

Friday 30th November  
Issue Number 885

# Zeelix

**Parachute Bums  
Raise Over £350 p3**

**Crossfire—A new  
Series of Controversy  
& Philosophy p10,11**







# QMW Departments Slashed

Queen Mary and Westfield College is to lose at least one, and probably two departments. To alleviate an ongoing and unspecified deficit, their 'Cuts Group' have put forward four suggestions to save £1.5 Million. The cuts are much worse than expected. All four options involve the closure of Mediterranean Studies, the only department of its type in Europe.

The options are:-

A - Make the cuts across all 15 loss-making departments.

B - Cut Biology and Engineering severely, and make smaller cuts across the other departments.

C - As above, except Russian, Drama and German are excluded from cuts.

D - Close Biology completely, cut Engineering severely.

QMW College is opposed to A as it would seriously damage many departments, and destroy Russian. B and

C would probably lead to the closure of Biology anyway, and so option D seems most likely.

The options will be put to Universities Funding Council (UFC) on December 13. The QMW Student's Union Executive Committee (QMWSU Exec) believe that option D has already been decided upon by Professor George Zellick, acting Principal of QMW, and the 'Cuts Group', and claim that UFC will act as a 'rubber stamp to that decision'.

No time scale has yet been announced for the cuts, but it is rumored that cuts would have to take place almost immediately to be effective. All students will be able to finish their degrees, but not necessarily at QMW. The closure of Biology will affect 700 students and 300 staff. Staff reductions across other departments are likely. There will be no overall drop in student numbers, as QMW

will increase the numbers on cheaper Arts courses.

QMWSU Exec believe that the crisis is the result of 'years of underfunding and mismanagement' and maintain that 'cuts of any kind are unacceptable'. They are encouraging students to write to their MPs over the cuts, and have started a petition. A march is being held on Wednesday, starting at 2.00pm outside ULU and going on to UFC. Students from any college are encouraged to come along and support the march.

Paul Shanley, ICU president said that it was 'sad that QMW were putting financial considerations before academic ones', but that the Mediterranean Studies closure was 'no great loss, SOAS is the only one of its type in Europe, but it should be burnt down!'

## Print Unit Moves To Mary's

The College Print Unit will be moving to St. Mary's early next year, merging with the facilities that exist there already. Mr Keith Fisher, Senior Assistant Secretary, Servicing of Governing Body and Committees, said that the increased cost of sending print work over to Mary's would be offset by labour savings as one printer was leaving to do social work.

Mr Fisher admitted that no system for collecting print work to be sent to Mary's had been produced yet, though this would be dealt with. A lot of College print work was sent to outside contractors, Mr Fisher said. This is unlike Mary's where a lot of printing is done internally.

He said that the main advantage of the move was to create a free room, the College being 'strapped for space', although there are no plans for the room at the moment. This, he said, was because a combination of circumstances had lead to the move occurring in a short space of time.

Mr Fisher said that the newer of the two off-set litho printers in College will be moved to Mary's, replacing the 'ancient' unit there. He also said that the Print Unit's photocopier would be staying in Sheffield and would be run by a junior member of staff.

Of the current Print Unit staff, Gary Humphries, (Photocopy and Finishing

Supervisor) has handed in his notice whilst Mr. Steve Davis, (Off-set Litho Supervisor) has been offered a placement at the Mary's site. Both of them said that they were 'not very happy' with the plans.

When asked if he had any involvement in the plan to move, Mr. Davis answered 'none at all'. He said that he had received a call a week ago from Mr Fisher who offered him a job at Mary's, starting on the 1st of January.

Mr. Davis sees the main problem with the move will be the customers. Many, he said, require print work straight away, and this will not be possible during the move.

## Clayponds

Loretta O'Callaghan, College Accommodation Officer, complained yesterday about students going to visit the new Clayponds residential site. Still under construction, she said that 'it's a building site, they shouldn't be there', adding that at the moment it was dangerous and that their actions were 'ridiculous.'

Miss O'Callaghan said that she was very pleased though with the number of applications resulting from the article in FELIX last week and the promotional handouts for the site. The application forms were coming 'in droves' and that to date they have received 'well over 200 application forms'. This she described as an 'excellent response.'

When asked about replies and acceptances of applications she said that these would be done as soon as possible, 'hopefully before the end of the term.'

## Montpelier Confusion

A 'positive decision' over the residents of Montpelier will be made on Friday said Mr Gordan Marshall, Director of IC. He had originally told Dr Richard Clarke, warden of Montpelier, that the residents would have to leave by the 16th December when their current contracts expire.

After reporting the original leaving date to residents, Dr Clarke, in a meeting on the 11th November, told them that they would be able to stay on until the end of March, a message he had received from Accommodation. Dr Clarke told Felix that he had presumed that this meant until the end of the first term next year. He also said that he was receiving more information via Felix and the

Accommodation office than from Mr Marshall.

Mr Clarke was told by Angus Fraser, Managing Director of Imperial College, this Monday that he could not give any assurance that the residents could stay over Christmas and that a decision would be made today, dependant on decisions by Westminster Council. Mr Marshall, however, said that it was proving difficult to get hold of Westminster and that various factors 'all seem to come out of the woodwork together'.

Dr Clarke further said that it was 'essential to plan over Christmas' for the possible lack of accommodation and that he thought that students were 'not being considered' in the current plans.

# Southwell Ceiling Collapse



Two weeks ago a ceiling in Southwell House, Evelyn Gardens, collapsed while one of the residents was in the room. She had just stood up from her desk and turned to walk across the room when the plaster 'fell down in front of my eyes'. She said that if her room mate had either been working at her desk, getting something from the wardrobe or entering the room then she would have been hit by the falling plaster.

The area of ceiling that fell had just recently been painted to match in with the rest of the room as only two years ago a similar incident occurred. At that time the problem was solved by patching the lost area of plaster and not replacing the whole ceiling of the room. This operation will again be employed as the cost for patching the area is only about £130, under a quarter of the cost of a full repair job.

Joe Dines, from Estates, who is dealing with the situation said that the problem had arisen because of water leaking

through the floor from the kitchen above the room. He had been informed that cleaners were leaving the freezers turned off at night to defrost them. Water poured out of the freezers and passed through the unsound vinyl floor, soaking the ceiling below. Mr Dines has written to Peter Leeson about the situation and asked him to stop the cleaners from defrosting the fridges in this manner.

Mr Dines believes that the solution to the problem has now been found and that repairs to the kitchen floor will start this morning. After the weekend, when the ceiling of the room will have had time to dry, work will begin on the patch. Allowing for the plaster and then the paint to dry, Mr Dines said that the residents would be able to move back in next weekend 'for definite'.

A contractor from the builders Alick Whittle, on inspecting the ceiling said that the whole area should be replaced. Mr Dines however said that he was not going to spend £600 on a job that can be done

for around £130. The warden of Southwell House, Ken Young, said that 'I am not in a position to judge Joe Dines professional opinion' about the ceiling but that he would be very keen to see an independent contractors opinion. He also stated that he thought that this would put the minds of the residents at rest.

Mr Young was also worried that the reason given for the incident may be valid on this occasion but that no reasons had been given for the problem in the same room two years ago. Even if the trouble was recurring this does not explain a similar but far more serious event that happened in the room opposite which also occurred two years ago. The resident of that room went to the toilet at 2.00am and on returning two minutes later found a mass of debris spread over the floor of the room and his bed. He added that he felt the 'excuses do seem to wearing a bit thin.'

## Security Round Up

A case of indecent exposure in the Physics Library has been reported. The incident took place at 2.00pm by a man described as 'white, well built, 5' 9"', in his late 20's with dark brown hair, a very smart brown leather jacket and blue jeans'. Any information should be given to Terry Briley, Security Officer, on 3370.

Two more cycles have been stolen this week, again not coded. The police are interested in setting up another coding session next term if there is any demand. Please ring Security on 3370 if you are

interested in safeguarding your possessions in this way.

From next Monday, Security will be enforcing parking regulations more strictly due to increased building work. Departments are asked to arrange temporary authorisation for any visitors by phoning Security 24 hours in advance. Mr Briley commented that he had 'just bought four more clamps.'

## Payout

The Harlington Trustees have decided that £50,000 a year will be released to sports clubs. On Wednesday they decided that £17,000 would be given to the Sailing Club to buy six new boats and £15,000 to Gliding Club to go towards a new two seater glider.

Nick Lay, Captain of the Gliding Club, said that the new glider would cost £45,000, 'improving Gliding club facilities no end' and making gliding 'more accessible to more students.'

imperial college ents. presents

# MOONFLOWERS

plus support

live in the union lounge

friday 30th november

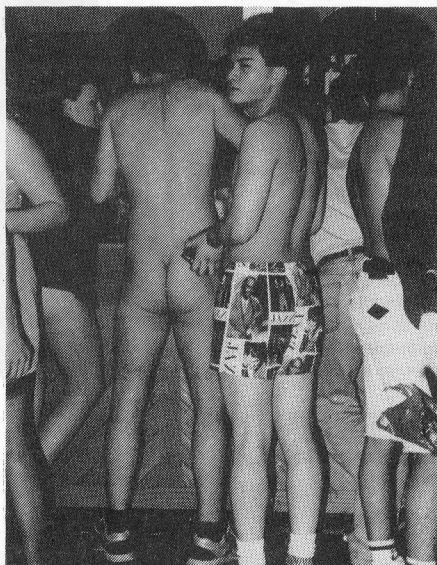
doors open 9pm

bar till lam      disco till 2am

tickets available from i.c. union office  
£1.50 with ents card  
£2.50 advance, £3.00 door

imperial college, prince consort road, london, sw7

## Fall Out



The Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump last Saturday raised over £390. Andrew from Maths raised £170, Chub from Mech Eng raised £80 and Steve and James, also from Mech Eng, raised over £70 each.

The Mines Dirty Disco last Monday was enjoyed by all involved. Steve Farrant, Rag Organiser, said that the event had raised approximately £250, adding that this was '£250 more than last year'.

Guild's Carnival last Friday made a small loss, though the two bands, The Bogus Brothers and Friends of Harry, went down well. Warwick Mullen, Guild's Treasurer, said that the loss was due to a poor turnout and the Rugby Club not selling out of cocktails. He said that the loss would only amount to tens of pounds and added that Guilds would not be going to Rag for any money.





All you wanted to know about Alumnus Day but were afraid to ask.

# Alumnus Day

'What day?' I hear you say. Well Alumnus Day is a day when the College welcomes back former students and staff who come to see how the College, their department and friends are faring. An opportunity to visit laboratories, see current research and talk to you, the current student population.

The festivities continue into the evening with the Alumni Dinner, the College Choir Concert. Links are holding their Christmas Dinner and all Tie Clubs are staging a reunion in the evening. This year a special invite has been extended to alumni from the years 1930, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90. So if you have a free moment on Friday afternoon and see a bewildered alumnus, why not give he or she a hand (after all for many of our alumni the campus has changed physically beyond all recognition). You are also very welcome to visit areas of your department you may not yet have seen or even other departments which open from 2.00pm.

But why are we doing all this? Well it's part of a wider programme of Alumni Relations. Once, upon graduation that was the last you heard of your College. Now twice a year you can get updates of news, research and events at Imperial

from the Annual Report and the alumni newsletter *IC Matters*. What else do the alumni get from this relationship?

The speed of development in science and technology means that most of what is learnt during your degree is out of date within 10 years of graduation. It is a wise graduate who remains in contact with his College which is after all a pioneer in many of these fields.

Networking with fellow alumni can also keep you abreast of developments in your field, solve technical problems, strike up partnerships, enable you to break into new fields. Our recently published Address Books along with our comprehensive database can help you contact other Alumni.

Visiting Hong Kong, Zambia, Bulgaria? We re in contact with alumni in 184 countries. Some have their own alumni associations and more are being set up. So if you're going to work, live or travel to far flung corners of the planet we can put you in touch with some friendly faces.

Reunions is perhaps the traditional role of alumni relations and is still one of the most important. If after 5, 10 or more years you're wondering what has happened to old friends we can not only

provide up to date addresses but also help you organise it.

Well what about the College. How does she benefit? Newspapers are full of stories of restrictions on higher education, staff-student ratio, student loans,...Your equipment is becoming out dated. You may be worried that the reaction you get when introducing yourself as an Imperial graduate will become less glorious if new resources aren't found to continue the College's reputation for excellence. To help alleviate some of these problems all alumni are given the opportunity to contribute to the Alumni fund which will go towards student accommodation, grants and young lectureships. The Chemical Engineering Department has also just launched its Jubilee Appeal the funds of which will go towards undergraduate teaching facilities.

This is an update of the work of the Alumnus Office in brief. One day you too will be one of our alumni, so if you want to find out more feel free to visit us in Room 354 Sherfield. We may even be able to help you while you are still in College.

## Trainee Actuaries

With your head for figures, you figure highly in the way ahead.

What goes on inside your head is important to us. Not just the theories, strategems and hypotheses, but how all those things get put into practice. Your ideas are tomorrow's innovations. You have the power and the potential not only to change the way ahead for yourself, but also to change the way ahead for the European Community's largest mutual life assurance company.

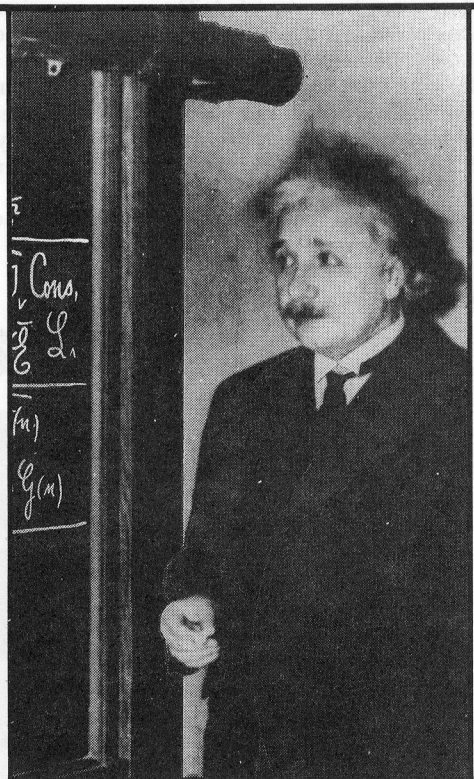
Standard Life is a progressive place. We are always adding to our strengths and taking away all the honours in the business of financial services. Our structured training programmes, dynamic working environment and exceptional rewards are a formula for success on anyone's blackboard, which is why we succeed in attracting some of the best actuarial trainees in the UK (relatively speaking).

We like the individual thinker. The maverick. The graduate with creative flair and an eye for the unusual. We want you to experiment and we want to set tasks that, at first, you think are impossible, but in the end you are able to work out.

The way ahead is never easy. But, all things being equal, having good people with good heads on their shoulders, we'll figure out the best route.

Standard Life will be visiting your university in the near future, for more information and a graduate brochure, call in at your careers office.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE



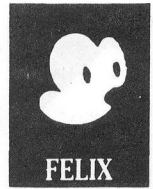
**Standard Life**

We don't follow standards. We set them.



Don Adlington invites expedition proposals for next year.

# Exploration '91



It's easy to forget that the long vacation—a clear three months of freedom to do what you will—is a highly finite resource. Few people ever again have such opportunities, once the demands and responsibility of career and family become major factors in life. For thirty-five years, the IC Exploration Board has encouraged students to think about a particularly rewarding—not to say exotic, way of using this time—by participation in expedition activity, and there is scarcely a region on the earth's surface which has not been traversed by Imperial College expeditions, by one means or another. Many hundreds of students have taken part, in an enormous variety of activities.

What sort of things do people do? Some examples from the past two years! There have been two, separate, life sciences expeditions to Papua New Guinea, with projects on ants, rats, cockroaches and wood-rotting fungi. Three other groups undertook a variety of ecological projects in the rain-forests of Ecuador, Bolivia, and Guyana. There have been four mountaineering expeditions to the Karakoram, the Andes and to Mount

Kenya, three of them combining climbing with a variety of scientific projects. Two other projects involved very demanding trekking and running over difficult terrain in Nepal and the Karakoram. A Caving Club expedition carried out cave exploration in the Dominican Republic.

The possibilities, clearly, are endless. There is no reason, of course, why students should not go off and do exciting things in far-flung corners of the world entirely without reference to the College, and very many do so. If the intention is to have an expedition, however, as opposed to an adventurous holiday, there are we believe some big advantages in using the Exploration Board. In the first place expeditions gaining the Board's formal recognition have the status of official College ventures, and many use the College's name and considerable reputation in this field in their approaches to other organisations for help. They will have easy access to the body of expertise available in the College, and to eminent authorities in a wide variety of settings outside the College. The Board's approval almost invariably carries with it a monetary grant, and many expeditions

borrow equipment from the Board's stock. The Board also ensures proper insurance cover, at no cost to the students themselves.

The disadvantage—if such it be—of seeking Exploration Board support is that there is a certain degree of formality involved. Expeditions are expected to submit coherent proposals, with well defined objectives, and on return, a comprehensive report. The Board's Treasurer maintains a degree of control over expeditions' financial accounts, and over insurance matters.

If you have the germ of an idea—you don't need much more than that to begin with—we would be very glad to discuss it with you at an early stage. Simply ring Dr Schroter (Chairman) on int 4083, or me on int 3041. The Board has the first of its two formal meetings, at which members of proposed expeditions are interviewed, on Wednesday December 5—but we need to have proposals before then, so that they can be circulated to members beforehand.

**Don Adlington.**

## College Day

*Spenser Lane presents a student's view. The Rector, who convened the working party on changes to the College day, felt it inappropriate to write an article at this time.*

Imperial College, perhaps the greatest concentration of small businesses in West London, is now coming to terms with its greatest *malaise*, **students**. Finding that the 'academics' are finding that there is little time for the more lucrative research or private-venture markets, they are now trying to find more time to fit the kids into an already expensive schedule.

There are so many arguments against this proposal, you could be forgiven in thinking that the cumulative feelings dictate a severe waste of man-hours in considering it in the first place. You have already considered the inconveniences; tiredness; lack of time of extra-curricular activities; an earlier entry into the London rush-hour etc. I hope to bring to your attention a few that may have already escaped your attention.

It will be difficult to imagine how four morning lectures are not going to be scheduled. Even if all the precautions are taken, students will still be left with spurious gaps in their day. These will be difficult to fill, since the real working time available will be short after students move from the theatre and settle down again to study. In addition, with the education of one's mind being a strenuous and tiring exercise especially with the increased knowledge that is put upon science students as technology advances. Surely, this warrants an increase in

practical leisure time to recuperate.

Clubs will be severely affected by the proposal of staggering lunches. It will be nigh impossible for the clubs that have to meet in lunchtime for administration purposes, if half of their committee members are not there! If Imperial College feels an obligation to further the humanities options (as it should), should it not feel equally obliged to assist the clubs, which provide the most enjoyable way for science students to diversify.

Personally, I perceive the problem to be the fault of the departments for the organisation of their degree courses, if it feels that there is not enough time. Some departments repeat material, not specifically to refresh a student's education, but more importantly because the material covered was badly taught originally, or due to a breakdown in communications between option lecturers. The total lecture hours lost over a three year degree must be colossal. Therefore, when the degrees change to four year courses, this will only make the problem worse. Some of the blame must also lie within College, or not giving the departments effective guidelines. Maybe suggesting that all departments should not aim to finish at 12.30pm, will assist that great bastion of the catering world, College Refectories, in coping with the extraordinary demand it has with its

produce.

Two final comments on the anatomy and terms of reference of the working party. I should have thought the inclusion of reps from the humanities department and the management school would have been invaluable. Their experience on non-scientific and time-management issues seemed to be overlooked! In addition, shouldn't the issue of the forth-coming entry into Europe of the degree courses have been a prime consideration, with that year becoming an ideal opportunity to realise the education of the student so far!

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Come and join in the Christmas spirit, Thursday 6th December at 5.45pm in Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road (next door to Beit Quad). Everyone is most warmly welcome. Organised jointly by the West London Chaplaincy and the West London Catholic Chaplaincy. All proceeds to the 'cornerstone community' in West Belfast.





# Così Fan Tutti Repossessed

REVIEWS

**O** It is easy to see why the Royal Opera House is facing a massive deficit while the ENO (nearly) manages to balance its books. The ENO has not abandoned innovation entirely, but obviously has a policy of staging a



number of 'popular' operas each season which will guarantee near capacity audiences. Add to this the fact that many of these are revivals, which are cheaper than new productions, and it becomes clear why they aren't blackmailing the Arts Council into giving them larger and

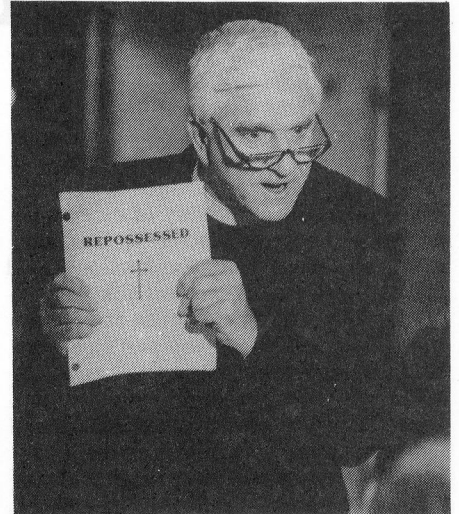
larger subsidies.

Such a production is this *Così*. A revival dating from 1980, it is a 'nice' opera. A lighthearted comedy, conventionally staged, it is not going to frighten the casual opera-going public in the way that, say, *Wozzeck* or *Dr Faust* might.

Having said that, it is actually not a bad production. The set, whilst versatile in depicting both inside and outside, lacks any real innovation or depth of thought, but is an inoffensive background to the performers. It is well sung, especially by Elizabeth Gale as Despina (to be replaced by Lesley Garrett from 12th December). The plot, concerning the testing of the fidelity of two sisters by their soldier fiancés, is easy to follow, if a little slow-moving and failing to seize all the opportunities to play up the farcical elements.

In short, a good workmanlike production. Its worth going to see if you don't know much about an opera, but it's not going to scare anyone, least of all the ENO's bank manager.

Liz W



**F** 18 years ago Nancy Aglet had a demon (with a particularly silly voice) exorcised by Father Mayii (Leslie Nielson). Then, while watching a TV evangelist show, her head spins round to spray her husband with chick-pea soup. 'Bet its PMT', whispers one smart-arsed kid, but no—she's been *Repossessed!* Nancy (Linda Blair, Oscar winner for the first *Exorcist*—what a coincidence(!)) seeks the help of Father Luke Brophy, and persuades him to seek authorisation for a poodle...sorry, exorcism. The exorcism is approved, but on the condition that it appears on 'Earnest and Fanny's Exorcism tonight'—the self same show that Nancy was watching when she was *Repossessed!*

And so starts a hilarious comedy from the mould of *Airplane* and *The Naked Gun*. Hang on a minute there, the only common link between the films mentioned above is Mr Nielson, where are the producers Abrahams and Zucker? The fact has to be faced that this may be in the style of the aforementioned movies, 'tis not from the same stable. Does this matter? A little, as somewhere along the line the edge of pure humour is lost, and occasionally this effort slips into mere silliness. For the most part, though, this is a damn fine movie.

There are the visual gags we have come to expect, and they hit us with such frequency that you are sure that you miss some of them along the way, as some of them are difficult to spot, like Nancy's car numberplate 666 GIRL. The verbal humour is rooted deeply in today's TV and film culture, from *Star Wars* (May the Faith be with you, Luke) to the Rocky films. The unfortunate locker room sequence is straight out of a *Carry On* movie and best forgotten. The priests make fools of themselves, the world's religious leaders get a chase scene, the poodle (yes, there is one) gets minced and the Devil gets all the best lines.

Not quite up to *Naked Gun* standard (worry not, *Naked Gun 2½* is coming) but probably the funniest movie released in a while.

Pendragon.

## Just So

**T** To walk into the Tricycle theatre is akin to stepping through a wardrobe into Narnia. It is a thespian oasis stuck in the heart of post holocaust Kilburn.

The auditorium itself can only be described as Meccano for adults. Red scaffolding climbs to the ceiling and across the balcony. The stage is a continuation of this superstructure thus making it split-level and utilising all the space that a cosy 'back room' can offer.

*Just So* (so it says) is a musical inspired by the stories of Rudyard Kipling. Its creators, George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, were the first winners of the Vivian Ellis prize for young writers.

The cast have been in everything from *Zulu* through to *Countdown* via *Les Misérables*. OK so now you know the background let's get down to the biz.

There's a farting, belching, 18 stone, North Yorkshire Rhino who would put Compo to shame. There's a giraffe with great legs and an amazing pair of baps...on her bum!! There's a Kolokolo bird who you'd want to take home to mother and a Dingo who you'd want to take home to the mother-in-law. There's a Kangaroo who should be world 'gurning' champion, such are his facial expressions. There's a dancing marijuana plant, honest guv, and all this from a children's book!

The set and costumes seem to have been sponsored bylatex because of the profusion of corsets, girdles and the like (hence the giraffe's appendages).

The songs are excellent, with a hint of



Gilbert and Sullivan (don't let this put you off). The lyrics are both solacious and corny with references to lost cherries and short and curls through to Rudyard Kipling making exceedingly good cakes.

Forget pantos. Forget Rice and Lloyd Webber. See this NOW. Brilliant.

P.S. I know my grammers crap but she died five years ago.

Unbaggy.

**F** —Film

**O** —Opera

**G** —Comic/Graphics

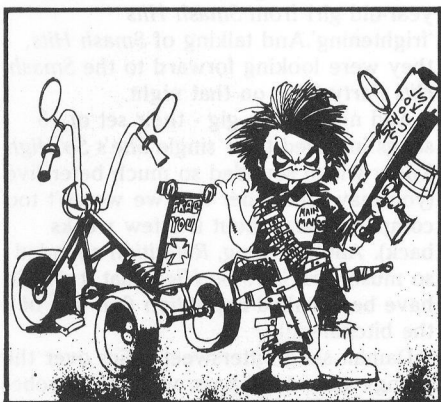
**T** —Theatre



# Lobo Love Hurts



**G** Hopefully by now everybody with an IQ higher than Alan Bailey has realised that not all comics are just for kids, and just in case anybody still had any doubts a new title from good ol' DC (Detective Comics - the publishers of *Batman*, et al) should convince those non-converts amongst you. The new(ish) title is *Lobo*. Currently only scheduled to be a four-parter it is a loose tie-in with DC's *L.E.G.I.O.N. 90* titles. Chronicling a small part of the rather large life of the aforementioned Lobo person it's a truly excellent strip. DC have pulled off something of a genius move, having got their hands on the hugely talented Simon Bisley, of *Slaine-The Horned God* fame. Bisley is one of the most talented artists around, and what's more he's British! *Lobo* isn't your average everyday kind of hero. He's a pathological psychotic who enjoys killing people. And maiming people. And generally not being very nice. In fact he's not a hero at all, or to use his own words 'I'm the Hit Man, see, Assassin to Royalty, Executioner to the



## Lobo's school photo

Stars'. His only redeeming features are his refusal to ever break his word, and his affection for a pack of space dolphins that he takes care of. In short, my kind of guy. The plot revolves around Lobo performing a job for *L.E.G.I.O.N.* which takes the form of delivering a prisoner alive to their base. Things start to go wrong as soon as it turns out the prisoner is Miss Tribb, Lobo's 4th grade teacher who somehow survived when Lobo killed the entire population of his home world, and then wrote an unofficial biography of him. By the third issue *Lobo* is being pursued by a band of space truckers, a SWAT team, a chainsaw dance company, the Legion of Decency's paramilitary wing and The Sons of Lobo, a bunch of groupies who worship "The 'Bo'". The story is mad, the plot intricate, the humour very black and very satirical, and the art is very, very, very good. Buy it now before *Forbidden Planet* run out of stock. Then write to DC and force them to make it a regular series.

**Alien Sex Fiend.**

**F** A very American tale of Paul Weaver (Jeff Daniels); the kind of guy who married young and had kids straight away. Got himself a routine job as an insurance salesman, felt he was missing out in life and began to cheat and sleep around.

When his wife Nancy (Cynthia Sikes—*St Elsewhere*) walks out on him with their two kids, he's more upset about the divorce settlement than the divorce itself (wouldn't you be if you had to give away your \$40,000 country farmhouse?).

His life of meaningless one-night-stands (meaningless??) comes to a sharp turn when, on the eve of his sister's wedding, he travels to the small town in which he grew up, hoping for a warm reunion with his family. He finds his ex-wife is living there because the farmhouse is under one foot of water. The action then begins with him rekindling the passion with his ex-wife, extinguishing the passion with his ex-wife, seducing one of the bridesmaids and winning his way back into his



kleptomaniac daughter's good books.

This is a warm bitter-sweet comedy along the lines of *Terms of Endearment*, excellently produced and directed by Bud Yorkin (*Arthur 2, Twice in a Lifetime*). It shows you don't need gratuitous violence or bad language to make for a good evening's entertainment. The film also has some very funny moments and brilliant one-liners, but don't be too surprised if it brings a lump to your throat.

**Dipak Poria.**

## Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

**F** SEX! VIOLENCE! ROCK 'N' ROLL! NINJITZU! PIZZA! Everything you ever wanted from a movie—except, perhaps, plot, acting and coherent sentences. A merry gang of reptiles has inhabited the sewers of NY for fifteen years without attracting undue attention (possibly because they wear masks so that no one knows who they are) until inevitably they come into conflict with the forces of evil, hereafter known as 'The Baddies' (except of course the one

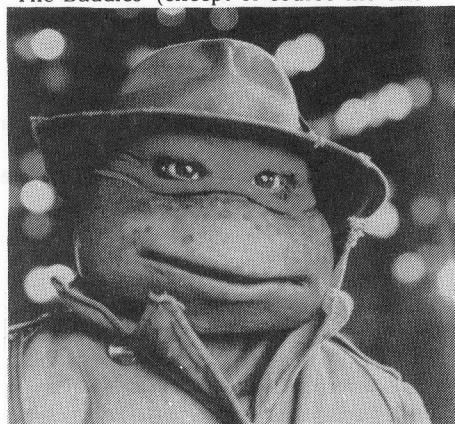
Naturally, each Turtle has its own personality (thus merchandising of plastic figures is born) although all of them appear to consist of getting frenetically overexcited about cheesy bread and experiencing strange trans-species pangs of teenage lust. At this point it is best to mention that those who find the term 'fox' annoying, a) juvenile or b) American will not enjoy this film.

Violence is rife, although bloodless, on a scale comparable with the greater moments of the *A-Team* and about as realistically unstaged as *T J Hooker* with the exception of the aforementioned Mr Jones, who appears to share the same philosophy as the other great Hockey-clad figure of the movies, Jason from *Friday 13th*.

To conclude: This film is wonderful for the under-15s. The majority of humour is Turtle-based and either crass or Not Very Funny. There is one superbly eccentric adult gag thrown in (thankfully) and much well-choreographed fighting. The language is quite intolerable, being only semi-comprehensible at the best of times (the word 'bodacious' is one of the few which assaulted our ears) and to augment this there is gratuitous skateboarding and rap music. To finish things off there are several intolerably cute baby turtles and a tittersome ninja rat sequence.

(To fend off accusations of sexism (re. April's legs) TAFGM would like to add that Casey Jones is what we believe is referred to as a 'hunk' and all the Turtles are short, bald and sexy.

**The Amazing Flying Turtle...no, Gerbil Machine.**



Who Is Just Confused and Is A Good Guy Really). You can guess the rest.

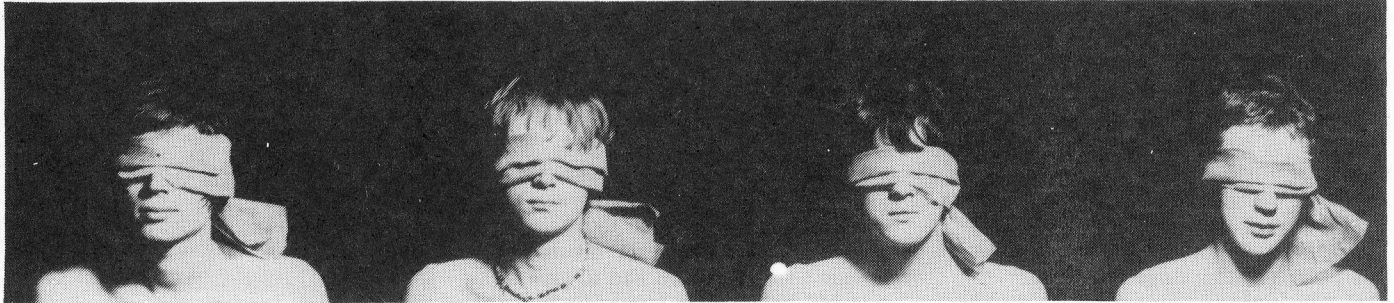
En route the *Fantastic Four* pick up a small retinue; to wit: April O'Neill (Plucky NewsGal Extraordinaire Who Just Happens To Have Nice Legs), Casey Jones (Hero In A Hockey-Mask), and Splinter the Rat (Guru And Father-Figure).

For the Baddies, we have the Shredder (Baddie From the Past) and Misled Youths (who are okay really inside), of the sinister (titter titter) Foot Clan.





# Blur Interview

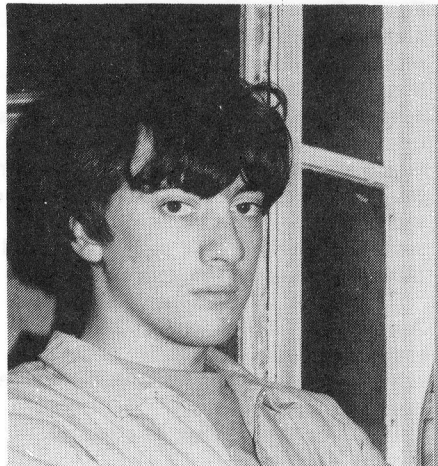


Blur, young and pretty are definitely the music press darlings of the moment, with descriptions ranging from 'four knowing bowl-heads' to 'tediously good-looking and pointlessly brilliant.' On it's release, their first single, *She's So High* was Single Of The Week in both *Sounds* and *NME*, and they have had several favourable interviews in most of the music papers.

Blur are Daman Alburn (vocals), Graham Green (guitar, backing vocals) Alex James (bass) and Dave Rowntree (drums), and have been together for about a year and a half. Daman, Graham and Dave met at school in Colchester, while Alex met Graham at Goldsmith's College where he was studying French (and looking for a band to join) and Graham was studying Fine Art. Needless to say, due to the band's sudden success they have dropped out. Alex did have ambitions to study Physics, but these were put to an end when he failed his A'Level.

On being asked about their musical influences they replied '60s', but wouldn't actually name any artists, and their views on the current music scene were almost as vague. 'There's a lot of good bands around at the moment.' Eventually, Graham did admit to looking forward to the new *MBV* LP ('What new LP?' we asked - 'I dunno!').

Later at the bar, as the band consumed their favourite drink - Pernod with lots of water - Alex did tell us that he used to like *The Pixies*, but wasn't impressed by the new album. He also appeared to be a bit of a *Lush* fan and told us how he had once proposed to Miki when he was a bit



pissed. Not surprisingly her reply is unprintable.

They were signed to Food in March, after playing several high profile London gigs - no sending off demo tapes to millions of record companies for this lot. We had heard that they give riotous live performances, which we later found to be more athletic than riotous. Daman's stage



antics have nearly broken his nose, and have given him a bad neck - which he moaned about throughout the interview.

Graham (who studied Fine Arts) has done some artwork which may or may not be used in the future, but he seemed quite happy with the arrangements at Food. 'Basically two blokes sit down with us, and we tell them exactly what we want and they get it done.' However, the artwork for *She's So High* (a naked woman straddling a hippopotamus) has caused controversy at various University gigs around the country - with Warwick actually banning all sales of their merchandise. They expressed surprise that ULU had not made any complaints.

Reported in *Sounds* to be a bit of a drug band, they denied this, but giggled something about Alex having hassles with his mother after she had read that particular article. They are a bit taken aback by the auspicious attention they've been getting recently, but say they are prepared for the future slaggings off.

Daman pondered that if they continued with their present standard, he couldn't see why the music press would turn nasty. Alex also felt that they hadn't received enough coverage yet. 'We've appeared in the music papers, now we

want to be on the covers!'

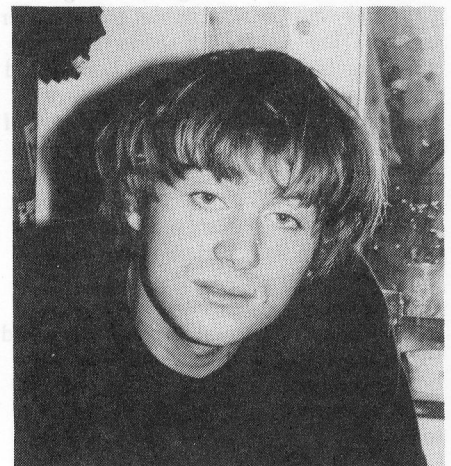
Blur are recording their new (and second) single next week, although they haven't decided on it yet - it is due to be released on January 22nd, closely followed by an album in February or March.

On admitting this was our first attempt at an interview (and yes, we were shit scared) the conversation led on to other interviews they've had. Most were conducted by older journalists in the pub, where they've felt at an advantage, but they found being interviewed by a 19 year-old girl from *Smash Hits* 'frightening'. And talking of *Smash Hits*, they were looking forward to the *Smash Hits Party* later on that night.

And now to the gig - their set of 13 songs included their single *She's So High Know* which sounded so much better live (you may remember that we weren't too complimentary about it a few weeks back). Another song, *Retetition* sounded so much like *She's So High* that it should have been called *Repetition* (but less of the bitchiness!).

Daman sang bittersweet lyrics over the grungy guitar and bass, while the strobes flickered wildly behind him. They finished with *Come Together* (not a cover of *The Beatles* or *Primal Scream*) which was probably our favourite of the night - and as Graham on guitar played the last notes, Alex threw his bass down and the rest of the band disappeared into backstage land - and no doubt onto the *The Smast Hits Party*.

**Pinky and Perky**





# Mighty Force

Dive 12"



The influence of the dancefloor has finally permeated to a stronghold of hardcore punk. It is, in fact, a very strange record to come from Earache, a label renowned for its inability to sign any acts whose roots are not deep seated in the reign of hardcore thrash.

Do *Mighty Force* come from Manchester? If so their attempt to jump on the bandwagon of 'Indie' related chart success has failed. They have instead created a club monster. The A side is uninspired, boring, dance orientated, toneless sludge.

It consists of a spineless backbeat

covered loosely by a splattering of samples of dubious origin. (It went down well at the Union disco.)

The B side—*Thrashing a Dead House*—(Thrashdots/Adams edit) is, in fact, fairly sound. It shows the ability to break old ground. It is an attempt (a fairly poor one) at what the Swiss trio, the *Young Gods*, do so well. The samples are solid and begin to break up the monotony of the beat as well as adding rhythm and an approach to a tone. The samples include cuts from *Napalm Death* (Lee Dorrian's grunts) and other slabby riffs/feedback from other sources—including other



Earache bands.

Despite the relatively good B side the record is wholly unoriginal, besides the *Young Gods* do it better.

Seb

## Happy Mondays

Wembley Arena

Shaun was pissed off. Shaun 'I'm always pissed off' Ryder was more pissed off than usual. Shaun was pissed off because he couldn't hear himself. Shaun was not alone because me and a few thousand others couldn't hear him either. His voice was buried somewhere beneath the well of sound created by:

a) the pulsating bass and drums that is the *Mondays'* trademark. A sound that will make even the most involuntary feet move solely because everything within a fifteen mile radius, be it animal, mineral or vegetable, is moving as well.

b) the awful acoustics within the arena.

Bez was happy. Bez the non-playing, non-singing carnival clown, the self-styled *Mondays'* cheerleader was happy because he is worshipped by a million baggies. Bez raises his left hand and they scream. Bez raises his right hand and they scream. Bez shakes his left testicle and the first fifteen rows of the arena cream themselves in unadorned adulation.

It is Bez who keeps the show rolling between songs whilst Shaun lights another pissed off cigarette by shaking his maracas. He is assisted in this occasionally by the plasto-rubber clad girl singer, who one minute 'is' sitting on the drum riser, delving into her handbag for lipstick and powder puff, the next, she is bent in front of Bez with cheeks thrust at the audience licking his erect percussion.

The set lasted roughly an hour. Quite enough time to leave me deaf in one ear. All the faves were there, finishing with the monstrously brilliant *Wrote for Luck*.

For an encore we were treated to Shaun decking the keyboard player and being held back by his father (part of the crew). They played one more song, Shaun said 'See Ya' the only words he'd said to the audience all night, picked up his Armani jacket and left.

For 'Manchester Rave On' read 'Mad Ryder walks off'.

Debugged.

## The Sisters Of Mercy

Wembley Arena, 24.11.90



This review arrives despite every effort of the record company, East West, to bar us from this momentous occasion (the first UK *Sisters'* dates in over five years cannot merely be named a gig). It was also, inevitably, 'beneath them' to dain to grant me an interview, being now so 'prestigious', to quote the afore mentioned, bigotted record label, and so I am unable to inform you of just how far Shelley and other Eighteenth Century poets influence the elusive Eldritch (sample Shelley's *Ozymandius* alongside the pop-famed *Dominion*, or *Marian*). I am also unable to convey His views on George Bush's *Vision Thing*, which incidentally coincides with the latest album's title, an LP expression of Americanism and its mythology.

To compound this farce, Eldritch, now teamed with *Sigue Sigue Sputnik* prankster, Tony James (and his 'silly hats'), was to have *The Mothers* in support. This harsh but broad sectioned group appeared more for a stage act than listenability and would be more at home at the mercy of Archaos than the mercy of the *Sisters'* onslaught.

Any doubts about sell-out diversions were blighted from the first notes, *Afterhours*, and the Arena was quadspaced back to 1985, and the fabled last night at the Albert Hall. Eldritch

Himself, the self-styled deity, hung thin and frail from the stand, exactly encapsulated as in the live video *Wake*, but still egotistic to the fore with forced lowness of voice seeming so out of place against his mean form.

*The Sisters* have always been a cult band, revelled by the few but secretly admired by the masses. It seems sad that so many have missed the joke. I saw one white faced lady carrying a coffin!

The spectacle was epic, with an iridescent purple haze wafting between the immense, rusted iron chains and endless classics, dating from *Alice*, through the drowning desparation of *Marian*, the pounding monotony of *Lucretia* ending with the rocky monstrosity of *Vision Thing*.

More of a greatest hits parade, with no *More*, than the traditional album advertisement, the greats could not be marred in their first airing since the group's dramatic split. Eldritch gave full demonstration of his recently won rights to that shattering early material. Of minor disappointment were the anthems from *Floodland* which seemed drowned in blandness tonight.

Those who were there will talk of this to their grand-children.

SJH





Athena discusses the pros and cons of religion.

# Why For Art Thou?

Is there a God? and which religion is best? are questions that, in my opinion cannot be answered. But the effect that religion has had, and the uses to which it has been put can be shown through the course of history.

In the events of the Christian Old Testament, people were united to escape the slavery of the Egyptians. It gave people hope, something to live for. Be good in life and you will be rewarded in Heaven. In English history, under Richard I, it persuaded knights to leave their homes and destroy whole nations of 'Godless heathens', so providing a convenient way to rid the country of violent men, bored after the wars in Europe, and dump them somewhere else where they would be much less trouble. Later, in Europe, there were many rival Popes, the Church being the ruling body. The Popes were rival dictators, using their positions for greed and personal gain. Religion gave them the power to do as they wanted.

From the very beginning of Christianity, up until only a few years ago, it has been taught that women are to be subservient, almost second class citizens. Now, in the recent years of AIDS and promiscuity, the head of the Catholic church tells us not to use condoms. Kids fuck; its genetic. Why not accept the fact, and give them some protection? 'But if they were good catholics they wouldn't have sex.' you say, but in the sixteenth (I think) century, there was a tax imposed on priests for their illegitimate children! In Britain Christianity is the official religion. This is not racist, but it certainly discriminates against people who hold other beliefs, or none at all.

Mohammed was born in 570AD and his teachings are recorded in the Koran. Practicing Muslim parents ensure that their male children learn Arabic at the Mosque schools in order to read it. Mohammed is the most important in a long line of prophets, which include Abraham, Moses and Jesus. In the mosques women pray separately from the men. Again, like Christianity, women are second class citizens; only recently in an article on Asian businessmen, the head of a family business stated that only sons and sons-of-sons were invited into the business. I know of many Asian women who do not have the same freedom as their brothers. Many are not bothered by this, but there are many who are, and they rely on their fathers for financial support through university. It has been suggested to me that since, under British law, sexism is illegal, these women could 'tape' their fathers 'threats' and sue them! But we are talking about loving parents and their religious beliefs, and children who dearly love them. The solution, of at least one girl I know, is to play along until one has sufficient financial security

(a degree) to refuse the parents. Another similarity with Christianity is the concept of a holy war and martyrdom. Just like Richard I, the Iranian theocracy has demanded the death of Salman Rushdie for crimes against Allah, and President Hussein has called for a holy war against the US.

In Hinduism, the body is like a 'suit' for an immortal soul, and what we do in one life affects our status in our new life: i.e. if one is a devoted and obedient servant, then in the next life, one might come back as a master. But not in ones own lifetime. Apart from this strict caste system (currently a subject of major controversy in India) Hinduism is the most liberal of religions. It encompasses many different beliefs and forms of worship, and it is the least tolerant of violence, indeed many Hindus are vegetarian. However, in the caste system lawyers and soldiers are rated above traders and industrialists.

There is not the space to discuss (nor time to research) all religions, or variations (eg Mormons), but as a cynic I would like to make some conclusions about the purpose of religion, and the uses to which it has been put:

1. Religion is/has been used by lesser developed countries to enforce necessary social moralities, eg all involve a mandatory donation of income, theoretically for the poor. It is the ultimate government. He who speaks for God has the ultimate power.

2. They impose marriage; sex only within the family. This is vital in small communities to ensure that genetic brothers and sisters do not marry. This is more important than who will raise and educate the children, who are also aided by the family group.

3. Women are totally dependent on man, and should obey him. Man is very protective of the producer of his children, his genetic future. In a primitive society (English pre-20 century) they cannot do the hard work that men need to, so they can stay at home, cookin~ and reproducing.

4. Hope and strength to survive in the face of adversity. In places where there is a low standard of living, the hope of life after death will persuade people to suffer in life rather than turn to crime or challenge the system: 'the meek shall inherit the earth.'

Religion is simply a form of social government, which relies on the belief in a God or Gods. Because of the age of these religions they impose the social necessities of the family unit, and the dependency of women. In a modern 'civilised' country, there exists the welfare state to provide (theoretically) for the poor. There is 'common law' marriage. Most importantly the invention of machines means that mans superior

strength is no longer important, and there are civil laws to protect men and women. We are in an intellectually dominated society, and sadly for men, women are on average more intelligent than men. Christianity is adopting a sexually equal stance. The same cannot be said for most other religions, since the leaders of these religions are based in countries where such sexism could, perhaps, be justified; where the majority of the people believe that their leader talks for God, and would die or kill at his word. As long as the children believe what they are taught by their parents, the religion persists. In Britain, the children are making the choice not to teach religion to their children, and have been doing so for so



long now that the population would not kill in God's name. The same is happening to British Asian people.

In conclusion, Religions are inherently sexist, and can appear to be racist. In the perfect future, all people can choose what to believe, and the state will ensure the absence of racism, sexism, poverty, crime. In the future we may be able to decide on the genetic make-up of our children, perhaps give them 'racial traits'. But will we have the right to choose for them? Similarly, do we have the right to teach them one religion? If you have such faith in your religion, can you not teach your children all religions knowing that they will eventually choose yours?

Athena.

Michael Newman on the right to be blasphemous.

# Blasphemy!

Many people reject institutional religions because of their long history of intolerance and the resulting violence. The intolerance is expressed in the concepts of heresy and blasphemy, when religious groups have resorted to law and punishment to defend their ideologies against criticism.

Most religions are blasphemies to other religions and the resulting conflicts have resulted in imprisonment, torture and millions of deaths. The Bible (Leviticus XXIV, 16) states 'He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall surely stone him'. Yet if you believe in a wise and just God the Bible itself can be considered a blasphemy!

my own part, I sincerely detest it, as I detest everything that is cruel...'

Due to the continued fight led by the free-thought and Secularist movements, people like Carlisle and Bradlaugh, the blasphemy laws in this country were made ineffective. For over fifty years they were no longer applied, though the threat was always there. Then in July 1977 Mary Whitehouse successfully brought a blasphemy libel case against 'Gay News' for a poem depicting homosexual images of Christ's body. In September last year the film 'Visions of Ecstasy' was refused a certificate for public showing in this country because it was considered blasphemous. It portrayed a nun's erotic dreams of her 'marriage' to Christ.

The problem with the modern debate is that it revolves around free speech and expression, whether people should have the right to blaspheme. Yet the act of committing blasphemy is not simply one of insulting religion. It can be seen as a necessary part of defending our humanity.

'One of the main impetuses behind the book was to make some kind of secular confrontation with the idea of revelation.'—Salmon Rushdie on 'The Satanic Verses'.

If we are to defend the human nature of knowledge, the concept of truth relying upon evidence and reason, with the ever present risk of error, we must attack revelation. We must portray the words of all prophets, and men who deify themselves, as words of human beings, to be judged as such. To admit revelation is to corrupt truth, to lose the test of fact in what things are. As Dr Jacob Bronowski, scientist and Humanist, points out a consequence of this is losing the sense of fact in what a human being is. He walked through Auschwitz concentration camp, where his family were killed, and made a plea for the human nature of knowledge:

'When people believe they have absolute knowledge, with no test in reality, this is how they behave. This is what men do when they aspire to the knowledge of gods.'

A new campaign, based on Bronowski's words is starting at this College, encouraging people to support and commit blasphemy. Religions are not just a political excuse for violence, revelation gives them the conceptual foundations to build the gallows, torture chambers and the gassing showers.

Shelley's blasphemous poem sums up what is really at stake:

*Earth groans beneath religion's iron age,  
And priests dare babble of a God of*

peace.

*Even whilst their hands are red with  
guiltless blood,  
Murdering the while, uprooting every  
gem of truth, exterminating, spoiling all,  
Making the earth a slaughterhouse!*

Let's start knocking down the foundations of that slaughterhouse.

Information for this article comes from 'Blasphemy—Ancient and Modern' by Nicholas Walter (£3.95) and 'Why is it Good to be Blasphemous?' by Huxley Society (free leaflet). Both of which can be obtained from the T H Huxley Society Soc.

## Religious Survey

Imperial College as a major science college in Britain has been chosen for a survey on attitudes of scientific people towards Christianity. In many of today's copies of FELIX you will find a copy of the questionnaire being used. You are invited to fill it in as best you can and post it back in the boxes provided near department porters desks. It does not matter what your attitude is towards religion—agnostic, hostile or friendly—for all opinions are required. There is ample room on the questionnaire too for more detailed comments if you wish to make them, and these will all be welcomed.

The survey is being conducted by David Copestake, a psychologist near Oxford whose son is a student at IC. He is a member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Institute for Religion in an Age of Science (both American) and the Sir Alister Hardy Research Centre Oxford. In America (where perhaps many IC students will want to work), there is a lot more interest and understanding as regards science and religion than in Britain. Many colleges have specific courses entitled 'science and religion' and textbooks are published with these in mind.

Mr Copestake hopes to foster this kind of interest in this country and to write a book that could perhaps serve as a textbook on science and Christianity for students. Your help and cooperation will be most appreciated. If you are very busy, it need only take a few minutes, please help us to get a balanced picture of peoples' views.

There will be boxes in most departments and in the JCR. If you cannot find a box, then please put the questionnaire in the Z pigeonhole of your department undergraduate pigeonholes, or sent it to Stephen Copestake, Chemistry 2, via the pigeonholes.







Chris Riley reports on a talk by Stephen Bristow of SOS Sahel.

# Our Common Future

Within the developed world, factories, cars and homes pump out 'greenhouse' gases into the atmosphere. Many people now believe that the global warming is causing a contraction of the Tropical rainfall zone which reaches into central North Africa. Before the rains, the air is thick with fine sand, blown up by the hot 'Harmattan' winds. Sand covers fields, clogs irrigation channels and ruins crops. Wind blows soil from unprotected fields, and millions of tonnes of African earth is swept up into the atmosphere, to rain down on the northern hemisphere.

The environmental problems we face are global, and need to be treated accordingly in our path towards a common future. However, in our shared present, the people of sub-Saharan Africa remain the worst off and most in need.

The geographic region of Sahel lies in a broad strip across central Africa, between 18 and 12 degrees north, spanning almost ten countries from Senegal to Somalia. Strictly speaking, its borders are defined by annual rainfall figures of between 150-600 mm per year. Thus in a given year, such boundaries can advance or retreat up to 300 km north and south.

Rainfall in the Sahel, although comparable with southeast England, is both unreliable and erratic. Water, the key natural resource of any arid zone, is provided by hand-dug wells up to 100 m deep. Unfortunately, water resource management is still in its infancy, and water output from aquifers is not matched by natural replenishment. As much as 90% of the rain is lost, cascading off the hard baked earth. In Mali, SOS Sahel has responded to local requests to protect soil from rain and wind erosion, planting micro-catchments and constructing small, shallow pits to trap rain water.

Sahel is inhabited by some 50-60 million people, 25% of whom live in towns. Such demography is constantly changing, with large scale migration from rural areas towards the bright lights and false promises of the towns.

The rural population, made up of settled farmers and nomads, has survived successfully for thousands of years with their self-balancing agricultural practice.

In the post-war years, politics, economics and World Bank intervention have combined to restrict farming activity to the point where government cash crops have replaced community agricultural programmes. During the colonial period, land was nationalised and the state took up responsibility for trees. Before this, the community as a whole had to approve the felling of a tree. Under state control, tree felling was not policed properly, and large-scale uncontrolled deforestation took place.

In the whole of Africa, only one tree is

planted for every thirty cut down. Of those planted, perhaps 5 in 100 survive. Growth rates of woodland are 0.2-0.3 m per hectare per year, compared to 40-50 m in the UK. With such slow growth, it is essential to forge a link between the planting of trees and the long-term environmental and economic benefits.

The trees are vital, providing protection for crops from scouring winds. Their roots bind the soil and help stop sand movement, controlling the irreversible process of desertification. In the northern region (an area the size of France), desert encroachment has destroyed entire villages and is eating at productive, irrigated land. SOS Sahel is helping Nile-side villages protect their lands by planting shelter belts. To encourage locals to help with such forestry projects, personal incentives are offered in the form of trees for their own farms.

Trees are a crop in themselves, providing fuel, fodder, fruit and shade in a region critically short of vegetation. This programme of forestry also provides regular supplies of fuel and fodder for the future.

Wood to be used as fuel is meant to be collected in the form of dead wood, not living trees. People do not always adhere to such laws, and as a consequence the woodlands do not survive. By careful forestry management, selected cutting and thinning can be balanced with forest growth to maintain and enhance annual woodland enlargement. Ceramically-insulated fuel-efficient stoves are being introduced to save wood.

For generations, the necessity to have as many children as physically possible has been instilled in the people of the Sahel. With low survival rates after birth in the past, it was essential to secure the future of the community. However, recent improvements in health care, water facilities and standards of living have prolonged life. UNICEF immunisation programmes have increased the number of people surviving childhood. However, family planning has not evolved to take into account these higher survival rates. Consequently, the populations in the region are growing at frightening rates: the population of Ethiopia is currently 50 million, but is increasing at 3% per year. Such growth offsets the improvements in agricultural practices.

So is the answer to enforce strict family planning? Stephen Bristow thinks not. "When local women are asked how they will feed any further children, they reply that the state will always feed them." These attitudes clearly need changing. "If education is improved, the family planning problem will solve itself." Bristow believes that if living standards increase, birth rates will naturally subside. "But all this takes time", he explains.

Time is perhaps the only thing we have not got, for until the population growth rate is controlled, and 'greenhouse' gas emissions are cut, there will always be famine and starvation. Without these cuts, SOS Sahel's aid programmes will be merely playing King Canute with the desert and its people.





# Opinion:

Charles Nasser, President of Friends of Palestine, presents a review of the Barbican Exhibition of 'Israel, State of the Art'



It is clear that the Barbican exhibition is meant to provide the public with information about Israel and its art. For a Palestinian, however, a great deal of the information only serves to increase the deep rooted sense of denial and injustice. I have here selected certain comments released by the Barbican, followed by my response to them.

*Israel has a population of only just over four million, living on a twenty thousand square kilometre strip of land.*

In addition, since 1967, Israel occupies 6,400 sq km of the West Bank, 362 sq km of the Gaza Strip, as well as parts of the Syrian Golan Heights, and parts of southern Lebanon. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, nearly two million Palestinians live under the longest military occupation of a country in modern history.

*Israel publishes more books per head of population than any other country in the world.*

Israel also censors more books per head of population than many other countries in the world.

*Beit Shean in the Galilee has the world's biggest Roman amphitheatre.*

Beit Shean in the Galilee also has one of the biggest refugee populations. In 1948, the Israeli army ordered the expulsion of the entire Palestinian population of the Bisan. They and their descendants have been stateless refugees for over four decades.

*The annual 10-day Jerusalem Film Festival shows over 100 films from over forty countries in the Jerusalem Cinematheque, opposite Mount Zion.*

Palestinian theatres and cultural establishments, however, are repeatedly ordered to shut by the Israeli occupation authorities and many artists harassed and imprisoned.

*The Dead Sea Scrolls, Bethlehem, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Sea of Galilee, the Wailing Wall and King Solomon's Mines are all alive and well in Israel!*

The Dead Sea Scrolls were not found in Israel; Bethlehem is not in Israel; nor the Garden of Gethsemane; nor the Wailing Wall; nor Jericho. Legally, they are all located in occupied Palestinian territories. *Israel's many exports include flowers to the Netherlands, chocolate to Switzerland and citrus to the USA.*

Israel's many exports also include bodyguards to Nicaragua's toppled dictator Somoza, intelligence advisors to Panama's toppled dictator Noriega; nuclear know-how, arms, electronics and intelligence training to Apartheid South Africa.



*Israel's citizens hail from over 80 countries across the globe.*

And settled there on lands expropriated from Palestinians, as well as in the houses of Palestinians who were forcibly expelled in 1948 and 1967 and live in refugee camps or are exiled to over 80 countries throughout the world.

*The Machtesh Ramon Crater in Southern Israel is 300m deep and 8km wide. It is one of the world's biggest crater-canyons with rock strata and fossils dating back 200 million years.*

It is also adjacent to the illegal Israel Dimona Reactor. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968) and refused to open its Dimona nuclear plant to international inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It is known to have an illegal arsenal of over 200 atomic warheads and probably thermo-nuclear warheads as revealed by the Mordechai Vanunu, serving an 18-year prison sentence for doing so.

*The huge immigration of Russian Jewish doctors, scientists and engineers spells a better future for Israel's economy—increasing the number of*

*Israel's engineers from 30,000 to 160,000.*

While the Israeli government opens its doors to Soviet Jewish immigrants, many Palestinians are forcibly 'transferred' permanently out of the country to join the thousands already in exile. Their properties and lands are confiscated and expropriated for further exclusively Jewish settlements.

*Israel is a country with a distinct Mediterranean flavour and a vibrant outdoor life, but where streets are empty when Dallas is on TV.*

The Occupied Palestinian Territories have a distinct Mediterranean flavour and a vibrant outdoor life, but their streets empty when the Israeli occupation army imposes entire curfews over entire cities and neighbourhoods often for periods of many weeks at a time.

*Jericho, whose first fortifications were built 9000 years ago, is the oldest and lowest city on earth.*

Jericho is not in Israel. Jericho is a city in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

*70% of Palestinians are under the age of 30 years.*

More than 70% of Palestinians under the age of 30 are denied education because of closure of kindergartens, schools and universities by the Israeli occupation authorities. Thousands of Palestinians (many babies in cots) have been killed by the Israeli army.

*In the Jewish Mea Shearim quarter of Jerusalem, the ultra orthodox residents will wear the fur hats and silk kaftans of the 16th century Polish middle class.*

Many of them also regard Zionism and the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel as the worst form of Jewish apostasy; they refuse to pay taxes to the Zionist state, to serve in the Israeli army or to carry Israeli passports. On the official day of the establishment of the state of Israel (15 May), they stage annual protest demonstrations, where they burn the Israeli flag as an expression of their opposition to Zionism and to the establishment of the state of Israel as a Jewish state.

**Are you a budding  
David  
Attenborough,  
Bellemy or  
Jonathan Porrit?**

*We need Environmental articles.*

**Can you justify working in the  
chemical, mining or oil  
industries when they have such  
horrific environmental records?**

*Is your industry and the  
environment compatible?*

**VAN  
BOOKINGS**

**The deadline for  
Christmas and New  
Year van bookings is  
5.30pm on Monday  
3rd December. Apply  
to Michelle in the  
Union Office.**





*This is the man who put his money on red and it came up black, this is the man who drives a C5.*

# Sinclair's spectrum

On Wednesday next week, Sir Clive Sinclair is expected to give a lecture in the Physics department, lecture theatre 1 at 1.15 pm.

Sir Clive is the man who brought into the world such delights as the digital watch, the pocket calculator, the home computer and the infamous C5 electric vehicle. But where did all this start?

Clive Sinclair came across the world of electronics when he was 13 years old, and started constructing radios. He soon managed to build a radio that was smaller than a matchbox, which was declared by experts to be unworkable. At the time he had his own company, Sinclair Radionics, selling transistors for radio enthusiasts. However, it was his miniature radio, sold as a kit, that caused his business to flourish.

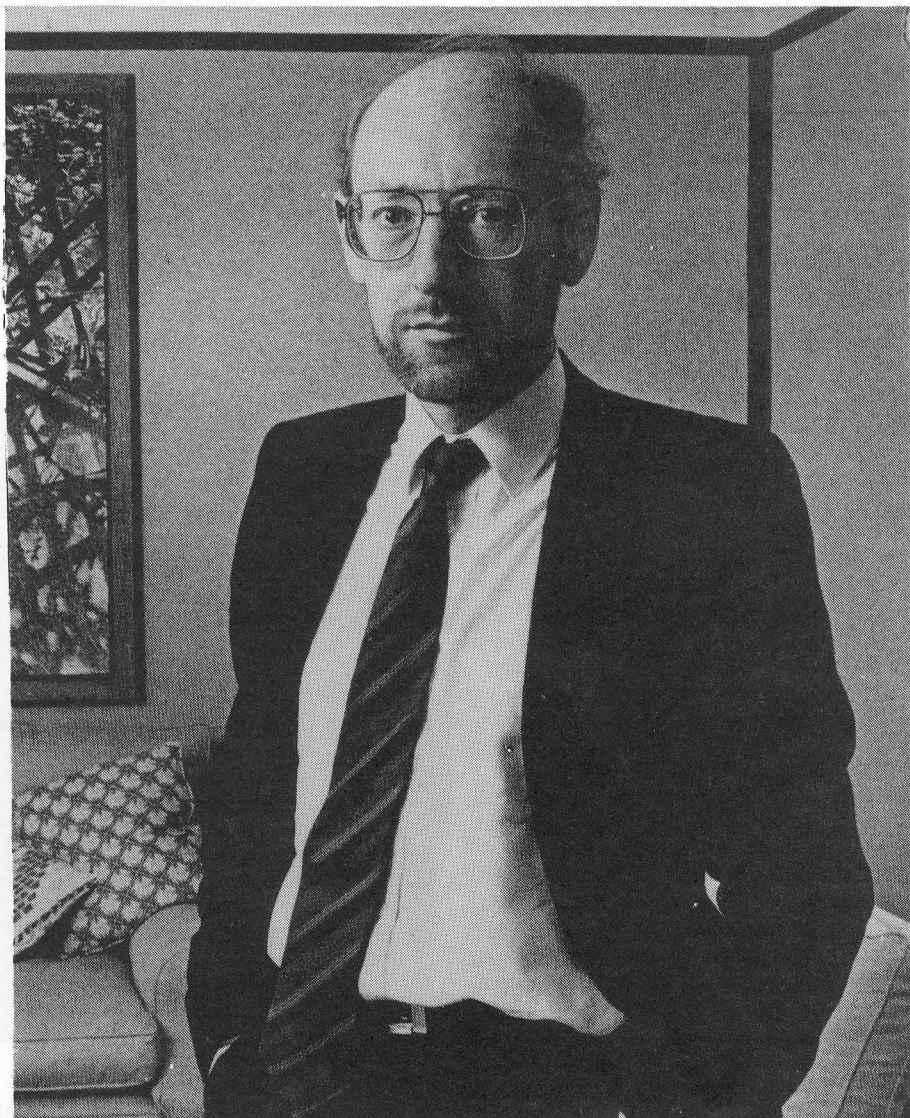
Sinclair turned his attention to the calculator. At the time, the only electronic calculators were desktop models that consumed large amounts of power. Experiments showed that the silicon chip used in these machines did not need to be supplied with power continuously, so he designed circuitry that switched the power rapidly on and off. With this advance, he was able to launch a pocket-sized calculator, because the batteries required could be much smaller. The calculator, like his miniature radios, was very successful, and was sold all round the world.

It was in the late 1970s that Sinclair turned his attention to microcomputers, that were just beginning to be used in businesses. He reckoned that there might be a market for such devices in peoples' homes as well as their offices. He formed a new company, Sinclair Research, in 1979, and in 1980 the ZX80 was launched. This was a small black box with a rubber keyboard, that used the domestic television as the visual display unit, and a standard cassette recorder as the method for storing data. This was followed in 1981 by an upgraded version, the ZX81. This was the first computer that many people experienced and used. As with the ZX80, it was cheap and very powerful by the then-current standard.

In 1982 the Sinclair Spectrum was introduced. The name 'Spectrum' came from the fact that it was capable of producing colour images, as opposed to the black-and-white of the ZX series. This computer, in upgraded form, is still on sale today.

A fourth computer, the Sinclair QL, went on sale in 1984, targeted primarily at small business users. However, it was not particularly successful, probably because it was incompatible with the IBM PC. As with his other computers, the keyboard was not like that of an electric typewriter, and this was another possible reason why it did not sell well.

The next major project of Sinclair was



the development of electric vehicles, the first (and last?) of which was the infamous C5. Whereas other people were attempting to improve battery technology before building electric cars, Sinclair decided to use available batteries, but to concentrate on the design of the car. Instead of using a powerful motor for good acceleration, he aimed to minimise the weight and so on.

However, when the C5 was launched, it failed to meet the claimed performance: instead of having a range of 100 miles per battery charge, owners were lucky to get 30, and only that if it was pedalled up any hill in the offing. There were problems about whether owners needed to be licensed to use it on roads, and whether children would be allowed to 'drive' them. Most people came to the conclusion that a bicycle was cheaper, faster and safer.

Since the failure of the C5, Sir Clive has sunk out of the public eye, although he is still working on new ideas. He retains interest in the prospects for electrical vehicles, claiming that they will produce

less pollution than petrol-driven vehicles. Many find this difficult to believe, because the pollution is only transferred from towns to the surrounds of power stations. Despite the greater efficiency of power stations, energy is lost along transmission lines, and in the charging of batteries to power the vehicles. In addition there is the weight of the batteries, which limits the performance of such vehicles. If more cells are used to provide a better range, then energy is used to transport that extra weight, so reducing overall efficiency: a vicious circle.

More recently, Sinclair has been working on light, foldable bicycles. According to *New Scientist*, these bicycles will be made entirely of fibrous materials (such as Kevlar) instead of the traditional steel or alloy frame and components. It was not known whether a traditional chain drive or pneumatic tyres would be used, although the riding position will be conventional. One problem that he must have is making the frame strong enough to resist the twisting forces of hard pedalling.



# Scribblers' Corner..



## Dab

Dear FELIX,

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for publishing articles by Chris Riley on China. At the time when the West are celebrating the liberation of Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War, the Chinese cause is sadly being largely forgotten. Chris Riley has rightly presented an in-depth study and a first-hand experience in China. It is of great value to the international community at IC and in particular to Chinese students who are anxious to obtain any information about their home country.

However, through a letter by Jason Pike, I found pure neivety and utter ignorance. History seems to be distorted in Pike's hand and everything has to show blood in his red eyes. Most of the Chinese students at IC have stood up from the Cultural Revolution and involved themselves in the ten years of reform to some extent. It was only from the understanding that Cultural Revolution has nearly destroyed China and Communism is not working have we been determined to rebuild China for a fairer, freer and more democratic society.

During the time of the Nationalist government of China, the question was how much liberty may be allowed. However, with the Communist government when everything is under party control, the question becomes whether we have liberty or not. Intellectuals have been purged again and again. Workers are under strict political discipline (not working discipline) and if anything happens, they are the first to be used or to be punished. The worst happens in the countryside where there is

no social welfare system—the trademark of socialism—at all and yet more than 80% of the population live there. The peasants provide the state with cheap food and every now and then millions die of starvation due to mismanagement.

Jason Pike needs to be reminded that he is free to publish his letter here or in the future free China but should the word 'capitalism' in his final paragraph be replaced by 'communism' as follows:

*By giving some people power over others, the state created the opportunity*

*for personal corruption. The state, low wages and high prices are necessary to create the profits that communism (the exploitation of people by a parasitic ruling elite) demands. But communism is not necessary.*

Then most people may find more truth in it and he would have to spend a few good years in jail if the letter were made public in a, however small, circle in China.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ming Ri.*

## Dabble

Dear FELIX,

The writer of one of your articles 'Tiananmen: Riot or Massacre' chose interviewees with a sadly patronising attitude towards the ordinary people of their country. Whoever said that pressure for political democracy is right for Eastern Europe but not China because 'People in Eastern European countries have better democratic minds than the Chinese people', was effectively saying that he or she thought the Chinese people don't have the right to determine their own future because they are too stupid or too ignorant to agree with him or her.

The admiration expressed for the influence of capitalist countries, is misplaced. Are not Taiwan and South Korea capitalist countries? There, the exploitation of the working class is more severe than in Western Europe because the State has more power to enforce it. Some people call the market-directed

form of capitalism 'economic freedom' or 'the free market'. But it does not provide freedom for people of any class. Just to survive and maintain our position, we all have to fulfil the demands of the market, and many people are pressurised to quench the caring side of their nature to compete. Since our economic and political environment inevitably determine the range of choices available to us, humanity will not be free until we control politics and the economy. In the Soviet Union, where the people are striving to sieze political power, so the economy is being taken out of political control and into private ownership by the ruling class. This process is a threat to all potential new democracies; people should insist on the right to run their own workplace (circumventing the State which is cumbersome and corrupt).

Anyone who idealises 'capitalist democracies' is looking at them through

*continued overleaf*

## 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 find out about weekend training. Weekly meeting.
- Yacht Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Huxley 413.
- Rag Meeting.....12.40pm**  
Union Lounge.
- Friday Prayers.....1.00pm**  
Southside Gym. See Islamic Society.
- Kung Fu.....4.30pm**  
Union Gym.
- C.U. Prayer Meeting.....5.00pm**  
413 Maths.
- Christian Union Meeting.....6.00pm**  
308 Computing.
- Swimming.....6.30pm**  
Sports Centre. New members always welcome.
- Fencing Club Training.....6.40pm**  
Club training.
- Shaolin System Nam Pai Chuan.....7.30pm**

- Southside Gym.
- WellSoc Meeting.....7.30pm**  
Physics LT1. Professor Eric Laithwaite gives talk 'Nature did it first' (should be Monday).
- Water Polo.....7.30pm**  
Sports Centre. Come along and join in.
- Southside Disco.....8.30pm**  
Southside Bar.

### SATURDAY

- Boat Club.....9.00pm**  
Putney Boathouse
- Kung Fu Club.....4.30pm**  
Wu Shu Kwan in Southside Gym.
- London Ball.....7.00pm**  
Tickets on door.

### SUNDAY

- SplotSoc.....6.45pm**

- Meet Beit Quad for second trip to Hookwood. Bring cheque books.
- Sunday Service.....10.00am**  
Anteroom Sherfield Building. See West London Chaplaincy.
- Catholic Chaplaincy Mass.....11.00am**  
53 Cromwell Road.
- Wargames.....1.00pm**  
UDH. All welcome.
- Yoga.....10.30am**  
Southside Gym.
- Kung Fu Club.....4.30pm**  
Wu Shu Kwan in the Union Gym.
- Catholic Mass.....6.00pm**  
53 Cromwell Road, followed by supper.
- Boat Club.....9.00pm**  
Putney Boathouse.





rose-tinted spectacles. Most people here have little control over what happens in their own lives. How many people know their MP personally? Are his or her views all the same as yours? So why does Parliament have the right to make laws we are supposed to be forced to obey? The State and the capitalists, who push everyone around, break any laws they find inconvenient. Why do some people have too little power to ensure they have a home and regular meals? It hurts everyone to know that other people are

## Dabchick

Dear Sir,

I feel compelled to write on the subject of your apparently fictional series of letters.

'The Adventures of the Inadequate Man', a selection of rantings from a fictional character 'Alan Bailey'.

Firstly it is only fair to tell you that a real 'Alan Bailey' exists, and as I gaze at him now, I find it hard to believe that your bigoted, and some might say pig ignorant character can be based on this beautiful human being.

Furthermore how could the author of your entertaining but hard hitting series of 'Mock Misives' be believed to be an Imperial College student. This is a college of higher education, and some say the heart of the late sixties 'peace and love' generation—the pieces so far have been

suffering and to try to tell ourselves nothing can be done about it, when we really want to help. Here in the so-called 'Free West' people have little choice how to live their lives. The system we live under is so abominable, we should not congratulate ourselves when outsiders admire it. Their choice of what to believe and what to fight for, and our choice, ought not to be restricted to alternative forms of oppression.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jason Pike.*

illiterate, biased to the point of racist or homophobic hysteria, and no doubt written originally in shakey writing.

Imperial College would not, I feel sure, produce such a miserable specimen; from its atmosphere of understanding and enlightenment, such a self-important intollerant shithead seems unlikely. The mythical persona of 'Alan Bailey' is not at a College of higher education, but clearly a wanker of the highest order who has never been on a cheap day return to the planet Earth.

If you intend to publish any more of Mr Bailey's opinions, perhaps they could be tainted with a bit of beauty; as it is, if they were to be taken seriously, they could offend, upset, and do a lot of damage.

*Richard Ball, Chem 2.*

## Dab Hand

Dear Chris,

First thing: the cover of issue 883 promised that students would soon have the amazing opportunity to pay tuition fees, in addition to living costs. No more of this soppy Thatcherite ideology whereby the poor taxpayers subsidise us to lounge about for three years and then get a fabbo job. I've been looking forward to this for ages, and eagerly scoured your mighty publication for details. To my dismay there was no mention of what I'm sure would be a staggeringly popular scheme. It now seems to me that this was a cruel hoax, designed to increase FELIX's circulation with empty promises of wondrous delights. Be warned, this can only lose you readers in the long run.

The best way to shift more copies is the Murdoch-Maxwell theorem, i.e. enormous eye-catching headlines, million pound bingo, and loads of nude bimbos.

The other thing: Athena is doing an excellent job, generating interest in FELIX. His criticism of the Saddam Hussein Fan Club on campus is entirely justified. I am surprised, however, that he didn't condemn in more forthright terms El-Choly's bigoted rantings of a fortnight ago. Britian has a long and fascinating history, and a culture envied and emulated the world over. As a Briton (well, almost) I consider Amin's remarks more offensive than anything Athena has said. Keep it up Ath, and how about solving the Northern Ireland problem next?

*Yours anti-Heseltinely,  
Ulta McCarthy, Physics 3.*

## What's On

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

### MONDAY

- RockSoc Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge. All abnormalities welcome.
- Basketball Club**.....5.30pm  
Volleyball Court. Men's Team.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Speaker Meeting**.....5.30pm  
University of London, Senate House, Malet Street. 'Ways Into Shakespeare's Sonnets' by Prof Helen Vender.
- Rock 'n' Roll Lessons**.....6.00pm  
JCR. Intermediate.
- Swimming**.....6.30pm  
Sports Centre. New members always welcome.
- Rock n Roll**.....7.00pm  
JCR. Beginners
- Water Polo**.....7.30pm  
Sports Centre. Come along and try one of the most physically demanding sports.

- Latin American**.....8.00pm  
JCR. Beginners/Improvers

### TUESDAY

- C.U. Prayer Meeting**.....8.30pm  
Chaplain's Office
- Riding Club Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Radio Modellers**.....12.30pm  
Southside Lounge.
- Cathsoc Mass**.....12.30pm  
Mech Eng 702. Followed by lunch.
- Sailing Club**.....12.30pm  
Southside Lounge.
- EnviroSoc Lecture**.....12.45pm  
Mech Eng 220. 'Personal Choice and the Green Movement.'
- PhotoSoc**.....1.00pm  
Southside Lounge. New members to join.
- Radio Modellers**.....5.30pm

- Student training workshop, Mech Eng.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Amenesty International**.....5.30pm  
Clubs Committee Room. Weekly meeting.
- Wine Tasting Soc**.....6.00pm  
Union Lounge. Weekly meeting.
- Social Ballroom**.....6.00pm  
JCR. Beginners.
- Canoe Club**.....6.15pm  
Beit Quad store or 8.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge.
- Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym.
- ICSF Film**.....7.00pm  
Mech Eng 342.
- Latin American**.....7.00pm  
JCR. Bronze Medal Class.





# Da Capo

Dear Sir,

I would like to suggest that Imperial College Union and all its members do not in any way get involved in a campaign that would support taking human life and particularly abortion.

Firstly, the human embryo and foetus is an individual from conception. From this point on (s)he has a unique DNA structure and grows according to its own biological set up. As an individual the embryo or foetus should be given the rights of any human especially and foremostly the right to live. Women do have rights but, like men, these rights do not include termination of innocent human life on demand. This attitude is one of pure selfishness and thinking only of one's own comfort and convenience. It is unfortunate that there is so little concern for the innocent and helpless in the world today.

Secondly, God created man after His own image and to abuse that is an abomination of his holy sight. We are to have the same concern for other individuals as we have for our own bodies. The Bible puts it this way, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' By the word 'neighbour', Christ means all mankind. The fact that we have such a low view of other people's welfare is another mark of the way sin has bondage over this world. It is sin that separates us from the perfect and holy God and as all have sinned, all deserve the just

penalty—death alone. However, praise God that He has not left us in this hopeless state but presented His Son, Jesus Christ, as the only sufficient sacrifice to pay for sin, so that, 'whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life'. (John 3:16).

Even though, Christ has paid the penalty for the sin of the elect, we all have the responsibility to seek to follow the moral law which teaches us to think of others before ourselves. It is in this spirit that I urge the IC Women's Officer not to encourage the availability of

abortion in this country, nor protest at a perfectly just law in another nation. May we all divert our attention to preserving God's creation to His glory. We pray that this country would turn from the sin that has been committed 'legally' over the past 23 years to accordance with the perfect Word of God in Holy Scripture.

*For the advancement of God's glory,*

*David Morton, EE 2.*

*Brian Eccles, ISE 2.*

*Owen Griffiths, Civ Eng 2.*

*David Kirk, Aero 4.*

*John Patterson, ME 2.*

*Paul Darlington, Maths 2.*

# Dacca

Dear Chris,

It is a bit hard to know where to start. I have never heard so much drivel in all my life, that is since Konrad Pagenstert's letter. The 3 critics (Felix 884) obviously never read my letter properly.

I will start with Darren Austin's letter:

Well I don't need to look up 'bigoted, xenophobic or sycophant,' however you better look up 'intolerance' since you spelt it with 2 l's. I don't revel in war. I respect and admire those who gave their lives so the rest of us might enjoy the freedom that we all have. The reason why I kept my argument fixed on Japanese atrocities was simply because my letter was attacking Prince Charles' visit to Japan. There was no point in mentioning South Africa since the Prince wasn't even going to the same continent.

I do agree that part of Remembrance-day, however, is to remember the horrors of war.

Moving on to Dominic Jenkin:

All I can say about this person is that he must be a closet Nazi since he wanted obviously, to appease Hitler. What is most disgraceful about him are his comments and I quote 'I will not respect those that died...' Well, if those people had not stopped Hitler by being prepared to kill others, you would know be living under the Nazi flag, with no Royal Family and no parliament. Why don't you shut up and hold your white feather.

Finally Matthew Salter:

Well, this was just a load of toffee-nosed condescending drivel. I am glad he is grateful to those who died for our freedoms. They were heroes because they

# What's On

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

## WEDNESDAY

- Keep Fit**.....12.30pm  
Southside Gym.
- Cycling Training**.....1.00pm  
Meet at Beit Arch.
- Wargames**.....1.00pm  
UDH. All welcome.
- Micro Club Meeting**.....1.15pm  
Top floor NW corner Union Building. Every week.
- Kung Fu**.....1.30pm  
Union Gym.
- Rowing Club**.....2.00pm  
Putney Boathouse.
- Shaolin System Nam Pai Chuan**.....7.00pm  
Southside Gym.
- AudioSoc**.....7.00pm  
Cornflake Shop demo, 37 Windmill Street near Tottenham Court Road tube.
- Basketball Club**.....7.30pm  
Volleyball Court. Women's Team

- Kung Fu Club**.....7.30pm  
Union Gym. Wu Shu Kwan.
- DramSoc 'Billy Liar'**.....8.00pm  
Concert Hall.

## THURSDAY

- Fencing Training**.....11.30am  
Intermediate & advanced coaching.
- Balloon Club Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge.
- YHA Meeting**.....12.30pm  
Southside Upper Lounge.
- Postgrad Lunch**.....12.30pm  
Chaplains Office (10 Princes Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.
- Fencing Training**.....12.30pm  
Beginners Training.
- Amnesty International**.....12.30pm  
Letter writing stall in the JCR.
- Fencing Training**.....1.30pm  
General.

- Gliding Club Meeting**.....1.00pm  
Aero 266. Come and arrange a trial flight. All newcomers welcome.
- Keep Fit**.....5.30pm  
Southside Gym
- Midweek Service**.....5.30pm  
Chaplains Office (10 Prince's Gardens). See West London Chaplaincy.
- Social Ballroom**.....6.00pm  
JCR. Intermediate.
- Judo**.....6.30pm  
Union Gym.
- Social Ballroom**.....7.00pm  
JCR. Beginners.
- Film Soc**.....7.30pm  
'Parenthood' in Room 220 Mech Eng.
- DramSoc present Billy Liar**.....8.00pm  
Concert Hall.





realised that they owed a duty to their country, and believed in a right and just cause. There were many respected people at the Cenotaph as Matthew says. But that was not what I was condemning. I condemned the future King of the UK's lack of tact in going to Japan on Remembrance day.

I am flattered that Matthew did research on me but unfortunately (like his so called facts) he is wrong to say I have a 'Hang Nelson Mandela' T-Shirt. I do not.

In answer to his question, I can explain the fact that there have been 3 consecutive Conservative governments. It has nothing to do with deceiving the population. It is because of sensible and correct policies as well as having a wonderful Prime Minister in Margaret Thatcher.

The person who was to blame for Hiroshima and Nagasaki is Hirohito. He was on the council that agreed to (and he personally authorised, the records showing this still exist) the attack on Pearl Harbour, thus bringing the US into the war.

Matthew says that I don't live in the real world. Well I know that I'm more in tune with the British people than a condescending, stuck up person like you.

By the way unlike most people at Imperial I have an S-level in modern history which included South East Asia in World War II. So I'm not as ignorant as Matthew likes to think. My letter was not racist. I called the late Emperor a 'nasty little Nip' not any other Jap.

Nasty—because he was head of state

and allowed atrocities to happen.

Little—well he wasn't very big!

Nip—shortened from Nippon. If anyone called me a Brit I would be offended.

When Matthew ever leaves College, after his PhD, (if he ever does. He strikes me as one of those eternal students), he will see what the real world is really like,

## Dace

Dear Chris,

I heard yesterday about another deviant who is trying to prosecute the British Government over alleged human rights abuse.

The scumbag in question is a convicted murderer. He has served three years of a life sentence for killing a young girl. He was married in prison, three months after being gaoled, to a woman he met while on remand. He wants permission to consummate the marriage, which has constantly been refused.

His argument is that bonking is such a basic human right that it is illegal to prevent an inmate from doing so. What is the world coming to? This country's criminals are treated like spoiled children. They eat better than many honest citizens. If they smash up their rooms they are given new ones. 'Model' prisons are planned, with a TV and fridge in every room. They go shopping, have day trips, they get plenty of visits, and regular exercise. Others study for Open University degrees, bettering themselves at the expense of their victims.

away from the protective educational environment. It is only then he will see how condescending and isolated, views like his, really are.

Yours,  
Alan Bailey.

P.S. Please print my reply this time!!

We have prisons primarily to protect us from evil and dangerous individuals. The second purpose of prison is to punish convicts for the nuisance they have been to society. I advocate treating prisoners like the scum they are. If they destory their cells then they go without furniture until they pay for the damage. If they smear their excrement on the walls—the 'dirty protests' common in Peterhead and other maximum security establishments—then they live in their own filth until they clean it up. Corporal punishment must be reintroduced, and made compulsory for assault on staff. 'Life' should mean just that—murderers must never be freed. Facilities for prisoners to commit suicide should be more readily available; their assistance in reducing overcrowding would be gratefully received.

Let our poor sex-starved inmate consummate his marriage when he gets out in 2001, if he can still get it up. I find against the plaintiff.

Yours,  
Ultan McCarthy, Physics 3.

## What's On

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

- Rock Soc Gig**.....8.00pm  
Union Lounge. Heartbreak Angels plus support and rock disco.
- Latin American**.....8.00pm  
JCR. Gold medal class.
- Southside Disco**.....8.30pm  
Southside Bar.
- ICCAG Soup Run**.....9.15pm  
Meet Weeks Hall Basement to take food to London's homeless.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SEND A LETTER save a life at the Amnesty letter writing stall, Thursday, 12.30, JCR.
- THANKS A LOT for helping out on Saturday Pete, and Lucy and John for Friday night. Cheers Zayeed.
- POSTGRADUATE Womens Group. Women in Music 1990. Trip to the jazz night at the Shaw Theatre. Friday 7 December. £4, sign up on

- SCR (Sherfield) noticeboard. Further details from Sam ext 5156 or Kaye ext 6894.
- IC RADIO would like to thank the customers of Southside last Friday for donating £162.08 to Children in Need.
- ACCOMMODATION**
- TWIN bedrooms, \$45 pw each and single rooms, \$53 pw available in Hamlet Gardens flats. Contact M Bridgewater on 081-746 3205 (eves).
  - VEG NON-SMOKER wanted to share flat in Clapham Junction. Single room \$41 pw plus bills. Bike 20 mins, bus 40 mins. Tel 071-228 0187.
- FOR SALE**
- FOLK GUITAR—Yamaha FG400A. As new £100. B Flat Clarinet—Buffet Grampon £150. Contact John Maskall on 5521.
- LOST & FOUND**
- LOST: One RCS rugby shirt 'striped' with number 7 on the back. If found please return

- to RCSU Office.
- LOST: Green sweatshirt with 'Eastern Region Ski Association' on it. Contact P Wickens, Life Sci 3 or tel: 081-994 8522.
- PERSONAL**
- FLUFFYBUM...who are you anyway?
  - YIANNIS Y. (the great tsifteteli dancer) needs help to join the Spanish AND Japanese Society. Please help him.
  - PLEASE help me, Yiannis Y, Mech Eng 1.
  - PHALLIXSWORD: Sophie: A message from JBG via GT: 'I feel like a French tourist in Neh-neh-na-narnia! Ocasion! Ocasion! Party Up! Donkeyless forever! Hugs 'cos—true love must burn!' And from me: Hippo birdies & many of the day. Don't despair, but be glad it's one step nearer to that day—no more worries!
  - CHRIS Dawber & Gina Marquess wish to announce their engagement, a formal date has not been set.



# Manager's Bit

t

Bit

It's been a fun week running between telephones and fax machines all in the cause of interesting news and lots of gory gossip. Unfortunately we are not able to bring you half the stuff this week but I am sure you will find something good to read a week on Wednesday.

## Chrimbo Edition

What! A week on Wednesday, how can that be you say. Well, for the uninitiated at the end of term we try and finish with a bit of a bang. This means that we will be running a huge issue packed with lots of goodies for you to read and play! Yes we have a board game for passing by those awful bits of Christmas.

If you want to get anything into the next issue you will have to come and see me as soon as possible. We will also need lots of collators to help us put the issue together and drink lots of wine, beer etc and eat mince pies and things. If you can help out turn up on Monday evening from about 6pm and Tuesday evening from 7pm onwards. Remember that's not next week but the one after.

## Two is a special number

On Monday and Tuesday there are two very important things happening and you

ought to be a part of it. Rolled into one convenient move you will be able to vote for or against the all new Non-Sabbatical Felix Editor and make your opinion known about the possible changes to the College Day. This is a biggie as the College working party on the idea meets on Thursday to decide what to do. If a big enough number of people give their views then this must be taken into account by the working party if they are living on the same planet as us. Of course this may not be the case. Because of the two matters above there is a big possibility of a FELIX flysheet going out on Wednesday morning so keep a look out for this next week.

## Credits:

**Typesetting and Printing:** Rose and Andy

**News Editor:** Toby

**Reviews Editor:** Adam T

**Music Editor:** Sarah **Features Editor:** Roland

**Science Editor:** Ian

**Cartoonist:** Andy Butcher

**Photo Editor:** Richard

**Photography:** Jeremy

**TheTeam:** Adam H, Michael Newman,

James, Spencer, Frank, Athena, Don Adlington (sorry, I know it should have gone in last week!), Charles Nasser, Chris Riley and Stephen Copestake.

**The Collators:** Lots of collators this week thank Gaia, drawing from the above and FBI Soc, West London Chaplaincy, West London Catholic Chaplaincy and the Overseas Committee. The people include; Rosie, Andy, Sharon, David, Dave, Paul, David, Sarah, Claire, Chew and Elizabeth from CU; Michael, Ilyas, Michael and Andrew from FBI; Tom, Nick, Jon and Carrie from LWC; Andreas, T M Loo, K Yurtseuer, R Antoceyk, S Lee, Chandan, Mich and Ronald from OSC; Andrew and Graham from IC Radio.

**Christmas Staff Meeting Today at 1pm. Everyone Welcome, but if you cannot make it then see me as soon as possible.**

Felix is produced for and on behalf of the Imperial College Union Publications Board and is printed at the Imperial College Union Print Unit, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB (Tel 071-225 8672).  
Manager: Chris Stapleton, Business Manager: Jeremy Burnell. Copyright Felix 1990 ISSN 1040-0711.

Join us for the  
**FELIX '90 DINNER**  
on Friday 7th December  
7.30pm for 8.00pm  
**Food, Wine & More Galore!**  
Students £18, Staff £24  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
Contact Chris on ext 3515  
or in the FELIX Office

**FBI**  
**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
**THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER**  
**7.30pm SHERFIELD**  
Informal dress  
Tickets £10 from  
Samir Doshi, Computing 4  
Ann Roberts, Maths 3

# FELIX

## A DAY AT PARLIMENT...

THIS WEEK WE TAKE AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT THE SECRET POLITICAL LIFE OF OUR VERY OWN FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD PSYCHOTIC CAT...

PLEASE NOTE: THE STORY THAT FOLLOWS IS COMPLETELY TRUE. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PEOPLE LIVING, DEAD, OR IN POWER DUE TO OPORTUNISTICALLY MANIPULATING EVENTS AND LUCK IS ENTIRELY INTENTIONAL.

© 1990 ALIEN SEX FIEND

IN THE HOUSES OF POWER...

ACKK! ER, NO, ER, HI!  
I'M THE PM... BARF...  
ER, EXCUSE ME; BAD COLD..



YO! MAGGIE!  
CATCH THIS, YOU  
DAFT HAG!







# Manifesto

## Andy Butcher Non Sabbatical FELIX Editor

Proposed by James Briant

Manifestoes are always tough to write (it's tough enough to spell for a start). Phrases like 'I think you should vote for me because...' and 'If elected I promise to...' come sneaking unbidden to your mind, furtively gathering at the edges of your consciousness. You drop your guard for a second and ARRGGGHHH!!! You've written the biggest electoral cliché since 'Vote for me or the goose gets it!' Your originality, self esteem, and credibility go out on strike, your sanity starts to crumble and it's all over... You've written another 300 boring words and no one reads past the third line!

So, I'm not going to tell you to 'vote for me'. Honest. I'm just going to say why I want to do the job. Radical, eh?

It's not going to be very long, either. The simple fact is I want to do it because I'll enjoy it.

Well, maybe it shouldn't be that short. In my dim and murky past (the VIth year) I produced a newsletter. In my 1st year I ressurected the Tizard hall paper, the Lizard. This year I've been working for Felix. All these have been great fun, and I loved doing them. If I get the post, my main aims will be to continue (and with any luck, improve) the excellent work done by Chris so far and to make Felix as entertaining as possible.

To sum it all up, I honestly enjoy staying up 'til all hours of the morning, living on coffee and cigarettes, being under constant stress, writing very long sentences, having members of staff avoid me, and having huge amounts of work to do. The way I see it being Felix Editor isn't going to stop me doing any of that.

**Andy Butcher.**



# How to Vote

In a valiant attempt to join in the current vogue of internal elections Imperial College Union is having an election for a non-sabbatical FELIX Editor. The poll is on Monday and Tuesday from 10am to 5pm. Voting will definitely take place in the Mech Eng Foyer, JCR, Union Snack Bar, Maths/DoC Walkway Concourse, Chem Eng Concourse and the Mines Entrance as well as at Silwood and St Mary's. Voting may take place in other departments depending on how many people want to man ballot boxes (you do get payed!).

At College we use a method of voting somewhat different to the Tory Party, i.e. the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

STV is reliant on a candidate achieving greater than 50% of all votes. This is achieved by the following method:

You award a 1 (solely a 1 not a tick or X or any other smudge) to the candidate who, in your opinion, is best. You can stop there or award a 2 to the next best candidate, 3 to the next and so on depending on how many candidates there are, including New Election.

There are a few parts to remember otherwise you will void your paper. There can only be numbers on the paper, they must start at 1, they must be sequenced and not represent an equal preference.

On the paper there is a choice marked New Election. If you vote 1 for this option you make a statement that the candidate is unsuitable for the job. If you want to vote New Election fine, but do not do it as a joke as an election costs a substantial

### Invalid

Candidate A 1  
New Election 3

Candidate A ✓  
New Election X

Candidate A 1  
New Election 1

### Valid

Candidate A 1  
New Election

Candidate A 1  
New Election 1

You can also vote for  
**New Election**

amount of money to run (hence we are running a referendum at the same time).

The counting of votes will be at 5.30pm on Tuesday. A candidate must pass quota, which is one vote more than 50% of valid papers being counted. STV gets more complicated when more than one candidate stands as votes are transferred but you will have to wait until then.

Sample of valid and invalid papers are shown below:

IMPERIAL COLLEGE O.S.C. PRESENT  
FOR STUDENTS ALL OVER LONDON

# INTERNATIONAL BALL

**AT THE PARK DISCO  
KENSINGTON HIGH ST**  
*Dance music from all over  
the world*

**National costume or smart  
dress essential**

**4th December '90**  
**9.30pm-3.00am**

*Tickets:*

**£5 in advance (more at the door)**

Tickets available from: YOUR STUDENT UNION OFFICE or contact Andreas Masouras (071-223 3808), Yashpal Kapoor (071-727 8065), Ron Rapanot (071-370 3287), Chandan Singh (071-370 0439)

**buy tickets in advance to avoid disappointment**