arguments over the rights and wrongs in the "gay rights" issue continue. We do at least seem to have some agreement that sex and love are different things and that it is possible for sexual desire to be inappropriate. It is surely true, I would add, that simply because we are in love with someone we cannot treat all possible resultant physical actions towards that person as true and appropriate expressions of our love; some can definitely be quite the opposite.

As I have argued before (May 15th) I certainly don't think the evaluation of the rightness or wrongness of anything (especially where there is dispute and we propose to publicly push our ideas) can proceed purely from the basis of personal experience without attempting to reasonably become a bit *more* 'sure' (ref Andrew Bannister May 22nd) that our feelings are good and ordered. Even (indeed especially) 'love' itself, if we really believe it is more than the meaningless result of some random atom barging, should not I think be let loose to be talked about and nurtured just in the context of the apparent 'instincts' of individuals.

Perhaps the sheer biological purpose of sex, that is for procreation (something very clearly acknowledged in the life cycles of the animal kingdom), is something we should bring into the discussion. Procreation is of course inherent to the survival of the special and so, for the evolutionists among us, this purpose explains the physical pleasure associated with sex. Human beings of course bring in the infinitely higher level of love, but in noting that we should also be careful to note that we can certainly beautifully express love and become very close to a person without having to use the particular

physical expression which is having sex with him/her/them (or even experiencing sexual desire—though it may, perhaps inappropriately and regrettably, force it's way in). Love does not depend upon any particular physical expression. Perhaps, then, we can see sex in the human species as, by design, an expression of love which wants to create (and so bring up) another person—a completely committed and totally unselfish love that is—crowned with the physical pleasure which is there, after all, because the act is that which procreates. Sex outside of this context, then, can become an untruth. A lack of love or of the procreative potential places the sexual pleasure outside of the context of what it means, of what it says.

If we really believe in the existence and value of human love and want to share true love I submit that some of the above considerations are relevant.

*Yours sincerely,*

Hugh MacKenzie, Civ Eng RA

## RCSU: Hacking Itself to Bits?

Dear Dave,

Sad though it is to have to air one's dirty laundry in public the question has to be asked. What has RCSU done to itself?

A once proud and happy union has been plummeted to the depths of shattered egos, petty bickering and worst of all, it's losing any sense of humour.

This year has seen a series of attacks from certain prominent RCSU officers (and non-officers) on a group of people who have, on the whole, had no means of reply. Their general good nature has meant that they haven't really been bothered and the attacks aren't really going to change their lives. However, what type of image is all this vitriolic backstabbing giving the RCSU; it's not exactly showing it to be a bundle of laughs is it? Who is going to get involved with a group of people who spend their whole time slagging each other off in public?

Over the months we have seen numerous attacks on so called hacks, both old and new. Can I point out to these 'non-hacks' that without the support of these people, especially the older variety, there would have been no drivers for Rag Tour, the Smoking Concert would have lost some of its best acts, their would have been nobody to clean after many of the major events of the year. Many of these people were the ones who kept the 1,000,001 darts going and Jez would have stayed in her garage until

after Easter if it wasn't for them. I could go on but what's the point? The people who have initiated this hate campaign are set in their ways, they've got it into their minds from somewhere that 'hacks' are a bad idea. It's pointless explaining what has been there to be seen by anyone who cared enough to look the controversy over.

"Not Broadsheet" is just another example of the way the life blood of RCSU is blackening. Over a number of years, the helpers on Broadsheet have produced the occasional spoof-issue, the purpose of which has been just for a little fun at the end of the year.

Some of us, this year, decided it would be quite a novel surprise to ask one of the most notable of the recent past editors to edit this special edition. Given the noticeable absence this term, of Broadsheet, it was felt that a number of things had to be said before many students disappeared after/before exams. The publication wasn't meant to offend; quite the contrary, it went out of its way to praise the official editor. As to whether the principle was constitutional, the content of Broadsheet is at the (official) editor's discretion, and thus not at her dictate.

It is appreciated that some of the material was controversial, however, if a publication goes out of its way not to offend anyone, it soon becomes very stagnant and obviously boring. Because a number of people on IC Council share a particular belief, it is automatically assumed that other groups with opposing points of view should keep silent, and that any mention of such opinions is strictly taboo. I don't believe this to be true.

Having read this week's official Broadsheet and heard the judgements of the RCS president and president-elect, and also having talked to many 'average' students, I believe the publication of Not Broadsheet was justified. In fact general support for it was positive, perhaps the powers that be should think carefully about this discontinuity. The current hierarchy promised to change RCSU, they seem to be doing quite nicely. That much vaunted war-horse, the constitution says RCSU should "promote social intercourse between students", and also ex-students. The only change that has been brought is sadly towards social discourse.

The spirit of RCSU is slipping fast. The political bullshit should be left to ICU etc. Why can't those who are involved with RCSU drop their mission to change the universe, because they'll never do it, they just need to relax and enjoy what there is to be appreciated, they are missing out on an awful lot of fun.

There should indeed be room for both camps to be allowed to exist together. If everyone continues the way they are going, both sides will become so bitterly entrenched, any spirit of enjoyment will disappear forever, and RCS will have died—please don't do that!

*Yours sincerely,*

David H Williams

# Felix

## Rent increases and loans      Sending the boys round

It has been clear for some time that students in College residences would be facing substantial rent increases next year, partly as a result of the acquisition of the new Evelyn Gardens Houses. It is difficult to see how any non-sponsored student can possibly get by on a London grant less rent of £35 for 31 weeks, yet alone higher rents in the private sector. This is the sort of situation that can make a low-interest loan scheme seem attractive. Since nearly all students are in debt anyway, a formalised loan system would provide much greater financial stability during three or four years of undergraduate study. Eventually, unless the present Government is removed, students will be dependent upon loans, whether or not the means-tested grant is abolished. Personally, I will never understand why tertiary education, like all other levels, should not be free to everyone, or to all those who have the ability to benefit.

This year the Print Unit has done more private work for Union clubs than ever before, and, strangely enough, we have sent out more invoices than ever before. Our rates are such that FELIX gets practically no financial benefit from a lot of the smaller jobs, whereas quite a lot of time is absorbed typesetting, pasting-up and finishing. With only a month to go to the end of the year there are still a lot of clubs who have outstanding bills which are long overdue. If their bills are not settled quickly there will be no further work done in the Print Unit for any of the offending clubs—and this policy will be continued by next year's Editor. It is just not worth going to the trouble to get printing work done for people who leave a £10 invoice unpaid for 10 months, despite reminders. I am going to publish a full list of bad debtors next week, and it is almost certain to be headed by RCSU.



### An apology

I should like to extend a very sincere apology to

## Steve Flower

for omitting his name from the end of his Annual Report (SCAB Chairman) which we printed earlier this term. This was entirely my fault, and not at all related to the fact that he did not turn up to collate.

### Credits

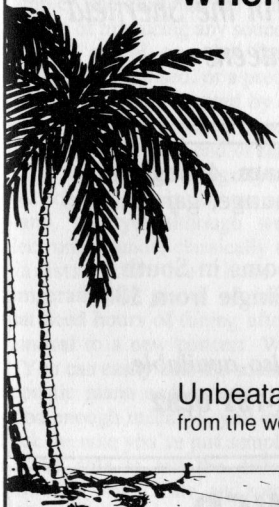
Many thanks to Judith Hackney, Pippa Salmon, Dave Williams, Chris Edwards, David Burns, Chris Martin, Chas Jackson, Steve Kilmurray, Andy Bannister, Kamala Sen, Sunny Bains Christine Taig, Hugh Southey, Al Birch, Steve Gutteridge, Rachel Black, Sarah Kirk, Nigel Atkinson, Rose Atkins and Steve Shackell. There is a staff meeting today to discuss deadlines for the final issue of term.

David Jones

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# I'd rather have a cup of tea

It occurs to me that there are only about three issues of FELIX left to go before the end of the year. Only three more ever-receding deadlines to meet, only three more chances to provoke a bit of hate-mail (it's been a bit thin on the ground recently). So here goes...

Last Thursday as I was crossing Beit Quadrangle early in the afternoon I happened to witness the "initiation ceremony" of 'Links' the all-male tie club of City and Guilds. Various people were hopping round the quad, drinking pints of beer in one go and sometimes bringing them straight back up again. As I watched one particular specimen, wearing only a jock-strap, heaving his guts up over a bush, it occurred to me that although I've seen this sort of thing several times during my four years at Imperial, I still fail to understand why this particular group of students feel they have the right to impose such disgusting and anti-social behaviour on the rest of the College community. If there is anyone who finds this kind of thing justifiable perhaps they would be so good as to enlighten me.

Whilst on the subject of organised alcohol abuse; earlier in the year I was

invited to the annual dinner of another well-established social club by a very dear friend. I went along and enjoyed the company and the food, but found the evening dominated by the obsession with alcohol. People stood on chairs to drink 'penalty pints' whilst the assembled company cheered and jeered. The climax of the evening came when the president of the club drank three pints of beer "down-in-one" from the three-handled pot. This feat was regarded with considerable admiration, it was also followed by the inevitable consequences. Needless to say, by the end of the night, various bits of the Union Building bore witness to the fact that many stomachs could not cope with the abuse they had been put through.

Of course organised drinking is not just a feature of the Links and Diggers clubs but is prevalent in many organisations throughout College. Many of these groups have their positive sides, promoting friendship and doing worthwhile work, but the negative side can't be ignored.

I still fail to understand it. Alcohol is a drug and a poison. Many people, including myself, choose to use it and

occasionally may abuse it. It is quite probable that a lot of people at Imperial are dependent on alcohol without realising it. (If you drink a few pints regularly, this could include you.) Is institutionalising the regular, systematic abuse of a drug like this really acceptable? Surely if an individual wishes to poison themselves with alcohol that's their problem—until it makes them offensive to other people in which case a serious re-think is called for. Making it acceptable—and even desirable—for people to push themselves to the limits of their tolerance of the drug, on a regular, organised basis, seems irresponsible to say the least. Call me a hypocrite if you like, but I feel that there's a world of difference between

individuals having a drink together and a club which includes systematic alcohol abuse in its constitution.

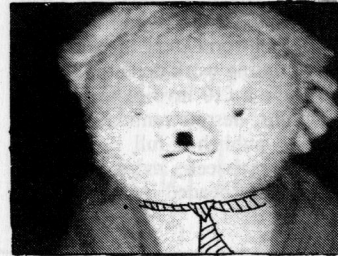
When I was eight or nine my friends and I formed a succession of clubs with entry conditions and initiation ceremonies of varying degrees of silliness. However for sheer mindless stupidity some of the things I have seen here outclass my childish antics by at least a factor of ten.

I make no apology for saying things which have been said before. It's an opinion which is highly unpopular in some quarters; but it's one which has been re-inforced by a year around the Union Building, seeing, again and again, how appalling the effects of alcohol can be.

#### On a different note

We're still looking for individuals and societies to help out at the 'Family Day' on June 21st. If anyone has ideas or can spare some time to help out at this 'carnival' for staff, students and their families, to be held on the Queen's Lawn, come and see me for details.

*That's it for now,  
Christine*



## UNION BAR

# END OF TERM BASH

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For those of you who found Chris Edward's 'Art of Noise' feature interesting, a sequel on samplers follows:

A sampler uses similar technology to a CD player, although samplers usually use 12 bit resolution for storing sounds in RAM with floppy disk backup, rather than 16 bit from an optical disk, and remember only a few minutes of sound at best, rather than over an hour for CDs. In the sampler, the musician has a machine capable of producing any sound at all, whether a real one that has been inputted and digitised, or a pseudoreal one that has been created by setting up the 'waveform RAM' manually. So are samplers the end of the line?

By far the most eagerly sought electronic clone is for an acoustic piano, and yet although we have electronic pianos, classically trained pianists still use those huge temperamental pieces of furniture that need hours of tuning after each removal to a new concert. Why?

You can easily take the sound of an acoustic piano and sample it. On a good enough machine, you can play back the note you've just sampled and not be able to tell the difference. However, play a scale, and something odd results. The sampler plays other notes simply by playing back the waveform data at different speeds, so two octaves up, your sound is four times shorter than the original. Also, it sounds nothing like a piano would at that pitch. The "Mickey Mouse Effect" normally restricts single samples to a range of an octave at the most. The solution is to use a multi-sample, where you sample the piano at several pitches, and cross-fade the different recordings as you play up the

sampler's keyboard. You're starting to talk big memory here, especially if you sample all 88 notes, as you need to for true fidelity. So you play 'Moonlight Sonata' and it still sounds nothing like a piano. The reason why the piano caught on in the first place, and got its name 'pianoforte', was because of its wide range of dynamic expression. OK, so your sampler has a 'velocity responsive' keyboard; programming the thing so that a hard pressed key=loud, and a soft depression=quiet only slightly alleviates the problem. Actually of course, pressing the key harder on a piano changes the waveform too. Suppose you now sample a piano at all 88 notes, and at 256 different key velocities. Your impersonation now begins to take in all but those who play a piano every day, but you've used many GIGabytes of memory, and you still haven't taken into account the waveform changes of the 'loud' and 'soft' pedals, or the interesting resonances within the casing. As you can see, there's a long long way to go before you'll convince Ashkenazy to "Go Electronic"!

Similar problems exist with other instrument clones. A snare-drum's waveform alters depending on how hard you hit it, where you hit it, and when you last hit it. A saxophone's waveform varies with air pressure, and the lip cheek control of the player. Even if you could take all this into account, you still couldn't generate that expression from a sampler keyboard, so why not play a real one? Or better still, use a saxophone to control expression on the sampler, as AKAI's new product does.

One point worth mentioning—how

# BIT PARTS

does today's pop star use samplers? Of the alternatives, they can:

- 1) Create their own unique sounds. Generally they're either too thick, or haven't time, to do this.
- 2) Hire someone else to do it; as on 'Slave to the Rhythm', which was programmed by Steve Lipson, Trevor Horn's programmer.
- 3) Go round with a Walkman, recording real but unusual sounds to sample back at home. This can be most effective and original. Depeche Mode's 'Black Celebration' is a showcase for this technique.
- 4) Use libraries; this is what most people do. All the major sampler makers, (E-mu, KORG, Ensoniq, AKAI, Roland, Sequential) produce libraries of sounds on disks. It's so easy. Just boot them up, and you've got the result of someone's days slaving over a computer. Unfortunately, you've also got a one-way ticket for the express train to predictability; you sound like everyone else. The success of Oberheim's DPX-1, which can't create new samples, but plays back disks from other samplers shows what most musicians want.
- 5) Nick sounds from records or CD's; Illegal of course, but then who hasn't broken the copyright act at one time? 'Simon Le Rhodes' hears a great bass sound on the radio, goes out and buys the CD, samples it, and in 5 minutes, he's using it on his next demo.

● **Richard Fincher samples the problems with impersonating pianos.**

Finally, if you're at all interested in sound sampling, go to Tottenham Court Road and ask for a demo of the Casio SK-1. It's still amazing what a less-than-£100 'toy' can do!

*Richard Fincher*

# The Ash Interview

Imperial College's Mr Big, press baron David Jones, takes time out from a crowded schedule to share a cup of coffee with the Rector, Professor Eric Ash

**FELIX:** *You've been involved in various projects to raise money for the College. One of these has been to make efforts to contact the College alumni. How successful do you think this has been so far, and how much revenue do you think will be raised from the project?*

**Prof Ash:** We have not so far attempted to raise any money from our alumni. The exercise so far has been to try to find out who they are, where they live, and to determine whether they are in any sense interested in the College. I might say that one of the people I wrote to wrote back, said that he'd read between the lines, and enclosed a cheque for £50, which we have since framed in the Alumnus Office as the first contribution which has reached us. However, in the future I do very much hope that the alumni will support the College in all sorts of ways including financial.

**FELIX:** *The College is trying to recruit more to more overseas students to help improve the College balance. Do you think there is any possibility that the College will need to do this at the expense of home students, particularly in the light of the tightening accommodation situation?*

**Prof Ash:** There is no danger at all of us supplanting home students by foreign students, indeed one of the things that concerns me is that for several years we have under-recruited home students by something like 10%, and I regard that as one of the most important items on our agenda; to improve our performance in recruiting really bright home students. I believe that we would be able to absorb a modest additional number of overseas students. Our target at the moment is to go up to 1300 students—there are just over a thousand students at present.

The accommodation business is extremely serious. At the moment we are able to promise first-year students accommodation in College-owned property of one sort or another, and we will be able to stick to that whatever happens. In the past we have been able to promise, even now we are still able to promise one year in College-owned

accommodation for first year overseas students going on to postgraduate courses. That promise is at risk. It really all depends on how rapidly we can acquire new accommodation. I would very much like to be able to sustain that promise, but I'm not absolutely sure that we will be able to do so. Top priority must go to first-year undergraduates.

**FELIX:** *If the College finally settles the deal for the houses in Evelyn Gardens, is this going to alleviate the problem and enable us to meet these guarantees for the immediate future?*

**Prof Ash:** It would be an enormous help in that direction. That is one of the most cheerful things that have happened in recent times, and I applaud the very constructive reaction we have had from ICU in enabling us to finance it. There is no way we could have done it without their cooperation.

**FELIX:** *One thing you have expressed a commitment to, during your time at IC, is improving teaching standards in many departments. Do you feel there has been any perceptible change in the last two years?*

**Prof Ash:** Let me start by saying that I do not believe that teaching standards at Imperial College were particularly low. On the whole teaching standards are high, were high when I came, and academic staff regarded this as a very serious commitment. Nonetheless, in any organisation where you aim at the highest possible standards in research as well as teaching, there is going to be a certain amount of tension between these different types of duty which make up the academic career. I believe that we have been able to put a good deal of increased emphasis on the importance of excellence in teaching. In particular the committee under Professor David Blow has been examining this from all possible angles, and has made a whole series of suggestions, some of which have been implemented, some of which we are about to implement, which I believe will make a very major difference.

**FELIX:** *Just before Easter it was announced that the Governing Body was intending to axe 100 jobs from the College, throughout all departments (including administration). What has been the response of the campus unions to this suggestion, and is there any indication yet as to whether any jobs will have to go through compulsory redundancies?*

**Prof Ash:** We are not at this stage considering compulsory redundancies. We do need to lose something like 100 posts out of the 2000 that we have in the College at the moment; we expect that this will be achieved within a year or two by people not filling vacancies as they arise, by people taking early retirement and by people resigning to go to other jobs.

**FELIX:** *Do you think the tension between aspects of an academic's life at Imperial will be increased as the Government puts more strain on universities through reduced funding; will this cause IC to concentrate more on improving itself as a research centre, and do you think this situation is likely to change depending on the result of the General Election?*

**Prof Ash:** Well, there is a whole series of questions there. The first thing to say is that the universities are indeed under pressure. Imperial College has been put under pressure, perhaps particularly because we were allowed to enjoy a very favourable student-staff ratio until a couple of years ago. Because we no longer have this favourable student staff ratio, the financial provisions that we have had from the UGC have been less favourable than one would have expected in view of the world-recognised eminence of Imperial College. I might say that Oxford and Cambridge have been hit by exactly the same problem. I believe that we are going to be under continuing pressure; my personal belief is that this will not change very much with whatever new administration we will face in a few weeks time. I know that some of my colleagues would disagree with me on

that, but that is my reading of the situation. I do have my own favourite, I have to admit, but I don't think it's going to make a first order difference. I do believe that we will have to re-think our role to a considerable extent, and certainly one of the pressures on academic staff which is very evident right here and now is that whereas we can still get adequate funding for our research, it is taking a larger percentage of everybody's time and energy to secure that funding. I see that problem as a continuing problem and as a partial answer we will have to get more efficient in the way in which we produce contract proposals and research grant proposals and we will have to consider spreading our proposals to agencies and industries which we would not previously have considered.

**FELIX:** *You've expressed an interest in student loan schemes; these have been resisted by most student bodies over the past few years. How do you feel a loan scheme could benefit undergraduate students, and is there a possibility that students selecting a course would be forced to go for ones which were vocational, and, therefore likely to enable repayment of a loan as quickly as possible?*

**Prof Ash:** The first thing to say is that I'm not myself in favour of a loan scheme if there is in fact a good alternative. The second thing you've got to be very clear about is that you don't mix up the Rector with Her Majesty's Government. I think we have to look at the loan scheme as something which is imposed by Government, and not really something going to be given the weight which I think it deserves. Here, of course, we are making a judgement as to what happens at the election; let's assume for the moment that the same administration continues and that the committee set up by the Prime Minister, under the chairmanship of George Balden, will report their findings on the loan scheme; they have not reported so far and it has been clear for some considerable time that they would not do so before an election. I believe that some

of the fears you express are real, I believe that the intention of the Government is to be more dirigiste than any Government has been so far in higher education, that there will therefore be a tendency to increase the number of students in the sciences and engineering. To some extent, as long as this trend doesn't go too far, I think one can see a certain amount of sense in it. The country can make a great deal of use of applied scientists who are competent, but perhaps not particularly brilliant at their work, whereas the use you can make of people who have gone through a degree in the arts, and who are fairly average, is really very limited. Up to a point some of this funnelling of talent in to the sciences is not entirely a mistake; what worries everyone is the extent to which this will be pushed, and the extent to which the universities will lose control, and the extent to which the people who want to study will lose control over what they are able to do.

**FELIX:** *Do you feel there is a danger also that, as universities strengthen their ties with industry, education will have to move too far towards what is demanded by big industrial sponsors?*

**Prof Ash:** I think that danger exists, I believe it can be resisted; I believe that we can resist the tendency to go too far towards developmental types of research. It has always been fairly easy for elite research teams to get money. The trick is to get money to do what you want to do in any case, and I believe that we will be able to do that.

**FELIX:** *A recent Board of Studies meeting minuted that, due to a shortage of space, some departments might need to introduce 8.30am lectures. Do you see this as a definite possibility?*

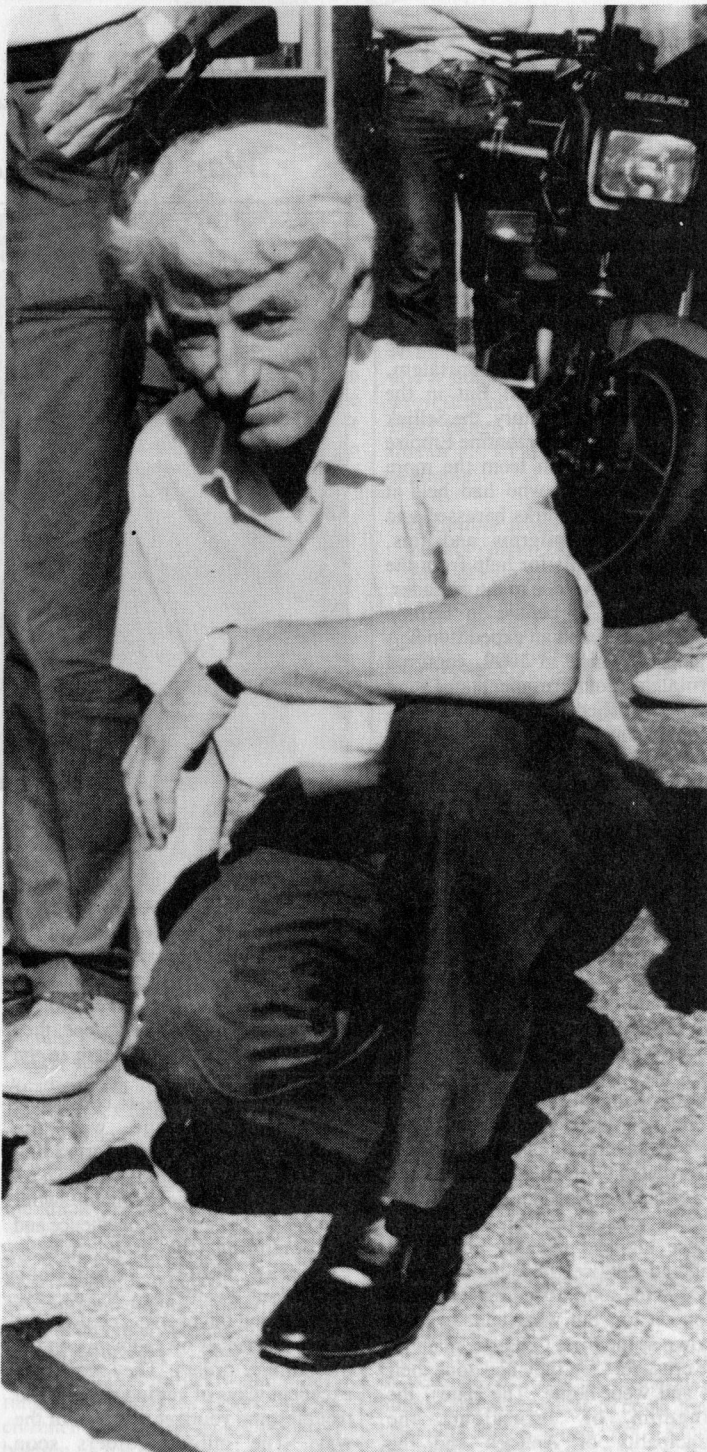
**Prof Ash:** I do see it as a possibility and I believe that it will be less unpopular than you might think at first sight. It's hard to get out of bed for a 9.30 lecture; it is actually no harder to get out of bed in time for an 8.30 lecture. It's purely a matter of putting the alarm clock one hour earlier. Moreover if you have to commute, as some of our students do, it is actually much more comfortable to commute in time for an 8.30 class than a 9.30 class. What I think is needed is something like the American universities provide, and incidentally an early class in America is 7.00am, a medium starting time is 8.00am and a late class is 9.00am. I believe that the essential requirement is to have a vat of coffee available and I think that that is the initiative that Departments should take when they schedule lectures for 8.30.

**FELIX:** *Few IC students know very much about the Technology Centre which is being set up at Silwood Park.*

*Could you first of all tell us a little bit about that, and is it likely to affect the College budget?*

**Prof Ash:** Well it is first and foremost an attempt to provide an interface between the research at Imperial College and the outside world. It is, amongst other things, a place where small

to return funds to the College as an excess of funds accumulate. I believe that in time it will have a positive impact on our budget, but quite apart from that I also think that it will provide a better interface between ourselves and industry and will lead to indirect benefits which may in fact be very much larger than those direct benefits.



companies that people within Imperial College would like to set up can start their existence in a kind of sheltered environment. I believe that, in the fullness of time, the College will indeed benefit. This Science Park within Silwood Park has been set up by starting a company called Impel. Impel is not meant to make a profit, but it is meant

**FELIX:** *After eighteen months in the job of Rector, what do you feel have been your major achievements and do you find the job frustrating in that the administration is cumbersome and it takes a long time to get anything into practice.*

**Prof Ash:** Let's start with the second

part of your question; do I find the job frustrating? I would say about two thirds of the time, yes. The problem is not just administration; I do believe that universities are intensely conservative places, and there is a reluctance to change both at the strategic and at the tactical level. In this respect Imperial College is no exception. I think my other frustration has been the great difficulty of communicating with the academic staff. The students have a good communications medium in FELIX, there is nothing that corresponds to that for the College as a whole. There was such a thing; it got axed some years back as a result of one of the earlier cuts; I intend to reinstate it; we hope to have a first issue of a new College journal sometime in the fall. As to what I've achieved since I've been here, I think it's very hard to point to anything very much. I believe that we are well on the way to getting a better structure for interfacing with industry, and here the arrival of Dr David Thomas has made an enormous difference.

I believe that we've made a good start at communicating with our alumni; the culmination of that first phase will be Alumnus Day on 7th July. I believe that we are well on the way to agreeing the merger with St Mary's Hospital Medical School. I'm very enthusiastic about that particular development. The stage it has reached is that we have the enthusiastic support of the Board of Studies. The final stage will be to obtain the agreement of the Governing Body on June 19th, and I am confident that that will be forthcoming.

Can I make one further comment?

**FELIX:** *Certainly.*

**Prof Ash:** I'd like to say something about FELIX. I think FELIX is a very good journal. I think it really does serve its primary role of communications between the officers of the Union and their constituents. I believe that it tends to be too inward-looking. There is just a little too much by way of jokes about the officers and things which really are not likely to be of enormous interest to more than about five percent of the students. I do think that opportunities for looking at the role of Imperial College in the country at large is something that one could with advantage develop. There's one specific thing which I would really wish to urge on the Editor of FELIX, this year's and next year's, and that is never again to accept anonymous letters. I think they are diabolical, even if the name is supplied to the Editor. This is a free society; I really do not accept that any student needs to have any fear of the consequences of writing what he or she firmly believes to FELIX. I believe that they should do so over their own signatures.

# Leave It Alone

Will the person who continuously removes posters/notices from the Appropriate Technology notice board in the Union foyer please refrain from doing so. You might not agree with the Society or its aims but please respect our opinions and publicity.

*Yours,  
Hugh Rubin, Ap-Tech Chair*

# Opsoc refuse to do Gilbert & Sullivan Shocker

Good morning everyone, and good luck with your exams.

Yes, OpSoc has returned to you from the grave where we were all lying dead after the Marathon. This act of charitable stupidity lasted 29 hours altogether; aaaaah. (And that's what the singing sounded like by the end).

We will not, however, stop because of tiredness. On the second day after the Marathon we had our first rehearsal for *Patience*, the show we are taking on tour to Budleigh Salterton for a fortnight this summer. There is a separate membership fee for tour, and as there are no auditions for members of the chorus, why don't you come along each Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Music Room 53 Prince's Gate.

There is also an event arriving soon which is open to the rest of you fools who aren't members of this splendid club; two visits to see the English National Opera. We are getting seats in the Upper Circle at £10.50. The productions we intend to see are:

Sat 13th June 7pm—*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk-Shostakovich*

Thur June 18th 7.30pm, *Orpheus in the Underworld-Offenbach*

If enough people come to see *Orpheus*, we may get a reduction on the seat prices as it is one of their 'party' days (no hats provided); so all of you out there contact **P Murphy, Civ Eng I** by June 2nd, (I'm passing the buck again).

See you at rehearsals, (by the way, Oscar has promised to buy a drink for the first person on the trip who knows how to say Mtsensk).

# In the sweltering heat of the Holy Land thousands died in the taking of Jerusalem. A war to change the face of Europe forever—just 700 years after the event FELIX brings you all the news on the Crusades.

# Just Another Knight

*War Correspondent, Francis Myers*

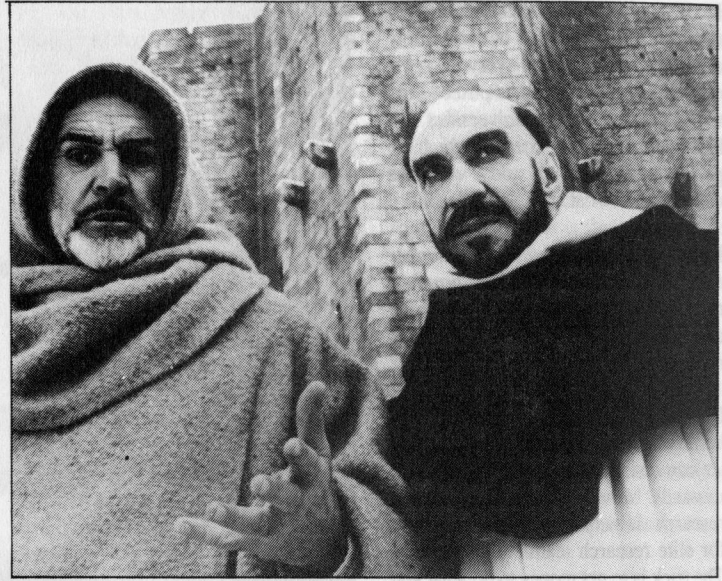
In the 11th Century, it was fashionable in Europe to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. It was a long and difficult journey, but the route there was kept open by the Byzantine Empire and the Moslems, who held Jerusalem, tolerated the pilgrims. But in the second half of the century, the Seljuk Turks invaded the Byzantine Empire and took Jerusalem from the more tolerant Moslems who had held it previously. The Turks harassed and maltreated the pilgrims and this, coupled with calls for help from the Byzantines, gave rise to the crusades.

Thousands of people in Europe took the cross and an expedition was organised which in 1099, captured Jerusalem. Four crusader states were thus established in the Holy Land.

Who went on crusade and why did they do it? Firstly, a great number of common people took the cross mainly out of genuine religious zeal, but there were other factors: Life for common people in Europe at the time was very grim. The vast majority were peasants who were at the mercy of a harvest that regularly failed, and of private wars between the barons in which their crops were burned, their hovels raided and their relatives carried off into slavery or simply murdered. The other main group who went crusading were the lesser nobility. Though religion also played a part, they went to get new lands in the East. They were mainly the younger sons of great barons who were unlikely to succeed to any lands in Europe. Indeed, many of the crusaders were Normans, whose kin had recently conquered England for precisely that reason.

Once the four crusading states had been set up, but what later became known as the First Crusade, many of the crusaders felt they had done their bit and went home. The states, the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Principality of Antioch and the counties of Tripoli and Edessa, had to be defended with a very small number of men. To do this, the crusaders built many castles. Since the lack of water and the heat of the East made it difficult to keep armies in the field for long, siege warfare was very important and the walled cities and castles were thus more formidable and bigger than those in Europe.

The Land Beyond the Sea or



Outremer, as it was called in medieval French, was always short of men. Few enough had stayed in the Holy Land after the first crusade, but the shortage was aggravated by the fact that the crusaders knew little about sanitation, and while they could get away with their habits in Europe, they died of every kind of disease in the heat of the East.

One of the ways used to combat the manpower shortage was the foundation early on in crusading history of the military orders. These were religious order of knights sworn to poverty, chastity and obedience and to defending the holy places. European nobles, rather than undertaking the difficulty and expense of crusading themselves, could salve their consciences by endowing one of the military orders. They were also excellent ways of getting restless and troublesome younger sons out of the way. The military orders soon became rich, with assets all over Europe as well as in Outremer. The main orders were the Templars and Hospitallers. It is from the Templars that the well known image of the knight with a red cross on a white surcoat originated. The Hospitallers were a white cross on black. Sometime after the foundation of the Templars and Hospitallers, German crusaders, who felt that these orders were dominated too much by the

French, founded a third order, the Teutonic Knights

The history of civilisation goes back a lot further in the Levant than in Europe, and when the crusaders first arrived, they were regarded as uncultured barbarians even by the native Christians whom they had liberated from Moslem rule. Moreover, the native Christians who had been living in the Holy Land since the time of Christ followed a slight different creed from the crusaders and this added to the friction.

The precariousness of their situation meant that the crusading states could not last long. In 1187 the Moslems under Aaladin recaptured Jerusalem after the disastrous battle of Hattin. This finished the Kingdom of Jerusalem after only eighty-eight years. It provoked the Third Crusade, which though it failed to recover Jerusalem, prolonged the crusader's existence for another hundred years. Over the hundred years, what was left of crusaders' lands was gradually whittled away, until in 1291, the last crusader town fell.

The crusaders make a wonderful story and have left their mark on Palestine in the shape of many spectacular ruins. But it must not be forgotten that they were essentially a great act of intolerance that did no one any long term good.



Exhibitions

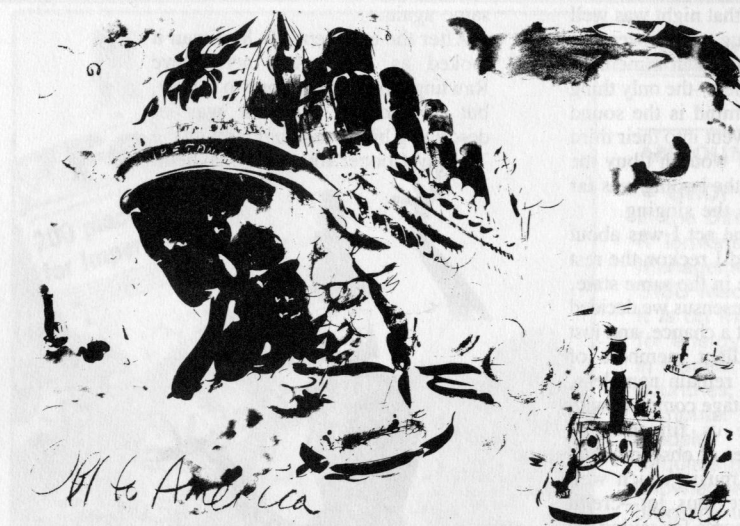
There is a slightly arrogant assumption that only Western culture post 1500 produced works of art on a grand scale. Both exhibitions on at the Royal Academy of Arts gainsay this; one is a display of jewellery from the third Millennium BC to the seventh century AD in the regions that stretch from Greece to Afghanistan and from the Caucasus Mountains in the USSR to Egypt. The second is the well publicised exhibition of icons and frescoes from the Greek culture of Byzantium and Crete, mostly pre-1450.

The jewellery ranges from crude flattened discs of gold to beautiful wreaths of gold oak or laurel leaves, complete with acorns and jewelled flowers, made for victorious athletes or for funerals. There are two hundred and fifty necklaces, earrings, buttons, rings, diadems, neck torques, beads and flowers on display plus a very learned commentary on trade routes, migrations, techniques etc, and you can have a good laugh at all the art students saying "Gosh—how fascinating—is it cast or repoussé?". My favourite bits were two lapis lazuli pommel ends or knife handles, shaped like snarling tiger heads.

The Icons are more interesting than the jewellery, although they range



over a shorter period and smaller area. The exhibition is designed to show how art developed in the eastern half of the Mediterranean, finishing with the painter El Greco, who became a Renaissance artist in Spain and Italy. Although the lighting is dim, the bright colours and detail of



the icons are astonishing. They are either small icons for private prayer or large ones for processions or the walls of churches. Favourites are Madonna's and Jesus's, with some local saints thrown in, such as St George and St Demetius, who were a kind of holy SAS—killing dragons



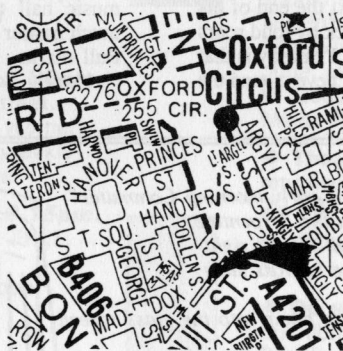
and rescuing slaves; or St Nicholas, who also went around rescuing people condemned to execution and paying poor girls' dowries all shown in picture stories.

The sore points about the Royal Academy are its high charges (£1.70 for each exhibition) and the poor quality of some of its postcards. There are, however, numerous free galleries around like the Tate or National, plus the small private galleries.

I visited Jake Sutton's exhibition at the Francis-Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox St, expecting it to be a breath of fresh air, but whilst appreciating his bright colours and lively scenes his pictures were all a bit same-y. There are about forty on show, mostly watercolours ranging from £500 to £1500—but the entrance is free. The scenes are jolly: boating on the river, circuses, Punch and Judy shows, a day at the races, steamboats and flowers; the sort of optimistic, pretty art that the British Middle Classes can hang on the wall without getting a guilty conscience. Perhaps that's why he never paints the faces in—he's hinting at the emptiness of all this materialism. Nevertheless it's very jolly art—the waterlilies are particularly lovely and some of the close-up sketches of

trapeze artists and jockeys were exhilarating—but still no faces. He is reminiscent of Raoul Dufy; colourful and a situation briskly filled in with a few strokes, but with this difference; Dufy hangs in the Tate and Sutton doesn't. (Yet). Postcards are available.

Byzantine Icons closes 21st June  
Jewels closes 28th June  
Jake Sutton closes 18th June



FOOD  
Glorious  
FOOD

The Chelsea Pot  
If ever you are stuck with only £2.00 in your pocket, feeling desperately hungry and are too lazy to cook, then head for the Chelsea Pot (Kings Road). One of a chain of 'Pots', this restaurant serves just about the cheapest food that rates as food. The service is non-existent and the food isn't really much above good refectory standard, but the place has a distinct charm which is all its own and always seems to attract a good selection of pseudo-nutters. Favourites include Moussaka (£1.50, or thereabouts) and Chicken something-or-other (who cares?). At

Restaurant  
Reviews

least it gets you out for the evening. Good for street cred.  
David Jones



Cheap places to eat in London are becoming few and far between these days. Most students face bills of £5 a head in even the best local eateries—and that's without the drink. One exception to this is the Won Kei in Soho where the average oriental blow out comes to about £4 with Chinese tea included. Many of you will have already visited this popular restaurant for a club dinner or before visiting any one of the numerous theatres on Shaftsbury Avenue. Like the Texas Lone Star it makes its money by turning over as many people as possible in one night. Be prepared for poor service—they won't serve you if you sit down before they show you to a place. It's terribly noisy as Chinese instructions are shouted backwards and forwards across the rooms. Not a place for a nice intimate evening. The food arrives within five minutes of ordering and the bill within one minute of finishing.

The menu contains over 70 chinese dishes but most prefer to opt for the set meals at £3.80 per person (20p extra for egg fried rice). These include the favourites: Sweet and Sour Pork, Chicken with Cashew Nuts, Beef in Black Bean Sauce and Mixed Stir Fried Vegetables served up with generous portions of rice.

If you want to vary this a little then you can choose soup noodles, ho fun and crispy noodles (I have to recommend the Barbeque Pork Noodle especially).

Before visiting the Won Kei, make sure that you've got enough cash because they don't accept anything else (except for doing the washing up of course).

Judith Hackney

IC  
ENTS  
Comedy  
Night

IAHAH, IHAH

The first act I saw that night was well and truly offputting. They were so dreadful that I can't even remember what they were called—the only thing that sticks in my mind is the sound of booing as they went into their third chorus of "Daddy wouldn't buy me a bowwow", and the booing was far more tuneful than the singing.

At the end of the act I was about ready to leave, and I reckon the rest of the crowd were in the same state, but by common consensus we decided to give the next act a chance, and just as well. Two gallant members of ENTS, who shall remain nameless, commandeered the stage complete with guitars and gave us fifteen most worthwhile minutes of obscenity and rough and ready music which well outclassed the previous lot—credit must go to these people for saving the evening.

Having held onto the crowd, preventing mass exodus, our heroes left the stage to Tom McEwan, who was fantastic. His opening number seemed a bit doubtful, with fair guitar playing and mucho gutso on the mouthorgan, but from then on he just got better, giving us a superb line in dry Scots humour and a good selection of music, illustrating quite a talent on both instruments and coping very well with the one idiot who had to heckel. At the end of his spot he was called back by loud roars for an encore, and all I can say is that Romeo and Juliet will never sound the

same again.

After the excellent Mr McEwan it looked as if the last act, Steve Rawlings, had a tough one to follow, but he did it. The best way of describing him is as a juggler with the Tommy Cooper touch for mayhem:



getting it wrong to order is probably harder than getting it right, and Steve did his share of both. The culmination of his act involved fire and wine glasses, eliciting oohs and aahs all over the place and leaving his assistant lost for words. He too was called back for more, and he didn't disappoint.

Summing up, we had an excellent time, only marred at the start by those music hall twits, who deserved a much nastier reception than they got. Full marks, ENTS!

Andrew Bannister

IAHAH

*The Sex Pistols—The Inside Story*  
by Fred & Judy Vermorel  
Omnibus Press, £5.95

Was it really only ten years ago? This book is the nearest the Sex Pistols got to telling their own story (where have I heard that before?) and includes interviews, press cuttings and extracts from the Sex Pistols' secretary's diary. The first half of the book deals with "The Story"—the early days, the Grundy interview, signing to EMI, signing to A&M, signing to Virgin, getting Sid Vicious, losing

DRUGS 'N

Sid, and then killing off the group. There is then a section on the characters involved—extracts from Paul Cook's school reports, and photos of Sid Vicious as a kid at the zoo, and then a 'What a wonderful year that was' piece lamenting the death of punk.

The best parts of the book are those that deal with Malcolm McLaren, Sex

ROCK 'N

Pistol's manager/svengali, simply because he is the most interesting character involved. Otherwise, one is left with the impression that the authors are on a crusade to make the rest of the band into something they never were—spokesmen for a generation.

Paul Cook and Steve Jones come over as just a couple of guys doing

SEX 'N

a job, Sid as a rather naive, but optimistic junkie, Glen Matlock (their first bassist) as a victim of John Lydon, and Lydon (né Rotten) is just another pop star with a personality problem. The diary extracts give us lots of incidental information (Lydon was hounded by his dentist, Sid was 'a really sweet guy', Glen Matlock bought a Sunbeam Alpine car), but

ROLL

nothing new, nothing that has not already been written into the history of that year.

This is a book, then, aimed at fans, or fanatics—interesting but not crucial. "The majority of men and women live their lives in quiet desperation, The Sex Pistols lived their lives in loud desperation."

Pete Wilson

A  
Heron  
comes  
to work

*Who misdirected this early morning Commuter?  
Somewhere between the Serpentine  
And St James' it had turned right  
When it should have kept its slow  
Laboured line.  
But it flopped thump, bump into the glass screen  
Beyond my desk.  
It had been mobbed  
Robbed, raped more like it  
By a gang of crows.*

*Inexpressibly alien:  
All morning long,  
From log-on time to coffee  
It sulked, Chin on breast, shoulders hunched  
From it tormentors  
In a corner of the concrete yard,  
Like a masai warrior in a bus station,  
White riffling against the grey  
Currents of its neck  
Its breast,  
The hard bead of its eye  
Clicking.*

*All morning long,  
It took in management science lectures,  
Nuclear power seminars, the mixed chaff  
Of undergraduates between classes, until  
The windows began to open too often  
And the voices rang out too loudly. Then  
It rose, swaying over the narrowed street.  
Would that passers-by had hid  
From its enourmous shadow,  
Would that the street had stopped  
To gasp 'Ah',  
But I doubt it did.*

Anita Kushwat, Mech Eng  
23rd May 1987



## What's On

### FRIDAY

**Friday Prayer** .....1.00pm.  
Union Building. See Islamic Society.

### MONDAY

**Recitation of Holy Qur'an** .....1.00pm.  
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

**Dai Rocking**.....11.00pm.  
IC Radio on 999kHz. The best in hard rock music thro' midnight including the featured album every week with David Williams. FREE!

### TUESDAY

**Prayer Meeting** .....8.15am.  
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 Recitation** .....1.00pm.  
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Society.

**Judo**.....6.30pm.  
Union Gym. All standards Welcome.

**OpSoc Tour Rehearsal** .....7.30pm.  
53 Princes Gate. See OpSoc.

**Nigel on the Wireless** .....9.00pm.  
IC Radio, 301m, 999kHz. Make tea, not love. Rather a screw loose than a loose screw. Free.

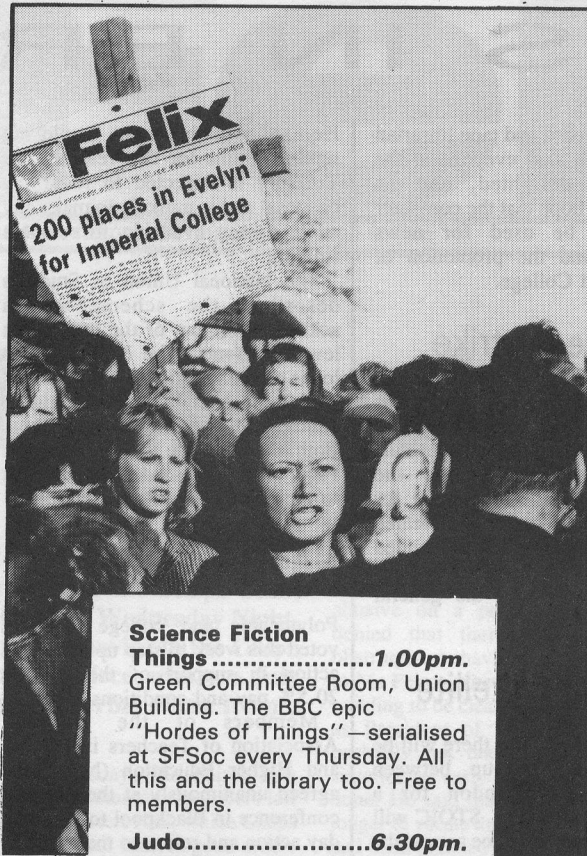
### WEDNESDAY

**Explanation of Holy Qur'an** .....1.00pm.  
9 Prince's Gardens. Talk given by Dr Darsh. See Islamic Society.

**IC Gay Okay** .....12.30pm.  
Green Committee Room, Top Floor of the Union Building. See Andrew Bannister.

### THURSDAY

**Science Fiction Society** .....1.00pm.  
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

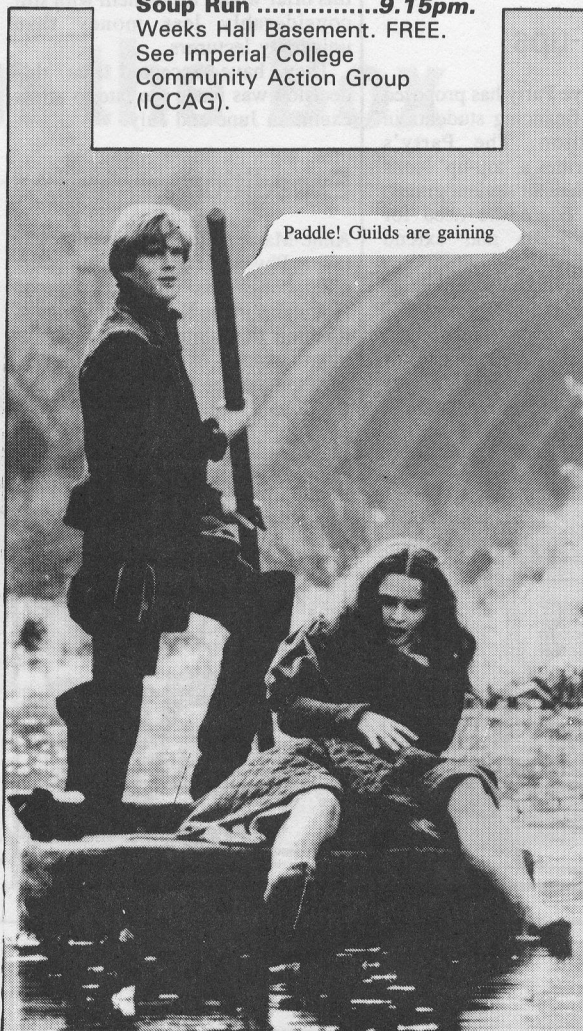


**Science Fiction Things** .....1.00pm.  
Green Committee Room, Union Building. The BBC epic "Hordes of Things"—serialised at SFSoc every Thursday. All this and the library too. Free to members.

**Judo**.....6.30pm.  
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 Run** .....9.15pm.  
Weeks Hall Basement. FREE. See Imperial College Community Action Group (ICCAAG).



## Small Ads

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **UROP**—A new project, not in the Directory, is offered by Mr R Tomkins, Department of Management Science (Room 318D Mech Eng internal 7119). It is on microcomputer models for energy planning, particularly in respect of developing countries; application of computer graphics to these models.

Requires good working knowledge of at least 1 programming language. Familiarity with use of IBM PCs and Pascal an advantage. Contact Mr Tomkins.

● **UROP**—There are still some Old Centralian bursaries available for C & G students working during the summer under the UROP scheme. Use the UROP directory to shop around.

● **Trip to Hereford:** Two places left on expedition to Offas Dyke in wacky automobile. Applicants should have an interest in ancient monuments, castles, beer, wine, etc. Departs 14th June, return next day. Contact W Goodwin (Mech Eng II) or F Miers (Physics).

● **Thank you** to whoever returned my banker's card etc 20.5.87. A Meredith (Physics I).

● **SF Soc members**—get your books back to the library now!

● **Do you** have books from SF Soc library? Well you shouldn't! Rectify this NOW! •

● **If anybody** still has books from SF Soc library they really aren't paying attention...

● **SF Soc members**—get your books back to the library or we will rend ye in yer gobberwarts...

### FOR SALE & WANTED

● **4 Genesis** tickets 1st July, 2 Peter Gabriel 26th June. Contact Jon Ingham (Chem Eng IV) or Kathy Tait (ICU).

● **10 speed**, 23 inch frame, gents racing bike. Fully functional gears, brakes, lights etc. £50 (phone 381 5722 ask for Matthew).

### ACCOMMODATION

● **Room** for 1 or 2 people in comfortable flat in Chiswick. 5 mins from Gunnersbury tube. £35 each/pw for 2 or £45 pw for one. Available for whole summer from June 28th. Contact K Turner 01-995 6603.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free for all

Labour will abolish museum charges recently introduced at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington if they win the General Election.

Mark Fisher, Labour spokesman on arts and media, made this pledge at the launch of Labour Party policy on arts and the media at the Riverside Arts Complex to which FELIX was invited, yesterday. It would be part of the responsibility of a new 'Ministry of Art & Media' to increase funding in all areas of the arts, through 3 major channels. More money will be put into the regional arts associations, there will be a new element in the Rate Support Grant to local authorities earmarked for the arts, and the new capital fund for arts buildings will be set up. He stressed that arts can make money for the country and that over 1/2 million people are currently employed in the arts. He also said that the arts could create 40,000 new jobs under Labour as part of their target to make 1 million jobs in their first two years.

Labour, he claimed, would "widen choice and open access, availability and participation in the arts for the public". He would not, however, put any definite figures on the amounts a future Labour government would spend.

Present at the meeting to endorse the policy were arts and media personalities Ben Elton, Paul Weller, Harold Pinter, Dame Peggy Ashcroft and many others.

IC Radio computer

IC Radio has been given a multi-user computer system on which to hold its record catalogue. The computer was donated by Safety Devices, a Newmarket engineering firm, who specialise in products for the rallysports industry. Safety Devices are currently running a car for Pentri Arrikalla.

IC Radio record and tape librarian elect Al Birch said everyone at the station was delighted, and he expressed the hope that the computer would also be used for news preparation and the promotion of events around College.

AUT reject strike

The Association of University Teachers last week rejected a call to strike in protest against further cuts and structural changes to the university system. The motion for strike action was narrowly defeated by a council meeting which decided to take "coordinated political action" both before and after the general election.

STOIC by satellite

Next Friday (June 5th) there will be a live satellite link-up between Washington, and London for a discussion about AIDS. STOIC will be relaying the programme around the College sets at 7.00pm, and after an hour-long panel discussion, questions will be invited from viewers, Imperial College students will be able to use the internal phone system to ask questions of the Washington panel.

More details will be released next week.

Tory top-ups

The Conservative Party has proposed a new way of financing students in higher education. The Party's manifesto describes a 'top-up' loans scheme to supplement student grants, which would reduce the need for students' overdrafts and extend repayment time.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said of the scheme, "I want to ensure that whatever system of student support we have does not discourage students from going on to higher education".

He explained that loans would not replace grants for this reason. The Treasury is expected to resist the proposal and is unlikely to make any more money available for student support.

The National Union of Students described the scheme as an acknowledgement of the inadequate level of grants. The NUS opposes loans on the grounds that they would further restrict access to higher education to disadvantaged groups. Both the Alliance and the Labour Party have expressed a commitment to increasing the value of grants.

NATFHE action

Polytechnic and college lecturers voted this week to step up industrial action in support of their recent 20.5% pay-and-conditions claim.

Members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) agreed unanimously at their annual conference in Blackpool to start one day action and refuse to mark exams from September if talks have failed by June 2nd.

The Union is demanding a working week of 18 hours with time off for lecturers involved in research and are not prepared to accept the employers' offer of £17,000 per annum salary for principal lecturers. They argue that this offer would leave them with still considerably less money than university lecturers.

They have accepted that this decision was made too late to affect exams in June and July.

Expedition

Anne-Marie Nuttal, who is currently taking Physics at Imperial, is leading nine colleagues up unconquered mountains in the Karakoram range in Kashmir this summer. She is one of many women explorers who have won some of the £20,000 grants from the Royal Geographical Society. The

Society has previously helped such names as Scott and Stanley to discover unknown territories and is planning to fund 60 expeditions this year.

Nationalists at Bristol

The British Nationalist Party has accepted an invitation to speak at the debate at Bristol Students' Union, the scene of a riot last year when a meeting addressed by Mr Enoch Powell was broken up by anarchists. The BNP is the first extremist group to be invited to speak at a university since the passing of the Education Act last year.

The debate was organised by the Bristol Debating Society and is due to be held (subject to committee approval) in June. The Society's acting chairman, Mr James Barnes, agreed there was a risk of violence but stated that that is no good reason not to go ahead with the debate.

The university is to handle the security but Mr Stuart Millson, one of the two intended speakers, has no confidence in this arrangement, and said that he and his colleagues would be "armed with a properly trained security and stewarding force". A spokesman for the university said that the BNP "stewarding force" would not be allowed on university property.

The motion for the debate is: "This house believes that the British National Party is the answer to Britain's problems".

RICKY'S GARAGE

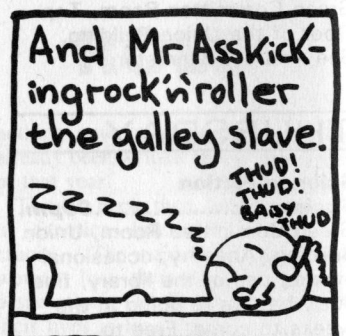
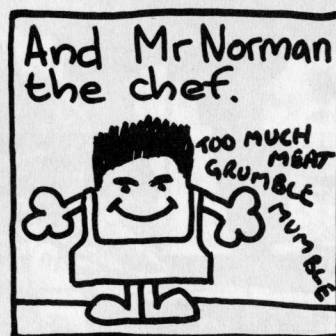
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MR MEN

No 8... Some staff speak out.

Why is Mr Land the way it is? Here are a few views, first Mr. Secretary



By Mark