

Dramatic problems

The organisers of Theatre West End (TWE), the Edinburgh festival theatre venue run by Imperial College Dramatic Society, have appealed for help. The production company is seriously short of staff and may have difficulty running the venue which is already fully booked for two of the festival's three weeks.

TWE have asked for volunteers to help convert the venue, St John's Church, into a viable theatre; to set up and control the lighting, to produce publicity and to man the box office. Training will be provided

and no previous experience is required.

The company also intends to produce a version of 'Look Back in Anger' which needs a cast of five but, as yet, no would be actors have come forward. TWE co-ordinator, Zoe Hellinger estimates that a further 20 helpers are needed.

The company says that it will provide cheap accommodation for the volunteers. Anyone interested is asked to phone TWE on extensions 3531 or 3533 or to contact Helen Roberts (ext. 7479) or Mark Lahaise (ext. 7482).

Asked why the response had been so poor, Ms Roberts and Mr Lahaise told FELIX that they blamed general apathy and the fact that some of this year's Dramatic Society plays had been too obscure. This, they felt, had put people off the society but said that things would be different in future. They claim that, with a full quota of helpers, individual volunteers need only work a couple of hours a day making it an ideal opportunity to visit the festival cheaply.

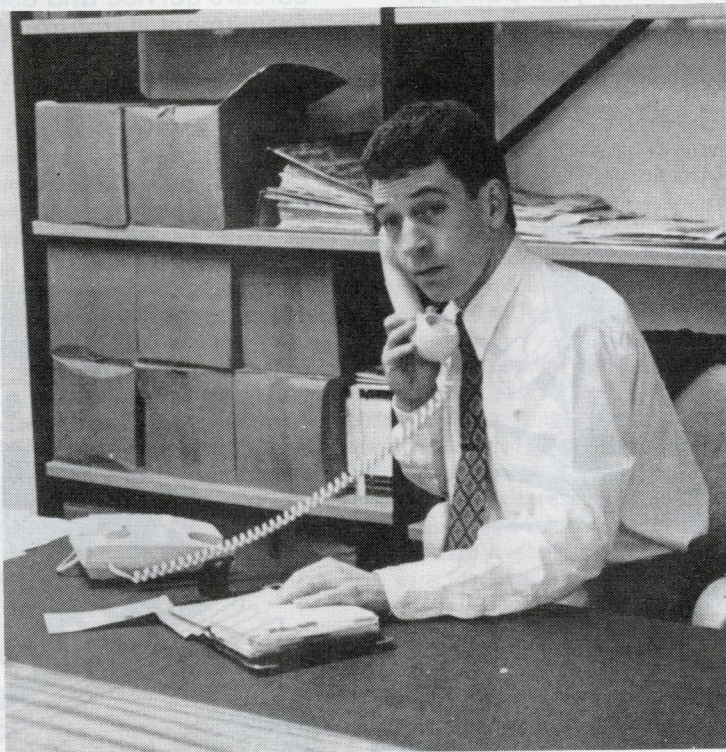
Union manager resigns

Imperial College Union Manager David Peacock has resigned. Mr Peacock, who is one of the Union permanent staff, formally handed in his notice last Friday and will be leaving in three months time. He has been in the post for the last three years.

The Union Manager is responsible for the day to day commercial running of the Union and its outlets. During his time here, Mr Peacock oversaw the refitting of the Union Snack Bar and helped put the loss-making book shop back on a sound financial footing after organising the takeover from college.

Union President, Neil McCluskey, told FELIX that he was 'quite sad' that Mr Peacock had been forced to resign but said that 'for a number of reasons' the post of Union Manager had not worked. The Union is now looking at ways in which the job description can be changed. The post may even be abolished although Mr McCluskey says that it is almost certain that a replacement will be found.

When he finally leaves, Mr Peacock will spend several months travelling while considering his future. He has a number of plans, some of which involve further work with student unions.



David Peacock, making his reservation on the first flight to Rio.

Bored of studies

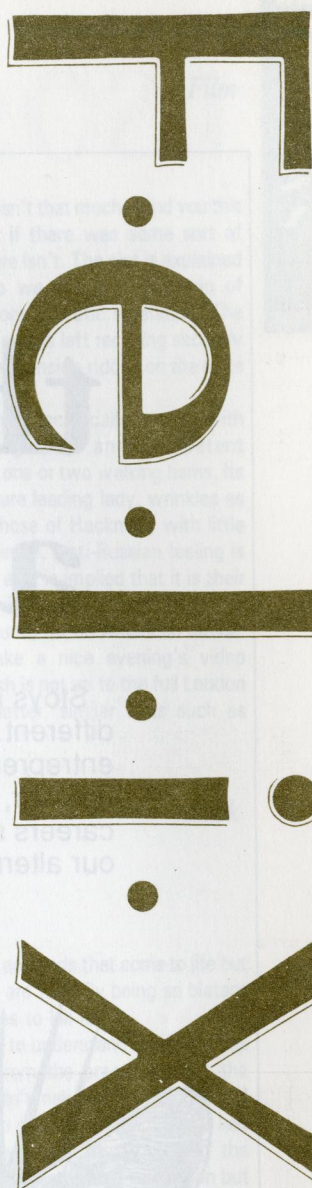
Imperial College's Board of Studies approved a draft of the College five year plan on Wednesday. The meeting, which lasted under half an hour, was one of just three during the year.

The plan, which is still confidential, is wide ranging, covering administration, academic affairs and college finances. The

meeting was the first chance for heads of departments and Imperial College Union representatives to have their say. ICU's representative, Deputy President Dave Williams, told FELIX that he was unable to attend as he was 'working in the bar.'

Sources have revealed that the board also considered the bids which the college

is required to submit to the University Funding Council (UFC), giving the number of students who are expected to take courses here. These bids directly affect the amount of government funding the college receives. The document will officially be released after it has been presented to Governing Body on Tuesday.



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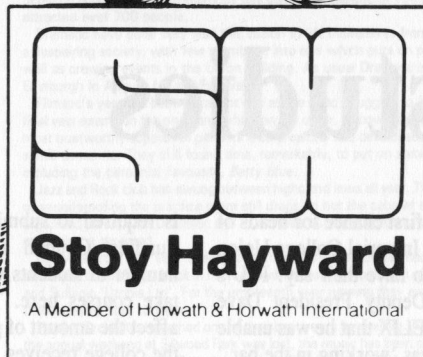
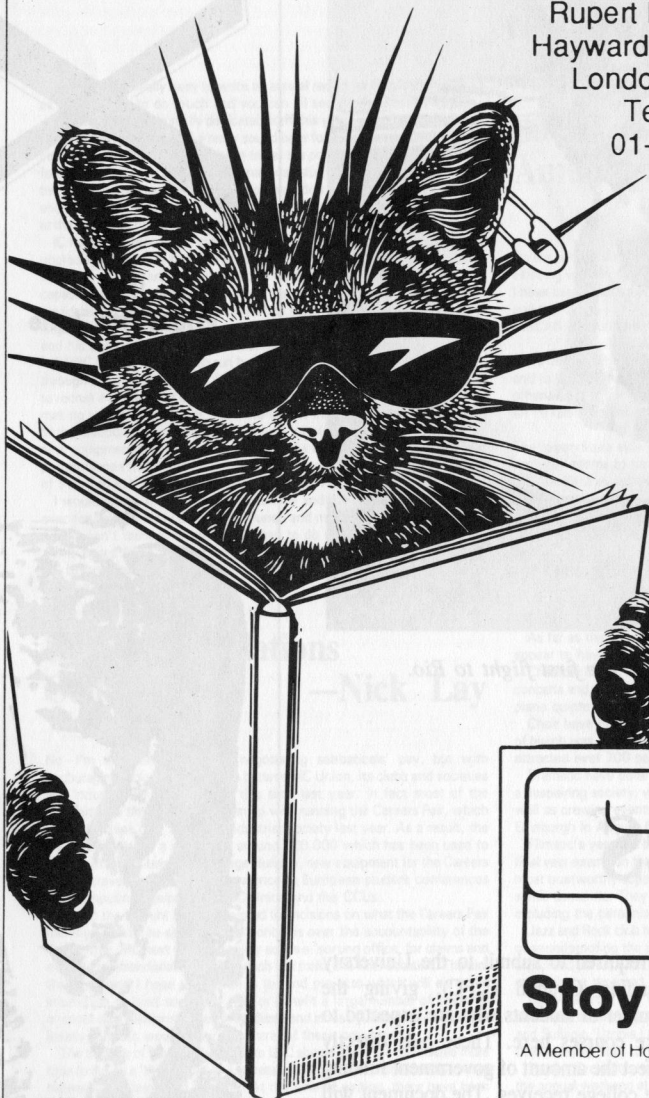
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The Package

If *The Hunt For Red October* was the last gasp of the pre-Glasnost thriller, *The Package* is definitely part of the inhalation of the new post-Glasnost thriller. The world is on the verge of peace. The Russians and Americans are about to sign a treaty that will end the nuclear threat, just in time for Christmas, the season of peace and goodwill to all men. Unfortunately various elements of the Armed Forces on both sides are none to happy about these developments. Well its reducing their job description isn't it? So they plan to assassinate one of the leaders. This is where Johnny Gallagher (Gene Hackman) gets involved. He is ordered to escort a 'package' (a courtmartialled serviceman) back to the good 'ole USA to serve time. Once the arrive, Gallagher is assaulted in a men's toilet (isn't that a criminal offence?) allowing his package to abscond. Gallagher then chases up his ex-wife, a personnel officer, who discovers that the package isn't who they thought he was...

There is one problem with this film. In a thriller there needs to be some element of doubt as to the outcome. When you are talking about the assassination of a



world leader there really isn't that much. Mind you this wouldn't be a problem if there was some sort of feeling of suspense. There isn't. The plot is explained in little chunks and so we get a steady drip of information instead of one climatic revelation. The suspense is missing, so one is left reclining securely in one's seat, not perched tension-ridden on the edge of it.

Beyond that the film is technically sound, with imaginative cinematography and competent performances, aside for one or two walking hams. Its nice to see a more mature leading lady, wrinkles as least as prominent as those of Hackman, with little sign of the obligatory bimbo. Anti-Russian feeling is still in evidence though as it is implied that it is their operatives that are the ring leaders. Aside from that is quite ideologically sound, for an American movie.

A film that will make a nice evening's video entertainment, but which is not up to the full London entrance price, with better, similar films such as *Internal Affairs* about.

Adam T.

Pyramids

by Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett has quite a pedigree; *The Colour of Magic*, *The Light Fantastic*, *Equal Rites*, *Mort*, *Sourcery*, *Wyrd Sisters* and now the seventh in the line, *Pyramids*. Each received more acclaim than its predecessor, while the quality of the books decreased. The trend continues.

Set in a world where magic rules, the dawn drifts in and pieces of luggage have legs, anything could happen. The world is a disc resting on the back of four giant elephants which in turn stand on the back of a huge turtle, Great A-Tuin (sex unknown).

The first couple of books follow Rincewind and 'The Tourist' through perilous adventures that were narrated in a friendly and subtle humorous way, the jokes just happening naturally.

In *Pyramids* he has branched out, completely deserting all of the original characters apart from Death, and has traded the gentle humour for a more

brutal 'I've got a joke and I'm going to use it' style. There are occasional glimpses of the old Pratchett but with the majority of the puns and quips that he is famous for found in the post-scripts the story flows along like tar on a carpet.

The story is fairly standard for a Pratchett book, i.e. completely stupid and impossible, although it does have more than a passing resemblance to *Wyrd Sisters*.

Teppic, who has trained as an assassin, becomes king of Djelibeybi a small kingdom with a fetish for pyramids. During the building of the latest monstrosity, the largest yet, weird and bizarre things start happening. When the kingdom eventually disappears into another set of dimensions he escapes on the back of the best mathematician on the Disc.

What follows is the script for what could have been a brilliant book, exploding pyramids, walking

mummies (and daddies) and gods that come to life but refuse to do what they are told. By being so blatant and obvious he manages to kill it.

Something I find hard to understand is why he has received such praise from the press. It's not the funniest book ever, it didn't make me cry with joy and if it was the best British science fiction book of last year the rest must have been very poor. At the moment he appears to be living on his reputation but soon that will dry-up.

To those who haven't read any Discworld novels before, start at the beginning and only graduate onto the latter books if you love the style. If you are an ardent fan then nothing will stop you, all I will say is that hopefully he will see the errors of his ways and correct himself soon.

Ian Hodge

Creator

Peter O'Toole plays a British eccentric. This does not come as a surprise, as that's what he does these days (*High Spirits*, *Jeffery Bernard is Unwell*). This time round his eccentricity manifests himself as a crusade to clone his dead wife. This he hopes to achieve in the shed in his backyard, with equipment he has appropriated from the University at which he works. Added to this is a randy new male undergrad assistant whose hormones are busy in a pursuit of a young female. Mix in a self professed 19 year-old nymphomaniac who muses 'How can a man respect a woman who comes five times between him ringing the bell and her answering the door?' and a obnoxious fellow scientist (David Ogden Stiers from *M*A*S*H*, doing what he does best) and set the ball rolling.

Improbable is perhaps somewhat of an understatement for this film, whose science is somewhat dubious at best, including such gems as the "Love Formula" which is subject to the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. The emotions are even worse, with the females in the cast falling in love

for such diverse reasons as having an orgasm while an egg is removed or being told all night long that 'I mean, what girl wants a guy to spend all night long going over every part of her body just because it feels good?'. The only moderately believable character is Dr. Harry Wolper, and this is solely due to O'Toole's uncommon talent, which lifts him far above the mediocrity of the rest of the cast.



rate blue movie, complete with neck licking and ear sucking. The entire thing seems to be singlemindedly directed towards telling us that love is the 'Big Picture', ie everything, a message that has been told far better in numerous other films. Sexist, emotionally deficient and lacking in humour which is actually funny, it should be perfect for the typical IC student.

Adam T.

The rest is pathetic sentimentalising and second

Book

Film

LSO: Mahler Symphony No.2.

Conducted by M. Tilson Thomas

'The programme notes are excellent,' Tilson Thomas said, 'but I'd just like to say a few words.' He then talked at considerable length about the spiritual roots of the 'mystical' Carl Ruggles, whose three works, Angels, Organum and Exaltation, opened the concert. Only eight pieces were published by this American composer, who destroyed much of what he wrote. Angels is for muted brass, all of which seem to be trying to be as discordant as possible. The second piece is more harmonious, whilst Exaltation, a hymn tune written in memory of Ruggles' wife, is pleasant enough, but ultimately uninteresting. Tilson Thomas is obviously a Ruggles enthusiast, but his opening remarks were embarrassing and unnecessary.

On to Mahler's second symphony. Although the work explores death, it is ultimately an optimistic piece concerned with the resurrection after the Final Judgement. The powerful and unsettling funeral march themes of the opening movement give way to rejoicing in the choral setting of Friedrich Klopstock's *Resurrection Ode* in the last movement.

This performance can only be described as magnificent. Tilson Thomas coaxed the orchestra through the spectrum of sentiment found in the work and handled the sudden changes of mood and tempo with a highly sensitive touch. The LSO exhibited their usual excellence, especially evident in such a demanding piece, with the brass section deserving

special credit.

Of the two soloists, the contralto, Alfreda Hodgson, started hesitantly and was disappointingly weak in the *Urlicht* section. However she strengthened in the Finale when accompanied by Alison Hargan, who sang the soprano part with passion. The London Symphony Chorus provided competent support.

Dragging the audience through the extremes of emotion contained in the symphony, the LSO certainly gave it an airing equal to its epic intentions. Their attack on Mahler's ninth symphony on June 10th should be eagerly anticipated.

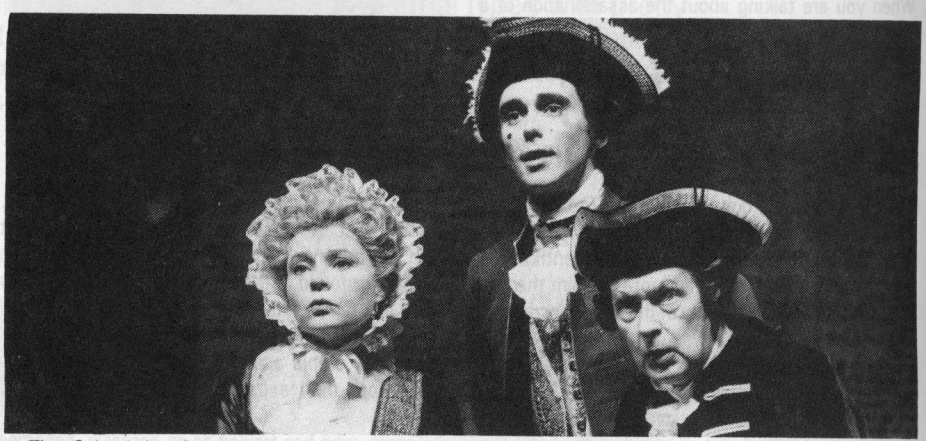
Liz W.

School for Scandal

Theatre

A delightful evening at The Theatre begins with a crowd of seventeenth century socialites, spreading malicious rumour, overlaid with the amplified sound of whispering. Mrs Sneerwell (Jane Asher) and Joseph Surface, together with a Mr Snake, both intend to use lies and scandal to their amorous advantage. But the plot thickens as we meet the other characters, with equally revealing names like Mrs Candour (Prunella Scales) and Mr Backbite. The very tools Surface and Sneewell are using backfire on them with amusing consequences.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan's classic restoration comedy is well suited to the Olivier Theatre's stage and is brought to life with harmonic costumes, an impressive set and highly enjoyable performances. His bitter-sweet satire and portrayal of sexual profligacy are just the thing for Londoners immersed in Twentieth Century excess. Flawless.



The School for Scandal is on at the National Theatre. The Olivier box office is on 071-928 2252.

Student standbys cost £5. Adrian Pagan.

We're No Angels

Film

Sean Penn and Robert De Niro play a couple of Laurel and Hardy type criminals resigned to life inside a demeaning prison. When a condemned prisoner makes his escape, however, they are inadvertently swept up into the jail break. If they're found, they too will be executed by the sadistic warden. Luckily they manage to hitch a lift into town with an old woman who mistakes them for travelling priests. From the town, all they have to do is cross the river (and the border) into safety. Unfortunately they are again mistaken for real priests and are taken into the local monastery. A blockade is put across the bridge and prison guards start a house to house search. From their hiding place, they plan a daring escape...

At this point you may be forgiven if you're thinking 'Sounds like a *Nuns on the Run* rip off'. This is unfortunate as many people may decide not to risk seeing the same film twice, whereas this film is actually completely different. *Nuns on the Run* is a straight comedy. 'We're No Angels' tends to be a thriller but with some comic patches.

At the beginning, inside the prison, with views of squalid conditions, and brutal oppression leading to a tense jail break, this seems like a normal thriller, simmering nicely. Once outside though we wonder why the duo were in such a degrading place to start

with; they don't seem ruthless or intelligent enough. Making the escapees fairly inept is supposed to offer potential for farcical situations to occur where a thriller might have an explosion or two. This certainly cuts down on costly explosions, but does it make a good film?

The combining of thriller and comedy is not attempted often, and this time the mix of genres tends to separate and become somewhat lumpy. Generally the comedy involves the duo's mistaken identity, priest's vows (Demi Moore is the shapely temptress here) and their lack of knowledge of church affairs. This is often quite amusing, but it doesn't tie in well with the thriller aspects of the hunt by the warden and the third psychopathic escaped prisoner. This third man, an escaped killer, is put in some ludicrous situations that, although amusing at the time, are unconvincing and weaken the film.

Penn and De Niro play their parts well, but many of the supporting cast are more believable and could have come from a serious drama. I feel that some of the 'in-built' jokes such as the thick and dopey guards should have been dropped, but the rest does not fail to please.

Toby Jones

Hanging the President

Theatre

Michele Celeste's powerful new play, first performed at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, seems to be on the first stage of a 'world tour'. Set in a condemned cell in a South African prison, the play presents a 'shit and all' view of the last hours of the lives of two white murderers and the bizarre sexual power games they play with the warden and with each other. They feel cheated that the (South African) President is allowing them to hang: especially when a black political (prisoner) who is to be executed with them is flung into their cell. They feel that that is the ultimate form of degradation.

As the time draws nearer their desperation increases and drives them to extremes as they wait for a reprieve. You cannot help being drawn into the intensity of this production which is admirably crafted by a powerful and fearless cast and although the script seems a little dated (after the events of the past few months) *Hanging the President* is a wrenching commentary on apartheid and South Africa today. Shockingly good.

Adrian Pagan.

Has the art of creativity died at Imperial College? Kenan Ardali gives his views.

Motivation

The problems of student motivation seem to be very much in the news lately. Naturally, departments within the College are concerned with student drop-out and underachievement which correlate closely to this lack of motivation. Indeed, it is fair to say that a fair proportion of students who arrive with very good A-levels and high expectations do underachieve at Imperial. This is partly attributable to the unnatural environment of university life which demands self-motivation, discipline and dedication in a highly specialised subject. What academics seem to overlook is that most fresh undergraduates do not fully realise what they are letting themselves in for. The strains of acclimatisation to campus life coupled with new life experiences can affect a student's performance and outlook.

However, what is under scrutiny here is Imperial and, in particular, its engineering courses. Why do most students feel that if they could do it all again, they would go elsewhere? Certainly, to some extent, 'the grass is greener on the other side', but the facts speak for themselves: many of Imperial's engineers choose to turn their backs on at least three years of dedication on some of the toughest courses at one of the world's premier technical universities.

Why? Short- to mid- term financial gains are very lucrative in the City and, admittedly, engineering needs a lift both in its rewards and status within British society, but the fact remains that students leave because they do not like 'engineering'. The engineering student is rarely 'engineering' at Imperial. Rather, he is learning a lot of science with a fair smattering of maths. Too much emphasis is placed on number crunching and factual learning. Imperial has its proportion of narrow-minded bookworms who have an innate ability to memorise and analyse but not to synthesise.

Almost superficial to our engineering courses is what engineering is all about: the process of individual and collective input through practical application. This was what I naively expected engineering to be all about. The so-called practical lab and project work are on the whole outdated, uninspiring and far removed from industry. One is made to feel that no matter how hard one tries, it has been done better by someone before. One has no chance to assimilate and cross-relate material before more work comes piling in.

The student has no alternative but to rush work and keep trekking the eternal treadmill of work. By the time the student can input his own ideas, say through a final year project, he has usually lost his drive to do so. It becomes impossible to take pride in one's vocation. Finally, the salt is scoured into the wound with the nervous trauma of the dreaded exams: That wonderful week or fortnight preceded by the panic hours of revision, spent desperately cramming half-comprehended past questions which will hold no value let alone interest for the sufferer beyond the day of the examination.

Yes, the Imperial grail works for the blinkered student who loves and lives science and is happy to continue as such, but for most promising school leavers, arriving bright eyed and bushy tailed with hopes of living full lives, it does not.

So, what can be done? The engineering departments have begun in their own uncoordinated ways to make improvements. The Mechanical Engineering department seems to be taking the initiative, nicknamed ME2000, with a radical proposal

to change their course in preparation for European unity. Chemical and Aeronautical Engineering will hopefully continue to strengthen their ties with industry and the Continent through their various undergraduate projects. The Electrical Engineering department, extolling their course's virtues of 'the traditional, but very sound education', have nonetheless recognised the motivation problems of their students. The Head of Department, Professor Aleksander, in conjunction with his colleagues, has taken several positive steps forward in order to improve the deteriorating situation. For example, fresh undergraduates will spend the last few days of freshers' week discussing open-ended group design projects intended to give the student some

As a remedy, it has been suggested that engineering departments admit students with a broader range of 'A' levels, with the engineering departments providing students having only arts 'A' levels with a preparatory year of study that would bring them up to the levels of maths and physics required for an engineering degree. This would provide a more varied cross-section of students and may attract a much coveted commodity lacking at Imperial: women. As a means to the latter, the possibility of undergraduate degrees in humanities could be discussed.

Alternatively, students could be instructed in creativity techniques, such as brainstorming, synectics, lateral thinking, etc. Such techniques have been proven to improve an individual's creativity and



Come on kid, you can do it.

perspective on the genuine need for engineering knowledge in industry and the real world. Considerable time has been allocated to this project later on in the year. This development will allow students to provide personal input from day one. Another interesting development is the short term appointment of psychologist, Maureen Parr, who is currently looking at the possibilities of wider access for engineering departments.

Maybe part of the problem lies in the type of student who becomes an engineer. Engineering is not and should not be pure science. It is about being practical, creative and objective in approaching real problems. However, inherent in our education system is a restriction on the pool of potential engineers. The system limits this reservoir exclusively to 'A' level students who have studied at least maths and physics. There is a school of thought that proposes that students who have limited themselves almost exclusively to scientific disciplines from the age of, say, 16, are not sufficiently broadminded to be able to tackle engineering problems with creativity and originality.

will add to the individual's desirable skills, since most companies employ forms of idea generation and problem solving techniques. The psychology and application of creative thought is a fascinating area in itself but it also has numerous beneficial secondary effects: what better way to get to know someone than to discuss a problem with them? How better to learn about teamwork, communication and dealing with people than through a problem solving session? Indeed, how better to get a person motivated in their subject than giving them real problems to discuss in their subject area?

So come on Imperial, the ball is in your court. There are plenty of proponents for change, not just within the student body. In adapting to the changing environment, we are lagging behind other countries and even our own polytechnics. Our courses are on the whole too inflexible and archaic. Follow the examples of other forward looking universities and realise that you are not getting the most out of our most precious resources: raw intellect, enthusiasm, youth and hope.

Union Welfare Adviser, Yve Posner, outlines the benefits you will and won't be getting over the summer and next...

Welfare update—benefits to loans

The aim of this article is to provide an update on the position regarding some key welfare issues for students.

Housing Benefit

It is 99.9% certain that the majority of students will no longer be able to claim Housing Benefit from September 1 1990. The 0.1% margin of doubt is due to the fact that the amendments to regulations which will remove entitlement are yet to be laid before Parliament. However as there is no legislation to be passed it is unlikely that the proposed amendments will be changed even if the matter is debated in the House of Commons. Therefore we must assume that benefit will not be available from next term and this needs to be taken into account when looking for accommodation for next year. UK undergraduate students entitled to a Local Education Grant will be able to claim a student loan of up to £460.00 in London (£420.00 outside London); however in most cases this will not cover the amount lost in Housing Benefit.

There are some groups of students who will still be able to claim Housing Benefit:

- Single parent students
- Students with disabilities
- Students with non-student partners and/or children

Also if you claim Housing Benefit during the Summer Vacation you will be able to claim benefit up to the beginning of the Autumn Term (2.10.90). The essential condition is that you must be in receipt of benefit or make a claim **before 1.9.90** in order to qualify for a payment until 1.10.90.

Housing Benefit claim forms for most London Boroughs are held in the Welfare Office as well as further information about how to make a claim etc.

Unemployment Benefit/Income Support or 'Dole'

The amendments to the Benefit Regulations also apply to Unemployment Benefit and Income Support. Up until now students could sign on as unemployed in the Summer Vacation and claim benefit. From September 1990 this will no longer be possible. However as with Housing Benefit a student who claims UB/IS before 1.9.90 will be entitled to benefit up until the beginning of the Autumn Term.

If you have never claimed UB/IS before and want to do so this summer you need to follow these procedures:

1. Signing on—as soon as term ends (ie Monday June 25) you should go to your nearest Unemployment Benefit Office to register as unemployed. Details of addresses can be found in the Welfare Office or telephone directory. At the UBO you will see the new claims receptionist who will make an appointment for you to see the New Claimant Adviser. You will also be given form UB671 to complete which you must take to your interview.

2. UB671—this form has 27 questions to answer and is designed to test whether you are 'available for and actively seeking work'. If any doubts are raised by the



way you answer these questions you may be refused benefit. It is therefore essential that you take your time when completing this form. You should also bear in mind the following:

- indicate both the type of job you would like and also what you would be prepared to accept.
- where you are asked for the minimum wage/salary you will accept, you should put the going rate for the job. If in doubt put 'the going rate'.
- state that you will be flexible about hours and/or where you can travel to—you could say that you are prepared to travel to anywhere within reasonable distance of your home.
- you must indicate that you are prepared to take up a suitable vacancy straightaway.

3. Interview—at your interview with the New Claimant Adviser you will be asked what steps you are taking to find work and the adviser will make a note of your 'intended job search activity'. As a student you will be expected to consider 'all' types of temporary work even if it is badly paid. You will

also be told that 'job search activity' can be reviewed at any time. However for students making a short term claim this is unlikely to happen.

4. Claim for UB/IS—during your interview you will make your claim for Unemployment Benefit on form UB641. You should also be given form B1 to claim Income Support. Most students do not get UB because they have paid insufficient National Insurance Contributions. If you are not automatically given a B1 ask for one and say that you are a student. The completed B1 must be sent to the DSS Office covering your address.

5. Payment—Benefit is paid fortnightly by Girocheque. You will have to wait at least two weeks before your first payment. You will then continue to receive benefit provided you sign on when required.

6. Holidays—if you are going abroad you will not be entitled to Benefit whilst you are away and you will have to reclaim on your return. If you are going away in the UK you must go to the UBO and complete a

'holiday form' giving details of where you can be contacted. You are expected to give an assurance that you would cut short your holiday if offered a job.

Overseas Students

Overseas students from EEC countries and the following non-EEC countries: Iceland, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey and eligible to claim Housing Benefit and UB/IS. Those overseas students with settled status or right of abode can also claim. However these students will also lose entitlement when the changes to legislation become effective in September 1990.

Health Benefits

Help with NHS prescriptions, sight tests, glasses and dental treatment is not affected by the changes in legislation.

Health benefits are available to both UK and overseas students. The Benefits are means-tested (ie based on income) and can provide full or partial help towards the cost of treatment. To claim you need form AG1, available from either the Welfare Office or

your local DSS Office. If you qualify for help you will get a certificate which lasts six months at the end of which you will need to reapply.

Other Benefits

Family Credit—this benefit will still be available to students with children whose parents are in full-time work (at least 24 hours per week). It is a means-tested benefit and also classed as 'public funds' which means that some overseas student families are ineligible to claim.

Child Benefit, Disability Benefits (eg Mobility Allowance)

The rules for claiming these benefits are unchanged. They are equally available to both UK and overseas students.

If you would like further information about any of these benefits please call into the Welfare Office.

Health Care Abroad

If you are planning a trip to an EEC country this summer you will be able to get free or reduced cost

emergency medical treatment provided you are:

- A national of the UK or another EEC country
- A stateless person or refugee

The help only applies to treatment under state health care schemes. In order to receive treatment you need form E111 which can be obtained from the Post Office.

Poll Tax

Most students will have received their bills by now and have started to make payments. As Poll Tax was the subject of a feature article in FELIX earlier this year I will not go into any detail here. If there are still problems or queries please call into the Welfare Office or contact your Community Charge Office.

Accommodation/Housing Rights

The IC Union Housing Rights Pack is available from the Welfare Office or the Accommodation Office. If you are looking for private rented accommodation you should get a copy as it contains invaluable advice on finding accommodation, signing a tenancy agreement and your rights as a tenant.

Since the 1988 Housing Act came into force on 15.1.89 the rights of private tenants including students have been considerably changed. The types of tenancy agreements that tenants now sign are far more restrictive than those covered by the previous Housing Act. If you want to do something that is **not** included in the agreement then it is unlikely that the landlord will agree to any changes after you have signed it eg if the agreement does not include a notice to quit clause ie allowing you to leave before the end of the tenancy after giving one month's notice then you will be tied to the agreement.

It is therefore essential to read over an agreement **before** you sign it and if there is anything that you are not sure about then **seek advice!** The Housing Rights Pack contains details of organisations that provide advice so make sure you get your copy.

Student Loans

The Education (Student Loans) Act comes into force in September 1990. It provides for interest free loans to be made available to undergraduate students entitled to a Local Education Authority grant. The loan will not be given automatically but will have to be applied for. Application forms will be available in College. The 'claims' will be administered by a Government agency based in Glasgow. The amount for 1990/91 will be:

- up to £460 for London students living away from home
- up to £420 for students outside London living away from home
- up to £330 for student living at home

Further information about the scheme will be published as soon as it is available.

Yve Posner, ICU Welfare Adviser.

Chris Onof describes the repercussions of last year's events in Tiananmen Square.

China one year on

One year ago, on June 4, the whole world was appalled by the news from China; at least 1,000 people were killed that night as heavy troops moved through the streets of the city of Beijing and into Tiananmen Square to crush the peaceful student demonstration—charred protesters and onlookers were killed at random, shot, crushed by tanks and beaten to death.

Since that day, unknown numbers of people have been executed there. The Chinese media have reported 6,000 arrests, but Amnesty International believes the true number to be in the tens of thousands; moreover it is believed many detainees have been tortured.

In all cases, they will not have received a fair trial—for example, defendants often do not see a lawyer until right before the trial. The practice of 'verdict first, trial second' is also common in China and has been acknowledged in the legal press. Moreover, some prisoners do not receive a trial at all since Chinese laws permit detention without charge or trial for up to four years for 're-education through labour' for those with 'anti-socialist' views.

These appalling abuses of human rights are not new in China—Amnesty has been concerned by such violations of basic human rights in that country long before the Tiananmen Square massacre last June. For instance, Prisoners of Conscience also include Roman Catholic priests accused of supporting Tibetan independence and students and workers who were active in the 'democracy movement' of the late 1920s.

In January of this year, 573 detainees were released, but these moves were seen as cosmetic by many observers. Amnesty remains concerned about the thousands of other people who are still in detention today.

Amnesty is appealing to all students in the UK not to forget their fellow students who died during the massacre of June 1989. One way in which Amnesty International is asking students to become involved in this work is by campaigning for an individual student; Wang Dan.

Wang Dan is a history student at Beijing University who became a key figure in the pro-democracy movement last spring. He was chairman of the Student Society of Contemporary Social Problems and declared that he would never join the Communist Party because it did not live up to his ideals. After the attack on Tiananmen Square, he was seen counting the dead and wounded in nearby hospitals. On June 13, a warrant was issued for Wang Dan's arrest as one of the twenty 'most wanted' student leader. He tried to escape abroad but was arrested and apparently beaten up during interrogations.

Wang Dan is believed to be in Qingcheng Number 1 Prison, in solitary confinement and on reduced rations of food. He is reported to have had both legs broken and to have been blinded in one eye.



Prisoner of conscience—Wang Dan, once one of China's most wanted student leaders.

What you can do is to send letters demanding:

- That Wang Dan be released immediately or charged with a recognisably criminal offence and that the details of any charge be made public.
- That if charged, he be brought to trial as soon as possible allowing him the opportunity to form proper legal defence. Any trial must conform to international standards of justice.
- To ensure that Wang Dan is safeguarded against possible torture or ill treatment while in custody.
- That the authorities grant Wang Dan access to lawyers, medical care, family and friends whilst in custody.

The addresses are:

Li Perg Zongli (Prime Minister)
Guowuyuan
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Liu Fuzli Jian chazlang (Procurer General)
Zuigao Renmin Jiangchoy-wan
Beijingshi
Zhongma Renmin Gong Leguo
People's Republic of China

Sending letters will help as part of a China campaign which culminated with demonstrations in London on June 4.

If you want a brochure about the campaign, come and see me (Chris Onof, Civ Eng PG, Room 307A, extension 4856).

FELIX BOUND EDITIONS

Will be £30 this year
Please see Dave in the FELIX Office
Bring your cheque book

Chaplains—a bunch of Charlies?

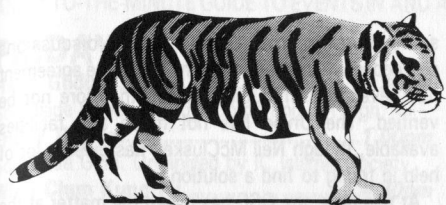


You are invited to the
CHAPLAINCY OPEN DAY
10am, Sunday 10th June 1990
Senior Common Room
Level 2, Sherfield Building,
Imperial College
*A chance for you to find out more
about what we do...*



WEST LONDON CHAPLAINCY





F·e·l·i·X

Dave Williams

The College's Board of Studies meets three times a year. It is the highest body which reports to the Governing Body on academic affairs. Mr Williams' failure to attend the meeting is inexcusable. Whether he forgot or was just too busy working in the bar, his priorities were certainly in the wrong place. He is now beneath contempt, and no longer worthy of comment as a sabbatical of the Union. Come back Chas Brereton, all is forgiven.

David Peacock

I was sorry to hear of David Peacock's resignation. As Union Manager, David has achieved a great deal for the Union during his three years here. His presence has added a continuity to the Union's long term plans,

which was often lacking in the past. Perhaps his greatest achievement is the Union Bookstore, which he has worked on this year. David has turned the outlet round from a loss making enterprise to a success story, to which the college should aspire. The Bookstore was one area in which David Peacock was given a large say in the reorganisation and refitting. The refitting of the Union Snack Bar in 1988/89 was an area in which David had little say. The difference is clear; whilst the bookstore has a professional appearance, the snack bar has been redecorated in a shoddy fashion (who suggested a red floor and blue tables and walls?) In the past, sabbaticals have tried to be what they are not: from expert caterers to computer consultants. I hope the Union has learnt that a professional member of permanent staff should be allowed to work professionally. The new role of the union manager should involve the management of the day to day running of the union's trading outlets and the implementation of carefully planned marketing campaigns as well as the introduction of outside consultants when they are needed. The Union has lost its greatest asset in David Peacock. I hope they will join me, however, in wishing him all the best for the future.

Bound Editions

Bound editions of FELIX will cost £30 this year. Anybody requiring a bound edition should see me with a cheque for the full amount by the end of term.

Subscriptions

If you are leaving college this year and would like to continue receiving FELIX, you can subscribe for just

£11, which includes postage to your home address. If you are reading this and already subscribe to FELIX, please note that you will not receive a free issue after the last issue of this term. Subscriptions for next year should reach the FELIX Office by July 31st. Please make cheques payable to 'Imperial College Union Publications Board (FELIX).'

Next Issue

FELIX will not appear next week whilst the end of year edition is being produced. Rose Atkins' Birthday will be on Friday 22nd June, there will be a special bumper end of term issue to celebrate. Rose is 32, and likes looking after children and old people.

Staff meeting

There will be a staff meeting on Monday at 12.45 to discuss final arrangements for the last issue. Please turn up, I'm buying the drinks.

Credits

Many thanks this week and last to Jason Lander for news; Adam Tinworth for reviews and patience; Chris Tamdjidi for tidying the camera room and help all round; Toby Jones, Adrian Pagan, Liz Warren and Ian Hodge for reviews; Rose and Andy; Jeremy Burnell for business, tidying my office and general help; Sarah for bromides; Mylan Lester, Benjamin Turner, Richard Eyers and Jason Lander for collating last week. Thanks also to this weeks contributors: Steve Gargett, BJ, Kenan Ardali, Chris Onof and Yve Posner.

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URGENT!

Science/Maths graduates for September 1990 to work in: Caribbean, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zibabwe.

Open afternoon:

JUNE 13th

2pm

Come and discuss these opportunities with Kate Hemmingway at VSO headquarters, or ring for further details

VSO

VSO sends men and women to share their skills with the people of the Third World

317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PN

Tel: 071-780 2266

WORLD CUP 1990

Live coverage in the Union Snack Bar!

Bar open for all these matches:

11th June	Scotland vs Costa Rica 4pm
	England v Ireland 8pm
16th June	England vs Holland 8pm
20th June	Scotland vs Brazil 8pm
21st June	England vs Egypt 8pm

BETTER THAN A PIZZA!

Annual Report—Wouter van Hulten, Overseas Students Officer

This report sums up most of the activity of the Overseas Students Committee during the year 1989-90.

New Societies

This year, the constitutions of two new societies, Indonesian and Japanese Society have been agreed to by the Union Council, after operating for one year. Both societies are running successfully.

Old Societies

Several societies have not been organising activities. Brazilian, Egyptian and Lebanese Societies were all not active.

Asian Society

Asian Society, under the leadership of Bhartendu Vyas, created at the end of 1988-89, has experienced some hard times. Various allegations have been made at the Societies' Committee, contributing to the entertainment of the readers of Felix. The financial control on the society is not 100% secure. The OSC has decided that the society can only continue to receive Union monies with a new Committee.

Chinese Society

Chinese Society also encountered allegations of

keeping an external bank account. However, this was based on a mistake by the Bank, and the matter was solved satisfactorily.

International Night

A lot of effort was put into the organisation of the International Night and this year's International Night has been very successful, generating over 1000 pounds profit, compared to a loss in 1989.

Publicity

In a UGM decision at the end of 1989, foreign language was banned from all publicity posters put up around College. Only English language is permitted. It is argued that, if foreign language were allowed on posters, many people would be excluded from knowing what was happening around College. This rule has certainly not been popular with the Overseas Students Societies, many which have been fined because of it.

Haldane Library

From discussions with College and Union people, it has been revealed to the OSC that during the Summer of 1989, Nigel Baker, then Union President, had informed the Haldane Library that the Union would be pleased to keep the Overseas Students newspapers

somewhere in the Union. These discussions proceeded without informing the OSC. The agreement has never been minuted and can therefore not be verified. The Union has not made any facilities available, though Neil McCluskey has given a lot of help in trying to find a solution.

At this time, the OSC has raised the matter at the College Committee on Overseas Students, it has made the members of the College Student Welfare Committee aware of it, and the OSC has written to the College Librarian, Mrs Magda Czigany, asking the return of our newspapers to the Haldane Library. No reply has yet been received to this request. They just don't give a shit.

Finance

The OSC has now also introduced tighter financial bookkeeping measures, making it more difficult for Societies to overspend.

Elections

Andreas Massouras (Computing 2) is the new Overseas Students Officer. Roberto Siletti (Elec Eng 2) is the new OSC Treasurer.

Wouter van Hulten Overseas Students Officer 1989/90

Annual Report—Tim King, Recreational Clubs Committee Chair

It has been a vintage year for the RCC. In any other, the 60th Birthday of the Gliding Club would have been the pinnacle. Nick Lay has capped his high profile in the Union with a great job as Captain, organising a superb Dinner with the guest list reflecting the high quality of Imperial graduates.

However, the crowning glory has been the success of the Dance Club. Amanda Green, as President, has tirelessly worked to get the club to Florida, where they won trophies in half of the competitions entered. This mirrored achievements in British events and the completion of a 24-hour dance marathon.

Clive Dodimead has kept the RCC accounting system (as now used by all other MSC's) in good shape. We are now working on a database to manage non-financial information.

The RCC has introduced a Colours sub-committee to consider 175-word written nominations and a supply of newly-designed ties is on order.

The current run of success in RCC management is founded on strong continuity in the Exec. Next year, for the third in succession, close personal ties through Scout and Guide Club or Mechanical Engineering are present.

Chairman	Clive Dodimead, Mech Eng IV
Vice-Chairman	Amanda Green, Mech Eng IV
Hon Sec	Jim Tinnion, Physics III
Asst Hon Sec	Tim King, Mech Eng PG
Transport Officer	Dave Jackson, Mech Eng III

However, I wish to end by highlighting that our Senior Treasurer, John Harrison, continues to provide an excellent supply of experience, despite his many other interests.

Ents

The last Ents gig of the year will take place in the Union Lounge on the last day of term (June 22)—and what a gig it will be! We have two bands lined up, a disco till late, a happy hour from 8-9pm and a bar extension until 1am.

The main band of the night is *The Levellers*. A folk rock outfit with that Irish sound along the lines of *The Men They Couldn't Hang* and *The Pogues*. An excellent band who have just released a new album *A Weapon Called the World* which will be one of the classic LPs of all time. In the present raggle taggle hysteria created by certain music papers these boys can do no wrong so put your fighting boots on and your drinking trousers and haul ass over to the Union Lounge tonight for 9pm

Supporting these funsters is a new band doing the rounds called *Boy, Girl Soup*. They are a very new and promising act with a sublime collection of great pop songs drawing from such talent as *The Wonderstuff* and the *Hooch Gurus*.

Entrance to the evening's entertainment is nowt but please bring a Union card, preferably your own. Thanks to everyone who has helped this year, congratulations to Emma, Gwyn, Rufus and Andy and sorry Natasha and Louise. See you all then, or else, and at next year's Freshers' Week.

BJ.

Wine tasting

Scanning through a restaurant wine list can be an extremely self-defeating experience which we all encounter some time or other. Instead of choosing a wine which compliments the meal we somehow end up with an unpleasant ten pound tippie. The truth is that the majority of wines featured alongside restaurant menus are drunk far too young. For many of us this is one of the few occasions on which we drink wine. Perhaps not an impressive introduction?

Most people take a little nudging to appreciate wine. Having spent some of my childhood in France I vividly recall the ever-present bottle of claret with every meal except breakfast. Despite my French background I barely drank until I was sixteen. The wine was merely one of several efficient substances used to get drunk. The final nudge came at Imperial when I risked a Wine Tasting meeting. I was relieved to find that I recognised several members whom I knew weren't synonymous with 'boring'. In fact it was down to the bar afterwards to neck a couple of pints and chat

about the week's absurdities.

The concept of drinking first-rate wines with meals is unrealistic on a student budget. However, every Tuesday evening the Wine Tasting Society sets the stage for you to taste a selection of eight wines under the guidance of a guest speaker. Occasionally there are also blind tastings which are my favourite events since they offer the ideal opportunity to fraternise whilst trying to determine as much as possible about the wines from their appearance, smell and taste. Imperial can boast an excellent competitive record in this, further enhanced by the recent victory in the University Wine Tasting Competition.

The outlook for next year looks promising since many of the contacts with wine suppliers and speakers have already been made. Perhaps you will flirt with the idea of starting Tuesday evenings tasting wine. I hope so.

Steve Gargett, IC Wine Tasting Soc Treasurer.

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.
- 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.
- Cricket Indoor Nets**.....7.45pm
Met in Mech Eng Foyer. Bring your whites, we have three nets this term.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

SATURDAY

- Karate Practice**.....10.00am
Southside Gym.
- Wu Shu Kwan**.....4.30pm
Southside Gym. Beginners Class.
- LIVE BAND**.....9.00pm
Southside. 'The Crystal Field' play live. Entrance free.

SUNDAY

- Chaplaincy Sunday Service**.....10.00am
Sheffield Building Anteroom.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm
Senior Common Room, Union Building.
- IC Summer Fair**.....2.30pm
Queen's Lawn. Science stalls, food, music, fun. Take a break from swotting to be fed, entertained, and to support the student societies showing their wares.
- 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.
- MethSoc Meeting**.....5.30pm
Chaplain's Office.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm
Southside Gym with Vicky.
- Improver's Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR. Dance Club.
- Beginners Rock 'n' Roll**.....6.45pm
SCR.
- Swimming Training**.....6.30pm
Prince's Gardens Sports Centre. New members welcome—all levels of ability.
- Advanced Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR.
- 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
SCR. Beginners.
- Latin American Advanced**.....8.15pm
SCR.
- 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.
- CathSoc Mass**.....12.30pm
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.
- Sailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge for 'Guinness and Gossip'.
- Ski Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- ICU Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Riding Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge.
- Boardsailing Club Meeting**.....12.30pm
Southside Lounge to sign up for Wednesday and weekend trips.
- Ents Meeting**.....1.00pm
Union Lounge.
- Student Christian Movement**.....5.30pm
Chaplains Office, Basement Flat, 10 Prince's Gardens.
- 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 Prayer Meeting**.....5.40pm
Huxley 411.
- Canoe Club**.....6.00pm
Meet in Beit Quad or we can be found in Southside Upper Lounge from 8.30-ish. Beginners welcome.
- New Beginners Ballroom**.....6.00pm
JCR.
- Judo**.....6.30pm
Union Gym.
- Intermediate Ballroom**.....7.00pm
JCR. Dance Club
- Football/Rounders Match**.....7.30pm
Meet at Bandstand in Kensington Garden. Organised by the West London Chaplaincy.
- Improver's 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.
- Midweek Service**.....1.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road.
- Wing Chun Kung Fu**.....1.00pm
Union Gym. Beginners lessons.
- 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.
- Ladies Only Water Polo**.....6.30pm
IC Sports Centre. Enthusiastic new members welcome—all ability.

- Wu Shu Kwan**.....7.30pm
Union Gym. Experts class.
- FREE DISCO**.....9.00pm
In the Union Lounge Nightclub until 1am.

THURSDAY

- Christian Union Prayer Meeting**.....8.15am
Chaplaincy.
- Audio Society Meeting**.....12.30pm
See Tuesday's entry.
- IC Fencing Club**.....12.30pm
Union Gym. Every week.
- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Aero 266. Come along to arrange your first flight.
- ICSF Library Meeting**.....1.00pm
ICSF Library (below Beit). Members can borrow from 1,700 books.
- YHA**.....12.30
Southside Upper Lounge. Sign up for weekend break. Everyone welcome.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....1.00pm
Southside Upper Lounge. All newcomers and hardened balloonies welcome. Sign up for weekends in the clouds.
- 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.
- ICCGA Soup Run**.....9.00pm
Meet Week's Hall Basement Kitchen. Deliver food to London's down and outs.

NEXT FRIDAY

- 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.
- IC Radio Disco**.....8.30pm
Southside.

BATSMEN & BOWLERS

the IC B2's need both!
Social cricketers for friendly
fixtures throughout the
summer

CONTACT:

John Herrick: ext 5985
Andy Clapham: 081-543 4494 (eves)
Mick Sumra: 071-228 1292 (eves)

Degree stop Under construction on rents

Students who do not pay college accommodation bills now risk not being allowed to continue their degrees. The new provision, which was approved at the last Governing Body, was described by College Senior Assistant Finance Officer, Malcolm Aldridge as 'a more humane way' of persuading students to pay.

There has always been a provision under college rules to withhold degree results until bills have been paid although not to withhold the degree itself. Mr Aldridge told FELIX that this had meant that debts could remain uncollected for two years. He believes that threatening to stop a student continuing his or her course will encourage more first and second years to pay. He estimates that there will be about ten degree stops in any one year.

The details are still being worked out, but Mr Aldridge believes that students with unpaid bills will automatically receive two reminders before any action is taken. A third reminder, usually sent out in the last week of term, will include a warning that if the cash is not paid before the end of the summer vacation, the student's degree will be stopped. He emphasised that the residences are run as a 'commercial operation' and that debts, which account for between 1/2 and 1% of the residence turnover, must be recovered.

Students will be able to appeal to either the finance office or to the registry if they feel that they have been unfairly treated. As a last resort, some departments may be able to provide loans if they feel a student is of good academic standing.

It's that time of year

This year's Imperial College Summer Fair will be held on the Queens Lawn on Sunday 10th June. Entrance will be £1 for students and children and £2.50 for others. Tickets are available from the registry and the senior common room at lunchtimes.

Careers magazine

Imperial College Careers Service have launched a new publication, 'Student Newsbriefing'. Careers Adviser Russ Clark claims that the publication, which is still only on trial, will contain 'news rather than teaching material'. If it is successful, the Careers Service hope to sell advertising space within it to prospective employers. Copies of 'Student Newsbriefing' are available on departmental noticeboards or from room 310 in the Sherfield Building.

More job advertisements will be available on the newly installed hoardings in the Junior Common Room (JCR). The hoardings are fully booked for the next year and any profit made will go to Imperial College Union.



Imperial College Union's new barbecue cost almost £100 to build and then almost £150 to rebuild after Union Deputy President decided to demolish it. Would-be architectural critics had succeeded in knocking holes in the original. £60 of the money spent on barbecue 2 went to pay a professional bricklayer to do the job properly. Doug King, speaking on behalf of the first construction crew, admitted that they had been 'pissed' but added that the barbecue had

'character.'

Mr Williams paid 24p a brick while retiring Union Manager Dave Peacock, who was given charge of operation barbie mark II, managed to obtain bricks at just 17p each. The barbecue is to be used to provide hot food on summer evenings.

Dave Williams will be leaving the Union at the end of July.

Charlies

Security around the Southside halls of residence has been stepped up again in an attempt to stop people throwing things from windows. Chief Security Officer Geoff Reeves told FELIX that in an incident on Tuesday evening, a full champagne bottle, dropped from Southside had narrowly missed a passer by. Security guards will now go on one extra patrol a night. A memo has been sent to all Southside residents informing them of the changes and warning them of the consequences.

Golden years

The first generation of Imperial College chemical engineering students started their degrees almost 50 years ago and, the department claims, this makes it the longest running course in the United Kingdom. They will be marking the Jubilee by inviting as many as possible of the 2000 graduates to a celebration in mid-September 1990. They are also preparing a pictorial history of the course.

Collators

The last FELIX of the year will be collated on Monday 18th June. We will be collating all day with alcoholic assistance. Please pop in and help if you have a spare half an hour.

Festival Eye

Copies of the guide to this summer's festivals around Britain are now available. Contact the FELIX Office for further details.