

# Felix

No. 790  
Friday 22nd January 1988

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## Evelyn War

College will not be able to honour their guarantee of a year in hall to all first year undergraduates and overseas postgraduates next year, despite the addition of 200 new places in Evelyn Gardens. According to figures from the Students Residence Committee and College Registry, there will again be a shortfall of about one hundred student places, says Union President Ian Howgate.

Mr Howgate has criticised College administration for its short-sighted policy of increasing student numbers to reduce the College deficit. He has based his claims on estimates of next year's student intake made by College Registrar Peter Mee. Mr Mee has indicated that undergraduate numbers must increase by 5% and postgraduate numbers by 10% to reach targets. He also says that these estimates are 'conservative' because the Governors have set a target of an extra 100 overseas students, over and above the increase to pay off the College's projected £2m deficit. Mr Howgate says that this means a total increase of more than 68 freshers and 35 overseas postgraduates needing College accommodation this October.

A further 26 places will go when Rayleigh house is sold off this year to pay for the furnishings for the new Evelyn Gardens block. 30 places will be lost in the new Evelyn complex as subwarden rooms and higher priced flat accommodation. On top of this 25 places in Evelyn Gardens are to go altogether.

Adding up the losses and the projected gains in student numbers gives a probable deficit of 184 places. But at the beginning of this year there were 103 freshers who had to be housed in head tenancy flats in Hamlet Gardens because of the current short-fall. Mr Howgate told FELIX that this effectively meant that over 287 new places were needed to



Bar prices: on the up and up

maintain College's guaranteed place scheme. Only 200 will have been gained by taking over the new Evelyn Gardens building.

This comes as a particular blow to students who will have to face an average increase of £7.80 on top of inflation in their rents over the next two years. The Union agreed to this last year, in return for the 200 'extra' places. Part of the deal was a temporary reduction in the number of re-applicant places from 8% to 4% of places available, which would be reinstated after a year. The proportion of re-ap places was cut from 10% to 8% when the Freemantle Hotel was lost in 1985.

Students may be faced with a further increase in rents. The

College's Residence Account is currently £215,000 in debt, £120,000 as a result of the new Evelyn property being unoccupied for the past year. Mr Malcolm Aldridge from the College Finance Section told FELIX yesterday that this debt will get steadily worse if rent increases are held at the rate of inflation. He said that the only alternative would be to increase income from the Summer Letting Scheme (SLS) and the Summer Accommodation Centre (SAC). The SLS money, which comes from letting out Hamlet Gardens and Evelyn Gardens flats to students over the long vacations, goes to the Residence Account. The SAC profits, made from conference guests and casual trade from the Tourist Board in Linstead and Southside over Easter and Summer, is currently split between the Conference Account and Residence Account.

ICU President Ian Howgate wants to see all the SAC profits going into the Residence Account. He said yesterday that this would give the Account an extra £100,000 pa. 'Effectively students rents are subsidising the Conference Account because the Conference Office pays less for the 400 rooms than students do during term-time,' he told us. 'In return, they are making around £70 per room a week. They're making a stinking profit out of residences.' He believes that within two years the deficit could be completely wiped out.

Mr Aldridge, however, has made it clear that this can only be done if the Union is prepared to accept an increase in bar prices. He explained that the Conference profits were needed to pay the interest on a £1m loan they had secured in order to refurbish the Sherfield Main Refectory. He told FELIX that the Refectories would have to make £150,000 each year to cover this and it was 'obvious to make the money by increasing beer prices.'

Mr Aldridge said that no decisions

*continued on back page column 3*



## editorial

I must congratulate John Noble, ICU Entertainments Officer, on a brilliant Carnival 88 last Friday. It seems that the poor man can't do a thing wrong. I must say that I was a little dubious when I heard that he had been ratified to the post last year. My only dealings with him had been as part of the audience watching his:ex-band *Blue Blue Ice*. It was easy to think of him as just another 'haircut' who wanted the post for his street cred. Since then I have been amazed by the amount of genuine hard work he has put into the job and how, with the help of a strong Ents team, he has brought IC Ents out of the doldrums.

### Bar Birthday Ball

Originally Ian's wacky birthday party, this has turned into a full-blown Union celebration. There's a featurette about the event on page 11. You have absolutely no excuse for missing such a value-for-money evening.

### Snack Bar

They're absolutely desperate for staff. Please see Mark today if you want to earn £2 ph during the morning.

### Next Week

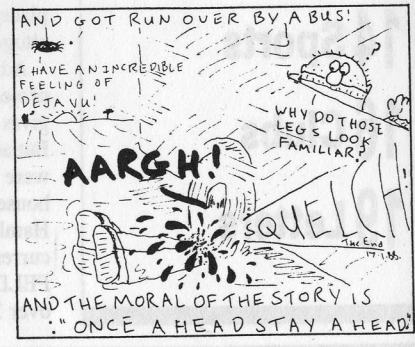
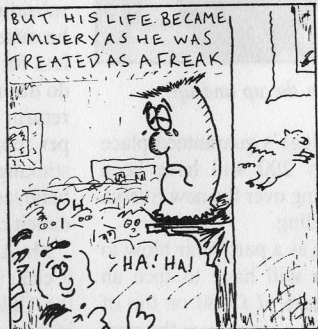
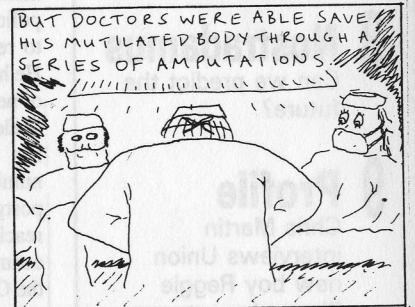
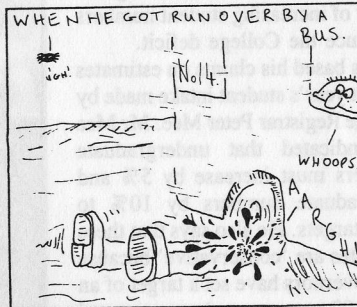
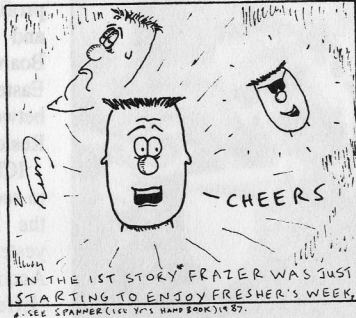
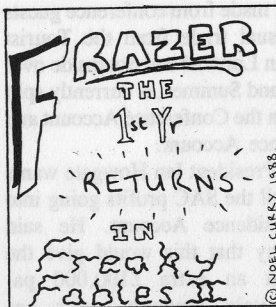
We are planning a student travel feature section for next week's issue.

I would be interested in receiving any opinions about student travel companies, good or bad stories of disastrous holidays, especially Inter-Railing or BUNAC stories. Please take the time to pass on your tips or views to other students who are considering similar holidays this year, preferably by giving me copy next Monday.

### Finally

There's a staff meeting today. Thank you to all the new staff members who turned up to help this week.

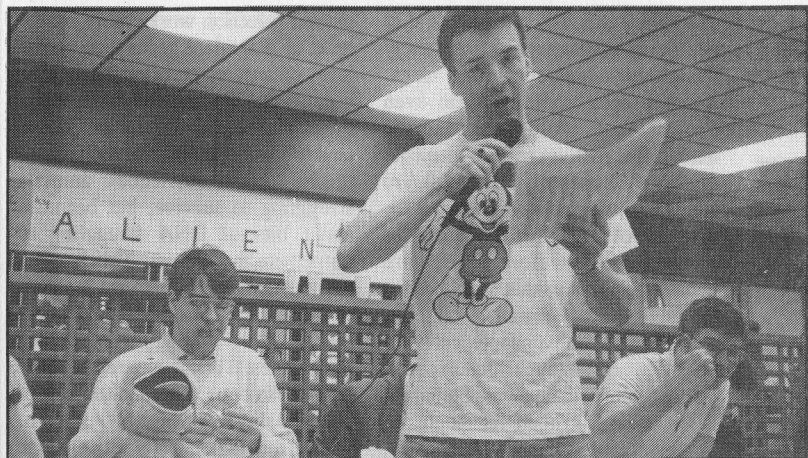
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## UGM

### Sketch

*Paul Shanley makes Rainbow official: Zippy has no comment.*



JCR burger eaters were astonished to find themselves in the midst of a UGM on Tuesday. The surprise meeting caught the entire RSMU unawares, so that they were unable to muster even a single representative, despite the extensive publicity (one small advert in FELIX).

The meeting got off to a bang with Chair Al Seymour barking into the speakers at top volume, churning stomachs even more than a McNorthey burger.

Before anyone could even eat a

chip, Beans Club stooge Martyn Peck moved the meeting on to their motion; controversial stuff, involving the adoption of the characters from *Rainbow* as new CCU mascots. The main bone of contention appeared to be an argument between Captain Braincell of Guilds and the new look Clare McErlane (RCS) about who should get which one. After a bout of nail biting tension, a solution emerged—ignore Braincell!

Once this obvious solution had been adopted the meeting moved on to

lesser issues. ICU President Ian Howgate had hurt his thumb which resulted in a far longer spoken report as he couldn't write anything—this was greeted by the masses eating their burgers with rapt attention...

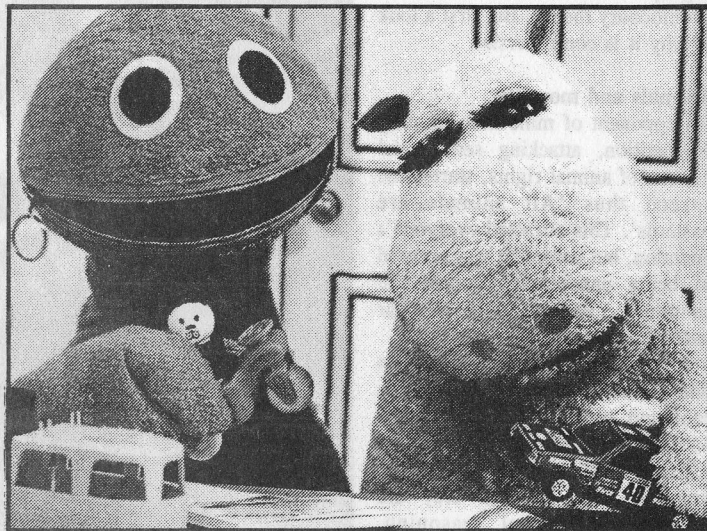
Obviously not a fan of corny headlines like 'Hamlet House of Horror', Ian made the shock pronouncement that 'we should get rid of the head tenancies'. Not content with this he felt that ICU External Affairs Officer Neil Motteram should also be given the chop. Ian protested that Neil hadn't done anything for a term and didn't even attend the GUC meetings which his job description demanded. Poor old Neil was no-confidenced for the second time and thus lost his post. Where will it all lead to—will other Union officers be expected to do work as well? What a tyrant Mr Howgate is!

together with a rumour about ba- price rises. Watch this space for earth-shattering up-dates about the latter.

Good ol' Cosmic Dave Clements got in a plug about SCC and Chas Brereton managed a little free publicity for his forthcoming election campaign, by complaining about the Academic Affairs Committee.

However, they could not compete with the hard-sell tactics of Publications Board Chair Chris Martin plugging FELIX's new photocopier, resplendent with—gasp—blue and red colours!!!

Ever keen to promote inter-CCU rivalry, new Rag Mag Editors Dave Williams (RCSU Hon Junior Treasurer) and Gail Turner (RCSU Publicity Officer) managed to get a dig at both the Print Union and Guildsheet at once, by describing it as being printed on bog roll. Tactful,



More reports followed, including a proposed shift of the sabbatical year, with the handover date moving from the end of June to the end of July ('ask other unions what waiting sabbaticals do before taking over', said comrade Jackson; we suspect it involves the generosity of the DHSS—or a holiday in the Bahamas).

Alan Rose revealed some interesting news about toilets,

as they want their Rag Mag printed chez FELIX!

A huge sigh of relief was expelled by UGM Chair Alistair Seymour as he closed the meeting at 1.45pm, the shortest and first completed meeting within living memory—well, for several months at least.

Union watchers are now eagerly awaiting the publicity for the next UGM. Don't hold your breath!

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## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



by Steve Black

# Birds are bastards too!

Recent evidence (*Nature* 331 p19 and p66) has shown that some birds are rather less 'moral' than we used to think. They transfer their own eggs into the nests of other members of the same species, to save them the effort of having to look after such a large brood themselves. (Cuckoos do the same sort of thing but at least have the courtesy to parasitize other species.) To understand why this is an interesting observation we have to make a rather long detour into a highly controversial area of evolutionary theory. But first a look at why it is controversial.

### Animals and morality

An opponent of mine at a debating competition, attacking sentimental notions of animal rights, started his speech thus 'All animals are bastards'. This attracted everyone's attention, but before he was accused of being unnecessarily crude, he continued: 'Because none of their parents are married'.

Apart from being a good way to win a debate, the statement contains profound truths about animal and human nature. We should not judge animals when they behave in an immoral way, because they are incapable of moral reasoning. Equally, we should not read too much into examples of supposedly good behaviour in them, because their behaviour is unlikely to be controlled by the sort of conscious motivations that make morality possible.

However, many people are unrepentantly sentimental when it comes to ascribing human motives to animal behaviour. Altruistic behaviour in animals is a particularly

dangerous area. There are many examples of animals behaving in ways which appear to be detrimental to themselves but to the benefit of other members of the same species. For

example, birds will often pretend to be injured to distract predators away from their chick-containing nests. Many people (some of them even professional biologists) ascribe human-like motives to such altruistic displays. Supposedly, the birds are taking a considerable *personal* risk for the good of *others* (or the species as a whole). Therefore, they are behaving in a way that would merit a human bravery medal.

Strangely, many people get very uneasy when biologists debunk such anthropomorphic illusions. Perhaps it is because altruism is such an important aspect of human behaviour, and people are worried that we can 'explain it away'. People are always very anxious not to be regarded as mere animals. Books such as *The Selfish Gene* have caused considerable unease by attempting to explain all altruistic behaviour in terms of genetically programmed self interest.

It is worth looking at the selfish-gene hypothesis in some detail, as it gives a good illustration of modern evolutionary thinking.

### Selfish genes and behaviour

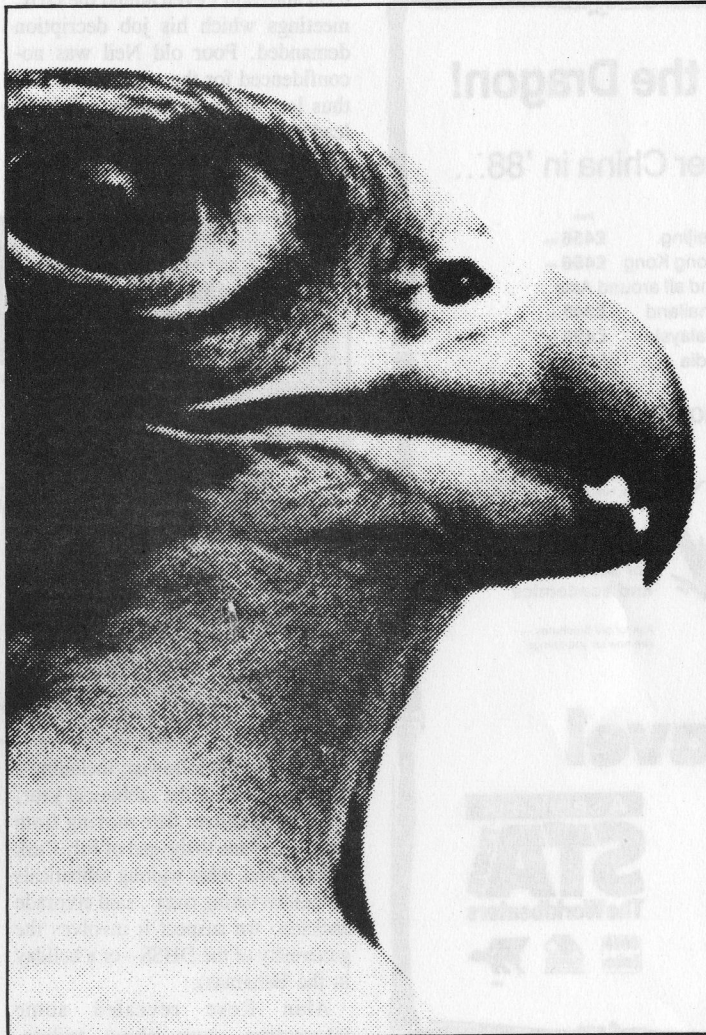
The basic idea of the theory is that

natural selection works more on the level of individual genes than on the level of species or organisms. This implies that the game of evolution is much more subtle than most people tend to think. Natural selection ceases to be about individual animals struggling to survive, but becomes about bits of DNA struggling to perpetuate themselves. This is often seen as disturbing, because it seems to degrade individuals into robots blindly programmed to reproduce their genes. This is apparently more difficult to cope with than the idea of individuals struggling to stay alive.

The theory makes a lot of sense when stripped of anthropomorphic language. Genes do not *consciously* manipulate animals in order to reproduce, but genes which code for successful strategies will spread in a population.

The theory has no trouble explaining apparently altruistic behaviour. It can be beneficial to a gene for a parent to sacrifice itself for the sake of its children, because the children contain copies of the same DNA. So behaviour which appears to be altruistic is actually caused by the selfishness of some bit of DNA. Presumably this is why so many people get hot under the collar at the selfish-gene theory: it appears to debunk the possibility of truly selfless behaviour. I will come back to this later. But first it pays to look at the actual theory stripped of all its humanized language. All it says about altruism is this: if a gene exists that causes parents to sacrifice themselves, in some circumstances, for the sake of their young, then such a gene will spread because more copies of it will be passed on. This applies, of course, only if the sacrifice is worthwhile, but the necessary conditions can be expressed mathematically enabling us to see what sorts of strategy are worthwhile.

When the numbers are worked out, the selfish gene theory can explain a lot of animal behaviour. Certain strategies are not stable: for example, blind altruism. This will survive as long as everybody else in a population contains blind altruistic genes, but as soon as an exploiting gene arrives it will rapidly multiply. It saves effort by being a bastard, while everybody else is wasting their time and effort being nice. However, blind exploitation is rarely a stable strategy either (not caring at all for your children is no way to pass on your genes). Intermediate strategies or mixtures of strategies are the things which work best. Exploiting strategies can be stable if they are not too common in a population, just as altruism works well if it is not too



generous. Actual predictions of the ratios of various strategies can be made given particular circumstances.

One puzzle for the theory is why brood-parasitism (that is, trying to get someone else to bring up your children) is not common within single species. Cuckoos do it to other species, but it wasn't thought to happen much between members of the same species.

Recent observations on some bird colonies have shown the fault is with the observations not the theory: to see brood parasitism you need to mark eggs (otherwise they all look the same) and trace them between nests. In some colonies of cliff swallows, up to 6% of the eggs were not laid by the owner of the nest they were in. This is a literal case of not putting all your eggs in one basket. The survival rate of transferred eggs is higher than for unmoved ones, presumably because the swallows can select the best neighbours to move their children to.

The amount of exploitation going on is about what would be predicted as stable by the selfish gene theory. So cuckoos are not the only exploiters in the world of birds.

### Selfish genes and people

So what?

People are worried about being reduced to robots run by their genes. The theory is threatening because it appears to explain all our behaviour in terms of genetic programming, and this contradicts our notions of free will.

However, it's worth noting that most human behaviour is learned behaviour, not programmed. Also, we are the first species on the planet intelligent enough to look at the process of evolution and see how it works: we should be able to transcend any genetic programming we may have. So don't believe anyone who fatalistically believes we are completely run by our DNA. People are different from animals: selfish genes can only work if we are not aware of them.

It is important for us to realise this. Morality, altruism, and being nice to people other than your relatives, is something we have to teach. The future of the human race may require the sort of huge acts of altruism that only sentient moral beings are capable of. We now have sufficient power to destroy ourselves if we leave our decisions to our blind instincts.

*This is a very superficial description of the whole subject. For those who want to learn more the key book is 'The Selfish Gene', Richard Dawkins, Oxford University Press, 1976.*

CHRIS JONES



TESTIMONIAL

I was quite amazed by the response to my first column last week. The amount of people in my own department who rushed up and told me what a pillock I was was unbelievable.

As you may have guessed from the tone of this introduction, not a soul mentioned my new journey into the world of journalistic garbage. I could have understood it if it was just a matter of casual departmental acquaintances but I have managed to attend several meetings and two society dinners since last Friday and not even close friends cared to bring it up in conversation. It would have made the dinners much more interesting than having to listen to the bellicose chitter-chatter of ancient club members recalling their own student days and why the club wasn't the same anymore.

I go to such dinners to meet old friends who have gone in their own, very different directions after leaving Imperial. They provide the only opportunity to catch up on the gossip, plan future meetings and dinner parties, and lightly flirt with the new wives of old enemies.

It was this weekend that I found myself at another College dinner. Everytime I go to one, I vow never to let myself do it again. It's a bit like getting ratted. I always end up doing it occasionally, after the memory has been numbed from a suitably long interval. It's always an unpleasant experience. I hate the way they brazenly serve up packet soup for starters. My idea of an ideal dinner is not a mouthful of monosodium glutamate. Why can't they provide soup from a tin, at least? I keep finding lumps of dehydrated chicken floating idly around my bowl which give me no end of pleasure trying to rehydrate and edibilise.

In my time at Imperial I must have tried all the set meals that the Refectories have concocted. The roast duck with more fat than meat; the rubber sweetcorn; the soggy broccoli;

and the Boeuf en Croute which was all croute and no boeuf.

I can just about take the awfulness of the food—I'm only a student after all—but the service is unbelievable. One dinner I attended not so long ago was outrageously expensive, the food was poor and it took the two geriatrics who were serving us nearly fifteen minutes to serve up the main course. They put the meat out first which was stone-cold by the time the potatoes finally made their appearance.

And why should I be spoken to so rudely when I ask for a knife that is clean and not smattered with yesterday's food? The waitresses look

daggers at you if you even suggest that your neighbour has one more slice of meat than you have received. They tip gravy down your best suit and mumble apologies under their breaths. They call you 'dearie' not 'sir': 'Mind out, dearie!' they screech if you dare to talk to your neighbour while they are trying to serve you. What ever happened to 'Excuse me, please'?

The sweet is usually a Sainsbury's lemon tart or, if you're really lucky, a partially thawed piece of Black Forest Gateau with the option of cream!

The best dinner I ever went to at College was a simple buffet-type meal. There were no waitresses to deal with, no lack of food on my plate and a pleasant evening was had by all. Even the veggies in the party had no complaints about the evening.

I will, no doubt, find myself at another College dinner in the future. I will not be there for the food, nor the service. I will be there because I want to meet old friends and because the person organising the dinner didn't want the bother of going 'outside' for the meal. I can only hope that things may have improved by this time. But we are only students, after all.

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## SLAG off

Hi, everyone! Just a quick note to assure you all I have survived the holiday intact. I have a couple of interesting bits of news for you.

1. We should have an official Society (SLAGS—Society for Lesbian And Gay Students) after next Council meeting!

2. I am now helping to run the ULU Lesbian & Gay Group, meeting Thursdays at 7.30pm in Room 2e at ULU (Russell Square tube). Come along it's good fun and no one at IC need know where you're going if you don't want them to.

3. Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill. I will write more on this subject very soon. This is a severe attack on the rights of local government councils to provide help and support to gay and lesbian people. Contact me if you want more information.

As a final bit—just wanted to tell everyone about my New Year's resolutions! I resolved to eat anything fattening that caught my eye (watch my waistline), only to go to lectures if I *really* felt like it, to go to a nightclub at least once a week and to sleep with anyone I met whom I fancied (everyone thinks I do anyway so I might as well enjoy myself!). I've managed to keep all my resolutions so far this year! Let's hope I can keep it up!

*James Papa,  
Lesbian & Gay Welfare Officer.*

## Alter-native

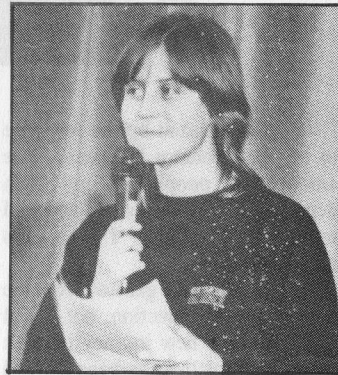
What do you feel about the accommodation that you are living in? Wouldn't you have liked to know what it was *really* like before you arrived here? I would like to hear all you have to say about your present or past housing so as to pass it on to future students and perhaps pass some on to FELIX. I would also like to hear your views on the CCUs, IC Union and your courses. This is your chance to get your views across to the College. It's not just freshers who read the AP!

*Martyn Peck,  
Alternative Prospectus Editor.*

## Q: What's bisexual, fat and thin and has four legs?

Hold on to your towels everyone because Rag Committee has finally done it. They've lit the blue touch paper, taken a step into the unknown, pressed the red button, pushed the stone over the precipice, etc and ad nauseum...

The new Rag Mag editor is remarkably schizophrenic, known generally as Gail Turner and David Williams or David Williams and Gail Turner (it depends whose talking), we are funny, intelligent, witty and desperate for input from you. We want jokes, big jokes, small jokes, WASP jokes, JAP jokes, any jokes at all. No one need be safe, write them down and leave them in the IC Office, the RCS Office, the Physics pigeonholes or stop us in the street, in the bar, just about anywhere but in the bath. (Dave would even welcome you in the bath if you're fit and female but you might see a joke



bigger than the whole Rag Mag—Gail.) This year, for various reasons we are changing the size of the Rag Mag to A4, if you object strongly write and tell us and we may change our minds. As we are editors of quality we don't intend to reduce the number of pages so we still need twice as much material. Witty poems, current affairs, cartoons, captioned photos, stories and crosswords will all be greatly appreciated and as we may be running competitions in future issues of FELIX, get your thinking caps on.

So now you've got the idea we will wait in anticipation for the flood of response. Whether you've loved or hated past IC Rag Mags you now have the chance to change this year's. Only the funniest jokes will go in. Send us your jokes and make this year's Rag Mag the best ever.

*Gail & Dave.*

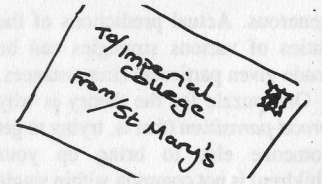


*Rag Mag: you'll Dai laughing!*

### THE GREAT DEBATING COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY 27th JAN

*No previous experience required*



It is apparent throughout the Medical School that Rag has finally come to town. Posters are up such that one really would have to be blind to miss the fact that Rag is here!

The behind the scenes work in organisation is in full stride, after a late start. It is amusing to enter the SU Office and see someone attempting to negotiate 'a good deal' on borrowing an anaconda and some chimps from London Zoo for the breakfast party on Paddington Station on the morning of Wednesday March 2nd, the traditional start to Rag Week.

This year the chosen beneficiary is the 'Tuberous Sclerosis Association of Great Britain' which has been more than helpful about the whole event. While one realises that the St Mary's Rag Week is not on the same scale as IC's, it occupies an important part in student life here and it would be a great pity if it were to be swallowed up in the merger.

This year we are attempting to create a public spectacle in the hope that a great public involvement will lead to more money raised. Events include a band in Hyde Park (hopefully) on Sunday 6th, a Paris Dash, and a general 'make fools of yourselves and collect lots of money afternoon' on Wednesday 2nd. With a little luck and a few celebrities, media involvement may be considerable, leading to more MONEY!

So when 'That Week In March' comes around once more, look out for the raving loonies roaming the streets of London rattling collection boxes and please do contribute, as it will help to cement relationships that are essential for the future well-being of the College.

## NIGHTLINE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you would like to help Nightline, the 24-hour information service, please come along to the office at 9 Princes Gardens on either Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday, January 26, 27, 28 or February 2, 3, 4 at 7pm.

## KENSINGTON GORE SW7

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

● **IS NUTTY** Union boss Ian Howgate about to abdicate? Rumour has it he is having a secret affair with SRC chairperson Gillian Cutler. Eye witnesses report kinky chase-me games in the Union Office after sordid SRC meetings.

● **THE CHAIRMAN** of Ham Radio Soc was so keen to complete a questionnaire about his lecturers that he turned Physics Theatre One into his personal assault course last week. Phil 'Rambo' Pavelin scaled 4 benches, sprinted across the front of the room only to find the papers to have been removed by the ACC reps. He crept back to his row and stealthily crawled on all fours along the bench to his seat. His next escapade is rumoured to be a death slide from the top of the Queen's Tower.

● **BRENDAN 'SLAPHEAD'** Spud has denied being the youngest wearer of a toupé at College. The balding physicist said, 'at least I don't scrape it across the top of my head in a Bobby Charlton style, like some of my lecturers'.

● **BRIBES ARE** still being offered for news on the goings on of IC Radio Station Manager Steve Gutteridge and ex, John Allen.

● **SEXY, POUTING FELIX** Editor Judith Hackney has a skeleton in her closet, she has admitted to being a member of the Marillion fan club. Rumour has it that she was spotted this week at a concert of her fave band but has rejected suggestions that she caught a pair of Fish's underpants in her teeth when they were thrown into the audience by the singer.

● **FIASCO OF THE WEEK** was the IC Radio Annual Dinner last Saturday. The event was marred by a mix-up concerning the cost. It was £4 more per head than everybody expected. Valiant ex-Secretary and dinner organiser Simon Bradshaw (ex because he resigned just before the dinner!) dramatically announced that he would pay the excess. However, my spies inform me that the money will come from IC Radio's special fund made up from profits from the soft drinks they sell to members.

John Secretary put the top back on his marker and looked at the poster he had just drawn. 'Coming Soon—the Cheapskate Supermarket closing down sale—everything must go!'

This was John's latest idea to save some of the Baron's money, and would also mean that he could stop issuing those annoying trolley licences. The Cheapskate supermarket would be closed and all the little corner shops in the 16 different schools expanded to sell more things. The little elves who worked in the supermarket were not at all pleased with John Secretary's plan as they feared that the first thing to be sold would be their jobs.

John Secretary had got his wonderful idea from talking to the Kommandant of the Thinbread dormitory about a jumble sale he had organised. Fed up with all the citizens who had left their rubbish in his wine cellar, he and the dormitory club decided to sell it all and use the money to buy some decent wine for a big booze up they were planning to celebrate that the dormitory was 20 years old and it still hadn't fallen down. Unfortunately, some of the things they sold were not rubbish but belonged to citizens from far away lands who had left them there for safe keeping. When they found out, the citizens were very angry because some of them had left very expensive toys down there. One female citizen even claimed to have lost skiing equipment worth 3 times as much as ALL the rubbish was sold for...

The citizen's leader, Ian Whygate, didn't have much to say (for a change) because he was looking after the newest slave in the citizens' office. Reggie Blenheim palace was the new counter of all the citizens' money, but when he arrived he couldn't even count himself lucky enough to have a desk. 'Never mind' thought Reggie, 'I'll go for a wander around'. He soon found himself in the Phallix office where he was accosted by Largeamounts who wanted to 'take some photos for the files'. They then disappeared down towards the Jacques Cousteau Club's bottle store...

Meanwhile, things were happening in the many sections of the Cheapskate media.

Thrilled by the success (?) of the combined Lumpofmetal-worshippers/Fundamentallawsofnaturetesters radio show, Dave Braincell and Clare MacUseless had decided to go one better. They would now be doing a show for the Citizens' Television of Cheapskate. This was an abrupt change of opinion by Braincell. At the last citizens' committee meeting he was complaining that the TV station was a waste of money and should be closed. Director General Mark Winchester was certainly having the last laugh...

(Clare MacUseless had also taken a leaf out of Whygate's book by having a new hairstyle so that no one would recognise her.)

Over at Radio Cheapskate, controller Steve Garbage was having troubles of his own. If the equipment wasn't breaking down, then his credibility was. Rumours were flying about him and a former citizen but all the Cheapskate disc jockeys were keeping very quiet (for a change).

It was easy to tell that the Cheapskate general elections were coming up just by reading Phallix. Last week's prize for the 'most publicity in a single issue' goes to the diminutive citizen who managed no less than 10 name checks and a photo...

Someone else keen to appear in Phallix was one of the Baron's new slaves from the 'sending documents down the telephone' office in the Surefield fortress. Hip Eddy was very hip apart from one unfortunate thing. His favourite football team was that boring bunch of North Londoners from Highbury, Arsehole.

*Why are boring Arsehole live on TV on Sunday?*

*Will Dave Braincell's live Subbuteo match on Cheapskate TV be more exciting?*

*Find out in the next episode of The Baron of Cheapskate.....*



● **SABBATICAL ELECTIONS** are on the way. It's easy to tell this because many of the hopefuls have been seen entering the FELIX Office in order to secure some early and free publicity from Editor Judith Hackney. Many suggest a small mention in the Baron would be ideal. Others are all too free in imparting gossip about themselves, in the hope of getting into this very libel column. Tough luck, kids. I didn't take the bait!

● **IT SEEMS THAT** many of the College elections have already been sewn up. A little bird told me yesterday that Dramsoc have next year's committee already sorted out, or Adrian Hicks seems to think they do anyway. Naturally Adrian is putting himself forward for Dramsoc's President.

● **MEANWHILE IT'S** a safe bet that Rag Chairman Nigel Baker will win the ICU presidential election this year according to his newly formed election team. A certain other Union Officer, who was originally planning to stand for the big 'P', has decided it's not worth it now and has joined the Baker camp with the intention of running as Deputy.

● **A NEW 'CAMP'** has announced its intention to run in the ICU elections. Women's Officer Linzi Wishart and Lesbian & Gay Welfare Officer James Papa are planning to stand for President and Deputy President respectively.

● **HOLBEIN HOUSE** had a porno night this Monday attended by not only the Warden but also the two Subwardens after a night of heavy drinking. Two residents were unable to contain themselves while watching one film and ended up prancing naked around the TV room. My spy tells me that they broke all-known house records and managed a 5-in-a-shower orgy including one female wearing nothing but an enormous grin.

● **ROSE ATKINS** photogenic typesetter operator, was recently overheard complaining about the fact that she had not been given a double page feature interview when starting work for FELIX this time last year and was upset at the fact that Chris Martin did not ask Reggie Blennerhasset, the new Finance Officer, what he thought of the Snack Bar food as she would have had a very good answer to this question had she been asked.

Chris Jones

# Features

Do we really control our destiny or is our fate mapped out for us? The very idea that we are not acting with total freedom of will in our lives is, today, of course quite ridiculous: but at the same time prophecy is still present apparently without justification in our otherwise advanced world. Alongside the scientific predictions of meteorologists, and the statistical forecasts of analysts, we have inconsistencies such as palmistry and astrology. It would seem for all our quest for freedom, we still cling onto, and even encourage, some element of pre-destination to our existence.



*Dieu se sert icy de ma bouche  
Pour t'annoncer la verité  
Si ma prediction te touche  
Rends grace à sa Divinite*

# NOSTRADAMUS

by Martin Cole

While soothsayers specialising in the study of slaughtered lamb entrails have little place in modern day society, astrologists have established a lucrative little niche for themselves through the tabloids and various other publications of similar standing. But astrology has been around for a long time, with perhaps its greatest exponent being one Michel de Nostradamus—will anyone remember Russell Grant in 400 years time?

So, who was Nostradamus and why has he not faded into the same obscurity of others of his ilk?

Nostradamus was a sixteenth century French seer (almost indisputable fact), who predicted events such as the rise of Napoleon, Hitler, the assassination of J F Kennedy and the Ayatollah (absolute conjecture!). It is of immediate apparence that his predictions were characterised by predictions of doom; and why not? Even the most cursory study of human history will reveal that, if we are predictable at all then, for certain we will go to war, have evil leaders, and plenty of assassinations to boot! Predicting beneficial and utopian futures is best left to campaigning politicians and religious leaders.

So why, having discredited his predictions, are they still worth writing about? Well, however his prophecies are taken, they make an interesting read, but even better are the tenuous deductions and interpretations made by the various experts; their logic is always infallible(!).

To make things difficult the 'quatrains', as they are called, are written in old French rhyme, collected into ten centuries, each with 100 quatrains (apart from the seventh, which mysteriously contains only 42—is this the answer to life the universe and everything?). Unless you are fluent at French, it is necessary to rely on official translations, usually by people only too willing to further the legend. And, if this was not enough, the quatrains are deliberately obscure, ambiguous and chronologically jumbled: the explanation being that Nostradamus did not want to risk prosecution as a magician—very convenient!

One of the popular themes of Nostradamus, was the effect of three brothers on the world, commonly believed to be a reference to the Kennedy's and one must concede that no three brothers have had greater potential influence on the world (excluding Andy, Robin and Maurice Gibb, of course). Nostradamus 'foresaw' their assassinations. Saving you the French:



'Then for the great brothers, death and dissension.'

Well, of course JFK and Robert duly obliged, but Edward seems to be proving a little stubborn: Nostradamus goes on to elucidate:

'The great man will be struck down in the day by a thunderbolt...another falls at night time.'

With a further reference to the death of three brothers and 'lightning on top'. The thunderbolt is seen by commentators as a medieval impression of a bullet. JFK was indeed shot in broad daylight, by Lee Harvey Oswald, from the top of a building in Dallas, 1963. Robert was shot nearly five years later, at night, while celebrating a presidential primary election victory. But all these links between various of his 942 quatrains have been made by those keen to find some meaning to Nostradamus words.

Hitler apparently saw himself in Nostradamus' predictions, he and Dr Goebbels using them for propaganda. In the quatrains, reference to 'Hister'—before the 1930s this was taken as being the Danube river, as this is 'Ister' in Latin, but 'Hitler' does give the quatrains more relevance (well relatively, at least). Nostradamus talks in context of,

'...the child of Germany observes no law'

and,  
'In the deepest part of western Europe a child will be born of poor family who by his speech will entice many peoples.'

but, perhaps more specifically,  
'Near the Rhine from the Norican mountains will be born a great man of the peoples come too late. He will defend Poland and Hungary and they will never know what became of him.'

Hitler was indeed, born of humble beginnings in Norican, Austria. and was also a great orator. He invaded Poland and Hungary to 'save' them from the Allies—defensive? And, of course, the ultimate final teaser—did he really die in the bunker in Berlin? Admittedly some of this is intriguing, but it does seem that if you look hard enough you will find something of relevance, however tenuous. Nostradamus' style lends itself well to free-interpretation, especially if adjusted in translation.

But enough of the distant past, what is there of a more topical nature? Well how about this,

'The Libyan Prince will be powerful in the West, the French will become so enamoured of Arabia.'

The Libyan Prince? Well, quite obviously Colonel Gadaffi; at least he'd like to think he was powerful in

the West. But what about the French affection for Arabs? Could it be the release of the Iranian envoy, believed to be involved with the Paris bombings, in exchange for French hostages in the Lebanon?

Wait, this one's even better,  
'The Arab Prince, Mars, the Sun, Venus and Leo, the rule of the Church will succumb to the sea, towards Persia...'

The conjunction of Mars, the Sun and Venus occurred on August 21, 1987—the height of the Gulf War and the navies of Christendom even get a mention and a reference to Leo/lion does of course refer to the Royal Navy escorting re-flagged tankers—obviously!

Now to the future, no surprises here, it is a prediction of gloom, but with a specific date. I hope you're ready for this;

'In the year 1999, and seven months from the sky will come the great King of Terror. He will bring back to life the great king of the mongols. Before and after war reigns happily.'

On a lighter note, there is even a previously unattributed quatrain making clear reference to Imperial,  
'Near to the port with no sea, The fields of friendly battle shall yield three-fold riches from the very earth. Ani shall be contented.'

A port with no sea—an airport! But a friendly battle is a clear contradiction, unless it could be sport (in principle at least). So a sports field near an airport; Harlington is near Heathrow! Riches from the ground—it must be the Harlington gravel—£3 million. But who or what is 'Ani'—a difficult one for any student of Nostradamus, but could it be a devious anagram of Ian—a happy Union president!!! This beats solving 3-2-1 clues!

But, what's this? Century VI, Quatrain 100;

'Incantation of the Law Against Inept Critics...'



*Linda Simmons, College Welfare Advisor,  
with advice to all overseas students*

## Leave to remain

### Renewing your leave to remain in the UK

It is only possible to renew your leave to remain through the College in September and October each year. Any notices still up in College advertising this service are out of date and should be taken down. I'm sorry if they have misled any students who have read them.

**Remember.** The golden rule when attempting to get leave to remain extended is to apply **before** the expiry date. Even when the College scheme is in operation, we are unable to accept applications from students whose leave to remain has already expired. However, I will always try to help students in this situation, although the College has no special resources to guarantee that a late application will be successful. As soon as you overstay your leave to remain, even if it is by only one day, you are in breach of the Immigration Rules (ie you are an Overstay) and thus lose your right to appeal against any refusal to renew your right to remain in the UK.

### Home Office Backlog

Due to an overwhelming number of applications for registration for citizenship, the Home Office case work division now has a huge backlog of work. This means that written applications to the Home Office are taking about six weeks before the envelope is opened and up to three months before the enquiry is answered.

Similarly, people applying in person at Croydon are facing queues of up to 8 or 10 hours. As there are no eating facilities in the Public Enquiry Office, I should take some sandwiches and coffee!

### Greek Students

From 1st January 1988, Greece became a full member of the EEC. This means that like other EEC students, Greek students are now able to work part-time and study part-time if they wish. It also appears that they should be able to claim Housing

Benefit, although the situation regarding EEC students and Housing Benefit is unclear at the moment and anyone in doubt should check with me before claiming.

Any Greek student who has restrictions stamped in their passports who would like them removed, should write (recorded delivery) to the Home Office requesting that their leave be changed to that of an EEC national. But wait until the end of January before applying, in order to let the backlog of work described above die down.

### Extended Leave to Remain

It is stated Home Office policy to give genuine overseas students three years leave to remain if they apply at the beginning of a three year course.

However, it does appear that this is not happening in practice. UKCOSA (The United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students Affairs) recommends that all overseas students who have only one year's leave to remain, but whose course is longer and wish to extend their permission, should write (recorded delivery) to the Home Office requesting an extension of their present leave to cover the duration of the course. You should, of course, submit all the usual evidence.

In order to see if the Home Office are carrying out their officially stated policy, I would be most grateful if those students who do apply would let me know how they get on *especially* if they are refused, as UKCOSA have stated that they will do everything they can to help students in this situation.

*If you need help or information on any of the above topics or almost anything else, you can find me on the 1st Floor, 15 Princes Gardens, Monday to Friday, 10am-2.30pm, ext 3604.*

*Linda Simmons, Welfare Advisor.*



SPECIAL

by  
*Chris Martin*

Reggie Blennerhasset, the new boy in the Union Office, started work as the Union's new Finance Officer at the beginning of the year. Hailed as the only good thing the Union has done this year, FELIX takes a look behind the face into the background of the accounting whizz-kid and finds out what makes him tick...



## **WHIZZ KID REGGIE**

Reggie was born and brought up in the heart of Northern Ireland which he describes as 'a very poor but beautiful place'. His surname is French, taken over to Ireland by the Normans, where his family have remained for generations.

Reggie finished his education in Dublin, taking a four year course at the equivalent of a polytechnic which

LLGC was facing an uncertain financial future as the Local Government Bill was going through Parliament. This would, if passed, prohibit spending on bodies that 'promote homosexuality', and the main source of funds of the LLGC are the London Local Authorities.

While at the LLGC he had set up a new computer system and he feels

it is this 'carryover' money that makes up the contingency funds for the following year.

With Reggie working preparing the accounts, however, the work that the auditors have to do will be much reduced and the system will run much more smoothly. Also, the Union trading outlets will benefit much from up-to-date trading accounts, with week-to-week knowledge of their trading position.

The job of sorting out the Union accounts will involve him going around various parts of the Union to find out how their finances work and looking for ways to put them on the computer. He is looking forward to this and actually getting out and meeting 'real students'.

Reggie describes himself as 'shy and unassuming'. Asked whether he was efficient, he replied 'Oh God, I suppose I had better say yes!'. He describes accountants as 'the most boring people in the world' but insists that 'Financial Officers' are different and are actually 'dynamic'. He hopes to join in with Union activities and has a special interest in, believe it or not, ballroom dancing. He doesn't intend to sit closetted in his office for the

## The Union's Biggest Gamble

At the start of the 1985/86 session IC Union staged what was probably the most successful student boycott to take place in London this decade. As a result of this outstanding effort IC Students' Union took control of the Union Bar.

This year the Bar Birthday is being celebrated on January 29, from 8pm, when the whole Union building is being taken over for a carnival type event to be called the **Bar Birthday Ball**. Outside of including three bands: Jim Jiminee, Stagefright and Chillon, who have all held highly successful performances at IC recently, the event sports a 2am bar extension, beer from 60p a pint from 8pm to 10pm, a disco and films until 3am, a string quartet in the Union Bar, jazz piano and a casino.

The casino is without a doubt the largest revelation to hit a Union event in years. A ticket to the Ball, costing only £3.50 in advance and £4 on the door, entitles you to all the above events and a programme for the casino, which provides you with not only the gaming rules but also a set number of chips which you can gamble with at no cost to yourself at a choice of three tables: Roulette, Craps and Blackjack. At the end of the day when all the chips have been collected in, the top winner will win one of the £1,400 worth of prizes generously donated by Capital Leisure, owners of Third Street Nightclub and organisers of the casino. The prizes include the hire of Third Street Nightclub one weekday night, at no cost, for your own private function for up to 200 people; the Ambassador Suite at Third Street for a night, for 80 people, for free; a gallon bottle of red wine; half a case of house wine and much more alcohol.

This is your chance to enjoy the best night out of the year and try your luck at the tables for next to nothing whilst the Union subsidises your evening.

Tickets are on sale from the Union Office, Union Snack Bar and departmental reps from next Monday onwards.

## 'Shy and unassuming'

resulted in a degree in Business Studies awarded externally by Trinity College, Dublin. While at college he spent a year as Public Relations Officer and so has a good idea of Student Unions and how they work.

With degree in hand, he set off for 'the bright lights of London' looking for a job, in true Dick Whittington style, and became 'graduate assistant' to a publishing company. Although it was good experience, the company was undergoing a reorganisation at that time, under a new American manager and Reggie admits that it was as disaster. The company was cutting down on its workforce and after a year he was given six months notice. Again he quickly found a new job, working in the City for a small shipping company. Apparently it isn't that difficult to find a job in finance!

After two years, he then decided to move on again and applied for a job as the finance worker at the recently opened London Lesbian & Gay Centre (LLGC) responsible, with one other person, for looking after the accounts for the whole centre. He admits it was good experience of 'how not to run a business', the centre which was run as a collective is quite large and contains a bar and cafe. One problem with the job was that he had to be a 'duty officer' at the Centre two nights a week, and this was very tiring

this will come in useful for the job at Imperial. The job for the post of Financial Officer for IC Union was advertised in the Guardian and he applied in November. After a gruelling interview he was awarded the job and began in January. This was the second time that the job had been advertised; previously the Union was not able to offer enough money to attract anybody capable of doing the job and had negotiated a larger salary from the College.

## 'I'm trying to break the mould...'

He has been stationed in the refurbished Upper Lounge where, not only is it very pleasant and quiet but also has a view of the Albert Hall! Situated with his new desk and personal computer, he has started off on the Snack Bar Accounts, but is intending to eventually take over all the financial dealings for the Union and put them on the computer. The problem at the moment is that the College Finance Section audit the books at the end of the year and, because of the amount of work they

next two years.

Although he claims to talk too much, when he found himself surrounded in the FELIX office, he became curiously quiet. He was particularly quiet on the subject of this year's sabbaticals, 'I haven't been here long enough to know yet' he claims, but added 'I'm being a politician'.

He comes across as very warm, friendly and interesting, not your typical accountant, 'I'm trying to break the mould' he claims, 'being an accountant is a way to get on'. He would like to move away from finance eventually, perhaps into Management or something similar.

As to the future, he intends to stay with IC Union long enough to set up the new financial system and then see what further challenges he can take on here. He is under no illusions about what he has taken on, although he gives the impression that he is more than equal to them. Despite only being here for two weeks he has made a lot of friends and has quickly settled in.

We wish him luck.

## 'accountants are the most boring people in the world...'

when combined with his full-time work during the day. His job entailed a great deal of meetings but although he was working with some 'very good people' at an interesting place he left after two and a half years because he wanted to move on. He left just as the

do, the Union don't get the books back until half-way through the next year. This causes great problems as the Unions' Clubs and Societies do not know how much money, if any, is left over at the end of the previous year until the books are audited, and

# Previews

Highlight of this week should prove to be *The Triffids* at the Astoria tomorrow night. Adequate descriptions of this band—'interesting' and 'Australian' hardly suffice—are hard to come by. Their repertoire covers a wide range of styles largely dominated by indie pop-rock with a psychedelic touch. They are on the way up so catch them now before ticket prices go way above student budgets.

*Echo and the Bunnymen* continue to go through the motions at Brixton Academy on Saturday. In recent years the *Bunnies* seem to have lost interest in their music, displaying little imagination on their last album (the name: *Echo and the Bunnymen*—how did they come up with that one?) and with minimal live performances. Still, at Brixton you have no problem with seats and can enjoy the music even if the visuals are less than inspiring.



Another week and another round of league games with a couple of big guns in town. All games take place on Saturday January 23 at 3pm (unless otherwise stated).

## Charlton vs Liverpool

*Selhurst Park (Norwood Junction BR)*  
A real bottom versus top with the Reds having triple the amount of points as the luckless valiants. Charlton are showing signs of a revival and earned a point at Nottingham Forest last week, Andy Jones being the hero for the day. It has all been written about Liverpool this season and 23 league games without defeat (18 wins) speaks for itself. It is their method that disgusts me. They buy and buy until they have all the best players, how can the other teams fight that. I admit that John Barnes, Peter Beardsley et al are proving to be brilliant, but if Charlton can beat them I will be over-joyed. I will stick my neck out and say that they can do it. A victory for the minnows over money.

Also tomorrow are Imperial College's *Purple People Eaters*, *Doors* influenced 60s and 70s psychedelia. See them plus their light show featuring oil projections, prisms, slides and strobes for FREE in the Union Bar.

## MUSIC

by Phil Young

**Gig Review:** *Pop Will Eat Itself*, Friday Jan 15, ULU. There were hundreds of them, leathered and long haired young ladies and gentlemen, piled six deep in the bars, lying bombed out of their heads on god-knows-what on the stairs and wandering aimlessly around outside after the gig was pronounced 'sold out'. Greboes, goths, headbangers, hip-hop fans, psychobillies and hippies waiting for the band who are what the *Beastie Boys* will never be.

## Chelsea vs Portsmouth

*Stamford Bridge (Fulham Bdy tube)*  
A match between two teams in the bottom half of Division One, two teams with no real form, does not seem to offer much for a neutral spectator. Chelsea are unbeaten at home but are eleven games without a league win. Portsmouth have brought into the division a mixture of disgraceful behaviour both on the field and off, a dictator chairman and a moaning manager in Alan Ball. New captain Noel Blake has put a little more iron into Pompey though, and they are playing a little better. Stamford Bridge is an awful ground for a terrace spectator, you are miles from the pitch, and with teams that possess such unruly 'fans', I would keep away from this one. A 0-0 draw is the sort of result to expect, though Pompey could snatch it with a little luck.



*Pop Will Eat Itself* arrive on cue, opening with a low deep drum beat and grinding guitars, all done on backing-box. For the first song or two it appears that this band go for power at the expense of all imagination and talent, but you know it's all a piss-take, a chance to shout and stomp and go totally mindless. The songs are so offensive that they become inoffensive. Still, half an hour was long enough to get the point; every subsequent minute was wasted. The attitude of the night was summed up by the slogan on the t-shirt of one of the band: 'The Poppies are crap'. A joke, a bit of a laugh but not to be risked too often.

## Arsenal vs Manchester Utd

*Highbury (Arsenal tube)*

This is the live game on TV on Sunday and although it features two of the top five, a series of 0-0 draws in the past overshadows the game. 2-0 defeats for both teams last week virtually ended their championship aspirations. Arsenal can be exciting at times and Alan Smith, David Rocastle and Niall Quinn produce flair up front. United are having a good season with McClair providing a punch in the attack that has been missing before. Bryan Robson has led his team well this year but I think that the Gunners will take the 3 points. This will be a good game for the partisans but the neutral would be better staying at home this time.

## Leyton Orient vs Stockport

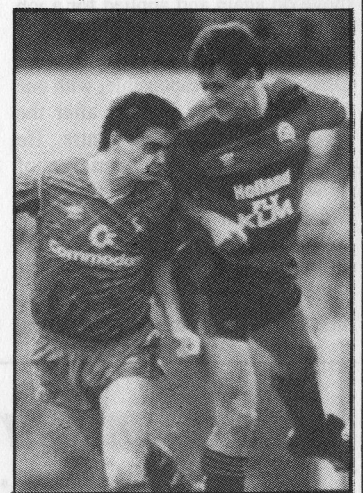
*Brisbane Rd (Leyton tube)*

Orient only drew last week thanks to a 90th minute goal, a disappointing result for manager Frank Clark who has moulded a good side into a promotion winning outfit, fit to take on Forest next week. Stockport have veteran Asa Hartford and managed a draw against table-topping Wolves last week. I expect Orient to win comfortably.

## FOOTBALL

by Adrian Grainger

**Game of the day:**  
Charlton vs Liverpool



## Fulham vs Chester

*Craven Cottage (Putney Bridge tube)*  
Both of these middle of the table teams lost their third division games last week by 2-1 and there aren't any pointers to show that this will be a game to see. Crowds of less than 4,000 will look empty at the ground, so I would give this one a miss. Fulham to win.

## Housekeeping (Cert PG)

This is the latest film from Bill Forsyth, director of that brilliant comedy about young love *Gregory's Girl*.

Helen Stone drops her two children with her mother before committing suicide. The children's grandmother takes devoted care of them until she dies seven years later. The children are placed in the unwilling care of Helen's sister, Sylvie Fisher, and slowly grow up.

One of the most notable things about Bill Forsyth's films is his refusal, even at the risk of having his films condemned as 'charming', to lend any weight to the elements of myth and magic that lurk below their surface. The elaborate ritual which guides the unwitting Gregory to the girl destined to be his sleeping beauty, or the influence that Olympian goddesses Stella and Marina wield over the affairs of men in *Local Hero*.

*Housekeeping* has the slant-eyed view of reality that hallmarks all Forsyth's previous films; when goaded by the children about the mess of old tins littering the kitchen, Sylvie lovingly scrubs them all and arranges them in beautiful, gleaming pyramids on the table.

*Housekeeping* is a film about growing up, about the pressures in the world to conform. The film retains much of the subtlety of the novel by Marilynne Robinson from which it was adapted.

'To crave and to have are as like as a thing and its shadow. For when does a berry break upon the tongue as sweetly as when one longs to taste it...and when do our senses know anything so utterly as when we lack it? And here again is a foreshadowing—the world will be made whole. For to wish for a hand on one's hair is all but to feel it. So whatever we may lose, very craving gives it back to us again.'

The craving the girls experience is for a sense of family, denied to them as circumstances pass them along from one pseudo-family to another. They pore over meaningless photographs, asking eager questions about their parents, and receive only vague answers. A shot near the beginning shows the two apparently about to fall from their high window perch. Then we see that they are in fact safely tethered—but the image is that even family ties are no security.

This all may make *Housekeeping* seem like an unbearably grim experience, but it isn't. It's a great film, one hundred per cent Forsyth in manner and mood.

## The Lost Boys (Cert 15)

Yet another modern vampire movie, following hot on the heels of last week's *Near Dark*.

In the small California town of Santa Clara, the two teenage sons of just-divorced Lucy Emerson, Michael and Sam, run into trouble. Sam is warned by the owners of the local comic-book store that the town is infested with vampires. Michael is tricked into drinking blood, and is half turned into a vampire. Sam realises what's going on when his brother's reflection starts to fade, but he can be saved if the local head vampire is destroyed before Michael makes his first kill.

*The Lost Boys* is an uneven film, reflecting the fact that it's been kicked around by and rewritten by too many people. It was originally supposed to be a sort of *Peter Pan*, but has been stripped of all its J M Barrie associations, except for the title and the mixing of the kindly father figure and head villain into one role. The film does have a few witty lines, but it seems that the influence of co-producer Richard Donner has been far too strong—in parts, *The Lost Boys* gets uncomfortable like *The Goonies*, which Donner directed for Steven Spielberg. In one sequence, the young kids run screaming through a maze of caves infested with teenage vampires who hang upside down from the roof—too close to *The Goonies* for comfort.

The film is firmly directed towards commercialism—MTV rock, pretty-

boy teen vampires with trendy clothes and haircuts, doses of comedy whenever anything starts getting too horrific, special effects trickery and Spielbergian flying scenes. All this eats away at the fascinating potential of the vampire genre; in fact, *The Lost Boys* is the complete opposite to *Near Dark*. The film seems to start promisingly enough, with on-the-streets footage of listless weirdos hanging around the streets of Santa Clara, drifting from boardwalk to fairground. But the introduction of junior Rambos who talk comically tough, combined with the heavy doses of garlic-throwing slapstick and smark Alec exchanges, all combine to spoil the film.

*The Lost Boys* tries to be another *Fright Night*, and fails; it has none of the class of the previous movie. It isn't as funny, frightening or striking as *Fright Night* because it doesn't have a consistent tone. This is a shame, since there are some fairly exciting melt down effects, and one or two eerie touches, such as the vampires stepping off a bridge to disappear into the fog below.

Probably the worst thing about the film is the fact that it's villains aren't at all frightening, but very stupid, blundering into all sorts of traps. I came out of the film wishing that the vampires had got the panicky, tiresomely hyperactive crew of junior brats that are supposed to be the heroes.

If you must go and see a vampire movie, see *Near Dark*—it's thoughtful, funny and well made. *The Lost Boys* has good effects, some funny lines, but loses out when it comes to likeability.

## FILM

### The Glass Menagerie

Paul Newman manages to step from impressive achievement to impressive achievement and his direction of *The Glass Menagerie* is no exception. The film is really a film-of-the-play by Tennessee Williams, who regarded it as an attempt to break away from conventional theatre and 'the photographic in art'. The film is a perfect photographic record of the play—yet Newman manages to circumnavigate this fact—the actor's cinema, in the best sense, creating from theatrical ensembles and interior dramas an undeniably cinematic mood.

Newman directs his excellent cast expertly, and doesn't succumb to the temptation of 'opening' everything up, which would have totally destroyed the atmosphere.

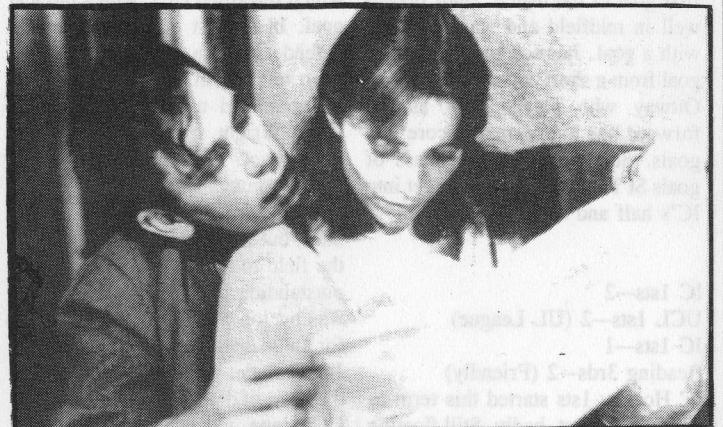
The central image of the film is light: light symbolises both the pain and inextinguishability of memory. Dim lighting is remembrance. Lights from the dance hall across the street are a distraction from enclosed family life. The prisms of light in the menagerie are refugees from the shadows outside. Then all light is lost, because the family can't pay their bills. So candlelight takes over—radiance at the expectation of life.

*The Glass Menagerie* is this week's 'deep' film. It's long, but well worth sitting through if you're one of those people who likes a lot of intelligence and no gunshots in your films. I thought it was excellent.

## Sammy and Rosie Get Laid (Cert 18)

From the director of *My Beautiful Laundrette* comes a tale of society threatened by anarchy and disorder. It opens with vistas of urban waste and squalor, Margaret Thatcher's voice-over ordering the inner cities to heal themselves through hard work and hope. But, unfortunately, the film isn't nearly as good as *My Beautiful Laundrette*—the characters are a bit too one dimensional, and the sketching in of family and social relationships is too episodic. The main character—an ex-colonial freedom fighter, Rafi Rahman—commits suicide. In the wake of this, it's difficult to care whether or not Sammy and Rosie do indeed get laid.

*Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* is worth a look if you're really keen on contemporary 'thinking' films.



## Masters of the Universe

Why oh why? This film is designed to merchandise the brand of toys of the same name, and to induce utter misery in anyone over ten. Stay at

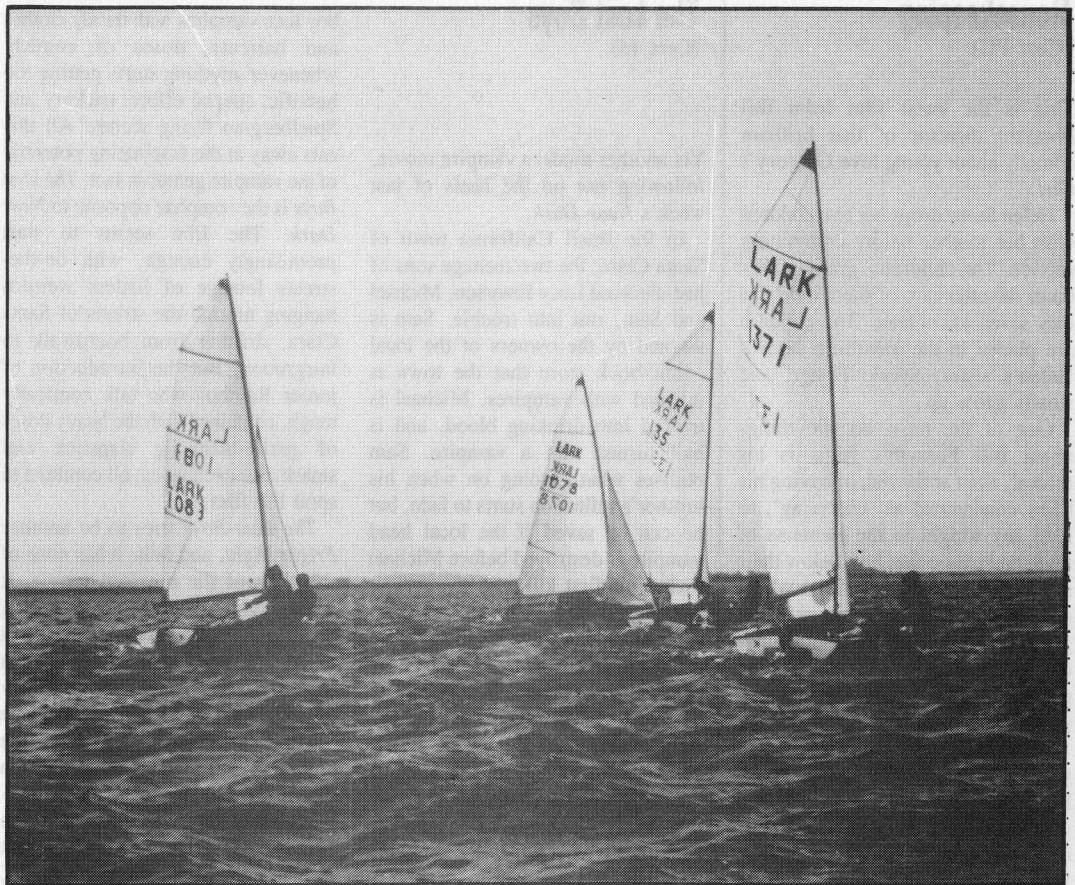
home and watch *Eastenders* instead. This film is the genuine article—complete crap. Even the cartoon series is better.

## SAILING

### Team first despite no wind

Last Saturday, a team from IC sailed against teams from Sheffield University. Although the wind was virtually non-existent, we managed to sail three races during the day. A good result was achieved by IC, despite having to sail with no team captain.

Two races were sailed against Sheffield Men's team in the morning, both were won convincingly by IC. After lunch, the wind had dropped even more and so only one race was sailed, against Sheffield Ladies' team. Until the last leg things looked bad for IC in this race, with first, fifth and sixth places. However, IC sailed well as a team and pulled through to finish first, second and third.



## HOCKEY

### Limp and clumsy

IC Ladies—8

St Thomas Hospital II—1

IC, with a seriously reduced side, were expecting a tough match. This was not to be. In her opening game for IC ladies J Houlden scored the first goal of the match. Blair played well in midfield and was rewarded with a goal. Jackson scored another goal from a short corner. This leaves Ottway who played well as the forward line to eventually score five goals. Somewhere in this mass of goals St Thomas managed to get into IC's half and score.

IC 1sts—2

UCL 1sts—2 (UL League)

IC 1sts—1

Reading 3rds—2 (Friendly)

IC Hockey 1sts started this term as they did the last, badly. Still floating on their Indian gymkhana cloud, the men restarted against UCL on the astroturf at Paddington. As a general rule, IC either score or concede a goal in the first two minutes of every match. On Wednesday it was IC's turn to score first through a Vamadevan-Collman short corner routine. Still following the game plan,

after ten minutes of good play, IC came off the throttle and let UCL back in. Limp and clumsy tackling caused a spate of defending short corners which rewarded UCL with a farcical goal. In a short corner switch, the defenders all ran to the right, the ball went left and in. In the second half IC continued to play sporadically. Colin Wright struggled in his first game back from injury and Gary Knaresborough looked out of position at inside left. Justin Brooking ran hard, but was rarely in the middle of the field to marshall IC's play. The outstanding performance of the day was by Jon Stonham who, covering for an uncharacteristically indecisive Jim Garside, was hard and clinical in the heart of defence. Against the play UCL won and converted a penalty flick. Their lead was to be short lived. Paul Skipworth, beating four players, equalised with a brilliant individual goal. However, he and Vamadevan missed 'sitters' in the closing minutes as IC struggled to improve the scoreline. The drawn result means dropped points for the 1sts in a league that they should retain.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT HELP WANTED

£2.99 per hour (evenings)

The Public Relations Department needs assistance with research (on graduates and companies) and computer date entry. A team of students is required to work between 5.30pm and 8.30pm Monday to Thursday on a rota basis. However, alternative working times can be negotiated.

The ability to type and computer literacy is desirable.

Apply to:

**Jeannie Lyon, Alumni Relations Officer,  
Room 305, Sherfield Building.**

**Telephone: Ext 3040.**

## FOOTBALL

### Hiccups after over-indulgence

New College III—1  
IC II—3

After the Christmas festivities, IC took a while to get back into their stride. Lethargic at the back, slow in the midfield, and asleep up front. However, it was IC who dominated the first half, on a heavily sanded pitch, but couldn't turn chances into goals, only managing to hit the woodwork twice, and have the ball cleared off the line. At half-time the score remained at 0-0. IC started the second half as slow as the first. New College then took the lead as IC's defence stood still. This woke IC up, and Pip Peel, back from injury, began to link up with Rob Kelly, to dominate the midfield. Chris Burton and Mick Plummer made surging runs down the wings, and Guy Phiri and Alan Glass began to work as they did last term. Russ Dark and Stuart Miller dominated the heart of the defence, and Ian Charlton and Bas Basma, making their debuts for the 2nds, contributed on midfield. Soon the equaliser came, with an own goal. IC surged forward again, hitting the bar several times, before Alan Glass forced the ball home in a goal line scramble. After hitting the bar several more times, Alan Glass ran through

again, and his shot was deflected off by an unfortunate defender. A solid second half performance, indicated that IC 2nds are purring again, hungry for the divisional championship.

IC 6th—7

Charing Cross & Westminster—1  
An emphatic 7-1 victory finally confirmed the promise this largely unheard of team has shown throughout the season. Coming at the start of this year's campaign it has immediately resurrected their promotion hopes.

The goals began within 5 minutes when a cross from Richard Miles was cleanly volleyed home by the team's Scottish ace Cameron Gilmour. The goals continued throughout the match with two goals for Aiden Chandler and Richard Miles and a goal a piece for Al Bamford and Andy Draine. The one slight hiccup occurred early in the second half but should really be ignored in this fine all round performance which considerably brightened this damp and foggy afternoon for all in attendance.

## HOCKEY

### Burton makes the hat-trick

IC 3rds 5

Chalfont St Peter 1  
Within seconds the first goal was produced by the 3rds, a spectacular goal from Vish Ashiabor slamming the ball hard against the backboard. A second goal was made by some passing around in the D until Steve Burton managed to get the ball in followed by another later in the first half to make the score at half-time 3-0

Almost straight after the whistle for the second half Hassann Majid hit the ball into the net, 4-0. Shortly afterwards the opposition managed to get their first goal, the keeper came out to attack the player but he was just able to sneak the ball in. The final last minutes saw a final goal by Steve Burton—A hat-trick for him and a jug for us.

IC—1

Charing Cross—1  
This was not a very memorable match. Players were lethargic and unfit after the Christmas break.

Charing Cross began well and quickly scored one goal. For the rest of the first half IC had most of the possession but failed to take the chances this created to score. IC came from behind to score a scrappy goal accredited to Seward. Bettendge played well at inside forward. The second half saw Charing Cross looking much more likely to score.

However good defence from Faldon, Pownall and Tucker prevented this.

## ORIENTEERING

### Large amounts

There was a good turn out for the first event of the term last Sunday, to Basildon Park, Streetley. This was a friendly colour-coded event and despite impaired fitness due to large amounts of over-indulgence over the Christmas period, all members of the Club were brave enough to attempt a hard 'blue' course. All completed

the course with good times, well-up on the results lists. This shows the improvement made over the last couple of years in the overall standard of orienteering in the Club.

This week's event is a colour-coded event on Esher Common, see noticeboard for details, all welcome.

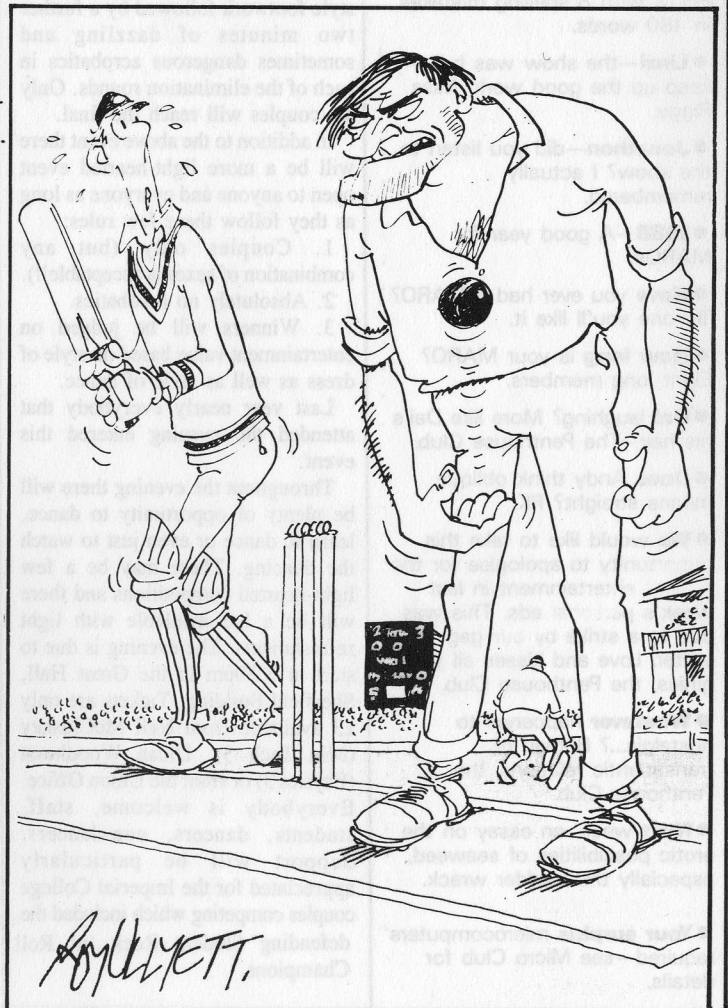
## CRICKET

### Creasing up

The time has come once more for you to bleach the grass stains out of your whites, oil the trusty willow and step up to the crease. Yes it's the pre-season nets at Lord's every Tuesday from 8-9pm. All you have to do is sign up on the Cricket notice board outside the Union Bar and meet in the lobby of Mech Eng at 7pm, equipped

with whites, training shoes, and the talent of Ian Botham. As always our first eleven will be packed with international stars, but there is plenty of room in the other teams for the rest of us mortals. So all players are welcome for a 'mervellous' day's cricket.

Tony Greenfield.



## Small Ads

● **BRPVL** says—'Chris Jones come to PICOCON and be terminated'.

● **Mind** your small ads Penthouse Club or we'll arrange for you to be the Basement Club. BRPVL.

● **Are** there any ARCHERS out there? Two lonely archers need help in their inter-university postal league. Contact Alex S. (Doc 1).

● **New** from QT Soc Publications: 'Big Dipper'—the sex life of a fairground boy, 'The Flight of the Condom'—Richard Branson's book of family life in the Andes (all £25 plus p&p).

● **Do** you have an infectious laugh? Send £2 to QT Soc for our free oral hygiene spray.

● **Simmo**, you have left me much to remember you by. It's vital you see a doctor at once. DT.

● **What's** naff in 88? A page of FELIX with 8 spelling mistakes in 180 words.

● **Linzi**—the show was brill—keep up the good work! Miss Piggy.

● **Jonathon**—did you listen to the show? I actually remembered.

● **1988**—A good year for MAROs.

● **Have** you ever had a MARO? Try one you'll like it.

● **How long** is your MARO? Eight long members.

● **Dai** laughing? More like Dai's his hair—The Penthouse Club.

● **Does** Andy think oblique means straight? PK.

● **We** would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the lack of entertainment in last week's personal ads. This was due to a strike by our gag writer. Love and kisses all you gurlies, the Penthouse Club.

● **Whatever** happened to nostalgia...? Bureau of transatlantic relations, the Penthouse Club.

● **Next** week, an essay on the erotic possibilities of seaweed, especially the bladder wrack.

● **Your surplus** microcomputers required—see Micro Club for details.

## DANCE CLUB

# National Rock'n'Roll Competition

On January 30 Imperial College will play host to the National Student Rock 'n' Roll Competition. Far from it being 'just another' dance competition the evening promises to be a spectacular event to watch and/or participate in.

Generous sponsorship from Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants has enabled us to book an exciting and talented dance group by the name of the Kansas City Jivers. Their lead dancer is presently the British Free-Style Dance Champion.

The student rock 'n' roll event hopes to attract entries from all over the country, hence the early start of 5.30pm. These couples will perform one minute of intricate continental style footwork followed by a further two minutes of dazzling and sometimes dangerous acrobatics in each of the elimination rounds. Only six couples will reach the final.

In addition to the above event there will be a more light-hearted event open to anyone and everyone as long as they follow these few rules:

1. Couples only (but any combination of sexes is acceptable!!).
2. Absolutely no acrobatics.
3. Winners will be judged on entertainment value based on style of dress as well as style of dance.

Last year nearly everybody that attended the evening entered this event.

Throughout the evening there will be plenty of opportunity to dance, learn to dance or even just to watch the dancing. There may be a few light-hearted competitions and there will be a bar available with light refreshments. The evening is due to start at 5.30pm in the Great Hall, Sheffield Building. Tickets are only £3 available from Neil McCluskey (Min Tech 3), Dinah Woodhurst (Physics 3) or from the Union Office. Everybody is welcome, staff, students, dancers, non-dancers. Support will be particularly appreciated for the Imperial College couples competing which included the defending Student Rock 'n' Roll Champions.



## IC YHA

# Escape to somewhere wild

Have you ever thought about escaping from IC into some wild part of Britain, to relax, take in fresh air, and revitalise your mental state?

ICYHA can take you away from London to the vast, desolate moors of the Peaks or Dartmoor, to the spectacular hills of Snowdonia or Brecon, to the rolling lands of the Purbeck coastline, or the quiet world of the New Forest.

Last term ICYHA travelled to these destinations, on average, about a dozen people packing into a minibus on Friday nights, to spend the weekend away. Usually walking. We may split into smaller groups following different routines, the

club's activities should be within everyone's reach. Accommodation is arranged, of course, in Youth Hostels and is essentially basic but using a small hostel hidden in the trees of Dartmoor Village makes a great alternative to Linstead Hall or Evelyn Gardens.

This term we plan to go up to the moors and dales of Yorkshire, down to Exmoor and at Easter to Scotland.

The groups are friendly and the weekend vacations are excellent. So joining ICYHA may be your chance to make new friends from all departments and years. Meet us for lunch in Southside Upper Lounge, Thursday, 12.30pm.

*John Schofield, Geology 1.*

## BRIDGE CLUB

Imperial College Bridge Club (semi-finalists in last year's Portland Bowl Competition) beat Kent University by a breathtaking margin of 119 international match points in the first round of this year's competition. The winning team consisted of: David Reuben, Andrew Bowles, Cameron Small and Adrian Munns

*Yishu Nanda,  
Bridge Club Chairman*

## ROCK DISCO Tonight

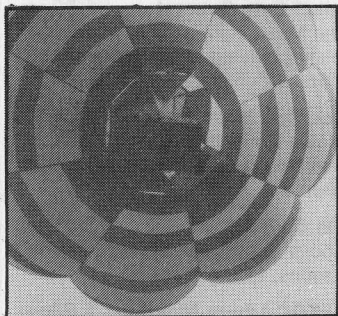
8pm Union Lounge

*bop until yer  
bits drop off!*



## BALLOON CLUB

Are you wondering what this is a picture of? If so then you now know what the bottom of our hot-air balloon looks like!



In 1783 man took to the air in the first ever 'aircraft'—a hot air balloon powered by a fire made of burning straw and twigs! But a month later the first (hydrogen) gas balloon took off. In those days it was a much more practical device than the clumsy and rather dangerous hot-air balloon (its design has changed little since). Hot-air ballooning had died a quick death and it was not until almost 200 years

later that new materials and modern technology were used to help generate and contain hot air. A hot-air balloon can now be operated at about one per cent of the cost of that of a gas balloon and hot-air ballooning has now become one of the fastest growing air sports.

One's first balloon flight is a mixture of fear, appreciation of beauty and a wonder that the thing works at all. To float 'out of this world', away into the clouds and 'ride the winds' is an experience hard to explain.

As a club we fly, weather permitting, most weekends and throughout the summer. Our local launch site is down in Newbury (near Reading) but we also participate in many balloon meets around the country where there can often be seen special shaped balloons (have you ever seen a flying chateau, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, light bulb, ice cream cone...to name but a few!).

Everybody is welcome to our regular Thursday lunchtime meetings at 1pm in Southside Upper Lounge (above bar)—just ask around for the balloon club! It really is a beautiful sport and surprisingly inexpensive, so please come and say hello.

*Jan Vonka, Chairman.*

## AMNESTY INT.

The Syrian Campaign is still continuing. Please take ten minutes of your time to write a letter to: Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, 'Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar Street, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, concerning this woman:

Hind Qahwaji, a 31 year old agricultural engineer from Tal al-Nin, was first arrested for her membership of the Party for Communist Action (PCA) in October 1982. She was released on March 3 1983 and rearrested on March 21 1984. Initially detained in the Military Interrogation Branch in Damascus, she was tortured soon after arrest and reportedly required an operation on her uterus as a result. She is detained without charge or trial in Qatana Women's Prison, south west Damascus. This is a civil prison but it is used to detain

both political and non-political prisoners. Hygiene and medical services in the prison are reported to be extremely poor. In mid-June 1985 Amnesty International appealed urgently on behalf of Hind Qahwaji, who suffers from asthma, and six other detained PCA members, following reports that they were in poor health and that medical care and family visits were being denied them. No response was received from the Syrian authorities. Hind Qahwaji is married, and was adopted by AI as a prisoner of conscience in June 1985.

Please send courteous letters appealing for her immediate and unconditional release. Please also refer to FELIX issues dated November 13 1987 and December 4 1987 for more details. If you would like to know more about Syria and/or more about Amnesty, feel free to contact Guy Sims or Monique Yeo (both Maths 2).

Watch this space for the upcoming Refugee Campaign!

## SCOUT & GUIDE

*Last term was a successful one for S&G, with plenty of events taking place. There were four weekend trips—to the Peak District, North Yorkshire and the Brecon Beacons for walking and climbing and a weekend 'off' barging on the Grand Union Canal.*

*In the Peaks, various groups of walkers went on 'bog-trots' around Kinder Count, while the climbers enjoyed a superb day at Froggat Edge. The party included several freshers who learnt basic climbing techniques. Yorkshire saw a partly successful attempt at the 'Three*

*Peaks' and some rather damp limestone climbing in Giggleswick Scar. The Brecon Beacons was an area the Club had not visited for some time but proved to be a popular venue. The three main peaks of the Brecons were reached and groups also walked the stretch of the Offa's Dyke path over the Black Mountains.*

*The barging weekend was something else entirely. A constant battle was waged between the crews of the two barges—there was plenty of ammunition for use in the shape of water pistols and buckets. Several good bridge-hops were also carried out.*

*All the weekends were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. Several social events took place during the term, including the annual pub crawl and restaurant trip.*

*Over the New Year, we spent a week in Killion, Central Scotland, for some winter mountaineering. The lack of snow put paid to the 'winter' bit, but despite the foul weather, a total of nineteen different Munros (mountains over 3,000ft) were climbed by various people.*

*This term, the Club will be going to Snowdonia and the Lake District (twice each) for some winter walking and scrambling and hopefully also some ice-climbing. We still have room for some new members, if you are interested contact Justin Petty (Min Tech 4) or see us in Southside Upper Lounge any day except Thursday at 12.30pm. On Thursdays we have meetings (slide show and talk) at 12.30pm in Mines B303.*



## PHOTOCOPIER

The Imperial College Union Print Unit is pleased to announce the arrival of its new photocopier. We can now produce posters in a combination of red, blue and black on five colours of paper with just a one hour turn-around.

# Make your publicity seen.

See Judith in the FELIX Office for more details.

# Diary

## FRIDAY

**Con Soc Meeting.....12.30pm.**  
ME 569.

**Circuit Training .....12.30pm.**  
Union Gym with Cross Country and Athletics Club. Everyone welcome. Free.

**Orienteering .....12.30pm.**  
Brown/Green Committee Room (top floor of Union Building). Arrangements for following Sunday's event.

**FELIX Staff Meeting .....1.00pm.**  
FELIX Office. Anybody who is interested in helping welcome.

**GLC Meeting .....1.00pm.**  
Union SCR (above Norm's). Sign up for greyhound 'church' session, casino trip.

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

**C&G Motor Club Rally ...7.00pm.**  
Kart Garage. Rally postponed from last term will be run tonight.

**IC Radio .....7.00pm.**  
999kHz. 'The Accommodation Programme', about moving out of hall.

**Rocksoc AGM .....7.30pm.**  
Union Lower Lounge. To elect a committee and other things—disco afterwards.

**Rock Disco .....8.00pm.**  
Union Lower Lounge. Bring some records. Members 50p, non-members £1.

## SATURDAY

**Shotokan Karate.....10.00am.**  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

**Tang Soodo.....4.00pm.**  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome. £1 members.

**LIVE! .....8.30pm.**  
The Purple People Eaters in the Union Bar. Imperial College's new psychedelic indie band with their own lightshow. FREE.

## SUNDAY

**Wargames Meeting.....1.00pm.**  
Senior Common Room.

## MONDAY

**Rock Soc Meeting .....12.30pm.**  
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of rock? Come along!

**Curry Soc .....12.30pm.**  
Weekly meeting. Southside Upper Lounge.

**Parachute Club Meet...12.30pm.**  
Union Lower Lounge. See Max Hunt von Herbing (Chairman).

**Artsoc Meeting .....12.30pm.**  
SCR Union. Come to sign up and pay your money for tickets for forthcoming events, eat biscuits and drink coffee. Free to members (membership £1.50).

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

**Golf Practice .....5.30pm.**  
Union Gym. See Golf Club.

**Intermediate Ballroom ...7.00pm**  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

**Shotokan Karate.....7.00pm.**  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

**Beetle Soc .....7.30pm.**  
Meeting above Southside Bar. All welcome. Death to the Beastie Boys.

**Beginners Ballroom .....8.00pm.**  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

**Tang Soo Do .....9.00pm.**  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.00 members.

**Guilds & RCS Radioshow .....9.00pm.**  
Prizes, good music and all the latest gossip!

## TUESDAY

**Christian Union .....8.15am.**  
Chemistry 231. See Steve Clark, Christian Union.

**Guinness & Gossip .....12.30pm.**  
Sailing Club meeting above Stan's.

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

**Boardsailing .....12.30pm.**  
Regular meeting in Southside Lounge to organise trips.

**Ski Club .....12.45pm.**  
Above Southside Bar, sign up for lessons and recreational skiing.

**QT Soc Meeting .....1.00pm.**  
Southside Upper Lounge (or Pizza Bar). Plot-hatching extravaganza! New members welcome.

**Speaker Meeting .....1.15pm.**  
Pippard Theatre, Sheffield Building. 'The Mathematics of Art' by Dr J V Field.

**Holy Qur'an Recitation ..1.30pm.**  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

**Islamic Circle .....5.30pm.**  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

**Amnesty Meeting .....5.30pm.**  
Brown Committee Room. Everyone welcome.

**Wine Tasting .....6.00pm.**  
Union SCR. A tasting of wines from California. £2.

**Canoe Club .....6.30pm.**  
Meet in Beit Quad for training session in swimming pool.

**Judo.....6.30pm.**  
Union Gym. Next beginners' course—January.

**Caving Club Meeting .....7.00pm.**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Advanced Ballroom .....7.00pm.**  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club

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

**IC Radio .....8.00pm.**  
Psychedelic & Indie Show.

**Improvers Ballroom .....8.00pm.**  
JCR. 80p. See Dance Club.

**Canoe Club Meeting.....8.30pm.**  
Above Southside Bar.

**Dai Rocking.....9.00pm.**  
IC Radio (999kHz). The best in hard rock and not-so-hard rock music including the featured album every week with David Williams.

## WEDNESDAY

**Sailing.....12.30pm.**  
Meet outside Southside.

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

**Ski Club .....12.30pm.**  
Above Southside Bar. Meet for trip to dry ski slope for lessons and recreational skiing. Bring gloves and thick socks.

**Golf Meeting .....1.00pm.**  
Sudbury. Regular weekly meeting.

**Caving Club Meeting .....1.00pm.**  
Union Snack Bar.

**Wargames Meeting.....1.00pm.**  
Senior Common Room.

**Improvers Rock n Roll...2.15pm.**  
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.

**Shotokan Karate.....3.00pm.**  
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. £1.

**Offbeat Practice .....3.15pm.**  
Union Dining Hall. 80p. See Dance Club.

**ULU Meditation Group ..7.00pm.**  
Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street. Traditional breathing meditation. Everyone welcome. No charge.

**C&G Motor Club .....7.30pm.**  
Southside Lounge. Scalextric championships.

**Clutch Clinic .....9.00pm.**

## THURSDAY

**ICYHA Meeting .....12.30pm.**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Meth Soc .....12.30pm.**  
Huxley 413. Another lively meeting of those radical liberal evangelicals! All welcome.

**Lunchtime Concert .....1.30pm.**  
The Music Room. David Ward (piano) playing works by Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Chopin.

**Soc Soc Meeting .....12.45pm.**  
Brown Committee Room. All welcome. Contact Adrian Grainger (Maths 3).

**Ski Club .....12.45pm.**  
Above Southside Bar. Sign up for lessons, racing team.

**SFSOC Library Meeting ..1.00pm.**  
Green Committee Room, Union Building. Borrow books from our vast library, help plan future events. Members only.

**Arabic Classes.....1.30pm.**  
Prayer Room. See Islamic Society.

**Gliding Club Meeting.....5.30pm.**  
Aero 254. Arrange trial flights, lifts to Lasham, talks and then to the bar.

**Orienteering Training.....5.30pm.**  
Union Gym. Social meeting held from 6.30pm onwards.

**Full SCC Meeting .....6.00pm.**  
Union SCR. All SCC clubs chairmen and treasurers must attend this meeting about next year's estimates.

**Judo.....6.30pm.**  
Union Gym. Next beginners' course—January.

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

**IC Radio .....8.00pm.**  
Susan's Ripvanwinklepicker Show. Groovadelic indie trash, free wayside recipes and the occasional guest uncelebrity.

**Martyn with a 'y' Special .....9.00pm.**  
IC Radio. All your favourite records for two spectacular hours.

**ICCAG Soup Run.....9.15pm.**  
Weeks Basement Hall. Contact Liz Warren (Chem Eng 2).

**The deadline for What's On entries is Monday lunchtime. Please notify us if an entry is wrong.**

**Small Ads**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• **Anyone** interested in refereeing a few football matches this term? No experience required, all expenses paid. Contact Sam: 6455 or room B421 Mines.

• **Guilds** Motor Club are organising a trip to the Castle Coombe racing school on May 6. Any interested members should sign up on Mech Eng Level 3.

• **Are** you interested in going to Amsterdam in March for only £40? Contact Martyn Peck via Chem 1, FELIX or IC Radio.

• **Would** the person who has the Ham Sôc wavemeter please return it. Chris Read gave you it temporarily.

• **Be there** or be an asparagus tip! Tonight, Union Lounge.

• **...And** if you've any requests bring the records! Tonight Union Lounge.

**ACCOMMODATION**

• **Spaces** available in shared rooms in both Student Houses and Head Tenancies.

• **Room** in shared house in Wimbledon. £36pw (£12pw rebate) plus bills. Phone 947 5207.

• **Shared** room for male student in shared room in Lexham Gardens. £36 pw. Contact T Jackson (Physics 3).

**FOR SALE**

• **Daihatsu** Charade XG, 1979, left hand drive, 75,000 miles, good condition, MOT, tax, new tyres, new battery, sunroof stereo—£550. Contact Paul: 387 7050 ext 3586 (daytime), or 385 7477 (evenings).

• **One pair** Salomon SX90 ski boots, size 11/12. £20 ono. Contact J Biddle (Biochem 2), 371 0249.

• **Colour TV** £60. Contact T Irons or L J Davers (Physics 3) via pigeonholes.

**PERSONAL**

• **Cosmic**—sign of a misplaced gestation.

• **Want** cos busted? See most of RCS.

• **Face of Cosmic**—fate worse than death.

• **Cosmic** ferrets can be cured...anyone got a shotgun?

# A gauntlet with relish

Dear Judith,

No doubt you are aware of the recent events regarding yellow rubber washing-up gloves and the infamous 'Gauntlet Club'. Will Evelyn Gardens ever be rid of this terror?

Apparently Mark Lee and the 'Magnificent Seven' (the housing tribunal), think so. 'MI7' recently attempted to prosecute Ben Hodgson and Chris Stapleton for a string of raids. These raids were in fact conducted mainly by the VP and myself alone, including that terrible night of the hanging basket!

The executive of the (most exclusive) Gauntlet Club have previously considered both Ben and Chris for membership, but although they show potential, an invitation to join was never extended.

Perhaps the aim of the Club should be clarified. We try to practice a novel **non destructive** form of mascotry, borrowing things and giving them back mainly intact a few days later, having left a gauntlet in place of the removed object.

Up to now our dealings have been restrained to Evelyn, but beware! Even grander plans regarding Keogh Hall are currently in the 'operation planning' stage.

I think it's sad some people find it so difficult to have fun. Don't forget—everyone knows where Holbein House is, and they can always come and have a go at us one night. You could even say we are 'laying down the gauntlet' in an official challenge.

However, despite the joviality I shall end on a more serious note. The threat of eviction of fellow students from College residences must surely be a subject concerning us all. Indeed it would appeal innocence is no protection against the wrath of MI7.

Hope everyone (including Mr Lee) had a great Xmas, and long live FELIX's lack of censorship.

Yours sincerely,



President.

# Frightful errors

Dear Judith,

Regarding the *Stagefright* interview in the Christmas FELIX. Pete Hartley is quoted as saying 'when we got rid of Andy, we got rid of the name (Baby Delta) as well'.

This sentence (no doubt flowing from the lips of the great man in all innocence) contains (or implies) the following errors:

1. I was not 'got rid of' in the cruel and heartless manner suggested. I left amicably and by mutual agreement, so that the band could find a drummer who would be more

committed to their music.

2. The name *Baby Delta* left long before I did and at my urgent and frantic prompting.

3. The name *Baby Delta* was not associated with me personally, the whole band chose it and must share the blame for its awfulness and absurdity.

Also, out of the kindness of my heart, I played a gig with the band at the Holland Club, although (according to Mr Hartley) I had been unceremoniously kicked out weeks before. I also allowed them to use my own personal drumkit (which is mine) in order to audition my replacement. Mr Hartley should stick this up his bottom and see which way the wind of fortune blows.

Yours sincerely,  
Andy McMahon,  
ex-Imperial,  
ex-Stagefright,  
ex-etc.

# Liberally slurring

Dear Judith,

I am writing regarding Matthew Huntback's letter about my article in FELIX 788. I won't bore people by talking about my own political persuasions (although I am in fact a long-time Liberal supporter and have done my own share of campaigning—usually in the rain). I only hope that at least *some* of the readers of my article realised that it was meant to be a lighthearted collection of quotes and stories—not a malicious slur against the Liberal Party!

Yours incredulously,  
James Papa, ME2

PS. Did you actually read my article Mr Huntback?

# Smalltown boy

Dear Judith,

Having just read this week's copy of FELIX I was deeply disturbed to find that my home town of Wilmslow had been branded a NAFF place.

I presume that this condemnation was the result of one of your intrepid reporters actually going to the place and can therefore be backed up with some hard line facts. Furthermore I am surprised that you have even bothered to publish such a worthless piece of information, since a large majority of your readers won't even know where Wilmslow is.

Finally since you have had the nerve to slag off this quiet town surrounded by the beautiful Cheshire countryside I would have at least expected you to spell it correctly, 'WIMSLow', I ask you, there's another 'L' you know.

Yours sincerely,  
Graham Messenger (Civ Eng).

## Excuse me, I thought this was the lift

The offices of STOIC, the College television service, were broken into early on Wednesday morning. Charles Robin, Secretary of STOIC, was asleep in the editing room, having worked late the previous evening. Mr Robin was woken around 4.30am by the sound of a filing cabinet being moved up to the door outside. A small window about eight feet above the floor, between the corridor and the main STOIC Office, was broken and an intruder climbed through it and opened the door from the inside to admit his two accomplices. The first intruder then went to a filing cabinet where STOIC used to keep its petty cash. Mr Robin came into the office to investigate and pushed past the two men at the door to reach the mains isolator switch, turning the lights on. The intruders then fled and Mr Robin attempted to give chase, but was hampered by the broken glass on the floor. The intruders made their way out down the main stairs.

Mr Robin dressed and attempted to report the break-in to College security. The security officer on duty was on his rounds and the incident was only reported at 4.50am.

Mr Robin feels that 'they could at least have taken STOIC's defunct camera', as this is proving impossible to sell. Mark Salisbury, Chair of

STOIC feels that the thieves must have had some limited knowledge of STOIC as they went straight to where the petty cash used to be kept.

Union Deputy President Alan Rose was reluctant to comment as the incident may still be investigated by the police. He did, however, comment that as the Union Building was locked by Security at midnight, the methods of entry available to the intruders were: via one of three fire escapes, by forcing a window, by having a key to the building or by hiding in the building from before midnight until around 4.30am.

Mr T Briley, Deputy Chief Security Officer for the College, agreed that 'every theft on College property must be looked into and all College security is being reviewed at the moment'.

The current spate of thefts from College property includes the theft of Micro Computer Society equipment, thefts from Hamlet Gardens and from Southwell, Mining and Willis Jackson Houses in Evelyn Gardens during the Christmas holiday. The total value of possessions stolen from residences was more than £1700 including more than £700 from one individual. The cost of repairs to walls, doors and door frames, which were damaged during the thefts, is expected to be between £600 and £700.



The staff of Central Stores have stepped up their campaign against closure this week. They have been distributing leaflets (see above) and collecting signatures for a petition which they intend to present to College administration.

*continued from front page*

had been made regarding rent or bar increases and that it would be at least three months before a final decision was made. However, it has been made quite clear to the Union that debts can only be repaid by either a 15% increase in bar prices or a 5% increase in College rents. 'The root cause of our problems is that we have gone in for a major capital expenditure programme. We have 25 year mortgages on Evelyn Gardens and Montpelier Hall and refectories to refurbish,' said Mr Aldridge.

Mr Howgate is in a defiant mood. He believes that the refectory refurbishment programme should

have been carried out over a longer period of time and that students had been misled by College when they accepted the new Evelyn Gardens proposals last year. 'I've been Mr Nice-Guy for too damn long', he said yesterday. He told FELIX in no uncertain terms that he would not hesitate in calling a rent strike if students were forced to accept even more rent increases to cover College's inefficiency.

College Assistant Secretary Michael Arthur was seen quaking in his boots late last night.

## Wacky idea

A new solution has been suggested by College administration to the Music Room problem. They want to put a new Music Building on the site underneath the Old Holland Club, Huxley Building. At a meeting of the Rector, Head of the Management School, administrators and Union Music Society representatives, it was suggested that the money needed for the project could be raised by company sponsorship.

Meanwhile the Queensgate Trust, set up to fund student activities, has agreed to give £20,000 for a new piano to be put in Terminal Room A in the Department of Computing. This is seen as an immediate solution to the lack of a proper Music Room caused by the loss of 53 Princes Gate.

## BR plays Cupid

Railcard holders will be able to benefit from a bargain fare after next month. Saver fares usually costing over £25 will be reduced to £10 during February, while those under £25 will cost only £5.

'With February being the month of St Valentine, this is a good chance for young romantics to visit their absent loved ones and deliver their wishes in person', said Ross Furby, BR's Director, Passenger Marketing Services, explaining this generous offer.

Young Persons' Railcards cost £12 and are available to anyone who is aged 16 to 23 or is a member of Imperial College Union.



The ICU Rag Committee has two new Rag Mag Editors for 1988. The new twosome, David 'Dai' Williams and Gail Turner have announced that they want to create a revolutionary new Rag Mag that is magazine-sized and sold through newsagents country-wide.

Editorial Note: Chris Griffin, new warden of Hamlet Gardens, has denied that the article we printed concerning one of his student managers on the Libel page last week was true.