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Board all the choovy  
*Valentines*

fii Cezanne  
exhibition  
at the Tate

Skating in the Royals':  
The truth about  
skaters and cyclists



# FELIX

The student newspaper of  
Imperial College

Issue 1049  
February 9th 1996

## Tories plan to abolish student grants

BY MIKE INGRAM

Government plans to abolish maintenance grants for students and impose a 'graduate tax' have been revealed this week. The proposals would scrap the existing system of grants and loans in favour of compulsory loans repaid through national insurance contributions.

The new approach to student finances, launched this

week by the Conservative Political Centre, would not affect funding of tuition fees. They aim to release the £1.7 billion spent annually on student financial support, which amounts to about 30% of the total spending on higher education. This money would then be used to fund teaching and research, perhaps in lieu of some current funding. Similar schemes have been oper-

ating in Australia and New Zealand for several years.

The scheme is intended to be funded by the private sector, with money from banks and pension schemes. This could potentially cause problems for the government. Last year, the high street banks refused to become involved with the present Student Loans system, fearing it to be a financial liability. They

may be cautious about investing such large sums of money.

As a result of this, the plan's authors recommend that the maintenance loans scheme should first be tested using post-graduate students as guinea pigs for the new funding, in order to iron out problems and reassure investors.

CVCP meets on funding page 3  
AUT resists cuts page 3



## Students drop in to ICU

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Two Royal School of Mines students face ICU disciplinary action this afternoon after falling through the ceiling of the union building during a break-in.

The students were attempting to gain entry to ICU's Beit Quad premises in the early hours of last Friday morning when they brought down part of an insulating ceiling, landing in the Union Print Unit. They broke in via a street-level window off Bremner Road, after an altercation with ICU stewards on being asked to leave the premises at closing time.

The youths fell through the false ceiling of the room which

houses ICU's presses and printing equipment. They brought down several ceiling panels, buckling the frame which supports the insulating roof.

The students met Union staff, and claimed to be 'lost'. College security were alerted, and the students subsequently signed full confessions, offering to pay the for the damage. The bill for the repairs, which involved calling out an emergency engineer to replace the glass at 12.30am on Friday morning, may come to several hundred pounds. It is not known what punishment the disciplinary committee is likely to impose.

in summary



### Election Reticence

After a slow start to the week, only one candidate is fully seconded for his position in the sabbatical elections for next year's union officers. Nominations are open for a further week. page 3

### Jonathan Aitken at IC

Jonathan Aitken MP spoke at Imperial's Conservative Society on Wednesday, outlining his vision of Britain's place in the world, and talking on the future of Conservatism. page 2

### 2:1 or 2:2?

The value of the 2:1 degree classification came under scrutiny this week as it was revealed that the number of 2:1 awarded nationwide was comparable to the number of 2:2s. page 2



# Aitken places Britain on world map

BY ALEX FEAKES

Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP for Thanet South, outlined his vision of Britain as a strong contender in world trade during a talk at Imperial College on Wednesday. He complained that present politics was too focussed on the European situation, and more attention should be given to the rest of the world which accounts for 65% of Britain's exports.

Although stating his Euro-sceptic credentials, the MP did not advocate withdrawing from Europe, and stressed the benefits that the single market brought to Britain. He expressed the view that Britain's trading position in Europe was advantageous, espe-

cially as Britain had fulfilled three of four 'virtues' of healthy economics: steady growth, low inflation and falling unemployment. The fourth, that of an export-led recovery in growth, had not yet been reached, Mr Aitken indicating that that this ought to be achieved by increasing Britain's exports with non-European countries.

"Britain is seen as a 'paradise' for inward investors" he said, citing the example of the car industry, which although ironically almost entirely foreign-owned, is one of the best performing sectors in the country. However, he dismissed talk of Britain being trapped in the slow lane of a two-speed Europe, being rather more

concerned that Britain might languish in the slow lane of a two-speed world. Additionally the social aspects of the European Union, especially the Social Chapter, came under criticism, there being 'too many requirements' that made industry uncompetitive.

Mr Aitken refused to comment on his involvement with BMARC and the arms-to-Iraq affair, saying that he was due to give evidence to the Scott inquiry next month, though he refuted allegations in last week's papers that he had changed his story. However, he did field questions on the arms industry generally, saying that he was not of the opinion that 'defence exports

shouldn't happen," himself being proud of Britain's 21% of the world defence market. The question of morality was brushed aside because "Britain operates the most restrictive and protective" procedures for granting export licences.

Finishing on the subject of John Major's leadership and the defection of Emma Nicholson, the MP declared himself happy with the Prime Minister. However, he said that he 'couldn't recognise the same act of principle' that marked out Alan Howarth's defection last year to Labour from Emma Nicholson's recent crossing of the floor to the Liberal Democrats, the latter provoking a storm of protests.

## 2:1 value dropping?

BY MARK BRIDGE

Reports by the Higher Education Quality Council last month indicating the proportion of 2:1 to 2:2 degrees to be higher than at any other time were confirmed this week when national data on degree classes were published.

This might be perceived as a dropping of standards by those outside academia but Prof Swanson, Pro Rector for Educational Quality at Imperial College, said that the basis for awards was arbitrary, with Universities using several and various criteria for deciding the class of degree to be conferred by the degree awarding body.

Although Imperial College's board of Studies could shift the boundaries from year to year, any anomalous or systematic shifts would be spotted by the University of London, who have the statutory power to award IC degrees and a responsibility to ensure its various constituents comply with University regulations. The same applies to other Universities, but the proportion of achieving students at a place like Imperial might also be expected to be greater given the calibre of applicants he added.

Another factor in the

changes may be the massive increase in degree awarding bodies that came about when polytechnics were granted University status in 1993. Universities can choose to give degree classes by looking at the criteria other good Universities use in assessments or it might consider its students to be better than average and step its degree class boundaries accordingly. Therefore, the somewhat arbitrary nature of and random discrepancies in degree classification across the country, can be explained.

Gillian Roberts, the Registrar at the University of London, was not available at the time of going to press and information on variations in the proportions of the various degree classes awarded at University of London constituent colleges is not obtainable. However, Pi, the student newspaper of University College London Union reported broad fluctuations in degree class proportions across a range of departments at UCL over the past few years. Imperial College's Board of Studies, however, have published papers showing very little change in the proportions of the various degrees classes awarded.

## Holocaust survivor visits IC

BY ALEX FEAKES

Mrs Turgel sketched her life, through her family's persecution by the occupying Nazis and their internment in a Jewish ghetto. With her mother she was moved to Auschwitz, where hundreds of prisoners a day died in labour gangs working in back-breaking conditions in quarries. They were moved through a number of other camps, including Berkenau and Buchenwald, until finally they were taken to Belsen, known as a 'finishing camp'.

Mrs Turgel talked for an hour to an audience of nearly a hundred, covering her experiences of living under the Nazis. Her story spanned the time from the occupation of her home town, Krakow in Poland, in 1939 when she was thirteen, to her liberation from the Belsen death camp in 1945. Before and after her talk, her audience were invited to walk around a display set up by the Beth Shalom centre detailing the rise of the Nazis and describing the concentration and extermination camps that they constructed.

The British Army liberated Belsen on 15th April 1945, and in the unit that entered the camp Gene met her future husband, Norman. They were quickly married and when Norman was demobbed, they went back to England to live.

The British Army liberated Belsen on 15th April 1945, and in the unit that entered the camp Gene met her future husband, Norman. They were quickly married and when Norman was demobbed, they went back to England to live.

## Minorities bias in Oxford

BY ALEX FEAKES

Oxford University's entrance procedures are biased against applicants from racial minorities according to a report published in the latest edition of the university's newspaper, *Cherwell*.

The apparent favouring of candidates from white, privately educated backgrounds was con-

sidered "very disappointing indeed" by Julia Stephenson of the equal opportunities Access Scheme.

The statistics showed whites were four times more likely to get in than non-whites.

Overseas students were only half as likely to get in as home students.



# Levy fees imminent, but not for IC

BY MIKE INGRAM

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) met at the University of London last Friday to discuss imposing a 'top-up' levy on students in order to make up the deficit in the funding of Universities and Colleges next year.

In an extremely unusual move, the committee held a vote on the idea, resulting in a decision to impose a "government deficit levy" from October 1997 if the next Budget does not increase funding. The size of this levy is undecided. A one-off charge of £300 per student has been suggested, but one university head has said that would be inadequate, proposing a "realistic" levy of up to £1000 per year.

The Committee is also threatening to withdraw from other Government schemes, including quality assessment, in January 1997. These measures are timed to have maximum political effect on the Government, which will be facing an imminent general election.

The Committee will withdraw if the Government does not make two concessions: firstly, this year's budget must include "some significant reversal" of the capital cuts in last year's Budget.

Secondly, they must signal an intention to introduce an income-contingent loans scheme covering both fees and maintenance by 1999. These measures will be discussed at a meeting between CVCP leaders and Education Secretary Gillian Shephard this week.

However, support for these measures is by no means unanimous within the Committee. A poll conducted by the Times Higher Education Supplement last week revealed that, of the twenty-five universities against the imposition of levies, only eight planned to go ahead with the scheme if the majority was in favour. The proposal to withdraw from quality assessment schemes has also been attacked as "utterly self destructive". The final decision on whether to impose these measures will be made in December.

The Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, has reiterated Imperial College's opposition to imposing top-up fees: "IC has no intention of charging a £300 fee - it would achieve almost nothing for the College." He added: "It is the clear view of the heads of departments that we would not impose a system that disadvantaged the less well-off student."

## Alternative options for the CVCP

It would be possible to increase available funding per student by reducing the number of students admitted. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) said last week that the option of reducing student intake has been left "deliberately open" (Felix 1048). However, the Standing Conference of

Principals, who have been meeting the CVCP to discuss funding cuts, have said that college heads are sceptical about reducing student numbers without guarantees that funding levels would be unaffected.

The deadline for universities to submit student level information to the HEFCE is today.

## AUT ally with CVCP

The Association of University Teachers has rejected the possibility of industrial action as a protest at the budget cuts. In an unprecedented move, the Union is seeking to ally with the CVCP to fight the cuts. This has caused controversy within the organisation, leading one member to describe it as "shackling ourselves to the enemy".

Since Colleges can spend up to 80% of their budget on staff salaries, the funding crisis could seriously damage the union's chances with their 1996/97 pay claim. The claim does not yet specify a desired percentage rise, but attempts to introduce a claim for a 10% rise or a £3,000 increase at all salary levels have failed.



The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals met at Senate House on Malet Street last Friday. Students from a number of London Colleges and provincial universities turned out to demonstrate outside the building whilst the Committee met.

## Slow Start to Sab Elections

BY RACHEL WALTERS

Neil O'Shaughnessy, a Union steward, has stood for the position of Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), leaving the post of Felix Editor / Print Unit Manager with no contestants at all. It is expected that Alex Feakes, currently news editor of Felix, will stand for the position.

Nominations papers will be posted outside the union office for a further week, after which the candidates are allowed two weeks for campaigning. Hustings will be held at ICU on Tuesday February 27th, and at St Mary's on Wednesday February 28th.

Voting will take place in all departments on March 4th and 5th.

Piers Williams, a final year chemist and chair of the Union's publications' board, was the first to sign up on Monday. He is standing for the position of Deputy President (Finance and Services) and was fully seconded by Wednesday.

The only person who has stood for the position of President so far is Mark Bridge, a first year chemistry student, but it is widely expected that Eric Allsop, the current chair of ICU council, will put forward his candidature this evening.



# "I hate Valentines' Day!"

Written By  
Nooman Haque

If I had designed the calendar, then Valentines day would have coincided with the beginning of the grouse season. That would have allowed me to pursue my own love and shoot St. Valentine and his army of Cupids out of the sky. There are rational grounds for my abhorrence and failing in my own life. What I find most objectionable and fail to appreciate, despite the experiences of countless friends, are the debilitating effects of love. Debilitating because it works like a drug and like any narcotic it produces at first a powerful rush, creating a desire for more. As time goes by the addiction become more pronounced and the complete withdrawal, resulting in a painful period of cold turkey, followed by recovery.

We all recognise these effects in our friends, denial most often being the first retort amidst accusations from peers. Guided by a sympathetic desire to save a friend from a life of Sunday afternoon walks and visits to parents, friends of the affected begin a process of merciless piss taking, which may have short term beneficial effects. However, the power of the loved one is great indeed and in time you will find that the friend begins to take on his/her persona. Your eyes are not deceiving you: this is indeed possession by an evil force. By this stage the effects of this drug are immutable - unbelievable though it may seem, a bizarre morphing process will take place in front of your very eyes as two, once happy individuals sacrifice their uniqueness trading off unnecessary characteristics, to create a being which though inhabiting the bodies of two people, is actually only one. They cease to function on their own and are incapable of making any sort of decision until the other has been consulted and informed.

Whilst it's always sad to see a man throw away his self respect, it is girls that are the most nauseating at this stage. A close friend of mine, almost overnight, became insensible g i g -

sex mad wretch. To see a once demure and serious friend, spiral into a state devoid of logic and common sense was frightening at first. Irritating soon after. Not least because in her mind the New Man had ascended to the status of a Sharnen: a man in whose midst no argument could be won - in her mind a least not a few other mutual friends. Despite their company she endured dinner with her and was sensible enough to bring along all three of us into submission. When once our counsel was sought, our opinions were now derided because 'X doesn't think like that', or 'X would do this instead'.

One tries to be open minded about Valentines Day, but the very idea of having a specific day to express affection (usually at an extortionate price) is simply an excuse to show spite and envy. Personally, I am rather proud that even when in a long term relationship, I was ignorant enough to express genuine surprise when a girlfriend presented me with a gift on the 14th of February. Needless to say I had not responded mutually. I 'paid' for my slight oversight several months down the line when my independence was returned to me. Yes I was gutted for a short while, but like many who have been in long term relationships, the freedom was overwhelming, and the accounts of other friends (both men and women), the sense of independence is overwhelming, and the realisation that the last few years were spent cocooned in the isolated company of an insignificant other merely provide the drive to enjoy life to the fullest. Exuberance and hedonism ruled the day and shamelessly so.

To those that greet my message with scorn, I can only offer the acute observation that "how alike are the groans of those in love, to those of the dying".  
Happy Valentine.



# Valentines

Dylan,  
I still think about you all the time and would like to ask you a question. Will you marry me? If you call round tonight it will be just like old times.  
Honeybun.

Clare  
You mean the world to me. Please be my valentine and express your true feelings for me.  
Love, N.

Mathias (Physics 1)  
You're sweller than the Goodyear Balloon.  
Nancy.

Geoff  
Would you like to go out with me to the opera at the weekend? I have two tickets already.  
All my love,  
H.C.

Simon - my microelectromechanical devices may be small, but my love for you is quite a bit bigger!  
E.

Al,  
You're my little cuddly fluff bunny.  
Love Mom

To my satcoms engineer. I'll be your satellite any day! Does this mean our centre of mass is well within your body?  
Your ever-orbiting Bridget xxx.

Dear blonde babe with the bright yellow B&W bag and Adidas trainers - 'You lift me higher than the BT tower.'  
Be my Valentine.  
Your hard rockin' chick.

Your hair is red,  
Your hair's been blue,  
Luke Morales  
I love you.

Andy,  
You're my favourite biscuit.  
?

Fuggy smooches and big kisses to Simon,  
my snuggle monster.

To the horniest man at Imperial:  
Piers Williams. I wish council was every week just so I could listen to your sexy voice for even more hours.

My darling Peach Melba,  
I love you,  
From your cup of coffee.

Fuxwell B  
I kind of enjoy being 17.

To Nils,  
We think you're brilliant. Happy Valentine's day, love from your fan club.

Nick,  
You are handsome to me. Can I be Mavis tonight?  
Love and kisses,  
?????

To Miss Artois,  
I've tried to woo you with fine words and quick wit but it cam out sounding like complete shit. Be my Valentine...

To anyone with ovaries,  
I'd like to have a shallow and meaningless casual sexual relationship with you.  
Apply to: J. Trout, Linstead Hall.

Thomas,  
You're lush on toast.  
Wug.

Matthew,  
You are a sex god and I'm sorry I had to leave you to watch Batman - please cook kidneys for me again...  
E xxx

To John P. (Maths)  
Be mine, Honey Bunnay,  
Love BDLN

Kenneth Watson,  
You rock my boat, come rock it harder!  
FHWAL

To Divi in Valparaiso, Chile.  
"Que estas senales de humo que te mando por el dia de nuestro amor, lleguen volando, aterricen y se depositen en tu corraxon"  
F. Farias, MSc Student.

To my beloved Rachel,  
Every minute is like an hour without you.  
Love always, Jodi.

To Nickola from Biology.  
Your life is a carry-on movie!  
Love, Nutter.

Lix,  
Two frenchmen, who wonder wether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune... or confess that: Your new harcut is just *FL&A* with love,  
Philippe & Camille.

Little Tim,  
You're a slag.  
That's about it, really.

Dear David,  
Still craving your kiss,  
LJL

Dear Marco,  
I miss your arms around me - if only time would fly!  
Your Schatz.

To Pucky Jon,  
Let's make a mess again sometime.  
From Figment of your Imagination,  
Equinox, Leicester Sq.

In your red velvet suit you look so cool,  
Those rings on your fingers make me drool.  
Scratch those nails down my back,  
And I'll beg for more  
xxxx me behind the ents lounge door.  
(please)

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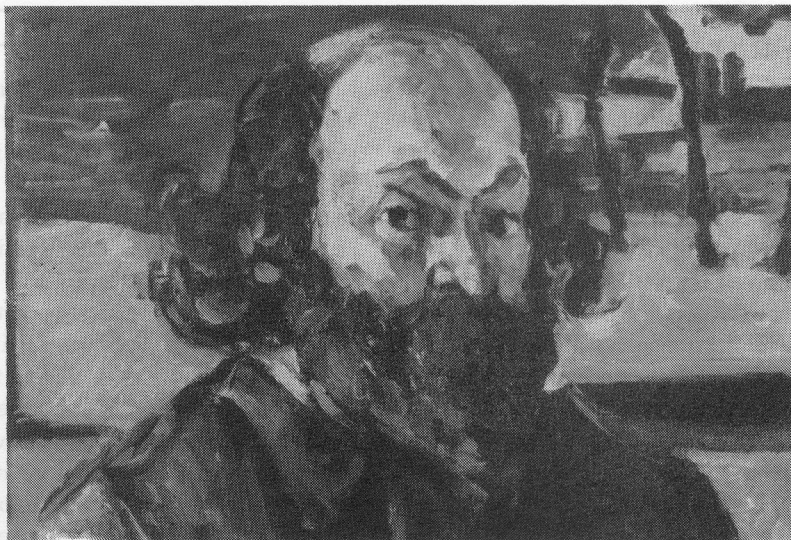
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cezaanne



self portrait  
musée d'orsay, paris. gift of jacques laroche

mont sainte-victoire with large pine  
courtauld galleries, london



# zanne

spaces: **cezanne**<sup>charles</sup>

column: **simon baker**

concert: **michael nyman - tempest in a teacup**<sup>charles twist</sup>

insight: **london calling**<sup>rebecca mileham</sup>

film: **clockers**<sup>magpie</sup>

theatre: **dead guilty**<sup>someone</sup>

gig: **skunk anansie + longpigs**<sup>ian</sup>

interview: **cast**<sup>mr trout</sup>

singles: **bEa**

album: **nick cave and the bad seeds - murder ballads**<sup>andy steele</sup>

album: **angel corpus christi - white courtesy phone**<sup>ian</sup>

gig: **tindersticks + baby bird**<sup>lucas</sup>

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## exhibition: **cezanne**<sup>charles</sup>

As you have probably gathered from all the hype of the last week, the Cezanne exhibition has arrived at the Tate yesterday. All tastes are catered for: whether you're a mere passer-by looking for a few (well, over a hundred) fine paintings, an art historian studying the evolution of Cezanne's work, or an accomplished artist searching for inspiration: it's all here.

The Cezanne exhibition is one of the largest ever put together and is a rare opportunity to assess the many facets of a very influential painter. From the dark and gloomy start, when he was looking for his way, to the mature years, when he openly preached post-impressionism, and onto the final stages with what many hail as his masterpiece, the Grande Baigneuses: it's all here.

One can all but see the evolution of his ideas and how he came to formulate his theories. Some people give their vision of the world with others painters' techniques. Cezanne used his vision of what technique should be, to create a new world. Some people are popular, but are hated by the pros because of their excessive simplification. Cezanne stunned the art world with his theories, but was never popular in his own life-time.

Cezanne had an incredible ability to play with light purely in colour terms, by juxtaposing

carefully worked brush strokes. Some paintings are dark, others are light, but unlike the classical period, it is the whole canvas that is infused with light. He managed to transcend the academia of the day, while still portraying the magic of mother Nature - something the twentieth century failed to catch on to.

The exhibition is a great opportunity to see these paintings in a large format, with their true colours and brilliance. It is fabulous to be able to stand back twenty feet, and see the overall harmony; this could never be achieved through books alone. There are ten rooms arranged chronologically, so that the themes of each phase are clearly visible. These include two rooms dedicated to his water-colours and drawings (one for each of the earlier and the later phases). These give a great insight into his home life as well as his approach of the subject matter.

You also have a unique opportunity to see for yourself why the twentieth century artists claimed him their godfather. The French crowds, mad as they may be, flocked in their hundreds of thousands to the exhibition at the Grand Palais. So, who knows, you might get a glimpse of what Cezanne was, and is, all about, but be prepared to spend an hour or two going over it. You'll be amazed.

If you missed your chance in 1907, don't miss this one.

C  
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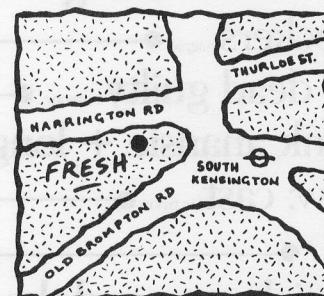
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## simon baker<sup>messy chemist</sup>

All is well with the world. Pamela Anderson splashed all over last Sunday's television, even offering an opinion on the Bosnia situation, Steve Davis playing vintage snooker again and no new signs around College. All right, the last one was wishful thinking. I know Ian Caldwell is an avid reader of my humble prose, so perhaps he would care to satisfy my, and your, curiosity by telling us how much it has all cost. As well as these rays of sunshine, my lunch last Thursday in the JCR (fast approaching the Savoy in price and Linstead in quality) was cheered up immeasurably by your friends and mine, the Socialist Worker Student Society.

Their latest crusade concerns the proposal from Vice Chancellors to impose entrance fees on freshers; a plan already dismissed by the Government, but used to start debate on funding. Not a stunningly good idea, but in the words of Bob Hoskins, it's good to talk. So what response do these cheeky chappies in the SWSS suggest? Lobbying those involved might be a good idea. Mais non, much better 'to shut down every college.' Whilst their silly rants and loony policies are all rather amusing, the joke is starting to wear a little thin. Don't they realise that 'Citizen Smith' was a *comedy*, not a manifesto? Here we have a group of silly little kids playing politics, whose insight rarely stretches past a poster of Che Guevara above the bed, using tired political statements that even Arthur Scargill would shy away from. Don't get me wrong, I am not irritated with them because they have opposing views; I have nothing but respect for those who support Labour or the Lib Dems. The thing that really gets me about them, the Militant students and of course the NUS, is



that they have been responsible for the very low opinion that the public and government have of students as a whole. I've seen these clowns in action at Goldsmiths, and contributions such as 'scrap Trident and the Monarchy to return grants to 1979 levels' will not do an enormous amount for the cause of students. As for student funding, it seems to me that the problem is

simply the expansion of higher education at the lower end. A degree in peace studies with needlework at the University of Nowhere should not attract similar funding as physics at Cambridge or even Elec Eng at Imperial (only joking, lads). Higher Education must be elitist, not in terms of background, but intelligence. If there are any spelling mistakes in this, my argument's gone for a burton.

I dare say a good few of you, who were unable to get slaughtered in Southside Bar a week last Wednesday, saw Under The Sun on BBC2, which concerned beauty pageants in America. Big deal, I hear you cry. But, dear reader, these beauty queens were about five years old. This was undoubtedly one of the best and most grotesque programmes that I have ever seen. If ever evidence was needed of a troubled country, this was it. The kids, of course, were quite normal. The parents on the other hand were verging on the evil, forcing their beloved daughters to dress in clothes that even Zsa Zsa Gabor would reject as over the top, in order that they might win cars and large quantities of money. As for the pageant compère, a man who looked as suitable for the job as Fred West, I shall say no more. To smile like that in the company of five year olds is just not cricket. I quite expect stills of this documentary to be in the next Rag Mag.

## Noises, sounds and sweet airs - michael nyman<sup>charles</sup>

In the majestic setting of the Royal Festival Hall, little could go wrong. The musicians, all part of the Michael Nyman Band, were helped in their efforts by loud-speakers that gave great body to the sound. So, no problem there. Much of the work is dominated by a strong rhythm. Units of repetitive music, with the odd melody added on, pulsate throughout. This created simple dynamics with crescendos and accelerandos, which the public relished.

Contrary to much sung classical work, the instruments were to the fore, but the crucial backing was a little over-bearing. Shakespeare's words give some continuity, though I for one regretted the lack of clarity. For a quick review of the text, go and have a look at <http://www.en.utexas.edu/benjamin/316kfall/316ktexts/tempest.html>. Or if you have a mac, and feel adventurous, try <ftp://ftp.alumni.caltech.edu/zimm/Tempest.sea.hqx>.

Every now and then, the transition from lyric to music and back was rough, especially in the first half. It might just have been a question of the mixing getting smoother. The title, in fact, originates in the original text. The show was bathed in multi-coloured lights to support the emotions emanating from the bits of text one understood. Overall it gave the impression of film music; films have in fact been made from this story, and Nyman has already worked on "Prospero's books".

Often, the music was out-of-date in the harmonics but almost minimalist in form, especially with the avoidance of cadenza at transitions, though, strangely, not at the very end. A hundred years ago, it would have most certainly been considered as vulgar, simplified and not following the proper form. Times and mentalities change, though I dare say I agree with at least the first point: this was composed to be a crowd-pleaser. If you're into Berio and Nono, forget this; there is no prolonged unresolved dissonance here, no tapes whirring, just plain easy-listening. A good evening was had by all (well almost).

"Don't they realise that 'Citizen Smith' was a comedy, not a manifesto?"

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# “This is London...”

Is British Broadcasting biased towards the arts? The World Service produce science programs which are popular in countries all over the world – except here. *Rebecca Mileham* reports.

I spoke to 15 million people a few months ago. I'm not sure exactly which 15 million they were, or even what country they were all in. What I do know is that I probably didn't know any of them, and that my name, was completely, utterly, totally unknown to them.

I was talking to them about science. Here the scenario starts to seem even more unlikely. Not only was I talking to people I didn't know and who didn't know me, the subject with which I chose to introduce myself was science. And I'm afraid it gets worse. Depending on when they were listening to me talking, they might have heard me saying things about Alzheimer's disease, childbirth or a rare congenital disease similar to Parkinson's. At least that was vaguely medical - people are always interested in their health. But one week in August, I attempted to interest people in an esoteric story I'd just heard about someone playing music at 4.5 times the speed of light. Right. And the following week, horror of horrors, all I could come up with was something really bizarre about nanotechnology. Unbelievable.

It actually was unbelievable, the idea that I, 'Unknown Rebecca', could be speaking into a World Service microphone, onto a tape, which would be sent off across the planet to places like Antigua, the Cayman islands, Cyprus, Kuwait, South Africa, Mauritius, Brunei, the United Arab Emirates or China. 'Like' these places? Nowhere could possibly be like them all. Half the point is that all these places are totally different, and yet local radio stations had chosen to pay money for a radio programme about science. And according to the sales statistics, more stations choose to pay for someone talking about science than money, sport, books or celebrities.

Of course I could only talk about science. My expertise, such as it is, is in science rather than any other, more cultural or politically topical things like the latest Kundera novel or the global ramifications of civil war in Eastern Europe. And in a way, I'm sorry.

In England, I mention my job at the Science Museum, and

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Rebecca Mileham completed an MSc in Science Communication at Imperial last year and did her work placement at Radio International in the BBC World Service. She reported for *Science Magazine* and *Health Watch*, broadcast in 24 countries around the world, and currently works full time in the Science Museum.

**“In Britain, to prefer science to art is a social faux pas.”**

unless any of those around the table have kids who spend their Sunday afternoons playing on the Sound Dishes in Launch Pad, I feel as though I've admitted that I used to work at Sellafield.

I say that I'm tired of Radio Four's infatuation with arts news coverage - an hour and a quarter per day in two programmes both entitled *Kaleidoscope*, that's two and a half hours per day, and it's as if I have let slip my opinion that the latest BHS ad is really classy television.

I enjoy the feeling of knowing more science than people on TV quiz programmes who manage to answer huge strings of questions on history, art and Sanskrit Poetry and get really upset by not remembering that it was Prince Oleg who made the treaty between Russia and Byzantium in 911. They have the power to leave me feeling completely culturally inadequate and reaching for the encyclopedia (or just switching over to try and catch the BHS ad). When it comes to science, though, these people are puny. I laughed for hours at a contestant who thought a photo of a distant galaxy might have been taken by the Hubble Space *Telescope*. Now, this contestant was possibly confused, in

the heat of the moment, by his extensive knowledge of the Greek culture and language. It may have been that in his hurry he mistakenly substituted the suffix *graph*, (from the Greek *graphein*, to write) for *scope* (from the Greek *skopein*, to see) as he reconstructed the word from first principles. It may be that he was making an extraordinarily clever and subtle joke about the inability of the machine to see anything clearly because of errors in its construction (nobody's perfect, after all). But I was happy to believe that a man so well-versed in everything in one half of the education curriculum was completely ignorant of everything in the other half. And I laughed and told everyone I knew.

Now, I don't think there's any greater merit in knowing the name of a telescope than the name of a Russian politician. I'd quite like to know more about history and art, and maybe just one thing about Sanskrit Poetry. Unfortunately, in Britain, to prefer science to art is a social faux pas. While this situation prevails I'll just have to be comforted by the fact that there are people all over the world who tuned in to hear me talk about bees trapped in amber and the hole in the ozone layer rather than anything even remotely connected with history or literature. And there were 15 million of them.



celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington  
0426 914666  
seven 12.40, 3.35, 6.30, 9.25  
waiting to exhale

1, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30  
les miserables 1.25, 5.05, 8.45  
father of the bride part ii  
1.55, 4.30, 7.05, 9.40

dangerous minds  
2.30, 4.55, 9.45

johnny mnemonic  
1.50, 4.25, 7, 9.35  
tube; ken high street. £6.50,  
£6, £3.50 before 5pm

mgm fulham road  
0171 370 2636  
heat 1.10, 4.40, 8.20  
sabrina

12.50, 3.35, 6.25,  
9.10

loch ness 1.10, 3.50, 6.35, 9.20  
babe 12.40, 2.50, 5

with nail & i 7.10, 9.40  
tube; south ken then bus  
£6, £3.50 students and  
before 6pm

mgm chelsea  
0171 325 5096  
desperado 1.20, 4, 6.45, 9.30  
seven 12.50, 3.30, 6.20, 9.15

father of the bride part ii  
1.20, 4, 6.50, 9.30

a little princess 1.45, 4.30, 7  
dangerous minds 9.40

tube; sloane square then bus  
£6, £3.50 students and  
before 6pm

renoir  
0171 837 8402  
rendez-vous in paris

2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55  
the flower of my secret  
1.40, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40

tube; russell square  
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50 stu-  
dents

uci whiteleys  
0171 792 3332  
clockers 3.20, 6.15, 9.10  
loch ness

12.15, 2.30, 4.50, 7.05  
desperado

11.45, 2, 4.30, 7.20, 9.40  
the little princess  
11.15, 1.20, 4.45, 7.10

£5.75, £3.50 before 3pm  
mon - fri

apollo shaftesbury avenue  
0171 494 5070  
dead guilty by richard harris

mon-fri 8pm, thur mat 3pm,  
sat 5pm & 8.15pm  
tube; piccadilly  
circus

£8 - £20

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film: clockers magpie

Two brothers: one law abiding and the other a street level drug dealer, and one dead man. Detectives Klein and Mazilli (Harvey Keitel and John Turturro), are placed in charge of the case of the dead drug dealer. Strike Dunham (Mekhi Phifer), a rival dealer, becomes a suspect while his brother Victor (Isaiah Washington) confesses to the killing. Klein believes the Victor is protecting his younger brother, presuming that no one would convict a hard-working family man with no prior record on a confession of self defence. Klein is over zealous and hounds Strike, trying to get the truth, convinced that he is the murderer.

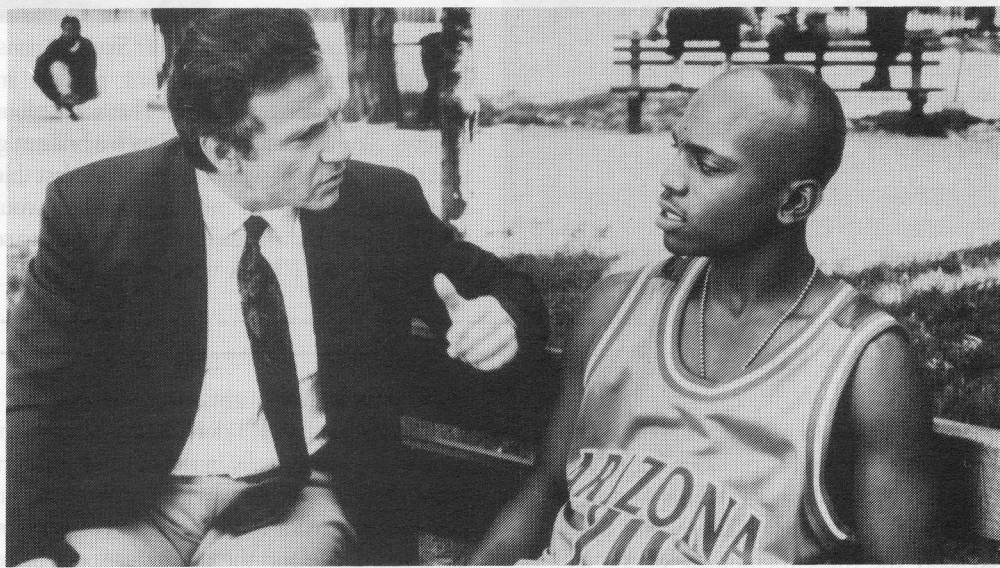
'Clockers' are the lowest level of drug dealers, selling from benches, on the streets night and day, round the clock. The film not only portrays drug dealers and policemen, but also those trying to escape the vicious circle of drugs, and children who see the clockers as role models. The roles of the homicide detectives (Keitel and Turturro) are purely secondary to this film. Director Spike Lee concentrates on Strike's predicament as he becomes a catalyst for a series of damaging events set up by Klein. He will either end up

murdered by his king-pin boss, Delroy Lindo, or he will wind up in jail.

There are many vivid images in *Clockers*, the most notable ones coming from the beginning credits, which show what appear to be police photographs of various anonymous bodies with gunshot wounds. Another memorable sequence portrays a young boy, Strike's prodigy, shooting one of Lindo's lieutenants after being inspired by a computer game.

You can always depend on an excellent piece of work from Spike Lee, but in *Clockers* the emphasis seems to wander away from the initial murder and heading more toward the social implications of living in a project. For the most part this is not a problem - all the characters have been steered away from the usual stereotypes. "It would be a fallacy to say everyone in the projects is on dope, or pregnant at 13. We wanted to show the humanity that these people have - and it's something that you might not necessarily see looking at the six o'clock news." - Lee.

*Clockers* is a heavy and intellectual film, but also relies on its shocking images. Its ending is somewhat unpredictable and was a welcome change from what I thought would happen.



theatre: dead guilty

Hardly new to the West End, this production has been playing since October and the initial mid-January close has just recently been extended to 16th March. So with the cast including Hayley Mills (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang fame) and Jenny Seagrove and reviews such as 'Impeccable' and 'Magnificent' from the Times, things were looking promising for this thriller.

Surprisingly for such build up the Wednesday night performance was barely half full, even with many of the audience clutching blue and red half-price tickets, but still I eagerly anticipated the curtain-up. On opening we were told of a car crash, the driver had suffered a heart attack at the wheel and died, and the passenger (Seagrove) was left with a severe leg injury. The victims Georgian house in SW6 is the setting for the remainder of the play, where we are intro-

duced to her visitors, the man 'who does', a counsellor and the wife of the deceased (Mills). The script is very pedestrian for a thriller and it is not until the end of the first half is there any inkling of the suspicious event we should be concerned with.

It may have been better if I hadn't found Jenny Seagrove's performance quite so irritating. She had mastered the act of a frustrated and despairing invalid, but three months into this production she still had not learnt to limp convincingly, and any change in her emotion (rage through to dejection) just involved the throwing of her hands in the air. Mills just about saves the day as the middle aged widow whose life revolves around baking cakes and having chats over nice cups of teas, but is unable to make the plot convincing. The outcome is highly predictable, when it eventually arrives and the verdict, if this was a film it would have gone straight to video.



## gig: skunk anansie + longpigs



Playing to a packed audience who were waiting to see Skunk Anansie, Longpigs were a revelation. They are probably among the few indie bands that take the time to try and include backing vocals and brilliant melodies in their songs. Instead of replaying four or five basic guitar chords and yelling their head off, they showed variations in their short but sweet set. Their striking lead singer faltered at the beginning of new single, 'Far', but by the end of the song they had more than made up for it, especially with lyrics about being stoned and falling in love that seemed to go together hand in hand.

Going through a set that included 'She Said' and 'Elvis', Longpigs made the opening band, Scthum, sound plain ordinary by comparison. The only complaints I had were that they had a tendency to end their songs rather too abruptly and that their set was simply too short. But these are only trivial points. Forget bands like Menswear. At this rate, Longpigs will be big this year.

Skunk Anansie had the crowd going before they even came on. Skin uses songs like scripts in a movie. Rage, anger, hurt and 'I don't give a damn' attitudes exploded on stage when she sang. She seemed lost between songs, repeatedly muttering 'yeah, yeah' over and over again in an attempt to recover the atmosphere of their songs. She has a brilliant voice sorely lacking in many bands as anyone lucky enough to catch the first White Room programme of the season will attest to.

The crowd went completely wild when the current single 'Weak' came on. Only Skin could have carried a song that had so much hurt and anger contained by pride without sounding naive. Only Skin would probably stage dive with a mike in hand and get back on in time for her vocal parts.

But Skunk Anansie aren't a one-woman band. Their lead guitarist is one of the best around. He was always on the brink of descending into total chaos but never lost control. Guitar riffs were loud, clear and full of ferocity.



Critics have been slagging off Skunk Anansie for their seemingly never ending political and social agenda. Forget all that. That's for album reviews. Skunk Anansie played such a brilliant gig that those 'words of wisdom' will be the last thing on your mind. A guy I met there said he would travel the length and breadth of the country to see them play. Now I know why.

## interview: cast

John Power knows a little bit about fame. The eponymous LP by his previous band, The La's, inspired Noel Gallagher of Oasis to start writing songs while the single, 'There She Goes' was arguably the most memorable of the late '80s indie scene. Now, with his new band Cast, he seems all the more ready to take his share of the fame he feels is so obviously due to him.

"Now we're established and playing together all the time, even when we have an off day, we're still brilliant. And if we play brilliantly, the roof will rise, man. Without blowing our own thingy, this band are great live."

I ask Power what his plans are for '96.

"At the end of the month we're off to Japan and America. After that, probably in the Spring, we'll be recording the new album. I've written the album and I'd like to get it released some time this year - Autumn maybe. But first we're going to re-record 'Walk Away' (from the debut album, 'All Change') and release it as the last single from 'All Change'. I'm going to remix it with loads of strings an' that."

Having done the music questions we then move on to juicier ones. When was the last time he broke the law?

"Probably every night, mate. We were put in jail in France last year. I don't know exactly what happened - I was totally innocent - but apparently one of the people we was (sic) with made some kind of home-made scud missile and blew up our hotel room. Me and the drummer spent fifteen hours in jail."

Most impressive sir. Maybe we should return to music. What do you think to the new crop of British musicians?

"There's till loads of awful bands out there., but there's a couple of good ones like Oasis and Black Grape who make the whole thing worthwhile. There's a lot of hype going round but the bands who've got something worth showing - they'll be around when the hype has run out for the other bands."

And Power clearly thinks that his band is one of those who do have something worth showing if his tip for who will be the 'next big thing' in the next few years is anything to go by:

"Cast! I don't know. I mean, we got it together in eight months, so who knows what's around the corner? I have seen a lot of energetic young bands but at the end of the day it comes down to the music. You've got to remember why you're up there."

## singles:

**the shamen** - heal (the separation)  
Background music with a slightly dub feel. It never gets close to the heights of Ebenezer Goode.

**luniz** - I got 5 on it  
Yet another 'Gangsta' clone. This is absolutely nothing special and comes with six extremely trying remixes.

**bang bang machine** - show me your pain  
An infectious single with a slight shoe-gazing influence. They get a high score for including the riff from 'Honky Tonk Women' on one of the b-sides without having legal action taken against them.

**d.j. quicksilver** - bingo bongo  
Another sample-ridden track that never gets anywhere or induces any sort of desire to dance. He couldn't even think of his own 'tune' so he's robbed one from Leftfield.

**gin blossoms** - till I hear it from you  
Angst from those American purveyors of pop. This single doesn't exactly break new ground but is fairly passable.

**placebo** - come home  
The hook is marvellous and you can imagine the kids moshing heartily to it even if the lyrical content is hardly going to challenge Jarvis for wit or originality.

**tripping daisy** - I got a girl  
Second prize for most bizarre band name of the week. This single is not entirely unreminiscent of the Chillies in their 'Blood Sugar...' phase.

**sparkle horse** - someday I will treat you good  
First prize for bizarre band name. It does quite well as a 'Stars In Their Eyes' Undertones impersonation.

**gabrielle** - give me a little more time  
A pathetic, corporate, motown attempt complete with crackles and a Temptations tambourine sample. Dross.

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## listings:

frank black + wannadies - 9 feb - astoria - £8.50  
black grape + euscbe - 9, 10 feb - brixton academy - £12  
skyscraper + pillbox - 9 feb - new cross venue - £3  
afrika bambaata and time zone - 9 feb - old street blue note - £7  
incalmont + jack - 9 feb - garage - £7.50  
inaura + silverjets + rubber + proper - 9 feb - la2 - £5  
gallon drunk + high llamas - 10 feb - la2 - £6  
mint 400 + geyser + foil - 10 feb - camden underworld - £5  
dissident prophet - 11 feb - covent garden roadhouse - £4  
ozric tentacles + julian cope - 11 feb - shepherd's bush empire - £10  
bootleg beatles - 11 feb - wimbledon theatre - £9  
kiki dee - 11 feb - jazz cafe - £ring  
raw stylus - 12 feb - jazz cafe - £8  
lizard music + comet gain + johnny mundane - 12 feb - upstairs at garage - £4  
nick  
heyward + redwood + ragga + sarajay + tom greenwood + julie anne mccambridge - 13 feb - water rats - £3.50  
china drum - 13 feb - camden palace - £6  
the godfathers - 14 feb - la2 - £7.50  
corduroy + minibar - 14 feb - garage - £ring  
mike flowers pops - 16 feb - forum - £10  
babylon zoo - 16 feb - la2 - £8.50  
echobelly - 17 feb - forum - £8.50  
eric clapton - 18 to 20, 22 to 24, 26 to 28 feb, 1 to 3 mar - royal albert hall - £23.50, £18.50  
baby bird - 19 feb - dingwalls - £tbc  
martin stephenson - 20 feb - jazz cafe - £8  
mike flowers pops - 20 feb - clapham grand - £10  
silverchair + tripping daisy - 21 feb - astoria - £9.50  
the wannadies - 22 feb - garage - £6  
saw doctors - 23 feb - shepherd's bush empire - £12  
my life story - 25 feb - camden dingwalls - £8  
r kelly - 26, 27 feb - wembley arena - £17.50, £20  
supergrass - 29 feb, 2 mar - astoria - £10

## album: nick cave and the bad seeds - murder ballads

This album is certainly not for the faint-hearted. But then if you have heard Nick and co.'s previous offerings you would be aware that this is always likely. If you haven't then be warned. Having "ballads" in the title might have led you to the conclusion that this album would be full of sweet, melodic, lilting songs. However, saccharine or easy listening this most definitely is not.

So what is it? It is a sequence of ten songs, each with a strong narrative detailing macabre and ghoulish tales of murder. Emphasised by Nick's rich, expressive baritone, the songs are necessarily traditional in style, yet innovative in the way that they lurch along with harsh guitar, staccato beats and piano melodies. They are, in fact, sweeping soundscapes, studded with the vulgar characteristics of the worst aspects of the human psyche. There are stories of death, of destruction and of the supposedly interconnected nature of love, lust, envy and downright insanity.

A novel departure for Nick Cave on his latest offering are his duets. The single, 'Where The

Wild Roses Grow', with Kylie Minogue, illustrates the general nature of the album, although it is probably the most soothing track, partly thanks to Kylie. A duet with P.J. Harvey on 'Henry Lee' also works well in setting off Nick's deep vocals with a femme fatale Polly.

The fact that this album is over an hour long, meaning that each song takes its time to graphically illustrate a story does not detract from the overall impact. The epic tale of 'The Curse Of Millhaven' is a chaotic, raucous and cacophonous experience, describing the exploits of a child serial killer. The story ends with the killer in an asylum tripping out on Prozac.

If, as I initially was, you are concerned about the fact that little obvious attempt is made to motivate the crimes depicted, you are, perhaps, missing the point. This album is not about reason and logic - it is an outpouring of genuine disgust at a society where such crimes will always happen. Cave seems to believe that while society is angular and rotational, emotions like love and anger defy rationality.

To conclude, this style of music will not be to many people's taste, but give it a chance - there is a depth and logic here that is absent from much of today's music. (7)

## album: angel corpus christi - white courtesy phone

According to the press release, this album deals with raw human emotions while telling a sequence of stories. It's amazing that they can hope to accomplish that with lyrical phrases like "tuck me in with a little bowl of candy". Some might say that Angel's lyrics have deeper meanings, leaving interpretation open to the listener. Call me a shallow thinker but I don't get anything here. On 'Homeboy', for example, her lyrics are so simplistic that trying to derive any meaning from the song is like trying to claim that rappers

write poetry.

The only sign of a saving grace is the simple music arrangements. They remind me of those pop tunes in the early Eighties that were full of crap but had a nice tune to hum along to. Unfortunately the lyrics spoil them all and render this album devoid of emotions. Angel could claim to be singing about death and drugs for all I care but, without any emotional connections, the songs come across as empty tin cans.

Some claim that Tori Amos writes incoherent lyrics and passes them off as deep, but at least they are incoherent. Angel fails to stamp any authority on any of the tracks. Based on this album, I have no idea how she is supposed to be a cult figure in Europe. Avoid this. (3)

## gig: tindersticks + baby bird

Besuited and looking cool, Baby Bird stroll on stage and play some seriously lo-fi blues poetry, some of which is absolutely hilarious. 'I'm Too Handsome To Be Homeless' is a classic example - the sheer audacity and ostentatiousness of it is unbelievable, but it is obviously firmly tongue-in-cheek. Another one is the deceptively simple, 'I Was Born A Boy, But I Wish I Was A Girl', which speaks volumes about repressed sexual identities. Singer-songwriter Steven Jones is perhaps best described as a wise fool.

Despite having a supposed repertoire of four hundred odd songs, they only play five in a teasingly short set. Let's hope that they play for longer when their egg truly hatches and they're soaring to the dizzy heights.

After Baby Bird come the kings of croon, those languorous lounge lizards, the Tindersticks

(their first record was voted one of the best albums of the year in these pages in '93). Incidentally, they are also besuited and looking rather cool.

There's always been something blue and melancholy about Tindersticks and tonight is no exception. Their Spanish-inflected, jazz-tinged music is, no doubt, an appropriate accompaniment to whisky when you're staring into the middle distance and contemplating the futility of life. But this isn't purely for self-indulgent, self-seeking, pseudo-romantic philosophers. There is something universal in their appeal, in the way that they strip the psyche and sing about the darker side, but still manage to retain some semblance of tenderness and sensitivity.

Having said all that though, Tindersticks didn't quite have the intensity of some of their earlier gigs (Rough Trade Shop, '93 for example). Maybe they're getting blasé about their performances. Now that would be a shame.



# Skating at the Royals'

By Alessandro Cinelli

Have you ever been tempted to try the Broadwalk Ballet? This is the common term used to denote that trendy set of people with wheels strapped to their feet who display their enviable skills on In-Line Skates (Roller Blades - like Hoover) on Kensington Gardens' Broadwalk next to Kensington Palace.

If you are one of the addicted, planning on getting hooked soon or indeed if you are a skateophobe, then you should know a few things about the London Skating scene. 1993 saw the first converts with a handful of in-line skaters meeting on summer days in Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, playing frisbee on wheels and sunbathing on the grass. One year later there were hundreds of practitioners and the sunbathing spots became limited. The popular circuit of the parks resembled Knightsbridge during the Harrods Sale. Complaints of wheelbound traffic interfering with the pleasures of a Sunday stroll began to pour in to the Royal Parks Constabulary. The main plaintiffs were from that group of citizens who can still remember Prince Albert, and various antedeluvian dog-walkers. The press seized

on this newly topical recreation as a good way of selling papers, by highlighting and playing up the various conflicts between those on wheels and those who were more narrow minded. Bad show old chap - just not cricket, eh what? The public view formed by the media's presentation of skaters as speed freaks and selfish good-for-nothings meant that skating inevitably received a bad rep. An accident in 1995 which resulted in the death of a cyclist gave the press a field day. The stories they wrote bore little relation to the facts; headlines stated "Cyclist killed by blader". Something that still holds currency. The papers ran this story and referred back to it for months, but gave very little coverage much later when the inquest was held and the skater was exonerated in view of the fact that he wasn't really moving and may as well have been wearing shoes. This accident together with one or two others have given skaters a bad reputation. The fact is that skating has a lower accident rate than riding, cycling, skiing and snow-boarding and is probably more fun.

Fed up with the unfair perception of skaters, a group got together in 1994, to

try and encourage more thoughtfulness by skaters towards slower moving objects. They formed BISA; Britain's In-Line Skating Association. They produced the "Skate Wise" code of conduct and offered membership insurance, a magazine and discounts on safety gear in the shops. That was just to seduce the skaters into joining - the real core purpose was to create a unified voice for skaters, to provide information such as how people could find an instructor, and to promote the safe use of park areas for all participants - the goal of the Skate Patrol.

BISA Skate patrollers (see below) do not ticket skaters or pull them from the trails, rather they monitor areas to make everyone's recreation more enjoyable by making skaters aware of park etiquette and ordinances. They are able to provide on-site stopping

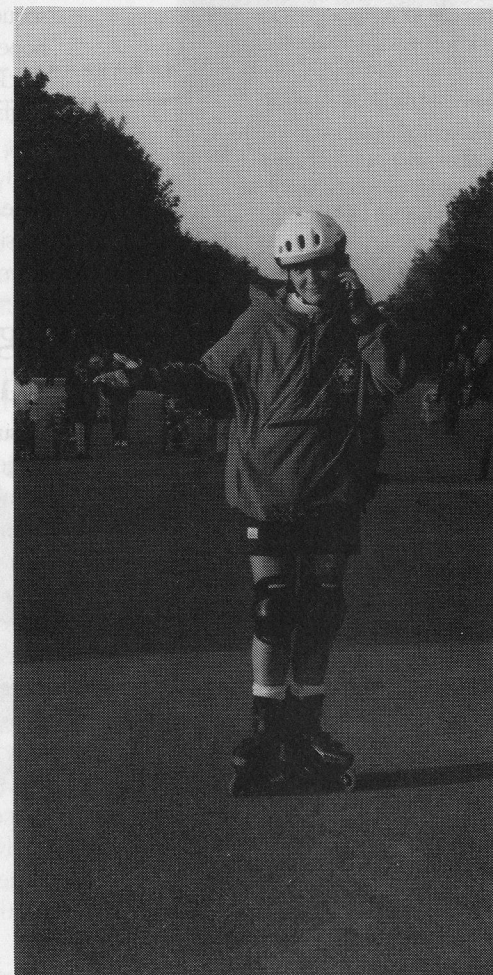
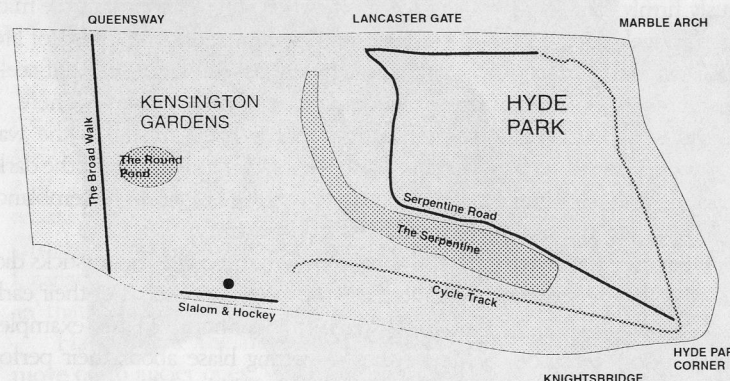
## Who makes the decisions?

The Parks Watch is a meeting held every few months help to decide on Park Policy. It is hosted by the Royal Parks Constabulary and attended by a representative of the Royal Parks Agency, and particularly by those who like to complain about things to do with Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

The meeting is not just about skating, but passions surface when skating is the next topic on the agenda and those who are vehemently against skaters are all present and correct and ready to vote. Skaters and, indeed, non-skaters who feel that injustice abounds in the Royal Parks should attend these meetings to even out the votes that influence Park policy; the future of skating in the parks depends partly on you. It is only the few that want skating confined to the streets. If you are

interested in attending (next meeting 23rd Feb) or would like to express your opinion on the matter please contact Alex Cinelli ASAP.

Left: The skating routes agreed with the Royal Parks.



## Origins of In-line Skating

The first in-line skate was developed in the early 1700s by a Dutchman who wanted to practice ice skating in the summer by nailing wooden spools to strips of wood and attaching them to his shoes.

The next version appeared in 1760 when a London instrument maker, Joseph Merlin, decided to make an entrance to a masquerade party by skating in on metal-wheeled boots while playing a violin. He ended up skating into a huge mirror at the end of the ballroom, not having learned to stop or steer.

In 1823, Robert John Tyers of London

designed a skate called a "rolito" by placing five wheels in a row on the bottom of a shoe. The rolito was not taken seriously at the time.

In 1863 an American, James Plimpton, found a way to make a workable skate. He came up with a four-wheel skate with two pairs of wheels side by side, and so the modern four-wheel roller skate was created. Roller skates allowed turns, and also forwards and backwards skating. The invention of ball bearing wheels in 1884 helped the sport even more.

Tyers' design did not go entirely unnoticed however. In the Netherlands, after the canals had melted, "skeelers" (S's) were used as a means of dry-land training, competition and transportation

for over two decades.

Finally, in 1980, when two brothers from Minneapolis were rummaging through a pile of equipment at a sporting goods store, they found an old in-line skate. Scott and Brennan Olson were ice hockey players and so they realized the cross-training potential of the in-line skate.

They redesigned the skate using a hockey boot, polyurethane wheels and adding a rubber heel brake, and found they could skate as they did on ice. Soon after, they began selling skates out of their home and eventually Rollerblade Inc. was born.

The rest is history.

to those using the parks and are able to communicate with the local authorities regarding injuries or other incidents. (Girls, there are loads of cute guys on skate patrol. Guys, there are loads of cute girls on skate patrol. Come and learn something from them).

BISA speaks for its members and has been involved in numerous meetings with the Royal Parks Agency (RPA) which wanted to put a blanket ban on all Royal Parks. BISA negotiated the deal skaters have now (see map, below & left). Skaters have been on a six month probation since the 11th of October, pending review and still liable to a complete ban. So skaters must all be well-behaved angels if they want to carry on skating in London's Parks. BISA has also negotiated the use of the area by the Albert Memorial for playing roller hockey and an area for slalom (and have provided nets and cones). Isn't that nice of them! Go and try them out, they are loads of fun.

There are some other places to skate in London. Have you ever tried the steps behind the Albert Hall or Trafalgar Square? The Southbank Centre has a few surprises awaiting you as well. Good learning steps are to be found at the forecourt of Imperial College, on Exhibition Road.

Written by Alex Cinelli. Alex would like to thank Sacha Skipwith and Dawn Irwin of the B.I.S.A for their help and collaboration.



**"skaters must all be well-behaved angels if they want to carry on skating in London's Parks"**

## Skate to Fitness

The faster you in-line skate, the higher your aerobic requirement. In-line skating generally delivers an aerobic work-out more beneficial than cycling, but less so than running. This is due to the fact that cyclists and skaters can coast but runners can't!

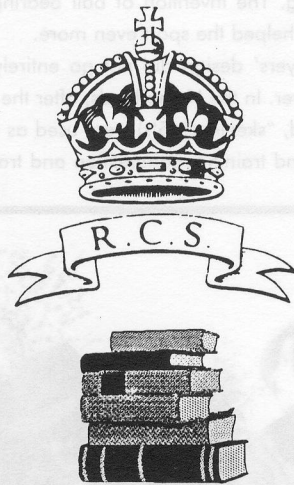
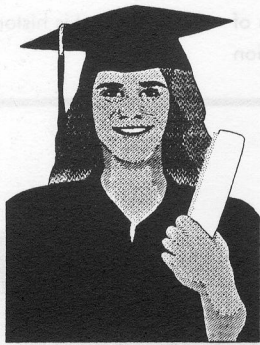
Unlike cycling, skating develops hamstring muscles and provides a much better anaerobic work out than running which will therefore improve the overall aerobic capacity. Also, as well as developing muscular strength and endurance in the lower body, skating will improve balance and co-ordination.

## Skating at Imperial

Skating is healthy, fun and a good way to meet people of the opposite sex (of the toned and healthy good-looking variety), fast or slow, as you like it. There are stunts to be done, tricks to be learned, ramps to be catapulted from, hockey to be played, slaloms to snake through, streetskates at night for the adventurous and dance nights for the brave. The Imperial College Skating Club offers these opportunities and much much more. If you would like to get started or participate in any of the above activities, if you have any questions or would simply like to meet the tall, toned, healthy and good-looking(!) Captain of the Club, do not hesitate to contact Alex Cinelli, Aero UG III (a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk)



# Meet the RCSA



At 170 Queen's Gate

*Meet the RCSA  
Monday 19 February  
6 to 8pm*

## FREE FOOD AND DRINK

Have a chat with the RCSA, find out more about them.

For more info - Rm 303 Sherfield,  
Alumnus Office

Written by Alex Cusack.  
Alex would like to thank Sarah Skipton and Dawn Irwin of the B.S.A. for their help and collaboration.



# friday 9 february

**Rag Meeting**  
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

**Islamic Society**  
1pm. Southside Gym. Friday Prayers. (R)

**Pakistan Society**  
3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. Contact Kashif, Aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

**Fitness Club**  
5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. (R)

## Ents

ICU Ents and the Jazz and Rock Society pool their talents tonight for "Abandon" (right). The first band is due on stage at 8.30, and admission is totally FREE before 9pm, so get here early. From about 10.30pm the Common People crew will hit the decks, with sounds guaranteed to get you freaky dancing. UDH goes from the sublime to the ridiculous with a night of Rock (I aren't going to mention the words Beavis or Butthead). All this is yours for just £1, or FREE if you're in before 9pm - does the word "bargain" mean anything to you people?

Free minibus service from the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. (R)

f r i d a y

next diary  
deadline:  
noon,  
February  
13th

the  
week  
ahead

# saturday 10 february

## Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. For more information contact gliding@ic.ac.uk. Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

s a t u r d a y

## Abandon: Jazz/Rock & Ents

Tonight, in conjunction with ents, the Jazz and Rock club presents an evening of quality live music in the ents lounge. We have four very different bands playing, and so you can have some idea of the styles, we have got each of the bands to describe themselves: no easy feat...

The evening kicks off with a band by the name of **Neither Both**: J.Bolger (drums / vocals), G.Gladdish (bass) and D.Owen (guitar / vocals) met by chance after being enlisted by Noddy Holder (formally of Slade) for an ambitious jazz exploration. They decided to go it alone after discovering a shared interest in quality 80's pop (Squeeze, The Police) and a mysterious character from Liverpool, Purple Akey (Check out the song). This, their final gig, (Dave is leaving to pursue a solo career) will be a mix of covers and original material.

The second band of the evening call themselves **Fold** (No sheep jokes please). They describe themselves as being a seminal Imperial College band who are forging a new front in the integration of computer technology with malicious beats and gravity-defying guitar riffs. They are a four-piece androgenous fronted (Huh ?) melding of an aloof techno programmer/guitarist, two lead singers, potentially stable drummer, a bass boy, and a guitar girl. "Just remember what your Momma used to do to your trousers...."

Yes, well...

The third band call themselves **Urban Spice**, and say "don't f\*\*\*ing bother with the rock disco in the UDH. Come down to the ents lounge and hear it for real, when the five horsemen of the rock apocalypse hit Imperial at the start of their World Domination tour. We're on a one way trip to rock oblivion, and we haven't even paid the fare..."

So, no Phil Collins covers there then...

Finally the fourth and funky-ist band of the night, are **Herb**: subject your ears to a sensual blend of the most select funk and tone-heavy riffs. This flavoursome power trio were harvested in the groove orchard, by the estranged cousin of John Begg.

As to who John Begg is, well lets just say, you don't need to know.

Each band will be playing a half hour set, starting from around 8-30pm in the ents lounge. There is also a indie/rock disco upstairs in the UDH carrying on all night.

# sunday 11 february

## Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. (R)

## Wargames

1pm. Table Tennis room. (R)

## Fitness Club

2pm. Southside gym. Intermed. aerobics.(R)

## RCS Barnight

7pm. Union Bar. Drink yards, three handled pot, do boatraces, sing clean songs and eat Theta Cake with us. (R)

s u n d a y

## YHA



### Where's Shropshire?

This, and any other questions have been answered by the ICYHA, the fellwanderers. A few of us had a vague idea that Shropshire lies on this side of the Welsh border and late on Friday this was confirmed. Wheathill proved to be a no-frills youth hostel but once our bodies had raised the temperature a little above zero we came to love the place; even the outdoor loos and nasty cats.

Saturday's walking was around Brown Clee Hill in the stunning snow and ice. This made keeping vertical tricky enough, without the all day snowball fight.

Connoisseurs of gorse walking were a bit disappointed that the ice took the edge off the excitement but it kept the photographers happy and made the whole place magic. Home to crash out in front of the fire while chef set about inventing a recipe for paella. After not-so-Irish stew and the legendary Neopolitan Angel Delight on our excellent New Year trip to the Lake District, Olly is scared of nothing, except being caught with his long trousers on. Following a fry-up and a castle stop, Sunday's walks were on the Longmynd. While one group tested Church Stretton's hospitality after a reasonable walk the rest of us preferred a longer hike. Great views in the valleys but none on top, though somehow we avoided walking in circles. The long ice slide down the frozen road rates highly among the year's exhilarating moments. As always, a great time was had by all.

So no more boring weekends. Take a walk on the wild side. Meet us in Southside at 1pm on Thursdays.



# monday

## 12

february

### Student Industrial Society

12 - 2pm. Table Tennis room, Union building (R)

### Fitness Club

12.30pm. Beginners body toning (45 mins)  
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics  
6.30pm. Intermediate aerobics.  
Southside Gym. (R)

### Ski Club

12.30 - 1.15 pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

### ArtSoc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Brown Comitee Room. Come and sign up for our many trips to Musicals. Note the location change- look out for directions. (R)

### Concert Band

5.15pm. Great Hall. Any ability. (R)

### Cross Country

5.00pm. Circuit training. Union gym. (R)

### French Society

6.00pm. Film: *La Double Vie de Véronique*  
Chem Eng LT 1.

### Squash Club Night

8 - 10pm. Sports Centre. (R)

### IC 2nd Orchestra

7 - 9pm. Great Hall. All welcome. (R)

### RCS

Clubs and Societies Day - Find out what your departmental society is doing - get involved.

### Ents

Standing Room Only - Live Premiership footie on the Big Screen, with Liverpool v. Queens Park Rangers.

m o n d a y

the  
week  
ahead

# tuesday

## 13

february

### Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Bagritt Centre, Mech Eng. (R)

### Yacht Club

12.30pm. Lecture Theatre 2, Physics. (R)

### Afro-Carib Soc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Room G02, Materials dept, RSM. All welcome. (R)

### IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

### AudioSoc

1.00pm, Southside Lounge. Want to buy cheap C.D's? Interested in borrowing high-end Hifi? We have it all! (R)

### Photo Soc

1.00pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

### Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Ents Lounge. [sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk](mailto:sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk) (R)

### Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

### IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room. (R)

### icssf

7pm in STOIC Studios.  
<http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> (R)

### IQ

7.30pm. Brown Committee Room. Further Info: [pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk](mailto:pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk) or <http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/> (R)

### Canoe Club

7pm. Beit Quad. All levels welcome, and free instruction.

### ICCAG

8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

### After Dark

8 - 11.30pm Ents Lounge. Admission is £1 for a night of swing, hip-hop and jungle with the African Caribbean society. (R)

### ConSoc

7pm. GLA Conservative students River Boat Party. Embankment Pier £10. Smart casual.

### Ents

8pm Question Time - Dan the Man gets you in a pre-Valentine mood with a special Bar Trivia. There's £50 to be won (and just imagine how many red roses you could buy with that), as well as a crate of beer. DaVinci's. And those of you who enjoy the trivia should look out next week for the special "Camel TV" quiz night next Monday, with particularly tasty prizes.

t u e s d a y

# wednesday

## 14

february

### IC Sailing Club

12.15pm. Meet outside Southside, go sailing. (R)

### Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex [a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk](mailto:a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk), 0171 352 9111 for details. (R)

### Wargames

1pm Table Tennis room. (R)

### ConSoc

Senior cabinet minister visits IC. Time/Place to be announced.

### Fitness Club

5 - 6pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate/Advanced step class. (R)

### Squash Club

3.20 - 5.20pm. Sports centre. 'Club Night' (R)

### IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

### Wing Chun Kung Fu

1.30-3.30pm. Lesson. Union Gym, 2nd Floor Union Building. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free.

### City and Guilds Union

Election papers come down.

### Red Roses

City and Guilds Union will be delivering Red Roses to a beloved one for you at a cost of £2.50 a rose. To order: Rm. 340 Mech Eng, Lunchtimes.

### Ents

8pm-1am. If the Ents. Crew can dig themselves out of the card mountain, we'll be here to throw a special Valentine's night Frolik!

We can't guarantee the most romantic night ever, but we promise the perfect setting to make a move on that person you've fancied for ages. Free.

w e d n e s d a y

## Michael Foot

The Right Honorable Michael Foot will speak on his recent biography of H.G. Wells in the Haldane Collection (Central Library level 1) on Wednesday 14 February at 5.30pm.

Please apply to Janet Smith, Haldane Librarian (extension 48812, email [j.m.smith](mailto:j.m.smith)) Admission is free by ticket available in advance from the Haldane Office.0

The talk will be followed by a small reception, for which there will be a limited number of free tickets.



# thursday

## 15

february

### Fitness Club

12.30pm. Die Hard circuit training  
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. (R)

### ConSoc

1pm Southside Meeting. e-mail consoc@ic.ac.uk <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/societies/sc/consoc/home.html> (R)  
Tour of the House of Commons with Nigel Evans MP.

### Gliding Club

1pm. Aero 266. (R)

### Mountaineering Club

7pm. Social, Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

### Yoga Soc

6.15 - 7.45pm, table tennis room, ICU. Beginners' Kunalini yoga class. More information from mpn@doc.ic.ac.uk, ex 48237. (R)

### Christian Union

6.30 - 7.45pm. SCR in the Union. (R)

### ICCAG

8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

### Skate Soc

Night Skate - everyone welcome. For more information phone Alex on 0171 352 9111 or email a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk (R)

### YHA

1pm Southside Lounge. 'Take a walk on the wild side.' (R)

### Ents

5-11pm Sex on the Beach seems a good idea even if you didn't score last night, and we've got just the place to enjoy it without getting sand in intimate places - Cocktail Night at DaVinci's..

t h u r s d a y

# friday

## 16

february

### RCS Annual Dinner

Holders of tickets will be informed of all relevant information concerning the Dinner via their pigeon holes in departments. It will be the most successful yet.

### Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

### Islamic Society

1pm. Southside Gym. Friday Prayers (R)

### Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball practice, union gym. bring trainers.  
E-mail Kashif at k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

### Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. Southside Lounge. (R)

### Wing Chun Kung Fu

5-7pm. Lesson. Union Gym, 2nd Floor Union Building. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free.

### IC Dance Club

7.30pm. Social Dance. JCR.

### City and Guilds Union

Election hustings. Time and place TBA.

### Ents

Another top night of comedy at the "Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club". This weeks turns are the floppy fringed genius that is Dylan Moran, with support supplied by Barry Murphy and the Open Mic slot. Doors open at 8pm, there's free T-shirts to the first 20 in, and traffic permitting the acts should start about 8.30pm. £2.50 or £2 with an entscard. To finish the night off - another dose of "Hedonizm" - top happy hardcore sounds and stuff plus dub and ambient jungle in the UDH. £1 to get in.

f r i d a y

## RCS Union

The Royal College of Science Union has moved office, and can now be found at Civ Eng! Odd? Well it's a... umm... cosy, modern office, more accessible to all students. The Office will be open every lunchtime, and possibly more often - it's situated in Unwin Road, just off the Imperial College Road opposite the Science Museum schools' entrance; or if you are standing on the Sherfield walkway outside the Royal School of Mines then you have to go down the stairs towards the Dalby Court Lawn - you will see RCS Crowns showing the way. We are here for your academic, social and welfare needs - and anything else you want us to do - use your Union, and make the most of it. We are here for you!

The RCSU want to receive feedback from students and others about their concerns in college, about the RCSU and anything else. Mark your comments for attention of Rob Park, and deliver into the RCSU pigeon hole in ICU office in Beit Quad. Cheers.

## stoic

### 12.30 THE REPORT

A round up of the latest news and views from the College and the Capital. Plus featuring news of the move of the RCSU, a progress report on the BMS building and news of computer thefts Mech Eng.

### 12.30 LEVEL3

Anarchic entertainment show. Includes news of the latest cinema releases, a preview of new UFO videos and views on the paranormal from our resident psychic, Jean Foster.

**Your help needed:** have you ever been the citim of RAGE? You may have encountered rage on the roads, in your workplace or on the sportsfield. Have you ever been driven to rage yourself by a person or a set of circumstances? We need help to film our RAGE level 3 on Wed February 14th. You can contact us on 0171 59(48104) or e-mail stoic@ic.ac.uk. Our studio is on Level 3 of the Union Building.

## S+G Trip to the Lake District

After a cramped six hour journey, sixteen of us arrived at Ashness to discover that our accommodation was to be in a hut with no water or electricity supply, and it was a five mile walk to the nearest pub. You should ask yourself the question, WHY??

If you were to have asked this question you would probably have got sixteen different answers.

Saturday morning saw six of us standing at the bottom of a frozen ice fall known as Sour-milk gill (It looked as though someone had poured curdled milk over the hillside.). My first day of ice climbing went quite well

despite falling up to my nether regions in ice cold water five minutes after the start. We had a most enjoyable day hacking away at what were quite elegant ice formations before we found them.

Saturday night was the usual night of drunken excess and guitar playing - *Strawberry Fields Forever*. Sunday morning and it was back to the ice again, this time it was the turn of Chris to get spectacularly wet. After falling into a pool of water up to his bellybutton he was then dragged out onto another sheet of ice that subsequently broke leaving a two - three metre pool of water between us and the only way up. Nice one Chris!

After bravely forging ahead though we descended to the valley and felt the need to sample the local brew before packing up to head back to London.

the  
week  
ahead



## New Balance Hyde Park Relays '96 - An Invitation

The X-Country club cordially requests the presence of all sports clubs, societies and everybody else at the 48th annual HPR's. This prestigious race consists of 6 x 3 miles for the men and 4 x 2 miles for the women.

This is the most famous student relay in Europe with around 1000 competitors from all over the world. Past runners have included Seb Coe, David Moorcroft, Gary Hoare and Alicia Silverstone.

This year 2 new prizes will be awarded to the 1st IC male and female teams, excluding the X-Country club. These will consist of a crate of beer and signed certificates. The more teams enter the more beer we can get.

To register turn up at the ents lounge on Saturday 17th February between 11.00am and 1.00pm. The race starts at 2.00pm, prize giving and teas start immediately afterwards at around 4.30pm. The HPR Party begins as soon as the proceedings are over.

The entry costs per team are; Male with tea vouchers £12, Male without tea voucher £6, Female with tea vouchers £8, female without tea vouchers £4.

If you can't be arsed to race and would rather watch the rugby instead, we'll see you in the bar afterwards.

## Postgraduate Scholarships and Awards

Closing dates are approaching for some awards for postgraduate study at I.C. - they are limited in number and applicability. For more details see your Departmental notice boards for adverts or the PG prospectus.

**Concrete Structures Bursaries** (for MSc Concrete Structures) - **31 March**

**Beit Fellowship for Scientific Research** for a PhD applicant holding a 1st class honours degree of any UK, Irish or Commonwealth University, (but not for medical research) - **30 April**. (Only ONE award available).

**ORS Awards Scheme** - fee-support for overseas students - **30 April** - but closing date is **1 April** for applicants not already studying for PhD. [Current ORS Award-holders don't have to apply for renewal - progress report forms will be sent to Supervisors this month.

**RTZ Advanced Course Bursary** (for specified MSc courses concerned with Mineralogy or Geophysics as advertised) - **15 May** (only ONE award).

**Jan Dzienisiewicz Studentship** (for students of Polish nationality or origin, resident in UK or Poland) value £10,000 only - **1 June**

**Rees Jeffreys Road Fund Bursaries** (for Transport studies) - **20 June**

**Sir John Cassus Foundation Scholarship** (MSc courses only) for residents of London Boroughs (parental/own home, not student residence) - **31 July**

Application forms from the Scholarships Office, Room 314, Sherfield Building.

Interested in study at **HARVARD**? There is a Special Students programme designed to allow students to take arts/science courses of 1 or 2 terms at Harvard University without being committed to a degree programme. Information has been sent to Departments - further copies from the Scholarships Office.



**Crossword by Clansman**

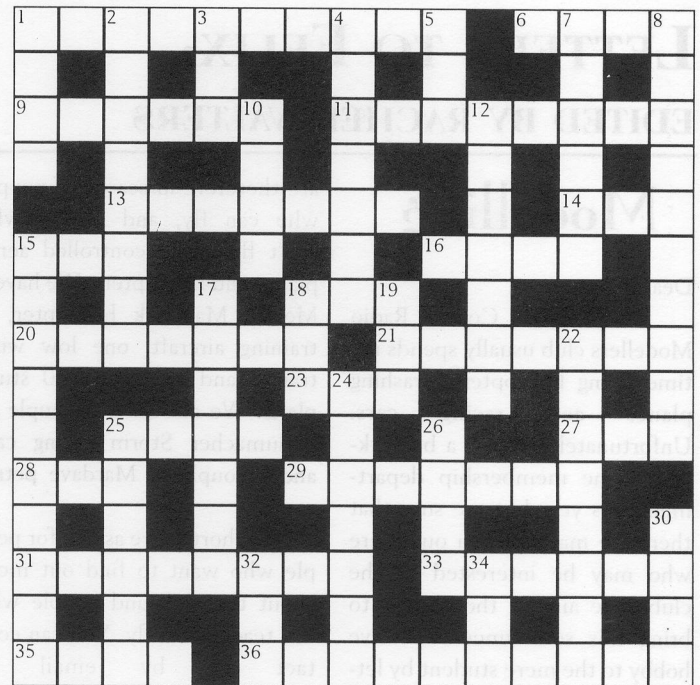
**Across:**

- 1. The French shed exploded after noise in a country! (10)
- 6. Thin diet? (4)
- 9. Disorder after organisation takes a holiday. (6)
- 11. Runs around ship in first class condition, going up to countrymen. (8)
- 13. Country where Spain and Portugal come after many. (7)
- 14. Money organisation earns many shillings first! (1,1,1)
- 15. Fib about detective agency. (1,1,1)
- 16. Soldier's dining room is untidy. (4)
- 18. Large ship has a bend, we hear. (3)
- 20. see 3D.
- 21. Have a preference for a slope. (7)
- 23. Swan enclosure? (3)
- 25. Gas child in opening? (4)

- 27. Prosecute a woman. (3)
- 28. Worker in a canteen. (3)
- 29. Learner of a vehicle in eastern England. (7)
- 31. Continual terminology about on the road? (4)
- 33. US code broken for money (6)
- 35. Ribbon leaves final residue. (4)
- 36. Early race leaders need heart machines! (10)

**Down:**

- 1. Unhappy colour. (4)
- 2. Baby learner in caring profession? (8)
- 3. (and 20A) City all at sea loses glean. (3,7)
- 4. Previous hearing aid element that the Queen is after. (7)
- 5. "Greeting Simon" first belonged to him. (3)
- 7. Foliage goes away? (6)



**Solution to issue 1048's Crossword:**

**Across:** 1.Canopy, 4.Ransacks, 10.Network, 11.Siamese, 12.Recur, 13.Paramount, 14.Insomniac, 16.Fuse, 18.Tote, 20.Onslaught, 23.Asterisks, 26.Inept, 27.Curdled, 28.Ingrate, 29.Typecast, 30.Aspens **Down:** 1.Contrail, 2.Notices, 3.Programme, 5.Abstracts, 6.Swarm, 7.Cherubs, 8.Sleuth, 9.Skip, 15.Ironsidcs, 16.Flamingos, 17.Stutters, 19.Outcrop, 21.Grenade, 22.Mascot, 24.Relic, 25.Swig

- 8. Some awkward ball in part of the atmosphere. (10)
- 10. Abound with a side, we hear. (4)
- 12. Slice north-east about quietness? (7)
- 15. France rags curdle - it smells! (10)
- 17. Opening many in a parcel? (7)
- 18. Snake in gas problems. (3)
- 19. Khaki newcomer in the family? (3)
- 22. Nice and sure to appear uncertain! (8)
- 24. Unstable queen rodent at college? (7)
- 25. Forgives a sound southerner. (6)
- 26. Ally on the edge. (4)
- 30. Look at ship waste? (4)
- 32. Lap around a mountain. (3)
- 34. Look at, we hear, a body of water. (3)

**Careers**

**Milkround Closing Date Seven** is on Monday 12th February. Hand in your applications on the day before 4pm. Details of interviews are put up on the notice board outside the Careers Office a few days before the interview date.

**Summer Vacation Training** opportunities are now available on the database in the Careers Office. Apply to UROP for research opportunities.

**"Test Practice - preparing for psychometric tests"** is a short course on Wednesday 14th February in Huxley Room 343 from 2-4 pm. Sign up in the Careers Office.

For more information and careers advice come to the Careers Office, Room 310 Sherfield Building, which is open between 10am and 5.15pm Monday to Friday.

**Stop Smoking**

The stop smoking group starts on 22nd February at 12.15pm. The group will meet weekly for five weeks, and each session is one hour. There's no need to change your smoking habits before you come.

Contact Margaret Reddoch at the health centre, on extension 49393 for more information.

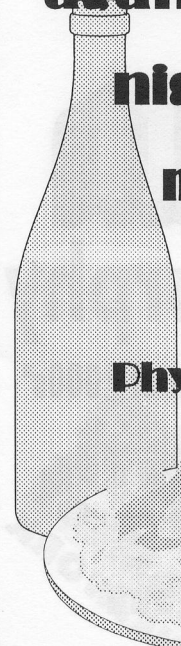
**BUNAC**

**At a loose end this summer?** Why not try working in and travelling across the USA or Canada?

For more information, come to a BUNAC 'Orientation' Information Session on Tuesday 13th February at 6.30pm in Mechanical Engineering 220 (lecture theatre).

**TONIGHT!**

**The Italians do it again! Another great night of gnocchi, music & wine**



**6.30pm**

**Physics Common Room (level 8)**

**Members: £3<sup>00</sup>**

**Non-members: £4<sup>00</sup>**



# LETTERS TO FELIX:

EDITED BY RACHEL WALTERS

## Modelling

Dear *Felix*,

The Imperial College Radio Modellers club usually spends its time flying helicopters, crashing planes and racing cars. Unfortunately we are a bit lacking in the membership department this year but are sure that there are many of you out there who may be interested in the club. The aim of the club is to bring this sometimes expensive hobby to the mere student by letting you use our 1000s of pounds of equipment instead of having to buy your own.

We are a well established club (believe it or not) who have been operating successfully for several years but recently our instructor has left us for a woman! This has put us in a bit of a fix since the current members cannot fly but want to learn! We

are therefore in search of people who can fly, and people who can't fly, radio controlled aeroplanes and helicopters. We have a Morley Maverick helicopter, 3 training aircraft, one low wing trainer and an Extra 230 stunt plane. We also have a couple of Schumacher Storm racing cars and a couple of Mardave petrol cars.

In short we're asking for people who want to find out more about the club and people who can teach us to fly. You can contact us by email at [rcc.radio@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcc.radio@ic.ac.uk) or come along to one of our weekly meetings at the Mech Eng student workshop (room 393) on Tuesdays from 5:30pm. You can also reach us by leaving a message in our RCC pigeon hole in the Union.

many thanks,

IC Radio Modellers

## Official fees line

Dear Editor,

ENTRANCE OR TOP-UP FEES

May I make a small but significant correction to the report on page 4 of *Felix* for 2nd February? At the beginning of my answer to the question at the Academic Affairs meeting, I stressed that both ideas were at present proposals within the CVCP system and had not been considered by the proper College bodies; therefore an "official line" within the College does not exist. What I am correctly reported in the rest of the article (after the first two paragraphs) as saying is my estimate of current thinking in the College.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Swanson

Pro Rector, Educational Quality

It seems remarkable that there is no official line from Imperial on this emotive and controversial issue. The Rector himself has in the past been fairly open in his disapproval of the stance taken by the CVCP, so it's seems odd that we shouldn't have the IC position on student funding made clear. I appreciate that the future of government policy on the subject is decidedly uncertain, but surely the 'proper college bodies' *should* consider the various options and take a stand on the issue?

Deadline for letters in *Felix* 1050: 12pm, Tuesday 13th February  
Please bring your union card for identification.  
Letters may be edited for length.  
The opinions expressed by the editor or guest editors are not necessarily those of the paper as a whole.

# 'BUST-A-GUT COMEDY CLUB'

dylan

# Moran

## with Barry Murphy

"destined to have the adoration of 1000s"

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## WE NEED YOU!

*Felix needs the following people to join our happy (and mildly famous) team:*

### Clubs and Societies Editor –

Keep IC in touch! Involves a couple of hours work on Mondays or Tuesdays.

**Sports Editor** – Proudly report our sporting teams illustrious triumphs. Wednesdays evenings, ability to read drunken handwriting helpful.

**Feature Writers** to inform & entertain in <900 words.

# FELIX

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### pissed blokes

It was a delightful end to the week to have a couple of pissed blokes fall through the ceiling as we were finishing putting together *Felix* last week. Still, mustn't grumble: it was all a bit of a revelation.

Apart from anything else, I had the rather uplifting experience of suddenly discovering that some of IC security staff are really nice, helpful people. Not much of a job, having to deal with irritating drunk students at ungodly hours of the morning. Especially that sort whomistake stupidity for 'having a bit of a laugh'. It must take a remarkable act of patience to sit them down with cups of tea and be paternal. And I certainly wouldn't show compassion for the future of their careers by refusing to involve the police and dealing with it internally. Security staff are much mocked at IC, not least in the *Felix* office, but I was really impressed with the way they handled things. It must be a fairly thankless task.

But I do think it's remarkable that because we are students, with the privilege of having a better edu-

cation than most, we have a license to get away with things that other members of the community would be condemned for. The idea seems to be that we are meant to do great things for society, and we can't possibly be allowed to jeopardise that by publicising the fact that sometimes we're fairly degenerate.

### selkirk

Enough of this being nice to people - lets come out and admit the truth: pettiness and the art of being over-critical is still alive and well and living at Imperial. During one of the brief moments I got to spend in my hall of residence this week I was regaled with that most encouraging of greetings: "No one reads *Felix* because it's shit." On trying my best to find out what they thought I should do to improve the student newspaper, I was told it was full of inaccuracies. "Like what?", I said. "Well," came the reply, "you said that a gigabyte of RAM cost £100, but everyone knows you can get four gigabytes for that much."

Aaah.

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

ARTS: JEREMY

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA HARRISON AND WILLIAM LORENZ

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK PUZZLES: CATFISH

SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

ARRESTING & COLLATING LAST WEEK: TIM, BEN, MARK AND ALEX  
DELIVERIES: MARK

# THE FELIX WEEK

The indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

monday, high noon  
**clubs & societies  
articles deadline**

monday 1.20pm  
**reviewers'  
meeting**

monday 6pm  
**news meeting**

tuesday noon  
**arts meeting**

tuesday noon  
**letters deadline**

tuesday 6pm  
**features meeting**

thursday night  
**collating**

friday morning  
**another Felix hits the  
street...**



# FELIX SPORT



The south-Mediterranean dominated OSC basketball tournament is finally over. The Hellenic team, pictured here looking rather pleased with themselves, beat the Cypriots in the final last Saturday.

## Virgins In No Whining After Defeat Shock

### UDMS 27 - 0 VIRGINS

After a string of last minute cancellations, the Virgins eventually found a team that wasn't too scared to play them. The result was disappointing, but the team performance was superb against a challenging opposition, in what was certainly our toughest and possibly our most enjoyable match this season.

IC held off the sustained

Guys' attack with some exceptional defensive play from forwards and backs alike. It was only in the dying moments that UDMS managed to score after having occupied the Virgins 22 for almost the whole half. The IC pack was playing exceptionally well, continually putting pressure on Guys', even after the loss of second row pack leader Caroline Deetjen due to injury.

## Football Fourths Move Clear Of Relegation

### LSE V 1 - 2 IC IV

Despite being refereed by the person previously described as "Hitleresque", Imperial managed a superb result overcoming league positions and beating by two goals to one the London School of Economics: the team who had reached the semi-finals of the League Cup. Again Imperial were reduced to ten men, though not this time by an unjust referee, but by a cruel and savage long-term injury to Jez Maslin.

IC took the lead as early as the fourth minute from a well crafted corner driven in by Michael Townsend and clinically finished by Pistol Pete.

Although the opposition equalised soon afterwards Imperial College scored a deserved winner following prolonged spells of attacking play when a cross by Morgan Hill found the head of Ryan Loughlins. He expertly picked out the top corner; the only place where the opposition 'keeper could not reach.

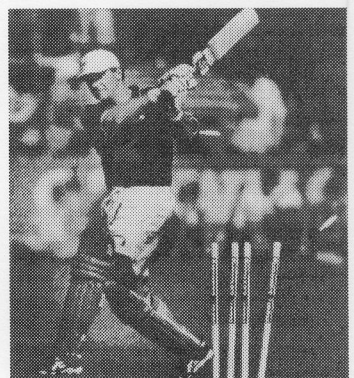
After overcoming late pressure cleared up by a determined 'keeper, IC held on for their second win in three games and moved further clear of relegation.

## 'Aby' Gets Stuffed By Six Lads From IC

Last Saturday, the IC men's fencing squad travelled for 11.5 hours to reach Aberystwyth for the 1st knock-out round of the BUSA championships. The foil was comfortably won 8-1 thanks to Ed 'Crazy-Legs' Rysdale, Alex Davies, and Charlie 'light-fingered' Cooper. The epee was won 6-3, clinching victory with the help of Reuben 'Wild Thing' Kalam. The sabre was also convincingly won 6-3 by Charlie, Nick 'Ray' Manton and Richard Came, despite some abysmal refereeing from Aberystwyth. This gave an overall victory of 20-7 to IC, which was celebrated by the traditional 'let's throw the captain in the Irish Sea' joke. Ha- bloody-ha, lads.

## SportsNews

Mick McCarthy accepted a two year contract to manage the Republic of Ireland Football team. It is now his unenviable task to follow "Big" Jack Charlton, who took the Republic to the finals of two World Cups and one European Championship.



Martin Crowe's fourth stump is sent flying in the Cricket-Max exhibition match in New Zealand, in a game which also involved Merv Hughes demonstrating this pioneering form of the one-day game.

## Results

### FOOTBALL

LSE V 1 - 2 IC IV

RSM I 5 - 0 KCL

RSM II 6 - 0 UCL

RSC B 1 - 1 RSM

### RUGBY

USMS 27 - 0 VIRGINS

### FENCING

ABERYSTWTH 7 - 20 IC

FOIL : IC WON 8 - 1

EPEE : IC WON 6 - 3

SABRE : IC WON 6 - 3

PLEASE TELL THE SPORTS

EDITOR OF YOUR RESULTS

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by

