



THE FLEX

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Issue 1099
21 November 1997

MUSIC

Black Grape, Bjork & Electric Cafe

FILM

Alicia Silverstone in Excess Baggage

FEATURE

Making it as an astronaut

IC Students Barred After Football Fracas

MARIA IOANNOU & ANDY SINHARAY

ICU Association Football Club (ICUAFC) is to be investigated by College officials after allegedly causing damage during a pub crawl, leading to all IC students being barred from at least two of the pubs.

The pub crawl, traditionally called the 'Hammy Ten', occurred on Wednesday 29 October, and saw ten Hammersmith pubs visited by a large group of students. According to the ICUAFC Press Officer, Simon Dunsby, about two-thirds of the group were from the ICU football club. A number of pub landlords have alleged that students were being rowdy and were abusive to other punters. According

to a member of the bar staff at The Dove Inn on the Upper Mall, who claimed to have been on duty that evening, they received a telephone warning from another pub, The Old Ship, saying that the students "had just started a ruckus".

He said that after the students had left, they went out to "check the back" where they discovered that a table had been thrown into the adjacent River Thames and that bathroom plumbing had been ripped out and toilet seats taken off. However he went on to tell Felix that "it wasn't really a big deal... most of the students were out for a good time... most of them were nice kids. It was just a small handful of maybe five or six". At the next pub, the Blue Anchor, a barman said that "the students were

abusive to staff... and insisted on standing on chairs and singing." He then went on to say that Police were called. It was later discovered that parasols had been thrown in the river. A member of staff at The Rutland added that the students were being "extremely obnoxious... they were abusive to the landlord and they started dropping glasses on the floor blatantly. When we asked them to leave, they threw umbrellas and a table into the river... there's moorings down the way, and it's a worry to the boat people. It could ruin a boat."

Donal Keane, a captain of ICUAFC and a third year aeronautics student said, "We feel a bit hard done by, but we don't have a leg to stand on. We can't com-

continued on page two

I deserve an Oscar, says Mayhew

JITEN PATEL

Sir Patrick Mayhew, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, arrived under a tight veil of security on Wednesday afternoon to address ICU Conservative Society.

Sir Patrick talked on a variety of issues. He voiced his worries over the implementation of a minimum wage, standards within education and the statutory internment of terrorists. The floor was then opened to the audience, with the bulk of the questions based around the situation in Northern Ireland. With regard to his role in the Ulster peace process, a modest Sir Patrick commented that "if I was ever given any awards I should have been given an Oscar."

He was also asked about his views on the disclosure of party funding and said that "if people are supporting a party with donations over £5,000 then why would they want to hide it?" His talk ended with a quote from Lord Hailsham: "Remember the left is never right."



Sir Patrick Mayhew, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland addressed Imperial College students this week. Photo: Felix Archive



IC Students Barred

continued from page one
plain." He said that they have been billed for the cost of one table, which has been settled from donations by the club members. He went on to say that from "internal enquiries" that the footballers had made, it was not clear that ICUAFC had been unambiguously responsible. The Hammy Ten, he told Felix, attracted other people from outside the club such as "girlfriends, flatmates and friends." Mr Dunsby, a third year maths student, reported that the group was "loud and drunk... high-spirited and singing. Kids and beer, they just don't mix." When asked about the damage, he said that they had gone to apologise to two of the pubs that had complained to ICU.

In a written statement to ICU Council, the outgoing Union President Eric Allsop said that "the Union disciplinary committee was

not well placed to deal with the true nature of the crime (ie not just bring the Union into disrepute but the College as well) and [have] passed the issue up to the College disciplinary."

College Tutor, Dr Gareth Jones, said "it's very bad and has certainly harmed the College... the College takes a serious view....I am going to visit the pubs and find out first hand from the publicans. These pubs now have a very bad opinion of IC students and it will take some time to correct that." He said that the football club are very reluctant to reveal identities and it will be difficult to take to a disciplinary. He declined to speculate on the outcome of the College inquiries.

The enquiry was underway as Felix was going to press.

Rag Week Dead?

BY ANDY SINHARAY

The traditional Imperial College Union Rag Week may have 'died a death', it emerged this week. Felix has learned that Rag Week ground to a halt due to what appears to have been a lack of organisation. Last week's Royal College of Science Union Beer Festival was intended to have marked the beginning of Rag Week.

The events were to include the C&G Union Slave Auction, the Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump (which abandoned due to an apparent lack of participants) culminating with Firewalking, which was also cancelled. Rob Park, the ex-RCSU vice-president who ran the Beer Festival, said "personally, I don't think they got organised... there was a lack of communication over the summer." The Beer

Festival, which took place in the Junior Common Room on Wednesday 12, was organised by the RCSU Rag staff, who are separate from those at ICU.

Outgoing ICU President, Eric Allsop, told Felix that the week "may have died a death through a lack of organisation." He also thought that it was possible that other factors could be to blame such as the events not seeming relevant to today's students, in addition to poor publicity. "It only dawned on me that it was Rag Week when I heard of the Beer Festival," he said, adding that ultimately the charities IC supports would stand to lose the most, and that ICU Rag would be shamed by the larger Rag collections of St Mary's and Charing Cross Medical Schools.

The ICU Rag Chair, Louise Choo, was not available for comment.

Medics Miffed by Rec Room Bill

JITEN PATEL

The St Mary's Union (ICSMSU) has been hit for the first time with unforeseen costs amounting to £30,000, their bill for the use of the Recreation Centre in Wilson House.

The Centre provides sports facilities for all the clubs and societies within Imperial College, although the amenities are predominately used by those in the St Mary's Medical School.

Until this year, all costs for use of the Centre by the medics have been met by the St Mary's Finance Department. A recent reassessment of this policy has meant that the £30,000 fee would be transferred to the ICSMSU. This left the Union with an overspend of

£25,000 on top of their £43,000 budget, which has been covered by the St Mary's Finance Department. In order to cover this year's costs, Katie Armstrong, the ICSMSU President has requested an extra £25,000 to be earmarked.

It has not yet been made clear as to how the situation will be handled, although Ms Armstrong, said that Tim Clarke, Pro Rector, was "being absolutely fantastic" in easing the situation. Final decisions have yet to be made as to how the facilities will be charged for in future years but Mike Hansen, Director of Finance, said that "decisions will not be made until February" but "the Union cannot be expected to pay all the charges being made."

Imperial College Union's Indian Society staged its annual cultural festival on Wednesday night to an 800 strong crowd in the Great Hall, writes Jiten Patel. The act which appeared to steal the show was, ironically, a student from Queen Mary & Westfield College who performed a dance routine to Michael Jackson's "Who is it?" A fashion show followed (photo

at right) with traditional and western clothes being worn by students from Imperial College. The clothes were provided by Venisons, Raymonds and Ciro Citerio. Reactions to the event were universally positive. One student commented that it was "fantastic and even better than last year."
Photo: Virginia





News In Brief...

MALAY MAYDAY

It has been suggested by the Times Higher Education Supplement that the removal of tax concessions for studying abroad from Malaysia would have the significant effect on university income. Since Malaysian students are considered 'overseas students' they are obliged to pay a tuition fee much higher than self-supporting home students.

For example, in Imperial College an Engineering Undergraduate course for a self-supporting student would cost about £750 per annum, while for an overseas student it would cost more than £9000. It has also been mentioned in the Times Higher Education supplement that the potential fee income from the 18,000 Malaysian postgraduates and undergraduates would exceed £130 million.

PRAED STREET RAPES

St Mary's Union are warning students and staff to be on their guard, after two women were raped in the road adjacent to the medical school. The women were attacked in separate but similar incidents where they were approached from behind by a man with a knife, who then forced them into a nearby vehicle driven by an accomplice. Both women were subsequently gang-raped. Rob Clark, ICU's Deputy President (F&S), has also urged students to exercise caution in the area.

BMA DEALS BLOW TO ANTI-DRUGS LOBBY

On Tuesday, the British Medical Association published the first major report on the therapeutic use of cannabis. It drew distinctions between recreational and medicinal uses of the drug; thousands of people currently resort to the illegal use of cannabis in an attempt to ease the symptoms of cancer, muscle spasticity, pain, anorexia, epilepsy, glaucoma, bronchial asthma, mood disorders and psychiatric conditions, and hypertension. It is also thought to ease the joints of arthritis sufferers. Most of the prior claims of pain relief from the drug has been anecdotal, but the report examines the scientific evidence for the wider medicinal use of cannabinoids (cannabis derivatives); it sets a future research agenda and identifies the legal steps that need to be taken before new treatments can be developed. It suggests that advice should be given from the WHO to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs to reschedule certain cannabinoids under the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. If that fails, the Government is to consider changing the Misuse of Drugs act to permit the prescription of certain cannabinoids to patients whose symptoms are inadequately controlled under present arrangements.

Careers Fair Fares Well



Photo: Xavier

IVAN CHAN

This year's careers fair has received a record turn-out both in terms of the number of students that has visited the fair as well as the number of companies which were involved.

In total 1500 brochures were distributed throughout the day within the Union Building. There were more than forty companies attending the Fair. The three largest venues within the Union Building were used. The Union Concert Hall, Union Dining Hall and the Union Gym were packed with employers, their stalls and job-hunting students during the day. One visitor commented "I think that this gives us a good opportunity to try and

decide what do with our lives in the future."

According to Mark Horne, the Events and Marketing manager of Imperial College Union, the companies are "very happy and had very nice things to say about average IC student."

This year's careers fair was organised by ICU, arranged by Mr Horne and ICU Office Manager Michelle Lewthwaite during the summer and into this term. It has been the biggest independent student union-organised fair in the UK. Students can also use the Careers Office in the Sherfield Building throughout the year.

RCSU Union Finally Elects President

ANDY SINHARAY

After a summer of administrative turmoil the RCSU Elections took place last week, only a couple of days after those of Imperial College Union. Though only around 200 votes were cast, the turnout of 11% was comparable to that of the recent ICU Elections.

The former RCSU vice-president, Rob Park, told Felix that there

had been no logistical problems. "It was slow," he said, commenting on the progress of the proceedings. "Turnout was lower than I hoped, but it wasn't surprising," he said, going on to cite the timing of the elections being so close to those of ICU and the time of year. The new president of the RCSU is Physics PhD student Helen-Louise Windsor, who beat her only opposer, Hooman Behnia, by 98 votes to 45; 40 voted for new Election. "The

overall turnout was so poor," she commented, and said that during her campaign she had encountered confusion and even ignorance from voters about which elections she was standing for. On the question of the relevance of the Kensington CCUs, she was convinced that they still have a role in the modern IC. "I wouldn't have stood for a role in a CCU of I believed they didn't have a future," and went on to mention their potential importance after the

medical merger. Rufina Emo and Dave Wharton were jointly elected for the post of Vice President, and were the only candidates standing. The job of Academic Affairs Officer was similarly taken by Phil Smith and Nic Thompson.



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Games Editor: Wei Lee
Right-hand man: Mark Baker
Collators, the unsung heroes: Mark Baker and Ali Campbell

Letters to Felix...

TIPSY TUTORIALS

Dear Jeremy,

As most members of the Elec Eng department know, it was Dr. John Cozens leaving party yesterday (tuesday) at lunchtime. The main advantage of this, (at least to some of the students) was that at least one of the study group tutors gave out glasses of wine during her session. I would like to offer my thanks for this, as it certainly livened the session up.

I would suggest more tutors try something like this, as study group attendances would certainly increase.

Yours,

James Phillips, Elec Eng II

OPERA FIRST

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate Felix for printing a useful preview of an opera several weeks in advance, so that I could book good seats. Haydn's *La Fedelta Premiata* at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama was absolutely superb, with glorious music, excellent acting and singing, and an extremely funny production.

Thank you,

Dr Bernard Lamb, Biology.

BLOCK VOTE OR DIVINE INTERVENTION?

Dear Felix,

Nice to see a bit of raw anger in last week's editorial. I must say that I do (for the most part) agree with all the points made. For too long, there has been an "us-and-them" situation with St Mary's and events like these only serve to fuel mistrust on both sides of Hyde Park. In all subsequent elections, ICSMU has always advocated block voting so, in fairness, this was to be expected. However, a large part of my anger points squarely at the students who did not vote because of either sheer idleness or plain stupidity. To all those people; do you really not care who runs your union? Do you have a Union card? Do you know what the black metal box is?

Equally though, criticisms levelled at the medics of being "child-

ish" are also important. I think that by block voting, the medics are effectively saying, "we can't think for ourselves." Without being ironic (!), surely all medics have a mind of their own and can decide for themselves? This leads me to believe that this was more of a political assertion by ICSMU to ensure that, despite us all being part of the same College, they are, in all but name, still a separate entity. By acting in this manner, the medics, and in particular ICSMU exec, can only expect contempt from other students here (from those who can actually be bothered to have an opinion, that is). Grow up, St Mary's exec, and wake up the rest of you.

Detracting from criticism (unusual for me, I know), I would like to congratulate Charlie Joynt on his victory. At least in this case, there are no doubts that we have the right man for the job. I would also like to thank Simon Baker for his highly flattering comments in his column last week. Simon, your cash is the post. Also, on a more lighthearted note, have you ever realised that Jeremy looks like George Dawes (from Shooting Stars) but with hair? Uncanny...

Regards,

Robert Emerson JMC2

Ok, let's clear this up right away...



Thomson



Dawes

Two things before I start: I do not expect this to be published (though it would be nice) and I am writing not only for myself but after several people have asked me to.

Felix is the newspaper of the Imperial College Students Union. The student is made up of all the constituent colleges, as was explained to me when I came over

to Imperial for the hustings. ICSMU is now part of Imperial ans as such it is highly inappropriate behaviour from the editor of Felix to make the comments that he made in his editorial.

I am not going to write here that I was unbiased in the way that I voted. Andi Heeps is a friend of mine, but at the hustings I made the effort to talk to Mark Baker to find out for myself what he was like because if he had been the better candidate I would have voted for him. Medical students, like most of Imperial College students I am led to believe, are blessed with minds of our own. If certain factions decide to throw in a block vote then they are doing so of their own free will and not because someone has coerced them into doing so.

The way the votes are cast, with each person filling in the voting slip themselves makes me sceptical of how particular to Mary's this "block vote" is. The statistics show that the South Kensington campus voted overwhelmingly in favour of Mark Baker. This wouldn't have anything to do with a block going on against medics among the few students that bothered to vote would it?

As a source of information and comment for the students it is Felix's responsibility to ensure that people know that elections are taking place and to encourage as many people to vote as possible but in a non-partisan way. Instead it appears that the editor threw his personal backing behind one candidate and is now acting like a spoilt child who has not got his own way. This is not good journalism and it is certainly not the sort of behaviour that I would expect from an intelligent person who obviously realises the power of position.

Since becoming involved in ICU activities at the beginning of term all I remember hearing is how badly the ICU has been treated by Mary's, Something I find hard to believe given the fact that you outnumber them almost ten to one. When I actually spoke to people in a position to know at South Kensington they denied that Mary's was ever a trouble maker. I do not

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.



know who to believe and to be honest I don't care. The Imperial College School of Medicine was founded on the first of August 1997. The election of a new president should be a time for putting past grievances aside and allowing this latest addition to Imperial College to have a chance to prove that it can work alongside the rest of the CCU's.

Finally, am I just being suspicious to question the fact that one of the presidential candidates in this election has credit as "Right Hand Man" to Felix?

Yours
Nick Newton, ICSM

I am very pleased to hear that, regardless of how you voted, you took the time to talk to the candidates in person - if only everyone cared enough to do so. You certainly cannot be accused of the mindless block voting I was complaining about last week. This is indeed a time to "put past grievances aside" and cooperate; exactly why the lack of free voting was such a disaster.

I am however, extremely offended by your accusations that I threw my support behind one candidate. This is simply untrue, and I challenge anyone to find the slightest bias in Felix's election reporting. The reason that Mark Baker appears in the credits of Felix is that he contributes a vast amount of time and effort to the paper, as he has done for several years. Ed

OPERA LAST

Dear Jeremy,

Due to an enormous cock-up by the Union officials, especially the late lamented president, OpSoc have been forced to move the dates of their show back a month. We were given a promise to have the Concert Hall for the first week of February by Eric Allsop last term, before we booked rights and fixed ourselves up with a director, an MD and pianist. However, a member of our committee happened to be in the Union Office, and happened to hear that actually, despite everything we'd been told, the Concert Hall was to go the Charing Cross and Westminster Operatic Society, during the same week as ourselves, even though they shouldn't have been able to make a definite booking this far in advance. Obviously we weren't particularly impressed. OK, I admit, the extra month might help by making the show even bet-

ter, but if one society can be pushed aside for another like this, what's to stop others being equally badly treated? You might think I'm making a great fuss about nothing, but this is serious. If we had been told that we couldn't change the rights, we'd have had to cancel the show completely, make new arrangements and lose masses of money and time, and then possibly not have been able to put on a show at all. This has been narrowly averted, fortunately. This comes as an unfortunate reminder not to trust anyone's word, and to get everything in writing. I'd like to add that I've nothing against any other Operatic Societies, that I wish them nothing but success, as I know from bitter experience how difficult it is to get anyone at this extremely artistic place to come and watch anything that isn't a computer screen.

Yours sincerely,
Julia Harries, Chem 2

DON'T LOSE YOUR RAG

Dear Jeremy,

I felt moved to write to Felix after reading the issue of Friday 14th, concerning the glaring inaccuracies contained in the "Rag Mag Beyond A Joke" article. I would like to know why, if Felix is supposed to be impartial, no-one on the RAG committee was contacted to give our side of the story: if someone had spoken to us, then maybe the facts could have been printed in the story.

So, to the errors. Firstly, we were only asked to delete two jokes (not three), which we duly did, before any copies were sold. Secondly, I would like to know about the "collection planned for tuesday morning". In my position as secretary, I deal with organising licenses for such collections, and unless I am suddenly suffering from amnesia, our next collection is at the Wimbledon vs Man Utd match on Saturday, where we were never intending to sell RAG Mags.

I would also be interested to know who "voiced concerns" that the 'Mag' would not make any money. The production cost was 43p per copy, and with a cover price of "60p minimum" (and a substantial number of people who are prepared to pay a pound), by my arithmetic if we sell a comparable number to last year, we should make a reasonable profit (that is, if we are allowed to...). Contrary to your claim, advertising WAS sought, and it was unfortunate that

no-one responded in time, despite interest being shown. If you look at the ICU RAG Mags from the previous decade (and even further back), you might notice that they do not contain any advertising. People tend to (rightly) feel cheated when they buy a RAG Mag which is half full of adverts.

As for our new president's comments, would it not have been fairer for him to speak to us first, and to leave spouting any soundbites that he had on the matter until after our meeting at the Union Exec., when we will have had a chance to give our side of the story? I would also be interested to know if he has seen the RCS RAG Mag, which has far more potential to be offensive in content than our effort. Has he also seen any previous ICU RAG Mags? I suspect not, because, to the best of my knowledge, this year's is far less offensive than anything that has gone before it.

Finally, on a lighter note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the RCSU for organising and running a fantastic Beer Festival: certainly the best since I've been here.

Yours,
Paul Cole, Mech Eng 3,
ICU RAG Secretary 1997-8.

PS: Call me sad if you want, but I have counted the jokes in the RAG Mag: There are 3 "Gay" Jokes, and 3 "Racist" Jokes, including one of each which was censored. On the other hand, there are 11 "blonde" jokes, numerous "IC Men/Women" Jokes, etc, so we think that if we have been offensive, at least we have been universally offensive.

A joke is a joke, and if you took them too seriously, then you would either have to be pretty stupid, or have bigoted opinions anyway. After all, most people don't think that all blonde women are REALLY slags, do they? I would also like to point out that the ICU RAG committee which approved this RAG Mag is Multiracial.

1. The reason why we reported that three jokes were to be deleted is that, at the time of writing, three jokes were to be deleted.

2. The reason why we reported that you had a London collection is that the RAG chair gave us a timetable that clearly states "November 15th - London Collection".

3. 60p over a cost of 43p is not a good margin (the RCSU managed to produce a much thicker effort for less than 30p). Anybody who feels cheated if a mag they bought for charity contains adverts is clearly a cretin.

4. I have read the entire RCSU rag mag and found it much more amusing and (therefore?) less offensive than your own.

5. A joke is not, necessarily a joke. Of course people don't really think that blondes are slags, but there are plenty of people out there who think that black people and gays are stupid, inferior or worthy only of derision and destruction. "Jokes" such as the ones censored from your mag, only serve to prolong and perhaps to incite such bigotry.

You write of such "jokes" "if you took them too seriously ... then you would have to be pretty stupid." What makes you a better judge that the ICU president, deputy president, manager, print manager and printer, who all took the matter very seriously? You certainly make it very tempting to suggest that the one who has "bigoted opinions anyway" is none other than yourself. Ed

TIMEWARP

Dear Felix

I was sitting in the JCR today flicking through Felix when my attention was diverted by one of those messageboards that you see made from little flashy red lights, just by the canteen. It told me that the time was 16:36 though it had quite blatantly just gone three and then continued by informing me that the ICU cinema will reopen soon showing "The Adam's Family Values" and "Shindler's List" in - get this - May 1994. Why is it there? Why? Is it some in-joke that no-one has explained to me? Or was it really set up in 1994 and hasn't been changes since? Can someone explain?

Then I glanced down at the back page of Felix to see a 'recent' photo of IC Shooting Club, one of whom, a friend of mine, I know for a fact to be living in Grenoble at the moment on a year out. The photo must be at least a year old.

Feel like I am living in a time warp. Perhaps I am.

Helen Johns, Phys 2

When I saw it, it was advertising the ICU carnival with the Whirl-y-gig room. Made me feel quite nostalgic. Ed



A mayor for London

Plans are under way to form a new Greater London Authority headed by a mayor. Your comments are invited on the subject at the address below, and more information on the plans are available by calling 0845 305 1030. Decisions will be made by elections, so it is essential that you are registered to vote.

Comments to London Debate, Government for London, 10th Floor, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank, London SW1P 4RR

Would you like to get involved in the largest and most successful student event at Imperial? The **Overseas Students Committee** is looking for enthusiastic to get involved in preparations for **INTERNATIONAL NIGHT** (February 98). If you are interested, please contact Tanya, OSC Vice Chair, [t.siraa@ic.ac.uk]. First and second year students are particular encouraged. Position for publicity officer also vacant.

The Natural Alternative to Flu

Try Homeopathic treatment here at the University Health Centre as a natural way to guard against flu. Homeopathy works to improve your overall level of health, by strengthening your vitality and thus reducing the likelihood of becoming ill. So don't wait until the symptoms appear before seeking help - come for preventative treatment now and build up your resistance for the winter months. Some appointments are free to undergraduates and at low cost to post-graduates. Phone Rosalind George on 0171 - 603 - 8600 for an appointment.

Editorial

Do you know what it is about editing Felix that really makes me livid? What causes me to growl at people and kick holes in the nearest piece of expensive union-funded silicon-based equipment? It's not the dismally unreliable network system that can only be placated by Mark, it's not the unrelenting crapness of Windows 95, it's not the slimey trail left on the office floor by the stream of whinging pitiful little pricks who have nothing better to do than interrupt my twenty-hour shift of stress and deadlines with their pathetic diatribes about how their sport/club article didn't receive cover-to-cover publicity and it's not even the fax machine that has clearly been placed on this earth by satan himself to torment innocents with paper jams, infuriating beeps and press releases from crap bands you've never heard of.

No.

It's The Collator.

Five metres of grey metallic evil. A ludicrous Heath-Robinson shambles of pistons, blowers, knockers, needles, suckers, marbles (yes, really), bits of wire and gaffer tape perfectly tuned to the human mind so it can accurately

gauge the number of breakdowns, fires, compressed solid wads of paper, failures, injuries and downright insouciance required to drive its operators to the edge of psychological breakdown but without getting itself smashed back into the small pieces of demonic putrefaction from whence the fucker came.

From the staple head that regularly snaps half-inch thick steel bits off itself, to the "issue counter" that delivers nothing but random numbers; from the folder that more closely resembles an industrial shredder to the air pump that expends 90% of its power producing a ear-piercing howl; from the needle clamps that exist only to pierce your finger to the bone, to self-mutilating paper bins of hell.

I hate it. It hates me. If you're reading this now, it's only because The Collator's arcane crevices that usually serve as hiding places for errant pages are already full of bits of my own flesh and blood. So don't you complain if one of your pages is upside down; it's four in the morning and I'm standing knee deep in ruined copies of Felix, sixty hours in the making and all I really want to do is kill someone.

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Small Ads

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN SOME MONEY? Interviewers wanted for the 'Student Life Survey'. To earn up to £60, contact Marion 0958 321765 and leave a message.

Exploration Board

Students planning expedition for next summer should note that the Exploration Board meets on Wednesday 3 December. Expedition leaders are welcome to discuss their ideas in advance of the meeting with the board's chairman, Professor Bob Schroter (45175) or the secretary Nigel Wheatley (48055). Written proposals must be submitted to Mr Wheatley by Monday 24 November 1997.

THE FELIX WEEK

MONDAY

Arts Meeting - 1pm. For all interested in exhibitions and theatre
Features Meeting - 1pm. If you want to write or layout features, take photographs, or just have an idea, come along. For all types.
Books - 1pm.

TUESDAY

Film Meeting - 12 noon.
News Meeting - 1pm. For all writers, researchers and photographers

THURSDAY

Madness all day 10am - 3am. Not recommended for the uninitiated.

FRIDAY

News meeting - 12.30pm.
Editorial Board - 1pm. Informal committee meeting for all major contributors. All welcome to observe and join in.
Music Meeting - 1.30pm. For all musics reviewers.

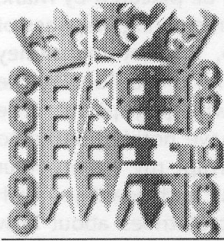


There is a whole area of policies and institutions which, were they never there in the first place, could never possibly be introduced due to the political consequences. Examples would be the House of Lords, a Bill allowing hunting with dogs, or the legalising of nicotine to smoke. But the example that may be of more relevance to us is the anomaly of the Oxbridge tuition fees.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge receive an extra £2000 per student in Government subsidy for their tuition. Others such as Exeter and Durham receive a small extra subsidy, since they are collegiate, but the amount pales into insignificance compared with the Oxbridge windfall. This is an anathema to the left-wing view, that those with immense privilege and glittering future prospects are given taxpayers' money to enhance their own education beyond what others in higher education receive. Perhaps students at Imperial, who no doubt have almost as glittering career prospects to look forward to, should lobby for some Government cash?

Oxbridge has a rather interesting set of excuses for their generous agreement - the usual chain of events that occur when some august institution finds its happily arranged state of affairs under

attack (the other one in the news recently is the Royal Opera House). Their first line of defence was that the excellence of the universities would be under attack, with words such as "mutilated" and "destroyed" being used to refer to the inevitable consequences. Oxbridge students have also not been slow off the mark in seeing their system threatened. "It seems likely that it's the



Hamish Common

Westminster Eye

student who will end up footing the bill - although even if students do come up with the cash, it may not be enough". Their Vice-Chancellor chipped in: "We believe the two collegiate universities to be national assets that need national support in order to maintain their achievements at the forefront of world class teaching and research."

What they are defending, in reality, is their college and tutorial system. Students are taught in groups of two or three, which allows a much more personal style of teaching. The concentrated effort on each student, coupled with the constant watchful eye that

motivates him or her, results in a better performance in their studies. The Cherwell (their equivalent to Felix) says in grave tones that "the sheer expense of maintaining a system where students receive one to one tuition from tutors will render the arrangement impossible to sustain, and Oxbridge will have to turn to the system of lecture and seminar based degree courses practised

by other universities." Most of us would happily welcome them into the real world, except their version of the facts hardly sustain credibility. The £35 million extra they receive from the public comprises a minute proportion of the total budget at the universities. Complaints from smaller colleges they could be left destitute or bankrupt merit little sympathy either: larger colleges are known to take the lion's share of the extra subsidy, and are easily wealthy enough to subsidise the poorer ones - Trinity College Cambridge (total value; £300 million) already assists smaller colleges. It would not be beyond the

ingenuity of Oxbridge to fill the gap with other forms of funding. The existence of world-class research and teaching at a number of other institutions, notably our own, further undermines the strength of their argument.

There was increasing bitterness in Oxford last week at the comments of an ex-bursar and the College Warden, Sir Christopher Ball, who said that taking money from the Government was like "taking candy from a baby". He said that Oxbridge needed to be more honest in its dealings with the Government. Reaction was swift and a little distasteful: "These were unpleasant allegations from a biased source, it was not an even-sided viewpoint. ... I don't think that, from the point of view of Oxford and Cambridge, this is a very helpful story." In that last comment, at least, the don in question is right. Baroness Blackstone has not withheld her intention to "correct" the anomaly, and there are few Oxbridge alumni in the Cabinet - with one major exception - Tony Blair. An Old Boy Network is little use without the old boys. Chancellors from other Universities have been coming out of the woodwork suggesting other uses for the money. It seems another "untouchable shrine" of tenuously-justified public expenditure is coming to an end.

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Thank God it's over. After more elections in a year that Italy manages, we finally have a president. Congratulations to Messrs Heeps and Joynt, who I am sure will do what is required of them. As usual, there is considerable disquiet about the role of the medical block vote, though I detect that this time it is a little bit fiercer than usual. Yes, on the face of it, it is a disgrace. At first, it does appear to be the pathetic action of an egotistical union executive committee. But this is unfair. We must consider the special circumstances relating to medical schools. In a nutshell, they are not quite as sophisticated as the South Ken mob, not really capable of assimilating complex issues and views. Evidence of this is clear - one only needs to look at the last round of Research Assessments. The only ratings below 4 were achieved by the medics, thereby dragging down the College down from its deservedly lofty position. To be fair, things will improve as these new boys are brought under the Imperial wing. St Mary's, for all their talk of intellectual superiority,

used to get fairly dismal ratings, but they have now redeemed themselves under our guidance. Mark my words, when we get them all licked into shape, block votes will become a thing of the past and we shall be one big, happy family.

Two weeks ago I brought worrying news about the Holland Club, the refuge for many of us in College. The suggestion was that College Catering were going to take over control of this august organisation. Fortunately, this not now the case, according my old sparring partner John Foster, Head of Catering. He very kindly informed me that there were never any plans to do so, and I am prepared to accept that at face value. Less charitable souls have suggested that this has all the hallmarks of a U-turn, a view to

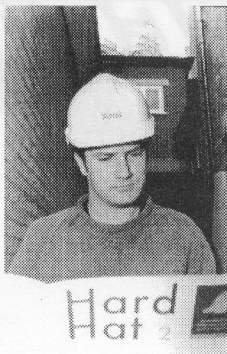
which I do not subscribe. So that's settled, I hope.

The media are much valued by Imperial College, and rightly so. Even in my own case, I know that Lynda Davies, Head of PR, forever sings my praises and never misses my birthday. Ever keen to help the

gentlemen of the Fourth Estate, Lynda and her people produce a Media Guide, a lavish book that lists all our experts and their chosen fields. You want to know who can solve your drug problems? Look at the book.

Quark queries? It's all in there. Any journalist would find it very helpful, so they all get copies if they want it. They also give a copy to all our experts. Bearing in mind its quality and size, this must cost a small fortune, and the lucky recipients I have spoken to all say that is of no

Simon Baker



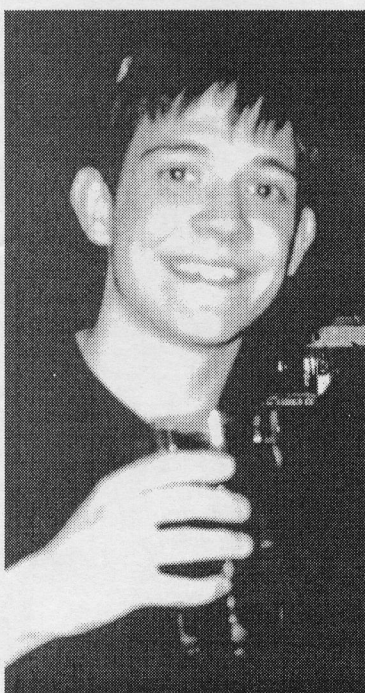
Digs the Dirt

use to them whatsoever. This Devil-may-care attitude to costs is not new in Sheffield, of course, but this is an easy one to solve. Why not only send it to people that want it, thus saving a lot of time on a lot more money, to be spent on something useful such as undergraduate teaching? Radical concept, eh? By the way, the Felix Office didn't get their copy... **Look, keep your hair on, Simon. The Felix office does have a copy (although I picked it up myself) and although it looks expensive, it is relatively useful. Ed.**

Finally, I hope I didn't bore you too much this week, as Ali Campbell suggested last week in his piece. Funny, incisive, witty, all words that no one could reasonably use to describe his article. To be accused of tedium by a man who wrote 400 words on the hilarity of apportioning curry bills is a marvellous case of Dear Pot, Yours sincerely Kettle, I think you'll agree.

Thought for the day

No. 6: Ego



It's me! I'm beautiful! I rock! I'm the greatest man alive! I'm just so perfect!

I never used to pay much attention in Latin lessons. I preferred to carve the word "arse" into the desk with a pen so that nothing save an industrial sand blaster could remove it, and copy my second declension nouns off Peter "ninety per cent or suicide" Dodd. As a result, I shall leave the translation of the word "ego" to better-informed scholars.

Well, we've all got one. Some people's are bigger than others'. (Ego, that is). A good thing or a bad one? All you young ladies who tell me that an ego is the most unattractive feature that a gentleman can have seem to reverse your allegiance when you are drunk. Why is it that when I spend three painstakingly ego-free hours with a nice member of the opposite sex, using all my charm, wit, and the eyelashes that God gave me (all right, there is a bit of exaggeration going on here, but bear with me), my efforts are ruined by a self-obsessed moron? Why does

some fat bloke with ether-strength armpits, a beard that went out of fashion in the Ice Ages, a disgusting check shirt that was cobbled together by his grandmother, and above all, a Hitler-size ego, stroll up and spend approximately two minutes forty five seconds telling her about how many pints he can drink before she lets him stick his mangy diseased tongue down her throat? (Yes, I'm being really bitchy here. There is no justice in the world of courting. Any young woman who is not in the "repulsive-men-are-actually-gorgeous-after-a-few-pints" brigade, I'd like to hear from you before I use my column to inflict nineteen years of sexual bitterness upon the unsuspecting student populace.) How many people find that those of their friends with the biggest self-worship coefficient are the most popular, while those that try to be as ego-diminutive as they possibly can are regarded as soft, weak, unable to hold

their alcohol, or even of dubious sexual standing?

All things considered, maybe I should turn into an egotistical lout so that I can begin to enjoy myself a bit more. Women will fall at my feet as I pepper them with my fantastic guitar-strumming abilities; friends will be possessed by true hero-worship when I tell them about how I once got 78% in a Physics test; everyone will really appreciate my boring them with knowledge of obscure indie bands from the early 1990s, and of economics statistics from the 1980s. Hey, a passport to popularity. Wait, where are you going?

Beware. The ego is the path to the world of the Spod. Avoid it at all costs.

Ali Campbell

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MID-TWENTIES BREAKDOWN

has your brain sprung a leak?

The Mid-Twenties Breakdown: A period of mental collapse occurring in one's twenties often caused by an inability to function outside of a structured environment, coupled with a realization of one's essential aloneness in the world. Often marked by induction into ritual pharmaceutical usage.

You've left college, you have a (comparatively) large disposable income, you're young, you're free and ...

... suddenly you don't have anything to organize your life around. You're still going out clubbing until 4am but you can't just decide to skip work and sit at home watching the Teletubbies. Life has changed drastically and your body, and your mind, can't cope with it. You're heading for a mid-twenties breakdown.

A breakdown is an episode where stress reaches unmanageable levels and your brain decides that it's going to take a break. The symptoms include panic-attacks, hot and cold sweats, racing heart beats, anxiety, agoraphobia, confusion, depression and weepiness. You can't see the point of getting out of bed and all you want to do is curl up in a ball and sleep until it's all finished. In extreme cases it could lead to suicide; male suicide figures have more than tripled in recent years for those aged between 15 and 24 reaching 255 in 1995. If the figures include all those up to the age of 29 then you can add a further one hundred casualties. 'Pop'

MALE SUICIDE FIGURES HAVE
MORE THAN TRIPLED IN RECENT
YEARS FOR THOSE AGED
BETWEEN 15 AND 24...

stars seem particularly vulnerable to this phenomenon possibly because they are thrust into the limelight at a tender age then put under immense pressure to perform. Then there are the drugs. Cocaine, ecstasy and speed all have been linked to mental collapse and in fact anything that artificially messes with the levels of

Serotonin (the stuff that makes us feel good) in the brain is bad. Damon Albarn, Kurt Cobain, Paul 'Guigsy' McGuigan, and Richey Edwards (the 'missing' member of the Manic Street Preachers last seen standing on the edge of the Severn Bridge although reports have placed him as far away as Bangkok) have all succumbed and, as everyone knows, in the Nirvana frontman's case, it resulted in tragic death leaving behind his wife and daughter and a mutilated corpse.

->SNAP<- THEIR REFUSAL TO
TAKE NOTICE OF THE WARNING
SIGNS HAS RESULTED IN COM-
PLETE CRASH OF THE SYSTEM.

So who is vulnerable? Well the British have the stereotyped 'stiff upper lip' approach to life which is particularly common among the young. Males today, caught in the wave of new-ladism, are unlikely to confide in their friends, let alone their doctors, that life is getting a bit too much. When was the last time you cried? Exactly. In the new, hard edged nineties you learn to survive on your own or the competition will gobble you up. A recent survey conducted by the No Panic counseling organization discovered that 37% of people between 15 and 25, if a friend confided that they were feeling anxious or depressed, would tell them to "pull themselves together". The thing is it isn't your wussy, hypochondriac friend who is most likely to flip. In fact this sort of person is most likely to go through life unscathed; it's the super-together mate that they talk to who is vulnerable; you know the one who's up for anything, who is stringing along three girlfriends and always pulls when you go to clubs, who is completely on top of their course but still has time to hold down a well paid job *and* go out 4 times a week and 3 times at the weekends. When they succumb to some minor illness they don't refuse to go into college, they go for a run. When suddenly swamped with work they don't cut down on extra-curricular activities, they continue on as normal until ->snap<- their refusal to take notice of

the warning signs has resulted in complete crash of the system.

So what do you do? Well Imperial students are probably at a higher risk than most other uni students. We are doing difficult courses under difficult circumstances. London is at once temptingly easy to go mad in but at the same time extraordinarily expensive leading to cash crises. The capital can also have the effect of making one feel incredibly alone and very insignificant. Oh, and for the men, there are not enough potential partners going round for, cliched as it is, having a girl/boy friend does help because such a person can often be told things that normally can never be repeated and, of course, sex reduces tension. If you think that your having problems for god's sake talk to some one. If you don't want to talk to a friend make it a doctor or a psychiatrist or a tutor or a priest/spiritual leader. There is no stigma attached anymore to going to see a so called 'shrink' If you want to be anonymous then there are plenty of helplines; ICU has its own advisor, college has tutors and you can call nightline on 0171 436 5561 about anything. There's also the Samaritans and No Panic. Just remember, and please, no X-Files jokes, you're not alone. There is always someone who can help. If you're under 35 then you're the envy of most people in society. Enjoy it, don't take life too seriously, be young, be foolish, be happy. Even at IC.

Simon Wistow

MAN OR

Andrew Vivian explores what it takes to succeed in the world - to become one of the chosen few

10, 9, 8, 7, we have main engines start, 6, 5...liquid hydrogen and oxygen coming together at ridiculous pressures and combusting within the Orbiter engines, ammonium percolates the oxidiser for the aluminium fuel in the solid rocket boosters... 4, 3... tower shakes, smoke and flame erupt... 2, 1, lift-off! The tower pulls free, ice coolant breaks & falls away, and over 6 million pounds of thrust are fighting against gravity and winning, lifting the 4 billion dollar shuttle from its launch pad, steering it heavenward. On clearing the tower, speed is already over 120mph and accelerating. Cheers, screams, massively amplified vibrations, g-force, power, emotion - it's all there, amalgamating into one thought for the crew member. This is it.

The shuttle rises on a tower of flame, breaking through the clouds with both venom and splendour. The crowd revel in it, but the astronaut is focused, experiencing the realisation of a dream.

At the apex of this murderous beast lies the cargo, satellites, experiments and... life. Life. On its way to defy nature, to turn against the conventions that *Homo sapiens* have contended with since the evolution of our species. Pale blue, to dark blue to black, the colours seen from the window shifting in turn, announcing the advent of space. Fuel tanks and solid rocket boosters long since released, the Orbiter glides into its intended orbit at a little over 17,000mph. The journey is over, but the ride has only just begun.

Astronaut wannabes want to experience this and much more. Constant weightlessness - a free-fall parachutist's heaven. No up or down (think about that one!). Science without the interference of significant gravitational forces. Liquid droplets suspended in air. The expansion of mankind and the desire to colonise other planets. The search for extra-terrestrial life. Through one window magnificent views of mother Earth that no picture can emulate, seen without borders between countries. Through another window, stars brighter than any seen on Earth. These are some of the reasons why we want to go.

The downside

Although becoming an astronaut may be on every five-year-old's letter to Santa this Christmas, only around 2000 people apply to NASA every year. So why does the dream fade?

☒ The most obvious reason is the level of danger involved - there is a one in a hundred chance of not surviving (although the odds are constantly improving, and no-one has died in either the Russian or US space programmes for eleven years).

☒ Becoming an astronaut is not a gateway to amassing vast amounts of money - rates of pay for astronauts (particularly Russian cosmonauts) are unlikely to be comparable with salaries in the "real world", and the only likely way of earning serious money comes from a post-retirement media career.

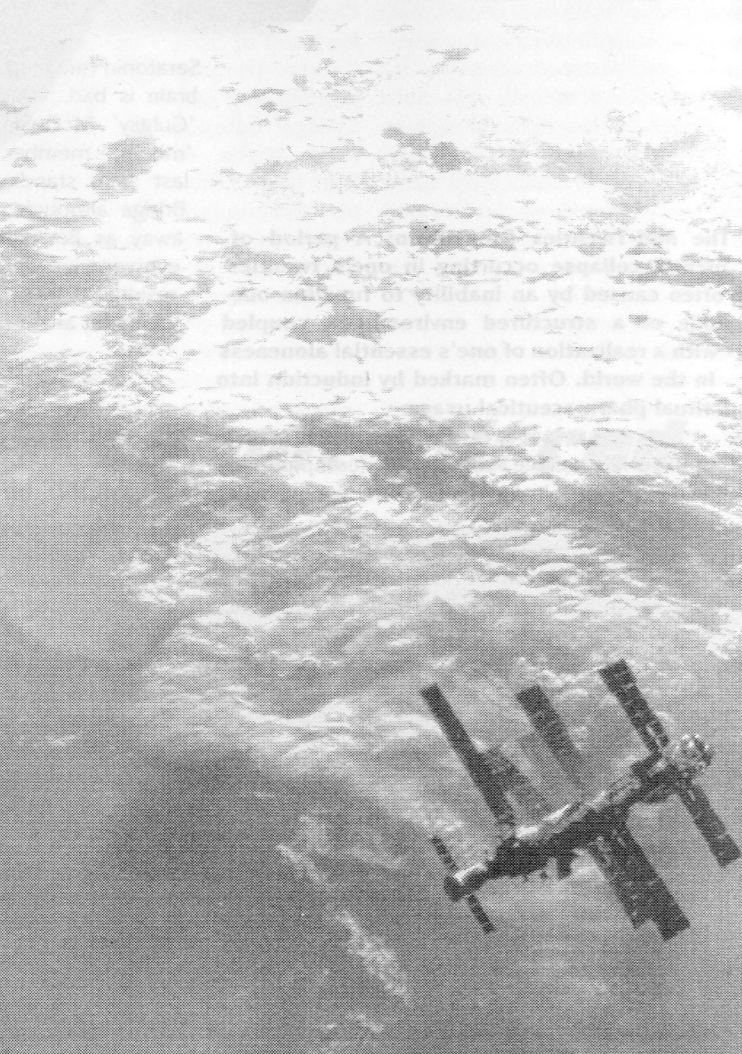
☒ The space sickness syndrome, (nausea, headaches etc.) is particularly disconcerting. (The first two days in orbit are invariably spent with noses buried in official NASA issue sick-bags.)

☒ Job security is comparable with that of Premiership managers.

Basic requirements

- ☒ A degree in a suitable science subject (not social sciences)
- ☒ A further 3 years experience, e.g. by studying for a PhD
- ☒ Expertise in the field of science studied
- ☒ Extreme physical fitness including excellent vision
- ☒ Pilot candidates require many hours of flying time, and for this reason usually come from the armed forces

Those that fulfil the above requirements can apply to NASA, who select approximately 10 individuals to join the astronaut corps every year. Successful applicants are those that pass through each stage of the intensive selection procedure. During each stage, the quality of the remaining applicants are assessed; these qualities cover not only the relevance & experience of academic study, but also personality, leadership, teamwork and any other achievements. The final 100 or so applicants are assessed by interview, and are chosen according to the interview's results and the preferences of veteran astronauts.



ASTROMAN

on the most toughly contested selection process who make it onto NASA's Astronaut Corps.

Mission Training

Selection for a mission occurs approximately 9 months before the designated departure date. The maximum number of crew is 7 per shuttle flight, consisting of the commander, pilot, a number of mission specialists and possibly a payload specialist. The commander has overall control and responsibility for the duration of the flight, and navigates the Orbiter along with the pilot. The mission specialists carry out experiments and perform EVAs (Extra-Vehicular Activities or spacewalks) while the payload specialist is responsible for a specific item, such as a satellite, and is usually sent up on behalf of the satellite's governing body.

To become an astronaut, American citizenship is required which is why Michael Foale, the Briton who recently completed his 4 month stay on Mir, also has American nationality. Cosmonauts are of course Russian. However, both NASA and the Russian Space Agency occasionally take individuals from other countries, to maintain international relations, for example. ESA, the European Space Agency, sends its astronauts up with both countries (but only occasionally). To become a European astronaut is far more difficult since the number of posts is small (currently 6), with many more applicants.

Why manned space flight?

I believe that Manned Space Flight is fully justified. As a species we have to explore and venture beyond the constraints of our present environment; it is part of our inborn characteristic to survive. Christopher Columbus' expedition to the west of America in 1642 is a classic example. The money used in space flight could be put to other uses, yes, but that will not solve the world's problems. There will always be rich and poor, healthy and sick - but these factors do not necessarily determine the happiness of people. Put simply, there will never be enough resources to go round. That is one of the reasons for extending our civilisation beyond this planet!

An off-Earth existence is inevitable - by stopping space flight now those responsible are only postponing future events. Through the micro-gravity of space have come benefits, such as the creation of new materials including alloys and medicines. Space exploration provides interest and encouragement for youth, and prevents the emergence of a static, boring world.

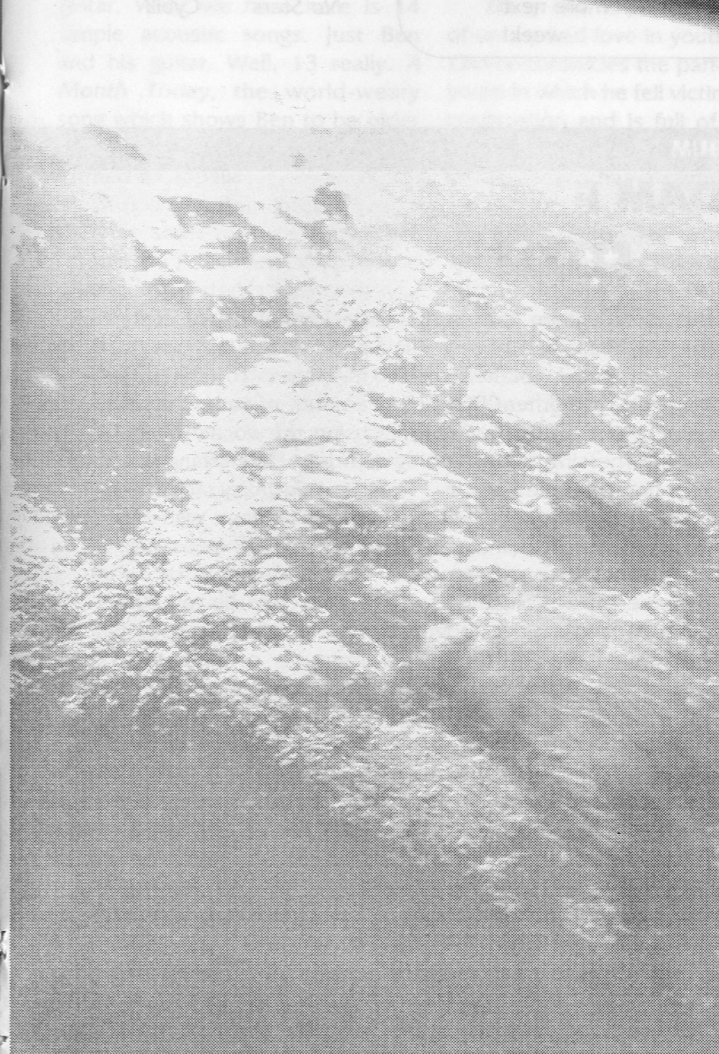
Manned space flight is in serious jeopardy at present, and if you agree with myself and others, then why not help campaign for its continuation. Robots are not (at least, for the moment) a viable replacement for humans in space, since they can only carry out instructions, rather than acting on impulse and instinct which is especially useful when encountering new situations. Even if they could act on instinct, robots are not a true representation of the essence of our species.

To register your support join the Space Age Associates at: <http://www.astronist.demon.co.uk/>, or at any of the other supporting sites.

Basic Training

The first year's training allows NASA to deduce the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. Only after successful completion of this one-year course are trainees eligible to be chosen for a mission.

One of the biggest problems faced by astronauts when they first fly is space sickness syndrome. Fast movements, particularly of the head, can be followed by nausea and headaches. Other than being unpleasant for the astronaut, precious time is wasted due to its effects. To test a candidate's ability to work under such conditions a rotating chair is used. The astronaut is strapped into the seat and must try to operate various controls while spinning. If this test is passed, the candidate proceeds to an elevator, the movements of which (for the sake of common decency) are best left to the imagination! Either way, the test is not over until the astronaut has been sick! Also taken within the year are lessons which cover all aspects of space flight, sport to remain fit, and safety procedures in case of disaster.



MUSIC - 14

Albums from **Bjork**, **Black Grape**, **Ben Lee**, **Alabama 3**. Singles, comps and **Tha Bomb!** hip hop and RnB from Milan

CLUBSCENE - 17

New column from **The Electric Cafe**, **101% Speed Garage** album review and a look at the club **On The Edge**.

FILM - 19

Excess Baggage and **Regeneration** get the Barry Norman treatment, plus tickets for **Sarajevo** to win.

20 - BOOKS

No less than three books this week; **Football Shorts**, **Furnace** from Murial Gray and student comedy from John Birmingham

22 - GAMES

Tone Rebellion from the Logic Factory

22 - THEATRE

Three Viewings by Jeffrey Hatcher at the New End Theatre. Much more next week!

All reviews are given a mark out of five as follows...

★★★★★	Frasier
★★★★	Friends
★★★	Ellen
★★	Married W. Children
★	The Golden Girls
No Stars	Cybill

**LIVE****BJÖRK**

Shepherds Bush Empire



Bjork looking most definitely not, Violently Happy.

entered the stage, eight string players in all, including two double bassists. Unlike her previous HUGE scale tour (she played Wembley Arena last time), this time round she has decided against playing all the instruments live, probably more to do with the fact that it is a much shorter affair.

The woman herself came on to the sound of *Hunter*, opener off *Homogenic*, and the whole set started off like a dream. Clever lighting kept Björk's face in the dark throughout this track, creating an air of mystery to her already unfathomable persona. She shot through the set with a number of top class tracks, *Homogenic* providing the majority of the material, though it was spread pretty evenly over all three albums. Inevitably she has now got such a large repertoire, she can't play all the tracks you hope to hear. Those lacking tonight were classics like *Big Time Sensuality* and *Army Of Me*, but thankfully she restrained from playing the pompously chartophilic *It's Oh So Quiet*. What she missed out on were more than made up for by the outstandingly gorgeous songs that blended perfectly with her magnificent voice (you either love it or loathe it). The crowd showed their appreciation by the obviously positive reception given to each tune, especially in *Violently Happy* where the rare sight of pogoing was exhibited. One candid moment in the set was during a recent track lifted from the new LP when she sang '...Baby!', as though she was trying to do an uncanny impersonation of Madonna. She, even managed to laugh at this embarissingly schizophrenic remark. The string

The Empire is privileged tonight to host the infused talent that is Björk. Call her what you like, the Icelandic princess, the quirky weird singer who likes a bit of wailing and screaming now and again or just plain Björk. The result is always guaranteed to be the same, sheer class and stylish stage presence.

The backdrop was a funky mix and mash of paper streamers that created an eerie effect of a living forest under the glare of the lights. Initially the backing musicians

ALBUM**ADAM F**

Colours ★★★★★

This is an album that simply hasn't been out of my CD player since I got hold of it (and yes I do have other CD's). It is quite simply one of the best examples of no-messing jazz-stepping drum 'n' bass available.

It starts off with a funky bongo and wah-wah jam that makes you think it's about to break into the *Shaft* theme music. What it does turn into is something altogether more different - the masterful.

Some of the mixes on the album are a little toned down from any original versions that have been released. However, the blend of samples and less hectic beats makes the album a much mellower listen and the whole thing hangs together really well. It's clear from the start that this album is not destined for the dancefloor but has been put together for listening pleasure.

This is just one of those albums which sounds like a greatest hits

package because every tune is as good as the last one. Mr F has still managed to maintain a good amount of variety on the album by using the vocals talents of Tracey Thorn of Everything But The Girl on the Acid-Jazzy tack *The Tree Knows Everything* and also MC Conrad in an unusual departure from his hard-hitting style on *F-Jam*.

Circles (the top 20 hit!) is quite simply a classic and shines as an example of jazz breakbeat that really does hit the spot, and *Dirty Harry* is just the funkier tune I've heard in ages. I really do like this album!

It's albums like this, along with the likes of Goldie's *Timeless* and Roni Size's *New Forms* that put drum 'n' bass where indie was a few years ago before it went mainstream. If enough people continue to put out quality music like this then it won't be long before the top 10 goes drum 'n' bass. **M**

Will

players orchestrated their sounds with the pounding emotion captured in all of her albums while the basic foundations of the tracks have moved away from your normal everyday beats present on the first two albums to slightly more irregular rhythms and scathing, scraping sampled beats. Undoubtedly the most heartfelt track off *Homogenic* is *Joga* but live something seemed to be missing, leaving you cheated of an expected masterpiece. However this was probably the only flaw tonight in an otherwise complete set. What I was mainly struck by was the relative simplicity of the new material in comparison to the complexity of her earlier solo work.

Björk herself has said that *Homogenic* is in itself her first proper solo album, where she has moved away from the influence of the Sugarcubes. This is no bad thing, although most of the tunes form her previous band (and they did plenty) were pretty impressive themselves. Her music may be more stripped down and organic now but this just helps to enhance her incredible singing talent which can't be beaten when heard live.

Jason

ALBUMS

BEN LEE

Something To Remember Me By ★★★★★½

Ben Lee. Who is he? Well, this Australian singer made some waves in 1994 when his now defunct teen punk band Noise Addict released their debut album, *Grandpaw Would*. Since then, Ben has enlisted the services of the most wonderful of instrumental companions, the trusty acoustic guitar. What we have here is 14 simple acoustic songs. Just Ben and his guitar. Well, 13 really. A *Month Today*, the world-weary song which shows Ben to be older than his official 18 years, is performed a cappella.

Musically, Ben pretty much uses the same formula throughout this album. A nice little rhythm and an uncomplicated strumming system. However, formulas don't become formulas for no reason at all. They become formulas because they work. The treat is Ben's lyrics. Each song may have the same musical base but each tells its own story. Mostly experiences from Ben's life, they're cleverly written.

Eight Years Old is the best, telling a touching story of first love. During a bus-ride, Ben meets the girl he loved but was rejected by

when he was eight and she touches his knee. He feels like he's eight again but can't accept the offer, telling her, 'I was in love. I was eight. Almost a decade later. A decade too late.' I mean, I know there's not many romantics out there (or are there?) but that is beautiful beyond words.

Daisy also explores the theme of unrequited love in youth. *Career Choice* chronicles the part of Ben's youth in which he fell victim to procrastination and is full of 'I could have been...'-type lines. There's *2 Sisters*, which has a slightly smoky after hours feel, which analyses why some people just don't get on with each other. There's also a humorous and equally serious track about fallen 80s TV stars from shows such as *Family Ties*, *Punky Brewster*, *Growing Pains* and *Different Strokes*. In short, Ben is a gifted songwriter. Simple tunes are just the basis for the almost effortlessly familiar way in which he expresses himself. So, I give you Ben Lee. I'm sure they'll be even more to remember him by in the future. **M**

Dennis

ALABAMA 3

Exile On Coldharbour Lane ★



If this album were a woman it would be Victoria Adams. If it were a footballer it would be David Beckham. I like this CD, it makes me smile. And if I didn't already own it...I'd go out and buy one. Well actually I am not Jeremy Clarkson, Master of Bullshit, and *Exile On Coldharbour Lane* only resembles Posh Spice in that it definitely does not smile, just like me when I'm listening to it. There are many reasons why. The album contains a distinct lack of variety, so sadly falling victim to, and indeed being found very, very guilty of the same charges that are constantly thrown at dance music. In my opinion, it sounds like funky-styled country and western blues with repetitive, unimaginative beats and

rhythms. Oh yeah, and the occasional political message thrown in for good measure. Excessive listening will undoubtedly leave your ears with a deep and immediate yearning for some quality sounds.

O.K., it's not so bad that your brain will bleed before you are able to reach for the eject button. But if an album can, at best, barely reach those not-so-dizzy heights of plain mediocrity, then what's the point in buying it? If you are lucky enough to have a burning hole in your pocket then I say let it smoke, let it smoulder. **DON'T BUY THIS CD.** For I'm sure you'd rather briefly suffer from mild thigh burn than own this ranking stain of monkey jism.

If this album were a woman, it would be Marlene from Neighbours. If it were a footballer it would be my mum. And the full 63 minutes of this trash could only be conceivably endurable under the heady influence of some very top gear. **M**

Gabriel

THA BOMBI

How all tha b-boys and b-girls doin? Its another week and another column, more news about what's goin' on in the world of hip hop and RnB.

Tupac's back. Released this Monday is a new album of unheard 2Pac cuts from his old days with Interscope Records (1991-1994). The posthumous release is a double LP called *R U Still Down (Remember Me)*, the CD version includes a 12 page booklet all about the man. From what I've been told the album comprises of a couple of choice cuts and a load of stuff that wasn't considered good enough for release when he was alive.

The Fresh Prince is back, except Will no longer wants to be called the Fresh Prince, instead he is Will Smith movie mega-star and hip hop star. Well that's what he says he is, having had the opportunity to listen to a couple of the cuts off the forthcoming album, I would describe him as a movie mega-star and a POP star. If the rest of the album is anything like the tracks I heard then it can only be described as commercial pop/swing, the LP's called *Big Willie Style* and will be droppin' in next week

Tha Bomb album of the week is the medicine man Lynden David Hall's *Medicine 4 My Pain*, this man has brought an album that is soul at its very best. The musical content is best described as Nu Soul and with this LP he has gone up directly against big name Americans such as Maxwell and D'Aneglo and

for me he has come out on top, this deserves to be massive and if his record company backs it then it will be. This will be a classic so don't hesitate for a minute when buying.

On a single tip there are some serious trax being released on British this week and a trip down to the local record store to purchase these three tunes is essential. First up we got a British RnB group, Truce with their joint *Nothin' But A Party*, this has got that party vibe to it, if there was any justice this would blow up massive; this is a tune, buy. The original first ladies of hip hop, Salt 'N' Pepa, return after a long time out with their new album *Brand New*, the first single to be lifted from it is *R U Ready*. Now I heard this track an age ago and I've been telling y'all about for a time, and at last it's here. This bangin' high tempo track is a stone cold killer; it comes on two CDs 1&2, with the second CD containing the hit singles *Shoop*, *Whatta Man* & the classic *Lets Talk About Sex*. My third and final single recommendation is the latest Missy joint *Sock It 2 Me*, this is the second cut from her highly acclaimed debut album. The groove is created by Timbaland and the Da Brat helps out as a guest, listen to this and you'll want it.

Other singles out or droppin' soon include *Stomp* from Gods Property, this dope little gospel track has Salt (from Salt 'N' Pepa) appearing on rap duty, this good and well worth a listen. The latest offering from Shola Ama is a ballad called *Who's Loving My Baby*,

this is as good as the previous two and should fly straight into the top spots in the chart. For all the DnB boys I have to mention the massive *Digital* from Golide, this is rough and raw, a baseline that blows you away, KRS1 is pure class, this is Tha Bomb.

Till next time, I'm out.

Tha Bomb! - Diary Dates

There's loads of shit goin' on in the capital in the upcoming weeks and its time for a run down of all the bangin' dates. The craziest hip hop sound, horror rap, comes to town as The Gravediggaz fly in to promote their new album, they play at Subterania, Ladbroke Grove on Wednesday (26), doors open at nine. This is a must for all the true hip hop headz, it'll be one muthafucka of a night. Another group of innovative hip hoppers, Spearhead, bring their sound to us the following week on December 3rd at the Forum; Michael Franti and the boys always put on a good show. On a RnB tip, the three funky divas, En Vogue hit town on December 4th, this will sell out so get those tickets quick. Looking to the future, the most eagerly awaited concert date was recently announced - Puffy playing Wembley Arena on January 13th. Puffy and the whole damn family coming over for their first ever European concerts, big name family members Lil' Kim and Mase will be in attendance, so get those tickets fast.

Milen

ALBUMS

BLACK GRAPE

Stupid Stupid Stupid ★★★★★



Men in Black Grape (Ahem).

Well then, Black Grape. Where do we start? Perhaps with the man himself, Shaun Ryder. The stereotypical skinhead job is actually not the spiritual leader of England's army of lager louts, but rather a tuneful, music maestro. The evidence for this bizarre statement lies on his CV. Just underneath the previous bands section you can find listed The Happy Mondays. Anyone who doesn't recall the popularity of the phrase 'You're twistin' my melon, man' is either too young or was utterly oblivious to what was happening during the early 90's. As you're no doubt aware, this featured the vocal talents of the aforementioned job, Mr. Ryder.

Unfortunately all good things come to an end, so inviting some of his mates (and some members of the Mondays for good measure) Shaun grouped together another ensemble and from the ashes of the Mondays rose Black Grape. Their first album *It's Great When You're Straight...Yeah!* went down a storm as the guys themselves were causing a storm on and off camera. Shaun's confession to going to the Hacienda in his younger days just to steal women's handbags didn't exactly aid Black Grape's appeal to

a wider audience. Mind you people who are easily offended please note - this album doesn't hold back.

Commencing with Ronald and Nancy Reagan's confessions to drug addiction, *Get Higher* starts the album as it means to go on, the style of the album being similar to their first. For the uninitiated this entails lots of shouting and swearing (often at the same time!) laced over some damn fine tunes. Make no mistake, you will be singing along to the anthemic melody lines, that scream out with energy usually found in dextral tablets. *Dadi was a Badi* stands out, with lyrics that home in on the band's life growing up in and around Manchester, and *Money Back Guaranteed* gets a mention simply for pure quality. These two are definite future single contenders.

All in all a very listenable album to get the old blood circulating as the cold nights draw in. Black Grape aren't going to win awards for the profoundness of their lyrics, but thumping out stuff to keep the punters happy doesn't seem to do Oasis any harm. In short, buy this album, but don't play it to your parents. **M**

Elliot

SINGLES

Naughty By Nature - Mourn You Til I Join You
Superior hip-hop from one of the most consistent outfits in the last ten years. Notably slick, great rhymes; this is modern r'n'b at its best. A live version of the *Nothing To Lose* soundtrack title track is even better than the a-side with oodles of their deliberate swagger and bass lines that hit you right in the stomach.

Yo La Tengo - Little Honda

The hushed vocals and the steady riff remind me of The Jesus and Mary Chain circa. *The Sound of Speed*, but the gentle lyrical humour lifts it to the standard you'd expect from Matador Records. The true talent of the band is glimpsed in the depth and quality of the b-sides, all of which are absolute blinders.

Queen Latifa - It's Alright

'When I'm sexing you, when I'm next to you, then I know it's alright'. Piss off, will you? Why do all these records sound the same? Expertly put together, wonderfully sung, produced to death and an absolute waste of time.

Novacaine - Pond Life

Very average, plodding middle-of-the-road American dull-rock. You can tell that they are

really trying very hard to be taken seriously, but you get the feeling from this record that the form has already been exhausted, which is a very harsh thing to say about any record.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Finley Quaye - It's Great When We're Together
Brimming over with groove, with an unforgettable hook and as funky an arrangement of strings, Hammond organ, drums and bass as you could wish for, this ultra laid back number has the same feel as *Lovely Day* and has instant classic written all over it.

Life of Agony - Desire

Terribly serious, moody, kind of Seal meets Metallica ballad. 'Uncomfortable, feeling miserable, and I never want to change'; how many pubescent rock outfits have thrown that lyric out? Competent enough, but not very interesting. That's it really.

Global Communication - The Groove

Searing trumpet and fluid percussion give out to a magic acid jazz bass line, and there are a couple of deadly organ solos, but the whole thing is let down by the one and only vocal; the end-

lessly repeated 'You've got to move to the groove'. One of the remixes which cuts out the vocals altogether is top notch.

Lotte - Somebody's Fool

'I'm exiting, sexy and cruel, but I'm just somebody's fool'. Femme rock a la Brooks, No Doubt, et al, though slightly less nauseating, with a more imaginative guitar arrangement. The delicate acoustic b-side *5th December* suits her voice so much more, and almost makes the record worth buying

The Verve - Lucky Man

Another solid single from Ashcroft and co.; perhaps with a little less of the immediate appeal of the last couple of records, and it goes a little too much John Power on occasion. Not bad, but a bit 'Verve-by-numbers'.

Way Out West - Ajare 2

Gently put together, yet hard house music, darkly arranged with an unintrusive, even distant, vocal part. Way Out West showing why they are one of the most sought after dance bands out there. All you need is a whistle and its Ibiza 1994 all over again. **M** Mr. Trout

COMPETITION

T-SHIRTS TO BE HAD!!

There are a couple of T-shirt competitions this week.

The Wildhearts and Moby (seen modelling said T-shirt) have both generously sent a few T-shirts down to Felix as giveaways. All you have to do, is to answer the two respective questions to win either T-shirt.

Here goes then.....

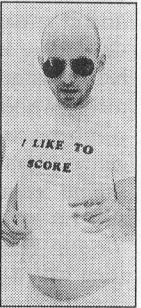
Wildhearts Question:

What is the name of the band that two former members of the Wildhearts left to form?

Moby Question:

What is Moby's original first name?

You can drop your entries in to the Felix office, located in the left hand corner of the Union building.



CLUBSCENE - THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC GUIDE

the electric café

Hi and welcome to the Electric Cafe. My name is Alick Sethi. I work together with Trevor Morgan and Chris Gower on the new dance and club section of Felix. We aim to cover reviews, features and club listings on a wide range of dance music; reflecting the London scene as it really is!

The Electric Cafe is also the name of a radio show that I run weekly on the Student Radio Network for two hours (Sunday night/Monday morning @ midnight till 2am). It can be listened to using IC Radio. Each show aims to introduce people to a variety of electronic music; from drum'n'bass to funky techno, ambient to deep house. Most of all we believe very strongly that there is something for everybody in electronic music. We interview artists and DJs in order to make the music less faceless and more personal. So do listen in if you are interested!

Now that the plugging is out of the way, I should get on with the column and a very interesting new clubnight that has caught my eye. To coincide with the new single by LA Synthesis (see techno reviews section), a joint venture between Vent and Universal Language is starting tonight at The Soundshaft (Hungerford Lane, London WC2). Universal Language is a label that has been putting out some outrageously funky electronic music for several years, with big acts such as the Jedi Knights and Gerd currently enjoying enormous critical acclaim. Tonight you will be able to see LA Synthesis and Spacetime Continuum (aka Jonah Sharpe from Reflective Records in San Francisco) playing live. Tom Middleton and Mark Pritchard from Global Communications will be up

on the decks. All this for a mere £5 if you remember your student card. Now that can't be bad for a Friday night can it?

Finally, if you are beginning to think about Christmas Presents for friends, then I want to recommend three great DJ mix albums on CD.

The MayDay Mix (Open) is by one of the originators of techno music. Derrick May hails from Detroit and has become a legend with tracks such as Strings of Life. His DJ talents are no less awesome. He keeps his mix extremely funky yet varies the musical style throughout. There are no rules when he is on the decks. Tracks are stopped midway through and even mixed backwards into each other. This is an essential album for clubbers and DJs alike!

X-Mix Deep Space Radio (Studio IK7) features the mixing talents of another Detroit Legend, Kevin Saunderson who was the brains behind Inner City and E-Dancer. This is a varied selection, featuring hard techno from Dark Comedy hand-in-hand with minimal house from Octave One. As you would expect, the mixing is flawless.

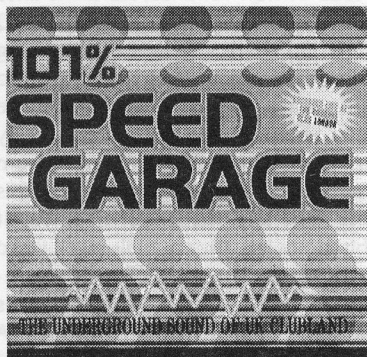
Subculture (Subclub/BMG) has been prepared and mixed by one of the pioneers of the Glasgow scene, DJ Harri. The character of the mix is smooth and seamless, which is appropriate as the musical style represented throughout is deep soulful house music. This album is not about taking you higher, but instead putting you in a groove. It works well in the bedroom as well as on the dancefloor.

Alick

CLUBSCENE - COMPILATIONS

101% SPEED GARAGE

★★★★



The most unimaginative title in the world.....ever!

With the explosion of Speed Garage onto the London club scene, and the increasing popularity of it throughout the rest of the country, it is inevitable that the period

before Christmas will see countless compilations being released under the title of 'Speed Garage'.

The mission, if I wished to accept it, was to search out an 'album' which truly represents the scene at this present time.

This CD is an hour long epic live in the mix from Trinity at the Chunnel Club by DJ Jay Dee. Trinity is a night in Vauxhall which caters for both the Speed Garage and Hard House scenes, and this is a set played out to a packed crowd of serious clubbers.

The opener, Kym Mazelle's *Big Baby* is a soulful starter which combines funky beats with catchy lyrics. The next two tunes are on the same wavelength, with large lyrical content, before DJ Ride and Michael King's *Renegade Bass*, featuring remnants of a classic old Skool tune, takes over and treats all to the first real helping of raw Drum 'n' Bass. This ingredient is very

much in full effect from then on, with a bassy sound system continuously screaming to be turned up. 187 Lockdown's *Gunman*, possibly the most recognised speed-garage tune features, as does Peekay's *Sweet Sensation*, another tune which brings back memories from the 90's Old Skool era.

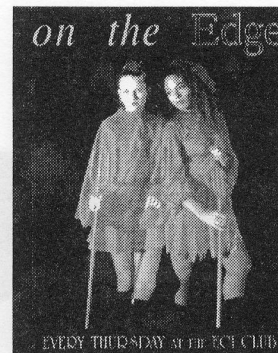
The album closes with New Horizons *It's My House* and Smokin Beats Vol 4 *Jazz House*, both of which take a more tune-orientated approach as opposed to a phat and phunkee bassline. This concludes an hours worth of music which covers all components of this particular scene.

All in all, this compilation contains 16 massive underground tunes which are expertly remixed by Jay Dee. A worthwhile addition for those in the know, and a damn-good starter for those wanting to get in the know. **MC**

Chris

ON THE EDGE

At the EC1 Club



If speed garage is your scene and you're looking for a late Thursday night out, then we have found the club for you. 'On The Edge' boasts resident DJs 'The Dreem Teem' and Dexter, as well as other big name DJs on rotation, playing only the finest underground tracks.

Due to the late opening hours - the latest in London for a Thursday night - it is considered as more of an afterclub and so the crowd do not arrive until 1ish. Most of them are regulars, and can only be described as 'London's Nuttas'; they have every intention of dancing all night until the lights go up at 6am.

Within the silver walls and decor, the atmosphere is 'chilled out'. You won't find the attitude that some clubs have become famous for. In fact the only scary element is Shadow from Gladiators, who is one of the doormen. He is currently under tuition to DJ, as there have already been substantial offers from various clubs in the Midlands.

There is plenty of space to 'shake your thang', as well as loads of tables and chairs for you to rest your weary dancing feet. If you are a beer drinker, then you are catered for - but if not, then it's soft drinks all night.

The music is at the cutting edge of the scene, the sound system deafens, the atmosphere is friendly and the night is a stormer!

Chris & Tina

Capacity: 600
Price: £2 (with Student ID)
b4 11pm and £5 after
Beer: £2.50
Water: £1
Cloakroom: £1
Nearest Tube: Farringdon

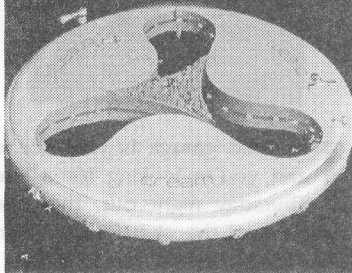
CLUBSCENE - COMPILATIONS

CREAM ANTHEMS '97 DOUBLE CD

Mixed By Paul Oakenfold & Nick Warren ★★★

Cream Anthems 97

CD01 Mixed by Paul Oakenfold & Nick Warren
 CD02 Mixed by Nick Warren
 Features: The Prodigy, Ultra Nate, Jay Dee, B.T., Energy 52, Mystery Land, Y-Traxx, Plastic Dreams, Remember, Cafe Del Mar, Nightmare, Brianbug, Olive, BBE, Flash, How Deep Is Your Love, You're Not Alone, Gunman, Ajaire, Breathe, Nineways, Full Intention, Lucid, Honesty, D.J. Suv, Big Bud, LA Synthesis, Harmonic Disassembly, Sonic Icons, Cote d'Ivoire, Alick



I must say I was looking forward to listening to this one, Cream is one of the so called 'Super Clubs' and with the highest quality DJing ability of Oakenfold (one of my favourite house D.J.'s, and being voted 2nd best D.J. in the world by the readers of D.J. mag) and Warren (voted 31st) this mix CD promised big things.

CD01. Paul Oakenfold, starts off with the laid back trancy number *Mystery Land* by Y-Traxx, then Jay Dee's *Plastic Dreams* rolls nicely into the dreamy *Remember*, by B.T. Next drops *Energy 52's Cafe Del Mar*, nice dreamy breaks and driven beats, then the pace is lifted with *Nightmare* by Brianbug one of my favourites of the moment, massive tune. Keeping things rolling along nicely with Oakenfold's mix of *Olive's You're Not Alone*, BBE's *Flash* then in comes D.J. Scot Project's *How Deep Is Your Love*, a very slightly dodgy mix quickly sorted out. Yes even Oakenfold is not perfect, well not all the time.) This track has a slightly harder feel to it, picking up the pace again with its soft techno sounds. This harder

feel is kept going until Marmion's *Schoenberg* is dropped from the top, still with those harder beats. Finally and surprisingly started from the beginning again, is Transa's *Prophase* in that hard trancy style. Over all as you would expect from such a quality DJ you're taken on a pleasant journey gradually building in pace as it progresses. I did expect more involved mixing, but it is all kept neat and simple. I assume to appeal to a wider audience.

CD02. Nick Warren. This one starts off with what you should all know, Ultra Nate's *Free*, the former number 1, then it gets a little less commercial with Alex Neri's *Planet Funk 2* and the Heartist's *Belo Horizonti* before the wicked 187 Lockdown's *Gunman* is dropped in. Things are kept going with the equally good *Ajaire* from Way Out West (incidentally Nick Warren is part of Way Out West.) Then with a flick of the wrist the mood is totally changed and The Prodigy's *Breathe* comes tearing at you. Then a quite superb mix of this into JDS's *Nineways*, then the tempo slowly

builds from these break beat driven tracks to more rolling trancy house tunes such as Underworld's *Cow Girl*, Moon Man's *Don't Be Afraid* and Chicane's *Offshore*. Then for some reason which I could not understand Stretch & Vern's cheese-tastic *Get Up* is brought in, totally killing any vibe that had been got going then the equally weak Dario G *Sunchyme* is dropped in. It finishes with the excellent Chemicals Brothers' *Block Rockin' Beats*.

Overall these CDs give a comprehensive review of the current 'club scene' from cheesy chart toppers to underground classics. I preferred the Oakenfold CD due to it being more of a journey and no cheese fillers. The Warren CD would have been so much better if he had left out the commercial stuff, because the change of styles from break beat to house was quite superb. But I prefer my music harder and on the more underground tip. These CD's seem to be aimed at a broader audience, not one for the hardcore. **MC**

MP

CLUBSCENE - SINGLES

DRUM 'N' BASS

Big Bud - Rafiki / Memories ★★★
 (Creative Source 015)

I could not decide which of these tracks was the A-side due to them both being equally strong tracks. Keeping with Creative Source's intelligent more musical stepping style of D&B, but with a definite air of originality. *Memories* starts off with a stepping break beat, then rolls in with strong atmosphericals and ab-line. Rafiki is in much the same style with very deep and haunting feel with echoing beats. Top quality production as you would expect. If anyone thinks D&B is not a form of music, just samples and big b-lines they should give this a listen and they might learn something.

D.J. Suv - Free beat EP (double vinyl) ★★★
 (Full Cycle Rec)

D.J. Suv, the least known of the Full Cycle collective, offers us a 4 track EP for his debut solo project. And what a way to start - if he keeps going like this he won't be the least known for long. All four tracks are absolutely firing, pack full of fresh ideas and originality with that distinctive Full Cycle feel. Fat b-lines, stepping beats 'n' breaks, clever arrangements, dark samples and excellent use of a piecing piano tone in 'Output'. Everything you would expect from this label, still leading the way after many years at the front. Setting a trend that so many other's will follow. **MP**

TECHNO

LA Synthesis - Harmonic Disassembly
 Universal Language - Released 01/12/97

Harmonic Disassembly is the trio's first release for the famous Universal Language label (also home to the very funky Jedi Knights). The title track is an awesome trip into old skool electro; complete with authentic robotic voices, funky rhythms and a vibrant string section. Skyline is a straight 4/4 effort, blending technology with deep harmonies. This falls into the groovy deep house category. Look out for this EP!

Honesty - Weitzzeituhr
 Sonic Icons - Out now

German electronic music continues to soar to new heights. This 10" EP on a new Berlin label is best classed as completely freestyle; juggling moody ambient synth melodies with unconventional rhythm patterns and extremely funky basslines. Da Doub lies somewhere between electro and jazz. Acapulco Gold would glide effortlessly into the midst of any Detroit techno set. Both mixes of Cote d'Ivoire are examples of cutting-edge dance music with a groove. Computers ain't funky? Don't believe it!

Alick

HOUSE & GARAGE

Full Intention - (I love) America. Remixes ★★★
 (Stress Rec.)

Stress have re-issued the 96' classic America with a shed load of new remixes, from the likes of Sharp, Gant, Todd Terry, Jean & Peran, UBQ & Jason Nevins. So there should be something for everyone here from gay disco style mixes to the fat 'speed garage' mix of Gant and a more banging mix by Sharp. These are all top quality tracks in their own right and very different from each other, except for the title sample which is the only thing that lets these tunes down. It becomes a bit annoying after a while, well it did for me after repeated listening of all eight remixes. But the strength of the re-mixes, makes it a useful addition to any record collection. A nice diverse selection of mixes from some of the best re-mixers in the business. Worth a listen.

Lucid - I Can't Help Myself ★★★
 (Delirous)

This is Lucid's debut single and it's not bad at all. There's four mixes to choose from, all have that hard house feel to them in varying degrees. With driven beats and b-line, with those dreamy title vocals from Clare Canty in a folk style. There's nothing particularly special about this track, but there's also nothing wrong with it. **MP**

REVIEWS AND COMPETITIONS

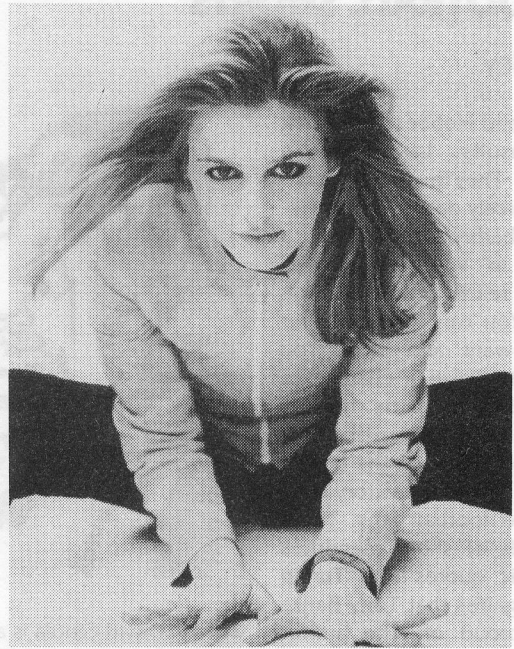
EXCESS BAGGAGE

Starring: Alicia Silverstone, Harry Connick Jr, Christopher Walken
Director: Marco Brambilla

The "Excess Baggage" of the title refers to Alicia Silverstone, though her production company obviously didn't realise how appropriate this is considering the two excellent actors alongside her. In a worryingly vertical career move Miss Silverstone plays spoilt brat Emily T. Hope, who stages her own kidnapping in order to attract the attention of her career-obsessed father (Jack Thompson). She foolishly locks herself in the boot of her car to await her pick up, clearly not anticipating the presence of a car thief (Del Toro) and the inevitable hilarious consequences. But there's more to it than that. On discovering his, wait for it... excess baggage, it's only a matter of time before the sex kitten's fuse is flaming as she falls for the reckless rogue.

With a large number of average to pretty good films currently on release there are few reasons to go out of your way for this one. A great piece of daring and original casting has Walken as Emily's menacing and on-the-edge uncle who goes looking for her, and Del Toro is also pretty good doing his Fenton in *The Usual Suspects* act. But we've seen these things before, and in much better films. The director, Marco Brambilla (of *Demolition Man* fame - if such a thing exists) does a reasonable job technically speaking, though there's fairly little life to it all - the question of why anyone would want to film such a dire screenplay in the first place will probably haunt everyone who sees the film. At least for the five or so minutes in which it remains in their minds. **F**

Stephen Tarlton



Excess Baggage? Surely not.

REGENERATION

Starring: Johnathan Pryce
 James Wilby
Director: Gillies Mackinnon

The suffering and horror of war are rarely portrayed in films, mainly because such trivial concerns tend to ruin heroic action sequences. The handful of exceptions (eg *Apocalypse Now*) is now greatly enriched by *Regeneration*, a film full of deeply disturbing and harrowing images. Adapted from the novel by Pat Barker, it tells the story of Dr William Rivers (Pryce),

the renowned psychiatrist in Craighlockart Castle, a 13th century keep just outside Edinburgh which was used as a military hospital for shell-shocked soldiers during the first world war. Rivers himself is on the edge of a breakdown as a result of his involvement with his patients. They include Siegfried Sassoon (Wilby), a brilliant and heroic soldier who is by no means mentally disturbed, but has been sent to the asylum for publishing an outspoken - and illegal - pamphlet proclaiming his opposition to the war. Sassoon strikes up a

friendship with fellow patient Wilfred Owen (Stewart Bunce), encouraging him to write some of the finest poetry to emerge during the war (and indeed this century).

Seemingly unconstrained by the film's modest budget, *Regeneration* is brilliantly directed by Gillies Mackinnon, who manages to draw faultless performances from the entire cast and crew. Even the romantic sub-plot of Billy's love affair with Sarah (Tanya Allen in her feature film debut) - turns out to be essential to the film as it is used as a contrast to the devastation of

war. Essentially the film is more about humanity and the nature of mind rather than war itself. It works at a very subtle level, showing respect for its audience by not forcing any viewpoint upon them whilst confronting them with their own morality. You will need to take your brain with you for this one but it's worth the effort. Alternatively, leave it at home and wait for the new Bond film, also starring Johnathan Pryce, which is what most film goers will end up doing. It's a crazy world... **F**

Stephen Tarlton

FILM COMPETITION

with our friends at the

ODEON KENSINGTON

Welcome to Sarajevo is released today. It portrays the true tale of war journalist Michael Henderson as he confronts the horrors of the former Yugoslavia. He visits an orphanage and attempts a daring mission to bring a helpless child back to Britain.

The Odeon Kensington has kindly given four pairs of tickets as prizes for our weekly competition. It doesn't stop there, however, as they have also donated a variety of exclusive posters of the film and we're giving away two of these with each pair of tickets. To enter, answer the following question by Tuesday lunchtime, by

e-mail or by dropping the answer into the office:

Which current MP was shot while reporting in Bosnia last year?

The winners of last week's competition who win *Gl Jane* goodies are:

- Stephane Bouvet
- Faizal Farouk
- Caroline Law

They knew Viggo Mortensen starred opposite Demi Moore in *Gl Jane*.

NEXT WEEK... WIN A HUGE SET OF PRIZES AND TICKETS FOR ALIEN RESURRECTION



REVIEWS

FOOTBALL SHORTS

Vin Shanley

Calvin and Hobbes. The Book of Insults. Last month's FHM. They're all "dippers." They all sit nicely on top of the cistern in your bathroom. All ready to be "dipped in" whenever convenient. Toilet reading material. Isn't it brilliant? You can read however much you want and stop. You don't have to finish a chapter or find out what happens next. I mean, since when did anyone ever read War and Peace on the bog?

Football Shorts is lavatory literature for the football fans. There are hundreds of short anecdotes from King Eric, quotes from "Turnip Taylor" and gaffes that Tony Banks would be proud of. The author tackles subjects systematically, dealing with managers, players, goalies, referees, clubs and fans in separate chapters. However, this isn't a book that you just read straight through. You pick it up now and again, open it up at a random page and just read a few paragraphs.

Plenty of quirky facts can be found: Some Americans thought that Glen Hoddle was a malt



whisky. David Ginola is an anagram of vagina dildo! Perhaps the strangest is the church in Surrey that had footballer's shirts draped on the pews and flags in the aisle for a footballer's service. The vicar even opened his sermon with a few short blasts on a referee's whistle!

The best and funniest section by far, though, is the gaffes chapter. It's packed with a collection of commentating cock-ups. There's

Alan Ball's "I'm not a believer in luck, although I do believe you need it", John Motson's "The World Cup - truly an international event"

and Gazza's infamous "I never predict anything and I never will do." In essence, this is a football book but I think its appeal is very general. So, if your toilet is short of a good dipper, you could do a lot worse than this.

Publisher: Arrow

Price: £4.99

Dennis

FURNACE

Muriel Gray



legal limit. So, as he drives through the strangely affluent town of Furnace looking for a place for a quick nap and a coffee, the unthinkable occurs. As he approaches a crossroads, a woman seems to appear at the side of the road and pushes a baby with its pram under the truck. Josh breaks but he's too late and this is where his nightmare begins.

The memory is etched into his mind but the image is torn. Witnesses report that there was no woman, just a gust of wind. The police play on Josh's fatigue and try to make him change his statement, as the woman he describes is actually the highly respected town councillor, Nelly McFarlane. Josh is confused: No-one is angry at him, no-one is condemning him for his carelessness and the sheriff, John Pace, is insisting that he just gets as far away from Furnace as possible. Josh leaves quickly but carries a demonic curse with him. He has three days to live and the only way to reverse it is to go back and uncover Furnace's dark secrets.

One-time co-presenter of The

Clothes Show, this is Muriel Gray's second novel. (Her debut being *The Trickster*.) The main priority in a book of this sort is to give the reader something they can identify with so that they actually care about what happens and if it wasn't for Josh's finely tuned sarcasm, the main character would come across as a whining pain. As it is, though, he makes us laugh just enough for us to sympathise with him. The story moves very quickly. In fact, it could easily be made into a trash TV movie. There's nothing particularly bad about that. It's an enjoyable read but inevitably trash lacks substance. Apart from the early accident, it fails to capture you as it did then. However, it is tightly written. You may not be monstrously excited but you won't be bored either. This is only Muriel Gray's second novel and I can see her getting better as she continues. Could be one to look out for in a few years time.

Published by: Harper Collins

Price: £16.99

Dennis

HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL IN HIS HAND

John Birmingham ★★★

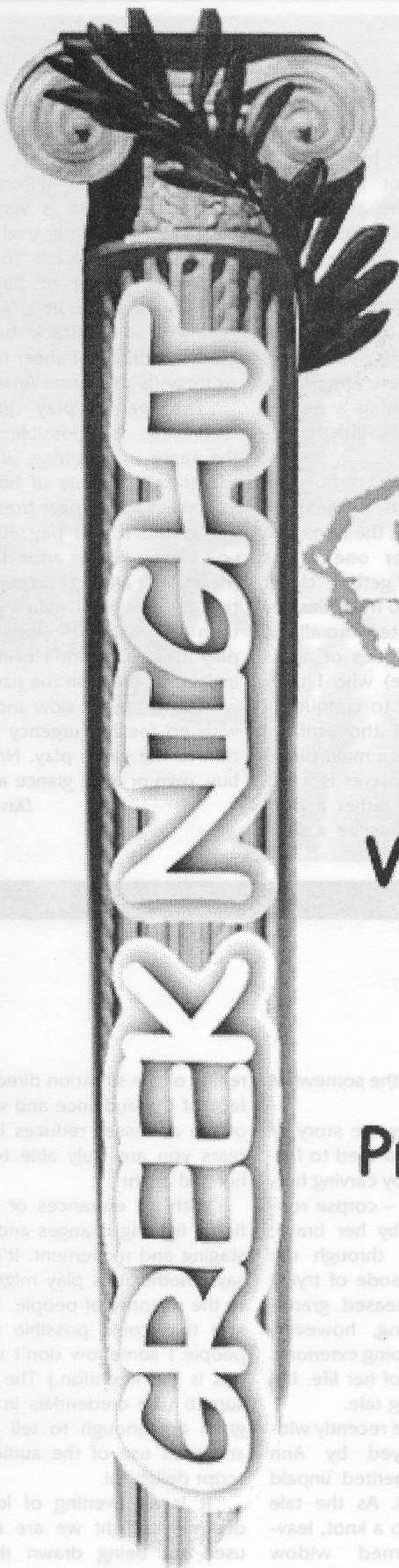
"He died...." is basically a history of the 89 flatmates the author had during eight years of house sharing. The book is at times hilarious and always entertaining as the author races through the series of freaks and crazy anecdotes. For those of you who are sharing flats, I would expect that the book would have an added punch to it. The book really works because of characters such as 'Thunderbird Ron', a socially inept bodybuilder and PJ, a fish finger addict. There is also a clear Imperial student - 'Braintrust Leonard', "a gawky third-year engineering student with an unrivalled back catalogue of Star Trek fanzines and Australian Playboys". Sound like anyone you know?

The chapters in the book deal on particularly embarrassing or notable events - such as destroying a house-warming after getting completely stoned in the 'Horny London Babes Fiasco' (it's set in Australia by the way), or deal with one particular activity - such as his enjoyment of listening to fellow flatmates having sex. Interposed between chapters are the "voices of the damned" - confessions by acquaintances on the terrible things that they had done. These are especially amusing, so I won't ruin them for any of you. I should probably warn people with a delicate disposition that they may not enjoy this book as much as I did, and they may prefer 'Pride and Prejudice' or something instead. Small paragraph sections by friends detailing their worst flat sharing experiences is a nice touch and it increases the nightmares per page rating.

It obviously is not a book with great literary or scientific worth - but its not meant to have any. I would definitely recommend this book - borrow it from someone if you can. Anyone looking for flatmates should definitely read it to find out the danger signs of possible psychopaths and anyone should read it because it is very funny. It's a good quick read (I read it in an evening, but I did have to review it) and people with a sick sense of humour should enjoy it more than most, especially the bits about blokes wanking off dogs....

Publisher: Flamingo

Price: £5.99



**Dinner, Live Music & DJ
until 2:30**

Friday, 21 November

8:00 for dinner

10+ for drink

**Venue Sherfield Building,
Imperial College**

Price £10 (£8 members)

Tickets, info

**d.memos@ic.ac.uk
c.orphanidou@ic.ac.uk**

<http://daedalus.ee.ic.ac.uk:8001/>



BUBBLE GUM

THE TONE REBELLION

The Logic Factory ★



This is a strategic god-like-game, akin to say *Civilisation* and *Dune* combined. The similarity

to *Dune* is enforced by the need for 'tapping' Tone, a mysterious resource necessary for building new structures and units.

The aim of the game is to defeat the 'Leviathan', which I presume is some sort of monster. To do this artifacts which are found throughout the planets must be collected and then deposited in the correct places.

You basically start by building a 'Tone' tapping plant that builds structures, then there are various other structures that build other... erm well thingies (the technical term illudes me). One of these builds a Tone Spreader that enables you to expand your overall map of the area, which eventually occupies the entire planet. There are around 5 or 6 planets orbiting a central one, on which the Leviathan presumably lives.

At various points throughout *The Tone Rebellion* a message flashes up saying that the Leviathan has broken another one of its bonds, presumably getting closer to the time when you must destroy it. Oh yes, incorporated into all this you have different tribes of aliens (that's what you are) who I think you eventually have to conquer in order to obtain all the artifacts needed. This enables a multi-player option where each player is a different tribe. This is rather a poor attempt, I fear, to rescue a fairly

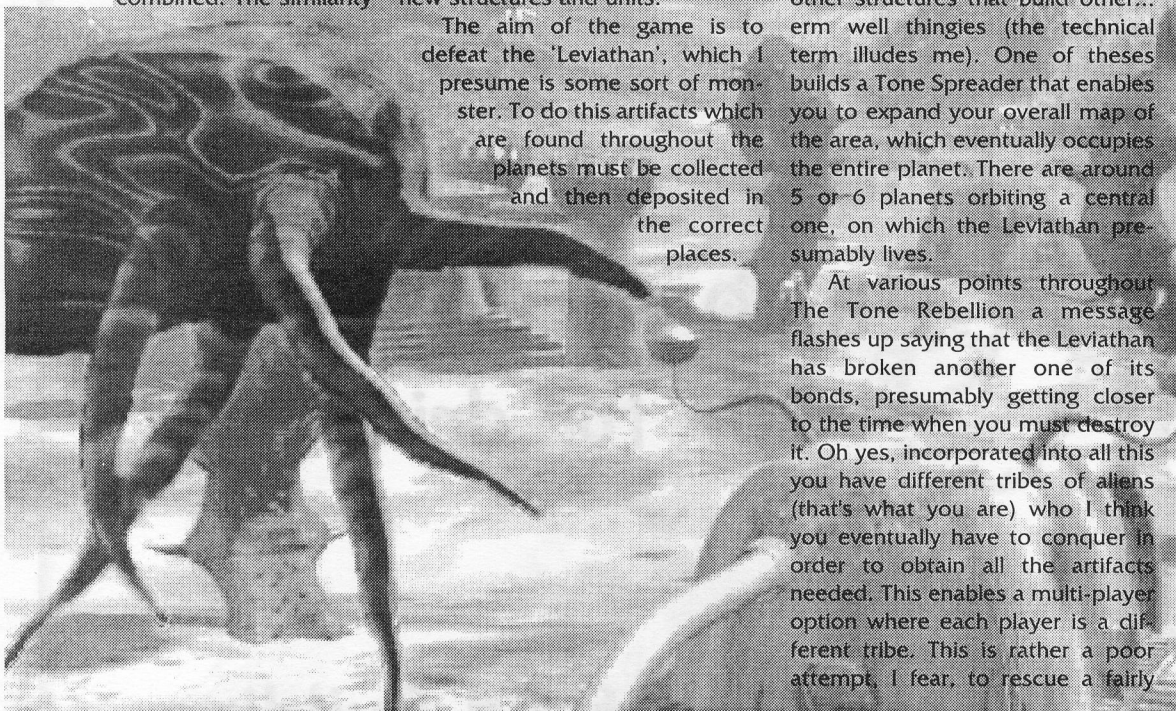
bad game.

The number of different types of attacking units is very limited compared to a dedicated strategic war game. This leads to a battle consisting purely of building as many units as possible, and sending them all to attack the enemy. More a method of sheer force than strategy (is this game American?).

The game play just isn't enthralling, it's possible to finish the game in on sitting, although it may take a couple of hours. This isn't what you expect from a modern game. If you pay 30 pounds you expect lasting appeal and that means that after completing or getting as far as you can in a game you then still have the inclination to play it again. I didn't even get the inclination to finish the game.

The game felt slow and sluggish with no feeling, urgency or direction to the game play. Not one to buy, own or even glance at. **G**

David Morris



ARTS

THREE VIEWINGS

Jeffery Hatcher

Three Viewings, three people, three stories – so simple, so deliberate and yet somehow Jeffery Hatcher's new drama/comedy smacks of something so real and ordinary it's a pleasure to watch. It takes place in a funeral parlour where people have come to view and pay their last respects to various deceased – a bizarre situation we are not familiar with in this country. Yet these three stories, each about different lives, people and themes are not brought together by the morbid element present in each, but by the different way they each portray the idea of love in it's most pleasurable, horrible and amusing forms.

The first tale we hear is that of Emil, the funeral director played by Robert Jeez, who is going through the agonies of unrequited love as he watches the object of his 'silent' desire use the viewing to build up her contacts for her real-estate business. The feelings, that I am sure we have all experienced, are displayed with such honesty and honour that

we laugh with, not at, the somewhat sad figure.

This is followed by the story of Mac (Karen Ascot) who tried to forget her troubled past by carving herself a lucrative career – corpse robbing. We are taken by her brash, confident personality through the wickedly amusing episode of trying to rob her now deceased grandmother. It's not long, however, before the tough outgoing exterior is broken by the reality of her life. It's a shocking and moving tale.

Finally we meet the recently widowed Virginia, played by Ann Penfold, who has inherited unpaid and unpayable debts. As the tale winds itself slowly into a knot, leaving the overwhelmed widow trapped and helpless, a cunning twist of fate provides an ingenious answer.

Each story is wonderfully written twisting to some unexpected climax, and each grippingly told, pulling the audience through a range of raw emotions. The intimate theatre and stage put the truth and

reality of the situation directly in the face of the audience and when one of the actresses reduces herself to tears you are truly able to believe her sad plight.

With no entrances or exits, no flashy lighting changes and minimal staging and movement, it's hard to say whether this play might appeal to the majority of people. (In a theatre that could possible seat 100 people I somehow don't think that this is the intention.) The acting is superb (the credentials in the program are enough to tell you this) and their use of the audience and script delightful.

It is an evening of looking at death in a light we are not quite used to, being drawn through a depth of emotions, and walking out with a smile on you face. Strange, but true.

Matt Williams

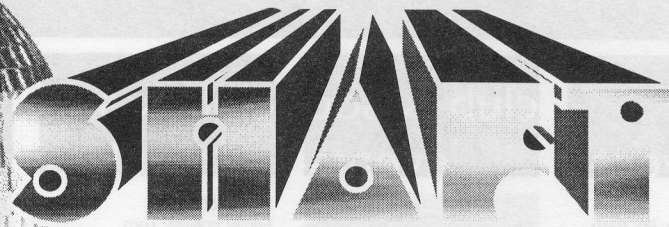
Three Viewings

New End Theatre
27 New End
Hampstead
London NW3 1JD
Running until Sunday 7
December
Tuesday to Saturday
evenings 7:30pm
Saturday and Sunday matinees 3:30pm

Prices £10 (£7 concs)

Entertainments

Fri 21st



70'S DISCO, 80'S POP, 90'S TRASH
PLUS COCKTAIL BAR

9-2. 1AM BAR. £1/FREE B4 9PM OR IN FUNKY THREADS

Sun 23rd **Standing Room Only**

Tues 25th

STA BAR TRIVIA

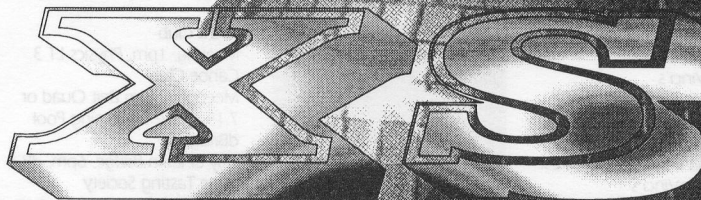
Special **X-FILES** Quiz

DaVinci's from 8.00

Win £50 or a crate of lager

& X-Files goodies

Weds 26th



Room one - party tunes for a mad for it crowd
9-1. Midnight Bar. FREE B4 11/50p after.

Thurs 27th

COCKTAIL NIGHT

DaVinci's from 5.00



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

club & soc events

club & soc regulars

radio & TV

music

C
fri 21

Shaft
70s disco, 80s pop, 90s trash in dB's plus cocktail bar in UDH 9pm-2am (1am bar) £1/free B4 9/with EntCard

Islamic Soc
Friday prayers, 1pm, Southside Gym
Parachute Club Meeting, 12 noon, Southside

TFI Friday 6 pm (11.25pm) C4 with Natalie Imbruglia
The Simpsons 6pm BBC2
Friends 9pm C4 Joey and Chandler fall for same chick
The Fast Show 9.30pm C4
Have I got News for You 10pm BBC2
Rory Bremner 10.30pm C4

Janis Ian + Martyn Joseph + Martin Stephenson
Shepherds Bush Empire, £15.
Chris Smither + Kelly Joe Phelps
Watermans Arts Centre, £8.
Tanya Donelly
ULU, £8.

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sat 22

Standing Room Only
Live Premiership footy on DaVinci's big screen - kick off 4pm

ICU Cinema
Scream, 8pm, Union Concert Hall, £2

Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm, Southside Gym. All welcome
Labour Club
Meeting, 1pm, Southside Upper Lounge

International Rugby Union
4.15pm ITV England vs New Zealand
The Peoples Parliament 8pm C4 Return of the popular debate show
Hale and Pace 9pm ITV Best sketches and a few new bits
ER 10pm C4
MOTD 10.50pm BBC1

John Mayall And The Bluesbreakers
Shepherds Bush Empire, £14, £12.50.

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sun 23

ICU Cinema
Goth Party, 7-11pm, dB's. Dress: anything black 50p members/£1 non-members

Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm, Union Gym. All welcome.

Blitz! 11am C4 Run down of weeks NFL matches
The Sunday Show 12.15pm BBC2
Star Trek Voyager 7pm BBC2
Top Gear Rally Report 9.15pm BBC2 Day 1 of RAC Rally
Jack Dee's Sunday Service 10pm ITV

Foo Fighters
Brixton Academy, £12.50.
Te Vaka
Ronnie Scotts, £10.

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mon 24

STA Bar Trivia
X-Files Special 8pm DaVinci's
Win £50 or a crate of lager plus X-Files goodies
Standing Room Only
Aston Villa v Steaua Bucharest ko 6.45, DaVinci's

ArtSoc
Meeting, 12.30-1.30pm, Union Dining Hall
IC Chaplaincy
Discussion group, 6pm, 10 Prince's Gardens
Ski Club
Meeting, 12.30-1.30pm, Southside Lounge

The Simpsons 6pm BBC2 Bart runs away from home
Eastenders 8pm BBC1 Bad news for Ricky and Bianca
Hotel 9.30pm BBC1
I'm Alan Partridge 10pm BBC2 Top notch comedy
Film '97 11.30pm BBC1 Barry reviews "Alien Resurrection"

Portishead
Brixton Academy £tbc

t
tue 25

XS
Pop & mainstream dance in dB's 9pm-1am (midnight bar) Free B4 11/50p after
Standing Room Only
Barcelona v Newcastle United ko 7.35, DaVinci's

Yacht Club
Meeting, 1pm, Physics LT 3
Canoe Club
Meeting - 7pm Beit Quad or 7.15 at the Swimming Pool
dBridge's
Play or learn Bridge, 6pm, dB's
Wine Tasting Society
6pm - check walkway notice-board for details

Moviewatch 6pm C4
Holiday 7pm BBC1
featuring Zoe Ball in Corfu
Eastenders 7.30pm BBC1
Ricky and Bianca wrestle with a dilemma
Top Gear Rally Report 8pm BBC2
Final day of RAC Rally
Soldier, Soldier 9pm ITV

Ren and Stimpy 6pm BBC2
Tomorrow's World 7.25pm BBC1
Absolutely Fabulous 9.30pm BBC1
Trainspotting 10pm C4
First network TV showing of this cult film blockbuster
The X Files 10pm BBC1

Space
Brixton Academy,
POSTPONED (New dates to be announced, tickets will still be valid.)
Black Grape
Kilburn National Ballroom, £tbc.

a
wed 26

ICU Cinema
A Life Less Ordinary, 6pm Face, 8.30pm - both Union Concert Hall, both £2
ICSF (Science Fiction Soc)
Creative writing workshop, 1pm, ICSF Library

IC Chaplaincy
Lunch, 12 noon, 10 Prince's Gardens. All Welcome
Skate Soc
Skating, street hockey and ramp trip - meet 12.05pm, Southside lounge
Chess Club
Meeting, 7-10.30pm, Brown Committee Room (Union Level 3)

Ren and Stimpy 6pm BBC2
Tomorrow's World 7.25pm BBC1
Absolutely Fabulous 9.30pm BBC1
Trainspotting 10pm C4
First network TV showing of this cult film blockbuster
The X Files 10pm BBC1

Top Gear 8.30pm BBC2
Third Rock From The Sun 9pm BBC2
Men Behaving Badly 9.30pm BBC1
They Think It's All Over 10pm BBC1
Clive Anderson All Talk 10.30pm BBC1

ICSF (Science Fiction Soc)
Barnight, 7pm, Union Bar
IC Choir
Rehearsal, 6.15-8pm, MechEng 342 - New members welcome
Fellwanderers
Meeting, 1pm, Southside Upper Lounge

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Cocktail Night
DaVinci's from 5pm
Standing Room Only
Manchester United v Kosice Ko 7.35, DaVinci's

ICSF (Science Fiction Soc)
A Life Less Ordinary, 6pm and 8.30pm, both Union Concert Hall, both £2

Top Gear 8.30pm BBC2
Third Rock From The Sun 9pm BBC2
Men Behaving Badly 9.30pm BBC1
They Think It's All Over 10pm BBC1
Clive Anderson All Talk 10.30pm BBC1

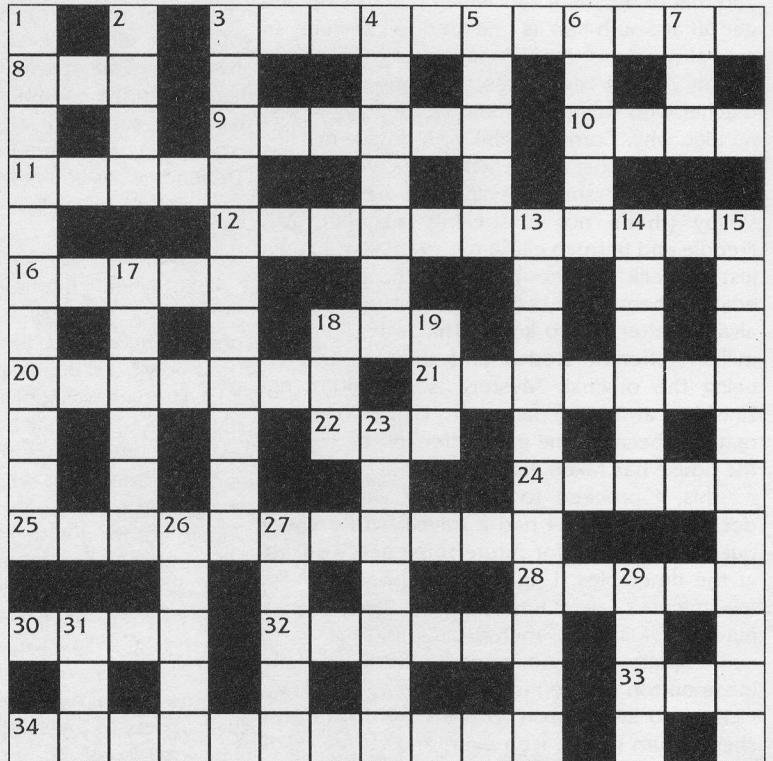
Space
Brixton Academy,
POSTPONED (New dates to be announced, tickets will still be valid.)
Black Grape
Kilburn National Ballroom, £tbc.



PUZZLES

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Ed Sexton



ACROSS

- 3 Latin eight sets cud, perhaps, giving a variation (11)
- 8 Thanks be! A flap! (3)
- 9 Draw without numbers (3,3)
- 10 Writer gets top 'E' (4)
- 11 The Financial Times is a crime! (5)
- 12 Wet in the woods (11)
- 16 Agreed, a Greek letter is an African mammal (5)
- 18 Our elite troop is a fool! (3)
- 20 Legal area of England is a complete course (7)
- 21 A cake with no hair makes a marked horse (7)
- 22 Time's divisions are confused (3)
- 24 Argon upset about innards (5)
- 25 Gain access and retain; he will cheer you up! (11)
- 28 The French pap makes this fruit (5)
- 30 In his pit is saliva (4)
- 32 About and in twice, stops the horse (4,2)
- 33 Go! A gazelle! (3)
- 34 Thy lame page, messy, must follow the rules (4,3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Listen to the body, or perhaps to these cops (11)
- 2 Double zero, and be a wind instrument (4)
- 3 Small opening with RUC liar, perhaps, are swollen (11)
- 4 Sing with the pub; it's a good time in (7)
- 5 Love left as intense fire (5)
- 6 Pet back with MDMA's in a tent (5)
- 7 Ode, perhaps, to a female (3)
- 13 Fruity South African, flowing to the Atlantic (5,6)
- 14 PS: Rang - you jumped out (6)
- 15 Native American's summer solstice? (3,5,3)
- 17 After Christ, break is aimless (6)
- 18 Eat, perhaps, in the past (3)
- 19 Spaniard initially a spring (3)
- 23 Ring in a mess, pouring down (7)
- 26 French in attempt to make access point (5)
- 27 Catholic in hot source of light (5)
- 29 Jumping on the spot? Sounds like a no go! (4)
- 31 Mate left pale (3)

Father Ted videos to be won

First correct entry drawn out of the box on Tuesday morning wins episodes four to six of this fine series. Drop entries into Felix or send them in internal mail. Last week's winner was Phil Thompson of Chem Eng II. Congratulations, episodes one to three await your collection.

Solution to 1089: **Across:** 1-crook 3-balance 10-enough 12-convection 17-jay 18-zebu 19-roan 20-ode 21-cotton 22-thug 24-OIR 25-treen 26-music 27-carps 29-rte 30-nonce 31-vie 34-keats 37-err 38-suspension 41-res 42-chortle 43-round 44-eon 25oak 46-scram 47-meter. **Down:** 2-racecourses 3-beta 4-leo 5-announcement 6-no 7-cujo 8-egad 9-zero 11-hyenas 13-oboist 14-nutrients 15-continuance 16-international 23-he 28-reverence 32-ire 33-erst 39-shoo 40-or 43-ram

film

Welcome to Sarajevo
UCI Whiteleys
[£6.60, £4.00 <5pm M-F, £4.00 <3pm Sa&Su]
1.40, 4.10, 6.50, 9.20
Odeon Kensington
2.15, 4.40, 7.05, 9.30
(Late Fri, Sat 11.55)

Excess Baggage
Virgin Trocadero
[£5.00 sdt]
12.10, 2.20, 4.35, 6.55, 9.15
(Late Fri, Sat 11.40)

Gl Jane
Odeon Kensington
[£6.30, £3.70 <5pm M-F, £5.00 <5pm S&S]
1.05, 3.55, 6.45, 9.35
(Late Fri, Sat 11.30)
Odeon Marble Arch
[£6.50, £4 <3pm S&S, £4 <5pm M-F]
2.55, 9.00 (Late Fri, Sat 11.55)

Deadline for entries to the extremely easy question on page 20. There are tickets and t-shirts from for the excellent *Welcome to Sarajevo* to be won and you can enter by e-mailing the answer to felix@ic.ac.uk

Seven Years in Tibet
Empire
[£7.50, £4.00 M-F < 5pm]
12.00, 3.00, 6.00
(Late Fri Sat 11.50)
UCI Whiteleys
12.00, 2.45, 5.45, 8.50
Odeon Kensington
2.50, 5.55, 9.00

Prince Charles Cinema
(All £2 or under)

Fri 21
Conspiracy Theory 1.30
Mean Streets 9.00
Sat 22
The Lost World 3.45
Austin Powers 9.15

Sun 23
Hard Eight 1.30
Pusher 9.00
Mon 24
Lost Highway 6.15
Tues 25
subUrbia 9.00
Wed 26
Swingers 1.30

arts

Victorian Fairy Painting
Self-explanatory? Perhaps. Play "Who's your favourite goblin?" or just count butterfly wings to your heart's content. Royal Academy, Piccadilly, daily until Feb 8. £4.50 students.

The Quick and the Dead
History of artists and anatomy. Last chance to see (closes Monday 24th). Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore. Admission free.

Objects of desire
A look at still-life throughout the 20th century. Hayward Gallery, South Bank. Tube: Waterloo. Free.

Sensation
Possibly the most hyped exhibit of the year. Worth going. Royal Academy, Piccadilly Daily, 10am-6pm, students £4.80

Turner Prize Entries
See them before the annual controversial decision is taken. Tate Gallery, Millbank. Tube: Picnic. £1.50

BG Wildlife Photographer of the Year
Prize-winning photos, plus the ones that didn't quite make it. Hundreds of stunning portraits of nature. Natural History Museum, students £3.20. 10am-5.50pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5.50pm Sundays

Art Reviewers Needed!

If you're interested in exhibitions, photography, theatre, shows or any other arty-type stuff, drop in at the Felix office, Mondays at 1pm.

clubbing

Electronic Warfare@The End
Breakbeat 11pm-7am
£10/13.
Info 0171 419 9199

O.C@Subterania
Hip-Hop 8pm-12am £8
Info 0181 960 4590

Plastic Fantastic@Mars Club
W1
House&Garage 10pm-3am
£6 NUS £5 All Drinks £1
Info 0171 439 4655

Subterania W10
Downbeat Hip-Hop
8pm-2am £8
Info 0181 960 4590

Swerve@Velvet Rooms
(velvet underground) WC2
Cutting edge D&B, resident Fabio 10pm-2.30am
£6 NUS £4
Info 0171 734 4687

On The Edge@The ECI Club
Speed Garage 10pm-6am
£2 b4 11 (With Student I.D)
£5 after
Info 0181 761 5080



After a weekend of seeing the sights of London with a friend from up north, I started to make my back home with my own travelcard and that of my mate's as well. I had to stop and get off at South Ken as I needed to check my e-mail at my department for a message, concerning my A-level certificates, from my ex-History teacher who was always known as Colin. I have no idea why. Come to think of it, I have no idea the origin of most of the nicknames we gave our teachers; the stories behind the names Billy, Willoy (that's not a spelling mistake), Mr. Freddie and Batman elude me even now. I could just go back to school and ask the nickname-holders themselves but that'd be too easy. It's always better not to know. That way, there's a million different stories and they all end up being the original. Mystery is a good thing. Finishing at the department, I buy a box of matches because the gas lighter for the oven at the house has taken early retirement. Following this, I proceed to make my way back. I decided that since I had a travelcard I'd check out the bus route for future reference. Looking at the timetables, I figured that I had about a few minutes spare time. I could have done a number of things: memorise the time-table, contemplate the meaning of life, fiddle with the loose button on the inside of my coat. Instead, I chose to step up on to the seats of the bus shelter, turn round, lean over, and let my leading leg drop close to the floor before jumping off. I'm not long into this Chaplin-esque sequence when I hear a woman's voice, "Have you lost your mind?" I begin to feel a bit silly, but only a little bit. "Pardon?" She smiles, "Have you got the time?" I put my watch into a position where we can both see it and tell her that it's five to seven, even though the watch blatantly reads seven 'o clock. My new-found lady friend begs to differ and find myself having to explain my time-keeping habits. You see, I set my watch five minutes ahead so that I'm not late for anything. During the holidays, my mum thought it might be a good idea to set the clock to its "correct" time. I was late for work and when I got home I started arguing with my mum making her promise not to interfere with my alarm-clock again. She was unimpressed with my system. She couldn't understand why I did-

n't just set my alarm five minutes earlier. (Maybe you don't either). I say it's psychological. That's always a good answer to questions of this sort. Blame it on the condition of the human mind rather than the condition of yours personally. Times established, she enquires when the next bus is. "Depends what you're on?" I reply.

"The 74." Excellent. She's going to be on the same bus as me.

"So am I." Silence ensues.

"So, when's the next bus?"

"Oh, yeah. Well it should be here, er, well, somewhere around the time of, well, sometime about now." I'd been caught staring. She knew that all I was doing was looking at her; public school hair cut, petite nose, small but wide eyes with incredibly dark pupils and a face that was smooth and make-up free. She was dressed smartly, or at least smarter than me. She could have been a business woman but for the wooly bag with what looked like a few folders pointing out of it. Items like these just scream "Student!". I was about to confirm or deny my prediction when the 74 comes rolling along. "This is us," I say, wondering whether my words could be another unconfirmed prediction. I step on first and produce my travelcard which enables me quick access to the seating area. Downstairs looked pretty full, so I go up. I sit down and wonder whether she'll come upstairs and sit next to me. Maybe she wants to continue the conversation we were having. Hang on! What conversation? What the hell am I thinking? She asked for the time and when the next bus was. It's not like we're on each others Christmas lists or anything. She only wanted to know the bloody time. So, there I sit, arguing with myself. A few minutes elapse and the bus hasn't started moving. I begin to speculate on the situation downstairs; she's ran out of money and is trying to sweet-talk the jobsworth behind the wheel. Unfortunately, he's having none of it. I'm not far from wrong. The bus leaves and I see her still standing at the bus-stop. I walk downstairs and press the next-stop bell. I get off the bus and walk back to the bus-stop which I had just left. We meet up half-way and I ask her what happened. At this point, she loses it. Expletives roll off the tongue like there's no tomorrow. The story is that she asked the guy for a 60p fare and paid for it. A short discussion with the driver about where she was going led to the realisation that she was on the right number bus but in the

wrong direction. However, the driver wouldn't re-imburse her and this led to a nasty altercation as she didn't have enough money left now. (Definitely a student, then). It all culminated in him having to get out of his booth to get her off the bus. I wish I'd have sat downstairs, now. After she calms down I walk her to the other side of the road and tell her that I've got a spare travelcard. This information lights up her face and she says thank-you whilst putting her hand on my shoulder. I move away slightly. "Are you a student?" I ask.

"Yeah."

"Where do you go?"

"Aldgate."

"Oh, right. I thought you might go to Imperial. It's just around the corner."

"Is that where you go?"

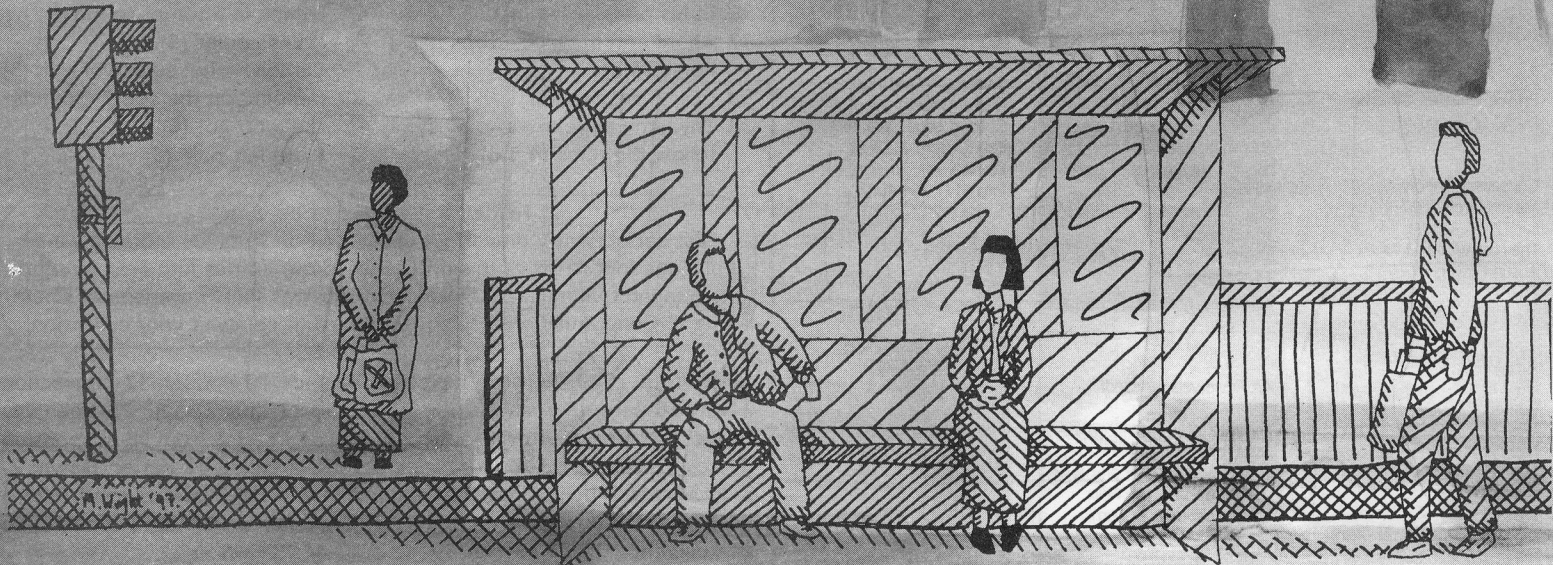
"Yeah."

"What do you do?" No! How could I have let her get to asking what course I'm doing? I think about lying and saying underwater exploration or acting. The truth is just too naff. I'm going to be someone different for a change. I'm going to tell her I'm pioneering a new technology for Microsoft and in my spare time I'm a singer/songwriter with a deal from EMI looming. I'm fed up of people basing their perceptions of you on the course that you do. I'm not going to let my personality be dictated by one word! "Statistics." She groans. So do I. Silence descends again. She pulls out a cigarette and asks if I smoke. "I gave up."

"Damn! I need a light." I produce the matches bought earlier and think that there's far too much coincidence in this evening for something not to happen. She smokes and I watch. We don't really talk and I don't know why I'm still standing at the bus-stop as it's on the opposite side of where I want to be. Her bus arrives and she stubs the cigarette out. She smiles at me and says, "Thanks a lot. See you again sometime." She gets on, but before she goes she kisses me on the cheek. And that's it. No name. No address. No phone number. No nothing. Except a peck and a smile. I guess that when people ask you for the time, sometimes all they want is the time.

I start fiddling with the button on the inside of my coat. It falls off. I decide to take the tube home.

Dennis





Results

Hockey

IC Ladies' 2 vs 4 St Mary's

Rugby

IC I 18 vs 18 UCH 1st

IC II 5 vs 19 UCH 2nd

IC III 0 vs 32 SOAS

Football

IC I 1 vs 2 UMDS I

IC II 2 vs 3 UCL II

IC III 0 vs 0 UCL II

IC III 1 vs 1 UCL III

IC IV 1 vs 2 UCL IV

IC V 3 vs 2 RSM II

Hockey

IC II 0 vs 0 UMDS II

Volleyball

IC mens' 3 vs 1 UCL

IC mens' 3 vs 1 Met police

IC mixed 2 vs 1 QMW

IC ladies' 2 vs 0 LSE

IC ladies' 0 vs 2 UCL

Bridge players have a rubber ball

On Sunday the first round London qualifiers of the National Under 25 Pairs bridge tournament took place at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, Earls Court.

Imperial College was well represented with 6 pairs of current students and a pair of old boys.

There were 17 pairs in all each playing 36 boards of which the top third qualified for the next round of the competition. Of our pairs only one qualified, Dom 'Bat' Goodwin and Jon 'Heff' Todd, but all the pairs acquitted themselves well and all enjoyed the afternoon. The positions and scores for our pairs were:

2. Dom 'Bat' Goodwin + Jon 'Heff' Todd (61.3%)

9. Giles 'Squirrel' Cope + Daniel 'Terapin' Hook (52.3%)

10. Mark 'Zebra' Schaffer + Ben 'Nebbie' Van Lierop (49.3%)

13. Michael 'Badger' Dias + Gavin Knott (41.7%)

15. John 'Giraffe' Douglas + Tom 'Peacock' Oag (36.2%)

16. Sanjeev 'Gerbil' Pullenayegum + Ivan Leung (35.4%)

17. C.C. Lin + Gary Quek (32.7%)

Imperial College Bridge Club meets every Tuesday in dBs at 6:00pm and is open to all players, beginners, intermediate and experts. We look forward to seeing you there.

National honours for bowler

Congratulations to Rich Norris on his third consecutive selection for the BUSA Tenpin Bowling Team. The team selection took place at the BUSA National Championships at Nottingham on Sunday 16th November, which was attended by 15 members of the ICU Tenpin Bowling Club.

Performances particularly worthy of note came from Ade Martins and Chi Yung Ng, who both bowled their highest series ever. Chi also bowled his first ever 200+ game. And then he did it again! All teams bowled impressively, with a very high standard of bowling from all over the country, and although we did not win, everyone had lots of fun.

Canoeists sight Wales

A proposed trip to visit the Tyne Tour, where many other university clubs go, met with almost zero enthusiasm. However, it was noted that the forecast was for rain in North Wales, so we could have a cheap trip away to the hut. Hooray!

The 6 hour drive up there was unusual in that nothing appeared to go wrong. No boats lost, no trailer detachment, only the sounds of eating from the back seats (Adam and Sonia appeared to be rather hungry all the way there). Water appeared scarce on arrival, but levels rose overnight, not surprising given the rain.

After breakfast the Conwy was picked as the river of choice for the day, a fine paddle marred only by Dean playing 'pop goes the shoulder'. Ross was then delegated to fetch his car for the drive to Llandudno A+E, while the rest of us left Ginger Baldy (mk II) to look after the rest of the club. The elite team of silly boat paddlers then headed on down for the harder lower stretch. A fine chili and a good performance in the pub followed.

Sunday started a bit earlier, but with the bonus of a flat tyre on the trailer. We dumped it at the put in, balanced on rocks while Ross again

skipped a morning's paddling. Meanwhile everyone else was herded down the easy upper Glaslyn, uneventfully with the exception of Nicky trying to acquaint herself with the local trees again, and Sonia collapsing due to a lack of meat in her diet.

Finally we arrived at the AberGlaslyn Gorge (scene of many an epic), with the water fairly high. Our new Nottingham boys went off with the German nutters on the first run, Ross, Tim, Garth (in Adam's solid grade V boat) and Mark followed, and caught them when Ginger Baldy (mk II) and Ali 'the fish' swam, affording the rest of us much amusement. A second run was swiftly arranged, with Rich City Boy taking Phil's recommended line, and discovered a new form of fear in the back of his wetsuit when he vertically pinned it.

All in all, one of the best trips we've ever done, with records for attendance, female attendance, and beers consumed.

Next trip: 11th-13th December, email slappers@ic.ac.uk for more details, or check www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/rcc/canoe.

Volleyball invincible(ish)

ICVC v METS

Despite some of our main players failing to attend the game, IC boys showed the Metropolitan police that they rule when it comes to action on the court. A combination of Ming on setting, Bass's left hand and Rados' sonic spike destroyed their defence and shook their confidence.

A breathtaking match ended up with 3-1 win and three valuable points in the League table.

ICVC v UCL

The IC boys started the game with an unbeaten record so far in their BUSA and league games. The sole aim was to keep it that way. With coach Panos out of action and giving orders from the sidelines, the boys won the first two sets.

However, thanks to an injury to Spyros the IC side then lost the third set. Nevertheless, IC still secured an easy victory over their Central London rivals - Final result a 3-1 win for ICVC.

ICVC v LSE

ICVC v QMW

ICVC v UCL

Bang! Imperial Volleyball (Mixed and Girls teams) is here making their presence felt with an exhilarating (yet unsurprising) three match winning streak. The amazing series of conquests began with the IC girls BUSA win against LSE at home, a thrashing 2-0.

Next, the IC mixed team's nail-biting match against Queens Mary, a thrilling win 2-1 led by fresh-faced captain Philippe Lebleu. Disappointingly, after an unintentional tour of Euston in search of UCL's sports centre, the IC girls eventually succumbed to a 0-2 defeat.

However, all is not lost, and the fight has just begun!!



Life's a pitch for footballers

ICAFC I v UMDS I

UMDS, widely regarded as favourites for relegation from ULU Premier League, totally outfought Imperial, widely regarded as favourites to win the League, in the 1st half. Even the IC Fourths would have been disappointed with such a performance. Injuries to key players meant that Chris Tannizeris made his first team debut while Jules Porreca made a comeback at right-back. The latter struggled and was at fault for UMDS' opener 15 minutes into the first half. Things did not improve after that and Steve Fleming dropped back into defence as the Firsts switched to their customary 3-5-2 formation in a bid to get back into the game. UMDS got another after a terrible mix-up between Donal Keane (yet to recapture his glorious form of last season) and German Shanidze. A half-time talk by captain Psycho worked miracles as Imperial pulled one back straight after the restart after a UMDS defender headed a Richard Pratt cross into his own goal. What followed was massive IC pressure; Amo hit the post and had an amazing bicycle kick which just went over the bar, while top scorer Alex Marcos managed not top score on more than one occasion. In the end UMDS managed to hold on to their lead. How could

this happen? As with World War II we must make sure that this never happens again. That's rubbish. We are at war with every College in London and, of course, Germany. One battle may have been lost, but have no doubt, we will win the war.

ICAFC I 1 - 2 UMDS I

ICAFC III v LSE II

The thirds continued a great BUSA run by annihilating an LSE side from the division above us. It was a solid first half performance and IC went ahead. Andy made a dubious tackle on the LSE keeper to leave a simple tap in for Lee. The second goal saw Lee scorching down the left touchline, cutting inside and shooting it past the bewildered keeper. IC continued with a solid performance, especially in defence with Jamie, Andy Binstead and Miles looking firm!

The second half saw two further goals from IC. Andy Bellis curled one in from the left-hand side of the penalty box and Andy Murphy finished off a great break from Simon to leave IC with a comfortable lead. Despite a late penalty to spoil Ricky's clean sheet, it was another spell binding performance from the thirds. Who can stop us now? Who are Man Utd anyway?

ICAFC III 4 - 1 LSE III

ICAFC II v LSE II

Since the injury to Captain Dan Waight sidelined him for most of the remainder of the season, this match was "for Dan", in the words of stand-in captain Loz. We did the Dan warm-up and then we went out and did him proud.

The match was an even contest in midfield and up front. Only in defence could the teams be separated. Luckily this was due to the fact that LSE were pants and Loz, Fresher Phil and Phil The Pill were rock solid for IC. The first goal was scored by Si after a scrambled clearance from LSE. The next came from a long ball over the defence beautifully put away by an LSE donkey, rattled by the presence of The Boy Martin and Pistol Pete. The next was another long ball but this time Pete saved the defence the trouble of scoring, walking around the keeper and slotting it home.

Three-nil up at half-time and the game was won so we went to sleep. Chris "Scouse" Barlow did us proud in goal but couldn't keep a clean sheet. Still, we had won the match for Dan and that was what mattered. The seconds are indebted to Dan for whipping us into shape with strict discipline and great leadership. Get well soon.

ICAFC II 3 - 1 LSE II

ICAFC V v RSM II

Last Saturday brought together two teams who's derby history rivals that of Manchester and Liverpool. There is never more than one goal between these teams and so it proved in this second round cup tie. IC V took the lead after twenty minutes when Pokki, our new Thai signing, played an expert pass behind the defence for Andy to finish with a low shot in the bottom corner. The rest of the half was very scrappy with lots of challenges thrown in from all angles until RSM II equalised through their captain's chip. The second half was one way traffic with IC V retaining the ball throughout but there seemed to be no way past RSM's goalkeeper. The frustration grew deeper until Nick ran forty yards with the ball and slipped it through for Andy to score his second. The third came soon after when supersub Darren was left with a simple goal following some good passing. Minutes later RSM II prolonged the tension after some rubbish defending attributable to an anonymous player. The draw for the next round is at home to Holloway at the start of next term. Let us hope for yet more glory for IC and the defecation of RSM into the proverbial toilet bowl.

RSM II 2 - 3 ICAFC V

Try, try and try again for rugby team

ICURFC I v BLACKHEATH

One very hazy Saturday 18 sex gods and 1 sex goddess turned up to partake of the gentlemen's sport of Rugby Union Football against the oldest club in the land. These 19 deities reached a nirvana of gorgeousness. Were it not that the referee was clearly not a decent English gentleman we would surely have triumphed over the dastardly enemy. However the referee had succumbed to the sin of greed and his inadequacies with respect to the beautiful game were atrocious. Mr.C. "Pile-Driver" Cunnel was quick to liberate our first reward for our dextrous endeavours. However, as the gentlemen fell victim to the sin of complacency, the opposition surged back to a position from which they could not

be usurped. With the gentlemen taking particular offense to the actions of the opposition, conflagrations of the kind involving fisticuffs made a sad appearance in the final quarter of the match.

In retrospect, a fine performance from all the gentlemen concerned, particularly Mr Cunnel, along with excellent captaining from Mr R.Gare contributed to a result of which the whole college can be justifiably proud.

Veni vedi vici. ICAFC XV 7 - 10 Blackheath XV

ICURFC II/III v School of Law

A team of 23 took on and beat the lanky lawyers from UCL. Despite their inside backs being faster than Logic(al), the lawyers could not compete with our sheer weight of numbers. Crushed by the obesity of

Gutmund and kicked around by Peachy and Nippy the lawyers defence in the second half was leaky with many objections (your honour!) and penalties. However, IC surged into the lead with kicks from full back Chris Dickinson and a

try from Dave best. If these boys were on a 'no win, no fee' contract they'd be sober but IC go on to the next match, knowing that the jury is still out on their greatness. ICAFC II/III 10 - 5 School of Law.



IC rugby players in the thick of the action. Photo: Froggy