



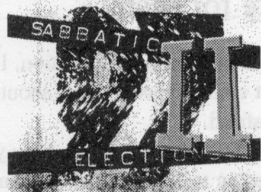
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THE FELIX

Friday 16th May, 1997
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Student Newspaper of Imperial College



The election for next year's ICU President moves on a stage with the hustings and interview this week. Page 2.



In Something for the Weekend: win tickets to see Relic, the art of George Grosz and loads of music.

Hustings reveal muddle

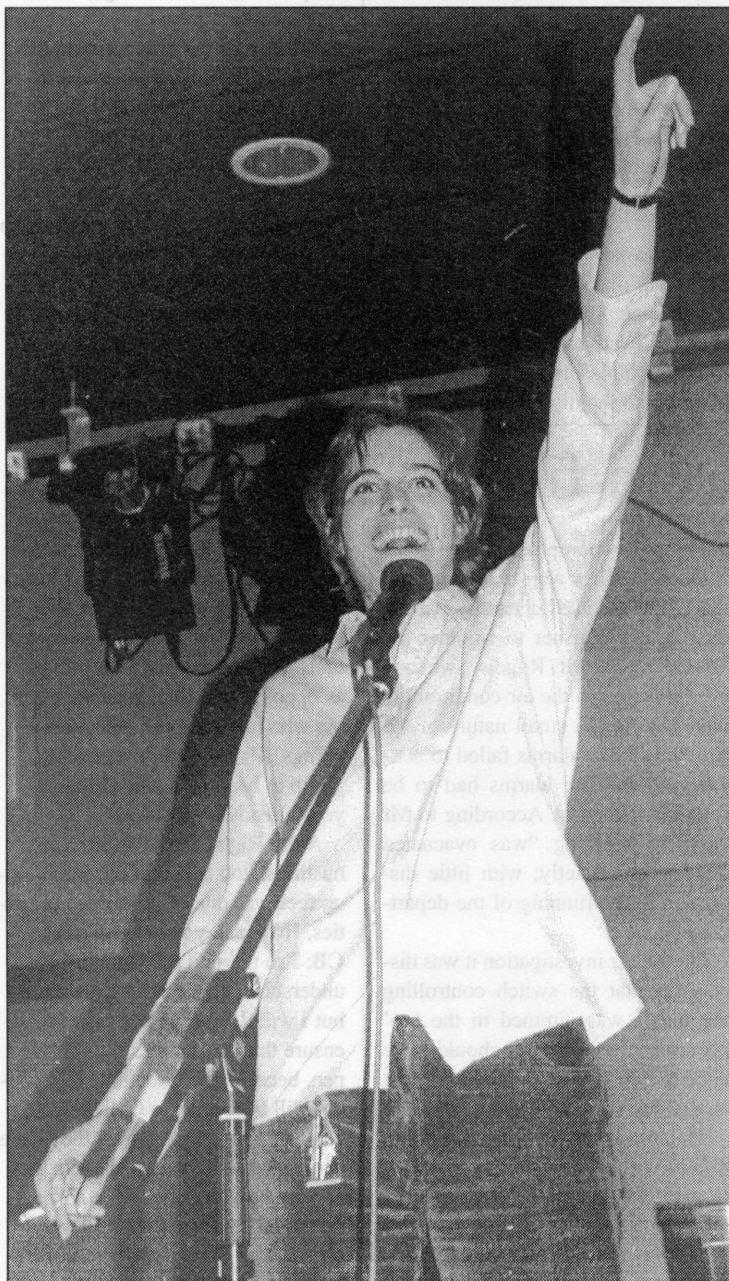
JITEN PATEL

At this week's Imperial College Union Presidential hustings at St Mary's and dBs the sole candidate Clare Bunstan was grilled intensively with the main topic of the meetings being the impending merger of IC with the medical schools.

At a tame St Mary's hustings on Tuesday, Clare was asked many times how she would handle the integration of the two unions and their students. Her answers seemed to represent the general consensus of opinion of the medics saying that "the Mary's clubs and societies will stay independent, and if they want to merge with their ICU counterparts then they can."

Questions were raised over the possibility of a centralised bar manager who would run all the bars of ICU, which would include the bar at the Mary's site, was one that brought up a many different views, most of which were her own. When first questioned, she was in favour of the proposed system noting that "we can learn from each other" about how to run the services, but when the medics stated that "we don't want it" Clare seemed to be lost for words and then replied that maybe the bar could be run by the medics. When later asked by Piers Williams, the current Deputy President for Finance & Services, "how easy will it be to run the bar once all the administration of Mary's SU moves to ICU after next year?", she commented on the need of some kind of centralised system, changing her mind for the second time. When questioned about her views of the "apparent Mary's block vote", Clare replied "they (medics) seem to have a feel for the union" and that "they just choose wisely."

As the hustings moved on to ICU on Wednesday, few more people



Clare Bunstan in full flow on Wednesday evening. Ms Bunstan fielded an array of questions covering the medical merger to her political beliefs.

attended than on the other side of the park, though the meeting lasted an

hour compared to the 35 mins at St continued on page two

Security call in the dogs

MARIA IOANNOU

Dog patrols are set to become a common sight on campus with Imperial College Security taking new measures in an attempt to clamp down on crime. The majority of the handlers will be trained during July and the patrols should be fully operational by August.

Dog patrols were introduced at Clayponds earlier this year as an emergency measure in an attempt to put a stop to what was described by Ken Weir, Chief Security Officer at IC, as a "mini crimewave". "It has definitely worked in the case of Clayponds" commented Mr Weir, "where we were once having at least three crimes a week reported to us, after installing the dog patrols we have only had three crimes reported to us since November." Mr Weir added that it was a financially sound proposal "to have the same effect as one dog you would need two or possibly three security officers."

According to Mr Weir, "it is the deterrent value of the dog patrols that is most effective in reducing crime, although professional thieves plan for dogs, opportunist thieves, who for us pose the biggest problem, tend not to go up against dogs. The implied threat of being caught by a security officer with a dog acts as a deterrent to the criminal fraternity."

The imminent merger of the various medical bodies also, Mr Weir feels, provides an argument for bringing in the dogs, "As from the 1st of August, making sure that merger sites, like the National Heart and Lung Institute and St Mary's continued on page four

Hustings "grilling"

continued from front page

Mary's. The hustings as described by Clare was "more intensive. I certainly got a grilling". This time round she was asked about her views on a broader range of subjects, although the focus was still on the merger. More questions were based around her and her experience within the union, in which she admitted that she has never turned up to a ICU council meeting and her only involvement has been in the Entertainments committee and being a DJ.

Her main goals as president next year would be to "promote harmony between the two unions by promoting inter contact in sports societies, and also to fight about the issue of top up fees". A main point that repeatedly turned up was how she saw the role of the additional sabbatical position intended to be created at the end of the next college year, her views was that the post should be a "Mary's" sabb and that it's main role, in it's first year at least, was to aid the medics in their transition to the South Kensington site, she also stated that the post should go to a medic as they "understand the pressure that a medical student is under better than an IC student."

When asked what she would have done had she been president this year, she brought up two main points. Firstly was the loss of the bookstore, she saw it "was a great shame because it meant that, although college has increased the union's funding by £20,000 to replace the income lost, it makes the union more dependent on the colleges finances as opposed to being independent body, but it has also created a greater profile for the union as a whole as students have become more aware of their services and outlets".

Secondly was that she would not have accepted the move of the exams to the marquee, and believes that the union should have lead some kind of a revolt with the students against the idea. She also commented that the president should be more accessible, and that she would make herself more visible around the union making it easier for students to approach her.

When asked why she did not drink the 8 pints that were bought for her as a challenge, she said "I just had to keep my head up there, but I plan to finish the pints and carry on drinking till late into the night."

Lives saved from fire

KELLY ROBINSON AND MAHLINA PONNIAH

Thousands of lives were heroically saved on Tuesday when the air-conditioning system in a Biochemistry lab spontaneously combusted. Several brave men in heavy breathing apparatus battled through the smoke to rescue the defenceless victims.

Shortly before 9am, in a room on the sixth floor of the Biochemistry building, the electric motor of an air-conditioning unit burnt out, allowing the unit to overheat, and resulting in an isolated fire. Graham Cox, IC's own Fire Officer, arrived on the scene, and on ascertaining that the smoke was not too thick, proceeded to enter the room, together with Mick Rogers, the Technical Services Manager for Biochemistry, and two fire engineers, who were also present at the time (although quite how all those people managed to squeezed into the room at the same time remains a mystery!)

The room was home to several thousand fruit-flies and Mr Cox's immediate priority was to remove these occupants to safety; after first

donning the appropriate safety gear.

Once the flies were out of harm's way Mr Cox used a nearby carbon dioxide extinguisher to smother the "flames" and Mr Rogers switched off the power to the air-conditioning unit. Due to the small nature of the fire, the smoke alarms failed to activate and the fire alarms had to be sounded manually. According to Mr Cox the building "was evacuated quickly and quietly; with little disruption to the running of the department."

On further investigation it was discovered that the switch controlling the motor was jammed in the 'on' position, a fault which should have been detected earlier, and this is what caused the system failure.

The room should be fully functional within a few days as Mr Rogers is already in possession of replacement parts for the damaged unit. However, Mr Cox said that the room will "require a fresh coat of paint" and one or two of the ceiling tiles will need to be replaced. The sole remaining problem is that of the distinct smoke-like odour of the fruit flies.

Presidential Interview



Interview by Andrew, edited by Jiten

Andrew Dorman Smith: So, New Election tell us about yourself.

New Election:

Basically, New Election is your opportunity to vote to re-open nominations. This time of year is particularly bad for having elections many people still have exams and haven't had the time to see what's going on in College. The view is that there are probably much stronger candidates out there who haven't yet had the chance or the time to stand this time, so if you don't like the way the election is looking, if you don't like the candidate, vote New Election and maybe we'll get third time lucky.

ADS: Thank you. We now turn to Clare Bunston. Clare, do you believe it's the Union's job to get more students interested in the Union?

CB: Yes, but it's really hard to get people involved who have no intention of getting involved.

ADS: Exactly that's the whole dilemma, how are you going to get those students involved?

CB: I don't know. I would just do my best, hopefully I would be seen as a President who is a normal human being who represents something that anyone can be a part of, as opposed to a little group of people who just go about their own doings, it's not a very accessible group to become a part of unless you're already a part of it.

ADS: Right. In the South Ken hustings, you said that opposing top-up fees was one of your main priorities. How will you achieve this?

CB: I'm not in a position to fully understand what the whole issue is but I will do everything I can to ensure that top-up fees don't happen, because then I believe that people will be coming to College on the basis of how much money they have opposed to what sort of people they are and how qualified they are.

ADS: OK, you said that this was one of your main priorities, so how will you actually do it?

Clare Bunston and New Election face the grand inquisitor, Andrew Dorman-Smith, to persuade us why we should vote for them.

CB: Until I'm in that position, I don't really know enough about it, I'm afraid.

ADS: So you can't tell us how you are going to achieve one of your main priorities?

CB: Well, I would argue as best I could. I think that it is the general consensus of opinion is that top-up fees wouldn't be good for the future.

ADS: On the NUS, do you think there should be a referendum as to whether Imperial College views are expressed through the NUS?

CB: Yeah.

ADS: So you will carry out a referendum in your next year as president?

CB: Only if that was felt to be the consensus of opinion. It doesn't really matter what I believe as a person, it's just I have to consult other people and get the general feeling **ADS:** But you'll be the President of Imperial college...

CB: NO, 'cos even though you're the president, you mustn't just...I can't just make decisions just because I am the president, it's important that I have got the information to make these decisions from my colleagues.

ADS: OK, You've talked a lot about St Mary's both at their own hustings and at here. I'm a City & Guilds student, what can you offer me to get your vote?

CB: I'm not trying to offer certain people certain things to get their vote, I don't work like that.

ADS: But it seems that you work like that with St Mary's.

CB: No, not at all, that's just because I've had a lot of feedback from the St Mary's people.

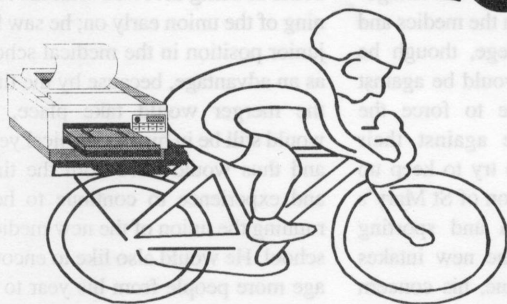
ADS: Well you've promised St Mary's their funds will be kept, they will keep their bar, can you promise City & Guilds a bar?

CB: No, because you've never wanted one before. Why should you get so upset about it?

ADS: I'm merely illustrating the point that you seem to be promising rather a lot to St Mary's and very little to South Kensington.

Voting in all departments on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th May. For details of how to vote, see box on page four.

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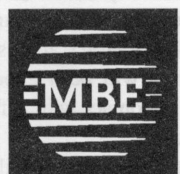


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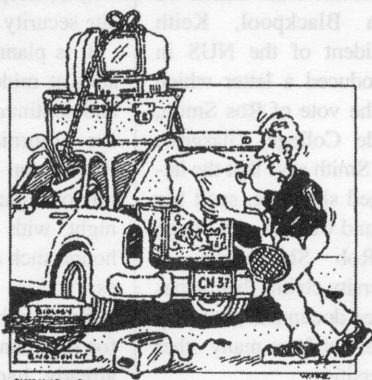
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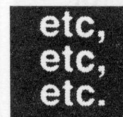
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St Mary's elections look for equality

KENT YIP

The Student Union of St Mary's Hospital Medical School may well have its first ever full time sabbatical president next academic year, putting it on par with all the other medical schools in London. The election has been scheduled for next Thursday 22nd and Friday and 23rd May, and hustings will take on Wednesday the 21st May.

Since the nomination paper will not come down until this Friday, only three candidates so far have put their names forward to stand for positions in the executive committee of the union. Nick Jenkins, Dave Shepherd, and Chris Lawrence are the sole candidates for Vice President External, Information Rep and Accommodation Rep respectively. At the time of print, only Andrew Smith, a

second year pre-clinical student, has declared his intention to go for the sabbatical president post. It has been suspected that the requirement to take a year out for this job has deterred other potential candidates from coming forward. Another person who has also strongly expressed his wish to contest for the VPE post but yet to confirm his candidature is Andrew King.

Speaking to *Felix*, Mr Smith listed education, medics' identity, and their social life after the merger to be his main priorities. He would like to ensure that equal attention would be paid to the educational needs of the current students on the old curriculum by the new medical school, which concentrated most of its effort on the new course recently. On the issue of merger, he said that he would

do his best to overcome the antagonistic feeling between the medics and the rest of the College, though he maintained that he would be against any deliberate move to force the medics to integrate against their wish. He would also try to keep up the excellent reputation of St Mary's in its music, drama and sporting achievement when the new intakes arrive. Closer to home, his concern would be to keep the med school bars at the separate hospital sites open.

Mr Jenkins, candidate for the post of VPE, is currently the first year rep in the Student Union, and has only been at Mary's for one year. In refuting the accusation that his sole intention for taking up the job was to use it as a stepping stone to further his own political career, he explained his

belief in being involved with the running of the union early on; he saw his junior position in the medical school as an advantage, because by the time the merger would take place, he would still be in his first clinical year, and thus would have both the time and experience to continue to help running the union of the new medical school. He would also like to encourage more people from his year to be involved with the SU. He wanted to help develop a fierce pride for ICSM among the new intakes, and saw the current postural gesture adopted by some medics against the rest of the College as damaging.

Other posts to be contested include Vice President Internal, Treasurer, Social Rep, Deputy Social Rep, Clubs and Societies Rep, Education Rep, Welfare Rep and Bar Manager.

Disgruntled Scots unis to leave NUS

DAVID ROBERTS

The "nightmare" that was the recent National Union of Students National Conference in Blackpool has led several universities to consider whether to join ICU and be outside of the nationwide Union. Aberdeen, Stirling, Paisley, Kings, LSE and Bristol are all considering referenda to disassociate themselves, and Sheffield Hallam go to the ballot boxes next week to decide their future.

The Conference was widely perceived to have been hijacked by the two primary political factions within the movement - the controlling "New Labour" group and the rival Campaign for Free Education - who, according to ULU President Sarah White intimidated the remaining delegates, successfully stopping them speaking. For example, in line with Labour policy, the NUS has recently given up its bitter struggle to retain grants, in favour of a loan-based system. Such political affiliation is nothing new - in the recent General Election five former NUS Presidents became MP's. However, the level of barracking and in-fighting were considered far worse than anything seen in recent years, with the Glasgow SU describing the NUS as representing "not students but political parties".

This view was compounded when, without any consultation of delegates, the National Executive Committee (described as "a bunch of middle-class twats" by Scottish representatives) cut the final day of the Conference, so that delegates had a chance to "assist campaigning in the General Election" in their Universities. Mary Page, President of Sheffield Hallam, was "deeply depressed" by the Conference, and as a result organised their forthcoming referendum. Eric Allsop, ICU President, has offered her his full support and knowledge of how students unions can survive outside the NUS.

The Scottish Universities, however, have more specific complaint with the National Union. As well as dissatisfaction with the Blackpool Conference, they site alleged forgery and corruption within the Scottish NUS. At the meeting of the Scottish Executive to decide what was to be discussed in Blackpool, Keith Robson, President of the NUS in Scotland, produced a letter which proxied him the vote of Ros Smith, from Langside College, Glasgow. However, Ms Smith says that the letter had a forged signature, spelt her name wrong, and was not on College notepaper. Rob Shorthouse of Stirling University claims that he has copies of forged documents, not only from Langside, but from many other Scottish universities.

Students of Aberdeen University immediately began attempts to disaffiliate, and rapidly gained five-hundred signatures on a petition calling for a ballot. However, the petition had to be withdrawn, as leaving NUS would mean losing the services of NUS Services Ltd, who, in return for £30 000 a year, provide the cut price drinks on which their Union relies. The loss of NUSSL would, according to their President, "send the Union to the wall". However, now that rival company Northern Services are up-and-running, charging only £25 each year, the possibility for Aberdeen and other like-minded Universities to join ICU in the private-sector is now greater than ever.

Dogs on campus

continued from front page

Hospital, will be the responsibility of Imperial College and will be run from the South Kensington Campus. Mobile dog patrols will be a good way of keeping in contact with off-site security officers."

It is planned that the patrols will start at midday at off-campus sites and continue until the early hours of the morning. On the South Kensington Campus, there will be random patrols made during the night, with extra attention at peak hours, such as when the Union closes.

Security have advertised in-house for dog handlers and Mr Weir has already had several applications. However, as the dog effectively becomes the handler's 'pet', there are many prerequisites and the applicants have to be properly vetted. If enough handlers are found in-house, then no extra handlers will be hired.

Mr Weir is optimistic as to the success of the scheme but is aware that he may receive a lot of complaints. He was keen to reassure students and staff that "Though the dogs might be considered intimidating by some, they are not there to subdue or attack, they are simply an extension of the handler and there to protect them." Confident that the dogs will reduce crime, Mr Weir said that "...with dogs IC will be a far safer place."

HOW TO VOTE

To vote you will need:

1. your union card,
2. to find a ballot box,
3. to ask the person manning the box for your ballot paper,
4. to wait patiently while they punch your card and cross off your name,
5. a pen (often provided),
6. to mark your first preference with a "1",
7. to mark your next preference (if you have one) with a "2",
8. to enjoy!

Friday

'Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club

The Daily Telegraph Open Mic Semis

with Boothby Graffoe

8pm. dBs. £2.50/£2

POP TARTS

9-2. free b4 9 / £1 after

Saturday

FA CUP FINAL 1pm

CHELSEA v MIDDLESBORO

Budweiser Dollar Auction 7pm

POP TARTS. 8-12. FREE

Tues Bar

Trivia

win £50 !! 8.30. Davinci's

Weds

**frolix ! 9-12
free**

Thurs

Cocktail Night

happy hour prices and specials all night

iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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you are here

Exhibition

Today is the last chance to view *you are here* at the Royal College of Art, next to the Royal Albert Hall, from 11pm until 6pm, so nip up there in your lunch-break!

you are here is an exhibition of re-sited installations by contemporary artists from Europe, the USA and Brazil.

"What is installation art?" you may ask. Well, its concept is that of art as an experience of situation rather than of object. Installation art places the viewer inside the creation, enwraps him and makes him physically experience the work through a combination of elements of sight, sound, scent and touch. It seeks to awaken the senses. The viewer is not an external part of the work anymore and participation is rendered unavoidable. In some cases even, the viewer becomes an indispensable element of the it; as soon as he penetrates it, he becomes part of it and sort of makes it come to life. The work immediately assigns a role to him.

One enters the Royal College of Art to the sound of the Niagara Falls. One is then led throughout the gallery by the yarn of 1380 unwound bobbins.

Some installations are disconcerting. One of them, I must confess, Ceal Floyer's *Working Title*, has led to the growth of a lawn of question marks in my head: I was drawn to the centre of an empty space, empty but for a CD-player and two loudspeakers laid on the floor, from which was emanating the repetitive sound of the digging of sand.

I left the room very perplexed, but my attention was immediately captured by the following exhibit. This one was going to require my complete participation. I was facing a corridor. The parquet had been taken away, the floor dug a little and filled with water. The parquet had then been a bit reduced in size and put back again, so

that the floor became a 'floating floor', unstable and wet. The notice under the title read: "Please take care when viewing this work". So I cautiously apprehended *the crossing* with my high heels, surprised and amused.

The introduction of an element of physical risk renders the work exciting in a way we are not used to when viewing art. It also leaves a place, more than ever, to the option of physical escape from the work for who refuses to animate it.

Soon after this unexpected change of environment, I was led into another one, though in a different way.

Suddenly, upon pushing the doors of Mike Bode's *Corridor*, in the middle of the gallery, I was transported, *relocated*, in a hospital setting. As naturally as I had entered, I came out of it to find myself again in the familiar environment of the gallery.

I was then drawn to long, thick, heavy, blue velvet curtains which were obviously hiding something. They were an irresistible invitation to curiosity. As if I was going to flout the rules, I discreetly peaked in to discover a large dark room, with a single spotlight - an offer for the viewer to enter the scene and participate in some way, supported by a gentle feminine voice, suggesting "Tap your shoes"...

Take a break from revision and visit this exhibition full of novelties and other surprises and do not miss the excellent slide show on the object of this event - just be careful on which chair you sit...!

Danuta

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The Stones of Kolin

New End Theatre

The New End Theatre's next production, *The Cracked Comic* by Stewart Permutt, runs until June 1st. Tickets £5 - £12, phone 0171 794 0022 for details.

The *Stones of Kolin* (pronounced Colleen and Colin as we had originally assumed) is introduced as a Bohemian Jewish Rhapsody. It tells us the tale of the Jews of Kolin, a small Czech town 60km east of Prague, from the late 14th Century to the present day. The title refers to the physical and spiritual building blocks of the town and the headstones in the old Jewish cemetery where the story starts.

A young Jewish tourist visiting, the deserted cemetery, encounters an old peddler who tells her the story of its inhabitants. As the story unfolds, the characters come to life. The girl is initially complacent about her heritage but

soon becomes engrossed in the peddler's talk. She soon discovers she has her own role to play in Jewish history.

The music varies wildly but successfully in style from Dvorak to modern music written specifically for the play the story is in parts tragic and in parts comic but thoroughly captivating throughout. Roger Parrott, playing the part of Eli, the peddler, held the attention of the audience through a complicated plot. Ann Marcusson was engaging as the young tourist. Overall a very entertaining production with a pub conveniently located next door.

Giles and Hobbes

Why I think I am not a Scientist

Paul Goodfellow

On Thursday 8th May Paul Goodfellow, the College's first Visiting Artist, spoke in the central library to a packed audience of staff and students on 'Why I think I am not a Scientist'. Paul discussed his transition from Scientist to Artist in the context of his work with Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing. He emphasised the neglect of aesthetics in the practice of scientific methods and his dissatisfaction with

an approach that did not acknowledge intuitive and artistic representation.

As a result, Paul made the decision to end his research and become a full-time Artist. His current role as Visiting Artist at Imperial College will be important in developing a greater understanding of the synergy between Art and Science and the implications for a digital era.

Anna Bozic

The Berlin of George Grosz

Exhibition

This is not your run-of-the-mill exhibition. Any visitor expecting to see rows of pretty (or not so pretty) paintings will be deeply disappointed. However, if you want to study the role an artist can play in society, then it is well worth taking a look at the drawings, watercolours and prints of the cartoonist and political satirist George Grosz.

Grosz, born in Berlin, grew up in a small town Pomerania, now in Poland. Fascinated by luridly illustrated pulp-fiction, Westerns and adventure stories, he decided to become an illustrator. After a spell at the Art Academy in Dresden, he returned to the Berlin School of Arts and Crafts in 1912. He was to remain here until the advent of Hitler as German Chancellor, charting the seediness and political corruption in the Berlin of the Weimar Republic and its descent into the grips of the Nazis.

Grosz' early work is that of a non-conformist, a rebel against the narrow-mindedness of the German Bürger. His drawings such as *The Lost Happiness Café* depict the decadent violent side of Berlin, notorious in particular for

its cabarets. The people that stare out of this sketches have a vacant forlorn look in their eyes. There is no hope left in the Berlin that Grosz draws.

Grosz' political activism developed with his conscription into the army during the first World War. He resented authoritarianism of the officers and their attitude towards the soldiers as cannon-fodder. He returned to Berlin with a bitter hatred of authority and mankind in general. His sense of the macabre futility of war comes to the fore in *The Faith Healers* which shows an army doctor declaring a cadaver fit for active service.

After the war, he became a committed member of the German Communist Party and agitated against the government of the Weimar Republic which to him was just a continuation, under a different name, of the old autocratic Prussian system. His political cartoons were published in radical journals along with the work of Brecht, Weill and Tucholsky. Looking at these drawings, you can see why the tradition of political cartoonist still flourishes: Grosz'

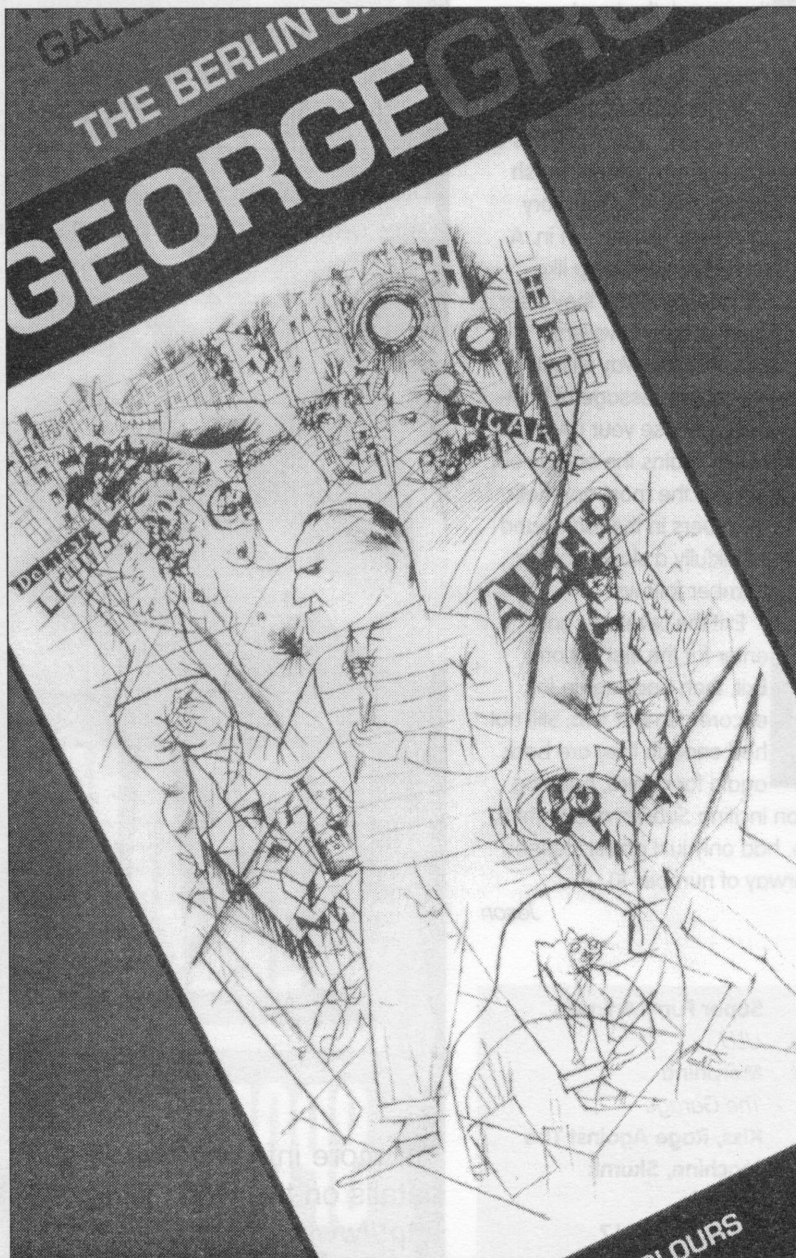
message comes across loud and clear. I am tempted to say that his work has a further reaching effect than that of his more literary fellow communists. In *Memory of Rosa Luxembourg* and *Karl Liebknecht* for example exposes the brutal murder of these revolutionaries by the authorities.

However, Grosz became more and more disillusioned with communism. During a visit to the newly created Soviet Union, he saw at first hand the effects of communism. Instead of an egalitarian society, he found brutal repression, needless violence and censorship which confirmed his bitter opinion of mankind. His work slowly veers away from propaganda towards satirical observation. He records without judgement people going about their lives. With the inexorable rise of Hitler, Grosz decided to leave Germany for his childhood dream, America.

This exhibition charts Germany's catastrophic slide towards the Second World War. It also made me realise though what an immense power the media has to influence people. It is in a way frightening to think that the work of just one political artist can explain and to some extent influence the mood of an entire nation.

Emma

The Berlin of George Grosz is being exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, until the 8th June.



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The **Foo Fighters** have got a new album out entitled *The Colour And The Shape* which was released on Monday. **Primal Scream** are soon to confirm a number of big tent shows over summer. They look set to take place in Glasgow on August 2, Hackney Victoria Park on August 9 and 10 and near Dublin Castle on either August 16 or 17. This year's Music Industry Soccer Six is to be held at Fulham's Craven Cottage ground on May 18. Among those playing will be **The Prodigy**, **Symposium**, **Robbie Williams** and **Blur**. The **Tindersticks** release a new album, *Curtains* in mid June and **Spiritualised** are set to release a new LP,

THE LEVELLERS Brixton Academy

So, they've been around the block a few times now, and after four albums and many more years playing their politically motivated anthems in support of such noble causes as travellers' rights and social justice you might have thought that they were beginning to tire. OK, so they don't tour as much as they used to and they don't sell more T-

shirts than records any more, a feat only matched by total T-shirt merchants like Neds and Carter. They aren't exactly adorning the front covers of music publications any more either, but they still manage to fill the 5000 capacity Academy to the brim.

There's quite a mixed bunch here tonight, you've got your hard-core crusties, dreads and German paras to boot and the older loyal fans who have returned to experience the full onslaught of the Levs live. Scattered around are also groups of the so called 'kids'.

The timing of this gig couldn't have been better, coming as it did the same day we all discovered that a new Labour government was in

Ladies And Gentlemen We Are Floating In Space, on May 26. Look out for the review in next week's Felix.

Tomorrow, May 17 will see musical goings-on up and down the country to raise funds for the **National Missing Persons Helpline (NMPH)** under the banner of WHERE ARE YOU? These happenings will include three London events with all proceeds going to this chronically underfunded but vital organisation. The NMPH is a charity that gives support to families of the 250,000 people who, for what ever reason go missing in the UK every year. They give priority to the most vulnerable cases- the sick, the young and the old and the distressed, rely-

LIVE

charge. Inevitably when they came on, the first act of celebration was to give a verbal two fingered salute to that nice man Michael Portillo.

The songs from *Levelling The Land* provoke the greatest response from the crowd, the jaunty *Boatman* and *Another Man's Cause* cause helpless uncontrollable sing-alongs and *The Riverflow* initiates a frenzied passionate mosh along with the obligatory shouts of 'Oi!' thrown in. A few oldies come up like *Carry Me* though they steer clear of their *Levellers* album. *One Way* with its poignant message of basically, choose your own way of life, drains the energy out of even the most apathetic members in the room, and thankfully a slow acoustic number follows.

Exit the Levellers, and enter for the first encore. Exit, then back again for encore number two. Still not had enough they are back again for a third, opening with the revolution inciting *Subvert* and to think that Blair and co. had only just about stepped through the doorway of number 10.

Jason

Listings:

Fri/Sat 16/17th May **The Charlatans**, Sold Out.
Brixton Academy
W/T 19/20th May **Nick Cave + the Bad Seeds**
Royal Albert Hall
W/Th 28/29th May **Foo Fighters**
Astoria

Wed 28th May

Friday 30th May

Sat 5th July

Super Furry Animals
ULU

Morphine

The Garage

Kiss, Rage Against The Machine, Skunk

Anansie,

Thunder and L7

Finsbury Park

ing on voluntary contributions to run its FREE HELPLINE for missing persons and their families. They provide a 'Message Home' service so that adults or young people who do not want to go home can send a message to let their families know it's OK. That number is **0500 700 740**.

The musical goings mentioned are **The Charlatans** playing an all nighter gig at The Brixton Academy with plenty of special guests including **Monaco** and James Dean Bradfield (Manics lead singer bloke). Also at The Borderline there will be a special acoustic night featuring Mark Moriss (lead singer bloke from the **Bluetones**) and **Hurricane No. 1**. All proceeds will go to NMPH.

Got Any Talent?

97

THE BREAK

SPONSORS

For more info you can find details on the world wide web at <http://www.thebreak.com>

ALBUMS

SALAD Ice Cream

Hang on a minute. The opening chords of the first song, *UV*, sound like Blur. No, maybe Sleeper? Relax, it isn't THAT bad (whilst comparisons with Blur are definitely complimentary, to be compared to Sleeper is nasty I know, sorry). This is Salad returning with their follow-up to their debut album of a few years back, *Drink Me*.

Formed in 1992, they have yet to really 'break' the industry. Their fan base remains small yet sure and there is always that hope that they will become the next big thing. However, they are also always keen to stress that, although becoming big would be welcome, they would never pander to any commercial stereotypes in order to get there. Noble comments indeed. So what explains the blatant pop ditty that is their latest single, *Cardboy King*? Did someone suggest that sometimes you just have to give in and get a decent hit to please record company management? I don't know, but at least they haven't carried this on throughout the whole album. Although sometimes it sounds like it would have been an idea to do so.

Most of the other songs remain staunchly Salad-y. On these, Marijine's voice lilts from the sweet and gentle (*Broken Bird*) to shrill and angry (*Namedrops*). The problem is that there's nothing particularly outstanding here. On their last album, there was *Drink the Elixir*, *Man with a Box* and *Motorbike To*

Heaven which nestled among many other brilliant songs. That was a good album. On *Ice Cream*, there's nothing to compare even for a second. Most of it moves along with an almost lethargic tone, in the musical sense, and the whole album sounds like songs that were rejected from their debut. Don't get me wrong, I do like Salad. It's just that this is very disappointing, that's all - considering how long it's taken to come out. (4)

Alok



GUTTER EROTICA Penthouse

If you're going to name your band after a soft-porn mag, you're not likely to be purveyors of candy sweet teeny-bop guitar pop. This is the blues, but a modern, grunge tinged blues with attitude. As a reviewer in a national music paper said, "This could rip the arse off you."

Listening to the album you get the impression that the band are just having a laugh. Jamming away and drinking with intent. They're just having fun! The music doesn't make much sense until you're rat-arsed. Only then can you appreciate and relate to the swaggering, drunken boisterousness of the lead guitar, the bluesy harmonica and Hammond, the incoherent yells of the singer, the baseness of the drums and the sheer filthiness of the gut turning base line. Comparisons could be made with the John Spencer blues explosion and Gallon(???) drunk with a pinch of Offspring thrown in for good measure. *The Beauty in the Beast* is a complete piss-take with some "dodgy" lyrics and groaning (!!) sounds. The singer whining "She gives me the horn."

Not everyone will like Penthouse as it can sound little more than chaotic noise. The problem is that this type of blues isn't anywhere near as good when you are sober.

However, this band certainly won't go by unnoticed and at the very least provide a refreshing change. The verdict: 6 if sober, 8 if drunk, giving an average of (7) Martin

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Alabama 3 - *Woke Up This Morning*

Who knows why this has the title it does, but Alabama 3's new single is night music to get you dancing and keep you dancing.

Babybird - *Cornershop*

Nevermind *Cornershop*, you get the original 1991 demo version of *You're Gorgeous* on the B-side.

Carrie - *The Birds*

Playlisted on Radio One, but Carrie will have to try much harder to win playtime on my stereo.

Fundamental - *Ja Sha Taan*

Great expectations lead to grave disappointments. Fundamental's new ethnic style continues to alienate even the most dedicated fans.

The Nicotines - *Planet X*

As it's a few years since Smash and These Animal Men hit the charts, I suppose The Nicotines must be the new wave of new wave of new wave.

Monaco - *Sweet Lips*

The same bassline sound prevails, but Peter Hook's new band are poppy enough to top the charts.

Essential Choon

Cola - *Shush*

The next big thing? Most certainly. The unsigned Cola will soon be up there with the Chemicals and the Prodigy vying for elbow room in the music that is shaping the nineties.

James

A - *Bad Idea*

Goofball American punk pop which races around at breakneck speed but is about nothing in particular.

Big Buddha - *Be Here Now*

A rather dated dance-rock fusion, something like the all new U2 but without the high cost production.

The Blunted Boy Wonder - *Crossroads*

Replete with funk guitar loops, this excellent techno tune grooves along in a Daft Punk disco style.

Faith No More - *Ashes To Ashes*

Faith No More return with a slow-building melody which hides a top-notch rock song. One of the few old metal groups that still deliver.

Silver Jet - *Plastiqua*

Stop start harmonies and guitars, typical college rock, yawn; perpetual underachievement.

Velvet Jones - *Worrying About Your Life*

Derivative fifth generation Britpop, three years out of date. They're trying hard but it never really sets the universe in motion.

White Town - *Undressed*

The triumphant follow up to *Your Woman* finds Jyoti Mishra in typically maudlin mood supported by those idiosyncratic retro-electro arrangements.

Michael

News Extra

The **Essential Music Festival**, held in Stanmer Park, Brighton, is now in its 7th year, and has become one of the country's top music events. Held over this coming Bank Holiday - **Saturday May 24th to Monday 26th**, takes in dance, indie, rock, reggae, hip-hop and jazz over its three days. More information can be found at the website <http://www.essential-music.co.uk> or by ringing **0891 230 190**. So there's the blurb, now here is your definitive list of the top bands playing.

DANCE DAY Sat May 24th
Future Sound Of London, Dreadzone, Apollo 440, The Aloof, Olive, Arkana, Laika, Terminalhead, Lewis Taylor, Chemical Brothers, 808 State, Death In Vegas, Spooky, The Orb, Eat Static, System 7, Lionrock, Bandulu, Banco de Gaia, LTJ Bukem, Project 23, Squarepusher, Attica Blues, The Herbaliser, Fabio and Grooverider back to back, Kemistry and Storm, Jumping Jack Frost, Randall, Peshay, Roni Size, DJ Krust, The Advent, Planetary Assault System, Kumo, Propellerheads, The Dirty Beatniks, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Hard Knox, Lo-Fi Allstars.

INDIE DAY Sun May 25th
The Levellers, Shed Seven, Korn, Helmet, 3 Colours Red, 60ft Dolls, The Wannadies, Silver Sun, Fountains Of Wayne, Stereophonics, Hurricane no.1, Space, The Boo Radleys, Teenage Fanclub, Gorky's Zygotiic Mynci, Beth Orton, Sneaker Pimps, Subcircus, Jocasta, Dweeb, Terrorvision, Bodycount featuring Ice-T, Audioweb, Morphine, Redd Kross, Baby Bird, My Life Story, Symposium, Tiger, Chumbawamba, Monaco, Supernaturals, Kenickie, The Dharmas, Salad, Black Star Liner, Linoleum, Lewis Taylor, Arnold, Don, She,

Candyskins, Smaller, Earl Brutus, Proper, Groop Dogdrill, One Inch Punch, Vitro, Man With No Name, Paul Oakenfold, Alabama 3, Dave Ralph.

ROOTS DAY Mon May 26th
Brand New Heavies, Bunny Wailer, J.T.Q., Third World, Zion Train, Asian Dub Foundation, Bim Sherman, Luciano, Culture, The Twinkle Brothers, Buju Banton, Israel Vibrations, Junior Delgado, Misty In Roots, Ice-T, Grand Master Flash, Jungle Brothers, Afrika Bambaataa, Jeru The Damaja, Artifacts, Prophets of Da City, The Brotherhood, Blak

Twang, Urban Species, Jhelisa, D-Influence, Roy Ayers, Courtney Pine, Afro Celt Sound System, Fun-DA-Mental, Loop Guru, Nitin Sawhney, Electric Groove Temple, Baby Fox, Rockers Hi-Fi, Max Romeo&Johnny Clarke, Dub Warriors, Keziah Jones, The Wailers, Kitachi, Toots and the Maytails, Frankie Oliver, Mafia and Fluxy Kente, Runaways (Ultimate Dilemma) + DJ Andy Smith (Portishead tour DJ).

A fantastic line up, we're sure you'll agree. Brighton is not that far, so hop on the train and enjoy the choons!

The Daily Telegraph

OPEN

mic

AWARD

**BRITAIN'S
BIGGEST
COMEDY
TALENT SEARCH
HOSTED BY
BOOTHBY
GRAFFOE**

"I WAS SWEEP AWAY
ON A TIDAL WAVE OF
IDIOTIC LAUGHTER"
NME

SEMI-FINALS

**THURSDAY 8th MAY
LUTON UNIVERSITY
UNION**

The Underground
Box Office: 01582 489 366
Doors: 8.30pm

**SATURDAY 10th MAY
LOUGHBOROUGH
UNION**

The Auditorium
Box Office: 01509 632 011
Doors: 8.00pm

**SUNDAY 11th MAY
LIVERPOOL
UNIVERSITY
GUILD**

Uncle Piehead's
Comedy Parlour
Box Office: 0151 709 9108
Doors: 8.00pm

**MONDAY 12th MAY
EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT'S
ASSOCIATION**

The Pleasance Cabaret Bar
Box Office: 0131 650 2349
Doors: 8.00pm

**THURSDAY 15th MAY
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
UNION**

The Terminal
Box Office: 01222 396 421
Doors: 8.00pm

**FRIDAY 16th MAY
IMPERIAL
COLLEGE UNION**

Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club
Box Office: 0171 594 8068
Doors: 8.00pm

Tickets
£2.50

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
**NEWCASTLE
BROWN ALE
NATIONAL
COMEDY
NETWORK**

**£1000
FIRST PRIZE**

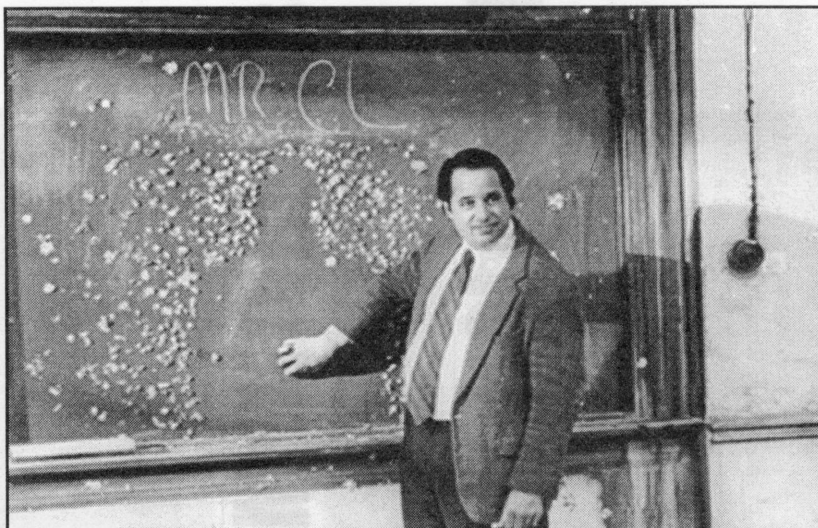
music

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH 15

Naked Gun and *Airplane!* creator David Zucker takes on *Dangerous Minds* in his latest spoof, **High School High**. It tells the unlikely tale of idealistic Richard Clark (Jon Lovitz) who leaves an exclusive private academy to join the front line at a delapidated inner-city high school. He is convinced that these kids should be allowed to have the same experiences that his private-school pupils did - dating, going to proms and begging for sex.

In most David Zucker spoofs the story would be immaterial, merely a means of filling the foreground whilst the majority of jokes take place in the background. However, *High School High* is a far cry from his other films, both in terms of style and quality. For a start, there's no Leslie Nielsen. Many would no doubt be more than slightly relieved at this. Unfortunately, though, the replacement is the relatively unknown Jon Lovitz and his quips and facial expressions just don't compare with those of the Donahue-lookalike. It's not that he's unfunny, as years of appearing on *Saturday Night Live* testify, it's just that only Nielsen could bring off some of the immensely daft one-liners in the script.

The fact that this film has anything resembling a plot gives away *High School High's* main weakness. Whereas *Naked Gun et al* were parodies of a whole genre, and therefore had plenty of material to work with, Zucker's lat-



Jon Lovitz stars with *Wayne's World's* Tia Carrere in a failed attempt to send up *Dangerous Minds*.

est focuses entirely on just one not-particularly good film, *Dangerous Minds*. This means its unavoidably a one-gag film, which it uses up in the first few minutes. To avoid making the repetition obvious, a storyline is introduced to pad out the joke. Even then the plot is an exact replica of Michelle Pfeifer's film, with the disillusioned youngsters finally coming around to Lovitz and deciding "they wanna learn". In fact, the teenagers are the best actors in the film, especially Mekhi Phifer. (This is apparently her real name, and not yet another hilarious comic moment based on Michelle Pfeifer). The film is short at one and a half hours, hinting that even the director knew there wasn't much funny material.

Chris

The Birdcage Competition

This page is rapidly becoming the competition page it seems! As from next week, there are no more film reviews, just countless chances to win freebies. Anyway, a couple of weeks ago we gave you the opportunity to win *The Birdcage* on video, courtesy of those kind folk at

MGM/UA. The question was "Which secret agent featured in Mrs Doubtfire with Robin Williams?". The answer was, of course, Pierce Brosnan.

The lucky winners are David Roberts of Physics and Ralph Stear of Mechanical Engineering.

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(We Can't) Give it Away!

Another opportunity to see the latest film for absolutely nothing this week. We have yet more free tickets to give away courtesy of the Odeon Kensington. The latest release is **The Relic**, a good old-fashioned horror movie about a less-than-mythical creature living in the basement of New York's Natural History Museum. Once again the indescribably nice guys at our local cinema are donating FIVE pairs of tickets to those who know the answer to the following question:

"The monster in *The Relic* comes from the same coffee-making South American country as the snake in *Anaconda*. Which country is this?"

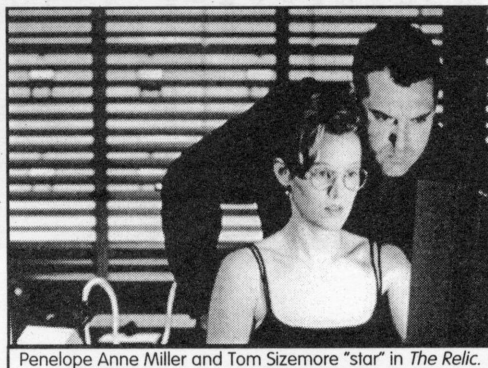


Anaconda's Jennifer Lopez. Surely too pretty for snake fodder?

Last week we asked for the name of the star of *Mission Impossible*. This ridiculously easy question meant there were hat-fuls of entries with the correct answer, Tom Cruise. The winners receiving a pair of tickets for *Anaconda* are:

Mark Rossiter	Computing
Yee Kien Ling	Chem Eng
Martin Jones	Maths
Jason Ramanathan	Chem Eng
P. Ratcliffe	Physics

Come to the office on Monday to collect your tickets or e-mail us if you want them posted in the internal mail.



Penelope Anne Miller and Tom Sizemore "star" in *The Relic*.

ODEON
CINEMAS
THE
RELIC

Friday 16th May

The Daily Telegraph
**OPEN
MIC
AWARD**

12.00pm Felix News Meeting

Felix Office Beit Quad.

1pm Hamsoc (Regular)

Top Floor, Union Building.

1pm Photo Soc (Regular)

Southside Lounge.

1.10pm RAG Meeting (Regular)

dBs.

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.

8pm Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club

It's coming home... Tonight we've got a dozen of the south's top stand-up newcomers, in the Daily Telegraph Open Mic semi finals. The show is compered by Perrier nominee, and firm favourite Boothby Graffoe, and all this is yours for just £2.50 / £2 with an entcard.

And to keep you away from your beds, indulge yourself in a mouthful of Pop Tarts - the ideal anti-depressant. 9-2. Free before 9 / £1 after.

Free Women's Minibus Service

First run at 12.00 midnight.

Last run at Union closing time.

Saturday 17th May

12.00pm FA Cup Final on the big Screen

The biggest match on the biggest screen... The FA Cup Final. Chelsea v Middlesboro. All the pre match news and action LIVE inm

DaVinci's. Followed by the special Budweiser Dollar Bill Auction, with a shedload of goodies to be given away at 7pm, and a return visit from the Pop Tarts. 8-12. And it's all FREE.

Monday 19th May

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

5pm 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.

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 20th May

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, choco-late.

12.15 Yoga Soc (Regular)

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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)

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

8pm Da Vinci's Bar Trivia

Yet another chance to win some easy money in DaVinci's ... Bar Trivia. The fun starts at 8.30, and it's free to enter.

Wednesday 21st May

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)

Sports Centre.

1pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (beg/inter), Southside Gym

2pm Photo Soc

Lessons, Darkroom

5pm Fitness Club (Regular)

STEP Aerobics (inter), Southside Gym

6.00pm ICU Cinema - Shine

6.30pm Chess Club (Regular)

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!

Breaking down the days of tedium ...frolix!

8-12. FREE, dBs.

8.30pm ICU Cinema - Mars Attacks!

Thursday 22nd May

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.

1.10pm RAG Meeting (Regular)

dB's

5.30pm Fitness Club (Regular)

Aerobics (intermediate), Southside Gym

6.00pm ICU Cinema - Mars Attacks

6.15pm IC Choir Rehearsals (Regular)

New Members Welcome, Mech Eng 342

8pm ICCAG (Regular)

Meet Weeks Hall Basement

8pm Da Vinci's Cocktail Night

Shaken, but definitely not stirred - a night of glamour and cinzano. Happy hour prices and special offers all night.

8.30pm ICU Cinema - Shine

**IC CHOIR
CONCERT**
**BERNSTEIN
DURUFLE
TIPPETT**
8pm Friday
23rd May.
Tickets £2.50
in advance
from ICU Office
and Choir
members

You are a beastly lot! Saying all those nasty things about Ian Caldwell. Yes, I'm talking to you, Neil Forsyth. I think you slightly overstepped the mark by suggesting that he has no brain. I have had the pleasure of his company and can confirm not only evidence of cerebral activity, but also that the man has a lot of very interesting things to say. Don't get me wrong Imperial, I'm not apologising for the tent fiasco or for Mr C's occasional shortcomings (for examples see the last 2 years of *Felix*). Certainly not, but softly softly, catchy monkey. I don't want to spend too long with the tent this week (like most members of Chemistry and Physics), since I plan to cover it and 'related topics' in the next issue. Let me just say that no one at IC, and I really do mean no one, has persuaded me that this is anything other than a cock of immense proportions, the result of misplaced priorities.

Speaking of cockups, it was disappointing to hear of the demise of ABA Copytech barely five minutes after it opened. Though I must admit

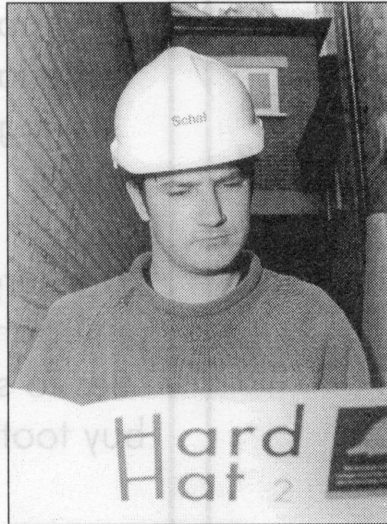
I hardly noticed it, let alone used its facilities, the idea seemed, I thought, to be a bit shaky. Almost all of what it offered could be obtained from established sources around the College, but apparently this was not the problem. It was not our end that fell flat on its face. Being the arch cynic that I am, I wrongly assumed that Finance sold ABA a dummy, which could have had nasty repercussions for the various planned ventures around the campus. Phew what a relief. Ah, hang on a minute. Is it not normal practice to run checks on companies before one enters into an agreement with them, so as to avoid being left holding the baby. Does IC not use

the much-respected Dunn and Bradstreet for this purpose? Some careless Café Express customer muttered in earshot that they were not used in this case. *Shurely shome mish-take?* If they were, questions need to be asked over the credit agency. If not, someone in the Finance Division may care to inform us as to why. Whatever the case, it confirms my belief that any attempts to build on the incredibly shaky, but considerable, foundations of Sherfield are doomed to failure. I know that businesses fold for a variety of reasons, sometimes at short notice, but this has shambles scrawled all over it. I cannot believe

that this misfortune would have happened if proper procedures and due diligence checks had been carried out. Invariably in business, nasty surprises are precisely that, the result of not doing your homework properly. Given the planned changes over the next few years, please tell me that I've got it all wrong, Mike Hansen.

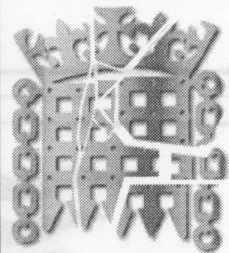
And finally, a new departure. Ever keen to tend to your every need, dear reader, I thought that it was about time that I offered my assistance in planning those sad moments when one finds oneself away from Imperial. That said, even IC's most loyal subjects need a break every now and then, and for the first in this occasional series, I suggest Istanbul. What better than to escape from the stench of the lab or the drudgery of Southside basement at the end of week and spend a few days in the mystical city where East meets West. Flights are available from £89, though I understand that some people have been able to negotiate much better deals recently. A truly marvellous place. You will send a postcard if you go, won't you?

Simon Baker



voice of reason

Westminster Eye - Hamish Common



Things move so quickly these days, especially in Parliament. Labour's spectacular majority seems to be going to some ministers' heads already: Prescott joked that the building for the Institute of Civil Engineers "couldn't take our majority". Gordon Brown has been criticised for giving independence to the Bank of England without seeking the permission of Parliament first. Of course a new Government is expected to make its mark quickly, and Labour has, starting a number of fresh initiatives already. But it must remember the difference between Government and Parliament.

For those who are unsure, the difference is fairly simple. People are elected as Members of Parliament by constituencies around the United Kingdom, and those MPs may then sit and speak in the Commons, and also vote on any legislation coming through it. There are no technical restrictions on which side an MP may vote for. MPs have a duty to their constituents to examine bills and scrutinise their content, for which they receive an allowance to hire researchers. In practice, MPs take 'the whip' of a particular party when they arrive in the House, and are expected (but do not always) vote in line with their party's wishes. The leader of the party controlling a majority of MPs is then invited to form a government by the Queen. He or she then selects ministers - usually from Parliament, but not always - to run the Government. The Government does all the running of the country, whereas Parliament makes the laws within which the Government must work. The Government cannot make law, it can be sued

like any other organisation, and its decisions can be overruled by a judge. Parliament however is supreme (setting aside the European dimension), and cannot be sued or 'argued with' in any way. A decision from Parliament comes from its members, not from the Government.

A dangerous tone was being emitted by the new Minister Without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson (previously Labour's spin-doctor-in-chief) when bluntly stated "Labour Members of Parliament have been elected to carry out the manifesto for which we have received an overwhelming mandate from the public." This is broadly true, and Labour MPs would be wise not to attempt to undermine Labour's central pledges. But MPs who blindly followed what party elders told them may as well be replaced by robots for all the use they will be to anyone. Not all manifestoes are perfect, and Labour will naturally wish to introduce legislation on other areas in their five year term. This is where things may become worrying. Already the party have introduced disciplinary procedures for MPs who bring it into 'disrepute'. This heavy-handedness at the top of the party is anti-democratic and dangerous for anyone, whatever their political allegiance. Already Mr Blair announced the change in Prime Minister's questions from two 15 minute sessions to one 30 minute session per week, something that was specifically rejected by the Procedure Committee (which is part of Parliament) recently. Other ideas espoused by reformers is to change the shape of the seating in the Commons from the opposing pews to a horseshoe shape, like many other Parliaments, since they apparently don't like the atmosphere created by this 'confrontational' arrangement (it didn't seem much of a problem

when opposing the Government). Some MPs are calling for swift action, in order to have the changes pushed through before the summer recess. Quite apart from the abhorrent idea that some naïve reformers could change 400 years of tradition in a few weeks, with no discernible benefits, I hope the Labour Party have a long think before diving headlong into fundamentally altering the whole way Parliament works.

ANSWERS TO 1084's ELIMINATION

- a - Thousand, Foot;
- b - Olive, Tree;
- c - Special, Branch;
- d - Old, Hand;
- e - Pail, Pale;
- f - Bucket, Chemistry;
- g - Dark, Horse;
- h - Cow, Chicken;
- i - Yellow, Belly;
- j - New, Delhi;
- k - Curry, Ingratiate;
- l - Oil, Well;
- m - Red, Sauce;
- n - Treasure, Island;
- o - Crown, Jewels,

leaving SPICE!

STUDY AREAS FOR IC STUDENTS ON SUNDAYS

An area has been set aside in the SHERFIELD BUILDING for private study on Sundays 10.00 - 18.00 on the following dates:

Sunday 18th May
Main Dining Hall Level 1

Sunday 25th May
Main Dining Hall Level 1

Sunday 1st June
Main Dining Hall Level 1

Sunday 8th June
Senior Common Room Level 2

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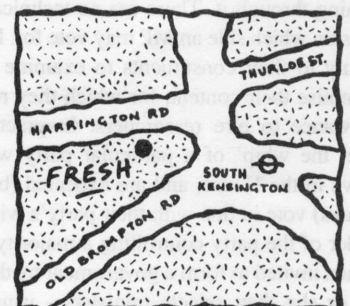
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LETTERS TO FELIX

Felix out of turn

Dear Alex,

I would like to comment on your whimsical cartoon regarding Ian Caldwell in issue 1083 at the end of last term. I've been associated with the College for 16 years as an undergraduate/ postgraduate/ tutor/ warden/ union official/ employee, and as such have had numerous contacts with *Felix* both on and off the record. I therefore feel well qualified to make the following comment.

Felix should be a voice of our students who, at times, are right to question the way their College is run. *Felix* should be enjoyable and therefore satire is not out of place. The blatant attack on an Administrative Director is certainly 'fair game'. However, to stoop to the depths of personally insulting someone who, according to previous issues, may not be perfect but is certainly honourable, open and dedicated to improving the student environment, is unlikely to endear you to your readers.

I enjoy reading a *Felix* which is controversial and outspoken; I am less impressed with one that ducks the real problems and purely focuses on taking the piss out of a very decent bloke who is not only hard-working and extremely talented but who, most importantly, is loyal to the College.

Regards

Ken Young

In this case I would agree with you that Ian Caldwell loo roll is probably going too far... though I think the 'honourable, open and dedicated' picture given in previous issues provides balance to this particular example.

poll: taxing

Dear Sir,

I may be not be a Student of Imperial College, but I felt that I simply had to write to congratulate David Roberts on the worst election

poll in history. Well done, David. Keep up the good work.

Your faithfully,

Chris Coote, Warwick University

From what I've seen of your own effort, Warwick Boar, I wouldn't shout too loudly, but I'm glad to see that *Felix* gets so far.

hustings moan

Dear Felix,

After just coming out of the ICU Presidential Hustings held in dBs, I cannot believe the lack of basic knowledge displayed by the candidate.

When asked a question on whether or not ICU should disaffiliate from the NUS, the first response was yes, until the candidate realised that ICU is not a part of the NUS. Given the large majority of students who voted against re-joining the NUS 2 years ago, such a large oversight by a presidential candidate, clearly shows that they are not in touch with the overall feeling at Imperial, or reality!

Also, is someone who, at the ICU Hustings, said "Blokes are cunts", an appropriate candidate for ICU President, given that approximately 70% of ICU is composed of "blokes"? - by the way, I would expect that someone on a Biology and Management course would understand that this is physically impossible!

B Tucker

Computing II

I've been here for four years, and I can assure you that there are a lot of "cunts" about Brian. However, whatever Ms Bunston's academic ability, I am sure she is able by now to place them, if isolated first.

From what I can recall of the NUS referendum, the turnout was poor, at about 1500. That would leave approximately 6000 students who didn't register their opinion or didn't know about it. So, perhaps Ms Bunston is, by her self-confessed ignorance, a better representative than given credit for.



Editor Alex Feakes / Advertising Manager Mark Baker

I would like to invite you to join me on a trip to another world, where someone is speaking in a marquee (possibly rigid-sided):

"...have a greater resentment at being unseated from what we see as our home (in a physical and, for want of a better word, spiritual sense) and have felt quite strongly over this for some years."

The camera moves slightly from the back of the tent, rising above the rows of applauding students, bringing the speaker into view.

"The to-ing and fro-ing of victorious claims and bitter rebukes..."

The viewpoint drifts off up toward the podium and the speech fades into the background. The *fer-de-lis* emblem on the front of the lectern is royal purple on white.

"...However, the headline was 'Medics secure independence' which, in a couple of areas we have done, but this story was seen as 'a stirring story of triumph in the face of adversity.' I believe that this imminent change, in one way or another, scares or worries every one of us..."

We pan down to look at the transcript in one of the audience's lap:

"However, to go on accusing us of being 'selfish' is simply short-sighted. Of course we are being selfish. We are being uprooted against our wills and, whilst we realise that without the move, we would have a very short life-expectancy indeed, we are merely trying to ensure that despite the geographical changes, little else about what is a fantastic place (though it does, of course, have its weaknesses) alters perceptibly."

The speaker drones on.

"...To criticise us directly for tak-

ing away from the members of ICU is a pointless twisting of fact. We are not 'a room full of baying medical students' anymore than ICU students are a University of simpering apathetics. We are simply concerned to do everything within our power to make ICSM a worthy successor."

The crowd are beginning to tire, sense that the orator was on the home straight. He continued:

"...A couple of weeks after this, a letter was written that attempted to put forward our point of view. Unfortunately, this letter slipped down the unproductive slope of being aggressive and confrontational. For several years now, 'St Mary's xenophobia', a trait particular to all London Medical Schools, has extended to IC. I have already skimmed the surface of why this has occurred, but I don't believe that this is something that we should be rapidly trying to unravel. It is, for the most part purely posturing and serves our fierce pride, but it is our fierce pride that drives us to our fantastic achievements."

The marquee starts to whistle and cheer.

"This is just one debate of many to come and it is important to realise that aggressive triumphalism is not wanted at IC any more than snide jealousy and resentment are received over here. This whole process is inevitable and, as far as we are concerned, we will continue to obtain everything that we reasonably can."

The speaker sits down to thunderous applause. The camera snaps back to reality, which makes less sense, frankly. These are extracts from Marmalade Sandwich, St Mary's magazine. Discuss.

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Letters may edited for content or length. The deadline for letters for the next issue is Tuesday 20th May. Letters may be e-mailed to: felix@ic.ac.uk

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FELIX SPORT

Mountain climbers sunbathe and do brave stuff

It all started one afternoon above a betting shop on Fulham Road. A collection of sad alcoholics watching an evening of classic British cinema including 'The Italian Job' and Monty Python's '...and now for something completely different'. This unbounded festival of stupidity was to set the atmosphere for the entire holiday.

A Taxi ride at breakneck speed in the wee small hours took us to Gatwick airport, where the more enthusiastic of us raced in luggage trolleys across the deserted terminal.

A plane and a train later we found ourselves in 'El Chorro' (the centre of nowhere) only to find an automobile driven by our gracious host, and rally driver-wannabe, Jean, ready to take us further away from anywhere.

The climbing started immediately (although some more relaxed members of the club decided that they wanted to 'acclimatise' to the nice weather before doing anything too



strenuous, ie sunbathing).

El Chorro is a small town on the train line between Malaga and Seville and is a popular venue for climbers from all around Europe. The gorge (through which the train line winds its way) provides varied routes of all grades for beginners and hard-core climbers alike, with routes

anywhere from 20ft to 400ft in length. In addition to climbing, the surrounding hills are excellent for mountain biking. A 70 year old steel cable, stretching diagonally across the gorge provided entertainment and photo opportunities as three members of the club travelled across (at this point please bear in mind that the cable is over 100m above a white-water river and is 150m long).

Surprisingly enough there were no serious casualties during the trip, (and all of the minor injuries seemed

to be focused on James 'a rock fell on me' Philips). Our honoured treasurer did some rather impressive shit, and we all cheered. He also fell off, and we cheered again and threw beans at him. Arguably the most epic climb of the trip was a route named 'El Amprax', graded French 6a (where 8c is about the hardest climbable). Amprax was a route that went up the highest part of the rock and took the entire day for two pairs of climbers to complete, and included a dramatic overhang on the final pitch.

Not all of our time was spent being macho, tanned, hard-body types; we also spent some time walking in the hills absorbing the beautiful scenery (yeah right), as well as swimming naked in the reservoir just north of the upper gorge (no seriously we did, apart from the naked bit, I lied about that). At this point I would like to say that Belay Bunny only had chips (sorry, personal joke, it's very funny, trust me).

At the end of the week we were loath to leave, but with shortening funds and looming exams we returned home, with improved personal bests and some nice tans.

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TUFFERS

When King's College Hospital finally turned up, three-quarters of an hour late, the first miracle this summer occurred when our captain won the toss (a career first), and chose to bat.

Things looked good as our opener Graham classically stroked the ball around the park, with a borrowed bat, showing Mandar (two) that it can be used to score runs. Things went on quietly but steadily, with Nigel Terry scoring a well-earned fifty-three not out, anchoring our innings, and securing Man-of-the-Match. Nigel was joined at the crease by several rapid innings, keeping the runs flowing, from Mikal (fifteen) Bobby (eight) and Dave (sixteen).

Unfortunately, we made the cardinal sin of failing to see out our overs, but still put together a creditable one-hundred-and-sixty-one. Then we went to tea - not too bad for Harlington, but Bobby we do only get allotted one cake each, not three.

KCH then went out to bat, and we tried our best to defend this reasonable target. This would have been a simple task were it not for something called extras. Come on lads, forty-eight is a little too generous. Anything on line was hardly ever hit for runs - but we only took three of their wickets. The first was bowled by Nigel, and caught with lightening reactions by Mandar at slip. The next two went to Dave who finished with very creditable figures of two for thirty-five, and rued the dropping of two catches in his final over. This was the turning point in the match, as the batsman in question went on to make an unbeaten sixty-one.

Pete was unlucky with figures of eight overs for thirty, which should have included a couple in the wickets column. Bobby was also unlucky not to pick up a wicket - unfortunately the umpire didn't know the meaning of LBW.

Remove the extras from our bowling and we were tremendous.