



THE F E E X

The
Students'
Newspaper
at Imperial
College

Issue
1100

28
November
1997

NEW COLUMN

Is your future in the stars?

MUSIC INTERVIEW

Gemini moves house

FEATURE

What's going on in your head?

Praed Street Unsafe

BY JITEN PATEL

It has emerged that Praed Street, the road that passes between St Mary's Medical School and Wilson House hall of residence, has recently been highlighted as a crime hotspot.

A rape that was reported in last week's Felix occurred during the summer on 2 July when a young Asian student, with no connection to the medical school, was blindfolded and held at knife point by one man whilst another went to pick up a car. The girl was then driven to a house and repeatedly attacked during the night, before being dumped near Wembley Conference Centre the following morning.

The incident was first brought to the attention of the students when a relative of the St Mary's Accommodation Officer, Natasha Newton, saw the incident reported on BBC's 'Crimewatch' on Tuesday 11 November. The medical school

was not informed of the incident apparently because police thought that it was not necessary that people should be notified of the problem.

Oliver Warren, St Mary's Welfare Representative, told Felix that he "personally went into every lecture and warned the students of the need to be alert." He also said that over 300 rape alarms had been handed out to male and female students who wanted them, and that notices had been posted around the school.

Although this was an isolated incident, the safety of the area around Praed Street has been deteriorating for some time. Ms Newton spoke of an occasion when she "had five offers for a good night, mistaking me for a working girl" in the space of 5-6 minutes. Another reported incident involved a female student being followed back to St Mary's from Safeways supermarket.

The current security measures

around Wilson House are "inadequate" according to Mr Warren, who said that the security lodge is closed after 11pm and that there is no on-site security. He added that cameras have been installed around the area but that the relay network has not yet been set up, so that they only record onto videotape.

According to Keith Reynolds, Imperial College's Head of Security, there are plans to "have the patrol at St Mary's extended to Wilson House," but that he had to ensure that he doesn't "stretch resources too far". Other plans under consideration are to introduce 'group walking' at set times, or to run a minibus service similar to that at the South Kensington campus.

Ms Newton added that "the main problem is that students think of Praed Street as an extension to the campus", and cautioned students "to be aware of the people around them."

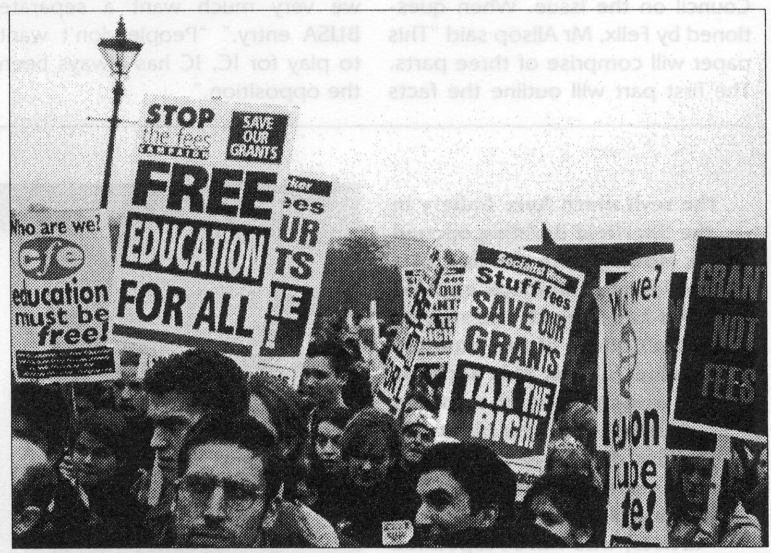
Tuition Fees: Placards in the Park

BY IVAN CHAN

Another major demonstration was held in Hyde Park on Wednesday 26 November to protest against the imposition of tuition fees. Although it was thought only 2,000 students would attend, an estimated 10,000 turnout reflected the anger of students towards one of the biggest changes to the British university education system.

This is the second such event to take place in London during the last month. The demonstration began at noon outside the University of London Union in Malet Street. The student protesters then marched into Hyde Park near Speakers' Corner at Marble Arch.

The demonstration was organised by the Campaign for Free Education (CFE). According to one of their press officers attending the event, the demonstration marked the beginning of a series of



For the second time this month Hyde Park hosted thousands of students demonstrating against paying tuition fees. Photo: Ivan Chan

protests across the country. The official insisted that the demonstration was 'fantastic' and added that it was "one of the biggest for the past five or six years." He went on to say that around 60% of

Labour MPs are in favour of free education. CFE marshalls along with police officers at the scene, were happy with the behaviour of the students, suggesting that the rally had been 'peaceful'.



Disappearing Departments

BY MATTHEW BENNETT

The Geology and Earth Resources Engineering departments are living on borrowed time following the announcement that they will cease to exist on 31 December 1997. To ease the pain of parting, £1m is being offered for the refurbishment of the crumbling Royal School of Mines building.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, announced the creation of a new 'school' within the Royal School of Mines (RSM) which will merge the Imperial College Centre for Environmental Technology (ICCET) together with the loss making Geology and ERE

departments. ICCET may not disappear completely, with the possibility that they may continue to exist as a Centre within the new school being created.

In a lengthy statement Sir Oxburgh explained how these mergers would enable cross disciplinary groups to be set up more easily in order to "exploit the growing scientific and practical opportunities for work on the environment in its broadest sense". He commented that the boundaries between disciplines are not set in stone but merely points that "at some particular time may have appeared as an activity minima between them."

The Rector expressed his belief that the new school would "provide both a unique opportunity to tackle some of the major problems confronting society in the next century." The new venture is to be named after TH Huxley and partly funded by a £1 million bequest from Mungo Park, an RSM student between 1897-1900.

The last structural change in the RSM, the 1994 modification of ERE's title, provoked opposition from academic staff who felt that they had not been properly consulted. Professor Rees Rawlings, current Dean of RSM, has trumpeted the high morale of his staff emphasising that "the staff of the

two departments concerned are looking forward to the future after a period of some uncertainty."

In an attempt to calm student apprehension over the loss of departmental identity Prof Rawlings insisted that "the merger will not affect the students on undergraduate or masters courses, as these courses will continue in their present form." He also added that a full range of courses would continue to be offered.

The new school is due to be established on 1 January 1998, with the fast rising Professor John Beddington as director.

BUSA Single Entry

BY MARIA IOANNOU

Imperial College Union is to make a decision at next week's Council Meeting as to whether Imperial College School of Medicine Union (ICSMU) should continue to enter their own teams, separate to IC, to compete in the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) Championships.

ICU President, Eric Allsop, has been mandated by the Union Executive to write a paper for ICU Council on the issue. When questioned by Felix, Mr Allsop said "This paper will comprise of three parts. The first part will outline the facts

and background. The second part will contain my opinions on the matter and the paper will finish with a motion for a single-entry." This proposal will not have the support of ICMSU. The Sports and Clubs Representative of St Mary's, Katy Sheehan, said "If ICU Council vote for single-entry, I think it is unreasonable. The medics have proved themselves to be strong enough to put an entry in that warrants an entry." She added "The medical schools have a long-standing tradition and reputation, and we very much want a separate BUSA entry." "People don't want to play for IC, IC has always been the opposition."

Friday Night Fracas

BY TONY OFORI

On Friday 14 November an ex-Royal School of Mines student was punched in the face resulting in a painful injury. A brief scuffle also occurred involving the Union stewards as he was thrown out of the Union Building.

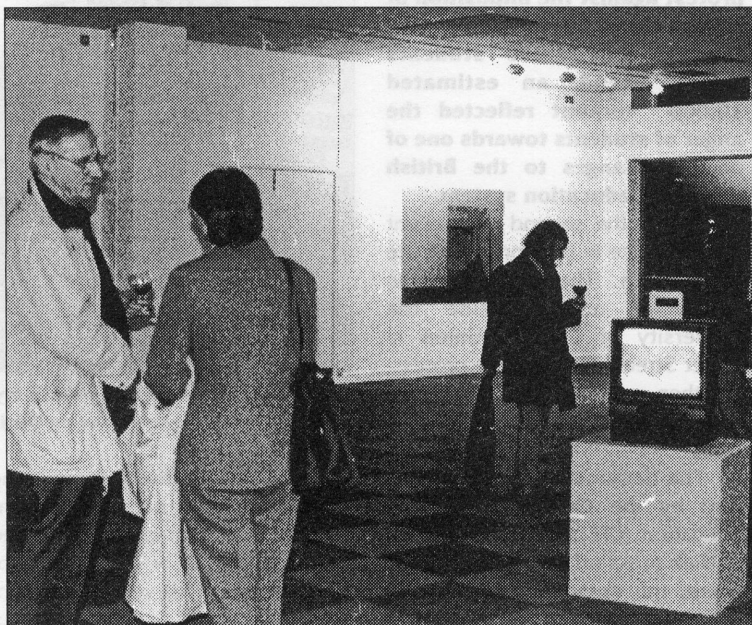
Earlier that night the ex-student, who cannot be named, had been at the 113th annual RSMA dinner attended by the Dean of RSM where he had consumed alcohol. According to eyewitness accounts he had come with a friend, also an ex-miner. After the dinner he and his friend went to the Union Bar where they drank

some more, and according to those present, started to become 'a bit of a nuisance'. Felix was also told that whilst in the Union bar the first ex-student chatted with a female student who was with her boyfriend. The boyfriend did not take too kindly to the friendly mannerisms of this person: a witness said that her interlocutor was "a little too friendly with his hands".

It is believed an exchange of words followed, during which the boyfriend grabbed the other man and got him into a headlock before punching him in the face. An eyewitness said the punch resulted in the skin on the bridge of the nose splitting leaving the bone exposed, and added that there was a lot of blood. After delivering the blow the boyfriend, realising that his actions may have incited RSM students present in the bar, left the premises.

All the stewards, except those at the gate, were called to the scene. It was the stewards' belief that the ex-student was the aggressor, so under Union policy he had to leave. He and his friend were led outside and marched out of Beit Quad. At the gate he began to get aggressive, angered at what he thought was unfair treatment. Stewards reported that both he and his friend threw several punches at them. After security was called the situation was diffused without any further intervention. Mark Horne, ICU's events manager, told Felix that the incident is currently undergoing investigation by the licensees of the Union bar.

The revitalised Ante Gallery in the Sherfield Building opened this Monday with the first of a series of exhibitions entitled "Art Lab Project" curated by Chelsea College of Art graduate Jeanine Tulkins. This series is an attempt from the artist's part to push new ideas. Ms Tulkins described this as "an exciting, challenging and unusual opportunity for the artists, who have responded enthusiastically to this invitation." She added that "people should not come here with an expectation to fully understand, but to come with an open mind." The gallery is still undergoing refurbishment, but the exhibition is currently on display. Photo: Aliki Georgakopoulou



News In Brief

WORLD AIDS DAY HITS COLLEGE

World AIDS day takes place on Monday 1st December and is being marked by stalls set up by the Welfare committee, and a charity party on Thursday 4 December, organised by Imperial Queers, IC's lesbian, gay and bisexual society.

The stalls will have information and red ribbons for sale (in aid of Mildmay Hospital, London). There will also be available Terrence Higgins Trust Christmas cards in the Union building, Sheffield, and all the medical schools from 11am-3pm on Monday.

The IQ disco will take place in dB's from 7.30 onwards, with a 70's theme. Kevin Butcher and Steve Cook from IQ both stressed that the event is open to all: "gay, straight, whatever", especially as they point out that HIV and AIDS are not exclusively gay problems: "it effects us all". The door charge of £2 will go towards the Terrence Higgins Trust. The event has also been advertised through the other London Gay and Lesbian Societies. The ICU minibus service will also be running from the event.

St Mary's have also organised a talk from an AIDS victim in Gladys, the Union Bar, at 1pm on 1 December.

Matthew Bennett

ing. The centre is available to students and staff requests alike and have already set up bulk orders with the Department Of Materials. Job requests to the centre can be transferred by disk, hard copy and soon via the college network. It is situated just off the Walkway, opposite the climbing wall.

Andrew Ofori

CHEMISTRY COMMON ROOM CLOSURE

The only undergraduate common room within the Chemistry department has been re-allocated as postgraduate office space. This move by the department has annoyed many students, neither staff or students having been consulted. Their only compensation being take-away only access to the snack-bar in the postgraduate common room.

The Chemistry department is now one of the few departments that is unable to provide specific recreational facilities for their undergraduates. Dr Goodgame, the department's college tutor explained that the Common Room was an "under-utilised" resource, and in a time where space is at a premium within the department, it was not a cause worth fighting for.

In contrast, Ed Walker, Chemistry's RCSU Department Representative, saw the facility as a necessary part of college life and depicted the whole operation as the "withdrawal of the last social space for undergraduates". He objected to the reticent manner in which the undertaking had been carried out, referring to a recent RCSU meeting where it became apparent that staff as well as students were oblivious to the conversion.

The postgraduates are indifferent to the undergraduate invasion of their common room.

Andrew Ofori

BIG IDEAS FROM DOCUCENTRE

After the well publicised receivership of ABA Holdings in April (Felix 1085), there now comes a more comprehensive replacement in the form of the Docucentre. Launched on the 18 of this month, the Docucentre claims to offer a wider range of services than the photocopying service provided by its predecessors.

The Docucentre, from Xerox Business Services, says that it will provide collating, full colour images from disks, laminating and even translation of English documents into other languages as well as the standard photocopy-

It's a Bust!



A bust of Lord P. Blackett was unveiled in the Physics department on Wednesday by Sir Aaron Klug, President of the Royal Society. Also attending the unveiling were Sir Bernard Lovell, radio astronomist, Tam Delyell MP, member of the House Of Commons and also six of Lord Blackett's family. Photo: Jiten Patel

New Supercomputer

BY ANDREW OFORI

IC students now have the exceptional opportunity to use some of the most powerful parallel computing equipment in Europe. The Department of Computing now boasts the Fujitsu AP3000, along with a Fujitsu VX vector processor. It is an upgrade of the AP1000 which was donated to the college by Fujitsu in 1994.

The college received an award of £1.65 million as a result of the proposal it entered in a competition run by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Higher Education Funding Council. This, in conjunction with support from Fujitsu enabled the acquisition of the new equipment, which was unveiled on Commemoration Day.

The 80 node AP3000 has 12.5 gigabytes of memory, 336 gigabytes of internal disk and has a theoretical peak performance of 45.6 gigaflops (compared with the 1-2 gigaflops of the AP1000). The system is placed on a high-speed network and brings with it a sophisticated priority scheduling system, to enable the equipment to efficiently deal with numerous research projects concurrently. Its applications in modelling/ simulation alone can be applied to almost every department within the college.

This machine, which hails from the new generation of supercomputer, enhances IC's position in top-line European research. Unlike the AP1000 which is open to general use, the AP3000 is only available for college use. In order to use it a proposal satisfying the parallel computing centre's (ICPC) criteria must be submitted.

Those brave and able enough to utilise the AP3000 can make initial enquiries to the following e-mail address: icpc@doc.ic.ac.uk

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Letters to Felix...

FELIX

Black Grape, Bink & Electric Cafe
Alicia Silverstone
Making it as an astronaut

IC Students Barred After Football Fracas

IC Students Barred After Football Fracas
The IC Students Union has been barred from the...
The IC Students Union has been barred from the...
The IC Students Union has been barred from the...

I deserve an Oscar, says Mayhew



The actor, who has been nominated for an Oscar, is seen here in a scene from his latest film.

FELIX

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Books Editor: Will Lorenz

Right-hand man: Mark Baker

*Yes, we know this is last week's. That's the way it's gonna be, OK?

SWIPE GRIPE

Dear Felix

What I want to know is that in this marvellous age of technology when everyone gets a swipe card with their photo, college status (eg student) and expiry date clearly marked on it:

1) Why do I have to spend 2 pounds to get a mugshot from a booth so that

2) the union can spend more money on manufacturing a union card, spend time on putting it together and heat sealing it....

just so I can go to daVinci's to have a beer. Why can't college students just use their College ID to gain access to all student facilities? It's not as if I'm paying a membership fee up front to the union that requires a separate card as proof of membership.

And on the cost saving aspect this flash swipe card could further be used as a library card now couldn't it!!!

Sincerely

Guy Bennett, Mech Eng PG

MILAN THE MAN

Milen the Mister Mahadevan

I just want to say to y'all, what a kikkín, in your face, mean mutha Milen the Mister, your new columnist is. He represents. Much respect to Felix for havin' him in the show. He is one cool cat.

The Man: Jivin Gerald

The funky follower,

Of chocolate flava'd choons.

OK, so its good to see a shift from the domination of generic indie in the review section of felix, with the addition of the hip-hop section, and Milen's 'inspired' commentary, (I assumed it was someone taking the piss), now hows about something towards the other end of the spectrum. Considering the number of excellent releases in this genre recently, there have been remarkably few reviews, most of which have been bad. At least give the stuff you do get, to people who may appreciate

it and know something about it. For anyone interested, and I know there are people out there, the unofficial Rocksoc meets in Southside upper lounge Mondays 1pm, and ICRadio has its very own metal/rock show at 9pm every Monday.

Yours longwindedly,
Steve.

Jivin, we'll pass on your comments to Milen, we're sure he'll appreciate them.

Steve, nice to know you read the reviews but what would be the point of only giving people music that they love? If every review got 5 stars then there wouldn't be much use in comparing albums. Also if you feel you could write better reviews we'd love you to come and write for us! Come to the meetings on Fridays at 1.30 pm. Later. Music Eds

ERIC WRITES

If you put your head above the parapet, one must reasonably expect to get shot at: if not shot. To this end I have generally avoided replying to factual inaccuracies in the letters page in Felix over the last year and a half. However, as I was writing in anyway this may be an opportune moment to compensate for the interesting spin that Ms Harries put upon the OpSoc story last week.

Firstly, no single society has a God given right to use the Concert Hall, despite what some may think, and it has always been allocated on a first come, first served basis, with no credence given to tradition or historical precedence. Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School Light Operatic Society, well aware of the fact that would be unable to use the Wolfson Hall this year, asked if they would be able to use the Concert Hall. This request was made about two months in advance of ICU's illustrious and normally well organised operatic society.

All bookings for rooms are made at the Union Reception, and whilst I did indeed sign a letter I twice stated the caveat that my

support was conditional on the availability of the Concert Hall being confirmed.

What I find most peculiar about the rant last week, besides the inaccuracies and the double standards being requested, was that a solution was found to the problem and agreed upon some three weeks ago. This maybe due to OpSoc not achieving the booking they wanted. However in these times of expansion and the resultant pressure on facilities, clubs and societies will have even more organised or embrace the new diversity and, heavens forbid, co-operate. Or possibly Ms Harries has committed too many productions to memory and is now unable to differentiate between fact and fiction.

As for the various bleating regarding the alleged block voting all I can really say is put up or shut up. If people realistically think that the medical students are sheeplike and vote en masse for a prescribed candidate as laid down by their executive they are fooling themselves. Every member of the Union is entitled to express his or her opinion at the ballot box. If the medics feel that the sabbatical elections warrants a high turnout and the remaining South Kensington students a low one; well then that's democracy. It is, after all, a rather false argument to start whinging after the event particularly when it's an event that the majority of students felt no desire to participate in. Perhaps an analysis of why members feel so disenfranchised from the electoral process would be slightly more constructive.

On a lighter note I would like to thank everyone who made my time as President so enjoyable and in particular those that have given support during the last six months for what otherwise may have been a particularly difficult period for the Union. There are many people I could single out but I will limit myself to the collective of the Union staff who do a sterling job and without whose expertise and dedication the Union would be not what it is today.

As always I have no interest in epistolary duelling so if, in the unlikely event, people wish to comment further I would appreciate if they save it for my face: and if it happens to be in the bar then mine's a Guinness.

Regards, Eric Allsop

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.



★STAR LETTER★

Dear Felix,

Recently, I have noticed that the less politically-motivated members of our college have been receiving a very bad press. I am writing this letter to redress the balance and take an opportunity to speak out for the lazy and unopinionated majority.

We at the Society of Apathetic Dossers (a.k.a. SlobSoc) make up one of the largest student organisations on the campus, yet our inactivity always seems to go unrecognised. For many years we have been campaigning vociferously for the right to remain silent, and our existence is founded on the belief that no-one should be afraid to exercise their democratic right to indifference. We have over 1000 members, and the depth of their support and solidarity for our principles is shown eloquently by the fact that only three of them have ever turned up to any of our meetings.

Over recent months we have become increasingly annoyed by the Union, who seem to have been constantly bullying us into forming opinions about who to vote for. The Union hacks are always bothering us with their silly election campaigns, and it has taken four rounds of elections for them to get the message that we just DO NOT GIVE A TOSS! Last week we once again seized the opportunity to sit back and not get noticed, and this time the silly idiots finally got what they deserved. It is about time we let someone competent like the Medics or Sherfield do the job, or better still avoid the hassle of having a Union in the first place by closing it down and getting it converted into something useful like conference facilities. Do they not realise that they're just creating extra work for themselves? I've even heard that there are some people at the Union running clubs and societies who don't even get paid for it! Are they complete morons or something? They're the kind of people who think that the right way to deal with something is to keep pestering important college officials about it. But this just causes lots of unnecessary aggravation on both sides. We believe that the proper way to air your grievances is to spend a couple of hours moaning and whinging about them with your mates in the pub, and then forget it. That way, you can be

seen to care about something without having to take the trouble of actually doing anything about it, and everyone will be a lot less stressed.

As for our stance on tuition fees, we wholeheartedly believe that they're not really that bad. I would even consider pawning my Playstation to get a place at IC, because it has such a great atmosphere and is full of the most wonderful people. To prove this point, we went on a march to Trafalgar Square with placards saying 'WE DON'T REALLY MIND THAT MUCH ABOUT TUITION FEES' and 'TONY BLAIR IS OK'. No-one really noticed us, so I think we can claim to have had much more success than the protestors.

If you wouldn't like to get up off your arse and get involved with anything, don't bother coming to our next meeting, where we will be discussing how best to avoid making a decision about when to have the next meeting. I doubt anyone'll turn up anyway.

Yours sincerely,
Colin Dale, Physics 3,
Chairman, SAD.

CURRY
CONFUSION

Dear Felix,

Ali Campbells "Thought of the day" raises an interesting question. The fundamental fact that has been missed is that curry bills follow the law that states that the sum of the parts is not equal to the whole (or whatever the law says?). This means that if you work out what everyone had and then added it together and included service and damage this will still not be equal to the bill, even in honest restaurants. There are two ways to overcome this problem, split the bill evenly and rely on the fact that after knowing someone for four years what you all really owe each other is irrelevant or just make some excuse and leave early thus landing the bill with someone else.

Yours faithfully
Nick Newton, ICSM

SOUND BUSINESS

Dear Felix,

I write with reference to Mr. Baker's column in issue 1098. It is

only when one sees first-hand the environmental and social damage that unethical investment causes that you see an over-powering case for an ethical investment policy. Companies that pollute the environment, such as the oil industry, need money and to carry out their dirty deeds, some of this money comes from investments by financial organisations. Oppressive regimes that torture and murder their people need the means to do so, they buy their weapons from arms manufacturers which do not care what their weapons will be used for, just as long as the sale makes a healthy profit.

In today's world, money sadly is power, and without it polluters and arms manufacturers cannot continue to do what they do. A financial organisation that invests in companies that pollute and produce arms enables these companies to carry on. If all financial institutions adopted an ethical investment policy, these polluters and arms producers would find it very difficult to

continue without investments, and it would also send a message to them to clean up their act.

If a company is "doing something dicey" it does not automatically mean the truth always gets out about it. There are several dodgy dealings of companies that never make it to the attention of the masses because they keep quiet about it, or silence people who protest about it, or the media is not interested or legally unable to report it. Coupled with a politically apathetic nation means that companies can get away with murder, literally.

I invite Mr. Baker, as an intelligent man, to open his eyes to what is beyond the boundaries of his own life.

B Canning, Chem 2

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Book Buyer Wanted

Student wanted to select and purchase fiction and music for the Haldane Library. If you are interested, please see Andy Heeps in the Union Office, or come to the exec meeting at 6pm, Tuesday 2 December.

Tickets for the 1997 "Shaken Not Stirred" Christmas Carnival are now available from the Union Office or DaVinci's Bar.

The spirit of Bond takes over the Union Building with Moneypenny's Casino in the gym, where you could win an Aston Martin, Pussy Galore's Cocktail Bar with vodka martinis, sophisticated cocktails and an eclectic soundtrack. For space age fun there'll be a gyroscope in the quad & the evening's incidental music comes from Hedonizm in the concert hall and the Pop Tarts in dBs. Live music is on an indie tip with The Beekeepers, and Bratpop.

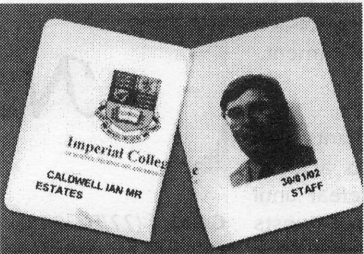
The Union will be fully decked out to match the Bond theme, and the guests are expected to do the same - so Bond or Bond girls please! Tickets are £6 or £5 with an entscard. We're expecting to sell out, so get moving!

Would you like to get involved in the largest and most successful student event at Imperial? The Overseas Students Committee is looking for enthusiastic people 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 particularly encouraged. The position of publicity officer is also vacant.

Editorial

BIZARRE

As editor, I frequently have to deal with random people appearing in the office to submit truly strange offerings. Sometimes this is a problem; it's horrible to watch someone retreating, tail between their legs, because their masterpiece has been rejected. In this case, however, it was a source of considerable amusement. We truly have no idea where this came from:



National Union of Students, but the Socialist Worker. Full marks to SW, but where the hell were the NUS? The whole point of that union is to represent students and relay their opinions to those in charge. Students, to a man, are rejecting the fees but the NUS seems to have a weak, deterministic attitude and is making very little noise. The rules CAN be changed (just look at the series of concessions already made over gap-year students and means-testing), so what are they playing at? The sad truth is that the NUS presidency is little more than a fast track to the Labour government, so clearly they have to practice spouting vacuous crap. Indeed, according to Private Eye, three ex-presidents who are now MPs fail to even mention their position in Dods (the parliamentary bible). All three are however keen to point out their directorships of Endsleigh Insurance, a company that is both unashamedly promoted by the NUS and denounced by Watchdog as rip-off merchants.

So get off your backside, Mr Trainer, reread your job description, ditch that political rhetoric, and do what the students tell you.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

The turnout at this week's tuition fee protest was encouraging (although the Imperial delegation was five-eighths of bugger-all), but I was a little surprised when I heard who had organised it; not the

WORLD AIDS DAY

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE
TERRENCE HIGGINS
TRUST

EVERYONE WELCOME

Thursday 4 December

70s CHARITY PARTY

7.30pm, dB's

£2.00 entry on the
door

Organised by Imperial Queers
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of ICU.

FRESH

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Billy Bragg / Gene

Two tickets for the above gig are available from Rob on 0171 298 7593 priced £13.

E&O

Apologies are due to the Islamic Society for the continued non-appearance of their paintballing article. The appropriate heads have been banged together and it appears in the sports section this week.

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

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Madness all day 9am - 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 music reviewers.

**Sagittarius** (23/11 - 23/12)

Bonding between a couple of friends this week, indicated by the Two of Wands, leads to an astonishing revelation. Listening is the hearth of good communications, so remain attentive and patient.

Capricorn (24/12 - 20/1)

The dominany force of Temperance induces a calm and cautious state of mind. However excessive hesitation only serves to confuse your personal decisions. Remember that Destiny is not a matter of chance but a question of choice.

Aquarius (21/1 - 18/2)

The ruling Queen of Pentacles highlights a haunting and distracting temptation, exceeding the bounds of logical reason. Events of an adventurous nature are predicted for the following week, but beware to avoid disappointment.

Pisces (19/2 - 20/3)

The influence of the Emperor grants you great courage and determination to achieve your heart's desires. Failure is not defeat until you abandon the cause, so pursue your quests faithfully and with time, the tide will turn in your favour.

Aries (21/3 - 20/4)

Considering the dreary weather, a cheerful mood is certainly spiritually uplifting. Indeed, attitudes are contagious so make yours worth catching. The King of Cups warms your heart as you anticipate evenings of relaxation and celebration.

Taurus (21/4 - 21/5)

The overpowering presence of the Seven of Pentacles reveals that you are embarking on a turbulent and disruptive week, with an unexpected setback. Remain vigilant throughout and avoid the squandering of precious time.

Horoscopes with Nana

**Gemini** (22/5 - 21/6)

Despite emotional torment and dissatisfaction, the wise High Priestess is bountiful with regard to professional success. Take pride in deserving recent performances, reflecting boosted self confidence and increasing initiative.

Cancer (22/6 - 22/7)

Guided by the myserious Magician, a suprise concerning the renewed contact with an ancient acquaintance awaits discovery. Revival of fond

memories leads to a fundamental reshuffling of your ambitions and priorities.

Leo (23/7 - 23/8)

The Knight of Swords, symbol of conflict and confrontation, indicates the existence of major misunderstandings within a close relationship. Your life is entering a new phase in conjunction with Sunday night's New Moon, so ideally residual problems should be resolved now.

Virgo (24/8 - 22/9)

Today's worries, like puddles, always evaporate by tomorrow, so be prepared to take risks. Under the Page of Wand's protection, the future appears tranquil giving the opportunity to explore new horizons.

Libra (23/9 - 23/10)

To experience the rainbow, you must suffer through the rain, therefore expect periods of light depression. The universal Nine of Pentacles highlights the often misleading doubts lurking within your imagination.

Scorpio (24/10 - 22/11)

The piercing Ace of Swords indicates shattered ideals, which have deeply affected your aura. You cannot direct the wind, but you can adjust the sails, so search for an original and inspiring vocation.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Shaken not stirred



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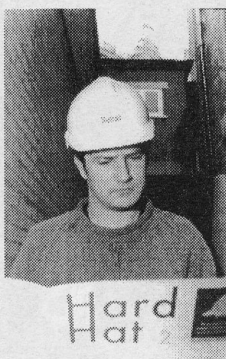
ICUE
Friday December 19th



There are few shared experiences at Imperial. Lectures and tutorials pass by some of our number. As for the opposite sex, need I say more? However, one thing unites us all. The false alarm. Who can have failed to be repeatedly inconvenienced by the fire alarm going off without good reason. Under normal circumstances this would be in the 'dog bites man' class of news worthiness, but of late there seems to have been a distinct increase. Southside had three in one evening recently. Chemistry, my own department, has more fire alarms in a week than could reasonably be expected in a decade. Needless to say, they always occur at the most inopportune moment, causing tremendous disruption, annoyance and, at this time of year, hypothermia. It is amazing how many people in College still bother with evacuations, given that they are occurring, sometimes, on a daily basis. Why is the system so unreliable? Lack of money? Sloppy maintenance? In my own case, the last false alarm was caused by the lat-

ter, but generally it is difficult to say. There is no shortage of money; fire systems, like office refurbishments, are deemed essential expenditure, so the money can always be found. Last year, £167,000 was spent on improvements and replacements to the system and since Estates have about £5million per year for maintenance, cash can be found. Sadly, as with so many things here, it will take a major incident, where casualties stem from ignorance of the alarm or its failure to go off at all, to change things. The consequences of this happening in a hall of residence are bad enough, but in a chemistry department, it is terrifying. Liability in such cases rests with the most senior manager aware of the problem. Sutite Five take note...

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt

In this game, words can often be twisted. People sometimes read my column, get the wrong end of the stick and become frightfully excited, firing off threats like a tinpot dictator. The Hockey Club. For reasons that totally escape me,

this fine body of men gained the impression from one of my articles last year that I did not respect their achievements. Worse still, they somehow believe that I frown on the use of 'bar names'. Gentlemen,

nothing could be further from the truth. In my formative years, many moons ago, I used to do battle with stick and ball, scoring, if memory serves, two goals in my swansong game. My affection for thie game has never diminished. Bar names add colour to the

reports of their heroic efforts, and I was genuinely moved when I heard that my own name has become the basis of one such moniker. How Indian Carpet Catalogue and his merry band of hockeyists can possibly think I am opposed to this is a mystery. Was ever a man more misunderstood?

Finally, virtually every one of you should now be aware of the excellent Xerox Docucentre on the walkway, or so it seemed to anyone queueing for their services on the recent opening day. Amusing and libelous t-shirts and mousemats were being produced at a frightening rate, along with, I fear, a huge loss on the day. Nevertheless, the staff did a sterling job and seem set for a bright future here. I blamed Mike Hansen for the fiasco of their predecessors, so it seems appropriate to congratulate him for getting in this first class outfit.

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Impossible Minds



Prof Aleksander with MAGNUS, his neural network software.

JT: First of all, what's the book about?

IA: Ohhh... you'll have to buy the book to find out! It's really about trying to understand what consciousness is from a mechanistic point of view. It's a very controversial subject, that, because you have philosophers who will tell you there's no such thing as mechanistic point of view on consciousness. Then you have neurobiologists who actually measure levels of consciousness in the brain, they know roughly what the different elements of consciousness are, so where engineers come in (I'm an engineer, obviously), is to try and model what neuro-biologists have. What I've tried to do in the book is to explain in layman's terms what it is that you're likely to find in the brain when you're looking for consciousness, in terms of very, very simple ideas about neural networks. I've also brought in a lot of the philosophy of consciousness which tells us why it is that people are so sensitive about the topic, so the book is a kind of primer on consciousness, if you like.

JT: So, what is consciousness?

IA: Well, one of the dangers is trying to define it too closely. It's a lot of things. That's what causes all the trouble. You start off with the ability to perceive. Our brains reconstruct a world; what we see with our eyes, what happens at the back of the eyeball, is a jumble of signals.

Firstly, what the brain does is reconstruct that; it gives us the feeling that we live in a coherent world, so there's a sort of perceptual aspect of consciousness, or visual awareness, if you like. Now, there are a whole lot of things associated with that, without which we wouldn't have a great deal of consciousness, but it's not only to do with vision: it's to do with all the other senses as well.

With human beings, it's a lot to do with being able to talk about our consciousness, being able to describe what's in our heads...

consciousness.

Then you have the relationship between the things that are in our heads and our unconscious, which is also a part. You find out in the book that all these various aspects of consciousness are listed. Consciousness is everything we can think of. Everything we do; it has to do with our consciousness.

JT: Do you have any detractors – are you every seen as mad scientist?

IA: I certainly have detractors, but I'm not sure I'm seen as a mad scientist. I think some detractors ask the question

"Consciousness is everything we can think of."

JT: Like Descartes?

IA: Yes, well, I think you've got to be careful with Descartes. Language comes in to it with humans, but that doesn't mean that animals that don't have language aren't conscious in some way or another.

There's [also] the ability to know where we've been, to know where we are now, and the ability to plan into the future. These are all things that are going on in our heads, and they're all part of

"What the blazes is an engineer doing in this business? Engineers are supposed to fix washing machines. Why is he getting mixed up with consciousness?". Well, the answer is pretty straight forward; one thing engineers, particularly electrical engineers, learn to handle are very complex systems. Now, the brain is a complex system, and in fact the kind of models that neuro-biologists come up with are really at times simple-minded. They're not stupid, but they just don't



IC's guru of mechanical brains, Igor Aleksander, talks to Jon Trout about his book, *Robots and mad scientists*.

have the sophistication that an engineer can add. That's why I'm in this business.

JT: How did you get started?

IA: I'd been working on neural nets for the best part of thirty years. Now, neural nets are models of the brain. The brain is a very different thing from a conventional computer; the way it learns, the way it has its own way of doing things. My background has really been in computers, so I've been puzzled by the difference. The more you work with neural nets, the more you're looking for sophisticated behaviour in the nets, and eventually you hit upon consciousness. I believe that we have an artificial consciousness program in my laboratory in Electrical Engineering.

"I believe that we have an artificial consciousness program in my laboratory."

JT: Is there any way of measuring or quantising the level of consciousness or intelligence?

IA: You've got to be very very careful about the relationship between intelligence and consciousness. I actually find intelligence a much harder concept to think about. Obviously, you must be conscious in order to be intelligent, but the way you measure models of consciousness is just to ask them.

JT: Tell me about Magnus; what is it?

IA: Magnus is a piece of software which you can download from the Internet. It's a neural network system that enables us to do the kind of experiments that appear in the book. It's a development system; if you're interested in artificial consciousness it's a tool that will allow you to do research in that area. I find it extraordinarily useful as it runs on my PC, so I can do research anywhere. It's like a Mechano kit for putting together models that are a bit like the modules of the brain. We can put them together and test whether our ideas of how the brain works are right or wrong.

JT: Is there just a spark and some sort of essence comes into being? Does

the actual consciousness have a location?

IA: [general hilarity] Magnus is a virtual machine so whatever happens in it is something that takes place in the computer. Now, Magnus itself is not conscious, but it's a tool that enables you to study consciousness. Now, the confusion comes in here because you could put Magnus-like machinery into a robot. I would argue that, at that point, the robot, in a very artificial way, becomes conscious. It may become aware of the world it lives in, it may be able to have a natural-language conversation with a human being, so it's got its own consciousness. However, because the robot's made of silicon and mechanical

parts and so on, that's still a very artificial sort of consciousness. So there's many forms of consciousness. That of a human being and that of a robot are completely different. But if the robot behaves in such a way that requires its actions to be underpinned by a form of consciousness then you have your answer.

JT: Why is human consciousness so different?

IA: It is very closely related to what you're made of, because that determines your needs, aspirations and what you do in the world. Consciousness grows according to these needs. Now, the robots, if they are conscious at all, will be conscious of their own difference from human beings. If one were to have a conversation with a human being, and the human said "Well, when are you lot going to take over the world?", the robot should come back and say "Don't be stupid, I have no need to take over the world, that's a human ambition."

JT: Hopefully! I know this is science fiction, but how far are we from developing androids such as Star Trek's Data?

IA: In the book I've used forty years, because that's actually a very very long

time in the development of technology. I think that by that time we will have entities that humans will accept as conscious but they won't be quite as interesting as we see in science fiction, having rather defined roles without their own personalities. In the old days some people would have seen the Internet connected PC as a thinking machine.

JT: Do you think there's an ethical question?

IA: People say there is, but I think it's a mistaken link between consciousness and ethical questions. At the moment we have ethical questions which arise with all entities in the world which we know to be conscious, not necessarily because they're conscious, but because they're alive. I know that a robot can survive any conscious thing on earth so discussions of its life come down to questions of human investment. You might think of "do I kill a conscious machine" in the same terms as do I want to destroy an aeroplane or some such. Does a robot have a desire to maintain its existence? Well, no, not necessarily – it depends on its purpose. It may be much happier to end its existence if it thinks its purpose

has been fulfilled – and that's where science fiction comes in. The machine may not be happy, whereas the operator may feel that its job has been done, and that's what happened with HAL and all those fictional robots.

But in reality, the relationship is much more like that between a conventional computer and its software. At present, the computer will defend against someone coming along and wanting

to destroy its memory or a virus – and it's much more like that with artificial intelligence. Once a machine receives an order in its programming to defend a part of itself, then it will defend it. It's simply a question of which sections you decide need defending.

Igor Aleksander will be signing copies of his new book, "Impossible Minds", at Waterstone's Bookshop, 1pm on Tuesday 2nd December. The book costs £10 in paperback or £17 for the deluxe hardback. It is published by IC Press, who would like us to point out what an excellent Christmas present it would make.

MUSIC - 12

Radiohead live review plus albums from **Smash Mouth**, **Robert Miles** and **Butter 08**. Singles, comps and **Tha Bomb!**

CLUBSCENE - 15

The Electric Cafe presents Gemini, **Animals On Wheels** album review and house and drum 'n' bass singles.

FILM - 18

Sigourney Weaver returns in **Alien Resurrection** and the **X Files** trivia game in review.

17 - BOOKS

LA Confidential; we like it. Plus **Staying Sane** with Dr Raj and the not-so-**Successful Executive**.

22 - GAMES

At last! **Bladerunner** is here. And not only that, but **Final Fantasy VII** is out too. Death to work.

22 - THEATRE

With **three plays** and **three exhibitions** in review you've no excuse to get cultured.

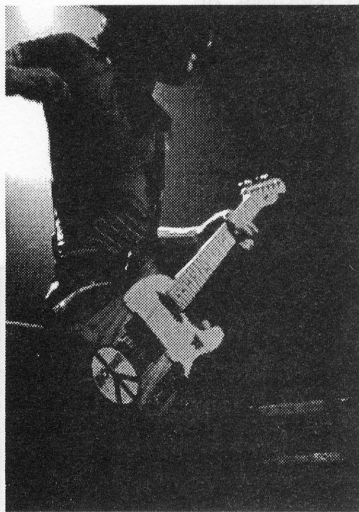
All reviews are given a mark out of five as follows...

★★★★★	Cameron Diaz
★★★★	Alicia Silverstone
★★★	Sandra Bullock
★★	Julia Roberts
★	Goldie Hawn
No Stars	Helen Mirren

LIVE

RADIOHEAD

Wembley Arena



Go Johnny
go, go, go!

Radiohead are a group that always impress when it comes to their experimentation with song and style. Recently, as a result of their last album *OK Computer*, they have been unfairly branded as a second-rate Pink Floyd or as being dull and plodding in their style. Their reaction to the critics has been extremely nonchalant and they have carried on doing whatever they wanted to do and however they wanted to do it. *OK Computer* is full of neat sound effects and mood-creating washes of noise that enhance all of the tracks. Therefore the test of their ability would always be whether or not they could reproduce their sound live.

Lights, smoke and some strange dance tracks. People were smoking cigarettes next to me and Jarvis Cocker was sitting in the gallery just above the mosh pit waving like royalty when *Airbag* crashed down onto the crowd. Like a person in a car crash that's just been whiplashed, this song turned everyone's head to the stage. Thom Yorke acknowledged the audience only briefly before launching into the excellently schizophrenic *Karma Police* with its haunting piano stomping mercilessly over the slightly non-sensical lyrics. Jonny Greenwood never remained stationary throughout the whole two hours that they played. He moved between the piano, guitar and various other instruments that surrounded him with alarming talent and style. This also highlighted the fact that every single nuance of the albums was played. From the eerie tinkling at the beginning of *Lucky* to the vari-

ous bits and pieces that adorn *Paranoid Android*, all of the effects were played live. This left no holes in the sound which plagues so many bands who insist on recording tracks with a thousand overdubs.

There was a slight problem with the gig, though. It had nothing at all to do with the band, but rather the venue. Arenas really sap a band's performance - the atmosphere inside them is always so remote that you feel distant from the band. Admittedly, the light show and the spectacle might have been better than in a smaller venue, but the closeness that a member of the audience would feel to the music at one of these was sadly missing. Something seemed really cold about the whole thing. This manifested itself quite blatantly as the very mosh-worthy chorus to *My Iron Lung* screamed out from the stage, prompting a very confused reaction from the massive crowd. Some wanted to mosh whilst the rest just didn't want to move at all. Half of the crowd had a vibe, the others just didn't seem to realise what was going on. This is a real shame because Radiohead played an absolutely spotless set. There was everything there to make a good gig but it was like a soufflé - someone must have opened the oven door to have a look at how everything was going and it just deflated.

All of this complaining still does not detract from one thing, though. Radiohead are a fantastic band and even though the venue did not suit them, I wholeheartedly recommend seeing them. **M**Alok

ALBUMS

LAB REPORT

Excision No Stars

Lab Report are aptly named as everyone knows here at IC that lab reports are the most dull, boring, and inanely monotonous things in the world.

Pigeon holing *Excision* is hard since, in my vast musical experience, I have never heard anything like it before. In fact the album does beg the question is this really music at all or just a random concoction of clock ticks, match-striking noises, chimes, interference, door creaks, gunfire and dodgy beeping sounds? There also seems to be considerable portions of many tracks dedicated to utter silence. Strange, very strange indeed. What seems even stranger is that there appears to be no drum track or rhythm used at all. Hmmmm.

The tracks overall have an eerie, distant film soundtrack feel to them. The first track, *In The Beginning* consists of a few discordant notes, weird wailing sounds and a deep drone that goes on and on. *Christ Playing With Tops* does literally sound like 'Christ' is playing with one of those Da-da toy cars, a whisk and, true to the title, some milk bottle tops. Really it does. The last track, *Geeks Choose To Work In The Carnival*, is the best, if that word can be used to describe any of Lab Reports music.

Lab Report should never have been signed or allowed to make this sort of avant-garde, experimental, classical crap. I would prefer to listen to 62 minutes of someone farting down a digeredoo than ever disgrace my hi-fi by putting this Lab Report in it again. This is one for playing Frisbee with.

M

Ramzi

ALBUMS

ACID BRASS

A Collection of 10 Acid House Anthems ★★★★★

We've all had them. Those pub ideas. You have an interesting concept that you share with a few friends that soon escalates into drunken stupidity. We all say how great it would be if this idea could really happen, knowing full well that it never will. This is one of the few that have actually come into fruition: 'to get a traditional brass band to play a selection of Acid House anthems.'

The concept was, er, conceived during the summer of last year, by cult artist Jeremy Deller. He convinced the Williams Fairey Brass Band ('the world's leading brass band' - from Stockport) that his idea was a good one and a Liverpool concert was soon arranged. The concert (held last March) attracted mass interest, most notably from Bill Drummond of ex-KLF fame, who was intrigued by the prospect of hearing a brass rendition of his house anthem *What Time Is Love?* On seeing the concert, he was blown away and, whilst watching the performance of his song, phoned fellow ex-KLF member Jimmy Cauty to let him listen. It fired Drummond's imagination so much that he went to meet the band later and talked about a musical collaboration that would bring the KLF out of their 5-year retirement.

You can probably guess the rest: The KLF reformed (as 2K) this September for their '23 minute spec-

tacular' where they performed a revamped version of *What Time Is Love?* called *Fuck The Millennium*. Joining them in their performance were the brass band and Deller. So you could say that this album is the brainchild behind the most infamous musical performance in history. Or you could say it is a load of boring Northern horn players trying desperately to look cool. I'd go for the first - listening to this album is just so enjoyable. It's even possible to dance to, especially such uplifting anthems as 808 State's Pacific 202 and Can U Dance? by DJ Fast Eddie. But the standout track has to be The KLF's *What Time Is Love?* with its trombone Mu-Mu's and strangely psychedelic Fast-Show style jazz solo.

There are a few occasions during these 10 tracks where the songs resemble second rate James Bond themes (I think Sheryl Crow knows what I mean). Even so, this album is the most innovative, weird and hilarious to be released this year. So whatever you do, listen to the songs on this album, preferably when in an altered state of mind. They are crazy songs but they'll make you shine.

M

Ed

ROBERT MILES

23 am ★★★★★

After his first foray into the British music scene with *Children*, anything Robert Miles does from now on is going to have to be something special to get noticed. And I must say, 'hats off to our Bob', because this really is a pretty good attempt.

If drawing parallels to nightclubs, this is definitely more of an Equinox than a Ministry, but as Equinox claims to be the biggest club in the world, this really can't be a bad thing, however, I would like to point out that size isn't everything.

In-depth track analysis really isn't worth going into because this is pretty much all along the same lines as *Children* when it comes down to the musical composition of each piece. A very out of character introduction gets *23 am* underway, but soon you get what you'd expect, decent if somewhat commercial dance music and maybe the surprise of some well sung lyrics. But in all truth, not many genuine club anthems have or will originate from a man who will no doubt be seen in coming weeks on Top of the Pops as a lonely on stage figure with his PC and keyboard tapping away to his screaming teenage fans.

There is quite a European flavour to *23 am*, and occasionally it descends into a mellow state. This variety does lend itself to being able to be played from start to finish and being appreciated more as a person's own expression than many

other dance albums. Hints of Beverley Hills Cop's Axel F, and maybe even a bit of Olive are evident, and they complement the overall sound well.

This isn't going to appeal to well-seasoned, single-minded clubbers, with their definite ideas on how dance music should be, but then they don't need warning, as the name Robert Miles will alert them straight away. However, if your tastes are varied, and the depressing guitar scene is getting a bit much, this comes recommended.

M

Derek

THA BOMBI

Hey, what up to all the fly people, what's goin' on, hope everything fine. First up I got a couple of things to promote; number one is the International Tamil Society's annual cultural show. On show will be a variety of entertainment, from ancient Tamil art forms up to a modern dance, the show is on tonight (28/11/97) at the Great Hall in Sheffield Building. Next up is an event that I haven't been asked to write about but I'm gonna anyway - The ACS Nubian Jam. Its on the Friday 5th December at Grays Inn (nearest tube Chancery Lane) and will be running from 10pm to 5am, for a cheap (from £4) banger night out, be there.

There ani't really much goin' on in the world of R&B and hip hop, so this week y'all got a run down of the killer LPs and singles at the moment.

THA BOMBI! - CURRENT TOP TEN KILLERS

1. 'Nothin But the Party' - Truce - Reviewed last week this party tune is wicked, its bad and British and number one.
2. 'When Disaster Strikes' - Busta Rhymes - Hip Hop album of the year and there ani't no

doubt about it. Its packed full of star names and star tracks, if you need confirmation just check 'Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Can See', 'Dangerous' or the current smash 'One' featuring Erykah Badu.

3. 'You Make Me Wanna' - Usher - This is all that and more, number one in US (RnB charts) for weeks and still goin' strong. Phat piece of R&B, this is a must have.

4. 'Harlem World' - Mase - Bad boy bin blowin' up the whole universe, now its Mases' turn to cut an album and this doesn't disappoint. Puffy does his usually shit on production, and the huge number of guests' do their part. The album is pretty much feel good music, as previewed by the first single off it 'Feel So Good'.

5. 'Phenomenon' - LL Cool J - The old man of hip hop is back with this, the title track of his much hyped album, for me the album ani't all that, but this single is definitely a must have.

6. 'FirmBiz' - The Firm - Taken from the album 'The Firm', made up of Foxy, Nas, Nature & AZ and with production from Dr

Dre, add to this Dawn (from En Vogue) on chorus duty and you got another killer.

7. 'My Dream' - Yvette Michelle - This LP has been out for an age but sales have not really taken off, which is a shame because this is full of phat head nod R&B. After being showcased on the Flexx mix tapes this young lady has not looked back and now is certainly staking a claim to Mary's crown.

8. 'Sexy Cinderella' - Lyden David Hall - Phat Nu Soul on a British tip, this talented young man has made a single that is smooth and has the sign of quality all over it.

9. 'Mourn U Till I Join' - Naught By Nature - The party boys of hip hop do their thang on this long awaited tribute to Tupac

10. 'London' - D'Influence - This is the third set from D'Influence is certain the best yet, every track is an A class gem. Why this is not number one in the album charts is beyond me. This is pure gold soul, acquire.

Much Love To ALL. Milen

ALBUMS

SMASH MOUTH

Fush Yu Mang ★

Smash Mouth?
Looks like it

This album seems to confirm the suspicion that punk is in fact dead. Smash mouth sound like a cross between NoFX and the Beach Boys without the musical abilities of the latter or even the taste of the former, (if you know what I mean). They manage to combine dire, teenage vocals with tasteless percussion and a guitar tone that leaves you screaming with frustration. Tracks switch from feeble, lifeless reggae to fast punk several times within a single song, all of which are cramped full of the worst, most obvious riffs that you have ever heard, (the sort of stuff you learn to play on the guitar as a spotty adolescent).

The only thing that they can be credited for I guess, is that they don't take themselves seriously, but then again, does anyone? The gimmicky humour of the sudden Ska-like changes from calm to manic get on your nerves after about ten minutes and leave you wondering why they bothered. I'm afraid that their attempts at satire and self-mockery fail miserably despite the promising sound of some of the song titles. *Beer Goggles*, *The Fonz* and *Padrino*. If it's humour they want, they could learn a great deal from the greats like Frank Zappa and Bonzo Dog.

But not everything I have to say about them is that negative. I am ashamed to confess that there is one track on the album which I like and another one with an inch of

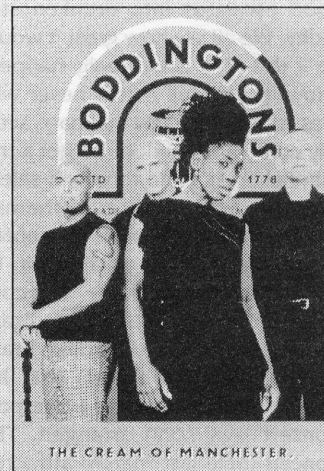
taste. It's no coincidence however that the you'll have heard of *Walkin' on the sun*, the track that appears to have boosted the band's career, (something had to). Perhaps by luck, they have managed to capture a highly catchy tune with a riff that will stay in your head for weeks to come. (They even manage to get a smooth tone on the guitar which is complemented nicely with a high pitched Hammond when the chorus comes in). The other track which I was talking about was *Push*; the song launches headlong into an instrumental intro with hard, pounding drums followed closely with a fast wah-wah droned guitar. Unfortunately the track goes downhill from here, salvaged momentarily by a nifty little lead break in the middle, which seems to have influences in heavier bands like Rage Against the Machine.

But don't let me deter you. There is a fair bit of swearing throughout the album, with an 'explicit content' sticker on the front, so they must be pretty cool! Take my advice, buy the single if you have to because you'll be annoyed if you buy the whole album. Don't say I didn't warn you!

M

Marc

COMPETITION

M-PEOPLE CDs
TO BE HAD!!

A limited edition five track CD is on offer, entitled *By Personal Invitation Only* and is not available in any record shop.

Question: Which bitter is the cream of Manchester?

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

SINGLES

Meredith Brooks - *I Need*

Essentially a shopping list set to music. Reasonable girlie attitude and shouty chorus. Not as good as her last single *Bitch* which is remixed by Todd Terry on the B-sides.

Various - *Perfect Day*

Everyone's heard it, it's just the same as on TV but with all male and all female versions. It does tell you who everyone is, though they should have left out Gabrielle and the opera singers.

Lower - *Life's Too Slow*

Boring, whiny rubbish about which nothing constructive can really be said.

Breaker - *Stereotype*

Rather daft, angsty lyrics sung by an Alanis Morissette-ette. The second track, sinister minister is somewhat Breeders-esque. The chorus

of *Sinister Minister* fails to be as forboding as it was meant to be. Having said that it's really not at all bad.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Baby Birkin - *Melo Melo/Black...White*

Melo Melo was written by (Serge?) Gainsbourg. Funky Hammond organ and Francois Lyrics with a sixties detective show feel. *Black...White* could have been done by minty during a fit of commerciality. Quirky but good.

The Dawn - *5 Days Wiser*

Hackneyed Sound Garden-alikes. Five ugly blokes with long hair playing at guitar Gods. Nothing on this single hasn't been done before by numerous more talented and handsome groups.

Paul Weller - *Mermaids*

Paul Weller's bland rock phase continues unabated. If you like all the other stuff he's done recently then you'll like this. If not, you will probably notice the remarkable similarity between this and all his other recent material.

Mucho Macho - *Rockley Sands*

A 'couple of guitars and some drums' song with the twist. The twist is that it's unspeakable rubbish. A twist that seems to be rather popular amongst new bands these days. Repetitive, uninspired trash.

Hoodwink - *More Millionaires*

A collection of random noises and meaningless lyrics. Barely music at all. As far as such things go but it's unlikely to make much of an impact on the charts. M

Jacob

the electric café

Here's a big cliché, and I'm going to get it out of the way right now (decide for yourselves whether or not I'm being sincere). Meeting Spencer Kinsey (aka Gemini) was actually one of the most pleasant and fulfilling experiences I've had in the musical aspect of my life. Some of his ideas and beliefs inspired me and made me think about subjects outside of music; and music outside of house.

Born in Chicago, Spencer Kinsey moved to LA at a young age and returned to Chicago (and a brand new musical vibe called house) when he was 16. Due to his definition of this music, he does appreciate LA for inspiring and influencing him. "I look at house as an extension of rhythms that have been around for thousands of years. That's all it really is." This is how he justifies David Bowie's *Let's Dance* as being a house record before house music ever was.

Spencer Kinsey took his pseudonym from his starsign. Having released music under his real name, he decided that the people of Chicago who knew him were not giving him honest or constructive feedback. To get their real opinions, he decided to invent a secret identity for himself.

A scan through Gemini's lengthy back-catalogue indicates that he has been releasing material for only four years. If you consider the fact that today he can produce three consistently excellent albums in as many months then you'll understand why I use the word *only*. In fact he believes that he has been creating music for a lot longer through his DJing skills. "I would take one record, and another record, and mix them together and find myself actually making a song. And it was like, oh wow!"

DJing has actually changed

through time according to Gemini. "It used to be just playing records, then it went into just mixing, and now it's into making music." Thus was born Gemini's theory of evolution!

Gemini is one of a few artists who can bridge the gap that has formed between house and techno. His records appeal to a wide audience of electronic listeners and appear in the sets of some of the world's most respected DJs. As a DJ he himself has played at some of the world's most prestigious events. None of this appears to have gone to his head, however. The way he acts and talks suggests

'Look what happened to Frankie Knuckles. He left Chicago.' And it's like look what happened to him. Nothing much really! He just did the same thing he's always been doing." Maybe this could be a lesson to some of us who think that good drum 'n' bass originates solely from within this country.

Gemini is a prolific artist, releasing over twenty records in his career. He doesn't limit himself to one label either, arguing that he found the Chicago record houses a little too claustrophobic for him, run by people who were, in his opinion, limiting his music to certain people and not realising that

point of copying that sound. "Look at everything else...as influences and things that you like. But when you sit down to make music just compete with yourself."

Gemini was a thoughtful interviewee, carefully considering his answers throughout. His sense of humour was carefree and infectious. His child-like aspect may not suit the high-octane lifestyle of London, but surely it is this that allows him to imagine and conceive musical collages that can whisk you into a sense of complete freedom and lightness.

At the end of the day, Gemini taught me (in his own quiet and indirect way) that ultimately we are all into music and that everything else we plaster all over and label it with is necessary but superficial and should be treated as such.

You can hear the full Gemini interview and some of his music on the Electric Cafe on the Network on IC Radio this Sunday night from midnight until 2am.

Gemini has three albums that are currently available:

Imagine a Nation (Relief Records)
In and Out of Fog and Lights (Peacefrog)
In Neutral (Distance)

The Electric Cafe, in association with phuture trax is giving away three copies of Gemini's new album *In Neutral*. If you would like to win one of these, then all you have to do is answer this question: What state of America is Chicago in?

Answers to the Felix office by 5th December. You can also enter by email to felix@ic.ac.uk

MOVES

Gemini House

words by: al;ck

a childish innocence, even an ignorance from his perspective to the impact of his creations.

When I tell him how much I like a certain track from his last album, he smiles and says "cool" as if in surprise. When I ask him at the beginning of the interview what he does, for the benefit of any listeners who are unaware of him, he shrugs and says very matter-of-factly, "I just make some music." Try telling 300,000 crazy, loved-up clubbers at the 1995 Love Parade that the guy playing to them *just* makes some music!

Gemini claims that his music is inspired, in part, by his surroundings and environment on a global scale. "Everything I see, hear, feel; it's just all a part of the music to me. I put it all into my music." I was struck by his attitude that good house music doesn't necessarily come from Chicago. "I don't think it's where you're at; it's what you're doing. Some people say

they could reach a wider audience with a little more effort. "When I do music I want it to be heard. I don't want to be shuffled under a rug somewhere."

Influences in his life include personalities from all walks of life (Aristotle, Robert de Niro, Miles Davis, Thomas Edison to name but a few). He believes that they are all people "who have pushed things to another level within themselves." This is the message that he says he is trying to put across in his music today.

Gemini's message to any young DJs or producers hoping to make it in the music industry is simply, "Always compete with yourself." He doesn't see the point in being influenced by something else to the

Many people have got into house music via the sounds that have been emerging from Chicago since the mid to late 1980's and up to the present day. Artists such as Frankie Knuckles, Larry Heard and Marshall Jefferson originally put the city on the musical map. Add to that the long list of a new wave of artists including Boo Williams, DJ Sneak and Paul Johnson and you have a musical scene whose greatest characteristic (musical quality aside) is strength in depth.

Spencer Kinsey (aka Gemini; pictured far right) is a member of this new wave, but can also claim to have been around at the advent of house music in Chicago. He is regarded as one of the most consistent and prolific artists currently recording in Chicago. This summer has seen three albums released by him in close succession. All of them were of a very high standard.



Photo: Seeta



CLUBSCENE - COMPILATIONS

ANIMALS ON WHEELS

Designs & Mistakes (Ninja Tunes) ★★★★★

They say there a fine line between genius and madness, this album is on that line. Animals on Wheels has been created by Andy Coleman. He takes us on a journey out of the ordinary, to a world where everything is weird.

Track 1 sets things off in a down beat style then tearing amens come in raising the tempo to D&B speed then you're up and down for the rest of the track, a bit of an insight into how the rest of the album proceeds. Next is a great D&B track on an intelligent tip with nice crisp beats cut in and out over strong atmosphericals. The pace slows down over the next few tracks, much more minimal with the odd stabblings of beats here and there. Some are soft, others are harsh and hard. Then the pace is lifted again with *Shoddy Kicks*, again in an experimental D&B style. The last few tracks comprise of some beautiful down beat numbers and superb D&B. This album was created, not made, it fits together perfectly. Just sit back, spark up a fat one and be taken on a journey

to the outer realms in a way that only Animals on Wheels can take you. This is as underground as it gets, not one for the faint hearted. A lot of people just won't understand this album. If you're looking for something different, a glance into the future, then this is worth a listen. I'm sure that some of these experimental ideas will be developed and used in more mainstream D&B, if there is such a thing. This is also a useful collection of tunes to have on vinyl, with quality D&B tracks and some nice and weird down tempo numbers suitable for just chilling to.

If this is your type of music or you just want to find out what I'm going on about, check out Coldcut's end of tour pre-Christmas party. 4th Dec at 333 Old Street, a night not to be missed with some of the best scratch DJ talent in the world. The things these guys do, makes the likes of your house 'n' jungle DJs look like they haven't even learnt to mix. See club listings. **MC**

JP

Pete Tong

Essential Selection ★★

I didn't expect much from this CD as I have never respected Pete Tong much as a mixer, but reputedly he gets up to £1,500 a set. So he must be doing something right. You'd expect to be taken on a musical journey, with outstanding mixing and a visionary selection of tunes. And what do we get? Well none of the above.

CD01 starts off with the funky Gritter Shaker by David Homes, then the essential selection goes all wrong with Deep Dish's Stranded. This tune just doesn't work, starting things off on the wrong foot. There's also a lot of quality tracks on this CD like Industry Standard Vol. 1 and Popper Presents Aura's Every Little Time. But it's the occasional chart toppers that are dropped in now and then that kill any sort of vibe.

CD02 sets off with DJ Dado's, Back For Me a fat bouncy tune, then things are running along nicely, when Nain & Kane's Beachball comes in. I've seen this tune clear dance floors, it's too laid back 'n' dreamy, no punch to it. Then a few tracks later, in comes Dario G's

Sunchyme. I really don't like this tune, it bores me with the way it just plods along. Things get harder towards the end with the likes of Y Traxx and Mysteryland. Then totally out of the blue Roni Size's Hero's is dropped in. Yes, D&B style, probably the most commercial D&B track around at the moment. A quality tune, but very commercial and it seems to me that Pete Tong's jumping on the band wagon, putting a token D&B track on the end. Oh, what an essential selection he's chosen, NOT. The same goes for the last track on this compilation, Black Gold.

Overall, I wouldn't spend hard earned cash on this compilation as there are so many better ones around. This compilation is OK if you want tunes you know from the radio, but you aren't really into the scene. If you're looking for quality mixing, a bit of effort going into working and cutting the tunes, and with each tune following on from the previous one, which is the whole point of DJing, in my humble opinion, then this CD sadly falls very short of the mark. **MC** JP

CLUBSCENE - SINGLES

DRUM 'N' BASS

Hidden Agenda - Sons / 12" Seconds ★★★★★

(Creative Source 016)
Release: Dec.

This is not as strong as the previous release from Creative Source, it's in the same musical rolling style without such strong beats, nice to just sit back and listen to. *12" Seconds* is the stronger of the two tracks and showing D&B is an art-form with well structured beats, strong atmosphericals and a slightly eerie feel. Again Creative Source are keeping D&B moving forward with their innovative styles of deep rolling steppers, Intelligent D&B at it's best.

To check the Creative Source massive live & direct, with their trend setting styles of D&B get yourselves down their new club night at The Velvet Rooms starting 26th Nov. and every Wednesday then on.

Techniq - One Style/911 ★★★★★

(Formation Rec.)

Release: Dec.

This the first release for a while for Techniq, and they haven't lost

their touch. *One Style* is on a more jump-up tip with echoing beats, a rhythm setting bass drum and with a wicked b-line; this is certain to be big in the clubs. 911 has a darker more experimental feel to it, keeping with Formations way of not being afraid to try something new 'n' different. So two quite different and quite excellent tracks. Formation still going strong.

Amon Tobin - Piranha Breaks ★★★★★ (Ninja Tunes)

Release: Out Now

This is as experimental as D&B gets, Amon Tobin mixes his unique blend of Latin Samba vibe & breaks with crazy amen driven beats, too heavy on the samba beats for me. Fast Eddie the 2nd track, was my favourite & more of an out 'n' out D&B No. Heavy use of amen breaks, fast & hectic with deep base tones. If your looking for something on the Eclectic tip, the outerlimits of the D&B spectrum this is well worth checking.

HOUSE & GARAGE

DJ Supreme vs Rhythm Masters - Enter The Scene ★★★★★

(Distinctive) Release: Nov

If you haven't heard this one yet, you must have been locked in a cupboard or something for the last 6 months. With the distinctive vocal's of DJ Supreme, timestretches, scratching and building beats it's been a big hit in the clubs and on the radio over the summer. Finally getting released, I feel a little to late as it now sounds old and dated due to it being Cained for to long before it's release. This has also given it that commercial feel, not one for the die-hard.

Spinning Atoms 3 - The Enhanced Velocity EP ★★★★★

(Prolekt Rec.) Release: 8th Dec.

This can only be described as falling somewhere between banging hard house & techno. Fast bouncy bass drum, echoing beats and pleasant dreamy breaks. All 4 tracks (2 mixes of Bubble Memory to choose from) are rocking. It you like it hard, fast & hectic this is for you.

Underground Vibe - Free Style Orchestra ★★★★★ (Sweat Rec.)

Release: Dec.

Track A1. *Til da Break* starts off with a funky garage thing going on, then in comes a dreadful Saxophone sample total killing the tune. If it weren't for that Sax it would be a good track. Lost the plot on that one. But luckily there's SSO Groove Dub mix that saves the day with a different use of similar sounds and a grinding b-line it works out nice.

Rodd-Y-Ler - The Art Work EP ★★★★★ (Blue Banana Rec.)

Release: 8th Dec.

All three tracks on this one are in that banging House style. The strongest of these is the A-side (funny that). Starts off with a flute that could be out of Arabian nights or something then it gets down to business with bass drum taking control and a bouncy b-line. This one keeps building nicely into a pleasantly hard track. Well worth a listen.

JP



FICTION

LA CONFIDENTIAL

James Ellroy ★★★★★

As early as the prologue, a taste of the casual, total violence of this tale is expertly and shocking offered up, dropped into the dialogue with the off-handedness you would expect from a comment on the weather. Ellroy's trademark taut, brutal, and relentlessly self edited style does not read easily at first; the meanings some of the Americanisms and police terms are not immediately apparent (I imagine that Californians have a little trouble with Irvine Welsh novels), but it settles down swiftly and you are left reeling by the sheer complexity of character, the depth of the intrigue and the hammer blows of revelation that strike at every turn. No character takes the hero role; each man's virtue is tainted by corruption and lies; including the brilliant young war hero, Ed Exley, despised by his peers when after testifying against the police in a brutality scandal, whose real, horri-

ble role in the massacre which won him a medal is guaranteed to turn the reader's stomach. This young detective and the embittered, corrupt and free-wheeling "Trashcan" Jack Vincennes, (whose friends were implicated in Exley's testimony) are forced to work together to solve a savage murder. Things are

not made easier by the presence of the (obligatory?) vampish female... and there are always the gossip journalists...

Ellroy's precision of language and his forceful pace do not shirk; if anything it draws you further and deeper into the tale; it leaves you breathless as to the conclusion;

which character is going to snap first? This, for any genre of writing, is intelligent, well structured and original; a closely observed take on hatred and fear. As a crime thriller, it is supreme. **B**

Jon Trout



FACT

STAYING SANE

Dr Raj Persaud

Prevention is better than cure and this is certainly true for the mind as well as the general state of the body. Discussing mental health in the open is considered a taboo subject; many joke about it but no-one really talks about it openly.

You'd be surprised to know that as students under 25 we are in a high risk category for mental health problem. Relationships, money and exams can all put a huge strain on our sanity and that feeling of losing control just makes things worse.

Dr Raj Persaud's book goes through several steps identifying causes of mental health problems and several easy steps to prevent you from developing psychiatric difficulties. Rather than attempting to alleviate the already ill, the book focuses squarely on improving your resilience to problems, simple things like maintaining your physical health; a lack of vitamin B can lead to poor brain functioning

and there is a study that concludes that vitamin supplements can improve IQ. emotions are dictated by thought so it is possible to reprogramme the brain, to think yourself sane. Building a good social background can also help, having a wide social circle requires the brain to cope with diversity. People are more vulnerable if they only have one activity in their life. If that one aspect starts to go wrong then there is nothing to fall back upon. The book is easy to read and doesn't have many technical explanations, as it relies more on analogies than jargon. More importantly this is not purely a self help book and one which temporary lifts your mood, it is more a book that unravels the mind in simple terms and teaches you prevention.

Dr Persaud's background includes both psychology and psychiatry, very few people have both understandings of the 'normal' (psychology) and the 'abnormal' (psychiatry) mental states. **B**

THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTIVE:

Nigel Linacre *No Stars*

There must now be thousands of books like this - all promising clear advice on taking exams, preparing for interviews, achieving spiritual enlightenment or whatever. I have had a look at these in the past, and without exception, they have all been completely useless; packed with the most banal and obvious points there could be. Each of these books also had a selection of clearly made-up anecdotes to fill up some more pages. 'The Successful Executive' sticks rigidly to this presumably successful formula and contains seventy-two sections "in which the author shares the secrets of his own success". So, what are Nigel Linacre's 'pearls of wisdom'? Well, let me give you a few of his finest thoughts:

"2.2 Have bits and pieces handy" - he suggests placing stationery and documents where they can be found later.

"2.3 Use your diary" - that's it.

"3.4 Organise your time" - with the following ridiculously contrived mnemonic: "Priorities, Organise to

achieve them, Execute the necessary tasks, Think about what you have achieved and Recharge Yourself." It truly is poetry.

"5.10 Avoid being ineffective" - sitting at your desk doing nothing is unproductive. Revolutionary!

I admit that these are probably the worst points made and that some of the other sections could be of some use, but these are few and far between and are still not useful. The book is full of either repetition, or incompetent advice, as shown above. I can not see how any potential executives here could benefit from this book in any possible way. If you are going to be a successful executive you should not need to be told what to do with pens and pencils and you should not be forced to waste £10 and your valuable time in buying and reading this book. **B**

Chiron

Publisher: Century Business
Books

Price: £9.99



REVIEWS

KEEP THE ASPIDISTRA FLYING

Starring: Richard E Grant, Helena Bonham Carter

Director: Robert Bierman

Richard E Grant may be an extremely competent actor, but he appears to have fallen into the trap, much frequented by Michael Caine and Robert de Niro, of playing the same part every time he acts. In this adaptation of George Orwell's classic *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* he stars with Bonham Carter as a quirky 1930's couple with very modern ideas. He plays Comstock, who walks out on a secure job to follow a "career" as a poet and inadvertently discovers life along the way. He relies on his friends to bail him out when the finances go down the drain while he just recites wonderful poetry, swears and moans about not getting into Oxford. Things seriously go pear-shaped when he makes his spectacularly tolerant "lady friend" pregnant, which makes him all the more determined to escape the dreaded "middle-class respectability".

The film is blessed with some beautiful camera work and more recognisable, though alas un-nameable, British faces than you would think possible. Should you be looking for an unchallenging stab at one of Orwell's lesser-known works you will do no wrong in seeing this. **F**

Alun Hart

THE TANGO LESSON

Starring: Sally Potter, Pablo Veron

Director: Sally Potter

The *Tango Lesson* is about a film-maker struggling with script writing who decides to take some tango lessons from a professional dancer (Pablo Veron). As the film develops, the situation becomes more complex, incorporating love, love-in-work and leadership. She wants to be a tango dancer, he wants to be a movie star. Do they have real love or are they just using one another. Can each learn how to follow when both are leaders?

Shot almost entirely in black and white, this true film shows how Sally Potter (playing herself) struggled with writing a decent script after her acclaimed *Orlando*. It sets a strong mood from start to finish and seems ready to induce empathy from its viewers.

Sadly it fails chronically. Far from being anything close to engrossing, it excels in tedium and is incredibly inane. The dialogue is restricted to one or two lines about issues such as leadership and feminism while the audience

expects far more. Unfortunately the scenes of spontaneous crying or the two lovers interacting also fail to effect the desired reaction from viewers. However, although most screen time is dedicated to the two leads doing it in every single public place imaginable, (the tango that is) it is filmed with plenty of style and control and a never-ending soundtrack which almost redeems matters.

To the film's credit, however, it is never at any instance confused. It is a rare film in that it allows you a peak inside the mind of the director as if you were chatting directly to Sally Potter. This therefore probably explains why the film stubbornly persists in shunning entertainment in favour of more analysis of the director.

At the end of the day, people will walk away with one of only two possible opinions. Absolutely fascinating or an utter waste of time. I'm afraid I can't see many people vying for the former. **F**

Tesfaye Asfaw

ICU CINEMA - SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 6:00

LA DOLCE VITA

Starring: Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg

Director: Federico Fellini

Arguably the best film ever made, *La Dolce Vita* boasts a wonderful story line, the amazing setting of 1960's Rome, a beautiful female and a gorgeous male lead.

Directed by Italy's premier film-maker, this deals with a journalist's

struggle to find morality in the seedy Italian capital. He feels that he is an outsider and apart from the world he cynically observes. However, his very cynicism prevents him from realising that he is, in fact, drawn towards and into the life he pretends to despise.

Marcello Mastroianni stars as Marcello Rubini, who travels around Rome in company with Paparazzo, played by Walter Santesso. This film gave rise to the term paparazzi, which has come a long way from this foolish, bumbling photographer. Anita Ekberg is fantastic as Sylvia, a beautiful Swedish actress, who jumps into the fountains in Rome and provides one of the most memorable moments of the film.

I highly recommend this film to those who want to know more about the art of film-making, as well as anyone who enjoys tales of decadence and immorality, where sex and alcohol are the driving forces and the only escape is death. Although it's in Italian, it has subtitles, and really is something special. It's showing this Sunday at ICU Cinema, providing a rare chance to see it on the big screen. Go on, treat yourself. **F**

Julia

FILM COMPETITION in association with the

ODEON KENSINGTON

WIN TICKETS FOR ALIEN RESURRECTION

The Odeon Kensington are giving you the chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to see *Alien Resurrection*. They are also throwing in an impressive film poster for each winner.

To enter, simply e-mail the answer to the following question to felix@ic.ac.uk:

Who directed the original *Alien*?

Last week we were giving away tickets and posters for *Welcome to Sarajevo*, the true story of an ITV reporter's mission to rescue an orphan from war-torn Bosnia. The winners knew that Martin Bell is the MP who was shot while filming there last year.

They are:

Haavard J Haugen
Daniel Thuysbaert
Katharine Stenlake
Stephen Tarlton
Alistair Fox

ALIEN RESURRECTION REVIEW AND COMPETITION

ALIEN RESURRECTION

Starring: Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet

Everybody's favourite alien-killer is back. After Sigourney Weaver's Ripley character killed both herself and the alien inside her in *Alien³*, audiences would be forgiven for thinking they had seen the last of her. But fortunately this is not the case as Ripley has received the *Jurassic Park* treatment and been reconstructed from a blood sample taken 200 years earlier in the third instalment.

The motive behind this genetic engineering will raise a smile from anybody who has witnessed the aliens' legendary ferocity. The military of the future want to extract the chest-burster inside Ripley and tame it, thereby breeding the perfect all-round work animal of the future. This dubious venture takes place on a space station heading for Earth, thus making the inevitable rampage all the more threatening to mankind.

What distinguishes this hokum from the rest of the films in the series is that the resurrection process means Ripley now has a substantial amount of alien DNA inside her. This gives her

the advantage of superhuman strength and, more interestingly, a sixth alien sense. She is aware of this alien streak and her loyalties are divided between humanity and the rioting creatures who are, in effect, her offspring. Long gone is her despising of the species as we see her empathising with and even having a semi-erotic relationship with the Alien Queen. Weaver is on top form as Ripley displays touches of alien behaviour and resigns herself to battle once again.

This personality development is not restricted to Ripley. The director gives us an insight into the aliens' minds as they display emotions and demonstrate intelligence. This is a refreshing change to the treatment the monsters have received in the past and makes for some memorable scenes as they concoct a plan to escape from their confines. Jean-Pierre Jeunet also spends time on Ripley's human allies. Winona Ryder is cast as a mercenary on a mission to wipe out the aliens and is the subject of an interesting twist towards the climax.

Alien Resurrection has less action than its forerunners but this is no bad thing. It is more of a suspense thriller than an action film and this allows time for some clever predictions of futuristic life from the director. There are also

plenty of amusing one-liners which were not present in the first three films but provide welcome relief here. All in all, an excellent science fiction film and just what was needed to put the *Alien* series back on track. **F**

Chris



Here she goes again. Don't miss the chance to win tickets to see *Alien 4* at the Odeon Kensington.

THE X FILES™ TRIVIA GAME

On Video

Who is the production designer on *The X Files*? What is Dana Scully's middle name? What is Mulder's FBI Badge Number? If you couldn't care less; stop reading this review. If these are the questions that dominate your lecture breaks in the common room then *The X Files Trivia Game on Video* will be at the top of your Christmas list.

The idea of this board game is simply to reach the opposite end of the board before your opponents. You move forward by correctly answering questions related to the video clips of episodes from series one to three of the cult sci-fi programme. These questions fall into four categories; Character, Story Line, The Unexplained and Behind the Scenes. The category you answer is chosen by rolling a die and there are also Action Cards which are occasionally beneficial

but are more likely to move you back several spaces. And that's it.

Once the novelty of the video clips wears off there is little here except for die-hard fans of the programme. Questions are split into easy and hard categories but even the "easy" ones are taxing unless you can remember the finer details of episodes which were televised years ago. The game only includes the first three series so to stand a chance of making progress you'll need to have been a fan ever since the pilot episode. However, if you are a dedicated follower of Mulder and Scully and have equally committed friends then you will doubtless think this is the finest board game ever made. You'll also know that the answers to the posers above are Graeme Murray, Katherine and JTT047101111. Obviously. **F**

Chris



For just £22.99 you can spend those lonely evenings learning all about Mulder and Scully.

FORTHCOMING REVIEWS IN FELIX

There are some quality films in the pipeline so here's a brief preview of the films you'll be seeing on these pages soon...

Tomorrow Never Dies

Brosnan's Bond is back and bigger than ever. The 18th instalment is the most expensive ever made and is released in two weeks.

The Jackal

Bruce Willis and Richard Gere head the all-star cast of this thriller in which an assassin attempts to eliminate a top US official.

Home Alone 3

The first was incomparable, the second was possibly the best sequel ever made. Audiences sweat in anticipation...



BUBBLE GUM

BLADE RUNNER

Westwood★★★★★



No doubt you've seen the film, but this game has been a long time coming. However I feel

it was probably worth the wait as it is probably only now that computers have the power to do justice to a film of this stature. The game isn't based on the story-line or characters from the film, but is set in the same futuristic, dark, post apocalyptic world. The atmosphere created by the director in the film has been acclaimed and I think that the game has done an excellent job of mimicking this.

It's an adventure or rather a detective style game. A bit like Under a Killing Moon, or the very ancient Mean Streets. In fact it bares a great resemblance to Mean Streets indeed; the way you collect clues, move about the city in your flying car and the little bit of action thrown in. This action I mentioned is shooting enemies or suspects in a sort of mouse controlled Virtua Cop style walk-through scenario. The graphics however are very advanced. Their quality is almost film like yet unlike the interactive movie style game you have complete control of your character,

Ray McCoy. His movements are very realistic and you would think it had all been filmed but no it is computer generated.

The story is that you are, like Deckard (Harrison Ford) was before you, a Blade Runner, given the task of hunting down rogue replicants. There is a fairly gruesome cut-scene of a crime (animal murder!) and that's where your investigation starts. That scene and with other numerous gory movie sequences the game has been honoured with a 15 certificate. The gore is effective and this is a good thing as although it isn't done to over effect, like ultra gory games, it is a refreshingly moody, dark and sinister game.

It quickly becomes apparent that replicants have or are playing a major part in the crime and the plot unfolds from there. As it was, I barely scratched the surface of this massive game, contained on 4 cd-roms. Must be at least played, if not bought. **G**

David Morris

Released: 21 November
Format: PC CD-ROM
Price: £44.99



FINAL FANTASY VII

Squaresoft★★★★★

Squaresoft
The Japanese love their role playing games, and with over 5 million copies of Final Fantasy VII having been bought in Japan it has definitely become the most popular game on the PlayStation. The game has three different modes each running sequentially, each section is separated by animated scenes laying down the plot, and in between you either battle against the enemy in a turn based scenario or you have your character exploring the local vicinity and talking to other characters.

The computer generated graphics in the cut away scenes are superb and with almost every single Silicon Graphics machine in Japan being employed to produce the animation no wonder there are 3 CD's to contend with. The story line is typically Japanese, the loner with a past returns to his childhood home to fight for a cause, but this escalates into a story about a dying planet, ancient races, divided loyalties, genetic tampering, love, betrayal and insanity.

The turn based game play is something that needs getting used to. The battle scenes often happen without any warning, and with a

plethora of different weapons and magic spells some battles last for a few good minutes. Things become a bit stressful when your character is low on health points, and as each blow takes you closer to death magic and healing potions are just what the doctor ordered.

The exploring part of the game is straight forward and there are added hints that point to areas of interest and to building entrances and exits. There is no speech in Final Fantasy VII and you are forced to read through each conversation that your character gets into, this is a bit annoying as some of the dialogue is so pointless, but at least it is coherent and in good English. The game play needs a couple of hours of practice since the designated save points are fairly spread out, and this is annoying if you only want to play for half an hour.

This game is well worth the hype it has been given, and is a true epic experience. It may not be able to give you enough satisfaction to play again and again, but as with most things the first time is always the best. **G**

Magpie

Released: 14th November
Format: Sony PlayStation
Price: £44.99





IN THE PLAYHOUSES

THE POPULAR MECHANICALS

Unicorn Arts Theatre

We're new to London and it's a big city with many theatres. We got lost.

So, we're not quite sure what happens in the first half hour of *Popular Mechanicals*. To be honest, we were quite glad of our mistake because at this point the comedy was a little strained; Reminiscent perhaps of an over-done school assembly with at least five minutes of bottom jokes. However, we could see that the cast, comprising of: Lisa Kelly, Dean Lennox Kelly, Cal McCrystal, Keith Robinson, Devon Scott and Simon Walter, were comfortable with their parts and the overall effect of the costumes and the scenery was first-class.

Based on A Midsummer Night's Dream, *Popular Mechanicals* maintains the themes of madness, enchantment and imagination but concentrates on the ridiculous *Mechanicals* and, as

director Geoffrey Rush (that bloke from *Shine*) puts it; "their admirable if misguided aspirations to perform beyond their true capabilities."

In real life however, the cast were incredibly perceptive, with a wide array of facial expressions.

The lively start to the second half began to change our opinion of the play. From here, the performance broke up into a series of sketches, linked by the original theme. Dean Lennox Kelly, in his role of 'Snug the Joiner' kicked it off with a satirical stand-up show including his impression of Sir Walter Riley in Al Pacino style... "Art thou talking to me?" And here's a good one to tell your friends..... "What do Simon the pleman and Alfred the Great have in common?.....The!" Maybe you had to be there?

The highlight of the evening was a puppet dance routine with

rubber Tudor chickens. On sticks.

Although the play vaguely stuck to the storyline of the original Shakespeare, it now began to explore "classic" theatre and its associated quirks. The director's experience of re-created Elizabethan theatre was apparent in the clownish jigs and ditties. At the same time the props became more bizarre - watch out for the irons!

The mixture of Shakespeare and modern language can be a little confusing. The script is also unnecessarily coarse in places so don't take your gran. We would definitely recommend the second half to all you budding artistes. If you do go and manage to catch the beginning, could you drop us a line?

Demelza & Mary

Popular Mechanicals

Unicorn Arts Theatre, Leicester Square until January 24.

ANGELS & DEMONS

Rebecca Wolman

Angels and demons is an intriguing play that presents an intricate account of the battle between good and evil within the human soul through humorous and uplifting tales.

The audience is first introduced to the Shekhinah, the Princess of Light who once angers the King so greatly that his anger causes her to disappear in flash of light. Years later, the King, unable to locate the Princess calls on all the Princes of the world to search for his daughter, promising that he would give his daughter's hand in marriage. It is not until much later in the play that the story of the lost Princess is revived and in fact this opening tale serves as an awkward finale to the play. The key to understanding the idea of the Shekhinah lies in the realisation that the King represents God and the Princess of Light symbolises God's presence in the world.

But with light comes darkness and in the second scene Lilith is presented through a profound and thought provoking interpretation of Genesis; It would appear that in the garden of Eden, God created two women. The playwright describes the first woman as Lilith, the name

given to her by Jewish legend (Midrash). Created equal to Adam she refused to "lie below" him and their relationship did not last long as neither listened to the other. In anger and frustration, Lilith pronounced the secret ineffable name of God and disappeared into the air becoming a vengeful demon and alluring seductress, equal of Adam.

The play proceeds as a compilation of tales told by two actors and two multi-instrumented musicians. This small cast takes the audience on an enchanting journey through a wealth of legends and tales that explore the angels and demons that influence our moral decisions. The tale of Azazel, an angel who betrays God by attempting to marry a beautiful Princess is a key tale to which other tales are related. Azazel is clearly meant to symbolise the devil and like Lilith is one of the omnipresent demons that we must contend with.

This play, though fragmented at times, manages to embroil a diverse range of cultural and biblical tales. The tale of the Princess of Light in the prologue is an adaptation of a 13th Century Spanish tale and other tales in the play stem from Moroccan and Tunisian oral

traditions as well as others form eastern European folk tales, all cleverly blended with inspired contemporary tales from the playwright herself.

The stage has no curtains and is completely open which helps to emphasise the clever and original use of props. Hanging rope ladders are used to great effect and the two actors Simon Thorp and Emma Cater are very gymnastic in their acting and play multiple roles very effectively which makes the play both dramatic and dynamic. The drama is further strengthened by two excellent instrumentalists whose music is very well synchronised with the changing moods as the tales oscillate between good and evil, light and dark, angels and demons.

Overall this is a very interesting, humorous and thought provoking play but we were both disappointed by the ending which we felt was uninspiring.

Gachao Kiuna & Yida Kemoli

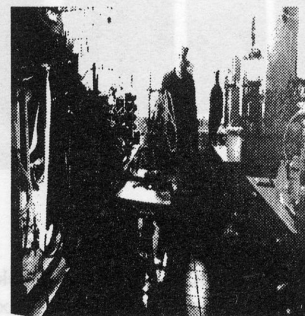
Angels and Demons

Is at the Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High St, NW6 until Sunday. Shows are 8pm Fri & Sat, 4pm Sun. £7.50 - £9.50

BLANKET

Jason Pidd & Edwina

Ashton



What can I write about this exhibition? I could say that the photographs and the video screens portray the dissatisfaction with society, the nihilistic feeling so dominant in our pre-millennium, angst-ridden culture. I could also say that the sensitive juxtaposition of the old visual medium of photography, with the relative novelty of the video nation exemplifies the abandonment of staid traditions, and the embrace of a newer, more radical approach to art. However, this is Felix, not i-D magazine, so I won't. I'll say what I think. I thought that this was awful, really, really bad. At the risk of repeating my editor's article on contemporary art, I would like to say how disillusioned and disgusted I am by the state of art in Britain. Nowadays, you only have to state that you're an artist, and everything you do is automatically regarded as valid art. If I'd been to art college, collected a degree and become an artist, I could place 22 baked bean cans on a brick, and call it "nosTalgia", and maybe I'd win the Turner Prize. Alternately, I could chop up three mannequins, insert a cucumber, two melons and a kumquat, and call it "Prostitution". For goodness sake, this exhibition is awful, pretentious rubbish. Don't go.

Julia H

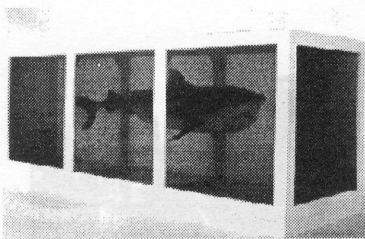
Blanket is at the Imperial College Ante Gallery until 5th December. Free.



IN THE GALLERIES

SENSATION

Royal Academy of Arts



SENSATION, the most spoken about and controversial exhibition of the Fall, presents the works (of Art ???) of young British artists (YBAs) from the Charles Saatchi collection.

What is the aim of the exhibition? - Contemporary art is always debatable and the whole event comes down to a few very philosophical questions; What is Art? What are its limits, if any? What is an artist?

The display falls aside any yet given definition. We are at the antipodes of Gautier's reflections, of the Theory of 'L'Art pour l'Art'. Beauty and refinement have definitely been brutally torn away from the notion, even deliberately 'spat upon'.

"SENSATION is an attempt to define a generation" - Not mine thank you!

Here, Art becomes brutality, vulgarity, violence, corruption, perversity. This exhibition is that of the

anti-aesthetic.

SENSATIONAL it is, in that it is a SENSATIONAL display of the decadence of British culture. It certainly reveals something about British society. England prides itself with having the freedom of organising such an event but it constitutes yet another blow in her ever weakening aura.

Seeing the crowds pressing round the entrance, at the till to buy the catalogue and posters, mainly reflects this nation's people's voyeurism, avidity for sensation and scandal. This should not be surprising, considering the overall mediocre quality of the British media, even whose most reputable titles have more than a strong propensity to fall into sensationalism.

A small mention at the entrance warns that "there are works of art in this display which some visitors may consider offensive", and a caption asks parents to exercise their own judgement in bringing along their children, which did not prevent couples to contemplate sculptures of hanging men, with severed heads and genitals, in the most bloody way, with their five year old daughter.

Damien Hirst is probably the key artist of the exhibition which features his formaldehyde-preserved animals, including such works as "This Little Piggy Went To The Market, This Little Piggy Stayed At Home" - a pig sliced into two,

each part placed into two parallel tanks of water and formaldehyde, which are driven by a mechanism so that they separate on a track: the animal's innards are progressively revealed as one side slowly moves forward.

The visitor can also walk in between 12 tanks of 'pickled' sliced cow - "Comfort Gained From The Acceptance That The Inherent Lies In Everything".

"A 1000 years", supposedly "rehearsing the life-cycle and monstrous spectacle of death" is Hirst's most repulsive display: a huge glass cube is home to thousands of flies, which are born there, feed from a dead cow's head - a big large piece of raw flesh -, mate and eventually die through (yet another morbid invention) the "insect-ocuter". Needless to mention the strong odour emanating from it and its incredible bacteria breeding capacity...

One also finds one of Hirst's spin painting - wonderfully boring - entitled "Beautiful Kiss My Fucking Ass", whose translation into another language is truly unthinkable. Why is therefore 'acceptable' in English?

This exhibit is in fact part of a gallery, whose admission is prohibited to under 18s, with strict ID control. Two particularly unhealthy displays stick out: James Rielly's "Random Acts of Kindness" is indecent as much in its association with the work, or even more, as in the

numerous little panels showing a pedophile and his victims in many different situations. Particularly in today's context, with all the dramatic events we hear of everyday, it is utmostly shameful.

Jake and Dinos Chapman's "Zygotic Acceleration, Biogenetic, De-sublimated, Libidinal Model Enlarged *1000" is a ring of siamese mannequins, whose heads are attached to one another by vaginas. Their noses have become penises and their lips anuses, with particular research carried out into shapes and sizes and let's say 'interaction'. Out of what kind of human brains can such ideas be born ??? It is at this point that the offence of claiming to be "defining a generation" takes its maximum proportions.

Amongst other exhibits, one can find Marcus Harvey's "Myra", an enormous painting based on a police photo of Myra Hindley, convicted for the horrific murder of children, in the mid 60s, serving a prison sentence for life.

Globally, this exhibition explores the taboos of sex, evil, death, drugs and the human body in no constructive way, very crudely and with a great deal of perversity, aiming to shock for the sake of shocking and 'de-ennobles' such an institutins as the Royal Academy of Arts.

Danuta Pieter

NEW MEDIA CENTRE

Institute of Contemporary Arts

Have you ever fancied expressing your digital creativity? The Institute of Contemporary Arts lives up to it's name with the launch of a new media centre as it enters it's 50th year. This is a joint venture with Sun microsystems which has contributed two million pounds to establish the centre.

As technology continues to advance, it's impact on society and culture is becoming more evident. This centre should allow genres and technologies to meet and collaborate leading to the transformation of existing art forms and the emergence of new ones.

The centre consists of several powerful computer stations run-

ning a new development named Java. This is a 'language' which enables computers and networks to interact across the Internet irrespective of make or location. So the public will be able to access these facilities, many of which can be run on the average PC.

So, what can you do with this new artifice?

CREATE. Animations, audio-visual packages, it will even be possible to produce a C.D. or film over the website.

Martin Lambert, director of marketing and technology at Sun compared this project to the early movie industry in the 1890's, where cameras were available but people were unsure how best to

use them.

Sun will therefore be providing sponsorship for a resident artist, who will explore the boundaries between science and art using the various programmes.

Some examples of electronic artwork were exhibited at the opening of the centre. Richard Brown's Alembic was a combination of animated 3-D visuals with sound; A representation of the elements, earth, fire, air and water, which reacted to surrounding movements. The contorted pinkish column in the centre of the darkened room became oddly relaxing with the addition of the synthesised, ambient sounds.

The introduction of the centre

also provides a welcome digital exhibiting space which will be viewed across the globe.

Computer workstations are currently available for public use at the ICA in the cafe area between 12.00 and 18.00. The rest of the centre will remain exclusive while it becomes established.

Computer experts from Sun will be on-hand to give advice on how to operate programmes and how to make the most of the technology.

You can also enter the website: <http://www.newmediacentre.com/> This includes the ICA archive and a chance to review the latest digital artwork.

Demelza & Mary

FRIDAY 28TH
'BUST-A-GUT
comedy club

FEATURING DAME SYBILLE & FRANKIE BOYLE

WORLD AIDS DAY 8PM DBS. £2.50/£2

POP TARTS

PLUS CHILL OUT ROOM. £1/FREE B4 9

ALL PROFITS TO MILD MAY MISSION

SUNDAY 30TH
Standing Room Only

TUESDAY 2ND

STA BAR TRIVIA

Let's talk about sex....

DaVinci's from 8.00
Win £50 or a crate of lager

WEDNESDAY 3RD

X'S

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

THURSDAY 4TH

COCKTAIL NIGHT
DaVinci's from 5.00



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

club & soc
eventsclub & soc
regularsradio
& TV

music

c
fri 28

Bust-A-Gut
Comedy with Dame Sybille &
Frankie Boyle. 8pm dBs, £2.50
Pop Tarts
Plus chillout room. £1 after
9pm. All proceeds to Midway
Mission.

Women's Minibus Service
Takes lone female students
home in safety all over London.
First Run - Midnight.
Last Run - Closing Time.
Parachute Club
Meeting, 12pm, Southside
Lounge.
IC Labour Club
Meeting, 1pm, Southside
Upper Lounge.

In? On a Friday night?
Try The Simpsons
6pm, BBC2
Top of the Pops
7.30pm, BBC1
Friends
9pm, C4
Have I Got News For You
10pm, BBC2

Jane Sibery
Union Chapel,
£12.50.

Shola Ama
Forum
£tbc

a
sat 29

ICU Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm,
Southside Gym. Beginners
Welcome.

IC Rifle & Pistol Club
Join up and shoot, 1-6pm.

*I'll tell you what I'll watch,
what I'll really, really watch...*
**An Audience with The Spice
Girls**
7.30pm, LWT
*Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise
vampire fantasy.....*
Interview with a Vampire
10.35pm, LWT

Joan Baez
Royal Festival Hall,
£tbc.

p
sun 30

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

ICU Cinema
La Dolce Vita, 8pm, Union
Concert Hall, £2.

IC Radio 999KHz
The Electric cafe, presented by
Alick Sethi. Interview with
Gerrini from Chicago and
tracks from new Gemini
album, 12-2am.

ICU Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm,
Southside Gym. All Welcome.

*Not much tonight...
Do that problem sheet
instead*
Call of the Wild: Tiger, Tiger
8pm, C5 *Grrrr...*
Postcards from the Edge
12.05am, C4

Embrace
Astoria,
£8.50.

i
mon 1

WORLD AIDS DAY
Stalls will be in the Union
from 11am - 3pm and the
medical campuses at lunch
selling ribbons and cards.
Talk from and AIDS sufferer
At Gladys'. (St Mary's bar)
Praed St. Starts at 1pm.
Proceeds to Terence Higgins
Trust & Midway Hospital.

Jazz & Rock Society
First of two concerts in dB's fea-
turing three college bands.
Starts at 8pm. Free.

Dance Club
Beginners Latin, 6pm.

Community Action Group
"Tools for Self Reliance," 6pm,
Old Dark Room, Beit Quad.

CathSoc
Mass every Monday, 12pm, Leon
Bagin Centre, level 1, Mech Eng.

The Simpsons
6pm, BBC 2
Eastenders
8pm, BBC 1
Nevermind the Buzzcocks
9.30pm, BBC 2
*Yes it's a repeat, but it's still
funny*

t
tue 2

Book Signing
Prof Igor Aleksander will be
signing his new book
Impossible Minds in
Waterstones from 1pm.
STA Bar Trivia
8pm DaVinci's
Win £50 or a crate of lager
plus X-Files goodies

ChemSoc Lecture (ticket only)
Prof Sir Harold Kroto (Nobel Laureate)
C60 - Not Just a Pretty Molecule,
6.15pm, Mech Eng LT 220
ICU Labour Club
Talk by Dr Tony Wright MP,
12.45pm Read Lt, level 5,
Sherfield.

Imperial Queers
Meeting, 7.30pm, Brown
Committee Room, Union building.
Dance Club
Beginners Ballroom, 6pm.
OpSoc
Rehearsal, 7.30pm, Concert Hall.
Yoga Club
Yoga classes, 12.15-1.30pm,
Southside Gym.

Eastenders
7.30pm, BBC 1
The Turner Prize Live
9pm, C4
*Blow your nose and call it art,
I ask you. Good for a laugh
though*

Stiff Little Fingers
Mean Fiddler,
£12.50.

The Corrs
Shepherds Bush Empire,
Sold Out.
Also Dec 11, Forum,
£10.

a
wed 3

Lunch-Hour Lectures
Dr Monica Grady: *Life on Mars:
Has Pathfinder Got Us Any
Further?* 1pm, Physics LT1.
XS
Pop & mainstream dance in
dB's. 9pm-1am (midnight bar)
Free B4 11/50p after

Poetry reading
By Ruth Fainlight. Haldane Library,
6pm
Islamic Soc Women In Islam by
Sarah Joseph. MecEng 213, 1pm.
Non-muslims welcome.

Astrosoc
Meeting, 1.30pm, Physics,
level 2. Common room.
Women's Minibus Service
(see Friday)
ICU Orienteering Club
Training, all welcome, 6pm,
Union Gym.
Community Action Group
Visits to Parkcare Nursing
Home, 2pm, Beit Arch.

A Date With An Artist
7.30pm, BBC2
*Probably Turner Prize winner,
more art based comedy*
Secret Lives: Margot Fonteyn
9pm, C4
*C4 smears reputation of
beautiful ballet dancer*

Tortoise
Electric Ballroom,
£10.

Sparks
Astoria,
£11

Spearhead
Forum, £10.

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thr 4

Cocktail Night
DaVinci's from 5pm

Explosoc
Talk on *Exploring Coral Reefs*,
by IC Biologist, Dr Howard
Wilson, 12.30pm, Biology
W2/3.

Cristian Union
Meeting, 6.30pm, Biology W2/3.
Dance Club
Beginners Ballroom, 6pm.
ICSF (Science Fiction Soc)
Barnight, 7pm, Union Bar.
IC Choir
Rehearsal, 6.15-8pm, 342, Mech
Eng. New Members Welcome.

Third Rock from the Sun
9pm, BBC 2
*Old American men behaving
boringly*
Men Behaving Badly
9.30pm, BBC 1
*Old British men behaving
boringly*

Echobelly
Astoria
£9.

MIDLAND '97: Jamiroquai
Battersea Power Station,
£tbc.



film

Alien Resurrection
 UCI Whiteleys
 £6.60, £4.00 <5pm M-F,
 £4.00 <3pm Sa&Su
 1.40, 4.20, 7.00, 9.40
 Odeon Kensington
 1.55, 4.30, 7.05, 9.40
 (Late Fri, Sat 12.20)

One Night Stand
 Virgin Tricadero
 (£5.00 sdt)
 12.10, 2.10, 4.30, 6.50, 9.20
 (Late Fri, Sat 11.50)

Gi Jane
 Odeon Kensington
 (£6.30, £3.70 <5pm M-F,
 £5.00 <5pm Sa&Su)
 1.05, 3.35, 6.45, 9.35
 Odeon Marble Arch
 (£6.50, £4 <3pm Sa&Su, £4
 <5pm M-F)
 12.45, 3.20, 6.00, 9.05
 (Late Fri, Sat 11.50)

Deadline for entries to the competition on page 18. There are tickets and posters from **Alien Resurrection** to be won and you can enter by e-mailing the answer to felix@ic.ac.uk

The Tango Lesson
 Odeon Mezzanine
 (£7)
 2.15, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45

Seven Years in Tibet
 Empire
 (£7.50, £4.00 M-F < 5pm)
 12.00, 2.50, 5.45, 8.45
 (Late Fri Sat 11.45)

Film reviewers wanted
 See the best films before they are released totally free. Come to the Film meetings, noon on Tuesdays in the Felix office and pick up some tickets.

arts

Angels and Demons
 Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High St, NW6 until Sunday.
 Shows are 8pm Fri & Sat, 4pm Sun. £7.50 - £9.50

See review on p. 21

Institute of Contemporary Arts
 A new Media Centre, consisting of several powerful computers on which Joe Public can go along and create create electronic art. Currently open to the public 12 noon-6 pm in the cafe area of the ICA, The Mall, SW1.
 See review on p. 22

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

Popular Mechanicals
 Unicorn Arts Theatre, Leicester Square until January 24.

See review on p.21

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

See review on p. 22

Blanket
 Imperial College Ante Gallery until 5th December. Free

See review on p. 21

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.

club scene

Blackmarket Collective
 @ The End W/C1 D&B
 11pm-5am £10 / £12
 Info 0171 419 9199

Quench
 @ Mars W1 Speed Garage
 10pm-4am £7 b4 11 / £10 after
 Info: 0171 439 4655

Freedom
 @ Bagleys Studio's, King's Cross
 10 pm-7 am
 4 rooms covering the musical spectrum. £12.
 Info 0171 278 2171
Spoilt for Choice @ Icen. Mayfair
 Swing, Hip-Hop, House, 70's & 80's. 3 floors 10pm-3.30am
 Info: 0171 4955333

Sunflowers
 @ Aquarium, Old Street
 9am-6pm. House & Back to 93/94 (pool & jacuzzi)
 Free b4 10am £5 nus/ £7
 Info: 0171 7299779

Bubbling Over @ Bar Rumba
 £3 Soul, Funk & boogie
 Info: 0171 277 2385

Sultry Funk
 @ Fridge Bar, Brixton
 10pm-2am
 Soul, Funk & House. Free
 Info: 0171 326 5100

Subterania W10
 8pm-2am Hip-Hop £8
 Info: 0181 961 5490

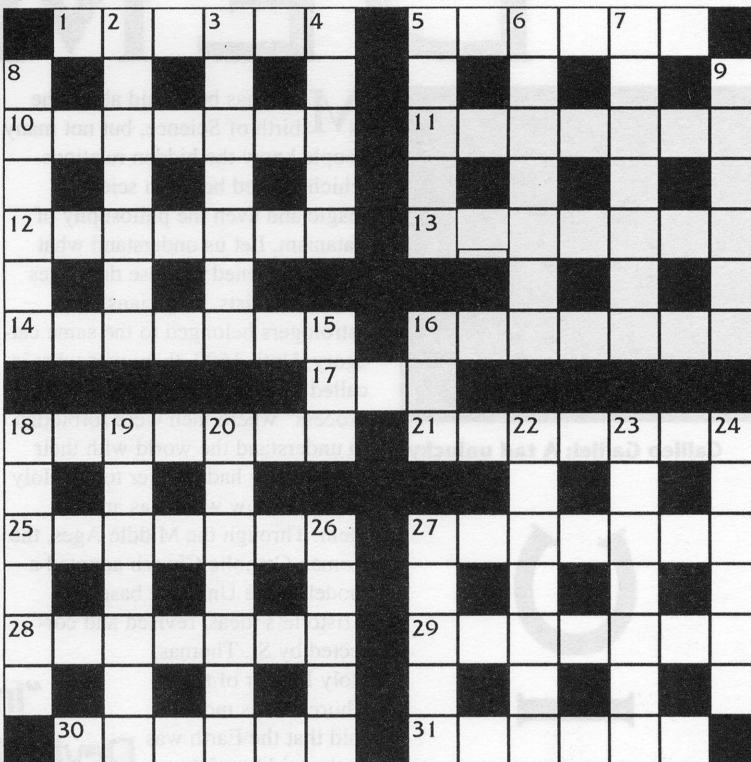
Swerve
 @ Velvet Rooms W/C2
 10pm-2.30am Upfront D&B.
 Resident Fabio & guests
 £6 Nus £4
 Info: 0171 734 4687

Coldcut's End of Tour, Pre Christmas Party @ 333 Old St
 9pm-4am Crazy Itchy Scratchy Breakbeat Action £8
 Info: 0171 424 0405
Ultimate B.A.S.E.
 @ Velvet Rooms W/C2
 10pm-2am Hard House 'n' Funky Techno £6.
 Info 0171 734 4687

PUZZLES

EASY CROSSWORD

By Matt



ACROSS

- 1 Beach garment; word for 1946
- 5 Paving material; word for 1903
- 10 Capital of Siam
- 11 Prepared
- 12 Discard
- 13 Using a hammer
- 14 Strange; word for 1937
- 16 Journeys
- 17 Period of time
- 18 Dropping bombs from the sky; word for 1911
- 21 Building for entertainment
- 25 Stupid
- 27 Saves
- 28 Secret police; word for 1933
- 29 Profit
- 30 Insect
- 31 Subjects of discussion

DOWN

- 2 Something that charges particles
- 3 Annoying
- 4 Little
- 5 Shroud in Italy
- 6 Fact
- 7 Lasting
- 8 Dwellings
- 9 Traditional sayings
- 15 Guided
- 16 Large container
- 18 Rejections
- 19 Redistribute
- 20 Pull together
- 22 Real nature of a thing
- 23 Gourmet fungus
- 24 Reposition
- 26 Asexually reproduced individual; word for 1992
- 27 Mechanical device performing a task for a human; word for 1920

Peacemaker t-shirt and cap to be won

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

Felix defines.

NO.1 STANGSTER

This is the start of a new weekly puzzle. Every week there will be a word from the English language that you have to define. The nearest approximate answer will win a mystery prize and a selection of some of the more amusing answers will be printed and credited in the following week's Felix. The correct definition will also be revealed. Drop answers into the box at Felix or e-mail them to felix@ic.ac.uk



DEMONS?



Galileo Galilei: A tad unlucky, perhaps?

SCIENTIFIC

Much has been said about the birth of Science, but not many people know the hidden relations which existed between science, magic and even the philosophy of Satanism. Let us understand what really happened in those dark ages when scientists, magicians and astrologers belonged to the same category. Until 1600, there was what is called a "triangular knowledge process" where men were forbidden to understand the world with their reason; they had to refer to the Holy Bible to know what was around them. Through the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church adopted a model of the Universe based on Aristotle's ideas, revised and corrected by St. Thomas, Holy Doctor of the Church. This model said that the Earth was in the middle of the Universe, and that it was surrounded by 55 spheres made of the purest ether, and the whole Solar System, including the Sun, spun around our planet. Outside this system there was heaven and God, surrounded by angels. But in the seventeenth century, Galileo Galilei, the Italian scientist, used binoculars for the first time to observe the sky. That night, on the top floor of a small villa in Pisa near Florence, the story was going to change. How great would have been Galileo's wonder when he saw mountains and valleys on the Moon! Where was the pure ether? And what about the four little satellites orbiting around Jupiter, so similar to the Moon and to the other planets? That night, the so-called "triangular knowledge process" was broken: men tried to understand the world using only their reason, not the Bible. And, in doing that, Galileo rebelled against the Holy Church, like Lucifer did against God. In fact, the basis of the philosophy of Satanism is that man is able to look after his life without the help of God. The consequences of this rebellion were swift: the Holy Inquisition arrested him and all the other brave scientists who followed him. Galileo was imprisoned, tortured and forced to say that what he had seen was merely dust on the lenses of his binoculars, and that the Universe was as Aristotle had described it. Giordano Bruno, who

dared to speak about the idea of infinity, against the idea of the uniqueness of the Man, the best creature made by God, was burnt alive in Rome. The century after saw the birth of the Age of the Reason and Enlightenment. During the French Revolution, the citizens of Paris destroyed statues of saints and angels and instead placed statues of the "Goddess of Reason". Last century, Giosue' Carducci, an Italian poet, wrote "Inno a Satana" (Hymn to Satan), in which he spoke about reason, progress, modernity and the need to live in the world thinking about the world and not about Heaven; the importance of what is imminent, not what is transcendent.

"In any agreement with the Devil, there is a moment at which a price must be paid."

But, going back to the end of the Middle Ages, what happened during Galileo's life was a complex, violent rebellion against the Bride of God, the Church. We should remember that the astronomical theories and poems were just a part of this process. Whilst Galileo was looking at the sky, alchemists were hidden in their dungeons, trying to discover the Philosopher's stone, a mystical stone able to change iron into gold. Astrologers wandering through the dangerous lands of Europe sold their predictions to frightened travellers. Today, it is very difficult to realise how strong the link was between scientists and these mystics: Kepler, for instance, believed deeply in astrology. But now let us turn to our times. What is science today? Science is POWER. Science is the power to make a man live for 70-80 years, while the biological duration of man's life should be about 50 years. It is the power to substitute his health, when it no longer works, and other parts of his body. But it is also the power to send rockets to other planets, to save millions of lives with a vaccine and to destroy millions of lives with H-Bombs. It is the power to create a child by just using two invisible cells, the power to design that child as we do with a car, by using genetic engineering, to duplicate that child as we do with

word when we use COPY and PASTE on our word-processor. Even more nightmarish projects can be realised in the future; some people say that it is possible to transfer the whole personality of a human into a computer programme. Then humans will be able to live on in a computer after their bodies die. After all, it is just a matter of reproducing the normal electrical currents present inside a human brain on complex silicon-based chips. Personality, memories, behaviour and whatever a human soul is, are not more than immensely complex interactions amongst billions of neurons. But who can state that men will never be able to understand this complexity?

If these ideas seem to close to science-fiction, we should remember that now we can connect the little brains of some little bugs to a small microchips, and scientists can control the movements

of these living insects using a simple remote-controllers, as if these living creatures were micro-models. Is it only the overflowing wit of humans, or are we now going too far? Now that we are close to the year 2000, millennial movements are forming and growing stronger and stronger. Like in an agreement with the Devil, man gained huge power through science. But in any agreement with the Devil, there is a moment at which a price must be paid. How close have we been to the end of our civilization? Imagine if an atomic war had occurred during the cold war? In the Apocalypse, the last part of the Bible, it is written that "absinthe will poison one third of the lands and one third of the seas...". Absinthe is a common plant and is not very well known; however its Russian name is: CHERNOBYL. Are these only common fantasies of men who are approaching a new millennium? And was Galileo's experience the beginning of an age of peace and prosperity through knowledge, or, without further discussing religion, was it the beginning of an age in which men believe themselves to be omnipotent? Is this an age in which we think it is ethically right to do whatever science allows us to? The next millennium hides the answer.

MATTEO FLORIS



Results

Hockey

IC II 3 - 0 QMW

IC Ladies I 0 - 7 UCL I

IC Ladies II 4 - 0 St George's

Rugby

ICRFC I 17 - 5 St George's I

ICRFC II 15 - 0 St George's II

ICRFC III 7 - 31 St Mary's III

Football

ICFC II 5 - 0 King' II

ICFC III 1 - 2 ICFC IV

ICFC III 0 - 3 Goldsmith's III

ICFC IV 2 - 0 Goldsmith's IV

Volleyball

ICVC 3-0 Christ's College

ICVC 3-0 UCL

IC Mixed VC 2-0 LSE

Important notice to all IC sportsmen - get Activities Cards! They cost £1.50 from the Union office. If you don't have one, you don't have insurance!

Felix needs a new sports editor as I am feeling the pressure of my final exams and my rampant drug and alcohol addictions. Anyone interested?

Sorry to those left out this week - your reports next week. Si

Orienteering

Given the chance of two events within fifteen hours, ICUOC could not refuse. On a wet and windy Saturday evening we braved Therfield common in Royston to do a night event. David Nutt managed to come second on the toughest course despite not having orienteered since July. The rest of us were beaten by Cambridge on the 'Navy' course although Jacob Sharpe got sixth place with a very good time of 46:29, just one second behind the fifth placed Cambridge runner. Despite being responsible for buying the batteries for the lamps Gareth Jones's battery ran out before the finish in a repeat of the Southern Night Champs the previous week, but he was able to finish by using the lights of a nearby Rugby club to read the map.

Next, at Ashbridge, those of us who had been at Therfield felt the effects but Jacob Sharpe had another good run, finishing 25th with a time of 67:32 minutes. Ola Holmer finished the 'brown' course in 80:05 minutes - two minutes under par time.

We always welcome new members and anyone who is interested, contact Gareth Jones at gjd1@doc.ic.ac.uk.

Chess

The Chess II team, glowing with three wins from four matches this term, were trounced by a strong side from Hackney in the Middlesex League last week. In the absence of star players Jeremy Davies and Rob Kruszynski, last season's impressive win at home was not repeated.

At the "late" start time of 7.30pm only three of our eight players were at their boards - the match looked lost without a move having been played. Dave Tang had to be dragged away from a friendly "warm-up" game next door. Others arrived one by one within the half-hour default time.

Ivo Tzenov lost too quickly on board 8. His opponent belched and smoked and almost died of coughing, but unfortunately lived to deliver checkmate.

A fire alarm interrupted the match - a welcome break for some, and maybe the opposition would be cheesed off by it (of course, we're used to it now). Andy Slough resumed his game with a rotten move, and slipped from a dominating position into a loss. Dave had also been better off, having played quickly (his forte) and swapped off pieces, but he failed to turn it into a win.

Jeremy didn't appear, so Giles 'squirrel' Cope was substituted on board 4. More at home with bridge, he was slowly and methodically crushed. Even his combat boots and trousers, pint of beer, and an aggressive squat on the chair couldn't save him. Kostas Vafiadis was not on form and lost to a stormy attack on his king, unsuccessfully sheltering behind rickety pawns.

Tim Douglas continued to perform brilliantly and pulled off our only win with a mating attack on the castled king. Barry Gale faced the same opponent as last year; having survived the opening with a reasonable position as black, he foolishly allowed thrusting pawns to creep up on his deserted king, and soon found himself in a mating trap.

Simon Warman requested the challenge of playing a tough opponent on board 1. He showed himself up to the task and lasted to a very drawish endgame. However, he entered the "speed finish" a couple of minutes down and, unwilling to accelerate his thinking processes, he lost on time.

The final score was 1.5 - 6.5, our worst defeat so far.

Guns

The Islamic Society events have started off with a bang, or I should I say 'splat!' Our annual paint balling event saw us this year pitted against the shooting skills of City University. Played on a thirty acre site we had an action packed day, with every one suited out in a combat suit and a semi automatic paint gun. The event including four main games, each lasting forty minutes was held at the 'Big Red' in Slough.

Imperial got off to an impressive start in game one, the objective to take the opponents flag and defend our own. After thirty five minutes both sides were locked in an endless stalemate with little casualties. Then with two minutes to spare 'VP Areeb' (our vice president) made a suicide rush at the City base and single handily took their flag and made his way back to give Imperial a twenty point lead. Mission accomplished but mainly because the City's defence had run out of paint bullets. Game two - 'defence of the village' - saw each side try to defend a village and stop the enemy stealing your flag. Both sides defended the village and the game was declared a draw, thanks mainly to the sharp defensive shooting of Imperials 'ewoks' Ishtiaq and Saqib.

After a break for prayer and a much needed hot meal, game four - 'speed ball.' Like game one the objective was to take the enemies flag and protect your own, but this time it was a quick fire mad rush of four, three minute games.

In game one our favourite secretary himself, 'hitman' Harris, was the only Imperial man left alive. He ran the whole length of the field, took out the remaining three City players in amazing manoeuvre and walked back with City's flag. City won the next two but fresher Rizwan maintained our lead by winning the last game with a great individual effort.

City fought back trailing only by five points, by defeating Imperials attempt in game four to 'defend the bridge.' With both sides cheating in our attempt to take City's bridge (thanks to our 'shifty' fresher Hussan) the last game was called a draw and we won the event by five points. If anyone is interested in future paint balling events please email the Islamic Society at h.bokhari@ic.ac.uk.

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Footie Fourths Four Ever

ICFC III v ICFC IV

This was no fluke; ask any player from the Thirds who deserved to win and albeit through gritted teeth, they would have to say the mighty IC Fourths.

After having scouted the thirds and discovered their strengths and weaknesses, Captain Quick employed the revolutionary 4-4-2 formation thus preventing their wing-backs from operating, leaving them with no creative ideas. This however wasn't a game for formations, it was about passion and spirit, about who wanted the victory more. The defence (Paul, Andy, Elliot, David) didn't put a foot wrong all game, the midfield (Ryan, Phaedon, Bola, Serge) and Darren and Richard up front were all magnificent. However, as always special credit should be given to the goal scorer, Darren, bagging a quality brace, showing the third's defenders what muppets they really are. And also the central midfield duo of Phaedon and Bola totally dominated the middle of the park, preventing the Thirds from attacking and still creating chances for the strikers.

ICFC III 1 - 2 ICFC IV

ICFC IV v Golds IV

Well, what can we say? The game today was the crowning point of our BUSA campaign so far. Our jungle skills flowered under the grim sky as our first BUSA win guaranteed us entry into the BUSA knock-out shield. Specifically, the touch of the elephant/lastadon was not in our ranks today. Ryan, Bola, Dazzla, Bertie and Elliot had all been blessed with the skill of the racoon, and our ever-solid defence with the consistency of a yak. The first goal was born - a vivid, joyful combination terminated with a clinical finish.

The stamina of the mountain billy-goat then set well in, replaced at times with the stealth of the leopard and the low cunning of the fox. Our team surged forward like a herd of buffalo and over-came the Goldsmiths scum. And then the second goal was created... From there we held fast like a baboon colony and waited patiently for the final whistle, with unshakable confidence. For the record, both the goals were scored by Elliot and thus the spirit of the mongoose lives on.

ICAFC IV 2 - 0 Goldsmiths IV

ICFC V v Holloway VI

Without doubt our worst performance of the season so far. We started the game in confident mood, keeping possession and putting pressure on Holloway early on. A sequence of corners very nearly saw IC take the lead, with a beautiful turn and shot by Dmitris bringing out a fine save from the opposition keeper. Andy C was unlucky not to score after being put through on goal on three separate occasions as IC kept up the pace. Unfortunately those early misses were soon to be regretted as Holloway won a corner and put in a testing cross, which was headed in by one of our own players.

A rethink during half time then saw new boy Bic come on in midfield. Again we started brightly with Kublai forcing a good save with a well directed header at goal. But an inability to keep the ball for any length of time soon led to Holloway scoring again.

IC tried to raise the tempo, and Dan's fluke 40 yard screamer through the midfield, defence, and keeper legs gave us hope with fifteen minutes to go. But it wasn't to be.

ICAFC V 1 - 2 Holloway VI

ICWAFC v RFH

It was quickly evident that the Royal Free were of a lower class to us, so it was only a matter of time until we scored. A rather impressive individual effort by Brindley saw our first notch on the goal post. This was soon followed by a superb strike from Taffy, who at last realised which team she was supposed to score for.

The first goal in the second half followed a scramble in the box and then a simple chip into the top corner. Next was a more classy effort - Freud played a beautiful cross in from the right which was met with precision by Scrubber.

Brindley then completed her Brace with a penalty after one of the Free defenders blatantly handled the ball in the box, lest she should spoil her make-up by heading the ball. Scrubber's hat-trick was a long time coming - She took on two defenders and then wrong-footed the keeper after being booted in the shin for the umpteenth time.

The defence was little troubled and the only exciting thing to happen to keeper Langrish was when a bird excreted on her shoe (those Free players really should control their bowel movements) Scrubber turned down Hedge's offer of pint or two to celebrate the hat-trick "I swear I'm off alcohol for life".

ICWAFC 6- ROYAL FREE 0

ICFC I v UMDS I

IC produced a dire performance which the Duke of Prague would be truly ashamed of. The captain has to take a lot of the blame for this defeat as he was sent off after ten minutes when IC were leading 1- 0. The offence was "ungentlemanly conduct" or to be more precise flashing his awoken (by a Scrubber) manhood at the referee. His action is now being considered by a ULU disciplinary committee and the captain looks set for a lengthy ban - perhaps unfair for such a 'small offence'.

After the game our spirits weren't lifted by any of our team pulling, since we are just plain ugly - only women footballers would go for us. What can we do? Become rugby players?

ICFC I 1 - 5 UMDS I

Rapture for Rugby

IC I v St George I

Possibly the best performance of the season saw the IC dragon slay St George! The opening try began under our own posts and went the full 101 metres - "le Telfor" was showing off! After "Hog's breath's" interception and fine break, Ali "Taff" Jefferies showed his immaculate kicking skills by hitting the post with the conversion, after champagne rugby (England, are you watching?) mainly by the "miners", the ball swept smoothly from hand to hand with "Buffy" Buttenshaw putting "Mongol" Lloyd away for a well worked try. Yep, Ali missed the conversion. Lionel scored the decisive try. The back row were more rampant than herpes and Dan "I'll kick you and run away" Higasi won man of the match for infecting them more than the others.

ICRFC I 17 - 5 St George's I

IC II v St George II

The purple helmets still pissed and something over from the night before descended on St George's with a wrath of great vengeance then delivered them from their great pain and suffering.

Spuw Tanoy having chundered before the game twice decided to be a back this week and actually managed to receive 'some' ball from El Capitan (crash fly-half) to run some nifty little waddles of his fat arse!

Matt Faggoty managed to score a try (Surprise) which was commendable.

Dim Slim Tim (sounds like a chinese dish?) scored a try after many vain attempts to get the ball to him.

It was scrappy but we wanted it and the win was well deserved.

ICURFC II 15 - 0 St George's II

ICIII v St Mary's III

This game was fought mainly up front with both sets of fat boys trying to gain the upper gut. We had the weight, but they had the speed and height. They scored two quick tries before we woke up and joined the fray. A superb solo try from James 'Quicksilver' Welsh was converted by Chris 'Golden Boot' Dickenson. Despite tactics reminiscent of the All-Blacks even the defensive efforts of Tom 'Offside' Hovard could not keep the Medics out, after losing our glorious captain Julian 'Logic' Harrison RIP.

In the second half, having then lost Kolone 'What half is it' Yung, we were down to fourteen men.

We played some of the best rugby of our season but the ref was a baxxxxd.

ICRFC III 7 - 31 St Mary's III