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The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Issue 1093

10 October 1997

EXCLUSIVE

Interview with Mark & Lard

EXPLAINED

Dearing and all that Jazz

EXEMPLARY

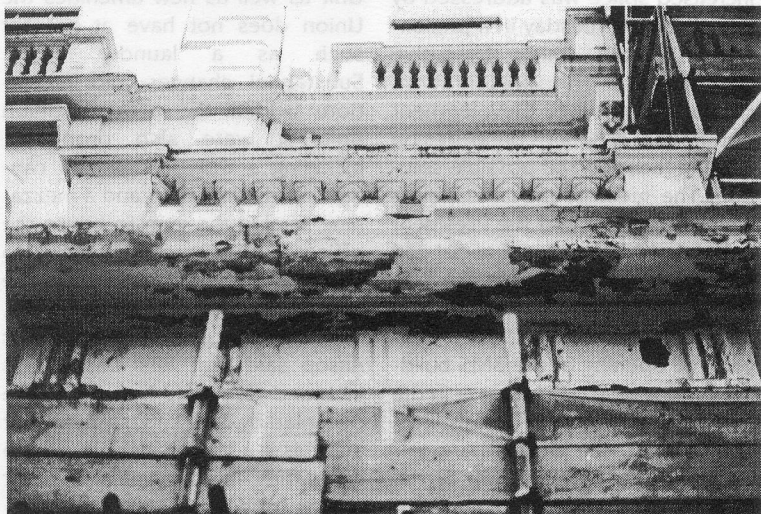
All the best music

# Hanging Garden

**Part of the ornamental 'dental course' that decorates the top of the crumbling Garden Hall partially collapsed in late August.**

A piece of stucco fell from House nine, hitting the railing and shattering into smaller pieces before landing on the pavement. It was about half a metre in length but fortunately did not hit anyone or do any serious damage. The Estates division of Imperial cleared the debris away and cordoned off the area, putting a "Beware Falling Masonry" sign up on a post. Scaffolding was erected quickly, after the local council was notified, to protect pedestrians and the children that attend the nursery below. It consists of "a full-height scaffold with an access level and netting. There is a fan running under the access level, at the first floor level, to catch any other falling debris." The protective fan runs from house eight to ten as the dental course on those houses could also collapse.

It has been revealed that poor workmanship, completed some time ago, on the balcony of house nine led to damp setting into the surrounding stonework. The stucco was bonded to the building and the moisture weakened the stonework,



Garden Hall - 'not falling apart' Photo: Richard

causing the bond to deteriorate to the extent that it could no longer hold the plaster up against gravity.

After inspection by a consultant engineer, the rest of the House 9 plaster was removed and the face of that part of the block is currently in the process of being repaired. A structural engineer completed a survey of the whole Garden house block but found that the problem was only in the local area of the damaged plaster and pronounced the rest of the block to be in an

acceptable, safe condition.

The rooms inside the Hall appear to be deteriorating rapidly according to several students who lived there during the summer. However, although paint is peeling and cracks are growing on ceilings, the Estates Department are confident that the building is not 'falling apart'. There are plans to develop and refurbish the block, inside and out, but nothing is expected to happen for at least six months as funds and permission are organised, although a contact in the finance department told Felix that the maintenance fund currently has an unspent surplus of over £2million.

Phyz

## IC accommodation at crisis point

**The record has been set straight on a rumour circulating Imperial College that concerns a significant overcrowding problem in Halls of Residence.** Despite an extra 200 places being made available to most Universities, Imperial College admitted a further 200 freshers over that limit this year, and many were not allocated a place in Halls due to an insufficient space. Speculation over those students' whereabouts included bed and breakfasts and small hotels around the West London area, or that London stu-

dents had been forced to stay at home. One student said that he would have to commute to London every day from Worthing on the South Coast until a room could be found for him in Halls.

According to Sharine Brown, the Domestic Manager of Imperial College and one of the senior members of staff dealing with the housing problem, only 88 first year students still do not have a place in the South Kensington Halls. The guarantee in the Imperial College Undergraduate Prospectus

*continues on page three*

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# ICU Plans take shape

The Union's desperate need for increased space was addressed by Eric Allsop on Tuesday in a presentation to the Union Executive Committee. The presentation, created for the Beit Development Committee, describes pressures on existing facilities and possible solutions. The greatest pressure points were highlighted and the President noted that "expansion of social and recreational space within the college has not kept pace with student numbers since 1960". Next year the opening of the BMS building and the resultant increase in the student population of nearly 25% will worsen these pressures.

The impending removal of the Biology department from Beit Quad to the new Biomedical Centre in 1998 will vacate much of the space in the Beit building. Most of this is due to be converted to new student rooms, but there are some areas, particularly the basements, which are unsuitable for accommodation. It was recommended by the Rector's Working Party on Social and Recreational Space that the Union expand into this available area, a move which College has all but guaranteed.

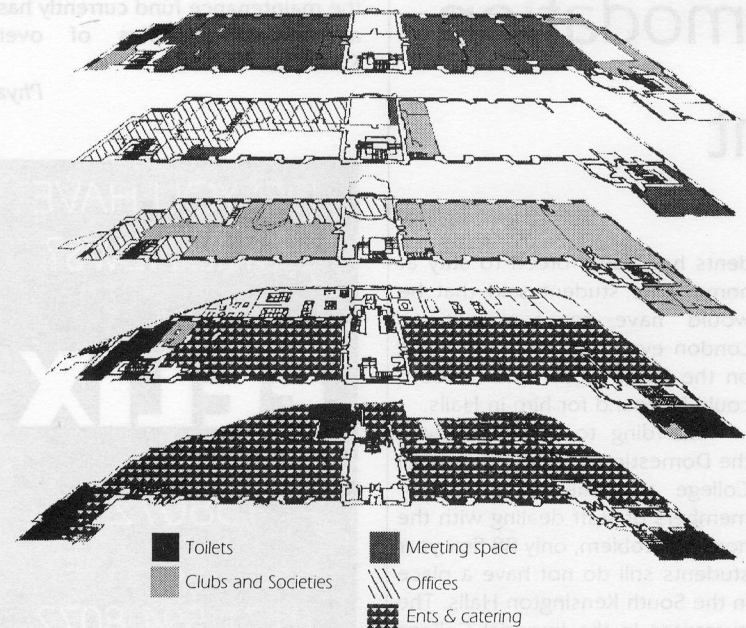
The suggestions made in the presentation for the use of the basement include changing and shower facilities, storage facilities,

Felix, STOIC, IC Radio and the Print Unit as well as new amenities the Union does not have at present such as a laundry room. Substantial changes and relocations within the present Union Building were also proposed, including a new lounge and canteen on the first floor and a mezzanine level in the gym to house the offices. The project aims to improve and rationalise the building for administration, clubs, meeting space and ents. Eric Allsop said that dBs was always intended to extend into the space occupied by Felix and the Print Unit and this is a great necessity. When comparing it with similar student unions "dBs holds 250... the average size of a venue is over 850".

It is unlikely that the College will provide money for developments in the current space and the time to complete the renovations was estimated at about 5 years. The expansion of dBs into the Felix and Print Unit is provisionally planned for summer 1998.

The presentation will be given again at the Union Council (the large student committee that governs the Union) on Tuesday 14 October at 6.00pm in the Union Dining Hall. Council is open to everyone at Imperial College.

Mahlina



Eric Allsop's proposal for the Union Building

## News in Brief...

### CLAYPONDS THEFTS RESTART

The desktop part of a computer and a hi-fi system were stolen from a student's room in Clayponds on Sunday night. The student's room was on the ground floor and the victim had only used a small domestic lock to fasten the window shut. Extra locks have been added to all the windows of Clayponds' ground floor rooms as the domestic lock supplied with the windows are not sufficient to prevent thieves from gaining direct access to personal possessions. It is believed that the culprit comes from a nearby council estate.

This is the third incident to occur in as many weeks involving someone with no affiliation with Imperial College being able to get in to Halls of Residence. This raises the question of whether the new dog patrols and increased security measures are having an effect on criminal activity at all. However, students are being urged to be vigilant and lock windows and doors securely when they leave their rooms.

### POLICE DIFFUSE FAIR TROUBLE

The militant Islamic group, Hizb-ut-Tahrir visited Imperial College Freshers' Fair once again this year, despite the ban. Setting up their stand just outside the entrance to Beit Quad, three men from the radical group handed out booklets and papers telling of the Koran and "The Massacres of Algeria to Slaughter Islam as an Ideology and a System". They appeared at the start of the Fair and were only told to leave by security at around 5.00pm after a complaint from the Biology department. Two police constables were called in to give an extra emphasis and the group, made up of graduates from LSE, UCL and Westminster Universities, disappeared swiftly.

### EQUIPMENT NICKED

Although the Freshers' Ball was enjoyed by many of those who attended the first big party of the year, it was marred by the theft of a tape deck and graphic equaliser from one of the rooms being used for dancing and music in the Union. The items belonged to the Dramatic Society and were worth an estimated £1,500. The thieves removed numerous screws to release the units from the racking and stole the equipment at around 4am as the Ball was winding down and the Union Staff were closing up. However, the equipment reappeared in an unmarked box at Beit Security Office at around 7.30pm the next day.

### NEW AGENTS

The Imperial College Union Newsagents on the Sheffield Walkway has just received a complete overhaul. The small shop was poorly designed and run-down, but the new layout should allow for better circulation and improved stock displays. Although the newsagents is open, the work will not be completed until next week.

### BLOW FOR BELEAGUERED BOOKSTORE

News has just reached Felix that the college-run Southside Shop, located below the Southside hall of residence, has begun selling stationary products. This is in direct competition with the IC Union shop on the walkway, previously known as the Bookstore. In a controversial move last year, college administration awarded the tender for the new bookshop in the library to Waterstone's. It then forced ICU to halt book selling, removing their stock by compulsory purchase. The store had been bringing in about £70,000 profit annually, all of which was invested in the Union.





## Accommodation crush

from front page

states that '...As an undergraduate student, you are guaranteed accommodation in either an Imperial College or an Inter-collegiate hall of residence for your first year of study...' Although several second and third year students do have a place in halls, Ms Brown has said 'All first year students have been given an Imperial College bed. Those who are not in the South Kensington halls have given temporary places in Clayponds, Wilson House, Montpelier hall and student flats.' Montpelier Hall was due to be closed and sold this year as the building was in a sad state of disrepair. The late refurbishment of Southwell Hall has led to

Montpelier being used again as a hall but it is not known how long it will remain open. New bad spaces have also been created by promoting single rooms to double and double to triple in some halls.

An official date has not been given to move these freshers into permanent surroundings, as rooms are being handed out as they become free. Some people who have been moved to remote halls as a temporary measure now do not wish to move. It is more likely that it is the hassle of packing and moving that is deterring students rather than the quality of the accommodation. However, the warden of Clayponds has informed us that '...the dozen or so freshers

who are here feel they have been dealt an unkind hand as Clayponds is mostly filled with postgraduates and not other first years. It is important that first years meet and socialise with others of their age and year when they arrive at University.'

The reasons for this year's high intake is due mainly to the new fees prompted by the Dearing Report, a study of the state of higher education commissioned by the Government. The Labour Education Secretary, David Blunkett, has said that an annual tuition fee of £1,000 will be introduced and applies to all those starting higher education in 1998, causing the rush of student applying for admission in 1997. For

a full explanation of the Dearing Report and the Government's steps to abolish the maintenance grant, see our feature on page 10 of this issue.

Plans are in place to expand existing halls and build a new one, but it does not seem likely that the accommodation problem will be solved for some years to come. For the present, the Student Accommodation Office is still coping with the overcrowding, but it has the potential worsen rapidly if the government's vision of 50,000 more students in higher education is realised.

Phyz

### NEWS FEATURE

# 'Good times' here again

Simon Wistow on viruses, exponential growth and other computer nasties

**Welcome to Imperial, and welcome for many of you, to free Internet connection.** You can spend as much time online as you want, set Netscape to check for email every 5 seconds and send messages like "Coming to lunch?" to your friend sitting 2 computers down from you. Finally, welcome to mass, spammed, humour.

As sure as Imperial has ugly buildings a you will get sent a 'humorous' email by either your new friends or an old friend at a different University. It will either be a joke, a list of Borgisms (Borgisms are Trekkie Jokes on the lines of "Yoda of Borg am I, assimilated you will be"), a spoof Gloria Gaynor's "I will Revise" around exam time and an email snowball at Christmas. The problem is that it so easy to forward them on to everyone in your address book and they will forward it on to their friends and so on. Even assuming each person only has five people in their address book, it spreads incredibly fast (see box).

Clearly very, very quickly an awful lot of people become involved. This principal was recently used by students who, on finding out that the BBC sports personality of the year awards were accepting votes by email, organised a scam urging everyone to vote for the outsider Justin Fashanu (who the bookies were offering high odds on). Secure in the knowledge that the black, gay, brother of John Fashanu was in so many oppressed minority groups that no-one would dare dispute it. The plan would work. In fact it worked too well; the BBC only found out when their email server crashed because it couldn't cope with the sudden influx of messages.

A while back someone decided to demon-

strate this by writing 'The Good Times' virus. Computer viruses are spread when people transfer an infected file or disk from a 'diseased' machine to a clean one on some sort of portable

systems can be geographically miles apart.

The Good Times virus is not actually a virus. No one knows it's exact origin but it is generally agreed that it originated from someone at Swathmore University with an AOL account sometime late in 1994. It is unclear as to whether it was a joke, an experiment or, as some people claim the result of someone becoming pissed off with a chain email entitled 'Good Times' that someone tried to stop by spreading a rumour that it had a virus attached to it. The basic (there are many variations) email goes something like this; "Beware, a new virus is being spread around the Internet contained within an email with the subject line 'Good Times'. Simply by reading this email you will infect your machine". The subject is often 'Good Times'.

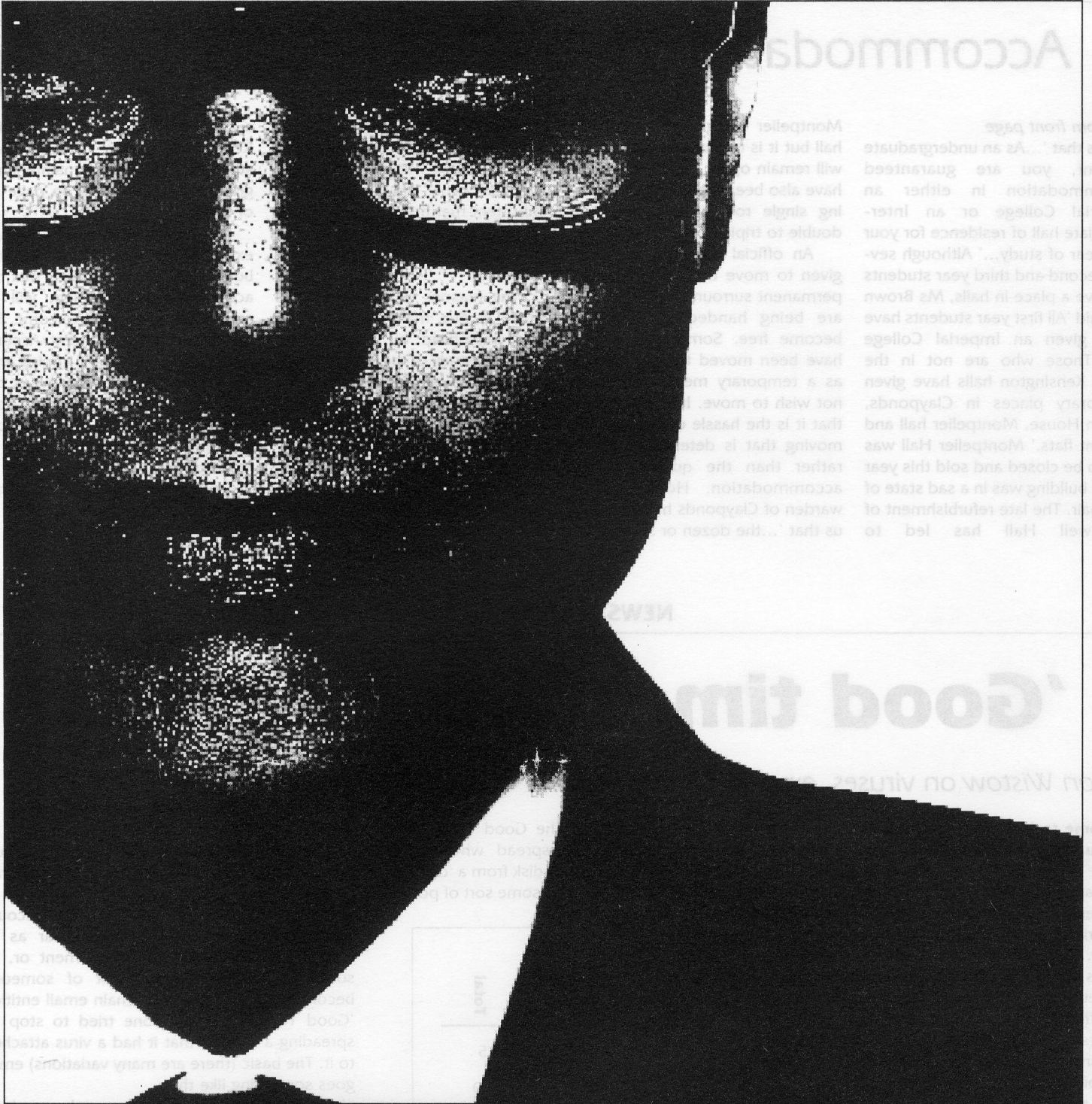
The sudden growth spurt of the Internet and the guaranteed influx of University freshers every year ensures that the 'virus' has spread and spread. This is an impassioned plea; if you ever get this email read it once out of curiosity then delete it or, if you can't bear to throw anything away, never, ever send it on (although even the American Government, NASA and several well known Virus Detector manufacturers were fooled). I'd ask you to send this article on to your friends but I can imagine it getting out of hand and my children starting college some time in the future and phoning home to say "Daddy, Daddy, I just got an email today with your name on it". On second thoughts it might be my only stab at immortality and at least it would give some young hack an idea for an article.

Round	New people involved	Total
1	5	5
2	25	30
3	125	155
4	625	780
5	3125	3905
6	15625	19530
7	78125	97655
8	390625	488280
9	1953125	2441405
10	9765625	12207030

Table indicating the massive potential growth rate of internet viruses

media. With the rapid growth of the Internet viruses have been able to copy with out the need for disks, travelling when files are transmitted from client to client extremely quickly and with the added bonus that the two different





# Agent of change.

Presentation. Tuesday 28 October, 1997 at our London Offices, 6pm.  
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# Letters to Felix...

## RETURN FIRE

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of last week, do you not think that it is a peculiarly American disease to assume everybody in the world wishes to be like oneself? Take, for example, the ease with which your American reader to informed us all that, because our system of government is not exactly the same as hers, we were all mentally ill (two subjects on which, I should add, she appeared to display a ridiculous and insulting lack of understanding).

I would like to inform you American reader that many people in this country are working very hard to stop it becoming at all like hers - not least in the area of gun legislation, where the same freedoms she seems to hold so dear allow one murder to happen every eight seconds in Washington D.C, Detroit and Chicago. That makes nearly 11,000 murders every day (the population of a small town), in each of these cities alone. Perhaps the "right to bear arms" might have been more carefully thought out if people had known that so many Americans would turn on their fellow citizens in blood.

I do not mean to insult your American reader personally - in assuming that we all wish to be like her, she is merely saying what comes naturally. I think instead that her country's education is probably to blame for the insufferable arrogance of some of its citizens.

Yours faithfully,  
Matthew Rollin, ICSM

PS. If the Queen is decended from God, and yet every king born was the sun of a whore, then presumably she is accusing the Almighty of pimping? That ought to do down well on the day of judgment.

Dear Felix,

I have just read the letter from Kelly Green. Is she for real? What an absolute load of garbage, or should I say "trash". I don't think I would call her necessity to walk around with an armourey in her handbag, freedom.

As for the rest of her comments, she just seems to have a grudge against the English for some reason. Why is it that Americans flock to places like

Buckingham Palace? I don't suppose, with comments like that, she has ever been here herself. I don't suppose, however, that we would particularly welcome her here.

Nigel Russell  
Research Student  
Mech Eng

Dear Felix

As a contributor to this fine journal, it is indeed gratifying to know that we have a global readership (Felix 1092) Not only that, but we have

some older fans as well. Judging from the fact that her son found out that England has a King, Kelly Green must be about 80 years old (though if her son really is 18, then she may simply be young and very, very stupid). This of course, explains the advance dementia she appears to be suffering from. Rarely have I seen such a spectacularly arrogant incorrect, incoherent, jingoistic, nasty piece of uncreative writing. Apart from

that, though, it's dreadful. Given that dissecting these diseased ramblings is as easy as shooting fish in a barrel, it is difficult to know where to begin. As many of you know, I am not exactly a wishy-washy liberal, but Ms Green's views on the right to bear arms, misquoting the Second Amendment, is terrifying. The idea that liberty stems from the right and ability to blow people's brains out is a curious one. If I lived in a country where I felt I needed an M16 to protect myself, I would be on the first plane out. The monarchy clearly gets this women dangerously excited. Her defamatory comments on the Queen are too pathetic to deserve comment. To suggest that 'the whole country must be filled with morons' is pathetic, and sadly gives credence to the notion that Americans are entirely ignorant of the world beyond their borders; this is not the case- indeed one of my American colleagues offered his profound apologies for this woman. The system of constitutional monarchy is, I believe, the most prevalent form of government on the planet, so a UN reso-

lution to bring them down by the 'use of armed forces' is plainly stupid.

She rambles at great length about freedom. A constitution guaranteeing your rights' is interesting. Would this be like the constitution that segregated blacks in the deep south until the late 1960s? Simply because we do not have a written constitution, which as the US has shown is open to much abuse, does not mean we have no rights, and further exemplifies the breathtaking ignorance of this woman. The Freedom of Information Act is also intriguing. Would this be like the one that kept files on John Lennon secret for 32 years? Such laws would, of course, prevent anti-democratic abuses of power by government officials. J Edgar Hoover? Oh dear.

'The citizens of Great Britain have potential.' Madam, we are truly honoured. If it is your belief that you an example of what the British should aspire to be, then the 'mental illness' you attribute to us seems more applicable to explain the case you have so spectacularly failed to elucidate. 'I cannot understand how any sane rational person could make a case for the Monarchy.' It is a shame that, as an American, you are deprived of all sense of irony. If you're sane, may I continue to be a chicken.

Yours sincerely  
Simon Baker  
Chem PG

**Some readers have expressed doubt as to the authenticity of the 'Kelly Green' letter. This is a bona fide correspondence, and is available for inspection in the Felix office if you still don't believe me. Anyone who missed the letter can read it in full along with the rest of Felix on our web pages; www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix/Ed.**

**Deadline for letters is 6pm Tuesday. Letters may be edited for length, but will not be altered or corrected in any other way. Letters may be signed or anonymous, but please show your swipe card when submitting them.**

**FELIX**

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Deating and all that jazz  
All the best music

**Hanging Garden**

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**FELIX**

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# FELIX

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www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix

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Collators, the unsung heroes: Piers Williams (bless him), Jon Trout and His People's Ministries.





# The Haldane Collection

**This year we welcome not only the students of the South Kensington, St Mary's and Royal Brompton campuses, but also those of the recently merged medical schools to the Haldane Collection.**

The Haldane Collection is the fun part of Central Library! It was originally set up by the Student Union and is a recreational library offering a wide range of Humanities and other extra-curricular reading and listening matter to all College members. Situated on level 1 of Central Library, in an informal setting overlooking the lawn, it is open to all holders of Imperial College and Science Museum Libraries readers tickets, and most of the stock is for loan.

If it had not occurred to you that Imperial would have such a library, you will be pleased to know that it is by far the most wide-ranging of similar libraries provided in other specialised universities in the UK, so you made the right choice! There is something for everyone among the Haldane's stock of over 40,000 items - books, periodicals and magazines, music scores, sound recordings, language courses and maps. You can relax with Iain Banks or Jane Austen, learn Finnish or improve your English, plan your trip to Ecuador, find a recipe for beetroot puree, dig out quotations to illustrate a speech, or read the latest of Lord Gnome's editorials.

Critical stimulation is of course also part of the Haldane's remit. Subjects in which it is particularly strong are to a large extent those in which Humanities Programme course material is provided - such as art, history, literature, music, philosophy and politics.

A good selection of periodicals and magazines are on offer, ranging from Amateur Photographer to The New York Review of Books, some of them financed by the Union. Daily newspapers are held for one week. Most of these are now accessible on the internet too, and there is a variety of means of consulting back issues, from CD-

ROM to other libraries, on which the staff can advise.

One of the strengths of the Haldane Collection is the music library. Performers will find a good selection of printed music, including chamber music parts. Listeners are well provided for by the classical CD and cassette collection, and the popular music recordings collection, mostly rock CDs and cassettes, of which more below.

The Union still has some input into the collection and your interaction is welcome! Most of the fiction purchased is financed by the Union and, when possible, selected by a student buyer. The popular recordings are selected entirely by a student buyer, and the strength of this collection really relies on student input. Your suggestions can be made on the regular library recommendation form, and the library staff will gladly forward them to the student buyer.

In case you were wondering why "Haldane" Collection, the library's honoree is R.B.Haldane (Viscount Haldane of Cloan, 1856-1928). Haldane played a large role in the merger of Imperial's constituent colleges in 1907, but more important from the library viewpoint is the fact that he was a widely educated philosopher, educationalist and statesman, who exemplified the value of all-round education. Another influence from the past is H.G.Wells, a former student of the Royal College of Science, who is said in a later visit to have prodded students into setting up the literary collection on which the Haldane is based to show that they were "not barbarians". The library holds a collection of early editions of his works, some of which are exhibited from time to time.

Finally the Haldane is a centre of live culture. Watch for announcements of future talks and readings! In the meantime we look forward to seeing you and welcome your suggestions for addition to the collection.

*Janet Smith, Library*

## Imperial Fringe

Theatre Company

- Three workshops planned this term on voice & movement (20 October), character (17 November) and creativity (15 December)
- Alternative theatre productions incorporating innovative use of space, sound, movement ('In through the Out Door' a trilogy of Satre, Pinter & Keefe: proposed for January, auditions 14 October, contact Caroline Baillie)
- Directing using psychological exploration of character
- Workshopping and producing the works of new playwrights
- Theatre in education - recipient of Millenium Award to tour local schools with a new play about science

To find out more, contact Caroline Baillie at c.baillie@ic.ac.uk or tel 46804. Imperial Fringe is an IC staff organisation.

## Union Council

All Welcome

Come along and have your say about how your Union is run.

14 October, 6pm; Union Dining Hall (Beir Building)

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# Editorial

## STREET SELF DEFENCE AWARENESS PROGRAMME

### CLOSE QUARTER CONFRONTATION OF WING CHUN KUNG FU

BY RENOWNED KUNG FU TEACHER SIFU ANDREW SOFOS

"The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death, a road to safety or for ruin. Hence it is a subject of enquiry which can on no account be neglected."

Sun Tzu 500 BC

"Don't neglect this marvellous opportunity for you to learn a practical and highly treasured martial art. Surely your life is worth more than £2.60 per lesson."

Sifu A. Sofos 1997 AD

For further information come to classes at the Union Gym:  
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Fri 5 - 7pm or call 0181 808 5332

## STREET SELF DEFENCE, AWARENESS PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF:

- \* Elite Special Street Fighting Techniques.
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- \* Test And Certificate if Successful.
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- \* Martial Arts And The Law.
- \* Mental & Physical Awareness.
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All this for less than the price of a day travelcard, so stop travelling needlessly and come to our lessons and train for the above benefits.

## ICU Elections

positions up for election...  
see noticeboard opposite ICU Office to sign up.

### Sabbatical Positions (1 Proposer & 20 Seconders required)

President  
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

### Officers (1 Proposer & 10 Seconders required)

ACC Treasurer  
SCAB Treasurer  
Publications Board Treasurer  
Publications Board Secretary  
PG Group Chair  
Transport Officer  
Women's Officer  
Web Editor

### Ordinary Members (1 Proposer & 10 Seconders)

Council - 8 members  
Finance Committee - 2 members  
Executive Committee (Officers only) - 4 members  
Retail, Services & Training Committees - 4 members each

**Free Tickets to TV Shows**  
are available from **SUE**  
(Student Union Entertainments)

**5's Company and TFI Friday**  
(you must go to both shows)

**Call 0171 287 0045**  
and quote "Double Deal"

## FRESHERS' FAIR

Thanks to everyone who showed interest in Felix at Monday's Freshers' Fair, and signed up. We have several hundred names so it might take us a while to contact you all individually. Here is the freshly timetabled Felix week; everyone is welcome to come to any or all of the meetings they are interested in.

### Fridays

12.30pm News meeting. For everyone interested in writing news, taking news photographs, or with some choice morsels of news to share with us.

1pm Editorial Board. This is an unofficial meeting for all subeditors and major contributors to discuss ideas and set policy. Anyone is welcome to watch and join in.

1.30pm Music Reviewers' meeting. For everyone interested in reviews of albums, singles, gigs and interviews.

### Mondays

1pm Arts meeting. For exhibitions and theatre.

1pm Features meeting. If you have an idea for a feature, or if you've already got some material, this is the time to see us. Also an ideal time for those interested in design and layout.

### Tuesday

12.30pm News meeting II.

1pm Sports meeting. Come and give us your fixtures and match reports. Sports writers and photographers; this is your cue.

All these meetings are in the Felix

office, in the north west corner of the Quad. We are open from 10am 'till late every weekday, so come and see us at any time.

## HOUSING CRISIS

My sympathy goes out to freshers unlucky enough to get duff digs this term - those in Montpellier and Gardens Halls whose buildings are crumbling around them, those sharing rooms meant for one and those that have to spend eight hours and twenty pounds each week travelling to and from the Clayponds Village of the Dead. Imperial College's accommodation has never really been top-notch, but with the new halls planned for Beit Quad, Linstead car park and the sports centre roof still years away from completion, things are going to get worse before they get better. Sadly, those in private accommodation are likely to get an even worse deal - a study just out shows that average London rents have doubled in just eight years, and even even expensive rotten basements in Kilburn are hard to come by.

## NATIONAL CURRY DAY

It's true - 10 October has joined the ranks of spurious festival days. The question is - can ICU curry bar cope? They sold 40kg of rice on Monday, 55 on Tuesday, 60 on Wednesday...

## Small Ads

**Rollerblades for sale.** Bauer X90 size 9, little used. £35. Come to the Felix office or call 58072.

**Newsriters needed** for small university newspaper. Must be enthusiastic. Email felix@ic.ac.uk

*Small ads are free to students, others pay £1.50 per line. Max four lines. Please submit ads by 6pm Tuesday for publication that Friday.*

## E&O

Apologies for confusion, and particularly to Rob Clark, for errors appearing on page two of issue 1092. The first part of the story erroneously claimed that ICU lacked a Deputy President for Finance and Services. In fact it has one - Rob Clark - but it lacks a Deputy President for Clubs and Societies.





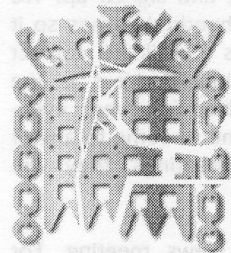
It's conference season again. Labour spent one week and plenty of money patting itself on the back for its performance during the election, and the Conservatives now have their turn, except theirs will probably be a more despondent affair. However it seems we are sadly not to get our full happy blast of Conservative propaganda as Labour are injecting stories and events into the press before and during the conference. First came Tony Blair's trip to Russia (where he starred in a radio soap opera!). Next came Bill Gates' publicised jaunt to 10 Downing Street where he will undoubtedly promise to spend squillions of pounds on something very modern. But the most worrying story is the complaints by the new Labour women MPs that the dinosaur Tories have been harassing them.

Conservative MPs have been accused of plenty of things in the recent past, not least of which has been incompetence in their jobs. This is a very different thing from being accused of making sexist jibes. Real harassment is an appalling verbal assault that has no place in any workplace or institution, and offenders can be seriously disciplined for it.

Therefore such accusations must not be taken lightly. Janet Anderson MP (a senior Labour whip) revealed that complaints had been made against a number of Tories (curiously enough, she revealed this on the first day of Conservative party conference). We are told in grave tones that MPs have been "sniggering" and

observe and record every utterance of the Opposition's Members. Tory MP Michael Fabricant had to "put up with Tony Banks (the sports minister) blowing kisses to me across the chamber and Dennis Skinner challenging me about my hair". A Labour MP once said of Teresa Gorman: "she's got more hor-

sonal insults are rare and the preserve of the school or office bully. The reaction to such comments (excepting those that are particularly serious and damaging) should not be to withdraw and complain, but to bounce back and hit them just as hard. All ministers will have learnt this the hard way (look to Margaret Thatcher for inspiration there). In fact there were complaints that Miss Betty Boothroyd (the Speaker) was giving female MPs an especially hard time. It seemed she had little sympathy for those who chose to come into this institution and "have it easier" than she did. She and others like her saw a huge influx of people come in, often half their age, and when they didn't like what they saw they complained. When someone enters politics they should be wary of complaining about others being nasty about them. Some of these people will be in government in the near future, exercising considerable power when others their age are fighting their way through the rat race. Although real abuse is not acceptable, someone with the personal clout to be in government should be able to cope with occasional sniggers and taunts.



Hamish Common

# Westminster Eye

"heckling" women during their maiden speeches. She says that the men "should grow up".

I would suggest it is the women who need to do the "growing up". They have pressured the parliamentary authorities into reviewing videos and listening in on the microphone recordings of the Commons in case the Speaker didn't catch it. They are only doing this to the Conservative benches. Apart from the Orwellian undertones of such actions, it is an abuse of their position in government to

mones than a Christmas turkey". Accusing a woman of being "menopausal" is in the same league as accusing an ex public schoolboy of being "a poof" or "inbred", common terms of insult in our Parliament. John Major once said John Smith had less chance of understanding the economy than Donald Duck had of winning Mastermind.

The problem underlying this is that the women who have made the complaints (all are new to Parliament) may have come from a background where vicious per-

# Burning Water

Right then, subjects, now that you've stuffed your tiny little cupboards with the finest fruit, veg and meat London can provide it's time to get culin'.

Our first culinary adventure is **Splodge**. This is my and many other students' survival ration. It's easy to make, cheap and versatile and it's also healthy and balanced in a tasty sort of way.

The ingredients are:

- ♦ Tomatoes - either a tin of peeled plum tomatoes from those places we don't mention but have super and market in their names or about a pound of fresh tomatoes chopped into smallish cubes (around 1cm<sup>3</sup>) which are far tastier and full of yummy vitamins.
- ♦ 1 onion (yellow or spanish) - chop or slice it according to personal preference. Personally I find chopped bits roughly 4mm x 4mm are tops.
- ♦ Garlic - a matter of some controversy. I'd go for 2 cloves (NOT bulbs, confusion over this point might result in your having no friends at all). Crush and roughly chop them.
- ♦ Various veg - basically chuck in what-

ever you've got: Carrots, courgettes, peppers, beans etc. Go for lots of colour and variety. Chop or slice.

- ♦ Some meat (optional) -beef / lamb / pork (minced or cut up braising stuff) or for those really low budgets a tin of tuna chunks in soya oil which make for something differently interesting. Cut up bits of bacon also work well.
- ♦ Salt & pepper & spices.

That's it for the boring preparation stuff (or "prep" in the arsy chef lingo) so now straight into the fun bit.

First, chuck the tomatoes in to a pan and put on a low heat with a fairly large pinch of salt (to taste as the saying goes). Then heat up some oil (olive oil is the best and yes I know it's expensive but frankly you don't use it up that quickly and it really is better) in a frying pan over a half maximum heat. You want it to just start smoking before dumping the onion in. Give it a good stir every now and then so it doesn't burn. When the onion starts colouring (yellow to light brown) add the garlic and carry on frying for a few more minutes. Put the mixture

in with the tomatoes which should be bubbling gently by now.

Now repeat the process with the vegetables but don't overload the pan otherwise they'll boil instead of frying. The aim is to get everything nicely browned so you get loads of lovely caramel and no soot. Do the same thing with the meat.

At some point, add the pepper and spices so they have a good fry as well. That way you get all the aromatics and volatile lovelies to come out and give your food that scrummy taste we're all after.

Once you've finished frying, pour a small glass of water into the pan and get it to boil a bit before pouring it into the tomato and general stuff mixture. That way you get all the good bits that have stuck onto the pan into your food and you end up with a clean pan. Cunning, eh?

Now the beauty of this sophisticated dish is the if you use mixed herbs (oregan, basil, thyme etc) you get a basic bolognaise but if you use curry powder you get a curry and if you use chillis you get a chilli con random stuff. Three meals for the price of one. Finally, serve with rice, pasta, spuds or whatever is appropriate.

Antoine





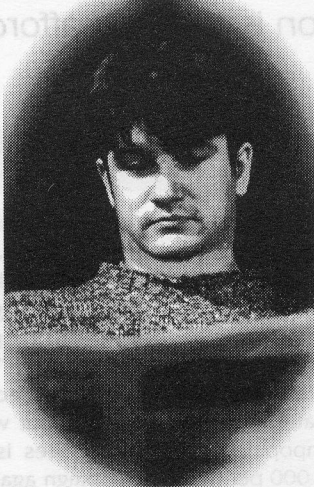


Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated. You (the denizens of Sherfield) thought I'd gone. Fat chance. They still haven't found a decent columnist, which means you're stuck with me. So, in the words of a famous philosopher, nice to see you, to see you nice. This promises to be a fairly eventful year, not just for the freshers, but for all the inmates as our numbers become swelled by our medical friends. May we live in interesting times.

At this time, it is traditional to offer the benefit of one's experience to the boys and girls that have just joined the Imperial family. I must be getting very, very old - most of this bunch look like they should be doing GCSEs. The usual advice applies: always refer to gentlemen in red police cars as 'Sir', regardless of your political sympathies. Secondly, an important detail was omitted from this year's Freshers' Handbook. Long ago, Imperial College managed to secure an opt-out from the international treaty governing the provision of wild sexual abandon during freshers' weeks. The opt-out, unlike so many, has not been negotiated away, so it's Ovaltine and a good book, chaps. The final tip that I have offered in

the past has been to drink the exquisite beer in Southside Bar, avoiding Union bitter at all costs (though not the Union per se, before some

God help us - he's back!



Simon Baker digs the dirt

hack gets out of his/her pram). Judging from the huge numbers in Southside and the ludicrously restrictive licence that the Union now has, this may well be a case of preaching to the converted. Union staff may think this is a 'huge

improvement', but the general feeling in College already is that we now have a licence that is impractical, inadequate and so full of traps that even the best stewarding the world has ever known will not prevent endless breaches, with obvious consequences.

It has been suggested by the gaffer that I, for the benefit of our freshers and middle managers, explain the purpose of this column and this college. My role is to keep you, informed about the burning issues in IC and beyond. Singing the praises of this august institution and taking to task those who slip up. As you will see, the latter is not a terribly rare event. In a nutshell, Imperial consists of academic departments, which, for the most part, perform world-class research. The Sherfield building is the centre of administration that enables all the departments to function properly, assisting in their day to day running. If you believe that, you'll believe anything. It is to administration what Benny Hill was to feminism. But for all that, we gentlemen of the Press love it. They make our job so easy.

## Ever felt something could be done better?

### What did you do about it?

Nothing? Moan? Complain? Or did you do something to get it done better? If you actually did something, you could be the kind of person we're looking for. The kind of person who doesn't just study, but also gets involved in things - organises events, leads a team or society, shakes up the students' union, or does completely off the wall stuff - and really makes a difference.

We're Procter & Gamble. We make, market and sell over 300 world-famous brands including Hugo Boss, Pringles, Pantene, Ariel and Oil of Ulay. If they were businesses in their own right, each would be worth millions of pounds. And their success depends on one thing: the quality of our people. P&G people have certain characteristics. Thinking skills. Creativity. A way of setting priorities so everything happens. The ability to work with others. And, most importantly, they recognise ways to improve things, then make those improvements real.

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In return, we offer an attractive salary, an exciting work environment and training that will make you sought after by businesses everywhere. It's not for nothing that we're consistently voted one of the most admired companies in the world, and one of best places to start a career.

We need people in Marketing, Sales, Finance, Research and Development, Information Technology, Market Research, Product Supply and Human Resources. The best way to join is through our Christmas courses or, for penultimate year students, summer internships. We only recruit at graduate level, so it's now or never. And deadlines are looming. If you think you fit the bill, we need to hear from you now.

Your first step? Come to our recruitment night to learn more. If you can't make it, see your careers service urgently.

**Tuesday, October 14, 7pm**

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# Like Blood from a Stone?

The News Team lifts the lid on the controversial Dearing Report on the future of Higher Education funding. The question is: can you afford not to read this?

## The Dearing Report

The National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education – the so-called ‘Dearing Committee’ – was set up in May 1996 by the then Conservative Government to examine ways in which the higher education system could develop, primarily over the following two decades. The committee, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing, consisted of seventeen members including the Rector of Imperial College, Sir Ronald Oxburgh. It also comprised of senior staff from Exeter, Strathclyde, Glamorgan and Open Universities, and a student representative from the University of Wales in Cardiff as well as a range of industry moguls.

More than ninety recommendations were made by the committee, concerning a whole range of issues such as the setting up of Quality Agencies and the establishment of formal training courses for lecturers. The biggest controversy however appears to be the committee’s suggestions that students should contribute more to the cost

of their education, only to have the newly-installed Labour government come to a different decision on matter on the eve of the report’s publication last July.

After behind-the-scenes discussions with the National Union of Students, ministers attempted to ease the potential unpopularity of all students paying £1000 per head by agreeing to a means-test. This would result in the poorest students paying nothing and the wealthier ones pay the full fee.

The Government announced its intention to replace student grants with loans, also contrary to the Dearing recommendations which tried not to deter poorer students from the higher education. The Minister for Higher Education, Baroness Blackstone, said the NUS “have publicly said... that they are unhappy with Dearing proposals to charge for tuition. We are trying to mitigate Dearing’s proposals by excluding low-income students.”

She did concede however that richer students would “still be pay-

ing less in terms of the loan repayments than a student from low income family who will have a somewhat larger loan.” For its part the NUS president, Douglas Trainer, said “We are very pleased about the decision on means-testing fees but we believe the principle of fees is wrong and we will campaign against this.”

Although Sir Ron Dearing himself played down the sidelining of these proposals, some members of his committee were said to be ‘furious’ over the government’s public airing of its own proposals before the report’s publication. “It is a matter of serious regret that the government should come to a decision in private without first listening to the responses of the committee’s recommendations.” Another said “The problem is that what the Government has come up with is a half-way house, and not surprisingly, it is a mess. For the government not to allow time for a debate on our recommendations is deplorable.” University heads also

expressed doubts. “We have a big question whether today’s proposals will meet the funding gap that the government itself acknowledges,” said Diana Warwick, chief executive of the CVCP. Baroness Blackstone attempted to assure universities that any extra money raised would go to HE funding.

Other proposals put forward by the Dearing Committee covered matters ranging from the aims and purposes of higher education, and use of information technology – the latter recommending that all students have access to desktop computers by the year 2001 and that students have their own laptops by the 2006.

The role and qualities of staff was also addressed. The committee remarked that there was concern among academic staff that the esteem of their profession needed raising, and noted that staff in HE are paid much less than comparable jobs in both the private and public sectors.

## The Latest

### A full and frank discussion

What was predicted as being the contentious issue of the Labour Party Conference, held at the end of September in Brighton, turned into a non-event as the party machine closed in on potential rebels. A raft of pre-conference motions criticising the Government’s plans to charge students tuition fees and abandon the long cherished policy of free education promised heated debate.

In the event only two delegates braved the wrath of their party leader and spoke out against proposals and insisted that education should be “inclusive not exclusive”. As a first year student at Strathclyde University, Johanna Baxter had less to lose than most. The only other delegate unwilling to publicly toe the line was Maria Exall of the Communication Workers Union, who questioned how the Secretary of State for Education could “stand and claim you want to create more equality of access and introduce a method of funding that undermines that very principle?”

Facing certain defeat, after David Blunkett’s rousing defence of the government’s proposals, delegates opposing the move withdrew their motion.

### Gap year policy finally filled

After weeks of deliberations, with ‘sources’ suggesting that those carrying out charity work during their gap year could receive preferential treatment, on 13th August the Government agreed to exempt all students wishing to take a year out from the new funding regime. Baroness Blackstone’s statement followed her condemnation a week earlier of press speculation, describing it as “irresponsible scaremongering”.

These announcements came too late for the estimated 17,000 students who panicked into abandoning deferred entry in favour of ensuring a less debt-laden education. While the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals insisted that universities would be able to “cope” and the Government announced that the increase was “manageable”.

The extra students, which represent 6% of the planned first year population, could result in universities being surcharged by the Government. Imperial College’s 200 extra freshers could cost dearly as each educational establishment is only allowed a 2% margin from its target intake.

### Mass Expansion – of 2.5%

Confusion broke out in the wake of contrasting statements from the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education over the expansion in student numbers. Tony Blair announced during the Labour Party Conference that his Government would “lift the cap on student numbers and set a target for an extra 500,000 people into higher and further education by 2002.”

This ambitious target seemed to be at odds with David Blunkett’s earlier suggestion that he would seek places for an extra 40,000 or 50,000 students. This would represent an increase in the participation rate of 18–21 year olds from the current 32.5% to 35%. The confusion exposed by these differing declaration is expected to be cleared up by the publication of the Government’s detailed plans for higher education – expected in November.

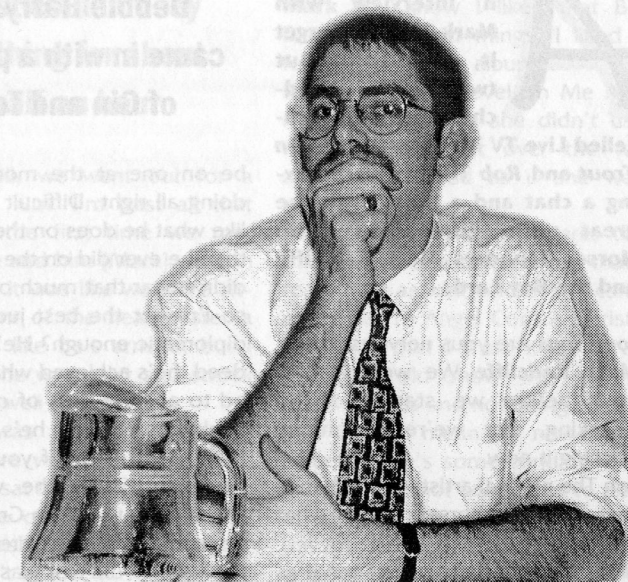
## The Bottom Line

In the table opposite “Higher Income” families are regarded as those with income over £34,000 after deductions for such matters as pension contributions and mortgage interest. The “Lower Income” group refers to those households with earnings of less than £16,450 per annum.

Maintenance Grant is currently paid by Local Education Authorities, means tested on the basis of parental income. Maintenance Loan currently comes from the publicly owned Student Loans Company, with plans to privatise this debt in development. Parental contribution is that which the Government expects guardians to give their student children.

Current System	Higher Income	Middle Income	Lower Income	
	Maintenance Grant	£0	£1080	£2160
Maintenance Loan	£2085	£2085	£2085	
Parental contribution to maintenance	£2160	£1080	£0	
Tuition fees	Paid by Local Education Authority			
New System	Higher Income	Middle Income	Lower Income	
	Maintenance Grant	Abolished		
	Maintenance Loan	£3085	£4165	£4245
	Parental contribution to maintenance	£1160	£80	£0
Tuition fees	£1000	£1000	£0	

Mr Simon Wright, Education and Welfare Officer from the University of Wales at Cardiff, entranced by discussion during a visit by delegates from the Dearing Commission to Imperial College earlier this year. The Rector of Imperial College, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, also attended the meeting and was one of seven academics on the seventeen member committee. Others involved in the review included representatives from Glaxo Wellcome, Psion, Ulster Bank and the Weir Group.







**We were all pissed as crickets by half ten but we still had nothing on Debbie Harry. She came in with a pint pot of Gin and Tonic**

**A**n interview with Mark & Lard? Forget it, they said. But two hours of sound-checking and a cancelled Live TV interview later, Jon Trout and Rob Timson were having a chat and a bevy with the great radio gurus and Shire Horses founders Mark Radcliffe and the Boy Lard.

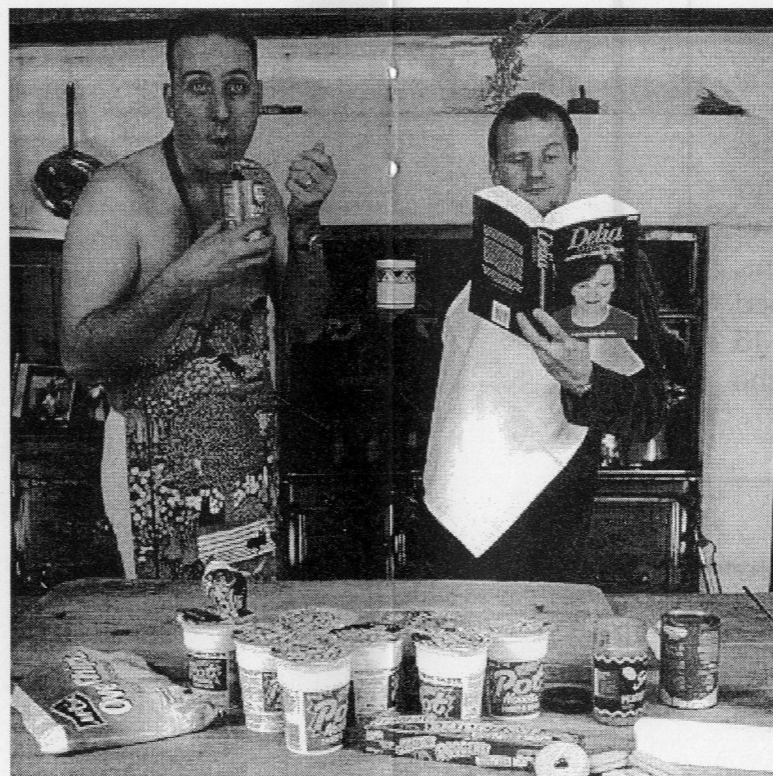
**Jon Trout** Are you nervous, lads?  
**Mark Radcliffe** We weren't nervous before we started sound checking, but we're absolutely bricking it now.  
**Jon** The original artists of the bands that The Shirehorses cover; what do they reckon of it all?  
**Mark** Most of them have seen it as a kind of tribute, and well intentioned and that. They have to see them that way 'cos we wrote them first. If they don't let us have it we'll tell the true story. We've had a couple of people who've said 'On Yer Bike Lads', including Hanson...  
**Jon** There's a surprise...  
**Mark** Yeah, big surprise; well, if you can't say that someone is a precocious little get without them getting uppity...  
**Mark 'Lard' Riley** Well they're a precocious little get.  
**Mark** Enough said. I think that we were a bit close to the bone there; and also, the Chemical Toilet Brothers wouldn't let us do it.  
**Jon & Rob Timson** Really?  
**Mark** That surprised me. That did surprise me. You know that blonde one in the Chemical Toilet Brothers.  
**Jon** Yep.  
**Mark** Ugly bastard, him, isn't he? In about ten years time you can see his hair going at the side and he's going to look like one of those bus inspectors isn't he? Right obnoxious looking get.  
**Rob** Any solicitors letters from them then?  
**Mark** We had one from Hanson. They said that because we played it on the radio, we had one from them saying that we could, em...  
**Lard** fuck off...  
**Mark** Yeah, on this occasion we won't take any action, but if you play it again you'll be in schtruck lads... I don't think that it was worded exactly like that, but...  
**Jon** Do you reckon Chris Evans should be taken down a peg or two?  
**Mark** I'll hand this to Lardy-Boy.  
**Lard** Erm... Who? No, he seems to

be on one at the moment. He's doing all right. Difficult question. I like what he does on the telly more than he ever did on the radio, but I didn't hear that much of the radio, so I'm not the best judge. Is that diplomatic enough? He's done the deed, he's achieved what he wanted to achieve, lots of quids in the bank, lots of birds, he's done well.  
**Jon** I don't know if you heard the Breakfast Show the week after Diana's death; Kevin Greening was on and, well, we weren't fans of the way he did it. I was wondering how you would have handled that?  
**Mark** Well, I didn't hear it, I never listen to the radio when we're on holiday, because a) It's a like a busman's holiday b) just in case they are better than us. But, you know, we were deemed sort of unsuitable to broadcast to a nation in national mourning, but I genuinely think that we would have been all right, you know. We're not funny anyway, so when people say we could have cut out the jokes, it's easy.  
**Lard** There's none there to begin with.  
**Rob** So you were told that you couldn't go on then?  
**Mark** No, what we were told was that Kevin Greening had handled it all so sensitively and had led the audience through it.  
**Rob** Did he shite... he ripped the piss out of her so much when she was alive, and it seemed so insincere.  
**Lard** Well, you know, it was a difficult sort of thing to go through wasn't it? You know the great Radio One dignity was right at the forefront, and so if they did make a bollocks of it then everyone would have had their bollocks for it, and to be fair, we were both away at the time and they tried to get in touch with us to see if we wanted to come back in the thick of it, 'cos it was the funeral on the Saturday, and we came back in on the Monday. But I like to think that Radio One would believe that we wouldn't come in on the Monday morning and go [subdued, sad voice] 'very sad weekend...' [then shouting, jovial voice, clapping hands] 'NOT TO WORRY!!'. But we wouldn't have done that.  
**Mark** To be fair to 'em, they took

the safe option with Kevin Greening, but, I can't say I honestly blame them for that. Although it turned out there might have been another agenda...  
**Lard** Aye.  
**Jon** So what is the story about the Breakfast Show?  
**Lard** We're not doing it anymore.  
**Mark** We are not leaving, we've been forcibly ejected... The absolute truth of it all is that we were going to do the afternoons; we really enjoyed the nights, but we were doing it for three and a half years, and it's long enough to work nights, and it's long enough to do the same show, and so we were going to go onto the afternoons, and then Chris Evans left, and Mathew Bannister phoned and said 'will you do the Breakfast Show?' and we said 'No'.  
**Jon** And then they offered you a big sack of cash...  
**Mark** Yeah, to be absolutely honest, yeah, it was partially the fact that it was the biggest show in the country, and you think, you know, well maybe we shouldn't turn it down, and it was also money, it was greed. It was pure greed on our part. We had done it before, but we didn't want to do it.  
**Lard** And also, Mathew, who's always really been behind Mark, when he came back to us, he said 'I would treat it as a real personal favour if you would do this for me' and it was a bit hard to say no.  
**Mark** But then, we were aware that they weren't that happy with it in terms of the audience, but the timing of it was a surprise, I'll say that...  
**Jon** What aspects of the evening show do you think that you could not translate to the morning show that affected the quality?  
**Mark** All of 'em.  
**Jon** For me, one of the great aspects of the old show was that you could come out of an obscure surf rock thing and go straight into some poetry.  
**Mark** We did used to do poetry in the first half hour, but you probably didn't hear that...  
**Jon** I'm a student, mate...  
**Mark** Fair enough. I understand completely. The main differences, well there were two, one, the music, going onto the playlist, which was difficult, but we knew that, and the other thing was not being able to chat at length with our guests.

# Mark & Lard TELL ALL

by Jon Trout and Rob Timson



**Rob** I think that the comedy worked better with the pauses as well. Did they complain about dead air?  
**Mark** Well, you know, they are frightened of it, and we had to put music under it when we were talking which we never did at night. One criticism that we got was that our audience was selective; if you liked it, you really liked it, and we were quite proud of that, but get judged against that [The Evening Show] but it is finished and whatever happens we will never go back and try to recreate it.  
**Jon** All the time that you were on the radio, who was your favourite guest?  
**Mark** [long pause] Kylie Minogue!  
**Lard** We liked her...  
**Mark** No, our favourite guests were not big stars, but people we had a rapport with at night, and the names that spring to mind particularly would be; Stuart Maconie, Katie Puckrick, Will Self in the early days, and Simon Armitage. Those were probably my big favourites; Mark Kermode, because we used to have a laugh. We felt that the rapport that we shared with them was passed onto the listeners as well. We kind of quite miss that in a way, more than anything else. It was just like seeing your mates really.  
**Jon** Who was the most pissed person who's ever been on the show?  
**Mark** Now then, I would think that Debbie Harry, she was hard work, she was absolutely slaughtered.  
**Lard** Steaming, weren't she...  
**Mark** She'd had a gig at the Manchester Apollo. Can you think of anybody who was more pissed than Debbie Harry? She didn't make it the first night. Took her two days to get there. [laughter] Spectacularly pissed, weren't she? Who was more pissed than that?  
**Lard** There was one night when you were really pissed... [laughter]  
**Mark** I'd had a sherry bean and a shandy Bass.  
**Lard** I think that the most pissed night was the second birthday party. We were all pissed as crickets by half ten. But we still had nothing on Debbie Harry. She came in with a pint pot of Gin and Tonic. We'll go with Debbie Harry?  
**Rob** Ever been starstruck by anyone you've had on?  
**Lard** Well, I think David Bowie, when he came on me arse was going the first time. Second time we was all muckers and third time,

**I just couldn't speak 'cos DAVID BOWIE had been talking to me and I just couldn't say anything for about half an hour**

fucking hell, we went out for a curry with him. I'm past all that now, but the first time we met Bowie, me and him [Mark] were in New York, it was like we were sitting in front of the headmaster a bit; it was like he's arrived, but I think that he was a bit star struck with us as well [laughter].  
**Mark** It was amazing, 'cos the night before we did that in New York I was sat in the studio working out all the questions that I was going to ask him, and I thought 'God I can't believe it, I'm going to talk to David Bowie in this room'. And we did the programme and it was great, and we went through it all, and afterwards I phoned me wife who was in England straight after the interview and she asked 'How did it go then?' and I just couldn't speak 'cos all the nerves that I'd suppressed just flooded out 'cos DAVID BOWIE had been talking to me and I just couldn't say anything for about half an hour.  
**Jon** What were you doing when you were our age?  
**Mark** How old are yer?  
**Jon** Twenty  
**Rob** Twenty-two  
**Mark** Well when I was twenty I was at University in Manchester...  
**Jon** ...doing?  
**Mark** English & American Studies...  
**Jon** Oh dear...  
**Mark** [mock outrage] you what... [laughter]... and I was doing what students do and playing in a band from time to time. When I was twenty two I was working at Piccadilly Radio as a trainee producer, doing an indie show and giving the cricket scores between the records.  
**Jon** What about you Lard?  
**Lard** At twenty I was in The Fall and at twenty two I was a pot collector at Man City. Against Crystal Palace. 2-1.  
**Jon** Rob, you had a couple of questions about bands...  
**Rob** Yeah, Angel Corpus Christi were really cool when you had them on live and the single that you played a lot...  
**Mark** Me And My Baretta?  
**Rob** Yeah that's the one; that was a fantastic record, but I didn't think much of the album...

**Mark** You know I liked that Big Black Cloud and things, I liked a few things off the album...  
**Rob** It seemed novel on Me And My Baretta where she didn't use much vocally, but over the full album it seemed as if she was actually limited.  
**Mark** Well most people are; the thing is that one of the things that I really miss as well, and this doesn't apply just to Angel Corpus Christi, the thing that I miss most of all from the old show was getting good records and not being able to play them; I mean the new Ween album, there's some blinding stuff on that; and not being able to play it; and the fact that we can have this Angel Corpus Christi discussion is great, because if we hadn't broke them no-one would have heard of them and I love that; that we could play a record and maybe only a hundred people would be interested, but those hundred people would be interested.  
**Rob** They didn't sound like they do on the album. They sound an awful lot better live than they do on the album. And I would also like to thank you for introducing me to Man or Astroman.  
**Lard** Oh, great, yeah! [laughter]  
**Jon** Rob and I were down at V97, the two of us, and we were looking at the T-shirt stand, and Kula Shaker had a Peela Tata one.  
**Mark** Yeah, I know!  
**Jon** What do you think of that?  
**Rob** Are you going to see them in court?  
**Mark** Ah, yeah! Well, we wanted to put Ta la on our album, and if they'd have said no, we'd have said, 'well, fair enough then, we'll have the percentage from your merchandising!' So that one never got to court.  
**Jon** How much time do you think we actually spent preparing this interview?  
**Mark** A lot longer than we spent preparing any of ours... I'd think that you were up to about ten or fifteen minutes there...  
**Jon** Not far off, as long as the train takes to get from Heworth to Newcastle.  
**Mark** I know Heworth.  
**Jon** Shithole isn't it.  
**Mark** Aye.  
**Jon** That's about it lads. Cheers.  
**Mark** Yeah cheers lads.  
**Lard** Would you like another beer?  
**Jon & Rob** Aye...



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MUSIC NEWS

LIVE

STEREOLAB

Shepherd's Bush Empire

Are you a James Bond fanatic? Then you may be interested in a record being released by the **David Arnold Project** called *Shaken and Stirred*. This features cover versions of classic Bond theme tunes by the likes of The Propellerheads, Pulp, Leftfield, Natacha Atlas and LTJ Bukem. Released on 20th October, this promises to sell very well indeed considering the fact that there is a new Bond movie in a few months. However, what Louis Armstrong would have thought of Iggy Pop covering his throaty number, *We Have All The Time In The World*, I don't know.

The **Doors** are making another comeback...sort of. Set to be the 'crowning jewel' of the Doors' back catalogue, the package will contain four CDs most of which have been previously unreleased. One of the tracks, *Orange County Suite*, features Morrison on vocals and piano with new music recorded by the remaining Doors added to it. There is also a new video for *Break On Through* which uses excerpts from the band's last ever performance on the Isle of Wight. It is released on 27th October.

The **Shirehorses** are to release one of the worst albums ever...literally! Their new album *The Worst Album In The World...Ever* features all the classic recordings made by Radio 1 DJ Mark Radcliffe, Lard and their group of 'musicians' including Baby Bloke (*You're Gormless*), The Charley Twins (*West Country Boy*) and Dick Cave and the Bad Cheese featuring Riley Minogue (*Hapless Boy Lard*). The boys have bowed to public pressure and are to reform for a tour this Autumn, coinciding with the release of the album on 3rd November. **M**

And now, the marking scheme...  
All reviews are given stars up to a maximum of five. The ratings are as follows:

- ★★★★★ Holbein House
- ★★★★ Southside Hall
- ★★★ Clayponds Village
- ★★ Southwell / Fisher
- ★ Garden Hall
- No Stars Montpelier Hall

We're late. This is not a problem, as lateness has always been endemic in to the music industry, which is part of its appeal but also the main reason that it is such a pain in the arse. We've also missed the support band Sukia which, a friend at the bar told me, was no bad thing.

I don't know what to expect tonight. Will we be pogoing in one of those intense, crushed affairs with short but energetic fourteen-year old girls competing with slightly strange, totally tuneless twenty-somethings wearing shirts but no deodorant to pledge their devotion to their latest plastic Jesus? Unlikely. I can imagine the dance floor spotted with moody techno-heads dressed in alien ways performing their odd rites in studious denial of the existence and absurdity of those around them. But there doesn't seem to be the required critical mass of misanthropists with billiard-referees' gloves and blue painted inner tubes on their heads.

The set starts, and we shove to the front. The band immediately commit the sin of playing several

brand new tracks in a row. Nobody's dancing as the songs merge together into a dreary ennui, with supposedly post-modern but actually crap keyboard nagging at the monotonic bass, the lyrics incomprehensible even to my French companion. A hairy knob in front of me is preparing a steady stream of spliffs, using his girlfriend as a makeshift rolling mat. The fact that he was able to perform this dexterous operation in the middle of the gig speaks for itself.

There's a lull in the music, and the keyboard player starts pumping out slow, ugly chords on a dismal old Wurlitzer rattle-box. Fourth; the devil's chords. He's concentrating intently, focussing on the appalling resonances. Laetitia starts to sing, the drums come in at speed, and suddenly I begin to understand. The people are jumping now as the music climbs up and up, building into a throbbing soundscape that absorbs the evil chords greedily. It's fast enough for a good bounce, but you have to jump high. The music is raucous and untidy but has a mesmerising

trance quality that has us sailing up and down in appreciation. After a time between ten minutes and eighty years, the guitars drag the music into a climactic, decelerating cacophony. But emerging from the sea of noise is a new beat, a faster beat, that seems to fit in with devastating accuracy, and the party continues. One by one, the elements of the music fall away to leave only the mighty Wurlitzer, still pumping away. Only now it makes sense, and the melody of the chords is obvious, explained by the massive voice of the music.

When Stereolab finally decide to let us back onto the ground, I'm unable to keep still, my muscles twitching to any kind of beat. I'm ridiculously high and, once again, see clearly the reasons why I make the unusual effort to travel and wade through mud, vomit and sweaty arseholes just to see half an hour of music. For all it's myriad faults, live music is the biggest, the best and the most. Live music is music. **M**

Jeremy

FANTAZIA

Manchester G-Mex

The 31st of October will see revellers enjoying a night of music in the G-Mex centre in Manchester. Not since Fantazia's sell-out event at the Glasgow SECC in 1993 has an indoor event of this size been organised and this one will hope to out-do that one in the very least.

The show has recently toured Europe, Australia and the United States and now returns to the UK where the G-Mex will host 12,000 people for 12 hours. The line-up will be as follows:

**The Main Arena:** Carl Cox, Danny Rampling, Jeremy Healy, Boy George and Tall Paul.

**Garage Nation:** The London Dream Team, Jason Kaye, Mike 'Ruff Cut' Lloyd and Lisa Unique.

**The Chemical Lab:** Experimental sounds from Jon Carter, Cut La Roc and Monkey Mafia.

The G-Mex will be decorated for the event with 1000 metres of fabric dressing along with a huge screen displaying surreal images. According to the press release, there will also be '...oversized transvestites, bonded dwarves and costumed dancers emerging from giant scissorlifts.' Ahem.

Tickets are available now from selected HMV stores and Tower Records stores. They are also available from Ticketmaster on 0990 344 4444.

COMPETITION ...

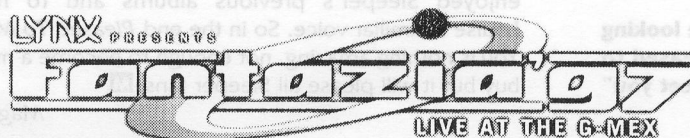
Fleetwood Mac videos to be won!



Specially filmed over three nights, *The Dance* was released on September 1st this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the band's 25 million selling album *Rumors*. Two lucky people can enjoy this video absolutely free if they can correctly answer the following question:

Which Fleetwood Mac song was used by the BBC's old Formula 1 racing programmes?

Answers in to Felix by 24/10/97.







## ALBUMS

## STRANGELOVE

Strangelove ★



Patrick Duff,  
obviously not too  
pleased with his  
Felix review

Strangelove's eponymously titled album, has arrived at an apt time, with the whole "new grave" scene flourishing with the likes of Radiohead, Mansun and Placebo leading the pack.

*Superstar* introduces the record, an attempted anthemic effort that never reaches the heights it is trying so hard to achieve, a trend throughout the whole album. Yes, it is dramatic, yes it is emotional, but it lacks any sort of dynamism, and fails to capture the listener's attention. They may have pretentious of becoming a stadium rock band playing majestic and awesome anthems, but even praise from Ed O'Brien of Radiohead cannot change the fact that the quality of this album is akin to a hopelessly cheap imitation of Suede's mic-slapping energy mixed with an attempt at Smiths-like depressing prose. If you were thinking of getting this album on the merits of its singles, don't, just take a listen to anything from the Smiths back catalogue instead. **M**

Jason

## 30 AMP FUSE

Saturday Night At The Atomic Speedway ★

Punk-pop is a curiously diverse genre. It has produced some of the most inspiring, energising songs of the last two decades, and seems to cover everything from *Teenage Kicks* to *Girl from Mars*. I would even argue for Jane Weidlin's *Rush Hour* or *Echo Beach* by Martha and the Muffins. The two bands everyone agrees on are The Buzzcocks and Husker Du, both

Filled with a burning anger that could only be expressed through chainsaw guitars and close harmony screaming. Sadly, these two groups are responsible for a legion of trailer-trash bands recycling the same old formula to produce an insipid, washed-out facsimile of the passion which drove them to pick up their guitars in the first place. To piss on the graves of your musical heroes seems like a poor way to pay them tribute. To exhume their corpses and parade them like trophies is downright rude.

And so to 30 Amp Fuse. Despite having fifteen songs

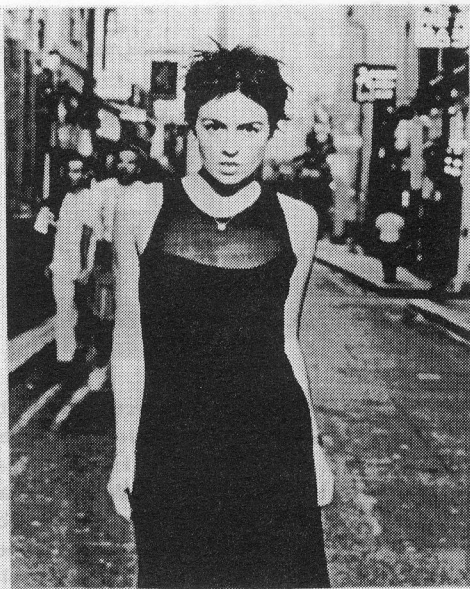
crammed into forty minutes, someone forgot to tell them that even a two minute song needs ideas. That's the whole point of this music, to make a smash and grab raid on the listeners heart and then get the fuck outta Dodge. On *I Fall Down* they're almost there, but end up

Seeming more peeved than furious. And *Stereogram*, with it's bouncy Ash-a-like chorus, would certainly be great live but sounds so thin and weedy here that it blows away before you're really hooked. Many of the lyrical themes are equally tepid, from the mundanity of Smallville (look, we know it's boring working in a gas station) to the unrequited love of someone who clearly deserves nothing less than rejection (*For You*). Even their rehearsal space gets it's own special ode on *Blastin' Room*, while recent single *Punk Virtuoso* is no more than adequate. So sod this, go and buy Husker Du's *Flip Your Wig* instead. **M**

Norm

## SLEEPER

Pleased To Meet You ★★½



Louise looking  
very "pleased to  
meet you"

Sleeper has its own distinctive sound: quirky lyrics; which almost seem like random words taken from the backs of cereal boxes and 20th century prose; and Louise Wener's incredibly sexy coarse voice. Their first two albums *Smart* and *The It Girl* followed this trait, and with their success of these two albums *Pleased to Meet You* seems like an experiment into different styles, pushing and emphasising the melody but in no way have they sold out and gone pop.

The track *Miss You* has a worryingly almost country and western feel to it, while the following *You Got Me* has a solid indie sound, strong electric guitar and drums. The beginning and end tracks on the compact disc have that familiar Sleeper sound, (with Wener shouting the words out with full gusto) so at least it starts well and finishes as it started.

To deny this slightly different sound is to deny a band the chance to evolve though I am glad evolution is a slow process. To review an album is to compare it to a band's previous work and, admittedly it is different. The only reason to buy *Pleased to Meet You* and justify parting with a precious fifteen pounds is to have enjoyed Sleeper's previous albums and to hear Louise's familiar voice. So in the end *Pleased To Meet You* is nothing amazing, not enough to become a must buy but it will please all Sleeper fans. **M**

Magpie

## EAT STATIC

Science of the Gods

★★★★★

For me, Eat Static will forever provoke memories of a dark, smoky room, filled with drapes, dead cheese plants and festering cups of tea. An appalling copy of the *Abduction* album on the half-buried, ramshackle old stereo with five and a half speakers at random places in the room, but the beats cutting through despite. All the better because we were, well, fucked.

And all this is, in a way, critical acclaim for the new album *Science of the Gods*. More of the same, then? I suppose so, but that isn't really fair. Eat Static are one of those bands who's releases form a continuing whole rather than individual project - only each release just keeps getting better and better. Highly recommended for those distended late nights when you don't want to think, you just want to wallow around in puddles of bass and BE. **M** Jeremy





## ALBUMS

## THE SPACEMONKEYS

The Daddy Of Them All ★★★★★



This is an album that contains a lot of differences. From the first track, *Acid House Killed Rock And Roll*, to the last, *March Of The Scarecrows*, there is a gradual change in style and approach. This is nothing to do with any split personality that songwriter Richard McNevin-Duff might have but something to do with the fact that the band sees themselves as the next big 'Madchester' thing.

A bit of history first, though. They formed in 1994 and played their first gig at the Hacienda in Manchester in 1995. A week after that, Tony Wilson approached them and asked them to sign on the dotted line for a six-album deal with his label, Factory Records, whom you might have heard of as the label that launched Joy Division and Happy Mondays amongst others. They give out an attitude of nonchalance towards the music press whom they say has completely ignored them so far and look to the public to recognise their talent.

So what about the music? Well, they sound Mancunian. However much they want to tell people that they don't want to start another Northern uprising or anything, they will probably sound like they do. The album is a result of the late-eighties acid house culture applied in the late nineties. Big guitar loops and chemicals-esque samples drive through tracks like *Blowing Down The Stylus* whilst still remaining organic at all times.

McNevin-Duff's vocals are an integral part of the differences in the songs. On *Sugar Cane*, he sounds like he's doing an impression of Arrested Development's Speech crossed with the singer of E.M.F. (can't remember his name, sorry). In a marked contrast, *Inside My Soul* sounds like something of the last Primal Scream album. A great melody coupled with strings and staccato guitar add up to a nice little up-tempo ballad.

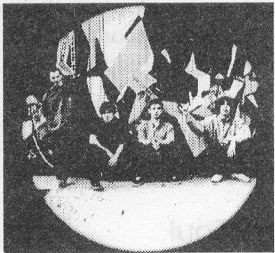
Some of the songs are not entirely inspired, though. *Dear Dhina*, a melancholic number, which sounds like any band, any-

where is a good example.

Things look better towards the end of the album when *Sweetest Dream* rears its head. This is short, sweet and brilliant. It's that simple. Marc Of The Supercool brings things to a fine ending which brings together everything that was good about the whole acid-house era and encapsulates it into a seven-minute outro to the album. Wah-wah guitar, repetitive lyrics and brilliant sampling make this the best track on the album.

This may be the first time you've ever heard of the Spacemonkeys, but make sure you keep an ear out for them in the near future - something tells me that they are going to go places. **M**

Alok



The Spacemonkeys coming to a planet near you soon.

## SINGLES

**Kylie Minogue - Some Kind of Bliss**

Another re-invention, another rock dollar Hey, great horn section. Hey, great strings. Hey, slick production. Hey, choke on your own vomit.

**The Hybrids - Stranded**

Norman Stanley Hybrid, I sentence you to five years for the theft of Neil Young's *Down by the River*, two years for the misappropriation of Noel Gallagher's voice, and 6 months for joyriding a second-hand chorus 'owned' by Paul Weller. This is larceny on a grand scale, and must be punished.

**Cable - God Give me Gravity**

Rather than genuinely unusual, Cable sound like Stereophonics after a 'weirdness assertion' weekend, a little too forced. However, the title track eventually beefs up the guitar sound sufficiently to sweep to a roaring conclusion just behind AC Acoustics. So, the Damoclean vat of vitriol remains untipped - at least until next time hurgh, hurgh, hurgh.

**The Kings of Infinite Space - Speedboarder**

Rock and roll the way mom used to make it. *Speedboarder* (sung in an incongruous East-End accent) is The Ramones covering Ministry's *Stigmata*, while *Little Deuce Coupe* is exhumed on *Little Black Flower*. Can I recommend a slight change in direction? Like, away from my stereo?

**Bedlam A Go-Go - Flat 29**

It may be "...an arty farty disco party, rich kids on smarties...", but fundamentally Bedlam A Go-Go are not going to be the 'next big thing', as the word on the street would have us believe. Man. They are in fact Jesus Jones with a few ripped-off Chemical beats thrown in, and I freely give up all my 'cred' forthwith.

## THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

**Strangelove - Freak**

Finally, the Strangelove kids get some balls to play with. I'd always found their sound too weak, too whining, and sticky with self-pity. But now all that's been traded in for Jon Spencer attitude and a good dollop of self-hatred, delivering a single that pouts like Jagger and slaps it's arse like Brett Anderson.

**Libido - Supersonic Daydream**

Kinda retro, without being a blatant grave-robber. Kinda T-Rex, but with the catchiest bit all used up in the first thirty seconds. Fits snugly between Suede and Subcircus. Thought they were going to be one of my 'kinda' bands that never really cut it, until I listened to *Inner Beauty is a Lamé Comfort when you're Fuck Bored*, and had the skin flayed from my bones by their Jesus Lizard-style assault. Note: this is a good thing.

**The Wildhearts - Urge**

Breathless panting. Echoing vocals from the bottom of a very dark, very scary well. Droning, distorted guitars threatening to overwhelm everything else. An MBV melody curling round the base of your spine. An explosion in a rather large, noisy factory. ROCK! ROCK!! ROCK!!! Hmmm, that covers the first seventy seconds. Repeat for an awesome five minutes of music heavier than Gods' balls and more fucked-up than Keith Richard's kidneys.

**The Gania Kru - Gone are the Days**

Skip the soul-vocal radio mix and explore the seriously good drum and bass remixes courtesy of DJ Hype. Roll a fat one, open your shirt to the waist and shuffle round your flat with your arse going nineteen to the dozen. Oooh, go on.

**Dubstar - Cathedral Park**

Stellar vocals and guitar, as always, but the exuberant horn section seems to take the edge off the miserabilism that Sarah's flat Northern vowels always promise. Still fantastic sparkly pop of course, just a bit too cheerful.

**Groop Dogdrill - Lovely Skin (Mantra)**

The start is promising, a cool sample followed by an intro in the style of the Dead Kennedys, then it all goes down hill. This song deserves a manic, deranged psychotic singer, not your Dad doing an impression of Rik from Shed 7. **M**

Norm





SUMMER ROUND-UP (PART 2)

# Summertime, and the living stays easy...

In part 2 of the summer albums round-up, we will be introducing you to even more essential selections of the summer's music. Main thanks is due to your favourite reviewer and mine, Norm, who provided most of this week's esoteric cuts. So, here we go again...

## Yo La Tengo

I Can Hear the Heart

Beating as One

A sublime combination of Sonic Youth distortion and folksy melodies, ranging from three minute pop classics (*Sugarcube*) to eleven minute wig-outs (*Spec Bebop*). The unsung saviours of American rock.

## Mu-Ziq

Lunatic Harness

Drum and bass, techno, ambient wibbling and big tunes from Mike Paradinas.

## The Beta Band

Champion Versions

Headed by the magnificent "Dry the Rain", this stands alongside "Loaded" and "Lazarus" as a classic slow-bum epic.

## Mogwai

4 Satin EP

Scottish gods of noise worship at the church of feedback. With top tunes.

## Sasha & John Digeed

Northern Exposure 2

The first one of these was absolutely mind-numbingly brilliant so this one, by default, will be good. There seems to be a penchant for od German Techno here and this helps to make this one of the best trance moments this year.

## Primal Scream

Vanishing Point

A collection of brilliant tracks from Bobby Gillespe. A fine return to form after the disappointing *Give Out But Don't Give Up* and with new recruit Mani providing a cool, thundering bass. The singing may be a bit dodgy but it still impresses.



The 'Scream look ready to rumble

## Travis

Good Feeling

Some are hailing these young lads the new Oasis. It would be a shame if they were forced into a specific style right now and not allowed to develop on their own way. Happy, uncomplicated and sheer unadulterated fun.

## Paul Weller

Heavy Soul

Some people really slated this album. Make up your own mind.

## Guided by Voices

Mag Earwhig LP

Should have been *the* summer album, in the same way *Slanted and Enchanted* wasn't either.

M

### FILM REVIEW

# Little House on the Welsh Prairie

## HOUSE OF AMERICA

**Starring:** Steven Mackintosh, Sian Phillips, Lisa Palfrey, Matthew Rhys  
**Director:** Marc Evans

Debut independent films usually seem to be high on style and low on content. *House of America* manages to avoid these traps and successfully reflects the harsh reality of being born into a town with no prospects and no way out.

It's based around the Lewis family - Sid, Boyo and Gwenny and their eccentric mother, Mam. They live in a small wooden house in a part of South Wales that bears an uncanny resemblance to the sweeping plains of North America. The father left them years earlier

when he fled to America and so Sid and Gwenny dream of earning the money to join him. The impossibility of this is masked by inventive fantasies in which they imagine themselves on the American frontier with the aid of drink and drugs. Boyo is more realistic, however, and sees his family self-destruct around him while he learns more about the truth behind his father's departure.

Depressing stuff indeed. But this version of Edward Thomas' play focuses on the imagination of the children rather than the hopelessness of their lives and is more upbeat than you'd expect. At times I found myself looking at my watch due to the slow plot development. However, the aspirations of the main characters are contagious and overall this is a likeable film and an impressive debut by the director. **F**



The dysfunctional Lewis family from *House of America*



INTERVIEW AND VIDEO

Released today, *House of America* is an endearing low-budget film which tells the tale of a family trapped without a future in a bleak Welsh village. It movingly portrays the despair felt by the impoverished young in small towns everywhere, and shows how this can lead to a downward spiral which ruins lives. The film, reviewed on this page, marks the debut of Welsh director Marc Evans and Felix caught up with him for a cup of tea and a chat...

**Felix:** Are you worried that the public has had enough of Wales after *Twin Town*?

**Marc:** Not at all. Making a film about Wales is like making a film about being thin - so what? Besides, the feeling of not being able to escape from a hopeless life is felt everywhere; in the Welsh valleys, in England, all over the world.

**Felix:** Are you worried that it will be seen as just another Britpop film full of music by the likes of Blur?

**Marc:** As for the music, it was just a case of what seamlessly fits into the film whilst reflecting the characters' view of America. For Mam, for example, an old women whose view of America is dominated by Las Vegas and glitter, we had music by Tom Jones. For the kids

whose view is of endless highways with the car stereo blaring we went for the corresponding type of music, like the Prodigy. If the music we could afford on our 1.3 million budget happened to be popular stuff all the better.

**Felix:** How common do you think is the kind of dreaming we see from the kids in the film?

**Marc:** Hard to say. Everyone imagines they're in their own film sometimes. When a bloke is in his Robin Reliant speeding through a Welsh valley he starts to think he's starring in his own film, on a Harley going across America. Alternatively he just pops his pills, gets pissed and escapes from the monotony that way.

**Felix:** What's the reaction been like so far?

**Marc:** Very good. It's been shown at several festivals including Edinburgh and it's gone down well. We're taking it over to Hamburg next month and are hoping to get spotted by a big US distributor some time. I reckon there's a good market over there for real independent films like *House of America*, especially as they have a similar situation to the town in the film in many of their areas. Whatever happens, I'm proud of my film and any success is a bonus. **F**

RED SHOE DIARIES:  
AUTO EROTICA

Video Retail. £12.99



It's not often you see erotica for woman in the video section of HMV. But the Red Shoe Diaries is exactly that - a mainstream series shown in America which is aimed solely at women instead of old men in dirty mags. And best of all, it stars that famous Seeker of The Truth, David Duchovny.

The series, released over here last week, consists of stories linked only by Duchovny as Jake. In *Auto Erotica*, Jake has put an advert in the lonely hearts column of his paper and receives replies from a variety of women who describe their love lives in explicit detail. This may sound like the usual late-night dodgy stuff but it's very different. If anything the scenes are built up too slowly, with too much flashy camera work and dialogue. Still, it's probably the right sort of thing for a Girls' Night In. **F**

**Thanks to the generous people at Vision Replay Ltd we have two copies of Auto Erotica to give away. The first two females in the Felix Office on Friday will win one and don't worry, we'll deliver the prizes in plain brown envelopes.**

STUDIO NEWS

Columbia must be regretting signing up Alicia Silverstone to produce and star in two new films. The first, *Excess Baggage*, was released last month and flopped badly, leading to suggestions that the studio should cut their losses and drop the young star. They're keeping faith with her, however, believing that they have to be seen as "talent friendly" if they're to attract the top stars to similar deals.

New studio DreamWorks is also sulking after its first film, *The Peacemaker*, performed far worse than expected in its initial two weeks. After grossing a disappointing \$12.3m in its first weekend it dropped to just \$8.3m last week, leaving it third in the box office charts. This coincides with critics beginning to turn against the film's star, George Clooney, as they suggest his cardboard acting is restricted to shy sideways glances. Things are not looking good for the ER man after successive flops with *Batman & Robin* and *One Fine Day*.

Last weekend's American Top Ten looked like this:

- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. <i>Kiss The Girls</i>  | \$13.4m |
| 2. <i>Soul Food</i>       | \$8.4m  |
| 3. <i>The Peacemaker</i>  | \$8.3m  |
| 4. <i>In and Out</i>      | \$8.1m  |
| 5. <i>The Edge</i>        | \$5.2m  |
| 6. <i>LA Confidential</i> | \$4.5m  |
| 7. <i>The Game</i>        | \$3.1m  |
| 8. <i>U-Turn</i>          | \$2.6m  |
| 9. <i>The Full Monty</i>  | \$2.3m  |
| 10. <i>Wishmaster</i>     | \$1.5m  |

Disney and Fox are preparing for a showdown over the latter's new animated film, *Anastasia*. Disney is determined to remain the number one cartoon studio and so is pre-empting Fox's film by re-releasing *The Little Mermaid* two weeks earlier. Fox chairman Peter Chernin is not happy, complaining that "Disney is determined to do anything they can to stop the success of *Anastasia*." It's not the only thing Chernin has to worry about. *Titanic*, the most expensive film ever made, is set for a worldwide release in December, meaning it will be an anxious Christmas for Fox's executives. **F**

FILM COMPETITION

with our friends at the

ODEON KENSINGTON

This week the Odeon is offering five pairs of tickets to see *Nil By Mouth*, the directorial debut of Gary Oldman. Produced by Luc Besson, this semi-autobiographical account of a family growing up in a rough South London council block certainly pulls no punches. The bleak reality of lives ruined by every kind of addiction is shoved in the viewer's face at every opportunity, as is the domestic violence suffered by the main character's wife.

The film is based on Oldman's experiences of living with an alcoholic father, something that led to him being an alcoholic himself for twenty years. *Nil By Mouth* will definitely affect you one way or another, be it making you walk out half way through or wanting to change the world when it's finished. It's a rare film that is brave enough to discomfort the viewer this much.

To win one of the five pairs of tickets drop your name and the answer to the following question into the Felix Office by midday on Tuesday:

**One of the producers of Nil By Mouth directed Gary Oldman in two recent films. Name the director and the films.**

The winners of last week's competition who knew that Sigourney Weaver is starring in next month's *Alien 4* are:

- Ben White
- Reuben Connolly
- Stephen Tarlton
- Marie-Eve Bizien





EXHIBITION

### COLOURS OF THE INDUS

V & A

#### Colours of the Indus

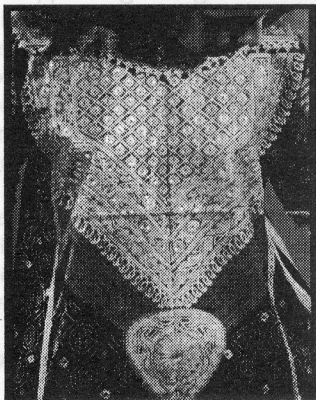
V & A

Exhibition Road, SW7  
Tube: South Kensington.

Opens 10am to 5.30pm Tues-Sun and 12am to 5.30pm Mon.

Until 29 March

£5/free to students

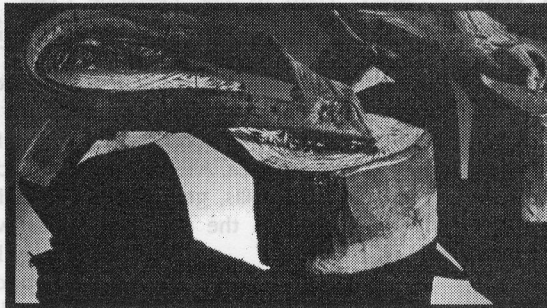


Colours of the Indus charts the history of Pakistan through the textiles and clothes traditionally worn in this region. Although Pakistan only became a country in the modern sense fifty years ago, its culture can be traced back to 5000BC and beyond. The earliest textile sample was found in the valley of the Indus, evidence that the craftsmen mastered dyeing and weaving techniques long before other civilisations in South Asia. The exhibition covers the four regions of modern Pakistan: Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab and North West Frontier.

As the crossroads at the heart of Asia, this region has had an unusually large number of outside influences which is reflected in the variety of its textiles. Seasonal nomadism as well as more permanent migrations from Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia have resulted in a distinctive style rich in

vibrant reds, luxurious embroidery and costly materials. What is particularly astonishing is that these clothes were and to some extent still are worn as people go about their normal business.

The Punjab is the most prosper-



ous province as is evident in the garish colours and expensive materials such as silk, satin, gold- and silver-wrapped thread. To this day Lahore is at the heart of Pakistan's culture. This is in contrast to the woolen clothes, black or dark indigo, decorated with coloured embroidery of the North West

Frontier.

A selection of accessories are also on display: bags, hats, shoes and animal adornments. A pair of carved wooden platform shoes from the beginning of this century predates high fashion from the nineties by eighty years. These shoes served a more practical purpose though. They were designed to keep the wearer clear of the dirt and not to fall off like Baby Spice!

The overall impression I left with was that of a nation that enjoyed vibrant colours and rich sensuous materials, not just for ceremonial occasions, but also in day-to-day life. In fact the opposite to our own minimalist, strictly utilitarian habits. It is sad that this heritage is increasingly threatened by a mass-produced, mass-marketed style coming from the West. **A**

Emma

## Graduate Recruitment Opportunities at J.P. Morgan for 1998

J.P. Morgan is a leading global financial services firm that has built its reputation on a commitment to serve the long-term interests of clients with complex financial needs. Our clients are corporations, governments, financial institutions, private firms, non-profit institutions, and wealthy individuals.

It takes skilled and talented people to provide these client services and the necessary internal support activities. The firm recruits top-quality graduates into various business groups as a pipeline for developing outstanding experienced professionals.

We have opportunities in the following areas, which are explained in detail in our Career Opportunities in Europe brochure, available from the Careers Service or by calling our Hotline number 0171 325 5678.

- Investment Banking
- Markets (Sales, Trading & Research)
- Private Client Group
- Technology
- Operations
- Corporate Resources (Financial, Audit, Human Resources)

**Degree:** Any degree discipline

**Start Date:** September 1998

**Salary:** from £24,000 per annum plus banking benefits

**Location:** City and Central London

**How to apply:** SAF/EAF to:

Graduate Recruitment  
J.P. Morgan  
60 Victoria Embankment  
London EC4Y 0JP  
Fax: 0171 325 8526

**Application deadline:** 1 December 1997

**Summer Intern Opportunities:**  
29 June - 4 September 1998

We also have summer intern positions in these areas for penultimate year students for 10-12 weeks. These summer positions offer students the opportunity to work on a variety of special projects or to assist experienced professionals in their work.

[www.jpmorgan.com](http://www.jpmorgan.com)

# JPMorgan





## BUBBLE GUM

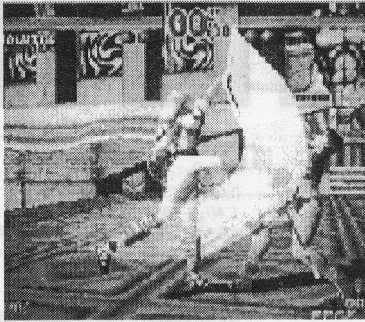
## SOUL BLADE

Namco ★★★★★½

**S**oul Blade is quite simply the best combat game for the Playstation, with the tiresome hand-to-hand combat being replaced with swords, axes and daggers. From the beginning this game oozes quality, and as the jaw-dropping intro roles well past 2 minutes you realise that this game is special.

Soul Blade is a perfect arcade conversion, made possible since Soul Blade uses Namco's System 11 specifications which are fully compatible with the Playstation's hardware. The outcome is an incredibly responsive game, the characters move like lightning and respond to your every whim! The speed is even more surprising when each character in each combat scene can take up almost half the screen. Taking into account the 3D environment it becomes even more mind boggling.

After playing Soul Blade, Namco's Tekken series seems slow and sluggish, much like your first boring lecture. Despite the limited number of characters in Soul Blade learning those important moves and combinations takes time, but



there is a practice mode which allows you to configure your opponent to do certain moves.

There are six different game modes to keep you interested but the most notable is Soul Blade's story book mode. You take control of a character and travel around the globe on an adventure, in order to find this special sword that has some importance with each character. This part of the game allows new weapons to be collected which can then be used in the normal arcade and battle modes.

Fast, flashy and enjoyable sword combat at its best. **G**

Magpie

## WIPEOUT

Psygnosis ★★★★★

**M**any of you out there may have just bought a Sony Playstation, and Sony's price reduction earlier this year could have been the main reason.

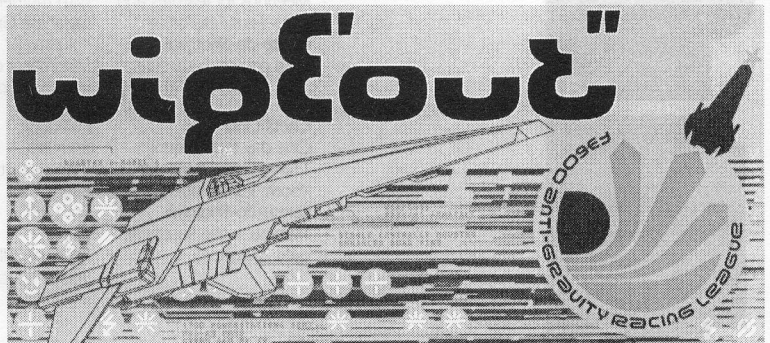
When the Playstation first came out the only game to own was Wipeout – probably most successful launch game ever. Wipeout is a racing game with a difference: anti grav vehicles and weapon pick-ups adds a new dimension. There are two reasons to buy Wipeout: firstly it's re-release has brought the cost down to £20 (quite frankly that's a bargain for any console game) and secondly it's damn cool.

Wipeout is the definitive mix of

dance music and adrenaline inducing gameplay. Orbital and Chemical Brothers have contributed to Wipeout, while it's main soundtrack was written and produced by Cold Storage. Sony even deemed a Wipeout music compilation CD a worthwhile release.

The game is challenging, however – the six tracks need a lot of practice in order to reach high in the rankings, and a further six tracks await experienced players. If you enjoy racing games an analogue Negcon joystick will bring on a whole new experience. **G**

Magpie



# Main Dining Hall

Sherfield Building Ground Floor  
12 - 2PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY

## QUICKS

BURGERS, PIZZA, FRIED CHICKEN  
JUMBO SAUSAGE, CRISPY FRIED FISH  
BARBECUE PORK RIBS  
VEGEBURGERS, SALADS, SPRING ROLLS  
HOT FILLED BAGUETTES, SAVOURY PIES  
BEN & JERRY'S ICE CREAM

## THE DINER

STIR FRY  
PASTA DISHES  
VEGETARIAN RECIPES  
CASSEROLES  
HOT TRADITIONAL PUDDINGS  
COLD DESSERTS  
CHILLED DRINKS

Student Prices and Fast Friendly Service  
Eat in or Take Away

# Main Dining Hall



## DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

## at home

## in town

## events

## clubs &amp; socs

## radio &amp; TV

## film

## arts

## music

**Freshers' Carnival** is **SOLD OUT**

**Standing Room Only Big screen soccer** - England v Italy. Da Vinci's, 7.30pm. Live Oasis Tribute dBs, free.

**STA Bar Trivia** Win £50 or a crate of lager. Da Vinci's, 8pm, free.

**XS** A new event, with massive party tunes in the main room and an eclectic selection of aural delights in the UDH. Free before 11pm, 50p after. Bar 'til midnight.

**Cocktail Night** Cheap cocktails, Da Vinci's, 5-11pm, free.

**Felix** News meeting - for all interested in news writing or photography 12.30pm. General Meeting - All welcome - 1pm Music and Film reviews meeting 1.30pm All in the Felix office, NW corner of Beit Quad

**Singsoc** Soccer at 10am, Hyde park, picnic after.  
**IC Rugby Team** Vital training for all today. Meet Beit Quad 12.30.  
**Felix** Meetings for features and arts - 1pm Felix office  
**Karate-do-Shotokai** Intro course, Southside gym 2-4pm NOT 4-6pm.

**Chess Club** One day tournament, 11am, Senior Common Room. £5/members free.  
**Karate-do-Shotokai** Training in the Southside gym, 6-8pm

**Wargames** 1pm onwards, Brown Committee Room, Union  
**IC Rugby Club** Training for all - meet 6pm Beit Arch.  
**Dramsoc** Presents "One for the Road" by Willie Rushton, Union Concert Hall, 7.15pm, free.

**Exploration Society** Introductory talk with guest speakers, 12.30pm at Beit Arch.  
**Fellwanderers** Freshers' slide show, 7pm, room G02 Mines.

**Wargames** 1pm onwards, Brown Committee Room, Union  
**Chess Club** Open evening, 7pm. All welcome.  
**ICU Cinema** The English Patient, 5pm Con Air, 8.30pm. Both £2, Union Concert Hall.

**ICU Cinema** The Fifth Element 6pm The English Patient 8.30pm  
**Fellwanderers** Meeting, 1pm, Southside lounge.

**Bruce's Price is Right** 7pm, ITV.  
**Red Dwarf** 9pm, BBC2. Original series.  
**On Death Row** 10.30pm ITV.

**Blind Date** 7.15, ITV. Da da, Da da, Da da da da Daaaa.  
**Bright Hair** 9pm BBC1. First part of decent looking drama with murder in it.  
**Japanese Grand Prix** 4.30am ITV. Can Micheal Schumaker overcome a nine-point deficit?

**Full Circle** 8pm BBC1. Micheal Palin's latest jaunt.  
**Bright Hair** 9pm BBC1. Concluding part.  
**Roots of Evil.** 9pm C4. How to become a dictator.

**The Simpsons** 6pm BBC2. Wo-hool  
**Decisive weapons** 8pm BBC2. How to fly an invisible plane.  
**Nash Bridges** 11.40pm ITV Unfortunately Don Jonson is still alive

**Prisoner Cell Block H** 11.35pm C5  
**Incense for the Damned** 1.15am BBC1. Paganism, black magic and hippies.  
**War of the Worlds** 1.40am ITV. Not the film, to crap series.

**The Nazis; a warning from History** 9pm, BBC2.  
**Moving Target** 12.15am BBC1.  
**The management of Nuclear Waste** 1.35am BBC2.

**Eastenders** 7.30pm BBC1  
**Animal Hospital** 8pm BBC1. Can ye till if it's dead yit?  
**The Bill** 8pm ITV

Chosen this week by  
Andy Hudson.

**House Of America** ABC Piccadilly (£6, Tue-Sun £3.80 conc) 1.40, 3.50, 6.10, 8.45  
ABC Shaftesbury Ave (£4 students) 1.25, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30  
ABC Tottenham Court Rd (£4 Students) 1.40, 4.10, 6.50, 9.25

**Tempress Moon** Chelsea Cinema (£6, first perf £2.50 conc) 1.30, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45  
Curzon West End (£6) 3.40, 6.05, 8.35  
Renoir (£6, first perf £2.50 conc) 4.00, 6.25, 8.50

**Hercules** Odeon Kensington (£6.30, £5 before 5pm) 12.15, 2.35, 4.55, 7.15, 9.35  
Odeon Leicester Square (£7.50 - £9) 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 8.50  
Odeon Marble Arch (£6.50, £4 before 3) 2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45

**Nil By Mouth** Odeon Kensington 12.35, 3.30, 6.25, 9.20  
Virgin Fulham Road (£6.20, Mon-Thu £4 conc) 6.00, 8.50

**Prince Charles Cinema** Admission £2.25 unless stated:  
**Friday** One Fine Day (£1.75) 4.00  
Photographing Fairies (£1.75) 1.30  
Rocky Horror Picture Show (£3) 11.30  
**Saturday** The Fifth Element 1.30  
One Fine Day 4.15  
The Shining 11.30  
**Sunday** Donnie Brasco 1.30  
Microcosmos 4.15  
Il Postino 6.30  
**Monday** Seven (£1.75) 1.30  
The Fifth Element 9.00  
**Tuesday** Rumble in the Jungle (£1.75) 1.30  
Jerry Maguire (£1.75) 4.00  
Con Air 9.00  
**Wednesday** Hamlet 7.00  
One Fine Day (£1.75) 4.30  
**Thursday** Seven (£1.75) 1.30

**Think You Can Do Better?**

Keen person needed to edit this guide every week

Call in to the Felix Office or call us on 58072, email felix@ic.ac.uk

**Spiritualised** + Spring Heel Jack Royal Albert Hall. £13.50.

**Teenage Fanclub** + Cornershop + Gorky's Zygotic Mynzi + Warm Jets Brixton Academy. £9.

**Front 242** + Cubanate + Empirion Shepherds Bush Empire. £11.

**My Life Story** HG Wells Suite Woking. £7.50.

**Smog** + Medieval Baebes The Garage N5. £6.

**Power junkies** Rock Garden. £3.

**Tony MacAlpine** + Re-Genesis Sheperds Bush Empire. £8.

**Sugar ray** LA2. £7.

**Rickie Lee Jones** Sheperds Bush Empire. £15.

**Jaguar** + Magic House + Oblivious Water Rats. £5.

**Chumbawumba** + Zion Train + Gunshot The Forum. £10.

**Mansun** + Cecil + Gluebound Astoria. £9.

**Melk** + Ronnie And Clyde Upstairs at Garage. £4.

**The Wildhearts** Brixton academy. £10.

**Flaming Stars** + Bangtwister 100 Club. £5.

**Bambino** The Borderline. £5.

**Morcheeba** Sheperds Bush Empire. £10.

**Prolapse** The Garage. £6.

**Robbie Williams** + The Supernaturals Hammersmith palais. £12.



# Entertainment

Sat 11th

**ENGLAND v ITALY**

**DaVinci's from 7.30**

The biggest games on the biggest screen

Tues 14th

**STA BAR TRIVIA**

**DaVinci's from 8.00**

Win £50 or a crate of lager

Weds 15th

**X S**

A new midweek experience in two rooms

Room one - party tunes for a mad for it crowd

Room two - a mixed bag of eclectic dance tunes

9-1. Midnight Bar. FREE B4 11/50p after.

Thurs 16th

**Cocktail Night**

**DaVinci's from 5.00**

Fri 17th

**'BUST-A-GUT**  
**comedy club**

With **LEE MACK & JACK RUSSELL**



Doors 8pm. £2.50/ £2 with entscard

**HEDONIZM**

Club tunes &

chill out room & cocktail bar  
9-2. 1am Bar. £1/Free B4 9pm

**iCU**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Another service from your students' union





# World Championships a breeze for sailors

Chris Balding (Physics III) and Andy Smith (Materials III) returned from Canada this summer with plenty of trophies and memories to shout about. Both of them were competing in the British team in the "Mirror Dinghy" World Championships on Lake Ontario at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Kingston. Against tough competition from eight different nations including Australia, South Africa, USA, Ireland, Sweden, Canada and Japan counting a total of 100 boats, Chris and crew Nikki Harper walked away with the title with Andy and crew Robyn Still in a credible 28th.

The winning pair sailed a consistent ten race series never finishing outside the top ten, winning two races and two "day series". However the result was not decided until the last race when rivals

Ross Killian and crew Darren McCann (IRL) and Dave Gebahard crewed by his son Joshua (GBR) needed to win with Balding outside the top eight. At one stage this looked possible with Killian in second and Balding in ninth but the race ended with Killian in second, Balding in sixth and Gebahard in seventh.

The British also narrowly beat the Irish to the team prize of the highest place top three boats with 1st (Balding), 3rd (Gebahard) and 6th (Ian Capener crewed by daughter Fay).

Sailing club commodore, the dynamic Simon Keen, was quoted as saying, "This was a superb result and hopefully the publicity will attract more aspiring sailors to our (cabin) door."

[Hearty congratulations from all at the Felix office - Si]



Nikki and Chris in jubilant mood

## News

There really weren't many actual matches going on, but there were many, many team-trials. One club whose trial was a superb spectacle was IC AFC where many potential stars showed their stuff to the enthralled onlookers. It's not too late to try out for the biggest and best football club at IC as there is another trial this Saturday. If you are interested in playing, at any standard, then come to Beit Quad at 12:30 with boots and shin pads (and shorts, socks and a T-shirt if you can manage it).

Team captains - get any interested team members to the Felix office on Tuesdays at 1 pm for the sports meeting. Also, please bring any results into the office.

Cheers, Si.

## Golly gosh, ski show freebies

The 1997 Daily Mail Ski and Snowboard Show with Mitsubishi Showgun is going to be bigger and better than ever before. The exhibition takes place at Olympia from 31 October to 9 November and gives you the opportunity to visit spectacular attractions, such as the full size artificial ski slope, which not only hosts amazing live demonstrations, but gives visitors the

opportunity to ski and receive expert tuition. The Quarter Pipe will host regular snowboarding displays by top professionals and feature the latest in ski and snowboard fashions.

We have 15 pairs of tickets (worth £9 each) to give away. Just come into the office, say "make mine a Daily Mail Ski Double please!" and we'll hand them over.

If you haven't found the office yet, it's hidden in a corner of Beit Quad - just follow the signs.

If you're not one of the lucky winners, then call the ticket hotline on 0121 767 4433, quoting ref FEL, for a special discount of £2 off tickets (75p booking fee per order) for both London and Birmingham shows.



## Bishop takes Queen shock

Last week the chess club's 1st team, Middlesex League Champions for 1995/96 and 1996/97, started the new season with a comfortable win at home against International Students House. Such was our superiority that a walkover was likely, but careless play left the scoreline at 6-2.

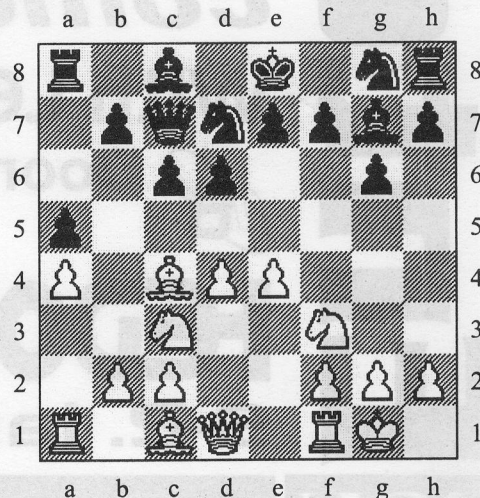
Jon Hastings was unable to make any impression against a tired opponent who could hardly keep his eyes open and looking at the board, so a quick draw was agreed on board 1. Natasha Regan won with an overwhelming attack on the king's side. Rob Lothian manoeuvred his pieces badly and allowed his opponent to get a very troublesome extra pawn, which proved to be his downfall.

On board 4 captain Dom Goodwin spent a lot of time thinking only to reach a dull middlegame. To liven things up he tried a complicated tactic which led to a tricky ending. His

opponent lost his queen and ran out of time on the same move. Nick Moloney played against the incredibly ugly and hairy "Kobollocks" who won a pawn but failed to press home his advantage. Nick pushed his own isolated pawn on to promotion and "Kobollocks" resigned. Chris Greenshields swiftly obtained a crushing position and easily defeated his clueless opponent.

Gavin Knott got into a very dire position indeed, but somehow survived and the game fizzled out to a draw. Easily bored, Dave Tang spent only 30 minutes at the board during the 3-hour session. Which is probably why his offended opponent refused to resign and instead forced a pointless continuation.

Chess problem: White to move - how can he take advantage of Black's awkward position?



Barry Gale