

# Union Bookstore's plans smashed by College

The College has held back IC Union's hopes for its new bookstore by quadrupling the rent overnight. The move has saddened Union Manager, Dave Peacock, who told FELIX 'It pulls away from other things we are doing.'

The rent on the bookstore has risen from £4700 per annum to £19,000. Paul Docx, a representative of 'Impact', who are negotiating the new agreement said that the move was being made 'To reflect the changing rents around College.' He added that the new rent received a 50% subsidy from the College. As a company wholly owned by the College, 'Impact' has become the College's official rent negotiating body.

College Secretary, John Smith, described the process as one 'at arm's length.' The policy of employing 'Impact' as a negotiator was passed by the College's Management and Planning Committee.

Speaking on the bookstore's recent high

expenditure on the refurbishment, Mr Smith said, 'I accept that it's a bit rough on the bookshop.' He added, however, that the new arrangements provided 'much sharper objectives,' for the bookstore.

If this year goes well for the bookstore, Mr Peacock expects a profit of £40,000, which will be halved by the increased rent costs. He described 'Impact's claim of a 50% subsidy as 'rubbish.' 'If they offered me a rent of £100,000 and offered to discount it by 75%, I wouldn't feel any better, would I?' he added.

'Impact' describes the bookshop as a 'non-college based activity,' which Mr Smith backed up by comparing the bookstore to a franchise store run by Dillons. He told FELIX that the site would be a 'commercial rent,' in this case.

In response to the notion that the Union is a non-college based activity, Mr Peacock said, 'I thought we were part of this College.'

The new rent for the bookstore is part of the College's policy to increase rents around the campus, including that for the National Westminster Bank. The decision comes in the light of a slackening in the ruling of the University Grants Committee, which forced the College to surrender income from rent to the Government Treasury.

With the increased rents, Mr Peacock added that he couldn't see the Union proceeding with the Health Suite announced last year.

Mr Smith told FELIX that he hopes the College will be able to arrange a stricter accountability for academic staff who recommend books which do not sell well in the bookstore. He added that the issue of compensation for space used by the excess stock accumulated by this problem over the years was a separate matter from rent negotiations.

## OAP PM sees IC's IRCs

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP, visited College on August 25. In a brief interview with FELIX, she explained that she was visiting the College's Interdisciplinary Research Centres, which she described as 'fundamental and very exciting.'

Mrs Thatcher visited two of the College's three IRCs, which will bring a total of £32 million to the College. 'It's very exciting,' she commented afterwards, 'what we do both in the basic and the private research really will have a tremendous effect on the whole future success of our country.'

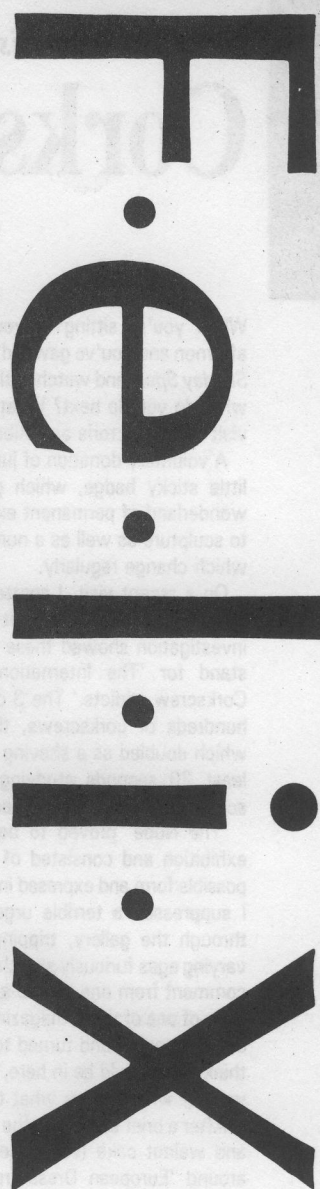
The Rector, Professor Eric Ash, told FELIX that he had invited Mrs Thatcher to view the IRCs after she had expressed an interest to Professor Abdus Salaam in the Physics Department. The centres are in population biology, Process Simulation and control (Chem Eng) and Semiconductors.

Mrs Thatcher is known to be unsure about the validity of IRCs as a research tool. Professor Ash now believes she thinks 'this is the right way to go.'

Interdisciplinary Research Centres work in an inter-departmental manner, drawing ideas and resources from several areas at once.



Professor Stradling puts Maggie in the picture in the semiconductor IRC



Issue 842  
Friday 15th September



Fiona Nicholas discovers the treasures of the Victoria and Albert Museum on a Sunday afternoon tour.

# Corkscrew mania at the V&A

When you're sitting in your room on a Sunday afternoon and you've gawped at all the pictures in the *Sunday Sport* and watched the *Eastenders Omnibus*, what do you do next? What could be better than a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum...

A voluntary donation of just 50p gets you a natty little sticky badge, which gives you access to a wonderland of permanent exhibitions from jewellery to sculpture as well as a number of temporary ones which change regularly.

On a recent visit, I spotted 3 glass cases and a banner bearing the initials 'ICCA'. Further investigation showed these mysterious 4 letters to stand for 'The International Correspondence of Corkscrew addicts.' The 3 cases contained literally hundreds of corkscrews, the most interesting of which doubled as a shaving brush. Having spent at least 20 seconds studying this rather less than scintillating collection, I headed upstairs.

'The Nude' proved to be an extremely popular exhibition and consisted of naked bodies in every possible form and expressed in every medium possible. I suppressed a terrible urge to giggle and drifted through the gallery, tripping over art students of varying ages furiously sketching. I heard a very ironic comment from one middle-aged lady who noticed a copy of one of those magazines kept on the top shelf of newsagents and turned to its centrefold. 'I don't think that should be in here,' she said. It makes you wonder who decides what the function of art is.

After a brief sortie into the cafe for tea and banana and walnut cake (very nice), I decided to wander around 'European Dress from the 1600's.' As a permanent exhibition, this proved to be an absolute



In summary, the V & A offers a generally fascinating afternoon but I recommend that you pick up a map on your way in and decide exactly where you want to go. Remember the V & A is huge!

delight with everything from bustles to bodices. The only unfortunate feature of this part of the museum was its circular layout which meant I spent rather longer walking around it than I had hoped.

## Subwarden

Applications are invited for the position of Subwarden in Fisher Hall

Subwarden duties are to assist the warden in the day-to-day running of the hall and in disciplinary and social matters.

Candidates should be full-time students at Imperial College and should be sociable, mature, responsible and resourceful. The successful applicant will be provided with rent-free accommodation suitable for a single person.

Application forms are obtainable from the Accommodation Office and should be sent to:

**Dr R J Murphy**

Dept Pure & Applied Biology, Imperial College, and should be accompanied by a CV and two references.

The closing date for application is

**Friday 22nd September 1989**

FISHER HALL

Evelyn Gardens

# The Fly II

This film is the inevitable sequel to David (Mr Snuff Movie) Cronenberg's disgusting 1986 remake of a 1950's 'B' horror/science fiction flick.

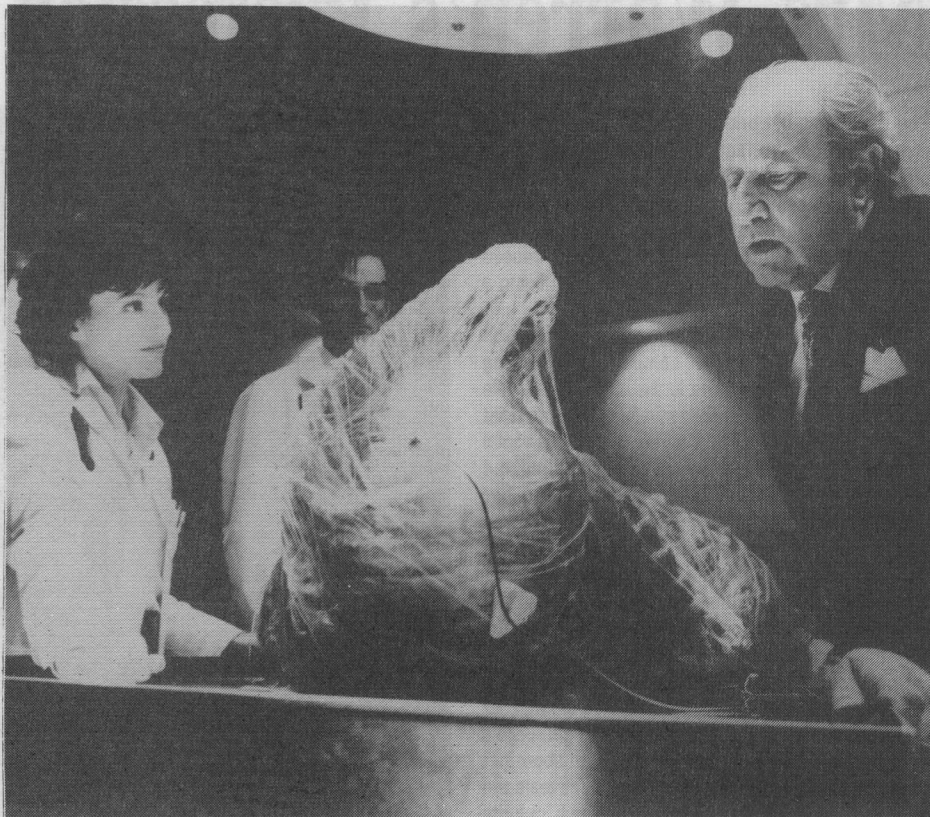
The story is about the son of scientist Seth Brindle, who in *The Fly* invents a Star Trek type transporter device. When he tests it on himself, he fails to notice the transmitter is also occupied by a fly. The two are combined into one and Seth winds up with a good healthy dose of insect DNA. In the end he mutates into something disgusting but not before getting his girlfriend pregnant. At the end in a typical Cronenberg 'sick bag' scene she presents the no doubt bemused medical team in the delivery room with a giant maggot before expiring.

But hold on! This is no maggot (How could you make a sequel about a maggot?). It's really a little boy, so roll on *Fly II*.

This is no normal little boy (just look at his grandparents). He is taken over by a sinister outfit called Bartok Industries and starts to grow up at five times the normal rate whilst demonstrating extraordinary mental abilities, although how it is that genes from an unintelligent insect make him smart is never explained. All goes well until his fifth birthday, when he begins to turn into a you-know-what, then it is a race against time to find a cure.

The film is done in much the same manner as the *Fly I*, that is, you'll probably find a sick bag useful, the main difference is that *Fly I* did have a kind of style in its black humour. *Fly II* is just a succession of 'snuff movie' type special effects leading to a conclusion that could have been accurately predicted 45 minutes before.

MT Morton



## Body Horror

# The Body—In Extremis

ICA Cinematheque 'til Oct 7. Phone 01-930 3647 for details.



The ICA really gets you ready for a horror movie. There's a sinister arty air about the place that blows down from the eerie Charing Cross subway towards you and upon arrival the diffident staff are as friendly as the long Undead. If you fancy a drink you'll be charged for a day pass simply to get to the mirrored bar (keep it ready to inspect mind you) and if you've a craving for popcorn or snacks forget it — far too riff-raff all that stuff.

Thus relaxed you shuffle your way into the small cold box that is the Cinematheque (gosh that's French n'est pas?), pull up a squeaky chrome chair and await the relatively appealing prospect of a hideous horror show.

Body Horror is the current *genre* (yuk) being aired so it's as well to remember some points of sociobiological note one can consider for subsequent discussions. For example one might comment 'I found that a highly cathartic exploration of society's sexual taboos and narcissistic physicality as it relates to the communal psyche.' To which one should correctly reply, 'Well I liked the bit where his head fell off.'

On offer for the rest of the season are films twined under the headings *Medical Nightmare* (*The Brood* and *The Entity* — till Sat 16th), *Possession* (*Amityville II* and *The Exorcist* — Mon 18th — Wed 20th) and *The Slasher* (*Motel Hell* and *Funhouse* — Thurs 21st — Sat 23rd) but don't mistake these nights as a genuine double bill — you'll have to pay twice.

Following on is a two week season on a similar self explanatory theme *The Body* — *In Extremis* promising such delights as *The Desiring Machine* and *The eating drinking shitting and pissing film*.

In short here's a well chosen horror season for those who can take the pretentious 'exclusiveness' of the place, but watch out — I'm not sure what the management would say if there were too many bums on seats.

Bernard Shaw's

ORANGE TREE THEATRE

# Mrs Warren's Profession

Mrs Warren's Profession plays 'til  
October 7. 01-940 3633 for details.

The problem of bringing a Shavian socialist propoganda play to Richmond must be akin to the problem of inviting an unruly friend to a rather delicate dinner party. At ninety five years old however (written in 1894) this particular old boy is quite easily introduced (by director Brian Cox) as having caused quite a disturbance in his youth but as now being a harmless eccentric.

The old man's immediate faux pas is the mention of prostitutes. To follow comes the disturbing contention that a prostitute is the ultimate example and natural result of a person surviving in a capitalist economic system. Kitty Warren is his anecdotal example of this: a woman of vitality scarred but hardened by an impoverished childhood, she has dragged herself up through the brothels and away from unrewarded graft. Risen to managing her own chain of 'hotels' aided by the seedy Sir George Crofts she passes without question into 'good society' and wins her daughter Vivie a brilliant education all the way to Cambridge and a Maths trips.

Upon return from Cambridge Vivie's unnerving frankness and unexpected maturity sits ill with her estranged mother's recollection of her little girl. Vivie's honest rationality soon uncovers the truth about her mother's past and the play progressively reveals the motives and machinery that are the real culprits behind the so-called world of vice.

Well the Shavian wit went down well with the drinks and ne'er so much as a ripple passed through the cosy little four walled club at those awkward throat clearing moments. The audience entertained this toothless old codger politely enough and sadly the evening passed without embarrassment.



MAC

## Indian Summer

Why did the hippy go east? For the dope of course you idiot, but it might just as easily have been for some of this stuff which has a variety of not so dissimilar effects. Perhaps that's why, when I went to see the great guru of Kathak dance Durga Lal at the Logan Institute, there were no intoxicating drinks for sale. (Old Ship Inn opposite provides relief for addicts). Supported by his 'disciple' Renu Bassi, making her first European visit, Durga Lal's performance began the Indian Summer season of dance currently on at *The Place*.

So after a humble introduction of the musicians and a further introduction to each piece and its cultural significance we all sat back and got stoned on the stuff. The music is the first thing to hit you: the mellow vocals, the twitching thump of the tabla and the unmistakably Indian voice of the sarangi—the nearest thing I've heard to a living instrument. After an indeterminate period of time you can't tell how long you've been there or when you'll have to leave.

The stage is there, it would seem, to provide some

## THE PLACE

'til September 23rd

Phone 01-387 0031 for details

much needed orientation and the dance to give you a focus and prevent spontaneous levitation. The hypnotic detail of this form especially in the precision of movement of the hands conveys images of complete control which contrast the heady sweepings of the music to give the dance its tension. The playful conversation of foot bells and tabla was just one of the displays of virtuosity Durga Lal provided to make the evening a brilliant appetiser for the rest of the season.

The artists in this performance, excepting Renu Bassi, will be playing in 'Ghanashyam'—*The Broken Branch* a music theatre piece devised and composed by world famous Ravi Shankar (watch out for details).

Shobana Jeyasingh continues *Indian Summer* at *The Place* this Friday and Saturday with her innovative and accessible styles and the season concludes with Pushkala Gopal and Unnikrishnan presenting a new programme of dance and story dances drawn from Indian mythology.

MAC

## Cousins

This film is an Americanised version of the acclaimed 1976 French film *Cousin, Cousine*. It is (described as) a 'romantic comedy' involving two married couples, when the adulterous affair of one husband and wife is discovered, the other two pretend to be doing exactly the same thing in order to get their revenge.

As I've mentioned, the film is described as a romantic comedy although laughs are quite thin on the ground, one exception being when a teenage son (self-styled 'multi-media artist') produces a wedding video, the result consists of shots of guests gorging themselves intercut with shots of starving Africans, it ends with a shot of a nuclear missile being launched. The cast does not include anybody really well known except perhaps for Ted Danson (*Three Men and a Baby* and the TV series *Cheers*).

Usually American remakes of French films are not as good as the originals and this film does not change anything in this respect. Americans can put together a decent romantic comedy when they want to (for example *Hannah and her Sisters*) but in the case of 'Cousins' they have just produced a celluloid 'Mills and Boon.'

If this film was on TV I would probably turn over to watch *International Bowls* as it would probably be more entertaining.

Mike Morton

# Slaves of New York

This bizarre film, based in the Big Apple, is enjoyable and captivating to watch. It communicates the unique New York feeling, with its layers of civilisation, crumbling buildings and fashionable restaurants, so that you do not just see it you experience it. Rather than telling a story, the film involves you in Eleanor's life: a hat designer with an inferiority complex.

We first meet Eleanor involved in an unbalanced relationship with a jealous artist, self-absorbed and insensitive. It is satisfying to watch Eleanor grow in self-confidence, until the point where she realises that the problems in the relationship are due to Stash's insecurity, not her own shortcomings.

The downtown New York art world is a close knit community, where everyone is friend or a friend of a friend. Although essential to the story none of the other characters are particularly memorable in themselves, it is their effect on Eleanor which is important:

Daria, the femme fatale, who tries to seduce anyone she imagines will further her career as a sculptress.

Marley Mantello, the egocentric artist with the vision of building his 'Chapel of Jesus Christ as a woman' next to the Vatican.

Sherman McVittie, unsuccessful in love, life and work, who pines for his lost love, Daria.

Not forgetting Andrew, the dalmatian with an extremely expressive face.

*Slaves of New York* is a highly enjoyable film, which is perhaps surprisingly captivating. The production is superb, aided by some wacky camera work and interesting scene changes. A definite must for all fans of the Big Apple.

The Hoodoo Gurus'

# Magnum Cum Louder

Billed as RCA's finest Rock n' Roll combo the Hoodoo Gurus come over more as a cross between the out of time style lyrics of Lloyd Cole, the humour and vocals of Chris Difford of Squeeze and the instrumental back up of a fairly well accomplished pop rock group.

The outstanding parts of the album are mainly found entwined around Brad Shepherd's imaginative and lively guitar. Tracks to watch out for are 'Come Any Time' and 'Another World' which must be potential singles; 'Shadows of Me' which has a rather innocent beauty and 'Death in the Afternoon.'

# Still Alive

This is Circus of Power's second album and it carries six cuts, five of which are "special live versions" of tracks from the band's debut RCA album. The sixth track "Still Alive and Well" is a previously unreleased song.

The members of the band seem to be competent musicians with a complete lack of imagination and as a result none deserves a mention. As for the "special live tracks", live they may be (although I would question whether the audience were by the end of the gig), special they certainly aren't.

The band are an American "trash rock" group of sorts, who in the words of a rock fan I know are 'nothing special.' The music is rather bare, not yielding the usual full sound of rock.

Sine the LP is rather short I thought I'd give you a brief precis of the charms of the tracks.

Still Alive and Well: Here the band show about as much musical talent as they do originality. The track demonstrates that their lyrical abilities coincide well with their musical talent as 70% of the lyrics are "Still

Other points of interest are the supermarket music intro to 'Where's that Hit' and the rather Red Indian Tribal sound of 'Hallucinations' which sadly suffers from a 20 second solo that seems to comprise only two notes (one of the overly self-indulgent side effects of a band produced album). Another such side effect is the inclusion of the rather tedious 'Glamour Puss.'

All in all not exactly my type of music, but the band show potential and enthusiasm for their music. Star Rating: Well worth a listen.

## Circus of Power

Alive and Well". The beat is unimaginative the guitar solo uncreative.

Motor: The intro is pathetic which means that it leads in rather well to the rest of the track. One of the internal guitar solos has a definite resemblance to a chainsaw without a tree!

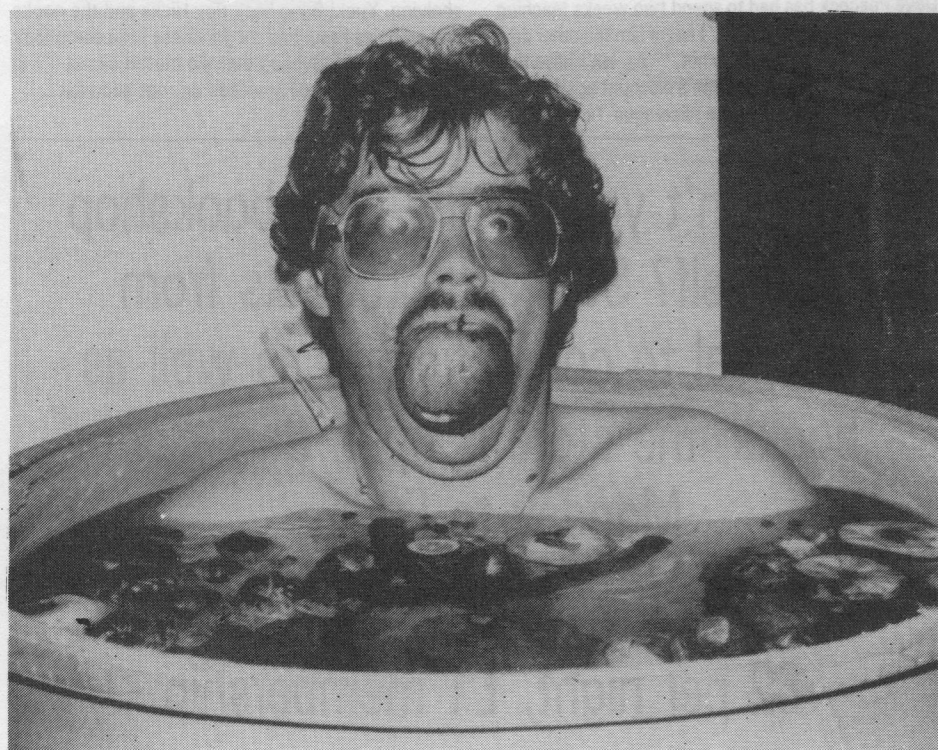
Letters Home: Should have got lost in the post!

I was going to write about the second side but one aspect of the album seemed to be rubbing off on me as I found everything I was writing was starting to repeat itself.

The decision to put out such a half hearted attempt at an album backs up the impression one gets listening to it that the band are only in it for the money. The one track of any strength at all is "White Trash Queen", which actually shows some ingenuity on the guitar and probably comes over better live than in the studio. All the same I wouldn't pay £6 for a 6 track EP with one decent track on it even if I was a follower of the band. On top of which, they're ugly B\*\*\*\*\*'s. Star rating: Definitely not worth buying.

# Bad Taste

Opens tonight at Prince Charles, Leicester Square.



There are so many ways to sell a 'horror spoof' like this—*Bad taste*—it's outrageous, it's anarchic, it's so bad it's brilliant...!' you can hear the publicity pundits cry. It glories in its amateur status and shoestring budget conveying the desired impression of a bunch of wild eccentrics suffering to create their ART.

All very noble stuff I'm sure but the finished product must stand on its own and not come cap in hand to your affections as an 'Art' or 'Cult' movie. So if you can shake off the feeling of complicity in a crass marketing ploy—of being conned—then you may find that *Bad Taste* is a bit of a laugh and here's the joke:

A 'quiet seaside town' is invaded by aliens who carve up the inhabitants to use as hamburger meat for their inter-galactic fast food chain. The screen is then invaded by the avenging human heroes who carve up the aliens as an outlet for their bloodlust and taste for cheap special effects. The plot gives ample chance for the squeamish to wriggle in their seats and the macho to disdainfully laugh but the only point, if there is one, seems to be a militant vegetarian message.

The movie industry itself has been conquered by the equivalent of fast food chains: selling more and more tasteless shit to Pavlovian punters so if there does exist a gap in the market can it really be for such bland or *Bad Taste*?

MAC

An Imperial student describes one solution to the overseas postgraduate accommodation crisis in London.

# The Oasis

It is no fun living in shared accommodation with a money hungry landlord in a small house on a noisy street. As an overseas post graduate student, I spent my first two and a half months in London seeking suitable accommodation within my means. The accommodation office at Imperial College was no help at all. The man at the office puffing cigarettes never listened to my problem and always looked at me as if I had made a mistake in coming to London. The accommodation office at the University of London, Malet Street is much better; at least they have a polite and helpful attitude. In the search for decent family accommodation, I visited almost every possible place on the list given. Every place was very much in demand and most of these places were not even willing to give me a form to fill in or to put me on the waiting list.

Desperately I started thinking of leaving Imperial College and getting myself transferred to Birmingham, although I know the department is not as strong but where I could at least find a place to stay. But just two days after I wrote to my sponsors asking for permission to move to another place, I received a letter from the Barnet Overseas Housing Association offering accommodation in Nansen village.

Nansen Village is a beautiful living example for those who want to do something practical. Back in 1967,

a small group of people concerned about the housing shortage in London for overseas research students thought of building high class accommodation to provide comfort at an affordable price. Today, 8 miles from Imperial College, Nansen Village is like a small United Nations, with a very healthy and friendly atmosphere. The village comprises 60 units for married students: 33 small self-contained flats for couples without children, 11 flats for families with one or two children, and 16 two bedroom houses for bigger families. There is also a beautiful open green area. One of our colleagues calls it 'children's paradise'. The village has washing facilities, a drier and an open drying area and a big communal hall which is used for a toddlers' play group on weekdays. It can also be used for general, social or private parties at weekends and during school holidays. For small group meetings, discussion forums, and cookery classes a room is available with a small kitchenette. In short Nansen Village provides very friendly, quiet and comfortable accommodation at an extremely reasonable price.

One past resident described it as 'undoubtedly the best and the cheapest student accommodation one can find in London.' Dr Daniel from Sudan, currently doing an MSc in Child Health said 'I feel very relaxed when I am in the hospital as I know my wife and

children are safe and in a nice place.'

Mrs Monica from Uruguay, who is leaving shortly said, 'I deeply appreciate those who thought of building Nansen Village.'

It is obvious that someone must have been working very hard to make all this possible. If you come to the village you can not miss our warden, an energetic, tall lady who is always ready to help, whether you have locked yourself out or stopped the drier by inserting coins from your own country.

If you attend one of the social events or parties which are frequently held in the communal hall, you may meet the wife of the chairman of the association, a lady with a strong sense of humour. At the end of the party you may see her in the kitchen, helping with the dishes as she is also a member of the very active management committee.

If your oven is out of order or your sink blocked or a bulb has gone, a note in the complaints book will bring the 'Jack of all trades' and trouble shooter to fix it by the next day.

The well dressed gentleman, wearing glasses in his sixties is the chairman, an extremely dedicated man. A founder member of the association, he has played a significant role in the building and development of Nansen Village. As 'captain of the ship', he takes a tremendous interest in the affairs of the village and even checks whether the swing in the children's park is kept properly oiled: At present he is working on a construction plan to build an additional six family units and update the existing ones. Because of the building plans, no family accommodation can be offered to students for the coming academic year.

Amongst the tremendous accommodation problems for students, there can be solutions provided someone is willing to put in the devotion and hard work necessary. Why are there so few Nansen Villages? F. Habiby, Department of Materials

Norman Grobax describes his experience of the new-look Bookshop under its new manager, Mike Graveson.

# The end of an era

If there's one thing I hate it's these high tech types who like everything modern.

Take this new bloody bookshop for instance. There was a time when you could get all the books you wanted and a year's supply of stationery, all for the price of a ballpoint pen. Yes, last year you could wander round the nooks and crannies for hours pretending to search for that elusive copy of 'Persian Earthquakes,' whilst stuffing your bag full of free goodies.

Now that Peacock bloke's ruined it all. You've got no excuse to loiter around on the off chance of a good passing swipe at the technical pens; no they expect you to pay for everything!

What's more they've made everything easy to find and started to stock all manner of stuff. I ask you—I went in to buy a pen and that new manager Mike Graveson had sold me 6 HP7 batteries and a bottle of Kiwi Fruit Juice before I'd left.

The one saving grace of the whole place is the video library; even that was a disappointment though. I spent the whole afternoon searching for *Gorgeous Glenda Get's 'em off* and a few other select titles concerning two nuns, a motorbike chain and donkey; but no! Not a spot of smut.

As a science-fiction fan (I'm still working on the greasy hair) I was pleased to see a nice new range of SF books as well as the top 20 paperbacks. Of course they still expect you to pay for them. I reckon I could read 'Zargon and the Urgs of Tharg' by next Friday if I spend enough time in there mind you.

Yes, this new bookshop manager's an odd type you know; he's from New Zealand. The Union Manager, Dave Peacock has had to spend two weeks teaching him to speak 'Arthur Daley.' I heard him the other day. 'No, no, Mike,' he said, 'it's not, "Yes, we'll have two dozen," it's, "Will you do me a discount against two hundred back issues of the Nicaragua Times."'

The whole business has got too much for me. All those beeping bar code tills and the clean open shelving. Yuck! Bring back Roy Hicks and the nooks and crannies I say, and for goodness sake somebody tell that Mike Graveson that the closed circuit TV is for watching the dirty videos on, not security...

Why don't you try the new bookshop yourself? Stocking products from electrical to confectionery as well as books, the store is open 9am-6pm Monday to Friday.

**Plus—Video Club!**

£2 per night, £1 membership



# F·e·l·i·X

The past month has been a busy time in the FELIX office. A lot of print work has passed through the press and I've had a lot less time to get things set up than I would have liked. This is fine because people have been flexible and accommodating and I have responded by trying to get work done as quickly and efficiently as possible. What is beginning to piss me off is the growing certainty that a huge number of people are going to come into FELIX on the first Monday of term to ask me to produce a poster for them. I am sorry to have to announce that anybody who does not inform me of their requirements for Freshers' week by 5.30pm Monday 18th September, will be cordially informed that the photocopier has developed a terminal disease. I'm sorry, but Freshers' week and the weeks preceding and following it are very busy and I have to know what I have to do in advance in order to organise printing and general production. I will be delighted to help anyone who still wants work booked in today or Monday.

On the subject of Freshers' week, I was amazed to hear of clubs asking the Union if it was too early to

book a stall at Freshers' Fair this year. If a club is so disorganised that its members are not even capable of reading and replying to a letter, I would suggest that the organisation of club matters is probably on a similar level. The relevant clubs will be the ones which do not appear in this year's Freshers' Fair guide in FELIX.

The last issue of FELIX carried an article following the antics of 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.' I have received queries as to the source of the cowboys; it has been suggested that they may have been contractors. Whether this is true or not, the latest episode in the FELIX repairs saga is even more ridiculous. The FELIX was flooded last term when the toilets above leaked. The deluge soaked the ceiling tiles in the office, and these were replaced. Approximately 16 tiles were replaced in an admirably speedy manner. The poor match with the existing tiles was later corrected by swapping tiles in the print area with those in the office. All of this passed without a hitch. The shock came when the Union was informed of the cost of this small job—£800! Yes, there are two zeros; it is not a misprint.

Quite frankly, I cannot see where this figure comes from. The labour charge is obviously a large part of the cost, but I would expect Royal architectural approval for this sort of figure. Come on Peter Hallworth and those on high in estates—where's the real invoice?—I dare you! By the way, I'll do it myself next time, if you're prepared to pay that much.

Having heard several conflicting eye-witness accounts of the flooding in Southside hall, I am at a loss as to what the truth of the matter is. The news story carries what I perceive to be the truth with everybody's story thrown in. Somebody, somewhere is lying. Mr Hallworth assures FELIX that everybody

in Southside and Linstead received a leaflet informing them of the impending shutdown of the hot water supply. Pauline Clark at SAC claims that the leafletting was minimal. Loretto O'Callaghan at the Accommodation Office said that the leaflets were distributed 'to the best of her knowledge.' As the Accommodation Officer, who is in overall control of Southside and Linstead, her knowledge should be the definitive word on the matter. The worrying point is that I don't think it is. If she doesn't know the full facts about as serious an affair as this, how much does she know about the College's accommodation arrangements as a whole and what is she being paid to do?

On the matter of the Union Bookshop's rent, I am still undecided as to who is in the right. The College has appointed *Impact* to negotiate rent for space on campus in an attempt to remain 'at arm's length,' according to College Secretary John Smith. The idea is a sound one, since it stops people doing 'favours' for each other at the College's expense. Having said that, I still feel that *Impact* is being used as the College's 'Hitman' to deal with its dirty laundry. This way they can always stand back and say, 'talk to *Impact*.' The fact of the matter is that *Impact* is a company which is wholly owned by the College.

That's enough airing of dirty laundry anyway. The good news is that FELIX has a new printer called Andrew Thompson. We are all glad to 'have him aboard,' as everybody who has met him has said of my dirty laundry. I'm looking forward to working with him this year—he's a good find in my opinion.

Thanks to everybody who has helped on this issue, they should be listed somewhere on this page. You're all dedicated nutters and fantastic with it.  
Dave

## Delaying tactics

Dear Dave,

I am writing to you concerning the Benefits and Rights Campaign I am presently organising for the beginning of next term. The aim of the campaign is to give students help and advice on all aspects of accommodation from tenants rights to Housing Benefit as well as legal advice and information on DHSS Benefits.

I wrote to representatives of various relevant organisations inviting them to attend, including the College Accommodation Officer Loretto O'Callaghan. This was an opportunity for her to deal with students' accommodation problems before they became imminent. I felt that she would be more than willing to attend. I was therefore surprised to receive a letter from Loretto refusing the invitation. Apparently six weeks was not enough notice for her to be able to arrange to send any representative from the Accommodation Office, even though it was only for 3½ hours.

Surely there is something wrong if the accommodation office is so overworked and/or understaffed that 3½ man hours cannot be found 6 weeks in advance.

Yours Jackie Scott  
ICU Welfare Officer 89-90

## Mary's foots the bill

Dear Editor,

In the issue of FELIX for 18th August the heading 'Mary's refit costs College,' above a photograph on the back page suggested that the costs of improvements to the students' bar and restaurant being undertaken this summer were being met from

Imperial College funds. This is not so. All costs are being met from School funds supplemented by an agreed contribution from the St Mary's Hospital Medical School Students' Union. As some of your readers will be aware the Medical School is funded separately from 'Imperial College' for a period of up to five years from the date of the merger (1 August 1988) under a Memorandum of Agreement made between the Governing Body and the School Council.  
Yours faithfully  
Brian Lloyd-Davies  
Secretary to the Delegacy.

## Credits

Many thanks to Sydney Harbour-Bridge for record reviews and help on news and production; Liz Warren for editing features and helping all round; Stef Smith being a hero in my hours of need; Mike Morton and Mac for reviews; Fiona for the V&A feature; Mr Habiby for the Oasis feature; Andrew Thompson for being a brilliant printer and flexible to boot; Mac again for staying up late on Wednesday night and the anonymous sources who shall remain forever so.

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## Commemoration Ball

There are 5 double tickets left for this year's Commem. Ball. Anybody who still wants a ticket should contact Fiona Nicholas in the Union Office as soon as possible.

## SAC in hot water again

Dozens of Southside and Linstead Hall residents returned to their rooms on Thursday 31 August, to discover them flooded. The hot water supply to the halls had been disconnected overnight and during the day to 'repair a burst main,' according to Managing Surveyor of Residences, Peter Hallworth.

Mr Hallworth told FELIX that everyone in the halls had received a leaflet warning them of the imminent disconnection. Several residents left their hot water taps running however, which caused the flooding of 56 rooms.

Speaking on the incident, Conference organiser, Pauline Clark, said, 'No, I still haven't been informed officially that the water was to be switched off.' She added that the staff at the Summer Accommodation Centre's reception desk had not been informed either. She described the leafleting of the halls as 'minimal.' The College has not lost business as a result of the flooding and has received only one claim for damages to guests' belongings.

Ms Clark explained that out of the 56 rooms flooded, only 10 occupants insisted on moving. 'They thought it was a rather a hoot!' she added. She summarised by describing the affair as 'just crossed wires.'

College Accommodation Officer, Loretto O'Callaghan, told FELIX that leaflets were produced and distributed 'to the best of her knowledge.' She added that there weren't as many moves as they had thought and said 'it all worked very well in the end.'

Emergency spaces were cleared in Beit Hall to accommodate the overflow and rooms were arranged in hotels as part of a contingency plan. Although the contingency plans were not required, Ms O'Callaghan told FELIX that the students who worked on the night were 'magnificent.'

## New code of conduct for Subwardens

Fisher Hall lost and Montpelier Hall gained a new sub-warden last week, when Warden Dr Kevin O'Connor appointed Fisher Hall sub-warden, Ndiba Doih. The decision has caused College Secretary, John Smith to suggest the formation of a code of conduct for the appointment of sub-wardens.

Mr Doih became a sub-warden of Fisher Hall last year after living in Montpelier Hall. Dr O'Connor told FELIX that he had supplied Mr Doih with a reference for his original sub-warden application and had been present on the committee which advised his appointment. He described Mr Doih as the best candidate from the twenty or so who applied for the position of subwarden of Montpelier Hall.

Mr Smith described the appointment as 'very wasteful,' and added that the whole affair had caused a lot of ill feeling and inconvenience. He now wants to see a code of practice established to cover such affairs. He told FELIX that the appointment could have been covered by a transfer of sub-warden from Fisher Hall and interviewing for a new sub-warden for Fisher Hall.

Dr O'Connor told FELIX that he 'certainly did not mean to cause any trouble,' and added that he did not believe that he had. The 'head-hunting' of sub-wardens had a precedent last year, when a sub-warden moved from Mining House to Garden Hall.

Dr Richard Murphy, Warden of Fisher Hall told FELIX that the idea of a code of conduct 'might make some aspects easier.' He added that he 'may have found someone,' for the vacant post of sub-warden at Fisher Hall.

# Near miss in Physics fire



A fire started in a rubbish skip at the back of the Physics department two weeks ago. A pressurised cylinder was known to be present in the container, and the area was evacuated and the fire department called. Mr Geoff Reaves, Chief Security Officer, told FELIX that he thought it was a 'pretty stupid' thing to put in a skip. The cause of the fire has not yet been disclosed.

## Imperial wins at UFC

Imperial has succeeded in gaining a nationwide top research ranking in all of the departments reviewed by the University Funding Council recently. The new ratings place IC 3rd in the national table of Universities with 91.25% of the possible marks.

Rector, Professor Eric Ash told FELIX, 'We've done extraordinarily well.' The UFC now aim to give a double weighting to research excellence, which Professor Ash expects to provide a 'sizeable fraction of a million (pounds),' in future years. 'It won't drastically change our fortunes overnight,' he added.

The departments reviewed included Biology, Mineral Resources Engineering, Materials and Electrical Engineering, which all received 'star ratings' in the new rankings.

## College buys back Earls Court death trap

The College Accommodation Office has recently renegotiated the head tenancy agreement on 8 Earls Court Square. The site was returned to the landlord in 1987 due to the building breaking a number of Council safety regulations.

The property has since been modernised to a very high standard and houses 32 people in flats, single, double and triple rooms. The accommodation is available to all students and staff of IC and St Marys from next term on 51 week lets. Rents are £59/single, £49/bed in a double and £39 in a triple all exclusive of bills and poll tax following April 1990. These new rents compare unfavourably with the most expensive College residence; Linstead at £56.50 inclusive of bills and five meals.

### Subwarden

Applications are invited for the post of sub-warden of Mypalsin'ere Hall. Successful candidates should be mature, responsible, out-going (from Fishy Hall), resourceful, sociable, mature, know every pimple on the Baron's bottom (although this is generally the job of the warden), esoteric, enigmatic, phlegmatic, charismatic, masochistic, extra-terrestrial....

The posting is open to all Cheap skate citizens but the one we've chosen is a sub-warden of Fishy Hall

Applications should be addressed to Dr Kevin O'Kafferbasher, Mypalsin'ere Hall, c/o The Baron's Bottom, Cheap skate.

Closing date for entries was September 1st