Electrical Safety in your Room

The shocking truth is that electricity can kill you and start fires!
Use this guide to help check if your electrical equipment is safe to use.

Electrical danger signs – what to look for

- ! First, switch off and unplug the equipment, then look for these danger signs:-
- ! damage to the cable covering (apart from light scuffing)?
- ! damage to the plug – is the casing cracked or the pins bent?
- ! taped or other 'home-made' joins in the cable?
- ! outer covering of cable not gripped where it enters the plug or the equipment? Is the coloured insulation on the internal wires showing?
- ! damage to the outer covering of the equipment? Any dents, loose parts or loose screws?
- ! Overheating? Any burn marks or staining on the plug, equipment or socket?

Electrical sockets in your room

The sockets in a number of halls only allow you to draw a limited current before the fuse blows or the circuit breaker trips, cutting off the power supply. Normally a number of rooms run on a single fuse so overloading the sockets could make you very unpopular with your neighbours, as well as inconveniencing yourself.

Sockets above washbasins are designed for electric shavers only.

For overseas students

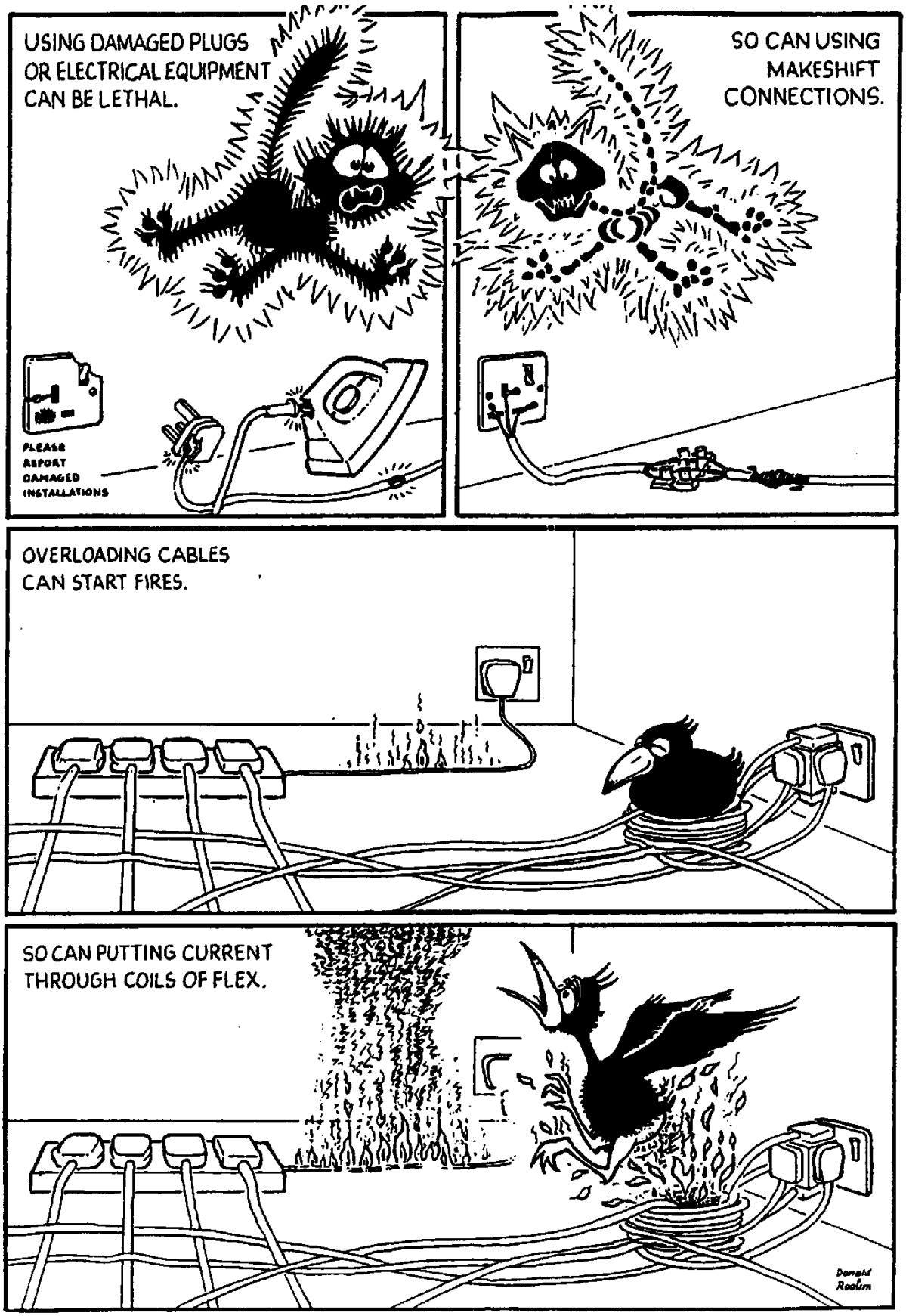
Do

- ✓ make sure your equipment is safe to use – see 'What to look for'
- ✓ ask if you are unsure how to connect up your plug
- ✓ make sure your plug complies with BS 1363 and is properly fused
- ✓ report any faults in University-supplied equipment to your House Manager
- ✓ remove plugs from the sockets when you are away from your room

Don't

- ✘ replace plugs etc unless you know what you are doing
- ✘ use extension leads from outside the room
- ✘ overload the circuits – this will trip the circuit breaker or blow a fuse
- ✘ allow your appliance to overheat through lack of ventilation – this could cause a fire
- ✘ connect equipment to a socket unless a proper plug has been fitted
- ✘ use multi-sided adaptors – fused boards are much safer
- ✘ trail leads/cables/flexes across your room
- ✘ try to repair electrical equipment unless you know how to do it safely


HANGING AND TRAILING WIRES
CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTS.
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
MUST BE EARTHED
UNLESS IT IS DOUBLE INSULATED
TWO-CORE FLEX
FOR DOUBLE-INSULATED
EQUIPMENT ONLY.
SIGN FOR
DOUBLE
INSULATION.
ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT
NEEDS THREE-CORE FLEX.
EARTH WIRE (GREEN AND YELLOW)
IS YOUR EQUIPMENT
EARTHED?
FIT PLUGS CORRECTLY
FOR SAFETY.
EARTH WIRE
(GREEN AND YELLOW)
NEUTRAL
WIRE
(BLUE)
LIVE
WIRE
(BROWN)
OUTER COVERING
INSIDE CORD GRIP.
NOT LIKE THIS
TO POWER FOUR 3-AMP LAMPS ETC
FROM ONE 13-AMP SOCKET, USE A
FUSED DISTRIBUTION BOARD.
13A
USE THE CORRECT FUSE
FOR YOUR EQUIPMENT:
3 AMP UP TO 750 WATTS
5 AMP UP TO 1200 WATTS
13 AMP UP TO 3000 WATTS
TAKING POWER FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM
CAN CAUSE TROUBLE (IT INTERFERES WITH THE WORK OF CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE).


USING DAMAGED PLUGS OR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT CAN BE LETHAL.
PLEASE REPORT DAMAGED INSTALLATIONS
SO CAN USING MAKESHIFT CONNECTIONS.
OVERLOADING CABLES CAN START FIRES.
SO CAN PUTTING CURRENT THROUGH COILS OF FLEX.
Donald Rooum