

SP

# Government continues loans plan as banks pull out

The Government's student loans proposals are expected to go through despite the pull-out of the high street banks. Last Tuesday Labour MPs forwarded a motion to adjourn the committee on student loans complaining that they had not been informed as to how the scheme will work. They were defeated by 10 votes to 9.

Mr. Robert Jackson, minister for higher education, said that the banks had agreed to pay £500,000 in compensation to the government. He explained that now the scheme would be administered by a company owned by the Department of Education and Science (DES). The two directors of the company will be Mr John Vereker, deputy secretary for higher education, and Mr Tom Jeffery, who was

formerly private secretary to Mr Kenneth Baker when he was in the DES. It was not made clear whether the 250 staff would be civil servants or from the private sector.

The government was accused of wasting £2.7 billion on the scheme, as it will take 20 years for the graduates repayment to match the expenditure on the proposal.

Opposition MPs claimed that the scheme was now unworkable. Mr Simon Hughes, of the Liberal Democrats, said 'The Government has had the centre shot out of this extremely important piece of legislation. It is only a figleaf of a bill with nothing behind it.'

Conservative MPs responded by saying that the only difference was that now students would find it more difficult to

apply for loans. Mr Jackson dismissed the bank problem, saying 'The withdrawal of the banks makes no difference at all to the principle of student loans and it makes very little difference to the administration of the scheme. We are well on course for the start we had planned for the autumn of 1990.'

This is despite the central role assigned to banks in the Price-Waterhouse report of May 1989.

Recruitment of staff for the 'Student Loans Company' has started with advertisements in Scottish newspapers for a business manager at a salary of upto £32,000.

# Bar cash withdrawal

A total of £1430 was stolen from the union bar safe last weekend. The theft was discovered by Adrian Johnson, bar manager, on Sunday night. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are looking into the case and 'are confident' of finding the culprit. They are seeking a man to help them with their enquiries.

The safe was not forced, and the thief is believed to have had access to the keys.

Mr Malcolm Aldridge of the finance department, was unsure of the insurance situation. 'The union money is covered by the college policy—a £1000 policy on any safe, but a basic principle of all money insurance policies is that they do not cover for employees' fraud,' he said. Mr Aldridge added that the College had a separate policy insuring against employees' fraud, although he said that this only covered claims between £10,000 and an upper limit. He commented that the 'only likely place for this to happen is the Sherfield Building.'

Imperial College Union are searching for a new Assistant Bar Manager, following the unprompted departure of Mr Andrew Carson last Monday.



# Imperial's communists

Mr Valentin Ceausescu, the eldest son of the ex-Dictator of Roumania, was a graduate of Imperial College in the 60's, it was revealed this week.

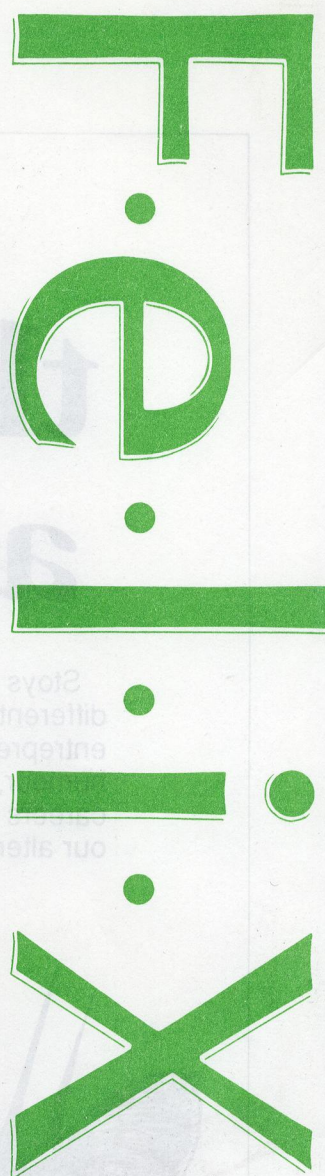
He entered the college in 1967 and graduated in 1970 with a third class honours degree in physics. Professor T.W. Kibble said that his memory of Valentin was of an intelligent and pleasant young man with a serious interest in particle physics, though he added that this was a long time ago.

Dr I.G. Halliday, of the Physics department, said that his impression was that Valentin 'tried to avoid the politics of his family, which was quite hard to do. He tried to be a professional research scientist, though not of a high order.'

The fate of Valentin Ceausescu, who is 40, is not known in post-revolutionary Roumania. He was last known heading a Roumanian Nuclear Power Research Institute, living in comfortable obscurity in Roumania with his family.

His only known argument with his father was over his father's rigid views on Valentin's favourite game, which was bridge.

The expected first woman leader of the Communist party of Great Britain, Ms Nina Temple, 33, was also a graduate at I.C. She entered in 1974 and left in 1977 with a 2B degree in Materials. She is expected to be elected this weekend.



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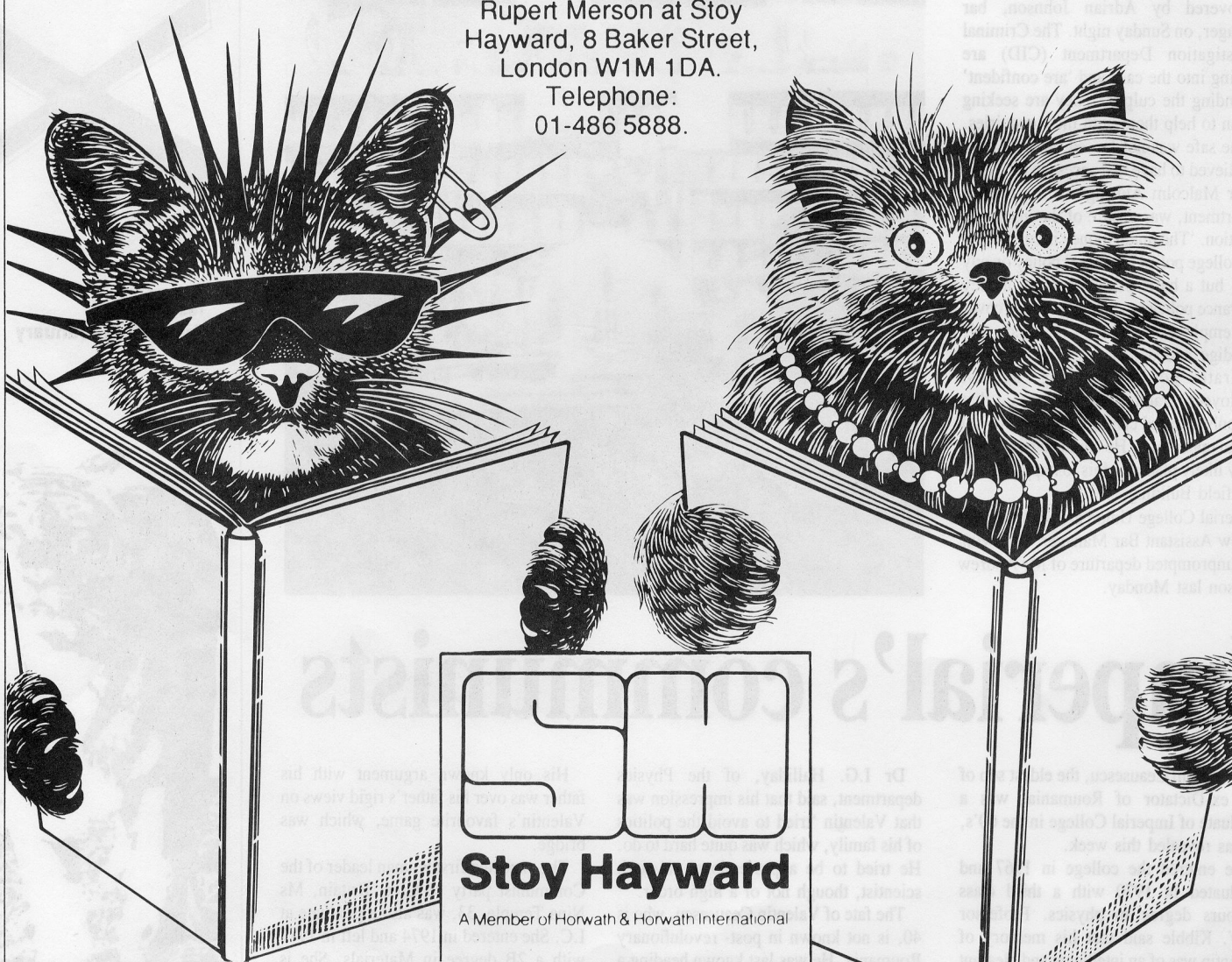
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# Parenthood

Steve Martin has an impressive list of comedy film credits behind him; *Roxanne*, *The Man with Two Brains*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, to name but three. *Parenthood* is a film which allows Martin to display more of his acting talents while still providing him with a chance to show his comic genius.

Martin stars as Gil Buckman, father of three young children. His childhood wasn't very happy and he thinks his own father was lousy at being a parent. Gil had determined to be a better father to his children but finds that despite all his efforts, his children still have problems.

Gil's father, Frank, thinks that his days of parenting are over until the return of Larry, his youngest child and the black sheep of the family. Larry is into get-rich-quick schemes and is forever having to be bailed out of trouble. When he returns he brings with him, much to everyone's surprise, his son Cool.

Gil's older sister, Helen, is a divorcée struggling to bring up two teenage children on her own as well as coping with the demands of work. Her sixteen year old daughter seems to want to grow up too quickly while she cannot communicate at all with thirteen year old Garry (Leaf Phoenix) who is feeling rejected by his father.

The younger sister Susan and her husband Nathan (Rick 'Little Shop of Horrors' Moranis) have one child Patti for whom they have great hopes. She has karate lessons, French lessons and reads Kafka—and she is only three years old.



The film, while concentrating more on Gil and his problems is essentially about the whole of the Buckman family, all four generations, including Grandma—a typical fictional granny, and dithering, Miss Marple-like old lady, whose ramblings at first seem meaningless but really offer sound advice. She relates a fairground anecdote from her youth comparing life to a roller coaster and a merry-go-round. An admirable idea, but a little clichéd perhaps.

*Parenthood* has a good story line and the subject material is dealt with competently—it has its moments, some, (intended to be funny) embarrassingly cringesome, others rather amusing. Although humorous the film has a serious side. It is just a pity its overall effect is spoiled by a rather weak ending, full of marriages, happy-ever-after couples and multitudes of babies.

JAY.

# Earth Girls Are Easy



Three aliens are flying over earth in a spaceship when, as a result of trying to ogle earth women, they crashland in a backyard swimming pool. Their ship needs repairing so they have to stay on earth for a day or two. Sounds corny? Don't worry, it gets worse.

The film starts off with Val (Geena Davis) being increasingly dissatisfied with her fiancé, Ted, and finally throwing him out when he brings another woman home thinking Val's away. The ensuing song she sings while she thrashes the house is rather monotonous and totally unnecessary, adding nothing to the plot. It merely serves to demonstrate, as does an earlier song and dance routine how unsuccessful this film is as a musical.

The aliens look like multicoloured gorillas and act like them too, especially when they go into her house for the first time.

Val takes them to the beauty salon where she works, and asks her friend to try to make them look more human. After momentary hysteria Candy does so and Mac (Jeff Goldblum), Wiploc and Zebo emerge as three good looking young men. A nice touch is that Zebo is found to be black.

Soon Val and Mac start falling in love (well it was inevitable, wasn't it?) but when his ship is repaired he will have to go back to his planet, Jhazzala...

The plot, if rather hackneyed, did, I feel, have potential, but it has been wasted. The film never seems to go anywhere—one has the feeling that all the plot elements are incidental—and there is no sense of satisfaction at the end.

There are a couple of interesting details—for example the size differential—a neat way of solving the problem of an apparently large spaceship landing in a small backyard swimming pool. There is a device inside the ship for scaling the aliens up (or down) to the appropriate size.

Of course all the old clichés are here, the car chase (the monotony of which is only relieved by the humour of Jim Carry as Wiploc) the aliens able to mimic every sound perfectly, the hair breadth escape and the love affair between an earthling and an alien.

Merely a formula film which doesn't deserve the title of 'science-fiction'.

JAY.

# Last Exit to Brooklyn

Hubert Selby Jr wrote a novel in the 60s which shocked the world. It was the source of an obscenity trial which ensured its infamy. This film goes a long way towards continuing that reputation.

Set in Brooklyn in the 1950s the film looks at the lives of the strike community and their social fall from grace. Tackling strike leader Harry Black's (Stephen Lang) realisation of his homosexuality, the film portrays his embezzlement of union funds and subsequent downfall. Discovered molesting a boy on the street, Harry is brutally beaten up.

What sets this film apart is its refusal to tone down such scenes. In the case of local prostitute, Tralala (Jennifer Jason Leigh) her sad demise ending in a gang rape is portrayed in all its hideous detail.

The film cuts between these stories as well as a local family's shotgun wedding and christening and the homosexual affairs of the local transvestite population. If you are easily shocked this film is not for you. If you are not, at the least you will leave feeling disturbed. With a good film score by Mark Knopfler, this could be the nominee for a number of Oscars, it is expected to face tough competition, however, from Tom Cruise's performance in *Born on the Fourth of July*, later this year.

DS.

## Want to review

● Exotic theatre?

● Hot films?

● Horny music?

Ask for Adam T, Toby or Del in the FELIX Office

# Robin Hood & Mad Marion



Tired of all the traditional run of the mill Christmas pantomimes—the same old stories and the same old jokes? Well here's a panto with a difference—not billed as such but in the same tradition.

The year is 1189 and the first ever free elections in Sherwood Forest have been held. The two main candidates are Robin Hood and Mad Marion—a wicked witch type of character.

The first person on stage is Herne the Hunter who sets the scene. In true pantomime tradition the hero, Robin Hood is played by a woman and the dame, Little Joan's nurse, is played by a man. Audience participation is encouraged, but fear not! This is not of the 'Oh no he isn't, oh yes he is' variety but they do ask the audience to join in a couple of songs and also involve them in the play especially when they are a bit slow on the uptake with some of the jokes.

This pantomime is essentially for adults—not that there is anything in it that is not suitable for children—merely that they would not appreciate much of the humour.

The play is allegorical—a fact which starts to become apparent at the beginning with Robin Hood and his Green Party and Mad Marion's plans to cut down all the trees in Sherwood Forest so that she can rear cattle for her madburgers. The character of Mad Marion is obviously satirising Margaret Thatcher—she had ruled Sherwood Forest with an iron hand for ten years, she is power mad and she wears a blue (Tory) dress. At the end the moral is spelled out, leaving us in no doubt whatsoever.

The stars of the show are undoubtedly Herne the Hunter who, whenever he gets too excited, bursts out of his jerkin, turns green and changes into 'the incredible g-g-g...', and Little John/Little Joan. Herne's manner is just right for his character and Helen Copp as Little Joan strikes exactly the right note of little girlishness.

The songs for the show are highly original and very amusing adding greatly to the performance. The humour is also good and enhanced by the characters sometimes talking directly to the audience.

I have only one thing against the play and that is its weak ending. They opted for a happy-ever-after and moralistic ending which detracted somewhat from the impact of the play.

All in all, a good evening's entertainment let down only by a rather poor ending—well worth a visit.

*Robin Hood and Mad Marion* is on at the Café Canal Theatre, Bridge House, Delamere Terrace, London W2, 01-289 6054 or 01-722 5395. It runs until January 28, Tuesday-Sunday and concessionary tickets are £4.50.

JAY

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# The Liar

A young man arrives in Paris after having been away at Poitiers studying law. He feels like a fish out of water and longs to impress the lovely local ladies and his old school fellows. To hide his feelings of inadequacy he spins tales of his exploits in the army in Germany and of elaborate parties he has thrown.

This is the plot of *The Liar*, featuring Alex Jennings as Durante, the liar. The story is complex with many twists and turns, sometimes leaving one breathless trying to keep up.

Somewhere along the line Durante and his stories incur the wrath of his friend Alcippe, who thinks Durante is trying to seduce his fiancée. Meanwhile his father, for whom, Durante, his only son, is the apple of his eye, is trying to do his best for his son by finding him a suitable wife. Durante, however, thinks he has someone else in mind and tells another lie to get himself out of this predicament.

Eventually he is caught in his own web of lies and has to be truthful for once.

The play by Pierre Corneille, was originally written in French and has been translated by a modern playwright in as much of the style of the original as

possible. An unusual feature is that it is in rhyme a fact that does not become apparent immediately but which, once realised, can later be slightly irritating at times, although providing scope for humour, for instance when an expected rhyme is not forthcoming.

Although Durante is the character around whom the plot revolves, the real star of the play is undoubtedly Durante's valet, Cliton, played by Desmond Borrit with a Welsh accent, whose shrewd commonsense and honesty is at first shadowed by a veil of apparent obtuseness.

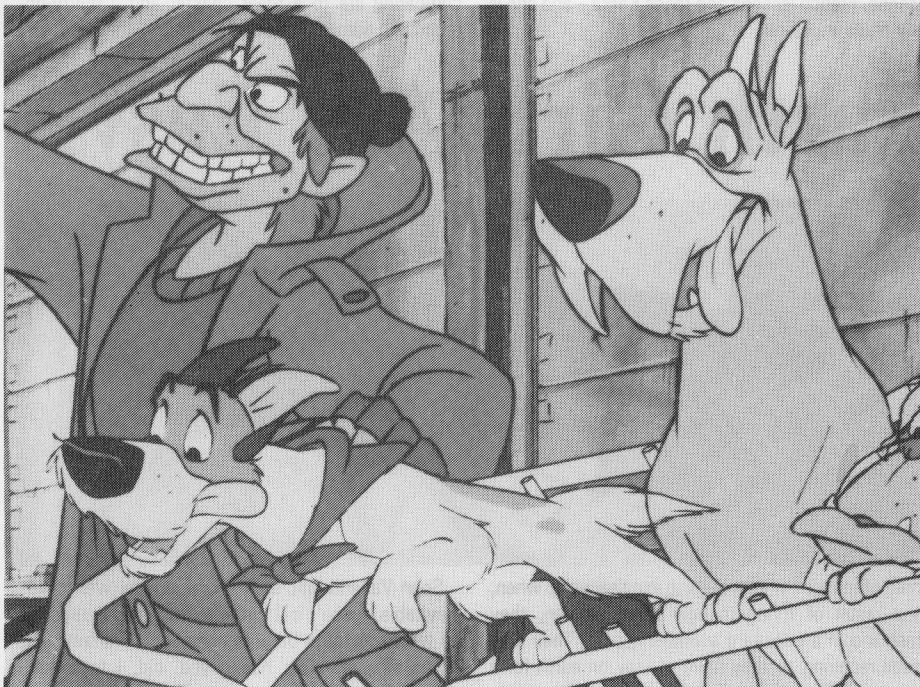
Good use is made of asides to give a better insight into the characters' minds and to add humour.

*The Liar* is an amusing, lighthearted, comedy satirising human nature and life in seventeenth century Paris (do French people really make jokes like that about the English?) and if that sort of thing is up your street then it is certainly worth a visit.

You can see *The Liar* at the Old Vic, Waterloo Road. Performances run from Monday-Friday at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinée on Wednesdays. Tickets cost between £7 and £15.

JAY.

# Oliver and Company



Walt Disney have had a stab at Dickens before—remember Mickey's Christmas Carol? Well, how does this latest offering, based (somewhat loosely) on *Oliver Twist* fare?

A typical Disney recipe has been used, first make most of the characters into animals, Oliver becomes a 'cute' kitten, Dodger and the gang become a pack of streetwise dogs. Throw in the odd human to taste. Need a heart rending beginning? Right, abandon Oliver in a box, somewhere in modern day New York City, and then wash him away in a torrent of rain. (All together now—aaahh!). Sprinkle with songs and leave to simmer for 74 mins.

The animation is as superb as ever, my only quibble being that on occasions, the foreground characters and the backgrounds didn't fit together very well. The characterisations are nice, with Francis, the ever-so-cultured Bulldog, and Tito, the lively hispanic

chihuahua stealing the show, although Georgette the pampered poodle, with gorgeous vocals by Bette Midler, is nearly as good. The songs are competent, as one would expect with names like Billy Joel and Huey Lewis involved, although snatches of a familiar tune from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* evoke nostalgic memories.

Here lies the crux of the problem. Somewhere along the line that something which turned a good animated film into a Disney has been lost. So instead of a gem of a film, which would have appealed to people of all ages we have a good animated movie, whose post He-man-action-adventure style will appeal to younger kids. It really does look as if the Don Bluth Studios (*An American Tail*, *The Land Before Time*) are the true holders of Walt's legacy, not the company which bears his name.

Adam T.

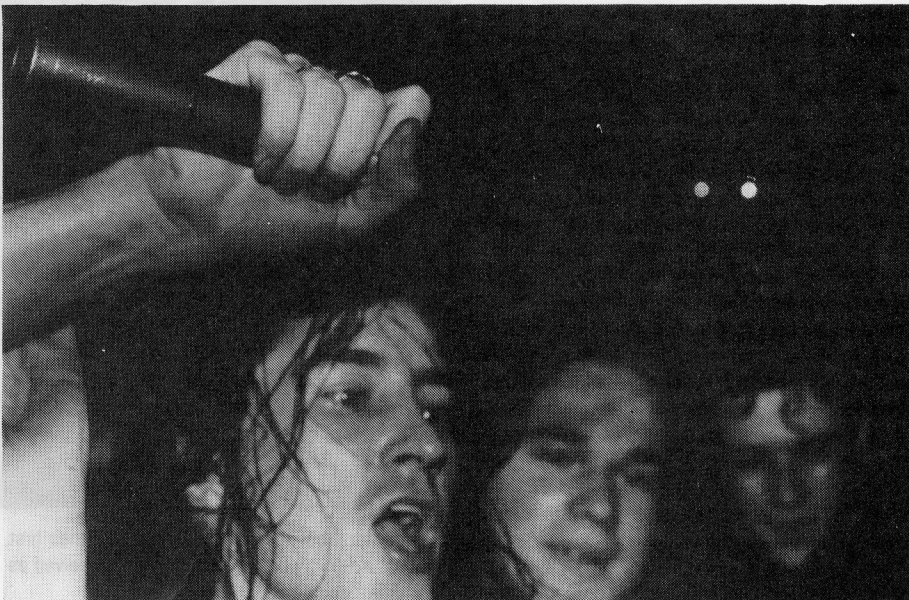
# Pop Will Eat Itself & Ned's Atomic Dustbin

London Marquee 18/12/89

The end came and went on December 15. Hoards of students set free from the shackles of work; exams and tests over, lectures no more. Only three weeks of festive debauchery lay ahead (work, January 7 of course). Everyone who's anyone just wanted to party the night away and someone must have told *Ned's Atomic Dustbin* and *Pop Will Eat Itself* at the Marquee, this gig beat popping down to Southside for a drink or ten.

*Ned's Atomic Dustbin* are currently riding high with a successful tour with *The Wonderstuff* (Miles of the Wonderstuff even graced this gig with his presence) and now touring with *The Poppies*, their most devoted groupies.

*Ned's Atomic Dustbin* immediately brought the Marquee to life and over the next half hour took us all to Hell and back in a blender, fortunately by the scenic route. John (vocals), Brass (guitar), Alex (bass), Matt (another bass) and Dan (drums) give a set of solid thrashy pop, with a powerful bassline backing a manic electric guitar and vocals. Everyone danced while they still had the chance, but only the groupies could sing because the band are still without anything down on vinyl; one quote from a girl in the crowd epitomises our feelings, 'Shit, why haven't I got any of this?'. Another *Siouxsie and the Banshees* (lack of) record company saga?



*Pop Will Eat Itself* came on and the stage was set, the crowd had been excited but all were here for this... 'Music is the most powerful medium in the world, ladies and gentlemen, music is a gift of God', launched

the *Poppies* into a lively set continuing the party. Their music was mostly from *Box Frenzy* and *This is the Day... This is the Hour... This is This*, but backing tapes made the musical additions of the *Poppies* almost superfluous. But still the *Poppies* made the day with a convincing performance exciting people to dance 'till they dropped. 'Show me you can do the side to fucking side' shout from Clint to the sound of *Infect Me* left flattened corpses smeared on each of the side walls, it was as if he had everyone by the short and curlies and was swinging them from side to side, there was no escape, but who wanted to anyway?

Graham sat high above on his 'throne' due to his broken leg, waving his megaphone and Clint bare-chested and glistening in sweat cavorted on stage beneath the strobe lights driving fans into a state of frenzy, people took their chances and swarmed the stage and then 'stage-dived' back into the oblivion of the crowd, happy with their ten seconds of glory dancing on stage with Clint Poppie. Clint was so impressed he even had a go himself, leaping from the stage for about a minute to dance in amongst the crowd at the risk of being pulled limb from limb.

An encore filled with goodies like *Let's Get Ugly* and *Love Missile F1-11* ended the party, so we poured out into the rain, wishing to go to the next two nights when they play again; but I would be surely satisfied with Ned's disc to annoy the folks over Christmas. Perhaps I'll write to Santa, we can all dream.

DEL.



## Pat Metheny *Hammersmith Odeon*

Despite continued critical acclaim and massive popularity for a jazz artist you could have walked into this show for nothing. It is lovely to see the ticket touts lose money for a change! At the end of a European tour to promote his latest disc, *Letter From Home* Pat Metheny was clearly pleased to be able to speak English to his audience but it is not his style to consort with his paying public and forty minutes elapsed before he introduced his band.

There is a strong latin influence in much of his music and having a South American percussion section

comprising Armando Marcell and Pedro Azarr aided the carnival atmosphere. However, the faithful had come to see Metheny's stylish guitar soloing. Playing mainly semi-acoustic with occasional switches to a discordant electric he plundered much of his back catalogue to give an all encompassing 'best of' show including old favourites like *Hermitage*, *The First Circle* and *Are You Going With Me?*

His recent recorded output has been likened to Los Angeles shopping mall muzak as lush production has taken precedence from the music. Heard live pieces

such as *Better Days Ahead*, *Spring Ain't Here* and the *C Ballad* show that Metheny has lost none of his melodic ability to make sophisticated jazz accessible despite keyboards wizard Lyle Mayes efforts to play his solos in unrelated keys and tempos. This kept everyone mesmerised throughout the two hours and twenty minute show and left the faithful sated for another two years before he visits these shores again.

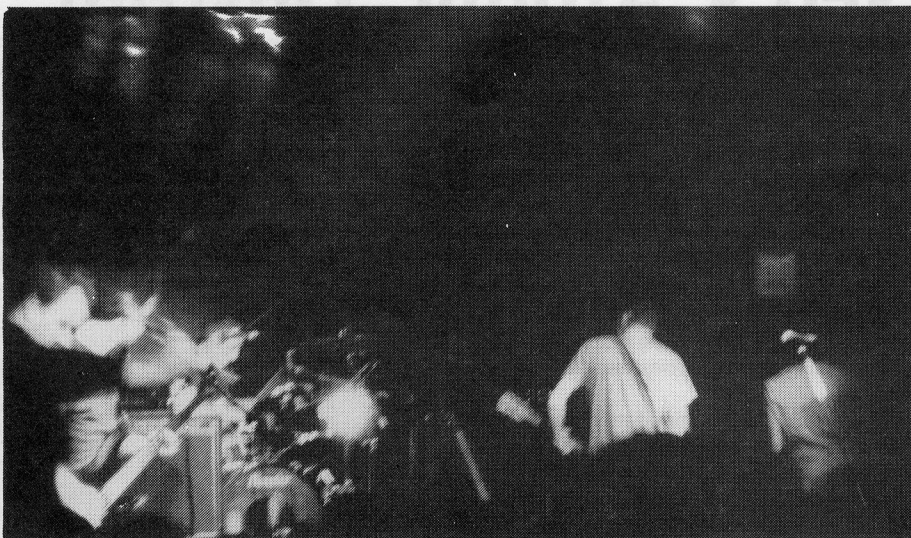
CDL.

# Senseless Things & Snuff

A week past the end of term and a week since *The Ned's/PWEI 'Xmas Party'*, by which time most students had been tucked back into their cosy home lives, the more devoted of us packed the Fulham Greyhound on Dec 22 to see *Snuff and the Senseless Things* and just to party some more.

Santa playing trombone, a Xmas tree playing with himself, a semi-naked drummer eating a banana (horny!), people throwing themselves from the stage like lemmings and some hitting the floor like lemmings too, and self-electing singers from the crowd helped *The Snuff* set to degenerate into one of the most farcical but fun sets I've ever seen. And it wasn't even organised, except of course for Santa and the Xmas tree. The music, mainly from the *Snuff Said* LP threw the place into turmoil and people into a frenzy. When it was good it was very, very good and it just didn't get worse. Things did get extreme, ending in twenty extra people on the stage and a broken amp! Their version of *I Think We're Alone Now* reduced *Tiffany's* to insignificance, I mean at least this version had bollocks!

*The Senseless Things* have been having an awkward time of late with some very successful



support slots, but they followed this with their first LP *Postcard CV*, which was not as well received as their music should be.

Whether their fault or not, they were headlining above *Snuff* who had just given us a manic three quarters of an hour, and their reputation was surely on the line.

They pulled out all of the stops and the place shook. This was not as spontaneous or manic, but it was good. People danced and shouted, and songs like *Too Much Kissing* and *Trevor* took things from good to better and beyond. Although it all sounded good, the lack of communication with the audience showed tonight that their priorities lay in reliability. They are definitely still a force to be reckoned with in the hardcore scene, but *Snuff* herald much greater things than they have now, so make sure you catch up with them. Watch out, they move fast.

The whole gig was recorded to be edited into a video fanzine with other live recordings of *Fugazi*, *Wat Tyler*, *Jesus Jones*, *The Sugarcubes*, *Shrug*, *Sofahead*, *Celestial Orgy*, *Crane*, *Bomb Disneyland* and *Mega City 4*.

For details get in touch with:  
The Idea Video Fanzine,  
8, St Paul's Road,  
Thornby,  
Cleveland TS17 6LH.

Well worth a slice of the grant cheque.  
**DEL.**



## Closing the dustbin lid on Chapter 22

'They've done it, by George, they've done it'; after weeks of successful touring with *The Wonderstuff* and *Pop Will Eat Itself*, *Ned's Atomic Dustbin* have at last signed a record deal, with Chapter 22 and hope to release a single soon.

Incidentally, *Pop Will Eat Itself* are also signed to Chapter 22; cor, what a coincidence, would it be their fanatical following of the *Ned's* which helped them into a record deal?

*Ned's* also played a great gig at Camden Palace on Tuesday 9th Jan which will be reported in full next week as well as an exclusive interview with the band.

*Ned's Atomic Dustbin* are definitely gonna be big in the pop hardcore scene and don't forget where you heard it first.

**DEL.**

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## Solo Guitarist

Playing at Mendelssohn's Wine Bar (1 High Street, Bromley) next Monday (15th) is an up and coming solo guitarist and singer *Briggin*. Her music is in a field quite removed from that of any preconceptions one might assume, and is between the strains of folk and new wave music.

Having already had successful shows in Islington and at the Mean Fiddler, a night out in Bromley should be well worth a visit. See you there.

**DEL.**

## Spot the Dog

*Spot the Dog* recently sold a quarter of a million copies of his latest book *Spot on His Owners Leg*. He also hopes to release a single in the near future, *Doin' the Spot*. We hope to continue the *Spot the Dog* series soon with an exclusive interview. Remember where you heard it first.

**Stone & DEL.**

# Desperate Don

by Don Adlington

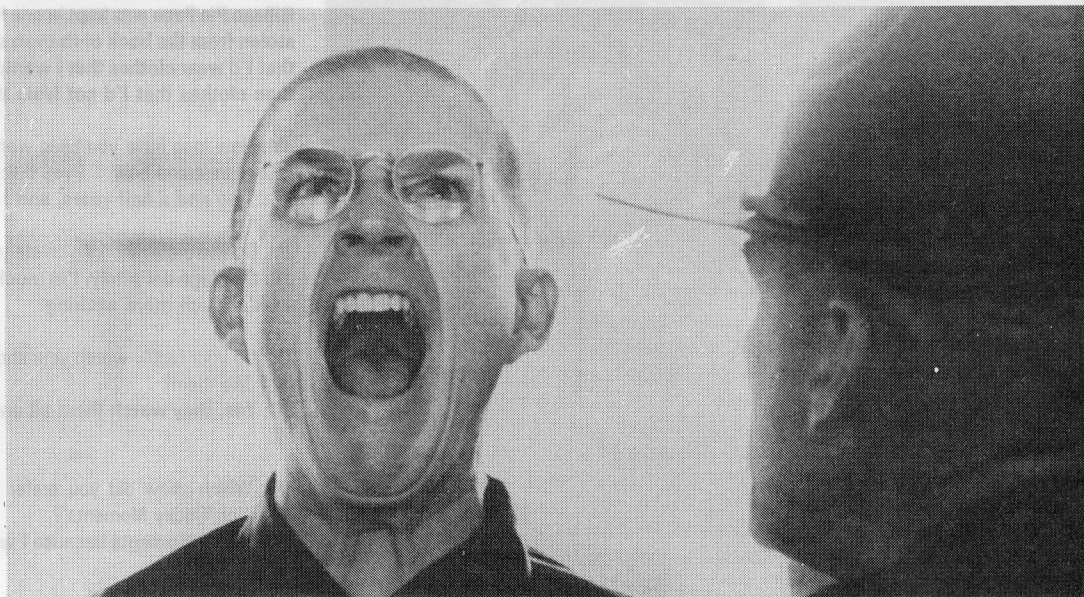


University students are on the whole a stable and resilient lot, but very few of them are likely to spend the whole of their student days floating on a sea of calm tranquility. Things go wrong sometimes. The kinds of things that go wrong are as varied as human life itself and students are in no way immune to the contingencies of illness, of broken relationships, of loneliness and major disturbances as to goals, value and meaning. Nor, of course, are they immune from worries about money, accommodation and a multitude of other such mundane things either. Generally speaking, students' problems do not in themselves mark them off from their contemporaries outside university. What is special about the student is the degree of impact which such problems can have upon his work activity. Academic work, with in-built time limitations, by common consent increasingly intense and demanding a sustained high level of

pastoral role, remains the same. Women students should be aware that there is a College Tutor (Mrs Sandra Dawson in the Management School) specifically appointed to talk to them. Hall and house warden's are another group of people who are easily approachable—and who would readily accept a first-line responsibility for discussing personal problems.

For reasons which may or may not be valid, students may in some circumstances feel reticent about taking their difficulties to teaching staff. The student-run Nightline service offers one alternative source of help and support and, besides being totally separate from the College establishment, is available when other people are not. Similarly the Chaplains offer confidential help to all students of the College irrespective of religious allegiance. There is no doubt, however, that the most obvious and conspicuous sources of help outside Departments are the Health

Counselling as a technical activity then, is profoundly concerned with the salience of feelings, of the emotional infrastructure of human life. It is also profoundly concerned with honesty, and it is this, perhaps more than anything else, which distinguishes a counselling relationship from other relationships. Counselling is nearly always friendly, but it isn't friendship. When we talk to our friends or our relatives we are often seeking the comfort of an endorsement of our views. We don't really welcome insightful comment, analysis of motive, or any other honest reaction, unless it happens to line up with ideas about ourselves that we have a strong wish not to disturb. Such an aversion to the disturbance of our preconceptions is, of course, normal in everyday life. The point is however that at times of crisis it may be important, for a while at any rate, to look below the surface of what is going on. It is this component of



intellectual efficiency, is peculiarly susceptible to the destructive impact of anxiety and distress, whatever the source. In this special sense therefore, students' problems are always urgent.

It seems to me that when things go wrong the first thing to do is to talk about it. In one sense it doesn't really matter who you talk to, provided that you're (?) listened to. The chance acquaintance in a pub or at a party might do, or, more likely, a personal friend. People frequently underestimate, and are subsequently surprised by, the real relief which flows from sharing one's distress or worry with another person. In the nature of things some students may turn as a matter of course to their parents, and indeed where a problem appears to have long-term implications, most students will not feel at ease until they have taken the family into their confidence.

Sometimes however, these informal sources of support may not be available, or sufficient, in which case it may be sensible to approach people in College who have an institutional responsibility for helping students. The most obvious person is the personal tutor, or the departmental senior tutor. Postgraduate students, and certainly research students are in a slightly different position, but all Departments have a designated post-graduate tutor, and the basic principle i.e. that academic staff have inter alia, a

Centre; the Student Welfare Adviser, Yve Posner, whose office is in the Union Building; and, in some circumstances, the Student Accommodation Office. While, clearly, they have different and well-defined objectives, they have in common an express wish to be constructively helpful to the large number of students who use their services each session.

The student counsellor is in a slightly different (some would say privileged) position, in that he is, in principle, employed to do nothing else but talk to students. For this reason counsellors see far fewer students than doctors or student services staff, and for the same reason a counsellor's role is much less well understood. This is especially true perhaps in a college of science and technology where a lot of students—and some of their tutors too—tend to see human behaviour in rather mechanistic terms. This way of looking at things almost always leads to oversimplification of complex situations because it ignores the fundamental fact that we live in a world of feeling. What dominates our lives, what motivates us, what stimulates us, what depresses us, what sustains us, are feelings about ourselves and about other people. When things go wrong for people, in any other than the most trivial matters, the opportunity of expressing feelings, and of having these feelings acknowledged by someone else, becomes important.

honesty which gives counselling its 'cutting edge', and which, by the same token can sometimes make it a slightly disconcerting experience, though always, I would hope, a supportive one.

Counselling then is concerned with feelings and with honesty. It is also concerned with confidentiality. Discussions in my office are private, and I am not free to talk to tutors, supervisors or indeed anyone else about a student, unless the student himself explicitly and fully agrees to it. One implication of this is that from time to time I have to accept that students will choose to act in ways which would seem to me to be unwise or even potentially disastrous. My job is not 'solving people's problems'—it is helping people to solve their own. In reality the sources of anxiety and distress may well be things which cannot be changed, and the task of the individual may therefore be that of making a better shot at adapting to them and thereby minimising the damage they may cause.

If there are things you would like to talk about I would be very glad to see you. I can usually see people at very short notice and I am easy to contact by phone on Internal 3041, or by calling at my office on the first floor of 15, Prince's Gardens, immediately next to Week's Hall.

An interview with Julian Clary after a recent show at the Hackney Empire in aid of the Hackney Ambulance Hardship Fund.

# A sticky moment with Julian Clary



Julian Clary, also known as *Joan Collins Fan Club*, shot to fame on *Saturday Night Live* with his dog, Fanny, and then on *Trick or Treat* with Mike Smith. His own TV series *Sticky Moments* proved also to be a great success, although it has been described as 'tacky and pointless' by some narrow-minded viewers and critics.

He has just finished his *Mincing Machine* tour of

England, concluding with a superb show at the Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford.

Justine Mercer caught up with him on December 14 '89 at the Hackney Empire where he was hosting a comedy show in aid of the Hackney Ambulance Hardship Fund, others taking part in the show were Tom Robinson, Jack Dee, Kit Hollerback, Jungre and Parker, Arnold Brown and Jeremy Hardy.

JM: Was Fanny the Wonderdog part of the act then?

JC: No, she wasn't part of the act until I was Gillean Pie Face. After Linda went off to be an actress, I was on my own so I did an act on my own and called it Gillean Pie Face and then after a few months Fanny worked her way in.

JM: Did you find that when you first started out you were immediately liked?

JC: No, I wasn't.

JM: When did you become 'The Joan Collins' Fan Club'?

JC: I think it was about '83, or was it '84, round about that time anyway. All the stuff that was Gillean Pie Face was kept in one holdall and it was stolen from the back of the van so then I thought that I'd wear clothes that I wanted to wear rather than clothes that I'd got from the Oxfam shop.

JM: How long have you been working with Russell your pianist and how did you discover him?

JC: Two and a half years, and I auditioned him.

JM: Do you prefer working on stage or on television?

JC: On stage definitely. I'm much more in control so it's much more exciting.

JM: Do your family watch your shows on TV and do they like them?

JC: Yes, they watch them all and they like them all.

JM: Which show did you prefer filming, 'Trick or Treat' or 'Sticky Moments'?

JC: Sticky Moments because I wrote the material for it as well.

JM: Have you thought about doing serious acting ever?

JC: Yes, I've thought about it, but I don't think it would be a good idea.

JM: Do you think of the ideas for your stage clothes or does Michael Ferry, your designer?

JC: It's usually Michael Ferry, although sometimes I say 'I fancy an outfit with tassles on', you know the old black one with the long tassles, well that was my idea, but the others are his.

JM: As well as fan mail, do you receive much hate mail?

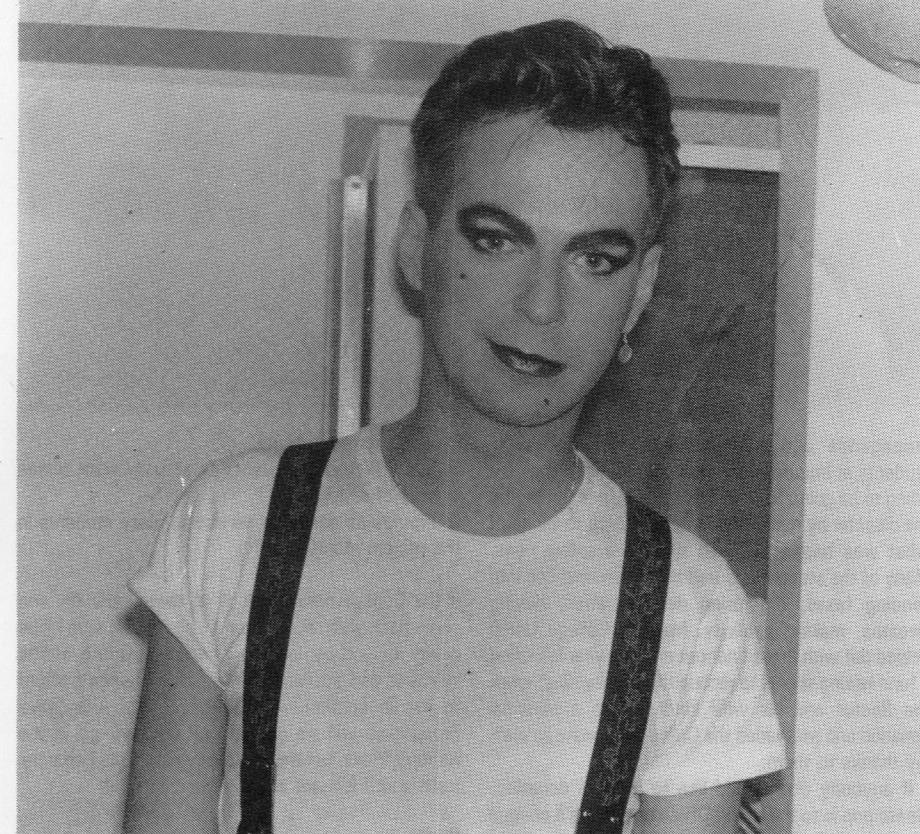
JC: I do get some, but I never read it, it's all taken out before it gets to me.

JM: Do you find it strange that you have so many female admirers and are you flattered by it?

JC: No, I don't find it strange...and yes, I'm flattered by it.

JM: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

JC: Well there isn't much of that. I love being at home, staying at home and not going anywhere and having a fridge full of food. I like taking the dog for a walk and not having anything to do, it's bliss.



JM: What music do you enjoy listening to?

JC: T-Rex, Patsy Klein, Tom Jones, Erasure, Handel's Water Music, Boy George, although I haven't got him on CD. I've got a couple of his albums which I used to play at lot.

JM: In which part of the country were you born and brought up?

JC: I was born in Surbiton in Surrey and when I was seven I moved to Teddington in Middlesex and that's where I stayed until I was 18.

JM: How long have you lived in London?

JC: Since I was 18, when I started going to College.

JM: What sort of school did you go to when you were a teenager?

JC: I went to a Catholic public school run by Benedictine monks called St Benedicts and it wasn't very nice because I was bullied. I didn't like it at all.

JM: How did your parents react when they found out about your true sexuality?

JC: Well, I never made any great announcement about it. I'm sure that it dawned on them, they are very, sort of, liberal people so it was no big hassle for them.

JM: I know that you achieved three 'A' levels and went to university. Which university did you go to and what did you study?

JC: It was the University of London and it was Goldsmith's College in New Cross and I studied Drama and English, BA.

JM: What jobs did you do before entering the comedy scene?

JC: I didn't do any really, when I left college I was unemployed for about two years. I did a cabaret act with a friend from college, I was a waiter for one afternoon and I hated it so much I didn't go back, it was in a café in Greenwich, I was not good at that. I didn't do anything really.

JM: What was your first ever comedy act?

JC: It was called 'Glad and May' with my friend Linda from College. It was based on the characters Amanda and Elliot from *Private Lives* but also on these two cha-ladies called Glad and May. The opening line was 'Hello, I'm Glad and I'm glad to be here', that's what Linda would say, then I'd say 'Hello, I'm May and I may be glad to be here', and we used to do a handbag competition. You know when I grab somebody's handbag from the audience, well we used to both grab a handbag each and have a competition over who had the most interesting contents.

JM: I understand that you have become interested in re-birthing, can you tell me what this involves and how you first became interested in it?

JC: Well the girl who used to be my acupuncturist gave up acupuncture and then took up re-birthing and body harmony as a kind of therapy that she was practising, so I got into it entirely through

her, and I'd also previously read the Louise Hayes book 'You can hear your life', which is a very interesting book and it talks about re-birthing which also made me want to try it.

JM: What actually is it?

JC: You go to a re-birther, and it takes about three hours, it's a breathing technique and you go into an altered state of consciousness and you go on a strange sort of psychic journey.

JM: You've also written a book 'My Life With Fanny the Wonderdog' which is hilarious, is it actually based on fact?

JC: It's a mixture of fact and fiction, for example I was brought up in Teddington but I didn't get arrested for playing with the pixies at the end of the garden.

JM: In the book it says you did a Tarzan-a-gram, is this true?

JC: That is true, I was a singing telegram.

JM: I have also heard, there should be another single on the way. Is this true.

JC: Yes, and it should be 'Wandering Star'.

JM: Although your TV career has now taken off dramatically, you have been around for a long time. Why do you think it has taken this long for you to become well known?

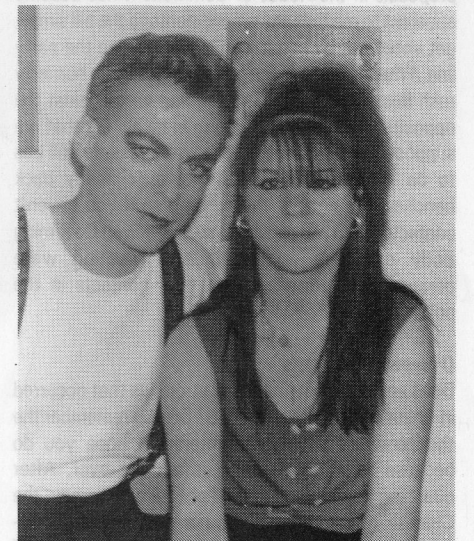
JC: I think it does take time really, it doesn't ever happen overnight, not unless you've got a very accessible talent, mine's a bit odd, you know, it's not of a type. Impressionists, like Rory Bremner, get on quicker because it's great TV fodder, and it's quite easy and it's been done before. My kind of thing was a bit different, a bit off the wall and it took longer.

JM: What would be your ultimate dream for the future, careerwise?

JC: To be able to write new material effortlessly. I find it very difficult writing and the problem with TV is it uses up all of your material, so what I need to do is take a few months off in January and February to write before I can go out on the road again. This act is all out on video now so it's no good repeating that next spring. I've been criticised for being repetitive.

JM: Finally, are you looking forward to spending Christmas with your family and have you done all of your Christmas shopping?

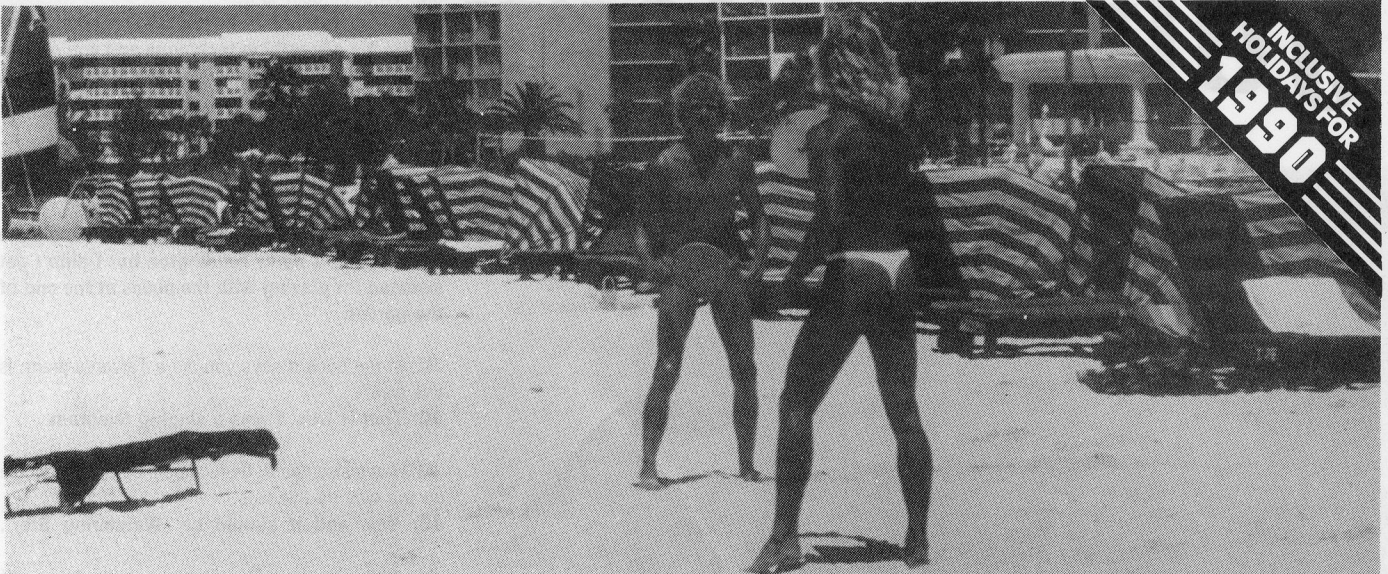
JC: Yes, I am looking forward to it. I haven't even started my Christmas shopping. I haven't bought nobody nuffink.





# Wish you were here

by our Florida correspondent Neil McCluskey



A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to a new term. Congratulations are in order to the Rector on gaining a knighthood and to the various banks in pulling out of the government's top-up loans scheme.

At the time of reading I'll be out of the office visiting Florida for the purposes of competing in an International Dance Competition. My apologies to anyone trying to get hold of me, I've every confidence that Fiona and Dave can cope in my absence.

For those of you that were complaining last term about lack of notice for Union General Meetings, here are the dates. Cancel ALL appointments, book them in your diary and come along.

Thursday 25 Jan, 6.00pm, Union Concert Hall.  
Thursday, 1 Mar, 6.00pm, JCR (Elections hustings with bar available)  
Thursday, 8 Mar, 6.00pm, Great Hall (Results UGM)

Watch future reports in FELIX to find out what will be discussed at each of these meetings.

## Loans

You should all have heard the news over Christmas that several of the major banks have pulled out of the government's loan scheme. This does not, however, mean that the Government is going to drop the idea. In going to the committees discussing the loans proposals in the House of Commons it has become apparent to me that any amendments to the bill simply get voted out by conservative MPs toeing the party line. Whenever the time to vote comes, MPs hurriedly rush back in to the committee and vote against the opposition. So much for voting in local MPs that are supposed to represent your views. Pressure still has to be maintained on MPs. However, many back benchers are against the scheme so if you haven't contacted your MP please do so soon. Even Governing Body members at December's meeting were persuaded to write and use their contacts in the political world.

## Overseas Students

Does anybody remember the atrocities that occurred in China in the middle of 1989? Do you remember the thousands of people slaughtered? I hope you do because all of that trouble is not yet over. After quashing the uprising in the fight for democracy, the Chinese government started a programme for re-education with a crude and blatant programme of

propaganda and brainwashing. Some Chinese students at Imperial don't really know what they are going to be going back to and some helped out during the disaster by relaying information back to China of what was happening seen through western eyes. Many of the students poured their own finances into sending faxes, organising demonstration, buying wreaths, making publicity. Imperial College Union helped out with these finances and last year launched a fund-raising appeal to recoup this money. Last week the Rector and his wife kindly made a personal donation and persuaded the College to donate as well, my thanks to them.

If anybody else would like to make a donation, please pop in to the Union Office or send us a cheque made payable to 'Imperial College Union' marked Chinese Students Appeal.

## Accommodation

Last term the proposed rents for the coming academic year were published in FELIX. I was expecting some discussion of these to come up at Governing Body last term; it didn't. This means one of two things. Either discussion will come up this term or the Rector is the single person that decides the rents. If the latter is the case then you would be right in joining me in being very, very worried. All along the line the college has ignored warning from myself, the students and the wardens of the effects of any rent increases. Instead of simply stinging the students for refurbishing what are rapidly becoming decrepit and dangerous halls of resident, surely the College should be looking for innovative ideas to generate cash for the upkeep of these halls. Instead, an appeal has been launched to generate monies for a new residence, adding to the stock which we can't afford to keep, can't sell and can't maintain. Last year applications to Imperial were way down, last term 40% of students attending a UGM said they would not have come to London if they had known the real expenses involved; only this year College had to fill up spaces in nearly every department through UCCA clearance.

Personally I am not happy that College is doing its best to look after the financial welfare of its students. So how about some advice:

1. Freeze the rent levels.
2. Ensure adequate maintenance of halls.
3. Get companies to sponsor individual rooms.
4. Get companies to donate furniture and furnishings

in return for advertising.

5. See if first-year students do actually want to live in halls of residence.

6. Provide an adequate service to place students in the private rented sector.

If the College does not look at these seriously and come back with replies then I'll be making sure I'll be doing my job by looking after the welfare of the students and advising that they simply can't afford to live in London. An addition to the Alternative Prospectus will go out and articles will go in the National Press. Let the prospective students know the truth and if it's not all rosy, then so be it.

## Welfare

Yve Posner, the Union Welfare Adviser, has been working very hard preparing a housing pack for students. This will be ready shortly and in plenty of time for those of you in halls of residence that have never had to find your own place. I'm looking to stage a 'housing roadshow' in the halls with Yve so that we can answer questions on private rented accommodation.

At the very beginning of the summer term we're hoping to organise a welfare campaign on coping with stress. This, hopefully, will cover minor stress problems resulting in, say, lack of sleep up to major build-up of stress which can result in breakdowns. I think this will be particularly useful, especially during the exam term.

## Transport

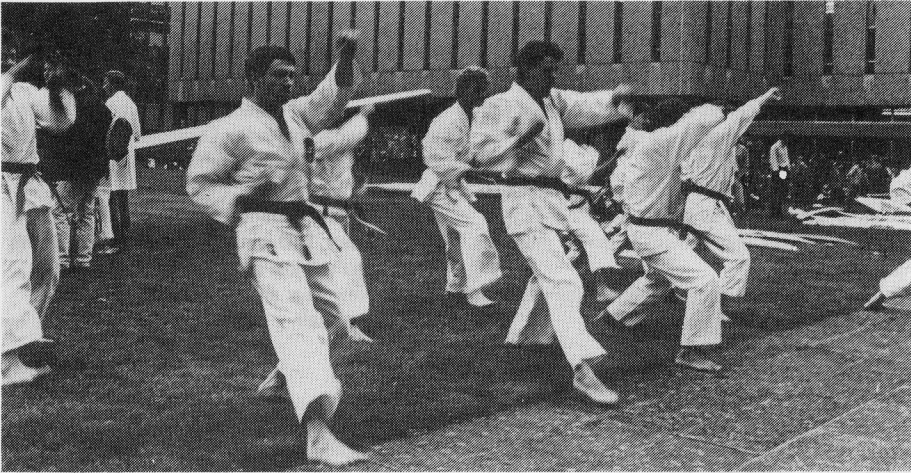
The new van is here, it runs well and I hope it stays that way. Deadline for van applications for the Easter vacation is Friday, 16th February.

Anybody wishing to go abroad please give me a few weeks notice so that I can arrange a green card (i.e. insurance).

## Finally....

Imperial College Union is at last coming to grips with modern technology...it now possesses an answering machine. The answering machine will be used on extension 3500 in the evenings and during weekends. If you have any difficulties or questions, simply leave a message and the sabbatical who is on duty will collect the message and get back to you.

# Judo black belts



IC Judo Club is pleased to report that two club members achieved senior grades at the London Judo Society Dan Gradings held just before Christmas. Peter Swettenham (Physics 3) gained his second Dan Black belt while Jonathan Lean (Pet Eng 3) won his first Dan Black belt. Both fighters gave excellent performances, easily overcoming all opposition to win their respective belts.

Both these fighters as well as other senior club

members are now training hard with the London Judo Squad in readiness for the National BUSF competition set for early February in Glasgow.

The replacement of the floor in the Union Gym has disrupted training to some degree. Members should consult the club noticeboard (foyer) for alternative training sessions. Once normal training resumes the club intends to run another beginners course to which all IC students are more than welcome.

# Carnival next Friday

*The Men They Couldn't Hang*, the finest jigging band in the whole wide world are playing live at this term's New Years Carnival. Next Friday (19th) the whole Union Building will be awash with entertainment of all sorts with *The Men* as top of the bill.

Still raving after all these years, their last LP *Silvertown* sold reasonably well, gigs were very warmly received and here they are again with their political jigs and ancient songs of resistance. Always a lively bunch, there won't be a dry body in the house. Support comes in the sophisticated form of *That Swing Thang*, a tight Scottish jump-jive outfit, reliving the 50s era of loud ties, wide suits and fat saxophones. Hep-hep! First band of the night will be *The Devil Dudes* playing in the Concert Hall who are an action packed, fun loving band.

While the bands do their thing in the concert hall, DJ Gwyn's dancewise disco will be pumping away in

the Lounge. This electric mix of the latest and best in dancefloor music will keep you dancing all the way to the 3am curfew. This disco is guaranteed mango-funk free.

The bar is open until 2am and the Rugby Club will be doing their ever popular cocktails. If you think you're a bit of a gambler, head for the casino where you could win a glittering array of prizes if your luck is in.

Tickets are £3.50 in advance from the Union Office and you won't get a better eight hours entertainment for less anywhere in the city.

Future events include a cabaret night sometime in the term, and next Friday (26th) Imperial plays host to an Indie Pop Spectacular featuring *Rain* live on stage, with a yet to be announced support band.

**Rufus Isaacs.**

# Computer hacking debate

Wednesday 17 January sees an assortment of various real live people fighting it out over the question: 'What legislation is required to address the problem of computer hacking?'

Speakers at the debate include: Emma Nicholson MP whose private members' bill failed last session due to lack of time; Michael Colvin MP who has introduced the bill this session which doubles the penalty recommended in the Law Commission's report for basic hacking which would now result in a £2,000 fine and six months in jail; Guy Kewney, who writes the Newsprint section in *Personal Computer World*, and has said 'Emma Nicholson MP has also been reciting the buzz-words and phrases of computer systems in her attempt to get noticed by the Prime Minister...

'As long as MPs are prepared to talk about viruses redirecting nuclear bombers, they will get the

headlines and—unfortunately—they will also get 'long private audiences with Margaret Thatcher' (PCW, December 1989); Judith Vincent, Head of Company and Commercial Law at the CBI, which has been campaigning on behalf of its members for legislation on hacking; Jolyon Jenkins, the Assistant Editor of the *New Statesman & Society*; a spokesperson for the Law Commission, whose report last October triggered the recent wave of interest; and a spokesperson for the Data Protection Registrar.

What promises to be a lively debate starts at 1.30pm in Huxley 311—entry is free to all.

Anyone interested in helping with publicity should contact: Steve Lacey, SE4, or Dave Edmondson, Huxley 205, phone 5085.

Come along to express your views or just to see what other people think—get informed on an issue that could soon affect a lot of people.

# Union posts

Papers are up for the following posts:

External Affairs Officer

Phoenix Editor

Ordinary Member, Academic Affairs Committee (2 posts)

Ordinary Member, Welfare Committee

Ordinary Member, ICCAG

Handbook Editor

Women's Officer

Secretary, Academic Affairs Committee

# Swimming & Water Polo

...the Swimming and Water Polo Club is back in action again after the Xmas hols! Burn off your festive excesses in a fun and friendly way—in the pool.

As since time began, training is on both Monday and Friday evenings. Swimming from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Water Polo from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. Beer follows.

Additionally an hour long ladies-only Water Polo session will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm.

New members are positively encouraged to come and join in at the Sports Centre. Current members know they're fools if they don't.

Thanks to all who attended and helped make the Christmas Dinner such a blast in it's first year. We'll do it again.

Summer tour plans, to Bordeaux/Biarritz in southern France continue apace...

PS. Sweatshirt/T-shirt designs wanted ASAP.

# Small Ads

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **GET FIT** and stay fit whilst having fun! IC Swimming and Water Polo Club is back helping you get back into and staying in shape! New members welcome.

● **FAT & FRUMPY?** Swim and slim! Gentle training for all to help you get back in trim! Come to the IC Swimming and Water Polo Club. New members/Victims wanted.

● **Keep Fit Club**—Due to intense public pressure, Alice will be holding another 'Hi Energy' workout every week on Tuesdays, 6-7pm in Southside Gym. For a trial lesson or membership come to any of Vicki or Alice's lessons. (Details in What's On guide). Everyone welcome.

## ACCOMMODATION

● **Male PG** needs single room in flat/house/drain close to College. Can supply own microwave, pressure cooker and collection of crap chemistry textbooks. Ring Chris on ext 4637 for fun and photo.

## PERSONAL

● **For Sale**—Slightly used Asian Soc. £300 on.

● **Where's the money?**—Treasurer, Asian Soc.

● **When I said Carol was small**

I actually lied

Though she's not very tall,

she is rather wide.

PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR NAME AND DEPARTMENT WITH YOUR ENTRY (WE DON'T HAVE TO PUBLISH IT). WE CANNOT PRINT ANY ANONYMOUS SMALL ADS.

# This Week

● **The earthquake in Australia** on 28th December last year measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale. It was centred on the city of Newcastle which is about 90 miles north of Sydney. Twelve people died and nearly two hundred were injured. Australia does not lie on the Pacific Ring of Fire which passes through neighbouring New Zealand. However tectonic plate movement along this fault is believed to cause stresses leading to the earthquake in Australian plate. An updated risk map will shortly be published by the Australian Seismological Centre, using the new data gathered, to aid revision of civil engineering regulations.

● **Proteins grown in space** on board NASA's space shuttle have been reported to be larger and more ordered in several cases than their counterparts grown on earth. The reasons for this apparently lie in the convection currents which occur in the solution on earth when a crystal precipitates. These currents are set up by localised changes in density which under gravity move away from the crystal. The end effect is that the crystal precipitates earlier and grows less evenly than in the absence of gravity. Using X Ray crystallography these space grown proteins show more detail, enabling their structure to be determined more precisely.

● **The sex of a foetus** can now be determined from a blood sample. The test utilising the 'polymerase chain reaction' which amplifies sequences of DNA ribonucleotides to be associated with the Y-chromosome indicating that the foetus is male. This method doesn't carry the risks of infection or miscarriage associated with current techniques, like amniocentesis. It is expected to be used to decide whether further tests are necessary for inherited sex related disorders such as haemophilia.

● **British power stations** are predicted to fall outside EEC target levels for air pollution according to a recent report commissioned by Greenpeace. The Government estimates that the overall emissions of sulphur dioxide will have fallen by 22% by 1993 compared with the 1980 reference level. However the authors of the report claim that this will only be 10%. The EEC specifies a 20% reduction for both sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Three years ago the CEGB announced plans for a £2 billion fitting of desulphurisation equipment to larger coal fired plants, of which only a third of this sum has been agreed, involving the 4GW Drax power station in North Yorkshire. To add to the uncertainty, the two companies PowerGen and National Power which will replace the generating division of CEGB after privatisation later this year have yet to decide how the desulphurisation programme will be allocated.

● **Anyone** wishing to write an article of general scientific interest or to publicise departmental research, please contact Simon Haslam via the FELIX Office or the Physics UG pigeonholes.

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## Appealing

Dear Dave,

Last Monday a meeting was held at St Mary's to try and sort out events that will contribute towards the £7M joint IC/St Mary's fund.

Such a horrifically large amount of money will take a lot of fundraising and so we need ideas of how to get that cash. The only proviso is that it must be enjoyable!

So please can your readership send their ideas to me via the Mech Eng pigeonholes.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Pearson, Mech Eng 1.

## Scrooge

Dear FELIX,

Here is a sad tale of Christmas Past, well Autumn anyway. Bob Student is off on the annual task of searching for accommodation.

Scrooge looked gloomily at the terminal of his vdu and drummed his fingers on the desk. Things were *not* good. Imperial College PLC's profits were down again and even the CRAY II had not been able to come up with a new money making scheme. The problem was the students—they were becoming a liability again. Surely there must be some way he could bring in a bit more cash. Then it hit him. But of course! A wry smile crossed his face and he began to type...

'I'm sorry, we can't renew your tenancy agreement—Imperial College refuse to sign for any more company lets as of this Summer. Don't ask me why,' continued the estate agent, 'we've already lost two-thirds of our trade. If the other London colleges follow suit we're finished!'

Bob Student shook his head in disbelief. This was the first he'd heard. But things were soon confirmed at the housing office:

'Yes,' said the housing officer glumly, 'I'm afraid it's true. It's not our fault you understand, somebody up there.' She pointed to the ceiling. 'Company, err, college policy—it costs too much in administration.'

'But we *pay* to sign the agreement,' wailed Bob.

The housing officer shrugged. 'We've got some spare places in Fisher Hotel if you want, £50 per week—bring your own ladder, of course,' she suggested.

The student left. There was only one thing for it, he set about forming his *own* company.

Meanwhile, Scrooge was doing some explaining...

They can stay in halls, well a few of them anyway, and there's always the five private landlords—I know them all personally. Very trustworthy.'

The M.D. looked down his nose at him from behind the huge oak desk. The news of riots under Waterloo Bridge as students fought for their cardboard boxes had disturbed him, as had the reports of individuals commuting from their homes in Manchester, Durham and Swansea. If the press got to hear of this...

'Do something, and do something *fast*,' he boomed.

Scrooge nodded, and backed hurriedly out of the room, following the swath he'd cut in the thick pile carpet on his way in. Frantically he racked his brains for a solution. What now? Turn the heating off? No, he'd had the boilers removed years ago. Then it struck him. Why it was obvious! All they had to do was to continue the company lets, and charge a levy of 5% on the rent. Simple! And there was still a week left to the start of the Autumn term—plenty of time for the students to rearrange their accommodation.

Boris (James Hampson), Elec Eng 3.

## Luv Jen?

Dear Sir,

In the interests of correct reporting we have to point out that your article in the Christmas edition on the Christmas Caper hamper raffle contained a glaring inaccuracy.

The Union Finance Office, Mr Reggie Blennerhassett, **DID** win a hamper at this event. We are sure you will join us in congratulating him.

Happy New Year and UP YOURS.

The Union Staff.

Post Script

Dear Dave,

We know we can trust you to print this letter in the next edition—first FELIX in the Spring Term.

Luv Jen.

## Embryonic

Dear FELIX,

In your article on the forthcoming Embryo Research Bill, you suggest that amid all the clamour of conscience voting, the 'the purpose of the bill could easily be forgotten'. Your idea of this 'the purpose' wasn't really very clear, though your view that research must proceed at all costs was evident. I disagree.

Research proceeds from man and exists solely for the benefit of man. Clearly, when investigations begin to harm man—his person or his dignity as a human being, they should be stopped, however interesting or useful the results might be. It's a cliché, I know, but the ends *don't* justify the means. We all instinctively recognise this—why else the horror when the atrocities of Nazi medical research were discovered? Indeed, the Helsinki declaration states that no medical research is ethically permissible on one human individual that is not designed to help that person but merely the rest of the human race.

So we come to the true purpose of the bill—to define the status of the embryo. Is it a human being? One of the reasons the Warnock Committee gave the 14 day limit was that after this, the nervous system is laid down and so the embryo can feel pain (though why this implies humanity I fail to see. Anaesthetics are generally thought to make operations humane). But, as most scientists agree, this limit is only arbitrary. The only definitive change occurs at the moment of conception. The fertilised egg, or pre-embryo, as it is now called, is a complete entity. Nothing is added to the genetic information it contains and nothing is taken away. There is no other logical point in the development that can claim to be the start of human life—and does not our science pride itself on its logic?

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Cassidy, Physics.

### LOST

Please has anyone found my black jacket—with gold braiding. Lost the evening of Wed 10th Jan.

Reward £20

Felicity Marsh, Life Sci 4  
Beit Hall Room 89



Let's face it, the amount is tiny and the whole affair is a storm in a teacup. Reggie seems hardly upset by any of it; it's good to know that he has a sense of humour. Not so much can be said for Jen's gloating letter this issue. If the Union attempts to force FELIX to pay for something we did not purchase, it will leave the path open for other clubs to lose funds they have generated just because they did not toe the Union line.

I am now considering sending a copy of 'The three little pigs' to Peter Hallworth; the bit about the wooden house being blown down may prove informative.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Sir Eric Ash on his knighthood. Apparently he wishes us to drop the 'Professor'. FELIX is happy to announce this honour since 'Sir Ash' is far easier to type.

**Meeting**

There will be a staff meeting on Friday. Free drink to everyone who turns up.

**Credits**

Many thanks this week to Adam Harrington for news; Toby Jones, Ian Hodge, Adam Tinworth and Jo Wright for reviews; Del and Chris Leahy for music; Justine for the Julian Clary interview; Chris Stapleton, Jeremy Burnell, Roland Flowerdew for photography; Pippa Salmon for lots of help, Simon Haslam for Science; Stef Smith for Business; Reggie Blennerhassett for help and advice on finances; **Steve Meyfroidt for the Christmas cover**, sorry I forgot; Neil McFlorida and Fiona Nicholas, Rose and Andy, everyone who collated the last issue including Guilds, Ents and Rag (send me the names and you'll get a proper credit), next year's President Paul Shanley, Sydney Harbour-Bridge and Jackie Scott, Janus, Ian and Yvonne for sustenance, and anybody I've forgotten.



College's plastering contractor at work

**Bodgeit and Legit**

Over Christmas the Union had the fire exit from the Lounge widened to increase the room's fire capacity. I now live in fear of the building collapsing upon my head. The door had a concrete lintel to support the wall above it. This has been replaced with a wooden beam and four little wedges of scrap wood. Dave Williams has informed me that a slate lintel will replace this. The contractors have now plastered the area over and left without making this alteration. I don't know much about architecture, but I think that concrete is somewhat stronger than wood.

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I should like to welcome everyone back with a poignant reminder that if you are unhappy with your course or the general atmosphere at IC you have just less than a month to withdraw. It is a sad fact that many people realise too late that they are committed to three years at IC, which they won't really enjoy. If you withdraw now, your time at IC will not count against your chances of obtaining a grant for a course elsewhere.

**Hamper fun**

Union Administrator, Jen Hardy-Smith has finally shown her 'sensitive' side. Last term she was so upset by the Hamper Hoax in FELIX that she personally paid for a hamper and goodies for all the parties concerned on her Harrods account. How generous, I thought, with a cynical idea of her real motives in the back of my mind. Now she refuses to say who paid for the goodies, which probably add up to around £80. The rumour is that the FELIX staff account will be asked to foot the bill. The staff account is money earned by staff members doing outside work for use on social events.

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THE PLACE TO EAT

# What's On

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND IMPERIAL COLLEGE. ENTRIES (AND ANY AMENDMENTS) IN BY 12.30pm MONDAY PLEASE.

## FRIDAY

- Hang Gliding.....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge. Come and get high.
- GLC Meeting.....12.45**  
3rd Floor Union. Come along for tickets to Wogan on Monday 15.
- Rag Meeting.....12.35pm**  
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers.....1.00pm**  
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu.....4.30pm**  
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- Christian Union Meeting.....6.00pm**  
Room 308 Computing.
- Swimming Training.....6.30pm**  
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Fencing Club Meeting.....6.40pm**  
Union Gym. Every week.
- Water Polo Session.....7.30pm**  
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Massive Ents Disco.....8.00pm**  
Union Lounge. Groovy Gwyn's funky rave back is back after the festive excess. Get on the dancefloor 'til 2am.
- IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm**  
Southside.

## SATURDAY

- Karate Practice.....10.00am**  
Southside Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan.....4.30pm**  
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.
- C&GU Pub Crawl.....6.00pm**  
Meet Union Bar. To include Union bars of London. All welcome.

## SUNDAY

- Wargames.....1.00pm**  
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- Wu Shu Kwan.....4.30pm**  
Union Gym. Beginners Class.
- RCSU Night in the Bar.....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.
- Cross Country & Athletics.....5.30pm**  
Union Gym. Jogging in Hyde Park and socialising later in Southside.
- Keep Fit.....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- 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. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Advanced Ballroom.....7.00pm**  
JCR.
- WellSoc Meeting.....7.30pm**  
Physics LT1. Presidential address by Professor Eric Laithwaite.
- Karate Practice.....7.30pm**  
Southside Gym.

- Water Polo Session.....7.30pm**  
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Latin American Dance.....7.45pm**  
Lounge or SCR. All levels.
- Medals in Ballroom.....8.00pm**  
JCR.

## TUESDAY

- 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'.
- 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.
- Keep Fit.....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Amnesty Group Meeting.....5.30pm**  
Brown Committee Room.
- ICU Radio Modellers.....5.30pm**  
Mech Eng. Student training workshop.
- Christian Union Meeting.....5.40pm**  
308 Computing.
- Judo.....6.30pm**  
Union Gym.
- Intermediate Ballroom.....7.00pm**  
JCR. Dance Club
- Beginners Ballroom.....8.00pm**  
JCR.

## WEDNESDAY

- Sailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Outside Southside for sailing.
- Keep Fit.....12.30pm**  
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Wargames.....1.00pm**  
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu.....1.00pm**  
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- DoC Hacking Debate.....1.30pm**  
Room 308 Huxley.
- Intermediate Rock'n'Roll.....2.15pm**  
SCR. Dance Club.
- Ten Pin Bowling.....2.00pm**  
Meet at Gloucester Road tube.
- 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.
- Ladies Only Water Polo.....6.30pm**  
IC Sports Centre. Enthusiastic new members welcome—any ability.
- Wu Shu Kwan.....7.30pm**  
Union Gym. Experts class.
- FREE DISCO.....8.00pm**  
Union Lounge. The mid-week frenzy.

## THURSDAY

- Christian Union Meeting.....8.15am**  
Chaplaincy.
- Audio Society Meeting.....12.30pm**  
See Tuesday's entry.
- IC Fencing Club.....12.30pm**  
Union Gym. Every week.
- Ski Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
See Tuesday's entry.
- Methodist Society Speaker Meeting...12.30pm**  
Chemistry 231. Everyone welcome.
- Gliding Club Meeting.....1.00pm**  
Aero 254. Come along to arrange your first flight.
- ICSF Library Meeting.....1.00pm**  
**YHA.....12.30**  
Southside Upper Lounge. Sign up for weekend break. Everyone welcome.
- ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from 1700 books.**
- Balloon Club Meeting.....1.00pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge. New members or seasoned balloonies come along and see what's on.
- Keep Fit.....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym with Alice.
- Judo.....6.30pm**  
Union Gym.
- Karate Practice.....7.30pm**  
Southside Gym.
- 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.

## NEXT FRIDAY

- Rag Meeting.....12.35pm**  
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers.....1.00pm**  
Southside Gym. Organised by IC Islamic Society.
- Swimming Practice.....6.30pm**  
See Monday's entry.
- Water Polo Session.....7.30pm**  
See Monday's entry.
- NEW YEAR'S CARNIVAL.....8.00pm**  
Three live bands, very late bar, casino, cocktails, disco until 3am and much more from the Union Office in advance £3.50. Hurry while stock last.
- IC Radio Disco.....8.30pm**  
Southside.

**ANYONE FREE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th, AND WANTING TO EARN £20. PLEASE CONTACT JEN IN THE UNION OFFICE, EXTENSION 3504**

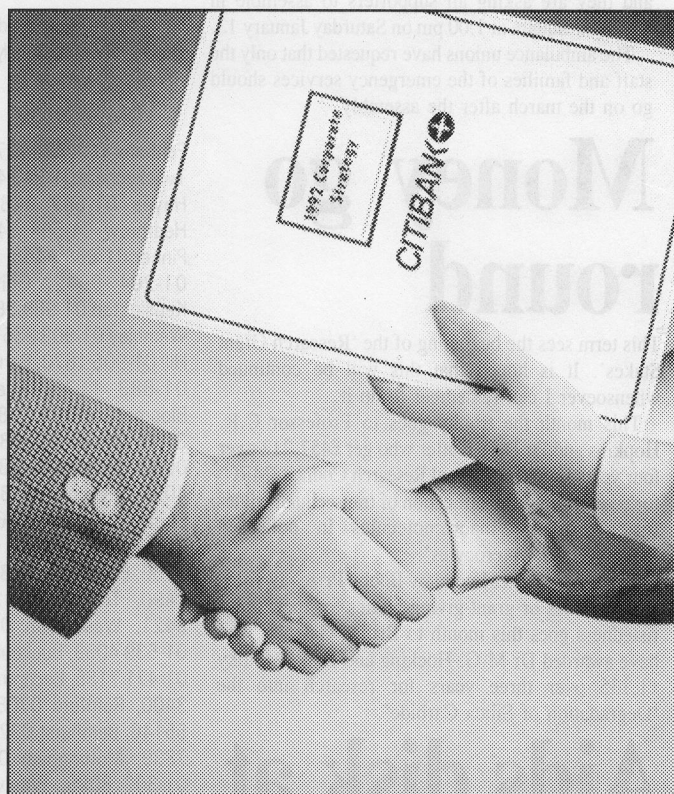
### SUBWARDEN REQUIRED

Southwell Hall requires a new subwarden. Applicants should be postgraduate students who are prepared to spend about 15 hours a week enjoying the social, administrative and disciplinary dealings of a lively residence. In return, rent free accommodation suitable for a single person is provided. Details and application forms are available from the accommodation office. The closing date for applications is Fri 2nd February 1990.

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Convince us of your potential, and you'll start in September with a very competitive salary and an excellent range of benefits. Succeed, and you'll soon discover that opportunities for fast-paced professional development are diverse, substantial, and sometimes international.

Initially please write, detailing education and work experience (if any) to: The Personnel Manager, Citibank Savings, St Martins House, 1 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 0NY.

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## MSF back ambulances

A demonstration in support of ambulance workers has been called by the TUC. The Manufacturing, Science and Finance trade union at I.C. will be taking part, and they are asking all supporters to assemble in Trafalgar Square at 1:00 pm on Saturday January 13.

The ambulance unions have requested that only the staff and families of the emergency services should go on the march after the assembly.

## Money go round

This term sees the beginning of the 'Research Grant Stakes'. It is hoped that this will be continued whenever I can remember to do it.

This month the trophy goes to Professor C.R. Hopkins and Dr D.F. Cutler who get £457,212 over four years from the Medical Research Council (MRC) for research into 'Identification of transcellular routes for hydrophilic macromolecules in polarised monolayers of enterocytes'.

The 'Free-market Economy Booby Prize' awarded to companies or grant-giving bodies for their tight-fistedness goes this month to British Gas plc, who have awarded Dr M.G. Hocking and Dr P.S. Sidky £1,135 over three years for research into the 'Degradation of Silica Carbide'.

## Aids disk at college

Mr Geoff Reeves, Security officer at I.C. reported that five 'AIDS computer virus' discs had been sent to the college. All are now in the custody of Scotland Yard.

The virus, which is incorporated into an aids information disk, is said to hide and scramble files on the hard drive it is resident upon and demand a fee for returning the files. Written in quick basic, the virus has plagued London's financial institutions. Anyone who believes they may have used the disk in their computer should contact Professor Hynds at the Computer Centre.

## Jolly hampers

Union Finance Officer Reggie Blennerhassett has won a £60 Hamper from Fortnum and Masons from the HUB office Christmas raffle.

Mr Blennerhassett also received a £35 Hamper last term as compensation by an anonymous benefactor for the FELIX hamper hoax (issue 853). Ms Jen Hardy-Smith, Union administrator, refused to reveal who had paid for it, though she admitted she knew who it was. Other victims of the hoax received gifts from the anonymous source—Mr Rob Northey had a bottle of wine, Mr Geoff Reeves received a box of crystallised fruit and Mr Harrison got a duck.

## Ambulance numbers

The numbers below are direct lines for London's ambulance services. They should only be used in absolute emergencies.

Feltham 01-751 1277, Isleworth 01-744 1607, Twickenham 01-943 4007, Greenford 01-575 1570, Hayes 01-569 1486, Hanwell 01-566 1051, Heathrow 01-564 3464, Hillingdon 0895 33611, Pinner 01-868 9466, Ruislip 08956 21060, Kenton 01-204 9542, Chiswick 01-748 8876, Nth Kensington 01-969 0846, Park Royal 01-961 2173, Wembley 01-903 3367, Willesden 01-961 2172, Mill Hill 01-906 1870, Barnet 01-440 4566, Fortis Green 01-883 1123, Friern Barnet 01-368 0227, Bloomsbury 01-837 8870, St Johns Wood 01-706 3731, Camden 01-485 7841, Westminster 01-931 0002, Fulham 01-386 5340, Canonbury 01-226 4059, Dalston 01-533 1429, Hackney 01-533 1428, Shoreditch 01-739 7609, Smithfield 01-248 9503, Chase Farm 01-367 0742, Bounds Green 01-881 3766, Edmonton 01-803 0684, Ponders End 01-367 0490, Tottenham 01-800 8765, Poplar 01-791 3421, West Ham 01-471 7134, Whipps Cross 01-539 4059, Buckhurst Hill 01-506 0968, Newham 01-471 7135, Becontree 01-593 0434, Ilford 01-590 3400, Romford 0708 33127, Hornchurch 04024 55146, Barnhurst 0322 555105, Greenwich 01-856 7839, Mottingham 01-850 3053, St Pauls Cray 01-302 8099, Woolwich 01-317 1860, Bromley 01-290 0962, Croydon 01-656 6471, New Addington 0689 48888, Beckenham 01-658 8166, Deptford 01-635 9140, Rotherhithe 01-237 5652, Waterloo 01-401 2209, Lee 01-852 1394, Forest Hill 01-699 4059, Purley 01-668 7163, Sth Croydon 01-681 2544, Streatham 01-769 9798, Battersea 01-223 9918, Brixton 01-326 4137, Oval 01-582 6398, Putney 01-877 1042, St Helier 01-640 2591, Sutton 01-661 1765, Wimbledon 01-947 3134, Malden 01-336 1069, Richmond 01-332 1025, Tolworth 01-390 0643.

## Weeks hall theft

A video recorder was stolen from Weeks Hall over the Christmas vacation. The theft probably occurred last week when an emergency lock had been put on the front door to replace the broken main lock.

## Knight of Cheapskate

The rector of Imperial College, Professor Eric Ash, was knighted in the new years honours. Sir Eric Ash commented that 'One does feel honoured—it's an honour for the college as much as for me'. He said that the Palace did not give specific reasons for the honours.

Sir Eric Ash was involved in a traffic accident recently, whilst cycling around Marble Arch and he said that he would be in crutches for three months.

## Engineers bored

Two thirds of Engineering students will not take up a career in industry, according to a recent report. The report, which is backed by the Department of Trade and Industry and twelve major engineering companies, is based on a survey of over 1,800 engineering graduates and claims to be the first attempt to present engineering companies from the students' point of view.

The actual report is confidential but the main findings have been released. The researchers say that only 8% of those questioned 'felt well informed' about engineering careers and, while almost all students had some direct experience of industry, 44% claimed that this work experience had put them off. The milk-round was frequently criticised for being too close to the finals. Almost two-thirds of the women questioned felt that the industry practiced some form of 'unofficial sex discrimination'.

### UNDERGROUND TRAVEL SURVEY

Research Services Limited is carrying out a major survey on behalf of London Underground Limited which will involve counting passengers and handing out questionnaires at all the stations on the Underground network.

We need to recruit a number of additional fieldworkers in order to complete the project. There will be opportunities to join our regular fieldforce for longer term employment.

One day will be worked at each station and the job will run from January 29th until Easter. The work will be regular but need not be full-time and the days and times you could work are very flexible.

Each day will be split into three five hour shifts (7am-12 noon, 12 noon-5pm, 5pm-10pm), and fieldworkers will be paid £25 for each morning or evening shift and £20 for each afternoon shift. There will also be a number of three hour shifts. All the work will be carried out from Monday-Friday. Free travel on all London Regional Transport Services will be provided and an additional bonus will be paid at the end of the job.

Preliminary interviews will be followed by a one day training course (for which you will be paid).

If you would like further details and an application form please telephone 01-903 1399, ext 25 and ask for Theresa Singleton.