



Felix

THE NEWSLETTER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

China: Students hold candlelit vigil

Thousands of students gathered outside the Chinese embassy on Wednesday evening to attend a candlelit memorial vigil for the students killed in Saturday's Tiananmen Square massacre.

According to police estimates, 4000 people, including delegations from Imperial and other London Colleges, turned up to pay their respects to the three thousand students who died in their fight for democracy in China.

The vigil, organised by the Chinese Solidarity Campaign, began at eight O'Clock with prayers for the dead in English and Cantonese and continued throughout the night with speeches of support calling for China to withdraw its troops and for the British Government to take action.

Actor, David Yip, read out the following message of support from Labour leader, Neil Kinnock.

'We urge our country to respect the deep concern of the many Chinese students in Britain who fear for the future if they are obliged to return to China in the next few weeks after completion of their studies.'

The vigil was moving and emotional, but many Chinese students were angered by the presence of socialist groups who were using the occasion to distribute leaflets and sell copies of Labour News and Socialist Worker.

University of London Vice President Louise Van Stratten told FELIX later 'Killing is not political. This was a memorial not a rally.'

Earlier in the day 1000 people attended a demonstration by the National Union of Students (NUS) in front of the Chinese embassy when petitions calling for an end to the violence in China were presented to embassy officials.

The Imperial delegation placed a wreath on the 'martyrs for freedom' memorial and passed a petition of 756 signatures (including the Rector Professor Eric Ash) to the police who handed it to an embassy official.

Speakers at the demonstration

urged British students to pressurise the Government to take economic and political sanctions against China and to give assurances of protection for those Chinese students who are about to complete their degree courses and for students from Hong Kong.

Laurence Wong, of the the Chinese Solidarity Campaign told FELIX that the British Governments silence on China amounted to the 'most callous inhumanity.' He condemned British politicians for not taking any measures to protect Britain's 2,600 Chinese students when President Bush has already offered sanctuary to America's 40,000.

The Solidarity Campaign was established in April this year when the problems in China first came to the fore. The organisation, based in Shaftesbury Avenue has been sending money to the campaigners in China via Hong Kong although lines of communication have now been severed.

Support by London's student unions for the students in China has been growing. Yesterday, as anxious students tried unsuccessfully to fax messages to relatives in China, the University of London Union (ULU) has pledged to provide publicity and administrative help to Chinese students campaigning against the atrocities in China and ULU President, Ruth Benzimera will present a paper to Monday's Collegiate Council, calling for the University of London to make a stance in support of Chinese students.

The paper will ask the University to waive fees for Chinese students in England should the Chinese Government suspend their grants and asks London Colleges to take the events in China into account when marking the Chinese



student's examination papers. It also calls for the University to exert pressure on the Government to extend the visas of Chinese students currently in Britain.

Students at Imperial College have signed 432 letters, which will be delivered to Sir Geoffrey Howe, calling for the British Government to openly condemn the actions taken by the Chinese Government and to take sanctions against China.

An account has been set up in the National Westminster Bank as a hardship fund for Chinese students at Imperial College, should their grants from China be cut off. The Students Union will be placing

collection boxes in the refectories today and next week whilst members of staff will be making their own collections.

A meeting for Chinese students and academic visitors has been called by the Rector next Thursday.

FELIX has received unconfirmed reports that one of the fifteen British students on exchange in China for London's School of African and Oriental studies has refused to leave the country in order to join student leaders in their campaign against the government.

No benefit whatsoever

Dear Mr Goodwin,

Your article on the Wright-Fleming Library of St Mary's Hospital Medical School has been drawn to my attention and I am afraid that you have been economical with the truth in quoting me. I said nothing of the kind—I could not possibly have said that the conversion was of 'no benefit whatsoever' because it clearly will benefit BSc students here and I explained to you over the phone. What is true is that I have campaigned against the closure of what has been a very useful microbiology-immunology library with a long tradition, for it was used by Almoth Wright and Fleming and their colleagues earlier this century.

I would be glad if you could publish my letter in the next issue: I would hate your journal to suffer the same fate as Private Eye!

Yours sincerely,
L Brent.

Your exact words were 'I objected strongly because it was of no benefit whatsoever; it was a most valuable library'. You can't sue a paper for printing the truth—Ed.

Green Dyl

Dear Mr Goodwin,

I have heard Dylan James is building himself a position at Imperial College as a Conservative.

In June 1987 our school held a mock election to coincide with the general election. Dyl stood as a Green candidate as the enclosed leaflets show. This would seem to represent a swing across the whole political spectrum.

I'm sure this will be of interest to you.

Yours,
An old school acquaintance of Dyl's.

Inflamed

Dear Bill,

Thank you for publishing 'my' letter in FELIX.

I regret to say that, following the events which occurred over the weekend of 27/28 May 1989, I may indeed have to take to patrolling Southside armed with a fire extinguisher. On Saturday 27 May at approximately 0140 a smoke detector was removed from its base on Level 3 of Staircase 3 in Falmouth Hall. Not content with having removed the detector the person (persons) concerned then completely removed one fire alarm bell and attempted to remove another, also on Level 3. The bell which had been removed had been twisted round and round until the pyro cable had broken. This action ultimately led to the zone card on the fire alarm panel failing (thereby removing any remaining alarm warning from the rest of the staircase) and affecting five other zones. An engineer from FACE was on site for five hours sorting out the mess and further work needs to be carried out to reinstate the alarm bells.

The actions of the person (or persons) concerned is criminal, and, if caught, they could face legal proceedings. In the meantime I will be billing the hall for the cost of the damages which will in turn be passed on to all the residents.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Gillett, Assistant Safety Director,
14 Princes Gardens.

Men!

Dear Bill,

Have you noticed the sad lack of **real masculine type men** in the recent intake of IC. It is distressing that as soon as the greasy, unwashed, pimply, heavy rock generation petered out, a mass of unmasculine underweight effeminate beat boys with earrings and Jason Donovan haircuts took their place.

Where is the satisfaction for three of us who enjoy **real shoulders, muscular thighs, BIG biceps (yum yum) and PERT buttocks**. We demand decent chest muscles well displayed by suitable tee-shirts. We demand well filled jeans (if you know what we mean). We demand slinky hips and we demand them now.

Yours,
Steph Snell and
Andy Bannister.

PS. Mike from Neighbours will do for me—Andy.

Serious

Dear Bill,

Why do IC make no provision for cohabiting couples? The enlightened approach of certain Cambridge colleges have shown that an unmistakable need for this type of accommodation.

Mature students in a stable relationship should surely be allowed to do what people who share rooms together normally do. Isn't it about time College started treating its students like adults?

The Accommodation Office should not be a moral arbiter for those it seeks to serve.

Your sincerely,
Nigel and Fiona.

Space filler

Dear Bill,

I must point out some errors in last week's 'Jesus Votes Monster Raving Loony' article. The title must have been a printing error. I am The Second Christ and I vote Tory.

While your article correctly concluded I am the Christ, I very much doubt it's author is truly my Father since he incorrectly identified Saton. True, Jason Donovan is a devil but Satan himself is much closer than Australia: he is in College. Yes, he is even in our Union Office, for he is Nigel our President!

Nigel, I hath revealed thee! Thou hast 'till noon of June 21st to banish thyself. This College ain't big enough for the both of us.

Yours,
Dylan 'The Christ' James.

Talking turkey

Dear Bill,

Will the reference to Phenominus D Turkey's article last week, I feel compelled to correct an obvious factual error in the above mentioned article. Mr Donovan, an actor in the Australian soap opera, was alleged to be a socialist. I denounce this as utter fabrication. I have proof in my possession which shows that Mr Donovan is none other than the leader of the National Front in Great Britain.

Yours,
A Nutter.

Grovel

Dear Bill,

I can't understand why anyone would want to write nasty articles and letters criticising Imperial College. I think that Imperial is absolutely wonderful, I have only ever had one boring lecture, and that wasn't all that boring, I love doing tutorial sheets and reports, and find I have plenty of time left over to spend socialising with the many women at IC.

Personally, I think that people who insult this beloved institution are being very naughty, they are obviously lying about it and, in my opinion, are not fit to be given the privilege of attending a university college with such an exalted reputation as Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. Therefore I think that they should be thrown out and sent to some inferior excuse for a university such as Cambridge.

Yours,
A Creep.

PS. Is this good enough to get me a 2:1 Eric?

Distraught

Dear Bill,

It makes me so angry when I'm sitting in the FELIX Office enjoying a relaxing cup of coffee after a hard exam and a megalomaniac sadist thrusts a pen and paper into my hands and asks me to write a spoof letter.

This sort of behaviour should be made punishable by death. This man must be stopped.

Yours,
A pissed-off FELIX hack.

Biromania

Dear Bill,

Why do you steal every biro I bring into the FELIX Office.

Yours penlessly,
Liz Warren.



Editorial

China

It would difficult in this editorial to condemn the Beijing massacre without being accused of jumping on to the rickety bandwagon of instant concern which politicians and student unions love to wheel out in moments of tragedy.

The reports from China are disturbing: the Government is in disarray, the army is split and there are rumours of impending civil war. Three thousand people have been killed, shot or crushed beneath the wheels of the 27th Army's tanks. Students have been shot in their beds at university halls of residence, their bodies piled up outside and burnt as the army fruitlessly tried to destroy the evidence.

London's student Unions, not least amongst them, Imperial College Union, have moved quickly to organise protests designed to cajole the British Government into more concrete protestations. Perhaps news of British support will filter through to students in China. But the reality lies thousands of miles away and no matter how vehemently we express our concern, or how vigorously politicians reproduce their stock expressions of condemnation, there is very little that the supporters of Chinese democracy can do other than to watch and wait.

Staff Photograph

Anyone who has contributed to FELIX this year should meet at 12.30pm in the FELIX office next Friday for the staff photograph.

FELIX Motor Rally

This year's FELIX motor rally will take place on Saturday June 17. We are looking for people to make up teams for the rally, which will take the form of a wacky treasure hunt. I am assured that every entrant is guaranteed a prize (did someone mention alcohol?) with stupendous prizes for the winning team. Teams can be a maximum of four people, but don't worry if you haven't got a car, bicycle, or rollerskates etc. Entry is £5 per team. Call into the office for more details. Registration is at 10am on the day in the FELIX Office.

End of term issue

There will be no FELIX next Friday, but instead, there will be a special end of term issue on Wednesday 21st June. There will be a collation party starting Tuesday lunchtime. Feel free to drop in for fun and frolics. On Wednesday evening there will be a champagne buffet for members of FELIX staff. Please sign the list in the office if you can make it.

Credits: Thanks to Dave Burns, Stef Smith for covering the vigil, Dave Williams for photographs, Dave Smedley, Shen Ning, Wilhelm, Jason Lander, Andy Clarke, Sumit Guha, MAC, Andy Clarke, Liz Warren, Dave Thomas, Adam Harrington, Ian Lodwick, Mike Morton, Rose for going wild with the typesetting, Dean Vaughn for staying late and all the collators. There will be a staff meeting today at 1pm ish to discuss the final issue.

Smallads

- **Churchill Leadership Expedition.** Vacancies for French, German and Italian. First half September. Pyrenees back packing. £165 includes travel. Experience not essential. Phone Hol Crane on 0603 54520.
- **Keyboard lessons:** Rock, blues, improvisation, MIDI. Hammersmith/Clapham (24-track studio with modern keyboard) first ½ hour free. Isabel 498 0781.
- **Wing Chun Kung Fu Club.**

1988/89 Session Awards Evening to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th June. All members to attend, bring kit and a camera if you wish.

● **Gear transport:** I will be hiring a van to get stuff home to Glasgow, probably on Sunday 18 June. Anyone interested in sharing space/driving to anywhere en route? Phone Colin on ext 81504.

● **Subwarden vacancy** in Southwell Hall. Application forms available from the Student Accommodation Office.

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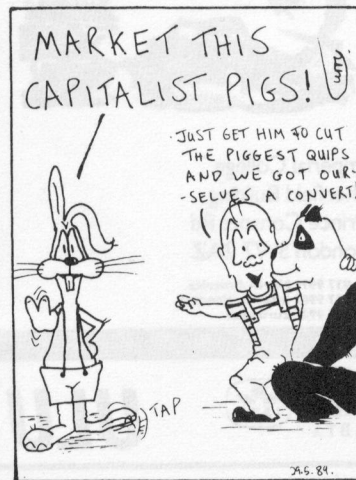
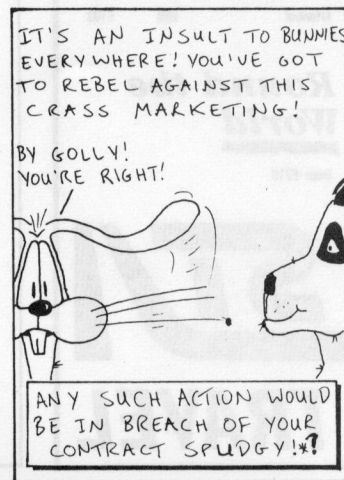
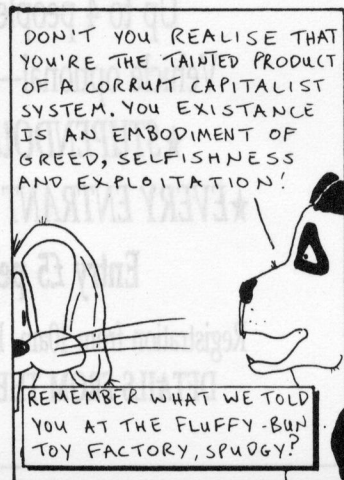
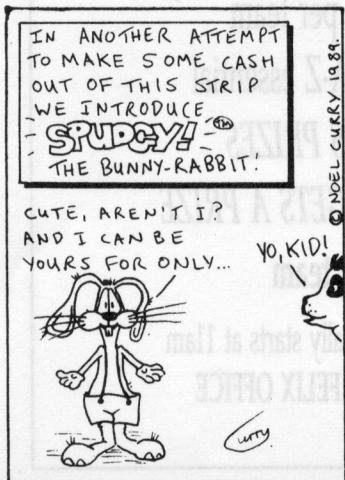
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It's that time of year again.....

It's that time of year again. You've got your pen in your hand and butterflies in your stomach and you're looking at a piece of paper. 'Answer three out of the following six questions', it orders.

You leaf slowly through the questions: 'possible... didn't revise that bit... or that bit... that one's O.K.'. You calm down a little: you're in the right room, doing the right exam. There's even an off-chance that the lecturer bothered to read his course notes before writing the questions.

You look for the gift question. Everybody knows that there's always a gift question: lecturers get very depressed if everyone fails their course; it's like a kick in the professorial ego. You continue to look. Question one... no, two... not really, three, four, five... no way, six... doesn't look like it. You seem to have been taught by the only academic who wears ego protectors. It's always a bad start to an exam if

you have to think.

No gift, so you attack the question you revised for. It takes three quarters of an hour, ten minutes longer than you allowed. You check it over...seems correct. It's almost a shock to realise you understood part of your course. You suppress a silly grin.

Next question. Seems quite easy at first, you trot quickly through the first half until suddenly you hit IT. Exhausted marathon runners hit what they call 'The Wall', when their legs give way and the ground jumps up and attacks. You've just found its academic equivalent. A mental alarm bell goes off. A little voice in your head starts shouting abuse at you: 'Whose bloody silly idea was it to do this question anyway?' it whines. Whoever it is inside your head is not going to let you live that one down.

You look up. All around you people are writing. 'Well, they know the answers!' nags your

tormentor. You polish off half the packet of POLOs that you left lying on your desk and start playing with your calculator. One plus one equals two, plus one equals three, square rooted gives a number you think you should recognise.

'I'm sure 1.73...something is a fascinating number,' interrupts your conscience, 'but haven't you got an exam to do.' That's the annoying thing about consciences: they may be right but they aren't half irritating. You straighten up, shake your head and put your brain back into gear. You mentally rev up for the next question. It's as if you start to hear the Grand Prix theme playing in the background.

An imaginary Murray Walker natters away at the back of your mind. 'And they're off. It's Examinee as he winds his way past the first proof and, yes, he's made it. He takes the waffle answer at full speed. And he's through. Put in the values. Easy. The atmosphere here

is electric, and yes, as he turns the final corner through the practical applications he's on to the home straight. Nothing can stop him now. The question is as good as over! And... disaster!. He's crashed on the final section. This is terrible, catastrophic' You splutter to the end of the question with ten minutes to spare.

What do you do in ten minutes? Obvious, try the second question again. Staring at it doesn't help. Scrawl a few notes. Still nothing and there's just two minutes to go. Suddenly it clicks. That's how it's done. Bloody obvious. You pick up your pen and... 'Time up' smirks the invigilator.

Your papers are collected. You pick up your pens and leave the room. All around you everyone looks equally depressed. You're all in the same boat. Unfortunately it's half way up Shit Creek and someone's just lost the paddle.

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DETAILS FROM THE FELIX OFFICE

Heroes in Beijing

An opinion by Shen Ning

The last weekend has seen unprovoked indiscriminate murdering of students, workers and other innocents on the streets of Beijing, the full horror of which has only just been touched upon by the newspapers and television. The army is still firing at people on the streets and Beijing is now a killing field. The behaviour of the Chinese government and army is not only an offense to our beliefs in democracy but also totally inhumane.

As a group of British and overseas research students we feel that we along with all students at IC need to act now in support of our fellow Chinese students and the Chinese people. We understand that we should not interfere with the political struggle within the Chinese government. But we must express our strongest condemnation to the Chinese government for the killings of the peaceful student demonstrators and innocent people passing the street.

In order to know more about the events happening in China we interviewed Shen Ning, the spokesman for the Chinese Students and Scholars Association in the UK, who is one of the organizers of the recent protesting marches and demonstrations in the city of London.

Q: I know that you come from Beijing yourself but who are the people that CSSA represents?

SN: CSSA is the organisation for students from the People's Republic of China, which stands for Chinese Students and Scholars Association. It has branches in universities throughout the world. The majority of members of CSSA (UK) are sponsored by the Chinese government or the British Council. There are about 150 Chinese students and academic visitors in Imperial College at the moment.

Q: What are the feelings among the Chinese students in UK about the killings in Beijing?

SN: Everybody is greatly shocked and deeply mourning. Many of us couldn't believe the blood-bath we saw in TAM Square on TV. This fascist activity is the greatest crime in China's modern history. We denounce the Li Peng government and strongly condemn the

government's slaughter of innocent students and people.

Q: Have you been able to contact your family in China? What is their response?

SN: Yes. I called my family in Beijing several times in the past few weeks but in recent days I could not get through. Some friends of mine, however, did manage to call their family in Beijing as well as in other cities. The people in Beijing were in shock and in great fear for the massacre. But people in other cities do not fully realise what's happened in Beijing since the state controlled media tell lies. The truth is gradually spreading over the whole country and demonstrations and workers' strikes are seen in many cities.

Q: Under the current circumstances, what action can you take here?

SN: The most important thing at the moment is to stop the army killing the people. We have protested against the Chinese government's repression of its people by organising demonstration marches and rallies.

More than five thousand people joined the march on 21 May when martial law was declared and many thousands marched to the Chinese embassy last Sunday to protest against the killing. We have appealed to the British government and the general public to show their support to the students in China and to condemn more strongly the present Chinese government's barbarism. We are calling the whole world to take every possible action against the Chinese government. We also realise that it is critically important to let all people in China know the truth. We have been sending material that describes what's happening in Beijing to many people in China by FAX and letters. We believe if the people in other parts of China know the truth of Beijing's massacre, they will unite and fight against the government. We ask for generous donations for those died and injured.

Q: As students in a western country, we are deeply inspired by the courage of the Chinese students that they are risking their lives for demands of democracy. From your point of view,



Shen Ning, the leader of CSSA in IC and the spokesman of CSSA UK, is doing postdoctoral research in the Physics Department.

what is the best way that we can help Chinese people?

SN: I appreciate the concern and the moral support of students here. I think it would be most helpful if British students and the public could press the British government to take tougher measures against the Chinese government. I was glad to see that many IC students and staff have signed the petition demanding further government action on Wednesday. Also writing to MP's or other cabinet ministers will help.

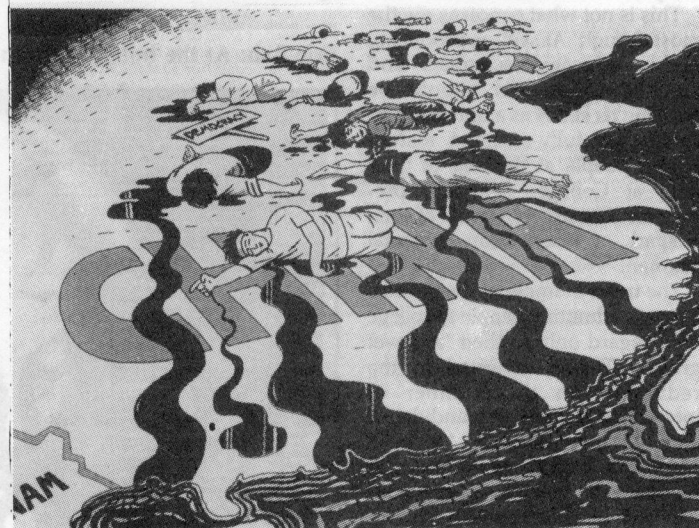
Q: There are reports about the possible split in the Chinese army. Is there any possibility of a civil war in China?

SN: It would be encouraging if these reports have been confirmed. However, it is certain that army

leaders are divided on the way the demonstrators should be dealt with. It is too early to suggest that a civil war could happen; I would be inclined to see a military coup against the hard liners.

Q: Suppose Li Peng and the hard-liners hold their power with the help of troops this time, Do you think it will lead to massive arrests and execution of demonstrators?

SN: That would definitely be the consequence and China would enter its darkest era. Student leaders and intellectuals are the first to be purged. But even if it happened I am sure that they would not last long and a bigger and more powerful revolution would soon overthrow a fascist government such as the one now in China.



Death on the streets.

“So long..... and thanks for all the beer”

Once upon a time, there was a fresher who sat in the Rector's reception for the 1986/87 session of Imperial College. He was bored stiff. The Rector told him to go out once or twice to the theatre, get involved in a club (singular), and not to get stuck in some 'God forsaken factory in the North'. The fresher went to sleep after that.

Three years later, and I am about to graduate from this hallowed shrine of academia. I have seen enormous changes in three years at IC, changes which I find depressing and have prompted me to outline what I see as the writing on the wall for Imperial College, as something special in the world of higher education.

Sydney Harbour-Bridge has already written at length in the pages of FELIX on the academic climate at Imperial and I agree with nearly all of what he has said. Imperial College's role is to produce scientists and engineers for industry. It is arguable as to whether or not it is doing this as, although I can see so many going into the world of finance after their degrees, I would not consider my own experience to be wide enough to extend this to all those leaving Imperial. However, it would be fair to say that a disproportionate number of graduates are entering fields other than those covered by their degrees, or remaining in the ivory towers of academia.

This is not what concerns me the most though. As well as producing highly educated scientists and engineers, Imperial should be fulfilling its status as a university by turning out fully rounded, mature young people at the end of their time at College, not dull, pre-pubescent teenagers, devoid of even a spark of imagination or social acumen.

The trend in Imperial seems to be towards admitting people to college with regard only to their 'A' level grades. This is reflected in the reduction on the number of interviews held with candidates, and the trend towards 'A' level entry requirements regardless of the candidate. It is not the sort of system which gives a good social balance to an institution, it merely ensures all

the places on courses are filled by somebody, anybody. Say what you like about Oxbridge, at least their elitist attitude towards entry requirements means that there is actually competition to get into the place. It implies that Oxbridge is something special. If you attend an interview with a group of people, and the only selection process is being sat down in a group, chatted to for 15 minutes, told that you're all being offered two C's, the impression is hardly one of an establishment which is taking an interest as you as a person. Anyone who thinks that they can determine whether or not a candidate will make a contribution to college in all areas purely on the basis of their UCCA form is entirely deluded. Yet this is what Imperial seems to believe is the best way of selecting the people who are effectively going to represent the College after their degrees, and in theory keep the candidates coming in when they have left.

If, as I believe, Imperial is a unique institution, worthy of its reputation for excellence, should this not be reflected in the care with which it chooses its students? You wouldn't believe it from the lackadaisical attitude they currently have on admissions. Surely there should be some effort to filter a balance into the system. We need the best academics, but we also need the sportsmen, the socialisers, the

doers, the people who are going to make the place a community which will attract the best, and turn out the sort of people industry needs. When a student is admitted to Imperial there should be a symbiotic relationship. Imperial should give a full and relevant education for which they get a student who will be a credit to the academic reputation of the College, and the student should be able to enjoy all the aspects of life which will make them a full and mature individual. Were Imperial to admit only those guaranteed to disappear for three or four years, emerge after this period to sail off with a first, and be none the better for it as a person, then we would very rapidly have bugger-all reputation.

Student life, College's attitude towards their students and the Students' Union itself, have all changed markedly during my time at College, following trends which have their roots firmly embedded in the current political climate and those in charge of Imperial.

The first person people meet at Imperial, and the person ultimately responsible for all that is Imperial, is the Rector. I find Eric Ash's attitude towards the student populace sadly lacking. His reception speech, which must be lodged in some sort of unerasable mental ROM, is hardly guaranteed to set the neurones of new student firing with enthusiasm and

anticipation. It seems that he believes students should be the guardians of the odd Victorian values of scientist as artist, spending time expending their minds onto higher artistic plains, visiting museums, the theatre, art galleries and the like. If, in addition they are good at rowing, all the better. Work hard, and occasionally get out there and enjoy a few of the delights of London, this is the message.

He sadly passes by the traditions of Imperial which make it so unique. Imperial is a strange assortment of genius in all spheres, oddly planted in one of the wealthiest areas of London. It should be a community just as a campus university is. Why doesn't he emphasise student activity around College? Why no plug for the Union? Maybe he just doesn't have a feel for the place. There are so many people with talents outside their academic courses who seem to receive little encouragement from the top. The Rector has declined to write items for FELIX this year, he is rarely seen down with the 'troops', he seems reluctant to make contact with the very people who he is relying on to make the reputation of Imperial. This is not some sort of glorified Grammar School, it is a place where people come to achieve their full academic and social potential. Treat the students like sixth formers, and you will get sixth formers. Behave as a headmaster, and that is how people will perceive you.

Few people who come here nowadays seem at all interested in the history of Imperial. Most are what I would consider inverted Luddites. All that has come before must be destroyed, everything must be set up a new, in their own image. Students seem less and less interested in fitting in, more and more with changing things to their own preferences. I may seem reactionary, but it has to be acknowledged that it is the past which gives an institution a reputation. When a student leaves for the great wide world, they will rapidly find that much in the world is already laid down and they are not going to burst onto the scene and change it all. They are going to

Eric Ash: At the hub, or left on the sidelines?



have to fit in. This attitude is seen in the College hierarchy. At a time when alumni are being tapped for money and interest in Imperial, up comes a proposal for merger with RHBNC and a complete change in the nature of IC. All this is promoted by perceived harsh economic realities, but is considered sacrilege by those who have gone before, prompting petitions in College, and a large quantity of mail from irate alumni. I consider it insensitive at the very least.

What of Imperial College Union? Faced with a College that is less and less willing or able to consider the needs of students, from funding of the Union to the simple provision of decent cheap roofs over their heads, what have they done?

When I arrived at College, IC Union had probably the last of the 'student' executives. The Union structure was rapidly heading towards the professional money making attitude it has now, where all seems devoted to running profit making outlets, and little towards personal contact with students. Christine Taig still ran a Union which was controlled by the sabbaticals and aided by the permanent staff who did most of the donkey work and provided continuity from year to year. Now we have handed our birthright over to paid Union managers and accountants. Although I realise that the fact that the Union has taken over the running of these outlets means that these people are needed to keep things going, I wonder whether we have lost much of the feeling of a 'students' Union in the process. The sabbaticals are more and more concerned with running this side of things, and ensuring the money rolls in, and less with getting down and meeting students and actually listening to them. Students should be getting a good deal out of the Union. If they were, the Snack Bar and Union Bar would be packed every night. They are not.

Much of this is due to the sabbaticals we elect. In my three years at College, the only President I have seen with the force of personality to achieve what he set out to do is Sydney Harbour-Bridge. I dislike many of the changes he brought about last year, but at least he had the strength of character and the guts to get what he wanted done, and stand up to College. Christine Taig did not set out to change the world, so the world was not changed. She was honest and accountable and the Union was seen to act for students. Sydney Harbour-Bridge went all out to kick arse and change things. They changed dramatically. He always asked the opinion of the students, and he

Is Imperial dying by degrees?

Dave Burns takes a look.



Nigel D. Baker: Sod the rest of the world?

represented those opinions well. Nigel Baker set out to do what Nigel Baker wanted done, and sod the rest of the world. Fair's fair, he's worked hard, but he has schemed and intrigued his way through the year. The atmosphere in the Union seems to me strained and unwelcoming. Students are not informed of what is going on through the pages of FELIX because sabbaticals have become locked in petty personality clashes. The depressing catalogue continues.

By now you're probably thinking, 'Yeah, why aren't they doing enough for me?' The sad fact is that the student body is as apathetic as the politics in the Union Office is Machiavellian. Clubs are healthy, true enough, but few seem interested in putting in the hard work required to run ICU and the CCUs on a day-to-day basis. As long as the subvention from ICU turns up, then people are happy. They

seem happy to play sport once a week and get on with their courses. There is a lot more to a student union than just participating in your little but and forgetting that your help might be appreciated in other areas. Rag, Ents, Academic Affairs, the numerous committees all need a high level of student input. At the moment most of these activities are supported by a dedicated few. (For example: RCS Rag's £18,000 Rag total has been raised by a group of about twenty 'hacks'.) Students appear massively introverted and unconcerned with anything outside their sphere of friends. College encourages Hall entertainments with amenities subventions, so people become wrapped up in a limited area and never need emerge from their place of residence. It is eminently possible to arrive at Imperial and never emerge from your dwelling for anything other than lectures. What a marvellous

time they must have at College. For three years you can experience the company of a limited number of people and really get to know about life! A friend of mine recently gazed around the Physics leaving party and commented, 'God, what a group of social spastics.' An extreme view, but one with a good basis in fact. If, after three years in College, people are leaving untouched in anything other than their ability to absorb dry facts, then Imperial is failing miserably as a university.

My worst nightmare is that Imperial should become just another university. It has a brilliant history, a brilliant academic tradition, some of the most talented minds in the country, and in the past a wonderfully committed student population who made it a pleasure to go to IC. With increasing apathy, the rising cost of actually living here, and College's lack of appreciation of the needs of students, and the contribution which students can make, the slide into mediocrity can only continue. IC needs the best. It should actively seek out and select the best.

As for my own feelings on leaving Imperial, I can only conclude by saying I have fallen in love with the place, warts and all. I have probably got a reasonable degree out of my time here, and made scores of friends. I have had the opportunity to meet people from over 65 years of IC's history, and actively participated in many aspects of the Students' Union. My course is one of the easier at Imperial, so maybe I have had more time than many, but I doubt it. As a sponsored student all my vacations have been spent away from the UK, with little opportunity to cram in work I had not done in term time. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. I only hope that in the future the powers that be will get their heads banged together, and people will begin to appreciate that Imperial is a very special place. However, you can't just sit on your backside and hope that IC will continue to remain vital. This is something which requires as much work as it takes to get a degree.

It will only happen if you make it happen!

David Burns
RCSU Asst. Hon. Sec. 1987-89



Child's Play

Cert. 15

I have always found the sight of dolls unsettling; the sickening smile, that fixed plastic expression, and those flicking eyelids. It was only a matter of time, then, that the horror genre would latch on to their potential scare.

Unfortunately, in *Child's Play* this chance has been missed due to a ludicrous plot, and a misplaced emphasis on trying to make the doll act as human as possible through a swamp of special effects.

Chucky is the doll in question, aka Charles Lee Ray, a mass murderer and, get this, a master of the metaphysical art of soul transference. Just before being pinned down by the police in a toy shop he calls on the forces of darkness to plant his soul into a nearby doll. A mother (Catherine Hicks) buys the doll for her six year-old kid and then the fun starts. The doll decides to start killing people when it's so inclined and, of course, the dum-dum authorities believe they have a psychopathic kid on their hands, so they lock him up. Chucky then decides that he wants to be human and to do this he has to kill the boy. So it is left to the mother and a token good guy cop (Chris Sarandon) to try and save the day.

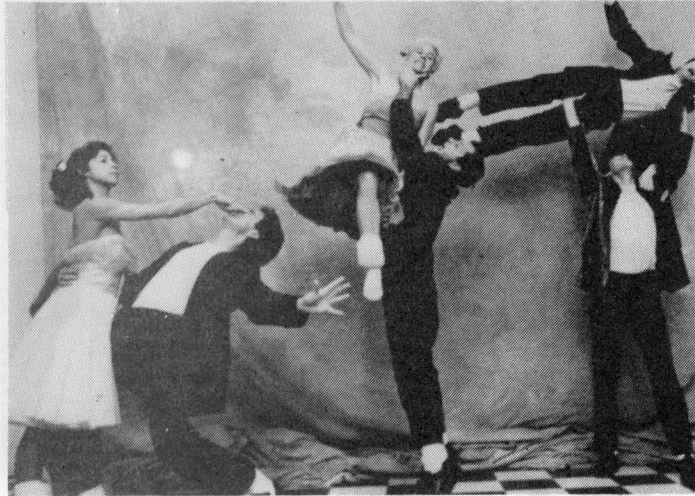
The film lacks any psychological subtlety which in the hands of a good director may have made it into a masterful example of suspense and horror. Instead, as is the tendency these days with the genre,



Pilobolus

Sadler's Wells

I was informed that *Pilobolus* is the name of a hardy, hermaphroditic fungus that thrives on horse manure, with that in mind I didn't quite know what to expect from this



film-makers play on the silliness and absurdity of the plot, making the excuse that it's really a comic send up. I found myself laughing throughout, but for the wrong reasons. You know something is wrong when the acting of the 6 year-old kid is far superior to that of the adult cast.

I guess this is the type of film to see when you've had a few pints and the inside of your skull feels like gravel pulp.

Sumit Guha.

internationally established dance theatre company. I knew it would be strange; modern dance always is. But I was quite unprepared for the surreal dream-logic imagery, and contortion of the body into a wonderland of striking and comedic motion.

The six member team performed five pieces. The first, *Bonsai*, was a short exercise in sexual ambiguity, metamorphosis and illusion, to the rhythm of mixed African tribal and Oriental tones. The fusion of bodies into the strange shapes was fascinating to look at.

The second piece *Moonblind* was a solo performance by the incredibly talented Carol Parker. It was a dreamy, sensual dance played to a whining solo clarinet. The first half is then rounded off with a jazzy number to which clownish runners fall about each other, emphasising the rapid pace and impersonal nature of today's society.

The second half consisted of two longer, more involved, and very enjoyable pieces. *Land's Edge* was a surreal reworking of the good samaritan tale, or at least that's my interpretation of it; and *I'm Left, You're Right, She's Gone* was just Rock 'n' Roll fun with guys and gals and the sound of Elvis. These two were more theatrical pieces and were a joy to watch.

I'm sure this form of expression will not meet everyone's liking. Still, I found it an enjoyable evening of fractured beauty and confusion. The dancing is remarkable—part acrobatic, part mime—and the physical control displayed is almost painful to watch.

The company will only be around until June 17 so why not go and experience their warped, provocative, free-wheeling imagination?

Standby tickets are available at £4.
Sumit Guha.



As You Like It

Rose Tavern, 86 Fulham Road

It may not be the Old Vic, but it is within walking distance and it is over a Fuller's pub. If you can't make it to the real thing, then this makes a good substitute, mercifully

for the fringe, sticking closely to Shakespeare's script. The cast perform capably enough, with David Solomon outstanding as Touchstone. It's a shame about the set, though. The modern dress is passable, but the dreadful matt black and grey scenery makes one feel that the enemies might not just be winter and rough weather, but the police coming to move everybody on.

B A Costello.
(225 2501 for booking)



Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Remember *Bedtime Story* with David Niven and Marlon Brando? No, nor do I. Well, here is the remake of that 1964 flop, now starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin, and it will almost definitely be a hit.

Caine plays a suave, aristocratic European con-man, swindling rich corruptible American women out of their unearned cash on the French Riviera. Martin is a crude, small-time American hustler who joins

Caine, masquerading as his retarded relative Prince Ruprecht (a role that allows Martin to go totally over the top in a way we haven't seen since *The Jerk*). Subsequently, the two fall out and then begins a battle of wits to determine who gets to stay on to scavenge the rich coastal town.

This is a charming comedy, with the two stars in excellent form. They are joined by Glenna Headley as 'the bet'—the first one who extracts \$50,000 from her wins...the other leaves town. There are twists and turns all over the place and it's all great fun.

Frank (Yoda) Oz directs with an assured hand emphasising the gorgeous splendour of the settings. In all, a delight.

Release date 27th June
Sumit Guha.





Hamlet

National Theatre (Olivier)

Hamlet is Shakespeare's masterpiece. The most emotionally and intellectually engrossing of plays, it deals with the individual's search for a purpose and an identity, the angst associated with youth, the uncertainties of the mind, the exploration of morality and the yearning for motivation and resolve. All this is expressed through the central character Hamlet, the Black Prince.

Richard Eyre's production at the National is everything the play should be—spectacular, sinister, intelligent and mysterious. We look upon a majestic sprawling set. Large walls, representing the castle corridors, fold away revealing the voluminous recesses of the theatre, a courtyard with a massive statue of the late King of Denmark, behind which his ghost walks amidst billowing clouds of smoke.

The costumes of the court are colourful and ostentatious, but at the same time the mood is sombre enough to give a credible atmosphere in which Hamlet can deliver his five soliloquies.

The play is foremost about revenge. Hamlet is a young prince summoned by the ghost of his father, the late King, to avenge his murder by his brother Claudius, who now reigns with the Prince's mother Gertrude as Queen. The great part of the play deals with Hamlet's efforts to do this. He swings between indecision and resolve, fiercely rebukes his mother,

and stabs to death the father of Ophelia, the girl he loves, who then goes mad and drowns.

In the end, Claudius plots for Hamlet to be killed in a duel between him and Ophelia's brother, Laertes. In the thrilling sword-fighting finale the fate of all the characters is determined.

Daniel Day-Lewis takes on the lead role and proves himself to be

a very impressive actor indeed. My initial uncertainty about him in the role dissolved as the many layers of Hamlet's character emerged. His deep brooding brow gives him a powerful presence and the way he feigns insanity for sanity's sake is deftly handled.

One always identifies with Hamlet. He is the focus of all our uncertainties. His anguished and painstaking deliberations seat at the soul. The most famous soliloquy ever, 'To be or not to be...' spoken when he considers taking his own life, expresses the agonising indecision that is a part of his nature, and it is performed with such passion by Day-Lewis that it almost brings a tear to the eye.

He is given excellent support by Michael Bryant as Polonius, the father of Ophelia, and John Castle as Claudius, but Judi Dench makes a diffident Gertrude.

At 3¼ hours, the play is extremely long (the first half alone is nearly 2½ hours). However, I found myself enthralled by the set, the acting and the power of the play. As C S Lewis said of Hamlet—he is a 'man whose words make us at once think of loneliness and doubt and dread, of waste and dust and emptiness, and from whose hands as from our own, we feel the richness of heaven and earth and the comfort of human affection slipping away.' It's a great play—don't miss it.

Hamlet continues at the National Theatre through to August.

Sumit Guha.



Clara's Heart

Cert. 12

Clara's Heart marks Whoopie Goldberg's return to serious films. After her last dramatic role as Celie in Spielberg's *The Colour Purple*, she made a series of third rate 'nothing' movies that only served as vehicles to propel her into obscurity.

Clara's Heart focuses on the relationship that develops between Clara Mayfield (Whoopie Goldberg) and David, a precocious, angst-ridden kid (Neil Patrick Hams). Clara is a know-it-all, seen-it-all Jamaican woman hiding a deep dark secret, which the film withholds from us until we've lost interest and don't really want to know anymore. David is just a bullied teenager who can't pick up girls. At first he resents

the intrusion of the new housekeeper Clara, but when his parents begin to break up after the death of a baby daughter, it is only Clara that gives him the attention and guidance that he needs.

The film starts well enough with impressive shots of a Caribbean island, but then the music becomes more and more monotonous, the plot becomes more and more tedious and the kid becomes more and more unbearable.

Each scene is swamped in sentimentality that would make any sane person nauseous. It is obviously supposed to be a tear jerker, but by the end one is just fed up of the barrage of oversentimental codswallop and dire piano musak. It's like sitting through two hours of elevator music.

You would have thought that Hollywood would have grown out of making such schmaltzy crap like this, but someone somewhere thinks that to make a tear jerker, one has to patronise the audience in a very conceivable way. Avoid.

Sumit Guha.

The Double-Bass

The Man in the Moon Theatre, 392 King's Road.

This two act monologue by Patrick Suskin explores a day in the life of a professional double-bass player. He paces around his apartment apparently too bored to practice his instrument and, in the good company of a bottle of wine, proceeds to reveal his thoughts on all matters musical.

The double-bass not only dominates the rather spartan set but, as the title implies, occupies our musicians mind for much of the play. The two have a curious relationship. He first passionately argues his case that the instrument is the most important of those in the orchestra. Suddenly his position changes and he launches into a frenzied denigration of the bass's attributes by exposing the 'buzzing tone' that even he, third bassist in the National Orchestra, can never

improve upon.

The other main focus of his attention is Sarah, a young soprano in the National Opera. During much of the second half he relates tales of his attempts to be noticed by her. However, he is also actively planning a final outrageous act which will surely imprint his image on her brain forever! The seeming impossibility of their meeting is matched by the gulf between the highest pitched voice and the lowest sounding instrument.

Ron Berglas gives a fully convincing performance of the neurotic musician alternating between dark despair and intense passion. He is supported by a wonderful script of extremely funny anecdotes and vitriolic observations. If your preconceived notion of a monologue is that of an actor droning on about some boring topic then take a trip to the Man in the Moon Theatre. Be prepared for a surprise.

Jon Wood.

(351 2876 for booking)

Another branch of Imperial

Imperial college acquired Silwood Park in 1947 to replace the original much smaller field station in Slough. Other than the Reactor Centre which was purpose built, the Biology Department at Silwood was operated on a 'split site' basis in Silwood House, Ashurst Lodge and odd outbuildings including the Shell Building built in 1988.

About five years ago, following major UGC grant cuts, the College decided that if operations at Silwood were to continue then the site would have to pay for itself insofar as was possible. Therefore the Science Park was built with the Technology Transfer Centre where small companies develop new products often in collaboration with College departments.

Also on site is the UK headquarters of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Institute of Biological Control which has a joint library facility with the Biology Department. This library is situated in the CAB building and is a major asset to students and staff at Silwood housing the old Silwood, and Ashurst libraries and the Commonwealth Entomological Library that was previously located in Queensgate London. CAB has facilities on-site for the importation, screening and breeding of pathogens and parasitoids under quarantine conditions for use as biological control agents. The new biology blocks were built with the proceeds from the sale of Ashurst Lodge and four associated acres of



land.

Silwood has about thirty academic staff, eighty non-academic staff and about ninety postgraduate students. It is used for field courses by the biology and engineering departments and also by other colleges, eg the intercollegiate London University Field Course in Parasitology.

The last open day at Silwood was in 1972. The aim of this open day

was to show local inhabitants, local schools, people from industry and the research council's academics from other universities and academic and administrative staff at Imperial the new buildings at Silwood and the work currently being conducted here.

Mike Hassell FRS Director of Silwood Park believes that the future for operations at Silwood is extremely good. Work should start

this autumn on the building of the Interdisciplinary Centre in Population Biology and this with current work already conducted at Silwood will make it the world's premier centre for ecological research.

Many thanks to Mike Hassell FRS for his help

Dave Thomas.

HOCKEY

Imperial spirit lives on

This Easter members of the Imperial College Hockey Club Men's XI competed in the Folkstone International Hockey Festival. Wearing T-shirts kindly donated by Vladivar Vodka bearing the motto 'The Imperial Spirit Lives' the team had a difficult start losing to Edinburgh University Old Boys.

Centreforward Paul Skipworth slid out of the tournament, breaking his leg in a particularly fierce tackle and before IC played the traditional grudge match against the 'Windy Millers', IC Old Boys side, losing 1-0 in a tight match. Regaining their winning ways they defeated the host side, the Folkestone Pessimists 3-2 and then drew against York University. In the penalty shoot out that followed goal keeper Jon Briggs



The team

held York out before Ian Portsmouth scored the winning goal.

This sadly is the last Festival for many of the team. The brothers Mark and Andy Lewis leave after three years in the Club as do the mid-field base of Vince Coleman and Jon Rose. This leaves the old hands like Rayfield and Knaresborough to build a young team next year.

Thanks again to Vladivar for the T-shirts.

Publications Board Social Colours

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A.P.

Ramin Nakisa

Handbook

David Smedley

What's On

A guide to events in and around IC.

FRIDAY

- Consoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
ME569.
- Friday Jamaa Prayer**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym.
- Christian Union Meeting**.....5.30pm
308 Huxley. Time for prayer, worship and discussion.
- Shotokan Karate**.....6.00pm
Southside Gym.
- Poetry Readings**.....6.30pm
University of London School of Oriental and African Studies Room G57.
- Fencing Club**.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock.

SATURDAY

- Karate**.....10.00am
Southside Gym. Beginners welcome. Build your fitness and confidence.
- IC Kung Fu**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners always welcome.

SUNDAY

- Sunday Mass**.....11.00am
West London Catholic Chaplaincy, More House, 53 Cromwell Road. Also at 6pm (followed by bar supper). All welcome.
- Shotokan Karate**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room. All Welcome.
- Kung Fu**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.
- RCSU Night in the Bar**.....7.00pm
Union Bar.

MONDAY

- Rock Soc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Anyone interested in any form of rock music come along.
- Artsoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Sign up for shows. Membership £2.
- Yacht Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Upstairs in Southside.
- Recitation of Holy Qur'an**.....1.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens (Basement).
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Improvers Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. 80p.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm
UDH. 80p.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. 80p.
- Wing Chun Club**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. 88/89 Awards Evening. Members only, bring kit and camera.

Senior Common Room, 7th Floor. A meeting held by University Christian Outreach examining the life and claims of Jesus.

- Karate**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym. Build your fitness and confidence.
- Latin American Dance Class**.....8.00pm
UDH. Cha, Samba, Rumba, etc. 80p

TUESDAY

- CU Prayer**.....8.15am
308 Huxley. For those who think prayer is more important than sleep. Free.
- Remote Controlled Modelling Club**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper.
- Sailing Club**.....12.30pm
Meeting in Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Audiosoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records and tapes etc.
- Roman Catholic Mass**.....12.40pm
Mech Eng 702. Mass followed by lunch. 50p.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.45pm
Southside Lounge. Interested in learning to ski? Already hooked? Want to try racing? Come and find out more.
- 3rd World First**.....1.00pm
4th Floor, Env Tech, 48 Prince's Gardens.
- Qur'an, tradition of Prophet**.....1.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens.
- Amnesty Meeting**.....5.30pm
Brown Committee Room (top

- floor Union Building).
- Meditative Prayer**.....5.45pm
Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. Come and join us for some peace and quiet. See West London Chaplaincy.
- Keep Fit**.....6.00pm
Southside Gym. Stretch class.
- Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. 80p. All welcome.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym. Sorry, no more beginners.
- Karate**.....7.00pm
Southside Gym. Build your fitness and confidence.
- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. 80p.
- Caving Club Meeting**.....7.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone interested should come along.
- Improvers Ballroom**.....8.00pm
JCR. 80p.
- Mountaineering Club Meeting**.....9.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Beginners always welcome.

WEDNESDAY

- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Sailing Meeting**.....12.30pm
Outside Southside.
- Caving Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
- Micro Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Third Floor, Union Building. If you're interested in computers come along.
- Hamsoc Meeting**.....1.15pm
Third Floor of Union Building. Amateur Radio Society regular weekly meeting.
- Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll Class**.....2.15pm
UDH. 80p.

- Jazz Dance Class**.....3.15pm
UDH. 80p.
- Karate**.....3.30pm
Southside Gym. Build your fitness and confidence.
- Open Circle Study**.....4.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.
- Kung Fu**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Grandmaster CK Chang's class.
- Basic Christianity**.....6.30pm

THURSDAY

- Fencing Club**.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Meeting also at 6 o'clock
- ICYHA Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Everyone welcome.
- Audiosoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Union SCR. Cheap records, tapes etc.
- Ski Club**.....
The Ski Club will only meet on Tuesdays this term.
- Debating Society**.....1.00pm
Room 341 Maths (Huxley).
- Arabic Lessons**.....1.30pm
9 Prince's Gardens. See Islamic Soc.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Prayer Meeting**.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office, 10 Prince's Gardens. All Christians in College are welcome to come and pray for the work of Christians in College.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym. Sorry, no more beginners.
- Shotokan Karate**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Soup Run**.....9.15pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement (back by 11pm).



Hell of a row

The College is planning to install a new £40,000 PA system in the Great Hall to improve its use for conferences. With the new system, 'We could have a hell of a lot more lettings than there are at present,' claims the Rector, Professor Eric Ash.

The cost of the system will be met by the IC Trust (formerly the Queensgate Trust) and the College's Conference Office. The College hopes to install the new PA over the Summer. There are also plans to improve the lighting and acoustics of the Hall in the future, although these are not firm.

The Rector told FELIX that there have been complaints about the poor standard of the Great Hall for 20 years, which he felt were highlighted by the poor sound quality at this year's 'Ways out of the Arms Race' conference. He added that he would like to see an improvement in the Hall's soundproofing to prevent disturbances to students in Reid and Pippard Lecture Theatres.

Obituary

LOUAI FOUAD SAYEGH

The sudden and tragic death on May 13th of Mr Louai Sayegh, aged 24, is a great loss for his many friends at Imperial College. He was admitted to hospital for treatment for Leukaemia on May 9th. Three days later, he suffered a massive brain haemorrhage, and died.

Louai was born in Amman, Jordan in 1965 and was awarded a BSc in Civil Engineering in 1986 and an MSc in Concrete Structures in 1987.

He started a Ph.D course, but turned to industry after three months, working for Ove Arup and Partners as a design engineer, until his death. He was also President of Imperial College's 'Friends of Palestine' Society.

Despite his short life he achieved much and contributed significantly to the lives of all who knew him. Louai was an ambitious, honest and straightforward young man, full of energy and the joy of life.

He is survived by his parents, a brother and sister.

Big fat hairy deal

This Year's Summer Fair on June 18th promises stalls from a number of Union Clubs and Societies, as well as a Jazz Dance Band and other entertainments. For £3 adults, £2 children and students the Fair's organisers at the Hub Office are offering 'as much free ice-cream, pop-corn, punch and tea as you can muster as well as entry to all events.'

The Fair offers a chance to win a Cambridge Z88 lap-top computer

and food from around the world provided by overseas societies. Entries for the Computer Competition will be available from the FELIX stall, where there will also be a variety of entertainments including 'The Big Dipper,' 'The Corkscrew' and 'The Big Wheel'. Advance tickets are available for the event at £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children and students at most messengers' desks.

Welfare money

Next year's Welfare Officer is to be paid for 10 weeks over the Summer Holiday to produce a new Welfare Handbook and plan a set of welfare campaigns. Union President, Nigel Baker told FELIX that the Officer will also receive training from Welfare Adviser Yve Posner.

The cost of the venture will be met by funds from the Union's Finance Committee, left over from unclaimed and over-estimated Five Year plans. Next Year's Welfare Officer will be elected at the Union's Annual General Meeting on June 20. Jackie Scott and Alastair Goodall are currently standing for the position.

Top-up loans knocked down

A report in *The Guardian* this week claimed that the Government's plans for top up loans for students have been opposed by more than 100 of the organisations consulted.

Ministers have refused to publish the 142 formal responses to the White Paper. The article claims that 64% of universities support a grants system whilst the remainder support a graduate tax. The legislative plans for top up loans are expected to be announced in November's Queen's speech.

UGM election shocks

In a surprise decision by last week's Union General Meeting, Rory Curtis has been returned as next year's Haldane Record buyer.

Mr Curtis, the only candidate standing for the post, told FELIX yesterday that he was 'shocked and stunned' by the decision.

'It was like a bolt from the blue' he said

In the same meeting, onlookers could hardly contain their excitement when Alistair Goodall was elected as president IC Community Action Group (ICCAG), Martin Gans as Postgraduate Affairs Officer, Murray Williamson as House Committee Chairman, Athos Ritsperis as Academic Affairs Officer and Clare Townner as Silwood Park Chair.

The meeting was not without its

disappointments. Max Kallios, standing as UGM chair was said to have been devastated when he was beaten by 'new election' and Emmanuel Saradakis (shurley shome mishtake—Ed), standing for the post of Welfare Officer stormed out of the door in floods of tears when he too was defeated by 'new election.'

Later, in a surprise move from the floor, Chris Brown, Steve Farrant and Joe Fearnley were returned as members of the External Affairs Committee and delegates to the University of London General Union Council despite hurls of abuse and rotten cabbages from the audience.

'I was quite surprised by the results' said Union President Nigel Baker 'next year should be an interesting year for the Union.'

Black & White

The meeting of Imperial College Union Social Clubs Committee has refused all nominations from the Major Sub Committees (MSC) on the grounds that the MSC's, which represent clubs, societies and publications have their own systems of colours.

Amongst the nominations refused were those on behalf of Athletics Clubs Committee and Social Clubs Committee, and Publications Board, although a nomination was accepted on behalf of SCAB.

Felix Says

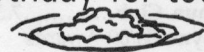
The Unions decision not to award Social Colours to members of the Major Sub-committees (MSCs) is exactly the sort of decision that I have come to expect from the narrow minded w*okers who inhabit the Union Office. It would be asking too much to expect the Union Officers to appreciate the fact that the MSC's contribute more in one day to the life of the average student at Imperial than the Union Officers do in one year.

Practically every student is a member of one or more clubs or societies. Surely, the hard work put in by members of the MSC, which benefits so many students should be recognised by the Union in the form of Union Social Colours?

It comes down, of course to the misapprehension by Union Officers (who so incestuously award themselves and their cronies colours at the drop of a hat) that they are the Union.

B*ll*cks! As I have said before, the Union is made up of every student at Imperial College and it is about time the Union office recognised this fact and gave those people who have put so much contribution to life at Imperial the recognition they deserve.

Jelly Jelly he's
our mate, we all
think he's really
great.
Happy 23rd
Birthday for today



President

1. Introduction

The year promised to be quite an event with each of the executive sabbatical officers working to a new job description. The nett result of the previous year's shuffle was that although two areas of representation there was an increase in the administration I was required to do. All in all the new job descriptions are working quite well although I question whether the Deputy President has time to look after two areas of representation in addition to the Union's finances and the Union Building itself. I fear that this may become an even more acute problem in a few years time when we take a greater responsibility for the building. One point that should be made is that we are one of the few student unions in the country that occupy a listed building and so this should not be neglected.

This Union is set apart from the majority of others in that it does not have a full-time welfare sabbatical. This is something that I believe should be addressed next year. Having been responsible for the welfare of the students this year I have found that when the associated areas of Accommodation and Overseas Students are included the result is a full-time job which I have not been able to give the attention that it warrants this year.

2. Accommodation

I see the main purpose of a students union as assisting students to obtain their degree. This is the reason they come to college and so the activities of the students' own Representational and Organisational body should reflect this. To this end the areas of welfare, which I consider to include Accommodation and Academic Affairs are the most important. Since I have been responsible for Welfare and Accommodation this year it is in these areas that I have concentrated my work.

2.1. This Year's Rents

At the beginning of the year there was some unrest from the students at the level of the rents they were expected to pay. This started in Fisher Hall where, under the direction of their re-applicants, the students paid what they considered to be the correct amount. Not surprisingly, this was less than the amount that had been set by the Student Residence Committee. The level of rent had been agreed during Christine Taig's year as President and so there was very little, if any, room for manoeuvre.

2.1.1. Rent Strike

At the Union General Meeting of 25 October 1988 a motion was passed which instructed the Union Officers to take the threat of a rent strike to the College with a view to forcing College to put some of its 'surcharge' on Overseas Students fees into the residence account. This round about way of getting College to put money into the residence system was necessary because of the University Grants Committee, the then grant awarding body for the university system, rules stated that no public funds could be used for accommodation of students. This was then taken to the Wardens' Sub-Committee of the Students Residence Committee (SRC) and the full SRC itself. Both bodies were sympathetic to the views expressed but expressed doubts as to the practicalities of such a scheme. Due to the lack of positive response I tabled a paper outlining the position to the College's Finance and Executive Committees which met in November.

2.1.2. College Finance and Executive Committees

In what I see as a direct response to my paper the College Secretary, John Smith, tabled a paper at the same meeting which proposed we tackle the problem of student accommodation head on rather than in any round about way. These committees, the most important in the College, agreed that the residence account was under-funded to the tune of about £100k each year. It was decided that £50k should be transferred to the account to cover insurance and notional wardens rents as this did not contravene UGC rules. The Union's response was seen as far too complex to work in practice but an alternative was proposed which was adopted by the committees. The College wrote to see if the Overseas Students' 'excess' fee could be used at the discretion of the College. An initial reaction was received from the UGC but this did not answer the question and so a reply is still awaited from the University Funding Council (UFC) which has superceded the UGC. At the Finance and Executive committees meeting this term the committees were reminded by the College Finance Officer that a sum of £50k to £100k is still to be provided for residences and a decision on this is to be made at the committees meeting in November. The threatened rent strike was called off at this point and it ought to be pointed out that the only objections raised by the Governors were to the threat we issued. College were not prepared to be dictated to by the students and so I would urge all members of the Union to think hard about the possible consequences before any such action is proposed in the future.

2.2. Next Year's Rents and Beyond

Next year is the final year of Christine Taig's agreement with College over the level of rents to be charged to cover the costs of buying and refurbishing Fisher Hall. Next year's rents have been set at £44 per week for Southside singles ranging down to £28 per week for the Evelyn Gardens doubles. The extra £50k earmarked for the residence account and the probable extra money now mean that the account should break even in the 1990/91 session. With interest rates at 14% I cannot see them rising any further and so any future drop should be used to subsidise the students' rents. A 1% fall in the interest rates would save the residences £70k a year. College seem to have resigned themselves to the fact that rents will not rise between the 1989/90 and 1990/91 sessions. It is up to the students to ensure that Niel McCluskey, next year's President, makes sure that this is the case and rents fall in real terms from what can only be described as their current ceiling.

Another issue that came up this year was the problem of College charging students for an extra week to cover the Christmas vacation which entitled students to use their room throughout that period. This caused a mixed reaction with those wanting to stay in residence of the vacation supporting it, and the other students complaining, but it would have been interesting to see what the reaction would be to all the students not wishing to stay having to clear their room. It looks as if next year students will only be charged for the time they are in the residence but this will mean that all others will have to clear their room.

2.3. Payment of Rents by Installments

Many students, not the least of which are overseas postgraduates, receive their maintenance grant or scholarship monthly and so have great problems when it comes to paying bills termly. This is currently being addressed but the College's answer is that the system would cost £25k per year in lost interest. This is true but this interest does not go into the residence account, it goes into the capital investment account. It was amazed to hear that the Warden's Sub-Committee have decided not to back my proposals and so it looks as though in future students are going to have to pay for the 'privilege' of paying their hall bill by installments, at least in the short term. I wish next year's SRC representatives luck in the longer term.

2.4. Fresher Applications

As from this year the system of freshers applying to the intercollegiate hall of residence has been changed. Whereas, in the past, they could apply to the University accommodation with the knowledge that they would still get a year in an IC hall or house. In future this will not be the case, a year in an intercollegiate hall will count as the year in a hall of residence and students will not be able to come back to an IC hall. Given the choice between having their year in hall five miles away and being on campus or half a mile away I didn't think that the College would fill its quota of places in the intercollegiate halls. This has proved to be the case. Brian Levitt, SRC Chairman, said that if there were insufficient applications then students would just be shared in those halls that seems to be what has happened.

2.5. Married Flats

At present the residence stock includes some married flats in which only one of the residents is an IC student. It has been decided that, although being a family of a student is no fun in central London, these should be converted into student flats and be made ready for renting out at the beginning of next session. In this way the number of students in these flats, which must be the first priority, can be increased from ten at present to almost forty.

2.6. Size of Rooms

In the present halls and houses owned and leased by the College there are a number of double and triple rooms. With a number of alterations planned for the summer the question was raised as to whether the double and triple rooms should be kept or should the College policy be that we head toward single rooms in all residences. This question was put to a UGM with no response and so the Union Accommodation Committee decided that in future single rooms should be aimed for if possible. This has the advantage that the income from an area of hall will be increased and so this will help in keeping rents down.

2.7. Deposit Repayments

Last year's warden of Mining House, Catie Brown, seemed to go a little crazy when she went through the process of considering the damage done to the house by last year's residents. The majority of them found that they had been charged practically the whole of their damage deposit, which seemed a little excessive! After correspondence with the chairman of SRC, the Finance Department and the College Tutor the matter was solved with full refunds for all. This led onto the question of how long it took to refund the deposits to those students who hadn't wrecked their room. After heated debate in committee meetings again the College's intransigence won the day. I find it incredible that College expects students to pay their hall bill within ten days but cannot refund room deposits until three or even four months after the students have vacated their accommodation.

2.8. Head Tenancy Delapidations

A similar 'deposit' problem was encountered with Hamlet Gardens at the beginning of the year. When last year's residents from Lexham Gardens received their deposit reports they found that most of them actually owed College money! College, very magnanimously, agreed not to pass this extra charge onto the students. It was then pointed out that most of the damage had in fact been caused by previous residents and this was confirmed by the student managers of the residence. The students all received a full refund but the College residence account was out of pocket from the handback to the owners of the property. From next year an additional 5% will be added to head tenancy rents to cover this handback cost and this will make the head tenancies totally self-financing.

2.9. Vacation Arrangements

The control of the halls over the vacation period has now been transferred to the accommodation office after the death of the conference office. This should result in a greater level of income to the residences which will help to keep rents down. Part of the transfer has resulted in differential rents for students over the long vacation. Those who are undertaking academic study will only pay the normal termtime rent but those students remaining in London to work or to have a holiday will have to pay a rate 2/3 of the way between the termtime rents and the outside summer rate.

2.10. Subwardens Working Party

One of my major accommodation commitments this year has been to a working party set up to investigate the subwardenships of the residence system. This working party met on a number of occasions and came up with the recommendations that subwardens accommodation should be a double room with washing and cooking facilities but not a toilet, a nominal job description was also decided upon and it was generally felt that for the work that they did for the life of the hall and the students they were very good value. The full report of the working party is available for consultation in the President's Office.

3. Athletics

As the sabbatical responsible for athletics I'm primarily responsible for the athletic facilities and not the individual teams.

3.1. Harlington Gravel Trust Fund

At the beginning of the year the College Investments Committee was responsible for the money accruing from Harlington Gravel but there was no formal mechanism for releasing this money when it was desired by the students for sporting facilities. At the College Finance and Executive Committees meeting of 12 May 1989 a resolution was passed which, after five years of pressing, finally established the procedures for the release of the gravel funds. The resolution stated that the Governing Body confirms its commitment to administer all existing and future sporting and athletic facilities for the benefit of the students and that any income arising from the use or disposal of such facilities will be applied for the benefit of students. The income from such facilities is to be placed in a Trust of whom the Trustees will be the chairman of the College Athletics Committee, a past President of Imperial College Union and the President of Imperial College Union. It was also decided that the President of the Union will be an observer at meetings of the Investments Committee which is to retain responsibility for the investment of monies derived from the sale of gravel from Harlington. In reality, the President will only be present at those meetings which will consider the Harlington Gravel funds. The gravel proceeds now stand at £1,265k and are estimated to rise to £2,500k.

3.2. Harlington Astro turf Pitch

Upon taking office at the beginning of August it became apparent that various members of the Athletics Clubs Committee had been pushing for an Astro turf hockey pitch to be put in at Harlington. Some of these plans were quite gradiose and contained ideas for employing staff to run the facility for outside bookings and it was in these peripheral problems that the delays were occurring. On October 3 Mark Rayfield, ACC Chairman, Paul Skipworth, ACC Vice-Chairman and myself met Peter Mee and Dr David Hardwick. At the meeting we decided that, initially at least, we should just concentrate on producing a facility for student usage. If later we decided that we should allow outside usage then that would need to be considered at that time. Further investigation of the

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practicalities of installing such a pitch showed that it would not be a good idea to lay the pitch on land where the gravel had been extracted. This was because if there was any subsidence or problems with the pitch it would be very difficult to ascertain exactly whose fault it was and we could find ourselves with an astro turf pitch that couldn't be used and a legal battle to show where responsibility lay. At the Finance and Executive Committees meeting in November a paper was presented by the Chairman of the College Athletics Committee asking for the release of up to £350k from the monies already received but also asking for the committees to sanction the forgoing of income of between £90k and £100k from gravel that would have been extracted had the pitch not been built. This was passed and the committees also reaffirmed its commitment to the building of a sports hall in South Kensington. This money was released so that the pitch could be installed over the summer of 1989 so that it would be ready for use from October 1989. However, these pitches require a very good clerk of works to supervise their installation and the person we require will not be available until the summer of 1990 and so the pitch will be put in for use at the start of the 1990/91 session. Towards the end of the first term of the present session the Athletics Clubs Committee had second thoughts as to whether the money should be spent on an Astro turf pitch at all. The problem was finally resolved in favour of installing a pitch. The upshot of this is that the Union now has policy on how matters regarding the use of the gravel fund shall be taken before the Trustees. In future the Union Council will be the only body that has powers to refer matters to the Trustees and the Council itself will expect proposals to come via the Union Athletic Clubs Committee. Although this sounds very bureaucratic it is necessary to avoid the mess that we got into over the Astro turf pitch.

3.3. Athletics Committee Constitution

The College Athletics Committee is in the process of having its terms of reference updated. The main change is that the membership is to be increased by two. The Past President Trustee of the Harlington Gravel money is to be included along with a representative from St Mary's. The Union has been pushing for clarification as to the control and ownership of the sporting facilities of Imperial College.

3.4. Harlington and Teddington Rationalisation

There have been discussions at the College Athletics Committee which are aiming at rationalising the sports grounds of Imperial College and St Mary's. An analysis of the usage of the facilities shows that if student sport is to be maintained at its current level both grounds will be required. If a ground was to be sold it would have to be Teddington because it is far and away the smaller of the two. Teddington has certain trust provisions which means that it is highly desirable, though not essential, that it remains as it is until at least 1994. This means that at present the grounds are safe but it is imperative that future Presidents and Athletics Club Committee Chairmen keep a watching eye.

3.5. Health Club

At present the Union is investigating the feasibility of utilising the space under the Southside Hall of Residence as a Health Club. The proposal is that there will be weights machines, free weights, sauna or steam rooms, sun lamps and a shop. The plans are currently in the very earliest stages and nothing is expected to happen for a while yet.

4. External Affairs

The Government have caused me more than a little work this year.

4.1. Top-Up Loans for Students

This year the Government announced their proposals for the introduction of top-up loans for students in conjunction with the freezing of the grant and the removal of students' entitlement to DSS payments. An EGM was held to discuss the proposals and the result was that the Union had policy to oppose the introduction of loans per se but that we should also face up to the reality that the proposals may go through and to fight for a better deal for London students who stand to lose most from the Government's proposals. On January 19 Peter Brooke, the local MP and Chairman of the Conservative Party, came to the College to speak on the loans issue. I was disappointed that only 300 students turned up but a good question and answer session resulted in a lot of people realising the ignorance of a lot of MPs with respect to the problems faced by students as a whole and by those in London in particular. This talk was followed by a green card lobby of the Houses of Parliament and thanks are owed to all the academic who rescheduled classes, tutorials and labs to enable students to attend. One of the original mandates from the EGM was that we should liaise with the NUS over the loans issue. The NUS were only prepared to link with us if we were to have a reaffiliation ballot before Easter 1990. This was accepted by a UGM but the NUS have been absolutely no use since they have constantly failed to provide us with information as agreed. The NUS want the ballot in the second term next session because there are a couple of colleges having disaffiliation votes in the first term. The NUS obviously see us as an important college and so would wish to concentrate a large affiliation campaign in the College. I would therefore recommend that the ballot is held in the first term.

A national demonstration planned for February 1, the deadline for submissions on the white paper, was dropped by the NUS and ULU when the plans were hijacked by the extreme left. Imperial College Union joined the national demonstration on February 25 and, although on a Saturday, was successful. We have continued our dialogue with a number of MPs and at the end of last term a paper outlining the effect of loans on London students was sent to all MPs. It looks as though the Government is going to have to rethink its loans plans but it is still committed to putting them through the next session of Parliament.

4.2. AUT Strike Action

On January 9 the Association of University Teachers (AUT) started limited industrial action over their pay claim. This action, in the form of refusal to set examinations, hung over the heads of the students until the action was modified to the non-marking of exams at the beginning of this term. At the onset of the action Imperial College Union condemned the actions of the AUT for jeopardising the futures of the people who rely so heavily upon them. As the dispute continued it became apparent that the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) were becoming increasingly more responsible for the lack of a settlement and so pressure was then applied to the CVCP in an effort to get the dispute settled. It now looks as though the final result will be that the students will get their exams and degrees after all. The Union took legal advice from a barrister as to what the contractual position with the College was and we were informed that if the students incurred any extra costs in completing their degree then the College would have to meet these costs. Thankfully it never came to this.

4.3. Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Merger

During last session a working party was set up to see if there were any grounds for formal talks between IC and RH&BNC on the subject of merging the two colleges. The working party finally reported in February of this year. A recommendation was made that a 'Joint Planning Committee with wider representation and with the resources to explore the implications of the proposed merger in greater detail'. I have spoken to the Rector and he has agreed that if this Joint Planning Committee

were to be set up then it would be essential to have Union representation. The merger is not going to happen in the short term but it may well happen in the future.

4.4. University of London Union

The links this year between the University of London Union and ourselves have been the strongest for a number of years. This has been due to informal discussions but also through the two main ULU bodies as far as ICU is concerned.

4.4.1. ULU General Union Council

ULU GUC has been as left-wing as ever this year but it was interesting to note that next year's President, although pro-NUS, is a student activist and not a party politician. This bodes well for next year with a moderate ULU executive. As far as policy is concerned motions proposed by ICU concerning loans and the AUT dispute were both defeated and policy very different to our own was passed. One problem there has always been is with getting GUC delegates once elected to attend. ICU gets nine delegates to each meeting and so the only hope we have of bringing some common sense to the proceedings is to ensure all our delegates turn up. In future if a representative fails to attend two consecutive GUC meetings, for any reason whatsoever, they will be deemed to have resigned and a new delegate will be elected to replace them. This should ensure the voice of ICU continues to be heard at ULU.

ULU President's Council

The President's Council is a new ULU body which was set up this year. It meets once a month and each constituent college is invited to send a representative. The Council has no formal powers but is a very useful forum for exchanging ideas and keeping informed as to what is happening within the federal union and also at the other colleges of the university. Attendance of the Council has now been added to the President's job description as a measure of the importance of the meetings.

5. Postgraduate Affairs

At the beginning of the year I thought that this would be the area in which I would have most problems since I have never been a postgraduate student. In retrospect I don't think that this has been too much of a problem.

5.1. Postgraduate Departmental Representatives

When I took office I had hoped to introduce a postgraduate network of departmental representatives throughout the College with these backed up by a departmental committee with representatives from each section. In order to achieve this an open meeting was called so that a contact in each department could be found. The meeting fell foul of postgraduate apathy—only four people turned up, and that included myself and the Postgraduate Affairs Officer. An attempt was then made to pursue this aim through the individual departments but again this proved fruitless. It really gets to me when people slag off the Union, saying it does nothing for them, when they cannot even be bothered to do something for themselves. This particularly applies to the Postgraduate population of this College.

5.2. Silwood Park

Over the summer I visited Silwood Park on a number of occasions to see if I could help with some of the problems they were encountering. Everything seemed to centre around the College's plans to turn the main house at Silwood into an up-market conference facility. This, linked with some problems due to the Technology Transfer Centre, meant that a lot of student facilities were in danger of being lost or having their control taken over by College. The major problem faced by students at Silwood is the isolation and for this reason it is essential that sufficient accommodation is provided on-campus because they cannot simply jump on a tube and get to College. Coupled with this the rents and facilities must be affordable since students cannot 'vote with their feet' and go off-campus. Last summer there were proposals to increase the rents quite considerably, up to 20% in some cases. The Postgraduate students just could not afford such increases, especially the overseas students with families. After a lot of discussion with College a compromise was eventually reached but it was thought that the alarm bells had been rung loud enough for the College to hear. Unfortunately, this does not seem to have been the case. At the Finance and Executive Committees meeting of May 12 the final proposals for the Conference Centre were tabled. On the whole they did not look too bad except that the students were expected to foot the total bill for a new hall of residence to replace the rooms lost in the main house, even though these rooms were lost solely to accommodate the conference centre. Although the general feeling of the committees was that this would be an asset to the College a decision on the future of the conference centre has been delayed pending an investigation of the internal requirements and possible usage of such a facility. The majority of the committee were also in agreement that the conference centre should pay for the building of new rooms to replace those it is to displace. A new proposal is to go to the full Governing Body on June 23 where a final decision will be made. I feel that a word of congratulations is due to Ian Lowles, the Silwood Park Chairman, for the work he has done this year. His efforts have not gone unnoticed in South Kensington and the students at Silwood owe him a great debt of gratitude.

6. Welfare

This is the second of the areas which I prioritised at the beginning of the year. It is something which I have been known to get on my 'high horse' about a few times but I feel very strongly that this College and Union do not do enough for the welfare of our students. It is worth remembering that one of the objects of the Union, as stated in the by-laws, is 'to represent and to safeguard and advance the interests and welfare of the students of the Imperial College'.

6.1. Welfare '89

When I took office on August 1 I soon realised that the Welfare advice and information we gave our students was not very comprehensive and the information we did give was of a very general nature. In order to address this problem I came up with a six stage welfare project for the year which went under the title of 'Welfare '89'. The stages are depended upon further in the next few sections.

6.1.1. Initial Survey

It was decided well in advance which areas of welfare should be covered but where to place the emphasis in each campaign was still unknown and it was for this reason that a survey was undertaken. The areas covered were; accommodation, finance, eating habits, drinking habits, drugs and sexual behaviour and attitudes. The results of the survey was to be used to tailor the campaigns to meet the needs of our students as closely as possible. We had the help of a professional market research company, Audience Selection, and they helped me formulate the exact working for each question. This was made all the more difficult by the fact that we wished to examine attitudes as well as obtain purely factual information. For this they received no payment and thanks are definitely owed to Sue MacEwan for all her efforts. The result of this work was a 16-page survey which went to every registered student in the College. This even included those students at St Mary's. We received 1108 returns, which is the norm for this style of exercise, and from these 144 pages of

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arrangements that operate at the present.

5. The Overseas' Reception was held on the Sunday just before the term started in the Union Building and was well attended and went reasonably well, even if the Rector didn't think so. I had little support from the Union Officers who were around. The event is going to be organised in the College this Autumn but I doubt if they will get many students to help.

3. Major Sub-Committees.

1. ACC: They have been fortunate in having a competent executive, but occasionally the finer points of their constitution get overlooked! Good luck to Benji and his team next year.

2. RCC: I have attended most RCC meetings this year. The finances of RCC have been particularly well kept; the pilot system for the club accounts has run with them this year. Tim King has done a good job as Vice Chairman this year and I am sure that RCC will continue to flourish under his Chairmanship next year.

3. Pub Board: The Board lost its Chairman, Syd Harbour-Bridge, early in the year and Jon Denham has been Chairman since. Equipment failure and breakdown has eaten into the contingency fund this year. The FELIX re-equipment fund should increase in size with the carryovers, but it is increasing at a lesser rate than I would have expected.

4. SCAB: Another good year for the SCAB societies. However Jazz Club suffered a major upheaval at the start of the year. This problem has largely been resolved. I am still concerned about the running of the Choir and Orchestra, who receive some monies from the College. Their accounts have been frequently overdrawn and financial penalties imposed by SCAB and UFC have little effect. There is no effective method of ensuring the accountability of the SCAB Music Committee reps, nor of the Music Committee itself. These issues must be addressed because I believe that they are a serious infringement on the autonomy of the Board to control the activities and funding of its constituent societies.

5. SCC: Tom "Master" Yates has been an effective SCC Chairman this year. The societies fulfil a useful role within ICU. However, SCC have raised the ugly spectre of external bank accounts and pushed this through an iniquate UGM. However, the College will not allow them and I regret SCC cannot see the error of its ways. I hope the new financial procedures to be introduced next year will eliminate the need for them.

4. Minor Sub-Committees.

1. Ents: Paul has done an excellent job in organising events and thanks are due to the hard work put in by the Ents Committee. Nevertheless I still feel that more detailed financial information should be available on the state of the Ents account than at present. I would say that this is essential for planning events so that they are good value for money and provide a service for the students.

2. ICCAG: As far as I am aware, no formal meetings of this Minor Sub-Committee have been held. This is against their constitution, yet the Chairman is a Union Officer and has a seat on Council. I fail to see why this should not be an SCC Club with a zero subscription level.

3. Welfare: The major initiatives have been the survey and campaigns which are described elsewhere.

4. Accommodation: The Committee has met regularly this session but I have not been able to attend many meetings.

5. Industrial Relations Committee: This Committee has got off to a good start. A student was employed over Easter to set up an advertising database. My only regret and surprise is that hardly anyone has gone for the posts available since they would look very impressive on one's CV!

5. The Union Building.

1. Security: When I took over the job of DP the security in the building was virtually useless. The key system, designed by none other than Barney McCabe in 1981, was antiquated and the number of R37 master keys which could open nearly everything in the building is a standing joke. The decision to buy a new key system was therefore a good one. I designed the new system with help of various people and at the time of writing it is 90% installed. There are still some areas on the old system but I hope to have them converted by the end of term.

I consider it essential that the DP has a good working relationship with the security guards in Beit and Sheffield and I have built this up throughout the year. Occasionally there have been problems but we have managed to iron these out. Thanks to Terry, Ron, Vic, Mustafa, Pete, Brian, Lawrence and the other guards. The Union now has its own messenger service from 7am to 6pm and very soon we will have a security guard from 6pm to midnight. My own view is that everyone who enters the quad must have to report to security to show some sort of identification.

2. Room Bookings: Income from these has started to pick up. As the Government cracks down on student Unions we must address the question of our ex-subsidy income and room bookings forms a major part of this. Nevertheless I believe that we will be hard pressed to reach our budget target. I took on most of the administration of the system in January as we had no receptionist then. There is a definite trade off between accepting lots of outside bookings which bring in money to offset the expenditure incurred by our clubs and societies and then not having any rooms to give to clubs who want them! For example we have just turned down a booking worth £18K for precisely this reason.

3. Safety: I recently re-constituted the safety sub-committee (which we are required to have) and have had extensive discussions with the College Fire Officer about fire safety and other related safety matters. The introduction of electronic bolts on various strategic doors will certainly help. The fire alarm system is to be modernised and encompass the whole quad at a cost of £100K.

4. Maintenance: A constant source of aggravation and grief. I seem to spend hours chasing up broken windows, faulty sockets, blown light bulbs, etc. I feel sorry for the clubs and societies who have to put up with a building that has been allowed to become shabby and delapidated. Consequently the number of things that are going wrong on an almost daily basis is depressing. A lot of maintenance work is required for the building to be brought up to scratch. The fact that the Estates section cannot be relied on to carry out works on time doesn't help, but things have improved recently, albeit slightly.

5. Refurbishment: I have embarked on an ambitious refurbishment programme for the Union building, mainly because very little was done last year. The areas which have been refurbished this year are: the lounge, the bar, snack bar, senior common room, Union offices, central staircase toilets, Committee rooms (painting only) construction of messengers' lodge, Union dining Hall, refectory flat, all staircases (painting). Proposed refurbishment works for the summer (at time of writing) to be confirmed are: Removal of dumb waiter on west staircase, construction of third floor toilets (west), varnishing of gym floor, possible construction of second mezzanine level above the crush bar. I hope that I have been able to make amends this year for the lack of works last year. The responsibility for the refurbishment and maintenance budgets for the Union currently rests with the College and we are having the building brought up to scratch before taking these budgets on. This will not happen before 1992, at the current rate of progress. A refurbishment and maintenance plan is being devised and it is hoped that we will be able to realistically plan our refurbishments around this.

6. House Committee: This has been a turbulent year for the Committee whose brief is the management of the Union building and other Union areas. The first Chairman left College before taking up the post. A new chairman was elected and he, too, resigned after pressure from the society of which he was the president. I have been acting Chairman since December and although I have been gratified by the gradual change in the appearance of the building itself I have found House Committee the worst Committee to chair. Very often the entire minutes would read "Action: Chas"

after each paragraph, which leaves me wondering if House Committee expects me to do anything else. After threatening to no-confidence me after I had unfulfilled certain mandates I am wary of failing them again, perhaps to the detriment of my other work. It is not surprising that no-one else has wanted to do the job this year. I only wish Murray has better luck next year than I've had this year.

6. Trading.

After the acrimony and bitterness of last year, I knew that this year would see a slow revival of our outlets, but this turnaround will take several years. Part of the process of revival was the refurbishment of the ground floor areas. In particular the snack bar and bar were refurbished to the tune of some £40,000. Whether this refurb has been 'successful' remains to be seen but my opinion is that we have seen a greater number of people using the building and the outlets.

1. Union Bar: The main bar had the oak panelling refurbished and I am pleased that so many people have complimented the new look. The main bar remains as traditional as ever and is very popular but the most important benefit has been the increased use of the Lounge bar, especially in the early evenings. Sales are healthy and the bar should return a good profit at the end of the year, thanks to Jelly and his staff. This is good news, but there are an awful lot of students who never drink in the Union bar but in Southside and I am aware of the need to persuade them to come back to their bar - the only bar in the College which puts its profits back into the students Union and not into College's coffers.

2. Catering: After the previous manager was sacked, we appointed a new manager and assistant manager in September. However despite initially good figures the Caterpillar Cafe (as it is now known) has slackened off a bit and we are working hard to improve those areas which need most attention, chiefly stock control and analysis of sales and I am confident that the Caterpillar Cafe should break even at the end of the year. Ian and Annette have worked hard this year to increase sales, especially the dinners which are a good source of income. But those of you who expect a large surplus from the catering account will be disappointed. Very few University catering outlets make a profit, if any.

3. Bookshop/Sportshop: The Bookshop came under the Union's control at the end of July 1988 with a radical change in constitution. However the Bookshop has had many ups and downs and the Sportshop had to be closed because it was losing too much money, through having lots of defunct stock (e.g. ties!) The Sportshop stock was sold off in two big sales in November and December and I have done the occasional sale of a tie from my office. It is hoped to re-open the Sportshop in October.

The next big bombshell was the revelation of the large loss sustained by the Bookshop in the previous year (to 31st July 1988). A financial investigation was carried out into the shop by the auditors and their recommendations are being put into practice. The manager has since taken early retirement and the Union Manager has been appointed acting manager. A shop-fit is planned for the summer and Electronic Point of Sale is to be introduced to help stock control. The year-end figures will be bad again this year because there is a lot of stock which has been overvalued.

All three of the above outlets are controlled by management Committees of which I am the Chairman. Monthly management accounts have been a regular feature of the meetings and this has helped us keep a much tighter control over our outlets than last year. At the same time I try to make contact with the outlet managers on at least a daily basis, to see how they are getting on. I believe that this is part of my responsibility in over-viewing these outlets.

4. STA Travel: Our only franchised outlet on campus, it continues to provide a good service to students, not to mention the generous sponsorship and advertising revenue to the Union. A new deal with STA was signed in October allowing them to expand their outlet to the old sportshop site. The revenue forms an important proportion of our non-subsidy income. STA also sponsored the "Summer Savers" discount leaflet.

7. Major Union Committees.

1. UGM: As sectarian as ever, the problem of iniquate UGMs has raised its head again and again this session. Having UGMs in the JCR is a mixed blessing as a lot of the people present don't participate in the meeting. The St. Mary's issue produced the most iniquate UGM that I have ever seen at IC in my five years here (more than 600 present).

2. Council: A much more representative body, able to make informed decisions. Council has been fairly effective but I believe that it is still too big to discuss fully the implications of its decisions (it has 55 members). It is also prone to change its mind after three hours of discussion and several beers, which has led to it being ridiculed by many students.

3. Executive: The regular meetings at 8.30am every Tuesday are the only time I ever have breakfast! Exec has dealt with various domestic matters which are very boring, but occasionally it has had to make emergency decisions. It is at these times that I have really felt in a position of responsibility.

4. Union Finance Committee: The ultimate ego-maniacs committee, it makes all the important financial decisions, on policy and on expenditure. For example it recently decided to spend a substantial sum on the refurbishment of the Bookshop. It deals with setting the budget for the Union. I have tried to make UFC meetings as interesting as possible and have submitted a written report to each one. The financial administration of the Union is split between myself and the Union Finance Officer and consultation with him and working on financial matters takes up a large proportion of my time. For example, I have recently completed a review of the financial procedures for club treasurers and I am currently working on a policy document which will be the definitive guide to the Union's finances. I have had much dealings with the College's Finance Section and have had to represent the Union to the College's Audit Committee which looks critically at the Union's accounts. Despite the image of "accountants", I have found the work interesting and enjoyable.

Dr. K.E. Weale: I should make special mention at this point of the Union's Honorary Senior Treasurer, Dr. K.E. Weale. Ken has been HST for as long as anyone can remember and probably before that, too! I regret to have to say that he is retiring this year after innumerable years' service to the Union. I have worked closely with Dr. Weale this year and I greatly respect his advice and guidance on financial matters which has been invaluable. He has my best wishes for his retirement. At the time of writing we are still investigating a successor to Dr. Weale.

8. Major College Committees.

1. Governing Body and F & E: The Governing Body is the highest body in the College and the Finance & Executive Committees the most powerful sub-committees. Although I am one of the three Union observers, I have been content to allow the President to speak on behalf of the Union, providing backup with my knowledge of specialist areas such as finance and academic affairs, when necessary. Cynics will regard the luncheon provided after the meeting for members merely as a sabbatical freebie, but it is an invaluable period to converse with the most senior members of the College and often an informal 5-minute chat can achieve more than letters and committees ever could!

2. House Committee: Another sub-Committee of the Governing Body, it deals with major space and resource allocations and has met twice this year. Among the items dealt with include transfers from the conference to residence accounts, bar licences for halls, and the Silwood park bars and refectories. A fairly important committee, most issues raised will have been brought up at sub-committees at which there are student reps so these will already have been discussed at length.

3. CCSMC (Catering and Conference Services Management Committee): As the title suggests, CCSMC controls the refectory and conference services. It co-ordinates policy from its three sub-

Annual Reports

committees and reports to House Committee through its Chairman. It has been interesting to see how the College dealt with the large trading deficit on the catering side last year.

4. Refectory Users Committee: A pretty uneventful sub-committee of CCSMC, it deals with suggestions and complaints about the refectories and routine administrative matters.

5. Bar Committee: Another Sub-Committee of CCSMC. This is the only College Committee of which there is a student Chairman (except Bookshop Committee, at the moment) and as the sabbatical responsible for the Union bar, I am the Chairman of the Committee. We have had one meeting this session but another is planned for June 8th to review bar prices for the next session. As there is a polarisation between the Union and Southside on the one hand and the Holland Club on the other, the Committee is not very effective. The Committee also endorses licensing applications and the Falmouth Keogh bar is due to be reviewed as part of this process.

9. The American Perspective.

I feel I should report on my activities in this area even though they have been largely taken over by the President.

I was first introduced to the numbers of American students living and studying in the South Ken area by Syd, last year's President. The possibility for social interaction was good as they are generally doing arts courses and have a more balanced male/female ratio. Reciprocal membership arrangements were set up with some of the Colleges with whom I had contact and I went to their introductory sessions to extol the virtues of IC Union and its facilities. I am pleased to say that many of the students have come over to IC and some have got involved with our clubs and societies. In particular

Continued on supplementary sheet

SCAB

1. Societies

Chamber Music has been very active enjoying their largest ever membership. The new Imperial College Chamber Orchestra, formed in January, performed for the first time. Apart from its numerous concerts the society continues to arrange useful coaching sessions for its members.

Choir have had another successful year. To large and receptive audiences they performed Haydn's Creation, Bach's St Matthew Passion and Poulenc's Glorie. Their social calendar is as busy as ever. In performance they have been a credit to both the Union and the College as a whole.

Debsoc have now joined RCC I was sad to see them leave SCAB but hopefully, under new management, debating will grow to take the place it rightfully deserves at Imperial College.

Dramsoc continue to be hyperactive. Their main shows were 'The Nerd' by Larry Shue and 'The Possibilities' by Howard Barker. Once again the touring company is running a venue at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival under the guise of Theatre West End. Technical services to the Union have improved with the provision of improved lighting facilities.

Filmsoc go from strength to strength. After initial problems with their projectors they obtained permission from UFC to plan the purchase of improved equipment which will enable them to extend what is a very popular service in College. In the meantime they continue to screen films regularly.

Folk Club have had a disappointing year after last year's renaissance. There is certainly room for a vital Folk Club but the committee have not managed to generate any enthusiasm for the society. This is an area on which my successor will have to expend some effort if Folk Club is not to die.

Jazz and Rock lost their rehearsal room to the new welfare officer before the start of the year. A new room was found for them but the delay in equipping it caused the club much inconvenience. I am pleased to say that this has been settled largely through the hard work of the committee and Chas Brereton. Chas deserves special praise for persuading College to pay for the fitting out of the new room! On a happier front it has been a successful year for Jazz and Rock. Their 'Hops' have been well attended and lots of fun.

Orchestra, under the guidance of Richard Dickens, acquitted themselves admirably against some very difficult pieces. Their main concerts included Elgar's First Symphony, Sibelius' Violin Concerto and the gargantuan Mahler Three. Their ambition was matched both by their ability and their large audiences. I found it particularly pleasing to see members of the Orchestra undertaking solo parts.

With an excellent hard working committee under Sue Foister Opsoc have had a most successful year. Lots of new faces, acquired at Freshers' Fair, have invigorated the society and I hope the new committee have learnt the lesson—members are everything! Their main show was 'The Pirates of Penzance' by you know who. The traditional summer visit to Budleigh Salterton carries on with 'Iolanthe'.

2. Music Committee

There is not a lot to say about this committee this year. After losing the Music Room last year, arrangements have stabilised somewhat. The Reid Theatre has been equipped for Music Making and seems to be acceptable to its users as a temporary home. Prof Isham's committee are currently trying to get the Rector's agreement to, and help in, seeking funding for an extension to the Sheffield Building to serve as a dedicated music complex. The Union should actively support this venture. It would be a worthwhile addition to the College Campus.

3. SCAB Nite

This year SCAB raised just over one hundred pounds for Rag. Members of all the SCAB societies took part. My thanks go to all who helped make the evening a success. The standard of the performances was extremely high and the small crowd was, thus, a great disappointment. My impression is that few SCAB societies even try to encourage their own members to come along! I would suggest to my successor that tickets are produced beforehand and are distributed to club chairpersons to sell (through their committees) at least a week before the event.

4. Finance

SCAB was sad to lose Prof Bill Wakeham as HST. He has served us well over many years but felt that he could not combine the job with that of Head of Department of Chemical Engineering. I would like to record our thanks to Bill and wish him all the best in his new post. We are, however, fortunate to welcome the services of Dr Chris Champion in his stead.

Next year promises to see major changes in all MSC finances with the introduction of 'carryovers'. SCAB which generates most of its own income stands to benefit from this change in UFC policy. Some careful thought on policy regarding 'club carryovers' will be required early next session.

Reggie has begun the long process of harmonising all the various accounting procedures which has seen SCAB decomputerised.

Room Booking

Room bookings have been a continual source of anguish all year. Both Dramsoc and Opsoc have experienced problems with both rehearsal space and, more seriously, Concert Hall bookings for performances. After much grief House Committee have come to an eminently sensible arrangement whereby Opsoc, Dramsoc, Ents and Rag will in future meet to organise dates before room booking

opens officially. This should eliminate the problem which have been all too regular in the past year.

Finally, it has been a successful year for SCAB. My thanks to all who have helped to make it so. In particular I would like to thank Bill Wakeham, Chris Champion, Chas Brereton, 'Wendy' Morris, El Presidente, Jen Hardy-Smith and to send a big hug to Nigel Stokes, my ever helpful Secretary, Helen Roberts, the HJT and all the club chairpersons. It has been my pleasure to work with you.

Roger Davis.

ACC Chairman

Athletics Clubs Committee Annual Report

This report will be brief, and no doubt inadequate, but I've not had much notice so I'm making no apologies.

Rather than referring to specific clubs achievements or non-achievements of whom there are a lot (32), I'll try and outline the events and trends which have affected the ACC this year. The Sports Ground at Harlington has all but disappeared on the north side of the road with earth moving equipment where the cricket square used to be. The money from the gravel extraction continues to accumulate, as yet none of it has been spent. The majority of it has been allocated for a Sports Centre in the Kensington site. The plans for this were drawn up last year, but there is a problem obtaining planning permission.

At present the recreational facilities which this College can offer its nearly 5,500 full-time students, are amongst the worst at any educational institution of comparable size in England.

If the Old Chemistry building is demolished then we will lose our only indoor training facility large enough for badminton and other comparable sports. The Union already spends nearly £2,000 pa on subsidies to hire indoor facilities for clubs which have reached a standard where they cannot compete in a College facility. This figure will rise in future years as other clubs either increase in size or standard and require a larger indoor sports area than we can provide in College.

At Harlington itself the number of teams wanting to use our sports facilities is increasing, whilst the number of pitches available is decreasing because of the extraction plans. This is despite the excellent efforts of Mick and the other groundstaff who are making the best of a difficult situation. The first area of reinstated land was due to have been handed back by the contractors last September, it was not ready and it must be expected that further reinstatements will take longer than originally planned. Part of the remainder of the gravel extraction monies have been allocated to build an artificial surface which will ease some of the demand for space as it can be used more than once on any given day, and may allow training at night if floodlights can be installed as part of the development.

The news is not all gloomy and the number of people actively involved in ACC clubs in College is approximately the same as last year at 1,700, the number of active clubs has reduced slightly but the remainder have almost all increased their membership and their general standards.

The ACC hasn't finished yet this year, the athletic colours are yet to be awarded and at present we may have a problem with the elections. Please keep an eye on the pigeonholes if this concerns you.

Mark Rayfield.

Internal Services Officer

The year started off with the Internal Services Committee trying to act as a users forum for comments, complaints and suggestions on all of the Union services. After ads in FELIX there was very little response with the odd person preferring to publicise their one complaint in FELIX rather than approaching the committee. This led to the committee doing little in its first term other than overseeing the Haldane Library Record and Book Buyers, part of the committees constitutional duties.

In the spring term the feeling within the Union was that all of the services could do with a little publicity and promotion. In order to do this as one campaign meant co-ordination of information and ideas from all of the services. Apart from Council there was only one body set up to do this. The Internal Services Committee thus took on the role of advertising the services. The committee worked hard and the end result was the distribution of around 2000 leaflets advertising the services and giving discounts to you the students. Our thanks go to STA for covering the finances of that project.

It has been suggested that more of these kind of projects could be co-ordinated by the Internal Services Committee in the future. This would mean a slight reorganisation of the Union committee structure but I think this would benefit both the services and the students. I would not like to see the provision of a complaints forum to be scrapped, even if the students in general don't care to use it that often. I see the role of Internal Services in future as a co-ordination committee, directing the views of the students to the individual services committees and organising the publicity and promotions of the services so that the students are aware of what's going on.

Neil McClusky.

Transport Officer

Things have gone quite well with transport this year, mainly due to having the largest ever fleet. This has enabled most requests for vans to be satisfied, although there have been very few vans free at weekends, the peak time. The oldest two vans are still running, despite having suffered four years each at the hands of large numbers of sometimes less than considerate drivers, whilst the newer five are all in pretty good condition, even WLE.

Ideally, OLE would be replaced soon, but having already bought PFB out of this year's money, we can't afford another new one at the moment.

The harmonisation of UK driving licence rules with those of other EC countries in a few years time could make the running of the fleet much harder, possibly every Union driver may have to take an official test of some sort, which might be prohibitively expensive.

Due to the uncertainty about the new rules, even the purchase of a pre-owned van is unlikely, at least until we see which way the wind is blowing.

A couple of small accidents led to the culprits being charged most of the insurance excess for the repairs, whilst some hassle has been caused by people returning vans late, or hanging on to keys for a long time. Transport Committee is taking a more severe line in dealing with infringers of the rules than they have in the past, and penalties could well increase in the future.

Dave Wilson.

SCC Chairman

This has been a pretty good year for SCC. We've seen an unprecedented amount of activity on the New societies front, eight new societies have set up this year. To compensate for this, nine societies which had been flagging or had died completely have been shut down to make way—and funds—for the newcomers.

Individual SCC societies have enjoyed many successes throughout the year, too numerous to mention, and SCC itself has had a good relationship with the Union, moving generally closer throughout the year. Our total membership has been slightly in excess of 2000 students.

For the first time, SCC has awarded its own social colours. The recipients were listed in FELIX 836, and I congratulate them all. The ties have been ordered, being an IC crest with narrow, diagonal stripes of gold, purple, white, maroon and gold below. They should start to be visible around College later this year. Some form of colours for ladies is also under investigation.

Also for the first time this year societies have been allowed carryover between years. The level of carryover (the percentage of a society's closing balance transferred to the following year) depends on how overspent generally SCC is, and will not become known until after the audit. My personal guess is about 85% but don't quote me! In future years this figure will be more instantly accessible, due to improved auditing procedures.

Following the UGM of May 30, the Union is required to liaise with College to find mutually agreeable ground to set external bank accounts upon. My successor, Stephen Parkus (best of luck Steve), is going to have to watch the Union pretty closely to ensure they get on with this and don't allow it to die quietly before a College committee somewhere. No thanks are due to the Union—esp. Council—for blocking this one for months when it was obvious from the beginning that the students wanted it. I can see no greater justification for Council ever to legislate than that it is the wish of the electorate but some members found that their own personal feeling superseded any desire to represent students. I probably wouldn't have got so annoyed about this except it wasn't the only time this year I saw it happening.

Hopefully more explanations about these weird accounts will follow in due course. Watch this publication!

What else can I say? Heartfelt thanks to all the SCC delegates for sitting through a year of reports like this, to Spenser, Roger, Nicky and Stephen for sitting through Exec. meetings as well, but above all to Simon for doing the tough bit all year through, and ever quitting.

"Council? Don't talk to me about Council!"

Marvin, the paranoid SCC Chairman.

Rag Chairman

Rag began the year as it usually does, with Tiddlywinks down Oxford Street. It was a little different this year: as it was partly televised on 'That's Life' star Gavin Campbell tiddled the first wink. The term rapidly shot towards Rag Week and this contained its usual mix of events with a couple of new ones thrown in for good measure: the Rag Week Bar Quiz could only have been described as storming and some members of the ICU hockey team did very well for prizes! Other notable events during the Week included a slight contretemps with the local constabulary who couldn't understand how the Raft Race raised money for charity. But as usual in that type of situation, I flitted my eyelids and assured them that 'it won't happen again, officer'. Little do they know... On the subject of the Raft Race, I have never seen such awful cheats as Guilds and RCS were the winners. They also had enough common sense to make a rapid retreat from the Serpentine when a flashing blue light arrived at the scene.

RCS have excelled at street collecting under Dave Williams and the Great Ormond Street charity especially is several thousand pounds better off due to their combined efforts. Guilds have not raised as much money but have carried out a wide variety of events ranging from one individual (who shall remain nameless—Cathy) who shut up for a day, to a very successful (and very loud) carnival. As to Mines, who could forget the Dirty Disco, which was wonderful.

Rag Fête, although it was held on the gloomiest day in May, was enjoyed by all who attended including Gordon Honeycombe, ex-newsreader extraordinaire, who was our celebrity for the day. But I think the real star of the day was Poppy, the obliging goat, who did her business for Links, Mud-wrestling was certainly fun but was a little marred when most of the competitors had to visit the Health Centre the following Monday for tetanus jabs.

Being Rag Chairman has certainly been an experience and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. (Yes, I know that's a naff cliché but it's true).

I would especially like to thank the following people who have given up vast amounts of their valuable time for Rag even though they're not on Rag Committee: Dramsoc, (how could we have done without you?), Jelly and Beef and the Snack Bar people, (yes, those people from Leicester were born out of wedlock), Dr Hardwick from Civ Eng for all his hard work as treasurer, Roger from Southside for lots of free drinks for prizes and Chris Browne's Dad for advice on the legalities of dubious publications.)

Deputy President

Continued

the Union Manager and I have set up a very good working relationship with the State University of New York, based in Kensington Church St., and quite apart from the social benefits (there were 39 girls and 7 guys on the course) it has brought in much needed room hire, bar and catering income. We have started to sell "temporary membership" of IC Union to these students and they are quite prepared to pay. Nigel Baker, Union President, has also been working on the scheme and is extending it to many other Colleges.

10. Staffing.

It is worth mentioning a few words about staffing. As the Union is small, changes to the staff can have a profound effect on the amount of work that the sabbaticals have to do (and vice versa). For example, when the Union receptionist left in December it was nearly a term before she was replaced. This created a lot of extra work for the sabbaticals and other members of permanent staff in the Office in covering the relevant duties. I have had to sit in on interviews for the new catering staff and receptionist. There have also been one or two disciplinary matters to deal with. Generally

I am impressed with the perseverance and dedication with the Union staff approach their jobs, especially as they are working for students who are much less experienced and knowledgeable than they are. In particular I have been impressed with the professionalism of the two staff directly under me and I must say it has been a pleasure to work with the Union Finance Officer and Union Manager. I've learned more about staff management this year than I ever dreamed I would!

11. Mascotry.

A quiet year for the Wooden Horse Organisation for ICU, but the CCUs were active as usual. I was particularly pleased to hear of the large donation to charity on the occasion of the return of Spanner and Bolt to C+GU; after all, that's what it's all about. On the ICU side, Mike has appeared at most UGMs this year and I would like to express my appreciation to those members of RCS/Guilds, who have consistently turned up to carry Mike and afford him safe passage to and from the UGM. I am grateful to you all.

12. Conclusions.

It's been a hell of a year - but unlike my year as Academic Affairs Officer last year I would not do the job again and I was left in the unenviable position of having no handover from the previous incumbent which put me at a disadvantage of having to learn everything by myself. But I've survived. There have been ups and downs and I will be the first to admit that I have not always seen eye to eye with my fellow sabbaticals. However, I have mellowed with time and learned to settle into the job. The best part of the job? Attending the leaving dinner for Sir Henry Fisher, former Chairman of the Governing Body and imbibing suitable liquids with present/past sabbaticals and senior members of the College until the early hours. The worst part? Cleaning up where someone had vomited outside the Union Office during the Guilds Carnival...

I have enjoyed my 5 years at IC, but the time has come for me to move on. To Dave Williams I wish the best of luck for next year; for my part I will reflect on what has been the most momentous year of my life for many years to come.

Charles Brereton.

FELIX STAFF PHOTO



Meet 12.30pm in the
FELIX Office
on Friday 16th June

*Everyone who has contributed to this year's
FELIX should attend*

FELIX

Champagne Buffet

Free to members of FELIX Staff
Wednesday 21 June, 7.30pm
in the Union Lounge

London Zoo Mascotry Raid Shock

Brixton's mascotry team has pulled off a stunning raid on London Zoo. They have liberated 'Simba' an 800 pound African lion from the Zoo's big cat enclosure. The raid occurred on Wednesday night when a four man team managed to gain access to Simba's enclosure using

approximately three kilos of marajuana to subdue him.

A spokesman for the team said they hoped to get a set of 3000 watt speakers for his return. When asked if they had had any problems with Simba the spokesman said, 'He takes a bit of feeding, but deep down he's a real pussy cat.'



Titanic Power Struggle in Sherfield

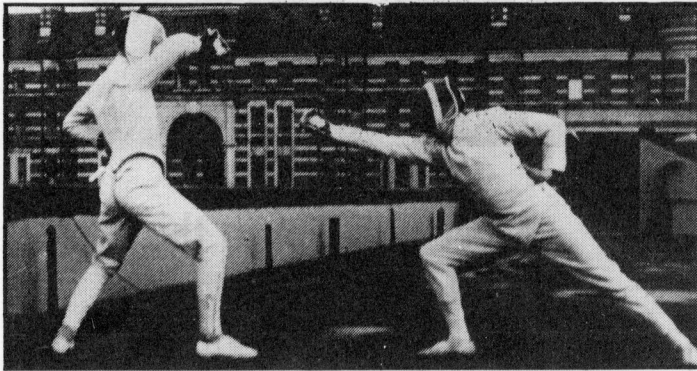
Pictured below is the first round in attempts to find a replacement for College Secretary John Smith.

College refectories manager, 'Honest' Rob Northey, took on College Assistant Finance Bod, Dave Parry, in a 'chance' encounter on the roof of Beit Hall at 8am on Monday. 'I was quite surprised to find Parry up at 8am', said Rob later, as he tended severe lacerations to his right arm.

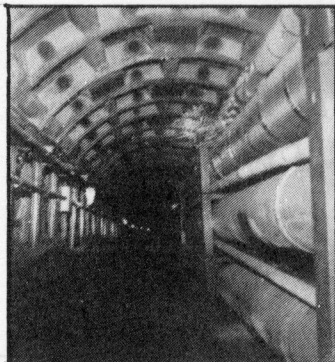
Eyewitness reports made it clear

that no certain result was forthcoming from this first bout, as Rob Northey had to leave early to search London for food for a HUB luncheon, and Dave Parry remembered an urgent meeting in the Holland Club.

The next round, which will take place at dawn tomorrow and is between Clare Ash and College security supremo Geoff Reeves. Sensible money is on Clare Ash



Students find HUB Office

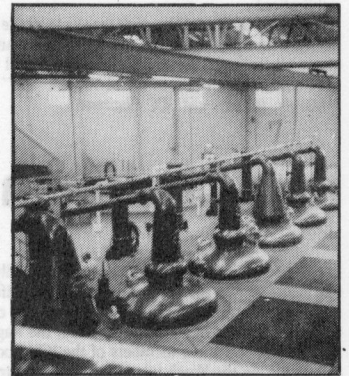


Three students from IC Caving Club, sponsored by the Exploration Board, have succeeded in locating the HUB Office. The mystical office was believed to be somewhere in the Sherfield Building, but after two weeks of extensive searching the team had found nothing. Finally, after asking some natives, they trekked 200 yards towards Queens Gate, and traced the office to the Rector's bedroom. Previous reports that the HUB Office promotes 'social' intercourse between students are now thought to be misprints.

QT burgers in chemical weapons controversy

Hamburgers from the QT burger bar have been cited as evidence of UK stockpiling of chemical weapons at the Geneva Arms Talks this week. Russian negotiators said, 'We firmly believe that Imperial College is testing out these vile weapons on unsuspecting students before the government deploys them in West Germany.'

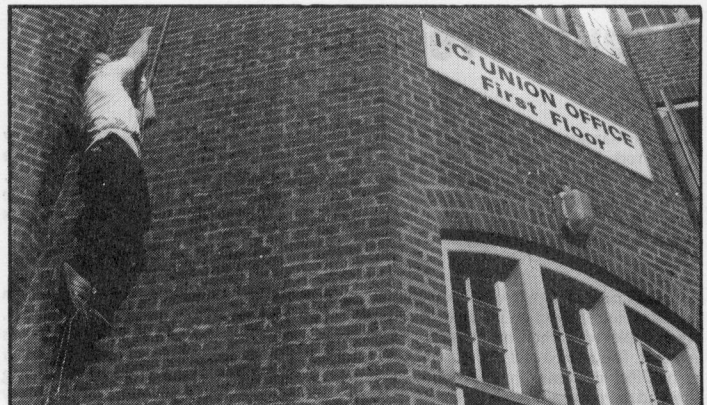
A spokesman for IC refectories denied the allegations, but added that it sounded like a jolly good idea, and sales might pay for the new lighting in the Main Dining Hall.



ICU Staircase Collapse Carnage

Staff arriving at the Union Building yesterday were surprised to find the main staircase missing. The staircase was apparently needed by Sherfield to provide the Rector with a 'back door' escape route from his office.

Mountaineering Club had to be contacted to provide climbing gear to get the Sabbaticals up to the Union Office. However, at about 10am, a large section of the building, weakened by the alterations, collapsed into the games room, seriously injuring ICU DP Chas Brereton. 'I was really pissed off', said Chas, speaking from his hospital bed. 'I had just got to the final level of Operation Wolf.'



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data were returned from Audience Selection. A summary report has now been written and can be viewed in the President's Office.

6.1.2. Campaigns

Four campaigns were planned and each was to last a week. The first was held at the end of the first term and the last three were in the second term. Each of the campaigns was run in a very similar way, with display boards and leaflets in departmental foyers, and other activities specific to the campaign. It is without a doubt that the first campaign was the most successful. The Alcohol Awareness week received a lot of internal publicity and attention and I don't think there was anyone in the College who was not aware of it. It also received a write-up in the Times Higher Education Supplement. The AIDS and sexuality awareness week received, perhaps, not surprisingly, a mixed reception. Views seemed to range from those who actively supported the campaign and tried to stress the facts about AIDS to those who condemned the Union and myself for wasting their money on something they saw as irrelevant to the majority of IC students. For a few months there was quite a good debate about the pros and cons of the campaign on the letters page of FELIX. This in itself brought more attention to the subject. In retrospect it is clear that the DSS awareness week was badly timed. By the time it was run most students already had any benefits they were entitled to sorted out and it was too far ahead of the summer holiday to look at vacation payments. Next year this campaign will be run at the beginning of the year when it can be of real benefit to the students. When the fourth campaign was decided upon it was going to be aimed at healthy eating but after discussions with the Riverside Health Authority it was decided to expand this to a 'Look After Your Heart' week. The leaflets were quite slow to go but the display in the JCR on the Thursday was a great success, mainly due to the 'hands on' nature of the stands.

6.1.3. Follow-Up Survey

The follow-up survey was aimed at assessing the success, or lack of it, of the Welfare '89 campaign. Small questionnaires were sent to the students in the departments of Chemistry, Electrical Engineering and Mineral Resources Engineering because they mirrored the College as a whole and were a representative sample. The results of this survey will be available at the end of the term.

6.2. Welfare Adviser

The Union is now fortunate to have its own Welfare Adviser. Yve Posner has taken over the position after Lindsey Symonds left in March 1988. She is now situated in the old jazz room and the proximity to the Union Office is proving to be a definite advantage. Yve's background is in housing and welfare rights and this is where most of the advice is given to the students.

6.3. Childcare

The Imperial College Day Nursery currently has forty-four full-time care places for children of students and staff at Imperial College. Of the forty-four places, twelve or thirteen are, on average, occupied by the children of students.

The current fees are set at £52 per week or £220 per month if paid by standing order. For the students who are at the upper end of the income band these fees are not too bad, but for those in the middle these can only be afforded if the parent released from the role of child care can find work. This finding of work becomes a prerequisite for acceptance of a place in the nursery and so a vicious circle is set up, with the second parent unable to look for work until the child is in the nursery. The only subsidy scheme currently available for the less well off parents is that offered by Don Adlington, the Student Counsellor. This year this subsidy pot had the sum of £10,000 in it but this was a one-off abnormally high payment to offset some of the immediate effects of some sharp price rises. The previous year the subsidy from the College was £6,500. Students who apply to Don Adlington for a subsidy receive up to £50 depending on their own disposable income, a sliding scale is used to determine the exact level of each student's subsidy.

Approximately five years ago the local council became concerned about the care for some of the children of students from Imperial College. This resulted in discussions between the College, the local health authority and care workers. No progress looked like being made until a fund was 'found' by the local council. This fund was used to give subsidies to the poorest of the parents and these enabled some of them to afford the nursery places, especially when the level of subsidy was up to £100 per month. When coupled with the College subsidy this left some parents only £70 per month to find. At the end of 1988 the 'found' fund ran out and the local council had no option but to stop the subsidy to the parents. This resulted in a number of parents having to withdraw their children from the nursery. These places were then offered to some student parents on the waiting list. Unfortunately many of them had heard about the Kensington and Chelsea Council subsidy and so were relying on this to be able to pay the fees once a place had been offered to their child. It has since taken four months to fill the places in the nursery as time and time again this problem has occurred.

Various sources of funding have been sought to replace the withdrawn council subsidy but nothing has been forthcoming and it seems more and more likely with each day that nothing will be found. It therefore comes down to the grim reality of the situation that unless more money can be found to subsidise place in an expanded nursery there will be many children of students at Imperial College who cannot benefit from the nursery's facilities and teaching. The students themselves will also be unable to study without worry about their children and, in some cases, the children may be in danger of being neglected.

A working party was set up in November to look into the possibility of using the Union Building to set up a playgroup. The legal and financial side of the playgroup were investigated however such a group would rely on quite a large parental input which was not forthcoming and it was for this reason that the working party had to report that such a group is not feasible at present.

7. Other Responsibilities

7.1. Staff

In addition to the new Welfare Adviser we have a new Assistant Administrator and Snack Bar, now the Caterpillar Café, Management. All are fitting in well and working really hard for the Union. We were sad to see Kathy go after many years of loyal service and she will be missed. Within the Bookstore, Roy Hicks, the Manager, also decided to leave taking early retirement.

7.2. St Mary's

The merger of the St Mary's Hospital Medical School with Imperial College took place on August 1 1988. This was celebrated by a gala ceremony in the Great Hall. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the two Unions. Despite the formation of a working party and what has been described as an 'imaginative' solution to the split site problem the two unions are as far apart as ever and, were the truth to be told I believe that it will be a very long time before they merge. It will probably result in the College Governors 'giving' the Union a new set of by-laws which will incorporate the St Mary's Student Union as a CCU.

7.3. Transport

This year myself and Ian Morris had to take over the running of the Union's seven van fleet from the Deputy President because he was unable to cope. I have been responsible for the administration

of the fleet with Ian covering the servicing and repairs. This has worked well. The vast majority of weekends have seen all seven vans used and on only one occasion has someone asked for a van before the deadline and not received one. One apology I must make is that as far as psychic powers are concerned it's been a poor year. I have not been able to 'see' which van a particular club would like, I have not been able to foretell which roads a society is to use and for this I humbly apologise.

7.4. Insurance

This has been a real eye opener this year. A few claims have had to be made and the waterski boat has given me hours of fun. I am in the process of giving the Union's Insurance manifest a complete overhaul so that we can be insured to the right value. Accurate insurance lists of equipment have been obtained and in future club captains will have to sign to take financial responsibility for their club's equipment. MSC chairmen are to be the only people with the power to 'write-off' equipment and this should reduce the number of incidences where equipment gets 'lost'.

7.5. Executive Committee

This is the only committee I am chairman of (thankfully). It has met weekly without fail throughout the year and has been a useful information swapping forum. The ability to call meetings at such short notice has been very useful in dealing with emergency matters. It was nothing new for the Exec to meet twice in one day and on March 7 it actually met three times.

8. Conclusion

This year has been enjoyable on the whole although I wouldn't do such a job again. I wish Neil luck next year and his thirteen month term should be a definite advantage. The last word must be reserved for the two people to whom I will be forever grateful. Jen has been invaluable to me this year and I feel sorry for the first President who will not have here to bounce ideas off and to use as a mine of information. It's not without reason that I call her 'Boss'. Secondly, I must thank Fiona for putting up with the job, and me!

Nigel x.

Hon Sec (Events)

Entertainments/Events

In previous years there has been no sabbatical directly connected with the Entertainments Committee. This year, one of my main areas of responsibility has been the coordination of entertainments and assisting the Ents Committee. Due to my past involvements in Ents and the fact that the Ents Hon Sec and Treasurer had work commitments during the summer, I found myself working very closely with the Ents Officer in the preparations for Freshers' Week. This link was strengthened due to the resignation of the Ents Hon Sec at the time who had not worked as he should have.

With a turnover of over £20,000 it is essential that the committee have office space to work in and I hope that future Hon Secs will allow them to share their office.

The biggest problem in staging Union events has been the small contingent of idiots who seem to take great pleasure in trying to avoid paying the entrance fee. Considering that the regular gigs have cost about £1.50 to £2.00 a time, it is pathetic that these people refuse to realise the value for money the events offer.

Apart from assisting Ents, it was my job to organise certain other events.

The first of these was the Freshers' Fair which consisted of over a hundred stalls spread throughout the campus on the second day of term.

The running costs of the fair were covered by charging external organisations an attendance fee. The level of this fee has not really been kept in line with inflation and, considering the growing competition between banks for student accounts, could be significantly increased in the future.

The next major event was the Commemoration Ball on October 27. Until this year, the Ball had been held within College and it was felt that interest in the event was low. It was therefore arranged in the Dinosaur Room of the Natural History Museum where a three course dinner was served accompanied by a guitar/flute duo.

After the dinner a jazz band then played before everyone returned to the Union Building to dance, drink and gamble until 4am.

The only problem with the night was that there was too much drink available in the Museum and everybody was inebriated too early.

The turnover for the event was approximately £17,000 and was run on a break-even basis.

On January 26 I ran a risk by staging a wrestling tournament in the Great Hall. Despite very extensive publicity the event was not overwhelmingly attended perhaps due to people being unsure of what to expect.

I believe that everyone who went enjoyed themselves and I would recommend a repeat tournament which should be successful based on the reputation of this year's.

As well as these specific events I have also organised, in conjunction with Ents, fifteen Wednesday night discos, five bar quizzes, the Rag/Hyde Park Relay Party. The purchase of the 50" TV screen also allowed me to show the Superbowl, the Bruno fight, the Five Nations Rugby Matches, the FA Cup Final and the Arsenal/Liverpool league game. All of these were successful and were linked in with bar promotions for which I am indebted to the Bar Manager.

The Staff the Poll Tax Carnival was attended by about five hundred people, less than usual because term finished on a Wednesday. A Carnival should be held this time of year in future (just prior to the Easter vacation) but with a proportionally smaller expenditure compared to the other carnivals.

Rag

Not having any experience of Rag I have tried to help the committee wherever possible and attended the Rag Conference at Leicester in January.

I have been able to do most things like the Guilds Carnival and I see the Hon Sec's role in the future as helping Rag with areas in which they require experience of running events.

I have worked with Rag on some Union events during which they sold cocktails or red noses and ran a cloakroom.

I was put in charge of sorting out the Rag Fête and I believe that as long as comprehensive information is passed down, this would be a good arrangement for the future.

Transport

Originally, the van fleet was the responsibility of the Deputy President but it was decided that this would be more easily handled by splitting the job between the President and the Honorary Secretary.

I was therefore faced with the job of maintaining the fleet. The difficulty has been, on the whole, when minor repairs have been necessary. I haven't had the time or education to 'nip' down and fiddle with a van, and to put it into a garage would not have been economic. Instead, I waited until there were a number of small defects and then got the van serviced or checked over.

The 'Repairs to be done' book in the Union Office has got a number of entries which is far smaller

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than the number of moaning people who expected me to physically realise that one of the vans made a noise when you drove at 43mph up a Welsh mountain.

The Transport Officer next year will be responsible for repairs and so things should be a little easier all round. The requirements of the fleet have been analysed to find out whether the purchase of a car, a van with a towbar (ie exit door on the side) and a minibus (with comfy seats as opposed to the crewbuses we have at present).

We do not have the money in the transport account to purchase a new van as two were purchased last year. It may be possible, however, to buy a second-hand or reconditioned van to replace our oldest seventeen seater.

Publicity

The recent appearance of the Moonies on campus highlights the importance of enforcing the Union's publicity rules which cover the Union Building, Southside Lounge and the Sheffield Walkway.

The publicity rules were changed this year to facilitate easier enforcement and Rag have done poster raids collecting those which contravened the rules. The first one gave rise to fines totalling £85 (which, at between 5p and 20p average a fine, is significant).

A new rule was introduced later on in the year as a result of the Socialist Worker Student Society trying to make an external poster valid by writing ICUSWSS in biro at the top.

All in all the Union's clubs and societies have begun to follow the rules and the greatest problem lies with external bodies and College publicity.

Returning Officer

Apart from the sabbatical elections, the job of Returning Officer has been reasonably uneventful with many posts still remaining unfilled.

During the sabbatical elections, hustings were held at St Mary's, Fisher Hall and Montpellier Halls as well as in the Great Hall.

I would recommend that no hustings take place at St Mary's until the merger is settled and the students there realise the importance of the sabbatical elections. As it was, it was a disgrace. During the vote it became apparent that the St Mary's exec were 'encouraging' people to vote in a certain way and Elections Committee decided that the votes cast at St Mary's should not be considered. An appeal was then made to the Executive Committee by one of the candidates but the decision was upheld. The situation then went to appear at UGM (by now, the count had been delayed by two days) which voted to uphold the decision by 131 votes to 97.

The said votes were destroyed and the count took place returning Neil McClusky as President, Dave Williams as Deputy President, Fiona Nicholas as Honorary Secretary, and Dave Smedley as FELIX Editor.

Around nine hundred people voted and the single transferrable vote system was used.

Photocopying

This year I have issued enough photocopy cards for over fifty thousand A4 copies to be done on the Union Office photocopier.

The machine has been frequently out of order but this is probably due to the excessive use rather than a faulty machine. In any case, my predecessor organised the contract which only allows us to change the model in two years time.

At present, clubs and societies are given a plastic copy card for which they are invoiced during the summer term. A better system would be for cards similar to those used in the departments to be sold through the bookstore and the money to be claimed back by the buyer from the club.

This would prevent people getting unnecessarily large numbers of units and would help the treasurers to have a better idea of the club's creditors.

Loans

The Executive were criticised for their slow uptake on the issue before the White Paper had been published. The argument was that we should have known what was happening from the newspapers. Ask the same people about the march on November 25 and they say that the newspapers were biased in their reporting.

Upon reading the White Paper, it was obvious that no consideration had been given to London as an exception to national averages.

I obtained a copy of the survey of undergraduates' income and expenditure which was the basis for the White Paper and analysed the figures for London. The result was that students in London will be £1,500 overdrawn at the end of the course over and above the student loan they will still owe.

The paper from which that figure was derived was sent to every MP and replies are being received daily.

Conclusions

I have enjoyed the year on the whole and unlike the old cliché, I would happily undertake to do the job again because it is a pity that all the knowledge and contacts gained by a sabbatical walk out of the Union at the end of their term. There is of course the point that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys.

This Union is run on goodwill and I thank everyone who has shown some this year.

By the way, I've just set up this company.....

Ian Morris.

Deputy President

It has been a year of much change within ICU. Not least with the radical change in the job which the Deputy President has had to do. However, I have found myself spending much more time on areas which I previously thought would not take up much time at all.

Chief among these areas is that of the general administration of the Union. I was surprised when I took up the job just how much work is required just to keep the Union "ticking over". For this reason I will have disappointed many people who voted for me in the hope that I could achieve a great deal in some areas. Nevertheless, progress has been made in various fields which I will deal with in more detail below.

1. Academic Affairs

This is the single most important area that the Union deals with as I believe that the Union's interaction with the College's academic machinery can have the most wide-ranging implications for the students. As Academic Affairs Officer last year, it made sense for me to continue representing students in this field.

1. Committees: A horrible word, but it's the stuff that Academic Affairs thrives on. Whether at the level of a 1st year Ac Rep or the DP himself, we all have a vital part to play in making sure that our courses run smoothly. This is not always easy, but by applying pressure in the appropriate Committees it is possible to get the College to do something about academic problems.

2. Undergraduate Studies Committee: This has been my second year on the Committee. The

workload which it has undertaken has been tremendous, and my thanks must go to Professor David Blow who has been Chairman for three years and has come to the end of his term of office. Through the Committee he has done a hell of a lot for the students of this College. Professor David Ewins, who has been responsible for the Lecturer Evaluation Questionnaire which was run throughout the College, takes over as Chairman and I wish him well. Vernon McClure, the Deputy Registrar, has put in a lot of work on the questionnaire and behind-the-scenes, and I hope he will continue his work as Secretary of the Committee.

3. Among the subjects which the Committee deals with are the evaluation of new and existing courses, the lecturer questionnaire and has also had a working group on student needs. This has meant lots of meeting for everybody (not least the student members) and a lot of hard work has been done this year in these areas. If there is a single Committee which has shown dedication to student's academic needs, then this is it.

4. Lecturer Questionnaire: I was responsible for assisting the College with the pilot run last year and so I was particularly pleased to see it fully in operation this year. However, it has not been without problems. Low returns and general apathy from Joe Student has provoked an angry backlash from many staff, who are concerned that statistically dubious results will affect their promotion prospects. I can only counter this by saying that the questionnaire is but one of the areas which the USC has identified as being suitable for assessing staff. It is up to YOU students to fill in the questionnaire and provide the College with YOUR assessment of your lecturers. If you do not do this, the more conservative elements among the staff may well try to have the questionnaire scrapped. Four years of hard work could go down the drain and the students will be back to square one. I urge all of you not to let this happen.

5. Board of Studies: The top academic body in the College, chaired by the Rector, it is basically a rubber-stamping Committee, nearly always inoperative (because everything has already been decided). The disadvantage of this is that it is very difficult to get them to change their ways. The advantage is that a report from a Sub-Committee (nearly all of which have student reps on them) will be accepted with virtually no dissent. This often means that the students' views, incorporated into a policy document, will be accepted by the College and recommendations put into practice.

6. Careers Advisers Committee: The Committee is virtually ineffective, the Departmental Careers Advisers giving little input. The staff in the Careers Service are dedicated to their jobs and having worked with them at both College and University level I am very impressed with the work that they do. But funding pressures mean that externally generated income is becoming a larger than ever proportion of the CAS budget (20% for next year in the University CAS). The IC CAS has had its budget cut because of the College's expectation that they should raise funds from employers.

7. At the University Level I have been a member of the University Careers Advisory Board which meets twice a year. I think that I have been able to enhance the reputation of IC students with the Board, being the only student rep out of all the others who has attended every meeting of the Board and its Student Liaison sub-committee. (Total: 4 meetings.) The Board is useful for gaining a London-wide perspective on the work of the Careers Service and I would strongly recommend it to any of the GUC delegates next year to stand for.

8. Admissions Policy Committee: I have attended 2 meetings of the Committee this session. The main problems identified with recruitment of students are the image which the College has with students, i.e. the perceived poor standard of teaching, the emphasis on research rather than teaching and perhaps most importantly, the high cost of living and studying in London. With the accommodation crisis as it is, and loans and the poll tax just round the corner, the College is going to find it harder than ever to recruit students.

9. ICU Academic Affairs Committee: Richard Spencer, ICU AAO, has done a superb job this year and I'm proud to have had such a good successor to my post of last year. He has my best wishes for his final year. He has effectively co-ordinated Ac Aff representation throughout the four CCUs and through the CCU Ac Aff sub-committees he has increased the involvement of the Dep Reps. The Committee itself has not had to meet so often as the workload has largely been shifted to the sub-committees. I have been generally happy with the reps we've had this year with one or two exceptions.

10. AUT action: This is still a major problem. You will recall that the AUT had a policy of non-setting of examinations in pursuit of their pay-claim. This caused some examinations to be postponed. The AUT subsequently changed their policy to one of non-marking which has meant that the majority of students are able to take their exams normally. But in some departments this has meant that exams are squeezed together in a short space of time. Biochemists have had the worst time, with the third years' having to sit their finals after doing their projects and second years' having 6 three-hour exams in five days at the end of term. Having studied Biochemistry myself I can sympathise with the students' plight. However the Department has refused to budge.

11. Central Libraries Committee: This Committee was streamlined about a year ago, and although we lost one student representative's place (from three to two) the Committee works much better and has made some progress. Chief among these is the introduction of the new Libertas computerised library system. There is also the possibility of introducing a combined Union/Library card in the 1990/91 session, which will be more secure than the present arrangements.

12. Alternative Prospectus: This has finally been published, and thanks are due to Ramin Nakisa for doing what is an unenviable task. I wanted to have an editorial board which would vet the publication and deflect criticism from the College away from the author, but I now think that this body should have merely an advisory role. No-one, College nor Union, should have the power to tell the democratically elected editor what to put in his/her publication, if the editor has been responsible with his freedom to edit and criticise where necessary.

2. Overseas Students

1. Many of you will rightly say that I have not achieved very much for Overseas students. However a lot of the problems cannot be solved at the College level. The fees for Overseas Students are very high compared to those for Home students. Many of them are unaccustomed to British way of life and consequently find it hard to adjust. The College's Committee on Overseas Students has recently produced a policy statement which details the Committee's aims on Recruitment and Treatment of Overseas Students. Hopefully this will pass through the College Board of Studies and become College policy.

2. The problems some overseas students face in finding suitable accommodation is depressing. Many students who are sponsored by their Governments don't receive enough money to survive on. Some cannot even afford the rents charged in College accommodation. These problems will continue to get worse as the cost of living increases, in London in particular.

3. The Union's Overseas Student's Committee has not been as effective in these sorts of matters as I would have liked. While the overseas societies continue to organise social events for their members, there is no effective co-ordination of their activities and I feel that there is no identification with the rest of the Union. It is almost as if there is a complete division between the "home" and "overseas" students in the activities that they pursue. I hope that I'm wrong. International Nite was well attended but the number of problems encountered could have resulted in a serious financial loss. I have prepared a paper on the subject and I hope that my recommendations will be put into practice by next year's committee. Tieniu Tan has done a reasonable job in the circumstances, having taken over as OSC Chairman in November 1988.

4. On the subject of OSC finances, there has been a change of Senior Treasurer, and I would hope that a proper system of regular treasurer's meetings will be set up rather than the ad hoc

Overseas Students Committee

The OSC has been traditionally one of the less popular MSCs (Major Sub-Committees), and somewhat remote from the rest of the ICU. This year I have attempted to bring the OSC closer to the mainstream of ICU activities, and I hope this policy will be appreciated and continued in the future.

1. Representation

The OSC represents not only the various national societies at the College but every individual overseas student at Imperial. It is this which leads me to voice my concern at the way the College administration treats overseas students as a direct commodity. The College has realised that the overseas students paying overseas fees provide a valuable source of income especially at the moment of the slash of educational expenditure by the government, and has initiated a series of intensive recruitment programmes worldwide. This has seen the number of overseas students at IC increase from some 1,150 last year to 1,500 this year, giving an increase rate of 30.4%. My concern is based on the fact that the College does not deem it necessary to provide the additional support services in terms of welfare and accommodation that the increase in the number of students will require.

It may prove possible to increase the number of overseas students on the short term by keeping the current policies. Nevertheless, if the students returning to their home countries are not satisfied with the facilities at IC, they will surely not recommend it to others, and the College may subsequently lose the international reputation it has enjoyed as a high standard educational establishment, and the recruitment will become much harder in the long term.

2. Constituent Societies

The organisation of OSC is very much UN-like. At present, the OSC is composed of 23 constituent societies. They are, in alphabetical order, Afro-Caribbean, Brazilian, Chinese, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Cypriot, Egyptian, Friends of Palestine, Hellenic, Indian, Iranian, Italian, Korean, Latin American, Lebanese, Malaysian, Mauritania, Middle East, Nigerian, Pakistan, Scandinavian, Singapore, Sri Lankan and Turkish. The societies new to this year are Brazilian, Italian, Mauritania and Scandinavian. In addition, the formation of another two societies, namely Asian and Indonesian, is currently under consideration.

The running of these societies has been in general about satisfactory, and some societies have shown a substantial increase in their activities and events.

3. OSC Executive

The OSC Executive is the body which keeps the diary running of the OSC. Most of its members have been responsible and efficient.

4. Major Events

Sports: The appointment of an OSC sports officer in the second half of the year has been very effective. He has been able to coordinate the weekly activities of the various societies in the very limited time allocated for the use of College sports facilities, as well as organise the OSC volleyball tournament which took place in April 1989.

Seminar by Prof A Salaam: A new attempt made this year to publicise the OSC is to organise seminars of general interest. This year the OSC has invited Prof A Salaam to give a seminar in the College. The professor, who won the Nobel prize in physics in 1979, spoke to an unexpectedly large crowd of students about his university life in this country.

International Week/Night: The highlight of the OSC calendar was the International Week/Night in February. This has grown into a major event in recent years, attracting more than 1000 people this year, and has gained a reputation as being one of the best international events amongst the London colleges. The programme of this year's International Night was very comprehensive, including a national culture display and exhibition, a national culture and fashion show, a traditional Brazilian carnival, an Afro-Caribbean disco party, a national food tasting party, and a Chinese variety show. The national food tasting party has been highly appreciated by the participants.

Imperial College Summer Fair 1989: The annual Summer Fair is the traditional major social event in the College organised by the HUB. This year's Summer Fair will be held on June 18, 1989. Again to publicise itself, the OSC has actively coordinated with the HUB in the planning of the event. In particular, an International Pavement Café will be presented at the Fair by some OSC constituent societies.

5. Conclusion

May I say this year has been successful for the OSC and its constituent societies. I trust there is a greater awareness of the international community at IC, giving one the opportunity to find out the various cultures present at IC, as well as giving the overseas students the chance to bring to the attention of all IC students matter of international significance. I am sure the spirit of internationalism which exists at IC and overrides all else within the OSC will continue.

It is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of my committee and all those who have contributed in some way towards the OSC this year. May I also wish our successor every success in the coming session.

Accommodation Officer

After kicking off to a somewhat shaky start, the committee got underway discussing a number of issues affecting the lives of IC students in their respective halls and houses, the main bones of contention being rent levels (what else?), security, subwardens (not again!) and the overall running of the halls and houses.

1. Rents

A hotly debated subject in all student spheres, and obviously the bane of the President's life. It is no secret that rent levels at IC have escalated to a level which is now at the threshold of the student market. A survey conducted by the committee of other colleges in London and their rents, painted a very black picture of IC indeed. It was felt that not enough information regarding the 'hidden extras' included in the termly bills, such as key deposit, amenities etc was given to prospective students, and that figures quoted in the prospectus didn't give a good enough indication of the costs of living in London. Apart from using the AP as a means of getting this message across to new students, it was also suggested that at the time of interview and departmental tours the issue should be brought up and clearly emphasised.

2. Houses and Halls

Generally, the reports provided by the various reps on the committee gave a clear insight into the everyday life of an IC hall/house, thus enabling prospective inmates to make up their own minds

about the 'goodies and the baddies'.

On the subject of halls/houses the merger this year of Southwell/Mining prompted much discussion (and the subject is still being raised), the pros and cons of merging various halls being hotly debated. A few major points were brought up to be raised at SRC, the advantage being that the Chairman (sorry Chairwoman) of the Committee has had the pleasure of living in both Mining and Southwell for the past two years and is therefore in a strong position to give an opinion as to the advantages and disadvantages of a merger and what improvements can be made.

3. Subwardens

The survey conducted by the committee members as to the value of subwardens unfortunately was misinterpreted by some as being a kind of 'witch hunt', which it was never meant to be. However, the overall feeling is that they are definitely worth it for the amount of time that they have put in, and that any reduction in numbers would be detrimental to the day-to-day running of IC residences.

4. Security

Time and time again this issue has raised its ugly head, both by Prince's Gardens and Evelyn Gardens reps. Obviously security is down to the students in some respects, but it still doesn't save the overall problems encountered late at night and during the day time, when residences are most vulnerable. Security is a long term problem, the matter of which needs to be discussed by next year's committee.

Vicky Phillips.

Women's Officer

Apologies for what's going to be a very short report but I'm busy trying to finish my project. Anyway, there's nothing much to report.

In many ways it's been a disheartening year. I took the post because no one else was going to and I believed that someone should. That meant that I didn't have any burning theories on what should be done, I intended to react rather than pro-act. However, no one seemed to want anything done or have any ideas.

In other respects the year has gone well. I have sat on Council and on a welfare committee that has helped Nigel run welfare campaigns. I was also part of the Playgroup Working Party which investigated the feasibility of a playgroup in the Union. Unfortunately the idea was abandoned due to lack of interest. One of the most successful activities was the free transport home for women. This was laid on after every major event, and thanks to Paul and Ian etc there were quite a few! The service was well used. Many thanks to all the drivers.

To finish, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped and wish Nicky Fox, next year's Women's Officer, luck.

Gill Knowles.

Industrial Relations Officer

A new post

The post of Industrial Relations Officer, Chairman of the Industrial Relations Committee (a minor sub-committee on Council), was created in May 1988. I was elected as the first IRO in October 1988. The aim of the IRC is to promote favourable links between all parts of ICU and industry. 'Favourable' may be in financial terms or otherwise.

This year

A great deal of time this year has been spent establishing the scope and organisation of the IRC. We've come up with lots of ideas, and put a number of them into practice. Brief details of this year's major projects are as follows:

Careers Fair: This is a major service to students and, with a potential five figure profit, also very lucrative. The loose ends from last year's fair have only just been tied up, and preparations for next year's fair are already underway. My thanks must go to IndSoc, who did the bulk of the work for last year's fair.

Advertising: A student was employed over the Easter vacation in a major initiative to increase advertising revenue for the Union's many publications. We can expect to see results from his work very soon.

Careers Service: We have worked with the College Careers Service to try to improve their facilities. A major refurbishment of the Careers Office is due to take place over the summer.

Sponsorship: With new Union sponsorship rules in place, we are just beginning to start work on increasing industrial sponsorship income for ICU and its clubs.

Mailing List: A number of departments pass lists of final year students on to recruiting companies, who use them for mass mailshots through the internal mail. With lists of clubs committees, we can go one better by providing a mailing service to students involved in organising extra-curricular activities. Mailing lists sell for a great deal of money, and this project could prove very financially worthwhile. It should come into action over the summer, as soon as a directory of next year's club committees has been compiled.

The future

There is a lot more that can be done to gain sponsorship, both for clubs and for ICU. With numbers of graduates expected to fall over the next few years, and demand for graduates steadily increasing, recruiting companies will become more and more willing to spend money in order to get involved with universities.

Next term's Careers Fair promises to be the biggest and the best yet. Our aim is to provide a better service to students, and at the same time to make a greater profit for ICU.

The potential for Industrial Relations is vast. With universities funding constantly being cut, we must eventually expect to see these cuts being passed on to ICU. Industrial Relations is one way in which we can generate our income to supplement our diminishing finances.

Finally

As yet, nobody has come forward to take up the post of Industrial Relations Officer next year. The job carries a fair amount of responsibility, as you will be representing ICU to the outside world of business and commerce, but in return it can be very rewarding. You certainly don't have to be a 'Union hack' to do it, so if you are interested in the job, please contact me (via the Union Office) or sign up on the election papers.

Gavin Spittlehouse.

Annual Reports

RCC Chairman

This year has been a typical one for the RCC. Essentially the clubs have been doing their own thing as usual, whilst the Committee has been giving out the money. Here are a few highlights.

The year started with the formation of the Remote-Controlled Model Club. Aided by a generous start-up grant from the RCC this club appears to be doing very well, and I have a lot of respect for Guy Myer for setting up a club having been at College less than a term. The RCC is in the process of accepting the start up of Splot Soc, to cater for the growing band of people who want to shoot each other in the woods. Funny, but it seems to be those in the TA who have most to say against other people playing soldiers. On the debit side we appear to have lost the Chess, Chinese Chess and Waterski Clubs, but I hope that this is only temporary.

It seems unfair to mention the successes of individual clubs, as there will always be those which I don't know about. This being the case I won't criticise either. Suffice to say that the only complaint I have about clubs are that they can be a little too self-contained. It is obvious that in many cases clubs are running themselves quite happily, and don't want to be bothered with any Union business, such as insurance, reports, grants...

The subject of the Union brings me on to the hack bit. I became involved with the Union only in my capacity as RCC Chairman, having had very little contact with the administrative side of things previously. At first I was appalled by the lack of standardisation in the way that things are done. I can see why each year the sabbaticals spend so much time trying to sort things out. However, over the course of the year I have come to be a lot less worried about this. I sincerely believe that the Union's job is to look after the welfare of students by, as the Union Finance Committee put it, 'laundering Government money'. The issue of club bank accounts is a good illustration of this principle. The only people in the Union who want bank accounts are the Major Sub-Committee Chairs, because they know that the accounts would make life a lot easier for their clubs. Everyone else sees it as an administrative nightmare, with reduced control over what clubs can spend their money on. But this is not what the Union is here for. If we can get away with handing clubs a cheque at the beginning of the year and saying, 'be good with it,' then we should. I know we can't, but we should be aiming for as much autonomy as we can manage. The CCUs get away with it. I am very pleased that Tom Yates has persuaded a UGM to make Council see sense, as their behaviour on this topic I regard as dishonourable.

Ah well, rant over. It's been a good year for me, as doing this job has brought me into contact with many interesting people. I'd like to thank those people in the RCC and the Union who made it all possible, my parents, girlfriend... Good luck to my successor, Tim King, and to everyone for next year.

Duncan McGregor,
RCC Chairman 1988/89.

PGAO

Introduction

The PGAO's job is to represent to the Union and College the views of almost half the membership of this college, the PhD, MSc and other postgraduate students. Since this group is notoriously silent, the job is rendered more difficult, and trying to elicit views from the PG community is next to impossible. Just trying to get the PG Group to meet has proved very difficult as well! Over the summer of '88, several PG Group meetings were called, and the attendance at these was 4 (including myself and the Union President). As a result of this, I decided that the PGAO's job for this year should be two-fold: firstly to represent the views and interests of PGs, as I saw them, and secondly to advertise the Union and College facilities to postgraduates. These will be the two underlying themes in the rest of this report.

College Committees

The two College committees that the PGAO sits on are the Board of Studies (BoS) and the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). BoS is essentially a rubber stamping body for other committees, though in theory is the supreme academic body. As such little of interest to PGs goes on here which doesn't happen first in GSC. GSC oversees all the PG teaching offered by the College. Regular work includes vetting new MSc courses and changes in existing ones; there has been no trouble in this area, though I would draw your attention to the number of Europe-related MSc's starting up as we draw closer to 1992. However, the issue of qualifications for European students who study here for a year at MSc level has caused a lot of discussion. The argument of whether they should be awarded MSc's, DIC's, or nothing has been resolved by the introduction of a new qualification, the International Diploma of Imperial College (IDIC). Divising this award took many meetings of a working party of which I was a member.

Another continuing issue this year was that of quality of supervision of foreign PhD students. They pay considerably greater fees than home students, and seem not to benefit a great deal from them. Indeed IC's reputation in two countries, Brazil and Turkey, has been severely damaged by comments sent back to their home governments about poor supervision. They have the impression that IC only wants them for their money, and is not prepared to do much for it! Indeed, the Rector gives this very impression at the Overseas Students Reception each year. From the problems reported and this impression it is small wonder that we will be getting far fewer students from these two countries in future. However, it is my belief that the supervision problems faced by these overseas students are not isolated, or indeed confined to foreign students. My own experience in my research group would tend to confirm this, but the College-wide picture is very unclear, partly due to the total lack of communication between PGs and either College or the Union about supervisory problems. Tutors, advisers and PG reps exist in every department, but these facilities are not widely known or advertised beyond the initial introductions and leaflets that are probably lost by the time problems arise. The end result of this is reduced submission rates, and a poorer reputation for the whole College. Some statistics MUST be gathered about this, and I would suggest that my successor looks into possible schemes.

PG Committees

One of the initiatives I took this year was to liaise with the Physics PG rep to try to set up a PG staff-student committee. However, it was never clear what the terms of reference of this group would be, or how it would function. In principle it would be a good way of getting information on the overall level of PG lecturing and supervision, but would be unable to do anything about it. As such, it did not seem reasonable to create a toothless monster, and the plans have died away. I now believe that schemes like this are not the best way of proceeding with PG representation. but am at a loss as to what is.

Demonstrators Pay Rates

A major success of the year has been spotting that College did not increase the PG demonstrators pay rates in line with UGC recommendations at the start of the academic session, and getting them to implement the increase in the summer term. Since the pay rates are examined before October, College has effectively missed paying two terms worth of the increase. They MUST NOT be allowed to get away with this again! My successor should watch College like a hawk on this at the start of the session, and compare demonstrators pay rates at IC with those elsewhere. My heartfelt thanks to Isobel Fairclough for running this one to earth.

PGs and the Union

Postgraduates have been the silent voice in Union affairs for many years. In some ways this is not surprising, as they need to work long hours, have no formal timetables, and do not communicate much with UGs. Indeed individual research groups seldom communicate much! The Union is seen by most as a purely UG preserve, with little or nothing, aside from the clubs, to offer a PG. To actually make the PGs aware of what the Union does, ICU must get them into the building and advertise its facilities. To this end, and on limited funds, a PG reception was arranged for all postgraduates in the Christmas term. An invitation was also sent to all PGs which also outlined what the Union does for its postgraduate students. The response from the PGs was overwhelming, with a vast turnout. The response from IC Union was pitiful. Only one non-PG Union Officer decided he should help (and many thanks for that assistance Chas). With this degree of enthusiasm for advertising ICU to the Postgraduates, is it surprising that hardly any of them are interested? It is time that the Union realised that if it wants postgraduates to be interested in it, THEN ICU MUST BE INTERESTED IN POSTGRADUATES! This is the single most important lesson I would impart to my successor—that the Union must not be just as apathetic about PGs as they are about the Union.

Conclusion

In many ways this year has been a starting point. One of the tasks I set myself when I took the job was to get more PGs interested in the Union. Over the year I have made some faltering steps in this direction, but have also seen the true magnitude of this problem, and that it exists both sides of the fence. What little has been done this year to make a start MUST be continued next year, and I wish Martin Gans, next year's PGAO, the best of luck. I'd also like to thank Tom, Yishu and Isobel for their help over the year, and Gareth Fish for getting me interested in the job.

'It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it'
SuperChicken

Ents Chairman

Dear FELIX,

Weather is great and the water's lovely,

Due to Ent's success this year with Freshers' Week, smaller events (such as *Jesus Jones*, *Brilliant Corners*) and two sell out Carnivals, I have been able to buy this luxury yacht in the Mediterranean, and enough beer to drown the entire Ents crew. Thanks to everybody whose worked hard this year to put everything on, and good luck to BJ for next year.

Wotty.

Pub Board Chairman

Overview

As I have only been Chairman of the board since late January, I am only able to comment on its activities since then. When I started the job, I was faced with a large amount of administrative work that needed sorting, however, I managed to sort everything out, and I think that on the whole, nothing has gone wrong. I am extremely grateful for the help given by Robert Gimeno (Junior Treasurer) and the Union Finance Officer, in keeping our accounts up to date.

Imperial College Radio

Imperial College Radio has, this year, succeeded well in its campaign to broadcast on FM, thanks to the hard work of Nigel Whitfield, the Station Manager. A trial transmitting system has been in use until May this year, when the test and development licence expired. I hope that their subsequent application for an operating licence is successful, and that the Union will be prepared to fund this new venture. The other major improvement that has been made, is to their studio under Garden Hall. This has been re-plastered by College—the old walls were very damp—and IC Radio were able to purchase a new sound mixer from money donated by the Queen's Gate Trust. A lot of extra money has also been spent on this room, and it now serves the purpose as IC Radio's main office.

STOIC

STOIC, despite its problems with break-ins and insurance, they have provided an excellent service during the spring term, with five programmes a week—the largest number ever! The time and money spent on the studio over the last few years would at last appear to have paid off, and I hope that the quantity and quality of programmes can be maintained for next year.

FELIX

This year's FELIX has occasionally disappointed me, with its lack of size, although, what has been produced has been of excellent quality. FELIX, unlike most other clubs and societies, does not have a Five Year Plan, but has an equipment replacement fund. This year its terms have been altered to allow purchase of equipment other than just the Litho and Typesetter. A new folding machine is being purchased from the fund, to replace the worn out one currently in use. This should mean that future copies of FELIX will always be correctly folded. FELIX have managed to cope with equipment breaking down regularly, especially the Litho, which has been repaired at least twice this year.

Other Publications

This year's Alternative Prospectus had just arrived from the printers when I wrote this, and my first impression of it was excellent. Ramin Nakisa has done a great job editing it, and the cover is one of the best I have seen. The Handbook for new students, is currently being edited by Steve Meyfroidt, and will be ready during the summer, for distribution.

I would like to wish all of the publications well in their activities next year, and hope that my successor has an enjoyable time.

Jonathan Denham,
Publications Board Chairman 1988-89

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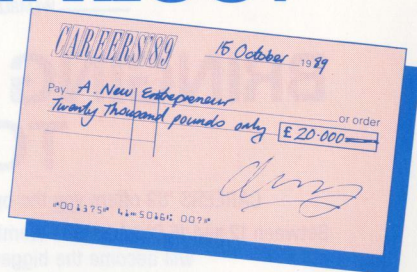
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RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The New Business Idea of the Year Competition is open to those who will be 18 years old from the closing date for entries (8 September 1989) up to and including 25 years of age.
2. No entries can be accepted from employees of MSM Exhibitions and its associate companies, from representatives of the sponsors of the competition and the judges or relatives and family of the aforementioned.
3. The closing date for entries is 8 September, 1989. No entries will be accepted after this date.
4. All entries must be submitted on the official entry form, copies of which can be obtained from MSM Exhibitions Ltd, Thames House, 18 Park Street, London SE1 9ER.
5. The winning entry will be announced on 15 October, at Careers '89 which will take place at Wembley New Exhibition Hall.
6. The decision of the judges will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. The prize must be used for the business outlined, in the winning entry, as start-up capital for that business.

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