

FREE!



No 777
Friday 14th August 1987

Felix

INSIDE

4 Union

Just what do the sabbaticals get up to over the summer?

5 Libel

Outrageous! FELIX gives you the low down on things as they really are plus a new, exciting, true-to-life story about everyday folk at Empirical School.

6 Reviews

Music, Books and Film. Superman exposed! Evil Dead splattered!

8 Science & Technology

In depth look at the new generation of credit cards plus Under the Microscope on superconductors and the Titanic.

9 Graduate Play School

Chris Martin explains just what to expect when you're sent on a SERC course

Finance blunder drags IC further into debt

AN INVESTIGATION by the Inland Revenue could cost IC more than £100,000 in unpaid tax. The problem has arisen because of the Refectories Section's failure to pay tax and National Insurance for casual workers. It is likely that the cost will have to be covered by price increases in refectories and bars.



The College is claiming that the workers are self-employed and are therefore responsible for their own tax and National Insurance. If the Inland

Revenue does not accept this claim, College may have to pay up to seven years' tax.

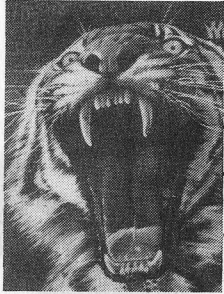
Although Refectories will be the

hardest hit, other parts of the College, including the Union Bar, are also under scrutiny. This is not expected to reveal any major problems, since they keep better records of casual labour. The Holland Club may be also investigated.

A spokesman from the Finance Section said that there had been efforts to reform the system and that people who undertook a lot of casual work were put onto the payroll. He admitted that the investigation had taken the College by surprise and that it was causing the administration some concern.

If the College is faced with a large bill, it may consider suing the auditors, who have passed the College accounts every year.

The Special Office of the Inland Revenue carried out a check of the College's books about two years ago, as part of a general investigation into university finance. The check did not result in any further action against the College. The current investigation is being undertaken by the Inland Revenue's local office and was prompted by a DHSS check on part time College workers who were also claiming the dole.



editorial

Welcome to the new, all-improved students' newspaper! This particular brand washes whiter and digs deeper, so if you thought last year's anonymous letters were shocking, then 'you ain't seen nothing yet'. We've kept the old reliable formula but added some sparkle. This 'Postgraduate Issue' is only a hint of things to come. The next issue will appear on Monday 5th October.

How can you help?

From speaking to various people around College, it is clear that our idea of a good FELIX doesn't always tie in with most students' idea of what the newspaper should contain. It's very easy to stick to the usual formula if nobody complains about it. If you want to see

something in FELIX that isn't here, then please write and tell us about it. It's very easy to get isolated in our little basement and we're not mind readers.

Science

One addition has been a new science page. We are looking for a postgraduate or member of staff to act as Science Editor. The job involves writing and collating various scientific news items each week. If you are at all interested then either telephone me today on int 3515 or visit our offices anytime during September.

Censorship

In the light of the Handbook episode (page 5) it is time for Publications Board

to reexamine the editor's role on our external publications. Was Pippa Salmon elected to collate information and produce the guide, with the Union Executive deciding on the tone of articles, or was she elected to edit a fair and representative handbook? Perhaps the Executive wish to change her title to Handbook Manager? The publication would lose its credibility if it allowed itself to become a pure advertisement for the Union. There is no point in extolling the virtues of the Union Bar and omitting all the faults. Freshers will soon realise that the articles are biased toward the Union facilities and consequently will arrive at College with the opinion that the Union is only interested in putting forward its corporate view point. This makes the Union just as bad as College

with the rosy picture it paints in its prospectus.

I hope that Publications Board makes some policy for once and defends the editorial freedom which we value so highly in FELIX.

Finance Fiasco

The rumours are rife within Sherfield as to who will lose their job after the latest financial cock-up. Perhaps College will finally see sense and completely shake up the Finance Section before we follow the same path as University College, Cardiff.

And finally

The Office will be closed from tomorrow for three weeks.

BT.

Editor-in-chief

News Editor

Reviews Editor

Typesetting

Printing

Contribution/Production

Judith Hackney

Pippa Salmon

Ashley Niblock

Rose Atkins

David Jones

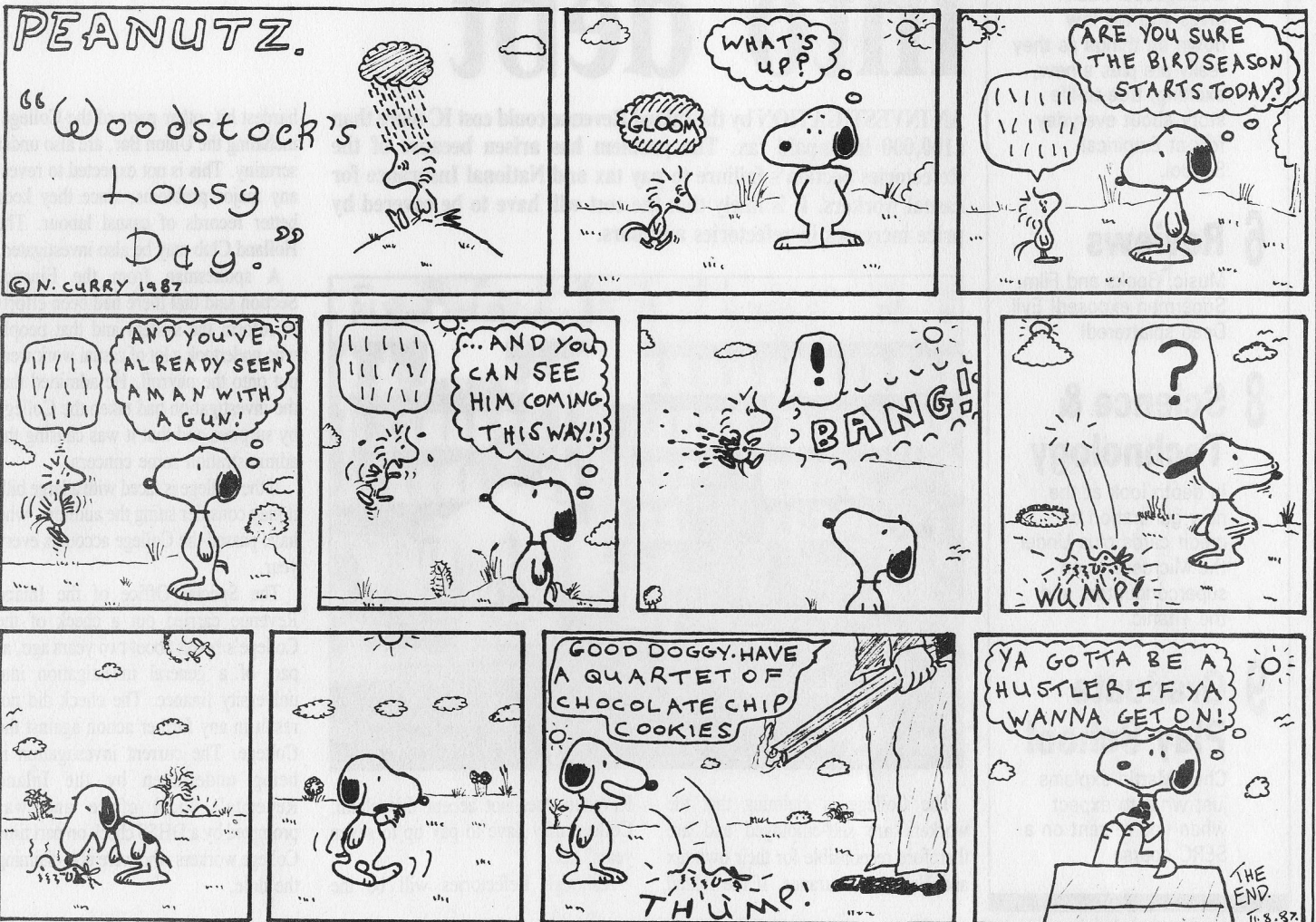
Alan Barnett, Al Birch, Dave Colley

Noel Curry, Bill Goodwin, Ian Howgate, Chas Jackson

Chris Jones, David Jones, Chris Martin, Yishu Nanda

Robert Shiels and Chris Stapleton

Felix



BRIEF

Beers all round

IMPERIAL College's beer supplies are to be controlled centrally by the Union, following discussions between the Refectories Manager, Holland Club Manager and ICU Deputy President. The idea of a combined beer order was suggested last year by Rob Northey, the Refectories Manager. Both the College and the Union stand to make substantial



savings from the increased barrellage discount and if St Mary's Medical School choose to join the new system, the order will be the largest in London.

The National Student Services Organisation (NSSO) provides similar discounts to its members, but Imperial's non-affiliation to the NUS has disqualified it from joining the scheme. This could also prevent IC from taking part in the proposed ULU central supplying venture.

ICU Deputy President Alan Rose commented that he was "not looking to set up a consortium of London colleges."

Expedition Off

THE MOUNTAINEERING Club's Karakoram expedition has been called off due to illness. Some members of the team had already arrived at Karachi and were making final preparations for the ascent, when one of them became ill and had to be flown back to Britain. Expedition leader Jerry Hasnip decided to cancel the rest of the trip.

The Scout and Guide East Karakoram Expedition is going ahead as planned.

Park update

THE NEW Science Park at Silwood is nearing completion. The Park, which has been under construction for the past year, is a joint venture between Investors In Industry (3i) and Imperial College. The park incorporates a Technology Transfer Centre, owned by College, and 70% of the lettable space in this has already been snapped up. One of the main aims of the Centre is to attract members of College engaged in the commercialisation of their research.

Disco fiasco

SOUTHSIDE Bar's disco was closed by Sheffield messengers on the last day of term. The IC Radio disco had continued past its usual ending time of 11.15pm, as people were celebrating the end of the Life Sciences exams. At a quarter to twelve the Sheffield messengers arrived and, explaining that College Secretary John Smith had asked for the disco to end, began to remove people from the building. Students complained that violence was used in the process but no proceedings are to be taken.

Southside fiasco

TEN students who had been allocated College accommodation this Summer were given only three days notice that their bookings had been cancelled. The problem was caused by overbooking of rooms in the Summer Accommodation Centre. The students were not on academic courses and six of them were subsequently offered alternative accommodation. De-allocation was necessary to accommodate postgraduates



Success and misery

BOAT Club's 1st IV has won the prestigious Henley Regatta Challenge Cup, beating top university and college teams and cutting six seconds from the course record in the process.

Since the Club's Henley success, several members have been selected to represent the Britain in international competitions, including the World Student Games and the World Championships. Nicholas Burfitt, who was selected for the World Championships, also has hopes of rowing in next year's Olympic Games.

The controversy over the funding for Boat Club's new eight continues, with

£4,500 still to be paid. The Queensgate Trust (an organisation which provides money for non academic activities) has agreed to meet half of the £9,000 bill which was temporarily paid by the College's Activities Loan Scheme.

The remaining money was to be obtained from the Union by rearranging Boat Club's Five Year Plan, but the Club did not apply for the release of the money until after the boat had been bought, breaking Union Finance rules. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Union Finance Committee.

given and the Union organised a 'Crash Pad'. Although no one used the crash pad, several students had to stay with friends.

Some students had very little notice that their application for Summer residence had been turned down. The notices were sent out over a week before the end of term but many only arrived three days before the students were due to leave. At the end of term, some students were still to receive their letters. The problem was made worse by the letters being sent to departments after exams had finished, when students were not checking their mail.

One student called the weekend as a "ginormous farce". He described students who got up at six o'clock to pack and parents who drove from two o'clock in the morning in order to beat the deadline. Southside looked like a refugee camp, he added.

After rumours that College Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur had made the decision that students had to leave on Saturday, anonymous notices appeared around Southside. The notices claimed that accommodation was available and gave what was in fact Mr Arthur's home number. He later stated that the rumours were "not in the slightest bit true" and said that he had received "one or two" calls. It was reported that his phone was off the hook all weekend.





Here goes my first information broadcast. All in all College is rather quiet at the moment and my office is at last starting to look less like a home for lost pieces of paper. The first major pile of stuff that went was the mountain of AIDS leaflets that had engulfed a filing cabinet. All of you should have had one of these by now; if you haven't checked your pigeon holes; if you have, read it. The other pile that has disappeared, was one that Carl left in the bottom of a filing cabinet and that's gone off for paper recycling.

Two rather interesting developments have occurred to do with residences, one closer to home than the other. The University of London Management Audit Office has produced a draft report on intercollegiate halls that highlights the inefficient and short-sighted way in which these halls have and are being run. All I can say is that any hall that can afford to shut for half of the Summer, buy its curtains from Harrods and lay a whole floor aside for staff that live in, not including the warden and the bursars, who may have up to 12 room flats of their own can not be being cost effective. I've got together with the housing officers from St Mary's Hospital Medical School and Queen Mary College as well as the University of London Union President and we are now trying to get the other colleges to support the report because, as you would

expect the halls have rejected it as rubbish and no one is in the position to tell them what to do.

Closer to home there has been quite a lot of action on the Student Residence Committee since Union Council stopped recognising it as a credible decision-

Many thanks for this must go to Dr Richard Clark (warden of Linstead and outgoing chairman of SRC). Dr Clark is to be replaced by Dr Bryan Levitt a man I know little about, but that College appears to have much confidence in. All I can say is if Dr Levitt manages to be

would appear to be the matter of whether College is legally allowed to withhold anyone's degree results for not paying their bills now that the amendment of the Data Protection Act has gone through. Over and above this it is questionable whether it is a reasonable thing to do, as many people in this position have a job guaranteed on a degree result. These people would be in a far better position to pay off their debt if they had their result. Hence it would now seem a good idea for College to look for a new way of securing debt repayments.

A few weeks ago Alan, Chas and I went to the ULU training school. This sparked off some interesting conversation about the National Union of Students. This ranged from people who were somewhat annoyed at us not being in NUS to people who wanted to know how to get out of it and what the advantages were. At this time I do not want to express my opinions, but would rather hear what you thought about the idea of reaffiliation. This is an important point as being outside of the NUS and not discussing the pros and cons of our situation gives us very little credibility.

As a final point we will be looking for a Union Housing Officer at the beginning of term so anyone interested might like to come and talk to me about it.

Ian Howgate

HOWGATE'S HALF HOUR



making body. At present the terms of reference are being investigated with the aim of making them more relevant and realistic, at the same time a completely new committee structure is being talked about and the location of the committee within the College management structure is being reviewed.

anywhere near as understanding and fair a chairman as Dr Clark he will be doing very well. I have to say that I am rather sorry to see Dr Clark retire from this post as he was without a doubt the backbone of the residences for many years; thank you Richard!

A point which needs some discussion

Postgraduate Handbook

Each year a large number of final year undergraduates consider undertaking postgraduate study of one form or another. But what is 'postgraduate study'? What does a postgraduate do? The answers to the seemingly simple questions are often not known to people who do not have postgraduate experience.

In order to assist those who may be contemplating taking some form of postgraduate study, Imperial College Union produces a Postgraduate

Handbook. This is intended as an information guide, giving details of all forms of postgraduate life. The next edition will be produced around Christmas time, and will be available to anybody who may find it useful.

At present the Handbook is in the preparatory stage, and there is still much to be written. I would therefore like to make a general appeal for articles and information etc—anything that is useful to know before becoming a postgrad. For example; How do postgrads spend their time (lectures, lab, etc), what are the questions to ask at job interviews, what are the job prospects like after one finishes a postgraduate course??? All information/articles would be greatly appreciated, and should be sent to me via the FELIX Office.

Alan Barnett,
Postgraduate Handbook Editor
1987-88

Hon Sex Poetry Corner

*The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things
Of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings...*

I'm afraid, that's the only verse I know (apart from the version in original Greek), so I'll have to fill the space with boring serious stuff.

Insurance

Joy of joys, the Hall of Residence Insurance will be administered by Student Accommodation Office from late September onwards. However I'll be dealing with enquiries until then.

As I am continuing to deal with this insurance at very short notice, I am having to learn about it as I go along. Most people manage to be very polite when making enquiries which is much appreciated. Those that do not achieve this (and you know who you are) only create problems for themselves.

Parking Permits

The current permits are valid until October 4th (unless they are special

temporary permits). Application forms for next session will not be handed out until the first week of term, so there's no point in asking for one now.

Duplicating

If anyone wants duplicating (by Gestetner) before the start of term my machine is currently underused, due to a lack of committee minutes. Prices can be provided on request.

Transport

Currently, many of the vans are lying idle, so if you ever wanted that postgraduate trip to the seaside, now is the time. All you need is a registered van driver. Van tests can be arranged as long as you have held a clean, full licence for 18 months, and are over 21 years old.

That's all for now folks!
Chas Jackson

The Union Print Unit will re-open on
14th September

KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **MICHAEL ARTHUR** has done it yet again! Yes folks thanks to an administrative cock-up, Mr Arthur forgot to add VAT on to the cost of renting rooms. This means that the College is set to lose several thousands of pounds, which doesn't make paying off the debts for the new student house any easier.

● **FOR SOME** reason the Union Executive has decided to be as officious as possible this year. Diminutive Handbook Editor Pippa Salmon was the first to experience the Union at its worst. They decided that she didn't know enough about being a woman at Imperial and asked for the 'women' article to be toned down a little. They suggested the change of 'terrible image' to 'sexist image' and a swap of the second and third paragraphs. This obviously made all the difference! Not content with telling her what women want to read, they also demanded that the 'Lesbian & Gay' article be totally rewritten, despite the fact that it was penned by last year's Lesbian & Gay Welfare Officer. They also demanded that both the Snack Bar and Union Bar articles be made more appealing and that all negative points be edited out. Cue one rather irate, diminutive Handbook Editor.

● **FAUX PAS** of the month goes to Prof Ash, our illustrious Rector, who told one audience that College were actively encouraging more overseas students to come to Imperial because of the money that could be raised, only mentioning the students as an after thought!

● **ADRIAN "JELLY" JOHNSON**, an Evelyn Gardens manager especially selected by Lesley Gillingham for his highly developed ability to bullshit his way out of difficult situations, was caught in a compromising situation after deciding to visit the WC late one night. When he returned to his room Jelly discovered that the door had swung shut on the latch, leaving poor Jelly standing naked in the corridor. In desperation Jelly decided to look for a bin-liner to cover his embarrassment. A search of the house revealed only one liner full of rubbish, which Mr Johnson was forced to empty before making appropriate holes for his arms and legs.

MR WIMPY the Cook, Michael Arsehole the janitor and Johnny Smooth the Bursar were having a meeting with Eric Burntout, the Headmaster of Empirical School for the Terminally Insane. It was one of those occasions when they had to decide who was going to have to carry the can. Earlier that week Burntout had received a telephone call from Empirical's Tax Collector. Burntout had been horrified to discover that he owed the Tax Collector two hundred

thousand pounds because Mr Wimpy had been paying all his helpers with money from the cash box. This had been happening for years and years, so Mr Wimpy was doing his best to convince everyone that it wasn't his fault, since he had only been at Empirical School for two years. As usual, everybody's first thought was to blame Michael Arsehole. Unfortunately, as he was never allowed to handle any money, the others had to agree that they couldn't pin this one on him. Burntout and Johnny Smooth were, of course, far too important to be blamed for anything. This did not stop Smooth ticking off Burntout in his usual manner. "If only you hadn't made all those silly remarks about Empirical being broke, we would have been able to cover this up", said Smooth.

Burntout muttered something under his breath about Smooth being the first up against the bike shed wall come the revolution.

After another half an hour of arguing, during which the only useful decision made was to send Michael Arsehole out for some more jelly babies, Mr Wimpy managed to save himself from tax exile by suggesting that they should blame all the workers in the money counting office. This really was quite a sensible thing to do: none of the money counters knew anything about counting money. In fact they spent all their time sending messages to each other on their computer system and thinking up anagrams of 'VAT'.

After this was agreed, Burntout announced that he wanted to start a newspaper for all the teachers at Empirical School so that he could get his own back on all the sixth formers who kept writing nasty things about him in PHALIX. He had always wanted to have his own newspaper but now he had to persuade someone to do all the work for it. "I think Arsehole is the man for this job" said Smooth gleefully, delighted to have another opportunity to give Arsehole a hard time. "But I'm far too busy holding wine and cheese parties for the boaties", said Arsehole. As far as Arsehole and Smooth were concerned, this was just another one of Burntout's bad ideas.

Arsehole made an excuse for leaving and went back to his own pokey little office. He rang Lesley Tantrum, the matron of all the Empirical dormitories to see if she was having a worse time than he was. Between them, Arsehole and Tantrum had made all the sixth formers very angry at the end of the last term. They had demanded that all the sixth-formers be out of their rooms fifteen minutes after the end of their last class. They had not even allowed any of the sixth-formers who had nowhere else to live to stay a little longer. The result had been complete chaos: all the sixth-formers had moved out of the dormitories and into the corridor. When Arsehole ordered them out of the corridor they all gathered their belongings and went round to stay at Arsehole's house. Arsehole had had to live with two hundred sixth-formers for several weeks, and he had been trying to take out his frustration on Tantrum ever since. When he dialled Tantrum's number, however, the phone was answered by Alan Uglybastard, the Deputy Head Boy. "Something's come up", said Uglybastard. "Oh well, I'll phone back in ten minutes then", said Arsehole...

Will ten minutes be long enough?

Who will lose their job first?

Find out in the next episode

The
good
the
bad
and the
undeniably ugly

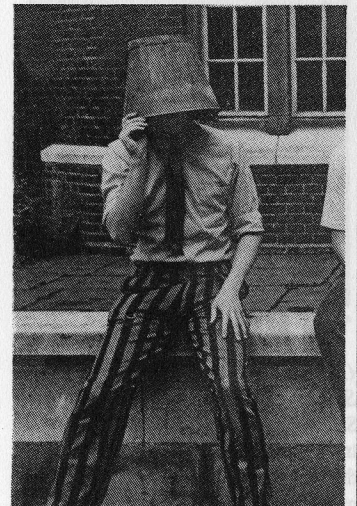


● **EVELYN GARDENS'** resident pain-in-the-neck, a guy known as Flanagan, was involved in a small drugs fracas. Feeling the need for some stash, Flanagan made his way to Earls Court where he made a purchase of £10. He was somewhat disgruntled to discover that his stash consistently extinguished every cigarette he tried it in. Only later was it pointed out that he had in fact been sold a licorice-allsort...

● **MR FLANAGAN** again ran into trouble when he decided to squirt ex-FELIX mega-artist, Chris Edwards with a water pistol. Chris, not sharing Flanagan's sense of humour, turned around and presented him with a black eye. Chris was later presented with a bottle of whiskey courtesy of the Evelyn Gardens management, for his services to mankind.

● **TALKING** of Evelyn Gardens, an alarming story has reached my ears. Two of the cleaners found a bottle of vodka which had been left behind by a former resident of the room they had been told to clean. Naturally delighted with their find, they proceeded to tell everyone they met, including the gorgeous, pouting Student Accommodation Officer, Lesley Gillingham. After returning from a hard morning's cleaning, the pair discovered the bottle gone! It was revealed later that Ms Gillingham had ordered random incompetent Jelly Johnson to requisition it for her because she "needed it more than they did".

● **THE QUESTION** on everybody's lips this Summer seems to be 'why has Union President Ian Howgate got such poor dress sense?' The poor man has



become so embarrassed by these remarks that he has taken to walking around with a bucket on his head in order to preserve his dignity.

Chris Jones

SUPERMAN IV

The Quest for Peace

(PG) Cannon (Bayswater, Edgware Rd, Fulham Rd, Haymarket, Oxford St, Shaftesbury Ave) Warner (West End)

I must admit that I went to the cinema with my mind made up that this film would be a load of utter trash, and would suit people with the intelligence and sensitivity of an ant. The opening scene pictures a cosmonaut walking in space singing 'My Way' in Russian; kind of setting the scene for the rest of the film which is littered with humorous dialogue. The plot revolves around the fight between our hero Superman and his arch-rival 'boomerang' Lex Luther (Gene Hackman) who has more escapes from prison than Don Juan had partners. Lex's sole reason for existence it seems is to finish off Superman (see Superman I, II, III).

Superman conveniently provides him with the opportunity, after a little boy wrote to him asking him to get rid of all nuclear weapons on earth. Superman strides in to the UN and says, 'I'm gonna snaffle all your rockets' and, to rapturous applause, throws them all into the sun.

Lex capitalises on this by borrowing one of Superman's body cells (from a hair) and throws something that can only be described as a prawn cracker (genetic protoplasm) and two bits of cloth into the sun. This (apparently) creates Nuclear Man, an evil clone of our super-hero who wears black and gold, presumably so we can tell them apart easily.



Meanwhile, back on Earth *The Globe* newspaper is in the midst of a takeover battle. The prospective new owner is a Murdoch style Tits and Bums man, with a rather shapely daughter Lucy (Mariel Hemingway).

The other sub-plot is the love battle involving Lois Lane (Margot Kidder), Lucy, Clark Kent and Superman. Together they arrange a farcical dinner

for four, with amusing results. As an aside here, the apartment in which the dinner is held is the same one that is used in *Death Wish* for the party scene.

Gene Hackman plays the evil Lex faultlessly and comes across as the only real actor in the whole film, his eccentricity and wit combining well to form a quite admirable lunatic.

As is the case nowadays with films

aimed primarily at a young audience, there must be a plot for kids and something within that plot that appeals to the 'older folk'. This film, while funny in places, doesn't cater well for the latter. Although patriotic, meaningful speeches may appeal to *The American Male*, I just felt like being ill.

In the end, Hackman fails to save *The Quest for Peace* from predictability.

D.C.



TIN MEN

(15) Cannon (Tott. Ct. Rd) Odeon (High St Ken, Swiss Cottage)

SET in the early 60's this film is a real treat for those interested in the style of the era. This, combined with some memorable humour, good performances and brilliant soundtrack would make this film a hit even without a plot. In fact the storyline of the film is extremely well presented and really keeps you involved with it's twists and turns.

From the first scene the stage is set not only because of the amazing cars involved in the accident which brings the two 'tin men' together; but also through the anger that is portrayed by both men when the two highly-priced automobiles smash together and the action begins.

The two men, Tilley (played by Danny DeVito) and BB (Richard Dreyfuss) discover that they are both in the aluminium building materials business. They work for different companies in the same town selling aluminium sidings to unsuspecting homeowners. This is a film of scams, fast talking and a lot of ups and downs in the lives of the salesmen involved (one poor man has a heart attack whilst giving his sales pitch to a couple).

Sparks start to fly when BB, in retaliation for the original accident, sleeps with Tilley's wife Nora (played by Barbara Hershey), and love enters the hard-selling world of the Tin Man.

R.A.

EVIL DEAD II

(18) Cannon (Panton St, Royal)

AS for splatter movies, *Evil Dead II* is definitive. The blood not only splatters, but threatens to drown the cast of this new film from the same writer and director as the original. Not having seen *Evil Dead I* cannot make comparisons, but I can say that for this sequel prior knowledge is not a pre-requisite for enjoyment.

I went expecting to be so scared I'd have to hold someone's hand on the way home, but spent most of my time laughing. This is not to say that there were no shocks, there were, but it was all done so incredibly tongue-in-cheek, with elements of Clint Eastwood and *The A Team* creeping in at times, that even

when the hero resorts to self-mutilation, the only reaction from the audience was the aforementioned laughter.

The story is a formula used before but this doesn't matter. The hero accidentally calls up an evil spirit which causes the dead to rise up and try to make him join them. Excellent camera work and unceasing action keep your attention right through to the end where the hero gets a chance at reading the obligatory passages from 'The Book of the Dead'.

All in all not for the squeamish, but horror fans with a sense of humour should make a beeline for the nearest show.

R.S.

MUSIC

LIVE

Billy Joel

BILLY Joel possesses the rare quality of being a songwriter who can sing in an age of singers who can write songs. It is this that has led him to enjoy longevity in the music business and attain such a wide range of appeal.

Joel first toured Britain in 1973 after the success of his third album *Piano Man*. Fourteen years later this July, he returned to Wembley to give new generations a taste of his many memorable songs.

The *Bridge Tour* set featured surprisingly little of his most recent material. Not more than fifteen minutes from two hours were lent to promoting his latest album. Instead he treated us to songs like *Uptown Girl*, *Pressure* and *Scenes from an Italian Restaurant*.

My only disappointment was that he had to have another singer reach his high notes in the earlier songs he performed. Despite this and the high ticket prices (£15) I would still encourage you to see his excellent live performance when he next tours Great Britain. C.M.

RECORDS

Skin Games—Cowboy Joe

Lone Justice *Wannabees* with this week's best of a bad lot. Backing very reminiscent of Bad County and lead vocalist (Wendy) who can sing. Just one reservation; *Skin Games* is rather an odd name for a band, but give them a listen anyway.

The Cult—Wild Flower

I've yet to find anyone who thinks this isn't Billy Idol. Nuff said.

Michael Jackson—

I Just Can't Stop Loving You

Starts with ultra-naff spoken intro (you look so beautiful tonight etc) moving on to a very ordinary duet with Siedah Corrett (who?). Following *Thriller* was always going to be difficult; if the new album's success means as much to CBS records as some recent press reports indicate, I would sell my shares now...

Paul King—Follow My Heart

At last, something good and somebody who can sing. Buy it, and CBS might not be in so much trouble after all. C.M.



THE PROMS

UPON mention of the Proms, everyone immediately thinks of the Last Night, one of the Great British pageants of flag waving, celebration and general pageantry watched by millions all across the world. But in many ways this overly nationalistic and perhaps xenophobic festival is totally atypical of the sixty-six concerts that make up the season.

The index of works in the Proms Guide resembles a classical A-Z with music from Alain to Zemlinsky passing such well known composers as Beethoven, Handel and Prokofiev as well as a number who are less well known.

Any one concert is a mix of the obscure with the classic, introducing new music with your old favourites.

This year the theme of the Proms is Dance with fifty-three of the concerts having at least one piece of music to do with dance, including a number of BBC commissions receiving their world premiere.

Tickets can be purchased on the door for £1.50 or £2.00. The more expensive tickets are for the arena, more commonly associated with the Promenade Concerts but this area suffers from overcrowding and you need to be over six feet tall to be able to see anything properly unless you are early enough to get near the front. The cheaper price gains you access to the highest level of the Albert Hall where there are dubious acoustics, but usually plenty of floor space to sit on and a full view of the orchestra.

Tonight's prom is by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra who are performing excerpts from Glazunov's

Roymonda suite, the Violin Concerto in D major by Brahms and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor 'From the New World'. For details of other concerts, the Haldane Library has a copy of the prospectus, or you can buy your own for £1.50 from good newsagents. If you intend going to more than just a few it's a good investment since programmes at each concert cost 30p to promenaders and contain little extra information.

Everyone should experience the Last Night at least once. This year's is on September 12th and the same £1.50 and £2.00 tickets will be available on the door. However, to qualify you must have similarly-priced ticket stubs from at least five other proms and be fairly near the front of the queue, which means queueing much of the day (and previous night). A.B.

BOOKS



MAUS is no ordinary cartoon book. It tells the tale of Nazi Germany where Nazis are cats and Jews are mice. It is the true story of a Jewish survivor but, perhaps more than that, it shows how the author is trying to come to terms with his father's history and his life with a Jewish survivor.

There are two stories within the beautifully drawn cartoons. The first is the father's story of countless brushes with death and the terror of betrayal. The second reveals Art Spiegelman's tortured relationship with his father as they try to lead a normal life after the war.

It's a remarkable work of love combining novel, documentary, memoir and comic book. To be published by Penguin on 10th September at £5.95.

C.J.

Rose Atkins	R.A.
Al Birch	A.B.
Dave Colley	D.C.
Chris Jones	C.J.
Chris Martin	C.M.
Rob Sheils	R.S.

The credit revolution

Over the past five years the major financial institutions have become concerned about the ever-increasing amount of credit card fraud. It seems that "magnetic strip" cards are easy to decode and many counterfeits are being produced daily. Not only are the banks becoming dissatisfied with these conventional cards but individual card holders want security in their transactions and fewer cards to carry. This has led to research into security through encryption (data secrecy) and authentication (data protection against unauthorised change).

There are three barriers to the introduction of this type of sophisticated system. The coding has been too complicated for a layman to use; the cards would be an unwieldy size and the cost of introduction will be high. However, a new silicon chip card, which can handle a wider range of applications than any of its wallet-size counterparts, has been recently developed by Siemens in Germany. It replaces the long, exposed magnetic strip with a chip

'the smart card'

embedded in plastic to protect it from damage and the elements.

It is because of the technology inside this chip that the card can be made secure against manipulation and can prevent unauthorised alteration of stored data. Component miniaturisation has made it possible to pack major processing power into semiconductor devices the size of a one penny piece and at an affordable cost. The chip contains a number of sophisticated memories (RAM, ROM, EPROM AND EEPROM) plus an active microprocessor capable of executing cryptographic algorithms. This enables the cardholder to be identified unambiguously and guarantees the security of transaction data. The cardholder will be able to give instant proof of authorised access by inserting the card into a point-of-sale (POS) terminal and entering a personal identification number (PIN). A check will then be carried out on the authenticity of both the card and the terminal. There will be no paperwork required as all money will be transferred automatically from the purchaser's account to the retailer's, after an exchange of electronic signatures. The new card claims to be hack-proof because it is impossible to decode secret data, such as the PIN, from the card; account data is only accessible to the cardholder; and specific data can only be altered on a bank terminal after

proper identification. To ensure no tampering can occur, all data is stored on an EEPROM which is extremely unstable and data is destroyed by any external scanning energy. The tiny charge carriers in the memory cells are instantly neutralised when touched by a probe and if anybody tries to examine it under an electron microscope, the data changes in a totally unpredictable manner.

In addition a special protective coating on the chip itself destroys any sensitive information in the event of a break-in. Siemens claim that it is totally unhackable. The new 'smart' card is fundamentally different from the magnetic strip card in three ways: the card can store any transaction data; data cannot be abused; and the card cannot be copied.

It is hoped that as the card is introduced, it will be used not only as a cash card but also as an ID card and an intelligent key that can only be used when a PIN has been entered. Siemens envisage the storage of medical histories

on the cardholders chip and the integration of the users fingerprints or voice patterns as a further security measure. They are planning to create a 'super smart' card complete with miniature keypad and display.

This new card may sound wonderful, if a shade big brotherish, but it does have a few shortfalls. The PIN isn't filed in any central, external memory so if the cardholder forgets it, no one can help, not even the bank. The only thing to be done is to throw it away. As well as this, of the 13 million smart cards on order, less than 1 million have been delivered because the chip failure rate is still unacceptably high. Finally, no matter how secure the chip may be, there is still no safeguard against human error, such as writing the PIN on the card!

Undoubtedly a version of this smart card will be introduced into our high streets within the next decade to combat the massive fraud that's occurring at the moment. However the makers have to produce reliable chips and the banks will have to outlay many millions of pounds to install all the POS terminals required.

The smart card and its point-of-sale terminals are being gradually introduced into West Germany over the next three years. It will be decided after this trial period whether or not the system is viable for worldwide use.

Information by courtesy of Siemens Aktiengesellschaft.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



Super Ceramics

HIGH speed computers using ceramic superconductors may be as little as three years away, according to scientists, and the first devices to make use of the new technology may be available within twelve months.

These are the latest estimates from top researchers six months after a team at the University of Houston developed a material which exhibited superconductivity at 98K (-175°C). This has triggered widespread interest in superconductor technology, and has prompted several governments to pledge massive financial support for national research institutions.

Until recently superconductivity was only possible in a few materials kept at the temperature of liquid helium, a few degrees above absolute zero (-273°C). Since the spring of 1986, when a team of IBM scientists in Zurich produced a superconductor at 23.2K (-250°C), ceramic materials which became superconductors at higher and higher temperatures have been developed.

Though most of the superconductors have been found to be too unstable for any practical application, there are widespread possibilities for superconductors in the electronics and heavy electrical industries.

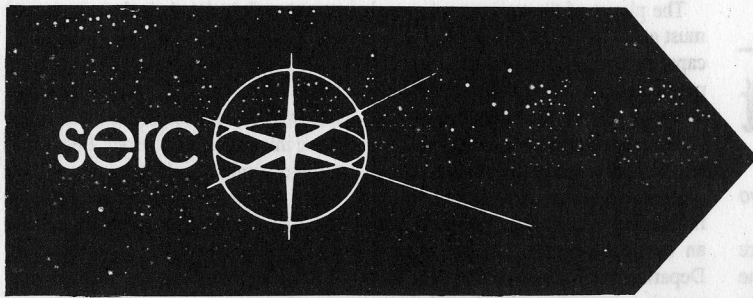
Grave Robbing

A FRENCH expedition to recover treasure from the wreck of the Titanic has been condemned as 'grave robbery' by representatives of the Titanic Historical Society.

The expedition is being run by the French Institute for Research and Exploration of the Sea (IFREMER).

In the summer of 1985 this group helped a team from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to find the wreck of the liner. The Woods Hole team, led by marine geologist Robert Ballard, were able to photograph the wreck, and completed their exploration in the summer last year. At Ballards instruction, the US Congress declared the Titanic an undersea memorial, making it illegal to salvage anything from the wreck. Though the US proposed drawing up an international treaty to protect the Titanic, which lies in international waters, there was no support for this from France or the UK.





Graduate Play School

Why should 90 PhD research students gather for a 5-day conference, when their subjects ranged from Zoology to Mathematics? Why should the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), normally tight with money, be willing to pay out £300 for each student to attend?

The location was Sheffield, and the event one of the SERC "Graduate Schools". The aim, we were informed, was to show PhD students that there are many avenues worth exploring besides a strictly academic career, and to "demonstrate the interest to be found in jobs in industry, commerce and Government". In short the SERC are worried about the number of research students staying in academia, and not going on to make a contribution to British industry, especially with the current Government policies in higher education. We were, apparently, to be "educated, not persuaded".

As well as the 90 students, there were 10 'executives'—recently graduated PhD students from various courses now working in industry; companies like IBM, BP, and from the Civil Service. They were present not as Tutors, but to take part in the discussions and exercises with the students, to pass on their experience of the real world.

The tutors, who actually ran the course, were a high-powered lot also from industry and Government; with high ranking positions in their respective areas.

The course was, to use the jargon, 'intensive'. Starting at 9.00am and finishing around 9.00pm, with breaks only for meals, the course was split into 'sessions' lasting a morning or afternoon, on one particular area of industry. The first one for example, was a case study into the marketing of the "Paul Masson California Carafes" in the early eighties.

In common with most of the sessions, it started with a general introduction to marketing, and a short film on the particular area we were to study. Then it was off into groups of about eight or nine, to 'role play' some particular aspect or other. The emphasis was very much on finding out by doing; the information we were given was neither comprehensive nor easily understandable, and the importance of learning to work in a group was

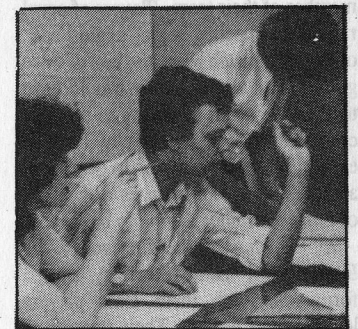
continually stressed.

We were given pointers as to how to organise our groups, pitfalls to avoid, pointers to take. The result was, as might be expected, total anarchy which (in our group anyway!) didn't seem to get any better as the course went on. Tutors kept popping in and telling us to concentrate on the "Process" (the way the decision was being made) as well as the decision

whatever with other groups. In the 'Industrial Relations' exercise, one group took the management, one the unions etc. Tempers did run high from time to time, but those groups with a more laid back approach tended to have the most success.

Throughout the five day course a 'Business Game' was organised, which tended to be a common thread holding the course together. Groups were organised as companies selling hot water boilers. Highlight was a 'trade fair' at which the companies outdid each other in the attempt to find best looking

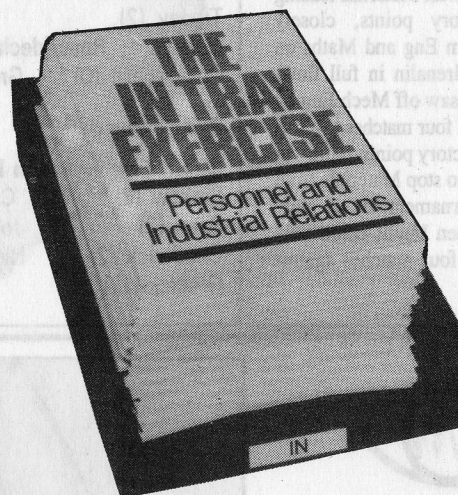
game to put their competitors out of business, otherwise there were few real decisions to make.



One criticism that ran through the course referred to the amount of feedback that we received from the tutors. They were all people highly regarded in their professions, and had a great deal of experience in their respective fields. However, what they did was give the introduction to each session and spend time with individual groups during the session, and then let each group tell the others what happened in the concluding meeting at the end. There was a strong feeling that they could have put more input into the meeting at the end, perhaps giving some of the 'right' answers—what would happen in practice. At the end of some sessions you were left with a number of possible solutions with little idea which would be practical or possible.

The 'executives' were very useful, giving practical advice about how to apply to specific companies, tips etc, although the amount they got themselves involved in the activities of their group clearly differed from person to person.

Was it worth it? It was hard work, and I think I enjoyed it (although I am not sure I would want to go again). Did it open my eyes to a job in industry? Not really—I didn't learn much I didn't know already. Mind you I had already been through the milk round once. It definitely was good experience if you have never had the chance to work in groups much before. Should you go if you get offered the chance? Why not—you get 5 days free board with no academic work and the chance to meet a whole lot of interesting people—what have you got to loose.



itself, and was usually met by various degrees of 'get lost' looks. Maybe the theory isn't as easy to apply as they make out.

Part of the problem was that we all were knackered!—having to work all day, and then staying up most of the night in the Bar or drinking coffee meant that it was sometimes difficult to find the motivation and concentration that some of the problems required. This isn't to say that we didn't take it seriously; I think everybody did, it was just we were half asleep by the end.

The 'role playing', would sometimes be within the group, with different members taking on different roles; sometimes it was the group that would take a common role and 'negotiate' or

boilers. Attempts included paper-covered tables, cardboard boxes, traffic bollards (!) and a Cigarette Box (!!). The result was chaos with 'buyers' (the tutors) being dragged from stand to stand and being liberally plied with drinks—it was held in the Bar. The more laid back groups sat in the bar and waited for the customers to come to them—not as effective at selling boilers, but better on the pocket. All great fun if you enjoy making a prat of yourself!

There was a feeling that the business game did tend to get rather boring towards the end. Twelve decisions had to be made in all, with half an hour for each decision spread throughout the course. Although some groups did get involved in "dirty tricks" later in the

SPORT

Seniors squash tournament

The idea of this multi-department squash tournament arose after a number of interdepartmental squash friendlies had received an enthusiastic response from all the parties involved.

The tournament took place in three rounds, each round consisting of four matches between the two teams.

The Captains had assigned a ranking of one (good) to four (poor) to each member of their team. Players of equal rank were matched in play against each other, each match being the best of three games. The winning team would have to show depth in its ability to produce consistently good squash play because each player was restricted to playing in a maximum of two matches with a trial of twelve matches having to be played.

At the start of the first round the Department of Materials looked formidable with three class players leading their line up. Their strength at the top was confirmed when Sheppard and Sweeney easily held their matches against Bashir and Ross respectively. However, Chem Eng looked like drawing the round when Dr D Stuckey won his match and Vadley was leading one game to love in hers, but Stokes fought back to take the match two games to one to pick up a vital two victory points for Materials.

There was less excitement in the other half of the first round where Maths

decisively beat Mech Eng to pick up two victory points as well.

By the second round, the atmosphere on the courts had become tense. The match between Ross and Downie had to be declared void when Ross had his eyebrow slashed by his opponents racket in the heat of play. Chem Eng eventually had a comfortable win over Maths by two matches to one.

There was tremendous excitement in the match between Prof Sheppard and Mike Carling. Sheppard tried to unnerve his opponent through his aggressive appealing for let calls from the referee, but excellent umpiring from I McIntosh averted disaster and kept play in progress. The Dept of Materials were not able to maintain the pressure in the matches lower down in the order and could only pick up a draw round against Mech Eng.

This left the tournament finely poised in the final round with Materials leading with three victory points, closely followed by Chem Eng and Maths on two. With the adrenalin in full flow, Chem Eng easily saw off Mech Eng by beating them in all four matches to notch up another two victory points. This was not good enough to stop Materials from winning the tournament by a clear victory point, when Maths could only win one of their four matches against them.

The player of the tournament award must go to Prof Terry Sheppard and his capacity to charge around the court, his pure aggression during play and that look of agony on his face when his appeals for let calls were turned down, made the tournament a memorable occasion.

Since, this trial tournament was a resounding success, the introduction of an inaugural Imperial College Seniors Departmental Squash Tournament next year is a certainty. It is hoped that a trophy worthy of such a major college sporting event can be purchased and be on display in the Union Office before the heats start in the Autumn term to decide the qualifiers for the finals. I hope that those who become involved will be

proud to fight for their departments to get a place in the July 1988 finals.

The postgraduates and senior members of this College need an event like this squash tournament to make life more interesting at Imperial. I hope that a large number of departments will be submitting teams as soon as details of the tournament and heats have been publicised. If you are interested in organising the squash team within your department and can get a team of at least six postgraduates/postdoctorates/technicians/staff together, then contact Yishu Nanda (Chem Eng PG) on int 4320 to express interest in the squash tournament 87-88.

Yishu Nanda

1st Round:

Materials vs Chem Eng

Sheppard (2) Bashir (0)
Sweeney (2) Ross (0)
Igeihob (1) Stuckey (2)
Stokes (2) Padley (1)

Maths vs Mech Eng

McIntosh (2) Carling (1)
Wilson (2) West (1)
Berry (2) Carden (2)
Chakrabarti (0) Carden (2)

2nd Round:

Maths vs Chem Eng

Wilson (0) Bashir (2)
Tracey (2) Patel (1)
Downie Ross (declared void)
Chakrabarti (0) Grobicki (2)

Materials vs Mech Eng

Sheppard (2) Carling (1)
Tan (2) West (0)
Rudkin (0) Nicholson (2)
Bowrign (0) Carden (2)

3rd Round:

Chem Eng vs Mech Eng

Sinkew (2) Crofton (1)
Patel (2) Johnson (0)
Chadwick (2) Nicholson (1)
Grobicki (2) Fish (0)

Materials vs Maths

Tan (2) McIntosh (1)
Sweeney (2) Tracey (0)
Curtis (2) Berry (0)
Stokes (0) Downie (2)

COMPETITION

Sense



Sense, the National Deaf-Blind and Rebella Association, is running a competition for entrants to design a household object for a deaf-blind person. Winning entries from the competition will form the focus of a special exhibition entitled **Designing for the Deaf Blind** which will take place in November this year.

The competition is open to all students in full-time further education during the whole or part of 1987. Entrants are asked to envisage the difficulties encountered by a person without normal sight and hearing whilst performing the everyday activities most of us take for granted. They are then invited to submit a design for an item which will enhance some aspect of home living for a deaf-blind person. Closing date is 19th October 1987.

All prizes for the competition have been donated. First prize is £100 worth of artists equipment to be selected by the winner. Second prize is £50 worth of Penguin Books to be selected by the winner and the third prize is a Filofax.

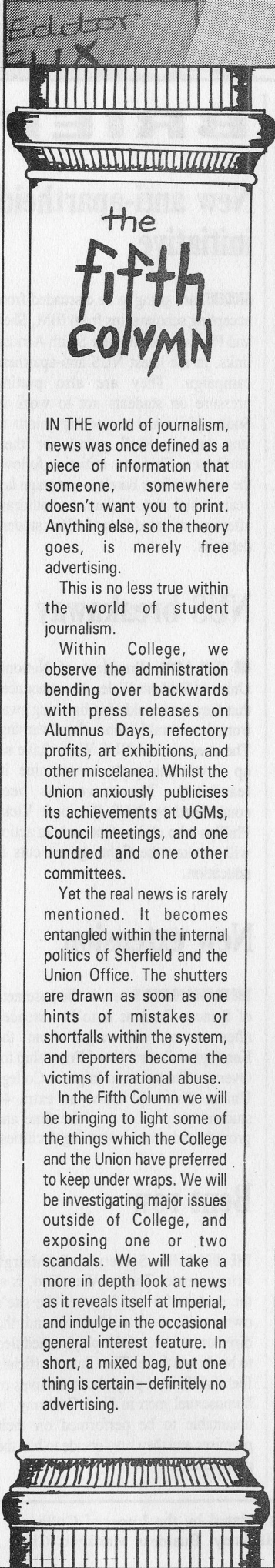
Winning entries and a selection of commended entries will be exhibited at the Hulton Sculpture Gallery, Royal Society of British Sculptors, 108 Old Brompton Road, London, from 23rd to 27th November 1987. The Hulton Sculpture Gallery was founded in 1986 as a centre for blind and partially sighted sculptors.

For further details of the competition please contact Henrietta Bond, Sense, The National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, 311 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PT.

Phoenix
CENTENARY
EDITION
50p
from the
FELIX Office

The Central Research Fund has been instituted for the purpose of making grants to members of the University (other than present undergraduate students and those registered for a taught Master's degree) engaged on specific projects of research, to assist with the provision of special materials, apparatus and travel costs. Applications are considered each term and the next closing date for applications is **Tuesday 8th September**. Forms of application and further particulars may be obtained from the Central Research Fund Section, Senate House, Room 21a, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Tel: 636 8000 ext 3147.

Imperial College School of Journalism, London, SW7 2AZ



the fifth COLUMN

IN THE world of journalism, news was once defined as a piece of information that someone, somewhere doesn't want you to print. Anything else, so the theory goes, is merely free advertising.

This is no less true within the world of student journalism.

Within College, we observe the administration bending over backwards with press releases on Alumnus Days, refectory profits, art exhibitions, and other miscelanea. Whilst the Union anxiously publicises its achievements at UGMs, Council meetings, and one hundred and one other committees.

Yet the real news is rarely mentioned. It becomes entangled within the internal politics of Sherfield and the Union Office. The shutters are drawn as soon as one hints of mistakes or shortfalls within the system, and reporters become the victims of irrational abuse.

In the Fifth Column we will be bringing to light some of the things which the College and the Union have preferred to keep under wraps. We will be investigating major issues outside of College, and exposing one or two scandals. We will take a more in depth look at news as it reveals itself at Imperial, and indulge in the occasional general interest feature. In short, a mixed bag, but one thing is certain—definitely no advertising.

Send your letters to Judith Hackney, FELIX Office, ICU, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.

Slap in the face

Dear Editor,

Several of my residents found your article "Only on Sunday" in the last editon of FELIX a bit of a slap in the face, and so I feel it my duty to write to you and set the record straight.

Your article mentions, for example, "beefburgers barbequed personally by Rob Northey". Rob did an amazing job (for one person), but what about the 50 odd residents from Montpelier Hall who helped. Between them, they ran 4 stalls, supplied a guide for the tours up the Queens's Tower, ran many (if not most) of the events, they made and served all the punch (some of the people chopping the fruit for the punch never left the kitchens during the fair), served the ice-cream and they made and served all the hamburgers, with a little help from Rob Northey. That is not to say that Rob did not work hard; on the contrary, he worked very hard, but he was only one member of a large team, all of whom worked hard ! Furthermore, some 19 of my residents started work at noon on the day, carrying equipment, setting up stalls and blowing up balloons, and most of our workers only finished at about 7.30pm. In fact, I think it would be safe to say that if Montpelier had not helped on the day, of if they had not worked as hard or as willingly as they did, the fair would not have been the success that it was. Did any other section of the College make an equivalent contribution? I hope the College appreciates what we've done.

My hall is a happy place to live; the residents are friendly, co-operative and eager to participate in activities, even when it involves a lot of effort and sacrifice on their part. The vast majority of my residents are from abroad and many will be returning home in the next 2 to 3 months, possibly never to return to Imperial College. They stood to gain nothing by helping at the fair. They did it because they are really nice people—the best around! Please give them the credit and recognition that they deserve.

*Yours sincerely,
Kevin O'Conner,
Warden, Montpelier Hall*

Your point has been taken. We apologise for the omission.

Frauds & heroes

Dear Judith,

I have just taken the ICU Handbook to be printed. This is the end of six weeks full-time editing and to be honest it is rather a relief—and (I hope) a chance to get some sleep.

People have said I've put a lot of work into the Handbook and I really appreciate their congratulations and thanks. However, I feel rather a fraud—after all, it was my job! It's been really interesting (although heavy going at times) and in retrospect at least, I've really enjoyed it.

I'm writing to point out that the real heroes are people who aren't getting praise and congratulations at all. They generously gave their time to paste up, write, proof read, find things I'd lost and generally be very helpful. It's no exaggeration to say that the Handbook would not have appeared before the end

of the holidays, nor would it have been to the same standard, without their help.

I very much wish these people to know how much I value their help and how grateful I am. If I've seemed ungrateful I apologise—it's probably because I've been working on auto pilot to conserve energy. I also apologise if this letter is over gushing...it's written with sincerity, I assure you!

Pippa Salmon

Congratulations on a superb Handbook—gush, gush—but it's not quite as good as last year's wonderful effort...

Sycophantic nonsense

Dear Judith,

I'd like to take this opportunity to be as sycophantic as possible and to plagiarise a very witty letter written about a year ago by a certain Mr Mark Cottle. In order to do this I will probably waffle on in this vein for several lines in a desperate attempt to fill up some space. On the other hand I probably won't be bothered to do anything that requires much effort.

Chris Jones

This Chris Jones person seems to have acquired the knack of space-filling very well and I can see such talents being well utilised in this year's FELICES.

Calculated strategy

Dear Judith,

I think it's an absolute disgrace the shocking way Rentokil has been neglected in recent years. Fearlessly confronting cockroaches at every turn, their most recent act of heroism is as yet unrecognised.

The matter first came to my attention three weeks ago, when two Rentokil employees strode boldly into the FELIX Office, clutching plastic tubes which contained raw liver. They were taped to the wall at strategic point carefully calculated to cause shock amongst the FELIX staff. Liver was discovered in the toilet, darkroom, typesetting room, by the kettle, behind the ghetto blaster and even in Old Beit shower. However, inspection a week later revealed only a rather fat maggot.

What was the purpose of this daring act? All can now be revealed: Rentokil's 'boys in red' were saving Beit from a horrifying plague of killer ants, which were threatening the very foundations of IC life as we know it. But what has been their reward? Have they been lavished with praises and presented to the Rector? Have they been given gold watches, carriage clocks or medals? Did anyone even bother to make them a cup of coffee? No! They have, as ever, been ignored, left to sink into the mists of obscurity.

This whole affair raises some worrying questions about freedom of speech, national security etc etc. The blatant lack of appreciation of these heroes of our time has all the hallmarks of a cover up. A deliberate plot to wipe out the last pockets of resistance to...to what? I think we should be told.

*Yours sincerely,
P Salmon, a concerned student.*

This girl's got distinct Howgate tendancies. She must be thinking of standing for a sabbatical post this year....

Missing Link

THE RECTOR has announced that the College intends to bring out a new newsletter aimed at departmental staff and alumni. He hopes that this will bridge the gap between administration and academics, while keeping old students up to date on College news.

Squatters evicted

RESIDENTS in Hamlet Gardens Summer Letting Scheme have been evicted having caused £1,000 worth of damage.

Neighbours had complained about bottles being thrown out of windows and excessive noise. The residents were also falling behind with their rent and they were eventually asked to leave. They decided to become squatters, but left of their own accord when their possessions were removed by the managers. Inspection of the flat revealed that the cooker had been taken. Manager Symon Corns later apprehended two intruders, preventing them from entering the flat.

Late audit

IT WAS revealed earlier this week that the annual College audit will not be ready before the end of September. This may mean that the University Grants Committee will postpone awarding Imperial's grant for the coming year.



All four sabbaticals have attained good academic standing this year. The line up is (from left to right): Judith Hackney (FELIX Editor); Alan Rose (Deputy President); Chas Jackson (Honorary Secretary); and at their feet Ian Howgate (President).



Royal School of Mines President Geoff Parsons, pictured here outside the Natural History Museum, has been selected to jump for Britain at the World Athletics Championships in Rome this month.

Security tightened

SECURITY in Southside is to be heightened following a decision taken by the Student Residence Committee last term. The new scheme will be similar to the arrangements in Linstead Hall.

A security guard will work from behind a new counter at the East entrance checking the identities of everyone who enters. The smaller West entrance will be made exit-only, and the central staircase will be closed altogether.

Southside Assistant Subwarden, Al Birch, commented that there would be resistance to closing off all but the furthest entrance for residents entering the Halls but the general improvement in security would probably be worth it.

New benefit hope for students

A POSTGRADUATE in the Geology Department is challenging the Government's powers to restrict housing benefit to students who do not qualify for a grant.

Michael Woolrich, who has taken his case to the High Court, is arguing that the regulations illegally prevent him from receiving benefit, because he relies entirely on parental support. Until changes in the regulations last September, he would have been eligible for the maximum benefit on his rent.

If Mr Woolrich is successful, students who do not receive Local Education Authority grants could be eligible for arrears payments of up to £800. Some students whose parents do not pay the contribution expected by the LEA could also benefit.

Moderate success for Alumnus Day

THE FIRST Imperial College Alumnus Day, which took place on 7th July, was declared a moderate success by the Old Students Association. The Rector expressed his intention to make the Day an annual event and it is hoped that word-of-mouth reports will attract many more former IC students in coming years.

BRIEF

New anti-apartheid initiative

STUDENTS are going to be dissuaded from accepting scholarships from IBM, Shell and Plessey, due to their South African links, in the latest NUS anti-apartheid campaign. They are also putting pressure on students not to work in South Africa and are asking unions to stop buying Shell petrol for their minibuses. This new initiative follows the success of the Barclays campaign last year, which forced them to withdraw after an estimated loss of £36m student deposits.

NUS breakaway

MR ALUN DAVIS, President of National Union of Students Wales, has announced that they are considering breaking away from the central Union without warning. The executive of NUS Wales have set up a working party to examine its feasibility. The move has been condemned by NUS President Vicky Phillips who claims that such an action will weaken the fight against cuts in education.

New extension

THE ISLAMIC PRAYER Room in the basement of Princes Gardens is to be extended after money was raised from the Kensington Committee of Friendship for Overseas Students and Imperial College Union. This will allow an extra 40 students to pray at any one time and provides additional washing facilities.

Bent row

THE DRAMATIC Society's Edinburgh Fringe venue, Theatre West End, is at the centre of a row between the site's owners (St John's Church) and the directors of one of the plays scheduled to be shown there. The Church officials feel that *Bent*, a play about the lives of homosexual men in Nazi Germany, is unsuitable to be performed on their premises and they may decide to ban the production.