

FREE!

Felix



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editorial

Welcome to all of you reading FELIX for the first time and to those of you who have seen a FELIX before. I hope you'll like the brand new format and enjoy reading all the features we've lined up for you this year.

Night of the Long Knives

It looks as though the Student Accommodation Office is going through another metamorphosis. College administration finally realised that the Accommodation Office was still unable to cope with all that it had been expected to. I fail to understand the reasoning behind sending caring ex-Student Accommodation Officer Lesley Gillingham over to College's Finance Section and allowing Michael Arthur, who never seemed to give a damn about students when he ran the office before, take charge for the busiest period of the year.

Rector

An invitation was extended to the Rector to write an official welcome to, or back to, College in FELIX. He felt that this was not necessary and declined the offer. This puzzles me, as the Rector is continually complaining about his lack of contact with the rest of College and how he wishes he could bridge the gap. Over 4,000 students and staff read FELIX each week. Surely FELIX is the ideal way to close that ever-widening gap.

Hamlet Gardens

Last week I joined IC Chief Engineer David Evans, Brian Lloyd Davies and ICU President Ian Howgate for a trip to Hamlet Gardens. The purpose of the visit was to show senior College officials the state of some flats which Fresher students would be moving into this week. What confronted us was rising damp, mouldy old mattresses, dead mice, broken furniture and curtainless rooms. The visit obviously did the trick, because both officials were suitably disgusted and promised as much money and manpower as was needed to repair the

Fresher flats. The flats which second and third year students are to rent have been given a lower priority as these students apparently 'know what to expect'.

The question which begs to be answered is, why must the Union draw such things to the attention of top College officials? Why was the Student Accommodation Office prepared to leave the flats in such a state?

News—or the lack of it

It has become harder and harder to remain the newspaper of Imperial College Union. With so few people willing to talk to us, it's not surprising that the FELIX staff find it more rewarding to write features rather than news. This edition has been incredibly frustrating. The main story should have been based on the College Finance & Executive (one of the highest committees) held a few weeks ago which discussed such touchy subjects as departmental autonomy and the fate of the money raised from the sale of Harlington gravel. FELIX was not allowed to observe at this meeting as all College committees are closed. For some

reason, the Union Executive have decided that they are not going to tell FELIX what went on in this meeting. It seems that they have told every other Union officer the tale but on the understanding that the information is kept secret. Every person I have mentioned Harlington gravel to has shied away, muttering that they swore they wouldn't tell! It's the first time that I have encountered anything like this from the Union Executive. Every Union member has a right to know what any Union officer is doing on our behalf. I hope to be raising this question at Thursday's Union General Meeting. Watch this space for more information as the saga unfolds!

Touch not the Cat

FELIX has a motto which has always been held dear by its staff: Keep the Cat Free. We put great importance on our editorial freedom. Our place is to criticise if criticism is due—whether it be College administration or Union. I heard today that our Union President believes that he alone should have the right to censor FELIX. He has said openly that he thinks that Union Officers are there to do the work and it is his place to make decisions. If Mr Howgate were to put his ego away for one moment, he would realise that it is not he that is The Union but every student that is The Union. He is merely a representative. We are the ones who make the decisions. I hope that you will all attend the Union General Meeting on Thursday and use your vote to vote for editorial freedom.

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Print Unit

Due to unfortunate circumstances, the Print Unit will not be able to print private work until the middle of November. All publicity required for clubs should be booked in well in advance.

Hamlet house of horror

SUMMER Letting Scheme (SLS) guests caused serious damage to head tenancy flats in Hamlet Gardens this Summer. As well as disturbing nearby residents and throwing litter out of the windows, some of the guests had assaulted the SLS Managers, damaged parked cars in the area and one group had sold furniture from their flat.

Hamlet Warden Geoff Hungerford said that SLS guests gave the flats a "real beating" each year. The guests who had caused most trouble were students from a University in the Republic of Ireland. Mr Hungerford said that although he had warned the Student Accommodation Office, the same people who had created major problems last year had been allowed to return. Even some students who were evicted after throwing a television through a window were given flats again this year.

Mr Hungerford said that the

students had known that a court case against them would take more than three months, and so they could not be evicted even though they had not paid their rent. He said this summer had been particularly bad now that the students knew what they could get away with. The SLS Managers were shocked to discover the condition of



'if we hadn't been there, there wouldn't be any buildings left'

the flats when the guests had moved out. Mark Cottle, one of the Managers, commented: "if we hadn't been there, there wouldn't be any buildings left".

A visit by senior College officials, Chief Engineer David Evans and College Deputy Secretary Brian Lloyd Davis, was organised by ICU President Ian Howgate when he was informed of the extent of the problems. Mr Lloyd Davies and Mr Evans were reported to have been deeply concerned and Mr Evans

immediately arranged for the flats to be put in good order.

Many of the flats have been completely repainted and a lot of furniture has had to be replaced. Mr Hungerford was very pleased with the condition of the redecorated flats and when asked on Friday, he said that he was confident that they would be ready for the students to move in to at the start of term.

●Ninety seven new students were due to move into Hamlet Gardens over the weekend, although there were only ninety two places available. Mr Hungerford said that he thought this would not present a problem as there are always some students who do not take up their places.

There will be more than twice as many freshers in Hamlet this year than there were last year. Some concern has been voiced about the suitability of Hamlet for Freshers. Subwarden Chris Griffen said that he did not think the accommodation or social life was appropriate for first years, many of whom had just left home.

Accommodation Office shake-up

STUDENT Accommodation Officer Lesley Gillingham was removed from her post by College Managing Surveyor, Peter Hallworth two weeks ago. Assistant College Secretary Michael Arthur has been left in charge until a new Student Accommodation Manager has been found. The position is to be linked with that of a Senior Housekeeper to provide a closer link with hall administration and a more "smooth and efficient service".

Mr Hallworth said Ms Gillingham was removed after a series of complaints including those from

several Wardens. It appears that letters had been sent out late, resulting in anxious Freshers telephoning because they had only two days in which to reply. Some letters contained no reply slips and non-existent accommodation had been offered. Mr Hallworth said that staff morale had been at a low ebb and there were notices in the office which he considered to be "offensive" and "not welcoming". He said that such a drastic decision had been a hard one to make but it had "proved to be the right one". He wants the post to be filled by "somebody who cares".

Gravel money to be invested

IT has been decided by the Finance & Executive (F&E) Committee that money raised by the sale of gravel at Harlington will be invested over the next few years. It was initially believed that College administration wished to use the money to back up their cash flow reserve. This was discovered when Harlington income figures appeared in cash flow calculations in the appendix of a paper which was presented to the Committee. After the misunderstanding was cleared up, it was decided that a separate

investment fund would be set up by the Investments Committee of Governing Body to be jointly administered by the Chairman of Governing Body and the President of the Union.

It has been rumoured that the Union Executive wish to set up a Union Investment Committee to advise the President, and that ex-ICU President Nick Norton may be asked to Chair this Committee.

A final decision will be made at the next F&E in November.

'Irresponsible' Ian attacks planned Freshers' Week entertainment

ENTERTAINMENTS Officer John Noble has slammed comments made by ICU President Ian Howgate as "irresponsible". John was responding to comments made in an interview Ian Howgate recorded with IC Radio before the start of term and which is due to be broadcast on Wednesday.

In it Ian pays tribute to the hard work put in by John, but says "I don't think we have a terribly good selection of bands in Freshers' Week". He admits "it's better than other London colleges" but adds "I don't really think it's good enough". "I have", he continued "plans afoot to revitalise the entertainments system; I'm talking about getting us up into the big time. How I'm going to do that is something I really can't say at the moment".

John Noble told FELIX "I hope no one will listen to him; we have a brilliant Freshers' Week, and lots of people were consulted over which bands to have, he shouldn't make irresponsible statements like that". It was, he added, the first time he had heard the statement.

The two other Union Sabbaticals said Mr Howgate's views on the bands were not Union policy and

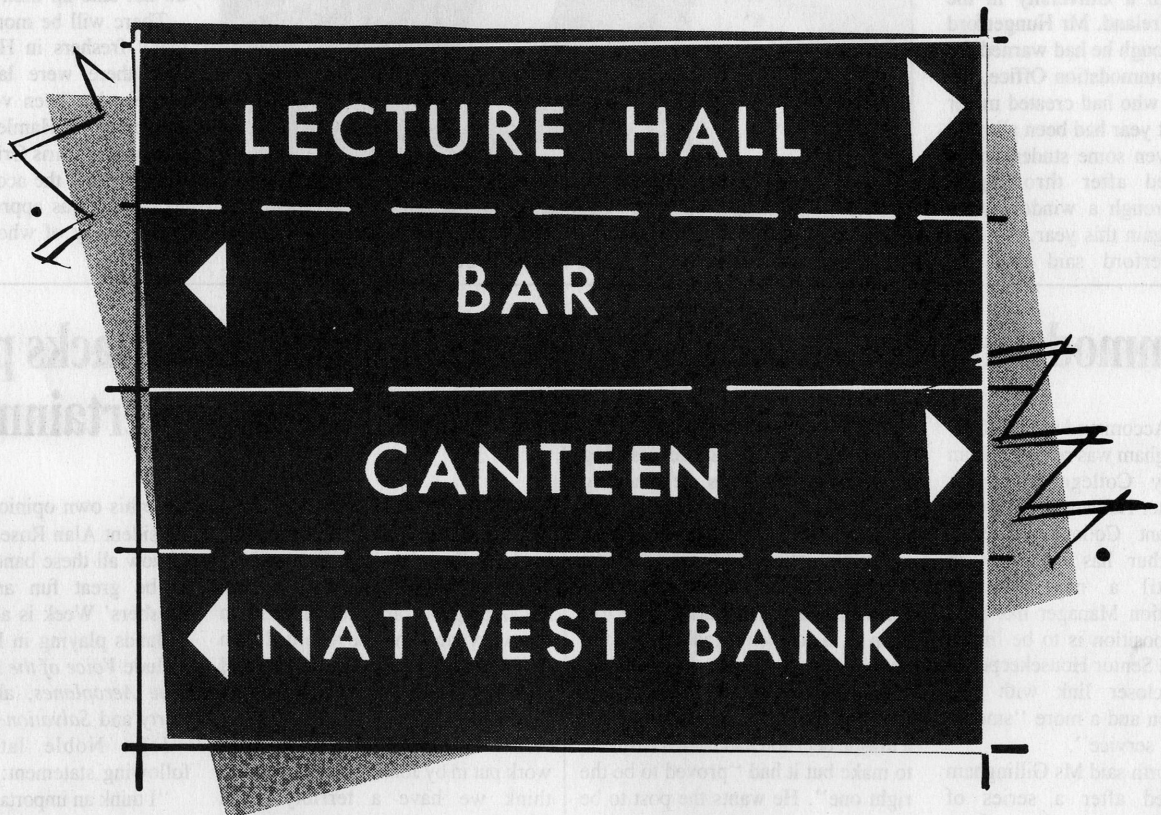
were his own opinion. ICU Deputy President Alan Rose said "as far as I know all these bands are supposed to be great fun and that's what Freshers' Week is all about.

Bands playing in Freshers' Week include *Voice of the Beehive* and the *Blue Aeroplanes*, along with *Rent Party* and *Salvation Sunday*.

John Noble later made the following statement:

"I think an important point to make is that what Ian is trying to say is that in a perfect world everything would be sweetness and roses. We would not have the restriction of a closed club licence on our hands, we would not have problems with apathy and we would not have problems concerning our venue size. However the reality of the situation is that we have these problems and many more. My duty is to operate within the bounds laid down by Council and most importantly not to overspend my budget. Bands of the ilk of Dire Straits etc charge fees in excess of £100,000, if you're lucky, a figure 32 times my budget. Personally I don't think Ian should make high fantastical statements about a subject which he knows little, especially without consulting the Ents Officer."

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P R E S S F O R A C T I O N



New school opens for business

The new Imperial College School of Management (ICSM) opened for the first time this summer under the directorship of Professor Norburn.

The School is a result of the merger between the Social and Economic Studies and Management Science departments.

Professor Norburn intends to make ICSM one of the top business schools in Europe and aims to teach over 400 students how to manage technology effectively.

At the moment all the courses are postgraduate but it is planned to introduce innovative teaching to 300 postgraduates and around 150 undergraduates by 1990.

Professor Norburn is very keen to take technology-sponsored students and proposes that a large degree of funding for the new school comes from industry. He also wishes to set up three research centres jointly with industry and will even have tailor-made courses for the school's sponsoring company.

Lexham money and mail stolen

A large amount of money was stolen from electricity meters in Lexham Gardens flats this summer and several people have complained that mail has been stolen. The trouble is believed to have been connected with a group of illegal residents in House 54. A student, who had paid for her flat throughout the summer, let it to a group of men she had met casually. They wrecked the flat and refused to go when Lexham Student Manager Aaron Kotcheff asked them to leave. It was around this time that money and mail were stolen and another flat in the same house was burgled. Amongst the mail stolen was Mr Kotcheff's new cheque book and bank statement, with which the robber withdrew his entire bank balance. The matter is currently in the police's hands.

The illegal residents finally left after Mr Kotcheff switched off their electricity.

College insurance mix-up

The Student Union Office is still dealing with claims on the Halls Insurance Policy. The Policy covers the belongings of all students in College Residences and Head Tenancies, and has been administered by the Union Honorary Secretary in the last few years.

On average there are about a dozen claims every month but last year there were difficulties with claims on the Policy. Paperwork was held up in College Finance Section and some claims are 11 months late. Student Residence Committee (SRC) recently has agreed 'in principle' that the administration of the scheme should be moved away from the Union, but did not decide who should take over the responsibility.

Lesley Gillingham (then Student Accommodation Officer) agreed that

her office should take it over but Managing Surveyor Residences Peter Hallworth later said she had had no authority to make such an agreement.

In view of the recent 're-organisation' in the Student Accommodation Office, current IC Union Hon Sec Chas Jackson is continuing to do the job. He told FELIX: "If it wasn't my students putting claims in, I would dump it on someone else's desk right now", and said that he was "not at all happy". He hopes that once the Student Accommodation Office situation settles down they will still be able to take insurance over.

Anyone who wishes to claim on the Policy should, for the moment, contact Chas Jackson in the Union Office (ext 3503).

Data protection

Imperial College has been issued with guidelines on the use of computerised information outlining the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The guide is mainly concerned with access to examination results. It says that candidates should be allowed "the maximum reasonable" access to assessment and examination marks". It stresses the need to tighten security over the information stored, especially of a personal nature.

Business innovation

The Student Industrial Society has recently launched its annual "Innovation for Business Award". The organisers are looking for fresh ideas which are both creative, practicable and have the people behind them to develop the ideas to their full potential.

Anyone who would like further details should contact IC Industrial Society's Chairman Gary Monaghan, Maths III.

From Rags to riches

Again this year there will be no Rag Mag to start the new year. Although Rag Mag Editor Gehan De Silva had most of the material in time, the censorship put a stop to it. The Board, consisting of the Rag Committee and the Exec, decided that the material was 'unsuitable' with most of it being too sick or so clean it was unfunny.

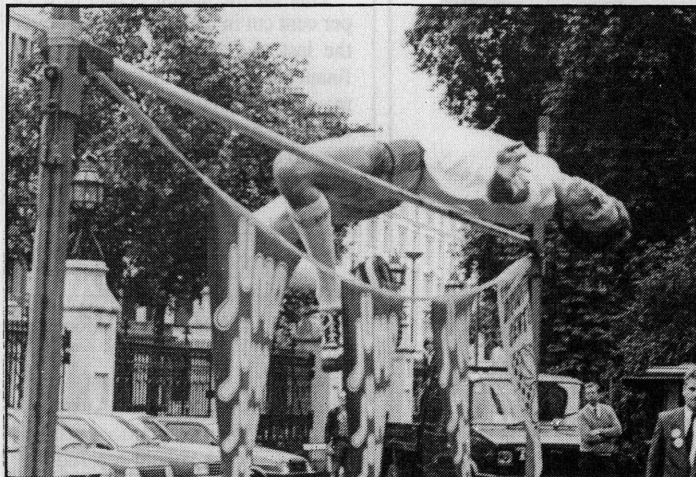
A further problem was encountered when Mr De Silva had to leave the country as part of his course. This left the Rag Mag without an Editor, the problem was overcome by forming an Editorial Committee with ICU President, Ian Howgate, at the helm. The situation was then exacerbated when the Rag Chairman, Nigel



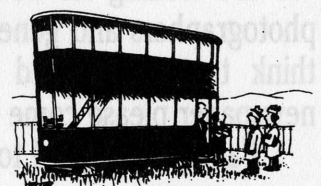
Baker, disappeared with most of the revised material.

However, Mr Howgate told FELIX that the Exec, and anyone else they found in the Bar, had been working hard collecting new material which they were very happy with. They already had nearly enough for a complete Mag which included many original ideas for the layout and general concept of the Mag, such as foreign language jokes. Nevertheless they would still be grateful for any further contributions.

Mr Howgate did promise that the Rag Mag would be ready for Rag Week in mid-November and that it would be a jolly good Rag Mag.



Geoff Parsons, this year's President of RSMU, was part of the British team sent to the World Athletics Championships in Rome this summer. He achieved tenth place with a jump of 2.25m, behind P Sjöberg of Sweden (2.38m), two men from the USSR, I Paklin and G Avdeako (2.38m) and P Moegeborg of West Germany (2.35m).



Fellows elected to IC

During the summer several new fellows were elected to Imperial College. They included A R Lukman President of OPEC, Professor Sir George Porter President of the Royal Society. Two members of the current staff were also elected, Professor Raphael of the Humanities Department and the Governor of Imperial College Professor Rotherham.

As well as fellowships, Honorary Associateship of IC was awarded to the infamous Victor Mooney, former Catering Manager in Sheffield. The awards will be presented at Commemoration Day in October.

Professor Eric Ash, the Rector of Imperial, has been elected President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Union card horror!

You will need a Union card to gain access to parts of the College including you hall of residence and the Union Building. It is also necessary to have one if you want to join any Union Club, buy a student rate membership card or gain concessions at theatres and cinemas.

This year cards will be issued in the Senior Common Room and the Union Dining Hall of the Union Building today and tomorrow between 10am and 4pm.

You will also be issued with a University of London Union Card at the same time which is essential if you want to make use of the various Union facilities over in Bloomsbury.

In order to receive your card you must produce your registration slip, two passport-size photographs of yourself, and your stamped residence slip if you are a hall or house resident.

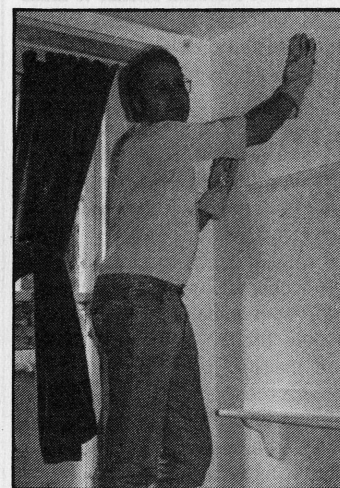
Railcard special

'Be somewhere else' for the start of the autumn term. British Rail are offering Young Persons' Railcards at half-price between 13th September and 7th November. A Railcard, valid for 12 months and costing £6 under this special offer, entitles the user to discounts of a third of the price of most rail tickets; £12 off the price of an Interrail Card, half-price Network Cards; and other reductions in fares including those for some Sealink UK and Isle of Man shipping services.

More information can be obtained from stations and agencies.

Montpelier scrubbers

Whilst everyone else was bemoaning the end of the holidays, Montpelier Hall has been a hive of activity. The Hall is situated near Harrods and was bought by College 6 years ago. However, except for a quick flit with a Hoover the place hasn't been cleaned properly since. There was however a fat chance of getting the £4,000 to clean it from College. So warden Kevin O'Connor negotiated with



Humanities move

The Humanities section has moved from 52-53 Princes Gate to the third level of the Mechanical Engineering Building. The Humanities Office is now situated in ME313c (int 7051).

Union takeover

Reading University's Students' Union is being threatened with a take-over bid by University managers.

This drastic action is due to a 13 per cent cut in the Union budget over the last two years and the lack of financial reserves. Reading Union may be the first of many students' unions to have to close down or hand over to College authorities when they can no longer fund their activities.

some residents so that they could have a guaranteed place in Hall for cleaning it. A team of 12 have been busy this week working flat out washing and cleaning. The reward for most is their place but some other volunteers are simply being taken out for a meal. Mr O'Connor said that Montpelier Hall residents have been renowned for their good nature, this year they converted a rubble-strewn courtyard into a garden and provided a large team for last year's Family Day.

HELP AMNESTY!

Amnesty International will be holding its National Door-to-Door Collection between 4th and 11th October. The Imperial College Amnesty Group intends to do its duty in this regard in the halls of residence and we need help!

Are you interested in the work of Amnesty International? Do you believe in human rights? Have you got a free evening this week? If your answer to all these questions is undoubtedly affirmative then please seek us out at the Freshers' Fair. If you can't spare the time then try to make a donation. Only the more gifted students should have spent all of their grant by this time.

Look out for Amnesty International at Imperial this year—and get involved!

FELIX NEEDS YOU!



We are looking for news and feature writers, photographers and general contributors. If you think that you would like to work on this newspaper please come and see us at Freshers' Fair in Beit Quad tomorrow afternoon

FELIX Office

The Office is open between 9.30am and 6.00pm from Monday to Friday for all Print Unit enquiries, photocopying and production work. Anyone requiring to use the Office outside of these hours should see Judith Hackney. The Office closes all day Sunday but it's usually open other times for FELIX production.

UPDATE

Tax probe: Refectories cook the books

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.

NUS boycott SA scholarships

STUDENTS are being 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.

Hamlet trashed

RESIDENTS in Hamlet Gardens Summer Letting Scheme were 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.

Expedition cancelled

THE MOUNTAINEERING Club's Karakoram expedition was 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.

Prayer Room

THE ISLAMIC Prayer Room in the basement of Princes Gardens is being 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.

Boat Club victory

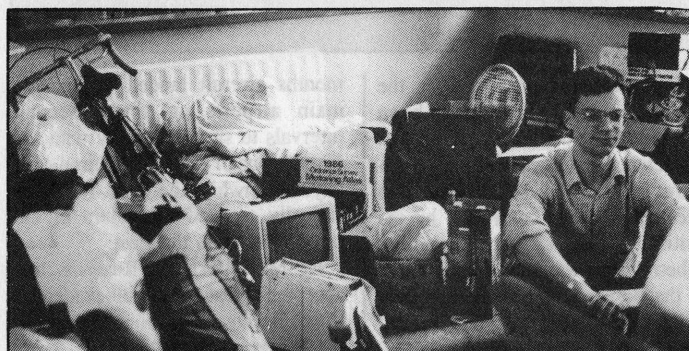
BOAT CLUB'S 1st IV won the prestigious Henley Regatta Challenge Cup, beating top university and college teams and cutting six seconds from the course record in the process.

Due to the Club's Henley success, several members were 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.

Cheap Beer

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.

College puts students on the streets



TEN students who had been allocated College accommodation over the 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 who were guaranteed one year in hall.

Most rooms had to be vacated by 10am on Saturday 27th June so that conference guests could move in on the following Monday. This was to allow time for the rooms to be thoroughly cleaned.

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.

THE FIFTH COLUMN

Die Mauer

If you take an underground train from Leopoldplatz in West Berlin and head towards Alt-Mariendorf, you might be surprised to see armed guards patrolling a string of derelict stations as the train drives slowly by. At one of the stations, known as Friedrich Strasse the train will stop and looking out onto the platform you might notice a number of duty free shops. Four passport checks later and you could be enjoying a surprisingly cheap shopping spree in East Berlin (if you don't mind queueing that is).

To the citizens of Berlin the division between the Eastern and Western halves of the city is a fact of life. The Berlin wall for the most part goes unnoticed except by fascinated tourists. Yet it remains a symbol of the tremendous political and economic division between the Communist East and the Conservative West. To the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR), the wall is a barrier designed to keep the East Germans in. For the Democratic Republic (FDR), the wall is an 'Anti-Fascist Protection Barrier', designed to keep the West Germans out.

Since its construction in 1961 the wall has progressed through four generations. Starting life as a barbed wire barricade it developed into a crude breezeblock wall, before reaching its current incarnation—a prefabricated concrete structure some 111km in length. As the years progressed defences along the wall were gradually improved with the aim of reducing the steady trickle of East Germans defecting to the West. A 'death strip' containing alarms, trip wires and bunkers was established. Dog runs and anti-vehicle ditches were constructed and 295 watch towers were erected. Until 1982 when they were removed because of international protests, the death strip contained 54,000 shrapnel firing devices. These devices, each packed with explosive were triggered by a series of trip wires and launched 110 steel cubes in the general direction of the victim. The injuries produced by the shrapnel were invariably horrific and at least eleven people are known to have died because of these machines.

The political climate which led to the construction of the wall has its origins in recent history.

Nineteen eighty-seven is a historic year for Berlin. In the midst of the city's 750th anniversary celebrations, and for the first time since the division of the country after the war, the East German leader Erich Honecker has been officially received by the West German Chancellor. During a week of negotiations, Mr Honecker gave assurances that East Germany would relax its restrictions on travel to the West.

"The day will come when the borders will not separate us but unite us, as the border between the DDR and Poland unites" he said.

Chancellor Kohl's response was cool and guarded as he reminded his audience that Socialism and Capitalism were as separate as fire and water.

Significantly both politician's speeches were given unedited TV and newspaper coverage in the East. Yet in spite of the concessions offered by both sides it seems unlikely that Bonn is any closer to its dream of a united Germany. The fact that Mr Honecker—until now unrecognised by the FDR—was received at all underlines the division between the two Germanies. The German Press are also sceptical. Mr Honecker's desire that the East-West border should one day emulate the 'peace boundary' between Poland and the DDR is less optimistic than it appears, according to Stern magazine. Ever since the uprising of the Solidarity Trade Union, travel between the DDR and Poland has been heavily restricted and immigrants are expected to prove, to the satisfaction of the police, that they have been invited into the country. The border itself is marked by a meter high fence equipped with observation towers and warning signs which state "Stop. State boundary. Crossing and photographs forbidden."...

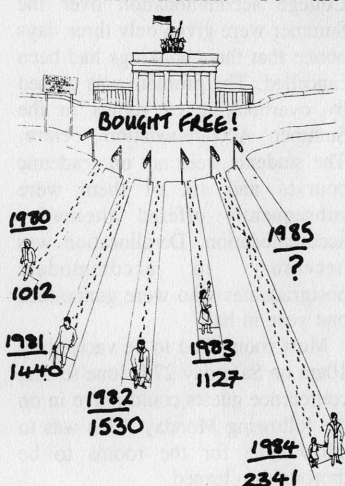
The fate of Germany after the Second World War had been determined by the Foreign Ministers Conference, held in Moscow in 1943. Germany was to be divided into occupation zones controlled by the British, Russians and Americans. When France was later given a share in the division, it became apparent that Berlin would be left stranded within the Russian zone.

It was agreed that the city itself would also be divided into occupation zones and governed jointly by the Allied commandants. Although it was decided to establish three air corridors through the Russian zone, for the most part reliance was placed on Allied goodwill for the rights of passage to Berlin. This, as it was to turn out was the Western Allies' first mistake.

On June 24th 1948 the Russians closed off the road and rail links between Berlin and West Germany. Their intention—to cut off West Berlin's food supply and win the economic battle by offering cheap East German supplies to the West Berliners. The Allies responded with an airlift on a massive scale. For ten

months aircraft landed in Berlin's main airports at ninety second intervals to supply the city with the 12,000 tons of goods it required each day. Meanwhile the West Berliners stoically resisted the offers of cut price food from the East.

By May 1941 the Russians had accepted defeat and the blockade was lifted. Because of labour shortages in the Western half of the city a large number of East Germans commuted from East Berlin. To the



embarrassment of the newly recognised German Democratic Republic (DDR) the border crossers, known as the Grenzgänger, were paid in D-Marks and were thus able to enjoy cheap rents in the East whilst still being able to purchase luxury Western goods. Things came to a head in 1953 when the Kremlin ordered the establishment of 'Collective Farms'. Soon afterwards food supplies in the East dwindled and a steady stream of refugees began to leave for the West. The combined effects of food shortages and demands for a 10% increase in workers' productivity sparked a general strike in July of that year. Throughout the DDR the strikers demanded free elections and the resignation of the Government. Soviet troops managed to quell the demonstrations, though three hundred people were killed and thousands injured in the process.

The increasing unrest led to more and more refugees crossing the border. In an effort to put a stop to this the DDR placed fortifications along the border between East and West Germany. Berlin, however, remained unrestricted and by 1961 two thousand refugees were arriving in reception centers in the Western half of the city each day.

Amid increasing tension the head of the East German Socialist Unity Party (SED), Walter Ulbrich, reassured the West that 'nobody had any intention of building a wall'. Less than a month later, under the auspices of the Secretary for National Security, Erich Honecker, twenty thousand troops of the New People's Army entered Berlin. Under the cover of darkness, coils of barbed wire were placed over the crossing points between East and West and the interconnecting roads were dug up, underground stations were padlocked and guards were placed at strategic points. The wall had arrived.

Families and friends were separated overnight, workers and managers were unable to turn up to work and the lecture theatres in Berlin's university were half empty.

It was therefore left to the individuals affected to cope as best they could; ever since the first strands of barbed wire were laid there had been a steady trickle of refugees escaping over, under or through the wall. In the early days, wall hopping was relatively easy and often took place on the spur of the moment. A number of East German guards simply lifted up the barbed wire and walked to freedom in the West. Others swam across the canals which marked the East-West border or strapped themselves to the underside of Western bound trains. Inevitably,

as the DDR gradually increased the wall's defences, escape became more complex and more expensive.

There were always those in the Western city who were prepared to help those trapped in the East, often at great personal risk to themselves. Many of these were students incensed by the inhumanity of the wall. They were helped financially by right wing political parties, anti-communist groups and the press who were always hungry for a good escape story. Inevitably there were those who entered into the escape business for their own profit and during the 1960's a large number of 'escape firms' grew up. Not all of the firms were reliable. Often customers in the East would pay extortionate amounts of money for a half baked escape scheme which invariably resulted in imprisonment for the unfortunate defectors. It became commonplace for rival firms to betray each other to the East German authorities; premises were burgled, forged papers stolen, and lists of contacts confiscated. To make matters worse, West Berlin was riddled with informers and East German agents.

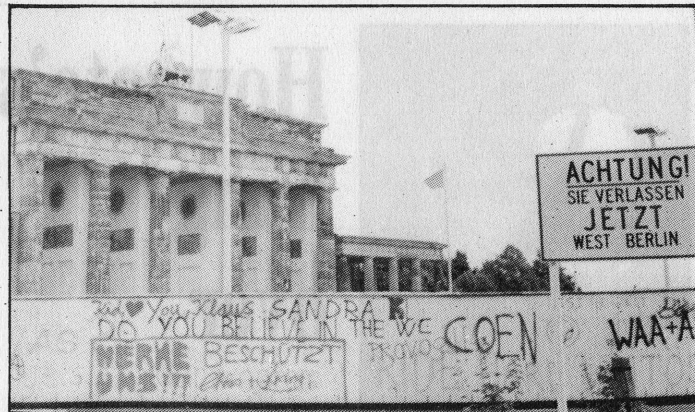
The Wall was responsible for inspiring some weird and wonderful schemes which put even Colditz to shame. One of the strangest occurred between October 1971 and April 1973, when twenty nine people escaped in a converted welding machine which was being regularly transported across the border. The machine had been cleverly constructed so that guards, on removing the panels were confronted with a tangle of wires; the secret inner compartment remaining hidden from view. This compartment could only be opened by the simultaneous operation of two mechanical switches and an electric relay. In 1977, the European singer, Thedorus Kerk smuggled Renate Hagen over the border inside a one and a half foot square loudspeaker case, and in 1941 a girl, acting on the spur of the moment, escaped inside a radiogram. One of the wackiest defections was inspired by the Trojan Horse legend. Instead of a horse, however, the escapee hid inside a model cow which was being transported to the West, ostensibly for theatrical purposes.

In his excellent book 'Escape From Berlin' Anthony Kemp tells the story of Wolfgang Fuchs, head of an escape 'firm' known as 'Klunte and Klunte', and perhaps the greatest hero in the escape business. Staffed by volunteers, Klunte and Klunte was financed by outside donors and during its time managed to rescue well over five-hundred East Germans.

Fuchs' speciality was tunneling and between 1963 and 1964 Fuchs organised the construction of no less than seven tunnels. His last and greatest tunnel became known as 'tunnel 57', after the 57 people who were brought to West between the 3rd and 5th of October 1964. The tunnel stretched for 130 meters between a bakery in the FDR and a disused apartment in the DDR. It was equipped with lighting and ventilation

unobtrusive groups could be released into the city.

Disaster struck on the morning of October the fifth...Two men appeared at the door to the apartment and because they were obviously very frightened the students assumed that they were genuine refugees despite the fact that they did not know the password. The men explained that they would like to go back and collect a friend who had apparently lost his



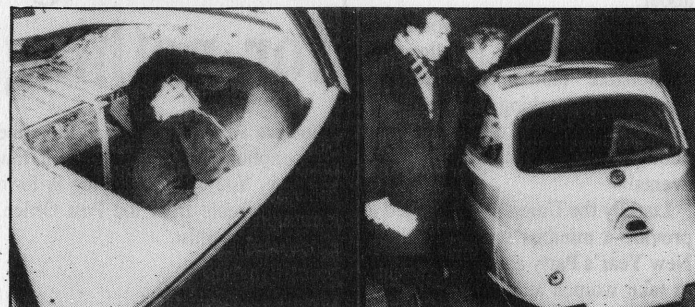
The Brandenburg Gate

and took a team of forty helpers six months to construct.

The escape operations were carried out in strict military style; only those individuals recommended by people already known to the organisation were offered help and potential defectors were rigorously vetted. Couriers met their East German contacts at Friedrichstrasse station where passwords were exchanged. As they made their way to the derelict apartment, Fuchs watched through binoculars from a roof in the West. When he was certain that they had not been followed he radioed the go ahead to the student volunteers waiting in the apartment to open the outside

nerve. They returned a quarter of an hour later with a uniformed soldier. One of the students fired a warning shot to give his companions a chance to escape; the soldier opened fire and a fusillade of shots opened out throughout the apartment, which by now was surrounded by the East German guard. In the crossfire the soldier was killed.

Although it was unclear whether or not the soldier had been killed by the student or by the crossfire from his own people, the DDR extracted the maximum publicity from the case. In the East, civilians were moved out from houses close to the border and a wide death strip was established



The Isetta bubble car

door. Further passwords were exchanged before the escapee would be led to the concealed tunnel entrance. The West lay only a ten minute crawl away; once on the other side they were scrubbed clean and detained for up to six hours until small

close to the wall. Meanwhile, preoccupied with negotiations for a day pass system which would allow citizens in the West to visit East Berlin, the Western government also began a clamp down on escape activities.

For Fuchs, this was a minor setback and he continued with an incredible plan which involved driving up to the wall in a specially equipped van and lowering steps to the other side. After months of planning, and searching for a suitable location the stunt was completed successfully. Later, Fuchs bribed a Syrian diplomat to smuggle out refugees. Because the East Berliners were anxious to maintain good international relations, diplomatic vehicles received little attention at the border, and the Syrian made a number of runs before being discovered, or more likely betrayed. Fuchs, however, arranged for the Syrian to be given false documents which enabled him to escape the death sentence which would otherwise have awaited him on his deportation back to Syria.

Wolfgang Fuchs under the guise of 'Klunte and Klunte' went on to organise even more sophisticated escapes until his retirement in 1973 when he decided to devote a sensible amount of time to his family, his activities having already cost him his first marriage.

Many of the relics from the more successful escape attempts are on show at The Museum Of The Wall near Checkpoint Charlie. One of the most striking exhibits is a tiny Isetta bubble car which managed to make nine escape runs across the border. Because of their size, bubble cars were never properly searched by the Vopos guards who assumed that they were too small to contain hidden passengers. However, one Westerner found that a small person could be secreted above the engine when the air filter and heater were removed and the petrol tank replaced with a small canister. An adjustment to the vehicles suspension meant that the weight of the extra passenger went unnoticed by the Vopos.

Also on show are photographs of a very low slung Austin Healey Sprite sports car, with a detachable windscreen. Much to the surprise of the guards the car was driven underneath the barrier at Checkpoint Charlie with a passenger hiding behind the rear seat. The escape received massive publicity in the press, and yet only a week later the same car was successfully used by an Argentinian in a repeat performance of the same stunt.

The lengths to which individuals have gone in the quest for freedom are astounding. Balloons, hang-gliders, forged passports, and death slides are just a few examples. One of the more reputable 'escape firms' even managed to smuggle out refugees

continued on page 33



Hello everyone, welcome or welcome back to IC. I am not going to write anything about IC and the first weeks here, as the freshers among you will have handbooks and the rest of you will know it all anyhow. I'd just like to remind you about the tiddlywinks down Oxford Street on Saturday, where we all have our first chance of the year to raise money for charity. At the same time don't forget Freshers' Fair on Tuesday, cos getting involved in clubs after that point can be quite hard, but don't let that deter you.

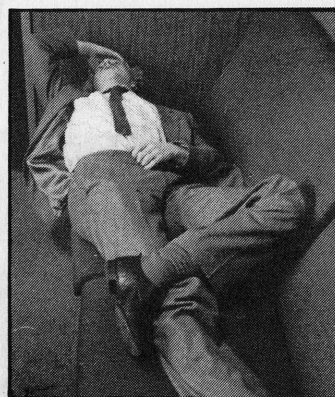
Now we've got the drivel out of the way, here's a quick update on the summer.

Residences

When you left last year, ICU had decided not to recognise the Student Residence Committee (SRC) as a valid decision-making body. Well, over the summer, the SRC had decided to and is in the process of reassessing its terms of reference, the structure of the committee and the management structure in the residences. It would appear at present that the Union will do well out of the reorganisation although these are early days yet.

At the end of the year it was reported that College rents will rise by £7 per week over the next three years. This is a direct result of College purchasing an extra 200 places. It is interesting to note that the revised College plan indicates that there will be an increase in student places with College-owned accommodation of 250 places per year for the next four years, yet there is no indication of where the money is going to come from to pay for this.

Surely they cannot expect it come out of rents? Still on accommodation, the Union has held the first meeting of the Union Accommodation Committee in 12 years which strangely had no matters arising from the previous minutes. We will be looking for one student representative from each hall or house to sit on this committee and look at the general problems of housing as well as independent problems in Imperial accommodation. So if you live in IC accommodation



and are keen to look after the well-being of your friends as well as getting involved in hall or house activities speak to your warden or subwarden as soon as possible.

Intercollegiate Halls

Some quite interesting information about intercollegiate halls has come to light over the summer, but we will discuss this at the UGM, so you'd better be there.

The Junior Common Room

The JCR problem has not yet been

resolved but rumour has it that we are likely to be given a new JCR somewhere else in College, probably in the basement of Mines. Having been down and looked around this basement I could not see any suitable area. Perhaps I just have a very poor imagination?

Damages

Having talked about residences and the JCR, I would like to point out that the College has spent quite a lot of

Howgate's hang-over

money and effort on bringing these areas up to standard with a few exceptions in residences. Last year Linstead Hall was brought up to scratch and it was so badly treated that it had to be repainted this year. Within a week of the JCR refurbishment someone was found stubbing a cigarette out on the wall to see if it melted. These areas are put there for your good, treat them well and if you see anyone abusing them tell them not to, after all it will come out of your pockets in the end either as increased rents or increased food prices.

College is not rich, in fact it is very poor and they cannot afford to pay for these things every year. As far as halls are concerned, I will be pushing communal area damage and that means repainting, to be costed at the end of the year and taken out of everyone's deposits. I'm sorry about those of you who treat the place well, but if it doesn't come out of your pockets it will only have to come from your successor's and they are definitely innocent.

Public Relations

College has made one of the most positive and forward-looking moves in years by appointing a public relations officer (Ian Moore). At the last College Finance and Executive Committees his budget for the next 5 years was approved. This included an input of £169,000 next year, this is expected to be recovered by 1989 with a net profit of over £320,000 by 1990. In this I wish Ian Moore the greatest success.

Last Point

As a last point I'd like to say farewell to *Stagefright* who are turning professional and leaving IC. I wish them all the best with this and must say they show more promise than any band I've seen before. At the same time I would like to thank Jason, Nass and especially Peter for running the Snack Bar so well over the summer as they are leaving us.

Yours, Ian

PS. Remember to enjoy the entertainments lined up for the coming week.

Women only

During Freshers' Week most events go on until the early hours of the morning which leaves many women students with the choice of whether to miss the parties or to brave London at night.

With the high rents around Kensington, many students are forced to live out in Wandsworth, Putney or North London. It is a sad fact that many women have very little choice when faced with problems such as no transport or the likelihood of getting stuck late at night alone. Most women know better than to walk London's streets alone at night unless absolutely necessary.

This may all seem a little dramatic, especially if you come from a quiet

neighbourhood, but attacks are reported daily so there is certainly something for women to be scared about.

The police advise young women not to wear expensive jewellery or fashionable clothes because that would just be asking for trouble so don't be surprised if there are a large number of nuns at the Freshers' events!

Luckily the Union have decided to provide a minibus service after the New Year's Party and Freshers' Ball to take women students home, this will come as a great relief to those who would have stayed at home otherwise.

The minibuses will be leaving from Beit Arch from 2.00am on Tuesday and Saturday mornings to coincide with the shutting of the Union Bar. *This service is for women students only.*

Something for nothing

Students are eligible to claim for free prescriptions on the grounds of low income. You apply by filling in form P11, available from the Post Office, DHSS or chemist.

Refunds

To get a refund you must retain your receipt from the chemist and send it to the DHSS with a letter explaining your circumstances.

Dental Treatment & Glasses

If you have a certificate of exemption entitling you to free prescriptions then you automatically qualify for free dental

treatment and NHS glasses. You must fill out a claim from (F1D at the dentists or F1 at the opticians) and send it to your local DHSS Office.

Overseas Students

Overseas students are eligible to claim for these health benefits if they are enrolled on a full-time course.

SPORTS FACILITIES BOOKINGS

Would all clubs and societies who wish to use gym facilities this term please collect a Gym Booking Form from the Union Office and return it at the latest by 14th October. Gym bookings will then be notified to those concerned on Monday 19th October. Gyms include volleyball court, Union Gym, Weights Room, Southside Gym, Tennis/Netball Courts.

Rob Gee, ACC Chairman

Hon Sex



Union Cards

Due to the rather parlous state of residence security in College, it has been decided to revise completely security arrangements in the Halls of Residence, particularly Southside Halls. The upshot of this is that whereas previously the Union Card has been just one colour, this year anyone in College residence will have the privilege of a two colour Union Card, on one side the Union colour and the opposite face being the residence colour.

In order to get your new style all-singing, all-dancing Union Card, you will need to collect a slip attesting to your residence at the same time as collecting your keys. You then bring this along with your registration slip in order to obtain your card.

This year is just a trial run for the new style card, but College Security will be testing the new security arrangements for one week in November.

Insurance

I require an inventory for insurance purposes from every club or society. The forms are in your pigeonholes, so please collect them as this is a very important matter. Remember, if you don't it'll end in tears.

Transport

The new van has now arrived, hopefully by the time of printing, Transport Committee will have

approved some minor changes to the operation of the van fleet, so watch out for any changes which will be publicised fully.

Parking Permits

The application forms can be collected from the Union Office and must be returned by 5.30pm, this coming Friday (9th October). The list of allocations will be printed in FELIX, and any applicant not granted one can fill in an appeal form to fight over a few permits kept behind for that very purpose.

Late Night Drinking

I have negotiated a deal with the owners of *3rd Street* (once the *Cromwellian*), which is opposite the Natural History Museum. We get free entrance to the club (open till 3am) on 3 nights a week, plus reduced entrance on the other nights. Also on Wednesdays, the booze will be kept at pub prices, between 11pm and 3am. The student membership entitles you to free booking of the function room as long as you can guarantee 50 people attending. They will be issuing student membership cards at Freshers' Fair.

The management want to encourage student trade, and if all goes well we should be able to extend the deal. Watch for adverts in FELIX and Exec News.

Residence Insurance

I will continue dealing with claims until College can find someone suitable to take this over. I only learnt this at short notice and the handling of this by various sections of College admin has left me more than a little pissed off and rather unimpressed.

Elections

At the start of this year I have several elections to hold. These will be announced at the first UGM and voting will take place at the second UGM. Most of these posts would ordinarily be filled by now but due to circumstances beyond my control, still remain empty. The posts are:

Internal Services Officer

Publicity Officer

2 first year reps on Council

1 ordinary member of Council

1 ordinary member of UFC (Union Finance Committee)

1 member of GUC delegation this is the highest body of the University of London

Apart from the first year reps to Council, anyone can stand for any of these posts. Details of what the jobs entail can be obtained from myself as Returning Officer.

Chas

Welfare welcome

An introduction to the Welfare Centre

At some stage of your time at Imperial College you may need advice or information and not know where to turn. The answer could well be waiting at the Welfare Centre, 15 Princes Gardens. There, you can if you wish see me—Linda Simmons, Imperial College's Welfare Adviser for confidential and impartial advice. I can usually be found in my office in Princes Gardens from 10am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday (ext 3604) and you don't usually need an appointment.

So what sort of advice can I give? Briefly, benefits, housing rights, immigration, tax, insurance, consumer affairs, financial problems (including debt counselling), legal problems (at least as a first stage), etc etc. The list could easily be extended; please ask if you have a problem that is not mentioned here, if I can't help I'll do my best to point you in the direction of someone who can.

In addition to personal advice there are leaflet racks situated outside my office which are accessible from 9.30am to 5.30pm where you will find a wide range of literature. Much is from outside organisations such as the DHSS, the Consumer Council, Family Planning Association, and the Department of the Environment. You will also find information compiled by the Welfare Adviser and Accommodation Office on subjects such as benefits, accommodation, housing rights and overseas students.

The Welfare Centre is completely independent of all other parts of Imperial College. It can, therefore, aim to provide an effective and impartial service to students whose problems impinge on another part of the College.

As Welfare Adviser I will be pleased to see you and try to help in whatever way I can.

Linda Simmons,
Welfare Adviser



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the loan arrangers

Once upon a time when things were what they used to be, banking was a straightforward affair. As a customer, it was a matter of handing over the cash and letting the experts deal with it. Nowadays, however, audience participation is called for. First you select the financial institution (don't forget building societies). Then you are confronted by a barrage of 'five star current twenty-seven month dual chequebook accounts'; 'student piggy bank under sevens £5,000 overdraft' accounts and the like while juggling various pieces of plastic, before you meet on of a collection of advisors who will eventually consent to deal with your money.

Unfortunately, it seems likely to get more rather than less complicated. Students are very good business for banks: they have a tendency to get executive jobs with executive salaries and may even need the odd loan on the way. In order to get these student accounts, the banks pull out all the stops to appear friendly, legal, decent, honest, truthful, etc, etc, as well as showering the hapless individual with enough free gifts to set up a small retail business. In fact, the various accounts on offer are fairly similar as regards services: a cheque guarantee card once your grant cheque has been paid in, a cheque book and a cash point card, statements, standing orders and so on are all standard. What's really worth considering is how much it's all going to cost.

It's a sad fact that about 50% of students overdraw at some time.

If you are likely to do so, you will probably want a bank which offers cheap overdrafts. Most banks will charge students a low rate of interest and waive bank charges on pre-arranged, limited loans. Exceptions to this are The Bank of Scotland and Allied Irish. Two banks, Midland and Clydesdale, will even give interest-free overdrafts of up to £100 if arranged beforehand.

WARNING: if you don't arrange your overdraft before going into the red, or if you exceed your overdraft limit, you will have to pay some pretty steep charges.

Some banks/building societies give

interest when your account is in credit. This could be worth quite a lot, but check the overdraft policy before committing yourself. The Nationwide, for example, gives free banking on an agreed overdraft, but does have cheap interest rates for overdrawn students. It could work out more expensive than a normal account with lower interest rates, depending on the average state of your bank balance.

Just about every current account entitles you to a cash point card. It's very handy to be able to get cash outside the amazingly inconvenient bank opening hours. All the major banks except Lloyds operate twenty-four hour cashpoint service, but be prepared for cashpoints which have run out of money or generally don't work.

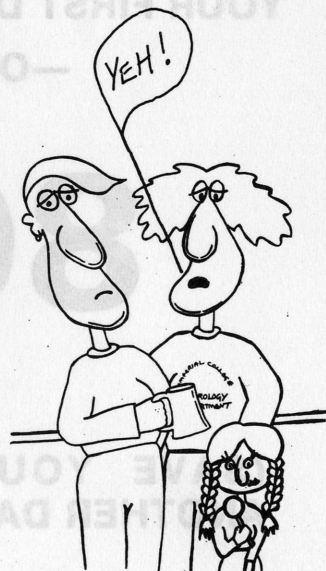
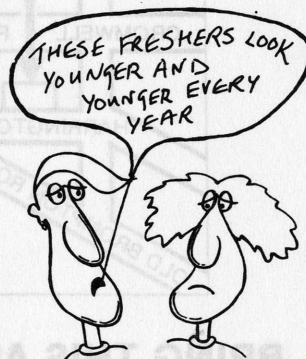
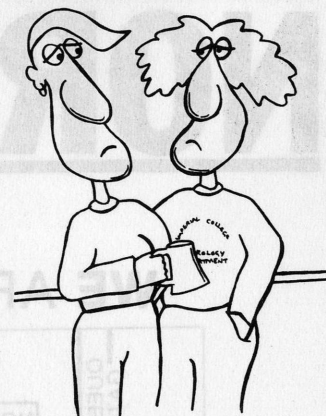
As well as dispensing cash, the machines have other facilities. You should usually be able to find out your balance as at the end of the previous day, at least. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) even provide a mini statement with your last three transactions, although you can't order full statements there. You can also make deposits at the cashpoints of some banks (including the RBS).

Not only can you use your bank's amazing cashpoint facilities, but if you're a long way from a branch or if the nearest one is broken down, you can use the machine at another bank. There are three main cashpoint groups, as follows: Bank of Scotland (BS), Lloyds, Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland; Clydesdale, Midland, NatWest, Northern and TSB are to join; Nationwide, Co-op and Girobank. You can use a card from a particular bank at any of the others in the same group, although you may not be able to use all the normal services.

A word of warning about cheque cards which also act as cashpoint cards: it is less plastic to carry around but if you lose your card or a machine eats it, you might have trouble getting hold of money.



IN THE BAR ①



continued next week

**ARE YOU NEW
TO THE AREA?**

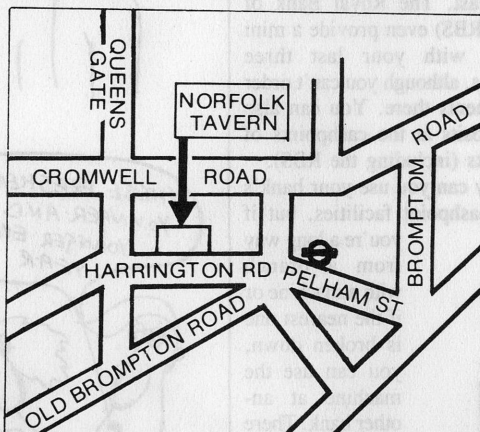
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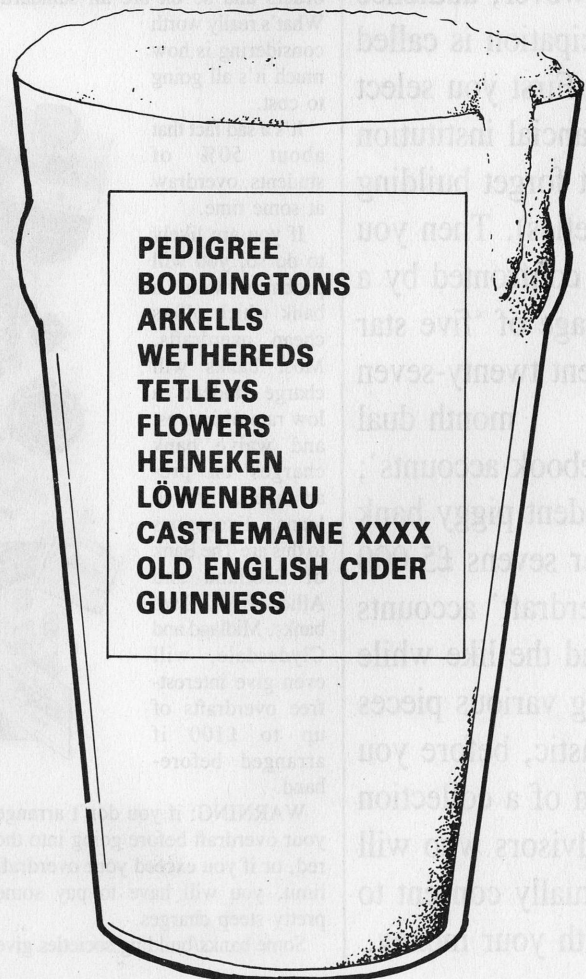
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**(SAVE YOUR GRANT FOR
ANOTHER DAY) AT THE:**

NORFOLK TAVERN

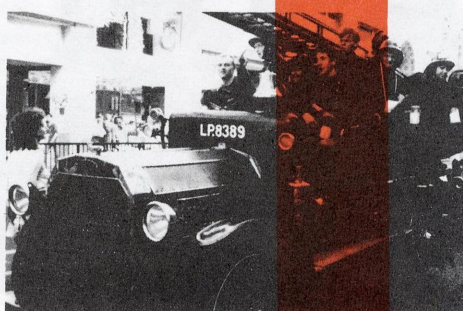
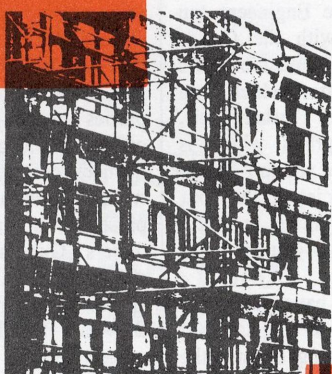
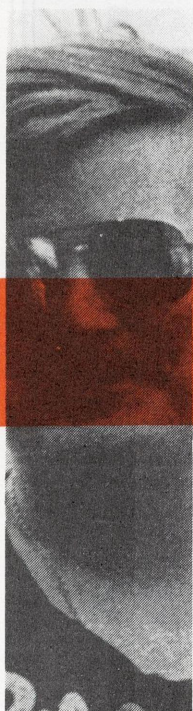
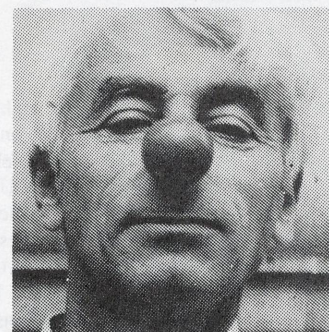
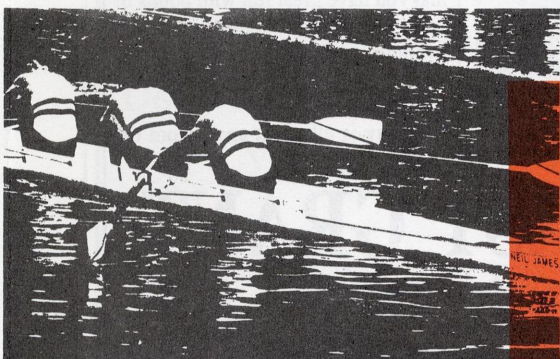
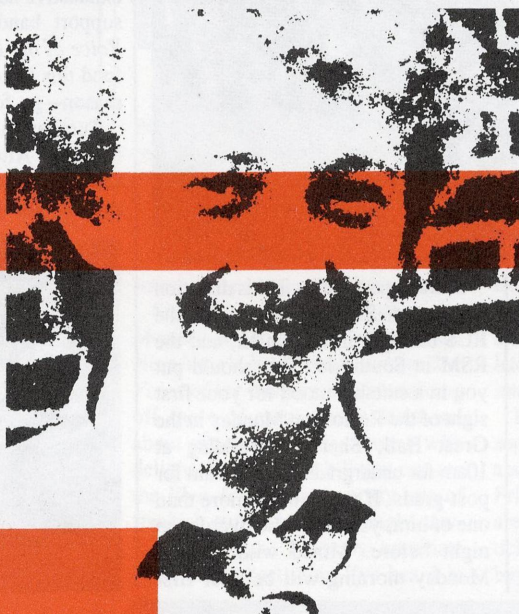
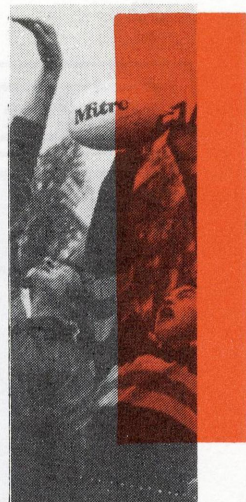
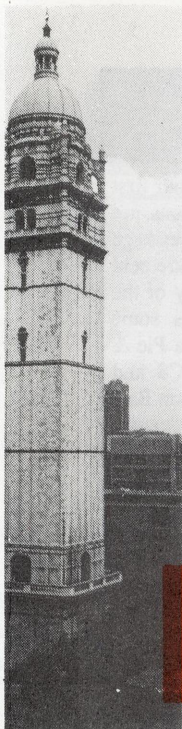
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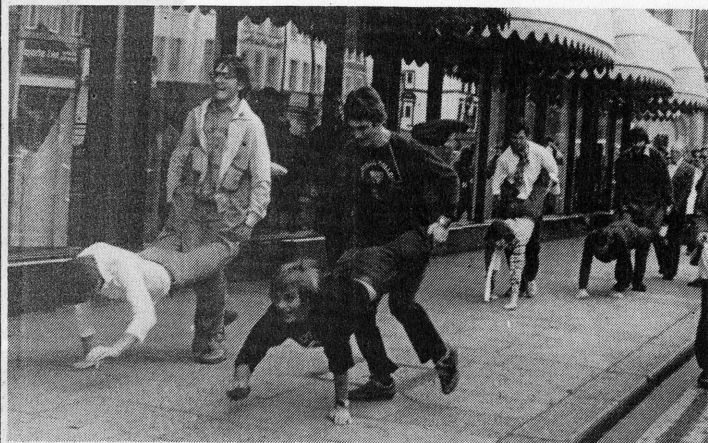
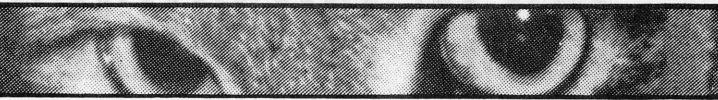


**PEDIGREE
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HEINEKEN
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GUINNESS**

FELIX FRESHERS' WEEK GUIDE



OCTOBER 1987



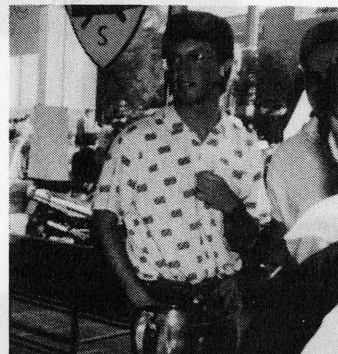
When you are old, crumbling and solvent, your recollections of Freshers' Week will probably bring a smile, a wince and a ghost of a hangover, for this is the week of new friends and tiddlywinks, first lectures and all-night parties. It is bound to present you with at least one completely new experience, and whether that experience is legal, decent, honest and truthful or not is your business.

More opportunities in this direction happen on Sunday night, with the RCS barnight in the Union, and the RSM in Southside. This should put you in a suitable mood for your first sight of the Rector, on Monday in the Great Hall, Sheffield Building at 10am for undergrads and 11.30am for post-grads. If you can see more than one of him, you really did overdo the night before. Mixed with this on Monday morning will be your first

stand up to face the music. This bit is steeped in tradition and shaving foam.

The pace hots up for the New Year Party on Monday evening, which starts at 8pm, and should lurch to an exhaustive halt at around 2am. With support bands, disco, main group *Voice of the Beehive*, films, bar and food this is not to be missed for any reason—go for it, and good luck.

Tuesday morning—probably 'The Morning After' to beat them all—kicks off with more academic talks, and a glimpse or two of your



Wednesday begins—and your first lecture! Wednesday afternoons are always free for you sporty types to go off to Harlington, and trials are held there on the first Wednesday of the year. The evening presents some choice—Guilds are holding a Pie & Mash do at Harlington, RCS and RSM are drinking in the Union Bar, RCS later venturing out for a crawl. For the rest of us, there's an Alternative Comedy Night in the Lounge, Union Building.

Thursday continues Wednesday's trait of offering some academic activity, but has the added advantage of an IC Union General Meeting at 1.00pm in the Great Hall. This is your opportunity to quiz the Union Officers on what they're doing with your money. Instant democracy (why isn't the Union privatised?—is the order of the day—I think we should be told) and you have great fun with points of order and procedural motions. In the evening Guilds and RCS go ice skating together, meeting at the Queen's Arms.

Friday is all work apart from the

HOW TO SPEND YOUR FIRST GRANT CHEQUE IN JUST ONE WEEK —the FELIX way—

So you arrive, surrounded by suitcases—necessary—and parents—probably embarrassing—to take up your place in hall or house. There are selected residents in most College accommodation whose job it is to show you around, introduce you to everyone else and take responsibility for your first hangover of the week.

sight of your department, but we won't dwell on that, or on the Union spiel which follows it, except that ICU Sabbaticals tend to give much better value for money than the Rector does.

More Union business is transacted on Monday afternoon, when the Constituent College Union Officers



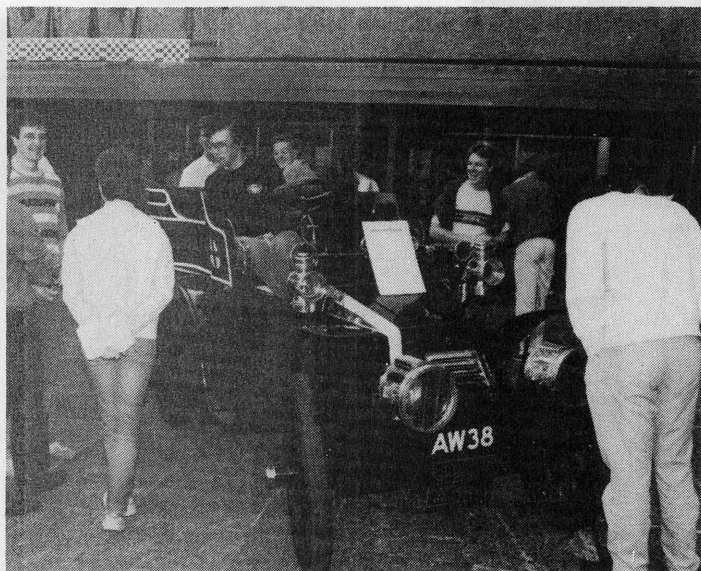
department. Female Engineers can wash this down with the Guilds Ladies Lunch in Southside Bar's Upper Lounge, after which you should all be ready for Freshers' Fair, a cross-College sprawl which is designed to introduce you to ICU and CCU Clubs and Societies. Put your name down for everything, but don't part with any money—you can make up your mind later.

After your feet have recovered from wandering from stall to stall, there are two evening events—the RSM Ice Skating Trip, meeting in the Union Bar (RCS and Guilds go ice skating on Thursday) and the Christmas Party. This is a disco-cum bands and bar affair held in the JCR, in the Sheffield Building

Freshers' Ball in the Union Building, a fabulous event that it would be very silly to miss. apart from the two main bands (*Rent Party* and *Cry Before Dawn*) there are comedians in the Lounge (on previous occasions including the inimitable *Atilla the Stockbroker*) a jazz band, disco, bar with extension till 2am plus barbequed burgers and sausages.

Next morning is also unforgettable—tiddlywinking down Oxford Street to raise money for charity. Don't try and avoid this as you'll be woken up by shouting parties anyway—meet at the CCU offices at 9.00am to pick up your licences, collecting cans, tiddles and winks. Go with a friend, or grab a passer-by at random. Afterwards there's a Guild's Pub Crawl, meeting at 5.30pm in Southside Bar. RCS and Guilds have barnights in the Union Bar on Sunday and Monday respectively.

Make friends, enjoy yourself; the fun doesn't have to stop with Freshers' Week. There are parties, rag events and trips out all year, and you can do as much or as little as you like.



—IC ENTS PRESENT—
**FRESHERS
 WEEK
 '87**

something for all the family
 Tickets for whole week £9 from
 the Union Office or Ents (SCR
 Monday 5th October 10am—2pm)
 Don't forget to collect your ticket
 if you ordered it by post

**MON 5th OCTOBER
 New Years Party
 VOICE OF THE BEEHIVE**

Blue Aeroplanes and The Brilliant Corners
 plus Discos, Films, Food, Bar till 2am
Doors open 8.00pm, Tickets £4.50

**WED 7th OCTOBER
 THE BEST IN COMEDY**

Phil Cornwell, Steve Rawlins, Gary Howard
 Compère Philip Arnold
Doors open 8.30pm, Tickets £2.00

**FRI 9th OCTOBER
 Freshers Ball
 RENT PARTY and
 Salvation Sunday
 plus**

Support, Comedy, Jazz, Barbeque
Doors open 8.00pm, Tickets £4.50

John Noble, this year's Entertainments Chairman, takes a quick look at this month's

Essential Entertainment

Before we get started could I again remind all of you who ordered tickets for Freshers' Week by post not to forget to pick them up. There should be an Ents stall in the SCR for most of Monday morning and afternoon, where you can buy or collect tickets.

So what's happening then; on Monday, ie October 5th, we have the New Year's Party headlined by *The Voice of the Beehive* an entertaining off shoot of mega group *Madness*, about whom the critics swoon with delight. On the same bill you can see the *Blue Aeroplanes* 'a crazy mix of freakish surrealism and jangly saw-toothed guitar...I hearby nominate them as the best thing I've heard in

The big party is on Friday October 9th at the Freshers' Ball featuring *Rent Party* the best party band in the world as I know it, supported by *Salvation Sunday* who are at present cruising the air waves with their excellent single *Come To Your Senses*. Then to top this off we have a mix of rock, jazz, comedy, discos, late bars, food and films to take you into Saturday morning.

Having told you what's on I suppose I should tell you where to go and how much it will cost. Mon and Fri start at 8.00pm tickets on the door are £4.50, Wed starts at 8.30pm tickets on door £2. You can of course buy weekly tickets on Monday for £9,



ages'—MM, last but not least we have the *Brilliant Corners* 'their songs are set in a feeling of dizzy exhilaration of life; really they could be called 'Delirious''—MM. Mix the above with discos, late bar, food and films, you've got a jolly good night's entertainment.

On Wednesday you can see some of the best in alternative cabaret with Steve Rawlins, a wonderful juggler and pyromaniac, Phil Cornwell a stand up impressionist who's David Bowie has to be seen to be believed and Gary Howard who is best described as special. The compere is Philip Arnold who isn't yet famous, but he assures me he will be very soon.

these cover all 3 events.

So that's Freshers' Week out of the way what of the rest of term. On Friday October 16th you can see *Circus Circus Circus* in the Lounge and on Thurs October 22nd *Jim Jiminee* will be in the same amazing venue, both at ridiculously low prices. More on this next time. The rest of term should be a mix of bands, discos and cabaret, but what happens largely depends on whether or not you turn up which of course you will.

Don't forget if you want to get involved with Ents come to the stall at Freshers' Fair and sign up we'd love to see you.

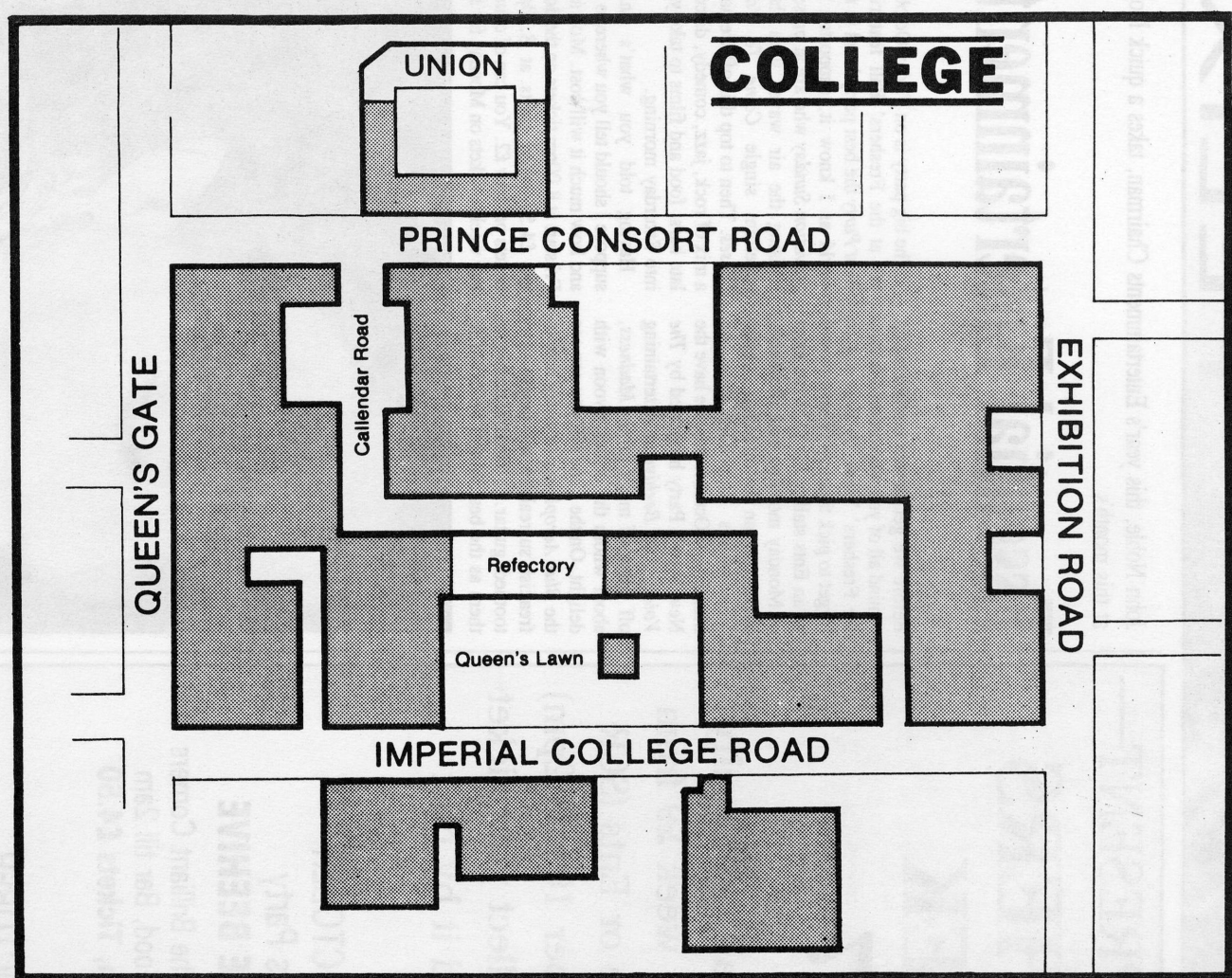
John Noble
 Ents Chairman

Freshers FAIR

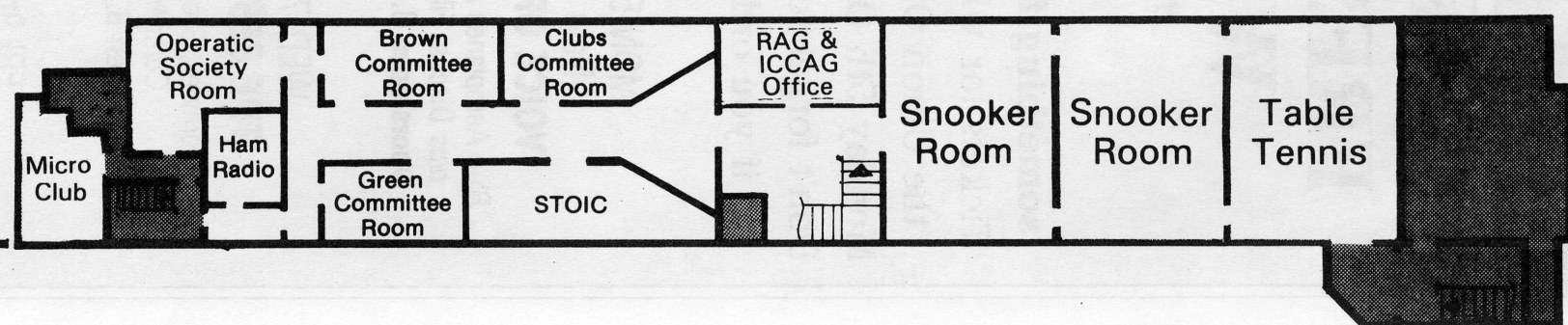
□All of the IC clubs will be at the Fair, and this is your opportunity to see what they have to offer.

The Fair is split between the Union Building (Beit), the Sherfield Refectory and the Queen's Lawn.

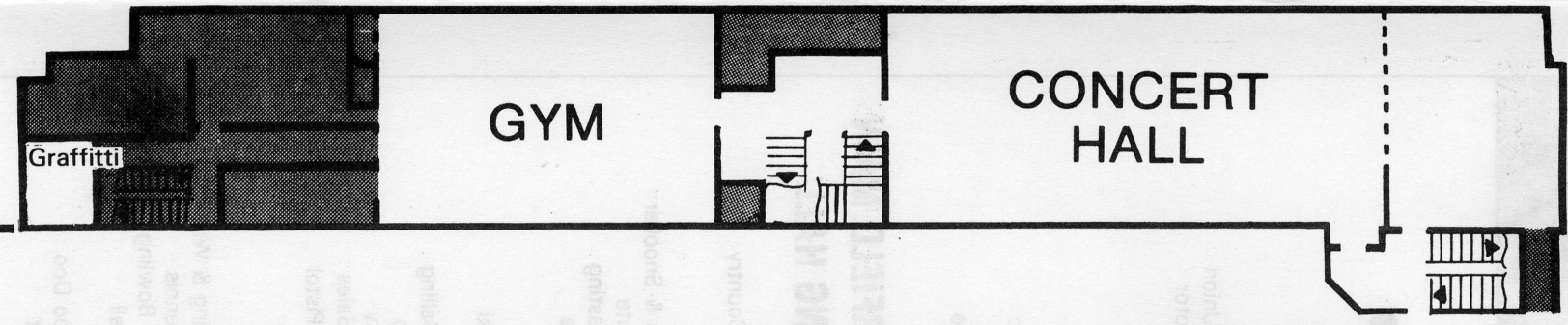
Make sure you don't part with any money - Clubs can only take your name and department so they can contact you later.



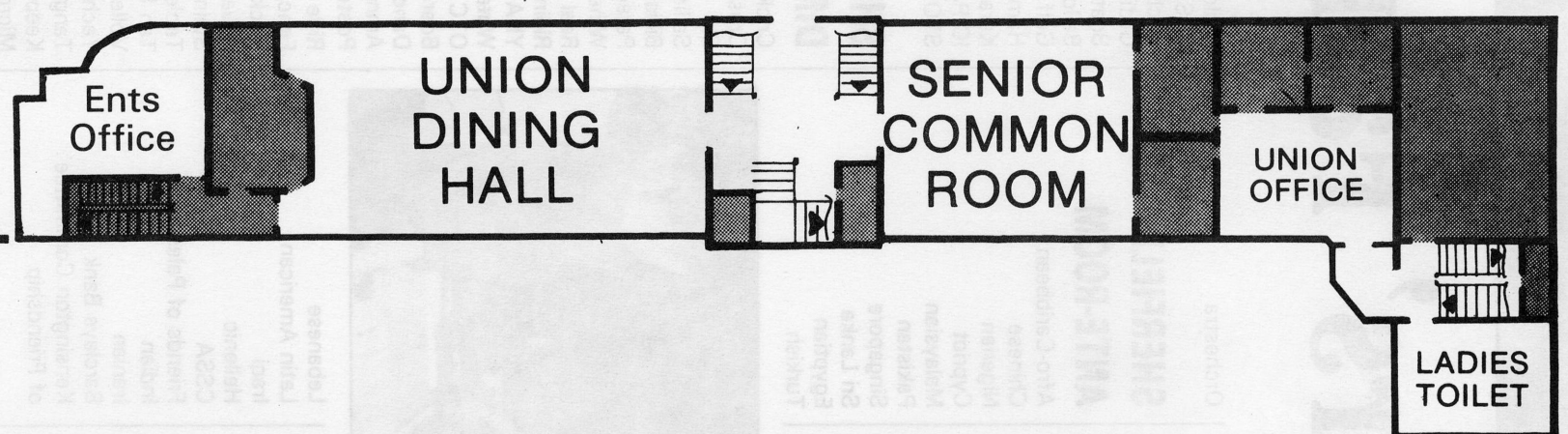
3rd Floor



2nd Floor

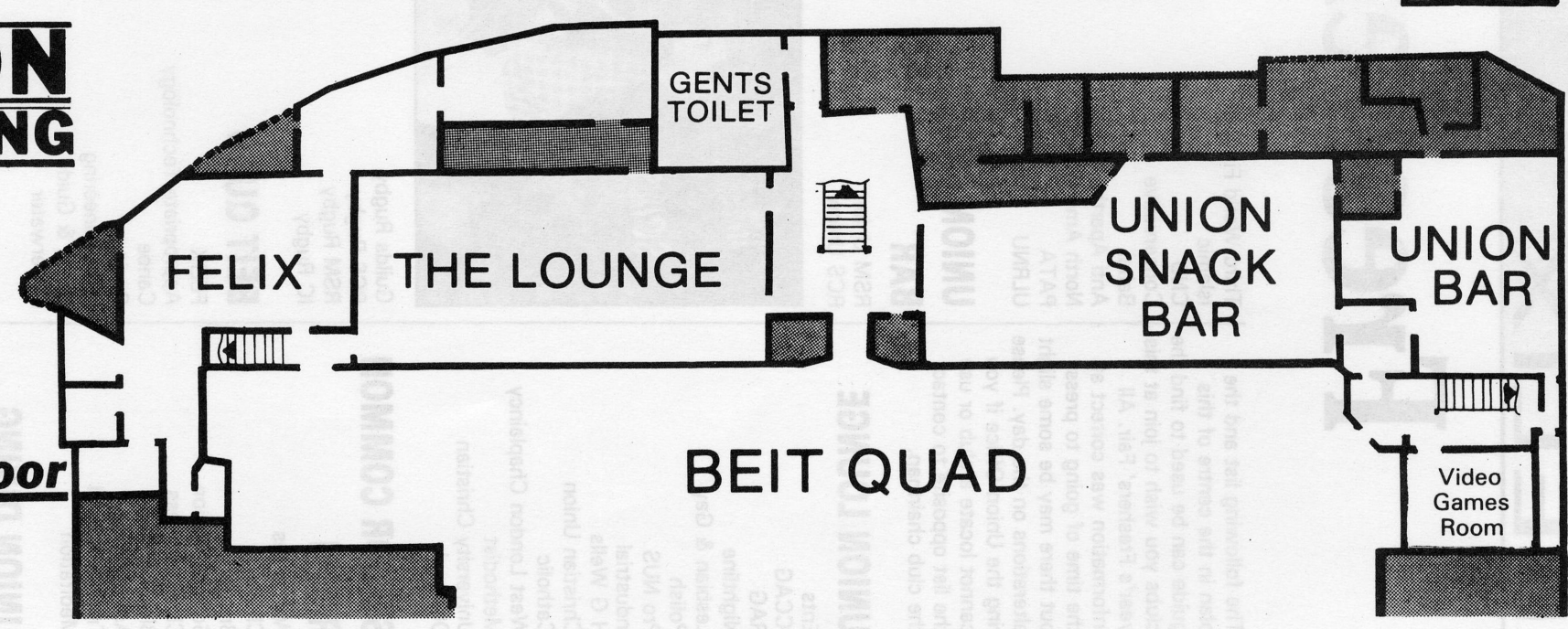


1st Floor



UNION BUILDING

Ground Floor



Freshers' Fair

The following list and the plan in the centre of this guide can be used to find the clubs you wish to join at this year's Freshers' Fair. All information was correct at the time of going to press but there may be some slight alterations on the day. Please ring the Union Office if you cannot locate a club or use the list opposite to contact the club chairman.

UNION LOUNGE

Ents
ICCAG
RAG
Nightline
Lesbian & Gay
Polish
Pro NUS
Industrial
H G Wells
Christian Union
Catholic
West London Chaplaincy
Methodist
University Christian
Outreach

SENIOR COMMON ROOM

Wargames
Chess
Bridge
Science Fiction
Chinese Chess
Biochem Soc
Astro Soc
Transcendental
Meditation

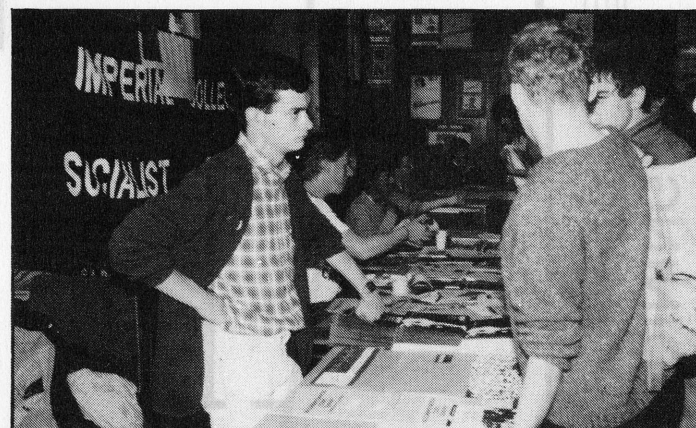
UNION DINING HALL

WIST
Pimlico Connection
Arts Appreciation
Greater London
Socialist
Jewish

Third World First
Islamic
CND
Conservative
Bahai
Anti Apartheid
North American
PATA
ULRNU

UNION SNACK BAR

RSM Union
RCS Union



Guilts Rugby
RCS Rugby
RSM Rugby
IC Rugby

BEIT QUAD

FELIX
Appropriate Technology
Canoe
Caving
Mountaineering
Scout & Guide
Underwater

CONCERT HALL

Chamber Music
Choir
Operatic
Dramsoc
Jazz
Film
Debating

Orchestra

SHERFIELD ANTE-ROOM

Afro-Caribbean
Chinese
Nigerian
Cypriot
Malaysian
Pakistan
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Egyptian
Turkish

Guilts Union
RCS Motor
Cycling
Gliding
Boat
Balloon
Golf
Hamsoc
Karate
IC Radio
STOIC

SHERFIELD MAIN DINING HALL

Cricket
Cross Country
Ski
Sailing
Billiards & Snooker
Parachute
Wine Tasting
Real Ale
Riding
YHA
Waterski
OTC
Board Sailing
Dancing
Amnesty
Poster Sales
Rifle & Pistol
Fencing
Hockey
Squash
Swimming & Water Polo
Table Tennis
Ten Pin Bowling
Volleyball
Yacht
Tang Soo Doo
Keep Fit
Micro
Football
Badminton
Basketball
Lloyds Bank
Rob Northey Refectories
Roadshow
Lawn Tennis
Netball
Orienteering
Ladies Rugby
Audio
Midland Bank

Lebanese
Latin American
Iraqi
Hellenic
CSSA
Friends of Palestine
Indian
Iranian
Barclays Bank
Kensington Committee
of Friendship

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Kung Fu
Wing Chun
Judo

QUEENS LAWN

Sporting Motorcycle
Guilts Motor
Guilts HPV
Guilts Hover

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Two pints of lager and a packet of crisps...

"Food, glorious food." How many of you can't sympathise with this sentiment?

But a look at our diets reveals them to be anything but glorious. Among the maze of 'discoveries' and theories about what we should be eating, a few facts stand out as (almost) certain. Most of us—that is, in the western society—are eating too much fat, too little fibre, and too many calories. Other, more doubtful suggestions—that most diets contain too much salt, too few vitamins, too much meat...



Unfortunately, the right answers are simply not all known: experts and commentators are still at the stage of interpreting—each in their own way, of course—interim results from newly started research.

Eating patterns have changed over the years. Rather than three 'proper' meals a day, people eat when they feel like it, often far more than three times a day. As many snack foods are very high in fat, sugar and salt, but poor in vitamins, this may be a reason why heart disease kills 180,000 people a year in Britain; or why by middle age 50% of men and 33% of women are too fat. More bad news; some forms of cancer are becoming more common. This may be diet related; but diet must also play some part in the fact that more people than ever before are living to the age of 80 and over.

So don't panic and start one of the many fad diets. Each of the vital ingredients in any diet can do harm whether eaten to excess or in too small quantities. There's nothing wrong with individual foods, either; their effect will depend on how you combine them to form your total diet. And the big question is: how do you eat healthily on a student-sized bank account?

'Fibre' seems to be the word of the moment. Found only in plants, it is credited with reducing risks of diverticulitis and colon cancer; possibly of heart disease; hiatus hernia and constipation. But watch it—too much reduces absorption of some nutrients and may cause diarrhoea. Your average intake should be about 30g per day (see table for nutritional value of several common foods). If you think your diet lacks fibre, increase the amount slowly—over 2 to 3 weeks. Bran in breakfast foods (read the packet), and wholemeal bread are good sources. Fruit and vegetables also help, these can generally be bought cheaply, especially in the markets. Brown pasta and brown flour in cooking may also be useful.

Fat, of course, is the main villain

in our diets. It is an important substance as the main energy source and a component of every cell in the body, besides helping in the absorption of important fat-soluble vitamins (eg vitamins A, D, E and K). But it is beneficial only in the right quantities. One can suffer ill effects from too little fat, but you'd have to try very hard to achieve this. No one over the age of five should get more than 35% of their energy from fat; for women this usually means 60 to 85g per day, for men 70 to 110g per day, depending on energy intake. Basic steps to reduce your fat intake start with eliminating as much 'visible fat' as possible—no meat fat, no chicken skin, less butter or margarine. Then go on to cut down on 'invisible fat'. This means grilling (or other fatless cooking techniques) instead of frying food. Switching to semi-skimmed or skimmed milk will help still more. Cholesterol is a problem associated with fat in a diet, so keep an eye on what type of fats you're eating—animal fats have generally high cholesterol values, egg yolks are particularly notorious. (Cholesterol, as everyone knows, can build up in the arteries, leading to heart disease.)

Carbohydrates are mainly represented in food by sugars and starch, both of which, like fat, are converted to body fat if eaten in excess. Unless you have a weight problem (too much or too little) you're probably getting enough. Note that some people divide this class of food into 'valuable' and 'empty' carbohydrates. The former deliver, besides the carbohydrate, some vitamins, minerals or fibre, and include such foods as whole grain products, fresh and dried fruits, potatoes and other vegetables. The 'empty' carbohydrates comprise, naturally, many of the snack foods—chocolates, sweets, jams and other confections including white bread.

Protein—vital for the growth of cells and muscles—is another material of which an excess is converted into body fat. Most people are probably getting plenty. Vegetarians, if they include milk and cheese in their diet, probably also get enough protein. Vegans, on the other hand, have to take special care. Important to their diet are pulses (beans, lentils), grains, nuts and potatoes. Meat eaters, for various reasons, are advised to consume more fish and less red meat.

Salt, vitamins and minerals are also an important part of the diet. A total lack, or more likely, low levels of any one of a dozen vitamins or minerals can lead to constant tiredness and lack of enthusiasm for life, at the least. More severe shortages cause such

deficiency diseases as scurvy or goitre. But any moderately sensible diet is likely to contain a reasonable amount of each vitamin so if you feel under-dosed don't head for the vitamin tablets; readjust your diet. Take the 'recommended daily allowances' (RDAs) with a pinch of salt (not literally, please...high salt intake helps raise blood-pressure). Nine years ago they were set too high, to ensure that no-one suffered deficiency diseases, and if you know whether they've been lowered since, you should be writing this article.

Speaking of recommended allowances, the average energy intake recommended by the DHSS has been found to be too high as people are now less active in general than was thought when the figures were set. Women need about 1750 kcal; men about 2000 kcal per day. It is possible to keep to a balanced diet within these limits whatever your eating patterns, though it is harder when you're eating lots of small snacks. Just remember that your diet stands the best chance of being healthy if you eat a variety of foods, ranging from bread, rice and pasta (preferably wholemeal/whole grain), oatmeal and high fibre breakfast cereals, and pulses, to lean meat, (skinless) poultry, fish, eggs, lots of different vegetables including potatoes, fruit, and skimmed milk.

For more extensive, expert, and possibly controversial, advice on healthy eating, consult any of the numerous diet books. McDonalds (remember hamburgers?) even produce their own 'Nutrition Guide'. Very sensible stuff, but watch the way they carefully avoid the word 'fibre'. Bon appetit.

Fibre occurs only in plants—fruits, vegetables, nuts and cereals. Although the amount different people need varies a great deal, many medical authorities believe that the national average intake of 20g a day should be increased to about 30g.

Fibre content of some foods

4 tbsp (3½ oz/110g) cooked peas or kidney beans	7g
2 slices wholemeal bread	6g
1 medium (7oz/200g) potato	4g
4 tbsp (3½ oz/100g) cooked cabbage	3g
2 tbsp (1oz/25g) peanuts	2g

The benefits that have been claimed for an adequate fibre intake include reduced risks of diverticulitis and colon cancer, possibly heart disease, hiatus hernia and, of course, constipation.

the *FELIX* places-to-eat guide

Cheap! Cheap!

Over recent years there has been an explosion in the number of places you can eat out. This explosion has created problems for the average Imperial student who wants something good and cheap but doesn't know where to start. If you know the right places you can get an excellent meal for under a fiver but, if you don't, you may get badly cooked, factory-made rubbish.



There are over twelve thousand places to eat in London alone but we have only chosen 21 to recommend due to their proximity or ease of reach. Throughout the year we will have numerous restaurant reviews as we discover many more of the better places to eat.

All places include opening times and the nearest tube station. All price categories are for a minimum of two courses without wine.

UNDER £3.00

Ghana Students' Hostel

3 Collingham Gardens, SW5

7 days, 12.30-6.30pm

Tube: Earl's Court

This place doesn't advertise that it's a restaurant so you'll have to follow your nose down to the basement. They only cook three hot dishes each day and they're all Ghanaian but the service is good and the helpings are generous.

Lorelei

21 Bateman Street, W1

Mon-Sat, Noon-11pm

Tube: Tottenham Court Road

This little Italian restaurant tends to be a touch claustrophobic but they offer many types of pizzas and pastas at around £2.00. Good food and an enjoyable atmosphere.

Peters

59 Pimlico Road, SW1

Mon-Sat, 7am-10pm,

Sunday, 8am-4pm

Tube: Sloane Square

Large portions of traditional English food along with the occasional European surprise such as mussels for just over a pound or pasta topped with home-made sauces.

The 'Pots' Chain

Stockpot, 6 Basil Street, SW1

Chelsea Pot, 356 Kings Road, SW3

Others: Hot Pot, New Hot Pot and The Pot

The Stockpot's menu changes every day so its possible to eat there all the time without having the same dish twice.

It's small but friendly and everything is home-made. It serves both English and International food and most meals include chips and vegetables. It opens between 8am and 10.30pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 9.30pm on Saturdays. It's sister restaurant, the **Chelsea Pot**, is open 7 days a week from noon until 11.30pm. Most main courses are under £2.00, with puddings well under £1.00. Beware though of the many arty people who tend to frequent the place in the evening!

New Piccadilly

8 Denman Street, W1

7 days, 11.30am-9.45pm

Tube: Piccadilly Circus

If you want to combine your Italian food with a bit of entertainment, then this is the place. Best food has to be the steaks, omelettes or salads. Watch out for the soup, though, as it's definitely straight out of a tin.

Nut House

26 Kingly Street, W1

Mon-Friday, 10.30am-7pm;

Sat, 10.30am-4pm

Tube: Oxford Circus

A wholefood restaurant which serves only vegetarian meals. Their eggs are free range and they do a mean nut rissole for just over a pound.

La Perla

28 Brewer Street, W1

Mon-Sat, 11.45am-10.30pm

Tube: Piccadilly Circus

This restaurant serves a mix of British and Italian Dishes. The food is good and service excellent. It's a wonderful place to eat if you don't mind the decor but do like being fussed over.

Food for Thought

31 Neal Street, WC2

Mon-Fri, Noon-8pm

Tube: Covent Garden

This is a very popular vegetarian restaurant in Covent Garden due to the quality and price of the food it serves. At lunchtimes you must be prepared to queue and eat pretty quickly once you've been seated.

Cosmoba

9 Cosmo Place, WC1

Mon-Sat, 11.30am-11pm

Tube: Russell Square

This Italian restaurant come highly recommended by the residents of the inter-collegiate halls. It serves the usual pastas and the menu is vast. The only fault is that the sauces sometimes tend to be gluey if you come on a bad day.

Shan Restaurant

200 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2

Mon-Sat, Noon-10pm

Tube: Tottenham Court Road

Another Indian vegetarian restaurant which caters mostly

for students from the polys around the area. The food is unbelievable cheap with a deluxe full meal consisting of salad, mixed vegetable curry, bean curry, dal, pilau rice, chapatis, popadoms, chutney, a sweet plus a lassi to drink all for £4.00!

UNDER £6.00

Texas Lone Star

154 Gloucester Road, SW7

7 days, Noon-11.30pm

Walking distance

This is a genuine TexMex restaurant owned by an exiled Mexican and his sons. The best meals are the BBQ ribs which come with a salad and a choice of potatoes. Everything's guaranteed to add inches to your waistline. Between 9pm and 11pm they usually have live Country & Western music which competes with the numerous TV sets showing ghastly spaghetti westerns.

South Ken Pasta Bar

60 Old Brompton Road, SW3

7 days, noon-3pm,

5.30pm-11.30pm

Walking distance

The garlic bread is quite delicious as are the mouth-watering starters. They do extra large portions for £1.00 extra if you're feeling really piggish.

Henry J Bean's

54 Abingdon Road, W8

Mon-Sat, 11.30am-11.45pm

Sunday, Noon-10.30pm

Tube: High Street Ken

This is another American restaurant, perhaps even more genuine than the Texas Lone Star, as it imported all the pine fittings from Chicago! You order your food at a counter as you buy the drinks and then pick it up a few minutes later. The food's great! The atmosphere is definitely 'loud' American. There's also a sister restaurant in King's Road, Chelsea, which maybe nearer for Evelyn Gardens residents.

Seafresh Fish Bar

80-81 Wilton Road, SW1

Mon-Sat, noon-3pm, 5pm-11pm

Tube: Victoria

This place does sell very fresh fish unlike most of its competitors. For just under £3.00 you get a huge piece of plaice plus newly-cooked chips and all the tomato ketchup you could wish for!

Upstairs

8 Basil Street, SW3

Mon-Sat, noon-3pm

Walking distance

This restaurant is a bit up-market as it lies in the heart of Knightsbridge. The best choice is the salad, which you can pile onto your plate until it begins to fall off. Definitely a place to practise your salad architecture.



Daquise

20 Thurloe Street, SW7

7 days, 10am-midnight

Walking distance

You will either love or hate this little Polish restaurant. The food is similar to German but does not appeal to many English palettes. There is a large menu with glories such as stuffed onions and boiled ox tongue. If you don't fancy such meals then you must try it, if only for the delicious continental pastries it serves.

Ambrosiana Crêperie

194 Fulham Road, SW10

7 days, noon-midnight

Walking distance

A French Crêperie with hot, wide and juicy crêpes featuring exotic fillings such as mozzarella & artichoke!

Astrix

329 Kings Road, SW3

7 days, noon-midnight

Walking distance

Slightly better than Ambrosiana's because all the ingredients are fresh where possible. There are over twenty different savoury fillings and many more desert pancakes to choose from.

Fatso's Pasta Joint

13 Old Crompton Street, W1

Sun, noon-10.30pm;

Mon-Thurs, noon-11.30pm;

Fri, Sat, noon-12.30am

Tube: Leicester Square

An Italian restaurant that appeals to students who like to eat and eat until they can't eat any more. For £2.60 you can have pasta and one of their ten sauces and between Monday and Thursday they keep on filling up your plate at no extra cost! Consequently, this restaurant is very popular. If you don't like queuing then try Fatso's in Richmond or Queensway as their atmospheres are much more pleasant.

Lidos

41 Gerrard Street, W1

7 days, 4pm-4.30am

Tube: Leicester Square

If you ever feel peckish in the early hours of the morning then just hop on a night bus to Soho and visit this restaurant. It serves Cantonese food until 4 in the morning and the portions are enormous. Watch out for the type of customer at that time in the morning though—we did warn you.

Diwana Bhel Poori House

121 Drummond Street, NW1

7 days, noon-11pm

Tube: Euston Square or 73 bus

Another Indian vegetarian but one of the best in London. It's very popular, so you'll have to queue at peak times. Most snacks cost in the region of £1.25 and the 'Annapurna' includes a dessert for under £4.

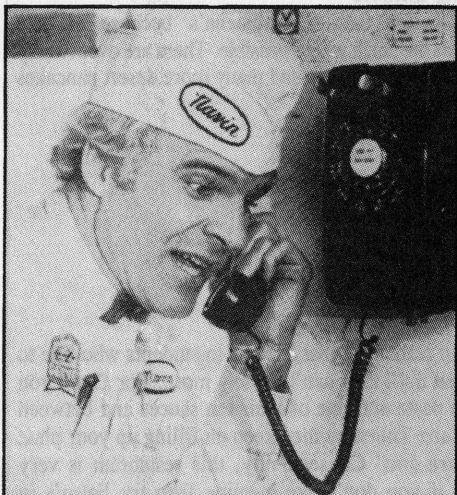
Previews

*TeleVision

A poor week for the telly-film. Highlight on the Beeb is *The Jerk* (tonight, 9.00-10.30pm, BBC2) with US comedian Steve Martin's parody of the American dream—the comedy makes up for the plot.

Slightly better is Thames, with *Julia* (Monday, 10.30-12.40am), starring Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave in academy award-winning performances, and an early appearance from Meryl Streep. The plot centres on one girl's experiences resisting the Nazis in the 30s. Also, if you haven't seen it yet, Buster Keaton's classic *The General* is worth a look. Incidentally this is based on *The Great Locomotive Chase*, a true story from the US Civil War filmed 30 years later as a western. One film to avoid is yet another showing of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (Thames, Tuesday 8.00-10.00pm).

Away from the movies we are still on the ground—*American Football* makes Tuesday on C4 (10.00pm) and *Marillion* are in concert on Thursday (BBC1, 11.30pm), and that's about it.



The jerk

*Radio

Radio ain't much better, apart from a documentary on Woody Guthrie (BBC Radio 2, 8.30pm tonight), you might as well keep your radios tuned to IC Radio (301m, 999Khz all week) or twiddle your dial and try a few pirate stations.

Quite a poor week, all in all—not that many of you will be sitting watching the box with all the Freshers' carnivals and parties etc. Go on, get out and enjoy yourselves.

*News

CD Wars: drastic price cutting CDs seems likely at Christmas, with Woolworths currently selling chart CDs at £9.99. None of the majors say they want to see a price war, but "will respond to market pressure".

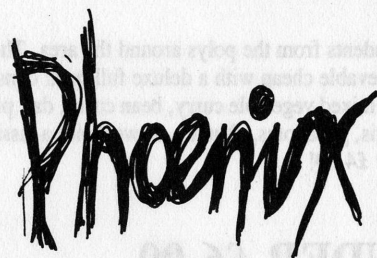
The threat of a 10p 'levy' on blank tapes because of home taping seems to have receded again. After the last switch around at the Dept of Trade and Industry, Lord Young the new minister appears to think that the levy will be a licence payment for unbridled home taping and piracy and unpopular with young voters.

Japanese giants Sony are looking to buy US record major CBS. The holding company CBS Inc have acknowledged "a further expression of interest".

The BBC *Top-40* is to come out on Sundays from now on, in an effort to compete with the *Network Chart* put out by the independent radio and TV stations. The new chart will be first aired by the *Top-40* run-down on Sunday evenings on Radio 1.

Good news for fans of the *Thunderbirds*, the soundtrack album of *Thunderbirds are Go* is expected to be released soon.

Dr and the Medics have a new album out, *I Keep Thinking it's Tuesday*, and a UK tour that began on 1st October.



Poems are still alive
—Arun (RSM)

Poems are still alive!
In a rare summer-day of pouring rain,
I discovered, poems are still alive
above all the din and bustle
of this torrid material-city.

When I walked through the park,
I read poems in the hemispherical bubbles
on shallow rain water,
caused by the oozing drops
from the drenched lime trees.

When I reached home,
I read poems in the changing clouds
in the square of the sky
framed by the window
of my cosy den on sixth floor.
I read poems in the reflection
of the swaying lofty plane tree,
on the mute TV screen.
I read poems in black and brown bark
cracking all over the tree,
exposing the fair skin
in the yearly cycle.
(I smile stupidly at the human race.)

When I went to bed at midnight,
I listened to poems in the rain drops
pattering on the window pane.
I heard poems in the gusty wind,
flapping the curtain and
revealing a patch of fluorescent sky.
I listened to poems in the murmur of leaves;
perhaps their reluctance to fall
(who wants?) in the ensuing fall

I lost the chain of all my promises,
in the abyss of a cosmic wonder,
or was it a mystic thought?
I was lulled. I slept with my great wonder
grown but left unsolved,
till next morning when I woke up again
in this meaningless meaningful world.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PHOENIX

Poetry, prose, photography or other artwork are very welcome, and should be given to Liz Holford via FELIX, Dramsoc or Life Sci pigeonholes.

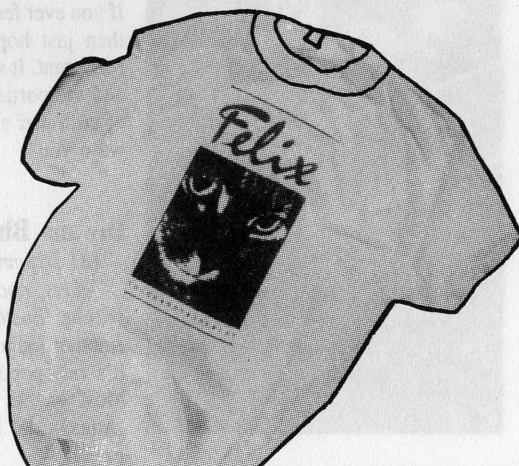
The full Phoenix magazine will be produced 5 times this academic year.

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Office, Beit Quad or
at Freshers' Fair



Radio Ga-Ga

When compared to the relative scarcity of radio stations elsewhere in the country, the choice in London is almost overwhelming. However, it can be surprisingly difficult to find something worth listening to.

London's radio stations can be divided into three main categories—BBC stations, independent stations and pirates.

The BBC stations are the most well known, and most people will be familiar with the four national stations. There are also two London-based commercial stations, Capital and LBC, plus several which can be picked up from the Home Counties.

There is an ever-increasing number of pirate radio stations and it is almost impossible to keep track of them all. Most are concerned chiefly with music, though there are some that cater for specific ethnic groups, such as London Greek Radio. Some of the stations, such as LGR or Kiss FM are quite well known and of reasonably high quality, but a large number appear only sporadically and suffer badly from poor presentation or poor facilities. Most of the London pirate stations are on VHF, and the best way to find them is by slowly turning across the whole band. Even the established stations change their frequency from time to time.

Radio One's output consists almost entirely of music, with news at half-past most hours, and a fifteen minute fast-moving programme called 'Newsbeat' at 12.30pm and 5.30pm. The daytime programmes are mostly orientated towards popular music, with the evenings having a few more specialist shows. The BBC chart show is broadcast each Sunday between 5pm and 7pm.

Radio Two broadcasts twenty-four hours a day; mostly 'easy listening' music with news on the hour and a sports round-up at 8.50am. The station shares its VHF/FM frequency with Radio 1, so it may not always be possible to hear what you want on VHF/FM.

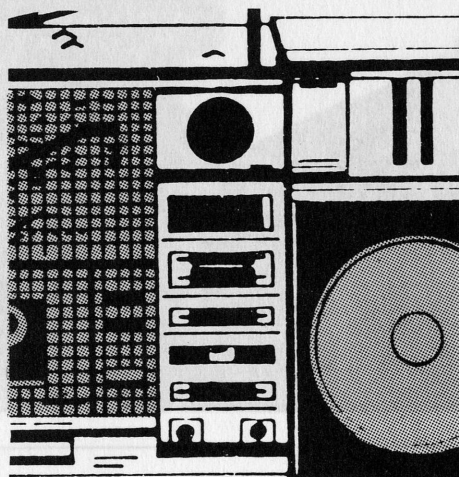
Radio Three is well known for its classical music programmes, but it also broadcasts plays and discussions, as well as some Open University programmes. Overseas students will be glad to know that they can hear the world service news at 9am and 5pm, with reception considerably better than the World Service medium wave transmitter.

There is more to **Radio Four** than just the Archers. It is easily the most informative radio station on the air at the moment. Each day there are four main news programmes, plays, documentaries, magazine programmes and some of the best radio comedy available.

Radio London is the BBC's local station for the London area, with a high music content featuring a wide range of musical styles, including Tony Blackburn's soul music programme. Radio London also provides a very good travel information service and some programmes for London's ethnic

minorities. When it is not putting out its own programmes it relays either Radio 1 or Radio 2 depending on which is using the shared VHF/FM frequency.

Overseas students may be familiar with the BBC through **World Service** broadcasts to their own countries. The medium wave service in England is broadcast almost entirely in English, and is largely 'speech-based'. The news bulletins give detailed reports from all round the world. All the



programmes on the World Service use GMT, so you have to make allowances for this during British Summer Time.

Capital Radio, which is the most popular independent station, puts out a lot of high quality music, but has been criticised as being too 'housewife orientated'. Besides music, there are some comedy programmes, and a fair amount of news is broadcast. On top of this, Capital Radio publishes a flat-share list and gives information on

the availability of student standby tickets for London theatres. The Network Chart comes from Capital Radio each Sunday, between 5pm and 7pm.

LBC provides London with a very comprehensive news and information service, and following a recent revamp now has more music than it used to. However, the bulk of its output is still speech-orientated, with plenty of phone-ins and discussions. Sport is well represented with a four hour programme at 2pm on Saturday. Geet Mala at 9pm each Saturday caters for the Asian community, with an Afro-Caribbean news programme at 9.30pm on Sundays.

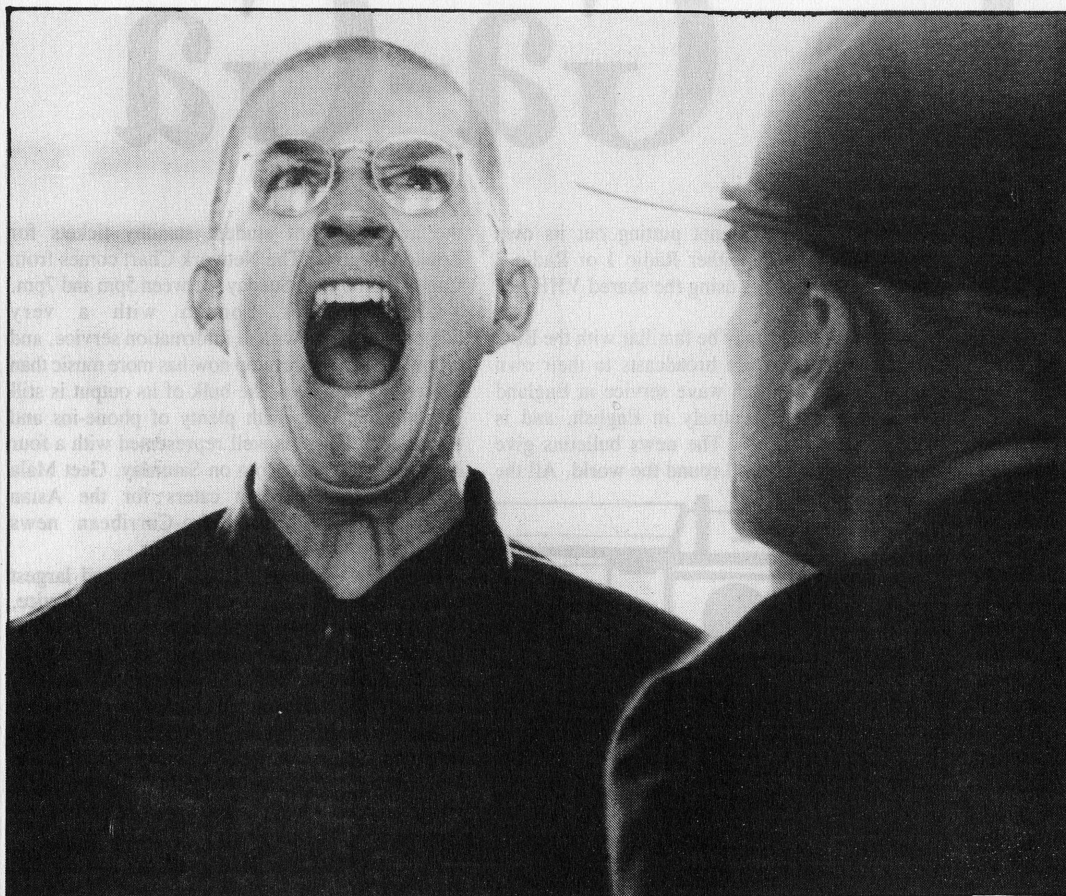
Radio Luxembourg is the oldest and largest commercial station in Europe. The English service, which has been running for more than fifty years, broadcasts from 7pm to 3am each night, though the times sometimes vary, especially on Sunday evenings. The station output consists almost entirely of current popular music, with quite a few phone-in competitions, though be warned that these involve making international calls! Unfortunately, reception is not always as good as some of the other stations.

Imperial College Radio broadcasts to the Southside halls on medium wave, and by cable to many other places. Programmes consist mostly of specialist programmes together with news and features. The exact style of programmes depends a lot upon who's presenting them. The station is run entirely by students, and definitely has a character of its own.

Of course this is only a very brief guide to some of the stations you can discover on your radio in the London area. If you are new to London it is probably a good idea to turn your dial across the whole range of frequencies until you find a station which suits your taste. Remember that one of the joys of radio is discovering it for yourself.

Radio Station	VHF/FM (MHz)	AM (Medium Wave) kHz/metres
Radio 1	89.1*	1089/275
Radio 2	89.1*	909/330
Radio 3	91.3	1215/247
Radio 4	93.5	720/417
BBC World Service	-	648/463
BBC Radio London	94.9	1458/206
Capital Radio	95.8	1548/194
LBC	97.3	1152/261
Radio Luxembourg	-	1440/208
IC Radio	-	999/301
Laser	-	576/521
Radio Caroline	-	558/538

*Denotes a shared frequency.



Full Metal Jacket

Stanley Kubrick's latest production follows such classics as *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *A Clockwork Orange*. It is another attempt to expose the reality behind America's self-conscious war in Vietnam. The question still remains though: can any single film successfully convey all points of view? This is surely an impossible task, yet Kubrick rises to the challenge admirably.

Adapted from Gustav Hasford's *The Short Timers* the film is neatly split in two. Firstly we are taken through rigorous basic training. Despite repetitive drills and iron discipline the various characters develop, each coping in their own way. Bullying and victimisation are inevitable, with dramatic results. Recruits, affectionately known as 'maggots', pray nightly to their rifles as they are gradually turned into 'killing machines'.

In the second part we focus on the fortunes of Private 'Joker' (Matthew Modine) as a field reporter on the *Stars and Stripes*, a morale boosting rag for the grunts. Following the battle for Hue city, the climax of the 1968 Tet offensive, Joker opts for action in the front line over the relative safety of the rear.

Kubrick's transformation of the Docklands into a Vietnam war zone in never wholly convincing, but here lies the turning point of the film as the characters are forced to accept their hopeless position. A dramatic encounter with a sniper brings home the tragedy and cost of war in human terms.

Ultimately a thoughtful and intelligent production—the very antithesis of *Rambo*—the film remains a clinical, if very worthwhile, document. **A.N.**



La Bamba

A FILM about music, love, success and sorrow. It portrays the 8 month rise to stardom of Ritchie Valens (Lou Diamond Phillips), one of the three rock and roll stars to tragically die in the plane crash which killed Buddy Holly and inspired Don McLean's *American Pie*.

Unfortunately, unlike *American Pie* the film does not live up to the potential of the history behind it, nor does it do real justice to the many rock and roll stars whose music is reinacted within it. The whole film seemed to lack a feeling of realism which is exceptionally sad as it is a true story. Tacky production, unimaginative camera shots and poorly picked props (including a 1980s guitar in a 1950s set) all let down what could have been a very good story.

One performance of note is Esai Morales (Bob Morales) who plays Valens' rebel half-brother. Inevitably, Morales is involved in the more subtle and striking parts of the film although it must be said that his part did hold a resemblance to a 1950s version of Prince in *Purple Rain*. All this aside

it must be said that it was fun, I found myself singing as I left and must admit I shed a tear at the point when Valens' death is heard over the radio.

It is worth seeing if only for the beauty of the story.

As Don McLean said,
"I can't remember if I cried,
when I heard about his widowed bride,
but something touched me deep inside,
the day the music died." **I.H.**

The Big Easy

SET IN New Orleans, *The Big Easy* is a familiar story of drug barons, police corruption and gumbo. Based on the tried and tested Tracy/Hepburn style of romance, it tells the tale of Remy McSwain (Dennis Quaid), homicide chief in the New Orleans police department who is investigating a gangland drug war. Amidst the killings of rival gangs Assistant District Attorney Ann Osborne (Ellen Barkin) arrives to investigate police corruption. Inevitably the two plots fall neatly if somewhat predictably together.

At times the *Big Easy* (a colloquial term for New Orleans itself) seems more like a high budget pilot for a television series à la *Moonlighting*, but thankfully refrains from being over sentimental. There are some nice touches of humour notably Ms Osborne's introduction to McSwain's younger brother.

The New Orleans setting with its laid back lifestyle makes a refreshing change from the usual New York/California cop movies, and at times the scenery is breathtaking. Nothing new, but enjoyable all the same. **A.N.**

ART

The National Portrait Gallery

ALTHOUGH portraits have never been my favourite form of art, the National Portrait Gallery is definitely high on my list of favourite museums. Unlike other galleries, the portraits have a short explanatory note about the subject which is a godsend for anyone who isn't well versed in famous people. The mixture of media includes photographs, paintings, drawings and cartoons and helps to increase the interest. The 20th Century gallery provides an invaluable history lesson on notable figures of our time from the fields of art, science and politics. In addition to the numerous permanent collections, there are usually one or two special exhibitions on at any one time. At present there are two—Clive Barker's *Portraits* and *In Close Up: Laurence Olivier*; both relatively small exhibitions which can comfortably be viewed in an hour or two.

In Close Up: Laurence Olivier

THE OLIVIER exhibition is again compact, but contains some delightful film stills and posed portraits (the resemblance of the young Sir Larry to Timothy Dalton is uncanny). The Royal Dalton porcelain model is an interesting novelty. Showing some of his film work is a good idea, however the addition of a small television delivering tinny monologues is too much of a gimmick and distracts from the main exhibition.

Portraits

CLIVE BARKER was previously noted for his pop art, detailing crushed cigarette packets and chrome plating coke bottles. In this collection, his 53 oil pastel portraits of fellow artists, critics and friends are rather hit and miss. They employ a variety of bright contrasting colours which can work very well as shown by the portraits of George Melly (used to advertise the exhibition) and Peter

Blake. However, in the main they fail to please. In addition to the portraits there are four examples of his sculpture 'on display which are a welcome bonus, in particular his *Self-portrait with bananas*.

Introducing Sculpture

DOWNSTAIRS in the basement is an interesting little exhibition giving an introduction to sculpture. This is well worth a visit as it provides a guide to the various techniques involved, carefully distinguishing between sculpting (working down from a lump of stone or wood to the finished article eg marble busts) and modelling (working up from a frame adding material to make a likeness eg clay models from which bronze casts are made). Notable exhibits include the death mask of Oliver Cromwell and a wonderful wooden statue of James Joyce.

A.N.



MUSIC

Albums

Wonderful Life—Black

Self confessed crooner Colin Vearmombie has crammed a pretty mixed bag onto *Wonderful Life*. The variety is good ignoring the empty pop of songs like *I just grew tired*, when things get rather tedious. Smarmy American female backing suggests a funky *Phil Collins*, while in some places the sound is reminiscent of *Culture Club* or—dare I say it—*Tears for Fears*.

However, all is not lost. There are some real gems amidst the striking contrasts of the brilliant title track and the classy, melancholy *Sweetest Smile*. P.S.

Gary Numan—Exhibition

A compilation double album containing music from 1978 to 1983, including his singles from that period. *Are Friends Electric* and *Cars* show why he rose to fame, the rest show why he didn't last. A.N.

The Bolshoi—Lindy's Party

The Bolshoi are going places. From the recent singles *Please* and *TV Man* to new material, every song is as good as the last. Strong guitar-based music together with intelligent lyrics should move this album to the top. S.G.

Singles

New Model Army—White Coats EP

Former indie successes now with EMI, they are still doing the college circuit on a world scale peddling their energetic anti-pop for the 80's. Primarily a live outfit their studio performance is disappointing. Presumably the record only serves as promotion for the forthcoming tour... damn! It worked! A.N.

Alison Moyet & David Freeman—Sleep Like Breathing

Yet another ballad, with the addition of male backing so we can distinguish this one from the last, and the one before that... Crashing waves, roses and soft focus—even with the addition of excellent make-up—do not make a good video. A.N.

Beastie Boys—Girls/She's Crafty (double A-side)

The *Beastie Boys* have never managed to improve upon their first hit (*You've gotta FIGHT for your RIGHT....*). *Girls* is another weak song of teenage bawling; B side is better, with far more of the old thumping rhythm we all know and love. Both songs are already on their album *Licensed to Ill*, so don't expect a Top-10 hit. S.G.



Ian Howgate
Steve Gutteridge
Alex Noble
Pippa Salmon

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THE START OF A GREAT NEW PARTNERSHIP

Fighting fit

Karate is an excellent choice for those wishing to take up a martial art for sport, keep-fit or self-defence. The Imperial College Karate Club has been running successfully for several years and trains in the Shotokan style which is based on speed and power. The Club is affiliated to the Karate Union of Great Britain and our instructor is Caesar Andrews, a 3rd Dan, who has in the past, coached members of the British team and regularly trains the Barbados national team. In past years our club has consistently obtained medals in the Universities Championships and Southern Area Competitions.

Lessons take place three times a week (Mon 7.30-9.00pm, Wed 4.00-5.30pm and Sat 10.00-12.00am) in Southside Gym. With some dedication it is possible to reach black belt standard in the 3 years at College. The first training session is free to beginners, the only equipment needed being some loose fitting clothing. No martial art is the best, but Karate could be for you, so why not give it a try. For more information come and see us at Freshers' Fair where we will be giving a demonstration on the Queen's Lawn.



Blowing in the wind

Attention all brass and wind instrument players and percussionists! If you enjoy playing as a hobby and appreciate the chance to join a band performing a variety of interesting and often challenging music, then Imperial College Concert Band is the place for you.

The band rehearses every Monday evening from 5.45pm until 7.15pm in the Great Hall, Sherfield Building, starting from Monday 12th October. Concerts take place once a term with occasional extra events. The summer term concert is always the highlight of the year when we traditionally play Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture accompanied by Dramsoc explosions and the Queens Tower bells. This event was even filmed by the BBC this summer. We set out to play at least one major work in each concert and we are fortunate in having an excellent and very enthusiastic conductor, Dr Donald Monro, who is quite capable of extracting the best from the band in such pieces.

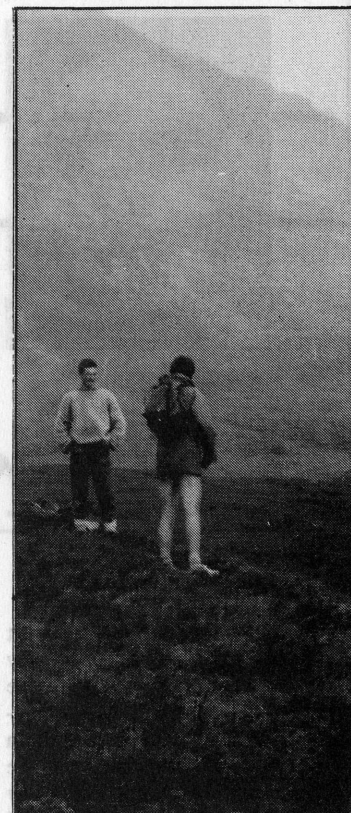
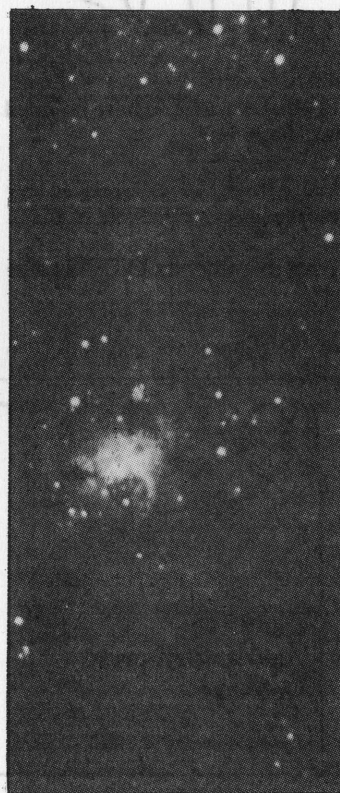
Players of all standards are welcome and if more information is required, look out for the stand at the Freshers' Fair, otherwise please come along on Monday 12th.

Science fiction star

ICSF is especially lucky to have a talk by the author Dave Brin as our first event of this year. Dave Brin is one of a select group of authors who have come to prominence in SF over the past few years, and many of his works have won major awards. His novel *Startide Rising* won both the Hugo and Nebula awards, and *The Postman*, a post-World War III novel, won the Locus and John W Campbell Memorial awards. His other novels include *Sundiver*, *The Practice Effect*, *The Uplift War* and together with Gregory Benford, *The Heart of the Comet*. He has also written numerous short stories...

Besides being a writer, Dave Brin is a professional scientist, having a PhD from UCSD in Cosmology and Asteroid Studies. He presently works as a consultant doing advanced studies concerning the space shuttle and space science. He frequently draws on his real scientific knowledge in his books.

Since Dave Brin will shortly be leaving the country, the talk has had to be scheduled at a somewhat unusual time—Wednesday 7th October at 1.30pm in ME 220. We hope you will not miss this unique opportunity to hear one of the brightest stars of Hard SF.



Out and about

With the YHA Club you can get away from it all, to such varied parts of Britain as the Peak District, Dartmoor and Snowdonia.

We regularly organise weekend trips, leaving Friday evenings and returning in time for last tubes and buses on Sunday night.

Weekends usually consist of hill walking, with plenty of opportunities for the keen photographer. We are active throughout the year. Some of the best trips can occur during December and January: the North Yorkshire Moors clad in snow provide some stunning views.

Last year's Easter trip was to the Isle of Skye and the West Highlands of Scotland. Other destinations included the Brecon Beacons, Shropshire Hills, Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District.

Interested? Come along to our Thursday lunchtime meetings and find out more. (See events for details.)

Owen Vaughan
Chairman IC YHA Club

Articles from all clubs welcome; deadline Monday lunchtime each week.



the

Alternative

AC battery shocker

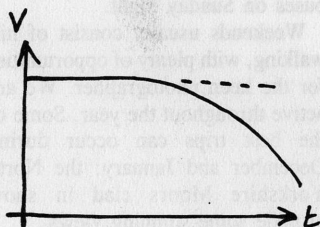
Academics at Imperial College are yet again at the forefront of a new technology. Most of you will have heard of Zinc-Carbon, Manganese-Alkaline and Nickel Cadmium batteries but soon they will be superseded in some applications by Zirconium-Technetium cells. FELIX spoke exclusively to the head of the project, Prof E Verreday of the Dept of Physics.

Can you tell us about Zirconium-Technetium cells?

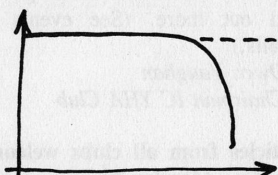
Yes.

Please will you?

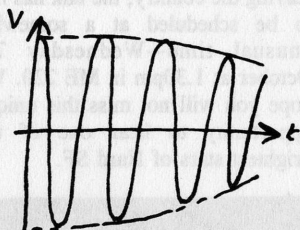
The different combinations of chemicals in a cell produces a different form of energy release curve like this:



Whereas Manganese-Alkaline and Nickel-Cadmium cells produce a much sharper cut off of voltage like this:



Zirconium-Technetium cells behave totally differently in that instead of maintaining a constant voltage which drops off, the voltage drops immediately and continues through zero to a negative voltage of the same magnitude, it then reverses and flows back to +VC. This oscillation continues with a fractional energy loss each time so that the energy release graph looks like this:



In other words, you have invented a.c. batteries?

Yes. Although strictly speaking they are alternating voltage cells (AVC's).

What frequency do AVC's oscillate at?

At the moment we only have two

normal modes of oscillation but we are working on producing different frequencies by altering the relative amounts of each constituent and trying small quantities of other substances to see what effect they have.

What voltages do the cells have?

They have been made in all popular sizes; HP7, HP2, HP11, etc.

In what applications will AVC's be used?

The main use we see for them is that they will allow ac motors to be used in much smaller applications than is currently available. Your readers will probably notice them first in things like personal stereos and cassette decks. There are literally thousands of applications for the AVC.

Are any companies funding your research?

We are currently negotiating with many people about financial assistance to continue the project.

When are we likely to see AVC's in the shops?

We anticipate commercial production by 1991.

And they will presumably make you a very rich person?

Hopefully.

IQ SPOT

Spot the not-so-deliberate mistake

Imperial College Student Union
Felix Office
Prince Consort Road
LONDON
W8 7AH
F.A.O. Judy

Dear Sir,
We are in receipt of your recent
Your query has been passed on
branch.
Please will you be kind enough
matter is not resolved to your
Yours faithfully



★ Star Letter

Dear Judith

I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate my tedious opinions about anonymous letters in FELIX. I may be completely out of touch with the students at this College, and I may have no idea what complete bastards some senior tutors are, but there is absolutely no excuse for the sort of letter you carried in your Easter edition. If any students have problems with their course they should follow the normal channels for making complaints. Firstly, they should contact their academic year rep or Departmental Representative. Normally both of these people can be relied upon to forget about such matters, and clearly this is the simplest and most efficient way to sort out any difficulties. On the off chance that the matter is raised at the departmental staff-student committee we can normally rely on the Director of Undergraduate Studies to dismiss the plaintiff with patronising remarks about lack of commitment from their students. In the very unlikely event that some self-important Academic Affairs Officer brings the matter to the College's Board of Studies, Imperial employs a College Tutor who will always display a great deal of sympathy for the Students' course, and will recommend that a sub-committee be set up to look into the issue. Hence there are three levels of representation which may be used to diffuse any academic problems. If any student is dissatisfied, my wife and I are fully prepared to meet them for an informal discussion over dinner.

There is and cannot be any justification for any spineless jerk to write anonymously to FELIX. We must all be careful to protect the inflated reputation of Imperial College in case the UGC discovers what a shitty life most students lead.

I hope that you will pay more attention than your predecessor to this matter.

Yours

Eric

Cookery Club



KATHY TAIT
Union Receptionist

Whilst interrailing last year, one of the countries I visited was Hungary. As I like food very much, I stayed there for quite some time! I absolutely loved their goulash, but as I've never been very good at remembering recipes I've adapted the goulash a bit. So it's a mixture between my mams broth and a cassarole. I call it Kathy's Special! Another one of my faults is that I *never* measure anything, so I suggest you adapt the quantities to your own taste.

The Ingredients

Serves 4

- 1 carton of sour cream (you can use natural yogurt)
- 1 small tin of tomatoes
- 1 medium onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 tablespoon of tomato puree
- 5 or 6 small mushrooms
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 3 small carrots
- 1 small courgette
- 1 handful of frozen peas
- 1 slash of Worcester sauce
- A good helping of black pepper
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch mixed herbs
- 1 bottle of wine (red)

You can make this with any bit of meat you fancy. I usually use stewing steak, and cut it up quite small. But I have used chicken and even sausages. Even if you're not a meat eater, why not add more vegetables which I've done when we've been a bit hard up!

The Method (I think)

Use medium size casserole dish. Fry your meat first, coat the meat in seasoned flour. I use a little butter to fry in. Don't over fry it, just brown it a little. When done, pop it in your dish and bung in the oven to keep warm. Oh I forgot, set your oven at no 6. Then fry your roughly cut onions till they are soft. Same with the red peppers. Put them both in the pot. Now for the carrots and courgettes, fry them with a little butter and add a little water just till they are a bit soft. Add them to the pot.

Put the tomatoes and puree in the pot together with your roughly cut



garlic. Mix them all together. You now can add the rest of your ingredients. Be very careful when adding your wine, as you have to reassure your guests that a bottle of wine has gone into your dinner, when in fact, you only need to put ¼ of a 70cl bottle in, the rest you can drink! Add the sour cream last or yogurt (Greek yogurt is the best).

This dish doesn't always turn out necessarily the same every time, but it's interesting finding out what it actually does taste like!

I usually serve it with boiled rice, but it's nice with roast potatoes. The best thing about it is when you've got everything in the dish, you can almost forget about it for 1½ hours apart from the occasional stir.

The British Red Cross Society will be running a standard certified first aid course starting on Monday October at 6pm. The course will run each Monday at 6pm until the examination night, Monday 14th December. The course will be held in the Holland Club. The course is limited to about 20 members, and the cost of the course (including book and examination) is £12.

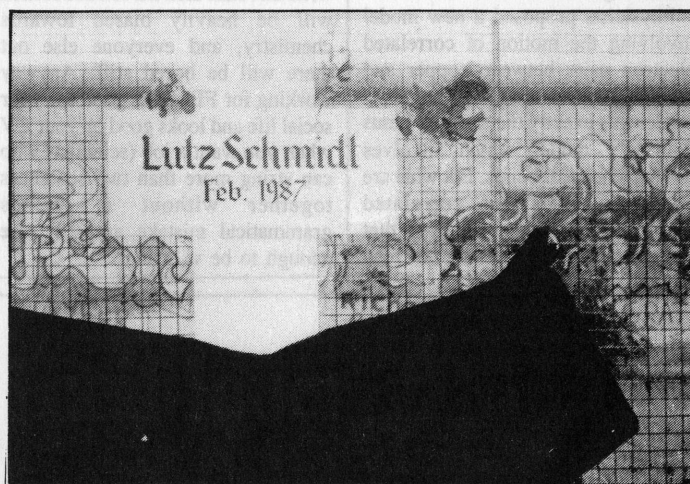
Die Mauer—continued

using forged United Nations passports. Incredibly this ploy continued successfully when the East Germans discovered that the United Nations did not issue these particular documents—so concerned were they to avoid a diplomatic incident. One East German engineer managed to make a small fortune by patenting his escape apparatus in the West. In fact the engineer had managed to build the world's first mini submarine which he used to power his way to the West underwater, after having first removed some of the spiked sub-aqua grids which were installed to protect the waterways.

Yet for every successful attempt there are a far greater number of failures. According to Western figures seventy five people have died trying to cross the wall, but the actual figure is probably much higher. Hundreds more have been injured or imprisoned. The brutality of the Eastern Regiem was brought sharply into focus by the protracted death of a seventeen year old boy. Peter Fecher, a Red Youth leader and a friend decided to make a dash for it one night at a point close to Checkpoint Charlie. Under a hail of bullets, Peter's friend managed to

diplomats were the subject of verbal abuse and stoning for some time afterwards.

Escape is regarded as a serious offence by the East German authorities, with the penalty for fleeing the Republic Republic-flucht—set at six years. Westerners caught aiding escapees are invariably accused of kidnapping the citizens of the DDR against their wishes; they are said to be agents sent by Bonn to destabilise the border. After a trial of sorts a long prison sentence and enforced labour await, though, for Westerners at least, there is always the possibility that Bonn might buy them out of jail. Conditions in East German prisons are decidedly unpleasant; the food is barely edible and medical treatment is available only on a six week waiting list—even then the treatment is usually wrong. There is however a glimmer of hope for those trapped behind the wall. In the wake of the recent summit between the leaders of East and West Germany new hopes have been raised for greater freedom for the East Germans. Senior officials in the DDR's SED (Socialist Unity) Party have hinted that greater priority might be placed on reuniting divided



haul himself through the barbed wire above the wall, but Peter, hit by several shots, fell back into the East. Then, in an incident recorded by Western TV cameras, the Vopos surrounded the dying boy, but made no attempts to answer his cries for help. It took one hour for Peter Fecher to bleed to death before the vopos removed his limp body. It was not surprising large scale demonstrations followed in West Berlin, nor that Russian troops and

families and Mr Honnecker has called for greater unity between the two Germanies. Yet it is clear that the wall is here to stay. The economic and ideological differences between the cultures on each side of the wall leaves the DDR with no alternative other than to maintain the Status Quo.

Credits; thanks to The Museum of the Wall in West Berlin, and Kamala Sen for German translation and some excellent artwork.

Super discovery

Scientists have still not sorted out the mechanism of superconductivity in the new generation of high temperature superconductors. In fact, they do not even seem to understand each other's theories.

However, they do now understand the structure of the new compounds. X-ray diffraction studies have shown that there is a plane of copper and oxygen atoms with each copper surrounded by four oxygens (each oxygen is shared between two coppers). Superconductivity is thought to occur in this plane. Various studies (for example, studies of how magnetic fields affect the superconductivity) have shown that the superconducting bits are highly anisotropic—superconductivity occurs in the same crystal planes as the CuO_2 layers.

The theoreticians were surprised by the new superconductors: the theory that satisfactorily explains the phenomenon in metals breaks down in the new ceramics for two reasons. First the old theory runs into trouble because of the high temperatures involved (if you can call -180°C a high temperature), second it predicts a significant isotope effect on the transition temperature and this has been sought but not found.

Physicists proposed a new model involving the motion of correlated electron pairs between copper and oxygen without realizing that their model was exactly the same as Linus Pauling's model which involves moving chemical bonds. But what are chemical bonds but correlated electron pairs? The trouble is that physicists and chemists do not read

each other's journals even in fields where they are both equally necessary. Ceramics are midway between the world of the physicist and the chemist and both will be needed if the new technology of high temperature superconductivity is to be understood and exploited.

Feathers fly over Archaeopteryx

Just down the road from College the Natural History Museum has put its fossil Archaeopteryx on display in a

bullet-proof glass cabinet. Fred Hoyle is not pleased.

Archaeopteryx was a creature with a reptilian skeleton but well-formed feathers. It is a fairly good example of an evolutionary 'missing link' between birds and reptiles. Fred Hoyle and his colleagues do not like this as they do not believe in gradual evolution.

Hoyle et al are astronomers (some unkind biologists say they disbelieve evolution because they don't understand it) but they proposed some photographic evidence that the feathers were fake. They wanted to perform other tests but these would have required bits of the fossil to be knocked off ("but we only want small bits" Hoyle and friends say) and the museum have refused their repeated requests. There are only a handful of the fossils in the entire world, so the museum's stand is probably fairly reasonable (would they let Hoyle hack bits off the Mona Lisa if he said it was a fake?).

The museum have performed various tests of their own involving spectroscopy—to test for modern cement or artificial rock supposedly glued to the original reptile—and microscopy—to prove that small calcite-filled cracks in the rock carry through the feather impressions. They are convinced the fossil is genuine and they present their evidence in their new display. Hoyle thinks they are not fair to his case: the bullet-proof case is probably a precaution to stop him redressing the balance.

I would recommend a visit, but you have to pay to get into the museum, and I disapprove of that.

UNDER MICRO THE SCOPE



by Steve Black

You can help

The FELIX Science Page—FELIX needs eager readers of the scientific pages to compile news stories and features for our weekly science page. We will have both short news items and longer features on topical or important subjects. We need contributors from all departments to help us keep everyone interested. If I am the only person to write this stuff then the science section will be heavily biased towards chemistry, and everyone else out there will be bored stiff. Anyway working for FELIX is good for your social life and looks good on your CV when you want a job (scientists who can string more than two sentences together without a serious grammatical mistake are still rare enough to be valuable).

Here are some of the things I would like to see features on:

-Food additives—are they really bad for you?

-How intelligent are intelligent computers?

-Chemistry as molecular lego.

-Quantum mechanics: we understand the equations, not what they mean.

Your ideas for features will be taken seriously if you can find someone who knows enough to write them. Most of all we need people to look out for stories for us. Also, if there are any PGs or members of staff out there who have just made some earth-shaking discovery, drop us a line before you tell anyone else so we can report it before New Scientist get hold of it.

DAT versus CD

Early in September a European consortium was set up to develop optical disks for computer information storage; they may be wasting their time.

Ordinary CDs can already hold computer information, but what people are really waiting for is an optical disk that can be written on and, preferably, erased as well. Such disks would hold Gigabytes of information (ie about as much as 1000 standard floppy disks). Such disks and the machines are likely to be fairly expensive (IBM are talking about

£125 per disk and £4000 per drive).

Recent advances in DAT (Digital Audio Tape, which is based on cheap video technology) are likely to produce machines at less than £400 and cassettes holding 1.2 Gigabytes at £8. The only reasons to prefer optical disk storage are that the technology is more elegant and the disks may be much faster if good software can be written to get at the information on them. My bet is on DAT: I might at least be able to afford it.

McDonalds stop poisoning world

The world's most famous hamburger chain is doing its bit to stop pollution: it will soon stop using expanded polystyrene containers that contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs for short).

CFCs are common inert chemicals used frequently as propellants in aerosols and in expanded plastics. They are now thought to destroy the ozone in the upper atmosphere, but the extent of the problem has only become obvious recently with the observation of a large hole in the

ozone layer over the Antarctic.

A treaty is now being prepared to commit the world to a drastic reduction of CFC use. Without such a treaty the ozone layer may be seriously damaged and more ultraviolet light from the sun will enter the lower atmosphere. This would cause a serious increase in skin cancer and cataracts.

MacDonalds are voluntarily abandoning CFCs before they are forced to, unfortunately they are not abandoning hamburgers as well.

Editor
FELIX

Imperial College
Imperial College, London, SW7 2AZ

Letters

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **YHA Club**—weekly meetings from 8/10/87. 12.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge or see O J Vaughan (Chem PG, Room 431 extn 4664).

● **Disco hire** for clubs, etc. £25 a night. Contact Ian Morris, Ents Hon Sec, via the Union Office.

● **For the best** disco, hire solar winds, special rates for student events, contact Vince Roper through Civ Eng or phone 381 5388.

● **Another series** of confused ramblings of drunken hippy amidst excellent rock and roll, jazz and folk, plus new music from USA. Another City, IC Radio, Wednesday 11pm-1am

● **Curry Soc** wishes to announce that it is alive and kicking. Because of internal wrangling between the SCC Chairman and himself we may not be able to hold a store at Freshers' Fair. Anyone interested in joining therefore would contact Richard Wiles or Bill Goodwin via the Mech Eng III pigeon holes. We look forward to seeing you!

● **Weekly** FELIX staff meetings every Friday lunchtime at 12.45pm in the FELIX Office. Anybody is welcome to attend

ACCOMMODATION

● **1 male** wanted to share a 6 person flat in West Kensington from beginning of October 87. Rent £34/week (rent rebate available). Please ring Paul on 589 5111 ext 9498 or 589 5111 ext 3439.

● **Accommodation** available for 1 person (male) literally 2 mins from College. For further details phone Margi 584 6893.

● **Student needed** to share mixed flat for five in West Kensington. Single room. Non-smoker preferred. Contact Suzanne Astington, Geol III/Ava Engineer, Life Sci III via the pigeonholes.

PERSONAL

● **Play** it again ICR!

CHESS PLAYERS WANTED

Chess Club of International Students House, in central London, opposite Great Portland Street tube station have vacancies for league players. Chess playing facilities available every single day of the year until late in the evening. Contact Tom Vanderpuye 631 3223 office hours

Please send all letters to Judith Hackney, Editor, FELIX, Imperial College Union.

Wasted opportunities

Dear Miss Hackney

As I am sure you are aware, FELIX performs a very important function in the life of Imperial College. We all look forward to Friday mornings, because FELIX is the only place where we can find out what is going on in College at the human level.

Because Imperial College is so large, FELIX provides whatever there is of a College spirit. Naturally this comes initially from individuals like the Rector, the Students' Union President and so on, who have a role to play, and from those members of College who have ideas which they have expressed publicly or in the form of reviews or articles in your columns.

In my opinion this admittedly elusive spirit is worth a great deal more than all the spirit you find in the College bars. It is the only antidote we have for the depression that the universities are subjected to these days. And you are its custodian. So please do not waste your golden opportunities to help Imperial College by playing silly games. By all means publish the truth, so that real incompetence will be exposed, academic shortcomings put right, and administrative errors corrected, but please spare us the excesses of your 'libel' page, as in your first issue of 14 August, 1987. (Is it a coincidence that no mention was made of the Phalix Editor, Miss Hack?) The Baron of Cheap skate was often very funny but its successor simply left a bad taste.

Which, if you will permit, brings me to my last point. As Chairman of the Students' Residence Committee for the last three years, I have worked closely with Michael Arthur, and have come to respect his ability and commitment for the College's good. It has therefore been a matter of great surprise to me that Michael persistently gets such a bad press. Ian Howgate was gracious enough to say some kind things in the last FELIX about me as Chairman of SRC. In my turn, I would like to say that Imperial College is lucky to have such a competent and dedicated administrator as Michael Arthur.

Yours sincerely

Richard H Clarke

Electrical Engineering Department
Warden of Linstead Hall

For those of you who didn't catch the Postgraduate issue of FELIX, the Libel page consisted of several gossipy anecdotes, each having at least two different sources. It contained a piece on the President's bad taste in clothing, several Evelyn Gardens stories and one regarding Mr Arthur's failure to add VAT on the cost of renting rooms for the Summer Letting Scheme. I consider the last of these to be genuine incompetence. Perhaps the 'excess' you refer to was the obviously fictional story we printed on the same page. Please do not make the mistake of confusing fact with fiction.

President's ignorance

Dear Judith,

Howgate's Half Hour (Issue No. 777) was read with almost as much humour as Hancock's original 30 minutes.

His comments concerning the University of London's Management Audit Offices draft report on the intercollegiate halls are extremely short-sighted and he is obviously subject to the same ignorant and blinkered impressions of the intercollegiate halls as are many IC students.

Some of the report's recommendations are commendable—centralisation of purchasing certain administrative duties particularly—however there are also some proposals that will prove extremely detrimental to the life of students in the halls.

There is a plan to merge all three halls of Cartwright Gardens into one hall, more than twice the size of the whole of Southside. To introduce first year students into a hall with no identity smaller than 1000 students would be disastrous. Experience has shown that large halls do not work well for the student. I am not aware that any of the seven intercollegiate halls shut for half the summer. Grants continue to be cut and halls live on the breadline.

The proposals also put the decision-making in the hands of the bursars rather than the part-time wardens who generally disregard the more dangerous proposals from the University. The Bursars do not do this and put in a position of power would exercise a general disregard for student affairs.

All the halls should not be tarred with the same brush. It is true, some are inefficient and wasteful but in my experience the majority are still better run than we are led to believe most Imperial halls are.

In short, Howgate, how about checking the views of some of the students involved before mouthing off in the magnanimous manner for which you are well known. Look at the problems of our own halls before you start branching out to the University as a whole—or is this part of your campaign to become ULU President?

Yours,

Jon Wurr

Useful tip

Dear Judith

Here is a useful tip for your readers. I have discovered that many of the letters I send through the College internal mail do not reach their destination. I have solved this problem by writing the name of the person to whom I wish to send the letter on the envelope. This useful technique has saved me hours of wasted time.

Yours

Bill Goodwin

Wealth jeopardised

Dear Judith

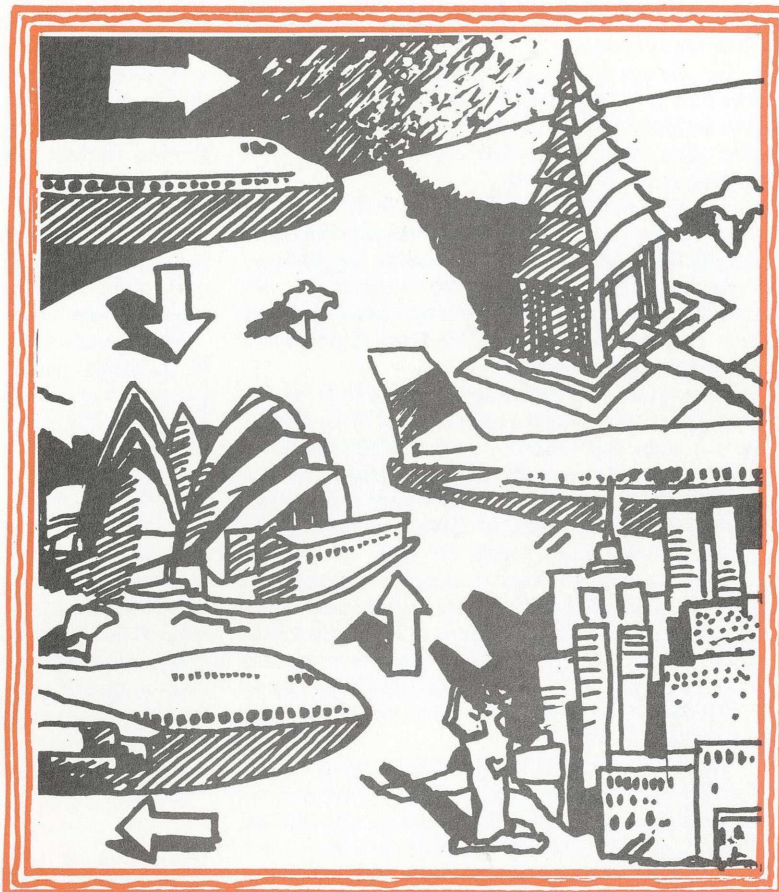
I am shocked and appalled at London Regional Transport's latest decision to ban eating and drinking on the tube. What will students do? The Circle Line Party, an annual event of note at College, is in jeopardy. Many students will arrive in College without breakfast, which they would normally have eaten on the tube. The resulting, dangerously low blood sugar levels will seriously effect students' academic performance and hence the wealth of the nation. Might I suggest that LRT install buffet cars on all trains.

Yours sincerely

Ashley Niblock

For and on behalf of the LRT Food Action Consortium

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Felix

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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academic
year
calendar

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