



# Felix

THE NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

## Students Hold Out on Hall Fees

Students in Fisher Hall have decided to hold a rent protest after claims of 'a deliberate attempt to mislead' them over their rents by the Student Accommodation Office. A meeting of 90 or so students in the Fisher Hall Common room decided to pay rent for eleven weeks only at last year's rates. Rents in Fisher Hall have increased drastically since last year after the rooms were reappraised for rent purposes. Students are also expected to pay rent for an extra week in the Christmas holiday.

Fisher Hall residents have distributed a sheet outlining their dismay at the rent increases, which they claim they were unaware of before moving in. The sheet outlines how much students should pay if they disagree with paying higher rents this year. They have also drawn up a standard letter to enclose with a reduced payment.

Senior Assistant Finance Officer, Mr Malcolm Aldridge told FELIX he was 'glad that they are paying what they think to be the reasonable amount' rather than paying nothing.

asked, she claimed. Mrs O'Callaghan admitted, however, that the failure to indicate a rent on

the letters sent out to Freshers before they arrived did leave her at fault. She defended the £40 single room rent in Fisher Hall, saying

Accommodation Officer Loretto O'Callaghan said she did not intend to mislead students. She added that the postal strike had forced her staff to telephone students in Britain, informing them that they had a room. To save time and money, students were not told their rent over the telephone unless they 'Does anybody think £40 is a lot to spend on a room in Central London?...I don't'

ICU President Nigel Baker, part of whose responsibilities lie with

accommodation, said of the protest 'I think it has been done in a very responsible way'. He added that he did not support the protest and pointed out that if the Fisher Hall residents do not pay the increased rents, rent increases will be greater still across the board next year.

Mr Baker hopes to be able to compensate for the extra week's rent in the next academic year. He has suggested a change in term dates to give students at IC a 31 week academic year. At present, students working over 30 weeks can claim for an extra week's grant. The proposal, which Mr Baker hopes to take to the College's Governing Body, will set term dates to start mid-week. Mr Baker explained that students already work a 31 week year. The new plans should not increase the length of the year, he claimed.

Students in College accommodation are now expected to pay twelve weeks' rent this term in spite of the term lasting eleven weeks. This change was decided by the Student Residence Committee (SRC) in June and was taken into account in the rent increases, according to Senior Assistant Finance Officer, Mr Aldridge.

Mr Aldridge went on to explain that the rents and the twelve week rent for this term were authorised by the rector in July. The extra week's rent means that students will be able to use their rooms as storerooms or accommodation for the three weeks over the Christmas. In previous years, residents have been required to place their belongings in store rooms or take them home over the Christmas vacation.

## Rag Mag Withdrawn

IC Rag Mag Editor, Dave Williams has withdrawn this year's Rag Mag after storming out of a heated discussion on its sale and censorship at the Rag meeting last Friday. Mr Williams is concerned by the Rag Committee's proposal to ask Universities for permission before selling the Rag Mag on their campuses. The move comes amidst complaints from several Rag Committee members that the committee has become isolated by 'rag-hackdom'.

Mr Williams told FELIX that the Rag Committee plan to send copies of the Rag Mag to the Charities they collect for. 'It's quite possibly the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard,' he said. He claims that the Charities would be shocked by the content of the Rag Mag, even if it were heavily censored. He added that he has said all along he is 'prepared to take some cuts.'

Mr Williams went on to say that although he was prepared to accept some censorship of the Rag Mag, he was not prepared to contact Universities in advance of its sale. He claims other Universities will not bother to look at the Rag Mag. Instead, he says, they will refuse permission for the sale of Rag Mags on their campuses, on the basis of 'Imperial bashing'.

Rag Committee Chairman, Fiona Nicholas, told FELIX that she saw no problem in persuading other Universities to take the Rag Mag. 'When I went to the Rag Conference last January, they all wanted to buy our Rag Mags,' she said. Miss Nicholas now wants Mr Williams to take the new Rag Mag to this year's

*continued on back page*



Loretto O'Callaghan Accommodation Officer



## Apologies

Dear Bill,

May I, through your columns, take the opportunity to apologise to students who have been kept waiting for the refund of their residence deposits. The delay is unacceptable and has, I know, caused hardship and inconvenience.

Strange as it may seem, more man hours are needed to refund a £50 deposit than to issue a £500 rent bill. This is because so many different things need to be checked before refunds are made. And a lot of people are involved in the process: housekeepers, wardens, the residence office surveyors over head tenancy dilapidations, the gas and electricity boards for meter readings, and ultimately the finance office staff to check that all outstanding bills have been paid and to produce the refund cheques themselves. This all takes time, and we are frankly not well geared up for the operation at present.

We will be looking at the problem in detail at our next Students Residence Committee meeting.

In the meantime, I believe that we have now refunded all the deposits due to last term's residents. We are holding a few cheques in the residence finance office (Sherfield, room 401), awaiting forwarding addresses. I hope that anyone who has not yet received their refund from last term will come forward (after checking their departmental pigeonhole, please).

Refund of summer vacation deposits will take a while longer yet. It would be helpful if claimants would not pester the staff concerned over the next couple of weeks: it will only hold the process up for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Aldridge, Senior Assistant Finance Officer.

## Free holiday

With work beginning to pile high, I bring news of how you can get away and spend a completely free—yes free—week in Holland and get something out of it.

BEST, the Board of European Students of Technology was formed in Grenoble, France last March. As the representative of the UK at this conference, I spent eight exciting days with thirty students from thirteen other countries. In between partying, skiing, wine tasting and sightseeing we held discussions on how European students would be integrated in preparation for 1992. We founded BEST and through it aim to facilitate exchange programmes for academic work and vacation work experience throughout Europe.

The Eindhoven University of Technology, Holland is host for this next conference. Known as the European Week, it is intended the work of BEST will be furthered.

Two people, with the slightest inkling of what student life is about in IC and the UK have been invited to represent their College and country. This could be the experience of a lifetime.

The week begins on Sunday October 30 when,

the participants will have to find and make their own way to Eindhoven. The next five days will be taken care of financially by the hosts. The week's programme includes tours of the university and local industry, a conference, sporting activities, trip to 'Cats' in Amsterdam...

Anyone interested in helping to further history by attending the European Week should contact me as soon as possible saying why they think they are suitable for the event. Hope to hear from you soon.

Ena Jawa, Chem Eng 4.

## More nosh

Dear Bill,

I would like to use this page to protest strongly over the current pricing policy in the Union Snack Bar. It is a little on the high side I feel.

Last year, the portions became a little sparse towards the end of Norman's reign and the prices went up. This year, the prices are even higher (horrendously so) and the portions virtually non-existent. I am aware that the Snack Bar made a trading loss last year (until it was shut down), but I can see no reason for the Union to try and regain all of that loss in the first term!

One advantage I have noticed is that there are much smaller queues and the area is more sparsely populated than it ever used to be. Unfortunately, this is as a direct result of the costs in eating there; you can get much bigger portions for less money at any of the other College outlets.

Let's not forget the Snack Bar is owned by the Union for use by us humble and poorly funded students. Bring down the prices so that we can afford to eat at our own catering outlet.

Yours,

Steve Killmurray, Physics 3

Cath Maxwell, Physics 2

Simon Bichara, DoC 2

Zoë Hellinger, DoC 1

## Rampant

Dear Bill,

With materialism at present being rampant I wonder how many graduates this year will go for high paid jobs in commerce and finance on the get quick rich hype when this is their sole interest. In ten years time many of these people will be disillusioned and interested only in acquiring more and more. Job satisfaction depends on interest and enjoyment in what one does, achievement as well as financial reward. Is this emigration from science and engineering purely because of higher salaries elsewhere or is it because the teaching of science and engineering and the promotion of careers in this area is so inadequate that students motivation to pursue a career in this field is rather low? Whatever the reasons, the implications for the country's economy in the future is serious. As for materialism:

'The love of money is the root of all evil' (1 Tim 6v10).

Does this accurately portray our current society?

Dave Thomas.

## Hello kiddies!

Dear Bill,

I think your readers may be interested to know the happy ending to the STA Travel saga, recounted in your last issue.

The agreement has now been signed by both the College and the Union, and building work to convert the former Sports Shop area will be starting shortly. The deal will provide roughly double the present level of income, all accruing to the Union. The College gains no direct financial benefit, but STA have promised to provide a good quality business travel service for academic staff travelling on lecture tours, conference visits etc, alongside their existing cut-price service aimed at the student market.

The contract is in exactly the form proposed by me on 22 September. In fact, I find it difficult now to understand what all the fuss was about.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Aldridge, Senior Assistant Finance Officer.

## Shocked

Dear Bill,

I noted with interest in your Freshers' issue that you both praised and criticised former President Sydney Harbour Bridge (name changed in aid of Comic Relief) within the same editorial. Are you schizophrenic?

Yours, Jason Lander

Yes and No.

## Schizophrenia

Dear Billy,

I was shocked when I read last weeks FELIX not to find a single one of my humorous articles printed. I'll have you know that I spent days working on that material, and I'm bloody annoyed that you couldn't even be bothered to include it in your worthless magazine. You have left me with no choice other than to sell my dog and join Industrial Society. I hope you get dandruff.

Yours, Noel Rogan Josh

A thousand apologies Noel, but sometimes it is just not possible to fit everything in one issue. Space had been reserved for your funny bits, but the last minute non arrival of another funny article (the Union Page) meant that we had to re-run the Mormon feature from one of the Postgraduate Editions. As the article was two pages long I postponed your page until this week.

I hope our contributors appreciate that these things sometimes happen and it is the job of editor to make the best of bad situations. I try my best but I can't please everyone all of the time.



# Editorial

**The Union Snack Bar.** The Union snack bar, over the first week of term, has shown itself to be poor value for money. The portions are too small to be filling and they are more expensive than the other College outlets. If anything the Union Snack bar ought to be cheaper than the College outlets. It should be a service; unlike QT it does not have to rip-off students to subsidise an unprofitable refectory service.

Nevertheless, the quality of the food in the Snackbar is excellent. If the problems with portion size and price can be overcome there is no reason why the snack bar should not become the best food outlet in the College.

**The Main Dining Hall.** When FELIX ran a story over the Summer about the refurbishment of the dining hall it caused a great deal of consternation within the Sheffield corridors of power.

The story explained how the Rector's wife, Clare Ash, engaged a consultancy firm to redesign the lighting system in the refectory. The planned economy strip lighting, which was already being installed, was ousted in favour of lamps which pointed at the ceiling and a dimmer system. The changes put an extra two weeks on the work and cost an alleged extra £30,000 according to sources within Sheffield.

FELIX was contacted by Mrs Ash soon after the story had been published. She wanted to know who had leaked the figure to FELIX, claiming that it was incorrect. Later, the Rector took me aside and asked the same question. When I refused to answer he mentioned the name of a Sheffield official and asked me to nod if I had been given the information by that official.

Let me point out here and now that FELIX will never, under any circumstances reveal any of its sources. This principle of confidentiality is fundamental to any newspaper.

**Thanks to** Dave Smedley, Doug King, Steve Mayfroidt, Martin Cole, Andy Bannister, Ina, Andy Clark, Summit Ghuai, Sarah, Tara Sears, Paul Phillon, Sophie Wardle, Nick Jones, Dave Thomas, Chas, Syd, Wendy, Robin Davison, Jon Sadler, Liz Warren, Niel Motterham, Diane Love for making the Jelly, Chad, Noel Curry, Steve Kilmurray, Rose and Dean. Sorry I've forgotten some people. Staff meeting today at 1pm.

# Wacky Racers



In a nail-biting finish, a team from City & Guilds College Motor Club won the South-East area final of the Ford Motorsport Quiz, held last Friday night in Tunbridge Wells.

The three man team of Adrian Bourne (Physics 3), Richard Balmford (Elec Eng 2) and Dave Hobbs (Mech Eng 3) were presented with a £100 cheque for Club funds and each recieved a set of Ford Motorsport glasses. They will now go on to the Grand Final at the Motor Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on the afternoon of Sunday October 23.

About 20 teams took part in the contest, starting with all teams answering 40 questions. Guilds MC top scored in this section with 28 points, thereby progressing into a 'first on the buzzer' semi-final. After

a shaky start Guilds MC came through to win this 10-5. The other semi-final was convincingly won by the British Racing and Sports Car Club (BRSCC) South East centre by 11-5.

The final then shaped up as a Brands Hatch benefit, with the circuits Race Day Press Officer, Colin Mann, leading the BRSCC, and Adrian Bourne, who worked in the Brands Press Office for a few weeks in the summer, leading Guilds MC.

The BRSCC took an early four point lead but this was pulled back and the teams raced neck and neck until the score was 9-9 with only one question remaining. A correct interruption gave the victory and the prizes to a rather surprised Guilds MC team.

# Obituary

Mr David Buckingham, a messenger at the College, died in the Life Sciences Department on Saturday.

Mr Buckingham, aged 57, collapsed last Saturday morning in the Zoology Building. The alarm was raised by a student, and soon after, a colleague of Mr Buckingham arrived to administer first aid. Upon arrival at St Stephen's Hospital Mr Buckingham was certified dead. Post mortem results indicate heart failure.

Mr David Buckingham joined the College in the middle of last year as a messenger. He very quickly became a popular and highly competent member of the messenger staff, serving in several departments including Beit. He was known by all people, with whom he worked and dealt with, as a very helpful, calm man with a dry sense of humour.

Before joining Imperial College Mr Buckingham had spent all his working life as a HGV driver, with an immaculate driving record. He was a very reliable man as is shown by remaining with the same company for twenty-six years.

# STA work to start

Contracts were exchanged last Thursday for work to go ahead on the new Student Travel Agents (STA) outlet in the present Sportshop site. The new deal is set to earn in excess of £12,000 per annum for the Union. The contract follows a disagreement between IC Union and the College over compensation clauses in an earlier contract. The clause in the original contract led College Senior Assistant Finance Officer, Mr Malcolm Aldridge to stop work on the site earlier this term.

The original contract held the College liable for any compensation due to STA in the event of an early termination. The new contract makes the Union and the College responsible for compensation.

The new STA deal has forced the temporary closure of the IC Union Sportshop, originally situated on the walkway. The sportshop is to move to the Jazz Room, on the first floor of the Union Building on a temporary basis.

# Tiddly

Imperial College Rag raised £2,698 tiddly winking along Oxford Street on Saturday. The figure is £400 up from last year but not quite that reached two years ago when £3,500 was collected.

City & Guilds Union had the greatest turnout and managed to raise £1,271. The Royal College of Science Union came in second place with £1,007 followed by the Royal School of Mines who raised £420. The top collector was Robert Harwood of Life Science 2 who raised £90.60. Mr Harwood will receive a large bottle of champagne. Prizes are also to be awarded to Andrew Butcher of the Royal School of Mines and Margaret Poole of Physics who raised £64 and £62 respectively.

# Computer Security Show

Following the recent spate of security thefts, College Security will be holding a demonstration of computer security equipment on Thursday in the Sheffield Building. 'Spiders', clamps, 'Securiflex' and other devices will be on display. The devices can be bought cheaply through security.

'Anyone who doesn't come along is absolutely bloody irresponsible' said Security Officer Terry Briley.

Since FELIX last reported on the thefts two weeks ago, three computer printers have been stolen.



## Rubbish

What a crap summer, eh! What an absolute England football team performance of a summer. Where are we going to sell this bloody country to the frigging EEC and move to Barbados? And any of you gits who went abroad this year, I hope you all get skin cancer and get exiled to a North Sea oil rig.

And what about the smegging Olympics, more like 'Miami sodding Vice'. 'On the inside it's Linford Christie who's got a good start, but Lewis, in seventh is cathing him, but forging ahead in lane eight it's Ben 'smackhead' Johnson. Oh, but who's this on the far outside, in lane nine in a silver-grey Pontiac with a matching grey speckled designer suit, half-inch stubble and sunglasses. My God, it's Ben's brother Don, and he's pulling his gun out and...goodness gracious he's just ventilated Ben Johnson's brain and the flying bone has blinded Carl Lewis, who trips and breaks his leg and...oh no...catastrophe, Christie's lower

leg has been grazed! But he manages to clamber over in first place—remarkable—this is wonderful. Due to the fact that Christie's mates have been respectively violently killed and blinded, Christie get the gold and Don Johnson qualifies for the shooting final, as long as judges don't deduct points for Johnson's tie clashing with his socks. But, of course, there has been as tragic side to this race as well. Christie graze and chance at a two year ban may impede his chances in the 200m'.

String the whole smegging lot up! Mind you, I used to do drugs. Though I could handle it, y'know what I mean. Just started off with a bit of 'Dallas' some 'Dynasty' and even some 'Colbys' now and again. Then I went down hill, 'Knot's Landing', 'Falcon Crest' and eventually the biweeklys—'Eastenders', 'Brookside', etc. And then the bottom dropped out—I started doing 'Neighbours', once even twice a day. Lost all my friends (naturally), my money, through buying endless supplies of Kylie Minogue records and started to suffer horrendous withdrawal symptoms over the weekends. I'd be irritable, and tell everyone to 'Rack Off'. I pleaded with the BBC

to show an Omnibus edition, but the uncaring bastards wouldn't budge. To compensate, I started experimenting with 'Eastenders' omnibus and even 'The Flying Doctors'. It was after I'd had a relapse during work (when I attacked a man similar to Dirty Den for having forced Damon's wife Daphne to have an abortion). I was sent to the Mary Whitehouse School of Correction. Anyway, I'm better now. But who do I blame—I blame Thatcher, for refusing to legalise 'Brookside'. I mean, it's only the thrill of breaking the law that tempts most people into this shady scene, and it's no worse than 'Coronation Street' and 'Eastenders' and they've been legal for year! So write to your local MP and make a complete twat of yourself.

And while we're on the subject what about the bloody Channel Tunnel? There's Maggie whinging on about the bloody Europeans and the sodding Frenchies are almost here, while the hardworking, trustworthy honest and non-sexist British labourers have hardly made a dent. They're all down there saying 'Oh I don't know, it's going to be a tricky job. 1993 yer say. Ooh, dodgy, dodgy, may have to work a few weekends which will cost a lot

of extra dosh, y'know what I mean?'

And the small dent they have made would have been made a hell of a lot bloody quicker if they'd used lorries to clear away the dirt, instead of hiding it down their trousers. Anyway, I'm tired of moaning, so I'll leave you with a satirical comment:

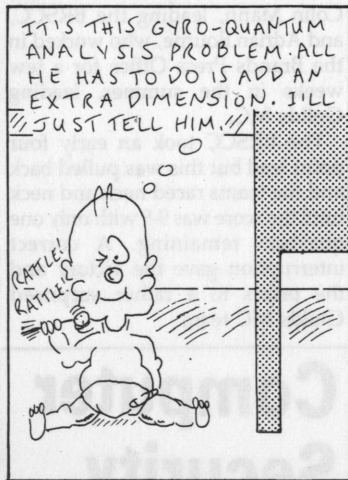
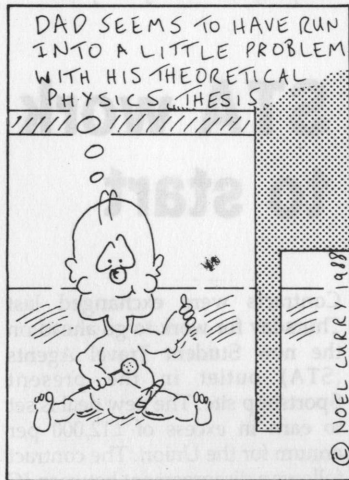
Q: Why did the chicken cross the road? A: So that he could join the National Guard.

To be discontinued.

**By Noel Curry**

### PREDICTIONS

- Oct Civil Engineering Building collapses
- Nov Print Unit press works perfectly. Bill is taken to hospital in a state of shock.
- Dec Sydney Harbour-Bridge is sold to a gullable American tourist.
- Feb The Theoretical Physics Department proves that the Universe cannot possibly exist.
- Mar A quorate UGM is held (shurely shome mishtake—ed)
- Apr A mathematics professor proves that the greatest distance between two points is via the South Kensington one-way system.





# How to survive IC

Given the entry qualifications of students coming to Imperial College, it is almost inconceivable that anyone would be admitted who was not capable of working at degree level, and ultimately of attaining a degree. In some respects undergraduates are already experts at study and at examination preparation by the time they arrive here. Despite this it is not at all uncommon for students to discover that their previous experience of systematic learning does not, apparently, guarantee a smooth transition to successful study at university. The study skills and learning habits which brought success at 'O' and 'A' levels may prove to be inadequate or invalid at university, and academic work, for the first time perhaps, becomes a problem. Strikingly, this is at least as likely to happen to the person with outstandingly good 'A' level grades as to anyone else, but it is always a thoroughly demoralising experience and needs to be identified and dealt with urgently. A few points that seem to me to be important.

A. Usually when first-year undergraduates have academic difficulties, it has more to do with the sheer volume and unrelenting nature of the workload, rather than the intellectual level of the work. The student whose habit has been to work in short intensive bursts prior to examinations, and who has not been used to sustained, week-in-week-out effort, may well find himself in difficulty quite quickly.

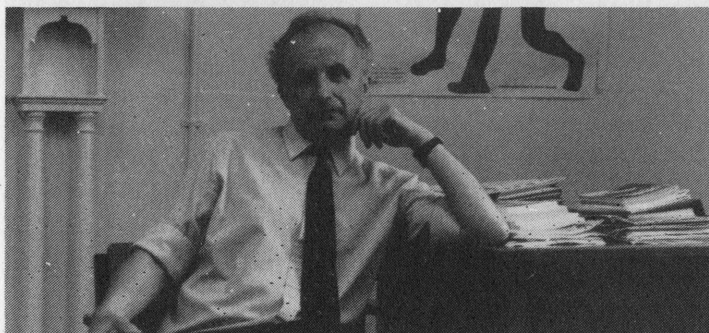
B. Learning is an interactive process that demands time, energy and commitment. Effective learning cannot be done passively e.g. by half-heartedly reading through lecture notes or handouts. Responding to problem sheets, or group interaction in class for example, will be immeasurably more fruitful.

C. Thinking is intrinsically difficult, and, for most of us, a vaguely unwelcome activity, at least initially. Because it's difficult, we have an in-built tendency to skirt round it. For many people the problem is breaking into it, for example starting. We think of other important but less demanding things to do instead, like writing letters, washing up, shopping, etc.

D. University students sometimes run into difficulties because for the first time the work they do (or don't do) is determined by minute to minute decisions as to how they use their time. The immediate moral constraints of the expectations of one's family, or of sixth form teachers are no longer there. There is an enhanced emphasis on self-motivation.

E. It sometimes takes a little time to find a proper balance between the demands of work and those of other competing interests, all of which may well be the normal healthy expression of a full student life. The management of time, informed by recognition that invidious choices

having difficulty with work, he is denied the vital reward of understanding, which may, remarkably quickly, depress his confidence and overflow on to other parts of his study. It is this close identification of the emotional state of confidence and buoyancy with successful ongoing study, and the converse identification of intellectual defeat with depressiveness and subsequent academic collapse, which lends such urgency to dealing with the problem.



*Don Adlington is the College's Student Counsellor*

sometimes have to be made, is a skill that must be acquired if it isn't there already. I am occasionally surprised by a student having no apparent conception of the scale of the task he has taken on, regarding the odd hour's work in the evening as a major concession. Studying for a degree at university is a full time job, and is probably the hardest job that most of us ever do. It inevitably involves trading in or postponing other desirable ends.

F. All the psychological literature on learning emphasises the importance of reward, and the notion that reward is central to effective learning holds good over a very wide spectrum of activity related to successful study at university. At the macro level—the fundamental motives for going for a degree at all—it is crucial. The rewards of prestige, of economic security, or the excitement of understanding one's subject at a deeper level, of fulfilling the expectations of family and teachers, are obvious ones. If these things are not valued sufficiently, the resilience and buoyancy which are necessary to overcome contingent difficulties will be undermined, and the student will falter.

That learning must be rewarding is also true in the more detailed day-to-day sense. When a student is

## What do you do if you become worried about your work?

A. Be pragmatic. If your work habits seem not to be effective, change them. For example, if you find it difficult to work much in the evening, try getting up early and doing a couple of hours before coming into College. If you find it all too easy to be distracted working in your room, try working in the library instead. Don't spend hour after hour staring blankly at notes, text books, problem sheets. Break away for a short time—have a coffee, walk around for a bit, stand on your head in the corner if it helps—then try again. Break down your work into small tasks (which is really just another way of saying develop a system of study) and put a limit on what you're going to do, and how long you're going to spend on it. An ad hoc, disorganised approach to work may have suited you before, but if the evidence is that it is not adequate now then change the way you do things, and feel confident that you are capable of changing.

B. Talk to your personal tutor. If for any reason you prefer not to do this, make an appointment to see your senior tutor, whom you can see independently and without any disloyalty or discourtesy to your personal tutor. If your work or

attendance falls off badly, your senior tutor may well send for you, but on the whole academic staff are tolerant of a less than perfect performance from students, recognising that people have different levels of competence and different rates of applying themselves to their degree course. It is entirely possible for you to become seriously worried about your work before it becomes obvious to anyone else, and the onus is on you to initiate discussion about it with those best fitted to help you.

C. By all means have a look in libraries and bookshops for books on study skills and study problems—you may well find something helpful and certainly it can't do any harm. There is also a very short booklet available in College called 'Study Success'. It was written by two current members of academic staff (a physicist and an engineer) heavily involved in undergraduate teaching, and seems to me both thoughtful and relevant. Ask your senior tutor or departmental officer for a copy, or ring me and I will send you one.

D. Come to see me. I am easily available, and my work is entirely confidential, eg I won't talk to your department behind your back. Your time at university is precious—it is also finite—and there may be important practical reasons for talking around anxieties about work sooner rather than later. For one thing the flood of new material being thrown at you is likely to be relentless, and this can induce a very nasty feeling of panic if for some reason you are struggling to keep going. For another thing, timing may be critically important should there be some question of transferring to another course, department or university.

A final word. No one on the College staff derives satisfaction from students' academic distress. Departments are adequately resourced to contain the full complement of their first-year intake right the way through to final graduation. There is no requirement for a standard 'failure rate'. On the contrary there is a great concern that students who are not working well should be identified early enough for real help to be given, and the key to that, quite often, is the student's willingness to acknowledge the problem.

Think about it.



# Is bureaucracy killing Rag?

Much though it pains me to have to put pen to paper, or, to be more accurate, finger to keyboard, I feel I must, since an activity dear to my heart seems in great danger of being mutated beyond recognition. I speak of none other but the ancient art of relieving students and members of the public of their money to benefit those less well off than ourselves. In other words Rag. Before I begin to talk about a subject about which, for all you know, I may have no knowledge of whatsoever, I'll provide a couple of credentials; I have been a member of Rag Committee (co-opted) for the last three years, organised several Rag events including the '88 Rag Fete, and personally raised over £700 last year.

The problems Rag is currently facing are exemplified by the saga of IC Rag Mags, this year's included. Since I started at IC in the 83-84 session (i.e. six years ago) two Rag Mags have been stillborn due to 'censorship' problems, we have published one of the best the country has seen (the 83-84 edition), another good one (85-86) made the national press due to jokes about the Bradford City fire, and we had a panic production last year of a substandard product because the original was both too small and lacked almost any quality whatsoever. All of these Rag Mags were sold in public on the streets at some point, and one, the 85-86, was in fact banned by the Exec (after several thousand pounds had been spent on printing) only to be unbanned at a UGM. And now this year's edition, after much confusion, seems to be teetering on the brink between banning or release. At this stage I begin to wonder what a Rag Mag is for, and why we bother producing one.

**Produced by students  
it contains student  
humour necessarily of  
a specialised nature**

The first thing a Rag Mag is for is to raise money for charity. It is produced by students and contains student humour, necessarily of a specialised nature. If you go to the bar and hear some of the stories told there they will be rude, offensive to some, contain 'bad language' and be sexually explicit. This is all part and parcel of student humour, and,

as a collection of student humour, a Rag Mag MUST contain these elements. You might otherwise just reprint an already existing public joke book! But it is these very same elements that members of the general public will find offensive. I'm sure part of the reason why these jokes are funny to the anarchic student populace is that many would find them offensive. These elements are also those that censorship committees would remove the principal elements of student humour.



Let's look at the job of the Rag Mag editors. They spend a summer, or in some cases much longer, making jokes up, compiling them from friends, extorting articles from people. Producing this stuff is a long and thankless task, and typesetting and pasting-up are worse. But it's

**If you elect an Editor  
let them edit**

not really their product at all. The final say about what goes in is up to the censorship committee, in our case the Rag Chairman, the Editor and the three Union Sabbaticals. They have total say on what goes in or out. They are, in fact, really an editorial board, with the people who do all the work more like sub-editors, subject to the whim and fancy of the committee, who have no conception of the blood, sweat, tears and time that go into as large a creative effort as a Rag Mag. If you elect an editor, let them edit; if you don't trust them, don't elect them, and if you don't like what might be

produced, don't even try to publish at all. The existence of the censorship committee really implies that the people who elect the Rag Mag Editor, namely all of you out there, are incompetent and not to be trusted with your choice. If that's the case then don't hide it behind the pretence of a committee on 'censorship'. Have a proper editorial board and get the Mag put together by the sabbaticals, Rag Chairman and helpers. This is in fact more or less what happened last year, and the result, while still a Rag

Mag, was a much paler effort than IC has seen for many a year.

A solution to most of these problems is to make sure that people who will appreciate the content are the ones who will get the Rag Mag, and those who will be offended will not. In other words sell it to students, and not on the street. (Incidentally, the Rag Raids last year which were intended to sell Rag Mags to general punters on the streets turned more into street collections since there isn't much market for Rag Mags to the general public anyway!). This proposal seems to have mutated somewhat

**We are raising money  
for these charities, not  
acting as subsidiaries  
for them...**

since it was made last year. The most ridiculous thing I have heard so far this year is the new decision that the Rag Mag should be sent to the supported charities before

approval. This presents several problems. Firstly, the directors of charities are usually the pillars of the establishment which much of Rag Mag humour seeks to undermine. Of course they won't like it. Secondly, is the issue of our independence. We are raising money for these charities, not acting as subsidiaries of them under their full control. If this principle is extended, we will be sending the charities the whole of our Rag programme for approval, in the possible event that they find one or two little bits of it not to their taste. This should of course include the scripts of Smoking Concert sketches, the strange costumes worn on collections, and just about

**Would charities  
approve of a nude fire  
engine ride?**

everything else. Would the Children's Day charities really approve of someone collecting in their name by doing a strip tease in front of Eros as Fiona Nicholas, this year's Rag Chairman, did last year? Or a nude Fire Engine ride in South Kensington to help Brain Injured children (Nigel Baker, last year's Rag Chairman, and this year's President took part in this)? And what about the other activities that happen during Rag Events? Would Guide Dogs for the Blind really want to take money from a group of students who rampage around the country stealing traffic signs as well as collecting? Nigel has certainly been involved with, nay actively encouraged, such acts of vandalism.

These charities are, of course, only too grateful to accept the money we give them, but if they start having to take responsibility for some of our actions by, for example okaying a publication, they are obviously going to be more reluctant about things. If they don't know, they don't care, but force them to take note and they will cover their legal backs as much as possible. Is this, perhaps, what this move is all about? Nigel's address to the Freshers on the first day of term included a fine recommendation that we should be realistic in our outlooks. Yet he and Fiona are showing a distinct lack of realism here. The only realistic outcome of sending a Rag Mag to a charity for

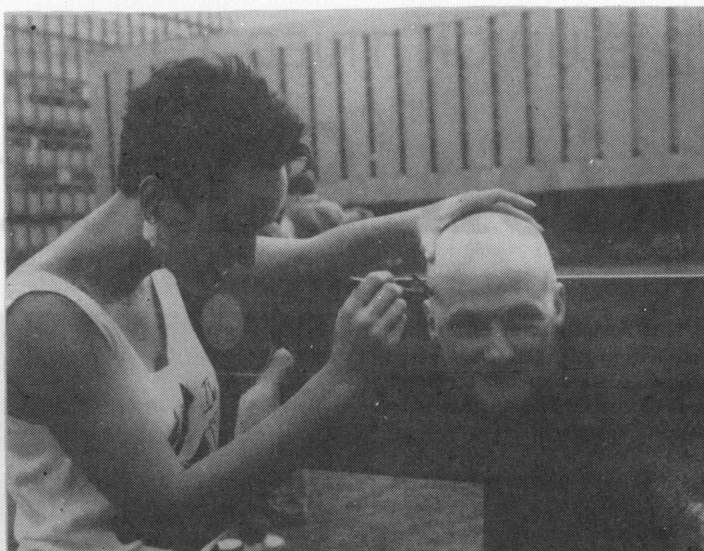


approval is a very big NO. Is it possible that this is what they expect and so this move is a backdoor to the end of the IC Rag Mag? Why not just come out and say that its useful life is over, and that we dare not publish another because it may cause Rag, the Union and the College a whole host of problems? Be honest with us above all else!

I have now drifted away from the Rag Mag question and am really addressing the whole area of the running of Rag in general. Over the last year, and it certainly seems to be continuing, Rag has been run by and, to an extent for, a very small and select group of people. The term 'Raggie' has even been used to describe these Rag Hacks, and yes, last year I certainly was one. This really limits the involvement of people in IC Rag, and is typified by the vast totals some of us raised last year, and by the faces which became all too familiar at the many Rag

## Bureaucracy and centralisation is killing IC Rag

events. The Rag Raids last year were not even advertised to encourage new people to turn up. This is all part of the bureaucracy and centralisation that is gradually killing IC Rag. Rag events now have to be cleared by one of four people (but for a last minute decision this would have been only one person!). How easily is a stranger to ICRAAG going to get such clearance? Imagination is being stifled, since a small group can come up with only a limited number of ideas, and



*This year's Rag Mag—a close shave*

enthusiasm will decline as people get bored or frustrated. This is being done in the best of intentions of course, trying to preserve our now regained street licence, but there is a difference between being reasonably cautious, and being totally neurotic. This line was crossed about six months ago.

All I have done so far, you may say, is sling rocks, and not suggest solutions. Clearly we must address the question of the Rag Mag's future, since at the moment we are merely wasting the editor's time and effort with the continual uncertainty of the censorship position. Limiting sale to students and the removal of censorship is my favoured solution, but the end of the Rag Mag is another possibility. The problem of the attitude taken by this year's Rag

Chairman, and some of the committee, about Rag in general is more difficult. An injection of calcium to the spine might be an idea, but it does not address the central problem of the lack of realism that predominates. I can only hope that there is a reappraisal of some of the more ludicrous suggestions about controlling the maniac students hell-bent on losing us our license and privileges, and that the spontaneity and fun that has typified ICRAAG in the past returns. It's time to be realistic about how Rag works, and how charities view us, and not to think that everyone is begging to have us help them raise money.

Recently I threatened to resign from the Rag committee as a protest about the current state of affairs. I now believe such an action is not in the best interests of Rag, but will instead stay on the committee and fight for what Rag is really all about. I hope I can count on the support of many IC students in this, and would suggest that you make your views felt by turning up to the next Rag meeting, which I believe is today, Friday October 14, in the Lounge at 12.30pm.

**Rag is fun, go out and enjoy yourself and help others at the same time**

One last thing I should say, lest the above should put people off getting involved with Rag. Much of Rag is fun, and will continue to be so, so go out and enjoy yourself on a Rag event and help other people at the same time. That is really what Rag is about.

*Dave Clements, PGOA etc.*

## Concepts & Ideas

If you have ideas and suggestions for FELIX contact the Concept Manager via FELIX pigeonholes.

Secondly, if you have any few word quotes or thoughts which are serious or ludicrous for a column starting next week hand them into FELIX c/o Concepts Manager.

## City & Guilds BOAT PARTY & DISCO

7pm till 11pm  
**Tuesday 18th October ONLY £4**

Tickets—any lunchtime from Guilds Office. Meet 6pm prompt Southside Bar or make your own way to Westminster Pier (Westminster tube)

## COMPETITION

### GET DRUNK FREE THE FELIX WAY!!

Yes folks, this is your chance to win your VERY OWN exclusive ticket to the Scotch Malt Whisky Society's London Tasting at the Naval and Military Club in London on Thursday. The ticket price is normally £12.50, but you can have one free—yes, absolutely free!—by answering the following simple questions about last week's article 'Pure Malt—The Traditional Way'.

1. What is the youngest spirit which can legally be called 'Whisky'?
2. Which comes first, the wart or the grist?
3. Which is stronger, UK or Export Glenfiddich?
4. Which Government Department is responsible for levying duty on whisky?
5. What is the fortified wine which was previously kept in some of the casks now used to mature Glenfiddich?

The first person to bring five correct answers to the FELIX Office will be awarded the magnificent prize of a ticket to the above glittering extravaganza.



*Nigel Baker tiddles whilst Rag burns*



THE FEATURE THE UNION TRIED TO BAN

# The Union Snack Bar

Two of the food outlets around College have recently been refurbished. The Union Snack Bar, situated in the Union Building, Beit Quad, serves two hot dishes a day, salads and a variety of vegetarian foods all freshly prepared. While the Main Dining Hall in the Sherfield building has added a new pasta bar to its established traditional dishes.

Are the discerning tastes of IC's students satisfied? Felix Investigates.....

After last year's problems the Union Snack Bar is trading once again. The debts from last year have been written off and a further £40,000 has been spent on improvements in what Union Deputy President Chas Brereton describes as the 'most major refurbishment of facilities in recent times.'

The bar has been redecorated; the lounge seats replaced with modern chairs and matching circular tables. Also new are two vending machines and a pool table. There are new staff and a new Snack Bar Manager, Mr Ian Richards. A catering consultant was responsible for the whole spectrum of the operation from the image, to recruiting staff, structuring and pricing of the menu, right down to recommending the size of portions.

**The Union refurbishment cost**  
**£40,000**

The accounting books give an unequivocal affirmative; the first week's takings were up 22% on a similar period last year. But numbers are, at best, only half the story. What does that expert of culinary criticism, Mr Joe Student think?

## Layout

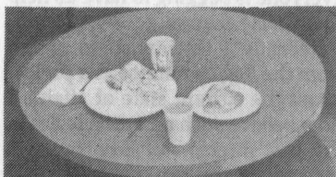
Dave Peacock, who as Union Manager has overseen the work on the snack bar talks of the 'total meal experience' and of meals that go beyond the 'diameter of the plate.' To this end the whole refurbishment was aimed to promote the Snack Bar as a social area as well as a place to eat.

Talking to the customers on Tuesday the layout and the atmosphere were generally appreciated. There were a few

mavericks. Initially, a Physics student felt it was 'too clean and canteeny' whilst her friend Farznana thought it to be 'improved but not as cosy.' Tony, a Physics Postgraduate commented 'the pool table's a bit daft—they could have had more tables.'

## Food

A new step this year has been the introduction of slightly unconventional vegetarian dishes. Ian Richards, the Snack Bar Manager concedes that quite a lot of the dishes are 'heavily Vegan' and that there had been complaints about the sweet and sour lentils and pasta with peanut butter sauce because 'people are not used to it.'



Chen a Biochemistry student was impressed. 'Very good food, I like the idea of the vegetarian stuff—very healthy'

Oren from the Royal College of Music commented 'some of it's quite good, some not very imaginative, some a bit like school dinners.'

It was generally felt that the variety and balance of the menu was good, except perhaps on the salads, whilst some still felt there was a need for veggieburgers.

Rupert from Chemical Engineering was not so happy; whilst he appreciated the money spent on the refurbishment he was not at all impressed with his vegetable moussaka which he described as 'thinly sliced, unpeeled, virtually uncooked potato, aubergine, beautifully covered with this film of curdled milk.'



Another satisfied customer?

## Value for money

Both the size and cost of portions were recommended by the catering consultant who ran the London School of Economics Union cafe. Chas and Dave put this down to a 'fine-tuning process' and some prices were changed on Tuesday, though some were still 'a little anomalous'. Among these anomalies were the baked potatoes with cheese which were initially priced at £1.00 only to be reduced later to the Southside price of 70p.

Indeed, on Tuesday the students' lot was a happier one.

Ivan (Life Sci) felt that the prices were 'fairly reasonable' and, compared with the JCR, quite good.

But Lewis (Aero) was unappeased (what?): 'Overpriced, sh\*t food—a nightmare to find a seat!'

## Overall

So when everything's said and done, will people continue to eat in the Snack Bar, or will they take their custom elsewhere?

Chen (Chem/Biochem): 'I like the food here better than the other outlets'

Dave and Tony (Physics PGs): 'Better than anything else' 'prefer the food in here—more variation and better value than QT'

Others use the Snack Bar because it's close to their department, and another gave the hereto unconsidered, though slightly political view, that the Snack Bar was 'miles from Mech Eng, so you don't get any fascists in'.

## Ian Richards

Ian has had ten years' experience in catering: working for large companies, such as Nissan, and also for contract companies.

Although he has inherited the menu and costing, he hopes to change things to win back the custom lost due to the pricing. To this end he is keen to have feedback and any comments—'We're man enough to take it'





NICE FOOD SHAME ABOUT THE COMFY CHAIRS

# The Main Dining Hall



*The calm before the storm?*

The aim of the Main Dining Hall refurbishment was to bring 'the school dining room image up to more of a restaurant-style standard,' according to Mr Rob Northey, the Refectory Manager. In improving the appearance and set up of the hall it is hoped to attract trade from conferences.

Mr Northey was not able to comment on the cost of the work but in actual fact it cost £300,000

'If we can get outside bookings we can keep prices down for the students,' Mr Northey said, adding that the refectories would not break even without such functions.

## Rob Northey

Rob has been Refectory Manager for three years, during which time the QT bar has been set up in the JCR and a kebab bar opened in Southside.

In answer to criticisms that portion size was dependent on the

So what has changed ?

In addition to the conventional food available at the main counter, a salad and pasta bar has been introduced, serving five types of pasta. Further to this, new tables and chairs have been put in, along with new cashier desks aimed at reducing queues. Unfortunately Mr Northey was not able to comment on the cost of the work which has been completed over three years with the help of consultants and outside contractors.

But aside from all the financial politics, what do the punters think ? The raw statistics are promising, with takings up 20% or so. A figure that Mr Northey feels could be comfortably improved upon, if the hall's capacity could be increased : an option that was indeed considered, but since any costs would have to be met by the refectories through increased prices this idea was dropped.

time of serving and the server, he replied, "Absolute cr\*p!" This is believed to be a specialised catering term. He added, "If anyone feels that a portion is not the right size they should see the Manageress." Further, the MDH staff are prepared to change food for whatever reason, by and large without question. "I would rather have people return food than have a complaint raised 6 weeks later at committee."

## Layout

An effort has been made to break up the tables, while maintaining the number of seats at last year's level. Later this term screens will be introduced with the same aim. Matthew (Chem) thought the layout was "much improved ; seats much nicer aesthetically."

Sanjay (Comp): "I think the chairs are better, and the lighting."

Gaby (Elec Eng): "I like it, I think the atmosphere is quite nice in here."

Dave and John (Elec Eng): "Gets quite crowded and the queues are a bit long."



*Gaby: 'I like it, I think the atmosphere is quite nice.'*

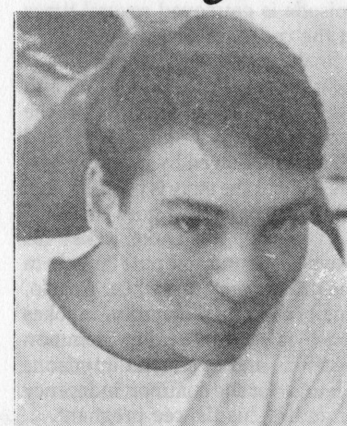
## Food

Most felt that the pasta bar was a useful addition and that otherwise the meals were very much as they were. Those new to the Refectory were on the whole impressed with

The seats are too comfy (Rob Northey)

the variety of dishes available. More seasoned customers, such as Ian (Elec Eng) considered the variety to be "just the same apart from the pasta."

## Value for money



*Richard: 'pretty expensive.'*

The prices have gone up with inflation, which for IC amounts to about a 7% increase in cost. But students are particularly sensitive creatures when it comes to money. Richard (Aero) found it "pretty expensive" but admitted he was used to subsidised prices. Louisa (Chem Eng) thought the prices were reasonable, while Dave (Physics) was prepared to say that "this is the best value around College."

There was some concern over the price of canned drinks, as two students paid 40p for a can : their Refectory price is 30p.

## Overall

So has anyone been put off the MDH ?

Dave and John again: "Tried QT once - damn sight better down here than upstairs."

Vaskar (Elec Eng): "Would spend just as much money in QT, but get better value in here."

Sanjay and Ian again: "Worth coming down here - looked like a primary school hall before."

'Decor like a proper restaurant.' 'A bit more professional.'

By Martin Cole



## THEATRE

### Measure for Measure

RSC Barbican Theatre

Had William Shakespeare written *Measure for Measure* not as a play but as a serial, it would quite definitely have been done for the Saturday matinees of the thirties. The scriptwriter's unfair trick of writing a cliffhanger and then producing an ace, generally a re-write in the next episode is employed several times in the course of this story.

Shakespeare finds himself in a tight corner, writes his way in, and then shows us a secret exit, in the form of a new character. Bad planning followed by inventiveness maybe, but the story is good enough all the same, and it goes like this.

Cinventio, the Duke, takes his leave of Vienna and puts Angelo in the driving seat for a while. Angelo, one of the moral majority, invokes strict laws concerning common decency, and as a result imprisons Claudio for the common indecency of getting his fiancée pregnant.

Claudio has a friend, Lucio, who also claims to have a bastard somewhere, and not wishing to see the downfall of his soul mate agrees to seek help. This comes in the form of Isabella, Claudio's sister, who



Roger Allan and Josette Simon

stops short of joining a nunnery to visit Angelo and plead for Claudio's life. Angelo, being the considerate bloke he is, suggests a deal be struck, swapping Claudio's neck for Isabella's virginity. It's a toughie but she refuses, knowing her brother will face death like a man. He takes the news badly though.

Episode two. The Duke reappears in disguise, and uncovers all this terrible double dealing. Enter

Mariana. Who? She's Angelo's deserted fiancée, our first invented character. The Duke persuades Isabella to agree to Angelo's filthy suggestions and let Mariana then go in her place. Angelo demands to see Claudio's head the next morning, all the same.

Episode three. Enter Bernadine. Who now? He is also to be executed that day, and his head sent in place of Claudio's to fool Angelo.

Unfortunately, he refuses to be executed and returns to his cell. Damn! We need a third new character, Ragozine, a pirate who, luckily, died that morning anyway.

At last we can finish everything off tidily, with no new players to be seen. The Duke reveals himself and dishes out all the true justice he can, measure for measure.

The play spends its first half heading on what is certain to be the path towards a tragedy. The clever plot of the Duke turns this into a comedy however, and despite a sad rebuttal of the Duke at the end, as a whole the play is amusing and happily entertaining.

The acting is excellent all round, particularly the portrayal of the Duke by Roger Allan. Josette Simon (Isabella) and John Shrapnell (Angelo) are outstanding and had the entire audience enthralled.

The setting is somewhat confusing, being approximately turn of the century. A number of anachronisms—office furniture, punk clothing, a Bic disposable pen, air conditioning pipes—make the whole production a touch puzzling though. Perhaps it is meant as an indication of the timelessness of the moral of the piece, whatever that may be. Well, perhaps?

I can thoroughly recommend this as a good night out. It's easy to follow and, at £5 for student stand-by, pretty cheap too.

Andrew Clarke.

## BOOKS

### The New Simply Delicious

Rose Elliot, Fontana, £3.95

What is happening? Why is there a review of a cook book in the Arts pages? Is Yishu Nanda taking over the entire paper?

I can give you the answer to the first two questions, but as for the last—I just don't know.

This is a very good book. It is particularly aimed at a market of novice cooks/vegetarians, which must include a lot of students, and hence qualifies me to write the review. It contains a wide range of simple, quick to prepare, tasty recipes, as well as plenty of useful advice on the basics of cooking it all. There are also a few wacky recipes containing substances such as wakem, whatever that may be, if you're feeling a wee bit adventurous. The author also uses a system of simple notation for various aspects of each recipe, such

as length of preparation time, freezability, and suitability for vegans (this gets a thumbs up from the 'right-on' lobby), which I found very clear and useful.

On the minus side, I feel that Mrs Elliot sometimes does make things a little too simplistic, particularly with the varieties of ingredients that are used, but this is only a small quibble. The book is solidly aimed at a market, and it fulfills that aim very well indeed. For me, it means that I will no longer have to ring my mother ten minutes before a girl is due to arrive for a romantic tete-a-tete to find out how long to cook the broccoli. For you, if you want a good, simple cookbook that you will use a lot: you'll be pushed to find better.

Alan Young.

### Study for Survival and Success

S Meredeen, PCP Publishing Ltd.

Most people survive College one way or another, finding their feet in their own way and in their own time. So what is the point of a book that tells you how to go about it? Is it really going to be of any use especially when it deals with subjects such as 'The College Experience', 'Pass Those Exams—And Stay Human' and 'Sex, Love and Dreams'!

Whilst this book does tend to state the obvious at times it sets out in a simple, readable format many of the problems Joe Student can expect to come across in his or her years at College. It starts out with a general introduction to what College and the people there can do to, or for, you and then continues with accommodation, subjects and options, time management and generally gives tips on how to get

the most out of all aspects of university life.

It is all obvious enough when you've read it but then again the same can be said for most things in life and to have a book which concisely points this out is useful. Written in a note format it is the sort of book that can be dipped into when required rather than a textbook in which finding the information is a task in itself. It also has useful suggestions for further reading if needs require.

For any student who likes to have an organised life and for whom problems can be a problem this book is well worth looking at. Those who couldn't care less and sail on without ever seeming to worry about anything will probably not have read this far into the review and so will survive anyway.

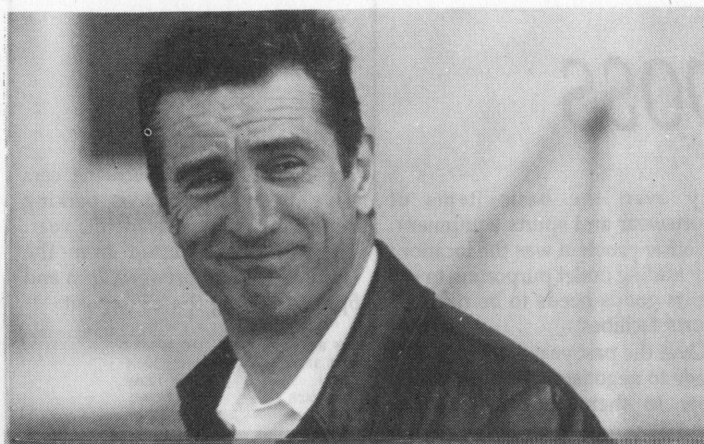


## FILM

## Midnight Run

**Cert 15. Empire Leicester Square.** *Midnight Run* is an action-comedy adventure à la *Beverly Hills Cop*. It could have been just a routine piece of mindless Americana, but the fact that it isn't is a credit to an excellent script, smoothly running direction and some truly inspired casting.

Robert De Niro plays a bounty hunter undertaking what he believes to be a simple assignment—for \$100,000 he has to return a bail-jumping accountant, played by Charles Grodin (*Ishtar*, *Woman in Red*), to Los Angeles. If all goes well this would take just one night, a 'midnight run'. However, after the mild mannered Grodin talks De Niro out of a quick plane journey, they have to contend with more cumbersome modes of transport to get from New York to LA. What follows is a hilarious trek across America, and madcap chases involving the FBI, The Mafia and a rival bounty hunter, who all want their hands on the accountant.



De Niro: 'Ha! You can't catch me'

Grodin and De Niro are perfect comic sparring partners, delivering each other subtle blows of understated humour, Grodin's deadpan delivery and sarcastic tone suit his character so well that it is difficult to see anyone else playing the part. It's nice to see Charles Grodin getting the recognition he deserves after wallowing in anonymity for so long.

Many would question Robert De Niro's wisdom in playing a role such as this, but 'the master of the

method' doesn't put a foot wrong, and now has proved that he can make any role his own.

In addition to the two leads, Yaphet Kotto (*Alien*, *Running Man*) offers good support as an inept FBI agent, who thinks he's really cool, but manages to always stay one step behind the rest.

Some solid yet fast moving direction from Martin Brest (*Beverly Hills Cop*) results in a good, entertaining film.

Sumit Guha.

## Track 29

**Metro (Piccadilly Circus tube)**

A strange and confusing film which serves up some interesting moments but becomes lost in its own intricacies and attempts at exploring the human mind.

A North Carolina geriatrician, Christopher Lloyd (*Back to the Future*, *Taxi*), is so obsessed with his model train set that he ignores the sexual pleas of his wife Theresa Russell (*Black Widow*). She is saved from suicide by the appearance of a crazy Englishman, Gary Oldman, who claims to be her long lost son.

Fiery arguments and sexual innuendoes follow as Russell rapidly loses her mind—is Oldman simply a figment of her warped imagination?

Certainly something different from director Nicholas Roeg but a movie only to be seen if, for some reason, you want to spend an evening in a confused state of mind yourself.

Michael Porter.

## A Fish Called Wanda

**Cert 15, Plaza Piccadilly.**

One of the most satisfying films of the year must be *A Fish Called Wanda*, which manages to present an amalgam of past and present comedy styles.

After the disastrous flop in the States of *Clockwise*, John Cleese took time out to get the formula right—a comedy that would appeal to both the Americans and the British. The result is so perfect that I can't see anyone not liking the film.

Cleese plays barrister Archie Leach, whose skills are required to free George, the leader of a London gang of jewel thieves, and the only one of the crooked quartet who actually knows where the gems are stashed. Archie Leach finds himself being seduced by Wanda Garshwitz (Jamie Lee Curtis), and relentlessly hounded by Otto (Kevin Kline), Wanda's jealous bed-mate. The two are members of the gang hoping that Leach would lead them to the jewels. The fourth member of the gang is Ken Pile (Michael Palin), an animal loving hit man.

The plot meanders between these characters, as they try to double- and triple-cross each other to get to the jewels. Much of the intrigue and



Kevin Kline feeds Michael Palin some fish and chips

humour lies in the interplay and diversity of the four main characters. Cleese is the respectable lawyer, bored with his life, tired of being British and finding a release in the form of Wanda. Wanda seduces everyone in sight to try and get hold of the jewels. Ken Pile is a chronic stutterer, given the job of 'doing away with' a little old lady who witnessed the crime, but to his anguish he disposes of her three dogs instead. But the most over-the-top performance comes from Kevin Kline, the unstable ex-CIA man Otto, who hates the British. 'they

get rigor mortis in the prime of life here', exclaims the man who thinks the London Underground is a political movement, and reads the works of the well known Belgian philosopher Aristotle!

The comparisons between the English and the Americans furnish many of the best moments and complement a very solid plot.

It has been said that this film has resurrected the style of the Ealing comedies of the sixties. If Ealing comedies were ever this good they would never have died out.

Sumit Guha.

## VIDEO

## The Yob

**The Comic Strip**

What are these Comic Strip people on?

Patrick Church is a cocaine sniffing, pretentious jerk with an attachable girlfriend to match. Steven Kendall is a man with a walnut for a brain.

The two of them stumble into a time machine in the laboratory of a mad scientist in a *Fly*-type experiment and the consequences of this gradually transform the two into absurd caricatures of each other to the amazement and distress of the people around them. Church develops the need to adorn toilet walls with the name of his favourite football team and shocks his girlfriend with comments such as 'You love it really, doncha?'. The transformation is complete when the single braincell Kendall thinks he is the second coming and Church develops neanderthal features and the word 'love' appears tattooed on his fist.

No one could have done this better than the Comic Strip team. In fact no one could even have thought of it apart from them. And it is 'completely brilliant', say no more.

Rose Atkins.



## The big boss

The latest figures available for the Sportshop show that in the year ended 31 July 1987 a profit of £850 was made. When the assets of the shop were considered for the accounts the stock was valued at £20,958. It is now proposed to revalue the stock at its true worth. Estimates from the Union Manager David Peacock and the Union Finance Officer Reggie Blennerhasset, seem to indicate that a figure of £8000 is about the maximum the stock is worth. If this figure of £8000 is used in the accounts then the Sportshop will have actually made a loss. There are many reasons for this situation. When the present management took over they inherited a lot of obsolete stock; people have been unable to

buy even the basic items of sportswear and sports equipment. Another problem was the location; any trading outlet purporting to sell sports goods needs to be near the sports facilities.

Over the past year a decision was made to negotiate with STA with a view to them moving into the sportshop unit in addition to their present unit. The contracts were signed on October 5. For the session 1987/88 STA paid the Union £2,500 rent and £6,790 in dividend; the dividend is a percentage of sales. With the renegotiated deal STA will pay £12,000 a year rent and a sliding scale dividend which should bring in about £15,000 in the next year.

Nigel D Baker, ICU President

## Hon Sec's bit

Freshers' Week seems to have been a great success and I hope that you won't all suddenly become social recluses with only a problem sheet for a friend.

Next Wednesday, the 19th, there is a free disco in the Union Lounge starting at 9pm with a happy hour from 7-8pm where bitter and lager will be 60p a pint.

On Thursday 20th, Diesel Park West who are an excellent guitar band are playing in the Lounge with a disco and bar extension until

midnight.

On Saturday 22nd, there will hopefully be a Country and Western night in the Union bar assuming I can find a suitably cheap and tacky duo. This isn't meant to be taken strictly seriously so don't turn up your nose in disgust; go along and have a laugh.

If anyone has any ideas for events in College, please come and have a word with me because I can't hope to please everybody without suggestions from you.

## Groovy man!

Ah yes! After the thrills of Freshers' Week and the excitement of yesterday's Brilliant Corners gig, what else can IC Ents come up with for the rest of the year.

To start, there's Diesel Park West playing in the Union Lounge on Thursday October 20. The band play a peculiar hybrid of mainstream pop and rock tinged with sixties melodies. Tipped for big things shown by the record company interest they attracted recently, and the buzz they created when they toured with That Petrol Emotion.

Not only this, there's also a disco (with the recently refitted Lounge looking/sounding better than ever)

and a bar extension till 12pm. Tickets a mere £1.50 in advance, £2 on the door and £1 with Ents card available from the Union Office, and from the Union Snackbar.

Also Ents cards will be available on the door. These entitle you to discounts on admission prices for all the events IC Ents put on throughout the whole year. You need a picture of your own sweet self and just £7.

Doors on Thursday night open at 9pm and it promises to be a good one.

Paul Watkiss,  
Ents Chairman.

## Parking

### ICU Parking Permits 1988/89

The owners of the following cars have been awarded a parking permit for the next academic year. They can be collected from the Union President between 2pm and 5pm by paying the £5 deposit.

XTF 860T	TO 40555 D
NMS 372M	WLM 206X
C&GU	OOY 123W
GMS 246S	F917 CWC
D372 CLK	TJH 353S
A681 WTN	FSC 935S
A193 MBA	MYZ 5646
EYH 981V	LHK 533V
5294 XH38	E539 ERK
Nightline	B140 EGP
B47 DNH	DAR 165T
XTV 2287	NWT 787V
WJT 286M	LGC 770T
PGP 743Y	VMJ 506W
VKN 118S	C299 VLM
F185 MLF	A763 XCS
RPM 995X	B213 LNN
D251 PKW	A127 MVF
XEB 104T	A318 DGW
PBK 115S	A237 KKN
HVX 379V	C855 DJD
PWH 649S	XNO 916S
RGJ 261E	DBA 554L
B360 VYO	MY4 967D
XLT 7175	JRD 424W
C940 DYP	B806 LOY
ENY 97V	B727 ANS
C416 ELN	UGS 442W
PYF 508W	CLD 19Y
MKO 73P	B164 NLC
RMG 207L	B00 343T
OLG 88V	B813 BGF
TAG 22W	C327.AKO
XOE 164T	WDH 327X
DTP 951W	YLP 378X
ETL 811X	YLT 684X
C888 CYB	D551 BLF
WUC 823S	YCG 484V
ULU 930X	EAP 882V
KHV 227W	RUC 470Y
A188 KLA	JGJ 52S
MXK 330V	UDO 371S
BLM 366Y	MBH 626V
WBJ 588M	RPH 578X
TYP 410M	EYE 433V
E942 JLM	B86 YFC
F342 WOM	D551 BLF
B34 JPH	JGS 389V
B3384 MZ	BLP 907Y
B67 NLF	LMV 260X
B999 OLP	SVW 627W
A478 GLT	GYV 4W
DLL 662J	B861 WBX
TPJ 673X	YPN 192Y
E238 MYM	C738 ULY
PVB 849E	D554 YLX
B280 LBY	TMT 275S
SMY 345S	A137 XAX
OLB 256L	D48 DLN
C168 BUW	HHM 226W
C398 CMX	RMU 497L
RMG 950Y	A169 DPC
C207 WLK	RPU 627W
SMX 636R	E100 FGS
OYL 618R	E705 CBW
B91 NPD	D976 TCP
HYR 815N	VHS 403W
TLW 775W	A167 TMA
CRP 49X	A973 AWE
SMF 824M	DUC 951V
LLF 482V	MLF 467V
APD 348Y	PM3 1087
EGN 87X	

The owners of the following cars have been awarded a permit on medical grounds.

F957 SLP	417 QE
PCG 231P	CYH 57V
MTW 478P	652 GFK 75

Any appeals, with ADDITIONAL information, must be received by 5pm Friday 21 October for consideration on Tuesday 25 October.

## Internal Workings

The Internal Services Committee: this year has been structured to deal with any complaints on the internal services available. How does it work? Sitting on the Committee are a number of people responsible for taking decisions on the services provided by the Union which include:

Bar (Union)  
Bookshop  
Games machines  
Haldane Library  
Print Unit  
Snack Bar  
Sport shop  
STA Travel  
Transport  
Union Building

College services are more difficult to deal with but the management committees are always open to suggestions to improve their services. You, the students are represented on these committees by the sabbaticals, myself and the Union Manager.

All the representation is available, it is just up to you to tell those representatives what you would like. This is where my job comes in. I will be responsible for receiving your complaints (or comments), collating all the complaints and directing your views to the appropriate management committee. Without your involvement this committee will serve no useful purpose and the various committees will continue to do as they feel fit which might well be at variance with what you want. It is very important for us to have some feedback, positive or negative.

If you, or a group of you, wish to comment you can write to me by addressing the letter:

Neil McCluskey,  
Internal Services Officer  
Imperial College Union

You can post the letter through the internal mail system by giving it to your departmental messenger or security guard. Some letters on small issues I will be replying to personally so please enclose your name and department. Letters about wider issues, upon which I hope there will be lots of comment, will be replied to in FELIX.



## WELLSOC

### The President Talks

Professor Eric Laithwaite, wild card of the science and engineering world will give his Wellsoc presidential talk on Monday, October 17th at 7pm in Physics Lecture Theatre 1. Professor Laithwaite invented the linear motor and has discovered many unusual properties associated with gyroscopes (you may have seen his demonstration on television of a young child lifting a 50 pound weight with one finger).

Controversy has raged over many of his ideas and many have tried to discredit him. He does, however, have a habit of being right in the end.

Professor Laithwaite is also interested in patterns in nature, for example why mud cracks the way it does (more interesting than you might think) and how many of man's inventions have already been invented by nature—the insect with a liquid crystal display and the fish with a radar.

If you just want to come to this talk it will cost 50p but it's worth taking out membership (£1.50) and getting into all future Wellsoc talks free. To find out about other talks and events see us on Monday or drop a note in Spenser Lane's pigeonhole, Met Sci 2.

## MOTOR

### Grand Prix to Scalextric

Guilds Motor Club put on an impressive display at Freshers' Fair, designed to show the participation of Club and College in all levels of motorsport.

Despite the name, students from any CCU are welcome to take part in our night navigational rallies, autotests, production car trials, treasure hunts, circuit trips, kart trips and scalextric evenings.

Star of the display was a Williams-Honday FW11. Although carrying number 6 and the name Nelson Piquet this was in fact the spare car used by Britain's Nigel Mansell to win the 1986 British Grand Prix at Brands Hatch. The car in full Marlboro livery was a March 88B F3000 car. This was kindly loaned by Onyx Race Engineering, who are developing a Formula One car in the College wind tunnel. The bright green Versapak International Van

## SKI CLUB

### We're Going Skiing

The IC Ski Club is a large active club which aims to encourage students to learn to ski as well as enabling more experienced skiers to ski at reduced prices. This year we have organised a holiday in the French resort of Val Thorens, which is the highest resort in Europe and is linked to Miribel, Courcheval and Les Menuires. The cost will be about £280 but this includes travel (out by coach, flying back), self-catering accommodation, lift pass for the whole area, ski and boot hire, ski lessons and insurance (ie everything except food and drink). There are reductions if you do not require equipment or lessons, and there is a possibility of travelling out by air for a small extra charge.

The Club also organises dry slope lessons on Wednesday afternoons (strongly recommended for beginners) and dry slope races on some Sundays (first race is on October 23).

If you are interested in any of the Club's activities, please come to one of our meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12.45pm in Southside Upper Lounge or contact J Biddle via Biochem pigeonholes.

Diemen RF88 Formula Ford car is currently being driven by ex-mechanical engineer Chris Goodwin in the Champion of Brands Hatch series. Also on display were the Club's karts (100c and

## PARACHUTE

### Jumping for fun

If anyone missed us at the Freshers' Fair and is interested in doing a parachute jump come along to our weekly Monday meetings in the Union Dining Hall at 12.30pm.

The cost of a parachute course is £65 which includes 8-10 hours instruction by British Parachute Association approved instructors, equipment hire and your first jump. Subsequent jumps are £12; £4.80 of which will be refunded by the Club of production of a receipt.

The training will take place on the evenings of November the 1st and 3rd (Tuesday and Thursday) and will be completed on Saturday the 5th at Headcorn Parachute Club (near Maidstone/Ashford). Then weather permitting you will do your first parachute jump.

If after reading the above you are really interested you will be required to pay £4 Club membership and a £15 deposit to secure your place on the course (cheques with a bankers card and cabs are accepted).

However, if you are still unsure come along to the meeting and talk to some people who have done not just one jump, but many more.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

250cc) and members' rally cars.

Anyone interested in any of the Club's activities should see our noticeboard on Mech Eng level 3 or come and see any of the committee in the Guilds Office.



## AMNESTY

### Prisoners of Conscience

Welcome (back) to IC and to IC Amnesty—a small but very active group. What, you may ask, is Amnesty International? It is a worldwide organisation which seeks the release of prisoners of conscience, ie people detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, who have not used or advocated violence. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. Amnesty also opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation. It has no political bias.

Our Club has a new adopted prisoner—Alaattin Sahin, a chemical engineer from Turkey. (More about him in future.) We have been very successful in the past year. Ivan Starovoi, fo the USSR, was released early this year and our next prisoner, Samsu Gain from Bangladesh, has also been released.

In addition to working for our prisoner, we do Urgent Actions (sending immediate letters/telegrams to help people in imminent danger of being tortured, executed or who have 'disappeared'), take part in various campaigns, run a letter-writing stall in College and raise funds.

Do join us! We meet every Tuesday, 5.30pm, Brown Committee Room in the Union Building. Please contact Radha Chakraborty (Maths 2) or Monique Yeo (Maths 3) for further details.

## DEBSOC

### Coming soon

Debsoc will be holding lots of events this year, serious and silly debates, competitions, dinners and training events. Something for everyone with anyone with even a vague interest in Debating.

The first training session for Public Speaking and debating will be held Friday October 14 at 12.45pm in the Brown Committee Room (Union Building—take lift to top floor and turn left). This will be followed by a second session, Friday October 21, same place same time.

Future debates include CND, South Africa, Hanging and many more.



## Small Ads

### FOR SALE

- **10 gear**, 9 months old Peugeot Elite medium frame bike. £100 ono. Contact Matt on 4462 int (or 603 4123 after 8pm).
- **6mW He/Ne** laser tubes £60. Power supplies for above £30. Contact Neil Humphrey, Physics 2.
- **1 Guinness Cake**. Good condition, only one previous owner.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Joint Mech Eng Soc/Guilds** Motor Soc Club trip to the Motor Show. Sunday October 23. Contact Tim Woolman (Mech Eng 2) or Guilds Office for details.
- **Walk** and talk with the animals. Come to the zoo with Biosoc. Thurs Oct 26, 12.30pm Beit Arch. £1.50.
- **Musicians**—Want to join the Jazz and Rock Club please contact James Stewart in EE2.
- **Yachting**—Anyone interested in reforming IC Yacht Club should come to a meeting on Monday at 12.30pm in the Brown Committee Room or contact James Stewart EE2.
- **Indsoc** presents Ernst & Whinny Business Game. Wed Oct 19. Open to members of Indsoc, send deposit cheques for £3 made payable to ICU/SCC to Jack Bekhor, Civ Eng 3. All cheques returned on attendance.
- **Return** transport to London from Coventry Monday, Thursday, Friday. Ring (0203) 310214.

### ACCOMMODATION

- **Mansion** house in SW17. Couple sharing large room with garden, c/h, conservatory, etc) newly decorated. £35-45 per week (bills not included). Intersted contact Jan on 720 7731 (night) or Paul (work) 631 5030 (day)
- **1 person** to share double room in large, new, furnished flat. Lounge, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, central heating, burglar alarm. £45 p/w before HB. Manor House tube. N Humphrey, Physics 2.

### PERSONAL

- **The Penthouse** Club goes underground.
- **Do you** know who the Penthouse Club are?
- **Don't** miss the fabulous Penthouse Club sponsored 21st Birthday Party. Saturday October 15, 7.30 in the Union Lounge, FREE.
- **Be there** or be cuboid. Where? The party, Union Lounge, Saturday Oct 15. 7.30.
- **The fast** trousers show is now on Thurs lunchtimes.
- **Will you** be the recipient of Random Call?
- **If I** hadn't trained on a train, I wouldn't be training the trains on the train lines!
- **Spenser Lane**—the only man to win a three-legged race on his own.
- **Karl Eccleson** would like to announce his engagement to...Oh sorry! I'm not supposed to say.

## What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

### FRIDAY

If you would like to advertise in this column copy should be in by 12.30pm on Monday.

### SATURDAY

**IC Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.

### SUNDAY

**Service**.....10.00am  
West London Chaplaincy Service. Everybody welcome. Ground Floor of the Sherfield Building.  
**Kung Fu**.....4.30pm  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.  
**RCSU Bar Night**.....evening  
Union Bar.

### MONDAY

**IC Folk Club**.....12.30pm  
Union Lounge. Come and find out what's happening this term. If you would like your event advertised in FELIX please submit copy for this column by Monday lunchtime.

### TUESDAY

**Ski Club Meeting**.....12.45pm  
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want a cheap ski holiday? Come and find out more.  
**Amnesty Meeting**.....5.30pm  
Brown Committee Room (top floor Union Building).  
**Lunchtime lectures**.....1.15pm  
Read Theatre, Sherfield Building. Richard Snailham talks about 'Experiences on an Ecuadorean Volcano'.

**Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.  
**Caving Club Meeting**.....7.00pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone interested should come along.

### WEDNESDAY

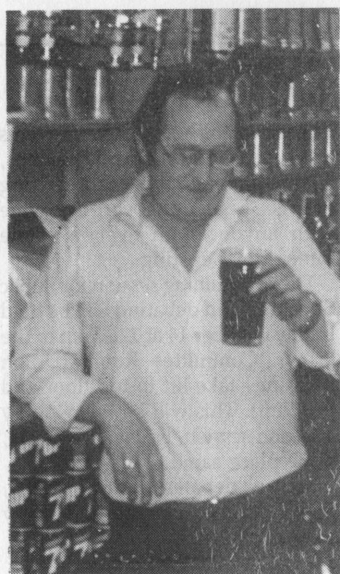
**Ski Lessons**.....12.45pm  
Meet Southside Lounge. Come to Tuesday's meeting to book a place. Bring gloves and thick socks.  
**Caving Club Meeting**.....1.00pm  
Union Snack Bar.  
**Kung Fu**.....7.30pm  
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.  
**Supper Dance**.....7.30pm  
The Serpentine Restaurant Hyde Park. To celebrate the Merger with St Mary's Medical School. Tickets available from Lynda Davies Room 354 Sherfield Building (3004) at £30 (staff) or £20 (students).

### THURSDAY

**Ski Club**.....12.45pm  
Southside Lounge.  
**Lunch-Hour Concert**.....1.30pm  
Read Theatre, Sherfield Building. Sam Coles (flute) and Nigel Clayton (piano).  
**Ents Event**.....9.00pm  
Union Lounge. 'Diesel Park West' plus disco and bar extension till midnight. Tickets £1.50 (adv), £2 (on door), £1 (with Ents card).  
**Soup Run**.....9.15pm  
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).

## Booze

By Neil Motteram



Firkin Pubs are amongst the most popular of student meeting places. The chain of eleven public houses was based around the ideals of good beer, plain furnishings and a friendly atmosphere. Now the youngest of the chain, the Flamingo and Firkin, is no more!

It was 'de-Firkinized' on the 22nd of July with the Flamingo ceremoniously carried out in a black coffin.

The Kingston-on-Thames pub, previously the Three Turfs, a boarded up Watneys' wreck, was opened last September but when Bruce's was sold to Midsummer Lesieur over the Summer, Grand Metropolitan, the owners, refused to transfer the lease. The pub has now become 'The Flamingo Brewery Company' managed by Clifton Inns, a Grand Met subsidiary. There is rumour that Midsummer intend to open a new Flamingo and Firkin in Derby later this year.

Whilst David and Louise Bruce have disappeared off into the Med

for a cruise and a well earned rest, the other two ex-directors of the Firkin chain have gone straight back into the business. Paul Andrews and Rory Garden have opened the 'Pig and Parrot' next to Kew Gardens station (District Line and BR). The pub lacks Bruce's notorious home brews but well kept 6X, King and Barnes' Master Brew, Kingsdown and Adnams Best in a pleasant Firkin-style main bar with a stylish conservatory make a welcome change from many dingy West London pubs. More 'Pig & Parrots' are on the way.

Finally, some sad news. Whitbread are closing the Thomas Wethered's Marlow Brewery, taking with it several hundred years of brewing tradition. Whitbread are possibly the worst big brewer for buying and closing small breweries. Wethered's name will live on for some time as a 1036 brew produced elsewhere but production of the stronger beers is to be curtailed. Happy Drinking

## JELLY PARTY

**TODAY**  
in the **FELIX** Office  
**8pm**  
Drop in  
if you want to join  
the **FELIX** team

**—WANTED—**  
**Felix Sports Editor**  
Drop in and have a  
word with Bill  
Goodwin if you're  
interested



# IN THE PIPELINE

ANDREW  
HALL

## Engineering: No Thanks

In the middle of September the Department of Education ordered an inquiry into why the numbers of university and polytechnic students pursuing degrees in engineering are insufficient to meet the needs of industry. The new investigation is to centre on two surveys to be carried out over the next six months into, firstly, why many sixth formers studying maths and physics 'A' levels do not pursue engineering degrees and, secondly, why so many engineering undergraduates abandon their courses, and what their future career choices are. Another problem of equally serious magnitude, but outside this inquiry, is the number of engineering graduates who proceed to careers in, for example, banking and accountancy.

### Fewer Students

Universities are beginning to feel the effects of a reducing university-age population in falling applications, but the fall in engineering applications is far more rapid: general engineering course applications fell by 28% compared with 1987, civil and electronic engineering applications by 10%. The problem causes considerable anxiety to Imperial College at a time when it is required by Government to increase student numbers.

The main deterrents to sixth-formers applying to engineering courses are the questions of status and salary. Engineering has a very low status in Britain compared to our major competitors such as West Germany, and this is not helped by every other manual worker in the country calling themselves 'engineer'. Mechanical engineers mend your car and drive trains, electrical engineers mend your washing machine, civil engineers built the M25 and nobody knows what a chemical engineer does, or at best thinks he is a creator of pollution; acid rain and nuclear waste, because of course sulphur dioxide and iodine-131 are

chemicals. Maybe it is time to bring in the marketing people to think of a brand new image and name and forget about calling ourselves 'engineers' at all.

Salary may be an even bigger difference. Prospective students will have their eyes on the kind of salary that they will be earning on graduating. Careers such as accountancy or medicine offer far higher salaries than engineering; small wonder that university medical courses are so hard to get on to.

To encourage more students into engineering courses, one way might be to consider giving a financial incentive for students to study engineering. At present you receive the same grant for an engineering course as for studying Mediaeval twine spinning with Serbo-Croat or other such courses of dubious worth. There has existed for a number of years a National Engineering Scholarship scheme, which was intended to encourage people of high calibre to pursue engineering careers, with a financial carrot of a £500-a-year bursary. However, the scheme is administered in such a way that you would already have to have applied to an engineering course through UCCA before your application for a scholarship is processed; so even if you are unsuccessful you are committed to pursuing an engineering course. The scheme therefore will only appeal to people who were going to study engineering anyway, and is a waste of both taxpayers' and the industrial sponsor's money. The rapid fall off in engineering applications appears to indicate that the scheme hasn't achieved its objectives; what is required is the certain knowledge on applying for university places that adequate financial support will be received by all engineering students.

The only other way to increase student numbers on engineering courses is to lower the admission

standards which is like burning down the house to cook the pig. There was a lot of publicity earlier in the summer when 'A' level results were published, aimed at people whose results were worse than required for their engineering courses, encouraging them to pursue their applications, as the universities were equally desperate to recruit students. It is not good for the students; either the course will have to be made easier to the detriment of the better-ability students or the less able students will struggle and the drop-out rate will increase. Maybe this is the reason that the drop-out rate from some engineering courses is as high as 20% (twice the average for all subjects). For the universities it only satisfies the short-term objective of filling courses; in the longer term it could be most damaging. Universities should not be lowering standards required for degrees, lower admission standards will inevitably produce worse degree results. This, together with an increasing drop-out rate will reflect very badly on the universities. Additionally, in expending extra effort on teaching less-able students, teaching staff will be diverted from more useful occupation of their time. Finally, it represents worse value-for-money for the taxpayer as drop-outs from courses are an expensive waste.

### Graduates

There is a growing tendency for graduates of engineering (and science) to pursue careers in financial service industries rather than in 'engineering' as such. It is right that graduates should be entirely free to choose in what way to use their degrees and what career path to pursue; any attempt to commit engineering graduates to a particular career would be thoroughly wrong, and completely against the Government's 'free market' philosophy. To some extent the problem lies with engineering

degree courses; a common concern in University departments is that their courses may be deterring graduates from entering engineering as a career; however, the problem is more that the degrees suit their owners to such a wide variety of careers. It is all the more surprising that fewer people are applying to engineering courses in the light of this. It does seem a bit of a waste, however, to teach people engineering skills that they will never use in their careers.

More graduates may be encouraged to enter industry if salaries were higher; however, whatever industry can pay graduates, accountancy firms and merchant banks will always be able to pay more. Ultimately this is to the long-term detriment of the nation—we will eventually be able to count our wealth, but not create it. Increasing the number of students studying engineering may not necessarily help the problem, particularly if an incentive such as increasing grants for engineering students is used. The end result may well be a vast increase in the expense of engineering education without any appreciable increase in the flow of graduates into industry.

Without the solution of this problem, solving the problem of filling university engineering courses, the subject of the new Department of Education inquiry, will not achieve anything useful. An investigation into why the needs of industry are not being met by the graduates who have already been trained for this purpose at great expense would be far more useful. As this would require the cooperation of the Departments of Education and of Trade and Industry, such an investigation is unlikely.

MENCAP  
**TARTS & DISCS COLLECTION**  
Meet CCU offices, 10am, Saturday 15th October  
to be registered and given cans.  
Free disco in the JCR Saturday evening for all  
collectors, 5.30pm to 11pm.



continued from front page

Rag Conference in January. When explaining why she wanted to contact Universities in advance she said she did not want their sale to clash with other colleges' Rag efforts. 'I'd be bloody pissed off if somebody came on our campus selling Rag Mags during our Rag Week,' she added.

Mr Williams was accompanied by Mr Simon Bradshaw when he left the meeting last Friday. Both Mr Bradshaw and Mr Williams are upset by the attitudes of the Rag Committee. 'Any Freshers who had come to it would never come to a Rag meeting again,' said Mr Bradshaw. 'We seem to have lost sight of the main aim of Rag which is to collect money for charity,' he added.

Following a letter from ICU President, Nigel Baker, Mr Williams has dispelled rumours that the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) planned to fund the Rag Mag. The letter from Mr Baker explained that if such a funding were to go ahead he would insist upon the removal of all references to Imperial College Union and ICU Rag. In the letter, Mr Baker also expressed concern over the effects of the funding upon the RCSU clubs' finances. Mr Williams pointed out that such a funding would be a loan from the RCSU finances, and would not affect the clubs. He denied any moves to fund the publication by RCSU.

Mr Williams still hopes to be able to produce a Rag Mag in time for Rag Week in four weeks. Most of the sales of the mag come from Rag Week. He concluded however that the Rag Committee 'are really killing the spirit of Rag', and added that 'Rag's about getting everybody out on the street and having a good time.'

## MSF Strike Vote

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Trade Union (MSF) voted last week to take industrial action on the 18th of October, to implement other industrial action other than stoppages and to take further industrial action in the future, following a national ballot. Ninety per cent of those who voted at IC agreed to strike.

Imperial College MSF intends to organise picketing around the college, a protest motorcade, a

massive balloon release and also bands and speakers. Mr. John Fecamp of IC MSF said "The idea is to use the day as a massive display of protest."

The move follows an independent report made jointly by MSF and the universities. The report was assessed by Sir Peter Matthews (chairman of the Armed Forces and Nurses Pay Review bodies) which concluded that university pay was 18% below the equivalent in industry. The trade unions are unhappy that the Government and universities have decided not to act on the report.

## Welfare Officer

The University of London Union has rejected plans to employ a joint IC Union/ULU Welfare Adviser. The scheme was described as 'unfeasible', and the two unions are planning to appoint their own separate welfare advisers.

ICU President Nigel Baker told FELIX that he hopes to appoint an adviser within a fortnight, to start work towards the end of the term. ULU are now initiating their own welfare service.

Mr Baker was initially told that the College would replace the part-time Welfare Adviser Linda Simmons when she left in March this year. Since the post covers problems concerning Social Security Benefits, Grants and many other areas, it was felt that a full-time adviser was the best solution. College Secretary, John Smith agreed to a reappointment on a part-time basis after a letter from Mr Baker in June.

Mr Baker used the appointment of an assistant/secretary to Mrs Clare Ash, the Rector's wife, in the HUB office as a bargaining point in the letter. At the time of Linda Simmons' departure from the post of Welfare Adviser, College Policy was not to replace staff. The Assistant/Secretary was employed in direct contravention of this policy. The HUB Office has had an increase of £10,000 for its annual finances.

A letter from Irene Addison-Child, ULU Research and Training Officer, was sent to Mr Baker in June, asking for advice and information about welfare services at IC. Mr Baker wrote to Mr Jackson, proposing the idea of a joint-adviser on August 25. He stressed the urgency of the situation since ICU was planning to instate the adviser by the beginning of this term.

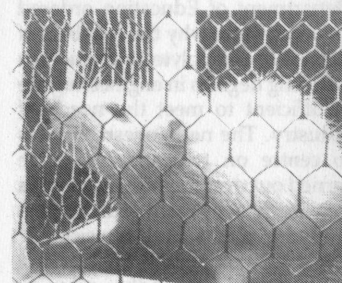
Nothing was done until Mr Baker rang Mr Jackson, calling for a meeting to discuss the matter. When questioned about the delay and lack of response, Mr Jackson blamed the postal strike.

A meeting was held on September 15 at which Mr Jackson and Mr Baker were present along with other ULU sabbaticals and ULU Senior Administrator, Peter Anwyl. During a discussion after the meeting, at which Mr Baker was not present, the proposal for a joint-adviser was rejected by ULU due to 'the simply unfeasible and unrealistic' time scale.

ULU also cited the possibility of the scheme conflicting with their 'developing welfare strategy'. This strategy includes a 'network of student welfare volunteers, at least in the immediate future.' When asked about present volunteer numbers Mr Jackson was not able to confirm any and apologised for the failure of the Union to send a briefing document on their welfare policy. Mr Jackson is in charge of welfare at ULU. Ms Addison-Childs told FELIX that no volunteer recruitment had taken place.

## And finally...

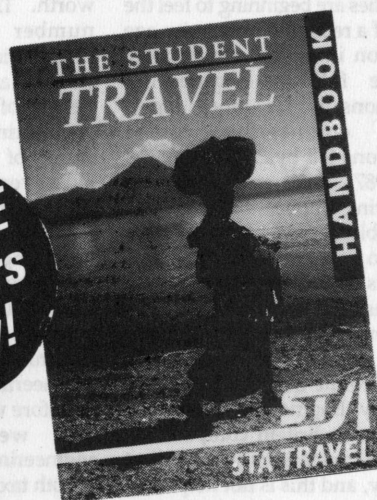
The loss of the Lexham Gardens Head Tenancies at the end of last year has led to a shortage of places in College accommodation. Several cases of severe hardship have been brought to the attention of FELIX. Not least of these is the former resident (pictured below) who, unable to find alternative accommodation, is now forced to share an office with ICU Honorary Secretary Ian Morris.



## ULU TRAVEL

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