

HRH sees white elephant



The Chancellor of the University of London, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visited Imperial College on Wednesday. The Princess toured the College's Electrical Engineering department as well as the new Interdisciplinary Research Centres on the South Kensington site.

After a lunch attended by the Vice Chancellor and ex-rector of IC, Lord Flowers and other notables, she visited St Mary's Hospital Medical School. Princess Anne's last visit to Imperial College was for the celebration of the merger of the College with St Mary's Hospital Medical School.

IRC £0.3m underfunded

The most recent of Imperial College's three prestigious Interdisciplinary Research Centres (IRC) is already experiencing financial difficulties and may be over budget by as much as £300,000.

The IRC, in Process Simulation and Control, is to be situated in the Chemical Engineering department. The costs of setting it up have risen steeply after plans for housing the Centre were changed. The original plans, which involved building an extension on the roof of the Aeronautical department, had to be abandoned following a surveyors' report which found that the existing building was not strong enough to support the weight of an extra floor. New proposals involve using more of the existing Chemical Engineering department.

Professor Sargent, the director of the IRC, said that the College was negotiating with the surveyors, Norman & Dobler, to try to reduce the cost of the structural work that was required. He said that he was also talking to both the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC),

who are providing the majority of the funding for the IRC, and College Administration in an attempt to obtain extra funds. Money is also being sought from organisations outside College.

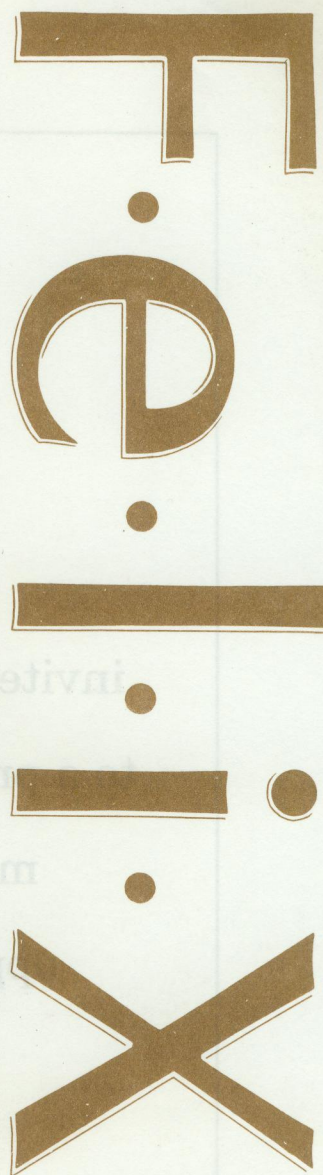
He blamed the difficulties on the way in which departments were forced to apply for IRCs. He said that the grant application was made on the basis of rough estimates and a simple study, and that during several months of discussion about the grant level with the SERC they had still believed the original scheme for housing the centre on the roof was feasible. The grant was announced in April of this year and the surveyors' report was not received until about a month later.

Brian Dennis, Imperial College's Building Planning Officer, said that 'all the works that were required were too expensive' and that negotiations were progressing on reducing the cost of the building works generally. He said that he was unsure what the final cost would be but that the figure would be 'finalised within the next month'. He refused to

disclose the figure budgeted for the building work in the application.

Some ancillary work has already started on the Centre, which officially opened on the 1st August this year. Dr Rodney Eastwood, College Planning Officer, said that it was a 'six to ten year project' and that it was 'expected to take a long time to set up'. He said that College was 'always going to provide funding for some of the initial phases', but that SERC was providing 'several hundred thousand for the initial setting up'. The total value of the SERC grant to the IRC is £9.3 million.

In his speech at Commemoration Day, the Rector, Professor Eric Ash, said that 'having three IRCs centred at Imperial College is a marvellous victory...yet, because of the restructuring which it requires, the initial impact is to add significantly to our financial difficulties.' A recent government report has criticised the way in which the IRCs have been awarded and set up.



Issue 848
Friday 3rd November



Bain & Company

invites final year undergraduates of Imperial College
to a presentation describing its international strategic
management consultancy practice and career
opportunities for graduates from all disciplines

Thursday 9 November 1989
7:00 pm

Portman Inter-Continental Hotel
22 Portman Square
London W1

Boston : London : Milan : Munich : Paris : San Francisco : Sydney : Tokyo : Toronto

Summer Breeze

Gate Theatre,
Notting Hill Gate.
Runs 'til 18th Nov

Small Ads



The British Premier of Arthur Schnitzler's play *Im Spiel der Zommerflute* shows Glynis (Dempsey and Makepeace) Barber in the part of a coolly played jealous wife, who suspects her absent husband of having it away with Viennese ladies whilst on business. Meanwhile, his son and his nubile nymphomaniac niece wind up having it away in an isolated mountain hut—"It was pouring with rain, so I just had to stay there with Edward...he showed me his botany set."—and the characters generally vie with one another until the news of an impending duel brings things to a logical conclusion.

Schnitzler was a Doctor of Psychology, and his

works display the twitchings and vibrations of the human psyche with a tenderness and compassion which lend a sense of humour and some witty moments, as well as a perceptive accuracy.

A strong cast turn in some fine performances, and you leave the Gate Theatre feeling both entertained and stimulated. If you haven't seen anything on the London Fringe before, this venue above the Prince Albert Pub at Notting Hill has to be an excellent example of decent theatre at some very affordable prices. Summer Breeze runs until 18th November.

Adrian Pagan.

Cult competition

This week's contest features the names and places appearing in the soon to be released fourth paperback volume in master storyteller L Ron Hubbard's 'Mission Earth Series'. It's entitled 'An Alien Affair'. Narrated by the alien killer who travelled 22 light years to seal the fate of Earth. 'An Alien Affair' races non-stop from a deadly Long Island speedway to the extraterrestrials'

secret base in Turkey, from a battle on an observation platform of the Empire State building to the bizarre pleasures in the basement apartment of the sadistic Miss Pinch.

In this competition the first five winning entries will receive three paperback volumes of this story by L Ron Hubbard.

S C T D M G R A C I O U S L M S P
P E U R J I H I P J K T U V R P O
A N G H S P I T E O S M G C O D E
C C O D E G H H A V F E M P I R E
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Karagoz
Hakluyt
Flagrant
Spacecode
Aalowt
Pop
Buy
Chankpop
Relayer
Code

Copies of Mr Hubbard's International best sellers are available from the ICU Bookstore.

To win, all you have to do is find the words listed in the word square, but be careful, they could be backwards, forwards, up, down or slanting.

ADVERTISE IN THE FELIX SMALL ADS SECTION
FREE IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF IMPERIAL
COLLEGE UNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **There have** been several thefts in the Union Building recently. Most of these are from the Gym changing rooms. Well over £2000 of money and possessions have been stolen. Do not take valuables to training sessions. Learn to live in the real world and you won't get taken for a ride.

● **Would You** be interested in Tang Soo Doo Club? (Korean Martial Art). If so contact Monchi, Maths II.

● **Book Sale**—Central Libraries Foyer. Wednesday 8th November, 9.30am onwards. H/back 50p, p/b 20p, any five for £1.00.

● **ArtSoc**—Sign up for theatre, concerts, opera, ballet, exhibition trips etc. Free coffee and biscuits. Mondays SCR, Union Building.

● **Jewish Society**—a meeting on Tuesday 7 November at 1.30pm in the Union SCR entitled 'Twinning with the Galil' with Jason Arran.

Anyone interested in going on the society's shabbaton, rescheduled for November 10/11, should contact Lisa Kestenbaum (EEII) asap.

● **Funky** bassist with big thumb required urgently! Contact B Da Silva Aero III (Tel 937 5045).

● **Afroc presents**—House, Soul and Rad Disco on Friday 10th Nov in the JCR from 8-2pm. Be there!!

ACCOMMODATION

● **Very Large** room suitable for 2-3 people. £45-£65 per week per person (no bills). Queensgate SW7. Contact Miling on, 584 9097 (office hours).

● **Male Housmate**—wanted to share a room at Battersea in a house with kitchen, bathroom, wc and living room provided. For more info phone 01-223 4914.

● **Luxury Double** room available in House in Fulham (Fulham B/way tube). Ensuite bathroom, dishwasher, washing machine, microwave, etc. £95 p/w plus bills. Tel: 736 8583.

PERSONAL

● **Death** and Gnomes required. RCSU.

● **Phallixword**—To all Tarquin inducted deadheads—a word of explanation. The Last Main Block hates you.

● **Phallixword**—To Paul the heavy metal type person in Phi one—you ain't cool—you don't even yo-yo—buy out! TLMB.

● **Phallixword**—RIP(?)Soc, left? Dead and having fun? Or just too old? TLMB.

● **Phallixword**—Blam went Charcoal as he moved a baffled Joanie into the zebra box, thunder cruised on as god went by. Flamey had twelve bar but wasn't ecstatic as she was a stunner and he was just gothic.

ASIAN SOCIETY

presents an evening of great LIVE Asian dance music and songs
Tuesday 7th November
8pm

Junior Common Room

Tickets available in advance from the Union Office

A great social occasion not to be missed! Be there!!

Kate Bush

The Sensual World

De La Soul

Town & Country Club



The first new material from Kate Bush since the *Hounds of Love* album of 1985. This is definitely a progression in style. A whole host of musicians have worked on this album from ageing rock stars like Dave Gilmore to young promising classical musicians like Nigel Kennedy.

The result one might think, would be a masterpiece, unfortunately this is not. A definite Celtic influence is present within her music with instrumentation taking in Celtic harps and Vilean pipes. In places the music is confusing and difficult to follow with a tendency to sound like it is droning on a little, this could be due to poor production, which on this album is in the hands of Kate herself.

Her childhood appears to be the subject of many of the tracks on this album like *The Fog* and *Reaching Out* and *This Women's Work* which is the only other track besides *The Sensual World* I can see making another single.

Overall this sounds like one might expect from Kate Bush. However she does not seem to have captured the magical moments of previous albums such as *The Dreaming* or *The Kick Inside*. I feel this album could be one of those 'better after a few plays' albums. Worth thinking about.

NEML

They're a strange beast, support bands. Sometimes their sheer energy and joy to be playing outshines the main band and at other times you're glad you stayed in the bar, tonight being one of those nights.

Hip-Hop isn't normally my flavour, but at its best it's essential and at it's worse forgettable. *She Rockers* and *Third Base* were to me all that Hip-Hop isn't. They looked like they didn't want to be there and spent ten minutes each conveying this to the audience with their bland delivery, unoriginality and lame DJs, though this crowd came to party and when told to 'wave your fucking hands in the air', they dutifully did so.

When DJ Aitch B (of *Soul II Soul*) came to the decks he didn't play records, he made the turntables sing. Anyone that can play Julie Andrews singing *Do Re Me* to a Stephanie Mills backbeat is a serious talent.

De La Soul are to me the only Hip-Hop group to hear (exceptions being *Big Daddy Kane* and *Ice-T*). Their songs are a breath of fresh air to a sound that buries itself in repetitiveness. Their sharp use of rap, melody and some of the best samples from sixties soul classics lifts them feet above the mainstream. Their album *Three Feet High and Rising* being the benchmark of the sound. Their live set conveyed all of this but was marred by the fact that one of the turntables continually refused to behave and ruined at least three of the songs, which out of an eight song set just wasn't up to scratch (pun intended), especially with tickets at £9.50 a throw.

Dominic Wilkinson.

Lemonheads

Lick

This LP has been reviewed and praised so much that it's hard to say anything that hasn't already been said. If, however, you happen to have been sampling the delights of a Mongolian holiday or waiting to get served in Southside Bar it's like this.

The Lemonheads third LP nods it's head to the past glories of Husker Du and REM then skateboards up your garden path through your bowl of Shreddies and straight down your throat. Having been fortunate enough to see this band at the enormous, stylish Art Deco venue of the Fulham Gryhound (screams of stop being such an elitist git echo around the living room) they transcend the accusations of being plain copyists by sheer enthusiasm and lack of pretention. These geeks look so much like geeks they could hardly put on a 'rock and roll image' if they tried, and luckily they don't (even their haircuts are crap and we all know this is crucial to success).

The only criticism of the *Lemonheads* is their failure to try anything new, but who cares when they sound like they're having one hell of a time going nowhere. The one major problem track on this record is an extremely dodgy cover of the Suzanne Vega 'classic' *Luka*. A song which deserves to be dragged screaming to the floor and soundly thrashed to within an inch of its life. Guess which track was released as a single, although fortunately rather limited?

So if you harbour secret desires to hang around in parking lots, chewing gum and watching the tumble weeds roll past the deserted petrol station, book a holiday in the USA. If you can't afford this buy the *Lemonheads* LP instead. Lemon crush anyone?

Dick Savage.

Sugarcubes

Last Friday the *Sugar Cubes*, Iceland's second name in entertainment played at the Brixton Academy. The support group played enthusiastically to a growing audience but were only saved from total banality by the sheer volume of their music.

When the *Sugar Cubes* first came on, things looked more hopeful. Their songs were vibrant and well delivered but then the male vocalist began shouting to the crowd in pidgin English which heralded the collapse of the performance. The beautiful lead singer,

dressed in a sixties mini dress, sang *Birthday* and sounded good, but then began flapping her arms and jumping around the stage while the male vocalist, in a vivid yellow shirt, barked into his microphone. The keyboard player was good but her thoughts seemed to be elsewhere most of the time.

There were a couple of good songs but it took the inspiring theatrical splendour of the Academy to make the evening worthwhile.

Simon Elliot

Mudhoney

All the way from Seattle to 'F**k Up' *Mudhoney* are a lively fourpiece with an ear for a tune and a penchant for guttural grunts and axe torturing which results in a noise just the right side of musical. There's Blues in there but you'd never catch *BB King* playing it.

Flat Out Fucked, *Magnolia Caboose Bayshit* and *Here Comes Sickness* exhibit a cheerful sense of humour but there is nothing frivolous about the music which hits hard and fast without degenerating into the white noise of hardcore. *By Her Own Hand* sounds

like *REM* at 78 rpm and there does seem to be some sort of songwriting prior to recording as the racket is too disciplined to be totally improvised. However, judging by their recent gig at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, when singer Mark Arm invited the audience on stage with him and it promptly collapsed, live performance is total chaos and great fun if you like anarchy.

CDL.

Rag Chairman, Hal Calamvokis gives a run down on this year's Rag Week.

Rag Week Special

This year IC Rag has had it's best start to the year ever; around £10,000 has been raised in the last 4 weeks alone! Tiddlywinks made £2,000 for Action Aid, monopoly made £6,100 for MENCAP, the Rag Raid to Guildford on the 25th made £500 for BIBIC and £1,000 was raised on Saturday in Covent Garden for the World Wildlife fund. Rag now moves into serious overdrive for Rag Week:

Rag Week

Rag Week, which starts on the 8th November, is when the largest chunk of money is raised for the year. Actually Rag Week is ten days long (we at IC like to be different) and is the best excuse to have a wild time and do very little work, that anyone has ever come up with.

The RCS beer festival in the JCR on Wednesday afternoon is the traditional start to Rag Week. Last year 1,100 people consumed in the region of 700 gallons of beer, cider and perry and this year around two and a half tonnes of beer has been ordered. The event runs from midday to 11pm and what you do is you buy your official beer festival glass which has the Rag Logo on the side and then you quaff your real ale from this. During the festival there are all the culinary delights that you would expect at an event like this including curries and burgers.

The Beer festival is also when the now infamous IC Rag Mag comes out and this years' looks to be a real corker even if I do say so myself. The Rag Mag will be on sale at the Rag Stall where you can also buy your Rampant Rhino 9-0 tee-shirt, Rag Week tickets and other delights, so be there or be a total and utter social dropout.

On the night of Thursday the 9th is the Rocky Horror Disco in the Lounge, so if you're a sweet transvestite, enjoy doing the time warp or being Janet this is a must. The hypnosis lecture, on Friday the 11th in the Great Hall is not to be missed. Martin S Taylor's act is constantly changing: Last year we saw Cosmic (a.k.a. Dave Clements) talking Martian and seeing elephants, so if you're sceptical about hypnotism or just want a brilliant night's entertainment Martin is your man. If you're not sure about Volunteering as a



subject there is no need to worry as Martin has plenty of credentials that he would lose if he did anything naughty and he doesn't make you do anything too embarrassing anyway. Please get there fairly early as it fills up quickly.

Saturday is the Royal British Legion's collection day and we are going on a Rag Raid to Maidstone for the Poppy Day collection. If you want to go please come to a Rag Meeting or sign up at the Rag stall at the beer festival. Back at home is the Sci-Fi marathon starting at midday in the SCR with films, games, videos and lots more to satisfy any intergalactic wanderer. SCAB

is on the night of the 11th and is totally environmentally friendly. SCAB is the organisation that encompasses all the producing societies at Imperial like Dramsoc, Opsoc, Rocksoc, Jazz Club etc and they all put on one big production.

Sunday is traditionally a CCU day. First there is the three way tug-of-war between the three onsite CCU's in Prince's Gardens and then there is the Raft Race across the serpentine in Hyde park.

On the night of Monday the 13th there is the comedy night in the concert hall: Malcolm Hardy will be compering Simon Bligh, Otis Canaloni and Lee Evans which should be a very good night.

The Guilds Slave Auction is on Tuesday the 14th in Mech Eng 220 and is well worth going to even if you are not going to make a purchase. If you fancy doing a bit of bidding for the more tastier morsels on display remember that 'group bidding' gives you more spending power. Hopefully Rugby Club will be making their traditional sexist bid. Immediately after they have been sold, the execs of the three CCU's and ICU get bundled into a mini bus for Exec Initiative: where we drop them off somewhere very poetic and they are tied together in pairs and they have to make it back to College in time for the Dirty Disco: which is organised by RSM and has got itself the reputation as being the wildest party in Rag Week. 'Dirty' is the key word so, fundamentally, anything goes as long as it doesn't involve live/dead animals/children, vacuum cleaners or sharp kitchen utensils i.e. it's an awfully good evening all round. If this isn't your scene you could go to the Sci-Fi Soc film in Mech Eng 220.

Wednesday the 15th sees Hit the hit squad in Covent Garden, they'll tell you more if you want to know. In the evening there is the Bar Quiz in the snack bar which is fairly self explanatory.



On Thursday lunchtime there is a lot of activity in Beit Quad: Exec Torture will be happening (that is if the execs don't chicken out) where for a fee you can pour unpleasant things over the Union and CCU execs. On the roof of the Union building Aerosoc will be running their usual darts competition; there is a modest prize for the paper aeroplane that flies the furthest and that stays up in the air the longest. To wrap all of this up there is the Monster Boat Race: Wadworths have kindly donated a firkin of 6X for which the CCU's will theoretically race against each other.

In the evening there is The RCS smoking concert which is a collection of interesting but somewhat dubious acts and anything amusing will be put in, so if you have any ideas please contact John St Hill or Syd in the RCS office.

Guilds Carnival is the last really big event in Rag Week on Friday the 17th. This is much like the other carnivals, with The Man From Delmonte, Howlin' Wilf and the Veejays playing, films, videos, Discos, a casino and much more. At 6pm on Friday Dance Soc start their Dance marathon for Children in need in the JCR which will continue on until Saturday evening.

Saturday morning (yes it does and will exist) sees the first half of the 24-hour collection also for Children in Need, but more importantly there is the world's most wild and wacky sponsored event ever; namely the sponsored nude kamikazi parachute jump. The parachute jump itself is not the hard part: it being only 2ft of freefall out the back of a mini bus. The mini bus is actually outside Harrods at the time and the participants are only wearing a crash helmet, a static line parachute, a reserve and a pair of boots as they exit the mini bus. The challenge is to get back to Prince's gardens without being arrested. As the saying goes, you need balls to do something like this.

In the evening, as the second part of 24-hour collection, there is the Leukaemia Research pub crawl, which they have got a door to door licence for. And so ends rag week, ten days of mayhem which might just kill me, then we can all at last catch up on all the sleep and work we've missed out on.

Events going on throughout Rag Week:

Guilds Hitsquad will be operating Flanning so if you want to get a shaving foam pie shoved in someone's face, take out a contract in the Guilds Office for £2 (contact lens wearers can get a badge that means they don't get hit directly in the face). RCS will be running Grim Reaping and Gnoming: what happens is that for £5 your target will be followed around by the Grim Reaper or by a Gnome all day or until they pay them to go and follow someone else. Contracts can be taken out in the RCS office.

Killer will be running from 12 midnight on Wednesday the 8th after beer festival. What happens is that to join you pay £2 and hand in 2 passport photos of yourself and you get given a target and a set of rules on how you can legitimately kill them. Once you have killed them you take over their contract and so the game goes on until there are theoretically two very nervous people stalking each other around College (or it just degenerates into gang warfare like 2 years' ago). Either way it is a pretty good game if it is played properly. You can sign up at the beer festival or earlier as advertised. The prizes for killer are pretty good and may involve a free game of Skirmish for you and your friends.

Rag will hopefully be running 'kidnap-a-lecturer-a-gram' whereby, the authorities permitting; a lecturer is kidnapped during his/her lecture and is held as long as possible, £2 a minute is raised from the class (when no more donations are received, they are returned).

Postscript:

It is past 10pm again and I'm still in College. What Monopoly proved to me is that if a lot of people just contribute a small amount of time and effort, great things can be done. I hope you go to some of the events in Rag Week, I hope you go to all of them, but more importantly I hope you enjoy them; because if you're not enjoying things you might as well give up and become a tug boat captain.



Love and damp mackerel, Hal Calamvokis, Rag Chairman 89-90.

The Charities

These are the five charities that Rag is going to support: **The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association** obviously train and supply guide dogs to blind people. This, however, is a lot more than it sounds. To its owner, a guide dog is much more than a surrogate pair of eyes, it is a means of self-reliance and independence.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is one of the largest charities around, ICRF conduct pure research into the fields related to gaining a better knowledge of cancer and how and why it happens.

The British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC) is based in Somerset and is an old favourite with IC Rag. They are a small charity, with a turnover of less than £200,000. They give remedial help to mentally handicapped children, attempting to give them back control of their bodies, teaching them how to use their muscles and limbs.

The British Bone Marrow Donor Appeal is a trust committed to supporting the compilation and maintenance of a fully computerised tissue library from potential bone marrow donors. This is needed to provide help for Leukaemia sufferers and people with other bone marrow related diseases.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) was established as a channel for popular concern about conservation to create effective action. This covers conservation of the global environment alongside that of endangered species.

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME	PRICE
Wed 8th	RCS Beer Festival	JCR	12-11pm	£2.50
Thur 9th	Rocky Horror Disco	Lounge	8-1pm	£2.00
Fri 10th	Hypnosis Lecture	Great Hall	7.30-11pm	£2.50
Sat 11th	Poppy Dag Rag Raid	Maidstone	10am	—
Sat 11th	Sci Fi Marathon	SCR	12pm	£1.00
Sat 11th	SCAB Night	Concert Hall	8pm-2am	£2.50
Sun 12th	Tug-of-War/Raft Race	Princes Gardens/Serpentine	11am-2pm	—
Mon 13th	Comedy Night	Concert Hall	8.30-11.30pm	£3.00
Tue 14th	Guilds Slave Auction	ME220	12.45-2.30pm	—
Tue 14th	RSM Dirty Disco	JCR	8-1.30pm	£2.50
Tue 14th	Sci Fi Soc Film/Poss Wargames	ME220	8pm—	£1.00
Wed 15th	Hit the Hit Squad	Covent Gdn	—	—
Wed 15th	Bar Quiz	Snack Bar	7.30pm	£1.00
Thur 16	Exec Torture	Beit Quad	12.45-2.30pm	—
Thur 16th	AeroSoc Darts	Beit Quad	12.45-2.30pm	20p
Thur 16th	Monster Boat Race	Beit Quad	1-7.30pm	FREE!
Thur 16th	RCS Smoking Concert	Concert Hall	£2.50	—
Fri 17th	Dance Marathon	JCR	6pm—	—
Fri 17th	Guilds Carnival	Union Bdg	8-3pm	£4.00
Sat 18th	24-hour Collection	?	10am—	—
Sat 18th	Nude Kamikazi Parachute Jump	Harrods	?	—
Sat 18th	Leukaemia Research Pub Crawl	Snack Bar	6-10.30pm	—

'D' is for Douglas and 'T' is for Turner. Next week, 'E' please...

The Calumny column

This week's initial is 'D'. We need look no further for scandal than the Royal School of Mines' very own Martin Douglas. Over the summer holidays, Mr Douglas got wind of an exciting offer that he couldn't let pass by. The Union Bookstore were giving the first video away free for everyone joining their new video club before the start of term. Mr Douglas rushed off to the Bookstore and joined on the spot. The problem? Mr Douglas does not possess a video recorder.

Robinson Crusoe of ICU chess club has been randomly selected to be picked on this week. On Monday week he disrupted a meeting of Publications Board three times by walking in and out of the room to get chess sets. The sets were held in a locked cabinet. Undeterred by this, Mr Crusoe ripped the door off and helped himself to the contents, which included a bottle of Grenadine and a packet of digestive biscuits. The Union could do well to examine Mr Crusoe's credentials. He has never studied here and the only union card he possesses is a bent one he 'obtained' from Carl Burgess (ex-union president) in 1985. Maybe he should be taken on as a crime prevention officer, since he has such a fine knowledge of lockers.

Nice to see that ICU Hon Sec Fiona Nicholas is playing the field again. She has been spotted around town lately in the company of one very eligible bachelor. The gentleman concerned wears 'sexy bicycle shorts'. FELIX conducted an interview with Ms Nicholas on Tuesday regarding her recent sexual exploits. When pressed, she revealed that her Romeo possessed something that was 'wet at the end'. The identity of Mr X is a closely guarded secret. Nick Marley is 19. Mylan Lester is 105 and has never played the 'biscuit game'.

Following last week's news story of Elec Eng's Professor Turner and the exploits of a phantom photographer, the culprit has crawled out of the woodwork. FELIX has received a letter from 'Red George'. This was accompanied by a photograph (reproduced here) and a very interesting story about the aforementioned academic. We are currently trying to verify the tale, which concerns an incident at the start of term. Watch this space for further developments.

Physics Dep Rep, Andy Waller had one lemonade too many at the department's freshers' dinner last week. The normally reserved Mr Waller could contain himself no longer when one of the speakers started getting boring and promptly subjected him to a



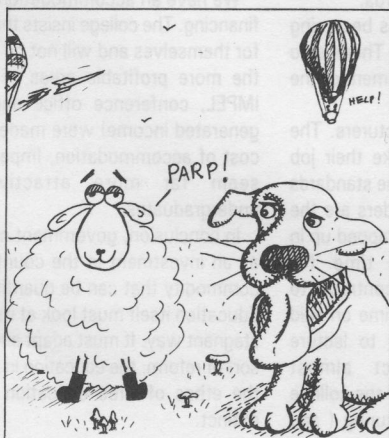
barrage of abuse. The speaker? Royal College of Science Dean, Professor Jim Barber.

On the same topic, a cautionary tale from the Civil Engineering dinner. Wendy Kite, Civ Eng Dep Rep, tried to get acquainted with everyone present. Her tactic was to rush up to unfamiliar faces and announce herself. One encounter is worthy of mention: "Hello, I'm Wendy Kite, Civ Eng Dep Rep, who are you?". "I'm the head of department", replied Professor Dowling.

ACC Chair Ben Turner had an interesting experience over the summer. On a trip to a club specialising in 'adult entertainment', he got involved in some audience participation. Live on stage, he performed an act of some contortion with a stripper, his mouth and a freshly peeled banana. It is rumoured that some pictures are available of the event. Five pounds to anyone providing them.

Finally, this week, back to Professor Jim Barber. He has explained the reason why he was in such a

confused state at the Commemoration day service. The learned professor left his briefcase unattended outside his house in an act of uncharacteristic absent-mindedness. The local neighbourhood watch telephoned the police to report a suspicious package. The bomb squad duly arrived at the professor's home. Ignoring the protestations of his wife, they proceeded to make the parcel safe. Meanwhile, Professor Barber returned home to collect his case and had to explain to the boys in blue exactly why he had tried to scare the residents shitless. His appearance at Commemoration Day was thus under much duress, which probably accounts for his babbling state. It also explains why he announced last year's RCSU President Stephanie Snell as 'Stephanie Snail' during the ceremony. Allegations that the real reason was due to the consumption of half a bottle of Bells beforehand are believed to be completely unfounded. *Caroline Toynbee*



Paul Shanley presents.....

The Delator Column

The future of education in this country has never been in as much trouble than the present time. A number of upheavals are taking place which will have far reaching consequences for both ourselves and the next generation of students. These changes are a result of both national and local factors.

A fundamental right of every person should be the right to be educated to the best of their abilities regardless of their sex, age or creed. This has been accepted for years. What has also been accepted has been the right to be educated irrespective of ones wealth. This is a principle that I would label 'free education for all'. Britain, as it heads for the 1990s, is evolving into a society where this principle is slowly being eroded.

This is not necessarily an attack on the present government (although my personal view is that they bear the brunt of the blame). It is also an attack on many other bodies, particularly the institutions themselves in not facing up to this.

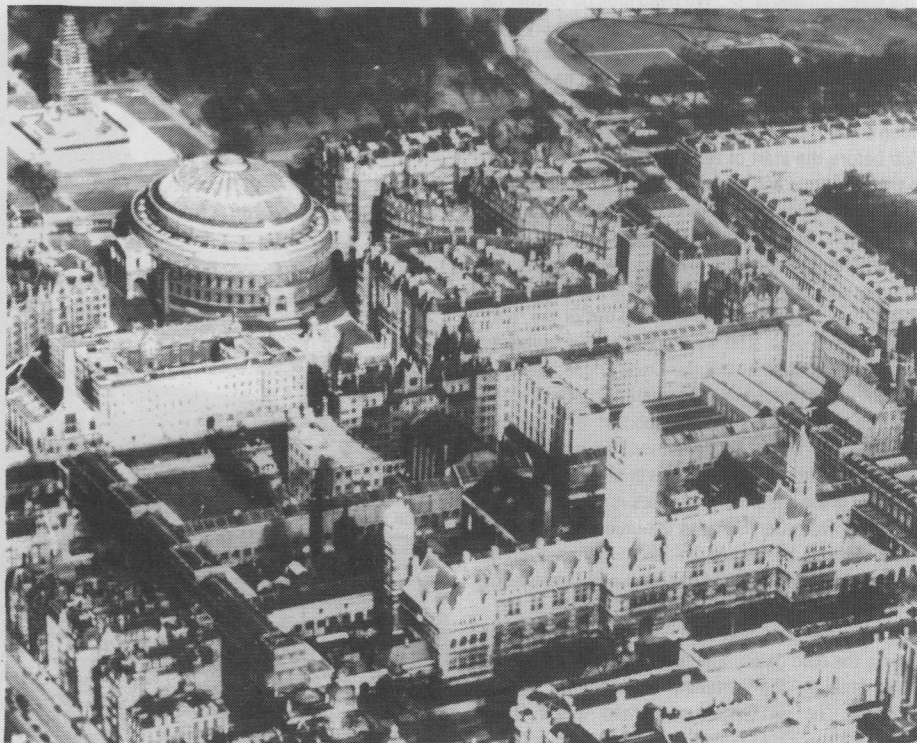
The introduction of student loans looks to be the first stage in a series of measures designed to make further education pay for itself i.e. with very little subsidy from the government. In sight is the next proposal; that students will not only pay their own grants but will also be liable for their fees as well. Okay, so far no surprises. But let's extend the argument a bit further and look ahead.

If fees are to met by students, then industry will undoubtedly come to the rescue. To a certain extent they do already, in the way of sponsorships. Prospective undergraduates will look to large businesses to meet their full costs. It only has to take one employer to innovate such a scheme and all the others will follow. Once fees have been met, the employers have quite a lot of leverage within the universities and polytechnics. Indeed, some of the courses that are not so popular now will become even less popular. Industry will dictate to students which course they should major in. An undergraduate electing to study in a course not vocation-related will experience difficulty in finding a sponsor.

The next step is for industry to apply clout to the institutions themselves. Certain courses will end up being sponsored by large companies. It will not be uncommon for departments to have such items as the Ferranti Solid State course appearing on their timetables. This would be the beginning of the end as far as traditional syllabuses are concerned. Smaller courses, like the Humanities options or very abstract courses, may vanish altogether.

Bearing the main brunt of these radical changes will be the arts based colleges. These are already suffering from smaller and smaller grants each year. In the foreseeable future, unless a charitable sponsor can be found (as with Sainsbury's endorsement of the arts), these colleges may be forced to close. Alternatively they will become establishments for the elite. Their academic populace will consist of those students who can well afford the fees and can contribute to the solvency of the college.

Another financial dagger through the heart for institutions is the accommodation crisis. With rent levels as they are at the moment in both London and many other provincial cities, it is becoming increasingly hard for institutions in these places to attract students. Their only hope is to find more residences. One way is by merger. This has happened



already. It will happen again. How long will it be before London University means just that—a single university serving the whole of London with each intercollegiate college specialising in one very small area of study—Imperial College of Physics, Queen Mary School of Electrical Engineering etc., each with its student intake dictated by housing places available. The other hope is that industry provides accommodation for students. Anyone undertaking a course in Computing will be housed in a purpose built hall courtesy of IBM. Sound far fetched? It's happened already. Weeks Hall was paid for by Vickers plc on condition that a proportion of their sponsored students be accommodated within it.

That is one possible scenario if governments (of any political persuasion) do not place a greater importance on education and its associated problems in their future plans.

But is government to blame? Are the institutions themselves entirely faultless? Let's now look closer to home—at what Imperial College is doing to attract more undergraduates and better standards.

My main concern is that this college is becoming more and more postgraduate orientated. There is no harm in this but is being done to the detriment of the undergraduate population.

Imperial has an abundance of bad lecturers. The young lecturers, and the ones who take their job seriously, are not at fault. By and large, the standards they set are excellent. The worst offenders are the Nobel and field medallists who are so wrapped up in research, they have little or no time for undergraduates. They attract research contracts to the college. They spend all their spare time on said contracts. There is no onus on them to lecture conscientiously because they act almost autonomously of the college structure. If the college decides to reprimand them for bad lecturing (and that's pretty unlikely), then they will take off to

somewhere else that wants them and is more tolerant of their teaching deficiencies. An incident of this nature happened in Electrical Engineering at the start of term. Two lecturers were in competition for a sponsored chair. The one who didn't get the appointment promptly left taking all his research staff and contracts with him. The section is now suffering from a severe lack of staff primarily because college upset one of its academics.

The research contracts recently announced in the college Gazette seek to back this up. One lecturer in Biochemistry has been given £470,000 for three years research work. That the college has been awarded such a contract is highly prestigious. Imperial would not dare upset the lecturer involved for fear that he'll leave taking his precious work with him.

We attend a college which is geared to financial gain. The emergence of IMPEL—Imperial College Exploitation Ltd, IMPACT—Imperial College Activities Ltd, and the creation of the new post of college Managing Director reinforce this.

We have an accommodation service which is self-financing. The college insists that residences must pay for themselves and will not be subsidised. If some of the more profitable areas of the college such as IMPEL, conference office and bars (all externally generated income) were made to cover some of the cost of accommodation, Imperial as a whole would seem far more attractive to prospective undergraduates.

In conclusion, government must look to education as an investment in the country's future—not as a commodity that can be quantified in material terms. Education itself must look at itself in an objective not stagnant way. It must adapt and change. Without this sort of reform, the education in its present form, under the ethos of 'free education for all', will become extinct.

FELIX interview...

Professor Colin Blakemore

Professor Colin Blakemore is one of that rare species, the scientist-in-the-public-eye. His BBC2 television series 'The Mind Machine' brought Neural Physiology, the study of the mechanisms of the brain, to a wide and largely unscientific audience. IT brought HIM unwanted attention and a flood of defamatory articles in the tabloid press which stopped only after he successfully complained to the Press Council.

Unsurprisingly, he is a man with strong opinions as to how science should be presented to the general public and how far science and politics must mix. FELIX spoke to him during September's British Association meeting at Sheffield.

A manufacturing country such as the UK, he says, must live off its 'wits and ideas' and its innovations in science and technology. Yet he believes that there is a nebulous unofficial 'anti-science movement' in this country, though this is by no means an organised campaign but more a willingness on the part of the general public to treat science as a convenient scapegoat.

There are many reasons why such an attitude has developed. It can be attributed to unfavourable publicity in the press who tend to concentrate on emotive issues such as animal experimentation. Professor Blakemore especially criticises the 'knee-jerk, blame science' reaction of certain media hungry pressure groups. Politicians, ever on the lookout for somewhere to pass the buck, find research an easy target. There are, he says, only a 'handful' of scientists in the public eye and they are expected to comment on every issue.

The Professors attitude to the press is obviously coloured by its attitude to him. He admits that unfavourable publicity is a hazard of 'putting your head over the parapet of your ivory tower', but it was the bias and inaccuracy of the reports that incensed him. He was accused, among other things, of being involved in the use of animals for cosmetic testing, a completely different field to the one he is working in.

However, things are slowly improving, notably on television. Professor Blakemore's 'The Mind Machine' and the regular science slots 'Horizon' and 'Antenna' are broadcast during prime-time, albeit on BBC2. Twenty-five years ago there was no science broadcasting, now it represents 5% of the total BBC output. But Professor Blakemore is still worried about the future and deregulation which, he claims, can only make things worse.

He is critical of science education. He thinks that science learnt at school can soon become out of date and useless, and argues that more emphasis must be placed on teaching people how science works, in what it 'can and can't' do. There is a tendency for people, even when they have been bombarded with facts, to ignore the scientific basis. Smoking is a good example. The vast majority of people now accept that smoking is harmful, yet many still smoke. They still prefer 'folk statistics' of the 'my father smoked 60 a day and it never did him any harm' school to hard scientific fact.

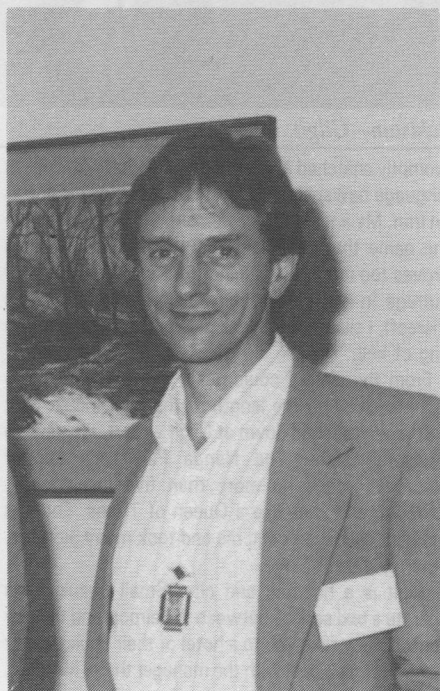
Professor Blakemore believes that the national curriculum COULD have been used to improve things, but the opportunity was missed. He dismisses the Government's City Technology Colleges as 'insignificant'. He argues that it is impossible to teach traditional Physics and Chemistry up to the age of 16 without frightening people away.

Much of the malaise can be blamed on the attitude

of the Government. The Government, Professor Blakemore says, is laying down a disaster. Assorted groups, including the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), have openly complained that science funding is inadequate. Highly respected senior scientists talk of the 'intransigence' of the Prime Minister.

The politicians, he says, are far too interested in 'fads and fancies'. They think in terms of 'flavours of the month'; two years ago Interdisciplinary Research Groups were in, now after only two years the Government has moved on. Proper science needs proper consultation, good funding and a chance to prove itself.

Professor Blakemore argues that scientists must involve themselves in the politics of science. They must exploit the few good Government ideas and emphasise the importance of uncommercial 'blue-sky' research. They must fight against the uncompetitive salaries and the antiquated working conditions and oppose 'ridiculous' monetarist funding policies. This, he says, is the only way to stop the Brain Drain to the USA.



He claims that science is losing respect. There can be few high-flying academics who have not received offers of higher-paid jobs in America. Yet many remain; they still feel that they are doing something worthwhile and important. How long will they stay on, he asks, while the Government now openly accuses scientists of being lazy and disinterested and of being uncooperative with Industry?

Colin Blakemore gave up a career in medicine to become a research scientist. He felt that the respect, the job security and the freedom made up for the poor conditions. He believes that science teaching in this country is excellent—students from all over the world come to the UK to learn. In fact, it is their money which keeps the Universities going.

However Professor Blakemore believes that things will improve; all the major opposition political parties have better science policies than the present Government, and no party, not even Mrs. Thatcher's, can last forever.

This Week

● **Since the earthquake**, all sorts of researchers have been to California, and many agree that the worst is still to come. Theoretical models of the fault are predicting that the 'quake is only the first of many.

● **The Earth's atmosphere** is never still: it wavers and shakes and distorts the light from the stars: This limits the accuracy of Earth-based observatories; until recently, the only way to avoid the problem was to launch telescopes into space. Now, astronomers from the European Southern Observatory (ESO) have found a way to counteract distortion at ground-level.

The ESO team have applied the technique of 'adaptive optics' in which the mirrors in the telescope are physically moved to compensate for the vagaries of the atmosphere. The system relies on a computer to process the image that the telescope produces and to correct for distortion using a deformable silicon mirror just 1mm thick. The first test, on the 1.52m telescope at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence in Southern France, is said to have raised the telescope's performance to near its theoretical maximum. It is estimated that an adaptive optics system could be installed in a ground-based telescope for around \$270,000, many times less than the cost of one of its space based counterparts.

● **The nationwide** survey of sexual habits, recently vetoed by the Prime Minister, is back. A medical research charity, the Wellcome Trust, has agreed to provide £900,000 for work to start. The project is partially the brain-child of Imperial's Professor Anderson.

● **On 18th October**, NASA finally launched its Galileo probe to Jupiter from the shuttle Atlantis after overcoming legal action by environmental groups. The environmentalists were worried about the plutonium powered probe crashing to earth if there was a second Challenger disaster (See 'This Week', FELIX 845).

● **'America** has subsidised the rest of the world too long in science' claims Jim Watson, the DNA pioneer and now director of the Human Genome Office of the US National Institute of Health. Watson has asked for international help in the project to map the Human Genome, the DNA which makes up mankind.

● **Accidents will happen**, but it would appear that they happen more often to left-handed people than to right-handed, according to recent work. Statistically, someone who is left-handed is 54% more likely to damage themselves with tools and 20% more likely to suffer from work- or sport-related injuries. It is worth noting that in our rightist world 13% of 20 year olds are left-handed but only 1% of 80 year olds.

● **Plans are afoot** for the world's largest ozone friendly freezer. A scheme has been announced to store seeds from the world's most important crops in a disused mine-shaft under the Norwegian permafrost. It is estimated that under these conditions, barley seeds could survive three centuries while certain elms could last only 14 years.

● **For those interested** in such things, there will be a talk on gravitational lensing on the 7th November at 1pm in Physics LT2. This column is always available for plugs.

Azhar Ali Abidi tells the tale of his travels on his...

Journey to Kashgar

Journey to Kashgar Long journeys have difficult beginnings. In the early morning the alarm pierces through your dreams and shatters your sleep. You eat your porridge with a foul taste in your mouth. Look at yourself in the mirror and hate what you see. But slowly the apprehension of what is to come awakens your senses. You make a last check of your backpack: water purifying tablets, insect repellent, water bottle, camera and films, change of underwear, diary, sleeping bag, passport, and two hundred dollars hidden in three different places. Everything in order, and ready to go.

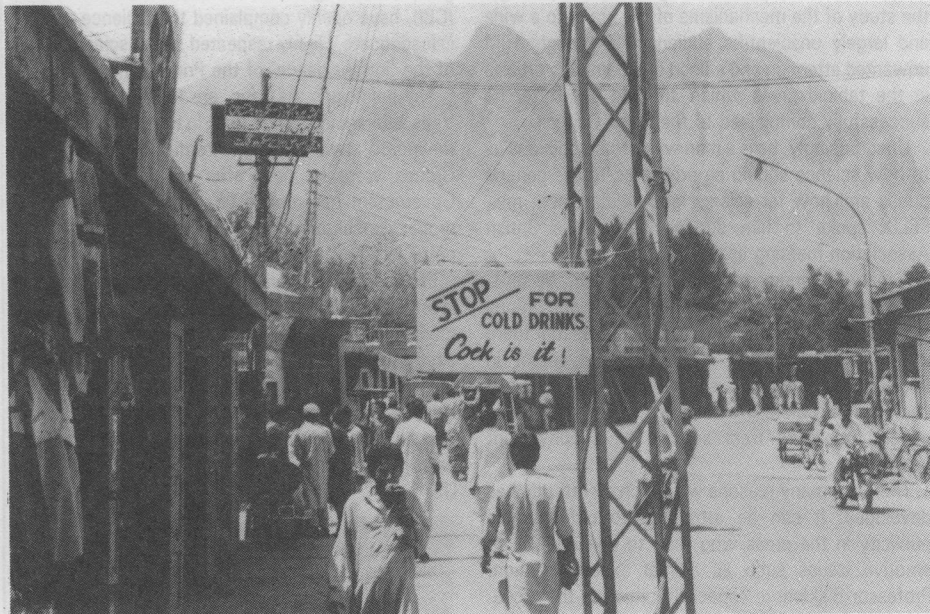
'Have you packed your toothpaste?' 'Yes mother.' And you put your toothpaste into an already bursting side pocket. 'Let us know when you get there son.' 'Sure father.' I was on my way to China.

I had first been on this route at the age of seventeen, when a group of us were taken mountaineering on the Rakaposhi. For the uninitiated, this is an arrogant twenty seven thousand feet high mountain and rather difficult to climb. It also proved a little bit too much for some of us, and our rag tag expedition had to turn back at the base camp. We had run out of water, one chap had lost his helmet after he dropped his chocolate in a valley and went looking for it, and I faced the wrath of the accompanying mullah who found out that I had been feasting on a tin of preserved pork meat. That was also thrown down the valley. We had to content ourselves with climbing some insignificant peaks, fishing in the river and eyeing the indigenous females.

A bus took us to the Chinese border. While climbing a steep hill, it momentarily stopped (we held our breaths) and then started rolling downhill (we yelled and jumped out of windows). The driver muttered 'Inshallah' and managed to stop the bus, a feat which he sincerely ascribed to the help of God. We had to walk a few miles uphill before a military truck gave us a lift to the Pakistan-Chinese border. A small reconnaissance team went with the truck to the Chinese post five miles inside the border. I stayed back with some friends at the border where we took pictures and stood in a row to relieve ourselves in Chinese soil. An angry reconnaissance party returned after an hour. Their fraternising with the Chinese soldiers (who possessed wine) had been frustrated by the diabolic mullah.

Caught in the London rush hour traffic, or while waiting in a supermarket queue, I look back upon these memories with nostalgia. In the daily web of dull routines, even the worst moments of exotic journeys seem bearable. Now I had returned to see if the Silk route still held the romance that had captured me as an adolescent. This time however, I was travelling to the Chinese city of Kashgar.

Our odyssey started at Islamabad airport. A friend and I boarded a Fokker flight to Gilgit. We were flying PIA. A German gentleman in the cabin made an attempt at a joke, 'Zat means Please Inform Allah, ya!'. My friend was not amused. The Teutonic sense of humour, unlike their beer, lacks ingredients. Flights were heavily booked in early August and we were lucky with the American Express travel agents to get two seats. The inflight service was without a smile and purely functional. A waitress tossed us little trays containing sandwiches and tea-cups. These were



Pakistan—Gilgit

promptly snatched away after ten minutes. An English language newspaper told of U.S. warships closing in on Iran. My ancestors are Persian. Being a witness to the game that politicians play with our lives often proves too much. Refraining from any expression of outrage in the small cabin (also lacking the tools thereof), I silently cursed all politicians to the seventh ring of hell.

From the plane I could easily see the Karakoram highway running the length of the river Indus. Just before we touched down at Gilgit airport, we saw an awesome sight. The Nanga Parbat, a mighty mountain, stood no more than five miles away, towering above us like a Queen of Titans. Tourists fumbled with their cameras and took many pictures. I merely gazed.

Gilgit is a hot and arid city. Small Suzuki vans operate a taxi service between the airport and the city centre. They take you to a hotel of their choice, after having struck a deal with the manager there. Moreover, they give the impression of a long ride by driving around the town once and then demand a lot of money. We found that it was better to walk a little and settled in a pleasant inn run by a nice, plump man. A broad road runs through the city centre. There are dozens of roundabouts at junctions where narrow streets join the main road. Traffic wardens hang about lazily and guide what little traffic comes their way. Colourful buses and big lumbering trucks rumble past small shops, belching smoke and blaring horns.

My travelling companion suggested that we hire bikes and explore the surroundings. The landscape outside Gilgit is very beautiful. Little villages and houses blend perfectly into the countryside. Little children rolled in dust amid laughter and tears. Occasionally a Suzuki van or jeep tore through the silence. We stopped at a fishing spot called Kargah. This area is off the beaten track and definitely a rock climber's paradise. Nearby a large Buddha had been carved in the rock face of a mountain by ancient Buddhist pilgrims.

Our bus to China was a colourful body. Written on its backside were flowery verses that spoke of a maiden with long black hair. Hand painted also was the maximum speed of the vehicle and its age. The former beyond the machine's capacity, and the latter impossibly tender. The bus reminded me of ageing beauties who sit in the London Underground looking repeatedly at their window reflection to make sure that the wrinkles are hidden, the lips pout and their eyes do not show their desperation. The luggage was bundled on the roof and tied down with ropes. Backpacks were tucked between our legs. A vicious looking character claimed my seat and before I could argue intelligently, he pushed me in the chest. An ugly scene very nearly followed, but not quite. Some elderly gentlemen with flowing white beards intervened, and stopped a punch up. The Vicious Character later apologised and became very friendly. That prevented me from giving him a good nose job. I shall always regret that opportunity in the crowded bus.

We were finally on our way to Karimabad, the capital city of Hunza. Landslides on this route can often hinder progress, as happened to a Dutch student whom I met later. He had to walk two days to get there. Our bus took three hours. I must also mention the kind tractor driver who towed us for a short stretch. The natives of Hunza drink water of grey colouration, and encourage outsiders to do so, much to the latter's consternation. I met several emaciated tourists who fell ill after having drunk such liquid. They had believed that it was the elixir of life. Yet people in Hunza do lead vigorous lives. There were some living specimens sitting by the roadside, gazing at nothing in particular (undoubtedly performing mental acrobatics of Zen), and they were born before the Great War. We chose to purify our water with chlorine based tablets. I continued to do so all the way to Kashgar. It tasted like swimming pool water but I never had any stomach problems. My friend stayed at Karimabad and returned home in a few days.

My stop was the Pakistani immigration and customs checkpoint of Sust. The bus arrived there in the evening. I had now joined up with an English student from Oxford. Calum was on his way to Beijing intending to take a ride on the Trans-Siberian. He was studying Chinese at college and as things turned out later, showed that he could also utilise it. He became a very fine travelling companion.

At high altitudes, food is often not properly cooked. Our chicken curry was a Piece de Resistance. Feverishly we pulled and tugged at the dead bird, trying to render it into small edible pieces. This proved useless, so we returned it as if nothing had happened and asked for another dish. I had put some rehydrating salts in my water bottle, and the pure liquid had now acquired a sweet taste. Calum thereafter lived with drinking very little water. We were always hungry and scavenging for food. This was also due to the fact that we travelled light; I had a can of hard cheddar cheese, and Calum carried a packet of Peak Freans biscuits. There was never enough clean water to drink. Once a Chinese waiter filled my water bottle with hot green tea, which came as a shock. But these problems were minor and did not slow us down.

At 35p a night, our hotel room was the cheapest in the whole of Sust. The hospitable staff served us with brimming cups of delicious hot Chai. Presently Calum dived into the sediment at the bottom of his rucksack and emerged with a copy of Viz. We flicked through it to catch up on the slimy jokes. As things turned out, the magazine became (as it ought to be) substitute toilet paper. We were asked to fill in the guestbook. Previous entries included Dutch whores, English plumbers, Japanese magicians and American astronauts. To this were added a Crown Prince accompanied by Dr. Indiana Jones. 'Good night your Highness', I croaked. Amid sensations of insects crawling up our legs, we drifted into sleep.

The next morning we headed to the Customs post. A large crowd of Pakistani traders had gathered here. Amid excuses and abuses, we shoved and pushed our way to the front. Calum was to learn that in this part of the world, there was no concept of queues whatsoever. Seeing that we looked like innocent backpackers, the officials cleared us in no time. Now came a bigger problem. We were to head to the Chinese border in a red Toyota Landcruiser. Calum wanted to get the best view. The front seat had already been taken by the Vicious Character. After much ado, Calum chose to sit behind the driver. This

did not work out as everyone had been given seat numbers and ours were right at the back. Our view was hence limited through the rear windows. Calum asked the Punjabi sitting in front if he would mind swapping seats. But he did not want a stranger to sit next to his wife, 'Wot! Noo. I sit vith the ladiez.'

Calum was immensely displeased by this situation as he had no intention of seducing the fat woman. His acid reply remains unprintable. To compensate for the loss, we persuaded the driver to stop at all scenic spots, and promised to put him in a lot of pictures. En route we passed several people who were walking and one odd American who was mending a puncture on his mountain bike. The scenery was simply magnificent. The mountains were larger than those we had seen before. Goats grazed in small patches of grassland. Out there somewhere, snow leopards lurked in the terrible wilderness. The Punjabis were playing Indian pop music on the stereo. Calum was not amused by this breach of the aesthetic and announced so. I expressed our mutual disgust in gentle words, and asked the fellow passengers to turn it off. They were kind enough to turn down the volume. The pass that connects China and Pakistan by road is called Khunjerab, or 'Valley of Blood'. The road is dangerous in some places, and first time travellers might be intimidated by the sheer drops into the river, or the constant hazard of landslides. Yet an Elizabethan explorer had dismissed it as '...an excursion for the ladies...'. We stopped there to fill our water bottles with virgin snow and took some pictures.

Our jeep arrived at the Chinese post of Pirali after roughly two hours. Officials stamped our passports and made a cursory check on our backpacks. They are usually quite lenient towards tourists. Their wrath shows itself upon the Pakistani traders who bring in a lot of goods, and do the same while going out. Outside the Customs building we were met by a Chinese television crew. Obviously they were making films to show people that despite what happened in Tianamenn Square, tourists were still coming to China. Hating to find ourselves in propoganda newsreels, we stayed well away.

The Chinese monetary system is complicated and those who hate finance should skip this paragraph. At the border we changed our dollars into FEC (Foreign exchange certificate). It should be noted that dollars and FEC fetch a high value in the Chinese black market. The ordinary currency inside China is called



China—Kashgar

Rimimbi. We exchanged our FEC for Rimimbi in Tashkurgan and Kashgar. If you look foreign enough, shady characters are bound to approach you sooner or later and try to sell Rimimbi. These 'illegal' deals are negotiated with a pen and a piece of paper. Exchange rates may vary between 1:1.6 to 1:2. The shady characters are seasoned conmen. We always counted the money before accepting it.

Kashgar is a long way from Pirali. Long bus drives ain't no fun. When you sit for endless hours in a bus full of pale foreigners, imposing Pathans, and babbling Punjabis, a musty smell of sweat and unwashed bodies can become quite overpowering. The absence of proper 'facilities' in these areas means that you have to take your toilet roll (or Viz) and wander out to find a deserted spot near a river. Squat and contemplate the waves. Or hide behind a clump of bush and observe insect life at close hand. Either way hope not to be detected and be quick.

Tashkurgan is the first settlement inside China. It is ninety kilometers from Pirali. The population mainly consists of Central Asian Tadjiks. They are fair and have green eyes, probably traces of early Aryan origins. Tadjik women are very attractive - almond eyes in chiselled faces. They wear bright silk skirts and colourful hats, and walk with an elegant gait. A contingent of PLA soldiers maintains a constant presence. They fill their empty hours with tobacco and snooker. On the furthest end of town, the Tadjiks live in mud houses, much as they have lived for countless centuries. They are a quiet folk and do not show much interest in outsiders. Indeed they regard the Han Chinese and their protagonists as intruders upon their land.

A thousand years ago, a princess of Cathay had come this way and erected a fortress on top of a hill. Little now remains of the fortress except mud walls in ruins. It is believed that beyond the northern perimeter wall ran the original Silk route.

It was getting dark and a thunderstorm was approaching from the east. Unperturbed we scaled the perimeter wall and landed a thousand years back in time. Calum was ecstatic. 'Marco! Eat your heart out...' he yodelled and pressed his palms onto the flat ground. We stood on a dust road that was bounded by a five foot high wall on its outer side. So this was the silk route whereupon once turbaned merchants led camel caravans to the golden cities of Samarkand and Xanadu. What mighty kings and fearsome armies must have trodden upon this path, and turned into the dust that now lay under our feet? We left when the rain turned into a hailstorm

Officially all China runs on Peking standard time.



The Abakh Khoja Tomb

Rebel natives however keep local time, and many others simply do not care. We always synchronised our watches with the bus driver, or the people in the ticket office. It took us six hours to reach Kashgar. The Central Asian landscape has a beauty which is too wild to describe. It is a measureless wilderness. There are vast swamps, red mountains, sand dunes, and numerous boulders strewn like a million pearls. Wild camels roam in the backdrop of the Pamirs.

Peter Fleming undertook this journey in 1935. His travel account is described in a classic book called 'News from Tartary'. In those days, the journey from Gilgit to Kashgar took something like thirty days. Thanks to the Karakoram Highway, this has now been cut down to three. Fleming's Kashgar was teeming with Russian spies, British agents, Swedish missionaries and all other sorts of colourful characters. Amid intrigue and conspiracies, lavish banquets were thrown by rival Powers, and people got killed. The present day town is tame in comparison. You run the risk of being run down by a donkey cart, conned by a Shady Character, or falling victim to stomach problems.

Kashgar is an Oasis town on the rim of the Taklamakan desert. The population is predominantly Uygher by race, and Muslim by faith. This is a medieval city with an extreme climate. We rode in a donkey cart to the Seman hotel. This used to be the Russian Consulate. A couple of stunning hostesses greeted us at the reception. In their native costumes they looked '...dressed to kill...' in the words of wide-eyed Calum. A man of good taste. I wondered at the nature and extent of their services but could not find out more as the room charges were quite expensive, and we had to leave this charming place for a cheaper hotel.

I changed into shorts and shot out of the hotel like a bat from hell, straight to the 'Oasis cafe'. This is a Parisian style restaurant opposite Seman. There I ordered a beer and settled next to an attractive young lady who looked very colonial with a square green hat on golden blonde hair. 'May I borrow your guide book?', she asked. 'Sure.' I settled back in my seat. I finished my golden nectar and she ate her yoghurt. 'So you lived in Notting Hill?' She envied me. 'Yes I used to. Isn't it a nice place?' 'There are so many cosy little restaurants. Oh yes...' She hummed to herself. I ordered a yoghurt. 'Will you go back to London?' 'Yes I think I will.' She mused, 'But first I want to go to my parents' home in New Zealand. They have a big house and a garden, you know. A change from my grotty flat in Ealing.'

She returned my book, and we ate our yoghurts. 'Where do you plan to go?' She asked. 'I am not quite sure. Maybe I'll travel upto Turfan. What about you?' 'Me and my girlfriend are thinking of going to the Russian border. There is a lot of raw beauty there you know, and some sort of lake as well.' For a while I seriously considered including the Russian border in my itinerary. A silence followed. She wrote something in her diary and finally got up. 'Are there any good places to eat around here?' I asked. 'Try the shops down the road. We do. They serve nice dinner.'

The Eidgah is a big mosque in the centre of town and forms the focal point of many activities. The faithful sit placidly on the front steps and wait for the call for prayers. Street hawkers sell bracelets, old coins, and rings under the shadow of the minaret. Little children dance gleefully around lone tourists and beg them to take their pictures. Old men with chiselled weather-beaten faces and pointed beards, shuffle past in long boots, conical hats, and warm thick black coats. Their attire has not changed since the times of Genghis Khan. In the dusty sun-lit alleys, '... slant eyed Kirghiz and bearded Tadjiks from the hills move with a hint of swagger among the self-effacing Turks. Here and there a stiff black horse-hair veil, a brightly striped rope betrayed a woman from Andijan or Samarkand...' Nearby is a medieval market that is a labyrinth of numerous narrow lanes. Bazaaris sit in

little cluttered shops and sell curved knives, fur hats, jade, silk, carpets and hashish.

The next morning, we found to our disgust that there was no water in the toilets and the loos were choked. Indeed, in the sincere words of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, '...a tender breath of human shit, warm and sad, rose above the city and stirred the certainty of death in the depths of ones soul''.

We hired bicycles and went to the bus-stop. It looked more like a chicken farm. Calum plunged straight into the mass of small statured people and had an animated conversation in Chinese with the woman behind the counter. He succeeded in getting a ticket to Turfan for the next morning. I bought a ticket back to Sust and asked what time the bus left. We spent that evening at the Oasis cafe and chatted with some French tourists and a couple of Pakistani girls.



Much later I ventured out alone towards the Eidgah mosque. It was very dark and crowds were thinning out in bars and restaurants. But the Square bustled with a thousand people: shadows in the night with no faces. This was a scene stolen from 'The Arabian Nights'. Strange aromas drifted from dark alleys and melted into the cool night air. Old men sitting on the ground sold Turkish sweets. Little groups of philosophers chatted at the mosque entrance. A few men sat here and there, playing cards in the orange light of lanterns. Women peeked secretly from green shutters, but vanished before one could catch a glimpse of their unveiled faces. Tired men sat on the steps of their houses, their fingers round a cigarette, and the bright ember would light up their crinkled eyes. Shish kebabs were being roasted on red hot coal. A man practised the strings of his guitar. I stopped at a street vendor's shop and asked for Qulfi (ice-cream made from milk and sugar). The shopkeeper borrowed my camera and took a few shots at crazy angles. He also charged me for the Qulfi.

The next morning Calum was up early and looked in poor shape. His lips were parched, and he kept complaining of a throbbing headache and a severe stomach upset. We bade goodbye and he hurriedly left on a donkey cart to catch his bus. I had a quiet breakfast. Half an hour later, on my way to the bus-stop, I heard noises in the hotel lobby. A heated argument was in full tempest. The hotel staff were muttering apologies to Calum who was fuming and red in the face. The Chinese had assured him that the bus would leave on Sinkiang time. It had departed on Beijing time and was gone for several hours. As things stood then, I believe he chose to hitch-hike. That would have taken him through a part of the Taklamakan desert. Eager not to miss my bus, I left early and could not find out how he managed.

My camera was stolen on the way. Luckily the precious films had been kept separate and remained untouched. I did not discover the theft until late that night, and raised the alarm next morning. Everybody in the bus showed concern, including the thief, whoever he was. My neighbour was an ignorant peasant who was baffled by my rage and wore an expression of bovine stupidity. The Customs at Pirali searched the passengers but found nothing. The Chinese police also proved quite incapable of retrieving anything and were much frustrated by their impotence. I told them not to worry and made my exit from their smoke filled room with a smile on my face. My last roll of film was lost with the apparatus. It contained few shots, but among them were those taken by the Qulfi seller in Kashgar.

I had brought back with me a bottle of Chinese red wine (best drunk when dying of thirst). Taking liqueur inside Pakistan was of course illegal. However when the Customs people heard my story of the stolen camera, they were sorry and let me go without checking my gear. I chose to hitch-hike from Sust to Gilgit. The first jeep stopped after I had walked seven kilometers and dropped me off at a village between Sust and Karimabad. They advised me not to go any further as it was getting dark. I nodded understandingly and left with an excuse to pluck some apricots. Another jeep stopped after three kilometers. The driver was a dubious character. He asked me nothing and spoke little. I felt slightly uneasy and lit up a cigarette. Soon he stopped the jeep in the middle of nowhere. I remembered my Kung-fu lessons well and slowly tightened my fists. Now here was a chance to give somebody a nose job, I thought. One move and I could land a punch in his face, and another behind his ear, in rapid succession. The chap opened his glove compartment, took out a piece of newspaper and rolled up some dope. He lit up the joint and started driving. This experience proved to be more hair-raising than riding the roller coaster in the Munich beer festival.

I started from Karimabad the next morning. A bus dropped me off near Rakaposhi. I stared at my mountain for many silent minutes and longed to climb it. A dozen kilometers further down the road, a car gave me a lift. The land journey from Gilgit to Rawalpindi is long and very tiring. Road conditions are regrettably poor. Buses take at least eighteen hours. The scenery is monotonous - a wall of mountains on either side, and a river down below.

We reached the Swat valley at two o'clock after midnight, and were stopped at a police checkpost. Apparently bandits lurked in this area. So the policemen who carried vintage Lee Enfield rifles assembled a convoy and we departed under armed guard. A scared driver in the car in front of us brandished a Kalashnikov through his window. If the bandits were to strike, he was the first to go. We quickly established some distance between us. I took turns at driving and we did the stretch in fourteen hours flat. I was home in the morning of the twelfth of August.

Most journeys seem to have abrupt endings. This realisation came from all too familiar words. 'Son,' my dear mother started, 'you forgot to take your slippers. Why do you keep buying things that you never wear?'

Azhar Ali Abidi

1. 'News from Tartary'; Peter Fleming.
2. 'Love in the times of Cholera'; Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
3. After many adventures, Calum is back at college in Oxford, and can be found in pubs near Blackwell's.

Exploring and sporting expedition leaving England July to explore rivers in dug-out canoe; Amazonia. Room for more guns; highest references expected and given; contact writer via Elec Eng III pigeonholes.

President, Neil McCluskey writes on the latest progress on the loans issue and other more down to earth affairs

Big Mac reports

Here we have another lengthy report to describe what I've been doing over recent days.

External Affairs

Loans—The Ongoing Saga

All the letters regarding the Price-Waterhouse affair have been written and sent as instructed in the motion passed at the last EGM. For those people who did not attend, the decision was taken to refuse Price-Waterhouse admission to the Imperial College Careers Fair. Writing to Price-Waterhouse had a marked effect; within 48 hours of them receiving a letter, myself and David Smedley were talking to two of their partners. This meeting lasted 4½ hours and ended with everybody having a fairly healthy respect for each other. Price-Waterhouse seemed pleasantly surprised that we could conduct a rational, sound argument at their level. Now that one company has realised that we are reasonable to talk to and hold genuine doubts about the loans scheme working then maybe we will be introduced to others and finally actually get somewhere.

The last word on loans for this issue is...

The loans scheme *will* affect you. You will lose your rights to benefits. You will be the worst paid person in this country (including YTS people!). Get off your bottoms, find out about it and do something about it. Questions can be asked of me on this matter at next week's UGM. Thursday 1pm in the JCR.

The NUS will be persuading the constituent members to hold a week of action next week with regional demos on November 16th and the London Regional Demo on November 29th. Further details on the demos will be available shortly.

NUS Referendum

I've asked the NUS to contact me so that we can sit down and talk to them about the pros and cons of joining the NUS. I hope they do eventually contact me. The referendum is likely to be held some time in February with a debate on the matter some time in late January.

Poll Tax

General Union Council (re reps from each London College Union) has brought to the attention of its members that some colleges may be in breach of the data protection act in releasing students' names and addresses. I have checked with my sources and I don't think we have a case that will stand up against our College. General info on Poll Tax (and how to obstruct it!!) will appear shortly. In the meantime, if you're being asked to register; ask as many questions of the CRRO as possible, smear butter on the bar code, say you've lost the form, ask for your address not to appear on the public register. Information on how to deal with your landlord with respect to your rates element in your rent will be released in February.

Accommodation

Committees concerning student accommodation are just starting, so things aren't really happening yet. Well, apart from the usual that is...Complaints have taken the usual format ie rents are too high, allocations weren't altogether perfect, the halls aren't the best you've seen, Hamlet Gardens is even worse etc etc. The aspect of rents will be coming up at College committees soon. I am of the opinion that if



rents go up any further then students won't bother to apply to halls of residence and the residences will lose out even further. I also think Olave House is a complete waste of money losing over £100,000 alone last year!

For those in the private-rented sector Yve Posner has put together a housing rights information pack which is available from the Union Office. I have every intention of putting wheels into motion to improve the services for students looking for private flats etc and will be putting a full report to College on my ideas shortly.

Insurance and Security

Over the last few weeks there have been a number of thefts of personal property from the Union Building. We have the difficult situation of students wanting security to be better but not wanting want to have access restricted: not an easy problem to solve. Personally I would like to see entry to College and Union premises by valid members and their guests only; this would certainly improve security. A word of advice, however: students' personal property is not insured under the Union policy so students should think seriously about taking out their own insurance and/or looking after their property.

Vans

I have received a number of complaints about one of the Union vans (OLE—the big green one) being in a state of disrepair. It is, but this is the van that is due to go when the new van arrives. It is pointless paying out more money on repairs at this point in time. If people are so unhappy about it then the van will be kept in the carpark and not used thus reducing the number of vans available. I am doing my best to speed up delivery of the new van but it's out of my hands.

Welfare

The housing and benefits rights days went extremely well. My thanks to Jackie Scott, Union Welfare Office, and Yve Posner, Union Welfare Adviser, for all their hard work. The next campaign is due in December and its aim will be to promote awareness of over-indulgence in alcoholic excess!!!

Parking Permits

The permits awarded to those who appealed should have been printed last week but they weren't! They appear this week. If I receive any more hassle I think I'll go insane.

International Student Conventions

I have received information and invites to the following student meetings:

*ISFIT-90, Trondheim, Norway, 17-22 April 1990. Deadline for applications 10.12.90.

ENSTA, Paris 16-16 Jan 1990. Deadline asap.

Semaine Européenne, Paris 19-23 Feb 1990. Deadline 30.11.89.

*Individuals can also apply

All of the above meetings are organised free of charge and the only expenses to find are travel costs. The Industrial Relations Committee has agreed to put aside part of the profits from the Careers Fair to subsidise the travel by 40%. In return for the subsidy all we ask is that you produce a report on the meeting and that you attend in the capacity of a representative of Imperial College Union. Applications are invited for which forms are available in the Union Office. Information on the conventions is available for reading in my office but this cannot be taken away.

Finally, I would like to say a public thank you to the CCUs for inviting me to their Departmental Freshers' dinners. Those I managed to attend I enjoyed immensely and I appreciated the opportunity to talk to academics and students together. The biggest thanks must go to the organisers of each dinner, they must have put in a lot of work to make the evenings a success. On the subject of thanks, I must thank Fiona Nicholas, the ICU Hon Sec for organising the Commemoration Ball, held in the London Dungeon. The event was a storming success and I'm sure everyone must have enjoyed it.

Deputy Dai's timely warnings

Illegal Timetabling

This is an issue which has generated a lot of publicity recently. It is College policy that no lectures or lab tutorials or seminars should be scheduled between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on Monday and Friday, between 12.30pm and 2.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday and from 12.30pm onwards on a Wednesday afternoon. If you have anything timetabled during this time, come and see me immediately. This space is set aside so that you can take part in sports, club activities or humanities courses and, of course, to have lunch. This applies equally to undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It has come to my attention that certain departments 'ask' the class if they 'mind' moving classes to these times. If they ask you, stand up for your rights. Your

departments cannot force things on you, just don't be afraid to say no.

External Bank Accounts

This year I have discovered a number of illegal external bank accounts, which I am endeavouring to close down. There are a number of people who think that external accounts should be allowed. A tale about one of these accounts shows clearly one of the arguments against them.

Last year a club closed their account which contained nearly £750. This money was then transferred, not to the Union's account, but to the treasurer's personal account. Luckily the treasurer was honest enough to eventually pay the money back to the Union, but he could have easily taken a holiday

in Rio with *YOUR* money.

Security

There is a considerable crimewave hitting the Union Building and, probably, the rest of College. We are averaging two thefts per week of personal property. Please keep your valuables on your person or in a secure place. If you see someone acting suspiciously tell security or a Union Officer. It is a problem which cannot be easily solved, it needs individual awareness and response.

To all ladies reading this article; if you have not yet picked up a rape alarm then please do so. They are completely free. If you had one last year; we have the gas refills. Please note, the gas is ozone friendly!!

Dave Williams, ICU Deputy President.

Fiona knackeredless

Phew! What a month October was. I never thought it was possible to survive on so little sleep...

Parking Permits

Here is the Appeal and Reserve list for parking permits combined. Please come and collect them from the Union Office by 5pm on Friday, 10th November.

TPJ 673X	B331 CKJ
OLG 66V	A305 DOP
DLL 6623	A260 VOV
CFC 311Y	C662 VLE/PMX 4DF
JGJ 389Y	AUU 668T
LYO 656	C771 CUD
B140 EGP	ST2 817
BLM 366Y/D383 WCU	B350 GTN
XTV 228Y	BAA 326V
B561 WBK	OOC 604X
MKX 721V	F347 CGP
B589 VYL	MXK 7435
F553 TLO	KLY 819P
PGH 325V	MSF 26T

Action Time

Are you good at quizzes? A new quiz game, Intellect, is being launched in November and requires teams of three people comprising a lecturer, a postgraduate and an undergraduate. There will be a practice run-through on 27th November and contestants should have a sense of humour as well as a high IQ. Please come and see me as soon as possible if you'd like to take part.

University Challenge

More about quizzes. On December 14th BBC Radio 4 *Science Now* team are hoping to record University Challenge in the Concert Hall.

This will be an informative skit on developments in science over the last ten years. There will be free tickets available for this event nearer the time. There is a £50 book token available for the best poster design for the quiz. The design should be in two colours and be of A3 size. Talk to me if you're interested.

Rag Week

This is going to be ace and everyone should at least go to something or you're dead boring.

Lots of love, your squidgy Hon Sec.

Postgraduate meeting to discuss affairs

The first meeting of the Union Postgraduate Group will be held on Tuesday 7th November at 1pm in the Union Dining Hall. Tea and biscuits will be provided.

The Postgraduate Group has two objectives:

1. The representation of postgraduates, at all levels, with ICU and College.
2. To provide social activities for PGs in College and to provide finance for departmental postgraduate groups.

Membership (free, of course) is open to all PGs registered within College. If you are interested in being involved in PG affairs, please come along; there are several vacant positions on the Committee for

enthusiastic members. If you want to organise some activities within your department, come along and we can give you any help that we can, and possibly financial assistance. If you have some problem you would like to discuss or ask our help with please come along and talk to us. The PG group needs people to come and tell us about their problems as a PG student at Imperial or else we will never know and therefore be unable to help. All are welcome: by helping the PG group you can help yourself and all the other PGs in College. Break the apathy and get involved.

Martin Gans, PGO.

Dave Williams, ICU Dept Pres.

Turnip's twaddle

Ron: Two years ago, we went for a break to Guildford, didn't we Ron?

Ron: Yeah, Ron, but there was a spo' 'ov bovver, wasn't there, Ron?

Ron: There was, Ron 'ad a bi' ov' a run-in wiv' the Old Bill.

Ron: They said we were enjoying our *Break* too much.

Ron: Yes, Ron.

Ron: Who' this bloke in Guildford, then? Cox, I fink 'is name is.

Ron: I 'erd he's 'coxed' things up this year so we can't 'ave a *break* in Guildford.

Ron: An' we don't *like* people who stop us enjoying a *break*, do we Ron.

Ron: No Ron.

Ron: They seem to get *breaks* that they *don't* enjoy, Ron?

Ron! Right, Ron. I 'erd he plays Rugby....

Ron:so they should soon be 'Coxless', an' I *don't* mean their 1st eight.

Surrey University have misplaced their UAU spirit somewhere, or someone drank it. More likely someone poured it down the sink 'cos it was only 5% by volume anyway.

But I think I've worked out why this chap Jason Cox (their Athletic Union President) is so sore with us. It wasn't the sound thrashing doled out on them by Imperial. It wasn't the boisterous singing in their Union, even though that was awful. It wasn't the bar-diving from the first floor of their split level bar. And do you think we would complain about a fight with a barman or a shopping trolley through a refectory window?

Nah, what really p***ed them off was the fact that we shout'd down all the correct answers during their Union Bar Quiz, and then when they finally cottoned on (which took them some time), we started shouting down all the wrong answers!

So that's it. We can't go to their Union this year because it clashes with a bar quiz. I reckon they'll sort it out in two years time.

Anyway, what sort of Union organises a bar quiz in the evening after a UAU game?

Ben Turner, ACC Chairman.

Hockey Football

IC I-5

LSE I-1

The first UAU match of the year saw IC Men's 1st team continue their unbeaten run with a 5-1 victory over LSE.

The first half started slowly, but when IC managed to adapt to the bumpy grass pitch from the 'astro' which they were used to, they immediately looked the better side.

IC's first short corner of the match just went wide, but it wasn't long before the second 'shortie' was put away by Mike Marshall. Short corners proved to be the decisive part of the game with all 5 IC goals resulting from them.

The combination of Mark Rayfield pushing out, Hari Yamadevan stopping and Mark London striking worked extremely well with Mark getting 3 goals. Mark Rayfield got the final goal after doing an impression of a beached whale while flicking the ball over the keeper from a saved short.

The game may have been won on short corners but they wouldn't have resulted but for excellent play in the half back line.

IC were unlucky to concede the single goal when an awkward bounce set an LSE player free. Until then the defence had coped more than adequately with Paul Lowercombe marking their centre forward totally out of the game.

Hopefully this fine performance can be repeated in the other UAU matches to come.

IC II-1

LSE II-0

After waiting a considerable time for the 1st's game to finish, the 2nd's went into the game with great confidence as the result last year was 8-0 to IC, but they only ended up just beating them 1-0.

The game started extremely scrappily, partly due to the bad grass surface and partly the umpiring which was generally very bad throughout the game. IC would have done better but they lowered their play down to LSE's worse level. A few chances were squandered for IC but LSE never looked like scoring.

IC started the second half with more vigour as they needed a good score against LSE to win their group in the UAU. A hit was given to IC halfway through the second half which was taken about 10 yards outside the LSE 'D'. Colin Wright struck the ball hard and Dave Millard poached a goal from almost nothing by creeping behind the defence and deflecting the ball into the net to score a goal. A good win for IC?

Mixed Tournament—Motspur Park

Who ever thought of getting up on a cold, wet morning to play a few games of mixed hockey after a heavy session in the Bar the night before? Well, it was Hassan Majid and Kevin Hill—they were the ones who organised the greatest mixed hockey event of the year.

IC managed to drag two teams from their beds and a mad cyclist who didn't enjoy the ride there and back. Despite the sense of humour lost by several teams who managed to take a full strength 1st team, we all had a good time by 'switching' positions on the field and getting seriously pissed off with the rain.

Stars of the day were Colin Wright who managed a couple of magnificent saves in goal, Dave Millard for a great comeback to his natural centre-forward position by scoring twice and Lisa Preedy who took his sexist comments all day.



IC AFC II-(1)1

LSE II-(0)2

IC 1sts-2

LSE-1

IC II brilliantly executed their ploy of lulling future opposition into a false sense of security with a 2-1 defeat against LSE.

IC went in with a 1-0 half-time lead after N Leonard had managed to get his fringe onto an A Pinto corner. His delicate touch confused the LSE defence, and an ensuing deflection was punched into his own net by the keeper.

The second half was used to good effect to bring the IC play into action—a more relaxed performance allowing LSE to score 2 goals midway through the half.

With opposition now suitably confused it is time for IC to respond and reveal their true excellence. Yes folks, they lost 2-1.

Six-a-side Tournament

IC 1sts fell at the last hurdle in the annual ULU six-a-side tournament at Motspur Park, going down 2-0 to St Thomas' in the final.

IC finished top of their first-round group after beating QMC 2-1, LSE 3-0 and going down 2-0 to St Thomas', all the goals coming from Pat and Felix. The quarter final brought IC's best performance, against a UC side that had yet to concede a goal. IC won 2-0 with one goal each for Pat and Felix.

The semi-final against LSE was a gruelling encounter with IC well on top but unable to break the deadlock. At 0-0 after extra time the match was decided on a sudden death penalty shoot out. Si Holden saved LSE's first effort and was off on a victory lap before being ordered back by the ref, who adjudged that the IC skipper had moved before the ball was kicked. Justice was done two shots later when LSE hit the bar and Chris Burton coolly slotted the winning penalty home.

IC had the better of the first half in the final and only a brilliant save from the St Thomas' keeper kept Pat Fancokc out. However, in the second period the legs began to tire and it still took a cruel deflection off the boot of Chris Burton to give St Thomas the lead. IC pressed forward in search of the equaliser but could find no way through and St Thomas were able to grab a second goal on a counter attack. IC's achievement in coming second was all the more remarkable as they only had the minimum of 6 players instead of the usual squad of 8.

A spectacular thirty yard own goal by Ollie Guerkin, LSE's right back, in the first minute of the second half gave IC the points in this crucial UAU/ULU league game.

IC had fallen behind midway through the first half after a long kick from the LSE keeper caused confusion at the back, allowing one of their forwards to nip in and score. A period of confusion followed when IC, not finding their usual rhythm were unsettled by the blustery conditions. LSE nearly extended their lead when Stu Miller managed to put LSE clean through but Si Holden saved well. IC gradually settled down and deservedly pulled level with a great goal from Femi Omatoya just before the interval.

The second half opened with Mr Guerkin's effort: under pressure, he turned and smacked the ball over the keeper's head from thirty yards. This bolstered IC and they pushed forward well, Tim Fisher hitting the bar with a beautiful free kick and Mike Patton the post in a goalmouth scramble. LSE continued to play with some confidence but, despite some indifferent goalkeeping, failed to breach the IC defence.

IC VI-(0)1

St Thomas II-(0)1

IC VI struggled hard in the first half of this match against gale force winds with keeper Mike Potter making some excellent saves to keep the score 0-0 at half-time.

In the second half, with the advantage of the wind behind them, IC strode forward with some good midfield work by Narhinda Sangha. Then, from a classy build-up, Phil Caldwell curled the ball past their advancing goalie into the far corner of the net.

Squash

LSE-3

IC-2

The IC Men's UAU Squash squad were narrowly defeated last week by a traditionally tough LSE opposition. Nick See, our no. 5, put in a credible but nervous first performance and lost. Rawle Adams won easily 3-7, not as easily though as Joe Devereux who thrashed his opponent 3-0 (Joe was a draft-in from St Mary's). Our Mauritian no.2 Colin Taylor looked like taking the match for Imperial, but narrowly lost 3-2. The match then hinged on Craig Robinson beating Jason Fletcher. A tired and lacklustre performance from the injured Imperial no.1, Robinson, meant the match went to LSE.

Dance in popular demand



Dance Club has started off very well. We already have 120 paid up members after just two weeks of lessons and even more people have turned up to the classes. Due to popular demand a second beginner's Rock 'n' Roll class has been set up on Wednesday at 3.15pm in the SCR (Union Building). The jazz is now at 3.30pm in the Union Gym (see What's On page).

For those of you unfamiliar with Dance Club we offer lessons in Social Ballroom, Latin American, Rock 'n' Roll and Jazz at all levels.

As well as giving lessons we also offer you the chance to compete against other universities. Last year the Imperial College Dance team came second only to Cambridge at the intervarsity competition.

On November 17/18 we are hosting a 24-hour sponsored dance to raise money for the BBC's Children in Need Day. The event starts at 6.00pm on Friday in the JCR. Anyone interested in participating or wanting more information should contact a member of the Dance Club committee. Sponsorship forms are available at all the lessons.

One more date for your diary—the Annual London Ball is being held on December 2nd. Details of this event will be announced in a later issue of FELIX.

If you have thought about joining the Club but haven't got around to it yet, it is not too late, just come along to any of the lessons—we would love to see you.

Debating—Afghanistan

On March 6th 1989 the religious fanatic group, the 'Mujahedin' declared 'jihad' (holy war) on Jalalabad. Between March and July 40,000 of their troops marched on Jalalabad, and the city was bombarded by 5,000 rockets, causing 973 houses to be damaged along with 150 government buildings, shops, markets, mosques and temples. The casualties included 1993 injured, and 1002 killed, half of them children. It all ended on July 7th, as thousands of Afghanistan citizens marched to celebrate victory over the mujahedin chanting 'Afghanistan Zindabad!' (long live Afghanistan) and 'Marg ya Watan' (death or country). The front has now been pushed back to

Samarkhel, some 12-15 km further east. Samarkhel used to be a tourist spot, renowned for its beauty, but now the streets lay strewn with debris from the damaged schools and shops. Could this devastation have been avoided? The Spartacist League thinks so. They argue that the USSR peace keeping force should not have withdrawn from Afghanistan, and are prepared to debate their point of view with the British communist party. They believe that the Mujahedin are backed by the CIA, and are also campaigning for women's rights to cast off the veil. The debate will be on Thursday November 9th at 1.30pm in Huxley 341.

Ten Pin Bowling

Last Saturday (28th Oct), the Ten Pin Bowling Club team played their second match in the University Bowling League against Southampton University. Despite the fact that Southampton have a notoriously good team, our team beat them 6-4. The match was very close throughout but was finally decided on pinfall, over the whole 12 games played. The ladies team especially did very well beating Southampton by over 300 pins. This was partly due to a very high

series by Katie who played better than most of the A team. The A team itself also won against, arguably the best A team in the league. All the players did well and Southampton were more than just a bit miffed. The B and C team both came extremely close to winning on several occasions with a difference in one game of only 3 pins. Finally Phil Wren (A team) must be mentioned for the highest series of the match with a 500.

Real Ale Enterprise

By the time you read this we will have had yet another successful Real Ale enterprise, namely our trip to the Greene King Brewery in Bury St Edmonds. The excursion commenced at the hideously early time of 12.30pm. Two enthralling, bum-numbing hours later we were in time to be a mere fifteen minutes late. There followed a mind-blowing look at the brewing process which we all enjoyed. We then had an opportunity to sample one or two of the fine ales brewed there except Jon who was driving (hee, hee, hee). After some heroic drinking by the rest of the exec and other members proving it was possible to drink when standing, walking and talking.

Film Soc —Croc II

This Thursday IC Film Society is showing *Crocodile Dundee II* with Paul Hogan reprising the role that made him a star. Luckily this sequel does more than just reprise the script of its successful predecessor, however. This time there is a much better defined plot, with Mick and Sue taking on a gang of evil drug peddlars. Sure there are still plenty of laughs, but there is plenty of action too.

The film starts at 7.30pm in Mech Eng 220. 50p to members, £1.50 others. Membership is £5.00, a bargain considering that we will be showing at least 16 more films before the year is out.

Train Spotting

Have you ever felt that guilty thrill as a Greasly 462 Locomotive thunders past drawing a full passenger train or the surge of arenalin as diesels shunt and thrust in the shadowy sidings of Clapham Junction? Then this club could be for you.

We are a small but growing group of dedicated trainspotters hoping to form a club in direct competition with Sci Fi Soc. Our aims are to promote a greater understanding of the British Railway Network and its locomotives and rolling stock. With a membership of 15 at present, we currently meet in the Computing Common Room every Wednesday to compare notes and look at each others anoraks. We only need five more people to form a Onion Society!

In the future we hope to visit the Kings Cross Shunting Yard and the Signalling System recently installed at Ormskirk Station. With a bit of luck we will be holding weekly spotting competitions; bring your own Clearasil.

So far we have two rare Gunthorpe 20 diesels to our credit, and we hope to catch a sight of the even rarer Bradshaw 482, which uses the revolutionary Walschaerts valve gear, next weekend.

If you are interested, please give your name to Michelle Bigun in the Union Office, or leave a message in FELIX box 280.

What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND IMPERIAL COLLEGE

FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and get high.
- Rag Meeting**.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.
- GLC Meeting**.....12.45pm
Third Floor of Union. Sign up for Ben Elton trip.
- Friday Prayers**.....1.00pm
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Keep Fit**.....6.00pm
Southside Gym with Janet.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.
- Silwood Bonfire Night**.....7.00pm
Bus leaves S. Ken at 5.30pm, return at about 11.30-1pm. £2.50.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.
- BLISS Live**.....9.00pm
Union Lounge. Late bar and disco. Get wazzed and dance yer socks off.

SATURDAY

- Karate Practice**.....10.00am
Southside Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.

SUNDAY

- Service**.....10.00am
Sherfield Anteroom. Organised by West London Chaplaincy.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Union Gym. Beginners Class.
- RCSU Bar Night**.....7.00pm
Meet in the Bar. Every week.

MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Interested in any form of Rock Music? Come along and have a beer.
- Final Rag Week Meeting**.....12.35pm
Union Lounge.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Sci Fi Film Trip**.....6.00pm
Meet in Union Bar for 'The Abyss'. Price about £6.00.
- Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. Dance Club.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm
Lounge or SCR.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Water Polo Session**.....7.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. All levels of ability welcome.
- Latin American Dance**.....7.45pm
Lounge or SCR. All levels.
- Medals in Ballroom**.....8.00pm

JCR.

TUESDAY

- Tuesday Talkabout**.....12.30pm
Miscellaneous Lunchgroup in the Chaplains Office (basement of 10 Princes Gardens).
- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
Union Senior Common Room. Cheap records, tapes and videos. Order on Tuesday and collect on Thursday.
- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.



Thank God it's Friday

- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge. Sign up for racing, dry slope skiing and trip to France
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Riding Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge to sign up of Wednesday and weekend trips.
- AstroSoc Meeting**.....1.00pm
Physics LT2. Visiting lecturer every Tuesday.
- Ents Meeting**.....1.00pm
Union Lounge.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....5.30pm
Mech Eng. Student training workshop.
- Wine Tasting**.....6.00pm
Union Dining Hall. Italian wines.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Sci Fi Film**.....7.00pm
ME 220. 'Dune' (film starts prompt). 50p (members) £1.50 membership (includes first film).
- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Dance Club
- Beginners Ballroom**.....8.00pm
JCR.

WEDNESDAY

- Beer Festival**.....12.00pm
JCR. Drink and be merry.
- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Outside Southside for sailing.
- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.

- Mid-week Service**.....12.45pm
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, organised by West London Chaplaincy. All welcome.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....1.00pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Intermediate Rock 'n' Roll**.....2.15pm
SCR. Dance Club.
- Ten Pin Bowling**.....2.20pm
Meet outside Chem Eng/Aero.
- Wutan Tai Chi Chuan**.....3.00pm
Union Lounge. Instructor Hong Chun Lai. Martial art for all ages and sexes.
- Beginner's Rock 'n' Roll**.....3.15pm
SCR.
- Jazz Dance**.....3.30pm
Union Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Experts class.

- FREE DISCO**.....9.00pm
In the Union Lounge Nightclub until 1am.

THURSDAY

- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- ICSF Library Meeting**.....12.30pm
ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from 1700 books.
- Debating Society Meeting**.....12.45pm
Video: 'The Twilight Zone' plus 'Star Wars' debate.
- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Aero 254. Come along to our weekly meeting to book a trial flight for £15. Space are available this w/end.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and check us out, sign up for a weekend in the sky.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- FilmSoc Film**.....7.30pm
Mech Eng 220. 'Crocodile Dundee'.
- Karate Practice**.....7.30pm
Southside Gym.
- Rocky Horror Disco**.....8.00pm
Union Lounge. Bar extension.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Next to Southside Bar.
- ICCAG Soup Run**.....9.00pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.

Personal

Dear Dave,

Just to prove that the Life Sciences Department aren't horrible to all of their students, I thought I'd let you know how nice they are being to one in particular.

Second and third year Applied Biologists have to do placements, and last year they were forbidden to do them overseas. Because some of the mid-year exams last year were postponed due to the AUT action, some third year Applied Biologists had to revise during the course of their placement and had to take days off to return to London for exams. Not everybody, however. One enterprising student decided to do her placement in Gambia in spite of the warning from the department, and obviously could not be expected to take books with her to revise from, nor return halfway through to sit exams with the other students. When she finally returned in the autumn (with a nice tan), the understanding Life Sciences Department decided to allow her to sit her exams when she'd had time to revise for them—after about a term of College and then at approximately two-week intervals.

So may I suggest to all Life Sciences students that if you want to have the department on your side, you should learn how to simper and flatter the male lecturers—I'm sure you'll be guaranteed a first, but we'll have to check next year's degree lists to find out for certain.

Name withheld by request.

Plastic man

Dear Dave,

Delaware not Tupperware!

UROP really does exist; last week's article was not a spoof! Opportunities at the University of Delaware, and UROP generally, will be described at a meeting in Mech Eng 342 at 14.00 on Wednesday 8 November.

Yours sincerely,
Sinclair Goodlad.

Apathy

Dear Dave,

When I came to Imperial I naively believed that student unions existed to help students, now I am not so sure.

Like most students I did not attend the Union Meeting on student loans, I did not know about it until I read last week's FELIX, and I doubt that I would have gone to it anyway! I was even more surprised to find the news that Price Waterhouse had been banned from the Careers Fair, tucked away in a sentence at the bottom of the page.

Now I don't particularly like the idea of loans, what sane person wants to be given less money? But there are both sensible and stupid ways to fight them. Do the fools that thought up this little scheme really think that banning Price Waterhouse is going to stop loans? Of course it isn't, it's only going to make it harder for us to get jobs.

What brilliant ideas are they going to dream up next? Ordering all students to cut off both their legs so that they become disabled and don't have to pay the Poll Tax?

Yours,
Michelle Codill, Chem 1.

Exciting committee letter

Dear Dave,

Re. In response to Editorial of 27 October, 1989.

As an ex-student member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) I must set the record straight concerning your editorial on departmental reviews by external assessors:

1. The USC has 5 student reps (1 sabbatical and 4 Academic Affairs Officers) out of a group of 16 people—the highest proportion of student reps on any College committee.

2. Of all the bodies in College it is the USC that has the greatest commitment to the improvement of teaching standards—the very reason for its existence. Since its inception in 1985 all of its members have worked extremely hard to improve teaching standards throughout College and have achieved a great deal (though, of course, there still remains much to be done). I am sure, like myself, that these people will be grossly offended by your unwarranted and unjustified criticisms.

3. To suggest that the USC is a censorship body is ridiculous. It is they who organise the whole departmental review process by eminent industrialists, educationalists and academics (who during their visit meet with groups of students to gather their opinions). It is an extremely worthwhile process, bringing many benefits to students in the long run.

Nor is this review process carried out for the Universities Funding Council as you stated—it is done to help departments to improve the standard of their Undergraduate courses and thus benefit us—the students.

4. Yes, representatives of the department under review (including the student Departmental Rep) are invited to discuss the reports of the external assessors

with the USC. The purpose is for them to demonstrate ways in which they are or will be taking account of the assessors and USC's criticisms and suggestions, not to censor bits that they don't like. The discussion also provides excellent feedback to the USC on the attitude of the department to positive change and draws out many 'problem areas' which the USC is able to highlight to the Board of Studies.

5. Following the review process the department is tasked by the Board of Studies to go away and address all the criticisms of both the external assessors and the USC and to report back on progress.

6. Overall, the student body has a very significant and worthwhile input to the review process—probably one of the most effective methods at our disposal to induce change. However, this is not the only function of the USC—it is active in many areas.

● Comprehensive assessment of lecturing standards by College-wide questionnaire which, over time, will have a great impact on teaching standards (in this respect we are the most advanced institution in the country).

● Ongoing work on other forms of teaching evaluation and improvement (eg tutorial/lab work, self assessment/peer review, training for lecturers etc).

● Other areas of concern such as student workloads, European qualifications, timetabling, demotivation and underachievement, assessment of new courses, failure rates etc.

The USC represents a vital resource to which everyone, staff and students, should offer their wholehearted support.

Richard A Spencer,
ICU Academic Affairs Officer 1988/89

Unbiased?

Dear Dave,

Since last Easter Joe Cartwright, the Warden of Willis Jackson House, has suffered much from criticism voiced through FELIX. Whilst not, in a position to comment on the allegations of financial mismanagement, as ex-residents of Willis Jackson, we feel that our views on Joe's wardenship are of relevance.

The atmosphere in Willy-J was one of relaxed cooperation rather than deference to a distant authority. Joe was genuinely concerned and friendly to all residents, offering advice and help whenever needed.

Many social events were organised in the House, ending with the Willis Jackson Ball, a highly successful event, to which Joe was particularly concerned that all residents should come.

In short, we were very happy during our year in Willis Jackson and would be sorry to see the character of this house changed.

Yours sincerely,

M Hewit-Booman, Grad	S Smith, Phys 1
G Neare, EE2	S Gamett, ME2
P Wren, EE2	M Cudworth, Mat 2
C Brown, EE2	A Gregory, Phys 2
R Bestileiro, Comp 2	G Bury, Phys 2
I Morns, Phys 2	A Grace, Phys 2
P Martin, EE2	S Kohol, Chem 2
J Lowther, Chem 2	U Pjgal, Chem 2

Party invite

Dear Dave,

I note Sinclair Goodlad is operating a Tupperware exchange (Felix 847). I have two biscuit containers and a swing bin. Would anyone care to swap for a cake dish?

Yours sincerely,
Paul Shanley.

Very weird

Dear Dave,

With reference to your letter from Mark Whiting last week, I think I can help. The Guinness heir was the late John Guinness, 2nd Earl of Moyne. He met the Beatles in the Cavern Club, circa June 1961.

I was told that following a row with his father, Viscount Moyne, he deliberately ploughed his car into a Charrington's lorry delivering to the Hoop and Toy in South Kensington. The accident happened just outside South Kensington Station in Thurloe Place.

Writing of the accident in 1972, John Lennon mentioned that 'My Sweet Lord' was dedicated to the late Earl.

I hope this is of some help.

Yours faithfully,
Sally Hupena.



I am not going to say a great deal this issue, since I wish to devote this space to a guide to Bonfire Night in London. I should just like to apologise to Don Monroe and everybody on Explo Board for missing out their Ad in issue 846—sorry, we're all human though; even if I don't look it on Friday morning. Secondly a few words on the Print Unit.

The Print Unit

As well as being responsible for the editing of FELIX I am also required to run the Print Unit. It can be difficult to keep the two jobs separate at the best of times, that is why I have to instigate a few rules on when I can deal with Print Unit enquiries.

I am available for Print Unit enquiries and bookings on Mondays and Fridays **only**. Any weekdays outside these are strictly for the production of FELIX. This means that if you want something photocopying on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday you will have to use the Union Office smudging machine or a departmental copier. Similarly, Rose does not need people pestering her for typeset on these days since she is too busy setting FELIX. Please stick to Mondays and Fridays—I don't want to have a nervous breakdown and I'm sure you don't want to be there if I do. By the way this does include Rag—I don't eat disabled children because of it either.

Finally, if you want something printing you **must** see me about it at least **two weeks** before your deadline. Since we can only print work other than FELIX on Monday and Friday the timetable is quite strict and fairly crammed. Photocopying can be done on the spot once you've joined the inevitable queue.

If you wish to do work at the weekends, please let me know beforehand since I cannot always guarantee to be around all weekend. (The Print Unit will be closed for the whole of this weekend—I need a break.)

Have a good rag week and try everything at least once. Let's make a load of money for those charities. Dave

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Credits

Thanks firstly to all of last week's collators. I have to make a huge apology at this point. The list of names has been mislaid. If Rag would like to drop in a list I will give everybody a credit by name next issue. A huge thanks, in the meantime, to Stef Smith and somebody who shall remain nameless for staying up all night last Thursday. Sorry and double thanks to **Rose Atkins** for typesetting (I missed her out last week) and Printer Andy Thompson, who stayed up until a ridiculous hour printing. Last week was hell—everybody was fantastic, but FELIX does not require an extra editor for Thursday afternoons thank you. Thanks in no particular order this week to Ian, Steve thingy, Jim, Chris S, Liz, Simon, Adam, Pippa, Chris L, Ramin, Stef, Neil, Andy B, Adrian, Dominic, Dick, Hal, Caroline, Jason, Toby, Paul, Azhar, Dave M, all the Union Officers who submitted reports, and the anonymous sources, who shall remain forever so. If I have missed anybody, I am immensely sorry; let me know and I'll give you a double credit next week.

Bonfire bonanza

Tonight sees one of the best of London's organised displays in Ravenscourt Park, Hammersmith. Perfect for students living in Hamlet Gardens, the display is organised by the local council and is free with a charity collection at the entrance. Gates open at 6.30pm with live entertainment and refreshments from 7.30pm. The fireworks and bonfire start at 8pm. Well worth a visit.

In Beit Quad, FELIX Club are holding a barbeque and firework display tonight. The event starts at 7.30pm with food and mead provided for a small charge. Everybody is welcome.

Saturday hosts the majority of this year's displays, the nearest being Battersea Park. Battersea's bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm with fireworks from 8pm. Refreshments will be available. Admission is free.


If you live out in Hounslow, Lampton Park will be the nearest display to you. Entertainment comes care of Albert the Idiot and the Excelsior Band with fireworks and bonfire from 8.30pm. Once again, admission is free.

Wimbledon Park will be holding two firework displays at a cost of £2 entry. The displays will be at 8.15pm and 8.45pm, with a funfair, carnival etc on site to boot.

If you still haven't had enough of the whole affair, there will be a display at IC's Silwood Park. Coaches will be arranged to transport people there. Details in next week's issue. Contact the Union Office for prices and booking.

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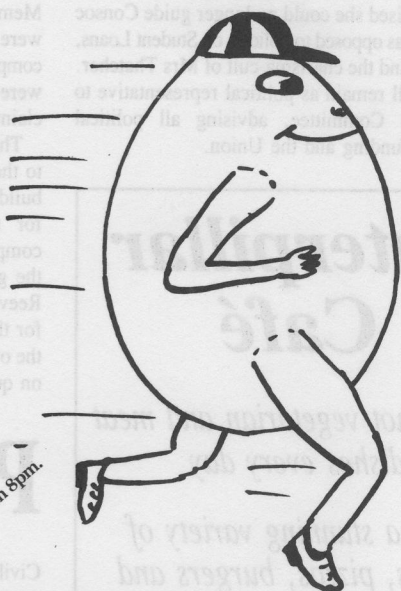
ULU TRAVEL

**CITY AND GUILDS COLLEGE
UNION**
presents

The Great Egg Race

Competition starts 6pm in the MECH ENG FOYER.



Take part or support your team. Free drinks (bitter/lager/soft drinks) and cheap food.

Judging from 8pm.

Represent your department in a competition testing your design and construction skills.

Tuesday November 21st
 Thursday November 23rd
 Tuesday November 28th
 6.00PM. MECH ENG FOYER

See notices in departments to sign up

Star System

Imperial College have bought a new booking and billing system at a cost of £35000. The package, called 'convocate', is a computer program designed to make the allocation and running of residences more efficient and centralised.

The package was bought last March from 'Star Computer Services' with money from the college's equipment grant fund. It will be working fully by next October at the latest, according to Mr. John Rowe, Systems Manager of the operations group at I.C.

Mr. Rowe said that the system has had to be tailored to IC's needs. It was going to be used in parallel with the present system as from this December to ensure that no problems would arise when the new system eventually takes over from the old. 'We aren't going to commit ourselves to any system coming down from convocate in error', he said.

He added that the old system is rather inefficient and involves a lot of manual data hunting. The new system will speed up the booking of accommodation for students and for conferences during the summer vacation.

There have been problems with the implementation of the system in Strathclyde (Glasgow) and Edinburgh Universities, though both Mr. Rowe and Star Computer Services assured FELIX that neither of these problems rested with the program. Mr. Dave Beer, of Star Computer Services maintained that 'computers are only as good as those who operate them.'

Fox bolts

The Chairman of ICU Conservative Society (Consoc), Ms Nicky Fox, has resigned because of personal objections to some of the latest Government policies.

She told FELIX that she felt compelled to resign when she realised she could no longer guide Consoc as since she was opposed to policies on Student Loans, the Poll Tax and the charisma-cult of Mrs Thatcher.

Ms Fox will remain as political representative to Social Clubs Committee, advising all political societies on funding and the Union.

Caterpillar Café

Tasty, hot vegetarian and meat dishes every day

also a stunning variety of salads, pizzas, burgers and pies

Rounded off with sandwiches, yummy cakes and fresh coffee

THE UNION BUILDING, BEIT QUAD

Union theft

Bags and clothing were stolen from the Union Building changing rooms last Friday in the latest of a series of opportunist thefts. The thieves searched their horde for cash and valuables before dumping it in a disused lavatory on the third floor.

Thefts from the building are now running at the rate of over two a week. College Security Officer, Terry Briley believes that the thief or thieves know their way around the building and may even be students.

IC Union Deputy President, Dave Williams is planning an anti-theft publicity campaign and steps are being taken to make entry to the building more difficult. People found in the building may be asked to show their union cards. College Security is investigating the possibility of installing a 'selective entry system' for the changing rooms.

Female safety

Two lectures on 'Personal Safety for Women,' will be held in the Read Lecture theatre this month. The lectures are to give 'Practical Advice on increasing awareness, confidence and self-protection.'

Miss Christine Wright, Training Officer, said that this is the second year that the lectures have been held. Last year they were well attended. Miss Wright added that she hoped they would become annual events. 'The emphasis is not on rape, a lot of it is common sense.'

The lectures are on Tuesday 7th November from 1.15 to 2.00pm and Wednesday 8th November from 12.30 to 1.15pm.

TWF banned

Members of the 'Third World First' pressure group were asked to leave the Careers Fair following complaints from Fair organiser Ranjan Da Silva. They were distributing a list of companies which they claimed had South African connections.

The group had set up a stall opposite the entrance to the Great Hall on the first floor of the Sherfield building, although the area had already been booked for the Fair. Some of the companies present complained and Mr De Silva asked security to ask the group to move. Chief Security Officer, Geoff Reeves told FELIX that it would have been possible for the stall to have moved to the ground floor but the offer was not taken up. Third World First moved on quietly and without causing trouble.

Plane appeal

Civil Engineer, Andrew Chipling is hoping to raise money for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital with a paper aircraft competition on Tuesday 17th November. The contest will be held in the Hydraulics Laboratory of the Civil Engineering department. Prizes will awarded for distance and flight times. Entry costs 50p. Anybody wishing to participate should contact Mr Chipling on extension 4748. Entrants are requested not to litter the College with their prototypes.

Bar brawl

A student was taken to hospital after becoming involved in a fight in the Union Bar on Friday evening. The incident is being treated seriously by the Union. President Neil McCluskey told FELIX that 'certain individuals' have since been suspended by College and will be brought before the College Disciplinary Committee. The Committee is IC's supreme disciplinary body and has the power to expel students.

Rector goes green in old age

Last week's Commemoration Day saw the first presentation of the new Associateship of St Mary's to IC's medical graduates. Students from St Mary's Hospital Medical School were presented to the Chairman of IC's Governing Body, Sir Frank Cooper.

The Rector, Professor Eric Ash spoke at the ceremony on a selection of issues ranging from 'a deep sense of injustice' in the academic community over salaries to a closing comment on the ecological problems which graduates will be asked to tackle in the future. Professor Ash also spoke of his fears over the future funding of university fees and the loans system.

Help piglet!

The pigtail of Mr David Williams, IC Union Deputy President, is under threat. The Editor of FELIX, Dave Smedley, hopes to raise £1000 for Rag in return for the Guilds Hit Squad carrying out the contract to cut Mr Williams' hair.

A spokesman from the City and Guilds Union told FELIX that anybody wishing to take part in the hit squad should present themselves at the Guilds Office, Mech Eng.

Fireworks

FELIX CLUB

Presents a vast array of pyrotechnical delights for you to experience. A barbeque and mead will be available. A small charge will be made.

Tonight!