



THE FLEX

The
Students'
Newspaper
at Imperial
College

Issue
1095

24
October
1997

IN CONVERSATION

Howard Marks
face to face

WIN WIN WIN

Yet more free
cinema tickets

NEXT WEEK

Johnny Ball
reveals all

Physics Leaks Deadly Fluorine

Fire crews were called in to defuse a potentially lethal situation last week, as a leak of toxic fluorine gas prompted an evacuation of the Physics Department.

The leak originated from three disused gas cylinders stored in the basement of the Blackett Laboratory. College officials were alerted to the problem by building contractors who reported an unusual smell in the laboratory in which they were working. The cylinders, which were not labelled, were identified by technical service staff as containing fluorine.

Ian Gillett, College Safety Officer, was called to the scene to investigate, and the fire station at High Street Kensington was informed of the situation. Since no college staff have been trained in dealing with leaking gas cylinders, the only available option was to make a 999 call. At around 11:30, several fire engines and an ambulance arrived at the department. The building was evacuated and fire officers, wearing chemical protection suits, entered the laboratory to remove the cylinders, which were then placed on the lawn outside the building.

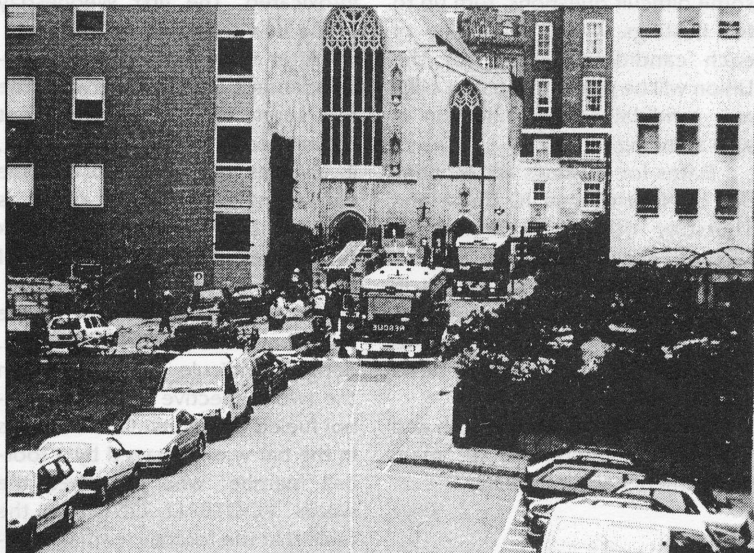
Prince Consort Road was closed by the Police because of the congestion caused by the large number of emergency vehicles in



attendance. Although some considered the response of the emergency services to be heavy-handed, the precautions taken by the fire brigade were part of standard procedure for dealing with "Chemical Incidents" at College.

Professor Brian Morgan, Head of the Physics Department, said he was pleased with the way that all the students quickly evacuated the building, as well as the way in which College Security handled the situation.

continued on page two



Response was 'heavy handed'.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

CHARITY EVENTS

Wild and wacky ideas from the RAG people...

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IF YOU KNOCK MY DRINK OVER I'LL...

The Rugby Captain took things into his own hands.

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NEW ELECTIONS

Time's running out in the race for the Presidency. The last chance to make your mark.

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HIGHER EDUCATION GOING DOWN THE DRAIN?

We put the questions to Labour MP and ex-NUS President.

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ACCOMMODATION

Last week's update which never made it.

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THE MEDICS ARE COMING

The future of medicine for IC.

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That Thing RAG Do

This year's RAG (Raising And Giving) collections have got off to a good start with the first two making over £1600.

The first took place on the first Saturday of term, and was part of the annual MENCAP megaraid, in which students from universities all over the country take part to raise money for the mentally handicapped children and adults. This year the megaraid also had a Rocky Horror Show theme, so many of those taking part donned suspender belts and bras in an effort to emulate the gender-bending characters in the cult musical.

Imperial supplied around thirty collectors, many of whom were in drag, but also included the constituent college motor clubs, who turned up to shake tins and to ferry the wet transvestites around town.

Traditionally, IC students play tiddlywinks along Oxford Street as part of the event, but the weather prevented this from happening, as any tiddles (or winks) would simply have stuck to the ground. Ignoring the fact that the tissue paper stuffed down a lot of the collectors chests would have fallen out while

bending over to play. The cold and rain also put pay to plans to throw the RAG chairwoman, Louise Choo into the fountain on Piccadilly circus. This did not stop the very cold trannies from collecting over £1100 during the day, though.

Last Saturday also saw a collection around London, this time with no running mascara or laddered tights, for UNICEF and UNA. This collection attracted a slightly smaller following, but still managed to raise about £500 for the charities.

Forthcoming events include a collection for John Grooms around London and the Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump - in which students run in the nude from Harrods to Beit Quad (15th of November), a collection at the Wimbledon vs Manchester United match (22nd of November), sponsored firewalking on Queens lawn (19th of November). To get involved, turn up at the RAG meetings in dBs on Thursday lunchtimes at 1.10pm.

Matthew Bennett

Last Chance For Students To Stand

It is the last chance for you to represent your fellow students as their Union President or Deputy President.

Candidates who want to stand for election may only do so before 5.00pm today by signing up on the notice board opposite the Union Office. Those standing must have one proposer and twenty seconders backing them with their signatures also on the board.

The current situation has three people - Mark Baker (who is fully seconded), Paula Luesling and Andrew Heeps (who aren't fully seconded) - standing for President and only one, Charlie Joynt, standing for Deputy President. Their campaign machines will soon be off and running so if you feel you can take the heat and beat them, sign up now. If you would like to

know what these candidates will do to our Union and ask them some difficult questions, turn up to the hustings where an outline of each candidates' plans for the Union will be given. If you don't like any candidates, New Election is also standing.

Dates for Hustings are Monday 3rd of November at IC Union and Thursday 6th of November at Charing Cross. There is another hustings planned at St. Mary's in Paddington but no date has been set yet. Felix will keep you up to date with the latest election news as it comes in.

The voting date is the 10th and 11th of November in all main departments and campuses.

Phyz

New Evacuation For Staff?

continued from front page

Ironically, the cylinders, which were part of some redundant laser apparatus, were due for removal this week, and waste-disposal company was already on site to give a estimate of the disposal costs. The apparatus had been left in the laboratory for a long period mainly due to reluctance of staff to get rid of it. "The longer equipment is left", said Ian Gillett, "the higher the risk of problems". Meanwhile, the cylinders are still lying behind a cordon on the Physics lawn. The method of their disposal has still not been decided- one possibility is that they may be packed in sand inside a drum and taken away to a landfill site.

Whilst generally satisfied with the response from students and

staff, Mr. Gillett expressed concern that some members of staff failed to evacuate from the building. Staff had been seen watching from upstairs windows when the alarm was ringing, whilst others decided to walk through the Blackett Laboratory from the adjacent Huxley Building, where the alarm was not ringing. This was described by Mr. Gillett as "highly irresponsible behaviour".

It is the first time in ten years that such an incident has arisen at IC. Mr. Gillett said that, although potentially dangerous, it was handled in the best possible way.

Ed Pavelin

Rugby Bash-Up In Southside Bar

Southside Bar was the site of an attack by the captain of the IC rugby team on one of his club members.

The incident occurred on the Wednesday of Freshers' Week following some rugby matches by the teams. Every week after a game, the rugby and football teams congregate in Southside Bar to enjoy a drink or two amongst friends and they usually end up becoming very intoxicated. The first Wednesday of the new term was no different.

After a few pints, the traditional 'boat race' was held between the two sports teams. For those not acquainted with this competition, it involves equal sets of people each trying to drink a pint as fast as possible but they can only drink theirs after the person in front of them has finished.

To the disappointment of the rugby boys, the football team won. Songs of ridicule passed between the two respective teams as alcohol fueled emotions. One of tables in the bar was damaged by a football member who scratched the words "FOOTBALL ONLY" on the table that the football team was sitting at. An employee from

Southside, noticed that the atmosphere that Wednesday night was different saying that "things were worse than usual".

Towards the end of the night while the rugby team drank together, the Firsts team captain, Oliver Lyttleton, accidentally knocked over his own drink. The team have a tradition that they brought back from Australia after their summer tour called 'shooting the boot'. This is a penalty where anyone caught spilling an alcoholic beverage has to drink beer from their own boot. After extensive coaxing Oliver still refused to pay the penalty as his shoes were expensive, so one of the rugby players, Tom Hovard, attempted to remove it. In retaliation, the captain punched Mr Hovard leaving him with a bad facial wound.

The Women's minibus driver, Anne Ovens, drove Mr Hovard to hospital where he received five stitches.

Mr Lyttleton's attack had come after a stressful period of captaincy and following the incident, he resigned his captaincy.

Tony Ofori



Displaced Freshers Returned to Halls

Increased pressure of student numbers this year forced the accommodation office into a frenzy of activity as they struggled to fulfil Imperial's guarantee of accommodation to its first years.

As an emergency measure, students who could not be housed on campus were given temporary College beds. According to Sharine Brown, Residences Manager, dozens of freshers had to be transported to overspill accommodation at Clayponds, Wilson House and Charing Cross.

After initial complaints during the summer, parents were reassured that all new students would be allocated a College bed. Most understood that the high student intake was causing severe problems. According to Senior Tutors, a significantly larger number of students were accepting College places than in previous years, leading to increased pressure on the Accommodation Office. This situation was exacerbated by the small number of freshers dropping out at the beginning of term.

Although the chances of continuing students obtaining rooms in Halls this year is extremely slim, all first years will eventually be offered rooms in South Kensington. The sixteen students placed at Clayponds and Charing Cross have already been moved into Halls near College. Of the twenty-nine students at Wilson House, thirteen have now also been relocated. This was made possible by a number of students leaving Halls during the first week of term.

Although every effort was made by wardens and subwardens to welcome the freshers, the accessibility of college life enjoyed by most other newcomers was inevitably lacking; late night Union parties and tube travelling are less than compatible. Unfortunately this year's predicament is unlikely

to be a one-off. The consequences of next years influx of medics have yet to be addressed by the accommodation office.

Meanwhile, students are temporarily living in Montpelier Hall whilst half of Southwell Hall is undergoing refurbishment. Completion of the eighteen week project is now in sight, and is scheduled for the end of this term. The long-term future of the dilapidated Montpelier Hall, which was due to close in September, still hangs in the balance.

Anita Devoy and Ed Pavelin

Higher Education: A Better Deal?

"If you're a student now, you're getting a very rough deal... The new proposals are better."

These are the words of the former NUS president (84-86) and now Labour MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, Phil Woolas, in an interview with Felix.

Prospective students do not share Woolas's optimism, as shown in a recent report in The Times. The study showed a marked fall in early UCAS applications from this time last year. Phil Woolas gave his explanation for this fall: "There's a lot of confusion I think ... many people [prospective students] quite understandably think that they're going to have to dig deep into their own pockets and pay up front." Asked if he thought that the proposals would deter prospective students in the long term, he said "I don't think it will, but I've got an open mind ... it shouldn't do, because the proposed system is fairer."

The suggestion that there was a conflict of interests in being a NUS president with Labour in power - wanting a career in the Labour Party, while having to fight against them - was dismissed, "I don't think so. Politics doesn't work like that ... as a union, I think they're [the NUS] doing their job very well."

There is no doubt that there is confusion over the proposals. Until now, students have not had to pay fees, and their funding came from a combination of loans, means-tested maintenance grants, and parental contributions. Under the old system, the loans were not paid back until the graduates earned around £15,

000. A full grant was given to all students whose parents earned less than £16,500, and no grant was given to those whose parents earned more than around £52,000.

The current system is by no means perfect. The 1996 Policy Studies Institute found that in 1995/6 47% of students graduated with an average overdraft of £2,400. The funding allocated per student has fallen by 26% since 1990,

"I do think it's sad that when people start out in life, [upon graduating] they will have a debt around their neck of about £14,000."

and over a third of higher education institutions reported a deficit in 1995/96.

The new proposals were outlined in the Dearing Report. Tuition fees of around £1,000 are paid by all but the poorest students, and there will be an increased student loan available, with improved pay back terms. Contrary to the Dearing Report, the Government also abolished outright the current maintenance grant.

It is not only students and prospective students that harbour reservations over the new proposals. Dr. Macdonald, admissions tutor for Imperial's Electronic Engineering department,

thought that the more desirable universities like Imperial would not suffer overly from a reduced number of applications, thanks to the huge demand for places. He conceded, though, that the "higher universities might have to lower their standards" as a result of there being less applications.

With regard to the loans that students will have to take out for fees and maintenance, Dr. Macdonald said "I do think it's sad that when people start out in life, [upon graduating] they will have a debt around their neck of about £14,000. It may be fair, but I think that it may alter the pattern of what people think they can do when they graduate."

The universities themselves even look like losing out. Asked if he thought the proposals would give the universities a better deal, Dr. McDonald said "I don't really think it will make any difference. The money we get is dependent on Government policy. The way they raise it is not our business. It doesn't look as if the government is going to get much repaid for a long time, ... they're not going to see that money for a while."

Contrary to Phil Woolas's point of view, it seems that the students will be losing out, and the universities will be no better off. The only winner is apparently the government, who will have slashed their total funding for higher education.

Joseph Barton



Guest Lecture Series Begins

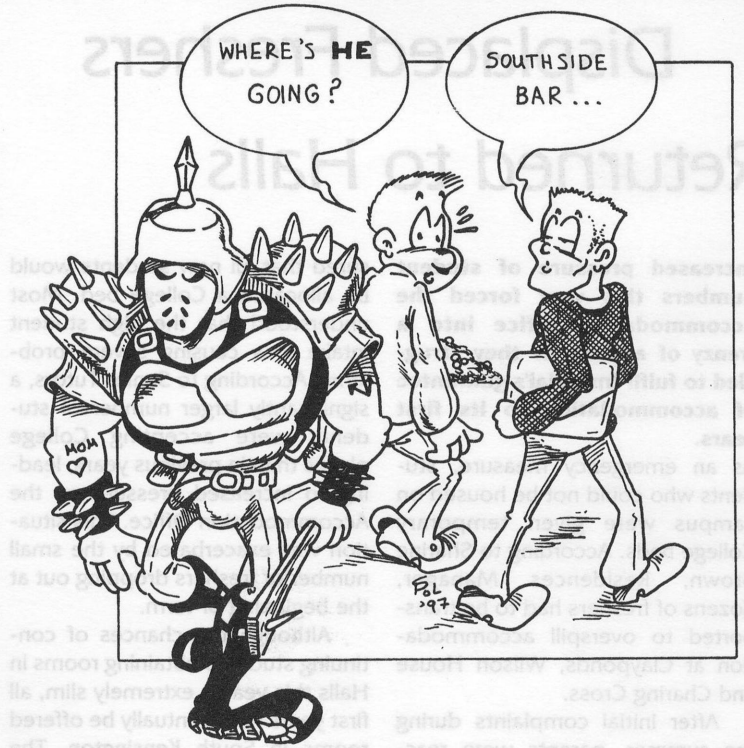
The series of special guest lectures started off with a packed lecture theatre in the Blackett roaring with laughter as Ken Campbell explained his view of science and the world of scientists.

The comedian recounted how he became interested in science via the Cathars, a 10th century band of French heretics who were mostly, but not entirely, burned at the stake, those who survived fleeing to the Americas. They believed that all matter was evil, and that God is the almighty nothingness, or the celestial hilarity. If this makes no sense, you were not there. The lecture covered his experiences in making the program "Reality on the Rocks", in which he attempted to unravel the secrets of the universe (or as he put it, what we are supposed to suppose about the universe this year), interviewing countless eminent scientists and mathematicians about the laws of physics, and their meaning.

He revealed a knowledge of physics that, if it did not quite match that of the audience, was very substantial for a lay-person, and managed to have even the most hardened quantum physicist rolling around with laughter, by simply pointing out the absurdity of many of the things that scientists take for granted – he was particularly rude about some of the more outlandish suggestions for why the Young's double slit experiment works.

Campbell seemed unconcerned at describing CERN (with which many of the audience have links every day) as a 27km tube of nothing, which serves to "waz" nothing together to produce something. He has an amazing knack of being able to be extremely silly about physics in particular, without getting many of his facts wrong. He just manages to twist them round in ways that no one expects, like describing the effects of time going backwards towards a big crunch on your toilet habits. Don't try this at home, folks.

He mixed this in with anecdotes about cults and other cul-



tures, and how they view the world, and manage to time travel, a concept with which he seems to be fascinated. He also stressed his belief in the importance of laughter, and how ultimately, being nice to each other will lead us to the universe that is heaven. Anyone who

was in the lecture theatre must surely have become nearer.

The talk was one of a series organised by Bob Speer in physics, which cover all subjects in science.

Matthew Bennett

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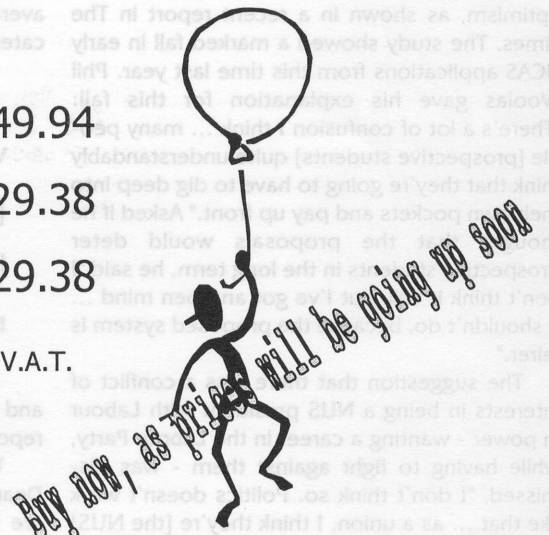
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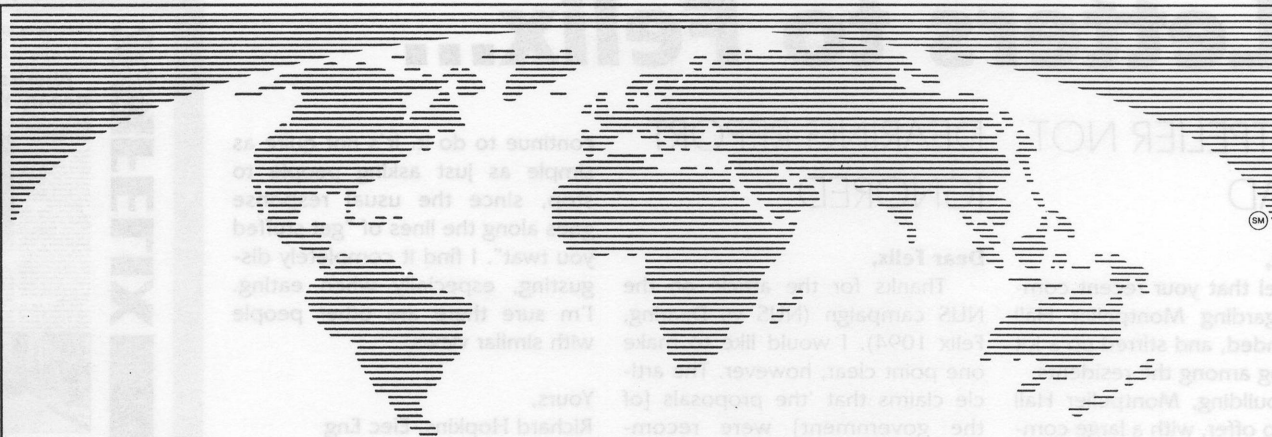
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Letters to Felix...

MONTPELIER NOT SO BAD

Dear Felix,

We feel that your recent comments regarding Montpelier Hall are unfounded, and stirred up a lot of ill feeling among the residents.

As a building, Montpelier Hall has a lot to offer, with a large common room and single bedrooms leading to a more communal atmosphere. The facilities are excellent with more washing machines and flidges per head than Evelyn Gardens. We also have irons and washing baskets provided unlike some other halls.

The hall boasts good entertainment facilities such as a dart board, table tennis table, grand piano and satellite television.

The building has character, reflected in the fact that the foyer and staircase are listed. It's situation has to be the best of all Imperial College halls, being nearer to the college than Evelyn Gardens, and within close proximity to the best known shops in London.

On reflection, the attitude of the residents is mirrored in the fact that many (over 50%) would prefer to stay here than to move into new Southwell, and it is just another show of Imperial College's ineptitude, that they have decided to sell the building..

Yours Faithfully,

The residents of Montpelier.
(signed petition enclosed)

DEARING REPORT IGNORED

Dear Felix,

Thanks for the article on the NUS campaign (NUS vs Dearing, Felix 1094). I would like to make one point clear, however. The article claims that 'the proposals [of the government] were recommended by the Dearing report'. This is not strictly true, the government's proposals do not follow those of Dearing. For example, the Dearing report recommended continuing some form of maintenance grant while the government proposes to scrap all grants.

Yours faithfully

George Constantinides

IT'S THAT OLD SMOKING IN THE JCR CHESTNUT AGAIN

Dear Felix,

I have lunch in JCR on a regular basis, and it amazes me how many people are smoking in there. Given a type a typical lunchtime, there are about 20 people smoking. There are at least 30 signs up in there about not smoking (even with an easy to understand diagram, if you can't read), yet these people

continue to do it. It's not quite as simple as just asking people to stop, since the usual response goes along the lines of "get stuffed you twat". I find it completely disgusting, especially when eating. I'm sure there are other people with similar views.

Yours,

Richard Hopkins, Elec Eng

RANT AT RANDOM

Dear Felix,

I was in the Resource centre the other day, and a little incident happened (as always in this College), nothing big, just a certain society getting bullocked by one of the members of ICU staff because their posters "didn't conform to Union guidelines". The first thing that popped into my head was that the Union was just giving this society (no name) a hard time as usual (at FF it had been a similar story). And then I just imagined the walkway full of posters, and tried to imagine how many of those do conform to Union regulations... (a grand total of about 3, all from the ass-kissing society). Then I tried to imagine a walkway full of posters which did live up to the expectations of the Union... how fucking boring. But then I thought: When did the students decide the STUDENTS' Union guidelines? As a matter of fact, when did the students decide anything concerning the Union? The students elect a president and several other representatives, but that is the extent of our power in College. We can just go get pissed for a year and come back for the next elections, it

continues on next page

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.

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FELIX

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Hickey, John Bound, Rob Garwood and Mark Baker.



from previous page
would make no difference.

The point is that the Union of Students is meant to be the voice of students in College, and is supposed to represent them and defend their interests above the interests of ANY other party, be it the Rector, the lecturers, or whoever, and give the views of students (all of them) in any matter that affects the College. But here, in Imperial College of Science, Apathy and Conformism, the Student Union seems to serve the only function of providing cheap beer and curries, which is great, but it seems to retreat when under pressure from the governing body of the College, and will even act against student will at times. This Union seems to take pride in being neutral ideologically, and not associating with students all over the country, and apparently it is not ashamed of its lack of interest for student well being. I have never heard the Union's views on anything, and if it does have views, it keeps them very quiet, and I doubt they reflect the opinion of the students, since we have very few ways of channelling our thoughts

up to the untouchables in the union office. Even if most of the students don't care about anything, which I doubt, we still have the right to have a say in our Students' Union.

So there you go, I guess I can go get pissed and sleep through another year, and wake up for the World Cup. And maybe by then we can all have posters that keep the Anything but Students' Union satisfied, and we can all stroll through a walkway full of stamped posters, in English only (because of that healthy xenophobia we have to cultivate), all in their assigned places. And always remember: no sellotape (reason yet to be discovered).

Yours truly Martin Bio2

Hello? Hello? are you listening? Council? C-O-U-N-C-I-L? Heard of it? No? Did you read the Handbook? Any issues of Felix? No, I didn't think so. Council is the sovereign, that's S-O-V-E-R-E-I-G-N body of the Union, and it's made up 100% by - can you guess - STUDENTS! Students have full control of the Union - but you'd know that if you'd ever bothered to contribute to it. Ed

Editorial

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

It's Commemoration Day (why isn't it called Graduation Day? Who died?), and hundreds of the newly departed are swanning around the college in Batman cloaks and velveteen trimmed black Klu-Klux style hoods. I'm not, I'm running round like a blue-arsed fly trying to finish this newspaper half a day early. Once again, sleep has been somewhat lacking so if this week's issue is a bit pants, you know who to blame. On the other hand, if you don't think it's good enough, why aren't you here doing a better job?

CONFERENCE INCOMPETENCE

It looks like we have a new competitor vying with the Estates Department for the general inefficiency and downright incompetence award. The Conference

Centre are leading the field with some unbelievable financial cock-ups and are current favourites for a good pasting this year. Those of you reading Simon Baker's column this week will agree that they have surpassed their Fashion Week deal balls-up last week with their office refurbishment running a jaw-dropping £126,000 over budget.

The usual secrecy has made it impossible to get the details, but we have heard from several people that around two thousand pounds has been spent on the carpet, another two thousand on a phone system that was later ripped out, and virtually all furniture has been replaced even though much of it was quality, solid furniture in good repair.

While it is unheard of for anyone to lose a job in Sherfield for incompetence, I don't think I'd be sticking my neck out to say that the Conference Centre head, Annette De Lima, is not a popular woman.

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E&O

Stop Press 1094 "Serious Injuries in Bar Brawl" We omitted to mention the location of the incident - Southside Bar - and may have inadvertently given the impression that it took place in the Union Building. The full details are in this week's news section.

News 1094 "Yes, Mr President" In this article we did not interview 'new election' and therefore did not give all candidates equal coverage. New election will, as ever, be standing for all posts in the forthcoming sabbatical elections.

And yes, we still can't spell.



I seem to have spent far too long banging on about the College so far this year, giving rise to rumours that I have thrown in the political towel. You know me better than that. Now seems the perfect time to resume battle as the Labour government's honeymoon is rapidly ending. Not surprisingly, it is Gordon Brown, who has shattered the dream with his masterly attempt to clear up the confusion over EMU that so beset the Conservatives. He has succeeded. We know for certain that Labour haven't made their mind up. Hallelujah! No dithering from Gordon. This is a perfect illustration of the perils of behaving like an opposition party when in power. The site of Brown at the launch of the new Stock Exchange trading system, behind a sea of red of his own making, would have been hilarious, were it not for the

damage his naivete had caused. It also serves to highlight the disturbing reliance on spin doctors. Much of 'Brown Monday' was initially caused by his spin doctor Charlie Whelan, who like his colleagues in this dubious profession, seem to wield a degree of power that is decidedly unhealthy in a democracy. Tony Blair must realise that, occasionally, government have to be unpopular in the short term in order to benefit the country. His obsession with public opinion and approval results in policy changes on a near daily basis as the mood of his focus

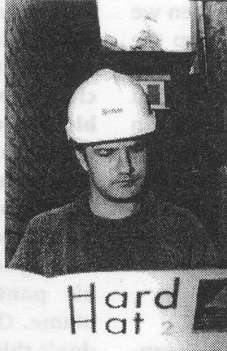
groups oscillates. As the markets so neatly demonstrated, this is no way to govern Britain.

God knows I've tried, but I cannot let the Conference office get away without a mention this week. It would seem that the Fashion week fiasco is not an isolated example of mismanagement. Regular visitors to Princes Gardens

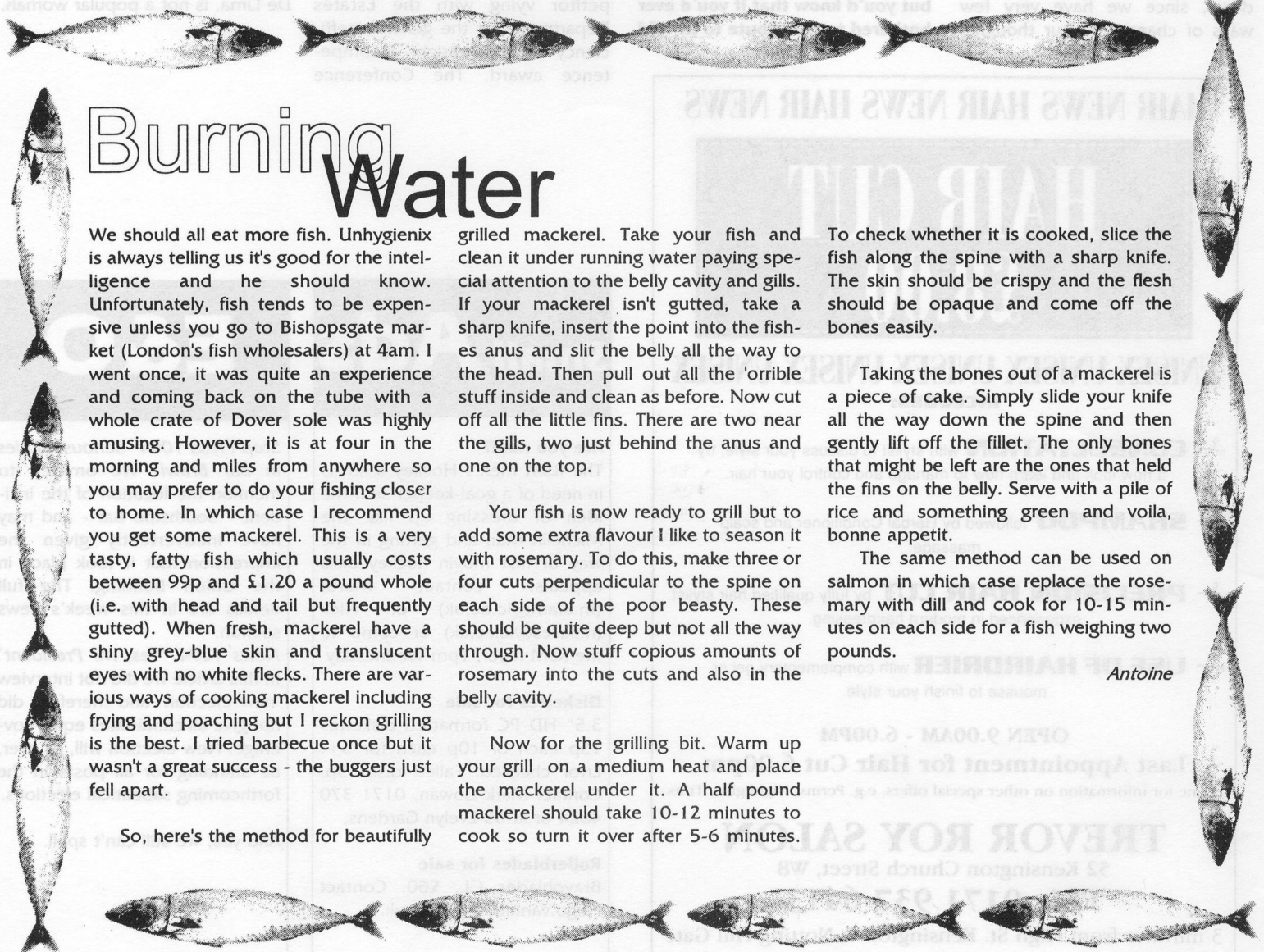
will have notice the frequent metamorphosis of the office. The latest of these changes was, notionally, to allow two more people to work in the office; the necessity of that we shall discuss some other time.

Pinning back my ears in the SCR enabled me to hear the figure of £26,000 for this project, a tad generous as I'm sure you will agree. Despite this larger sum, they managed to spend £152,000. Now I'm no expert, but that seems a slightly larger than expected overspend. To be fair, they cannot be accused of cutting corners. If I was buying office chairs for the 13 inhabitants, I would expect change out of £1,000. I'm obviously a cheapskate, since they spent £8,000. The list is longer than space here permits. This is absolutely outrageous. It is sickening that, when we hear endless bleating from the CVCP and others about a funding crisis, we see fit to lavish thousands on an outfit that in two years has lost tens of thousands. I rest my case.

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt



Burning Water

We should all eat more fish. Unhygienix is always telling us it's good for the intelligence and he should know. Unfortunately, fish tends to be expensive unless you go to Bishopsgate market (London's fish wholesalers) at 4am. I went once, it was quite an experience and coming back on the tube with a whole crate of Dover sole was highly amusing. However, it is at four in the morning and miles from anywhere so you may prefer to do your fishing closer to home. In which case I recommend you get some mackerel. This is a very tasty, fatty fish which usually costs between 99p and £1.20 a pound whole (i.e. with head and tail but frequently gutted). When fresh, mackerel have a shiny grey-blue skin and translucent eyes with no white flecks. There are various ways of cooking mackerel including frying and poaching but I reckon grilling is the best. I tried barbecue once but it wasn't a great success - the buggers just fell apart.

So, here's the method for beautifully

grilled mackerel. Take your fish and clean it under running water paying special attention to the belly cavity and gills. If your mackerel isn't gutted, take a sharp knife, insert the point into the fish's anus and slit the belly all the way to the head. Then pull out all the 'orrible stuff inside and clean as before. Now cut off all the little fins. There are two near the gills, two just behind the anus and one on the top.

Your fish is now ready to grill but to add some extra flavour I like to season it with rosemary. To do this, make three or four cuts perpendicular to the spine on each side of the poor beastly. These should be quite deep but not all the way through. Now stuff copious amounts of rosemary into the cuts and also in the belly cavity.

Now for the grilling bit. Warm up your grill on a medium heat and place the mackerel under it. A half pound mackerel should take 10-12 minutes to cook so turn it over after 5-6 minutes.

To check whether it is cooked, slice the fish along the spine with a sharp knife. The skin should be crispy and the flesh should be opaque and come off the bones easily.

Taking the bones out of a mackerel is a piece of cake. Simply slide your knife all the way down the spine and then gently lift off the fillet. The only bones that might be left are the ones that held the fins on the belly. Serve with a pile of rice and something green and voila, bonne appetit.

The same method can be used on salmon in which case replace the rosemary with dill and cook for 10-15 minutes on each side for a fish weighing two pounds.

Antoine



Times have been tough for Robin Cook recently. Our Foreign Secretary has been embroiled in a series of disputes on nearly all continents so far, and it looks like there's no stopping him.

His first foray into international confrontations came with his criticism of South-East Asian countries on their human rights record. Although commendable, the bluntness in which it was said - the wording of the statements he was making sounded more like a bollocking and less like a Foreign Secretary's diplomatic speech. Add to this his relative youth and complete inexperience in the post and you have the recipe for a serious international spat, with the United Kingdom being compared to the United States in its ability to tell other countries what to do.

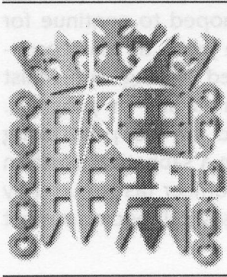
Talking of our former colonial friends, Mr Cook has earned the lasting hatred of one extremely powerful bigot in the US Congress, one Senator Jesse Helms. Senator Helms, a right-wing southerner, has earned his place a Chairman of the powerful State Foreign Relations Committee as the longest serving Republican member, rather than through any genuine democratic process. Helms may be a bigot, but he is a very clever and able one, and there are many cautionary tales associated with crossing him. He managed to singe-handedly 'veto'

the selection of a prospective U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, against the wishes of the President, Congress and the media. Mr Cook had a scheduled a half-hour meeting with the Mr Helms. It was cut short after 20 minutes. Mr Helms had not reacted kindly to Cook's typically blunt words, this time concerning the U.N. which is owed a ten-figure sum by the U.S., who are refusing to pay until it reforms itself in a

best, (they have just charged an eight-year old girl with an offence that carries an automatic death penalty, and had recently executed a fifteen year old boy for renouncing his Muslim faith). They also have contracts with us for billions of pounds per year. So when the two the plight of the two British nurses came into the media spotlight again with the announcement of the guilty verdict and sentencing,

events are by general protocol, not to be politicised, but Cook waded in with comments that he could mediate over Kashmir, taken by the Indians in the same light as if the Indian Prime Minister offered to mediate over Northern Ireland. This political comment of Cook's was directed more Britain's own Pakistani community, which further enraged the Indians, culminating with their Prime Minister calling Britain a "third-rate power", a phrase which Raj aficionados may remember as the early twentieth century warning of what Britain could become if we lost the colony. The visit to India became marred in many other ways stemming from this, and has done damage in our relations to a potential superpower in the years to come.

So what are we to make of Cook? He was one of the leading lights in the Shadow Cabinet, an intelligent left-winger, who converted to Blairism with a zeal unmatched by many, but down below is unchanged. His personal relations with Helms suffer from the contrast between left-wing libertarian and right-wing bigot, and we could kindly attribute his numerous gaffes to inexperience, and a mouth which must be tamed in his new and influential position. Otherwise he could shoot the whole of Britain in the foot.



Hamish Common Westminster Eye

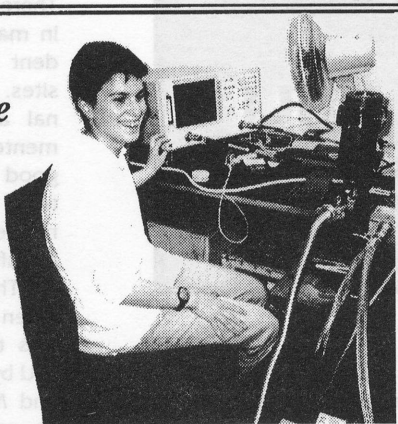
manner which the Americans would like. Mr Helms had said "we saved your ass twice this century, and you come and criticise us?" Mr Cook had apparently not taken his department's advice on how to treat him, deciding that confrontation would be the best option. It took all of Blair's rapport with Clinton to mend what could have been a damaging and needless rift.

But more was to come. After insulting the United States, Mr Cook quickly moved on to Saudi Arabia, another country whose human rights record is sketchy at

Cook responded by calling the Saudi nation 'barbaric', which may be true, but did much to antagonise them in this very sensitive time. It took much backtracking and eating of humble pie to smooth the ruffled feathers. The blood money payment to the victim's sister was actually paid by the arms companies, worried about the loss of contracts were the diplomatic row to grow more serious.

Finally the latest and saddest of Mr Cook's blunders was his comments in Pakistan and India, during the Queen's State visit. These

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BESSEMER BUILDING



Merger Splurger

A guide to the new IC School of Medicine

The last piece of the jigsaw was finally in place with the merger of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School (CXWMS) and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (RPMS) with Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) on the 1st August this year. An annual intake of 300 makes it not only the largest medical school in this country, but also in Europe.

ICSM is mainly based over five different sites. The Sir Alexander Fleming Building in South Kensington, hitherto known as the Biomedical Science Building (BMS), would be home to the medical students before they start their clinical training. Current students at Charing Cross and St Mary's will also receive their lectures there once a week.

Situated across Hyde Park – next to the historic Paddington Railway Station – is St Mary's Hospital, which has developed a strong link with the College following the merger of its medical school with IC nine years ago.

The National Lung and Heart Institute is now a division on its own right in the structure of the school. It boasts such distinguished clinicians as Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, a world famous heart transplant surgeon who is based at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Confusions sometimes arise with the locations of the remaining two teaching hospitals. Charing Cross Hospital is not at Charing Cross; – instead it is in Hammersmith, with the nearest tube station being Baron's Court. On the other hand, Hammersmith Hospital, the site of the former RPMS, is actually just north of East Acton.

A new medical course will be introduced with the intakes of 1998. The incorporation of a compulsory BSc year means it will be one year longer than the current one. However, it is expected that those who have already got a degree before their entry will be exempted from the BSc year. There are also plans to follow the example of other medical schools, notably UCL, and allow those who are graduates in a medically related subject, such as physiology, anatomy and pharmacology, to undertake a "fast track" course, which will last for four years. In

contrast to the old course – which is clearly divided into a pre-clinical and clinical component – the new curriculum, written with a substantial amount of student input, features clinical contacts for students right from day one.

The 1998 intakes will be housed with students from other disciplines together in South Kensington. Wilson House, Pembroke Gardens, and Brabazon House will be used to accommo-

unlike the other CCUs, the president and vice-president of ICSMSU, Katie Armstrong and Nick Carter, are both sabbatical officers. The sabbatical position for the president is hoped to continue for the next three years, as many problems still need ironing out whilst the transition is still in progress. The likelihood of the post being converted into a sabbatical position for a welfare officer (as is currently speculated) is small because most

tional rival failed to get through the first round.

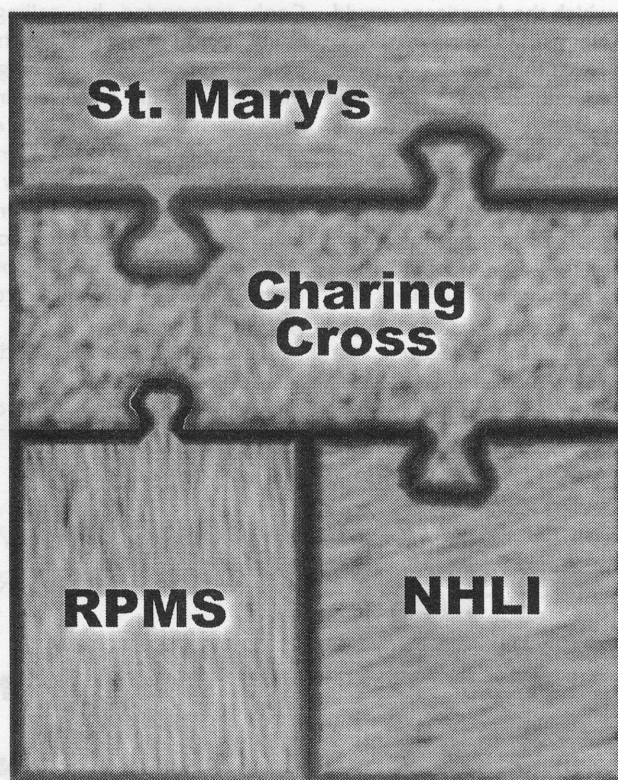
The fierce sense of sibling rivalry of the past has now been replaced by one of unity. Not only are they determined to recapture the United Hospital Cup, but also to prove themselves on the national scene (and hopefully end Cardiff Medical School's winning streak). The choirs and orchestras have also joined together to form the new ICSM Music Society, and Links (St John Ambulance) from the two medical schools are now part of the Imperial College branch.

The advantages – besides having an invincible rugby team – are obvious. For clinical students, the net of teaching hospitals has widened by combining the teaching hospitals of St Mary's and Charing Cross. Unlike their predecessors isolated in a medics-only environment, the new preclinicals will have the chance to mix in with a much greater range of students.

However, the physical separation of sites at the moment still presents a barrier to integration between students from Imperial and the medics on different sites. There are also the logistic problems in managing services such as student bars at so many different sites. The vice-president for external affairs of CXWMSU, commented that the merger was a good idea but more communication and discussion would be needed with IC to ensure a smooth transfer of services.

The merger might have officially taken place on 1st August, but it was the full-scale bar invasion of ICU by students from Charing Cross and Mary's that truly marked the moment. The last piece of the jigsaw may be in place, but only time could tell if it will fit in smoothly with the rest of the puzzle.

Clare Ashwin and Kent Yip



date clinical medics and overseas postgraduates.

The merger of the two undergraduate medical schools has led to the formation of a new student union – ICSM Student Union, which has an equivalent status to the unions of other constituent colleges (the CCUs). Despite this the medical union receives a much greater slice of the subvention money given by the college to the unions. Whilst the subvention for the other CCUs is around £13,000 a year, that of ICSM currently stands at roughly £100,000 (this figure is calculated by adding the sums previously given to Charing Cross and Mary's). Moreover,

of the funding for the post is rumoured to have come from the alumni associations of the medical schools rather than from Imperial College Union.

Some of the clubs from Charing Cross and Mary's have already merged, the most notable one being the rugby clubs. The two have for a long time been regarded as the best teams in London. They have played against each other in every United Hospital Cup Final for the last four years, with Charing Cross claiming three victories. Last year was the exception, when Mary's found themselves having to play (and subsequently beaten by) Guy's in the final, as their tradi-



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Howard Marks: A Nice Man Indeed

At the height of his career, Howard Marks was smuggling consignments of drugs of up to thirty tons from Pakistan and Thailand to the United States and Canada making him the biggest drug smuggler in the world. He had forty-three aliases, eighty-nine phone lines and owned twenty-five companies trading throughout the world for the sole purpose of money-laundering for dope dealing. An ex-MI6 agent, Marks also had contact with the CIA, the IRA and the Mafia who all wanted his talent.

He began dealing small amounts of hashish while doing a postgraduate philosophy of science course at Balliol College, Oxford, moving on to larger quantities soon after. Touring rock bands were used to move drugs, stashed in their equipment, into Europe and America.

After a worldwide operation by the Drug Enforcement Agency, Marks was busted and sentenced to twenty-five years in Terre Haute Penitentiary. He served only seven years and was released in April 1995. In another of our continuing series of incredible blags, we secured a face-to-face interview with the man himself...

Simon Wistow: Of all the places you went to, which was your favourite?
Howard Marks: Favourite place in the world?

Wistow: Yeah.

Marks: Uh. . Taiwan, I think, favourite country.

Wistow: Any particular reason or just...

Marks: Yeah, because at the time I went there it was, you know, probably the most alien culture I'd encountered for some time and it was the religion again... Taoisni, stuff like that... plus it was quite extraordinary you know with the kind of manufacturing and industry... it was just so different...

Wistow: Bit of a culture shock?

Marks: Yeah, I kind of thrived on the... I think, the greater the culture shock, the more I liked it was basically it. That was the way I seemed to like it...

WHICH WAS THE NICEST ORGANISATION YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH?
"THE MAFIA. THEY'RE LIKE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY..."

Wistow: Not many places like South Glamorgan.

Marks: No, but I got used to that. I had to leave it when I was about nineteen so...

Wistow: Urn... next question.. urn... Out of the different organisations you worked for, which was your favourite and why?

Marks: Well, I didn't work for any...

Wistow: Out of the ones you had contact with...

Marks: Which was my favourite and why? What out of the smugglers, you mean?

Wistow: MI6, CIA, which ones you came into contact with, which one was the most flin?

Marks: Probably the Mafia, I think, or those ones, the smaller organisations. . urn... the Brotherhood of Eternal Love were friendlier than the Mafia but not what I would call 'flin'

Wistow: But the Mafia is a nice family business though.

Marks: Yeah. They're ok,

Wistow: How would you say your education at Oxford prepared you for a career in drug smuggling?

Marks: Ah, I suppose providing an enthusiasm for experiencing more culture shock.

Wistow: Good set of contacts?

Marks: Yes, it was sort of a confidence thing, I think. Making good conversation,

Wistow: Which college did you go to?

Marks: Balliol.



Fuck me, skin up: Photo by Ivan

Wistow: Which is your favourite Spice Girl?

Marks: I don't know her name but the one with her hair in bunches?

Wistow: Baby Spice?

Marks: That's the one. I don't know any of their names.

Wistow: Would you say your career with smuggling was a fair representation of novel business? Would you be able to give tips to young business people?

Marks: It was very different from any legal business because the demand was so high. You didn't have to have an business or entrepreneurial skills, it was just a lot of people wanting a lot of drugs and looking for a way to get it. It wasn't a business that needed any Richard Branson type talent or anything. It would never succeed as a legitimate business.

Wistow: When did you discover you had a talent for journalism? I've read the first chapter of your book and it's very good and your articles in Loaded.

Marks: I did a lot of writing in prison, I did a lot of teaching of English Grammar. The reason I wrote a lot was because it was the only means of communication I had.

Wistow: You taught yourself Law in prison, didn't you? Did that help?

Marks: Yeah, I studied Prison Law and I'd already done a postgraduate course in Philosophy of Science so I guess it was a combination of those things but I never realised I had any journalistic talent until I started writing the column for Loaded.

Wistow: You did Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A-level, didn't you? Did that help you at all?

Marks: No. You see, when I did four A-levels I hadn't actually taken any drugs - I was a late-starter. I mean, not many people where I lived had. The closest thing was alcohol, urn, so I wasn't hip enough to take advan-

tage of that - I just did them to pass exams because that's the way, I thought, to go. And I found those subjects easier to get good grades in than any others.

Wistow: Would you say you had a more scientific mind?

Marks: Not really. I have no interest in it at all, I just found them easier. I mean, I've got a degree in Nuclear Physics and I can't even fix my car, you know. I had no interest in it at all but I happened to be able to pass exams in them.

Wistow: How many cases that you took on as a lawyer did you win in prison?

Marks: I took on about twenty cases but I won probably about.. ten percent.

Wistow: Do you think they were more difficult to win given the nature of your crimes?

Marks: You see, generally, lawyers on the street don't get involved in prison law because a) it's boring, b) and the money is hard to find once you're in prison so some lawyers don't get paid when they take on a case. So there's not a lot of interest in post-conviction law. But the Sixth Amendment says Law can be taught in prison and everyone in prison looks to try and get some post-conviction amendment. Everyone tries, it's crazy.

Wistow: How many different prison systems have you been involved in?

Marks: England, Holland, Spain and America.

Wistow: Which was the nicest?

Marks: Spain, primarily because they allow conjugal visits. Plus they're not too worried about what comes into the prison, only what goes out. America can vary - they can be quite nice, like a holiday camp, or they can be the worst prisons in the world.

Wistow: How did you get into contact with MI6?

Marks: It was a friend of mine from college who was working for the Foreign Office, secretly an MI6 agent, and he approached me some years after.

Wistow: Was it because of the contacts you had?

Marks: Probably, I mean, that partly clenched it but partly it was also because they thought I was talented and could get in to areas they usually couldn't.

Wistow: You have a talent you get yourself in and out of situations that maybe, an ordinary person couldn't.

Marks: That's all down to charm and I have that - you just be nice to people.

Wistow: How many missions did you go on for MI6?

Marks: They weren't defined as operations, it was continual work, safe-houses, false id, the kind of thing you're doing all the time as a dope dealer and which is also useful for any kind of secret transmission. Once, I was asked to seduce an employee of the Czech Embassy but she never showed up at the party. I was also asked to infiltrate the IRA.

Wistow: How do you feel about the IRA as a political thing?

Marks: As an organisation, I don't think anything can begin to justify the slaughter of innocents. I agree with their cause completely and I'd like to see Ireland as one country but not with the way they're doing it.

Wistow: why do you think the DEA agent, Lavato, had so much against you? You mentioned that you were dealing dope and...

Marks: Yeah, I think all DEA agents get off on knocking you down when you're having a good time and they'll use any excuse to do it really. We all have our sadistic side.

Wistow: why did you get into the dope dealing initially? Was there a gap in the market?

Marks: No, I think it was much more gradual evolution than that.. the usual way - I wanted more drugs. At some point, it became an obvious means of getting money as I had all the usually sort of lucking problems

HOW MANY DIFFERENT PRISON SYSTEMS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN?
"ENGLAND, HOLLAND, SPAIN AND AMERICA."

with student grants - not as bad as it is now but bad enough. It was easy money.

Wistow: So you enjoyed the thrill?

Marks: Yeah

Wistow: How hairy was it? Did you get in something where you thought "Shit, I'm in trouble here."?

Marks: Yeah, you know that in the end there was always the possibility but you just carried on anyway even though you knew there might be several years in prison.

Wistow: Was it worth it? If you had the chance, would you do it again?

Marks: Well, I'd miss out all the bad bits but in principle, I think I would.

Wistow: You never dealt in hard drugs like heroin or cocaine?

Marks: No, I've never dealt with any of those partly because I don't use them.

Wistow: Thankyou very much

Howard Marks will be at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on the 7th of November to host "An Evening With Howard Marks" where he will be talking about his unique career in a question and answer session starting at 8.00pm. Tickets are £10 - box office 0171 924 9999



MUSIC NEWS

LIVE

This week, we have a guest columnist. Milen expounds on the latest hip-hop and soul...

Whats up y'all!! First up how bad is the *Big Bad Mama* Foxy Brown that track blew up during the carnival, if you ain't checked it yet where you been at? Anyway back to the present and I recently checked the new LL Cool J album *Phenomenon* and it's good (considering the number of guests he shoved on it had to be), it'll probably be competing with Busta & Jay-Z for hip hop album of the year. The EMPD joint is dropping soon and has got some wicked reviews but I haven't heard it, it's called *Back in Business*, if you want a little taste check the b-side of the Foxy track *Big Bad...* and you find *Never Been Seen Before* and you can see for yourself. Looking to the future the much hyped Firm album should be released soon, the Firm itself consists of Nas, Foxy Brown, AZ & Nature with production from the likes of Dr. Dre & The Trackmasters; the first single off it is the dope *FirmBiz* and it should hit the streets soon. Enough hip hop lets move to a R'n'B tip and all I have to say is *You Make Me Wanna*, this monster comes from Usher and is blowin' up all over, its been number one in states for a time and lookin' to do same over here. His album's called *My Way* and we should be seeing it over here soon. My favorite track at the minute is Lyden David Hall's *Sexy Cinderella*. It's another bit of nu-soul but its tha bomb, so acquire quick. I hear he's bringing out an album but I got no details. Another album soon to drop is from a group I got much love for and that is Soul II Soul's new one called *Time For a Change*. Besides that new LP's from Veronica, Taral, Faith Evans & Yvette Michele are all meant to drop soon, so keep an eye out.

Later Y'all!!!

All reviews are given stars up to a maximum of five. The ratings are as follows:



Kiss FM

★★★★★ Radio 1

★★★ Xfm

★★ Virgin Radio

★ Sunrise Radio

No Stars Heart FM

STONY SLEEP + DAYTONA + ADDICT

University of London Student Union

What an opportunity, we thought as we wandered through the doors at ULU, a gig sponsored by MTV and Virgin, what free stuff will we get? Oh yeah we get to see some bands as well. After being kept waiting at the door while they searched through a list for our names, with an MTV crew getting closer all the time, we were confronted with the barrage of noise that was Stony Sleep. This heavy guitar/bass thick 3 piece had only one serious problem; they weren't very good. Their songs were good, but the ability behind just wasn't up to it. If they keep going as they are, they may be great in about a year or so's time.

After a quick break for a beer, the schedule being very tight as it was, we were pulled away from the bar by the chunking sounds of Daytona. Well not quite chunking, but trying their hardest. I thought they were great but they seemed to think they were a lot better and bigger than they were. The lead singer/guitarist strutted about the stage like a man possessed by the ghost of Freddie Mercury, but without the arse-wiggling. Quite a bit of

talent here, but the songs all sounded too alike, even though liked one song.

Running to the bar again we quickly returned to see the MC for the night, who we decided was some bloke off MTV, shouting and waving, and basically looking stupid. Eventually he introduced 'The Kings of Infinite Space' as Liverpool's finest, only to be disappointed when his shout of '...anyone here from Liverpool?' was answered by only one fairly pissed bloke, who was being held up by his mates, in the most beautiful southern accent. The band themselves were quoted as saying that they had influences from Abba, Bowie and T-Rex, so we braced ourselves for a blast of Glam Cheese. However what we got could not have been more different. A loudish, polished set of pretty standard one guitar, loud distorted bass songs, with nothing really to distinguish them from any other band. A bit boring really.

The gap for the last band was slightly longer, but still not quite long enough for more than a quick pint. We wandered slightly less steadily back into the hall, ready for

the headlining band of the evening; Addict. They came on to large applause, especially from the group of groupie girles in front, with tight tops and little pathetic rucksacks on their backs. They looked like a good band. Confident and happy to be there, even though the place was half empty. Their set was well put together with about half quiet, ballady songs and half loud bouncy songs, but there was just something about them. They were technically very good, their songs were good, but they just annoyed me. And the lead singer told us that they were touring with Mark Owen soon. Hooray, now I have two reasons to avoid him.

Addict finished just before 11, and the bar closed soon after we bought the round. The ULU stewards, in my opinion, should be given a talking to. As soon as the bar stopped serving they threw us out, and then told us off for taking drinks downstairs. Never mind. And there was no free stuff, which always annoys me. All in all a good night out, even if the bands weren't great. **M**

Billy

ALBUMS

HURRICANE

Severe Damage ★★★★★

Udeniably the Wu-Tang's recent *Forever* album was the most eagerly awaited album of its genre this year. The hype surrounding its release was like nothing the hip-hop world had seen before. Next year, however, the ears of the hip-hop world will be tuning into the new sound of the Beastie Boys as their long awaited follow up to *Ill Communication* is released.

Ill Communication was the album that defined the summer of 1994. While people talked of the coming of Oasis, it was the Beasties who ruled the number one spot on everyone's playlist at the summer festivals. The album brought the Boys back to the big time and re-invented them as pioneers in an increasingly crowded world.

You may ask what does all this have to do with Hurricane? Well he's the man behind the decks pro-

ducing a large part of the Beastie's sound, and has been doing so since 1988 and the not so brilliant days of *Licensed To Ill*. His pedigree does not, however, stop there for as early as 1976 he was rhyme fighting with the likes of Grandmaster Flash, and in true hip-hop style he moved on to bodyguard on tour for Run DMC, which was where he met up with the Beasties.

As for the music, the sound of this, his second album, leaves his previous, less than spectacular attempt in the shadows. The sound is altogether more wholesome than what has come before, and lessons have obviously been learned about the current mood. *Japanese Eyes* and *Coast To Coast* stand out with a sound that takes influences from all corners of the hip-hop world, and the rest of the album does not disappoint either.

The main problem with

Hurricane is that he has always been an also-ran, lacking the bite and quality of his contemporaries. His contribution to the Beasties' sound should not be underestimated, but on his own he has never been able to quite live up to the promise. This album is a step forward, but is still not an album of the quality I would like.

Hurricane number one? Maybe next year. **M**

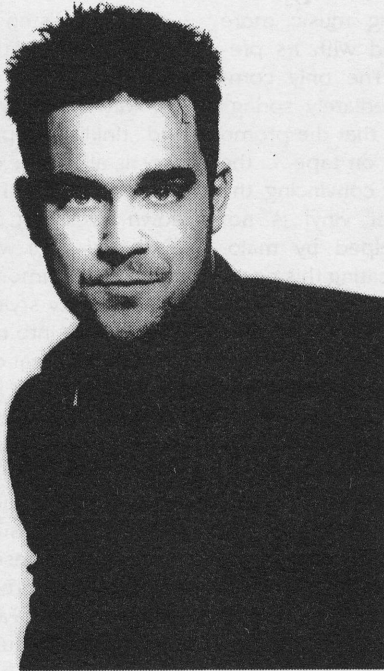
James



ALBUMS

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Life Thru A Lens ★★★★★



Robbie shows what a young whippersnapper he can really be.

The grey storm clouds of Take That have finally dispersed and from within has shone two rays of light. One is Gary Barlow who quickly found his feet and the other, perhaps surprisingly, is Robbie Williams.

After Robbie released his first solo single *Freedom*, nobody could be blamed for thinking, "There goes another Matt Goss." However, since then Robbie has released some of his own material, including a couple of real gems. So congratulations are due for a more than acceptable debut solo album - well done Robbie et al. Yep, that's right, this album would be nowhere if it were not for the likes of Beck, Aerosmith and, dare I say it, Gary Barlow. In fact there's even a great Laverne and Shirley sample on the title track for all you lovers of eighties daytime TV. But don't get me wrong, you'll find no covers here (*Freedom* didn't make it onto the album), but to say that Robbie Williams is yet to find his niche within the music genre is an understatement.

You'll have no doubt heard *Old Before I Die*, *Days and South of the Border*, and in all probability, this is the style for which Robbie is headed. But this album seems very much a post-Take That biography, in which he has used various styles to express himself. There are many references to his well-publicised drink and drugs habit, including a track titled *Clean*, which needs no explanation, and also a poem dedicated to humiliating one of his former school teachers, which should raise a few smiles. *Life Thru A Lens* is not going to set your stereo on fire, but it is an album worthy of many a collection, however it is more likely to appeal to the new breed of Brit-Pop lovers rather than those mindless Take That fans that we had grown to hate over the past few years. **M**

Derek

EMPEROR SLY

Sparkling Up ★★★★★

Very, very heavy, fast, hard house music, most of it well over 160bpm, and absolutely chock full of samples, this is not an easy album to sit down to review on a hungover Sunday morning after two hours of sleep. Driving, threatening, and absolutely stoned off its face, the first half is most definitely not for the uninitiated. The pace, though, like the hash night which it inevitably is meant to accompany, settles down to a steady canter to the end but still with an astonishingly high energy. If the album was composed entirely of these more palatable eased down tracks it would be a triumph, but the hard-floor stuff is a bit too much for the less dedicated home user. Technically excellent throughout, and with flashes of creative brilliance. **M**

John

SINGLES

The Kings Of Infinite Space - Slut (that I'm livin' with)

This is the kind of thing that teeny rock clubs would go for about a year before *Nevermind* was released. Competent enough and not so bad when you're pissed but then so are Oasis although they are not exactly stretching the genre either.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Pizzicato Five - Mon Amour Tokyo

Mental electronic jazz with a genuine French feel to the singer and an obscenely happy Bangles meets Bach hammond riff. A bit bloody weird to be honest. But then they are Japanese, singing in French. The weirdest thing is that I like it. Brilliant.

Addict - Dust

Quiet bit. Soft gentle guitar. Nice. Chorus coming. Soulful Bruce Sprignsteeny bit. Pretty good so far... oh what are you doing with your guitar? LOUD BIT. Utterly unnecessary. Quiet bit. Nice again. Loud bit. Still shit. If you were really sharp on the volume control you would most likely enjoy this.

Mandelay - This Life

Slightly happier trip hop than the usual fare, sharp strings, clipped brass and a bass so heavy I'm not sure my stereo likes it very much. A touch bland but better after a couple of listens.

Candyskins - Feed It

A gently building slice of the most saccharine pop pie this critic can stomach. Dreadful lyrics and a wholly unnecessary verse song by "sweet" schoolchildren and a chord sequence that is deadlier than Bob Carolgees' career. It's pap, but well intentioned pap and more than a little infectious. The drum and bass b-side, *Disco Hell* is as MOR as the style can get but they really do try.

John

Soul II Soul - Pleasure Dome

Nice in the way soul songs are but why do they always sound the same? Lyrics are a little awkward.

Ether - She Could Fly

Interesting guitar based song. Could be worse but could be better. Worryingly high vocals for a male singer.

The Supernaturals - Prepare to Land

Slightly rockier than normal fare from the 'Supers' whilst still keeping their trademark light melodies though this is remarkably bland.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Smash Mouth - Walkin' on the Sun

Dead cool, a sort of punk version of the Charlatans though the b-sides are much more straightforward punk, especially the amusingly monickered *Sorry About Your Penis*.

3 Colours Red - This Is My Hollywood

Fairly straightforward rock but with a dark and menacing air to it. **M**

Martin



ALBUMS

INSANE CLOWN POSSE

The Great Millenko ★



'We all float down here...' Unfortunately, they only needed one clown for the film version of 'It'.

There are some albums that are just insanely great, others which are to be enjoyed and spat out, some which are frightful, but distress the neighbours, hence useful, and those which leave a taste in your mouth like the curry I had before picking this album up. You might not have guessed, but I thought *The Great Millenko* fell into the last category. This isn't just a bad album issue, this one says something about the state of humanity.

Not wanting to judge something on my taste alone, or taste at all for that matter, I slept on it. Waking up in the middle of the night, I thought to myself; these boys might not be making an attempt to shock in an unoriginal sort of way, but might instead be making a social statement about the monotony of life, gang culture, an ever growing culture of mediocrity and corporate America. They might be trying to do something Dylanesque. Then I had a revelation and went back to sleep. **M**

Buz

MAJOR FORCE WEST

The Original Art Form ★★★

The last few offerings on Mo'wax have been frankly disappointing and it is certainly a pleasure to once again find this label releasing music more typically associated with its pre-1996 directions. The only complaint which immediately springs to mind is the fact that the promo has been sent out on tape.....the arguments I have convincing the unenlightened that vinyl is not dying are not helped by major dance labels advocating this near-dethal format. Still, enough about that.

When Major Force West first started releasing 12"s on Mo'wax (Martian Electronics) they were pretty spaced out affairs generally involving analogue synth (pre-Moog!) laid on some fairly crunchy sort of break-beats. Well it doesn't get much more organic this time around either. Here are some fairly heavy breakdance beats lending themselves to damn serious mixes from DJ Red Alert and the rest of them at Major Force. That is if you can bear all DJ Red Alert's Kiss ses-

sions which have been included in the playlist; the problem being his ego-maniacal samples taken from his 'cute' kid.

Take a listen to side two of tape (II) one and the beats get a bit more predictable and less beefed up, with some average twiddlings and tinklings spattered liberally over it all. The excitement comes from some of the more slowed down tracks on the second tape (*Essential Dub*) which have some serious hammond and Fender Rhodes jazzy styled stuff incorporated neatly into the mixing.

The only real complaints come with one or two heavily oversampled and overmixed tracks (notably *Meet the Rhythm*) where too much is done too soon and all apparently without too much thought. The result is a little confusing, and these tracks, having been included, tend to impart the album a rather awkward flavour. The mixture of sublime big beastly beats and burnt-out sample-driven mixes maybe makes it difficult to mark, though. **M** James G

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

41ST LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Plans are taking shape for what promises to be biggest and best London Film Festival ever.

Organised by the British Film Institute and taking place from 6 - 23 November, at cinemas across London, the 41st London Film Festival will have something to tempt everyone who loves cinema, from film buffs to casual movie goers.

At the heart of the festival is an unrivalled selection of hundreds of films from around the world, complemented by the glamour of the Opening and Closing Galas, unique movie masterclasses, Guardian interviews, film industry seminars and conferences and

education events.

Felix will, as usual, be covering the festival by bringing you reviews and all the latest news from Britain's best cinema event of the year. Tickets are available now for film screenings during the two weeks and we've identified some of the previews that really are worth attending. They are all at the Odeon West End in Leicester Square.

To buy your tickets contact the London Film Festival Box Office on 0171 420 1122.

The End of Violence

Thurs 20 Nov 13:00 & 18:15

Andie MacDowell, Gabriel Byrne and Bill Pullman star in this contemporary thriller involving CIA cover-ups, a mysterious death and high-tech surveillance.

The Ice Storm

Mon 10 Nov 15:30 & 20:45

Sigourney Weaver and Kevin Kline produce stunning performances in this funny yet sad exploration of American class mores in the early '70s.

Western

Fri 14 Nov 15:30 & 21:00

Manuel Poirer's fourth film follows an unlikely but charming duo on their road trip across Brittany. French with subtitles.

Clubbed to Death

Thurs 13 Nov 21:15

Beatrice Dalle of *Betty Blue* fame returns in this nightclub romance that crosses the boundaries of race and class. A surreal film that never loses its sense of dance party pleasure.

Competition Winners

Could the two people that won the dodgy David Duchovny videos please come into Felix to collect them. This outrageous pornography is lowering the tone of our office and if you do not take it away we will print your names in massive letters next week. Thank you.

The winner of the incredible 3D *Fifth Element* poster seems to have forgotten to pick up her prize. It is very valuable and will no doubt soon be stolen by a member of the Felix staff unless you come and get it.

THE PEACEMAKER

Starring: George Clooney, Nicole Kidman

Director: Mimi Leder

Dr Julie Kelly (Nicole Kidman) is "only afraid of the man who wants one nuclear bomb" and that about sums up the whole film; a bright spark and then a lot of wind. The fall of the old Soviet state has left independent states hungry for power in the form of weapons of mass destruction. Russian nuclear weapons due for decommissioning have now become targets for would-be dictators, terrorists and those seeking financial gain.

Dr Kelly is a nuclear scientist heading a White House investigation into a supposed nuclear accident in central Russia. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Devoe (George Clooney) is the mandatory army man sent as her aide. Together they uncover a startling conspiracy behind the accident that could jeopardise world peace. However, Devoe's unconventional methods and a personal vendetta place the Kidman/Clooney on-screen relationship into an immediate and blatantly obvious "Love-Hate" spiral. Clooney's violent outbursts (compounded by a friend's violent death during their investigations) gives the film a sour edge, and allows the film makers to



Nicole Kidman searches for some intelligence in her script

add violent action scenes that sometimes serve little purpose. The search for the terrorists moves across Europe into the eastern bloc and finally into America. As this missing bomb finds its way into New York City the bomb hunt becomes more frantic creating an authentic sense of vulnerability for all those involved.

The Peacemaker is a worrying film since the plausibility of the story line has been formed from declassified intelligence reports and factual news sources. Corruption, the Russian Mafia and the potential damage of a nuclear strike have been moulded into a

believable scenario but it would have performed much better as a book rather than a film. As the film progresses, action sequences start to take the centre stage, leading the story into a cat and mouse chase while the suspense is bled dry using the time-honoured race against the clock.

The Peacemaker is only mediocre with the big stunt scenes allowing for some dazzling effects but little real excitement. Most of the thrills last only as long as the abrupt dialogue. Overall, a flash in the pan that will nevertheless have people flocking to the cinema to see. **F**

Magpie

MA VIE EN ROSE

Starring: Georges Du Fresne

Director: Alain Berliner

In *Ma Vie En Rose*, the seven year old character of Ludovic, played by the highly talented new youngster Georges Du Fresne, is a young boy who wants to be a girl. In fact, he knows he is going to grow up to be a girl. From this premise, the film examines the reactions of the people who come into contact with Ludovic, particularly his parents, as well as neighbours and school friends.

The acting is excellent, particularly the mother, and the director, making his debut feature-length film, charts the story with aplomb. However, like the protagonist, the film is unsure of its identity. Is it a comedy or is it a drama? It strikes out in a variety of directions, even taking in a *Wizard of Oz* influenced dream sequence along the way. For all this, it is an intelligent and engaging film, with warmth and a sense of reality that seems innate in French cinema, and deserves special praise for being a film based around children and not having them act in that nauseating "cute" manner in which all child actors in Hollywood films unfortunately do. **F**

David Norman

FILM COMPETITION

with our friends
at the

**ODEON
KENSINGTON**

This week Felix and the Odeon Kensington are offering you the chance to see Ewan McGregor's new film for absolutely nowt. **A Life Less Ordinary**, which also stars the gorgeous Cameron Diaz, opens in London today. McGregor plays a janitor who is the target of some divine intervention by a pair of angels on a mission to make him fall in love with the sharp-tongued Celine (Diaz). This is a terrific romantic comedy with a cracking soundtrack and should not be missed.

We have five pairs of tickets to give away to anybody who drops

the answer to the following question into the Felix office by Tuesday. Alternatively e-mail us on felix@ic.ac.uk

In which film did Cameron Diaz co-star with Jim Carey?

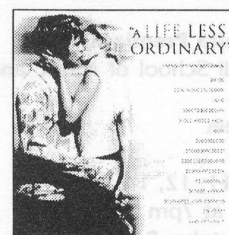
Last week we were giving away *The Peacemaker* memorabilia and tickets. The four winners are: Lee Ying Loong Michalis Simillis Jane Sui H M Lim

The winner of the *L.A. Confidential* competition was Neil Hall. Please pick up the tickets for the preview today.



**Win tickets to see
A Life Less Ordinary**

**WIN EVEN MORE
LIFE LESS ORDINARY
GEAR!**



Those generous sorts at FFI Beatwax have teamed together with Polygram to give away a pile of *A Life Less Ordinary* merchandise. This is going to be one seriously popular film and you can win the novel, screenplay and soundtrack CD by answering the following:

In which film did Cameron Diaz co-star with Julia Roberts?

As usual, just drop in with the answer or e-mail us.



EXHIBITION

FAITH

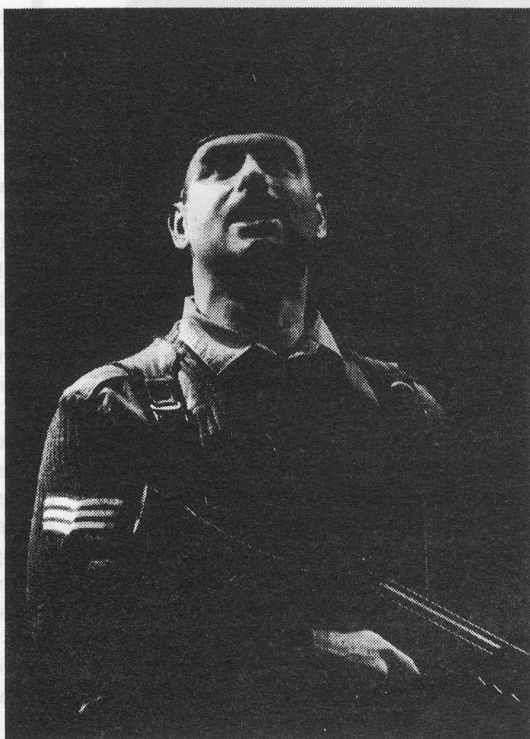
Royal Court Theatre

It's that same old war problem: The one of orders. Orders are orders, right? There to be obeyed, ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do and die. But then how far should you go? If ordered to do something you know is wrong, such as execute someone, would you go through with it? It's an order, after all, and the man giving the orders must know far better than you, mustn't he?

Faith puts us in the midst of a battle. Four members of a British army platoon are relaxing in a local house a short distance from the front line. The strains of war are taking their toll on the soldiers and just when it appears that life really can't get any worse, they take a captive who turns out to be an American mercenary. Not wishing to strain diplomatic relationships with the US, the sergeant's superiors order the mercenary's immediate execution. The squad is left in a moral vacuum. Should they choose to disobey orders or to go ahead with the execution and somehow come to terms with their

own conscience?

For me, the best thing by far about this play is the degree to which the characters develop. The



sergeant, for example, has obviously been driven over the edge by the pressure placed upon him. His

feet have been badly injured and although he would normally be glad for any excuse to escape, even briefly, from the horrors of the front line, he is eager to return to the fray in order to prove his courage to his disillusioned troops and to himself. He is almost constantly arguing with one of his corporals, and an intriguing paradox is formed. At one point he insists that the corporal follow his orders, because he has worked and trained his way to the higher rank and so is better equipped to make decisions. But, of course, once the execution order has been given, the sergeant questions not only the order itself, but his superiors' right to take such decisions for him.

Overall, a highly entertaining play. But prepare not only to be amused, but also shocked and downright appalled during the course of the evening. **A**

Andy

LA FEDELTA PREMIATA BY J. HAYDN

Preview

La fedelta premiata is regarded as one of Haydn's best comic operas. It was specifically written for and first performed in 1781 on the occasion of the opening of the new opera house at Eszterhaza after the old opera house had burnt down. This is where Haydn spent most of his creative life. It was immediately successful and received more performances than any other Haydn opera except Armida. Strangely though, it was not performed in this country until the Camden Festival of 1971 and has since only been staged twice, at Glyndebourne and Garsington Festivals.

The libretto by Giambattista Lorenzi mixes scenes of high comedy with many moments of deep and serious emotion which drew from Haydn some of his finest

music. The cat 1 finale is the longest concerted number which Haydn ever wrote, extending to about eighteen minutes and involving seven characters in a sophisticated musico-dramatic structure

Your chance to see opera at a student-friendly price

while the overture was later to reappear as Haydn's 73rd Symphony, La Chasse. Central to the action is a hunt for animals to sacrifice on the altar of Diana, the Greek goddess of the hunt. This scene culminates in one of the funniest moments in opera: a comic

character singing an aria to a dead boar!

The production will be directed by Jamie Hayes, Director of Productions for British Youth Opera. This production will be his debut at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The designer is Will Bowen and the lighting designer is Ben Ormerod, whose lighting for last spring's successful production of Dvorak's *The Cunning Peasant* was widely praised. The opera will be sung in a new English translation by GSDM Head of Opera Studies, Clive Timms, who also conducts. The performers themselves are students at the School which has an international reputation for training artistes in Music and Drama. **A**

La Fedelta Premiata

Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Silk Street

Dates: 11, 12, 14,
17 Nov at 7pm

Nearest tube: Barbican

Tickets: £14/£10 conc.

Box Office: 0171 638 8891



BUBBLE GUM

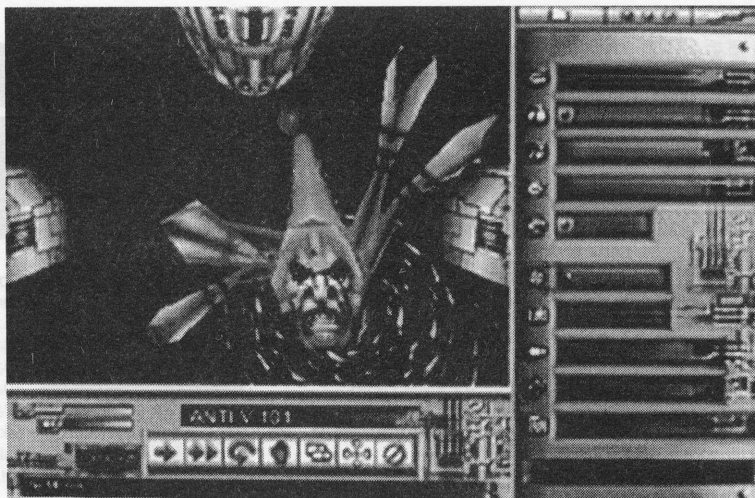
VIRUS

Telstar ★★★

The back of this game's box gives the impression of a virtual 'Tron' style representation of a computer and its files in which a devastating virus must be hunted down. This, as an idea for a game, I think is great. So I eagerly installed the game expecting a 3D shoot-em up from the screenshots.

Virus attempts to combine the gameplay of Descent (3D shoot-em up) and Command and Conquer (strategic war game). The whole game however takes place in a 3D 1st person perspective, which in my opinion isn't the best engine for a strategic game.

Combining these two types of gameplay at first sound like a brilliant stroke of genius but you quickly realise that compromises had to be made. The action part is pretty monotonous and there are none of the weapons upgrades you have become accustomed to in this sort of game. The Virus monsters at least in the first levels are all very similar. The textures of the levels too are all too repetitive



and the numerous digitised voices such as 'You will be deleted' just don't cut the mustard in my humble opinion.

One of the most innovative parts of the game is the way in which each level is mapped directly from your hard-drives directory and file structure. Certain types of file are also displayed in game, so any of your TXT, BMP or WAV files contained in the chosen directories are displayed when you enter that part of the map. This is clever and led to the briefest of smiles as

I realised the games was typing out my SCSI card 'README.TXT' on the screen in the middle of my game, bizarre.

I just couldn't get into the strategic part of the game. Without the top-down isometric view we have all become accustomed to for this sort of game it just isn't intuitive. The map is the directory structure and once I got used to sending a vehicle to patrol a certain directory or file it got a little easier. The view as the vehicle auto-pilots to its destination

isn't pretty. It jumps and jerks everywhere crashing into walls which doesn't put over that finely polished touch. Also the 5 installations you can build lead to no increase in gameplay.

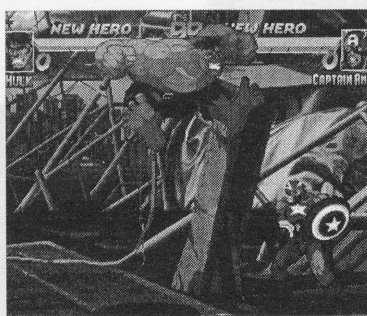
The constraining factor to your building is "KBs" not money. You collect these from uncorrupted files or repaired files. The idea is to stop the virus and repair damaged files. If you don't do your job interesting things start to happen like the display decays as your graphics drivers are infected or your mouse control is affected if the mouse driver gets it.

The multiplayer game sounded interesting and full network play is supported however I couldn't get anyone to play it as everyone who saw it or indeed played it even for the slightest moment disliked this game immensely and you might even say irrationally. If I hadn't promised to review it I certainly wouldn't have played it for more than 5 minutes. Some good ideas appeared throughout the game, and the idea is great. It could have been so so so much better. **G**

Dave Morris

PREVIEWS - CAPCOM, VIRGIN INTERACTIVE, LUCASARTS ALL AVAILABLE THIS WINTER

MARVEL SUPER HEROES



CAPCOM's number one arcade, 2d beat'm'up, has now entered the home arena. CAPCOM created a rich and graphically detailed game with quick silver animation and is available for both the Sony PlayStation and Sega Saturn and brings together Marvel's amazing characters against one another.

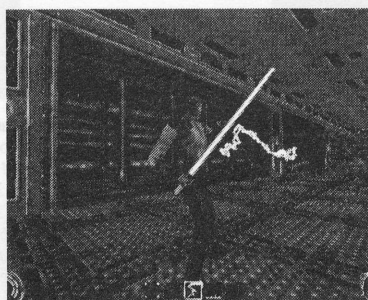
There are 12 characters from the Marvel universe to command and as with most combat games each one has it's own special attacks sequences. Comic book action of the gaming kind.

JEDI KNIGHT: DARK FORCES II

Jedi Knight requires players to navigate through more than a dozen complex and incredibly detailed multilevel mazes and environments as they face powerful enemies and once-again fight for the Rebel cause. Cinematic full motion video sequences punctuate the action and weave a compelling new tale in the Star Wars universe.

This is not just another Dark Forces as lightsabers and the 'force' adds another Star Wars dimension.

"Only a fully trained Jedi Knight, with the Force as his ally, will prevail." — Obi Wan Kenobi.



THE CURSE OF MONKEY ISLAND



Demon-pirate LeChuck returns from the dead to once again torment Guybrush Threepwood in LucasArts highly anticipated graphic adventure sequel, The Curse of Monkey Island.

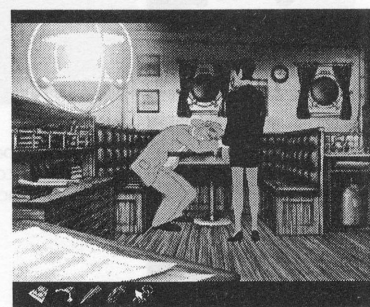
The Curse of Monkey Island is the rollicking third installment of the popular Monkey Island game series. Curse finds Guybrush taking up dull blade and rapier wit against LeChuck to save Elaine Marley, his one true love, from being made into the evil pirate's demon bride.

BROKEN SWORD 2

Broken Sword 2: The Smoking Mirror reunites gamers with American reporter George Stobbart and his French girlfriend, Nico, the hero and heroine of Revolution's original smash hit.

Their new adventure begins when Stobbart stumbles across an international drug smuggling cartel. Nico then uncovers the drug bosses' big game plan, to unleash the mystical power of an evil Mayan deity on all mankind.

Piece together an intricate puzzle of arcane artefacts and prevent ancient Mayan folklore causing a modern day disaster. A gripping adventure!





at home

in town

events

clubs & socs

radio & TV

film

arts

music

C
fri 24

Pop Tarts

Cheesy pop, student faves featuring live music from Montage. Plus chill out room and cocktail bar in UDH. Free B4 9 or with entiscard / £1 otherwise.
Welcome Party
Concert Hall. Swing, hip-hop, pop & dance. Free to first 500 OSC cardholders.

French Soc

Free wine and drinks, JCR, noon.
Photographic Society
Meeting, Southside, 1pm.
Parachute Club
Meeting Southside, noon.
Labour Club
Talk - Bryan Roston of Tribune, 311 Huxley 1pm.

Through the Keyhole

BBC1, 3pm
Red Dwarf
BBC2, 9pm. In costume drama mode?
The lovely Frasier
C4, 10pm

Wilde

UCI Whiteleys
(£6.60, £4.00 <5pm M-F, £4.00 <3pm Sat & Sun)
1.50, 4.20, 6.50, 9.25
Odeon Kensington
1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30
(12.20 Fri-Sat)

Don McCullin

Barbican Centre
£5.00/£3.00 conc.
10am-6.45pm M, Th-Sat
10am-5.45pm Tue
10am-7.45pm Wed
12am-6.45pm Sun
Silk St., EC2
Tube: Barbican
Tel: 0171 382 7105

Eleanor McEvoy

Mean Fiddler,
adv £7.

a
sat 25

Spanish Grand Prix

Qualifier 11.50 - 1.20. Da Vinci's Big Screen.

Rifle & Pistol Club

Rifle range, sports centre. Join and shoot 1-6pm
RAG
Manchester Magnificent 7

The Maltese Falcon

BBC2 2.20pm
The Godfather
ITV 11.45pm

Hard Eight

Metro
(£4.00 sdt)
2.00(not Fri), 4.15(not Fri),
6.30(not Wed), (8.45 not Wed)

The Murder of Edgar Allan Poe

The Finborough
£8.50/£5.00 conc.
Membership 50p
8pm Sat
Finborough Arms,
Finborough Rd, SW10
Tube: Earl's Court
Tel: 0171 373 3842

Australian Pink Floyd Show

Shepherds Bush Empire,
£12, adv £10.

John Martyn

Jazz Café,
£12.50.

p
sun 26

Spanish Grand Prix

LIVE. 12.30 - 3.20. Da Vinci's Big Screen.
Standing Room Only
Arsenal v Villa. From 4pm.
Da Vinci's

OpSoc EGM

Concert Hall, 2pm. *Salad Days* auditions to follow.
Wargames Club
Table Tennis Room, 1pm
ICU Cinema
Crash, Concert Hall, 8pm

The Natural World

BBC2 6.10pm
Sex and Chocolate
BBC1 9.05

Shooting Fish

Notting Hill Coronet
(£6.00) 3.00, 6.00, 8.40,
(11.15 Sat)
UCI Whiteleys
1.50, 4.20, 6.50, 9.25

Behind the Moon

Courtyard
£7.50/£5.50 conc.
Annual Membership 50p
8pm Tue-Sun
10 York Way, N1
Tube: King's Cross
Tel: 0171 833 0870

Gary Numan

Shepherds Bush Empire
(also Nov 9), £12.

Sleeper

Brixton Academy,
£9.50.

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mon 27

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

ArtSoc

Meeting 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Union Dining Hall
ICSF
Meeting, ICSF library, 12.30pm.
Jazz and Rock
Jam night, dBS, 8pm

The Simpsons

BBC2 6pm (and Friday)
Only Fools and Horses
BBC1 8.30pm
Never Mind the Buzzcocks
BBC2 10pm

The Game

Odeon Kensington
(£6.30, £3.70 <5pm M-F, £5.00 <5pm S&S)
12.35, 3.30, 6.25, 9.20
Virgin Fulham Rd
(£6.20, £4 sdt Mon-Thur)
6.30, 9.20

Faith

Royal Court Theatre
Upstairs
£0.10 standing
£10 seats T-S
£5.00 M
7.45pm
West ST., WC2
Tube: Leicester Square
Tel: 0171 565 5000

The Walkabouts

Dingwalls,
£6.
Bread
Hammersmith Apollo,
£22.50-£18.

t
tue 28

STA Bar Trivia

The original and best. £50 cash & a crate of lager to be won!! Da Vinci's 8pm.

SSG Outdoor Club

Meeting, Southside 1pm
ICU Cinema
Interview with a Vampire, Concert Hall, 6pm, £2.
Circus Skills Club
Meeting, TTR, 6pm
Canoe Club
Meet in Beit Quad 7pm
ConSoc drinks reception
Southside 7pm.

Fresh Pop

C4 6.45pm
Delia Smith's Winter Collection
BBC2 8pm

Deadline for entries to the extremely easy question on page 17. There are tickets to see Ewan McGregor's *A Life Less Ordinary* to be won and you can enter by e-mailing the answer to felix@ic.ac.uk

The Optimist's Daughters

Double Effect
The Finborough
£8.50/£6.50 conc. for both
Membership 50p
7.30pm, 9pm Tue-Sat
Finborough Arms,
Finborough Rd, SW10
Tube: Earl's Court
Tel: 0171 373 3842

ELO Pt II + Steve Harley

And Cockney Rebel,
Shepherds Bush Empire,
£17.50, £15.

a
wed 29

XS

The real midweek experience. Two rooms, 3 bars 'til midnight, 1am finish. Free B4 11 / 50p after.

Wargames Club

Table Tennis Room, 1pm
Rifle & Pistol Club
Rifle range, sports centre. Join and shoot 1-6pm

Ready Steady Cook

BBC2 4pm
Tomorrow's World
BBC1 7.30pm
University Challenge
BBC2 8pm

Prince Charles Cinema

(£2.25 unless stated)

World Press Exhibition

Royal Festival Hall
10am-10.30pm daily
South Bank, SE1
Tube: Waterloo
Tel: 0171 960 4242

Violent Femmes

The Forum,
£13.

i
thur 30

Fun with fruit II

The Da Vinci's cocktail night. The best cocktails for miles. Da Vinci's from 5pm.

Fellwanderers

Meeting, Southside, 1pm
ConSoc
Meeting, Southside, 1pm
Drinks at Parliament meet Southside 7pm.
ICU Cinema
Event Horizon, 6pm
Romeo & Juliet, 8.30pm
ICSF Bamight
Union bar, 8pm

The Lonely Planet

C4 8pm
The Bill
ITV 8pm
Top Gear
BBC2 8.30pm

Jane Eyre

Young Vic
£15/7.50 conc
7.30pm Tue-Sat
2.30pm Tue, Thur, Sat
66 The Cut, SE1
Tube: Waterloo
Tel: 0171 928 6363

Super Furry Animals

Forum,
£8.50.

Radish

Garage,
adv £6.5.

Entertainments

Fri 24th POP TARTS

With live R&B from **MONTAGE** Plus chill out room & cocktail bar

9-2. Iam Bar. £1/Free B4 9pm

OSC WELCOME DISCO

Free to 1st 500 OSC cardholders

Sun 26th Standing Room Only

Arsenal v Villa. DaVinci's Bar from 12.30

Plus coverage of Spanish Grand Prix

Tues 28th

STA BAR TRIVIA

DaVinci's from 8.00

Win £50 or a crate of lager

Weds 29th

X S

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 30th

Cocktail Night

DaVinci's from 5.00

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news writers

like pestering college officials to get the facts? we need you!

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reviewers

to critique the latest music, film and arts. did I mention that it's free?

Music - 1.30pm Fridays

Film - noon Tuesdays

literary types

book reviews needed - lots of meaty new tomes to get your teeth into.

feature writers

got a bee in your bonnet? think you can inform and entertain in 800 words? want to try some design and layout? then this is the job for you.

be here 1pm Mondays

artists/illustrators/art critics

accidentally at IC when you should be at the RCA? whoops. show us how lucky we are anyway

meetings are 1pm Mondays

photographers

snap away and make our day

sports reporters & sports photographers

show everyone how great your sports team is with a report and photo for Felix.

wednesday evenings are the best time.

science writers

well we are a science college, eh?

Come and have a go, if you think you're hard enough...

Thought for the day

by Our Kid

No. 2: Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus. Many people would agree that this man was one of the bravest and most important explorers of all time. Here was a mortal who braved the immortal seven seas of the Earth. Despite theories that others reached America first, most notably Alexander the Great, it was a certain Mr. C who blindly set forth on his famous and daring voyage to the Americas and discovered a great wealth of hitherto alien trophies. Some of these were mere baubles and of no great use; however some were of supreme benefit to our uninitiated nation. He gave us coffee; provided us with shoes. Tobacco and india-rubber; both were Columbus' contributions of competence.

Well, cheers, Chris. Goodyear and Malboro may be in your debt, but frankly we would have been better off without the cases of lung

cancer and heart disease for which your pesky product is responsible. The nation's breath is well and truly hanging on the next fascinating installment of the dire Gold Blend advertisements. Which brings me on to another point; we are also heartily appreciative of all that nice USA culture you brought with you. The influx of American trash in all its forms is something that us Britons have positively relished over the years. The fantastic output of Hollywood is, I am sure you would all agree, a veritable Goliath to Shakespeare's David. Yes, everybody knows that Columbus discovered America. Considerably fewer people realise that when he set off, Asia was his intended destination.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Christopher Columbus. What a complete pillock.



Columbus. He would never have got his Cub Scout Orienteering badge. Artwork by Lars Justinen.

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Golf - gosh

Hockey heroes

ICUGC V HOLLOWAY

The golf club's season swung into action with a nail-biting fixture against the hackers of Holloway. Having overcome some distinctly dodgy directions to the deepest parts of Surrey, the team clubbed [geddit? - Si] together to almost overcome a far-too organised

Holloway team. The top order produced solid performances, with both The Mower and Marx strolling to victory. Sadly, everyone else proved they were only making up the numbers as only Arrogant Arsehole managed to scrape a half. Revenge has been planned for four weeks time, when we might consider playing right-handed.

ICGC 2.5 - 3.5 Holloway

Canoers lost in lido

This Weekend, the Canoe Club sent a team of 6 Canoe Polo Players to play in a tournament in Tooting Bec Lido. It was the first competition that the Club has entered, and we did correspondingly badly. We lost the first game against Clapham A: 7-0. We decided to bring on our City-Boy substitute Tim, and only lost the next game against Marlett B 4-0. Our luck changed as we went into the next game with some idea of tactics, and used Shock-Blond Sam, and "Solid Grade V" Adam in defence, with Old-Hat

Colin in Goal. Success! we beat Clapham B 2-0. ULU A played a disappointing game against us (From their point of view) only beating us 2-0. ULU B (AKA The women's team) tried very hard to beat us, and very nearly did, our Tall-Bloke Jorg was very frustrated by them, but the score: 1-1. After that the best team of the day creamed us, and not even our secret weapon ULU-Traitor Daniel could do anything about it: 8-0. Over all we came 5th out of 7, and have been invited back to play in the summer.

ICHCI V RH III

Amateurism, poor astroturf and a ginger bus driver couldn't stop IC hockey from maintaining their ever-tightening grip around the neck of the BUSA league. After seeing off Barts 3-1, the Holloway result seems indicative of the skill of this dangerously good-looking team.

Goals from Indian Carpet Catalogue and Tom saw us come back from one down the destroy the Holloway scum. Special mention to Jesus for assists, James for Stalwart centre play and Skank for nearly pulling the opposition umpire afterwards.

ICHCI III 2 - 1 Holloway III

ICHCI III V BART'S III

When St Bart's rolled in, having had a team member arrested for indecency en-route, we knew we were facing professionals. Our first goal was from seasoned stiker Paul "Skank" Currow who fought his way free in the D, gave himself time and flicked the ball into the corner of the goal. Nice. Our defence kept up their end until half-time, while Cringer Duncan gave our goal a lick of paint.

St Bart's unfairly got right back into it when a momentary lapse in concentration allowing their standard "short-nippy-blode" to test our goalie for the first time. We took the match to them, and Sven Dymond proved a worthy addition, setting up Ben "New Bloke" Lewis to put it in the net. Skank finished them off with a cracker.

Ben "Virgin" White deserves a mention for having a steadier hand on the pitch than off it, as does Thomas Ng.

ICHCI III 3 - 1 St Bart's III



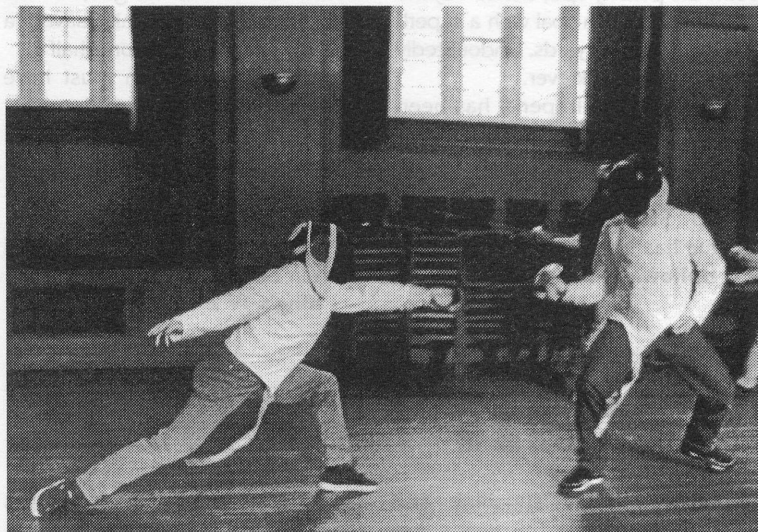
10 TICKETS TO
BE WON

The only National public Snowboarding exhibition, Board - X, is nearly upon us. After the success of the 1997 British Snowboarding champs, we are confident that it will be the ultimate suburban snowboard experience.

The festival runs 14 - 16 November in the British Genius site, Battersea Park. Sponsored by Playstation, Evian, Bud Ice & Kiss 100 it features a 3300 square metre exhibition hall and a 40m real snow half-pipe.

Tickets cost £7 or £5 in advance - call 0171 490 4707

To win a pair of tickets, totally free, just drop a note to the Felix office with a short description of a snowboarding experience. The five most absurd entries win!



Fencers showing off their skills at last week's freshers' demonstration. Photo: Lili

...and now some Rugby

IC RFC II V BART'S II

IC rugby seconds demonstrated well that what they lack in team play they more than make up for in individual skills. Aside from a miserable first 15 minutes when we conceded an unlucky try and drop-goal we put Bart's under constant pressure. It wasn't helped by the ref having a whistle phobia.

Once the team got their arses

in gear we put them under permanent pressure and were unlucky not to score. With backs and forwards crashing to within millimetres of the line by mistake would see us being driven back down the pitch. With some superb individual skills all it takes is some training and we well soon be playing some superb rugby.

ICRFC II 0 - 10 Bart's II

Editorial

This week has been so packed with sporting spills and thrills that I'm amazed. I've been inundated with reports - so much so that there is loads left. But do not despair if you've handed a report in - I'll make sure as much as possible goes in next week.

Not unconnectedly, I really need someone to help with the sport pages - If you are interested, just come in and leave your number in the Felix office. Cheers,

Si.



Glory glory IC football

HOLLOWAY I v ICFC I

We don't like Holloway and they don't like us. That's why these games always always are a bit special, and the season's first encounter between the two arch-rivals had it all: a hat-trick from Jamie Foulstone, a broken leg and a goal from captain Psycho.

With Jamie back in the side Imperial were in control from the start. Alex Marcos gave IC the lead with his first of the season, and even though Royal Holloway equalised after poor goalkeeping by Donal Keane, 4 further goals from Jamie (2), Alex (again) and Norwegian sensation Germund Knutsen meant that the hosts were 5-1 down at half-time. To make matters worse they were actually a player down as well as one of their midfielders were carried off with a broken leg after one of Psycho's customary challenges.

In the 2nd half Foulstone completed his hat-trick while new boy Mikael Askerdal scored with a fine header. Holloway pulled one back from the penalty spot before Psycho got Imperial's 8th goal with a superb free-kick from 30 yards. Undoubtedly the worst free kick ever.

The pride of Imperial has been restored. The beer can once again flow freely down the Bar. In the words of former Club Vice-Captain Phillip Siverns: "The Duke of Prague has been awakened".

Holloway I 2 - 8 ICFC I

KING'S IV v ICFC IV

The famous Imperial Fourth's secured their first point of the season on Saturday with a hard fought draw against the team from Canterbury, Wye.

The game itself produced a battling performance from IC, so typical of the Fourth's style of play, and to be truthful is where our strength lies. It was goal-less at half-time with only a couple of chances for either team, but almost from the restart a through-ball cut IC's defence and the Wye striker rounded the IC 'keeper. Thankfully we didn't lie down and capitulate but rolled our sleeves even further up our arms and managed to dominate the majority of the rest of the game. The deserved equaliser came from a well-worked move: birthday-boy Paul found Ryan on the right who swept in a low cross and Richard, beating the defender to the ball, volleyed into the bottom corner from twelve yards. We had a couple of chances to win the game but unfortunately none were taken. Credit must be given to the IC 'keeper who crucially saved a one-on-one in the second-half.

Man of the match must have been David Wishart who dominated the midfield. Captain Swift and Paul also played very well both distributing the ball from the back with the utmost composure.

Without doubt we will do well both in BUSA and the league.

King's IV 2 - 2 ICFC IV

IC V v KING'S V

Our first match of the season was against King's scrubbers. Not only were we insulted by having to play in a field but we also had to change in a porta-cabin.

We started the match very well, completely outplaying Kings. We had two shots cleared off the line and then tragedy struck with confusion at the back and Kings beat our keeper Jimmy.

The second half began much better with an early goal - Ole crossed the ball in from the right and Villeneuve put the ball in the net. We kept showing the more fluid play but somehow Kings broke through. Mark put in a firm tackle on their defender who kicked blatantly and BO, our substitute who was reffing, awarded the opposition a penalty. Kings scored and went on to win the match. BO, needless to say, is dropped.

ICFC V 1 - 2 King's V

ICFC II v KING'S II

A brilliant first half, a crap second. The opening goal was a 50 yard screamer from Si, Warren aka Dorothy (he's got red boots, think about it kids) scored a carbon - copy of Saturday's gorgeousness and then bagged a second. From outside the box Hajo "Double" Dekker placed it in the top corner to finish them off. Good performances from Dan, Martin, Loz, Steve, Jessie, Patrik, Felix, Andy and Chris in goal. Promotion looming? Oh yes indeedy.

ICFC II 4 - 3 King's II

Results

Football

ICFC I 6 - 2 King's I
ICFC I 1 - 0 King's I
ICFC II 2 - 2 St Mary's II
ICFC II 4 - 3 King's II
ICFC III 5 - 0 King's III
ICFC IV 1 - 1 Wye College IV
ICFC IV 2 - 2 King's IV
ICFC V 1 - 2 King's V
Montpelier Hall 4 - 1 Southwell

Hockey

ICHC I 7 - 0 St George's I
ICHC I 2 - 2 Royal Free Hospital I
ICHC III 1 - 3 RSM I
ICWHC I 0 - 0 King's I

Rugby

ICRFC I 29 - 10 QMW I
ICRFC II 36 - 0 QMW II
ICRFC III 15 - 5 UCL III

Basketball

ICWBC 45 - 49 Holloway

Volleyball

ICVC 3 - 0 LSE
ICVC 3 - 1 IVA Boustun
ICVC 3 - 1 Anatolia

Golf

IC 2.5 - 3.5 Holloway

Run D'eM iC

There was bright sunshine and crisp autumn air for this year's first running meet. Unfortunately the course was not as pleasant, as a large Imperial contingent travelled to the severely testing hills of Hampstead Heath.

After finishing runners up to Brunel in the London colleges league, IC men were hoping to wrestle the title off them this time around. But they finished second best again. A great deal of potential was shown, though, and with five top-ten finishes there is real strength in depth.

Ben and Captain Chris Fishlock were as dependable as ever, finishing sixth and ninth respectively. Demetrius, captain of ULU, came a respectable nineteenth. Arguably

the biggest bonus of the day was the discovery of two possible athletics stars in PGs Gary McGhee and Neil McIntyre, who were both placed in the mid-teens.

The women's team continue to dominate with a comfortable win. There was no surprise to see Jenny Cox record yet another majestic victory, to go with two other top-ten finishes from the girls. Captain Bethan Hopewell is set to return from injury at the next race, so they can only get stronger.

Anyone is welcome to attend races or train on a Wednesday afternoon. So keep watching the noticeboard.

MJ Ward

Bouncing with the Female basketballers

ICWBC v HOLLOWAY

First match of the season for the ladies basketball team and the strength of the opposition, as well as the lack of preparation of the team costed the first defeat. With only one practice last week, and without a tall player to ensure some easy rebounds, the ICU team fought well to the end before succumbing to the multiple offensive solutions of RHUL. However, the result could have been different without extra effort if the ICU team had a decent percentage in free shots, as only 5 of the 24 they took

went in! Patricia Dominguez and Patrycja Stasina carried the main burden of the attack and the defense with Ioanna Spyropoulou and Claire Delsol having occasional bright spells in their performance.

There is a long way to the championship and much of the qualification to the final 32 of BUSA will be judged at the decisive home match against QMW in two weeks' time. A victory there might even secure a first position for the girls in the ULU group of the BUSA League. And for this match the team will be much better prepared.

ICWBC 45 - 49 Holloway