

FELIX



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Arson Attack

BY ANDREW LONG

Arsonists have been blamed for two fires which last term wrecked havoc with festive celebrations at Linstead Hall. The fires took place on Tuesday 13th December, just a few days after the Linstead Christmas party.

In the first of the two incidents, fire alarms were activated at 9.05pm, after foyer smoke alarms were triggered. Mr S. Patel, who was the first at the scene, discovered an ignited newspaper and a burning armchair under the foyer stairs. Whilst removing the armchair he was joined by college security who extinguished the flames.

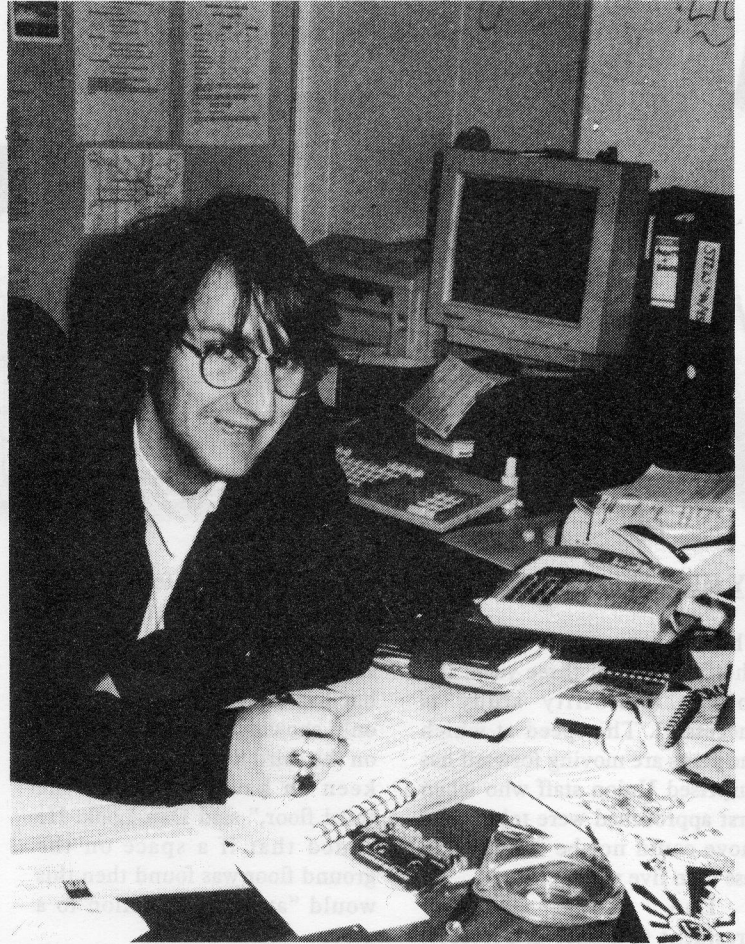
The second event took place shortly after 10pm. On smelling smoke in her flat, resident Sharine Brown rose the alarm. College security arriving on staircase 3 found that the lighting had been switched off and the staircase smoke-ridden. The fire brigade were called whilst security and assistant warden Andy Livingston used a hose reel to extinguish the flames. Following investigations at the scene police and fire officials have concluded that

arsonists were to blame.

Terry Briley, Deputy Security Manager, expressed great dissatisfaction with the behaviour of those responsible. However, he was impressed by the rapid evacuation of the building. "Everybody responded extremely well; the fires could have been serious if not fatal," he said.

Jan Bradley, Warden of Linstead Hall, also praised peoples' efforts: "Considering the party atmosphere, and the high spirits, the situation was tackled well under the circumstances."

Although nobody was hurt in the incidents, the fires raise some serious safety questions. Fire alarms are due to be fitted in all rooms in Linstead but this has been pending for some years. The last major accomodiation fire occured three years ago following a chip pan fire in Garden Hall, after which an upgrade to the fire safety system in Southside, Weeks and Linstead Halls was implimented. But, though the Linstead fire system was upgraded during 1994, half a year later, the smoke alarm system remains unfinished.



Mark Horne is the new ICU Events and Marketing Manger, writes Jon Jordan. Mark, 27½, is a business and adminstration studies graduate of Salford University and was Ents manager at Salford for four years and Greenwich for six months before moving to Imperial. "It's a totally new thing for me," said Mark, "coming to a place that's a) respected and b) has a history".

When asked about his vision for the future, the self confessed "cross between Terry Christian and Boy George" replied "I personally reckon that we're about eight or nine tenth of the way to getting everything sorted as it needs to be sorted". He also hoped that in the future there would be more clubs and society and overseas student involvement in the Union. "As a union we know a lot more about running events than a lot of students appreciate" he continued, "we also need to try and change people's perceptions of union events". Ents kick off the New Year tonight with the Carnival in the Union building.

New Constitution

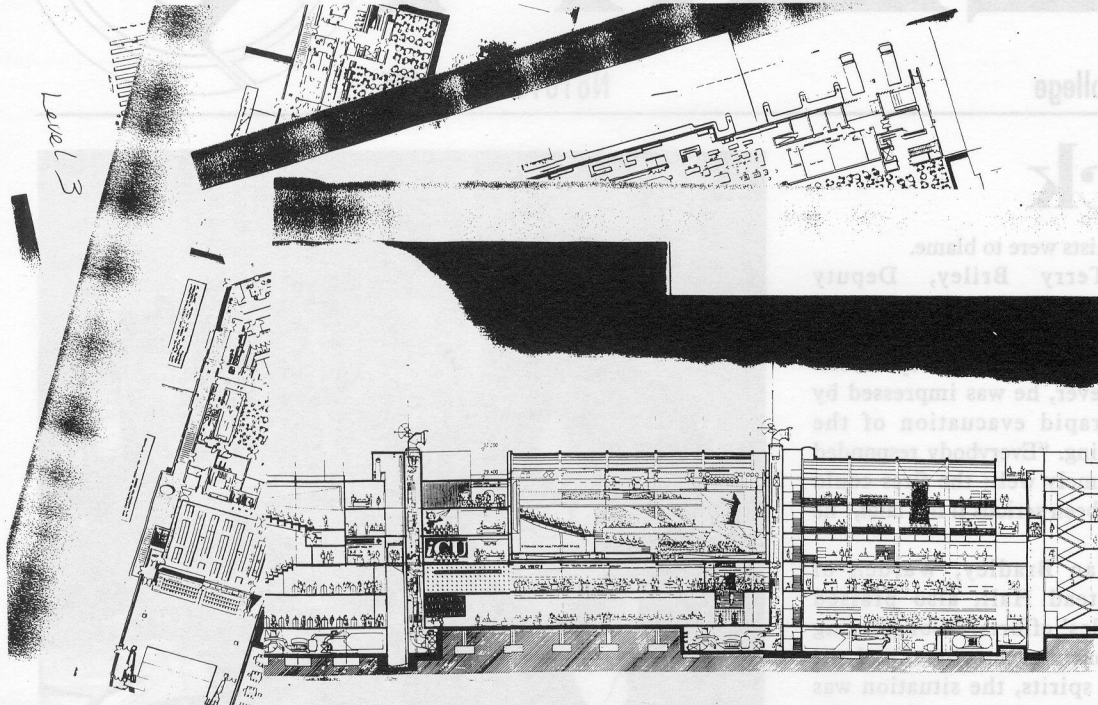
BY ANDREW LONG

Imperial College Union (ICU) has a new constitution after the bulk of it was passed by the

Governing Body at the end of last term. But parts of it have caused complications, the 'Mary's Ammendment' has itself been ammended after the Governing
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Union Move Considered



BY MICHAEL LUDLAM

The Union could move to Sherfield within three years if a college feasibility study is successful. The speed at which the plans are moving forward has surprised Union staff who when first approached were told that a move could not be achieved in less than five years.

Dan Look, Deputy President (Finance & Services) admitted: "We've found out it is not as long term as first anticipated." The reduced time frame was explained by Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, who said that it was intended that the work on Sherfield would be completed at the same time as the new medical building in 1998. However, both college and union officials stress heavily that the plans produced so far are for a feasibility study which will be completed at the end of this month. "The feasibility study is there to demonstrate whether creating a sort of academic-social space is feasible and what it might cost," said Mr Caldwell. He added: "If we are going to attract students in the future we've got to create the right facilities for them."

On being shown tentative plans for a move to Sherfield,

Union staff have found many problems with the design. In particular, initial sketches suggest that the need for a union bar has almost been neglected, only showing it as a small space on the third floor. "We're not too keen on having a bar on the third floor," said Dan Look. He added that if a space on the ground floor was found then this would "attract" the union to a move.

Already, assurances given at the beginning of last term seem to have been changed. Moving the Union Dining Hall and the Union Bar, "panel by panel" to a new union building is proving unfeasible. "I don't see how it would work," said the Deputy President (Finance & Services), he added that they would remain in their present positions. There have also been concerns as to whether Union catering would be able to compete with college catering.

The plans presently include a bookshop which the Union would run and other retail outlets: the provisional plans show a Tower Records store. The central light wells in the Sherfield building would go. They would be replaced by a large hall with tiered seating and partition walls to provide more

rooms. If, as has been suggested, the Union were also given control of the Great Hall, then this would give the Union two large seated venues. But this would not necessarily be beneficial for the Union since it tends to request lots of small rooms at once. Dan Look admitted that it was, "hard to see how we would get everything to work". Other ideas for the central lightwell space would be to turn it into a nightclub venue, similar to Tutu's at King's College, with a bar above looking down.

FELIX understands that not all of the administration staff are keen on a Union move to Sherfield. They will have to be won over by the proposers of the scheme if it is to go ahead. It may be that in the new Sherfield building the college administration will be smaller both in size and staff numbers.

The Union are still pushing for a feasibility study to look at how Beit Quad could be improved as a student area away from the rest of college. In a promise to students Mr Look said that students would be consulted and that a referendum was, "not something we would rule out".

(New Constitution continues from page one...)

Body at the end of last term. But parts of it have caused complications, the 'Mary's Amendment' has itself been amended after the Governing Body found some of the wording unsuitable for inclusion in the long term constitution.

At the Union General Meeting last November, Claire Moloney, St Mary's Hospital Medical School Student Union President, passed an amendment which made Mary's Union financially responsible to medical school officials. It also separated Mary's funding from ICU's until the medical school moved from Paddington to South Kensington. All other Constituent College Unions are financially responsible to the Deputy President (Finance & Services).

However, it was decided that measures which would probably require the constitution be amended at a later stage should not be written into the document. Also removed was the Mary's Union financial exception which took SMHMSSU out of the responsibility of the Deputy President (Finance & Services).

The amendment was introduced after students were concerned that the finances of Mary's Union would be decided by mostly non-Mary's students. According to the Governing Body, these concerns have been addressed in the revised clause. Under this revised clause Mary's Union will have a separate earmarked subvention 'for such period as the Governing Body shall determine'. It is to be administered and accounted for under 'arrangements approved by the Rector'.

Though, under this new clause, Mary's Union could be forced to be immediately financially accountable to ICU, it is understood that College officials will delay any such measures until after medics move onto the South Kensington campus.

Professor Peter Richards, Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School, commented: "I think in the circumstances it is a

Continues overleaf...

(Continued from page two...)

satisfactory way forward. Its not what everyone would have wanted but its an acceptable compromise."

The Governing Body's revised amendment must now be passed by the new ICU Council before it can finally be included into the constitution. However, Lucy Chothia, ICU President, in an interview with FELIX stated that the new amendment basically was a rewording of the old proposal and that she did not see Council having any problems with it.

The first new ICU Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th January.

Ex-Rector Heads Loan Co

BY MIKE INGRAM

Sir Eric Ash, ex-Rector of Imperial College, has been appointed acting Chief Executive of the Student Loans Company.

He took over the position, which is on a part time basis, on 16 December. The job was previously held by Ron Harrison, who is absent owing to ill health. Sir Eric's task will be aided by Colin Ward, Assistant Managing Director of the Glasgow-based company, who will continue to deal with day-to-day operational

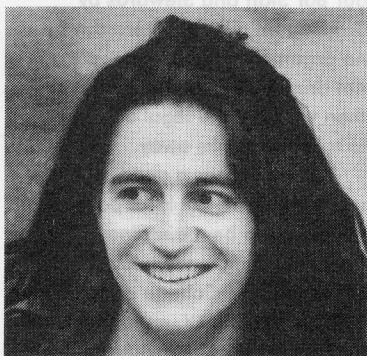
details. Sir Eric will be continuing in the post until further notice.

The Company, owned by the Secretaries of State for Education and Scotland, was set up to administer the Government's much-maligned student loans scheme. Recently, the scheme has come under attack from both student bodies and the opposition parties. Government figures from February 1994 showed that more than a third of graduates liable to make loan repayments had been forced to

defer payments because of low income.

Sir Eric, who joined the Company in September 1994 as a non-Executive Director, was Rector of Imperial College from 1985 to 1993. He is currently Professor of Physics at University College, London. The Company Chairman, Ken Young, described him as having "a distinguished academic career", and said that "his management experience as a director and consultant will be an invaluable asset".

editorial



Two Thousandths

Ah, another year is upon us. But behind the complacency which comes with maturity (remember the trauma that came with changing from 1983 to 1984 brought to your schoolbooks?) there is a feeling, I think, of an importance to count time almost hourly. We are now only five years from the Millennium and that long awaited Timemark that stirs both the souls of believers and hearts of the cynics. We may say that the year 2000 is a purely human invention unnoticed by the cosmos but one cannot live in the world of calendars and escape without a trace. Our concept of time may be arbitrary but it permeates to the core.

Despite, or because, of our obsession, it is difficult to obtain any real sense of perspective. I think the Millennium will now be much more on the minds of the chattering classes because we are 'half way there.' By this I mean half way between 1990 and 2000, which is how many people seem to view things. Nobody

really says we've seen 1995/2000'ths of the allotted time float under the bridge. But why say 2000 at all? In 2100 they'll be looking towards the year 3000 or floating around as dust particles. Or maybe they'll be measuring time with some weird form of 'quantum clock' and the Christian Calendar will be all but forgotten.

Over the Channel

It was with such weighty thoughts on my mind that I went to Holland over the New Years Break (yeah really, nothing to do with Amsterdam'ned hedonism!) Actually, maybe it's a product of my years without travel but I do find going to new countries an exhilarating experience. When people talk about how the European capitals, for instance, are all the same, I can only get nostalgic because if they are similar now, what must they have been once? I find countries bristling with a subtle uniqueness, which might not be as obvious as a weird hat or a plate of some local long-lost delicacy but are at least as intrinsic to the countries being.

Everyone goes on about how laid back the Dutch are (famously in Amsterdam) but many ignore the fact that this comes from an innate love of authority, or at least a strong conservative respect for order in society. Trains run on time, people board them on time. Service in shops is practical, never effuse. Dress is straightforward (though clubs seem the usual dressed down

palaces). Marijuana is smoked in the red light district but nobody drinks rowdily on the streets. A kingdom of sensiblistm.

I pondered this as I listened to the canal boat captain. "Half of Holland lies two to three metres under water..." This betrays what I think is one of the fundamental truths about the country. Any nation sitting continually at the point being the toddlers end of the North Sea swimming pool is bound to have an in-built desire to preserve those mechanisms which keep back the sea. No government, no dry land. After this, the government probably doesn't need to justify itself much more. Therefore there isn't the 'wouldn't we better off without them?' questions asked of politicians, thus they don't act unreasonably seeking attention and sensibleness is preserved.

All of which makes Dam Square at twelve am New Years Day an interesting anomaly. Maybe like the ancient Romans the natives of Holland understand that a civilised society must occasionally let it's hair down. Maybe everyone was foreign. Or maybe it was their ready availability that resulted in more fireworks flying around then the latest Die Hard movie. People were hit, hair caught fire, someone was standing on a car heaped in ash on one corner whilst another group amongst the thousands broke up chairs and made a huge bonfire. The police were absent and sensibleness was clearly taking a night off.

Get Creative in 1995

Why not take a break from the lectures and the television to pick up a pen (or a PC) and write for FELIX? Whether you want to write one feature or become a regular new reporter or reviewer we're always looking to take new people on board. Come in to the office and ask for Owain. Make it your resolution.

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Theatre	Joseph Barr

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Collating Last Week	Marcus Alexander, Jon Jordan
Helpfulness	Steve n Newhouse
Typing	Bulbul

New Gay&Lesbian Group... Thank You's... Lucy calls time up to the rowdy boozers...

Network

Dear Owain
A student visited the Union asking about the Lesbian/Gay Network.

The Lesbian gay network was started last year by two lecturers to provide a support network for students. Unfortunately the lecturers left so the network stopped.

A student has now approached me to say that he is prepared to run this network. So if you are a Lesbian or Gay student and would like to get in touch with other G.L.B. students there is a pigeon hole in the Union Office or you can contact me and I will pass your name on. Similarly if you want to help with the network use these methods of contact. All help will be appreciated.

Imperial can be a difficult place to be a Gay or Lesbian student so if you would prefer it the University of London Union in (Mallet street) has an extremely well established group which meet on Thursdays at 7.30pm in room 2D/E.

Everyone, what ever their sexual orientation, is at risk from Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases if they do not follow the "Safe Sex" guide lines. You are at risk not only from Aids (For which there is as yet no known cure) but also from Hepatitis B. The College Health centre will immunise students who are thought to be in high risk groups

It is also worth noting that there are a number of Gay and Lesbian phone lines in London.

Lesbian and Gay Switchboard
(24 hrs) (071 837 7324)

Lesbian Line (071 251 6911)

London Friend (071 837 3337)

London Friend (women's' line)
(071 837 2782)

Yours Sincerely,

Lucy Chothia
ICU President

Thank You's

Dear Felix,
On behalf of ICU Third World First I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Latin American Party Night at the end of last term and also all those who attended. It was a great night and we raised about £400 for two projects that are helping to protect the Brazilian

Rainforest. The projects supported were a joint Oxfam TWF sponsorship of the Brazilian Rubber Tappers Union education programme, and a Rainforest Foundation (one of this years rag charities) project to help the indigenous tribes of the rainforest. If anyone wants details of how the money will be spent or how the charities work, please contact us through the Union pigeon holes.

Thanks again,

Jacob Tompkins, TWF.

More Thanks

Dear Felix,
The Welfare Week was designed to raise awareness of essential issues such as health matters and to stress that there are people in the Union and college who can be contacted to discuss any problems in confidence. The week incorporated some important dates including World Aids Day on December 1st and European Disabled Peoples Day on December 3rd. We also included the Drug Prevention Week which was from the week beginning the 15th October.

Events during the week included a display in the Union bookstore, information stalls in the Union and Sherfield building, a benefit disco, free information folders and the opportunity to meet members of the welfare team and watch videos on alcohol abuse over a free lunch.

There was also a Latin American Night organised by Third World First. Not only was it one of the liveliest events of the year but it also raised a lot of money for OXFAM.

The weeks events were organised by the Union's Welfare Committee and supported by college staff including the Disabilities Officer, Nursery staff and College Tutors.

Other organisation also took part in the weeks activities. Groups such as the Hungerford Drug Project, Chelsea and Westminster Health Project, Brook Advisory Centre, the Maz Project and AIDS projects all had stalls in the Union and the Sherfield building.

Folders containing condoms, red ribbons and many useful information sheets were distributed throughout the week at the

Kensington site, St Marys and Silwood.

Again, a BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who made the campaign week such a success.

Minevar Kavlak
Union Adviser

Bar Law

Dear Owain,
Last term I was asked to go into an informal meeting with Terry Briley, Deputy Head of Security and a representative from the local police.

At this meeting concern was expressed about the number of drink related incidents that have happened [recently].

The Union has to do everything in its power to ensure that problems do not occur either within its premises or outside, as a result of people drinking in Da Vinchies or the Traditional bar. Failure to do this could result in the loss of our license and possible court proceedings.

We need to inform everyone of possible problems and have your support in ensuring that the licensing laws are strictly adhered to.

The Licensees or their representatives on duty must:

1. **Refuse to serve anyone who, in their opinion, appears to be drunk.** If, on any occasion, we have to take this decision we need your support. Friends must not then buy drinks for the individual concerned. This action would

compromise them and risk the bar losing its license. The most useful action would be for friends to rally around and see the person safely home.

2. **Refuse entrance to anyone who, in their opinion, is already drunk.** The Union is granted extensions for 'Special Occasions' but if people arrive having obviously spent the entire evening drinking elsewhere and in an apparently inebriated state, then the Stewards will have to refuse them entry. They would not be served at the bar anyway.

3. **Ensure that all alcohol is consumed within 20 minutes if bar closing.** This ruling applies to all areas including the Entertainments Lounge. Please help our Bar Staff and Stewards by drinking up quickly. There can be no argument on this. If people do not drink up in the specified time then we have the legal obligation to take the drinks away.

The Union has a good reputation with the local police and this needs to be maintained. The Union Building is the busiest social space with the College campus and WE COLLECTIVELY, need to ensure that reasonable behaviour and adherence to the licensing laws are our prime considerations at all times.

A UNION BUILDING WITHOUT A BAR IS NOT A PRETTY THOUGHT!

Yours Sincerely,

Lucy Chothia
ICU President

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Under the new constitution the governing and sovereign body of the Union is Council. It is therefore very important that all members of council attend meetings. All meetings of the Union so any student may attend. The meetings scheduled so far are as follows:

17th Jan	Council	UDH
13th Feb	Council	Ents Lounge
14th March	Council	TTR
5th May	Annual General Meeting	Ents Lounge
23rd May	Council	UDH
12th June	Exec to discuss constitution	Union Office
20th June	Council	UDH

If you have any items for discussion they must be given to the Union seven college days before the meeting. Seven is the minimum possible. No items of business will be accepted after that. I would be grateful if you could give more than seven days notice.

+ God Machines

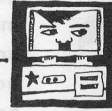
TECHNOLOGY GETTING FREE

+ The System

THE AUTHORITARIAN COMPUTER

+ Reel Frankenstein

A CINEMATIC ICON



One of the most misguided of the modern technophreak's wisdom bytes is that the computer is making us more free. Listen to the plaintive bleatings of the Internet crowds [especially the San Diego one]. On they go with their anarchistic meanderings about how the Net is so big that no one can control it and how authoritarian governments can do nothing about it. Hurray!! Then off they go to input the top floor of Delft University. Still that aside it should be obvious that the power of Internet is only the mirror of the power that the computer brings to the establishment. Just as the computer [in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Act and genetic fingerprinting] will allow the British Police to build up a national dna database of all criminals [kinda scary huh?] so imagine how quickly government agencies can access information on you – from your last library book taken out to tax, medical, insurance and wage information. Someone once said, 'computers aren't good or bad, computers are powerful' but that implied neutrality misses the mark. Because computers are powerful they will be used by the powerful to enhance that power. Indeed the examples of China and Singapore show that technology and democracy are by no means synonymous.

In the same way, **Joseph Weizenbaum** poured suspicion on the whole 'computer revolution' syndrome. He pointed out that all the introduction of computers into organisations accomplished was the shoring up of bureaucratic working practises which would have had to have been changed because they were being over loaded by information. Hence the 'computer revolution' is a total misnomer, it should really be called 'the period of computer conservatism'.



The most powerful theme within the Frankenstein story is the one concerning the autonomy of the created creature. In the actual novel this is taken to a climax with the murder of Victor Frankenstein's wife on her wedding night and the eventual death of Victor himself.

When this kind of thinking is transferred to modern issues of technology the same fear is also developed. However, it is important to realise that all technology has that same freedom to become autonomous once developed. We do not have to built artificially intelligent machines to see this in operation. In fact it is this very quality which makes technology useful. An artifact or technique maybe designed for a specific purpose but it generally it only becomes useful when it is applied to a totally different field from that for which it was first designed.

In a strange sense this is one way scientists remove themselves from the responsibility for their work. It has become a cliché to hear phrases along the lines of "I just do pure science, its application is someone else's problem". So in order to overcome the Frankenstein dilemma scientists must be responsible and face up to the fact their work will be applied in ways which are not obvious and with which they may disagree with.



credits: inspiration – hergé & tintin
everything else – jon

Ⓢ Visionary

Langdon Winner: author of *Autonomous Technology* (1976), a seminal text in the study of the ethics of technology, in general, and of computers especially.

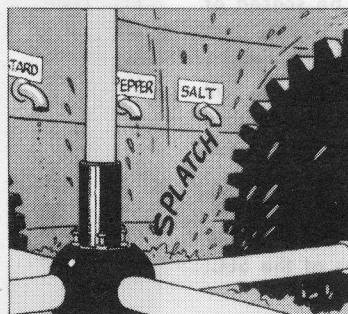
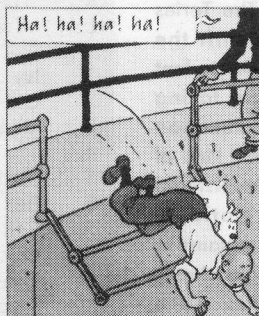
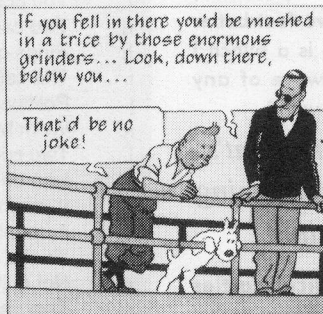
Joseph Weizenbaum: author of *Computer Power and Human Reason* (1977), which is the most over cited reference of science as a Frankensteinian metaphor.

Frankenstein may not at first appear to be a good place to start a study of how our culture, through film, views technology. The standard approach of Boris Karloff in the 1931 classic was certainly evocative but also highly wayward in terms of literal accuracy. It also perverted the image of Frankenstein's monster from something which was produced through the secret but noble arts of alchemy and natural philosophy into something crude and base.

However during the 1970's Frankenstein's monster became a popular metaphor for "mankind's ambiguous relationship to technological creation and power" – **Langdon Winner**. Since then, the image has been put to good use in the cinema, particularly in the modern genre of science fiction.

Alien is an interesting film because the real villain is not the alien life form but the man-made android science officer, Ash. Ash was created by the company and in obeying them it destroys all its crew members excluding Ripley. Equally the Ramboesque style of *Aliens* inverted the original's ethos as this time it was the aliens who were the real enemy [Burke aside]. Only military technology, including Bishop – another android science officer, saved the day.

However perhaps the most striking film in this line of thinking is *Blade Runner*. One obvious point here is the revenge wreaked upon the creators by the created as both T.S. Sebastian and Tyrell are murdered by the Nexus 6 replicants. Yet a more interesting angle is that in a human world where technology only seems to lead to decay and rot, it is the man-made replicants which appear to most human. Indeed the mercy shown by the replicant's leader, Roy Batt, to Deckard, his supposed terminator, is the most emotionally alive part of the film. In this way the metaphor of Frankenstein's monster has perhaps become even more damning than in its original form.



Frater Fiam writes



Having little with which to occupy the wand'rings of my mind at this stage, I, your good and trusted Frater, thought it appropriate to mention how it became seeded; for in this day of wondrous devices and invisible communication, the most true source of information is oft

forgot. Yea, those texts, those crusted and crumbling words which fall to one's eyes, cannot be appreciated from without the bleak gaze of a computer screen but must be gleaned from that most ancient and yet modern device, the book. I dream of my wish that books may remain as they are for ever more, for there is something so beautiful and touching about this archaic manner of passing information from one to another.

Books also lend themselves so easily to places of beauty; the corner of the park or the rattling seat of the underground in which one reads them, and of course the comforting surrounds of the shop in which they are procured. There is no more inspiring such place than

Atlantis Books, hidden down an alley near the halls of the British Museum. This veritable treasure house of arcana and obscure history has built up a patina of mysticism that truly reflects the nature of the texts within. Haunting this place are those who can claim to be witches, or mages of the modern age. Skulking in a corner you may find your Frater, unusually timid in such an holy place.

A book can also bestow its beauty onto the region in which it is perused. Upon opening his tome, the reader becomes transformed from a lonely soul to a sculpture which remains in eternal reference to its surrounds, the absorption of his mind creating a timely juxtaposition with the endless flux

of activity around him. It is a moment without the universe. I could never hope to live without such moments, and thus I would mourn endlessly the passing of these times, if I were to find myself unable to slip into a pocket a wad of printed words. The Web may be democratic, it may have everything, but it will never match the revelatory discoveries that abound in a book.

A Selection : *An Experiment With Time* by Dunne, *Journey to Ixtlan* by Castaneda, *The Dice Man* by Rheinhart, *The Anarchists Cookbook*, *The Book of Thoth* by The Master Therion, *The Divine Invasion* by Dick, *Lila* by Pirsig, *Crash* by Ballard...

POLITICAL SCIENCE



Eric Ash, lately rector of Imperial, now heads the Student Loans Company. Whether he will actually make any strategic difference to the issue of undergraduate finance may, however, be doubtful.

The SLC has made a complete mess of this academic year. Its last chief executive resigned due to ill health at the end of last year, when reportedly thousands of students had had their applications lost in the system. In some ways the SLC's situation is not very different from the CSA's. Both were formed to shift the source of finance of what used to be publicly-funded goods. Both have been unable to cope for reasons that arise from the government's inability to tackle a policy issue head on.

There is a need for reform because the picture of undergraduate finance is very different from reality. It appears as though the government funds undergraduate education. It doesn't. Grants are not universal; they arrive late; and they rarely

cover the rent. But it is a pragmatic idea not to raid the public purse for money. Consider it this way: is it the government's job to subsidise expensive training for a minority? Training that will be of benefit first to the recipient? More importantly, do students want to be treated as those relying solely on the State? Science students can, in particular, stand on their own two feet better than others. (The last is a hunch I have, but am not aware of any numbers to back it up with.)

"Is it the government's job to subsidise training for a minority?"

The main political parties seem to be of the view that grants are not the way to go: The Tories with their attempts to shift the burden of financing to the student himself; And Labour now taking the view that further education should be funded via some kind of Graduate Tax, to be administered perhaps through the National Insurance system. But it remains to be seen whether either will actually plunge head first into such reforms. Both will be scared of losing votes from the middle-class ("it's our right to be educated") and the lower-class ("loans will deter the poor student"). Political parties never have the guts for this kind of fight.

So, Mr Ash's job, it seems, will largely consist of day to day operational matters at the SLC. More the pity.

Samin

Elimination by Catfish

A themed Elimination this week, but that only makes things easier for you...

- You can't leave your car in the middle.
- The river, not the one of the sea
- Unfasten the chain?
- A couple of bodies (of water)
- Led to an egg (*anag*)
- You could lose a lot of money down this crack
- Two cars
- Rings out for freedom?
- The cardigan's in a state!
- Political animals
- Worn by a preacher in the Mid-west?
- Two connected with park
- Like on Star Trek?
- It is, when the smog's lifted!
- A couple of valleys
- It's the centre of it.
- Not quite like a vulture...
- Two patterns
- Three miles, and growing for the best
- A shrine to Abraham

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Ivy | 22. State |
| 2. Old | 23. Trade |
| 3. Man | 24. World |
| 4. The | 25. Avenue |
| 5. Bald | 26. Canyon |
| 6. Bell | 27. Donkey |
| 7. Belt | 28. Golden |
| 8. City | 29. Jersey |
| 9. Erie | 30. League |
| 10. Ford | 31. Central |
| 11. Gate | 32. Liberty |
| 12. Keys | 33. Lincoln |
| 13. New | 34. Program |
| 14. Park | 35. Stripes |
| 15. Bible | 36. Elephant |
| 16. Death | 37. Memorial |
| 17. Dodge | 38. Monument |
| 18. Eagle | 39. Sunshine |
| 19. Grand | 40. Superior |
| 20. Space | 41. Yellowstone |
| 21. Stars | |

Answers next week...

TV or not TV?

British television is still, by far, the best in the world but for how long? As viewing figures fall again, Carlo Massarella explores why people are turned off by the box.

You're probably too busy recovering from the side-effects of Christmas to remember what you watched on television during the festivities – if anything at all, that is.

For 1994 has not been a good year for this home entertainment system. Viewers have deserted the box in favour of other forms of amusement – partaking in the new wave of 'danger-sports', entering the techno-world of CD-ROMs or reverting to the age old tradition of curling up with a good book. For television is fast becoming a big turnoff for many people.

Critics rightly panned BBC1 and ITV big bosses for their complete lack of imagination when it came to yuletide offerings; recording an extra

edition of a programme in August, wrapping tinsel around the camera, and tacking the word 'Christmas' onto the title is a feeble and unadventurous attempt at filling two weeks of airtime.

It's fair to say that ITV does have to satisfy its advertisers, and no programme planner wants to offend viewers at Christmas, but the BBC – A 'creative powerhouse'?

It was the year that the BBC emerged fresh from its Charter Renewal, promising more originality and aiming to push back the boundaries of television. BBC2 and Channel 4 fair better when it comes to breaking new ground, but that does not excuse BBC1 or ITV from making some sort of attempt.

Everyone cheered at the

BBC's classic adaptations of 'Middlemarch' and 'Martin Chuzzlewit'. Only the BBC has the resources to make these programmes with many more in the pipeline, but replacing original scripts with a trusty book can only mean upcoming writers will get less of a look-in when it comes to getting their work adapted for television.

Science, the very practice that gave birth to the box is still suffering at its hands. This year, we saw 'QED' lose some of its IQ by becoming more 'accessible' (i.e. diluted), and 'Tomorrow's World' disbanded all beliefs that Science is fun by banning the live studio demonstrations it was synonymous with! John Patten must be a happy man.

It was the year when magazine racks were brought to life as a whole new batch of these creations was circulated onto the screens. From Computers to Country Walks, is this a creative step forward, or did someone dream up a 'bright idea' in WH Smith's?

1994 was the year when Saturday nights remained wall to wall screams, BBC2's 'DEF II' strand, exemplified by the bar code and aimed at the 'yooof' brigade of Britain, was axed after producers discovered more pensioners were watching it than 18 to 25 year olds, and Desmond Lynam attempted to educate the nation, in a tabloid type of way, by asking 'How Do They Do That?'

It was the year in which TV bosses regrettably ignited the fuse which led to an explosion of female fronted chat/despair shows. These daily doses of desperation, depositing PMT and depression all over the country, are a prime example of how derived all stations output is becoming.

It seemed to be a year when the bottom line of the 'quality threshold' did not matter anymore; Equity cards temp-

orarily lost their validity following the launch of the 'National Lottery Live' programme, Carlton launched a late night soap opera that typified everything that was ever wrong and could possibly go wrong in TV drama and ITV repackaged all their 'ideas that could not quite stretch into a series of their own right', opened a 'distress line' and brought in a presenter for £1m in order to produce another 'ring us and we'll do our best to help you', general purpose programme called 'Scholfield's Quest'.

But 'Paranormal' was certainly the buzzword of 1994 with 'real case close encounters' being reconstructed in a large scale 'attempt' to explain the inexplicable. The more worthy novelties on this subject being 'The X Files', which emerged from the filing cabinet and fast became BBC2's most watched programme, and 'Weird Night' which left everyone who watched it with the compelling urge to reenact the poodle in the micro-wave scene.

With the exception of a few of the above mentioned, it is clear that television today is stuck in a rut of blatant repackaging and repetition of tired formats, and far too much red tape. The days of innovation on ITV were abandoned long ago with the station veering towards stripping soap-ified, formulaic drama and unbearably Americanised Game Shows across its schedules. But the BBC has not got the commercial pressures of ITV, and should therefore give its consumer a wider choice of quality programmes that are not exploited by other channels.

The warning signs of 'the tired viewer' have never been more evident; the big switch-off has begun. For innovation, diversity, entertainment and education, do what more people did this Christmas than ever before – buy a book.

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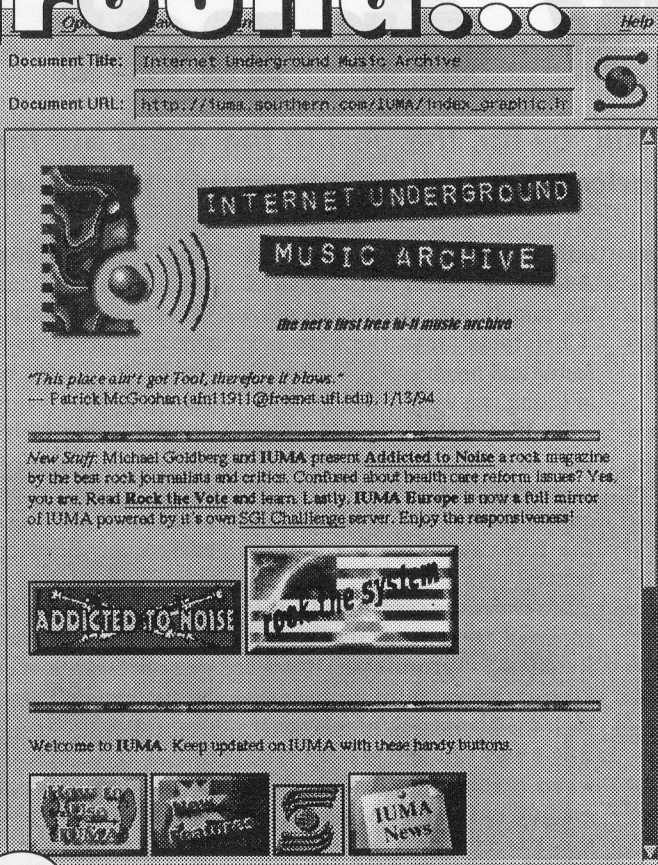
Underground...

It's the 24th December, 1998. You are in deep trouble - you have forgotten to buy your boy/girlfriends Christmas present. (In fact, you've spent the last two days at the Trocadero's new rubber contact virtual sex parlour and you can barely remember your boy/girlfriend at all!) You decide to make something real, a physical embodiment of the love you feel for him/her in your soul. Two hours and two buckets of papier mache later you have created, not the resplendent two foot wide heart & sun tribal totem you had envisaged but a messy, wet, 1:1 scale replica of what happens when you force-feed an elephant a diet of porridge oats. Despair! You collapse onto the bed and stare up at the ceiling. And there are angels in that ceiling, or at least the beaming faces of Take That II (reborn from the ashes after the original Take That split over allegations of overaged drinking). S/he loves TTII. And their latest album has just become available! You swing across to the PC on your desk and connect to the WEB. Surfing to the site takes twenty seconds, downloading a soundbyte for approval two more. It's good, in that it's bad, their usual rubbish. You key in your credit card number and the whole album is ported down the wire and written on to a WORM drive. Trust Technology...

It's the 19th December 1994 and I'm at a Press Conference thrown by Southern Records in honour of the launch of a European version of the Internet Underground Music Archive (IUMA). (Southern, together with Silicon Graphics, are providing much of the mettle behind the new site). It still seems a dazzling concept, even after the relentless advances of the last year, to attend a buffet lunch in honour of a World Wide Web site. But this isn't any old promotion. This is the music industry rushing for the Internet bandwagon that may, if ignored, take their livelihoods with it.

All things are degenerating digital and music has been no exception. The CD is now the standard music format and its condemnation by purists such as Neil Young are largely soundbytes under the bridge. As the disc has conquered the home, so high quality PC's have the taken office. Sampled sounds first appeared on home machines such as the AMIGA but the arrival of cheap CD drives for the ubiquitous PC has led to games backed up by lengthy breaks of sampled speech or CD quality music. Many PC drives now marry software drivers allowing you to spin your Nirvana album when the spreadsheets get to much for you. A convergence of all this hardware seems inevitable. Why buy a CD player if your Compact can do it all?

The thread to bring record releases to the PC may be the Internet. The only thing computers do better than arithmetic is communication and the ease of sending



Late last year, FELIX obtained an invitation to a select gathering of computing industry lackies and music journos. There we witnessed the latest incarnation of an insidious revolution. **Owain** investigates and provides the BIO...

Overground...

packages of 1's and 0's around the world means that everything finds its way onto the net. Porn, propaganda and, of course, music.

IUMA began in Santa Cruz with unsigned bands offering soundbytes to anyone in the net community willing to listen (or wait for half an hour whilst the files downloaded, and then listen...). Like many seeds planted in those heady days, it blossomed rapidly and has attracted deals with mainstream labels such as Warner Brothers and Geffen, as well as less mainstream outfits.

"Indie bands will get the same exposure as say, Madonna, and be available on a more even basis," says John Loder from Southern Studios. "In just three weeks, 30-40,000 people had accessed the system - one of them was from the Kremlin."

The idea that the Internet will actually bring about a change in our listening tastes: promoting a catholic range and a readiness to gamble on the new rather than be led by big money promo campaigns is an idea close to IUMA's heart. Time and again they refer to the benefit that this new form of distribution will have for the musicians themselves, bypassing the need to be signed to get your music heard. One, a baseball-capped West Coaster by the name of Rob, calls it 'the level playing field of cyberspace'.

Others are more sceptical. A journalist from the IT press constantly asks for hard

figures and transmission rates and pours scorn on the retrieval time of up to twenty minutes for a single track. (The IUMA people had cheekily brought the entire archive along on hard store giving complete songs and band details in seconds to amaze the more gullible. It provided a glimpse of the possible future though). Others argued that encouraging the placement of music on the net would ultimately result in piracy on an awesome scale. This was countered with a home-taping/radio analogy which isn't really valid because that method of schoolboy lawbreaking results in a degradation of sound whereas copying a digital soundfile from one location to another obviously leaves the quality unchanged. There was talk of copyrights but I had the feeling that everyone knew the future was going to have different values to the present, different rules, but were trying to usher in this new age with the values of today.

After the press conference I thought I'd get another view. Lee McLoughlin, of the Department of Computing's support group, was sceptical of the value of any encryption routine: "Eventually speakers must play the sound, you can always tap onto this." He highlighted DAT machines, which avoid home-piracy with an agreement that all DAT's will be unable to copy other DAT recordings. Home machines recognise data in a copyrighted format (a signal beyond the

range of human hearing alerts them) and 'refuse' to record it. Of course, professional thieves can nearly always use technology sidestep these limitations. e.g. Videotapes are encoded using 'MacroVision' to deter would be pirates but the clever ones use a piece of kit called a sync convertor to get around this.

Lee was also unsure that retrieval times would be getting much faster in the next few years, especially internationally. Anyone wanting fast data transfer needs a more expensive link such as the SuperJanet backbone that IC sits on. Ultimately, heavy investment is needed to get real speed. Lee: "To do cute tricks you need to lay cables".

So we have a potentially revolutionary technology, only that no sooner does it appear on the horizon then it seems to be riding a donkey. Perhaps the reticence the music industry has shown is justifiable. Between the lack of copy protection and the slow access times, it may be a little premature to throw away your Tower Record vouchers. Could it really be the end of the high street retail trade?

"It's certainly possible," says Emma Ffanning of the BPI, the meeting point of the record company world. "Obviously the industry hasn't looked at it enough to decide what the effects are going to be but it could dramatically change things."

Emma, who thought that "this year companies are really seriously beginning to look at it [the Internet] and get their act together" also advised me to phone a company called Cerberes who, in her opinion, were the furthest advanced in the provision of on-line music. I spoke to Ricky Adar, a man who believes his company has cracked the

encryption problem. It relies on the fact that they have pulled off quite a coup:

"We've got an agreement with National Westminster Bank to collect credit card details through the Internet now," says Ricky, "And to the best of our knowledge we are probably the first company in the world to get an agreement from a national bank."

Basically the system works as follows. The user sends his credit card details to the Cerberes server in Denmark street, which then returns a personal player encrypted with the users credit card details, name and address

'burnt' into it. Every subsequent soundfile that's downloaded is encrypted to ones own player. Thus music can only be exchanged by also giving away your player, which amounts to giving away your credit card details! (This kind of 'Personal Protection' scheme cunningly protects the companies interest by putting *your* person on the line!)

But what about Lee's point suggesting one could always tap into the sound on the way to the speakers? He misses step for a moment then: "You could probably do that, yeah. We're of the opinion that as we make it difficult for people to clone... [to distribute the resultant copy] you'd need your own compressor to do that. Our audio compressor that is coming out is 15:1."

Ricky claims they have had considerable industry interest, and have signed the largest

independent label in the US. At the sharp end then, does he see this as the end of the retail trade? "Long term, yes. We've just spent five billion pounds cabling up every street in London. What's going to happen to it? It's going to have on-line services on it of course."

Cerberes are reluctant to reveal a web address because, says Ricky, "As soon as we put up details that we are offering a Credit Card clearing service - we know that the whole of the net is waiting for it so we know we are going to get deluged."

More than supplying music, they see themselves setting up a structure that will be able to cope with realtime sound transmission, possibly only twelve months away. Users with free cable calls will thus use it as a jukebox.

But Ricky strongly disagrees with the Net ethics of no-cost free produce. "If people want to charge for their produce they should be able to charge for it. These are artists and if they don't eat, you know what I mean, they stop making music!" He disagreed with what he refers to as 'the L.A crowd' saying that the Cerberes system brings money back to bands faster than ever before. And "for two hundred pounds a year [the cost of a putting up a single, a biog and a graphic] you can set yourself up as a record label."

With IUMA also hoping to use credit card sales on the net - to sell real CD's through the post - the old net values of death before commercialism seem dead.

Long live Rock and Roll!

"These are artists and if they don't eat they stop making music!"

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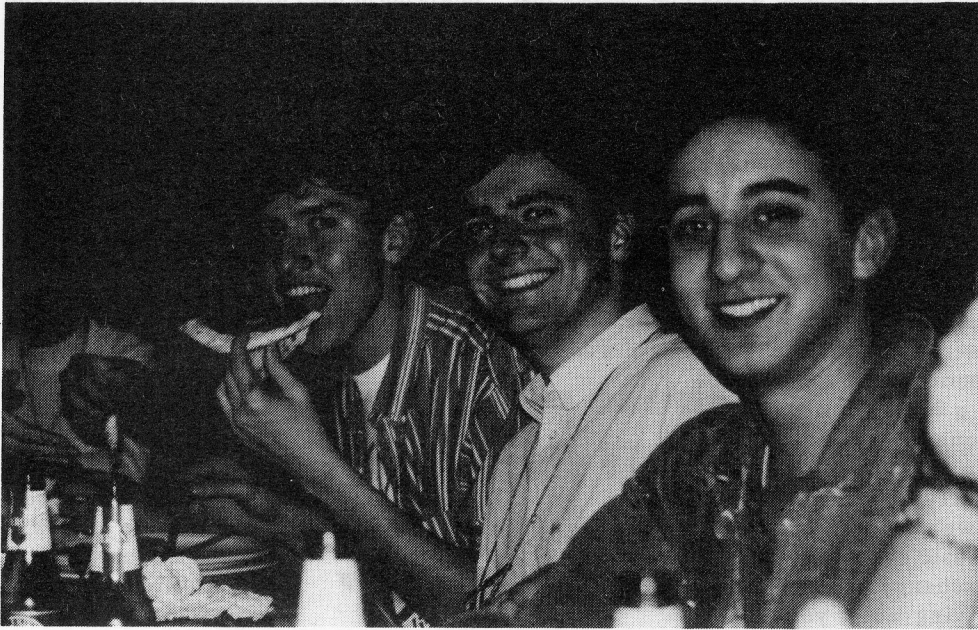
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Cheese: The Italian Society show off their pearly-whites

ItaSoc

ItaSoc is back...

Keys: Casinisti, Football, Pizza

The Imperial College Italian Society has finally returned, after a year's absence. In the past the society was renowned for its very active social events, such as the 'regular' evening meals. For such occasions, a bunch of both Italian and non-Italian *casinisti* (sorry, untranslatable...) would gather at an Italian restaurant, where you could get a decent meal (by Italian standards!). Unfortunately, the society folded due to lack of members willing to take up the posts in the committee, probably because not enough bribes were raised.

But the newly formed Italian Society, 'officially accepted' by the OSC last term, is a strict adherent of anti-corruption policies, now working effectively in Italy.

Enough jokes for the moment... The traditional evening meals will not be the main events organised by the society. We intend to be very active for this year, involving both Italians and non-Italians and trying to have fun all'Italiana.

The events we intend to do vary from the physically demanding Quasar games to relaxing Italian film sessions. Others include sport events, such as football (NB: World Cup finalists...), volleyball, table football, etc.

Most importantly, events we are looking forward to are: International night, where we hope to present Italian food and a traditional Italian dance, and Latin Night, which will be a joint venture with the French and Spanish Societies.

Membership fees are £3. We know it's a rip off but you'll surely get more than you paid for in term of social life so come and join

us. See us in the JCR at lunch-time (just look for a bunch of Italians, they usually stand out) if you want to join us. For more information (such as dates of events), you can contact the following people; K. Sasaki@mt.ic.ac.uk or Cabodima@ph.ic.ac.uk, and be part of the family!

Orchestra

Piano Pusher's Review

Keys: Ash, Gershwin, Rhapsody

The concert opened with the overture to 'Les Francs-Juges' by Berlioz. The scoring is bold and imaginative, although Berlioz did not yet know Beethoven, and showed hints of Berlioz's late romantic love of immensity.

Despite the lack of adequate practice facilities Imperial College Symphony Orchestra has grown extremely large, so that in terms of instrumentation we were in a good position for this performance. Indeed, the overture was chosen amongst other things for the fact that it could exploit our size, most notably the four tuba players.

The overture finished, I enlisted volunteers and made use of my major musical skill, namely pushing the piano onto the stage for Gershwin's piano concerto in F, the second item in the programme. This is only Gershwin's second well known work and was his first serious work for orchestra after being recognised for Rhapsody In Blue. Gershwin wrote popular tunes but with his serious works, however, this resulted in a somewhat repetitive development. Hence it is up to the musicians to prevent the audience tiring of its conventionally defective construction.

This was facilitated to a certain extent by the use of various jazz-inspired devices such as the walking bass line of the pizzicato cello

and double basses. Also worthy of particular mention was the trumpet playing of Steve Hicks, an Ash music scholar. Although a suitable trill for muting the trumpet was not available until the last rehearsal, the stylish solo was played with much daring. This was vindicated by a musical performance where the technical difficulty of the solo, particularly the intervals, went unnoticed by all the non-trumpet players in the audience.

Most important to the concerto is the pianist. One of the benefits of having a professional musician conduct the orchestra is that, as a bonus, we regularly get soloists of the highest quality. Our soloist on this occasion, Vanessa Latarche, was no exception.

After the normally bibulous interval, the orchestra returned for Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances. The tentative feeling from the beginning of the concert had gone, and the relaxation of the orchestra with what was by now a very familiar piece clearly showed, as the audience ignored the orchestra in favour of listening to the music. Standing at the back of the auditorium listening to the sound of the strings it was clear why so many violinists had asked to play this. The orchestra was obviously enjoying themselves, particularly during the first two movements. The string sound was exemplified by Ed Bale, leader of the orchestra, a joint degree student and also the soloist at one point, giving us the benefit of a resinous gypsy sound.

As a critical review, this has been something of a failure, but anybody who can take part and not write a similar review must be lacking in some respect. As scientists, perhaps you should judge for yourselves. Our next concert has a British theme and will include not only the Elgar violin concerto and Britten's Sinfonia Da Requiem, but also the premiere of a piece by Andrew Booker, who graduated from IC last year and used to run the jazz and rock club.

IGSF

Wolf

Keys: Coppola, Jack, Pfeiffer

Wolf is a rather peculiar little film updating the werewolf myth for the '90s. It scores heavily over Francis Coppola's rehash of 'Dracula' in that it is far more concerned with character and emotions than surface sheen. A book editor played by none other than Jack Nicholson (who, let's face it, is initially hard pushed to play a wimpy executive type) is bitten by something he is sure was a wolf, and begins to in some way merge with the spirit of the wolf. The emphasis is upon his new lust for life, his heightened perceptions and his growing relationship with his nasty old boss's daughter played by Michelle Pfeiffer.

The story verges on the surreal at times and does have a couple of good, if predictable, twists near the climax. More of a 'Mid-Life

Crisis Wolf than a 'Teen Wolf' as Nicholson regains control of his life, this is a good character driven horror film with excellent performances from all concerned.

The film is on Tuesday, 17 January at 7.00pm in the Union Concert Hall (ICU Cinema). It costs £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Membership is £3 with the first film free!

Ents

Week's Entertainment Guide

Keys: Comedy, Disco, Bar, Quiz

Firstly welcome back for a sparkling New Year, and secondly "Hello" from me, Mark, your new events and marketing manager. I'll be carrying on Sam's work, and introducing some new things as well, so watchout for the posters (once I've found my way round!). If anyone has any new and fabby ideas you can find me in the Union Office, or just try stopping me and talking about it. But for this week:

Friday, 9pm - The New Year Carnival

3 floors of fun, with live music from the 70's by disco divas Lovetrain, Livingstone and Slithey Tove plus special guests. There's a 2am bar extension and music until 3am. So, 4

bands, 2 rooms of treats and late drinking are all yours for just £4 in advance, £5 on the door, or £3.50 if you were smart enough to invest in an Entscard.

Monday, 7pm - Live Football

Kick off your week with live Premiership Football in DaVinci's. Starts at 7pm and it's free.

Tuesday, 8pm - Bar Quiz

He's back, and he's as trivial as ever... Enjoy a mind expanding night with quizmaster Dan and his Bar Quiz. Special Prizes.

Wednesday, 9pm - Club Spanque

A night for mindless boogie-ing, without denting your bank balance. The fun starts at 9pm, the bar is open till midnight and it's free.

Thursday - Cocktail Night

In total contrast, a night of slinky sophistication with our ever-popular Cocktail Night, with special offers, non-alcoholic cocktails and the best atmosphere in London!

Friday - Bust-a-Gut Comedy

Gut-busting Comedy with Dan Freedman ("The one to watch out for in '95" - Melody Maker), Tony Burgess (top Mancunian comedian) and Malcolm Hardee. Doors open 8pm and the first act is on at 8.30pm.

Then from 11pm (with a desperate need for a name change) Atmosphere - top club and chart sounds, 1am bar, 2am dancing and it's only a quid. Don't miss it!

Jewish Soc

Tree's New Year

Keys: Mishnah, Temple, Glass

In keeping with the timely festivities, next Monday, January 16th, is the Jewish New Year for Trees. It is one of the Four New Years in the Jewish calendar, marking different aspects of life, mentioned in the Mishnah, the Oral Law. From this day the age of trees were calculated, which determined when the trees' fruit would be given as part of the "First Fruits" sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem. The timing of the new year is appropriately chosen as this is the time when the plants are revived and the sap begins to flow again, and the trees re-embark on their fruit-bearing cycle. It is customary to eat new fruits as well, as this is the agricultural new year.

On Thursday 19th January, at 12pm in the Management School, Mrs. Myrna Glass is coming to talk to the Jewish Society on the topic of "Water, water everywhere, but can we drink it?". Come along on January 19th, bring a new fruit and find out!

For more information contact Sarah Waiman, Chem Eng 2 or s.waiman@ic.ac.uk. The Jewish Society costs £3.50 to join the year.

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stepping

Welcome to 1995, hereby designated as the year of the party. From the Romans to the present day all the best studies show us that regular relaxation is the key to maximising work efficiency so party your way to success.

Starsky & Hutch are currently expanding and join Alan and his **Goodfoot** crew at the Wag each Saturday from this month on, ensuring a quality funky vibe upstairs as the ideal complement to the swing beats below. The place rammed last weekend with the least pretentious crowd around & the beats were pumping. Old school swing interspersed with classic Hip Hop & even the occasional taste of the 'junglist massive', which maybe an unusual style but it kept the whole place jumping. Loved it.

New Year's Eve at Funkin' Pussy also bought at the **KAT club** to my ears for (ashamedly) the first time. The feel here was elegantly summarised as "rather more choice FM than kiss FM" -thanks Jeff!- ie, funk with a slightly soulful style. Only the quality reaches these decks lined up with style by Keevan B, Ronnie Herrel & Wilber Wilberforce and friends. Definitely worth a visit.





The **Goodfoot** - Saturdays; 10-5.30 at the Wag, 35 Wardour St, £10/£6NUS

KAT club, Bar Rumba, the Trocadero, 36 Shaftesbury Av, Fridays 10-4, £3 b4 11, £6 after. Ⓢ

Irony is a word not unfamiliar to the **senseless things**. Take that name for instance. Just an impetuous and yes, ironic choice that has inexplicably led to them being dismissed as a gig-a-lot, teenage, T-shirt band. And then there's the popular music press falling all over itself to laud punk as a musical saviour resurrected when in reality it never died, when the likes of the **senseless things** were using it in creating their unique sound years ago, when they were writing about issues long before it became 'right-on' to do so, when of course it was untrendy to do so.

But this is not a band to sit back in protest and live at the **Camberley Agincourt** they are heaven bound on giving the sizeable, if somewhat reticent, crowd a Christmas party to remember (hangover included). 'Touch me on the heath' is the perfect opener - five minutes of soaring guitars and rasping vocals which moves from mid-paced canter to a blazing,

THE MENU

-  Fiona officially enters 1995 -"the one I which I left ic"- and celebrates at **Goodfoot** and the **Kat club**.
-  A new year? 'A whole new can of live worms' reply the music team. **Vik** returns to his first love, watching the **senseless things** and **tintin** rues those cipher boogie masters, **zz top**.
-  **Arran Frood** goes down the pub and enters the play world of **raising fire**. It's warm and inviting he says ...
-  1,2 ... **Freddy's** coming for you - **tintin** ducks **Wes Craven's New Nightmare** before hitching a lift with **even cowgirl's get the blues**. **Joe** then regains his memory watching **Hal Hartley's amateur**.

the senseless things



extra stubbly perceptions

roaring finish. And pretty much everything from then on is perfect too. There's the soothing of 'role models', the thrashing of 'just one reason', the breakneck, amphetamine pop of 'ponyboy' (which singer Mark Keds wryly introduces as being "for any punks amongst you") and the schizoid trip through calm and madness that is 'keep-sake'. And their set would not be complete without the now traditional closer, 'homophobic asshole' - a violent invective where everything that makes this band so great fuses together into an all-out, hardcore feast.

Yes, the **senseless things** are an experience to behold both on stage and on record. And if you need any further convincing of their worth then ponder on the fact that they encored with their new single which

they've called 'something to miss'. Now that really is ironic ...

... a fact that would have been lost on **zz top** at **Wembley Arena**. In a way it's surprising as they're the band who have seemingly made a career purely out of having two members with beards longer than an **Edward Lear's** creation whilst simultaneously having a drummer called **Frank Beard** who is singularly unendowed.

And much of the **zz top** image is on the same level of just being. I mean this is band who arrive in near spinal tap style onto a stage shaped like a car's dashboard and just are **zz top**. They don't have to play anything to get there, they just have to be - conceptual figures fitted out in shades, stetsons and long (and for all we know stick on) beards.

kindling

Raising fires is staged at the back of a pub, the **Bush**, and it's a nice one at that. In such a relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere I'm constantly reminded that I'm sitting watching a play, some fictional events from 1603.

The six main characters have a roughly equal standing so they receive equal thought and attention. The tale begins as an arsonist's whodunnit. Blaze after blaze destroys the town and the townsfolk's tolerance. If the main characters combined their efforts the arsonist could quickly be found, but they work for their own interests, clouded by jealousy, bigotry and prejudice.

The play exerts crisp control over the senses: the lighting for the first scene is of perfect delicacy; the blood red fire is delivered with sweet subtlety. The actors demonstrated tension and fear movingly. **Paul Ritter's** performance as a disturbed village criminal was the most potent, his sincere line "I was born a murderer" got the biggest laugh. Perhaps humour wasn't employed at many opportunities where it could have been. If it had the play would have been more of a black comedy but I feel that comic potential wasn't wasted, it just put to one side.

I can't complain really, mesmerised by the second act I didn't even finish my interval pint... Ⓢ

Still some sort of performance is offered up. These guys haven't got this big without pleasing the crowd and it doesn't take too long before the last top trump, after beards and cars, is unveiled. Writhing, sinuous female silhouettes are projected up to general laddish approval. **Billy** and **Dusty** continue wandering around with their churning boogie riffs but the tone of the evening has been set. At three songs intervals on prance the six lovelies in various stages of misdress. The crowd love it and to be honest there's not much else to get excited about.

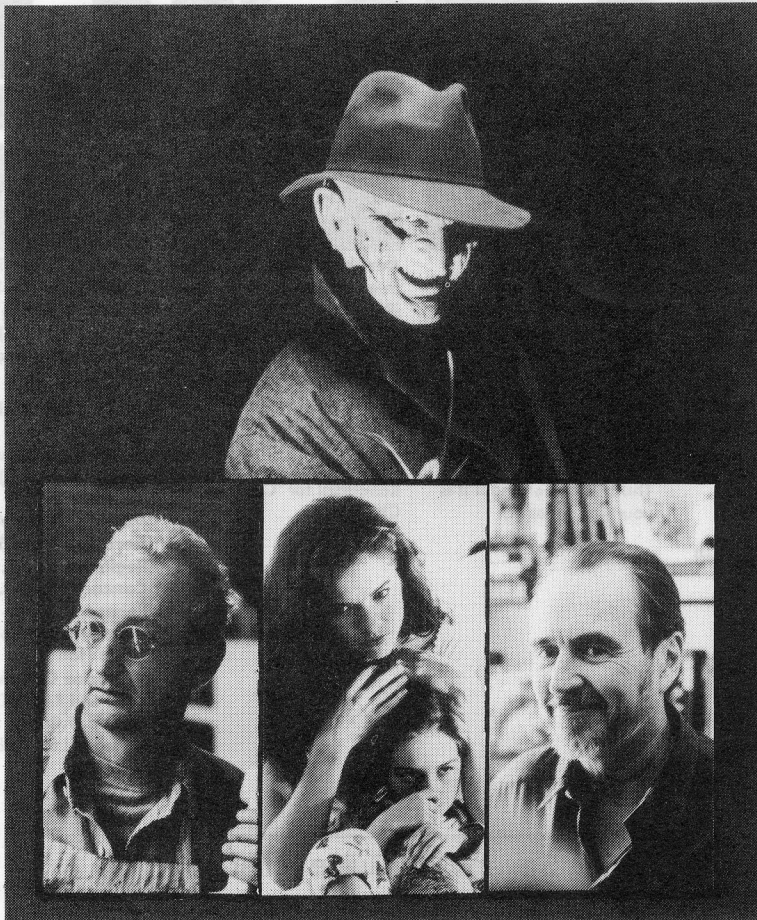
The gulf between older songs like 'jesus just left chicago' or 'I'm bad, I'm nationwide' and the current cover-single, 'viva las vegas' is not just one of authorship but rather underlines a deeper issue. **zz top** are dangerously close to becoming a kind of postmodern phenomenon - rock icons without meaning or tunes, just a old set of greying whiskers. Ⓢ


 digits

Wes Craven's nightmares seem to have a persistence quality about them. Okay so he only directed the first Elm Street slasher but now by returning to that scene he only manages to show how uncontrollable the monster he unleashed has become.

The new nightmare is a kind of twist on the old. This time the original actors are set in the real world and play themselves; Heather Langenkamp screams for her son, Wes Craven's filmwriting is autodirected by his dreams whilst Robert Englund is seemingly drawn towards the bloodlust of Freddy Krueger. It's a nice touch, breaking into the dualism of the actor-character and then trying to squeeze both of them together but in the case of this film series it only gets lost as Freddy reappears to carve up more flesh and blood. It's a problem which seems to haunt the genre. Horror films are suppose to scare us and if they don't they become wearisome, however cleverly the director weaves his tale.

Yet the opening scenes are clever and scary – a horror film within a horror film based in real life. This blurred aspect of reality continues to be used with effect as we slip between dreams and waking, earthquakes of the physical and metaphysical, Englund playing Freddy for the talkshow and Freddy playing ... well, himself. But it is significant that these scenes are scary because they are based on psychological edgings and hence are virtually bloodless. By the time that fingers have become firm blades you just have to lay back and endure the usual clichéd cut and thrust of leaving the kid alone at the crucial moment, the clumsy jabs of the supposedly powerful villain which always just miss the heroine, the crucial 'child sleepwalking across a six lane highway without being hit' scene and then on to the MF1 inspired seven gates of hell set where the final battle has to interminably work its way around to farce as Freddy gets killed (once again, again, again, again, again ...). As the film's marketing goes; "... missed me?". Sadly I hadn't noticed that you'd ever been away.



She was an abnormal child that was certain and you might have thought her disadvantaged but Sissy Hankshaw's thumbs were to be her salvation. She was born for a purpose and that purpose was to hitchhike.

The opening sentiments of **even cowgirls get the blues** are obviously surreal and equally satisfying especially when vocalised in *Uma Thurman's* slow stumble. That the rest of the film doesn't live up to the ideal maybe simply because books rarely make good films, especially new age road books. Personally I didn't find the book that great either – Tom Robbins tends to be too self congratulatory and knowing an author for my palate. Still plot, feel

and emotional depth aside the film had all the makings for a cult classic – Gus van Sant's direction, kd lang's soundtrack, *Uma Thurman, Rain Phoenix* and *John Hurt* in the major roles (the latter in drag as the vaginal deodorant queen of america), *River Phoenix* as the deceased dedication and *William Burroughs* as the ten second cameo of New York. Even the title is a sly reference to masturbation although this is upgraded by the time the action goes down on the range as the cowgirls are all apparently lesbian (or at the least bisexual). But all this was before the film was shot and subsequently heavily re-edited. Reality can be a bitch.



There's a saying I've always liked: "life is first draft". Means you don't get to do any rewrites or rehearsals, and most of the time you just have to make it up as you go along. That's real life for you.

Hal Hartley's films are like that too – not so much the product of craft as a brief window onto someone's life, in all its messy, amateurish glory. Hartley's naturalistic style of directing gives his work an emotional force you just can't ignore; funny and poignant by turns, his four films to date have made a virtue of their low budget origins and each one is worth any ten blockbusters you'd care to mention.

Which brings us to Hartley's latest effort, **amateur**, which is something of a departure both in subject matter and the size of the production. It's still a long way from Hollywood standards, but *amateur* is easily Hartley's most ambitious project to date. It's also (shock, horror) an action movie – but as the man says "it's a Hal Hartley action movie and that probably means I've got it wrong somehow".

The story starts with Thomas, an amnesiac who wakes up in a New York alley, with no ID and no idea how he got there. He meets Isabelle, an ex-nun who earns a living by writing pornography (honest, I'm not making this up) and together they begin to unravel the mystery of Thomas' past. But what link does he have with Sofia, a desperate young porn actress who seems terrified of him, and why are the mob trying to kill him? As per usual, Hartley uses the plot as a vehicle to explore important themes of responsibility and love. Can we love someone who has been 'evil' in the past even if they are, quite literally, a changed man?

Amateur is every bit as funny as Hartley's previous work, while the action scenes are also well-handled, but the real attraction is the compellingly realised relationships between the main characters – Hartley is known as an actors' director, and the excellent performances he pulls from the talented cast show us why. A joy to watch. 5

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Islamic Society 1pm
Friday Prayers, SG (R)
ICU Rag 1.10pm
Rag Meeting EL (R)
Aerobics Classes 5.30pm
Advanced Step level IV, SG (R)
Jap Soc 6.30pm
Bounenkai (end of term party), Union Lounge
ICSO concert 8pm
Berlioz, Gershwin & Rachmaninov, Great Hall

Free minibus service home from union building, 11.30 to 2am

IC Roller Blade Soc 10.45am
Ramp skating at Brixton. Skate Park, meet at SL (R)
IC Roller Blade Soc 2pm
Skating and Hockey in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns. Meet at SL (R)
Gliding Club 8.15pm
Lastam Airfield. Come to Thursday meeting if it is your first time. (R)

Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Intermediate level III, SG (R)
IC Wargames Club 1pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
Roller Blade Soc 2pm
Skating and Hockey in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns. Meet at SL (R)
Opsoc 2pm
Rehearsal for 'Cabaret' in CH. (R)

Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Body Toning level I, SG (R)
Artsoc 12.30pm
Meeting, UDH (R) Tickets for X'mas trip and Starlight Express.
Exploration Society 1pm
Meeting at Southside Upper Lounge (R)
Ski Club 1-2pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Beginners level I, SG (R)
Concert Band 5.45pm
Rehearsal. Open to players of any ability, Great Hall (R)
IC Dance Club 6pm
Rock and Roll, UDH (R)
Opsoc 7.30pm
Rehearsal for Cabaret in UDH (R)

Cathsoc 12pm
informal mass and lunch, Bagrit centre, Mech Eng (R)
S+G Outdoor Club 12pm
Meeting. Welcome, SL (R)
Yogasoc 12.15pm
Beginners' classes, SG, (R).
IC Sailing Club 12.30pm
Sign up to sail! SL (R)
Quasar Club 12.30pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Careers Talk 1-1.50pm
'Environmental Careers', Huxley LT 213
'The Legal Profession', Sheffield Room 318
Photo Society 1-2pm
All welcome, SL (R)
UCO 1pm
Bible study, Mat B342 (R)
Circus Skills Soc 5-8pm
Table Tennis Rm UB (R).
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Advanced level IV, SG (R)
IC Dance Club 6pm
beginners, JCR (R)
Wine Tasting Soc 6pm
£5, £4 UDH (R)
DramSoc 6.30pm
Meeting, UB (R)
LeoSo 6.30pm
Civ Eng Rm 101(R)
Opsoc 7.30pm
Rehearsal for 'Cabaret' in Mech Eng 342 (R)
Canoe Club 7.30pm
Sports Centre pool, any level of ability, (R)
Chess Club 7.30pm
1st team match, SCR (R)
Caving Club 9pm
Meeting SL (Upper) (R)

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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Guide

Japan Soc 12-2pm
meeting, Ante Room (R)
IC Roller Blade Soc 12.15pm
Meeting for all at SL followed by Hockey in Hyde Park (R)
College Communion 12.30pm
Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road (R)
Motorcycle club 12.45pm
weekly meeting, SL (R).
Quasar Club 12.45pm
Quasar Trip, UL (R)
IC Wargames Club 1pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
OSC 1pm
Hon. Treasurer's meeting, CCR (R)
Ski Club
Recreational Skiing & lessons
Aerobics Class 1.15pm
Beginners/Intermediate level I, SG (R)
STOIC 1.30pm
Production meeting, Stoic Studios (R)
Ten Pin Bowling 2.15pm
meet outside Aero (R).
Jazz Dance 3.30-5pm
Beginners class, SG (R)
Aerobics Classes 5pm
Step level III, SG (R)
IC Chess Club 6.30pm
Club night, SCR (R).
IC Choir 7-10pm
Rehearsal in Great Hall

GO Club 12-2pm
Ante Room, Sheffield (R)
Jewish Society
Talk by Mrs M.Glass Management School
Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Legs,Turns & Bums,SG (R)
Y.H.A. 12.30pm
Weekly meeting, SL (R).
Yacht Club 1pm
Physics LT2 (R)
Parachute Club 1pm
Table Tennis Room, UB (R)
Conservative Club 1pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Conservative Club 1pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Gliding Club 1pm
Meeting, Aero 266 (R)
Get Fit with Louisa 1pm
Aerobics, UG (R)
Jazz Dance 4-5.30pm
Advanced classes, SG (R)
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Intermed. level 3, SG (R)
IC Choir 6.15-8pm
Rehearsal Rm 342 MEng (R)
Christian Union 6.30pm
Huxley 308 (R)
Leonardo Society 6.30
Civ Eng Rm 101 (R)
IC Dance Club 7pm
Beginners, JCR (R)
Jazz Big Band 7-10pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
Motorcycle club 7.30pm
SL, bike run round L'dn,(R)
Ladies' Football 8.30pm
Training, contact Union office pigeon hole, UG (R)

Amateur
Odeon Kensington
0426 914666
tube; Kensington High St (Wed & Thur only)
2.20, 4.50, 7.20, 9.50
tickets; £6, £6.50, before 5pm £3.50

Wes Craven's New Nightmare
MGM Chelsea, Kings Rd
0171 352 5096
Sloane Sq and then bus 1.15, 3.45, 6.25, 9.10
tickets; £6, Mon-Fri pre 6pm and students £3.50

Jeff Buckley + Bettie Serveert
LA2
tube; Tottenham Court Rd
0171 434 0403
doors; 7.30pm
tickets; £8.50

Stone + Stokers Lodge
The Borderline
tube; Tottenham Court Rd
0171 734 2095
doors; 8.30pm
tickets; £5

Cadaveri Eccellenti - photographs of Sicilian aristocrats by Max Jourdan
EC One, 34 Underwood St
081 968 6040
tube; old Street
time; Mon-Fri 11am-6pm
until 29th Jan

Art 95
Business Design Centre,
52 Upper St
0171 359 3535
tube; Angel
time; Wed-Fri 11am-8pm,
Sat 11am-8pm, Sun 11am-5pm
entry; £6, concs £4.50,
five day pass £10

ELSEWHERE

Panacea or Poison?
Looks at the debate on tea's influence on the body. Lots of sampling of tea and cake takes place alongside the talk.
Book a place on 081 864 0309/081 868 0891
entry; £10
Gunnersbury Park Museum
tube; Acton Town Br; Gunnersbury time; 15th Jan 3pm

Imperial College Exploration Society

In a continuation of its popular lecture series presents

The Practical Consideration of Adventure

...Or "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Cave Exploration"

an illustrated lecture by

Dick Willis

Dick Willis is one of the worlds most experienced expedition covers. He has been caving in Papua New Guinea, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, Irian Jaya, Java, Borneo, Thailand, China and USSR. He was leader of the expedition to Mulu which discovered the Sarawak Chamber, currently the world's largest underground chamber.

The lecture is well illustrated with Dick's own photos and also slides taken by some of the world's best underground photographers, a breathtaking visual show.

In
Mechanical Engineering 220
On
Thursday 19th January at 6pm

Admission £1.50 for non members, free for members (membership £3)

IMPERIAL

All submissions for the Seven Day Guide must be given in by 6pm on the Friday before the week of publication. (Not including those which have (R) at the end of the entries - the submissions will automatically entered for you).

CINEMA

La Reine Margot
Odeon Kensington
0426 914666
tube; Kensington High St
2.30, 6.00, 9.15
tickets; £6, £6.50, before 5pm £3.50

Eat Drink Man Woman
Renoir, Brunswick Sq
0171 837 8402
tube; Russell Square
12.55, 3.25, 5.55, 8.30
tickets; £6, 1st perf £4
with concs £2.50

Stargate
Odeon Kensington
0426 914666
tube; Kensington High St
1.05, 3.50, 6.40, 9.35
tickets; £6, £6.50, before 5pm £3.50

Shallow Grave
MGM Fulham Road
0171 370 2636
S. Ken tube and then bus
2.10, 4.40, 7.20, 9.40
tickets; £6, Mon-Fri
before 6pm and students
£3.50

The Specialist
MGM Fulham Road
0171 370 2636
S. Ken tube and then bus
1.10, 4.10, 7.05, 9.40
tickets; £6, Mon-Fri
before 6pm and students
£3.50

MUSIC

Cranberries + Dear Janes
Royal Albert Hall
tube; South Kensington
0171 589 8212
doors; 7.30pm
tickets; £12.50, £10.00

Free Kitten + Guv'ner + Comet Gain
Garage
tube; Highbury&Islington
0171 607 1818
doors; 8pm
tickets; £6.50

Outcast Band
Mean Fiddler
tube; Willesden Junction
0181 961 5490
doors; 8pm
tickets; £3.00

New Songwriters Showcase
Marquee Cafe
tube; Leicester Square
0171 437 6603
doors; 8.00pm
tickets; £3.00

Moist
Camden Palace
tube; Camden Town
0171 387 0428
doors; 9.00pm
tickets; £4.00
Meet Vik the Music Ed!

ARTS

Brigitte Fassbaender Beethoven and Mahler
Barbican Centre, Silk St
0171 938 8891
tube; Barbican
time; 7.30pm
entry; £22 - £6

The Painted Page: Italian renaissance book illustration
Burlington House,
Piccadilly
0171 439 7438
tube; Piccadilly Circus
times; Daily 10am-6pm
entry; £4.50, concs £3

The Institute of Anxiety
ICA, The Mall
0171 930 3647
tube; Charing Cross
times; Daily 12-7.30pm,
Fri until 9pm
entry; ICA Day pass £1.50

Impressionism in Britain
Barbican Art Gallery,
Barbican Centre, Silk St
0171 938 8891
tube; Barbican
Daily 10am-6.45pm, Tue
10am-5.45pm
£4.50. students £2.50

It's A Pleasure - Nine contemporary artists
Royal Festival Hall
Galleries, Southbank
0171 921 0600
tube; Waterloo
time; Daily 10am-10pm
entry; Free

Local Special!

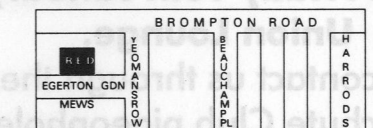
Special Express Lunch Menu

served between 12:00 to 2:00pm and 6:00 to 7:00pm

at RED of Knightsbridge 0171-584 7007
The best Chinese without artificial colouring and flavours.

- A. Crispy lamb with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- B. Sun Sing Chicken with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- C. spare ribs with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- D. Aromatic Crispy duck with pancakes 5.00
- E. Buddha pot rice (vegetarian) 5.00
- F. Beef in black beans with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- G. Special fried rice (prawn, pork etc.) 5.00
- I. Singapore noodles (prawn, pork spicy) 5.00
- J. Hot and Sour fish with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00

Take away to your offices is also available



RED 8 Egerton Garden Mews Knightsbridge SW3

Rugby

The IC Ladies trash an anonymous team...

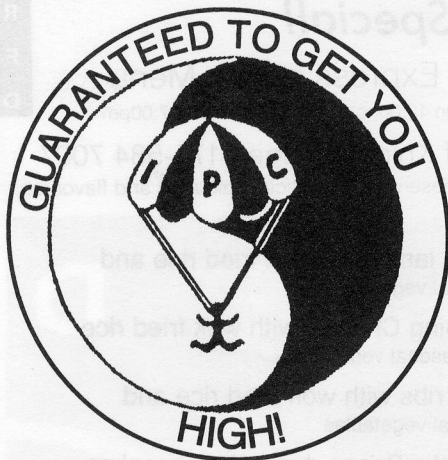
Biggest score so far, with conversions being scored for the first time. One hat-trick, first tries by **Billy, Sian, Sarah H, Sarah W.**

Scorers	Comments
1. Billy	
2. Sian	
3. Sian	
4. Emma B.	Converted Emma B.
5. Cathy A.	Converted Emma B.
6. Sarah H.	Converted Emma B.
7. Sian	
8. Sian	
9. Mel	Drive over the line by forwards
10. Lynsey	Quick penalty taken by Caroline.
11. Emma B.	
12. Sarah W.	Storming bashing tactics.
13. Cathy A.	Converted by Emma B.

Woman of the match – **Emma B.**, for excellent handling, running and kicking skills.

Forward of the match – **Sarah H.** for her try, and very good drives.

Back of the match – **Sian**, need we say more??



Come and see what it's all about!!!

Video show & talk

**1pm Friday 13th January
Union Lounge.**

(or contact us through the Parachute Club pigeonhole)

Sport	IC Team	Score	Opposition
Badminton	Ladies	9 - 7	Saints
Rugby	Women	73 - 0	who cares?

Sailing

ICSC in the Castaways Cup

A perfect day for the intercollegiate championship, plus the last chance to sail at Welsh Help until maybe the next academic year.

Imperial was strongly represented in the form of two teams against UCL, Royal Vets College and George's & Thomas.

Imperial 1st won every race in the league while the 2nd were getting good practice.

The three race final came down to Imperial 1st and UCL 1st. The first race was clearly won by Imperial, but the second and third races were lost due to school-boy errors. Luckily Imperial had a protest on the second race which their team captain duly won. So on the day the best team won.

Congratulations to the Imperial lads of **Andy Jones, James 'FLEES' Lees, Nick Cameron and Tim Bastow.** Thanks must go out to **Simon Spalton** for helping and sponsoring the competition and **Rory** for his help. Thanks also go to **Tash, Jilly, Dan and Andy** for a storming Christmas meal afterwards. Hopefully we'll find a place to sail next term.

Badminton

IC Ladies vs Saints

An excessive amount of Christmas pudding did nothing to slow down a storming performance against our old rivals from Perivale.

Convincing from the start, control was taken early on. Some games were tight but when it came to the crunch, the team spirit kept our heads held high and we pulled through.

Special well done to **Elaine** (resident friendship bracelet knitter), **Dani** (taxi driver) and **Carolyn** (old, but dead good). We're halfway through the season and up at the top of the table.

Editorial

Belated seasons greetings and a happy new year to you all. I hope that overindulgence in festive foodstuffs has not impaired your fitness, so that you may play for the teams and give us lots of reports.

I also hope that your new year's resolutions included always writing the name of your sport on your reports, to make our lives easier and to avoid mistakes. Lastly, thanks very much for all the reports last year!

Part Time Catering Staff Wanted for Da Vinci's

Shifts 12-2.30pm or 5-9pm
Meals and Uniform Provided

£3.45 per hr

Applicants should preferably be 1st and 2nd year students as the contract will extend to next year

See Yvonne or Ian in **Da Vinci's**
on ext 58080