



Felix

THE NEWSLETTER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

IC SET TO MERGE WITH RHBNC? Talks begin on further mergers

RHBNC tackle debts

Imperial College and Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (RHBNC) in Egham have begun talks on a possible merger.

Increasing pressures on accommodation at Imperial coupled with financial problems at RHBNC has led to speculation that the merger is likely to receive the go ahead.

A working party has been set up to examine the feasibility of such a move. The party is represented at IC by professor Patrick Dowling, Head of Civil Engineering and Professor Roy Anderson, Head of the Department of Pure and Applied Biology.

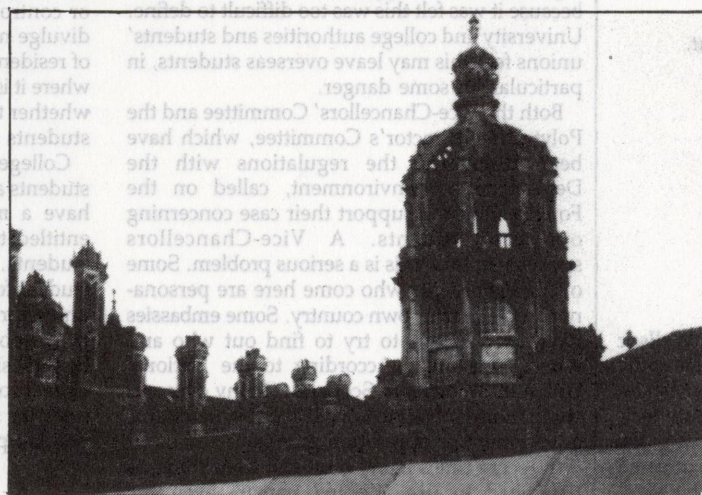
It has been described by the Rector, Professor Eric Ash, as 'a small committee with the limited task of advising either college whether it is worth the effort to embark on serious talks'.

Despite the Rector's insistence that the discussions were of a very preliminary nature, the working party has been requested to report to the Rector of IC and the Principal of RHBNC by the end of October.

The University Grants Committee (UGC) have agreed to fund the merger leading to speculation that the merger will definitely go ahead.

The Rector told FELIX that this was not the case and said that 'there must be an overwhelming will for the merger to take place on both sides.' He added that the UGC could not force the institutions to merge.

A merger with RHBNC would ease the accommodation problems at IC by enabling new residences to be built on land from the RHBNC



site. According to the Rector, first and second year students would be based in Egham whilst South Kensington would be reserved for third years and Postgraduates.

Government proposals to introduce Poll Tax will make it difficult for many students to afford to live in the centre of London. The Rector pointed out that, given the site in Egham, it would be possible to house students in certain years at IC, at rents no more than on the present site.

Professor Ash went on to say that the move would greatly strengthen the humanities stream in IC. He drew comparisons between IC and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which is strong on humanities.

The humanities stream at RHBNC is of a high standard, particularly in the fields of drama and history.

The standard of the RHBNC

Science departments is greatly below that of IC, but the Rector is keen to dispel fears of standards falling if the merger goes ahead. He told FELIX that most of the Science departments would operate with IC staff and added that as the merger would be a slow process and that many RHBNC staff may first leave.

The fact that the social life of IC would be greatly disturbed, particularly with respect to societies and clubs is not debatable. If different years in the College were housed separately in South Kensington and Egham, the effect would be dramatic. The Rector believes it would be 'quite possible' for people to move between the sites for the purposes of social activity—a journey he estimated at 35 minutes, but which took 1 hour 10 minutes by train at 8.30pm.

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College are investigating proposals to sell off their land and art collection in an attempt to solve their increasing financial problems.

The College is £1m in debt, a figure which is expected to increase to £4.5m by 1992. According to the Chairman of RHBNC Council, the College faces the possibility of insolvency by 1990.

The College are considering selling one or two of the pictures in the Holloway Collection along with some of the 18 acres of land belonging to the college. The land is believed to be valued at £750,000 to £1m per acre.

Royal Holloway's financial difficulties result from a combination of reduced University Grants Committee (UGC) funding and unexpected costs which arose from the merger of Royal Holloway and New College.

The College has attempted to reduce its deficit by reducing staffing levels and expenditure.

The College's principle, MP Dorothy Wedderburn, has announced the College's plans to increase their non-Government income 'which would bring them into balance by 1992 or 1993'. The plan called for £1.5m to set the scheme up.

RHBNC submitted a case for special funding during the years 1988 - 1992 to the court of London University detailing the plan. In view of problems experienced by other schools of the University, the court felt unable to forward a special case for RHBNC to the UGC. The Council of the College forwarded its case directly to the UGC and was awarded £350,000 per annum for the next two years which was significantly less than the College's requirements

A bore writes

Dear Bill,

I am replying to Clare Crippen's criticisms of the new style of Union Cards in last week's FELIX.

Regarding last year's cards, I have yet to find a resident of a Hall of residence who found that the system worked in practise. The issuing of the cards themselves, with different coloured backs, was an administrative nightmare. As a resident of Beit Hall last year, I was not challenged once by a security guard to produce my Union card within the Hall, let alone have the right coloured back on it. (Whether the security guard knew what colour back the card was supposed to have is another matter!)

It was for these reasons that I decided to change the format for this year. In my opinion, the Union card should not only be one's identification but could also serve another useful function—so I decided to expand the telephone numbers section. If Miss Crippen does not think that she will need any of those telephone numbers at any time this year, I suggest that she thinks again. Several students have commented that the telephone numbers section is an excellent idea; I can't please everybody.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles Brereton, ICU Deputy President.

All's well...

Dear Bill,

I apologise unreservedly to all Wellsoc members for the absence of Eric Laithwaite at the Wellsoc meeting on Monday. Circumstances beyond Professor Laithwaite's control meant that, sadly, he had to withdraw from giving his presidential address. He has, however, expressed his hope that he will be able to talk later this term. I am sorry for all inconvenience and disappointment caused.

On a brighter note, the Aetherius Society was able to step in and give us a lively and controversial talk about flying saucers!

Yours sincerely,

Simon Smith, Wellsoc Chairman.

A token silly letter

Dear Bill,

Do you need any silly letters?

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Daglish, Penthouse Club.

Overseas students at risk

The planned introduction of the Poll Tax or Community Charge in 1990 is a cause for concern for overseas students. Aside from the financial implications there are fears that the Poll Tax registry, which is publicly available, may be used as a reference book by those groups who like to indulge in racial harassment. FELIX Postgraduate Correspondent, Youssef Samrout looks into the matter.

Students who think they may be subject to physical attack will be able to ask for their names and addresses to be taken off the public register for the poll tax. There are still fears, however, that overseas students may suffer harassment unless more protection is built into the legislation. Draft regulations governing the implementation of the poll tax, which operates in Scotland from April and in England and Wales a year later, made the concession that anyone who felt they were vulnerable to physical violence or harassment could ask for a 'special entry' so that their name and address could be kept private. But the actual regulations have dropped the word 'harassment' because it was felt this was too difficult to define. University and college authorities and students' unions fear this may leave overseas students, in particular, in some danger.

Both the Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Polytechnic Director's Committee, which have been discussing the regulations with the Department of Environment, called on the Foreign Office to support their case concerning overseas students. A Vice-Chancellors spokesman said 'this is a serious problem. Some overseas students who come here are person-non quota in their own country. Some embassies have used means to try to find out who and where they are'. According to the National Union of Students in Scotland, 'Many overseas students are subject to surveillance by their home government or opposition groups.

In recent times many Iraqi and Iranian students have had to use adopted names; even the

institutions which they attend hold their real names in strict confidence, using their adopted names in all their affairs. It will be up to the registration officer to decide whether to agree to an individual's request to take his or her name and address off. The regulations give some protection to women who may fear physical violence from a former partner, but there may be difficulties in proving that a threat exists. Vice-Chancellors told government officials they would not supply names and addresses on a voluntary basis, so the legislation was explicitly amended to make them do so. The law says they will only have to provide information 'in their possession or control'. So, for example, they will have to divulge names and addresses of people in halls of residence and those in private accommodation where it is known, but they will not have to check whether the information is true, or keep tabs on students who regularly move.

Colleges will, however, have to give all students a certificate so the registration officer will have a means of checking whether they are entitled to the special concession for full-time students. Colleges are hoping that current student forms of identification, such as students' union cards or library tickets, will suffice for poll tax purposes. In Scotland the poll tax register will be published this month and it will be the duty of everyone to ensure they are on it. Moreover fines for failure to register are greater than the poll tax payments themselves.

RCS Union Blues

Welcome to what will be a regular column to let you know what RCSU is doing around the College.

So far Rag is going quite well. We managed to raise just over £1000 on Tiddlywinks as well as having the top collector in Robert Harwood of Life Sciences 2. Last Saturday, October 15, RCSU went out to collect for Mencap, despite the poor turnout we still raised £483.

The Spanner and Bolt treasure hunt is going according to plan. The Guilds Exec entering into the spirit of things well. So far they have raised money on their pub crawl, showing people their knees, busking and running a coffee machine in the JCR. This week they have had to collect scrap metal from around College and sell it for scrap. Tonight they will be carol singing in Leicester Square.

Unfortunately, the Maths Freshers' Dinner has been cancelled. All mathematicians can buy tickets for next Friday's Life Sciences Dinner from Departmental Representatives and the RCSU Office.

Ents has been busy; so far organising burgers during Freshers' Week parties, going ice skating with Guilds and a trip to the Laserium (which was unfortunately closed).

Ents are now looking for acts and offers of help for the Smoking Concert during Rag Week. Anything goes, so think of something, even if you are not in RCS.

Finally, Ents are arranging a trip to the cinema this Monday, to see *A Fish Called Wanda*, with John Cleese. The cost will be £2.50 and we are meeting in the Bar at 8pm.

Editorial

The Print Unit. The FELIX Print Unit is available for the use of all clubs and societies. If you would like any printing carried out then drop in on a Monday or a Friday to book in work and discuss requirements. If you call in at any other time then I will probably not have time to see you as I will be fully engaged in producing FELIX.

IC Union clubs have printing carried out at cost price, providing they are prepared to lend a hand with the artwork, trimming and folding (if required).

In addition to printing, we also have a photocopier with the option of blue, red or black toner. If you would like some photocopying, drop in on Monday or on Friday and fill in a photocopy request form. Thanks to a kind donation by Mr Oakley, the Chemical Engineering Departmental Superintendent, the print unit can also offer the use of an A4 collating machine.

FELIX. A few students have pointed out that they are interested in helping out on FELIX but are unsure when to drop in. Wednesday afternoons are usually the most busy, but we also need people throughout the week, particularly on Tuesday evenings, and on Thursday mornings and afternoon. We need writers, proof readers, reporters, photographers, layout artists and people to help with folding and collating. No previous experience is necessary—we can teach you everything.

IC Union General Meeting. Be there to discuss accommodation problem

Apologies. To Chi Rho for losing the artwork for the issue that we couldn't print.

Incredible thanks to: Sez Wilkinson, Andy Clarke, Adrian Bourne, Sophie Wardle and friend (sorry I've forgotten your name) Andrew Hall, Doug King, Paul Barton for the travel page, Noel Curry, Robin Dowison, Paul Dhillon, Sumit Guha, Dave Smedley, Steve Mayfroidt, Martin Colege, Rupert Clayton, Dave Griffiths, Nick Jones, Neil Motteram, Liz Warren, Cwis Martin, Andrew Bannister, Matt Rampton, Andrew Waller, Susan Appleby, Yousef Samrout, Wouter Van Hulten, the Sabs, Daniel for staying up all night a couple of issues back (I've just remembered your name), Dave Clements, Noel Curry, Rose and Dean and anyone I've forgotten (if I have, let me know). Thanks to the collators.

MFS on strike



Pickets leaflet outside Mech Eng

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance (MSF) Union held a day of action at College last Tuesday in pursuit of an 18% pay claim.

The strike was supported by 95% of those voting in a ballot and sympathy from staff and postgraduates according to Ian French, the London National Representative.

As part of the day of action a motorcade drove around the College, speeches were made by Paul Talbot, the MSF National Officer and a message of support was read from Clive Jenkins, the retiring MSF Union President. The day was concluded with a petition delivered to the Department of Education and Science.

non-teaching staff at IC, is seeking the second part of the 1988 pay settlement which would equate them with industrial counterparts. An 18% pay rise is borne out by findings from an independent survey.

The MSF wished to pressurise the College to fight their new claim with the Department of Education and Science. Robert Jackson MP, the Minister of State for Higher Education, claimed he had not received such a case when met by officials from IC.

The Rector Professor Eric Ash told FELIX that all university staff are underpaid, something he believed was against Britain's long term interests.

Chemistry overcrowding fears

Dramatic increases in the intake of the Chemistry department have lead to a possible review of the first year chemistry laboratory.

The intake for the Chemistry department has risen from 89 to 117. College Senior Tutor, Dr Goodgame told FELIX that the laboratories were filled to their capacity of 116 but there had been no complaints from students.

Dr Barry, Senior Tutor of the Chemistry Department told FELIX that the laboratories are 'packed out'. When asked about library facilities, Dr Barry said there would be 'more of a squeeze.' Lecture theatre space has not been a problem for the department, which

has theatres capable of seating over 150 students.

College Assistant Safety Director, Ian Gillett said that the problem of overcrowding in the first year chemistry laboratory was 'under review.' He added that the department is providing the recommended ratio of 1 supervisor per 15 students in the lab.

Dr Barry concluded by saying that it was 'early days' to be considering the problem of overcrowding. He added that he was expecting a similar intake next year, unless College policy changes. The indications are that the policy will remain the same.

Students to pay tuition fees

Students may have to pay university tuition fees under a scheme proposed by Lord Chiver in the *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, last week. Lord Chiver, the Vice-Chancellor, of Cranfield Institute and Chairman-Elect of the Universities Funding Council rejected the Robbins principle, central to higher education of the last 25 years, stating that ability could be judged by willingness to pay.

The Robbins principle, that higher education 'should be available to those qualified by attainment and wish to pursue' is an inviting philosophy said Lord Chiver. His scheme favours serious students over those who take education for granted and would save money.

He accepts that some of those who are willing to pay, would not be able to, but considers the proportion small, and see the Government's role as one of providing 'charity' for those who genuinely cannot afford to go.

No water in Northside

Maintenance staff discovered a burst water main and flood in the Basement of 15 Princes Gardens on Wednesday night. The Waterboard, unable to repair it immediately, were forced to cut off the mains water to Garden, Linstead and Weeks Halls. However, the Halls have sufficient storage capacity to ensure that serious shortages did not occur. The Waterboard finished their repairs and had the supply restored by Thursday afternoon.

IC collects for charity

A London-wide charity collection hosted by Imperial College raised £30,000 for Mencap last Saturday. The collectors came from Universities and Polytechnics across the country, including Loughborough, Warwick, Southampton, Bangor and Essex. IC Rag provided 21 collectors, raising over £750.

The collection was followed by a party in the Junior Common Room (JCR).

London Student—

The FELIX Review

London Student has been relaunched. ULU have installed flashy new desk top publishing equipment, the paste-ups are now done in-house and a trendy new format is the order of the day. But what of the content?

Previously *London Student* has been awful. The news coverage was non-existent, mostly consisting of press handouts from student unions who could get hold of a reporter

(*London Student* have the most elusive staff in any publication I have come across and those you can reach 'don't have anything to do with news, can't help you mate'). Most of the rest of the paper was a left-wing review of unheard of bands.

The new *London Student* has a greatly expanded news section. The articles appear to be well informed



and fairly well written. There does remain a tendency to thrust opinions on to what should be unbiased reporting. For example, a space filler on Mrs Thatcher's new conversion to environmentalism '1500 dead seals can't be wrong'. The leftist reporting extends to a catalogue of mergers imminent or proposed within London.

Features are immensely improved. Previously *London Student* ran little or no features at all and the few that there were seemed to be in-depth interviews with the latest rising star in NUS London.

These days features are greatly expanded upon with intelligently written articles from a wide range of student writers. Despite inaccuracies, the features are by far the most interesting part of the newspaper, with several lectures worth of reading, including personal safety, food, cycling and pop art.

The usual extensive and uninteresting travel section remains as before but the reviews and

listings have been greatly increased, even encompassing music and videos heard of by the student in the street. An interview with Andrea from the *Darling Buds* retains the feel of 'pop nouveaux' but the listings include a wide range of tastes. One hopes *London Ents* officers keep this page to up-to-date and accurate.

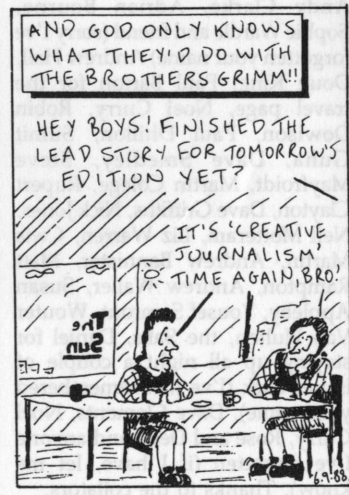
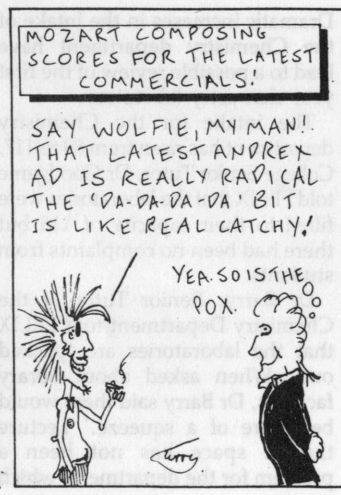
The layout owes much to the *Guardian*, even including typesetting errors. The paper is generally visually good but the effect is spoilt somewhat by abysmal pasting-up. I suppose they lack the years of inherited experience at *FELIX*, but there is little excuse for crashing blocks of text into the pretty dividing squares. Perhaps we should go and show them how!

Overall the paper is a huge improvement from the cliquey, badly written *London Student* of last year but more attention to design and unbiased news reporting could make it excellent. I look forward to reading *London Student* each fortnight which is much more than I could have said before.

Southkenders 1



Southkenders 2



The Independent Traveller

In recent years travel has become accessible to most students, whether it is a month's intertravelling around Europe or a World tour. This has come about by a unique combination of freely available discount flights, the strength of Western currencies against those of Third World countries and the opening up of many countries after years of isolation. One may question the state of a world economy that allows a privileged few opportunities that many can only dream of. But travellers can make a positive contribution to the countries they visit, not only by spending foreign currency but by increasing awareness of the unique culture they possess.

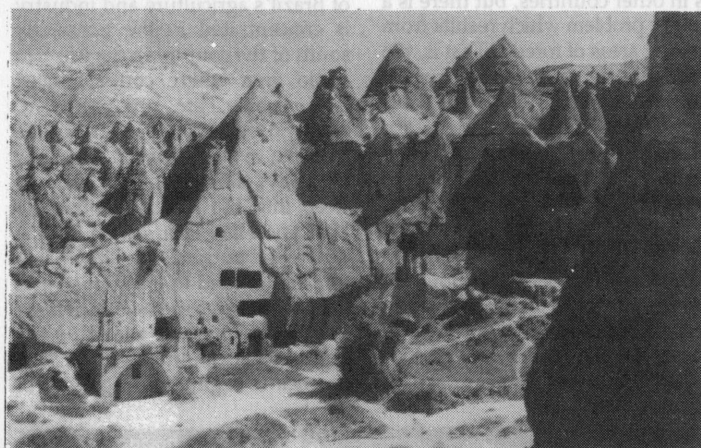
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The early pioneers of independent travel, a few hardy Aussies who overlanded from Sydney to London, laid the trail for increasing numbers of backpacking travellers, intent on exploring the most remote regions of the world. Although the wars in Iran and Afghanistan have limited the classic Asian overland trip, travellers are now regularly visiting six continents, and even Antarctica is beginning to be opened up by tourist flights from Argentina.

As the destinations explored expands, an increasing number of guide books aimed at the independent traveller have appeared, so if one is planning a trip, a reasonable body of experience has already accumulated on most countries.

With the increasing numbers of backpackers travelling to remote destinations, an entire subculture has developed. One can sit in cafes with names like 'Jim's Peace Cafe' or 'The Hard Rock Cafe' and munch meusli or banana pancakes all over South East Asia and even China. And as you consume you decadent Western luxuries, you can listen to your fellow travellers boast of their exploits. For some, travelling has become a competition to see as

much as possible, as cheaply and as quickly as their bodies can stand, while others, the discovery of 'genuine' experiences are the subject of their boasts. For most mere mortals, travelling at one's own pace and gaining an insight into the country they are visiting is enough, after all, you are on holiday!



experience of bucket shops has been favourable, but stories do circulate of small operations folding after payment of the fare, but before tickets are received. These shops will advertise their flights in magazines like LAM and TNT.

Cards

As a student there are many cards that can be purchased that will save you money. The ISIC (International Student Identity Card) is generally accepted throughout the world, although in some countries like China, student identity is useless for getting discounts. The YHA is also useful, because in many parts of the world, Youth Hostels represent the cheapest accommodation available.

Money

Carrying money is always a

problem, my advice is carry it in a money belt no matter how safe the country you are in is. Eurocheques are useful in Europe where massive commissions are charged on travellers cheques, whereas in the Third World, where commission is rarely charged, American Express Travellers Cheques are the most widely accepted. A few American dollars in cash can also be extremely useful in difficult situations, but in some countries using foreign currency is illegal, so be careful.

Insurance

Highly recommended because people can get very ill out in the Third World, and if you are not insured, you can just be left to rot. Both ISIS and Travel Cuts on Regent Street do good deals, but the cost of insurance seems to have risen phenomenally in recent years.

Health

Health is a subject often ignored by travellers, but it is sickness that is likely to ruin your holiday. Public health in the Third World comes nowhere near the standards we expect in the West, and the traveller can become prey to many diseases just due to poorly prepared food or contaminated water. Always consult your doctor before you leave about what injections you should have, and it is probably a good idea to have an injection against Hepatitis A if you are going anywhere in the Third World. Personal hygiene is important and water should never be drunk from the tap, although even bottled water can be suspect because some racketeers fill empty bottles with tap water, reseal it and then resell it. To be safe, drink only boiled or sterilised water (although there are side-effects from drinking sterilised water long term), or Coca

Cola, which is available internationally. Food is more of a problem, because food can be prepared at the beginning of the day and kept warm with flies walking all over it. It is best to just eat food that is cooked quickly at a high temperature, preferably in front of you, but this can be difficult in many countries. Basically, everything must be suspected as a source of infection, you can't just pick up food off street sellers and expect it to be alright.

Over the next few weeks, we are planning to begin a regular travel column in FELIX, including features on particular countries or regions, hints on how to organise your holiday, reviews of guidebooks and tips and rumours as we hear them. Features or information on any aspect of travel are welcome. Feel free to write about Bognor or remote monasteries in Tibet. Any interesting photos you have would also be of interest.

Where to go

Obviously a question of prime importance, and one which the features in subsequent issues will help you with. Once you have decided your destination, purchase a good guide book. The books available for a particular destination vary enormously, so the best idea is browse the shelves of a good bookshop. One highly recommended shop is The Travel Bookshop, 13 Blenheim Crescent, W11, just off the Portobello Road. There are also two publishing companies, Lonely Planet and the Rough Guides, that specialise in guides for the independent traveller. In my opinion, the Lonely Planet guides are usually the best, although they do not cover Europe, Russia or the USA and one must remember that any guide will never be 100 per cent accurate.

Transport

Getting to and from your destination will always represent a large proportion of any budget. In Europe, the interrail ticket still represents great value for money, although a cheap package flight may work out cheaper if you are touring one country. Outside Europe, flying is by far the best way unless you are planning a long overland trip. Cheap flights are easy to come by in London, whether from STA, Trailfinders or a bucket shop. Bucket shops will usually sell the cheapest tickets, but these may involve lengthy stopovers and rather indirect routes, like via Moscow or flying to China via Los Angeles. My

IN THE PIPELINE

by ANDREW HALL

Forests under threat

The issue of the destruction of the world's forests has been in the news a lot recently. Here is a brief attempt to examine the issues and some of the news stories.

Why does it matter anyway?

There is a growing mass of evidence to show that trees provide much more than simply somewhere for monkeys to swing from and birds to build nests in; they play an

The rivers flood and then run dry

important part in the environment and particularly the regulation of water. For example, forests on high ground, because of the complex networks of roots that the trees have, firstly hold together the soil and prevent it from being washed away and secondly trap water during rainy seasons. Cutting down the trees therefore has two immediate consequences: the soil is washed away and accumulates in the rivers and the delicate regulation of the flow of water is upset. In the rainy season the rivers flood and during the rest of the year they run dry. This is no mere conjecture on the part of environmentalists; the recent floods in Bangladesh, although caused by exceptional rainfall, may have been made worse by large-scale deforestation in that part of the world. In Panama, the very operation of the Panama Canal is threatened since the canal is above sea level and requires a constant input of water. Due to destruction of about 40% of Panama's forests, the canal has silted up very badly and during the dry season there is a restriction on the size of ships which can pass through the canal because of the low water level. There is a very real danger that by the time that the Canal Zone passes back to Panama's control (from the USA) the canal will be useless, with

serious consequences for Panama's economy and world shipping.

Problems in Bangladesh and Panama may be of little concern to us in other countries, but there is a further problem which results from clearing areas of forests. That is, the atmospheric pollution: carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate carbon which are released when areas of trees are burnt. This could be the cause of global problems, as we will see later.

Development of the Amazon

Hardly a week goes by without the Amazon forests featuring in the news. Next to the Amazon all other forests in the world are tiny—it covers some two million square

miles, which is about twenty times the size of Great Britain, a size which is hard to comprehend. Clearly it is in Brazil's interest to develop some of the potential of the region as the country has enormous social and economic problems. There are demands for hydroelectric schemes, agricultural development, exploitation of the vast mineral resources in the region and building of better communications. All too often however, plans are carried out without consideration of the long term environmental consequences. There is no reason to prevent development in the region if it can be carried out with full consideration of the environment, as indeed many projects are. However, it is the few which are not that pose the biggest threat.

Communications and Agriculture

Slowly Brazil is improving its internal communications with schemes such as the Trans-Amazon Highway. These communications provide easy access to what was previously inaccessible forest. Most of Brazil's agriculture and industry is concentrated in the temperate south of the country in the Rio-São Paulo area where coffee, sugar, fruit, rubber, etc. are produced, mainly for export to pay for Brazil's massive overseas debts. The new highways allow people to penetrate deep into the Amazon forests to start a new life. They start by cutting down and burning trees in an area to produce land to grow crops and keep livestock, a method of clearing and preparing land as old as the South American Indian tribes. The practice is beginning to get out of

hand with nearly 5000 daily fires between July and October, causing the burning of some 80,000 square miles of the Amazon forests in 1987 (estimated from weather satellites by the São Paulo Institute for Space Research). Unfortunately, the land is not as fertile as the dense forests

They start by cutting down and burning trees

suggest that it might be—most of the organic material is in the trees and plants which are burnt and after four or five years the land is practically desert. Once families have become established in their new farming lives they have little option but to move on to another area of the forest and so the destruction continues. What is so unfortunate about all this is that with a small amount of organisation and investment, the forests could be used to much greater economic benefit, without their destruction and the creation of vast areas of desert land. After all, about the most uneconomic way to use wood is to burn it; most of the wood is highly sought after hard wood. If it takes 100 years for a decent-sized hardwood tree to grow, then cutting down and replanting every 200th tree in a year should be no problem. What the forests cannot recover from is the large scale clearing of areas of land. And there may be plants with medicinal properties yet to be discovered (Quinine was discovered in the bark of cinchona trees in Bolivia in the 19th century, and at that time was the only cure for malaria).

Minerals

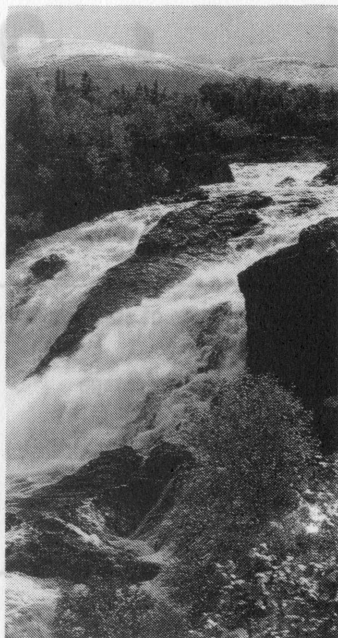
It is estimated that Brazil has a quarter of the world's reserves of iron ore. The richest iron ore deposits in the world are to be found at Gran Carajas, deep in the heart of the Amazon region. A project funded by the World Bank aimed at extracting these reserves is a model of environmental consideration. A large area of the

Brazil has a quarter of the world's reserves of Iron Ore

forest in the region is protected and there are controls on replacing forest which has to be cut down during the mining. The plan was for Brazil to export the iron ore, but the powers-that-be in Brazil came up with a 'better' idea. Why not smelt the ore



The forests under threat...



Natural resources

to produce pig-iron, which is worth far more per ton as an export? With Brazil's economic problems this is a good idea, but in the absence of any suitable coal reserves they need to use charcoal. The consequence of this is that outside the perimeter fence of the World Bank project,

It takes 100 years for a decent sized tree to grow

vast areas of forest have already been felled to produce charcoal to feed the first three of twenty planned iron smelters, with many thousands of acres of forest under threat. It was production of charcoal which caused the massive deforestation of Southern England and consequent energy crisis in the 16th century; this project is on a much larger scale.

Hydroelectricity

With the largest river system in the world, the Amazon basin offers an ideal opportunity to produce cheap electricity which would be a great asset to Brazil's economy. The theoretical potential of the Amazon's suitable sites is 130,000 Megawatts, which could be obtained by flooding 60,000 sq km, or 1% of the Amazon Basin, providing far more energy for many years than simply burning the wood contained in this 1%. Some schemes have been very successful, for example the Tucuri Dam on a

tributary near the mouth of the Amazon produces 5,000 MW, more than Drax in Yorkshire, which is Europe's largest coal-fired power station.

A second scheme at Balbina was built to serve the city of Manaus on the Amazon. This has been a complete disaster, economically and environmentally and has been called the world's least efficient

The World's least efficient H.E.P plant

hydroelectric plant. Conceived in the mid-1970s and responsible for £770 million of Brazilian foreign debt, it will not have a single turbine operating before the end of this year. It is too shallow, at an average of eight metres deep which means that the power generated will be pitifully small, 109MW, from a lake which has flooded 1450 sq km of rainforest (350,000 acres). Most water is lost by evaporation with the consequence that the small river which feeds the lake does not provide enough water. The scheme will eventually only produce half as much power as is required by the city it was built to serve.

Global Environment

It is the effects on the global environment that the large scale burning of forests should be of great concern to us all. The 1987 burning of 80,000 square miles of forest released an estimated 620 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and particulate carbon into the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide is adding to the gradual build up of this gas in the atmosphere which may be leading to a 'greenhouse effect', particularly as the Amazon forests play an important part in the global carbon cycle. The large quantities of particulate matter are of similar magnitude to the amounts given off by giant volcanic

Forests are in danger of disappearing completely

eruptions which have had observable effects on weather conditions for many months. The effects of this year's forest burning season have been observed all over the South American continent. It is hard to know how much of current worries about pollution are real long term problems and how much is scaremongering on the part of environmentalists, but it is clear that the large scale destruction of forests cannot be having a good effect on the environment.

What can we do?

Not a lot really. Using recycled paper and not using hardwoods from the rainforests merely tickle the surface of the problem. As I said earlier, if managed properly, forests should be able to supply our needs for timber without any problems; timber production is in any case negligible compared to projects like the Gran Carajas charcoal for iron smelting project. It shouldn't be forgotten that we are buying the cheap iron from Brazil.

What is needed is a firm environmental policy for Brazil and for the developed nations of the world to force Brazil to do this. The Amazon, if properly developed, could make Brazil one of the richest nations in the world—current progress is heading in the direction of environmental disaster, not only for Brazil, but possibly the rest of the world.

Brazil has the biggest problem because it has the biggest forest, but there are areas of the world whose forests are in more immediate danger. For example central

Forests are in danger of disappearing completely

America and parts of the Far East, where forests are in danger of disappearing completely due to over exploitation. Apart from the problems of flooding and the Panama Canal, the exhaustion of these forests will mean an even bigger strain on the forests of the Amazon. It is therefore all the more important that Brazil should learn to supply these needs without irreversibly damaging the forests. Wood is a unique material.

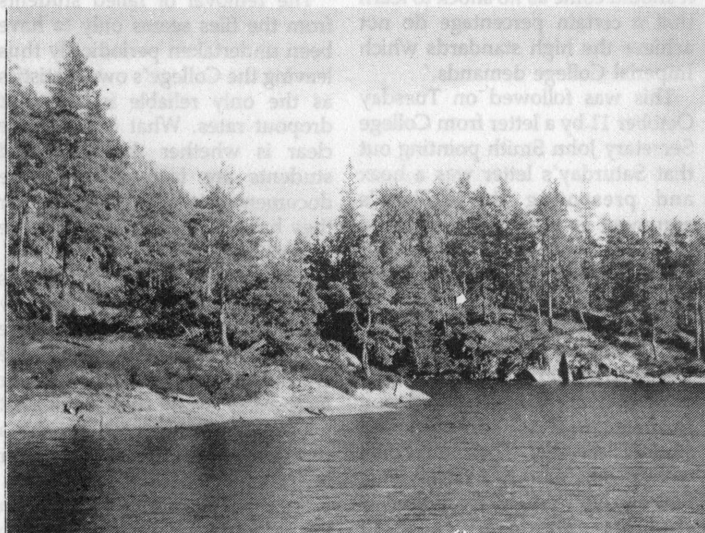
P.S.

Since I wrote this article, new measures have been announced by President Sarney of Brazil to protect the Amazon rainforests, in response



Industry replaces forest

to the global outcry at this year's level of destruction. Amongst these measures are the restriction of subsidies for agriculture in the Amazon region (it was a policy started in the 1960's whereby farmers were given land, provided that they cleared half of it of trees, that has caused many of today's problems), a total ban on the export of logs, and rigorous environmental controls are to be imposed on all agricultural and industrial projects in the future. These measures are obviously a welcome step in the right direction, but the criticism has been made that it is merely window dressing to stay international pressure. Nothing, for example, has been said about the Carajas pig iron smelters, which are likely to destroy the entire eastern Amazon if no action is taken now.



The Amazon Basin is being destroyed

IC: a high dropout rate?

by RUPERT CLAYTON

The pages of *The Independent* have seen some interesting correspondence over the past two weeks. On Wednesday October 5 the newspaper published an article entitled 'Completion rates vary widely for degrees'. It revealed that in all the subject areas in which Imperial was represented we were in the bottom three when it came to the successful completion of degrees. The statistics, on the academic years 84/85 to 86/87 were drawn from a report of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the University Grants Committee. These completion rates are given below. The article noted that 'One possible explanation for the differences (in successful completion rates) is that some universities recruit more able students who are more likely to complete courses successfully. But Imperial College, London, where success rates are low, has some of the most highly qualified students.'

On Saturday October 8 *The Independent* published a letter from 'Professor John Sherfield, Imperial College, London'. Professor Sherfield stated that, 'it is the business of a college to transform a student from adolescence to manhood', and, 'if their idea (the students) of growing up is to learn how to wave banners on demonstrations or take drugs, then it should come as no shock to learn that a certain percentage do not achieve the high standards which Imperial College demands.'

This was followed on Tuesday October 11 by a letter from College Secretary John Smith pointing out that Saturday's letter was a hoax and presenting the College's argument as to why the reported figures were distorted.

The College's argument states that during the period over which the statistics were compiled, 700 people who were no longer students were 'dumped' from College records when College transferred from manual to computerised student records. These students were people who had failed some time ago but were still recognised as students although 'not in attendance'. All of this stemmed from their right, under London University Examination

their failed examinations (twice if examinations (twice if necessary).

Records were kept of these students as it 'avoided the hassle' of recreating a student's file at the University and Universities Statistical Record (USR). Figures provided by the College and those from this year's Alternative Prospectus are reproduced below.

These letters and the original article raise some questions. Firstly, the 700 students who were taken out of the record must be accounted for somewhere. Where?

The College and the USR compile data in two very different forms. College follow a particular entry of students through their degrees and eighteen months after graduation compile statistics on success and failure. Information for the USR is provided via the University of London and this method demands data on those successfully completing in a particular year in comparison to all those who left during that year excluding those who transferred to other colleges. The Registrar admits that until recently the transferral of information to the USR was carried out 'as a clerical exercise...not seen as conveying great benefit to the College.' Updating student records at USR was seen as a lesser priority, particularly if it was of no benefit to the student concerned.

The removal of failed students from the files seems only to have been undertaken periodically thus leaving the College's own statistics as the only reliable indicator of dropout rates. What is not made clear is whether the 700 failed students are included in those documented in Table 2 or whether they have been excluded from the statistics altogether.

Another reasonable question is why College allowed such patently false statistics to be included in the CVCP/UGC Report. Similarly one would have hoped that *The Independent* would have smelt a rat when they received such a reactionary letter as 'Professor Sherfield's'.

The good news is that anyone on the Materials course can sleep peacefully at night as there is little possibility of them failing.

TABLE 1—Successful leavers as a percentage of students ending their studies

Subject area	Percentage
Biological Sciences	80%
Physical Sciences	78%
Mathematical Sciences	73%
Engineering and Technology	67%
Combined Sciences	70%

TABLE 2—College completion rate figures 1980-83 entry

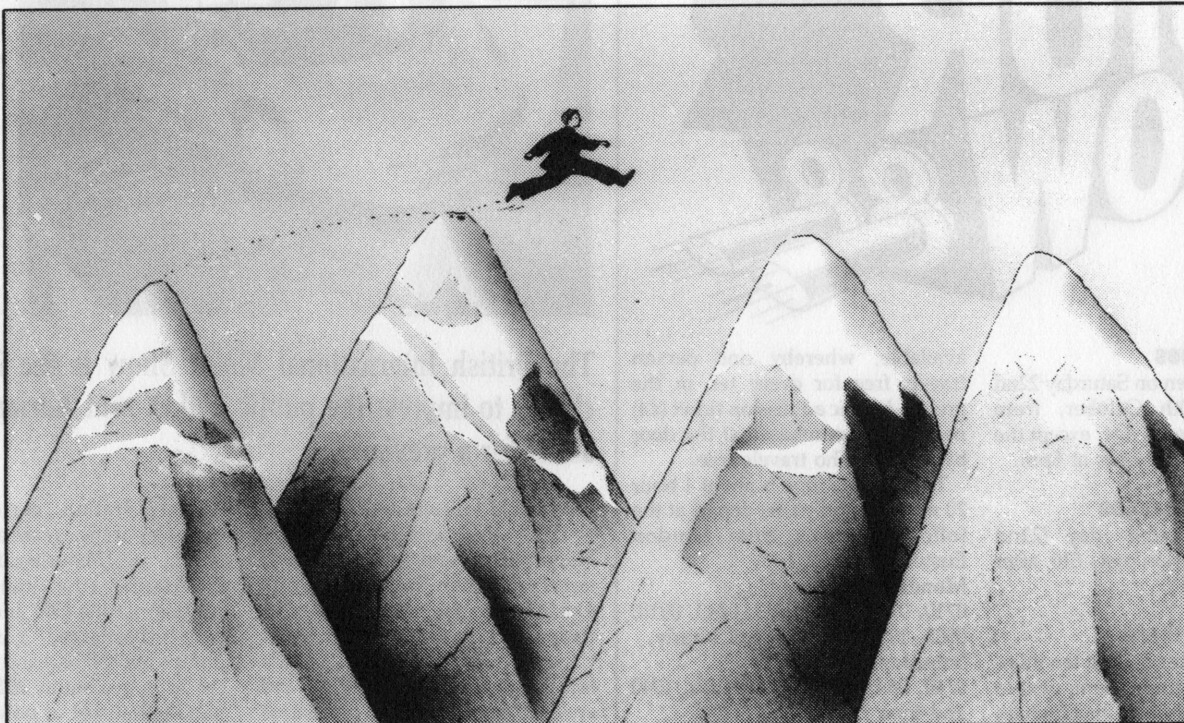
	1980 entry %	1981 entry %	1982 entry %	1983 entry %
Obtained first degree in normal period	82.1	82.0	84.2	82.3
Obtained first degree in more than normal period	6.3	5.7	4.2	4.1
Total qualified	88.4	87.7	88.4	86.4
Still in attendance	0.5	.4	.4	.2
Left by reason of academic failure	7.3	6.0	5.0	6.4
Left for other reasons	3.8	4.9	5.2	6.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 3—College's justification of '87% Graduate'

	Total Graduating	Total Leavers	% Graduating
CVCP/UGC Report	2901	4019	72%
IC Figures	2894	3339	87%
CVCP/UGC figures (less the 700 'dumped' records)	2901	3319	87%

TABLE 4—Completion rates for the 1983 entry (from the AP update)

	Graduated in normal time %	Failed to graduate in normal time %	Left due to academic failure %
Aeronautics	66.7	33.3	8.3
Chem Eng	80.5	19.5	7.8
Chemistry	87.8	12.2	4.9
Civil Eng	84.0	16.0	2.5
Computing	83.7	16.3	3.5
Elec Eng	83.9	16.1	8.1
Geology	79.2	20.8	2.1
Life Sci	80.4	19.6	6.5
Materials	91.9	8.1	0
Mathematics	70.3	29.7	13.2
Mech Eng	79.3	20.6	6.9
Min Res Eng	61.0	39.0	27.9
Physics	90.2	9.8	4.9



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THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL

MOTOR SHOW 88

Opening times

The Show is open on Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October, from 9.30am to 7pm each day, except the final day when it closes at 5pm.

Admission charges

On the first public day (22nd October) admission costs £10, after that it is £4.

How to get there

The NEC is situated about ten miles South East of Birmingham, next to the M42 motorway, Birmingham International Station and Birmingham International Airport.

If going by car you should take the M1, the M6 and then follow the police signs. These will direct you to the NEC or overflow car parks.

Probably the easiest and the quickest way to the Show is to take the train from Euston direct to Birmingham International, which is connected to the NEC by a short covered walkway. Combined travel/admission tickets are available for all days except October 22nd.

A saver return costs £20, £14.20 if you have a railcard, and are valid on any train at weekends, those leaving London after 09.30 Monday to Friday. A group discount is

available, whereby one person travels free for every ten in the group. A basic admission ticket (£4) needs to be purchased at the door by anyone who travels free.

The journey time is about 1 hour 20 minutes and trains depart at the following times from London Euston:

Monday-Friday

0710, 0740, 0810, 0835, 0840, 0910, 0935, 1010 and then half hourly.

Saturday

0740, 0835, 0935, 0940, 1010, 1040 and then hourly.

Sunday

0800, 0935, 0940, 1040, 1200 and then frequently.

Trains return from Birmingham International at:

Monday-Friday

1228, 1258 then half hourly.

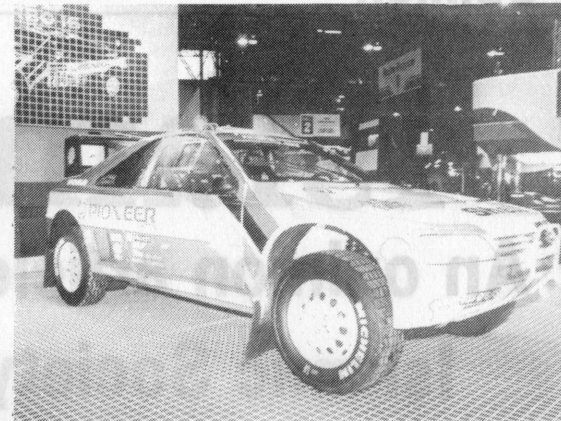
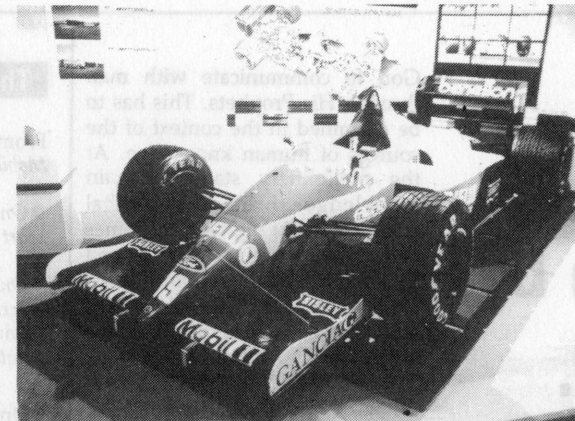
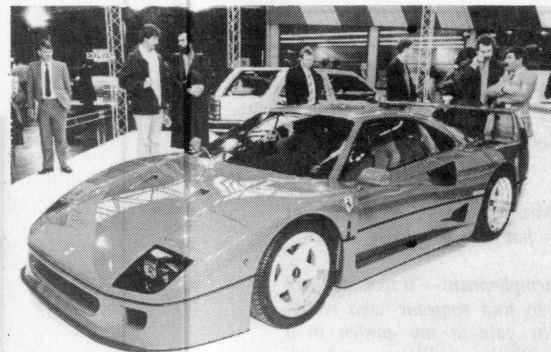
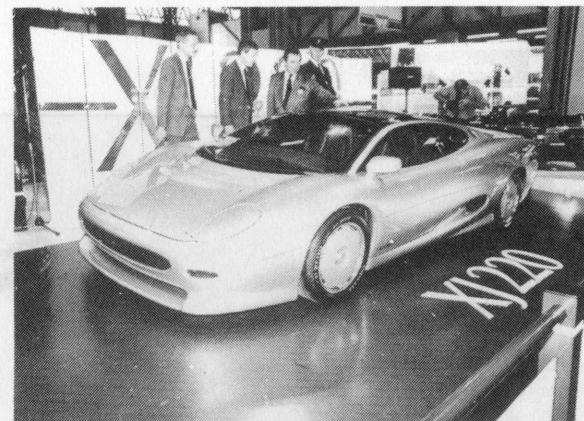
Saturday

1258, 1328, 1428, 1458, 1558 and then hourly.

Sunday

1331, 1415, 1431, 1503, 1609, 1630, 1659, 1728, 1754, 1758 and then half hourly.

Up to four seats can be reserved on any train for £1 and is highly recommended.



The British International Motor Show is the industry's chance to impress the public. FELIX sent Adrian Bourne along for a preview...

'The World's Greatest Motor Show' is how the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) describe their latest biennial extravaganza which opens tomorrow at the National Exhibition Centre. They may well be right. The lack of restrictions on the height and style of stands that is present at some continental gatherings means that this is a truly remarkable show, even if the cars that you and I might be able to soon afford are, for the most part, rather turgid.

Star of the show without a doubt is the Jaguar XJ220 (Stand 306), a stunning prototype sports car design exercise. Powered by a 6.2 litre, 48 valve V12 engine derived from the World Sportscar Champion winning XJR9, the car is designed to accelerate to 100mph in eight seconds and go on to a top speed of over 200mph. The whole project will now be handed over to the joint Jaguar/Tom Walkinshaw Racing Jaguarsport company for possible production in small quantities in the early 1990's.

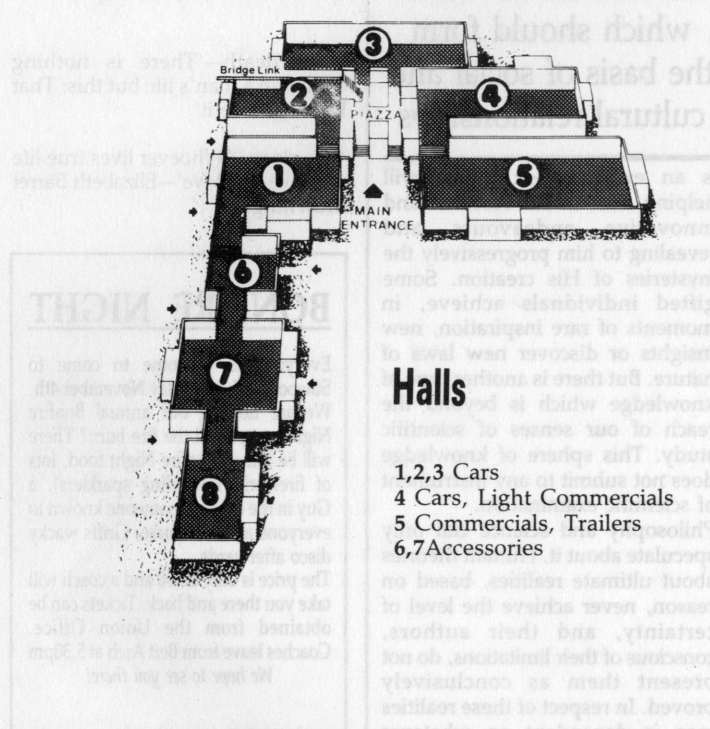
If the Jaguar is ever produced then it is likely to take the title of the world's fastest production car, currently held by the Ferrari F40. The last new Ferrari built before the death of company founder Enzo Ferrari in August, it was produced in limited numbers as a celebration of 40 years of car production by the

famous Italian marque. Two examples of the car are at the show, on the neighbouring Ferrari and Pininfarina (the Italian design studios) stands (304 and 303). The twin-turbocharged 3 litre engine pumps out 480 bhp and propels the car to a maximum 201.3mph. To handle that sort of power requires a very special chassis, and the F40 features a steel tube and composite carbon fibre/Kevlar construction, similar to that used in Formula One cars. Full racing seats and harnesses complete the car's extremely serious appearance. And the price? Well, they sold out virtually before it was announced (Ferrari Grand Prix driver Gerhard Berger is still waiting for his), but if you scour the adverts in Autosport/Autocar+Motor/Car etc you might find one for a cool half million or so...

Success in motor sport is an important theme to many of the stands, with many manufacturers showing off their World, European or British Championship winning cars. The dominant McLaren-Honda Grand Prix team have one of their cars on display on the Honda Stand (220), where Terry Wogan will be interviewing World Championship leader Alain Prost. World Rally Champions Lancia (Stand 223) have a Delta Integrale of champion Miki Biasion, complete with bodywork damage sustained

Left to right: Jaguar XJ 220, Ferrari F40, Benetton-Ford B188, Peugeot 405 GR.

Left to right: Vauxhall Cavalier, Renault 19, Aston Martin Virage, Porsche 959.



Halls

- 1,2,3 Cars
- 4 Cars, Light Commercial
- 5 Commercial, Trailers
- 6,7 Accessories

on the Safari Rally. Jaguar have the Le Mans 24hr winning XJR9 and Motorola (Stand 101) have a Benetton B188, the class of the 3.5 litre cars in this year's GP's. (Motorola manufacture the car to pits radio system.) Ford (Stand 102) also have a Benetton F1 car, but this is one of last year's B187's which used the V6 turbo engine. Joining this is the Kaliber Ford Sierra RS500 Cosworth of Andy Rouse, which won eight rounds of the British

Touring Car Championship, but due to the scoring system lost the overall title to the class B BMW M3 of Frank Sytner. No prizes for guessing what appears on the BMW stand (221). Peugeot have several of their 205/405 "Grand Raid" type rally cars at the show.

There is a fair selection of cars making their British debuts at the show, although none of them are particularly outstanding. The most publicised launch is that of the new

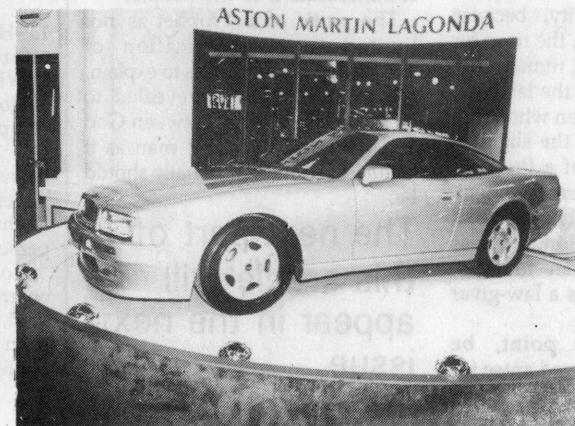
Vauxhall Cavalier (Stand 310), with the Ford Sierra its very obvious target. Personally I preferred the "car of the future" from the adverts, which is also on display. Renault (Stand 317) have their new 19 model, although this will not be available in Britain until next spring. They also unveiled the 3.5 litre atmospheric engine that will power the Canon-Williams Formula One car next year. Another 3.5 litre racing engine was on display at Alfa Romeo (Stand 401), this time in the back of a 164 Procar. This is the new silhouette formula that motorsport's governing body hopes to introduce in 1990, although Alfa are the only manufacturers to show any interest so far. The car has the same profile or silhouette as the new 164, but underneath is a pure racer, clocked at 210mph on the straight at Monza recently. The roadgoing 164's are only a little less impressive, although one would have thought that with a car with so much electronics on board that they would turn them on. Having a fully electrically adjustable seat etc is pretty useless unless the car has the battery connected. The new Aston Martin Virage (Stand 323) is a replacement for the V8, and will have a similar price tag. The car looks alright, but the name is awful. Porsche have one of their 959 supercars on a rotating platform up in the air on stand 319, presumably to stop plebs like you and me touching it or even seeing it in any great detail. Or perhaps it doesn't feel quite so super in the presence of the Jag...

The two major British car manufacturers, Ford and Austin Rover (or the Rover Group, or whatever they're called this week) have probably the largest stands at the show, and probably the most boring. First prize for bad taste, however, must go to AR for the bright yellow Metro with the white wheel trims. Make sure you visit stand 207 before you have your lunch.

A lot of the stands are very entertaining, and very gimmicky. The audio-visual technology of the best is probably more hi-tech than the East European cars. Mazda (Stand 108) have a multi screen display linked to a cutaway four wheel steering 626 while Fiat (Stand 125) have a Tipò on a giant pogo-stick. Mercedes persist with their exploding air-bags and there are cutaway cars, engines, gearboxes by the dozen.

As well as cars there are two halls of commercial vehicles, and three of accessories, including tools, alarms and stereos. Worth checking out here is the Peugeot 309 on the Pioneer stand (212). Their top of the range boot-mounted CD player/amplifier driving a multispeaker system is very impressive. The 300W superwoofer on the back shelf is rather loud...

There is so much on offer at the show that it would be impossible to mention it all here. The best advice I can give to anyone even remotely interested is to give yourself a day off work and go along. But be prepared for thousands of others doing the same thing.



Ford MOTORSPORT QUIZ 1988

Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm sees the Grand Final of the Ford Motorsport Quiz, taking place in the Ford Dome just outside the main entrance. There is an Imperial College connection with this event, for taking part as the South-East Area Champions are a team from City and Guilds College Motor Club. As a joint venture with Mech. Eng. Soc, C&GCMC are running a coach trip to the Motor Show this Sunday (23rd). Leaving Beit Arch at

9 am and returning from the NEC at 7 pm, this gives plenty of time to see most of the show and support the IC students in the final. Cost is £6 for the coach (with a £2 subsidy for M.E. Soc or MC members), and £4 admission to the show. This compares very favourably with the £20 British Rail combined travel/admission tickets. Anyone interested should come to the Guilds office this lunchtime.

Islam

An opinion article by Islamic Society.

Let me begin by clarifying that for us Islam is not the name of some unique faith presented for the first time by Mohammed. The Quran makes it abundantly clear that Islam is the one and only faith consistently revealed by God to mankind from the very beginning. Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus — Prophets who appeared at different times and places—all propagated the same faith. They were not the founders of faith to be named after

Islam is the one and only faith consistently revealed by God to mankind

them. They were each reiterating the faith of his predecessor.

What distinguishes Mohammed from other Prophets?

(i) He was the last Prophet of God, (ii) God revived through him the same genuine faith which had been conveyed by all the Prophets, (iii) this original message was corrupted, and split into various religions by people of different ages, who indulged in interpolations and admixture. These alien elements were eliminated by God and Islam, in its pure and original form, was transmitted to mankind through Mohammed, (iv) since there was to be no messenger after Mohammed, the Book revealed to him was preserved word for word so that it should be a source of guidance for all times, (v) the life of Mohammed and the manner in which he conducted himself, was also recorded in a unique manner by his companions and by later compilers of the Tradition. A more complete

We believe in all the Prophets who preceded Mohammed

and authentic account of life, saying and actions of any Prophet or historical personage has never been compiled, (vi) in this way, the Quran and the authentic Sunnah of

the Prophet together became a reliable source of knowing what is Islam, what it stands for, what guidance it provides, and what obligation it places on us.

As Muslims, we believe in all the Prophets who preceded Mohammed—not only those who are mentioned in the Quran, but also those who are not so mentioned—and this is such an integral part of our faith that if we were to abandon it we should cease to be Muslims. But for instruction we turn to Prophet Mohammed alone not on account of any prejudice, but because as the last of God's prophets he brought us the latest divine dispensation, the word of God which reached us through Mohammed is pure divine language, free of human admixtures, and preserved in its original form.

As I have said earlier, we have a complete historical record of the life, character, conduct, sayings and actions of the Prophet Mohammed, preserved with meticulous care, accuracy and detail. Since this cannot be said of other Prophets we can believe in them, but we cannot emulate them.

It is our belief that Mohammed's mission was for the world as a whole and for all times; for, (i) its universality has been clearly confirmed by the Quran, (ii) it is a logical consequence of the finality of his prophethood. A Prophet, after whom there was to be no other, had to be guide and leader for all men and for all ages, (iii) God has provided through him a complete code which man needs to follow the right path and this in itself supports the concept of finality, because without completeness, the need for other Prophets would remain, (iv) it is a fact that during the last 1400 years no man has arisen whose life and work bears even the slightest resemblance to that of a Prophet. Nor has anyone presented a book which could be remotely considered as divine communication. Still less has there been a man to claim legitimate authority as a law-giver for mankind.

It must, at this point, be understood why the need arose for

God to communicate with man through His Prophets. This has to be examined in the context of the sources of human knowledge. At the preliminary stage we gain knowledge through empirical observation. At higher level comes deductive reasoning accompanied by scientific investigation. Man is sufficiently well equipped in these fields not to require direct divine assistance. Though, no doubt, there

The Prophet determines the rules which should form the basis of social and cultural relationships

is an ever present divine will helping man in his research and innovative endeavours and revealing to him progressively the mysteries of His creation. Some gifted individuals achieve, in moments of rare inspiration, new insights or discover new laws of nature. But there is another type of knowledge which is beyond the reach of our senses of scientific study. This sphere of knowledge does not submit to any instrument of scientific examination. Philosophy and science can only speculate about it. Human theories about ultimate realities, based on reason, never achieve the level of certainty, and their authors, conscious of their limitations, do not present them as conclusively proved. In respect of these realities man is dependent on whatever knowledge is communicated to him by God. How is this knowledge conveyed? Not through the operations of some publishing house, where books are printed and handed over to each man, with instructions to read them, and to discover the truth about himself, about the universe and about the manner in which he should organise his life. To convey this knowledge to mankind God chooses Prophets as His messengers. He reveals the truth to them and they communicate it to the people.

The work of a Prophet is not limited to communication of knowledge alone. He has to explain, according to what is revealed to him, the relationship between God and man and man and man as it factually is, and as it actually should be.

The next part of this article will appear in the next issue

Thoughts for the week

From Tebbit's new book *Upwardly Mobile*

● On Michael Foot—'A fascist at heart'—what does this make Tebbit?

● On unemployment—'It took me three months to find someone who would repair the gate in my garden in a country with three million unemployed'

● On epitaphs—'Here lies my wife: here let her lie! Now she's at rest and now am I'—John Dryden

● On death—'There is nothing certain in a man's life but this: That he must lose it'

● To close—'Whoever lives true life will love true love'—Elizabeth Barret Browning.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Everyone is welcome to come to Silwood Park on **Friday November 4th**. We are holding our annual Bonfire Night party. Will the fire burn? There will be lots of Bonfire Night food, lots of fireworks (including sparklers), a Guy in the effigy of someone known to everyone and, of course, Griffs wacky disco afterwards.

The price is only £2.50 and a coach will take you there and back. Tickets can be obtained from the Union Office. Coaches leave from Beit Arch at 5.30pm

We hope to see you there!

COMPETITION

GET STUFFED (free the FELIX way) You've read the article, seen the pictures, now eat the food...

We have on offer a week's set of vouchers for free meals in the Union Snack Bar!

All that's between you and some gastronomic glutony is the answers to these very simple questions, very loosely based on last week's article on the trendiest place to eat around College.

1. How much did the Union refurbishment cost?
2. Who is the Snack Bar Manager?
3. How much have takings gone up compared with last year?

Answers on a postcard, scrap of paper, or tattooed to your forehead, to the FELIX Office, and the first person gets the prize.

No correspondence will be entered into, the judges' decision is final, no relatives of FELIX staff or even people who we think might be related will be eligible for the prize.

ROCK N ROLL HIP HOP
NON STOP INDIE POP JAZZ
YAZZ PLASTIC POPULA-
TION GENERATION GAME
FAME FASHION PASSION
HASH AN' ACID HOUSE
FAUST JAGGERS LIPS
HIPSWAY LADY LAY PLAY
DEAD RED SHOES
ORLEANS BLUES CACTUS
NEWS DYLAN 'CHILLIN'
DEF JAM BARRY LAMB
CHIP FAVOURITE STOP
KILLING ME BREAK FREE
FROM ASTLEY KYLIE
SMILEY BROS STOP THE
DROSS.

read the music page, write the music page,
but don't eat it!

Workers Playtime

Billy Bragg

What is Billy Bragg (the big nosed bastard from Barking as he is affectionately known) waiting for? He never wanted to grow up, or so it seemed from his early albums. He sang of the preservice of innocence until he turned to politics. Not that politics wasn't there from the beginning, it's just that when every other song was political it made him tedious.

Now it seems we have the old Billy back. Back but matured and realising that he has to grow up and take his place. He also admits that his politics aren't as clear cut as they used to be. Billy Bragg is still an idealist though, thank God, and he still has the odd touch of nostalgic melancholy; 'all my friends from school introduce me to their spouses', and the little bits we can identify with that makes any writing great.

This album is user-friendly, you get used to it almost immediately. Then his small phrases make you smile and his is-it-put-on accent amuses you, then you realise you understand the song—a rare treat with contemporary music.

The LP ends with *Waiting for the Great Leap Forward*—our world in a song—brilliant. What is Billy Bragg waiting for? Who knows, but if he wants any company....

LIVE

Energy Orchard

The Marquee

Think (for a moment) of a caged animal and one in the wild in its natural habitat. *Energy Orchard* are not animals, but their gig at the Marquee last Tuesday definitely lacked the same bursting energy and honest fun which came over when I saw them two months ago in a North London pub with hundreds of screaming, dancing, happy Londoners with a heavy bias towards across-the-water, and when the lead singer greeted us with 'Hello Belfast', I knew it was time to finish my bitter and get onto the Guinness. By the time they launched into their final song, I was hooked—a lively band, breaking new ground, and enjoying it. 'You mean they don't sound like U2 or the Pogues?' I hear you cry. You'd better believe it!

Things have been moving fast for *Energy Orchard*, and last week they played the new Marquee Club in Charing Cross Road. It was a big showcase night for them, and a bigger crowd would have helped, but as they say, you can't keep five good men down. They'd come to play their best and enjoy themselves, even if the pseudo trendy crowd were only there to debate the finer points of Gaelic origami.

After an habitual 'Hello Belfast' (one reply), they were off into a 'good rockin' story of a cowboy called Mag Nagaho. Fast, furious and great to sing along to. The spellbinding showies, especially *King of Love* and *Shipyard Song* are full of strong lyrics with moody guitar backing. Tear jerking stuff. A blues harmonica player made a guest appearance, getting the second biggest applause of the evening second only to the death defying jump off the speaker by the lead singer in the encore.

The whole set blended into an hour and a half's solid entertainment, only pausing to check if the crowd was any bigger. Alas, their poetic, energetic guitar playing efforts were enjoyed by a laid back collection of fans, tourists and music bizz types.

With interest from all parts of the mega-industry, they are fast becoming a contender for a marketing idiot in a ridiculous suit saying 'let's give 'em a complete image change and sell them to little

girlies'. God forbid. They aren't that stupid and they probably aren't into screaming ten year olds.

Stop Press.... The grapevine tells me *Energy Orchard* could soon be playing at IC, courtesy of that crazy Ents Crew. So book your place for the greatest thrill of your lifetime. 'Of course, I saw them when they were just starting out'...Shut up grandad!

Rufus Isaacs.

Opera

What the papers say

Dwarf's loveless gold snatch

Giant construction union in palace pay bid

Apple goddess held ransom

Top god dupes fire-eater in shady bullion deal

Ringside squabbles; earth goddess intervenes

Last ditch demo at Rainbow Bridge

The Royal Opera has embarked on the mammoth project of staging a new production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, the first quarter of which musical marathon is being performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden this month. *Das Rheingold* is an everyday story of gods, dwarves, giants, Rhinemaidens and Mother Earth. It has all the elements of a good thriller: murder, lust, high stakes and a dwarf that turns into a frog which bears more than a passing resemblance to Kermit! Moreover, there are some thumping good 'take home and hum in your bath' tunes to boot.

Luybimov's production is modern and visually exciting. Certainly most of Wagner's technical challenges (such as the transfer of action from river bed to mountain top in three minutes of music) are well met. Distant action is revealed beyond and characters enter through an ingenious opening and closing 'iris' and an hydraulic 'ring donut' centre stage is used to good and varied effect.

The music is pretty spine-tingling too; clear conducting and particularly fine performances by James Morris: Wotan (top god), Kenneth Riegel: Loge (fire god), Ekkehard Wlashihi: Alberich (the ugly dwarf who makes an unsuccessful pass at the Rhinemaidens but a useful ring from the Rhinegold) and Jadwiga Rappé: Erda (the green faced torso who warns Wotan to be careful). By the way she then bears him nine daughters called the Walküre and headed by Brünnhilde!...but that's another story (well, part 2).

So, for all you trendies out there, hitherto uninitiated into the joys of opera, impress a friend and get a couple of tickets; there is plenty coming up. For £2.50 in the upper slips it must be one of the cheapest evenings out in London and you might even enjoy it.

Sarah Conyers.



If you would like to contribute to this page contact Mike Dalton via the Physics pigeonholes or the Music Editor's pigeonhole in FELIX.

Reviews

CINEMA

Yeelen

PG, Renoir, Brunswick Square

Imagine an African legend conjured up to fill the big screen with unceasingly stunning pictures, and here you have it.

Yeelen is a purely African product, made with a budget large enough to allow a powerful and professional production which serves only to enhance the 'primitive' quality of what we are seeing.

'Yeelen' means 'the light', and certainly the most remarkable thing about the film is its physical beauty; everywhere the desert glows with a rich yellow, with bright green trees for relief from the dried, cracked mud over which our hero finds himself wandering. His mother stands chest-deep in muddy water filled with green reeds, pouring a white milk-like liquid over her head, while summoning up good spirits to protect her son. And he needs it, because daddy is coming to kill him.

Father and son are both magic makers, and the story follows the young man's travel around Mali gaining self-knowledge, and hence power, until he is ready to confront his father.

The roots of legend are common throughout the world, and shine more powerfully in such a basic environment, where death and mysticism are both close to the earth. Life is lived with a much stronger immediacy here, and whether you view magic as symbolic of power of will, or as a genuine mystic. The startling images presented in this film will allow no disbelief or dismissal.

Dream Demon

(Cert 18) Odeon, Leicester Square

A shy and innocent sloany, Diana Markham (Jemma Redgrave) exists in a perfect world: wealthy parents, apartment in London and a handsome Falklands war hero, her fiancé, waiting in the wings. But



Timothy Spall with a touch of the flu.

The House on Carroll Street

Cert PG.

New York, 1951. An attractive young woman faces a Senate committee of enquiry—not unlike the recent experiences of one Oliver North. She is a woman passionately concerned with human rights, but with World War Two hardly over, she is a woman before her time.



Hide and seek with the FBI

Legends persist in every culture, because it is through looking at our roots that we can discover our common humanity (and animality). In this film a tribe attempts to slit our hero's throat until he overcomes them by force (of magic); then he is accepted, having proved himself. There is no room for weakness, and society seems harsh. Yet once they have accepted the young man, the King and his tribe display a loyalty

everything is not perfect for long. Her sleep is disturbed by savage, terrifying nightmares. She dreams of decapitating her fiancé at the altar, of being molested by him...

She is befriended by an American streetwise punkette, Jenny (Kathleen Whillhorte), who it seems used to live in Diana's house. She

Emily Crane, played by Kelly McGillis (*Witness*, *Top Gun*), intelligent and determined, defies the enquiry—losing her job and gaining an entourage of FBI agents as a result.

Her troubles are compounded when she befriends a young German whom she has overheard in conversation with the enquiry chairman, Ray Salwen (Mandy Patinkin—*Ragtime*, *Yentl*) in the mysterious House on Carroll Street. Further investigations very nearly

towards him which betrays something deeper than animal instinct. Our man himself rejects the King's offer of wealth and worldly power, to return to the desert.

Do not go to see this film if you are sensitive or prefer 'sophisticated' acting and character interplay, it attempts neither. What it will do is lift you out of your city-stimulated life, with all its ups and downs, and capture your mind for

can't remember anything about her childhood and so has returned to her roots to find out who she really is. Meanwhile Diana's dreams turn horribly real...

And so the scene is set for this British thriller that tries its best to imitate *Nightmare on Elm Street*. A lot of the film comprises of the two women running through gloomy, smoke-filled passages with anguished looks on their faces, as Diana wanders from dream to dream. It seems that a psychic thread exists between Diana and Jenny that influences the dreams. After a while, the dreams affect their real lives, although just how was made unclear, under a cloud of psychology. Indeed, it was often difficult to fathom out what was real and what wasn't, or even if there was a distinction. Towards the end, Diana shouts (as if to help us out) 'Don't you see? This is real'. I felt like shouting back 'No, I don't see at all, actually'.

meet in a sticky end, but she is saved by FBI agent Cochran, played by Jeff Daniels (*Terms of Endearment*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Heartburn*) who provides a touch of humour and the brief romantic interest.

Cochran eventually sides with Emily in her right to expose corruption in the highest places (remember Watergate, Irangate, etc...?) and to allow good to conquer.

The *House on Carroll Street* has a good basic, if familiar plot, but is let down by the script which is, in places, a touch clichéd and at times drags. However, director Peter Yates, who has directed such films as *Summer Holiday* (yes, the one with Cliff Richard!) and Steve McQueen's classic thriller *Bullitt*, does a good job and just about gets there.

There are the obligatory twists to the tale, the hero, the heroine and the bad guys, but I would question whether the ten seconds of romance should allow the film to be billed as a romantic thriller.

A tense, but predictable cliffhanger finishes this watchable, though not outstanding thriller—but at least it doesn't all end happily ever after.

Matt Rampton.

105 minutes, leaving many images lingering for a long time.

Yeelen shows us many common elements of mankind, in a way that the vast majority of western movies fail to do. This, apart from the stunning photography, is a reason to see a film with no counterpart in contemporary cinema.

I think the word is uncompromising.

Susan Appleby.

Although confusing, the film holds our attention, if only to figure out what the hell is going on; and the climax is suitably arousing with the mysteries explained by Jenny's forgotten past.

Comic relief is provided by a pair of thoroughly despicable local journalists, played by Jimmy Nail and Tim Spall (both from *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*), who hound the female pair constantly. I found this misplaced humour irritating, as it offset the mood of the film.

The whole film has the look of an arty film that had to conform to the formulation of more conventional American horror flicks, for commercial purposes. But this film retains an identity of its own, although all things considered, it is still trashy.

I wouldn't recommend paying the extortionate Odeon Leicester Square prices to see this, but maybe when it's out on general release.

Sumit Guha.

BOOKS

Misery

Stephen King

Paul wakes up to find himself being orally raped by Annie. Is he shocked? Initially, yes, but this feeling subsides as he realises she is only engaged in such an act through her affection for him. Lucky man. You may think so, but think again. Why does a car crash in the Rocky Mountains result in his subjection to the kiss of life in this manner, bed-ridden in a perfect stranger's house?

Well it's like this. Paul Sheldon is a writer and the stranger, Annie Wilkes is several things, one of which is Paul's 'biggest fan'. Another is a mass murderess, but we can forgive her for that, it being an unfortunate but natural side-effect of being psychotic. Paul is unwilling to forgive her though and desperate not to be forced into early retirement despite already finding himself in her grisly little scrap book. Annie doesn't want Paul to retire either, yet. Oh no, she wants one more book, exclusively for herself. Then she'll help him retire completely.

Paul writes two types of books—good ones and popular ones. The popular ones recount heroic tales of Misery Chastain, a melodramatic character in an equally melodramatic nineteenth century England, and Paul hates them. The writer plays God in a story, He giveth and He taketh away, and in the latest episode, *Misery's Child*, Paul hath taken away Misery's life much to his own amusement.

Much to Annie's anger too. She wants her heroine back and proceeds to persuade Paul to comply. Persuasion comes in many forms—drugs, an axe, a blowtorch and not least of all, sheer brute strength. Annie has them all and Paul is about to learn what Misery really means.

Misery is typical Stephen King. The guts of the book is character development at a primitive level. To be precise, the first half is nothing

more. Two characters, one learning about not just the other but about himself also. True to form King tells his quickly captive audience the whole story immediately. We know Annie is crazy on page nine and a psycho soon afterwards, nothing less than a large female Norman Bates in fact. Just as Paul cannot check out of the Wilkes Motel neither can we opt out of the book.

Hidden in the book is a third character, King himself, present as Paul Sheldon's subconscious mind. The final third or so is largely Paul's thoughts on writing, life, and life as a writer, and how he is to escape Annie's tyranny and continue them. King reveals what must surely be his own opinions on those subjects (Annie excluded). Notably he

discusses 'the gotta' aspect ('I gotta finish this chapter before...') which separates popular fiction from good fiction. In drawing attention to this characteristic of best-sellers it seems that, to his own mind at least, Stephen King's twenty or so novels are undoubtedly popular but almost certainly not classics.

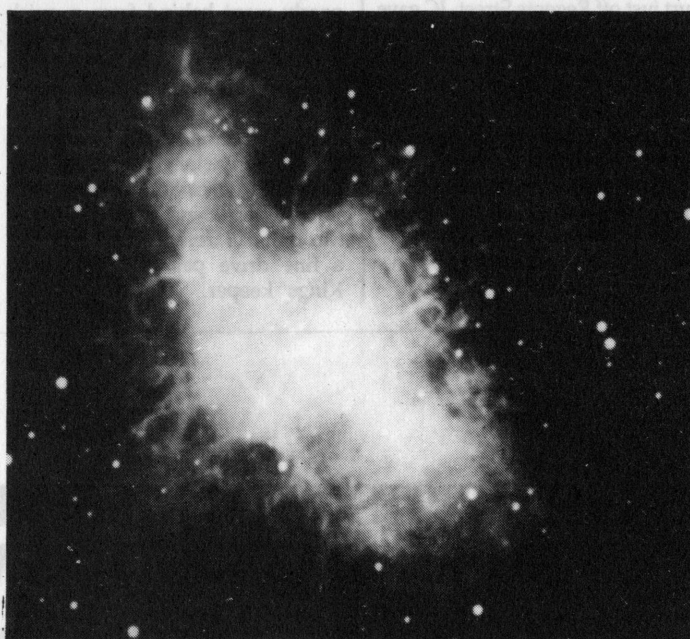
'Not true say I', but what of *Misery* in particular? It develops like several other King stories and is not only notably similar to *The Shining* but even references the Overlook Hotel directly. If you know King's style then the outcome is blindingly obvious, though that does not forbid a few surprises along the way. Certainly not. Making the narrative predictable in this way destroys nothing and, in fact, helps to grasp

the reader's attention. You know Paul eventually escapes but you want to guess how as early as possible and then keep reading to see whether you'd make a good Holmes or Poirot.

The best King book I've read is still *Salem's Lot*, and the newest release isn't really close, lacking the considerable depth and tension of the earlier work. It's 'unput-downable' for sure though, well endowed with 'gotta' appeal, and whatever else you may find it certainly doesn't provide any misery.

It is available now in hardback and from December in paperback also.

Andrew Clarke.



The Cosmos where did it come from ?

The Omega Point

John Gribbin (Corgi £4.95)

Cosmology is in a state of ferment, which is reflected in John Gribbin's

latest layman's explanation of the glamorous side of science. *The Omega Point* refers to the density of mass in the universe, omega, which assumes a value of unity if the universe is to expand to a steady state. If omega is greater than this, the universe will, sooner or later,

collapse to a 'Big Crunch'. This eventuality, and evidence to support it, and the consequences make up the greater part of this book, which is nevertheless very readable, as is all of Gribbin's work. The author has the ability to draw some quite pleasing analogies to explain the theories put forward, although I am left wondering sometimes if they are all comprehensible to someone without a strong physics background. Having read some of Gribbin's previous work (ie *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*) seems almost to be a prerequisite to understanding some sections which draw on Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, for example. As an explanation of the 'hairy mathematics' of cosmology, it does not bear comparison with the magnificent, but pricey *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking, but it covers a lot more ground at a price more suitable to the man on the Clapham Omnibus. Overall, I would say that I enjoyed reading this book, and it brought a lot of new and very interesting information to my attention. The back cover stipulates, however, that this is 'The Ultimate Book on the Ultimate Topic', which only warrants a dry cough and a whisper of 'I beg your pardon?'.

VIDEO

Asterix in Britain and the New Adventures of Mighty Mouse

'What on Earth am I doing reviewing cartoons?' was the question I repeatedly asked myself as I sat through a double bill that no toddler, let alone College student, would ordinarily sit through. Fortunately though, there are enough insane people out there to warrant such a review. I wondered whether this stuff would be a bit too immature for us sophisticated, responsible, young adults, but I guess there isn't anything that would not appeal to the undergraduate mentality.

I suppose I was justified in wanting to see *Asterix in Britain*, since I enjoyed the comic book so much. How would the clever jokes and wonderful fun-poking at the British be transferred to screen? The answer is they don't. Although the film follows the text of the book very closely, the pace of narration is so slow, and the voices incomprehensible, that the end product is just soporific dross. The animation is good but the jokes fall flat and the whole is a rather insipid and tedious affair (at over 75 mins long).

The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse is a different matter altogether. I haven't seen the old adventures but this series of ten minute cartoons are very fast moving and quite funny in places. They certainly woke me up from my Asterix induced stupor. The style of animation is refreshingly different too. I doubt any of you will go out and get a Mighty Mouse video, but if you come across it, and need some cheering up, why not give it a try? I don't believe I said that!

Sumit Guha.

FOOTBALL

Strong defence

Goldsmith's 1-0

Imperial College 1-4

A storming start to the season was made by the team with a resounding 4-0 victory against last year's league champions.

After a tentative start IC took advantage of the fluctuating weather conditions on the half hour when Nigel Collier scored the first goal from six yards after some good work from Pip Peel.

IC took the 1-0 lead into the second half and had to soak up some heavy pressure with Goldsmith's forcing several remarkable saves from the otherwise invisible goalkeeper Simon Holden. Some stout defence from Fisher and Dyson kept Goldsmith's at bay until on the hour. Phil Ewart scored a fortunate breakaway goal to take the result to relative safety.

From then on IC dominated the match adding two further goals from a delicate lob from Collier when Paul Olden put him through, and a storming volley from the man-of-the-match Simon Cole.

FOOTBALL

Kings College Hospital III-0
Imperial College VI-2

IC started their season with a well earned victory against a rather lack lustre Kings side. IC attacked the Kings' goal right from the kick off and were only thwarted by inadequate finishing and some fine goalkeeping by the Kings' keeper.

IC looked like going ahead when, after sustained pressure, a dubious penalty was awarded for a hand ball by a Kings' defender, but Hideo Takano decided to 'back pass' the ball to the keeper instead of putting it in the net and that chance went down the drain. Despite continued pressure after this anti-climax, the Kings' defence held out and IC nearly went behind from a quick break by Kings culminating in a 20 yard drive acrobatically tipped over the bar by Simon Turner, who spent most of the afternoon moaning that he had nothing to do, and would rather be anywhere but in goal. IC's deserved goal came just before half-time when they latched onto a through ball from the back to strike a fine drive past the advancing Kings' keeper.

MENS HOCKEY

A good sign

Imperial College 1st XI-2
QMC 1st XI-0

Following the trials last week, this was the long awaited first game of the season. Although it was only a friendly, several 'old hands' knew they would be fighting for their places in the face of some new talent.

The starting line up, however, was much the same as last year with Hari Vamadevan, the newly appointed captain, hoping for a good start to the season. And, what a start we had. Only twelve seconds into the game, after some sterling work from Max Michaelis, Hari scored our first goal of the season.

Although, at times, disjointed, the team in the first half did show some promise. To this end they managed to score again before half-time.

However, the second half was disappointing, with the team struggling to retain the control it had displayed in the first half. This could possibly be attributed to the half-time substitutes which left several players out of position.

VOLLEYBALL

A nervous start

Central London Poly-3

Imperial College-1

The hope and cheerfulness of a new season quickly evaporated last Friday as Imperial were taught what was required in the London second

division into which they were promoted in May. In a small, dark court just off Regents Street, IC gave one of their patchiest performances in recent years to go down by three sets to one to an ageing, but well drilled Central side. To be fair, there have been some problems for Imperial this October: the volleyball posts had been vandalised a month before, combining with a delay in repairs to mean that there was no training with a net until two days before this fixture.

ENGINEERS, PHYSICISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS ARE INVITED TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH ICI

Everyone at University has some idea of what they need from their first employer.

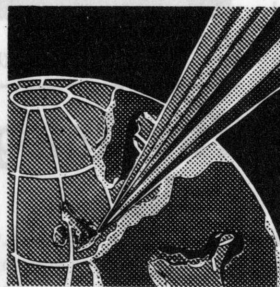
The problem is where to find the first job that matches your particular needs and ambitions.

ICI's three Christmas courses provide an ideal opportunity to find out more about a career in Control/Electrical, Chemical, Mechanical or Materials Engineering.

Attend our presentation on **Monday 31st October at 6pm** in the **Sherfield Building Ante Room**, where we will give you a taste of what the Christmas Courses involve and the careers they describe.

The presentation will also be of interest to anyone unable to attend a Christmas Course, but still attracted to a career in ICI, one of the world's most successful international businesses.

Beer and sandwiches will be provided!



ASTROSOC

We're still here!

Owing to a series of administrative errors last term we were unable to be at Freshers' Fair, but I would just like to say that Astrosoc is alive and well at IC.

This year we will have regular Tuesday lunchtime lectures at 1pm in Physics Lecture Theatre 2 (in the basement), beginning on Tuesday October 25 at 1pm with a lecture by Dr R C Smith from Sussex University.

SOCIALIST

Varied Views

As you might have seen, there are a number of right-wing groups in College this year and not many people to oppose them. The Socialist Society can bring together people with varied political views from Labour through to communist

In addition to these we hope to visit some places of interest to our members, such as the Royal Greenwich Observatory, and we may even get some observing done with our own refractor.

Membership this year is £1.50 and this entitles members to all events free of charge. If you have any questions concerning Astrosoc, don't hesitate to contact me, Daren Austin, via the Physics pigeonholes.



and anarchist. If you are interested and your political views can roughly be described as socialist please contact Ian Widdows, Physics 2.

AMNESTY

Adopted Prisoners

This week is Prisoner of Conscience Week, when Amnesty groups all over the world put special emphasis on their adopted prisoners.

Amnesty adopts people who are imprisoned for non-violent expression or their political or religious beliefs, or because of their colour, race or sex.

Imperial College Amnesty Group's prisoner is Alaattin Sahin, a chemical engineer in Turkey. During 1977 he edited a political journal called 'Halkin Yolu', or 'People's Way'. After the military coup in September 1980 he was charged with making communist propaganda and convicted, being sentenced to 36 years on appeal. When the journal was produced in 1977 it was legal.

It was fairly common practice after the coup for journalists to be charged for material they had produced prior to the military take over.

Amnesty International has no evidence that Alaattin Sahin ever used or advocated violence, indeed he was a member of The Turkish Workers and Peasants Party, a group opposed strongly to political violence, so AI have adopted him as a prisoner of conscience.

If you would like to write on behalf of Alaattin Sahin, please send courteous letters asking for his immediate and unconditional release.

Letters should be addressed to: Mehmet Topol, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Adalet Bakanlyi, Ankara, Turkey.

The Imperial College Amnesty Group meets every Tuesday at 5.30pm in the Brown Committee Room. For more information, contact Radha Chakraborty (Maths 2).

W.I.S.T.

Bra-Burning Feminists??

There will be a meeting of W.I.S.T. (Women in Science and Technology) on Monday October 24 from 12.30-1.30 in the Green Committee Room on the Top Floor

of the Union Building. The meeting is to discuss our programme of events for this year.

Apparently, in the past, members of W.I.S.T. had a reputation of being bra-burning feminists. This year, I would like to see the Society representing a larger proportion of women at IC. So don't be put off the Society if you're not a feminist—I could hardly be described as 'militant' myself. We are not a group of man haters either. In fact, men are perfectly welcome at our meetings, as long as they are genuinely interested in the issue under discussion.

This year's Committee are:
Chairperson: Lindsey Wishart
Treasurer: Sarah Liebert
Secretary: Jo Cocup

And finally, the Society depends on its members, so come along on Monday and see what you think.

JAZZ & ROCK

1, 2, 3, Testing

Many popular bands today have emerged from colleges and universities and one of the most successful (whatever your tastes), Queen, was from IC. Although the Jazz and Rock Club has not nurtured anyone quite so prolific in recent years, there is still hope. The Club is the place for musicians and would-be musicians who want to play and sing, outside classical constraints, or just thrash their leccy guitars.

The College are presently refurbishing a new rehearsal room in Beit, which the Club will equip with a drum kit, 150W PA, microphones, a digital delay, a Fender Rhodes piano and a new Roland D-10 digital synth. There is also storage room for members' equipment.

The Club arranges a gig every term so bands can perform with full PA and lights, and a member can also play at various other Union events. Last year there were more than ten bands rehearsing in the old Jazz Room; some getting out and gigging regularly, while others, very wisely, never left the confines of the room.

Anyone who would like to find out more, or join, should contact James Stewart EE 2, or come to the Union Lounge on Monday at 12.30-1.30.

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What's On

What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

FRIDAY

Fencing Club.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock.

Christian Union.....6.00pm
Room 308 OHC Computing. A talk entitled 'Holiness—what is it?'. All welcome. Buffet.

SATURDAY

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

Latin American Soc

Freshers Party.....8.00pm
Tropical food and music! Union Building Lounge. All welcome. Be our guest (£1.50) or our member (£2.50).

SUNDAY

Service with a smile.....10.00am
Sherfield Building. West London Chaplaincy's weekly service of communion.

Wargames.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room. All Welcome.

Kung Fu.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
RCSU Bar Night.....evening
Union Bar.

MONDAY

Brands Hatch

Motorcycle School.....??-??
Last chance before it closes. £26 including transport, bike hire, leathers, etc. Contact Amanda Woodcraft, Physics 3 or Nick on extension 4912.

Rock Soc Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come along and have a good time.

TUESDAY

Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.

Ski Club Meeting.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want a cheap ski holiday? Come and find out more.

Astrosoc Lecture.....1.00pm
Physics Lecture Theatre 2.

'Cataclysmic Binaries—a recipe for disaster'.

AIDS Update Lecture.....1.00pm
Great Hall, Sherfield Building. Dr Anthony J Pinching advises on AIDS. FREE.

Amnesty Meeting.....5.30pm
Brown Committee Room (top floor Union Building).

Lunchtime lectures.....1.15pm
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.

ICSF Film.....7.00pm
ME 220. 'Innerspace', 50p to members (membership £1.50).

WEDNESDAY

Hamsoc.....1.15pm
Imperial College Amateur Radio Society meeting for regular members and also prospective members.

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.

Wargames.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room. All Welcome

Kung Fu.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.

THURSDAY

Fencing Club.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock

Audiosoc Meeting.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records, tapes etc.

IC YHA Meeting.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone welcome.

Ski Club.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge.

ICSF Library Meeting.....1.00pm
Green Committee Room. Access to our 1000 book collection.

Soup Run.....9.15pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).

Commemoration Day 27 October 1988

Current students who want to attend the Commemoration Day ceremony can obtain tickets for balcony seats in the Royal Albert Hall, from the Union Office.

Imperial College Union

UNION GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 25th October
1pm in the JCR

MOTION:

Why are students having
to pay for an extra week
in Hall?

Small Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **To whoever** nicked my bag from the Union Gym changing room: the bag and the work notes in it are useless to you, please throw it somewhere it can be found (ie in Mech Eng). NB. For anyone using the changing room, there are TWO doors to it.

● **Wallet**—lost or stolen from IC Union Gym changing rooms between 6.30 and 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 October. If found please contact B Irons, Chem Eng 1 via departmental pigeonholes, or return wallet anonymously.

ACCOMMODATION

● **Double room**—available at Hamlet Gardens Head Tenancies, W6. £38 per person per week (not incl rent rebate). Apply to Student Services, 15 Princes Gardens or Matthew Bridgewater, 748 0577.

SITUATIONS VACANT

● **Part-time** barperson required for Holland Club—lunchtimes and some evenings. Ring Niel on 3902 or come to the Holland Club.

FOR SALE

● **1 pair** Vox Vedue PA112 speakers (80 watts). £130 o.n.o. Contact Martin Kinsey, Physics 2.

PERSONAL

● **IC Class War Group** announce the PC Blakelock memorial party. Bring your own meat cleavers.

● **Ex-film** star seeks new dance partner. Apply G Showbiz.

● **The corporation** is, It has focus, It has power, It has the tardis...It needs young individuals of a flexible nature for kinky electro-dog sex.

● **Third year** shark looking for new victims. Contact Ents President.

● **Who killed Simon?** and why is the FELIX Office so quiet? Penthouse.

● **'Two down, lots to go',** said Steph, but to whom was she referring? Answers on a postcard to PK LLO, The Penthouse Club.

● **It's alright**, Dai Williams isn't a werewolf. Penthouse.

● **Mr PK Spin**, Dive, Opposite Rudder, Full Throttle, pull out of dive and carry on to target. Penthouse.

● **'More women** than he can shake his stick at' (Dave Burns). Penthouse.

● **AAA—OOO** werewolves of Williams. Penthouse.

● **ALL** small ads and what's ons should be submitted by Monday 12.30pm

PG Tips

Time for a few words to all you Postgraduates out there from your man in the Union, the Postgraduate Affairs Officer, also known as the PGO. My name is Dave Clements, and I'm an Astrophysicist, to be found at the top of the Physics department, or on internal phone number 6681. Quite a few things are happening in the PG world at IC, and this occasional column is intended to keep you all informed.

First the good news, A large gathering, to which all PGs are invited, is being planned. Food and drink (alcoholic or not) will be provided, and various College and Union people will be attending. The idea is to introduce the PGs, so often left out in the cold, to all these people, and to allow us to communicate any problems we might be having to the men at the top, so that something can be done about it. Details of the event will be arriving through your pigeonholes soon, and FELIX will be carrying more about it as well.

Now for something a trifle more serious. We all know how difficult it is to find accommodation in London, but new UK PGs from outside London have even worse problems. They get no chance to stay in an IC run hall or house at all, and cannot even get booked in to such a hall over the summer while they do some flat hunting. I know of several PGs who have had problems, and would like to hear from any others. Foreign students who have fallen through the net and have not had places in IC accommodation I would also like to hear from. Moves are afoot to do something about this problem, and the more information we have about it the better. Drop me a line in the Union Office (put a note for the PGO c/o IC Union into the internal mail) and I'll see what I can do. The same applies, of course, to any other problems you might have.

The Royal School of Mines OPEN DAY



17th November 1988
From 10am to 4.30pm
Many visiting companies
ALL WELCOME

President's bit

Accommodation Crisis?

Over the past week a few people have been into my office to complain about their rents. I can sympathise with their problem but the facts surrounding the situation need to be considered.

Due to the strict financial regulations imposed upon the College by the Government, no public money can be used to support the residences. This means that new residences must be paid for by the students, through their hall bills in future years. In 1986 the residence stock was expanded and because of this the rents have had to go up. When Christine Taig was President she signed an agreement which limited the rises in rents and, to date, that agreement has been honoured.

The question of whether the charge for the twelfth week is fair,

or not, has also been raised. When this was raised at the Student Residence Committee meeting of the June 8 this year this was seen as a necessary evil and was passed with no objections. I am therefore bound by the Committees decision to support these extra charges. This is because last year's President was one of those who did not object. Only Union policy can change this. I am therefore asking people to pay their full rent charge, because if they don't, future students will have to pay more.

Welfare Survey

Next week each of the College's 5,500 students will receive a survey that is being run by the students' Union. A lot of time, effort and money has gone into this survey. This will all be wasted if you do not fill it in and return it. Please help us

to help you by completing your form, it will take half an hour at most, as honestly as possible by Friday November 4. There is no way results can be traced back to you so all the answers are totally anonymous.

Welfare '89 is the most ambitious welfare project ever to be attempted at this College. Its aim is to obtain a databank of information about you, the students of IC. This will then be used to show which areas need to be addressed in each of four week-long campaigns to be run throughout the year. Towards the end of the year the success of these campaigns will be measured.

Initial survey

Next week all the 5,000 students of the College will receive a survey questionnaire via their departmental pigeonholes. This questionnaire is not small and it will take time to fill in, I do not apologise for this. If we are to identify the needs of our students this must be done thoroughly and this survey is nothing if not thorough. When you receive your questionnaire you will see that a large section of it asks some very personal questions. Please answer these as honestly as possible since there is absolutely no way the answers can be traced back to the individual. Once your form has been returned to the box with your departmental messengers it becomes just one of up to 5,000 returned forms.

In the past these surveys have failed because people were not prepared to do the analysis to obtain the results. This year I have arranged for a market research company, to do this analysis. All we

need to do is 'idiot-read' the forms, that is go through them to make sure they make sense. We will need help to do this so if you want to be involved please contact me via the Union Office.

Campaigns

The information from these surveys will dictate the direction the campaigns will take. Some people have asked whether we need to educate our students at all. I will answer this by quoting the results of a recent straw poll of 100 of IC's students. 65 of the sample believed that you could get AIDS from giving blood. If you are someone who believes that this is true, then you need educating. If you are one of the 'educated' 35 per cent, don't get blasé, I'm sure that there is some misconception you hold that needs changing.

The campaigns are not aimed to preach at people, they are to increase awareness. I will be working closely with the local health education authority and so the media used will be interesting and varied. Some events already planned are; an IC AIDS day with doctors, drug companies and the Terrence Higgins Trust; a non-alcoholic bar promotion and a 'uses and abuses' quiz night.

Follow-up survey

In the Summer Term there is to be a follow-up survey to see if we have changed any attitudes. This will be much smaller than the first survey but more of that nearer the time.

I hope you will realise the importance of Welfare '89 and will give it your full support from the start by filling in your questionnaire and returning it by Friday October 4.

Nigel D Baker, ICU President.

DP's doobery

Timetabling

Do you know that the College has specific regulations on when lectures/labs/tutorials can be timetabled? It appears that some Departments are unaware of this.

No classes may be timetabled between the hours of 12.30 and 14.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Autumn and Spring terms, nor may any classes take place after 12.30 on Wednesdays throughout the year, according to College regulations.

So far this term I have uncovered two instances of courses where there are several lectures or labs occurring during the above mentioned hours, in direct contravention of College policy.

I heard about these problems because certain students approached me concerning them. They did not wish to approach their department directly for fear of academic reprisals. So if you are faced with a similar problem, whatever your department, please come and speak to me in confidence about the matter, so that I can take it up with the relevant people.

Sports Shop Sale

As a result of the move by STA into the old Sports Shop, the shop has

been relocated to the Jazz Room in the Union Building (just up the stairs from the Union Office), and will open from 11am to 2pm Monday to Friday. We have a large amount of stock which needs to be cleared. To this effect, the Union will be holding a sale of regalia, sports clothing and accessories in the JCR on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd November. More details nearer the date. To all club captains and chairmen: If there are any of you who have regalia in the sports shop, please can you see me as soon as possible.

Room Bookings

When clubs book rooms within the Union building or the JCR, it is their responsibility to ensure that the room is clean after use. If rooms are found to be untidy or need further cleaning then the additional costs will be deducted from the room deposit, and all future bookings will automatically be referred to the Exec. This may mean a delay of up to 2 weeks before subsequent bookings are confirmed. You have been warned!

Charles Brereton.

Uncle Ian

First, the what's on bit:

Tomorrow night sees the Annual Steer-Rides Conference in the Union Bar with suitably awesome country & western music.

On Wednesday there will be the second of our regular discos with a happy hour between 7-8pm.

As a result of enquiries about the video screen that was hired for Freshers' Week, the Union has decided to buy a 50" system for internal use. This will be made available to clubs etc on a hire basis in order that repayment to the Union Finance Committee can be effected as quickly as possible.

There are still certain aspects regarding security, hire charge, etc to be decided but please get in contact with me if you are interested in using the system.

I've noted that there have been a number of boat cruises recently and I think that a good discount could be achieved if they were booked centrally through the Union, particularly considering the high level of involvement of one cruise firm in other areas of the Union's activities. So if anyone requires a boat, come and have a word with Uncle Ian first.

Ian Morris, ICU Hon Sec.

News

IC Rent Strike?

A motion calling for the College to use the income generated by taking on more students to subsidise accommodation is to be debated at Tuesdays Union General Meeting (UGM). The motion states that the proposal should be taken to Governing Body and unless policy is agreed, it calls for a College wide rent strike.

The motion explains that the revenue generated by taking on more students is approximately equal to the extra cost of housing them. At the moment the College benefits from the funds brought in by increased student numbers but the bill for the required extra accommodation has to be paid for by increasing student rents.

Members of the College finance section and the Rector have been invited to speak against the motion.

Sources within the Union suggest that an amendment calling for the accommodation levy to apply to Overseas students only is being considered. Such an amendment, if taken up by the College is likely to lead to a reduction in the number of Overseas students at IC.

BR cheapy

British Rail have announced that the price of a Young Persons Railcard will be reduced by £5 to £10 from now until November 5 this year. The cards are available to most students and can give up to a third off rail fares.

Fishy Wishy

The Chairman of the Imperial College Governing Body, Sir Henry Fisher MA, officially opened Fisher Hall last Friday. Before unveiling a plaque, Sir Henry made a short speech. When speaking of his concern over the accommodation problem at IC he said 'If we can't house our students and lecturers they can't come.' He added that it was a 'rather pleasant experience' to have a hall of residence named after him.

Imperial & Mary's officially merged



Princess Anne announced an accommodation appeal fund for Imperial at the ceremony to celebrate the merger of IC and St Mary's Hospital Medical School (SMHMS) on Wednesday.

She spoke of the need for adequate accommodation for students, particularly for postgraduates.

She went on to emphasise the need for continuity, saying that 'traditional strengths would form the backbone' of the merged institutions, and said that the talent in both colleges indicated an exciting future.

The Rector of IC, Professor Eric

Ash, in his speech expressed delight at such an 'exhilarating occasion', while the Dean of SMHMS, Professor P Richards, referred to the 'academic excellence, intellectual and cultural diversity and the humanity and dedication' that would abound in the new College.

Imperial College Union President Nigel Baker welcomed the Chancellor's remarks on accommodation. He also said that although the Students' Unions of IC and SMHMS had not yet merged, they were working their problems out and that the merger would be complete by 1 August 1989.

Beit Hall joins the rent row

Residents in Beit Hall are considering joining Fisher Hall in a move to withhold the payment of part of their Hall bills. The students are angry that they were not informed of increased rents—12% greater than last year—when they accepted places in Beit. They are unhappy with the College's decision to charge for an extra week's rent over the Christmas holidays.

Two of the residents pinned a petition up in the Beit Hall Common Room on Monday night, asking for comments on the new rent levels. The petition has been signed by 31 residents who estimate 'reasonable' rent levels to lie between £30 and £35 per week as opposed to the current £37 per week.

As explained in last week's FELIX, the decision to charge an extra week's rent was taken by the Student Residence Committee in June. According to the College, the extra week's rent will mean that the students will be able to use their rooms as storerooms or accommodation for the three weeks over Christmas. In the past, say the residents, they were allowed to keep their property in their rooms without the extra week's charge.

One of the petition organisers told FELIX, 'If we get more than 50% support from the residents we will go ahead with providing a standard letter which residents can submit with their reduced rent'.

Amazing give away bonanza

The Times and National Westminster Bank have both launched competitions for undergraduates.

The Times is asking for essays on 'Trial by the media' and 'Is hunger for short-term profitability destroying British Industry?'. Their competition is primarily aimed at prospective lawyers and accountants. The first prize for each of the essays is £1000 and an Apple computer. For further details contact Francoise van Buuren on 01-831 8812.

The National Westminster Bank is offering a first prize of £1000 for the best essay on 'The Economics of higher education'. For further details, applicants should write to 'The Editor, National Westminster Bank, Level 37, National Westminster Tower, 25, Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1HQ

And finally...

Cries of indignation rang out from the College on Monday morning when Roy Hicks, Bookshop Manager, unveiled his latest holiday snaps. The shots were displayed on a computer console in the window of the bookshop.

'Its time to make a clean breast of the new bookshop marketing policies' said Mr Hicks referring to Union Manager Dave Peacock's latest plans for the outlet. Mr Peacock was reported to have said 'I think I've made a bit of a boob on this one.'

