

Ten hospitals to go, St Marys' faces axe in 'vandalism' fear

by Declan Curry

The official verdict on the Tomlinson Inquiry will be delivered later today, when the reports from six high-level review groups hit Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley's desk at eleven o'clock this morning. Press reports suggest that nine London hospitals could shut, and St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, indirectly part of Imperial College, is one of another four hospitals fighting for survival.

The speciality review groups were set up as part of the Government's response to the report from the Tomlinson Inquiry. The groups examined the provision of heart, cancer, paediatric, neuroscience, renal and plastic surgery services in London. This morning's report is expected to slash these key services. Labour has described the plans as 'sheer vandalism'.

The hospitals threatened with closure are Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea; St Thomas' Hospital, Central London; St Bartholomew's Hospital; Harefield Hospital; The London Chest Hospital; Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney; Brook Hospital, Greenwich; Oldchurch Hospital, Romford; and Atkinson Morley Hospital. Health pressure group London Health Emergency (LHE) says a subsequent financial crisis will lead to the possible closure for a tenth hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital, in Roehampton.

According to LHE, the rationalisation of the speciality services will leave four other hospitals fighting for survival. St Mary's in Paddington is expected to lose its esteemed cancer unit and almost all of its renal services immediately, with its cardiac service to be axed within a few years. Britain's first mobile cardiac unit was launched by Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley at St Mary's during April, and Mrs Bottomley also said last February that St Mary's 'was well sited in relation to the population'. Peter Richards, Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School, is making no comment on the reports, but senior administrators at the Medical School say they could 'go under' if St Mary's Hospital closed or was downsized. The three others are King's College Hospital, the Royal Free, and the Maudsley.

Any change to St Mary's Medical School would demolish plans for an expansion of the Imperial College School of Medicine, and wreck the Health Secretary's own proposals for a new 'Chelsea Health Sciences Centre'. The four other components of both plans are now facing possible closure or ravaging of existing services. The Royal Marsden is reportedly facing immediate closure (Felix 966), and the Royal Brompton may merge with the new Westminster and Chelsea Hospital, flatly



The new Leopold Muller Cystic Fibrosis Gene Research Laboratory was opened by HRH Princess Alexandra this week. The laboratory houses the first British research programme connecting genetic technology and the use of gene therapy to treat cystic fibrosis. The project is funded through a grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. HRH was greeted by 15 year old Kate Law, who has cystic fibrosis.

contradicting Mrs Bottomley's encouragement to both hospitals to submit a joint trust application. As reported in Felix 970, the Hammersmith Hospital is expected to lose its cardiac service, along with its paediatric, neuroscience and cancer services. Celia Oakley, a cardiac professor at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, has already predicted that the Hammersmith Medical School

would shut if the cardiac service were to close. Charing Cross Hospital is due to lose its renal, paediatric, and cancer services. Its plastic surgery service would stay at the site only if their specialist Accident and Emergency services remains there also. Health experts have warned that Charing Cross A&E will shut if any of the specialist services are lost from Charing Cross.

Felix Summer Special in three parts!!!

1. News 2. Reviews 3. Features

Student advantage

by Declan Curry

Further education students have reportedly been given a new edge over their higher education counterparts. A new survey commissioned for the Department of Employment shows that more employers are plumping for applicants with vocational qualifications over those with a degree.

The Institute of Manpower Studies, which carried out the poll, said there has been a shift towards the selective recruitment of fewer, better qualified and older applicants. Clare Simpkin, an employment journalist, says that a combination of recession and demographic changes has killed off traditional patterns of mass

recruitment.

Meanwhile, new figures have been published concurring with earlier fears that graduate employment prospects are plummeting. Graduate vacancies in chartered accountancy were down a quarter last year, and experts are predicting a tougher time this year. Roger Hammett, of Southampton University's careers service, says 'every sector has been affected by falling vacancies'. Neil Harris, of London University careers service said they were expecting 100 firms to attend July's London Recruitment Fair. This is just half the number which attended in 1989. 'The financial sector is very dull,' added Dr Harris.

Engineers exhibiting

by Declan Curry

A major exhibition was hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering on Queen's Lawn yesterday. The soiree, an annual event which moves from institution to institution, was organised this year by Professor Patrick Dowling, Head of Civil Engineering, and Professor Jack Chapman, a visiting professor.

The soiree will include exhibitions on the theme of the contribution of engineering to the nation's wealth. Professor Dowling told Felix that this wealth was not just material, but also included environmental and other contributions to the quality of life. A committee of 'eminent persons' has selected 35 exhibits to show how technical innovation moves from the workbench to the marketplace.

One of the seven exhibits from Imperial shows a new artificial knee joint for use in medicine. The joint, which replaces non-generating ligaments at the back of the knee cap, comprises thousands of filaments bolted together between the femur and the tibia. The joint can take stress up to half a ton. Other exhibits include a Dundee invention which detects bank note forgeries by using spectral analysis, and a device from Hertfordshire which detects Legionnaire disease-causing particles, a task described as finding six needles in Wembley stadium.

Professor Dowling says that

engineering is working hand in hand with industry, but accepts there are problems with the marketing of innovations. Speaking on LBC Newstalk, the Professor said this was due to boardrooms being crammed with technical illiterates, and engineers being 'too narrowly educated' so that they do not have finance and communication skills.

The problematic shortfall in the numbers of engineering students has received government attention this week. Incentive awards of £500 have been announced to tempt high calibre students to opt for engineering degrees. The scheme, administered by the Engineering Council, will provide funds for two thousand students, and will run for three years, starting next September. In announcing the scheme, the Education Secretary, John Patten, urged employers to alert students to the 'increasingly competitive starting salaries for engineering graduates,' which currently stand at £12,800 per annum. Denis Filer, director general of the Engineering Council, said the bursaries would attract 'people much needed by the industry'. The bursaries have also been welcomed by the Science Minister, William Waldegrave. 'This reflects the spirit of the science and engineering white paper and the importance government attaches to engineering. It's just what the profession wanted.'



Rag have unveiled their new slogan for next year, writes Declan Curry. The burnt offering is above; all you have to do is to colour it in like a good six year old, and send it off to Womble, c/o the Rag Office. Or better still, send alternative designs to him instead, using the same fun packed slogan. Fantastic prizes promised by Rag (another mug, no doubt).

Boat Club out

by Declan Curry

Eight members of ICU Boat Club have been banned from a major rowing event. Stewards at the Henley Royal Regatta disqualified the members from taking part in the

'Temple Challenge Club'. The competition, for colleges and non-collegiate universities, was won by Imperial last year. A new team has been formed to try and hold the title.

IC 'weedy'

by Declan Curry

Members of an Imperial department have been described as 'weedy', 'scruffy', 'unkempt' and 'unattractive'. The verdict on chemists was delivered by hundreds of teenagers studying the subject. The denouncement was made in a survey for the Royal Society of Chemistry, which was trying to attract more youngsters into the

profession. For good measure, the 13-18 year olds also described chemists as 'swots', 'wimps', 'loners', and 'male'. Dr Sepp Gruber, of the Royal Society, said the results showed that 'the message is not getting through that chemists make a major contribution to the national economy and improving the environment and social conditions.'

Rubbish

by Declan Curry

Estates has announced that it is to take trash seriously, with the appointment of a new Waste Control Officer. Bob Birrell, formerly Technical Services Manager at Electrical and Electronic Engineering, will co-ordinate the introduction of a new 'Waste Disposal Policy'. The policy will be influenced by the 1990 Environmental Protection Act, which places a 'duty of care' on

those involved in the disposal of household, industrial and trade waste.

In other staff changes, Clare Daunton has resigned as Development Officer, to take up a new job with Shelter. Dr Jill Pellew, Director of Development, told Felix that Mrs Daunton 'had done great work and will be missed'. Mrs Daunton will be replaced by Clive Oakley.

Information request

by Declan Curry

Police are still appealing for witness to come forward to help piece together the last movements of the five London serial killer victims. For each of the five men murdered there is a gap of at least two days from when they were last seen alive to when their bodies were found. 'It is imperative that we find out the victim's last movements, and above

all we would like to know of anyone seen going to their addresses,' said a Scotland Yard spokesman.

Information can be given to officers at Kensington on 071 937 7945, or Arbour Square on 071 488 6668. Information can also be passed on to Paul Duffy at the Gay London Policing Group (GALOP) on 071 233 0854.

Emanuel Spiteri

An Appreciation

It came as an appalling blow to learn of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Emanuel. He was working in College only last Friday (11th), his normal cheerful self. He was known to virtually all of the staff and student users of QT, to whom he always chatted. It has caused sadness in both the Catering Department and amongst many of the regular customers of QT that the picture painted of Emanuel's personal life was not the balanced view that we had of him.

Emanuel will be remembered as a helpful, willing, open person, who was much liked by members

of the College during the five years that he worked here. He was generous to a fault, even to the extent that this quality may have led indirectly to his death.

He is remembered with particular affection in the Catering Department as a larger than life character, with a great appetite of fun.

Since his death, I have been approached by many staff and students of the College who have all shared our view of Emanuel and who will, like us, all miss him.

James Woolven,
Manager QT

To Friends and Colleagues of Emanuel Spiteri (who worked in the JCR)

The horrendous circumstances of his death will not mar our memory of him being a warm hearted and cheerful character, he will be missed.

With the deepest regret

Users of the JCR

summer

24 June 1992 St. Mary's students are disgruntled with arrangements made by **Carolyn Osner**, IC Sports Manager, to replace facilities at the South Kensington Sports Centre, under extensive renovation. **Zoe Hellinger**, ICU Presidenté, defended her volte face on giving £650,000 of Union money to College as funding for the renovations.

The 'independent' **King's Fund** calls for the closure of fifteen major London hospitals and the axing of 5,000 beds. 'The King's Fund report will give an air of academic respectability to carnage in London's health service,' claim pressure group **London Health Emergency**.

Higher Education Minister, **Nigel Forman**, postpones a meeting with the NUS executive on voluntary membership. Mr Forman had earlier told right-wing Tory MP **Graham Riddick** that students should have the right to join an organisation which meets 'their legitimate needs'.

5 July The *Independent on Sunday* reports that **Stanhope Properties** may be in financial difficulties due to the crash of Canary Wharf developers, **Olympia and York**.

18 July Three ICU officers are banned from a **University of London Union** training course for not leaving the building during a fire alert. ULU Vice President **Tarn Lamb**, who also stayed inside during the alert, was not banned. No explanation was given for this oversight.

August Fury erupts when Sheffield Students' Union president, **Phillipa Dodd**, publishes the Sheffield document, calling for students' unions to accept voluntary membership.

14 August College management closes **Gardens Restaurant** because of a lack of customers.

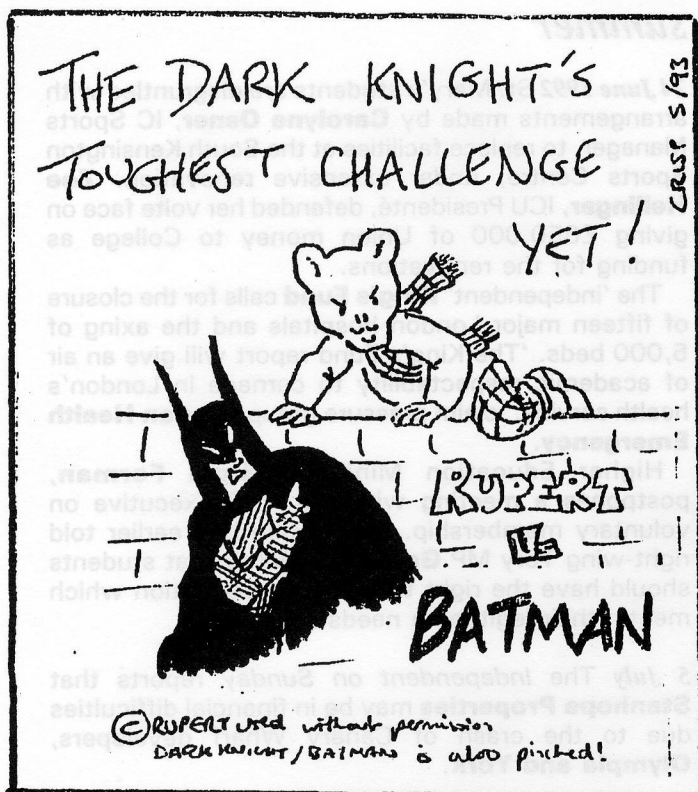
8 September An opinion poll for the right wing group **Freedom Association** claims 71% of the public is in favour of **voluntary membership**.

13 September First night of the joint European tour by Imperial College **Symphony Orchestra** and the **Budapest Academic** Choral Society.

18 September College Director of Planning **Rodney Eastwood** is promoted to the new post of Deputy Managing Director. **Terry Neville**, Finance Director, is to quit.

21 September ULU President **Mark Samuels** hosts crisis meeting of sabbaticals on voluntary membership. The Sheffield document is roundly vilified.

30 September The **Department for Education** refuses to deny that an announcement on voluntary membership will be made at the Conservative Party conference.



Enough is enough

Dear Felix,

We, the residents of Holbein house, have decided that enough is enough. The time has come for us to proclaim in public the incompetent and negligent way in which we are being treated.

Holbein was reopened in January of this year completely remodelled. The furnishings in the kitchens are second to none, and it seems no expense was spared. That is until you live there and realise what poor management and planning can do. First, there are a disproportionate number of freezers to refrigerators. In our kitchen alone we have three empty freezers to two over-packed refrigerators for six people. This is useless. Our refrigerators have to be taken to put in House 63 because someone ordered too many freezers. There is also only one oven per 24 people, which greatly reduces the use of frozen food. Second: kettles and toasters were stolen earlier in the year (because the front door wouldn't lock) and it took over three months to get them replaced. Third and most important: There are no locks for our refrigerators, freezers, or cupboards even though the holes have already been drilled. Our subwardens have been phoning Mr G Daniels, residence area manager, since January and have been consistently told that the situation

would be dealt with soon. Then they were told that no locks of the correct size were available, but the more recently finished House 62 basement kitchen and all of House 63 did get locks. But the catch is that there is only one key per refrigerator and 2-3 people to use it. Effectively they can't lock anything either.

This has led to the inevitable. Food has been stolen from every kitchen, and consistently from our kitchen. If locks were in place we would be able to tell who the thief is, and that would probably prevent the crime in the first place. As it stands, we would like to be compensated, as with any loss of property in Halls. Thefts which have been reported to the subwarden would be considered valid for recompense. Of course this couldn't come from the insurance company - they'd never pay since it's the management's negligence which has caused the situation. Maybe the money could come from the amenities fees we've been paying for a television room and newspapers which have never materialised!

sincerely,
Martin Gallagher, Krista Kasdorf, Gantam Kapoor, Bharti Reddy, S Agarwal, T Yasin, Alick Sethi, Nadeem Siddyn, Ant Vohra.

Play the opinion game!

Dear Jonty,

Of late I have discovered a new game. It's called 'What are your views on the reform of the union structure?'. Hardly a snappy name, but it seems to describe the game quite well. This is what you do:

1. Strike up a conversation with someone in the Union Building. It helps if you know them, but this is not necessary.

2. Introduce the topic of union reform with something approaching the subtlety of a sledgehammer.

3. Listen to the flow of polarised, generally uninformed views that returns.

4. Make agreeing noises

Unfortunately I'm starting to get bored with the pretty universal responses; that it's not very good, that this has been sprung on us at such short notice. I agree, but I get

the feeling that these people are going to vote against the reforms solely that they were not consulted earlier.

Yes, it would have been nice to have been involved as a voting member of ICU, but we weren't and that is now in the past. Anybody that has seen the constitution as it stands will agree that it needs a rewrite. So give a little time; go to the AGM on Friday (1pm JCR) and go through the constitution point by point.

It's the document that's important, not the people and the politics that surround it. The constitution will be around for about a decade; the people are just passing through.

Yours,

Stef Smith, Physics III

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Opinion pages this year. It has given me the greatest of pleasure to read all your insults, incoherence and rage. May the fury continue unabated until there are no more Felicies.

Particular recognition must go to James Crisp for drawing the cartoons that have enlivened the pages. I hope Gary Larsen

doesn't sue.

While I am in the process of thanks let me mention Stef Smith, think tank scuba diver extraordinaire, may his credits be as long as his reputation. Final thank you, and this really is the last one luvvies, to Ian and Yvonne for keeping me fed this year. Although this once waifish editor has become rather plumper because of it!

Ents revenge

Dear Jonty

Just a quick reflective note on the past year in Ents. This year has seen a booming Ents programme, with an extremely varied set of events and most of these events being sold out or very close to sold out. With such success one would be forgiven in thinking that we have had great support from Union Staff and Sabbaticals. Wrong!

During this year, Ents have been drawn into pointless games of petty politics by members of the Union. At every juncture we have been opposed and we had to fight very hard to prevent ourselves being dragged under by swollen egos.

Some of the sabbaticals and member(s) of staff have been under the impression that, with their (very) limited and in some cases non-existent skills in event organisation, they should dictate terms and conditions under which events are to be run. I seems that the many year's experience of the Ents committee count for nothing in event management. Those who know nothing, should leave the decisions to be made by people with the relevant experience; ie the Ents

Committee.

At this stage I would like to make clear that we are very appreciative of the students and staff who have provided continual support. We leave this year, proud of the achievements and successes of Ents, but jaded by the experience of working within Imperial College Union. Unfair, untrue and unkind accusations have been levelled at the ents committee by members of staff this year. We are upset that no apologies have been made and the whole experience has left a sour taste in our mouths.

On a lighter note, we would like to thank everyone in the Ents Committee for giving up so much time to ensure you the punters have the cheapest top-quality student entertainment in London. You owe them a lot. Thanks go to Michelle, Cathy, Zona, Louise, Felix, DramSoc (particularly the truly amazing Andrew Nu), Ian, Yvonne, Andy F. and Dom. The Ents Exec
Andy Kerr (Ents Chair 92/93)
B.J. (Ents Hon Sec 92/93)
Lisa (Treasurer 93/93)



freshers

2 October LWT's **Trevor Phillips** opens the new, refurbished **Da Vinci's** Union bar.

7 October Education Secretary **John Patten** tells the Conservative Party conference that the NUS closed shop 'must go'. NUS President **Lorna Fitzsimons** said the voluntary principle already existed.

9 October The **Barclay Foundation** donate £800,000 towards Alzheimers research at St Marys. £1 million is donated to **Bob Williamson's** Cystic Fibrosis Group.

In the first of many unpaid-for adverts, **College security** ask all students and staff to wear their **swipecards**. They also investigate that week's five thefts.

10 October 200 **raggies** raise over £2,000 during **tiddlywinking**. £5,000 is raised the following week during the world famous **Monopoly**.

14 October Students at a **West London Chaplaincy** house on New King's Road are threatened with eviction by **Hammersmith and Fulham council**.

16 October First night of the hated Poll, sorry, new **Ents Drink Tax**.

Despite the Rector's assurances, the new **College Day** leads to an increase in the amount of contact time, and sees some departments, notably **Civil Engineering**, break College timetabling rules.

20 October 54 companies take part in **Jeremy Burnell's** annual extravaganza, the **ICU Careers Fair**.

21 October John Patten tells **Conservative Students** that he will legislate for voluntary membership in the next parliament. Porkies, of course.

Members of the **Royal School of Mines** march through Hyde Park in support of the **British mining industry**, RIP.

22 October The **defederalisation** row bursts into life when **Sir Eric Ash** announces a review of links between Imperial and the University of London. Sir Eric describes the federal structure as 'sterile' and 'unproductive'.

26 October ICU president **Chris Davidson** has his first **meet the students** meeting.

28 October Imperial chemistry student **Ilya Eigenbrot** brings humanitarian relief to Russia. He is accompanied by **Ben Krystall** and **Colin Lawrence**.

30 October After the 'disappearance' of a **Union minibus**, ICU House chair **Richard Streeter** is banned from the Union building.

Those bright bods at Gordon Marshall's **Estates** plc call in an external agency to 'locate' a suitable property for accommodation. The nearest Halifax is opposite Harrods, **Nick**.

Union Social Colours

The following have been awarded Social Colours from Imperial College Union for the Academic Year 1992/93

Jonty Beavan
Neil Bond
Ronjoy Choudhury
David Cohen
Declan Curry
Steve Dunton
Simon Govier
Greg Iles
Beccy Land
Steve Newhouse
David Spooner
Rex Wickham
James Evans
John Adey
Stephen 'BJ' McCabe
Lisa Evans
Greg Summers
Simon Cuff
Andrew Nu
Andrew Kerr
Susan McDonald
Peter Collins
Darren Holmes
Zayed Alam
Prof Eric Yeatman
Ian Nichol
Steve Farrant
Tim Cotton
Stefan Laugharne
Chris Hodge
Stanley Lim
Mark Cox
Doug Ramshaw

Emma Holmes
Andrew Kernahan
Max Sahib Zada
Ben Poulton
Hugh Eland
Dominic Wilkinson
Rick Bilby
Chris Davidson
Rhian Picton
Paul Thomas
Kate Dalton
Paul Homes
Marc Swan
Carl Boon
Yen Yang Lim
Oliver Shergold
Graeme Hay
Sarah Lee
Stephen Graham
Samir Karia
Jeremy Parker
Nicky Fox
Yew Boon Yeo
Andrew Wensley
Mark Summers
David Woodcock
Helen Teasdale
Mike Chamberlain
Mark Bunyan
Tamsin Braisher
Lorna Mountford
Mark Richards
Peter Shreiber
Liz Carr
Lynda Davies
John Vandridge Ames

Cat's Eyes

Thanks

Firstly, and this might be the boring bit for some people, the thanks that I feel I owe a few people since I started here. If you feel that reading a load of names is not for you, skip to the section labelled *Fuckings*. A big apology to anyone who I have forgotten.

Jonty Beavan (for giving me a place in Felix), Declan Curry (for help, support, etc), Sara Abdullah (for getting me hooked on the theatre), Mario D'Onofrio (for wearing wicked clothes), Rose Atkins (for numerous typesetting requests), Andy Thompson (for being a mad printer), Ian Hodge (for teaching me about PC's, IC and everything), David 'Spoons' Spooner (for being camp, pretentious and a laff), Stef Smith (for just being a happy soul), Rebecca 'Beccy' Land (for winning the election), Simon Govier (for cruel but funny jokes), Gareth Light (for showing me what colour I shouldn't dye my hair), Rachael Mountford (for being around), Rachael Basset (for editing Broadsheet), Mike Chamberlain (can't think of a reason for saying thanks, just felt I had to mention him), Joe Baguey (for being *Condiment Man*), Steve Dunton (for being a laff), Dave Cohen (for not kicking me out of IC Radio), Biology Admin. (for their priceless help), Chris Stapleton (see Steve Dunton), Coral Gregory (for being a good friend), Dave Eady (see Coral), Paul Dias (for working with me), The IC Radio Crew (Phill, Mel, Jaymz, Brian) (for being a bunch of mad people who know how to brighten up a dull college), Dominic Wilkinson (for being perverse and unshaven), Sam Cox (for being lively), Gareth P.H. (for just being around), Madonna (for great videos, songs and books),



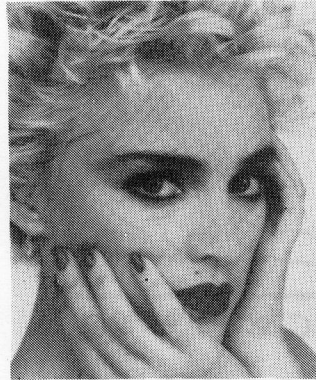
Womble (for being a complete nut case), Tamsin (for brightening up a dull office), All the reviewers that have helped me during the last term (for help that was always needed), Anyone in Biology who has bothered to talk to me despite some bastards making their disapproval known (for not making me feel alone), James Diss (for being my lab partner), Sarah in Aeronautics (see Tamsin), Commadore Business Machines (for creating the Amiga, the best home computer that pisses all over the consoles), Mimi Chakraborty (for making Declan Curry a very happy man), Anyone who has written in a letter slagging me off (for giving me material to work with), Penguin (for talking sense).



Fuckings

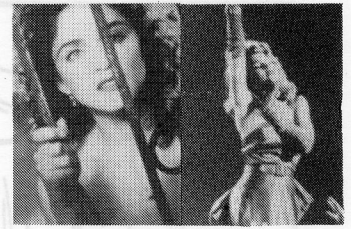
Since I started writing for Felix, I have taken more than my fair of shit from people. OK, so I dish it out as well on occasions, but that's what I've been here for. I am only a student with an opinion. Is it my fault that most of the fucking college is too apathetic to write anything for Felix? Many people have been quick to attack, but have they got the dedication to write 600 words a week, every week? Only if you answered 'yes' to the previous question, can you be worthy to have had a go at me. Otherwise, kindly shut the fuck up in future. Oh, that also applies to any other aspect of Felix. If you are not happy with anything, come in next year, if you are still here, and as Donny said '*fucking do better*'. The doors are always open.

The following list of persons is anyone, and I mean anyone, who has personally given me more hassle than I deserve. They may contribute to Felix in some way, that I am not criticising. I am attacking them directly. Instead of thanks, I offer them the venomest 'fuck off' possible, the biggest V-sign imaginable, the most nasty wish of a painful life and then a painful and slow death.



Catherine Darwen (for making me feel unwelcome and being bossy all the time), Ian Davies (for abuse at the elections and general comments throughout the year; it isn't hard to see why he has made a few enemies over the years), Andrew Wensley (for being primeval in body and mind), Dave Goddard (for being a smarmy git), Joshua Burrill (for not being able to crack a joke and hence grate on my nerves; some people will not just go away), Dan in IC Radio (the one who thinks that simply because he is the RSM, he can treat everyone like shit).

Are you disappointed? Expecting a description of what each one has done followed by *real* slag off? Tough. I'm fed up with them all. They are not worth it.



Felix

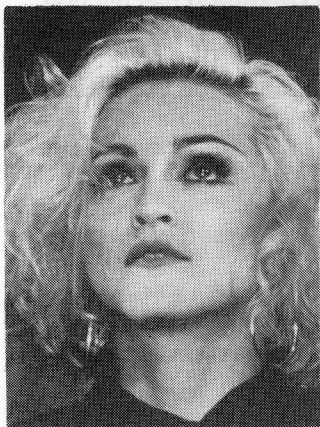
Next year brings a new Felix Editor and hence a new style to Imperial College's student newspaper. Am I going to be here? I won't know until the autumn. It is Beccy's decision to keep it or not. I won't pressure her. I would like to remain involved in Felix, whether or not *Cat's Eyes* is continued. To write whatever you like for any publication, has been and is great fun. Total freedom (within a few limits) is the key. It is an opportunity that many people sadly miss.

Credits

I have written more than just my usual blurb throughout the year. Oh, yes. I've been in almost every section at some point this year. Anything with the pseudonyms *Harry Something* or *P. Tentious* have been mine. I also wrote *Whiskas The Mouses'* manifesto, a few *Lonely Hearts* columns, the odd *Valentine*, lots of reviews, something illegal in the special *Features* edition and fuck wads of reviews in the special *Reviews* edition. I have edited the reviews pages since Easter as well. So, you think Felix has been crap? Would my presence explain it? Do you think I care? Then do something and come in next year and '*fucking do better*'.

P.J. Dodd, in the Felix office, writing *Cat's Eyes* for probably the last time. Good bye all. Give the Sabbs a good grilling for me every day of every week of their term in office. They are funded to serve you and no one else. Never let them forget that, and never think that someone will do the complaining for you. Everyone has a voice. It's a shame to think that we could all shout extremely loudly, but instead only a few of us mumble. Fuckings to apathetic bastards. Gold stars to contributors of Felix. Hugs to everyone on the *Thanks* list. Thanks again to Jonty, for not only giving me a place in Felix, but for helping me to discover what I want to do with my life—a gift that is truly priceless.

(Exit stage left)



Dear Marge...

Dear Marge,

I am changing jobs very soon (Late July) and I think it may be difficult to find partners in the way I have this year. One bloke has been so good I fear life will not be the same without his 'presence'. What can I do?

J. c/o Felix

Dear J.

I suggest a trip top the less dignified areas of Soho. 'Mr Spoons' always does it for me.

Dear Marge,

I find myself racked with guilt over a lapse of professionalism earlier this year. The casting couch syndrome caught me unawares. It is some consolation that they did make good stewards in the long run.

Dick

Dear Dick,

Lack of professionalism effects us all.

Dear Marge,

I find myself attracted to a man much older than myself. I didn't think it mattered until I took him into Da Vinci's one evening. The rumours that have circulated since have left me unsure as to which way to turn.

D the H

Dear D

Yeah, the bar staff can be really bitchy at times can't they?

Dear Marge,

I am little concerned about my future. A 'faux pas' committed at the end of the autumn term has left my nerves in tatters at the thought of taking office. Please advise.

Mary

Dear Mary,

Have you found your glasses yet?

Dear Marge,

I am currently suffering from a major guilt complex. Towards the end of the first term I found myself becoming increasingly infidelities and the fear that my behaviour has rubbed of in recent weeks onto my colleagues. For example take Friday.....

HIV+

Dear HIV+

There is an actual medical condition called 'Letsbeacompletectuntomygirlfrienitis' that is highly contagious and affects

most men at some point in their lives, so there is no need to worry.

Dear Marge,

A very good friend of mine has always promised me that he would leave his past girlfriend for me but has recently gone back to her. I worry not so much about myself but a man who will have so much responsibility in the year ahead should stick to his word. Is there anything I can do?

B&B, SW7

Dear B&B,

I always find pinning them to the table with a fondue set works...

Dear Marge,

Being such an arrogant exhibitionist, and thinking that you would forget to write about me in the last Felix, I thought I'd write and tell you what I have been up to this year:

1. Infidelity
2. Buggery
3. Numerous menages-a-trois
4. More infidelity
5. Paedophilia
6. Partner swapping
7. More infidelity
8. Homosexuality
9. Intimate moments involving 'Haagen Dazs Frozen Peach Yoghurt'
10. More Infidelity (I like the infidelity)

Is this normal behaviour for a man in my position?

Abraham Lincoln

Dear A.L.

I'll see you around ten then?

Dear Marge,

My lecturer and I have been having sex for the last three months and in return for performing all his animalistic requests, he gives me good grades. Am I a slut?

Marie McBeth

Dear Marie

Yes. If you are achieveing orgasm, I would stay with him though. Good, satisfying men are hard to find these days.

Dear Marge,

I have an obsession of looking at the breasts of female Salvation Army members. I can't stop myself. Any cures?

Joe B.

Dear Joe

How about a really good shag with a buxom lass?

autumn

2 November College security order the evacuation of the College when a 15 minute **bomb warning** is received. **College management** cancel the order (it was raining) and keep everyone inside for half an hour to see if it goes off. Don't you have complete confidence in the highest levels of management here?

4 November The Department of Health won't comment on reports that it hasn't got enough money to implement the **Tomlinson Report**. The report into London health care calls for the **closure** of five hospitals; the **merger** of six; the **relocation** of the Brompton and Marsden onto the site of Charing Cross; and better primary and community care. Britain's biggest pressure group, the **British Medical Association**, unsurprisingly welcomed the report. They ran up the **white flag** on Tomlinson last September.

5 November Sir Eric Ash sets up a committee to examine defederalisation and to review the **1927 Royal Charter** which set up Imperial College.

6 November Trailblazing AIDS researcher **Roy Anderson** is to quit as head of Biology.

8 November The Rector says there are **no formal plans** to disaffiliate from the University of London. ULU welfare officer **Ellie Merton** says Sir Eric is 'fobbing everybody off'.

11 November Carlyne Osner proposes mammoth price rises for the **Sports Centre**, refurbished with a **£650,000 interest free loan** from Imperial College Union. The loan was given on the understanding that there would be no large price increases.

13 November The opening of the Sports Centre is **delayed** by five weeks to early February 1993.

18 November The Junior Common Room is closed after an **Overseas Week** disturbance between Cypriot, Turkish, and Hellenic society members. Nationalistic fervour was encouraged by the singing of national anthems. Altogether now, **Asil Nadir**, we love you, Asil Nadir....

19 November Chief luvvie, self confessed tyrant, and Birkbeck Union president **Barbara Bates** defeats a motion of no confidence, and denies threatening the editor of Birkbeck's rag, Owl.

26 November First meeting of the Union **Working Party** on voluntary membership.

27 November Steve Hirons, branch secretary of Birkbeck **MSF Union** threatens to sue Felix over its reporting of Barbara Bates' no confidence motion.

The College **Undergraduate Studies Group** sets up a working party to investigate **semesterisation** for Imperial students.

A Slice of Life

Owain Bennallack

The saga of the City Job continues

It was all going to be so easy. Firstly the formality of the interview. There, with my natural wit and charm, I'd make them laugh, cry and give me a job. Say another week for my references to check out (and my chequed bribes to check in) and then I'd be away, sky-rocketing towards my first million.

I considered the timescales. September seemed a pretty good month for becoming a millionaire. Fine enough to drive to Southampton in my open top Lamborghini but the roads much quieter than in August. Once there I'd turn to face old England, gently bathed in an Autumnal sunset. Then I'd casually raise two fingers up at the whole miserable affair before sailing off to the golden Maldiv Islands in a yacht called 'Slut Pacific'. (Never mind the logo.)

I couldn't help noticing my reflection - after all I'd walked halfway across a branch of Miss Selfridges to get at the mirror. Oh, I looked the part. I Tube to Cannon Street, full of hopes and shopping lists. I wasn't sure exactly how the set up would work - would those grades merit two secretaries? Oh well, with a personal computer linked up to the global financial maelstrom I could probably do most of the work unassisted. At least before any lunchtime beverages.

The building is huge and made of glass. Even the floors seem to be constructed from glass planks. I hope allowances have been made in

the lavatory areas but then I realise that there's no room for secrecy amongst the team members. All outgoings would have to be accounted for. The reception desk directs me to room one six one.

At open-doored room one six one I'm ignored. I cough. I knock the door again. I jump up and down. The blue striped man only looks up when I begin to try to retrieve some fibrey ryebread from a lower molar.

I blush and bluster, then pull myself together. I try to start my speech but he just says 'Job'. I nod stupidly. 'Go talk to Arthur in the cloakroom back at reception'. Cloakroom? He looked back down at his work. I went to talk to Arthur in the cloakroom.

Arthur, the bane of my young capitalism. He explains in his Yorkshirean accent that I'm to be brought in to replace him during summer. In the cloakroom. Guarding peoples clothing. And giving it back. Not even any interest. I stutter. Bbbut, stock market? ECU's? Loud tables at restaurants and a symphony of mobile phones?

He placed a hand on my shoulder. I trembled because I knew what was coming. After thirty years putting waistcoats on racks Arthur and his mind would have construed all manner of Freud-flitting, Jung-juggling dementias to cope with their tedious predicament.

'Look at it this way son,' he began. 'Some men find their heart in music, or in horse-racing. Some turn their hands to a trade,

becoming bricklayers or carpenters. And my son Derrick has found it in his wide-ranging collection of woolly brown tanktops.' Arthur had clearly found his heart in Philosophical pontificating. Pontificating presently pointed at me. Would he ever end? A coat, a coat, my lost millions for a coat to rack!

'But me, my fate in life has been *outerwear*.' Outerwear? Was he talking about some city in Canada? I imagined the tourist hook - 'Outaware, with its crystal clear streams, breathtaking mountain ranges and a special place in the heart of every senile suicidal northern dimwit cloakroom attendant'. Suicidal? Oh yes...my hands reached for his neck.

'I can't say it's always been an easy road mind you,' he said, dumping an overcoat across my groping arms. 'But the main thing is - ITS BLOODY OVER!' He burst into an insane laugh, his eyes suddenly seemed like buttons, his lips a couple of coat-hangers. 'And now you have to do it, and I don't!' More laughter. 'You,' stabbing my chest with his finger and dumping me another overcoat. 'You, you, you.' Drowning under overcoats the room goes hazy. His ears are locker handles and the room wallpapered with ticket numbers.

My mind whirled. Would I stay here forever? Maybe he'd just stumbled in here himself, a fiery

young D.H Lawrence looking for a few shillings beer money and perhaps a couple more for elocution lessons. But the place had consumed him, blasting his soul barren like it'd been sent to the dry cleaners. Now the curse had passed to me. But first I'd have to survive the trial-by-coat, which didn't seem likely from underneath them all. *Death in Outaware* - a tale of greed, insanity and an animal lust for a nicely turned seam. Decision time. I'm outta-here.

Later I calm down. It's not the end of the world. There's still plenty of time to find another job. Maybe in a hospice, an animal refuge or a childrens home. I still have my pride (and a newly acquired prejudice). Hmmm, and I also have a briefcase to sell. Offers anyone?

I'd just like to thank everyone who's been mentioned herein at any time for the generous bribe they paid for the privilege. Thanks to Jonty, for unceasing encouragement, I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to mythologise you and your merry crew. Thanks also to everyone who's said they've enjoyed it (Or laughed conspicuously loudly in the JCR...) And unescaping Isabel, you're unsliceable...a whole Patisserie in fact. Now your face can match your hair!

AGM

Boulez at the Barbican

Patrick Wood squeezes himself into the corner of a page to review Pierre Boulez's latest offering

Pierre Boulez has long been known as the arch-polemicist of 20th century music. As conductor and writer he regularly takes up the cudgels on behalf of those who have influenced him, particularly Debussy, Stravinsky and the Second Viennese School. The fact that much of the music of Schoenberg, for example, remains peripheral and in need of such advocacy, is more a reflection of the modern fashion for instant gratification than anything to do with the music itself. Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces, played by

Boulez and the LSO at the beginning of last Saturday's concert, are a case in point. Repeated, careful listening reveals the work to be a rich and rewarding tapestry of sound. When every strand of the ravishing second movement can be heard, as it can under Boulez, the music becomes as involving and coherent as anything Debussy ever wrote.

In Bartók's brash and percussive First Piano Concerto, soloist Daniel Barenboim was often compelled to sacrifice incisive clarity for power in an attempt to combat a large and

enthusiastic orchestra. Even more players took the stage for the final work, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, a Boulez speciality. There were ten double-basses, and the nine French horns played on several occasions with bells raised. Again, clarity was clearly a prime concern, and all the opening woodwind rustlings were discernible, as were such embellishments as panting bass clarinets and chugging horn ostinati later on. And there was no lack of excitement and rattling virtuosity in passages such as the headlong conclusion to Part I. But while the

LSO, and the brass section in particular, have never been reticent about playing loudly, there was a disappointing lack of really quiet playing. The reverential hush at the kissing of the earth became instead a healthy mezzo-forte, and the only real pianissimo came in the sinister trumpet duet at the start of Part II. The final Sacrificial Dance built up no little excitement (magnificent horns baying like bloodhounds) and received one of the most enthusiastic receptions I have heard in the Barbican Hall for a while.

Rag Reviews

Rag 'Off Your Tree '93' got off to an excellent start this year with Tiddlywinks being the first event on Saturday 10th October. Over 200 students turned up to shock the tourists and shoppers into giving their money to Action Aid by tiddlywinking their way along Oxford and Regent Streets to Piccadilly Circus. All went well, despite the Oxford Circus bomb scare, and overall more than £2000 was raised. Afterwards some of the collectors retired to 'The Grove' pub to take part in the traditional 'Drink-a-Pub-Dry'. The very next week the streets of London were once again invaded by students, this time playing a real life version of Monopoly. Teams of 4 to 6 people had to visit the locations on the Monopoly board, answering clues and collecting treasure on the way. Altogether £4660 was collected in aid of Mencap and the top collectors won bottles of wine. The prizes were given out at the party organised by Mencap that evening.

As the term continued so did the fun not to mention the fundraising. On the third Saturday of term a total of £973 was raised, for the Royal Association In Aid of Deaf People, on the 'Pavement Climb' from the Victoria and Albert museum to Hyde Park. That very same day saw the Union being invaded by students in various states of undress - yes, it was the night of the Rocky Horror Disco.

November was then upon us and with it came the Poppy Day Rag Raid to Maidstone. This, despite the cold weather, was a success. The first week also saw the Battersea Fireworks collection which raised loads of money for one of our local charities.

By now many collectors had managed to raise £50 in order to get their incentive mug if not £150 for their T-shirt.

The two highlights of the month have to have been the Sponsored Bungee Jump and the Halls Dirty Dozen competition. The former had many crazy people throwing themselves off the top of a crane, in order to experience the high of a lifetime. Marcus did the jump in his wheelchair and thus became only the second person in Britain to do this. The event raised a total of £3000. The latter event took place on the 14th November and involved each hall sending out a team of 12 (or thereabouts) to collect as much money as possible in 12 hours. That day London saw some strange sights as teams were doing everything from dressing up as St

Trinians' pupils (blokes included) to singing songs from 'Grease' in Covent Garden in order to get the public to part with their money. A couple of teams actually ventured further afield to nearby towns such as Guildford. The winners of the competition were Falmouth-Keogh who gained a barrel of beer for their efforts. The first term came to an end with the CCU Covent Garden collections, the winners of which were the RCS.

This year Rag Week was saved for the second term and kicked off on January 29th with the Rag Carnival at the Union. The week continued with Rag Rugby, Mines Dirty Disco, Guilds Slave Auction and the famous Beer Festival with the launch of this year's Rag Mag. The Hypnosis show provided Thursday's entertainment and hundreds of people turned up to see their friends make acquaintances with an elephant on stage and dance to 'Singing in the Rain' on cue. The festivities ended with the Rag Bash followed by the infamous Sponsored Nude Kamakazi Parachute Jump from Harrods. After all that excitement the rest of term continued relatively quietly.

This term, in case anybody missed it, the main event was Rag Fete held on the Queens Lawn on May 12th. From 2pm onwards many a student relived their childhood by jumping around on the bouncy castle or taking part in the 'Cocktail Dash' and the numerous 'Jelly Dips' with music from Jazz and Rock society and IC Radio. By 5pm most of the jelly had disappeared so we then had to get down to the serious business of presenting cheques to the charities that had been nominated for this year. The money for these came from Rag Week events, Rag cloakroom and money from T-shirt and Rag Mag sales. The charities the cheques went to were Turning Point, FARA, ARMS, Shelter, and local charities.

I think that just about sums the Rag year up, except to say that we still have events going on this year. We especially need volunteers to collect at the Royal Albert Hall, at the Victoria Wood and the Johnny Mathis concerts in September. For more details see the Rag noticeboard or come up to the Rag Office.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped Rag this year and we look forward to seeing you next year when Rag is aiming to be even bigger. Don't miss out.

sleighbells

1 December Emergency **Christmas** repairs are made to the Imperial College Union **fire alarm system** when it is discovered that fire escape doors stay locked when the alarms go off. Fortunately, there was no fire.

2 December Tennis loving **Sir Frank Cooper**, chairman of the Governing Body, becomes a septuagenarian.

4 December Warwick Union's rag, the **Warwick Boar**, faces a no confidence motion after publishing private letters from Labour shadow Chief Secretary **Harriet Harman**. The mail was found after Ms Harman faxed personal details about a constituent to her assistant, former Warwick sabbatical **Bob Wilkinson**, who was in Warwick for a weekend. Peckham MP Ms Harman has yet to resign over the matter.

14 December The membership of the ICU working party on **Union Structure** is announced.

16 December A petition calling for longer **library opening hours** was sent to the Rector.

ICU Adviser, **Stefano Ruis**, seeks a legal opinion on union funding for the **IC Day Nursery**.

Higher Education minister Nigel Forman quits.

1 January 1993 Professor Hassel is appointed new Head of Biology.

11 January A research breakthrough which shows the why and where of **Alzheimer's disease** is made at St Marys. Team leader **Gareth Roberts** says a cure for the disease may soon be discovered.

16 January 14 year old French lycee student **Laura Pimentel** collapses after being violently sick in the Union building.

22 January The appointment of **Michael Hansen** as new College Director of Finance is announced.

The **RCSU Annual Dinner** is cancelled, incurring 'less of a loss' had it continued. President **Paul Thomas** said the cancellation would have no effect on the forthcoming May Ball.

New prices are announced for the Sports Centre. The price of season tickets is up, but the cost for one-off (outside College?) users is down. The new, cheaper off-peak times miraculously coincide with lecture times.

27 January Former Goldsmiths Union finance officer **Paul Holmes** is not to be prosecuted after embezzling union funds. Despite a weekend in Amsterdam paid for with the Goldsmith Union **credit card**, Union president Terry Murtagh said they decided to 'let the matter drop'.

29 January Residents at newly renovated **Holbein House** complain about the lack of communal facilities, including promised TV and reading rooms. Gordon Marshall tells them to use the facilities in other halls. So much for self contained accommodation.

Albert's undercover

Declan Curry peeks under the covers to find something rotten in the state of heritage, and thinks about adopting an angel

In the winter of 1989, a strange object began to appear in South Kensington. A large edifice, resembling a grain silo, manifested itself, right on the edge of Hyde Park, spoiling the skyline and disturbing surrounding nature. This monstrosity was not left by aliens, but by a strange creature. The Baroness Blatch, Emily, to her friends, stood and watched as the curious carbuncle took form. The structure would perform no visible useful function, but would consume vast quantities of cash, and become the area's biggest eyesore. It now threatens to become the Government's millennium gift to South Kensington.

It was not always thus. Until that winter, a beautiful and picturesque monument resided on the spot. It was a monument to science, to technology, to art and music. It was dedicated to the power of knowledge, and the civilising effects of global cooperation. It is the Albert Memorial, built for the princely sum of £137,000, now incarcerated at an annual cost of £250,000, completely hidden from view.

The Albert Memorial was built on the site of the 1851 Great Exhibition, as is Imperial College. The Exhibition was Britain's showcase to the world, proudly displaying her wealth of culture and learning. Yet, at this same Exhibition, the Royal Commissioners noticed the growing strength of European scholarship, and the waning of Britain's influence in science and technology. Such influence was of interest to the Monarchy. Following the 1851 Exhibition, Queen Victoria told Parliament that 'the advancement of practical science will be readily recognised as worthy of attention'. Her interest was shared by the Prince Consort, Albert, who, in 1845, founded the Royal College of Chemistry, becoming its first President and personally inviting the great Hoffmann to London as its first professor. In 1872, the Royal College of Chemistry began its protracted move to South Kensington, onto land acquired from those same Royal Commissioners for the 1851

Exhibition. The final emergence of specialised science and technology education did not emerge until 1907, with the formation of Imperial College, and the award of its Royal Charter. The 1851 Commissioners still have an office at Imperial; their representative on earth currently resides on the fourth floor of the Sherfield building.

Albert's interest in science is displayed in the memorial, constructed and dedicated to him after his death of typhoid in 1861. Two bronze life-size figures stand on either side of the Prince Consort, representing science. His interests in art is displayed in the mosaic gables above the main statue, and 169 artists, writers, musicians, sculptors and architects are depicted in the marble frieze around the base of the Memorial. The fourteen foot

high statue of Albert has a catalogue of the Great Exhibition perched on his knee. London property specialist, Mira Bar-Hillel, says that the Memorial 'is a monument to both Albert and the exhibitioners. He's more than a pretty face.'

Not that any of this can be seen. Students from Imperial, concert-goers from the Royal Albert Hall, tourists in Hyde Park, Londoners on the number 9 bus can only marvel at the Skylab-like scaffolding now encapsulating the Memorial. The 165 feet high structure has itself entered the Guinness Book of Records, as the largest piece of free-standing scaffolding in the world. This global feat may itself have caused a small, ironic smile to cross the Royal lips. After all, it was his wife who was never amused.

The green, red, blue and white hulking beast that so dominates West London was constructed to allow emergency and essential repairs to the monument. Hush, did I hear a hammer blow against lead, the whistle of skilled craftsmen? Hardly likely. The scaffold started to go up in 1989, the Department of National Heritage decided in October 1992 to press on with a £10 million repair package, and a month later the terrible twins duo of Norman Lamont and Michael Portillo stopped the money. Heritage Secretary Peter Brooke told MPs that he had to postpone the start of the repair programme because 'of the many demands on public resources at a time of very tight public expenditure control'. The only work that has been done is by the various consultants,



Albert, Angus and someone else.

snowdrops

3 February The IRA terrorist war continues, with a bomb at South Kensington tube station.

5 February The **Great Rag Bash** disco takes place, run not by Andy Kerr's Ents, but by **Imperial Discos**.

Government official figures in *Social Trends* show that the student grant is worth only 40% of its 1980 value.

8 February The **Holbein common room crisis** appears to be solved, with the unveiling of four new Evelyn Gardens common rooms, to replace existing facilities.

Chris Davidson announces plans to develop the **Sherfield walkway**. The Junior Common Room is to be reduced in size, and new **trading outlets** placed in the alcoves. Mr Davidson said the changes should take place over the summer.

12 February The opening of the Sports Centre is delayed once again. The **total delay** now weighs in at six weeks.

16 February The Government's response to the Tomlinson Report is unveiled by Health Secretary **Virginia Bottomley**. She said there was no financial case for relocating the Marsden and Brompton hospitals, and proposed the creation of a new **Chelsea Health Sciences Centre**. The rest of the report was kicked into touch, with the creation of six speciality reviews. Imminent cabinet reshuffle, what imminent cabinet reshuffle?

17 February Science minister **William Waldegrave** pays a private visit to IC.

18 February Felix is leaked the details of John Patten's proposed **students' charter**. Local education authorities were to be stripped of their grant giving powers, and a new unitary **grant and loan authority** created. Funding for student unions would also be split into core and non-core spending. All the money would be gobbled up by the core funding, and clubs and societies, classified as non-core, would have to levy steep membership fees. Political societies and NUS subscriptions would end up out on a limb. After a blazing **cabinet row**, John Patten got six of the best, and was told, tries hard, could do better.

20 February In a 'near riot' in Beit Quad, Union Stewards are attacked by a baying mob, while College security remain ensconced in their warm, cosy lodge.

22 February Allegation and smear mark a week of dirty tricks in the ICU **1993 Sabbatical Elections**. Personal attacks are made on Rachael Mountford, while other candidates cry foul over poster disappearances and unspecified whispering campaigns. Illegal campaign materials also make appearances in Halls of Residence.

26 February College **Catering Department** records an annual financial loss of £450,000.

writing reports on how to restore the Memorial, and by those ever-pleasant private secretaries, drafting Commons written answers assuring all that 'the Government remains committed to a worthy restoration of the Albert Memorial.' The present situation, claims Ms Bar-Hillel, is that 'if someone took him away in the dead of night no-one would notice for years.'

Mr Brooke is allowed some embarrassment on the matter. His is the Memorial's MP, being the member for the City of London and Westminster South. To intervene would be seen as privileged action putting constituency matters above national priorities. To stand idle is to neglect a monument of national importance, and to ignore pressing matters in his own backyard. If only Prince Albert were Asil Nadir: then other MPs could 'make representations' to Mr Brooke, and his former junior, Michael Mates, could present it with a new watch (don't let the builders grind you down?), driving up in his borrowed Volvo, of course. Mr Brooke is understandably taciturn on the statue, refusing to be bounced by LBC Newstalk into talking about the matter, and incidentally allowing his private office to tell LBC that he doesn't really want to be interviewed by Mike Carlton in future. Responsibility has been delegated to the newly enthroned Iain Sproat, the MP for Harwich.

As he's new to the job, Mr Sproat could always go back and look again at the options. There's plenty to choose from. The first report on the Monument was published in 1986, saying that the wrought iron spire cross beams supporting the spire were brittle, and could fall down within five years. This they conspicuously failed to do in the Great Storm the following year. Back came the engineers in 1988, saying that the deterioration was not so bad after all, and the iron was brittle all along. A third report appeared on ministerial desks in May 1989, after which the scaffold started climbing up the Memorial. The round robin dropped off its perch in October last year, when the Department for National Heritage

was presented with three options. True to form, the Department asked for a hiding by choosing the £10 million option, a total overhaul lasting four years. The plan lasted four weeks before the Treasury moved in.

Heritage experts claim that the Memorial can be restored to public view for a tenth of the figure. Dr Richard Catt, the Special Conservation Consultant to the Lord Chancellor's Office, cares for all listed courthouses on the North-East circuit, and now specialises in conservation in the old Czechoslovakia. He says that, at little cost, the main part of the Memorial could be returned to public view by this Friday. Dr Catt adds that, after this, the bulk of the repairs could start by removing all the statues and decorations above the Memorial's canopy, and peeling off their lead coverings. The iron can be scraped of rust, and given an anti-corrosion treatment. The decorations can be kept safe until they are repaired, and the scaffolding sold.

This basic plan, commissioned by the *Evening Standard*, has been adopted as a restoration blueprint by the Victorian Society. Their chairman, Dr Chris Brooks, says the Government should be more flexible on the repairs. 'The Government needs to be far more inventive in seeking funding from the general public and the private sector. The restoration is urgent and should be announced as a priority conservation project.' One suggestion is start an 'adopt-an-angel' scheme; another is to apply for a National Lottery grant. The Department for National Heritage is 'considering the proposals', while Westminster City Council may include Albert in its Millennium Initiative.

Given the indefinite postponement of the repairs by the Heritage Secretary, the Memorial may not be uncovered for the Millennium. It may also be shackled the following year, the 150th anniversary of the 1851 Great Exhibition. The Albert Memorial may become a memorial to the state of British heritage, and British science.

London's falling to pieces

Since the beginning of this year the future of the University of London has been in doubt. Andrew Tseng investigates what could happen next.

If Imperial did disaffiliate from the University of London then students would almost certainly lose out. The vast facilities of the University of London Union (ULU), which include its great multitude of clubs and societies, would no longer be available. Neither would the University of London Library. Accommodation would also be in jeopardy. According to the Rector, Imperial,

Hence in November 1992 a body known as the Charter Review committee was set up. Sitting therein were members of Imperial College's Governing body and the single student representative, Chris Davidson, then Imperial College Students' Union President. Their remit was to examine all the problems the Rector had identified and come up with solutions.

On October 22nd 1992, Commemoration Day, Sir Eric Ash, the Rector of Imperial College, dropped a bombshell on the academic community of London. His speech on that warm autumn afternoon included these fateful words, 'we have resolved to embark on a review...to examine the possibility of a separation from the University of London'.

This single declaration has led University College and the London School of Economics to make similar statements. The London School of Economics has gone further. To *The Independent*, a press spokesman for the London School of Economics said, 'it is not a question of if, but when'.

There are two important issues which the Rector believes must be settled, the right to award degrees and the right to appoint senior academic staff, 'I believe that the Rector of Imperial College should have the same powers as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Bank' he says. The resolving of the first issue would allow Imperial to introduce new courses quickly, without the intervention of the University of London, a process that has caused considerable delay in the past. The second of these issues was highlighted recently when a three month delay, by the



The University of London Library
University of London, almost lost Imperial the prime candidate for a professorship.

along with University College and the London School of Economics, must own a share in the Intercollegiate Halls of Residence, a fact which has been disputed by others in the University of London.

These options have been set down in writing by Professor Stewart Sutherland, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London. In his paper entitled, 'The University of London and the Award of Degrees', Professor Sutherland outlines the possible two options B and C (Option A being to leave everything as it stands at the moment).

Option B describes, the possibility of the big eight schools (Birkbeck College, Goldsmiths College, Imperial College, Kings College, London School of Economics, Queen Mary Westfield College, Royal Holloway College (formerly the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College) and University College) disaffiliating from the University of London. Professor Sutherland discusses what he believes the consequences of disaffiliation would be. The overwhelming advantage for Imperial College, is that disaffiliation would solve both the problems outlined by Sir Eric Ash.

As far as the University of

London is concerned, Professor Sutherland believes that Option B has some major disadvantages. One of which being that the Constitution of the University of London would have to be changed. This would require much time and effort which could be better used elsewhere. Professor Sutherland also predicts that any 'withdrawal would inevitably be a messy business, possibly involving bitter and enervating argument'.

Fortunately for students and for the University of London there could be another solution to Imperial's problems that would cause less turmoil. In Option C of his paper, Professor Sutherland

proposes allowing the eight schools to be repositioned within the University of London.

In its new capacity, the right to award a University of London degree would be delegated to Imperial. This would keep the University of London title on the degree certificate, but give Imperial the freedom that the Rector wants over the creation of new courses. Sir Eric Ash's second issue would also be satisfied, since Imperial would have full control over the appointment of senior staff with the University of London only providing a 'rubber stamping role'.

The Vice-Chancellor believes that the University of London should choose Option C. Professor Sutherland can envisage only a couple of minor disadvantages to this Option. He can see that some may criticise this Option for increasing the diversity of the University of London, though he counters this by arguing that, 'diversity is one of the great strengths of the University of London'.

The advantages of this Option are all too apparent. No major constitutional changes need occur, and the problems highlighted by the Rector are solved without the custody arguments associated with Option B.

Option C is only being offered as a possibility to the big eight schools. This has been criticised by some, who have made the accusation that it will introduce a two-tier system

within the University of London. Geoffrey Alderman, chairman of the academic council of the University said, 'I would rather see the larger colleges leave the university altogether than adopt a two-tier system.' Professor Sutherland, however, has denied that Option C will bring about a two-tier system.

Either Option B or Option C must be chosen. The Rector has made it quite clear that the problems of appointing senior academic staff and that of awarding degrees must be resolved, even if leaving the University of London was the only means of achieving this. The debate must now be decided upon at the court of the University of London, whether the big colleges will be allowed to be repositioned or whether they must disaffiliate to achieve the powers that they seek.

Should a repositioning occur, then students can only gain. All the facilities of the University of London and ULU will still be open to them, and without the bureaucracy, Imperial will be in the prime position to react to changes in Europe and the United States.

This is just one of the issues that are being discussed by the Charter Review committee. The Rector wants to have a set of proposals regarding that and other matters on the new Rector's desk when he comes into office at the start of the next academic year. It looks as if Imperial College will be able to have its cake and eat it.

spring

1 March Sabbatical election **hustings** at St Marys. Afterwards, ICU Honorary Secretary **Dominic Wilkinson** said 'some Marys' students aren't fit to lick the shit off our shoes.' Despite Marys' students shouting sexual and homophobic abuse, two former St Marys' Union Presidents, **Simon Stockhill** and **Simon Smith** try to defend the indefensible, and also demand the resignation of Mr Wilkinson.

9 March Those ICU election results in full: Andrew Wensley elected President, David Goddard as Deputy President, and Rebecca Land as Felix editor. A **New Election** is to be held for Honorary Secretary. Defeated candidates are Rachel Mountford, Hugh Eland, Max Jalil and Ian Davis. There was a **23% turnout**.

12 March A Felix survey shows that only 54% of ICU members were aware of the sabbatical election campaign.

West London Chaplaincy light up a large splat on the top of Queen's Tower, raising over £250 for **Comic Relief Day**.

College announces that Professor **Julia Higgins** will be appointed new City & Guilds Dean. Professor **John Pendry** will be the new Dean of the Royal College of Science.

16 March Results of the C&GU elections, on a **record turnout** of 170 voters: Paul Griffiths, President; Joe Baguley, Vice President; Mark Walton, Honorary Secretary; Liam Cusack, HJT; Amit Sinha, AAO; Ian Parish, Departmental Society Officer; Subhashis Chowdury, Ents Chairman; Richard Oussedik, Publicity; Geoff Maxwell, CGCA Representative; Bulbul Basu, Guildsheet Editor.

17 March An Imperial College student is elected to a ULU post for the first time in almost 20 years. **Ben Hancock** becomes Vice President (Finances and Societies) in August, surviving an elections hustling which saw him banned, then silenced, then speaking in the 2 hour chaos graced with the name of democracy.

A member of the **Diplomatic Police** arrest a suspected thief on Queen's Gate after he had been chased by College security through the **Huxley Building**

18 March In his last major speech before the launch of the **Science White Paper**, William Waldegrave calls for a focused centre for science and technology within Government. Speaking at a meeting in Imperial organised by **Save British Science**, he added that university teaching should be excellent and suitable.

24 March Results of the RCSU elections: Rhian Picton, President; no ratified candidate, Vice President; Duncan Austin, Hon Sec; Emma Holmes, HJT; Sarah Lee, AAO.



Sir Eric Ash: it's all his fault.

Climbing to the top of the tower

Who is Sir Ronald Oxburgh? Declan Curry tries his hands at a profile, using the old tricks of research, thefts, bribes, and scrounging expensive lunches from his news editor.

Oxburgh? He's Ministry of Defence, isn't he? Oh well, nothing for it but the *Whitehall Companion*, the Government watchers' bible. Let's see, M, N, P, no back a bit, O, O, Owen John, Owen Peter, hmmm.... no Ron Oxburgh. Hold on, OXBURGH, Professor Sir ERNEST. Ernest? Is this the same man? ERNEST RONALD. Yep, must be.

It is a touch bizarre. The in-house bible, the Who's Who of Whitehall, where status symbols abound, and our very own Sir Ron gets a cursory mention at the bottom of a page, in a different name, and look, no photograph, one of the very few entries without one. Then again, a man who is the Chief Scientific Adviser at the MOD, and grade 1A to boot, probably doesn't need much in the line of a status figure.

He does seem to be a bit of a mystery, though. Granted there is the old proviso that MOD senior staff have meagre entries (Official Secrets and all that), but this one really is bare.

'Career: professor of mineralogy and petrology, University of Cambridge 1978-; chief scientific adviser MOD 1988-;

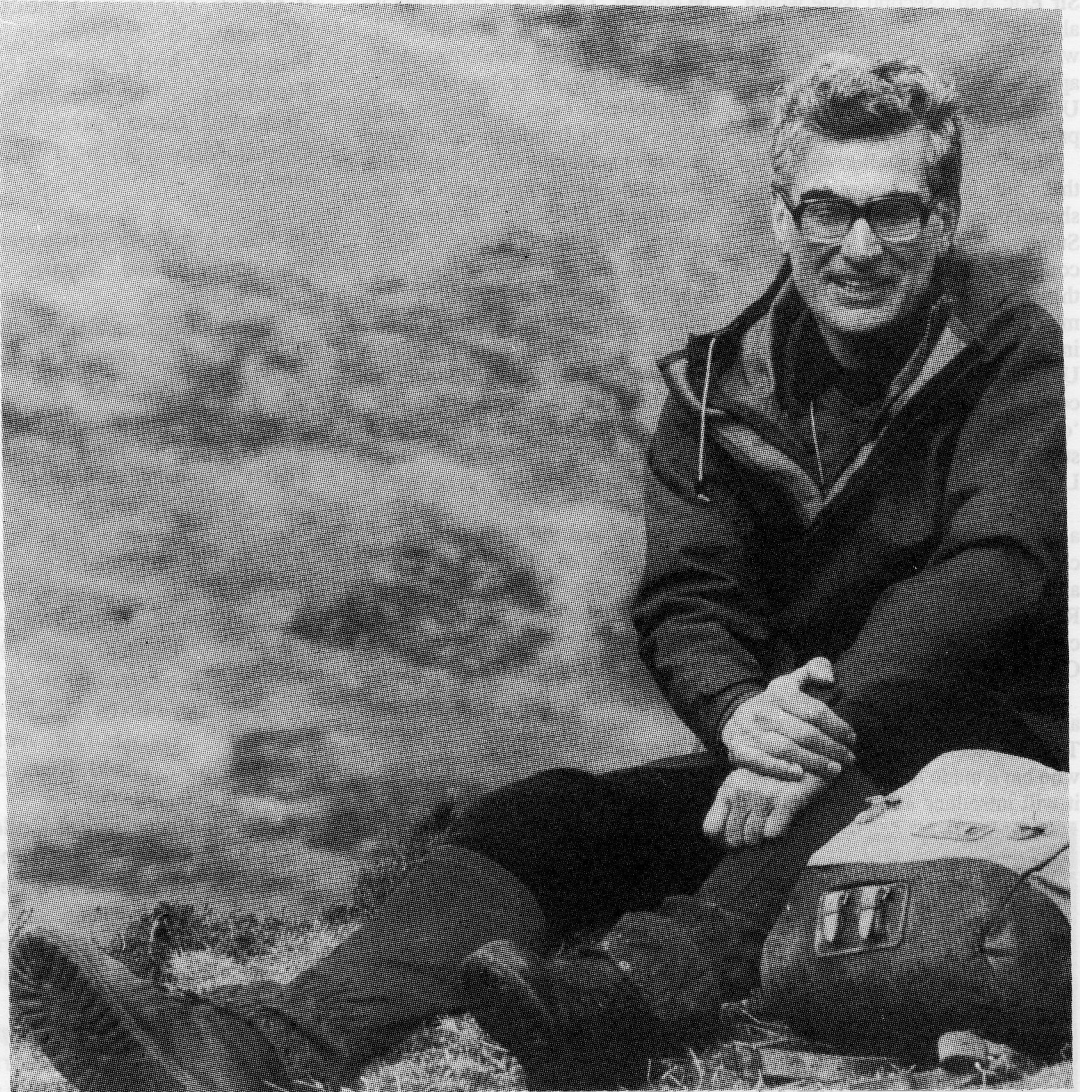
What, is he only fifteen years old? No, he was born on 2 November 1934, so he's sixty next year. Unemployed? Imprisoned? Most definitely not.... Chief Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Defence, CSA, MOD. It's like a mantra. He's probably seen my MI5 files as well.

No doubt they were checked anyway when my boss, Mr Tseng, bounced the first request for an interview off the desk of John Cryer, Oxburgh's PA at the Ministry.

'An interview, eh? What for?'

'Well, to talk to him....'

And so on. Request passed to another, then back, then to a secretary, then to Oxburgh, and that's just to get an agreement in principle. Life's too short. Let's hope next year he'll be more accommodating, otherwise it will be too much to stomach the usual Rectorial whinge that we never check our facts with the people who know ('but never want to tell' being



the *sotto voce* response).

Maybe this level of cossetting comes with the job. Sir Ron appears in the chart called 'higher organisation of Defence'. Theoretically, the ministers are responsible for the department, with the civil servants providing a supporting role. Right. Malcolm Rifkind is Defence Secretary. He couldn't run a message. The junior ministers are Archie Hamilton, from the East Anglia mafia, busy keeping John Major's political prospects alive; Jonathan Aitken, paying more than usual interest to the Scott inquiry into Arms for Iraq; and some viscount or other. That's that strong ministerial team tied up.

Looking at the powerbrokers, the chief civil servant is Sir Christopher France, vaguely remembered as being a smash hit in the same job in Health and Social Security. And then under him is Professor Sir E R Oxburgh. Well spotted, number two at the MOD. The line of command runs from Sir Christopher France, to Sir Ron Oxburgh, then to his deputy and seven other scientists. Now that's real power, and scientific clout. It's a long time since the Sherfield Set have had a strong hands on manager capable of smacking wrists. No wonder they're grumbling. Mr Fraser is allegedly not amused, and as for Mr Marshall, he's leaving

anyway, contract unrenewed we are told. Gordon's got a case of the Westermans, bad luck.

So what has the boy wonder done all these years? Building a strong academic background, it seems, though there must be something good about an academic who's had part of his research funded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. A native Scouser, born and bred etc, educated for eleven years from the age of seven at the Liverpool Institute, which was always thought of as a sweeping description of Merseyside anyway, or was that institution? To Oxford in 1953, emerging blinking into the sunlight four years later with an honours

maypole

21 April London's GPs claim that extra money promised by Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley is a **myth**. The £170 million was to cover the cost of moving towards a **community based health service**.

30 April The **Office of Public Service and Science** launches the Higgs boson competition. Meanwhile, the **Science and Engineering Research Council** says it has been 'screwed to the wall over tight Government funding'.

1 May Police begin a London wide crackdown on **bicycle crime**.

6 May The C&GU joins the RCSU in cancelling the **1993 May Ball**.

7 May The **Eric Ash Bargains Emporium** strikes a deal with cycle shop **Chamberlain & Son** in Kentish Town Road to allow ICU members to buy bike helmets at £16.95.

The **Calman Report** calls for a reduction in the training time for **junior hospital doctors** from 12 years to 7. Consultations continue on the report until 1 July.

The Science Ministry refuses to comment on press reports that the independent **Advisory Board for the Research Councils** will be scrapped by the forthcoming White Paper.

10 May Outline proposals for the reform of the ICU structure are passed in principle by **ICU Council**.

14 May The details of the 'Davidson plans' for the rebuilding of Imperial College Union are leaked to Felix. The 55-member of the Council is to be abolished, and by implication, the current executive is also scrapped. A **new executive** of 13 members is proposed to replace both bodies, and will include the new sabbatical Deputy Presidents, and officer posts of welfare chairman and communications officer. The new executive will be a sub committee of the **Union General Meeting**, which will meet now once a month. A new staff post of Entertainments Manager will be created.

The fragrant **Professor Lady Mary Archer** joined Kate Bellingham, Dr Anna Kessling, Dr Nancy Lane, Dr Susan Parry and Mrs Jean Venables on an illustrious panel discussing the role of **Women in Science and Engineering**.

21 May Stewart Sutherland is to resign as vice chancellor of London University, and is to become principal of **Edinburgh University** in September 1994.

23 May A student narrowly escapes **electrocution** in **Falmouth Keogh** hall.

degree in Natural Sciences, brackets 2nd class honours geology. Thence pond-hopping to the States, to the illustrious Princeton University, New Jersey. As one can see, not a hint of private education so far. A PhD in geology (rock doctor) from 1960, and the new Sir John Dill Fellow to go along with the starched papyrus, all departing the land of the free just before John F Kennedy defeated the old crook Nixon in the closest run American Presidential election in decades. He really did pick his time to leave, fleeing before the forces of light and youth.

He also chose well in the organisations he joined, though to be fair he was probably appointed to them, and as the model civil servant he didn't demur as he is not supposed to have more than an ounce of wit. Aside from being Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry for Iraqi Superguns and mustard gas (Kurdish use only), he was Chairman of the Royal Society Working Party on the Support of Geophysics, which was about as much support as a rubber crutch. Later, in succession, he was a member of the Science and Engineering Research Council, SERC (killed off in the White Paper), the Advisory Board for the Research Council, ABRC (similarly deceased), and the Advisory Council for Science and Technology, ACOST (RIP 1993). The kiss of death, eh? He takes over here in September.

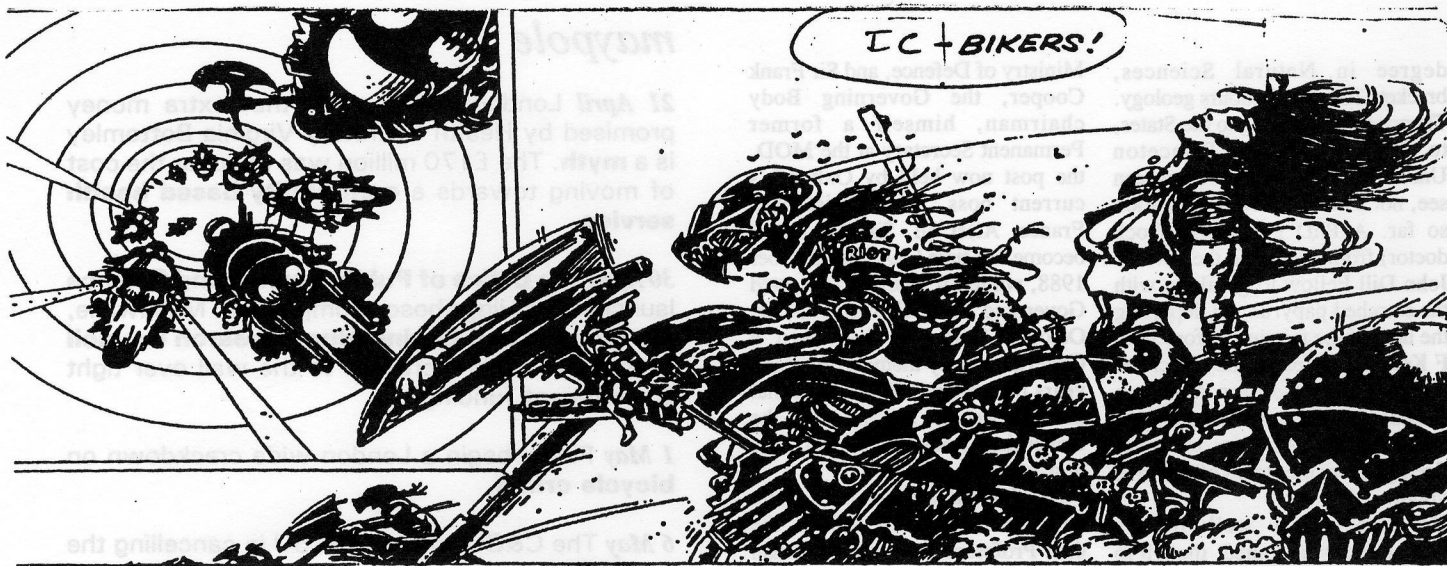
And here's the juicy bit. Why was he appointed Rector? Felix is assured that there was definitely no connection between Sir Ron, the Chief Scientific Advisor at the

Ministry of Defence, and Sir Frank Cooper, the Governing Body chairman, himself a former Permanent Secretary at the MOD, the post now held by Oxburgh's current boss, Sir Christopher France. After all, Sir Ron didn't become full-time CSA until October 1988, while Sir Frank was elected Governing Body chairman in, er, October 1988, but had been a Governing Body member for many years beforehand. We assume that the new Rector, appointed by the Governing Body, was really the best man for the job.

Not that this was his first contact with the College. In 1986/7, the then Professor Ron was chairman of the University Grants Committee Review of Earth Sciences. This was the committee that finally recommended, erhmph, shall we say radical changes in the Royal School of Mines. The 1988 Annual Report from the then Dean of the RSM was noted for its abusive comments towards the Committee. The College press office tells us that Sir Ron was not involved with the review in the context of a hands-on interlocular interactive interfacing supervisory role. But, in the year that Sir Ron takes over here, Professor John Archer, the current pro-Rector and Head of Mineral Resources Engineering, has proposed another 'downsizing' of the School. Lo and behold, John Archer is also acting Rector for the month of August. Sir Eric Ash retires at the end of July, and Sir Ron takes over on 1 September. Is he coming back to finish off the hatchet job on Mines?

We wish him well.





The ICSMCC, known to most of us as the IC Bike Club, organised an inter-university competition in conjunction with PUMA (Polytechnic and University Motorcycle Association) on Sunday the 13th June in the heart of Surrey. It started at Guildford University and involved teams riding skillfully and quickly around some of the finest and most educational roads in

the hilly rural area near Guildford and getting to several places in this area in as short a time as possible. Points were collected for each place that the university teams reached on the way to Box Hill.

Out of the three Universities taking part, on the bike clubs level, Guildford came first, Bradford second and IC, to our embarrassment, last. On the

individual level, Imperial's Jim Edward's despatching and green-laning skills (on a GT550!) came in handy leading to a first place and a trophy in that category together with brave (foolhardy?) pillion Richard Murray. An honourable mention also goes to Hubert Hinsley (IC club secretary) and Martin Hardaker, who stunned everyone with their surprisingly fast

times.

The day was enjoyed by all the participants and hopefully the club will organise a similar PUMA event next year. And manage to do better.

Results:

Guildford Uni	489
Bradford Uni	486
Imperial College	472
Best individual performance:	
Jim Edwards (Imperial)	516

IC AFC Year Round up

The first team captained by T Botzios will be remembered as the team who could have done a clean sweep of all the trophies but, in the end came up with a handful of dust. They started very strongly in the first half of the season with S Watson masochistic Monday night training proving to be very effective. Finding themselves leading the Premier division, easily through to the semi finals of the UL challenge cup and also through to the second round of the UAU. But complacency and bad team spirit were to prove insurmountable obstacles. The firsts found themselves out of both cups and trailing in second place in the League, at the end of the season.

Overall though, a very successful season, with the extra pleasure in seeing our first team having a better team season than the rugby team this year, after years of lurking behind them.

IC 2nd XI

The second team captained by I Finnerty got off to its traditionally bad start, getting eliminated from

the UAU and UL upper reserves cup in the 1st round. But the addition of D Phillips later on in the season at the centre of defence alongside I Finnerty (Also known as as the Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson tandem) helped tighten up the defence and started the 2nds on their climb to the top of the First division. This extraordinary comeback did not yield the division title, due to injuries and misfortune at the closing stages of the tournament. It did give them the title of *Champion Reserves*, the title given to the best reserve team in the UL league.

IC 3rd XI

The third team was captained by the controversial B. Willis whose captaincy was, even by Graham Taylor's standards, poor. Despite his outstanding football abilities Ben managed to transform a team of eleven eager players to eleven disillusioned wrecks. Often playing with ten men, the 3rds were kicked out of the two cups early on in the season and plummeted to the bottom of the third division. Words

of rebuke from Ben's charismatic players, Piyush and N. Strevens put him on the right track. With the help of a few illegal players, he managed a series of impressive results which helped the thirds to avoid relegation.

IC 4th XI

The fourths captained by R. Snell had a huge task in front of them; to repeat last year's performance and become divisional champions. This they started to do with no problems whatsoever. With their almost exclusively foreign team and continental style of play, they managed to extend the 4ths unbeaten run to 30 games and earned themselves a place in the UL Upper Reserves cup, a cup usually dominated by 2nd teams. Near the end of the season the team became too cocky, underestimating their opponents, resulting in a pair of defeats and elimination from the cup semi-final helped by D. Bucles 'Divine' hand. Angry words from R. Snell and D. Buckles, reminders of humility, helped them regain their form and cling on to become

divisional champions for the second year running.

IC 5th XI

The fifth team captained by D. McClure were by far the most disappointing team of the cup this year. Dave's generosity and kindheartedness in giving up his best players to higher teams resulted in a second consecutive relegation in two years for the 5th team, despite P. Dahill's heroic efforts to play in two different teams at the same time. The highlight of their season came in the last game of the season with a 12-0 win over their arch rivals RSM seconds.

IC 6th XI

The sixth team captained jointly by J. Archer and A. Karell were the AC Milan of IC. The two captains managed to maintain a squad of about thirty players continuously reshuffling the side so as not to disappoint anyone. With such a formidable squad they managed to achieve their primary objective which was to avoid relegation and earn themselves a respectable mid-table position.

IC Boat Club



The final part of the season will see the club's first eight compete for the Thames Cup at Henley, while a four challenges for the Vistors' Cup for students. IC look to continue their run of success at this international regatta.

In addition to this, several members of the top squad are honoured with international selection as follows:

Ed Wild, Richard Rogers: GB world student games eight

Ben Poulton, Boris Mavra (IC 1990): GB world student games

coxed four

Laurence Morgan, Steve Ellis: GB world student games lightweight coxless four

Martin Kettle, Andy Green, Dom Forster: GB under-23 team.

These oarsmen will be competing at the Universiade and U-23 Nations' Cup in Buggalo, USA and Greese respectively.

The womens' squad are competing in the club eights at Womens' Henley over the weekend of 19/20 June where they hope to build on their previous successes.

wimbledon

26 May The Government publishes its Science White Paper, **Realising our Potential**. The document will make the MSc the main research qualification, and cut down the number of PhD courses. It completely overhauls the research councils, and promotes the idea of technology research foresight. The annual development of UK science and technology will be published in a new statement, **Forward Look**. Promoting the public understanding of science becomes a major programme, to culminate in the 2001 Great Exhibition, modelled on the scientific exhibition from which Imperial College grew, the 1851 Great Exhibition. The **Science community** gives a muted approval to the content of the paper.

27 May John Major holds a snap **cabinet reshuffle**. John Patten, Virginia Bottomley and William Waldegrave all keep their jobs. Junior Science minister **Robert Jackson** resigns after six years in various ministries. He is replaced by the London-born MP for Boothferry, **David Davis**. The Department for Education gains a junior minister, **Robert Squire**, also London born.

8 June Police investigate the theft of £50,000 worth of **computer equipment** from Silwood Park.

Charles Leary is elected Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) by 82 votes to 32, a turnout of less than 2%.

diary

25 June Last UGM of term

Congratulations to the following people who have been awarded Full Athletic Colours for 1992/93:

Thor Askeland
Mark Baker
Telfyn Beddoe
Jim Bichard
David Bolton
Alice Codrington
Clint Comeaux
Reg Cook
David Hall
Helen Johnson
Jon Jordan
Martin Kettle
Tom Miller

Joanne Muffett
Christopher Parks
Stuart Paynter
Edwige Pitel
Stephen Puttick
Micheal Reeves
Peter Reilly
Jennie Rogers
Marcus Schitt
Pete Sharpe
Todd Tillman

Certificates can be collected from the Union Office. Half-Athletic colours and ACC Social Colours recipients are listed on the board in the Office.

Chronology by Declan Curry.

Dominic exposes his dour northern soul

'And now the end is near and so I face the final curtain.....', as dear old Uncle Frank, or Sid Vicious (isn't music the great leveller?) would have said. Hurling towards the end of my year in office (a quaint term since I spent a large proportion of my time not being in my office) the only thing I can say is 'Can I breathe out now?'

And so in summary.....

Ents and ting.

Having being involved with Ents (but don't tell the missus) since the day I set foot in Imperial I reckon that this year has been the best. The quality of entertainment has been so pure you could have snorted it. The good people of Ents put in so much work, for so little recognition, I wonder at times why they bother. But that seems to be the way of the world when things are going well. People become used to being served up with good nights out, until they take them for granted. As far as the Union is concerned Ents have been hauled over the coals this year and at times I have had to put my head in my hands and wished the ground would swallow me up. Naivety and the dizzy heights of authority can be intoxicating. To some members of staff and to future sabbaticals I proffer the advice.....listen to Ents, do not pontificate, they know what they're doing. And remember.. without Ents there would be no heaving Wednesday and Friday nights, few bar extensions and little of that money we all like to spend. If Ents went on strike tomorrow where would we be? THINK ABOUT IT. And just for the record. Please give them a decent budget. Jesus would find it difficult to keep the punters amused with the money they have to work with.

The other events I have put on this year have gone well and they have been too numerous to mention. Thankyou for showing up and spending your grant wisely.

Rag.

My involvment with Rag this year has been brief, bordering on tanga brief. This doesn't though seem to have stopped them making more money than sense and I take my hat off to them. They have at times made errors of judgement that I would put down to having limitless supplies of boundless enthusiasm and more limited supplies of experience. We all make mistakes. Critics of Rag would have them 'wacky' and irritating. At the end of the day they raise large amounts of cash that the disadvantaged benefit from. How many of us

apathetic, lazy, self centred sloathes will criticise that?

Elections a go-go.

We have at last four sabbaticals in place for next year. Not that the vast majority of students at Imperial seem to care either way. The first election turn out of 20% ish was pretty remarkable and is about the national average for student elections. (At the sake of mutual embarrassment I will not even mention the second election). This though is still too small. Excuse me for being an out of touch old hippy but isn't youth all about self expression, making mistakes and learning from them (or not), experimentation, ranting and raving, staying up past twelve o'clock, not wearing Brian May t-shirts, upsetting your parents, dyeing your hair blue, eating badly, drinking to olympic standard (at the tax payers expense) and POLITICS. A worrying percentage of Imperial students seem to have already rested on their laurels and opted for the Marks and Spencers comfy grey cardie in their late teens and early twenties. Get involved and make some noise! If elected sabbatical officers have the mandate to hood wink, deceive, misinform and just good old fashioned lie just think what the government is doing to you. On second thoughts I take this all back. The Conservatives have been doing precisely the above for over thirteen years. Perhaps that's why grey cardies are so popular?

I have a vision.

The future for Imperial College Union is both equally grim and rosy. The introduction of Voluntary Membership could be the final nail in the coffin for students. While being unclear as to what the government is offering (answers on a postcard to John Patten MP) I envisage tough times ahead. We have never been about political campaigning here and so we have the advantage. Representation and services is where we're at and this year has seen an increased emphasis in both these areas. Next year we will have a sabbatical (AGM willing) solely dedicated to representing our club and athletic interests. God knows we need one. For too long College has shafted us and got away with it because sabbaticals have had neither the time nor the inclination to do anything about it. If any of the doubting Thomas's think there is no work for a new sabbatical just ask Rachel Mountford (Rag) or Carl Boon (ACC). We will also have a

new member of staff dedicated to finding out what you want in terms of services and events, and then providing them. Maybe things won't be that bad after all, but I've noticed that stocks of tin hats and shovels are running out fast at Millets.

The Richard Attenboroughs.

At various times throughout this year Jonty has begged me to write him '500 words on anything'. In my quest to be as unhelpful as possible I offer him 500 words on a selection of beautiful people.....

All the Union staff, Mandy 'mumsy' Hurford for being a pool of understanding and delicate infuriation, the Finance office posse, Zona 'Iri I' O'Sullivan for her never ending stream of put downs, Pat Baker for her humour, coffee and day files, Louise 'Gunner' Van Der Straeten for her friendship, love of life, mutual appreciation of Lowy and duff footballing taste, Stef for never letting me play in his football team, Cathy and Michelle for listening, reminding me that all men are bastards, lease of their magazines, unending supplies of sweeties and goodies and ability to lie faultlessly when I needed them to. Cathy 'you were fantastic!'. Chris for his bouncieness, green enthusiasm and guts to drag the Union forward, Rick for reminding me where the missing link went. The Catering collective, Ian Richards for being a genuine caring human being and

buyer of pints, I will miss you, Yvonne for being there (get your boyfriend under control), Pete, you are a true star, Steve, Ian 'north bank', Emily, Liz and Terri. The bar staff, Andrew 'sashe, sashe' Flanagan for all his efforts and 'offers', keep the vibe alive, Gervaise for behaving like the tallest 2 year old in town, your scowls have been truly inspirational. Remember, when the wind changes, you'll stick like that, Marc, Andy P, Imran.

The Felix orchestra, Jonty, for farty coffee and a welcoming smile, Dave Spoons, a renaissance man a crushed velvet, Ian, Stef, Simon, Steve, Andy for an accomodating back passage and musical reminiscences (you may wear the groove stone) and Rose (in the end it took me a dictionary to find out the meaning of unrequited love). Andy Kerr, you may be small and Irish but you'll do for me, BJ, a stalwart, friend and alter ego. Somebody somewhere loves you both. Andy Nu, 'man of gaffer tape', Ian 'Mr Pickle' Nichol. Jill 'the bookstore' for appreciation, coffee, clippers and chats, Denise, Millie, Cathy, Ann (where did you get that calender from?) and Fiona. College refectories, doing battle has been a pleasure. Stevie F for being an Hon. Sec. when I needed him, Rachel M, all the student officers and those whom my memory has not served well.....Kick off those sling backs and enjoy!

Chris's final words

There is no more, the end is upon us, but lots still to do. During this week we will put the finishing touches to the new plan for the Union. Jonty's article last week explained what is intended. This will (wind in the right direction) be implemented with the passing of the new constitution at the Annual General Meeting on Friday. A copy of the new (draft) constitution will be available from the Union office from Thursday afternoon. We need you there. I hope that the new constitution will be clear, easy to read, contain the minimum of legalistic nonsense and will take the Union a step closer to the students.

One last bit of business. There is a council meeting on Wednesday at

2pm in the concert hall of the Union Building. You are very welcome to attend. There we will run through a draft of the constitution, amending it so that the General Meeting will take as little time as possible. Please come along.

Finally, this year has been unbelievable for me but would have been nothing if it were not for those who have been there to help me. I won't mention any names, for fear I should forget etc. I will leave it by saying that there are those who have helped me have more good times than bad this year. What more can you ask for?

I rest my case.
Chris Davidson.

Photography for Felix? No problem!

As long as you don't mind being hit, kicked, burnt & berated. (and that's just the editor). In the world of the press, he who has the biggest lens and fastest motordrive wins! Our two photographers show off their 'best'.



The Beer festival in the JCR, starring all of next year's sabbaticals, No alkies next year then? By Mike Chambermaid



Worth \$28m and all I could do was take photos! Joe Baguleeluleuley

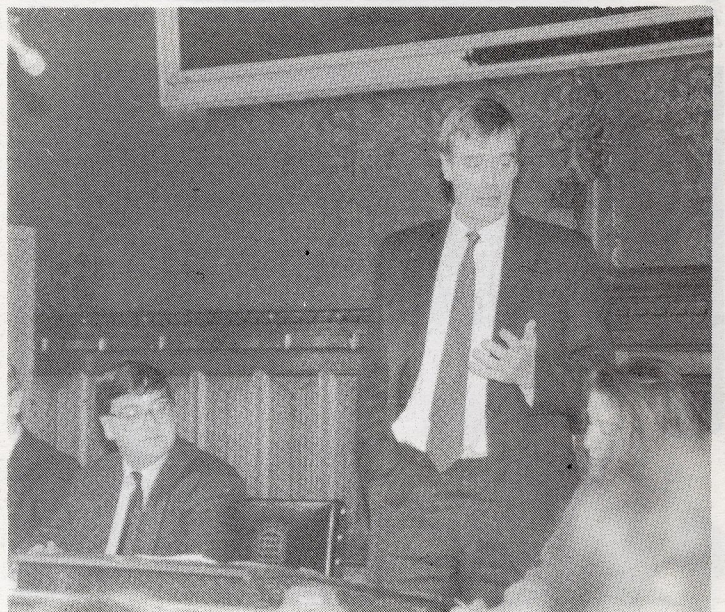
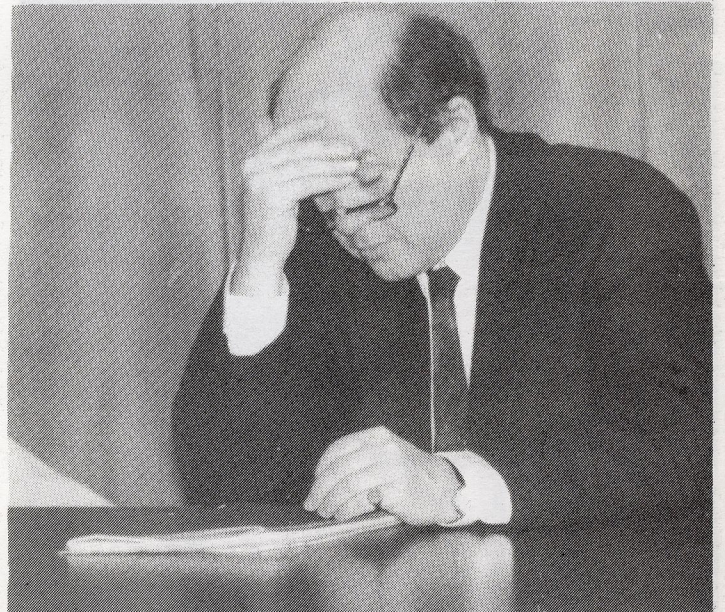
with thanks to...

Jacob Andelin, Rose Atkins, Joe Baguely, Jonty Beavan, Tamsin Braisher, Jeremy Burnell, Simon Burton, Mimi Chakraborty, Mike Chamberlain, Richard Collings (UK Travel Writer of the Year), Richard Cooke, Bryan Crotaz, Declan Curry, Ian Davies, Paul Dias, Phil 'PC' Dodd, Steve Dunton, Richard Eyers, Dave Goddard, Simon Govier, Investigations Unit RIP, Emma Keeling, Gareth Light, Neil Michael, Steve Newhouse, Tanya Nizam, Sangkaran Ratnam, Chris Riley, Stef Smith, David Spooner (aspirant), Chris Stapleton, Anna Teeman, Andy Thompson, Andrew Tseng, Gabriella da Villa, Womble, Andrew Wood, David Woodcock, Lise Yates

Don Adlington, *Counsellor*; Viq Ahmed, *Lucifer, cheers*; Alex Aiken, *freelance, sorry for winding you up over Kinnock*; John Allen, *LBC, for hospitality*; Nick Allen, *Orchestra*; Roy Anderson, *Biology, adieu*; John Archer, *proRector*; Sir Eric & Lady Claire Ash, *unstinting service etc. more time with your grandchildren?* Pat Baker, *Union office and fax tamer*; Matthew Balchin, *STOIC keeper of the soul*; Ann Barrett, *archives, for photographs*; Barbara Bates, *Birkbeck College, love to luvvie*; Mike Besser, *Chief Exec, Barts Hospital*; Rick Bilby, *ICU Deputy President, gaffes galore, much maligned*; David Blunkett, *Shadow Health Secretary*; Virginia Bottomley, *Health Secretary, for unblushing lies*; Jan Bradley, *Linstead warden*; Dr Jeremy Bray, *MP for Motherwell, that rare combination of MP and scientist*; Terry Briley, *I-o-I-o-I-o*; British Medical Association press office, *your obstructionism still amazes me*; Simon Brooke, *Central Office, cheers*; Colin Brown, *Independent Education editor*; Judith Chaplin's secretary, *condolences, now learn some manners*; Louise Clarke, *NUS press officer, former London Student ed, rot in hell*; Dave Cohen, *IC Radio station manager, have fun over the summer, keep in touch*; Clive Colman, *local bobby*; Ian Corfield, *ex-Warwick hack*; Gail Counsel, *Independent on Sunday, cheers*; Nagio Crequer, *Independent Home Affairs Editor*; John Cryer, *Ron Oxborough's PA, hope you like the new boss...*; Tom Cunningham, *you were appreciated, despite all I said*; Kate Dalton, *C&G President*; Catherine Darwen, *I've just seen Tim's piece in the Guardian. Such is life. Sorry about the picnic*; Chris Davidson, *ICU President, still likeable, a whiskey perhaps?* Phillipa Dodd, *Sheffield SU, commendations on your bravery, the Socialist Workers have long memories and shorter brains*; Derek Dollard, *MSF, cheers*; Jim Donagher, *the BOSS*; James Duckenfield, *Wales, provider of good tales, long may the valleys echo*; Christine Dude, *NIO, lazy Sunday afternoon?* Ilya Eigenbrot, *Russian angel of mercy*; Hugh Eland, *Pub Board chair, our boss, good mate, sorry about February*; Tim Evans, *freelance, good humoured*; Clive Evers, *Alzheimers Disease Society*; Steve Farrant, *Council chair, elder statesman*; Mark Fisher, *Shadow Charter minister, cheerful as ever*; Lorna Fitzsimons, *NUS President, regretfully*; Vanessa Ford, *Central Office, the Christmas cards still stand out*; Richard Foreman, *ConSoc, thanks mate*; Nigel Forman, *former Higher Education minister, hello again*; Don Foster, *Lib Dem education spokesman, thanks*; Nicky Fox, *ICU Housing Officer, get well soon*; Angus Frazer, *Need we say more?* Ian French, *MSF, best wishes*; Roger Frost, *old DES adversary, now back in the Civil Service*; Angelo Gardini, *nationwide, correspondent risque*; David Gascoigne, *Birkbeck, thanks*; Bill Goodwin, *journalist, to have his day in court*; Pallab Gosh, *BBC, thanks*; Peter Griffiths, *ULU Director of Planning*; Jody Gysling, *Harvey's Point*; Chris Hamblade, *sometimes NUS press officer, should be more often, thanks for showing how the job should be done*; Fiona Hamilton, *Cabinet Office, for suffering boneheadedness, many thanks*; Sydney Harbour-Bridge, *he of the long letter and longer conversation, my gratitude*; Richard Harwood, *CCO in house barrister, cheers*; DHB, *here's to the 22nd, regards*; John Hassard, *Warden supreme*; Zoe Hellingner, *from the pre-Chris age, where are you, you old moose you?* David Henke, *The Guardian, all I can add is 1993 Reporter of the Year, well done, thanks for the coffee*; Mike Herd, *London Students ed., always pleasant, charming and human. Warm regards for the future, did you really stitch us up?*; Steve Hiron, *Birkbeck, bastard*; Simon Hobbs, *LBC*; Paul Holmes, *RSM Bossman*; Ann Houston, *Dom's palace*; All at the HUB Office; John Hughes, *Pimlico Connection, sorry to see you go*; Tim Hunt, *Cabinet Office*; Mandy Hurford, *Union manager, thanks*; Martin Ince, *Times Higher Education Supplement, happy moving, many thanks, will drop into the local over the summer*; Geoff Ingram, *from Delaware to Glasgow, I'll visit before Christmas, promise. Keep in touch*; Robert Jackson, *former Science minister, appreciator of jokes, cheers*; Max Jallil, *Broadsheet ed., Hon Sec candidate*; Betty Johnston, *the WISE woman at IAC, regards*; Carole Jones, *Stanhope Properties*; Richard Keeble, *patience award*; Maeve Kennedy, *Guardian, Happy Birthday yesterday, from your excerpt*; Andy Kerr, *thanks, say hello to all at home, if you go there*; Lester Kirschenbaum, *Chem Eng, for semesterisation*; John Lister, *London Health Emergency wonderkid, sincere thanks*; Bec Land, *Pimlico days?* Conrad Lichenstein, *Biotechnology*; Pat McCarthy, *UL press supremo, happy theatre hunting, I still think the Maxwell story was genuine!* Ian McCartney, *Labour health*; Deidre McGlone, *Harvey's Point*; Brendan McMahon, *Irish Embassy, go raibh maith agat*; Raoul Mansukani, *IC's premier Fabian. Cheers*; Gordon Marshall, *not; Mary, Boss*; Laura Matthews, *former NUS, now Industrial Society, too few words, too many thanks*; Peter Mee, *Sherfield, gentleman*; James Meikle, *Guardian Education Editor, congrats on promotion*; Elle Merton, *ULU VP Welfare, on the record thanks*; Michelle'n' Cathy, *the great and the good*; William Miller, *Franka's fund, pax*; Lewis Mooney, *Labour's Science spokesman*; Jan Moore, *was DFE, now elsewhere, will be missed*; Gina Mortley, *continued good wishes*; Lorna Mountford, *whirlwind Rag secretary*; Rachel Mountford, *Rag Chair, Presidential candidate, all round good spud*; Kevin Murphy, *IRN at Westminster, thanks for pointing in the right direction*; Asil Nadir, *fugitive, for role model services*; Geoff New, *Warden and all round good chap*; Richard Norton-Taylor, *Guardian, regards*; Emily O'Reilly, *Irish Press, may the torch of freedom burn on*; Carolyne Osner, *between a rock and a hard place...*; Conor Pickering, *CCF in-house wine appreciator, a safe seat awaits you, keep in touch, and by the way, where's that lunch you owe me, git?* Laura Pimentel et parents, *merci*; Matt Pinel, *Biology, have a good summer, mate*; Michelle, Karen, Liz, Linda, Sue, Steve, *Press + PR, a wonderful team, best wishes for the future*; Andrew Puddephatt, *Liberty*; Bill Raines, *I still remember you on ITN*; Peter Reid, *NIO, have a nice day*; Jo Reville, *Evening Standard*; Peter Richards, *Dean, Marys, the only senior member of staff with the manners to come across to our studio, despite the harsh words, good luck with the schemes, just don't burn too many copies, eh?* Graham Riddick, *mere backbencher, warm regards*; David Roberts, *Provost, UCL*; Gareth Roberts, *Mary's Alzheimers groundbreaker*; Lois Rogers, *Health corr. for Britain's biggest tabloid, the Sunday Times*; Jeff Rooker, *Labour higher education spokesman, too busy planning U-turns to be of any use to us, I'm afraid*; Mark Samuels, *ULU President, apologies for my hatred, good luck in the future, ps I owe you a drink*; Mick Saul, *NUPE, many thanks*; Tim Shaw, *Dean, Mines, in the dark?* John Simpson, *Careers guru*; Tom Snow, *NUPE London officer*; Eric Staples, *sorry about the horses*; Simon Stockhill, *St. Mary's past president*; Louise van der Straaten, *Union Finance Officer, good one*; Stewart Sutherland, *VC University of London, phantom needle bender*; Mark Swann, *SMHMSSU President*; Thames Valley Police; Paul Thomas, *RCS President*; Miss Thornett, *IC Day Nursery, hope the funding gets to you*; Adam Tinworth, *where you bin?* Sir Bernard Tomlinson, *for much copy*; William Waldegrave, *Science Minister, for the champagne*; Simon Walker, *Weeks Warden*; Andy Wensley, *God help us all*; David Wheeldon, *Lib Dem whirlwind*; Michael White, *Guardian Political Editor, wishing many more years looking down mineshafts*; Tom Wilkie, *Independent Science editor, many thanks*; Dominic Wilkinson, *Hon Sec, Germany, United States, Poland, Norway, Dutch guide dogs for the blind, Grenoble schoolboys, Arsenal, give this man an atlas. Dom - take up badminton*; Yen Yang Lim, *OSC Chair*.

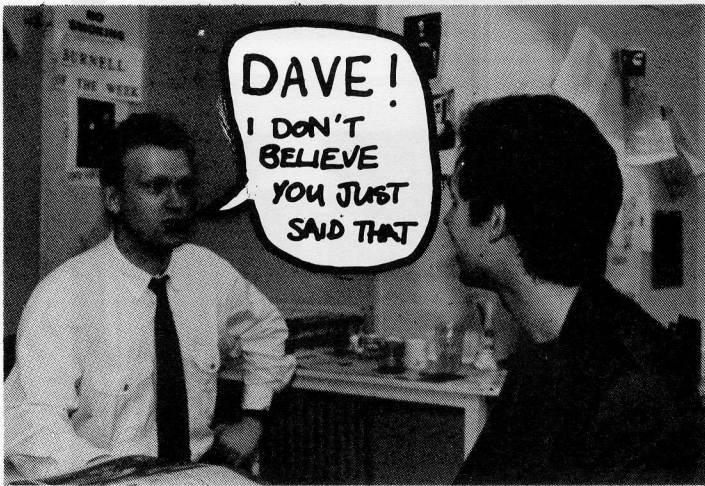


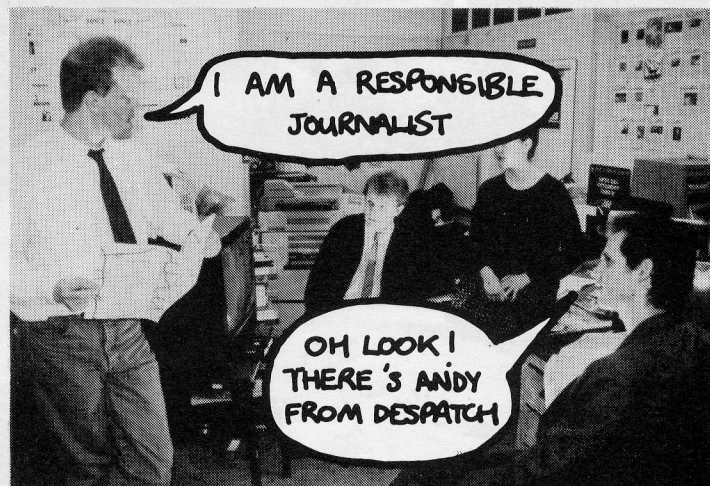
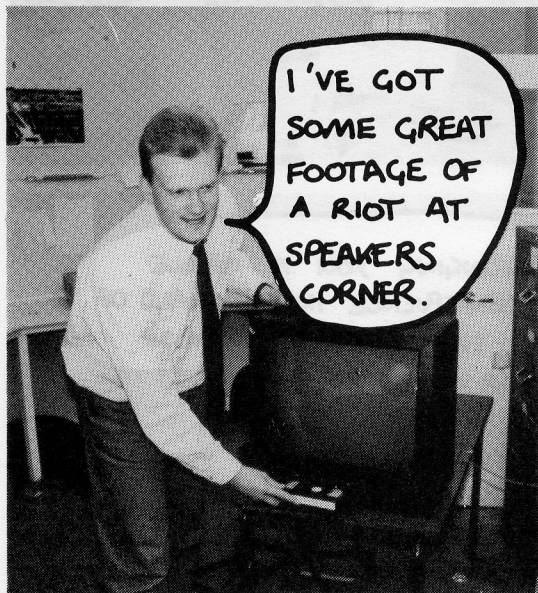
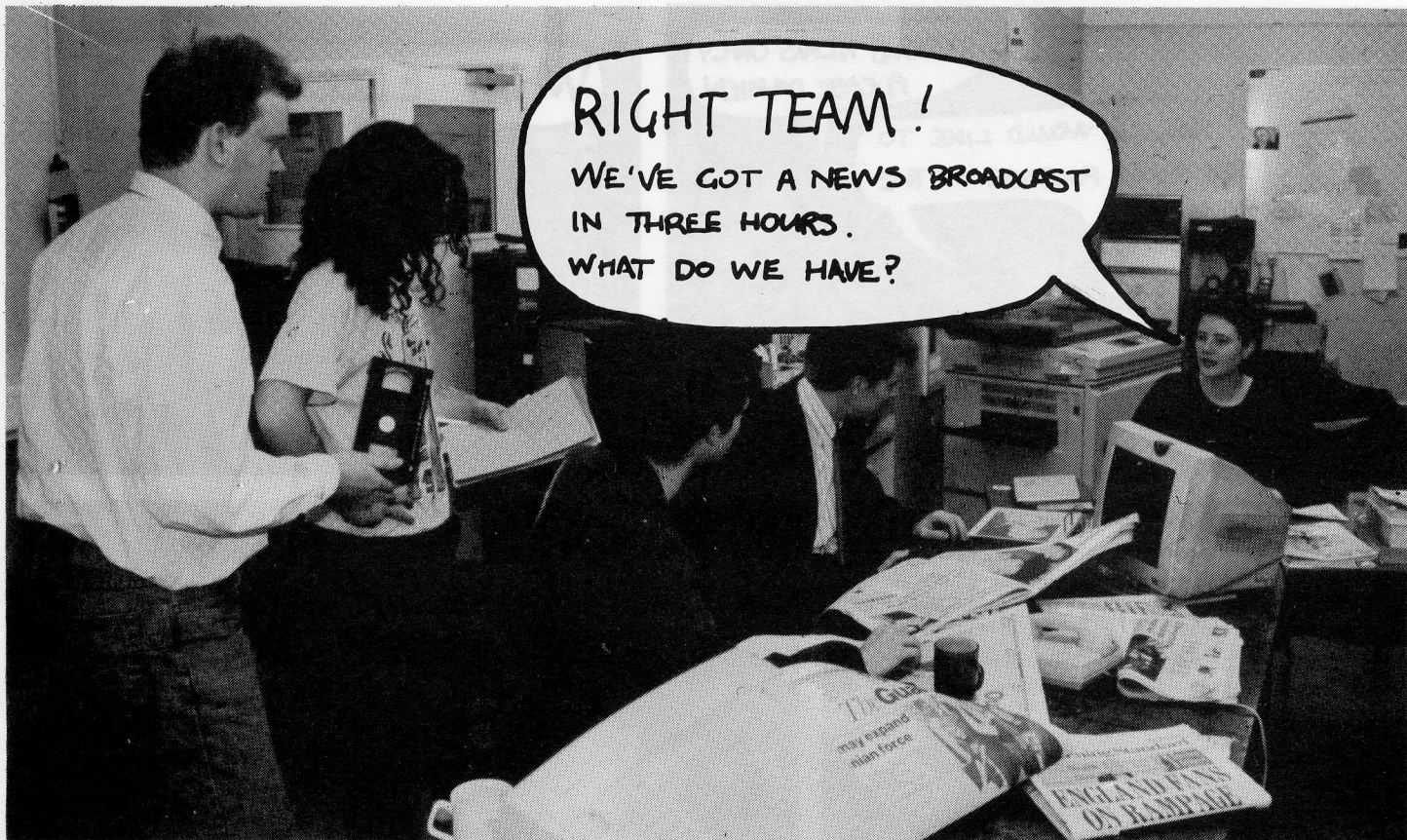
The final page pictures, in anticlockwise order: Passing faceless by Joe Baguley, taken close to Imperial College. Hyde Park during a total eclipse of the sun? Mike Camberlain was responsible for that one. Graham Riddick MP and Coner Pickering, National Director of Conservative Students (Now resident in Christ Church), pontificating about students' unions. Picture by Joe Baguley. Mark Fisher MP burying his head in his hands after hearing the NUS students' Charter. Chamberlain snapped that one. Thank you for the sterling work this year guys.

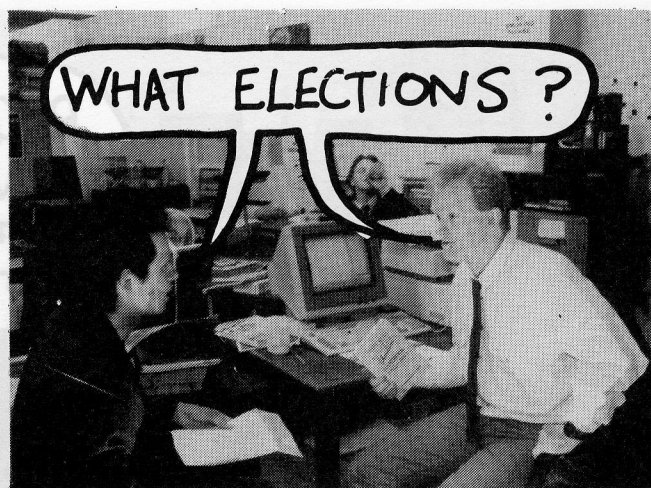
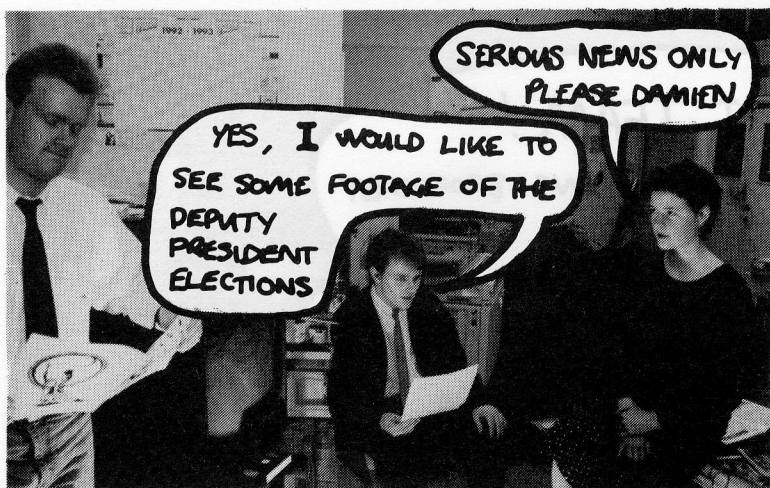


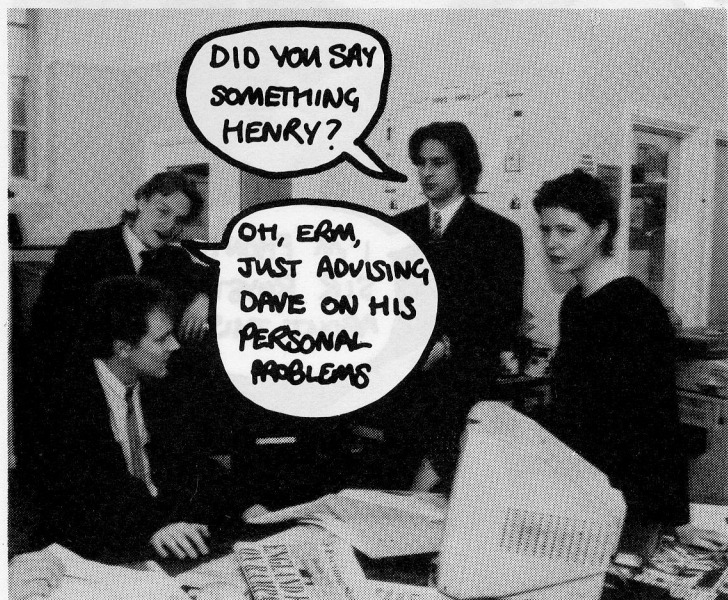
DROP THE DEAD DOUGHNUT

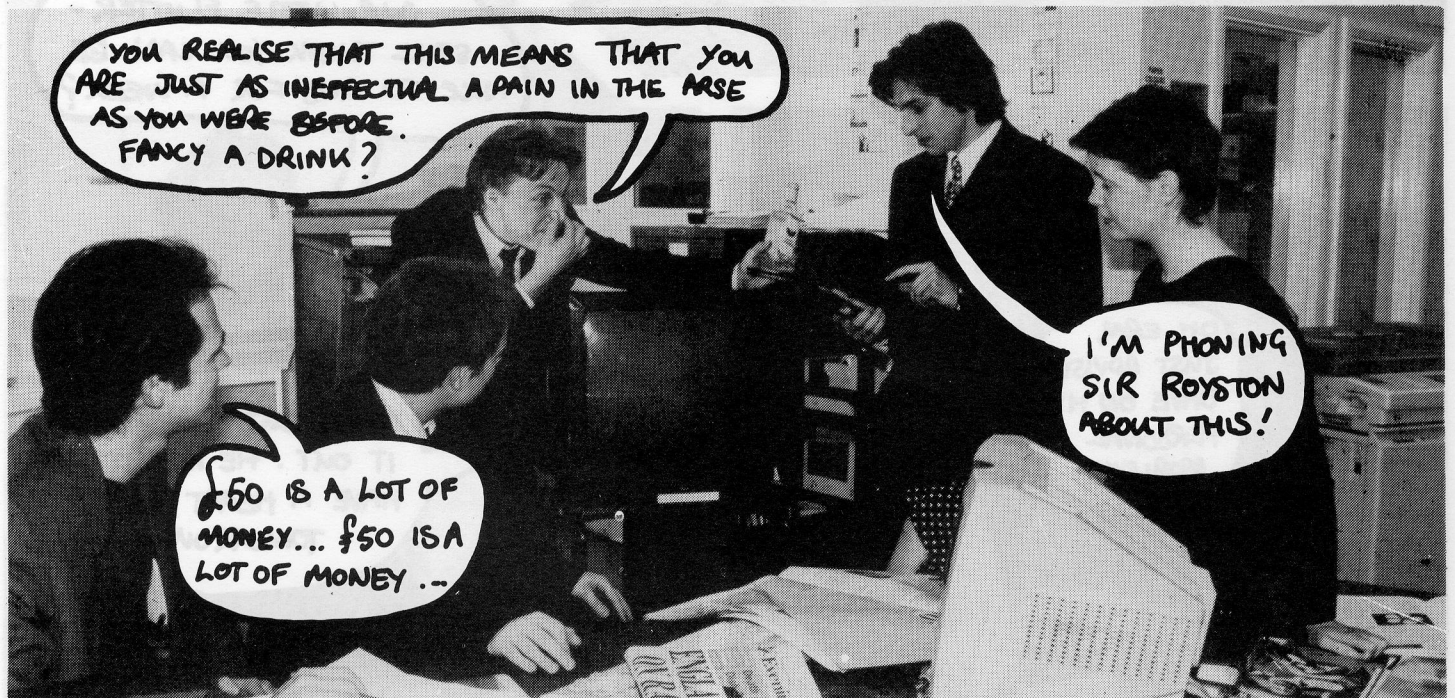
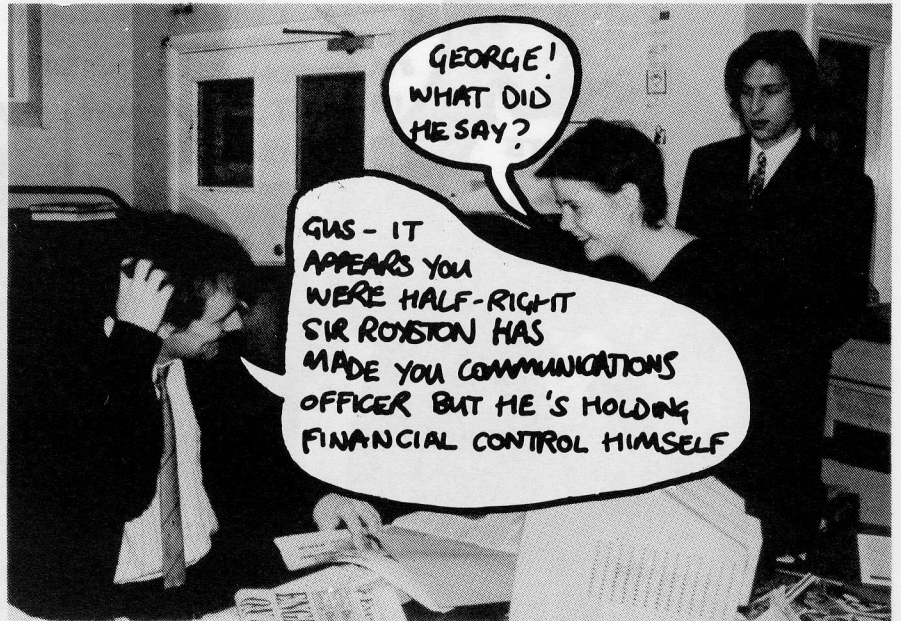
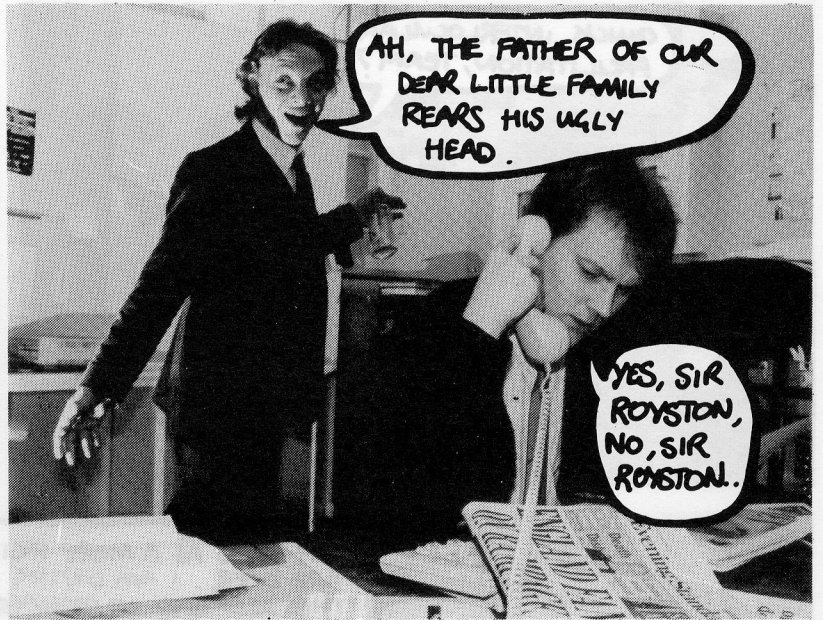


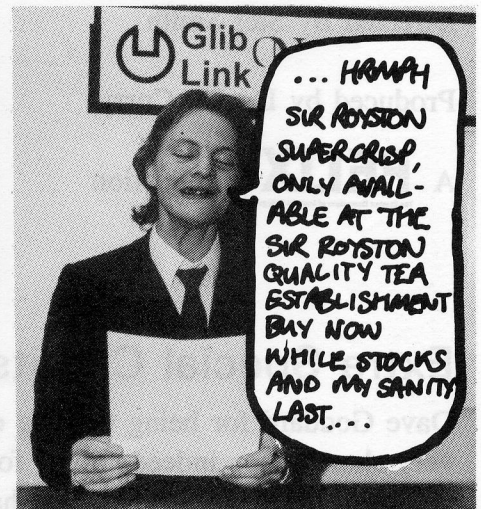
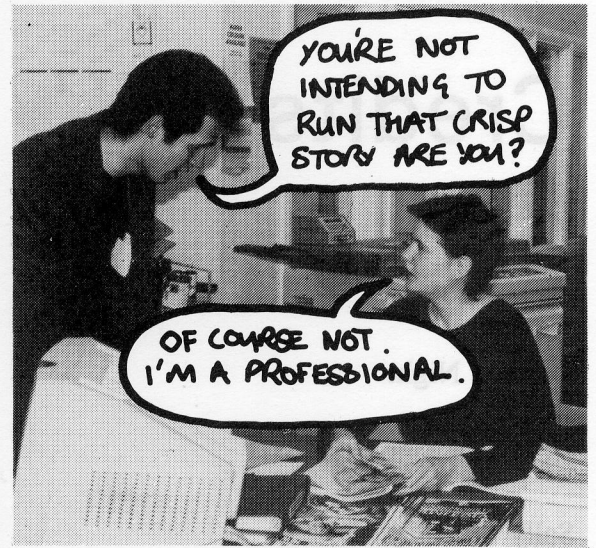












Credits

Gus Smarm

Dave Kool

Damien Night

Henry Davenport

Sally Smedley

Helen Sappho

George Wimp

Joy Bitch

Mysterious man behind glass screen

Invisible man stuck to ceiling

Photography

Layout and design

Dave 'Lisa' Goddard

Stef 'Guess who's writing the credits' Smith

Steven 'CF' Newhouse

David 'Darlings' Spooner

The Office Broom (Cue 'Daft as a brush' jokes)

Kristine 'Stuka' Vaaler

Declan 'Copy-boy' Curry

Jonty 'Immac' Beavan

Ian 'Better late than never' Hodge

Phill 'I'll be there' Henry

Simon Govier

Stef Smith

Written by Stef Smith and David Spooner

From a plagiarised idea by Declan Curry

Directed By Stef Smith

Produced by Declan Curry

A **FELIX** Production
The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Extra Special Credits

Dave Goddard for being trusting enough to take part in this hideous travesty. Simon for taking piccies at very short notice indeed. Boots for doing their best to reduce photo quality. Declan for getting the team together. Finally a pre-emptive thank you to Hat-trick for not