

SP  
NEWS

Friday 25th April, 1997  
issue 1084



est. 1949

# THE FELIX

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Is the General Election getting you down? Do you think that Politicians are a bunch of whining charlatans? Check out our **General Election drinking game** for instant relief.

page 6



**Inside SftW this week:**  
**Planet Science**  
**relanched, Lucious**  
**Jackson and Twin Town**  
**hits the big screen**

## Confusion haunts exams in Great Hall

**MATTHEW BENNETT**

The summer exam season has started with confusion for students and some tutors as the location of hundreds of exams that were timetabled to take place in the Great Hall has been changed at the last minute.

All exams from 28th April are to be relocated following the revelation that the noise from building works in the Library penetrates into the hall causing unnecessary disruption to candidates. This action was decided on in preference to postponing construction work, which would cost the College several hundred thousand

pounds in delays and wages.

After much discussion, College authorities have decided that the exams are going to be relocated to a "rigid-structured temporary marquee" in Prince's Gardens, with no timing changes foreseen. Ian Caldwell, Director of the Estates Division, explained: "We felt it was better to relocate the exams rather than retimetabled, because students, staff and examiners will be geared up to a specific time and date and whatever we do, we do try to minimise the disruption on the College community."

In a letter to all students, Soosan Oldroyd, Assistant registrar for Examinations, explained the reasons behind the relocation. She also urged students to "accept the College's apologies for any inconvenience caused." However, apologies came too little and too late for some students. "I think that in one of the top four universities [sic] in the country, the fact students who are taking exams are being treated this way is absolutely disgusting," said one student from Linstead Hall, "it's a joke. We deserve better."

Exams were relocated away from

Civil Engineering earlier this year due to the noise from the BMS building, but the problem in the Great Hall was not noticed until the Easter vacation. This has meant that this weeks' exams have not been repositioned, but the work has been allowed to "suffer" instead, according to Mr Caldwell.

He went on to explain how the work had been planned from the start to cause minimum disruption to exam candidates, with work in the northern section of the library being postponed until the holidays.

continued on page two

## Wake sees off Union Bookshop

**NEWSTEAM**

The last day of term before the Easter vacation saw around fifty Imperial College students attend a mock funeral procession intended to mark the 'death' of Imperial College Union's bookstore, the contract to supply academic texts on campus having been previously awarded to booksellers Waterstone's.

Shortly before one o'clock on Friday 21st March, student representatives, dressed mainly in black, gathered in the middle of a brightly sunlit Beit Quad. Bemused onlookers gazed up from their pound curries and lunchtime pints as a coffin, supplied by the students' Dramatic Society and labelled 'RIP the Union bookstore', was hoisted by four suited pall-bearers.

Accompanied by funeral marches from a solemnly borne Compact Disc player, the coffin, at the head of a column of sombre students, proceeded at a slow and measured pace

continued on page two



PHOTO: ROBIN

The funeral procession heads along the Walkway to the old Union Bookshop, the coffin's final resting place,...

## Exam chaos

continued from frontpage

However, Mr Caldwell noted that while it would be possible to "have a rave in the libraries and no-one could hear it in the Great Hall, the noise from certain simple activities such as drilling transmits right through the structure." Drilling has been kept to a minimum with adhesives used in the place of screws in many places, but it can not be avoided everywhere.

The changes are likely to cause confusion with candidates, with many departments still not having posted the changes up on examinations boards.

Making the contractors working around the exams was also examined, but found to be impracticable, especially as there are time restrictions on working hours set by local residents.

The possibility of taking the disturbance into account when grades are being considered has not yet been discussed by College authorities, but with students complaining at the short notice given to them for the change, and the new environment having its own problems, it may yet happen.

# Bookshop dead and buried



PHOTO: ALEX

...which has been transformed over Easter into the imaginatively-named 'Union Shop', with a vast array of greetings cards and refill pads (among other things). The shop's range will expand over the coming weeks, and there will be a 'rolling video information service'.

continued from frontpage

across Prince Consort Road and South along Queensgate.

As planned, the procession paused briefly outside 170 Queensgate, where a meeting of the College's governing body was in session, before turning in towards the Queen's Lawn. Passing tacitly by the site of the new Waterstone's Bookstore, the number of marchers was swollen by students joining in from along the route.

The coffin was laid ceremonially at the foot of the Queen's Tower, and the assembled company paid their last respects during a few moments silence. The cortege even drew a few dipped safety helmets from the construction workers on the Bio-Medical Sciences site. Robert Clarke, incoming Imperial College Union Deputy President for Finance & Services, then gave a brief speech finishing on an optimistic note.

The coffin was hoisted once more, and carried up the stairs to the Senior Common Room, past open-mouthed diners and Sheffield staff. The procession received a somewhat warmer reception as it moved through the Junior Common Room, before occupying the Sheffield Walkway en route to its ultimate destination. Students more than filled the old bookstore as the coffin was laid to rest in the window, topped by a

human skull.

The day's events, organised by the Union's Executive Committee, were intended more as a show of feeling rather than a demonstration designed to bring about change. Despite their obvious frustration and disappointment at losing the right to sell books on campus, students leaving the 'wake' were in good spirits and immediately headed for the bar. Later, one member of the Committee explained the significance of the Easter holiday to the Union: "The bookstore may have been betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by a Judas in the Sherfeld building, but on the third day, when we roll the rock from the front of the cave, we were confident that it would rise again - as the new 'Union shop'."

The first day of the summer term saw students browsing for course texts among copies of 'The Science of Star Trek' beneath Waterstone's imposing new entrance beside the Library turnstiles. Meanwhile, the first day of trading at the Union's new Sherfeld Walkway outlet heralded the culmination of several weeks' busy work by the Shop's staff and a hectic last weekend to complete the fit out.

The Shop has undergone dramatic refurbishment, and expanded its ranges of stationery, College regalia and other equipment.

## SOUTHWELL HALL

### WARDEN

The College invites applications for the position of warden of Southwell Hall which falls vacant from October 1997. Southwell Hall in Evelyn Garens houses approximately 170 students in a terrace of Victorian houses. It is being refurbished in two stages in Summer 1997 and Summer 1998.

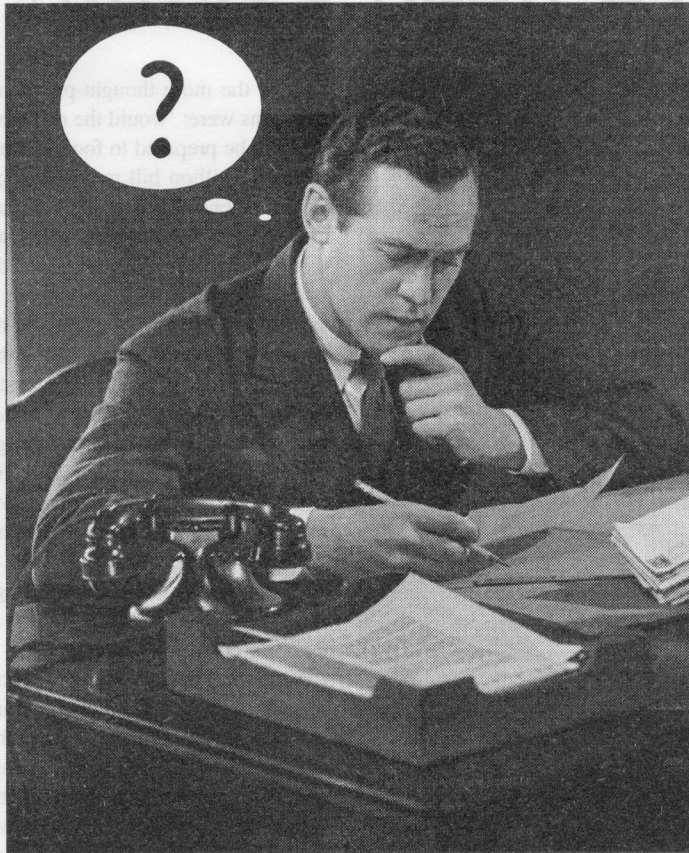
The Warden will receive rent free family accommodation in return for pastoral duties within the hall, aided by an Assistant Warden and Subwardens.

Any non-undergraduate member of the College may apply but the post is particularly suitable for staff with some experience of student pastoral care e.g. through tutoring or other wardening experience, and want to live in a student environment.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Janet Jones, Office Services Manager, Room 512 Sherfeld Building, extension 45536.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 30th April 1997. It is expected that short-listed candidates will be interviewed in mid-May.

# Indecision



*Get creative.*

# phoenix

*the annual arts magazine of  
imperial college*

needs YOU to write  
poetry, short stories  
or any other pieces  
of creative writing

This year's theme is  
**Indecision**

Send contributions to  
[phoenix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:phoenix@ic.ac.uk),  
the Felix Office,  
or the editors;

Jon Trout ([j.trout@ic.ac.uk](mailto:j.trout@ic.ac.uk)) and  
Ed Sexton ([e.sexton@ic.ac.uk](mailto:e.sexton@ic.ac.uk))

*Get creative.*

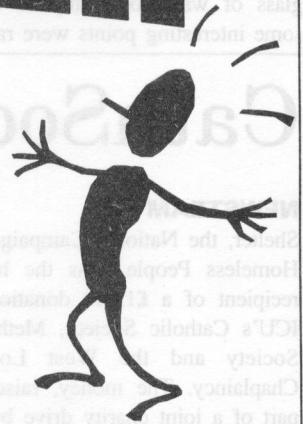
*Start of Term*

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# Does British science need saving?

## TONY OFORI

Tuesday lunchtime saw representatives from the three major political parties gather for a debate on the future of British science. The meeting, held in the Mechanical Engineering lecture theatre in front of an audience largely consisting of academics, was organised by the Save British Science Society and was aimed at raising public awareness about the current situation of science in this country.

The meeting was opened by the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, who introduced the three guest speakers: Ian Taylor, the Conservative Minister for Science; Adam Ingram, his Labour counterpart; and Lord Ezra from the Liberal Democrats. They were each allowed five minutes at the beginning to express their views, where Mr Taylor stated that the performance record for science in Britain was good and the three main disciplines of science, engineering and technology are "alive and well". Unsurprisingly the shadow minister for Labour disagreed, claiming that the Conservative party have damaged the science industry which is now in need of drastic improvement. Lord Ezra concurred with Mr Ingram, but also pointed out the necessity of heavy spending.

Although this meeting was not packed with excitement (there were no fist-fights and no one threw a glass of water over anyone else), some interesting points were raised.

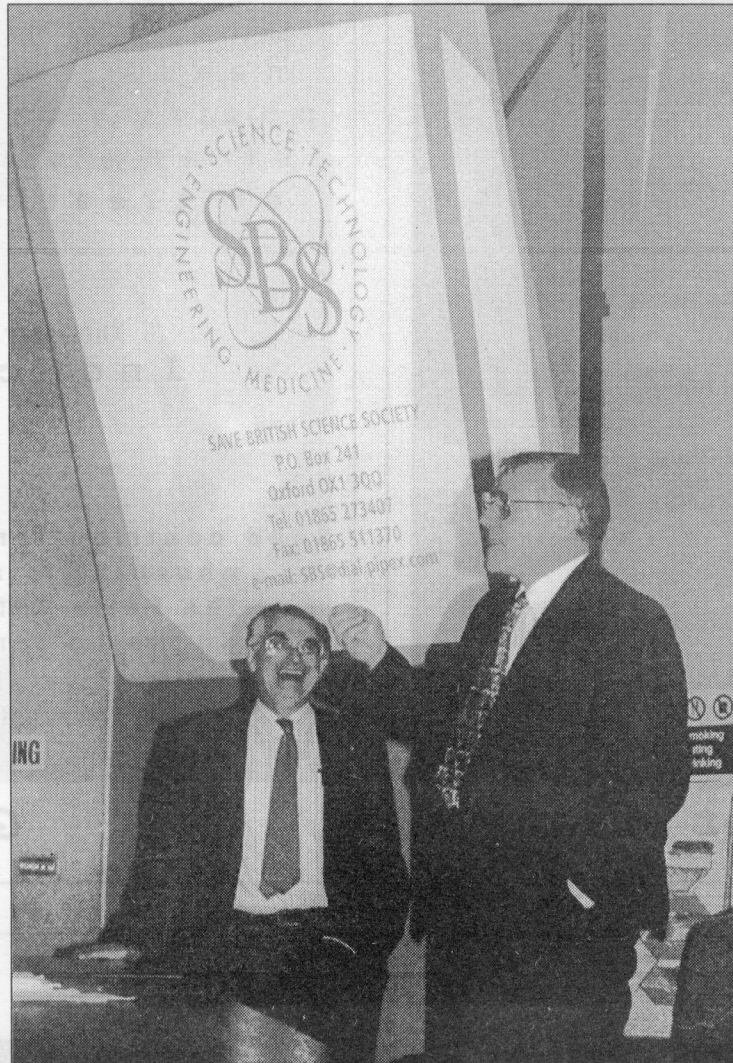


PHOTO: ALEX

The Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, and the Labour spokesman for Science and Technology, Adam Ingram, in last Tuesday's debate. In the past, the Rector has called upon alumni to make HE and science an election issue.

Two of the more thought-provoking questions were: 'would the new government be prepared to foot the forecasted £1 billion bill required to get British science back at the forefront of industry?'; and 'what plans are there to promote science to the younger generation?'. In response to the former, Mr Taylor dismissed the figures as misleading but added that steps have been taken to get industry to invest more. Mr Ingram's answer was that a problem does not get solved by throwing money at it. For the latter question, a consensus was reached that more had to be done, but the only solution offered was to encourage successful scientists/engineers to make themselves known so that they could act as role models.

Some interesting statistics about science in the UK were given during the debate including the fact that £590 million of the government's total budget goes into research; the percentage of qualified scientists and engineers between 20 and 24 years old is greater than that of most countries including the US; and since the mid 1980s there has been a 60% rise in science-based employment.

At the end of the debate one thing, at least, was clear - Britain would be deficient without a firm science and technology base and if it is to stay in contention with its competitors, these areas would have to become more of a priority to which ever government is in power after the counting stops next Friday morning.

## CathSoc provides Shelter for Homeless

### NEWSTEAM

Shelter, the National Campaign for Homeless People, was the happy recipient of a £1,000 donation by ICU's Catholic Society, Methodist Society and the West London Chaplaincy. The money, raised as part of a joint charity drive by the societies, will go to provide training and support for Shelter's work throughout the country.

Maria Gregoriou, a Community Networks Fundraiser for Shelter, outlined how the money would be put to good use: "We are going to promote policies to provide effective long-term solutions for all homeless

people, not just those who sleep rough on London's streets. There are families or single people over the country who are just as much in need."

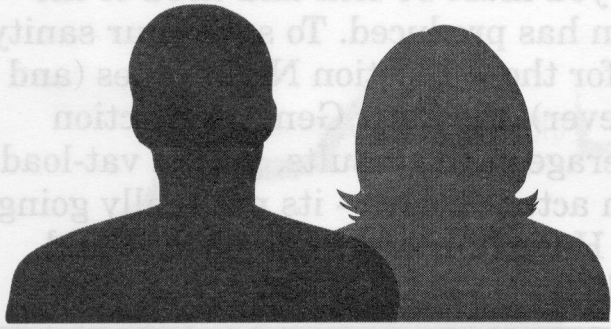
The money which CathSoc has raised will go a long way to help the homeless. For example, £35 provides a bedspace in an emergency Shelter for one week, while £80 will train a caseworker in the advice skills needed to help homeless people.

Shelter receives nearly £82,000 in donations from schools, colleges and universities, but plan to launch a major appeal to double the number of individual sponsors.

PHOTO: ALEX

The presentation of the cheque. From left to right: Mark Wong, Catherine Langrishe and Rob Kingham from CathSoc, Maria Gregoriou, Community Networks Fundraiser for Shelter and Father Tony Skillen, the College Chaplain.





# Meet Claire and Tom



sunset boulevard £10



les misérables £14



carmen £12



starlight express



smokey joe's café £12



scrooge £12



art

coming soon

coming soon

## They've found an easy way of seeing West End shows for half price

How do they manage it? They both recently joined ArtSoc. ArtSoc arranges tickets for West End shows, at hugely reduced prices.



By block booking tickets, ArtSoc can usually save Claire and Tom 30–50% off the regular price of shows.

As well as the big musicals like *Sunset Boulevard* and *Les Misérables*, they've seen plays like *The Shallow End* and *The Woman in Black*, and they've even been to *Carmen* at the Royal Albert Hall.

And because ArtSoc has over 200 members, Claire and Tom also find it a great way of meeting people. Come along to one of our meetings at any time between 12:30–1:30pm on Mondays in the Union Dining Hall.

Some of the shows coming up in the summer term include:

- *Starlight Express* by Andrew Lloyd Webber: £10.50 reduced from £30 – 65% off the most expensive seats in the house!
- *Popcorn* by Ben Elton: date and price TBA – “an outrageously funny, gripping and thought-provoking play”
- *Art* by Yasmina Reza: date and price TBA – winner of Best Comedy Laurence Olivier Award

## ARTSOC

Chair: Lucie Purcell (Chem Eng 4) e-mail l.purcell@ic.ac.uk  
www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubsocs/scc/artsoc/index.htm

The shows illustrated above are examples of shows ArtSoc has seen or will be seeing this year. Forthcoming shows subject to change. Membership of ArtSoc is £4 per year: more than most clubs, but you're bound to save this on the first show alone. Tickets are sold on a first-come first-served basis. You must be a member to purchase a single discounted ticket. Details in this advert were correct at time of going to press 20 April '97. © Copyright 1997 TJW.

Like us and everyone else in the country, by now you must be sick and tired of the banal rubbish that the General Election campaign has produced. To save your sanity, here at *Felix* we have devised a cunning remedy for those Election Night blues (and reds, purples, yellows, greens, off-whites or whatever): the *Felix* General Election Drinking Game. To play, tune into the BBC's coverage of the results, grab a vat-load of your favourite poison (though not, of course, an actual poison - its not really going to be that bad) and follow the instructions below. Have fun, and remember, would the last person out of Britain please turn off the lights!

### THE 1997 GENERAL ELECTION DRINKING GAME

This game must be played whilst watching the BBC's coverage on the night. Decide beforehand how much alcohol each 'penalty' is worth, depending on an estimate of your personal drinking prowess. Traditionally, one penalty is one 'finger' of beer, milk or whatever you intend to see the night through with (an eighth of a pint for men, a tenth for women), but given the potentially vast amounts of booze involved here it might be wise to stick to one 'sip' per penalty. Enjoy.

#### The Results

These 'On the spot' penalties apply when each individual result graphic appears:

Lab Gain	1 penalty
LibDem Gain	2 penalties
Tory Gain	4 penalties
'Other' Gain	4 penalties

...And these penalties are to be drunk as each party reaches one of the following 'landmark' totals (n.b. 330 seats is a majority of 1):

Seats won:	20	50	100	200	300	330	350	380	430	480
Con.	-	-	2	4	8	16	20	20	20	20
Lab.	-	-	2	4	6	12	16	20	24	28
LibDem.	4	8	12	12	12	30	30	30	30	30
Single 'Other'	12	16	16	16	16	50	50	50	50	50

#### The Statistics

- Peter Snow appears.
- The Swingometer / "Poll of polls."
- Extrapolates results to whole House.
- House of Commons fills with 'Toilet door' figures
- Any daft graphic; e.g. Prime ministers in a hole,
- Campaign buses in a ditch, "Whose behind the door of No. 10?" etc.

#### The Locations

- Cameras cut to:
- Huntingdon / Sedgefield / Yeovil
  - Millbank Tower/ Central Office / No. 10
  - Sunderland North / Sunderland South
  - Bootle / Basildon / Tatton

#### Cock-ups

- Any TV blunder; e.g. VT unavailable, Tape seen cueing up, Presenter speaks to wrong camera,
- Loss of picture/sound/contact with OB unit, Dead air, etc.
- Graphic shows wrong result.
- Microphones pick up any comment obviously not intended for broadcast.
- Anyone seen on the verge of tears.
- Any Tory politician refuses to admit they're losing when they obviously are.
- Any BBC journalist fails to contain their glee at Labour success.

#### Soundbites

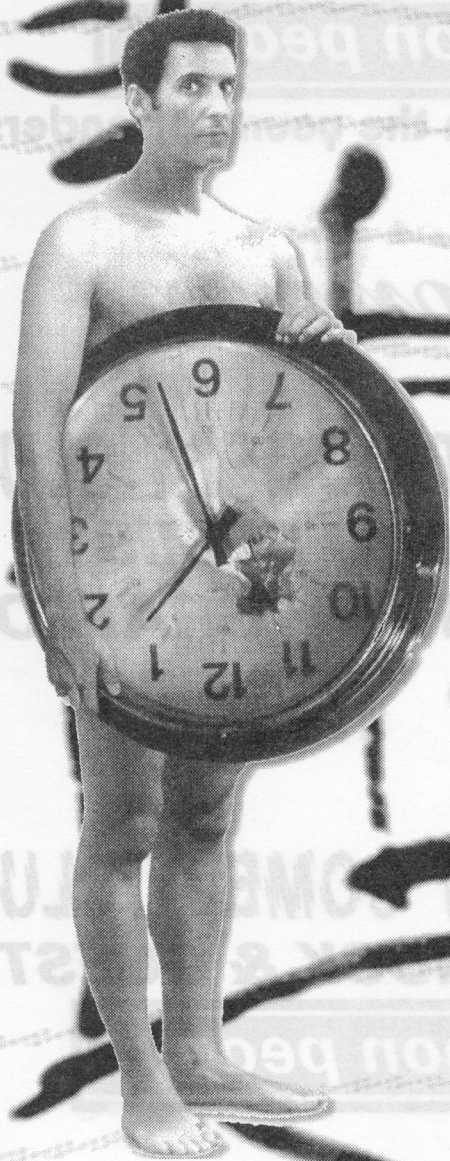
- "Sleaze."
- "Tactical voting."
- "Exit poll."
- "Margin of error."
- "Landslide."
- "Millennium."
- "Floating Voter."
- "Historic victory."
- "Unprecedented 5th term of office."
- "Essex man."
- "Since the war."
- "Margaret Thatcher"

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...and in this green and pleasant land...



the golem

Planet Science?

9

music

10

cinema

Twin Town and the return of the Saint

12

eight days

15

### credits

The Golem: Sarah Tomlin; Art & Theatre: Emma; Music: Jason; Film: Chris.  
Something for the Weeken 250497/ II

*(we can't)* Give it Away!

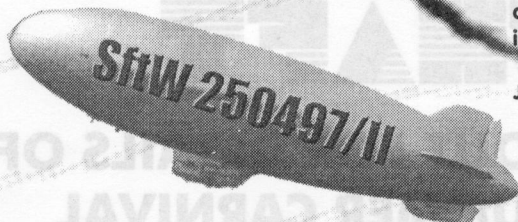
Once again we're "giving it away", this time thanks to those friendly people at the Odeon Kensington. As you'll no doubt hear this week, the big film coming out is Donnie Brasco, starring Jonny Depp and Al Pacino. It's been hailed as "the best gangster film since Goodfellas" and we're giving you the chance to see it for absolutely now!

There's three pairs of tickets to see it at our closest Odeon plus three runner-up prizes of the book behind the film. To enter, simply drop the answer to the following question into the Felix Office by 1:00 Wednesday:

Who was Al Pacino's lover in "Frankie and Johnny"?



# DONNIE BRASCO



## ODEON CINEMAS

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8.30

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frolix!

9-12

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5-11

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EVENTS ON THE  
BIG SCREEN

*Da Vinci's*  
Café-bar

# INTO TERM 3

FRIDAYS

9-2 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

APRIL 25

POP TARTS

MAY 2

**common people**

plus music from the young offenders

MAY 9

*Hedonizm*

MAY 16

BUST-A-GUT COMEDY CLUB

OPEN MIC SEMIS

WITH BOOTHBY GRAFFOE

POP TARTS

MAY 23

BUST-A-GUT COMEDY CLUB

CHARLIE CHUCK & GUESTS

**common people**

MAY 30

**SHAFT**

WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS OF  
THE SUMMER CARNIVAL  
ON JUNE 20TH  
THE BIGGEST EVER!





# Planet Science



Earlier this month, *New Scientist* magazine relaunched its world wide web site, *Planet Science*. The new 'improved' look is very different, all the colourful icons that used to welcome you to *Planet Science* have gone. In their place is an image of the front cover from the latest issue, and lots of text. This pared down style is reminiscent of the on-line versions of other science magazines, notably *New Scientist's* big brothers, *Nature* and *Science*. Try to spot the difference opposite... However, the web pundits at *New Scientist* claim they have been slaving over a hot mouse for weeks, to bring their readers more content, rather than style, with lots of new features.

So how does *Planet Science* at <http://www.newscientist.com> compare to the web pages of other science magazines? Well they all contain selected material from their respective publications, as well as special web features on hot topics, such as genetic cloning or the search for life on Mars. A useful feature of all the web pages are searchable jobs, courses and meetings databases, such as *New Scientist's* <http://www.sciencejobs.com>. So is this an example of cloning on the internet, or does *Planet Science* now have more to offer?

Most of the extra features of *Planet Science* are found in the new **NSplus** section, which has material only found on the web. The supplementary material includes new sections on background reading, anything internet related (surprise, surprise) and lots of puzzles, with, for the first time, explanations of how they can be solved.

Two new sections worth a second look are **Biteback** and **Grand-Tours**. **Biteback** is your chance to join in lively discussions that started on the *New Scientist's* letters pages. **Grand-tours** is the first on-line travel guide to sites of special scientific interest. This section is also supposed to be animated - if you have a browser that supports Shockwave - although they claim to be working on a version that doesn't require any plugins.

The best new feature of *Planet Science* is for anyone who likes to have the **Last Word**. Readers of the magazine will already be familiar with the question and answer section which deals with general queries from readers about absolutely anything science related, such as why eggs are egg-shaped.

This is an area where the internet really comes into its own. It is invaluable for settling family disputes. There's no longer a need for heated arguments about whether the actress in *Green Card* was Andie MacDowell or Anne Stuart Masterton. Simply fire up the nearest modem, type the words 'Green Card' into a web search engine, and any number of homepages by movie buffs will settle the matter once and for all.

The **Last Word** archive at *Planet Science* should become *the* place to look for answers to all those intriguing science and technology questions. If you've been wondering how those widgets in the bottom of beer cans work, whether fish fart or why men have nipples, then wait no longer. Head straight for <http://www.lastword.com>. And if the answer isn't among the existing 350 Q&A's, simply pose a new question of your own.

## nature

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[Nature Genetics](#)  
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## Spot the difference...

SFTW  
1084/II  
9  
250497

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### SQUEAKY CLEAN

Ultra-high pressure kills food bugs yet leaves it tasting fresh

### SPILT GLASS

Astronomers will try again after giant mirror goes awry

### HEART JAB

Cholesterol vaccine keeps arteries clear

### BIG BROTHER

Surveillance cameras face tighter rules to protect privacy

### LAST WORD

Why some people are martyrs to mosquitos while others escape  
**CAN'T MISS**  
Self-steering bullet stays dead on target

This new section has web-only material, archives and web supplements to *New Scientist* articles:

- [ns+ contents](#)
- [insight](#)
- [i'n'i](#)
- [last-word](#)
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**Cloning:**  
A Special Report on the

Readers submitting answers which are then published in *New Scientist* also win £10.

This is just the beginning. *Planet Science* has plans for new e-mail services to keep interested readers up to date with the latest science news and jobs as well as **Last Word** questions. Planet science here we come.

Sarah Tomlin

the golem and other stories

# The Lemonheads

## Gig Shepherds Bush Empire

### SINGLES

#### salad-cardboy king

Salad have gone pop, yet again it seems. It's a pretty catchy fast helter-skelter ride through a sea of distorted guitars and keyboards.

#### natacha atlas-amulet

Since moving on from TGU, Natacha has moved on to a more traditional sounding Arabic tune and has headed away from the East/West fusion she is more used to.

Since they broke into the mainstream with *It's A Shame About Ray* they've given us *Come On Feel...* and more recently the slightly disappointing *Car Button Cloth*. It has been a while since the Lemonheads have played live over here, though their previous appearances are still pretty fresh in our memories, especially their infamous Reading set in '95 when Evan Dando seemed to have lost the plot entirely. Following this he became a temporary groupie of Oasis during their pre-*Definitely Maybe* days, another sign of his demise perhaps.

On the night, Evan Dando looked the same as he did during the *Come On Feel* period and they played quite a mixed set. It started off with a few songs from the most recent album, mosh alongs like *It's All True* and the brilliant *If I Could Talk I'd Tell You*. Dando sang in his typically laid back style, even on the faster heavy songs, whilst per-

fectly understating his guitar fretting. The opening chords of the poignant melancholy of *It's A Shame About Ray* slowed things down and was followed fittingly by the mellow marvel of *My Drug Buddy*. *Allison's Starting To Happen* and *The Great Big No* were a jump along delight, however *Big Gay Heart* was a bit too country and western for my liking. An impromptu acoustic duet with the lead singer of Aussie support band, You Am I, was decided upon which got all of their gathered fans creaming their pants although bearable is as far I can go in describing it. After the initial set, Evan returned for a bit of solo acoustic strumming that trailed off into meandering nothingness, but thankfully the rest of the band decided to save him and joined in for a second more intense encore.

Tonight was quite rightly a 'best of' set, giving something back to the loyal fans, though they did manage to forget all about their ticket to commercial success, *Mrs. Robinson*.

Jason

# Luscious Jackson

## ALBUM Fever In, Fever Out

SFTW  
1084/11  
10  
250497

#### bennet-someone always gets there first

Bennet sound like a band who don't take themselves too seriously and this comes across in their guitar laden pure pop songs.

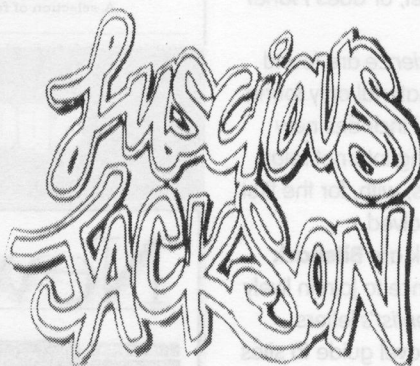
#### edward ball-the mill hill self hate club

Wasn't it Ed Ball? Anyway, this could be Squeeze on an average day. Bearable.

stop your ass shakin', boy!

Luscious Jackson offer you an album of tunes slinkier than an eel in a catsuit, with Ronettes harmonies to die for and a heavy seasoning of hip hop. This New York all girl quartet are signed to the Beastie Boy's Grand Royal label, possibly one of the hippest places in the world. It is, without doubt, fly and kicking as well. The Beastie's influence is not as apparent as one might think, although the naked attitude and cool beats are there. A closer reference point is Beck, mixing up styles into a gargantuan gumbo of grooves. *Naked Eye* with lyrics like '*Wearing nothing is divine/Naked is a state of mind*' is pure sex on a stick with enough breathy vocals to make Madonna look like a repressed convent girl. If a song can

All hail the funk!  
The funk is HERE!  
And there is no way you gonna



turn this most uncoordinated of music hacks into a vogueing loon, it must truly have a groove deeper than the Grand Canyon. And yet on *Mood Swing*, we have a more pensive, laid back jazz that transports you instantly to a roof-top bar, Southern Comfort in hand and city night life cruising below. The sultry shimmy of *Under Your Skin* is like TLC jammin' with The Breeders, and '*If you wanna know all of my original sins/Ask the Virgin, she knows where I been*' is a sweaty-palmed delight.

Even if they do tarry a little too long with Sheryl Crow styled AOR on tracks like *Soothe Yourself* and *Why do I lie?*, this is easily forgivable by the sheer lushness of the sound and coupled with personal, well-observed lyrics. they are indeed Luscious, and they're begging you to come on over, kick your shoes off and dance a little. Come on, move your body and dance with me... (7)

Norm

# Carter USM

## MINI-ALBUM A World Without Dave

#### 3 colours red-pure

This track is burning with intense energy and brilliant hook lines. Punk may well be back to plague us again.

#### republica-drop dead gorgeous

At the start you might think that the shop had inadvertently slipped in 'Ready To Go' inside the box by mistake. However, after a few listens you can hear the few subtle differences.

When someone says Carter, an image of two oddly-matched blokes is conjured up, one a crazy-looking nutter with a forever scraggly bit of hair sprouting from his shaven head and a perpetually grinning sidekick alongside. And don't forget the faithful drum machine banging away in the background. Okay, so you know they decided the drum machine had to go and brought in a drummer a couple of years back. They've now gone one better and enlarged into a six-piece. Apart from spending their time recruiting new band members, they have been extremely busy and have just finished recording about thirty songs. You may well ask why only release a mini-album of six tracks, then?

The album starts off with *Broken Down In Broken Town* and it is really depressing stuff complete with death march type drumming a perfect foil to the equally disheartening lyrics. Next you're treated to more of the same

in *A World Without Dave* dedicated to the memory of, guess who, Dave. In this, Jim Bob sings about the dreariness of life's repetitiveness. Politics raises its head in *Nowhere Fast* with cynical lyrics like '*This is our future/And it starts with a C/It stands for care in the community*', questioning the social welfare of today. The slow melancholy of *Johnny Cash*, awash with strings and gospel backing vocals near the end of the song. The last track, *And God Created Brixton* with the typical Carter 'beat' brings a welcome change to the slow tedium of the rest of the album. It was written about the riot in December 1995 and I'd say Carter have been reading too much George Orwell whilst they've been away with lines like '*Big brother's watching you*'.

The whole album is fairly dispirited and displays a slight cynicism towards the world and if you're expecting the *Let's get tattoos* or *After the Watershed* type of Carter, then don't... (6)

Jason

How famous are bis? And what for? Well, let's list all the fired pop-tastic facts about the Scottish trio. They appeared on Top of the Pops when they were still unsigned. They released their early EP's (one of them the very famous *Secret Vampire Soundtrack* featuring the cheery *candy pop*) with their own money. And, of course, they were hounded by all the top record companies.

The debut album *The New Transistor Heroes* has been a while in coming now and so has been awaited with baited breath by a lot of their fans. We have Manda Rin, Sci-fi Steve and John Disco here on many a pop outing worthy of their status as the industry's favourite kids. Short, sharp and, er, chirpy numbers adorn this album like jewellery would on Mr T and are sung, sorry, shouted out with tremendous gusto. More often than not, this takes place with all members of the band, too. One word, energy, springs to mind when listening to this lot. They are in a real rush to get somewhere and they seem to have scant time for singing anything along the way and this seemingly results in a set of three-minute panic-attacks. Sometimes it's difficult to understand what Manda is actu-

ally saying due to her peculiar pronunciation of some of the words but you get used to it.

The songs cover a wide range of topics from setting the trio up as some sort of rights protesters in *Tell it to the kids* to how pop stars can be dead, dead nasty people in *Popstar Kill*. Then there's a desire to be an eighties film star (why?) in *Starbright Boy* where they want 'big hair, permed and curly...looking mean and surly'.

One question needs to be asked, though. Why all the fuss? Yeah, bis are bringing a nuance of something different and exciting to the music industry but they can get really annoying after about half an hour by which time they begin to sound like whiny three-year olds. Surely this must have registered onto people? I've been told that they are excellent live and I can well imagine that. Perhaps they are just not a band you can listen to on a stereo at home for too long. Until I do see them live, I think I'll reserve my final judgement... (5)

## The New Transistor Heroes

SINGLES

*arab strap-the clearing*  
This song is the pinnacle of melancholy and epitomises an indescribable loss. The blend of acoustic guitar, piano and cello fits perfectly together in this track of irrepressible despair.

The page of those rock family trees with Jolt on it makes for curious reading. Senseless Things splits into two: Morgan Nicholls forms Vent 414 with The Wonderstuff's Miles Hunt (Nicholls then left them last month), while Mark Keds forms Jolt with B B Mets of Mambo Taxi (I haven't heard of them either). History aside, it's time to talk about Jolt's latest appetite wetting offering. And there's one problem with the 6 track/18 minute long *Punk Jungle Rules*, it's just way too short by half.

There's a peculiar mixture of influences that makes up Jolt's sound and which makes them addictive listening. Trying your best not to wince, take bis's older brother and sister playing amphetamine loaded Terrorvision guitars, and maybe just a sprinkling of the now prehistoric sound-grunge, and you're almost there.

There's the frenzied *Certain Death Estate* which repre-

sents Jolt's attempt at the eponymous crossover, taking on the racing tempo of a jungle beat. They're not quite there yet, but they're at least offering a different way to take on this mixture than the laid back patented grooves of the Sneaker Pimps. *Was it Wild* is their 'slowly' and clocks in at an 'epic' 4:42, and everything distorted, is standard issue. They sound their most bis-esque in *Fruit Machine*, but thankfully B B's squeal is not quite as annoying as Manda Rin's. And if a bit of melody, plain old singing, and perhaps single material is called for *Son of a Gangster* steps in to provide great a pogo-popping tune.

If this is a starter, I look forward to the main course. So taking those two fellas quantity and quality into account, this one gets (7).

## Punk Jungle Rules

MINI ALBUM

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The Charlies, as we like to affectionately call them, have been around for quite some time, since back in 1990 when they were mixed up in the whole 'baggy' scene and were accused of being Stone Roses wannabes. *Some Friendly* soon put these accusations to rest with its quality content such as the blistering *The Only One I Know* and had them riding the crest of the 'baggy' wave. Their reply to this early success was to release a less commercial second album and an equally good third one, however the sales still weren't there. They were then expected to pull the plug and slip away silently to depart from the music scene for ever, following the likes of the other early 90's brigade. They'll have to thank Britpop for the success of *The Charlatans* and ultimately the reason they're still around, and more popular than they were in their baggy days. The good times came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of Rob Collins, the gifted keyboardist of the band. However they vowed to continue, proving their dedication by playing the pre-scheduled Oasis gigs and V96 at Chelmsford in August last year.

After the release of *One To Another* with its Chemical Brothers style sample, the album was looking to be another change in direction by Tim Burgess and co. I'm afraid if you were expecting some sort of indie/dance (but with a more original type of sound) crossover considering

the amount of work they've done with the said duo you are going to be disappointed. The only track that comes anywhere close to *One To Another* is the instrumental *Area 51*. The rest of it is in stark contrast, ranging from the *Just When You're Thinking Things Over* style of *How Can You Leave Us* to the Bob Dylan-esque *Get On It* that sounds suspiciously similar to *Like A Rolling Stone*. There is a difference from the last album in that there is a similar sound to all the songs (although they don't all sound the same) while on the last one there was a real range of styles. Nevertheless they haven't lost their edge when it comes to mixing rock, funk and pop as epitomised on the absolutely class track *Only Teethin'*. The temporary loan of Primal Scream's keyboardist, Duffy, may have influenced this record a bit, with some songs sounding as though they'd be right at home on their last album.

*Up To Our Hips* compares well with *Tellin' Stories*, with both having about four stand out tracks, an instrumental in the middle, while the rest are nice but not real goers. Pleasant (6)

Jason

## The Charlatans

ALBUM

### Tellin' Stories

SINGLES

*sludge nation-monkey on my back*  
Packed with distorted guitars and Pixies-ish sounds this track early ad me moshing along to it.

*30 amp fuse-I fall down*  
Aiming straight for the jugular the roaring speed and energy of thrashed out guitars hits you hard.

*prolapse-killing the bland*  
*Elastica!Elastica!Elastica!* is what this track screams at you, though despite its unoriginality I still like the spoken bits.

JASON

Here's a sneak preview of some of the potential hits appearing this term...

#### Donnie Brasco

(2nd May)

Johnny Depp and Al Pacino meet in the "best gangster film since Goodfellas". Depp is an undercover FBI agent who must infiltrate a mob by befriending Leftie, an ageing hit-man played by Pacino.

#### The Devil's Own

(9th May)

Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford star in this suspense thriller. Pitt is a young Irish immigrant taken under the wing of a New York police officer (Ford). Soon, however, the charming, honest kid turns out to be on a murderous mission in connection with the IRA....

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#### Liar, Liar

(2nd May)

The plastic-faced Jim Carrey returns as a ruthless lawyer who one day falls foul of one of his son's wishes - he no longer has the ability to lie. This looks funnier than most of Carrey's films and has already gone down well in America...

#### Batman and Robin

(27th June)

An all-star cast including George Clooney as Batman as well as Arnie and Uma Thurman as baddies take part in the fourth instalment of the series. There's also the welcome addition of Batgirl in the form of Alicia Silverstone...

## Love and Other Catastrophes

15

This is a warm, screwball tale about love, fate and other pressing concerns of five Australian students. There's Danni and Mia, a pair of lesbians who are having a shaky patch over commitment to one another. There's frustrated perfectionist Alice, a postgrad whose thesis on "Doris Day as Feminist Warrior" is four years late. She's looking for the perfect bloke who, amongst other things, must be left-handed, honest and like the same films as her. Two possible contenders are Ari, a Classics student and part-time gigolo and Michael, a shy medical student living with housemates from hell.

The directorial debut for 23 year old Emma Kate Croghan follows a day in the life of this oddball bunch of characters: It's a typical student life, involving parties, searching for accommodation and thinking about sex rather than having it. The filmmaker and her unknown cast are obviously just out of uni as they manage to catch the campus spirit perfectly, from the bureaucratic nightmare of swapping courses to the panic of avoiding lecturers to whom you owe work. The film is also spot on with

the type of people you come across at college, from the geeks to the (mis)adventurous ones like Ari who will "try anything once, except incest and folk-dancing."

Whilst the director's age helps make the film amusingly realistic, it is also responsible for its main faults. Unable to raise much funding she shot the whole thing for £20,000, less than a second's worth of a Hollywood film, and unfortunately it shows. Some of the filters used make the colours look like something from Top of the Pops in the

*"I'll try anything once, except incest and folk-dancing."*

seventies. They also could have done with some help from an experienced script-writer. The dialogue is a bit functional and so the film is very short at just over an hour, despite several time-filling party scenes.

The actors, however, do very well with the material. Frances O'Connor in particular, who plays Mia, has a Jack Nicholson-esque smile that may well be very famous one day. In the meantime this is harmless and charming stuff, but probably not worth paying for when there are so many high quality films around at the moment.

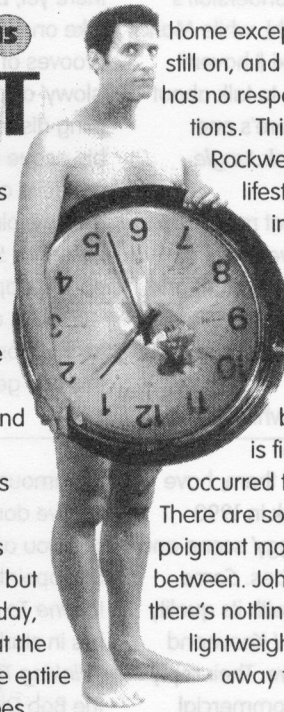
chris

## BOX OF MOONLIGHT

15

Box of Moonlight is similar to one of those films shown on morning TV during school holidays. It's a flight of fantasy where the viewer never knows what bizarre discovery or accident will next happen to the characters. They might find a pair of shoes that lets them see into the future or a hat that makes them temporarily invisible. But by the end of the story, we always know everyone onscreen will have learnt something about life and everything will return to normal.

Al (John Turturro) is the man around whom this particular fable is based, an electrical engineer approaching something of a mid-life crisis. He is supervising a construction job miles from home, but is the sort of chap who phones his wife twice a day, irons his shirt every night and goes to the toilet at the same time every morning. However, one day the entire job is unexpectedly cancelled and everybody goes



home except Al. He calls his wife, tells her the job is still on, and realises that for the first time in his life he has no responsibilities, no deadlines and no obligations. This is when he meets "The Kid" (Sam Rockwell), a Huck Finn type who introduces Al to a lifestyle where food is caught, washing is a dip in a lake and work is a four letter word.

The director, Tom DiCillo, manages to suck the audience into this yarn. We really feel for Al when, for example, the lake he once visited as a child is no longer swum in due to the toxic waste that has been dumped in it. However, when the film is finished and the predictable ending has occurred there is a slight sense of disappointment.

There are some very amusing scenes and a few poignant moments but they are too few and far between. John Turturro is his usual high-quality self and there's nothing to dislike about the film but it's just a bit lightweight. Nonetheless, it's an easy way to while away two hours on a rainy day.

chris

## A Self Made Hero

15

A young boy, Albert, growing up in provincial France just before WW2 spends his time pretending to be the heroes of the books and comics he reads. His mother also spends her time in fantasy, dreaming that her husband was a hero in WW1 when in fact he was a drunkard. When Albert discovers that she has been lying about his father to him, it shapes his perception of the world and has a tremendous effect on his life. Winner of the Best Screenplay award at last years Cannes Film Festival, this gentle comedy written and directed by Jacques Audiard and starring Mathieu Kassovitz (who himself directed the acclaimed 'La Haine') is an absolute delight.

On paper the story of Albert's rapid rise through the

French army seems totally unbelievable but, such is the story-telling ability of Audiard and the wonderful performance of Kassovitz, you are swept along with it all the same. The film is apparently a reflection on how the French view their role in the War, and how reality can be very different than what we perceive it to be. The character of Albert evolves throughout the film, from the innocence of a young day-dreamer to a responsible and mature adult, albeit one who has used deceptive means to get where he is in life. When Albert's downfall comes, it is not because the lies he has told have been found out, but because he realises that you cannot ignore the truth within yourself. This is an effective film which confidently carries a powerful message that gives the audience plenty to think about.

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## Now Showing:

### Return of the Jedi

The final installment of the jazzed-up trio is released today. The changes are more noticeable than in the other films as two lengthy scenes have been introduced. Gone is the blue elephant and his piano in Jabba's lair, to be replaced by a far more groovy band playing a far better tune for at least a minute of screen time. There's also a new ending with cities throughout the galaxy being shown celebrating the Empire's downfall. The ewoks are still too cute but it's unmissable nonetheless. Sit in the front row of a big-screen cinema and enjoy!

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### Eddie

Whoopi Goldberg is back in this story of an avid basketball fan who one day gets the opportunity of a lifetime. The boss of the New York Knicks asks her to coach for just one game as a publicity stunt but she goes down a storm, and he decides to keep her. The giant team, however, aren't keen on taking instructions from a pint-sized female and the ensuing arguments see Whoopi at her best. There's nothing that hasn't been done a dozen times before here but it's a good vehicle for the comedienne's humour. Don't go expecting anything new and you won't be disappointed.

The latest TV series to be reconfigured for the big screen is *The Saint*, and once again Hollywood have messed the whole thing up.

Val Kilmer is the titular saint, a superlative catburglar and master of disguise. In fact he has so many names that he doesn't really know his own name. In a fairly unnecessary prologue we learn he is an orphan who has been named Simon after the saint. He makes up the surname Templar (the original name of the Saint from the books/TV) from a comic book. He is a free-lance agent, open to the highest bidder, and whilst out on his penultimate job (stealing a microchip from some Russian corporation) he runs into a spot of bother with the Russian Mafia. Having learned who he is they then employ him themselves to steal the formula for cold fusion from an American chemist, Emma Russell (Elisabeth Shue), working in Oxford. He consequently seduces her and steals the formula. However, when he finds out the Russians intend to kill her he gets involved to save her life because he is falling in love with her. The film then shifts to Moscow, where hero plus girl face the Russian military and get involved in saving civili-

# S T H E S A I N T



of the film he is such an anti-hero we don't really care what does happen to him most of the time. Being played by Val Kilmer, one of the least exciting and uncharismatic actors in Hollywood, doesn't help either. If anything it starts to get irritating that he keeps escaping the clutches of the much more interesting and entertaining bad guys.

Thus, *The Saint* is a rather disappointing reworking of the classic TV series, spoilt by a highly contrived plot, some truly appalling dialogue and a really crap ending. In short it just isn't *The Saint*. If you want to see the genuine article, watch it on TV on Saturday.

spooky

# 18 TWIN TOWN

Despite being dubbed the "Welsh *Trainspotting*", and indeed executively produced by Andrew MacDonald and Danny Boyle, this tale of Swansea life fails to live up to its billed expectations.

The Lewis family are a group of eccentrics and layabouts, living in a caravan estate in Swansea. The head of the family Fatty Lewis falls off a ladder whilst working for local bigwig Bryn Cartwright and the Lewis Twins, a pair of losers who like to go joy-riding in expensive cars, approach Cartwright for compensation. He dismisses them with contempt and the Twins vow revenge. Mixed in with this are several other characters, namely a couple of bent coppers Terry and Greyo, and Dai Rees, a self-styled karaoke king.

The main problem is that all the various sub-plots are so interconnected that no one story line is allowed to dominate. In order to accommodate all the plot lines the perspective of the film needs to keep shifting such that the audience is never allowed to grow accustomed to one. As a result, instead of becoming involved with the developments on screen one forms a rather apathetic view point. The situation isn't helped by most of the characters having very few redeemable features. This makes it hard to

identify with the characters and consequently one doesn't really care what happens to them. Usually a complex story line helps to maintain interest but in this case the pacing and the timing of the various sub-plots is all wrong. The film tends to spend too little time on the interesting areas and vice versa. Plus, they vary from the banal to the melodramatic and consequently often the juxtaposition can ruin a scene before it begins.

This is not to say that the film doesn't have its moments. A wicked sense of black humour and some realistic acting from a set of mainly unknowns helps to keep the film afloat, and prevents one's interest from straying too far.



Ultimately though the problem lies with the writer-director's (Kevin Allen - brother of the more famous Keith) inexperience. There is certainly potential in his work, it just needs to be refined somewhat. Thus, despite being ultimately disappointing, *Twin Town* is still an admirable debut feature and serves as further evidence that the British film industry is going strong.

spooky

# Friday 25th April

## 1pm Hamsoc (Regular)

Top Floor, Union Building

## 1pm Photo Soc (Regular)

Southside Lounge

## 1.10pm RAG Meeting (Regular)

dB's

## 1.10pm Islamic Soc (Regular)

Friday Prayer, Southside Gym.  
(Brothers and Sisters)

## 1.15pm Labour Club (Regular)

Southside upper Lounge

## 1.30pm Felix Reviews and Science

## meeting

## 5.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

STEP Aerobics (advanced), Southside Gym

## 9pm Ents: Pop Tarts

Staying out for the Summer.... we've had our Ibiza hols and we're back refreshed and armed with holiday tunes to take your mind off exams. Plus, chill out in our Summery cocktail bar, with wafts of blissed out beats. 9-2. Free before 9/£1 after.

## Free Women's Minibus Service

First run at midnight, last run at closing.

Basketball in the Union Gym, anyone welcome

## 5pm Circus Skills Soc (Regular)

Table Tennis Room, Union Building

## 5.30pm Radio Modellers Club (Regular)

MechEng Main Workshop (Rm 190), e-mail rcc.radio@ic.ac.uk

## 5.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (advanced), Southside Gym

## 6pm Bridge Club (Regular)

Clubs Committee Room, Union Building

## 7pm Canoe Club (Regular)

Canoe Club Store in Beit Quad, or at the

swimming pool at 7.30pm

## 7.30pm IQ (Regular)

Brown Committee Room, Union Building

## 8pm ICCAG (Regular)

Soup Run for the homeless  
Meet Weeks Hall Basement

## 8.30 pm Ents: Da Vinci's Bar Trivia

Throw your revision away and learn something really interesting ... DaVinci's Bar Trivia. Your chance to win £50 cash money, or some lager - and you're not going to get that with quantum physics are you?

# Sunday 27th April

## 1pm Wargames (Regular)

Aerobics (intermediate), Southside Gym

## 2pm Fitness Club (Regular)

# Monday 28th April

## 12.30pm Artsoc (Regular)

SCR, Union Building

## 12.30pm Ski Club Meeting (Regular)

Southside Upper Lounge

## 12.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Circuit Training, Southside Gym

## 2pm Deadline for Diary, Soc. Pages

## 5.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (beginners), Southside Gym

## 6pm Felix News and Features meeting

Want to write and never had the chance?

Well, now is the time to discover the budding journalist that's been hiding away for so long! Felix Office, northwest corner of Beit Quad.

## 6pm IC Methsoc (Regular)

All faiths welcome, Basement 10  
Princes' Gardens.

## 6.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (intermediate), Southside Gym

## 7.30pm IC Sinfonia (Regular)

Great Hall, All players welcome

# Tuesday 29th April

## 12pm Cathsoc (Regular)

Mass and lunch, Leon Bagrit Centre,  
Lvl 1 Mech Eng

## 12-2 pm 'Fair Trade' Stall (Regular)

Union Building Foyer. Fairly traded goods for sale: stationery coffee, chocolate.

## 12.15 Yoga Soc (Regular)

Yoga Classes, Southside Gym

## 12.30pm African-Caribbean Soc (Regular)

Weekly meeting, Rm G02, Materials dept. RSM

## 12.30pm Parachute Club (Regular)

Southside Upper Lounge

## 1pm Audio Soc (Regular)

Brown Committee Room, Union Building

## 1pm Yacht Club Meeting (Regular)

Physics Lecture Theatre 3, Lvl 1.

## 3pm Pakistan Soc (Regular)

# Wednesday 30th April

## 12.30pm Islamic Society (Regular)

Sister's Circle, Prayer Room

## 12.45pm Sporting Motorcycle Club (Regular)

Southside Upper Lounge

## 1pm Wargames (Regular)

Table Tennis Room, Union Building

## 1pm IC Rifle and Pistol Club (Regular)

Join up and shoot. Check on range door for details about safety induction, Sports Centre

## 1pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (beginner/intermediate),  
Southside Gym

## 2pm Photo Soc

Lessons, Darkroom

## 5pm Fitness Club (Regular)

STEP Aerobics (intermediate), Southside Gym

## 6.30pm Chess Club (Regular)

Club and Brown Committee Room, Union 3rd Floor

## 7pm Shaolin Kung Fu Nam Pai Chuan

Beginners Welcome, Southside Gym

## 7.30pm IC Symphony Orchestra (Regular)

Great Hall

## 8pm Frolix!

Enjoy fun, enjoy..., Party tunes for party people. 8-1am. free

## Free Women's Minibus Service

First run at 12.00 midnight

Last run at Union closing time

# Thursday 31st April

## 12.30pm Amnesty International (Regular)

dB's e-mail s.trivedi or ns.trasi@ic.ac.uk

## 12.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Body Toning (beginners), Southside Gym

## 1pm Consoc Meeting (Regular)

Southside Upper Lounge

## 1pm Fell Wanderers (Regular)

Southside Upper Lounge

## 1pm Gliding Club (Regular)

Room 266 Aero Eng (Follow signs from Aero Foyer).

## 1.10pm RAG Meeting (Regular)

dB's

## 5.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (intermediate), Southside Gym

## 6.15pm IC Choir Rehearsals (Regular)

New Members Welcome, Mech Eng 342

## 8pm ICCAG (Regular)

Soup Run for the homeless  
Meet Weeks Hall Basement

## 5pm Ents: Da Vinci's Cocktail Night

Transport yourself to less stressed times & warmer climes... DaVinci's Cocktail Night. A special range of happy hour priced revision tonics all night 5-11.

Before we get down to business, I must deal with young Benjamin Weir and his rather amusing letter last term, in which he accused me of being a fascist and *Felix* of being politically biased. Though his year and department were omitted from his contribution, it is abundantly clear that he is a 12 year old prodigy in the Maths Department- can differentiate with the best of them, but is cursed with a Ruth Lawrence-esque naiveté about the real world. For the sake of young Mr Weir, I shall make two points. Firstly, the political complexion of a newspaper is set by its editorial, not its opinion writers; for example Harry Enfield, self-confessed 'Bollinger Bolshevik' now writes for the Sunday Telegraph. Secondly, there is no surer way to undermine an argument than the careless use of emotive words such as fascist. Better luck next time, son.

On May 1st, this country is faced with one of the most important decisions of our lifetime. We, by common consent, have one of the most dynamic economies in the world and improving general prosperity and living standards. We are also on the verge of a potentially huge sea-change in Europe, centered around monetary union. The choice is whether we stick with the party that gave us the current economic conditions or change. In that most British of ways, do we 'give the other lot a chance'?

It would be churlish and incorrect of me to suggest that Labour have not changed. Or rather, the Labour leadership has changed. Gone is Clause 4 and the calls for re-nationalisation have changed to an embrace of privatisation. Calls for withdrawal from Europe with the slogan 'Out of Europe, into the world' in the 1975 referendum campaign have been replaced by a desire to erode the veto and adopt the Social Chapter. Policy pledges have indeed changed out of all recognition, but one must ask why and to what extent does this shift represent the views of the whole party. In the light of four policy U-turns five days after the publication of a manifesto that took three years to write, electoral expediency rather than convictions seems a fair interpretation. People say that the Tories and Labour are the same these days. There are certainly large areas where Labour appear to have, if not stolen

the clothes, at least swiped the dress-making patterns. Don't look at the policy overlap, look at the differences.

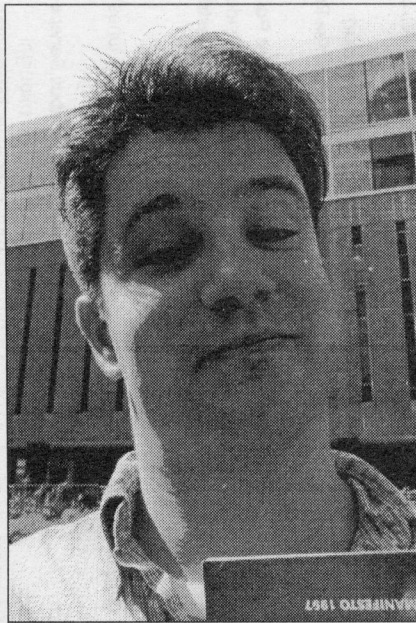
Labour have a number of key, potentially disastrous policies. First and foremost must be the minimum wage. Even John Prescott has been forced to admit that this will lead to job losses, though he didn't suggest how many. Aside from the initial losses caused by staff cuts, the long term effects on Britain's competitiveness are far more serious.

Labour will counter this with the old 'sweat-shop economy' argument, but this is frankly rubbish. Average annual take-home pay in the UK is £400 lower than Germany and about £1,500 higher than France. Note take-home pay rather than straight wages, this being due to the far lower tax burdens on employers and

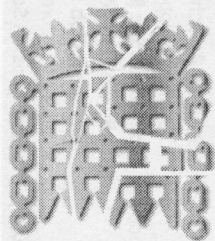
employees here. Which brings us conveniently to the Social Chapter.

Make no mistake, the reason that Britain attracts more inward investment than Germany and France combined is that the costs of employing someone here are less than half that in some of our European partners. Where the US have created millions of jobs over the last decade, Europe has managed to lay off about 15 million people by a range of policies designed not to create jobs, but to stave off unemployment, with little success. Labour are keen to sign up to the regulator's charter, displaying all the worst excesses of big government and state control. Steering clear of the disaster that is monetary union won't stop Toyota investing here, huge additional costs will.

I could go on, but space does not permit. Reading the Labour manifesto, one finds grand soundbites by the cartload- dramatically improving education (cutting £180 million from the assisted places scheme), rebuilding the NHS by cutting admin (saving 0.3% of the budget) and so on. The Conservatives, surprisingly it must be said, have proposed some genuinely radical policies- privatisation of state pensions, transfer of tax allowances from unworking spouses to their working partners and reducing business rates for small businesses. Ladies and gentlemen, it's over to you.



## Simon Baker the reasonable candidate



# Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

A letter in the last edition of *Felix* raised some interesting questions about political bias in this newspaper, accusing my fellow columnist and I of partisan reporting, and hoping we'd all be gagged in the run-up to the election in six days time (I guess it didn't have the desired effect). Imperial College Union, of which this paper is a part of, has charitable status like most other student unions and cannot therefore sanction any political creed or party without jeopardising its charitable status.

All this means in practice is that the entire editorial content of the paper must not be in support of a par-

ticular party, and headlines such as 'Everyone vote for X' would get everyone into trouble.

Many people have asked me who I'm going to vote for, where I stand in it all, and even who they should vote for. Well, vote for whoever the hell you want! Anyone who has the brains to study at Imperial should sensibly make up their mind as to who they want to run the country for five years.

The only big recommendation I would make is that you do vote, because if you abstain on the grounds that 'it wouldn't make any difference anyway' then you shouldn't complain when a party you dislike comes into power. Those who do not vote have no voice. Party strategists, when deciding policy, take into account the fraction of affected areas of the population who turn out to vote. If particularly few of

them turn out each election, they will be a 'soft spot' for unpleasant legislation which gains them votes with people who do turn out to vote. Campaigns such as 'Rock the vote' are trying to increase the influence of the younger generation by making them turn out to vote. If there is an increase this election of young people voting, the mainstream parties will be pressured to re-jig their policies to keep the young behind them. The state of higher education and the continual assault on student's wallets demonstrate the paucity of the student vote.

If you are voting in the Cities of London and Westminster constituency, it may be wise to read last term's interview with the main candidates, Peter Brooke, Kate Green and Mike Dumigan. The vote you make will be for a particular person to represent you and this geographic area in

Parliament, as well as giving a party an extra vote in the passing of Bills through the Commons. There are many people who dislike a party but like their candidate enough to vote for him/her despite his/her allegiance, and vice-versa. Do take care of your vote as this is probably your last one until 2002, when most of you will have graduated, and could well be working full-time with a mortgage and family!

Finally, a number of people including a certain other nameless *Felix* columnist and the person writing the 'political bias' letter seem to think I write under a pseudonym. Well I don't. I actually live with this name, thank you. And remember to vote on the 1st of May.

*The real, live and kicking Hamish Common's Westminster Eye will be appearing intermittently over the next few weeks due to exams.*



**Elimination by Horatio**

- a. Eight digits?
- b. Grecian earner.
- c. Unusual growth.
- d. Previous owner.
- e. Two homonyms.
- f. Large scale experimentation.
- g. You'll get good odds on this winner!
- h. Farm animals.
- i. Scared?
- j. Replacement for an earlier one.
- k. Two synonyms.
- l. Lubricant store.
- m. Hot dressing?
- n. Best of the archipelago.
- o. Ultimate Prize.

You know the score. Match the phrases on the left with two words on the right and you should end up with one left.

The winner of the last issue's crossword competition was S Kulkarni, a mathematics postgrad. S, if you would like to pop into the Felix Office to pick up your prize, you would be most welcome.

The Crossword competition will return next week.

- 1. Cow
- 2. New
- 3. Oil
- 4. Old
- 5. Red
- 6. Dark
- 7. Foot
- 8. Hand
- 9. Pail
- 10. Pale
- 11. Tree
- 12. Well
- 13. Belly
- 14. Crown
- 15. Curry
- 16. Delhi
- 17. Horse
- 18. Olive
- 19. Sauce
- 20. Spice
- 21. Branch
- 22. Bucket
- 23. Island
- 24. Jewels
- 25. Yellow
- 26. Chicken
- 27. Special
- 28. Thousand
- 29. Treasure
- 30. Chemistry
- 31. Ingratiate

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## ICU RAG

Compilation of this year's RAG mag has begun and we are looking for new material. Any (relatively inoffensive!) jokes and cartoons will be welcome.

EITHER DROP THEM IN THE AT THE RAG OFFICE, OR E-MAIL THEM TO RAG@IC.AC.UK  
ANY SUBMISSION GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!  
CONTACT ANDY SOUTHERN, RAG CHAIR, ON X58099 FOR MORE DETAILS.

## THIRD WORLD FIRST

### SUMMER TERM PROGRAMME

This term, TWF are promoting a series of talks for those interested in an alternative career. The talks will be particularly relevant to those wishing to pursue careers that have long lasting, beneficial effects to those living in the developed world.

Wednesday 30th April Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

VSO sends experienced and trained volunteer workers to developing countries to share skills, build capabilities and promote international understanding with poorer countries.

All talks will be at 12.30 pm in the Brown Committee room on the top floor of the Union building unless otherwise noted.

Further talks will be advertised each week in *Felix's* diary pages.

## HAIR NEWS HAIR NEWS HAIR NEWS

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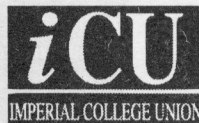
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## WERE YOU A BROWNIE OR A GUIDE?

CAN YOU HELP WITH CARRYING ON THE TRADITION?

Kensington and Chelsea Guiding Division desperately need help to work with units in the area. Training given.

For further information, please contact the Division Commander, Miss Carol Pryce, on 0171 228 6763.



**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY 29TH 6.00PM IN THE UNION DINING HALL.**

Subjects under discussion include:  
The first reading of the new constitution  
Election of ordinary members to the Print Unit Committee.

Papers can be collected from Eric Allsop by 4.00pm today.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be on Friday May 9th. The following Officer posts for 1997-98 will be elected at the meeting:

- RAG Chair
- Imperial College Action Group Chair
- Postgraduate Group Chair
- Welfare Officer
- Women's Officer
- Equal Opportunities Officer
- Transport Officer

Any full member of the Union may stand for these positions. See Eric Allsop for details.

## LIBRARY TALK

"Why I think I am not a scientist"

by Paul Goodfellow, Imperial's first visiting Artist.

Thursday 8th May, 5.30pm, Central Library Conference Room.  
Admission Free, all Welcome.

To be followed by the opening of and exhibition of Paul Goodfellow's works in the Consort Gallery, with drinks from 6.30pm

## University Challenge 1998 Auditions

Auditions for next year's competition will be held at 6.00pm Monday 28th April, location to be confirmed. See Eric Allsop for details or if you cannot make the auditions but wish to be considered.

## Letters to Felix

### Cinema goes to waste

Dear Felix,

The loss of the bookshop is a significant loss of funding for the Union. Therefore, the Union should make the best of its current assets. ICU Cinema has a 33mm projector, a new 30ft screen and technically it is one of the best student cinemas in the country. However, the Concert Hall is primarily for the use of DramSoc, OpSoc and other staged events. This means that the cinema can't get regular bookings.

If there were a separate venue, the cinema could not only cater for FilmSoc, but also SciFiSoc, the Indian Film Group, and other societies, as well as serving Conference in the holidays. Moreover, this would create substantial revenue for the Union. At present FilmSoc has made at least £5,000 this year and so far has 1413 members about 100 of whom are ULU staff and students not from IC. With the redevelopment of Beit Quad under consideration, I feel a more permanent venue for the cinema would prove as popular as it would profitable. At present I believe the cinema is clearly a wasted asset.

John Wilson,  
ICU Cinema Publicity

...and while we're at it, LeoSoc need a room, STOIC's studio is far too small, the Outdoor Club could do with a seperate store, etc... It would be lovely if they could, but even if there is extra space, flexibility by all will be the key...

### Tough on students, tough on the causes of students

Dear Felix,

At last the wait is over. For eighteen long years students have suffered under the imperialist, capitalist Tories. Now, at long last, we the

future of this country can smell power. No more student loans! No more crumbling universities! No more libraries starved of books! All those demonstrations against Tory misrule, the marches to Trafalgar Square - the comradeship of a minority group oppressed like no other - all of that was worth it. In just one week, the Labour Leader, our leader, Tony 'Man of the People' Blair will walk into Downing Street and begin the renaissance of the masses.

Hands trembling with anticipation I buy a copy of the manifesto. I almost can't open it, I am shaking - I am shaking! Oh what bliss to be alive! Education - where is it - there page 6. 'Education our number one priority'. Page nine, 'Higher Education'. What will the grant be? £4000, £5000 - perhaps even £6000? No, remember Tony's determined to keep public spending down - he probably settle for just five grand.

Here it is, 'The improvement and expansion needed..'. Too right! At 'em Tony! We will overcome those Tory bastards! '...cannot be funded out of general taxation..' God! He's proposing a special tax - a university money-raising tax! This is good shit! '...Our proposals for funding...' Here comes, here comes money! '...have been made to the Dearing Committee, in line with successful policies abroad..'. Successful policies abroad?

What does Tone mean? In line with foreign practice? Sounds good though! And now for maintenance grants! '...The costs of student maintenance should be repaid by graduates on an income-related basis, from the career success to which higher education has contributed.'

Oh.

Well.

It could be worse.

It's just not quite what I was expecting.

[Telephone Rings]

Hello. Yes that's me. You want an ex-NUS President to stand as a Labour candidate? You want me? Will I do it? You bet I will! So that's - meet Peter at 3:30. I'll be there.

That's that then. New Labour. Tough on students, tough on the causes of students. Never forget how privileged they are. Short hours, cheap beer, lots of sex. And in today's increasingly globalised world one has to keep taxes low to remain competitive. We do support students, and do want them to succeed with the best possible funding. But only when resources allow. We cannot promise what we cannot deliver. Investment and training are the key. Invest in people. Invest in students. Graduate loans. Tough on students, tough on crime. Tough on the causes of crime. Harriet Harman. Peter Mandelson. Fiscal propriety. When resource allow. Investment and training. No tax increases. Privatised, realise, socialise, no not that last one. Investment and training. When resources allow...

Name and address retained

Dear Felix,

I have just discovered that my end of year finals this year are to be held in a marquee in Prince's Gardens instead of the Great Hall. I discovered this via a notice posted up in halls of residence which explains that a marquee will be erected as a venue for college examinations as the Great Hall is affected by building work. On reading this, I initially thought that it was some kind of joke. However, I decided to check with my department. On the urgent noticeboard in the department of chemistry, there was a notice. A4 sized, not particularly eye-catching, unsigned and undated. It was apparently to confirm letters sent to us all by registry, informing us of the location change. However, as yet, no such notification has been received from the registry. I

wonder how many other people out there will be surprised by the change of venue?

As if this complete breakdown of communication were not bad enough, I am appalled that the students of one of the top four institutions in the country are forced to sit their end of year examinations in what is effectively a tent in the garden between two of their halls of residence. No matter what efforts are made to control noise levels, it will be impossible to silence the noise from Exhibition Road, which is clearly audible from the garden. And if it rains, the sound of raindrops on the canvas would create a distracting background noise. Are we, perhaps, to depend on the oh-so-reliable British weather for examination-level silence? And if so, is this not a little optimistic?

Personally, I would like to see a little more regard for the needs of the college's undergraduate students, and I am sure that many out there will agree with me. Maybe if a few more people are prepared to voice their dissatisfaction things may get a little better for us.

If you are also affected by this, or think you might be, or are just appalled by this disgraceful attitude, please say so. Please make noise about it. Email people, ring them, pester them until they are sick of hearing your voice. If nobody complains, nothing will get done and abominations like this will continue. (Oh, and please feel free to email me: j.walmsley@ic).

regards,

Jon Walmsley, Chemistry II

Letters may edited for content or length.

The deadline for letters to be published in the next issue of Felix is Tuesday 29th April. Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

**Papers for nominations for the post of President are now up opposite the Union Office.**

**ANY FULL MEMBER OF THE UNION MAY STAND FOR THE POST. PAPERS COME DOWN ON 2ND MAY.**

Produced for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board.

Printed by Imperial College Union Print Unit, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road,

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NEWS: MATTHEW AND TONY; FEATURES: ROBIN; WEB EDITOR: LEON;

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBIN; SPORT: SIMON; COLLATING LAST ISSUE: I CAN'T

REMEMBER BUT THANKS TO YOU ALL, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

All examinations which were scheduled to be held in the Great Hall between the dates on Monday 28th April 1997 and Friday 20th June 1997 inclusive have been relocated and they will now be held in the marquee which has been set up on Prince's Gardens, opposite the Southside halls of residence.

# FELIX SPORT

## Hockey babes triumph in final

With afternoon sun showering the pitch in gentle spring warmth, the IC ladies beat Charing Cross in the UL plate final. We started the game well with Two Hands and Lt Warf combining well to inspire fear in the ranks of Charing's defence.

They mounted several blitzkrieg attacks down the wings. The IC line held firm due to good keeping from Kiss Miss [Miss Kiss, Kiss Kiss?] and solid defensive play from Humming Bird.

The game now flowed freely, with the IC team proving that they're a well oiled machine. Nude Girl found herself in front of goal thanks to the efforts of Two Hands and Barbie. Nude Girl finally passed through this ordeal to stroke the ball into the net.

They came back hard and were

soon driving into the IC "D" from all over the place. The defence of Sarah C, Groin Sprain and Fash the Bash held out and repulsed numerous attacks until half-time.

The second half started with IC just holding out but it was only a matter of time before they finally broke through and put the ball in the net. This was a blow, but ICWHC are not a soft touch, especially in big matches like these.

Inspired by a fighting spirit, Humming Bird became Fuming Bird as she ran round the pitch doing absolutely everything. Their goal was under siege - the goal had to come and it duly did. At this stage they were exhausted and we dominated to run out winners.

ICWHC 2 - 1 Charing Cross

## Hockey thirds more coherent than usual

Things looked dodgy with Pongo being declared to poor to play for the team. This meant a reshuffle was needed with Turnip Man being pushed up to fill the vacant position.

The game started well with an early goal scoring opportunity coming after a lovely one-two between Spasmo and Cantface left Beekeeping For Fun And Profit" with an easy shot at goal. Sadly this hit the post and UCL took the opportunity to launch their own offensive. Play switched to our goalmouth through some slack defending from Thora Hird's Luminous Revolving Panty Liners. The score was kept 0-0 thanks to the efforts of goalkeeper A Million Flannels Covered In

Marmite And Thrown At A Squirrel. The half ended disastrously with injury forcing Uncooked Meat Prior To State Vector Collapse to retire, replaced by Mmmmadagascar.

In the second half we lost our star striker Mystic Meg's All-Seeing Crystal Balls and they started to pressure our defence. Despite the efforts of captain Swirling Mist Of Melodious Vapours, Ever Waxing And Waning Like An Infinite Sea Of Velvet Covered Truffles, their advantage was soon turned into goals. Our only consolation was a last minute goal from Ba Bar Bar Ga Dang Ga Dang Dang Ramma Lamma Ding Dong Blue Moon.

ICHC III 1 - 4 UCL

## Kung-fu needs you

Do you think that all Martial Artists are weird psychopaths Do you think Martial Arts is only practiced by strong, fast, supple males? How wrong you are!

Our style of Chinese Martial Art combines traditional and contemporary training techniques from the South (Nam) and North (Pai) of China. Fitness, flexibility, sharpness of reaction, training and self-defence is taught by sincere and highly qualified instructors with integrity,

humility and pragmatism.

We are celebrating the launch of our brand new web page at <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubsoc/shalinkungfu/index.html>. It's full of detailed information about our particular form of Kung Fu, and lots of relevant links to sites.

If you would like to participate in or observe our sessions, you are welcome to join in on Wednesdays or Fridays 7-9pm. at Southside Gym. Your first lesson is free!

## Chess team in girlfriend shock

Last Thursday IC 2nd Chess Team, in Division 3 of the Middlesex League, were away at Muswell Hill.

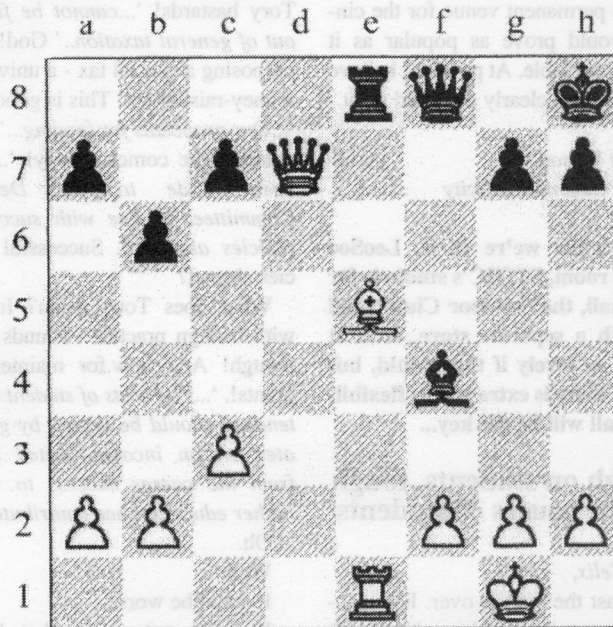
Having crushed their opponents 6.5-1.5 at the home match in December, they expected an easy win. On board one, Jeremy Davies whipped up a promising attack with black against a much stronger player but then blew it by blundering away a knight. Gigi Desogus thwarted an attack on his castled king; while launching his own offensive on the other wing, he overlooked a fork from his opponent's knight, losing a rook and the game. Andy Slough and Patrick Duncan had easy wins despite rustiness due to several months absence from the team.

Captain Barry Gale, desperately short of time and seeing no hope in a

tense situation, did the only sensible thing - wildly counter-attacked! His confused opponent is contemplating resignation. At the cost of a pawn Rob Kruszynski brought his pieces swiftly into action with daring attacks on his opponent's marauding queen. After three hours of complex manoeuvring they were still playing.

Patrick's girlfriend Sonja courageously stepped in as a reserve (our first ever female player) with only one hour of lessons! She put up a brave fight but was quickly defeated by an experienced opponent. Lloyd Kilford offered an early draw (his usual tactic against much stronger opposition) which was refused. He lasted a creditable 50+ moves.

The score is 4 - 2 to Muswell Hill with two games unfinished.



This is from the game P Hurn v B Gale. White played Qxc7 and went on to win. Can you spot a more decisive move he could have made?

## IC Rugby lose to St Hils

Er yeah, fuckin' great match. At least I think it was, somebody jumped on my head during the first scrum and I can't remember much after that. Erm, Oh! There was this bit where they scored a try right and while the ref was watching this, psycho kicked their fly-half in the kidneys. Nice one psycho! Or was it Killer? Anyway it was fuckin' good. Later I managed to eat someone's ear.

Then at half time we had our usual thirteen pints so things got a bit con-

fused after that. Hey! Now I remember, it was fuckin' hilarious! Everyone's covered in mud right, so no-one can tell who the fuck anyone is. So anyway Skull-crusher thinks he's found one of their props so he elbows them in the face and breaks their jaw. Turns out later it wasn't one of their's, it was Vandal. Fuckin' great, he's going to need surgery. Fuckin' great.

IC 10 - 167 St Hildegard's college  
By Jacob Thorne Physics II.