

SP



FELIX

FEATURE
Renaissance; a rebirth

WWW.SU.IC.AC.UK/FELIX
Felix back on the net!

NEXT WEEK
Who is Tony Mitcheson?

Double Standards

KENT YIP

Widespread hostility among medics continues to emerge after the decision reached last term to submit a single entry to the British University Sports Association (as reported in Felix 1102). The debate at Tuesday's Emergency General Meeting has forced the Executive Committee of Imperial College Union to re-open the discussion before Council next Monday.

The meeting, attended by more than 300 people, was held after Katie Armstrong, president of ICSM Union, withdrew her call for a union-wide referendum on the matter. Her motion was supported by about 800 union members. However, the legality of holding a referendum without first referring the matter back to ICU Council for consideration has been challenged. Moreover, if the referendum had taken place, it would have clashed with the annual Sabbatical Elections

next month. The possibility of the latter being turned simply into a BUSA entry debate was thought to be undesirable.

Responding to calls for his resignation, Charlie Joynt, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), denied having reneged on his election manifesto. He believed people

not yet be implemented because BUSA was not prepared to apply different entry rules to selected clubs. At present, BUSA is still considering changes to resolve similar predicaments faced by colleges incorporating the London medical schools. A decision will be announced in February.

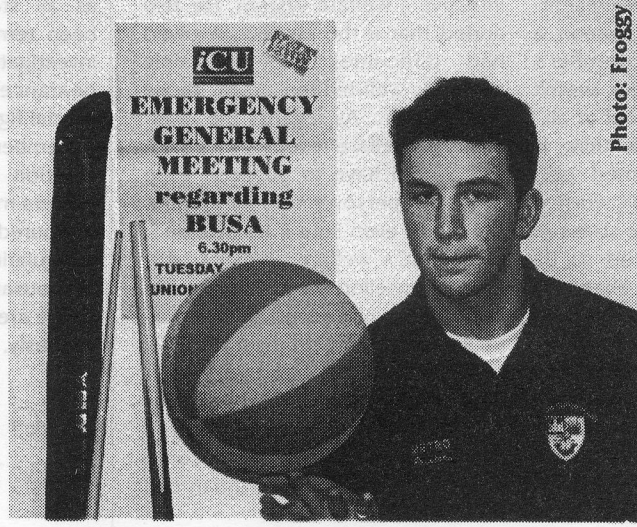


Photo: Froggy

Andy Heeps, President of Imperial College Union, who forced the EGM in the first place, was glad to have the chance to discuss the issue again at the next executive meeting. He felt that members of the executive committee who cast their vote on the last occasion did not have enough time to take in, and subsequently reflect, the wide ranging views among the population of the college.

had misunderstood his concept of 'hybrid entry' advocated during his election campaign. Under this scheme, smaller clubs would submit a single entry, whilst larger ones remain separate in BUSA competitions. However, this could

For Charlie Joynt to resign, he said his deputy had done an excellent job so far, and he had no reason to question his personal integrity; any misunderstanding was due entirely to his inexperience in politics and presenting his ideas clearly.

Extremists: Narrow Escape for IC

ANDY SINHARAY

An extremist religious group apparently booked conference space at IC towards the end of last term. The group, turned away from IC after Police intervention, went on to stage the event in North London. One source claimed several arrests were consequently made.

It appears that the group, who called themselves "The London Turkish Islamic Association", made a booking only to have it later cancelled by Security, who had been advised by Scotland Yard that the Association was believed to have been a terrorist group.

One Conference Office source said that after the booking was made, threatening messages had

been faxed to them demanding to know why IC was giving space to "fascists". "We do get events under fictitious names," Felix was told. "They tried several venues but couldn't get in...we have to look out for suspicious groups." They said the Conference Office organises around 4000 events each year, including those from mainstream Muslim groups, but annually receives "five or six" attempts at bookings from extremist groups. They usually have no fixed correspondence address or a PO Box number, or may be vague on details of the event they wish to organise. "We get fundraisers here, and we can't be seen to be fundraising for terrorists." Felix was also told the group finally took the event to Stoke Newington.

The Union also received a fax demanding to know why IC was playing host to a group of fascists. Michelle Lewthwaite, ICU office manager, said that the union was telephoned from a man claiming to represent a different group who "weren't happy about them [the London Turkish Islamic Association] using college... the guy went on and on." The caller then confirmed his complaints in writing by fax. "I then called college security who told me the event had been cancelled," Ms Lewthwaite added. This has not been the first such occurrence: "There was a group here two or three years ago, who caused big aggro," explained Rob Clark, ICU Deputy President. IC Security were unavailable for comment.

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College
Issue 1103
16 January 1998



Student Dies

ANDY SINHARAY

Term has begun with news that yet another student has died. The Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Chemistry Department, Dr. David Widdowson, said that the third year was found dead in his Acton flat on Monday 5th January. His flatmates attempted to revive him, but he was pronounced dead on arrival in hospital. There are believed to be no suspicious circumstances and an inquest has yet to be held.

The deceased chemist represented, according to Dr. Widdowson, a "very different" case to November's suicide (Felix 1102). "He wasn't depressed or down-and-out at all," he continued. "The whole thing is total mystery... he seemed perfectly normal, though a bit worried [about exams]", though he stressed that the student appeared to be under no more pressure than any of his peers. He added that his flatmates had been with him earlier that day and found his behaviour to be normal.

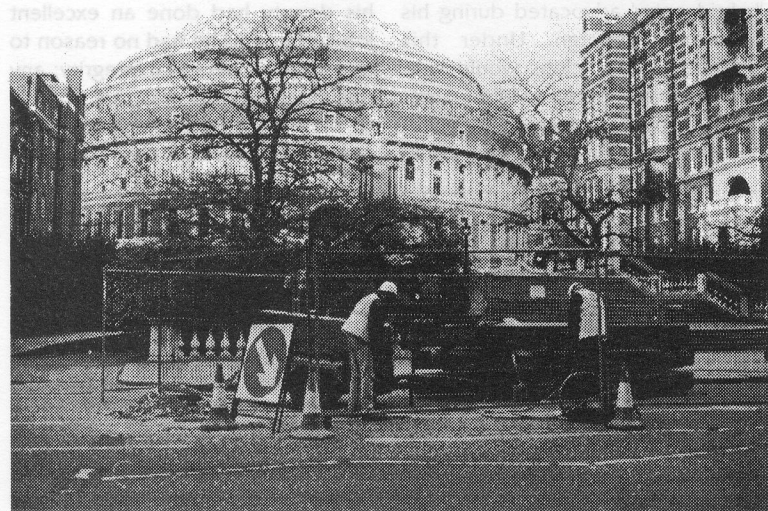
Dr. Margaret Goodgame, College Tutor, said "Chemistry is devastating... we can't see any reason for it, I don't think anyone could have foreseen it... he was a bit of a wor-

rier, probably on a first, but no doubt of a two-one. We had no worries."

As regards the adequacy of pastoral care, Dr. Goodgame added, "Welfare provision is fairly good. It's scattered, but that's its strength, because it's diverse, and the links are good."

Dr. Widdowson also told Felix that "We worry like mad as to whether we're doing enough" though he added it was difficult to strike a balance between giving students freedom and imposing too intrusive a welfare system. He also added that if the student involved had difficulties they certainly seemed well-hidden from those around him. As regards the availability of welfare resources he said, "We would have to publicise even more the personal tutorial system. We're not even sure if it's suicide."

One of IC's welfare advisors, student counsellor David Allman, did not wish to comment on this particular case, though he told Felix that students are welcome to discuss any problems with him. "People are very welcome to come if any student would like to come and talk," he said. Mr. Allman can be reached on x49430.



Work begins this week on renovation of the area around the Royal Albert Hall, opposite the Royal College of Music, writes David Roberts. The steps will be closed whilst the concrete layer which covers the original gardens is ripped up, to access the three-storey basement beneath. In place of the current cramped Victorian plant-rooms, a larger car park, delivery access points and offices will be packed into the underground area, to free the area from traffic. When finished, the original stonework, balustrade and monument will be restored to their present locations. The Circle area will also be renovated, and the famous acoustic 'mushrooms' will be removed for the Hall's ceiling. Although currently six weeks behind schedule, the hall's chief executive still hopes that "the development will be completed by 2000, restoring the monument, gardens and public facilities to their former glory". Photo: Alik

News in Brief...

CCS SHOP

A member of the Centre for Computing Services Shop staff has been suspended in connection with "stock irregularities" according to Professor Hynds, head of CCS, who went on to add that "the matter is now being investigated fully".

David Thompson, head of the internal audit unit was, however, unable to put a value on the loss, as all stock records have now been removed by police officers investigating the alleged disappearance. However, whilst no official figure will be available until a member of the CCS staff in conjunction with the investigating officers make a final valuation, it is rumoured that the cost of the "irregularities" may run into several thousands of pounds, and the police are treating the matter very seriously.

C&G STAFF LOSE WAY TO UNION?

The continued poor showing of City and Guilds Union officers at ICU meetings has resulted in the C&GU President, Vivake Bhalla, being asked to explain the actions of his Union. Although Mr Bhalla's personal absences from several recent ICU Executive meetings were unavoidable, the reasons for the continuing poor turn-out from the C&GU Junior Treasurer at funding meetings and several C&GU officers' absences from Union Council remain unexplained. Rob Clark, Deputy President (Finance & Services) described the C&GU as "failing to represent the interests of their membership". Mr. Bhalla told Felix that he had been absent for the last two weeks "for personal reasons."

OSC BASH

The arrangements for International Night, one of the most successful annual events in IC's social calendar, appear to be going according to plan. As on previous occasions, the event is to include a food fair and show in the Great Hall in the Sherfield Building, followed by a disco fin-

ishing at around 3am.

Chetan Tailor, chair of the Overseas Societies Committee (OSC) which is responsible for organising the event, told Felix that while the event would be sure to pull the crowds. "It's the biggest IC event," he said. However, he also commented that the expense was the main problem: This year's event had cost £15000, more expensive than previous years, with the food fair alone costing £5000. "It's a large part of the affair," he said. Also contributing to the increased cost is the new stage, being built with equipment on loan from DramSoc and St. Mary's. "We had to build it [in earlier years] and it's a lot of hassle," said Samad Latif, OSC honorary secretary. Both he and Mr. Tailor appeared non-plussed at the comment that they were tempting fate by holding the event on Friday 13th February 1998.

STUDENTS OVER THE LIMIT

A new campaign to curb student drinking is due to be launched by the National Union of Students and the Portman Group, a self-regulatory organisation funded by all the major UK brewers to encourage responsible drinking. The report will stress the importance of sticking to the government's recommended safe drinking limits of 28 units for men and 21 units for women each week. Whether the guidelines will apply to non-NUS colleges such as IC has not been made clear.

FELIX ON-LINE

After a term of inactivity, Felix.net has returned with a new layout. The contents of Felix will on-line in full every Friday, with back issues up to three years ago. The site is located at www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view the pages, and it is available on the site.



Builders Get Ghoulish

Surprise

ANDREW OFORI

Contractors were stunned to discover a severed human foot while carrying out renovations in the Mechanical Engineering building. Just before Christmas, a sealed sink in the Biomechanics unit was being converted to a store for workshop equipment, when it was found to contain the disembodied foot preserved in formalin.

The police were called in to assess the situation, as regulation dictates, and subsequently the coroner's office was informed.

Tony Whymark, the project manager of the renovations

remarked on his amazement at the find and explained that the remains were given the "necessary respect human remains should be treated with". He speculated that jovial medical students had planted this portion of a cadaver as a prank, expecting it to be found in two or three weeks, never envisaging its unearthing by unsuspecting contractors fifteen years later.

On the assumption its owner has no further use for it, the foot has now been safely and securely disposed of by the college.



Trainer "Despicable"

ANDREW OFORI

Student unions nationwide have expressed resentment at the way in which the NUS has conducted their campaign against tuition fees.

There have been numerous demonstrations, such as the one held in Hyde Park on 26 November (Felix 1100), which involved 10,000 people, reflecting fierce student opposition.

Unions felt that the campaign should have been spearheaded by the NUS, and are severely disappointed with their tardy and feeble actions. Opportunities to recruit future students to the campaign through schools have been missed. Unions have hit out at Douglas Trainer, the NUS President, accusing him of managing an ineffective, undemocratic campaign by allowing Labour alliances within the NUS to obstruct positive action. The NUS have been distinctly quiet at Labour conferences and David Blunkett even thanked them for their co-operation. Some student unions feel they have not fully benefited from their joining fees.

Leeds Union have proposed a vote of no-confidence in Douglas Trainer, that could bring an abrupt end to his presidential term. He predicted that the motion will fail due to an absence of backing, but QMW proved him wrong by giving their full support. However, the vote is unlikely to take place due to time restrictions. Helen Russell, of Leeds Union, stated the NUS had "portrayed the wrong image" of student feeling and accused members of betraying those they repre-

sent in order to pursue their political careers. Leeds union have not surrendered and are still pressing the NUS to take a harder line against fees.

The NUS accused unions of failing to mount resistance to fees, whose introduction is planned for September this year. The old favourite, student apathy, has been selected as the root cause. These allegations were refuted by Matt Hyde, the QMW President, who placed the blame on Douglas Trainer. He defined the NUS as more of a "leisure complex" than a political body describing some of their actions as "despicable".

ICU president Andy Heeps viewed the NUS allegations as a transparent attempt to shift blame after a weak campaign. Although he agreed that current students who will not be affected showed indifference, he suggested that the campaign should have "targeted people starting University". He went on to say that one of the few advantages of the fees would be that they enabled students to complain about the standard of education they are receiving on solid grounds, but he asserted that "education should be based on the ability to learn and not, the ability to earn". He saw Labour's fees system as unfair, as entrants such as medics could expect to be paying higher fees due to longer courses. ICU is not a member of the NUS and Mr. Heeps has no intention of joining. He gave his support to Matt Hyde, and ICU shares his position of opposing the introduction of tuition fees.

RCS in Drunken Art Attack

JEREMY THOMSON

The 22-Club, the Royal College of Science elective social club, has been banned from all college premises for two years following incidents of vandalism at a recent dinner.

The all-male old-boys drinking club met on 29 November to celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary, and were allocated space in the Main Dining Hall and the newly refitted Ante Room Gallery, which was hosting a modern art exhibition, 'Blanket'. During the evening, one or more of the revellers

entered the gallery and began to abuse the artworks, covering various pieces with wine, cigarette burns and vomit. An offensive note was also found at the scene, describing the perpetrator's opinions of the sculpture.

The violation remained undiscovered throughout the evening, and the room was not cleaned that night or the following evening. "It went swimmingly well... lively but civil", commented 22-Club president Simon Baker. Unfortunately, the gallery was due to receive a press visit on the morning of the 30 November, and was discovered in

its distressed state by the artists Jason Pidd and Edwina Ashton, who had come in the morning to check over the exhibits. They closed the gallery to the press, and informed College of its condition.

The situation was particularly sensitive, as the 'rolling art' program in the gallery is to form an essential part of a forthcoming National Lottery bid to fund the new music and arts centre in the library extension. A large emergency meeting was called two days later attended, amongst others, by the Rector, the Pro-Rectors and the heads of departments.

The 22-Club committee were apparently unaware of the situation until the president was informed of the situation by Pro-Rector Igor Aleksander last week. "Regardless of one's personal opinions of the exhibition, it is a very regrettable incident. Steps are being taken to identify the transgressor", he commented.

The cost of restoring the exhibition, which has now closed, is said to be around £700. It is not yet known whether the 22-Club will have to bear these or related costs.



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FELIX

Was Darwin wrong? Huge crossword! Pick up your free supplement!

Council Votes for Single Entry... Just

UUU Under Fire Over Fees

Issue 1103
16 January 1998

Letters to Felix...

NEWS FROM ENTS

Dear Felix,

Another year, more stuff from Mark.

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Bond Carnival, it was good to see so many sophisticated outfits.

But I'm afraid one of you took espionage a little bit too far by stealing the prize BMW from the casino, and we'd really like to get it back for the person who legitimately won it. So if you've sobered up, or your conscience is bugging you, you could just drop it off at Beit or Sheffield Security, or in the Union and no further action will be taken.

But it's not all complaining, I've also got to tell you that dBs has now been fitted out with a new 10 foot video screen for all the big sporting events, (and The Simpsons!!) so your viewing pleasure will be complete. See the adverts for all the details of what we'll be showing.

And, just to prove there is a long term plan at work, the initial planning phases for the proposed extension to dBs are beginning to take shape. If all the work takes place, as of next October ICU will possess one of the biggest and the newest venues in London. Watch Felix for details.

We hope you enjoy all the events and stuff we've got lined up for you this term, to help you take your mind off all those exams.

Cheers
Mark Horne
Events & Marketing Manager.

CREATIONISM, MY ARSE.

Dear felix,

the sort of observation-deduction science Wes Hinsley uses in his Alternative Science article is, in your opinion, worthy of a double page spread. The obvious flaws in his arguments could cover a double edition.

Apart from the downright lies about "scientific evidence favouring special creation by god" Wes, with the help of the equally barking Dr Gish, create a stunningly absurd "demand" for a Creator by reference to the Bombardier Beetle. Not only does he display his palpable lack of understanding of how

evolution is proposed to work (a slight drawback when trying to argue against something) but his own arguments in favour of creationism are so weak that if god existed he'd surely be squirming with embarrassment right now. The one doubt Wes raises in my mind is how natural selection could have possibly produced him.

I have no objection at all to different points of view, but I do massively object to you printing an article this weak, which has no coherent argument and spreads disinformation and misunderstanding. surely Imperial isn't the place to be pandering to this sort of reactionary bullshit?

yours astonishingly pissed-offedly,
Anon biochemist.

PS. Oops! I forgot to point out all those flaws! I was having such a good go at Wes that it slipped my mind completely. oh well, lets wade through the bullshit and point out the smelliest bits:

"Not one theory about evolution has been scientifically proven." -You wascally wabbit Wes, even you know that scientific theories don't prove things, merely reflect best what evidence is available. evolution does this, so of course it isn't proof.

"The spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible." -Oh really Wes? any evidence for that? Didnt think so. no matter, you just go ahead and state it anyway.

"An amoeba in some 'primeval soup'." Not true Wes, amoebas came much later. never mind, we'll let you have that one.

"Amoeba... became a man, woman, cactus etc while simultaneously remaining an amoeba all that time." Wes, that would be tricky indeed. but as you know, it is proposed that we have common ancestors with all other living organisms, not that we necessarily evolve from them.

"This...flies in the face of...the law of entropy." Wes, thats bollocks! living organisms rely, ultimately, on the sun as a source of energy. the system is not closed. At this point, Wes starts crapping

about lots of things; I've got work to do, I'm sorry. I hate to leave at this point, but I hope I've made the point. Please dont let Wes Hinsley anywhere near us again.

Dear Felix,

I strongly protest against you printing fundamentalist creationism masking as 'a scientific alternative to evolution'. It's always the same stragey: get some quotes about the (real) gaps in our understanding of the evolutionary history of life on Earth, put in a few quotes from some physicists and material scientists (who usually have very little understanding of the issue) and then offer god as the solution to the problem. Mainstream churches are very happy to accept an evolutionary interpretation of life and creationism is just a throwback to a prescientific dark age and has no explanatory value whatsoever.

Don't let Felix become a vehicle for weirdos to propagate their anti-scientific medieval pseudoarguments!!!

Best wishes,
Dr. Robert O.J. Weinzierl

Dear Felix,

I'm sure you already got truckloads of letters about this article on creationism. Here's mine. I react as a scientist, not as a christian or an atheist: I will never know whether God created the world or not, because if He did, He could create as well all sorts of evidences and counter-evidences to prove this or that. He could even create the world by evolution (I don't deny that the present state of nature is a miracle). However, what I know is that there is really few science in this article despite the way it's written, so few it is worrying, coming from Imperial College.

Let's begin with the main argument: there is little evidence to show that we evolved, therefore we probably did not. This is an insult to basic logic and I won't comment. One could say that the evidence for the creationist theory is very small as well: one book,

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

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16 January 1998

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whose author is unknown. It's rather a question of balance.

The argument about entropy shows a deep misunderstanding of the very bases of thermodynamics. The Earth is not a closed system.

But evolution is a matter of fact: for example, in the short period since the invention of antibiotics, bacterias have become resistant to them on such a large scale that it may soon become a real public health problem. Biologists studying these resistant bacterias are surprised by the number of techniques they have developed. All this, I recall, over less than fifty years. This, as other observations, proves beyond doubt that evolution is currently at work in our world. Now remains this other question, can we extrapolate such small mutations within a species to the evolution from bacteria to man and bombardier beetle? This is a big leap. Considering the scale of time involved and the similarities between species discovered by Darwin, evolutionists say, it makes perfect sense. No proof, I agree, but it makes sense.

The extensive example of the bombardier beetle is completely flawed: the author tries to construct it as an engineer, by putting the pieces together in a certain order with the purpose of the final result. This is precisely a creationist view. Evolution wouldn't work like that: living beings are full of useless bits and bobs, and a small mutation may make a huge difference by bringing some of these components to a new use. The order of apparition of the different parts of the bombardier beetle can't obviously be the one described, but it doesn't have to be this order.

Then from the theological point of view, God wouldn't let us prove that He exists, even by dismantling beetles.

Now for the really bad thing in this article. Some people also say "there is little evidence that the gas chambers were actually used to kill jews, therefore they did not". This comparison is a little bit harsh, but it makes two points: First, of course there is little evidence for the gas chambers: the Jews there were killed and burned all but a few, so you'll get only a little evidence. It is the same for those missing links, which you take as a proof of creation: in the evolution theory they disappeared under evolution pressure, and it takes an awful lot of luck to leave a fossil behind. This doesn't prove the theory, of course, but it proves its consistency.

Second, any argument negating scientific (or historical) research is dangerous for the truth. I mean that I prefer believing in evolutionism, because there is a lot of research left to do (as the article shows), than in creationism which denies the need for science to discover the truth. That's my scientific religion, and it's not atheism. Similarly I prefer believing that the gas chambers existed, because it makes me vigilant about the future.

We can't hope to prove anything about the evolution theory with only one single sample of evolution. Science needs to make experiments, but we can't afford to wait the millions of years needed for serious ones. That is the only real argument for those who want this field of knowledge to rely on faith rather than science.

Florent de Dinechin,
Computing.

HEROS IN GREY

Open letter to Southside Security

I would like to thank them for their kindness towards me last term. I know that it is traditional for Felix to be rude about them, but they did far, far more than necessary on this occasion. After a rather alcoholic evening, I was waiting for a night bus by the Albert Hall when I was approached by a strange man, and followed back to the Prince's Gardens Halls of Residence. The Security guards not only phoned the police, they also took me home, which since I live in Fulham, is not in anybody's way. I am extremely grateful to them, they really reassured me, and never made me feel like a waste of time. Thanks guys.

Julia Harries
Chemistry 2Dear Felix,

THE DRUGS DON'T WORK

Dear Felix

Your editorial "Mind Your Own Business" in the 17 December Felix puts forward views that cannot go unchallenged.

As I am sure both you and your readers are aware, the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs such as cannabis, is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and is also an offence against College and Hall regulations. Although the police often deal with such cases by a "caution", this cannot be

assumed as it will depend on circumstances and the penalties on conviction in a criminal court can be severe. What you may not be familiar with is that the same Act also makes it an offence for the College to permit anyone to use or possess illegal drugs on premises for which it has responsibility or control; the word "permit" includes "tuning a blind eye" to drug misuse. So the College takes a serious view of drug misuse on campus and all cases are taken to a Student Residence Tribunal as well as being referred to the local police. In a few cases the police have prosecuted and severe penalties have in fact been imposed by Magistrate and Crown Courts.

There is much public discussion nowadays about de-criminalising recreational use of cannabis. Irrespective of the rights and wrongs of that debate, within the present law we have a clear legal duty not to permit or condone its use on campus. My own conversations with students who have used cannabis, makes me believe that there are effects on students (e.g. short term memory loss) of frequent cannabis use which could harm their academic work and doc-

tors have told me that there are risks (I put it no higher as it depends on the individual) of other harmful effects on health. It is also much debated whether frequent cannabis use brings risks of being introduced to other much more harmful Class A drugs, mainly through contact with unscrupulous suppliers. There are a lot of people in all big cities who make large amounts of money from supplying illegal drugs and who care nothing for the harm they cause their "customers" and who resort to violence to protect their trade.

With regard to some of the other points you made, Wardens are in a better position to respond than I am but I can say that cleaners are not used as spies and it is a slur on them to refer to them in this way. As regards security guards patrolling corridors in Beit after recent fire alarms, this was for a very good reason concerned with the protection and safety of students.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Gareth Jones, College Tutor

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OSC Presidents' Meeting

1pm Monday 19 January, top floor of the union building. All OSC presidents must attend re. International night 13 February.

LINKS - ST. JOHN AMBULANCE Certified Instructor Courses.

LINKS will be running lifesaver courses throughout the term. The first is on Sunday 25 January. The courses are particularly worthwhile for all those sportsmen, mountaineers, fellwalkers among you. If interested, leave your name, email etc with either Charlie or Neil in the ICU resource centre (1st floor). Further dates will be organised according to demand.

ICU Council

Monday 6pm, 19 January, Room 340 Huxley. All welcome. Papers are available from the union office.

BEST - BOARD OF EUROPEAN STUDENTS OF TECHNOLOGY

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Editorial

It's a tragic irony that London, the never-sleeping city that offers so much in the way of entertainment and social life can also be the loneliest place on earth. Whether you're stuck in a damp flat in one of the rotting Victorian suburbs, or a social prisoner in one of the dispiriting college halls, London simply does not offer the social and moral support of a community. You only have to sit on a busy underground carriage to experience this very real and deeply damaging fragmentation; a hundred fellow Londoners, united by a common need to travel somewhere, but isolated to such a degree that unsolicited eye contact is a minor crime.

Faced with this intimidating environment, students need support - they need it from their flat-mates, their work colleagues and their families, but most importantly from their college. I am well aware that IC has some excellent resources; the College Tutors, the Councillor, the Chaplains and the Health Centre can all help. But these all suffer from a fundamental problem - they require the students to go out and seek assistance themselves and, as they say, when you realise that you've got a problem, you're half way to solving it.

What college needs is an effective and committed system to look after its students. It is not acceptable to assign students work without helping them to deal with the stress caused. Sure, if a student attends all their lectures and tutorials, then they are likely to cope

well. But what if they don't? Very commonly, when problems develop, the easiest 'solution' is simply not to turn up to college at all, at which point all the normal support systems fail totally. I know this, because it happened to me. Stuck in a lonely flat out in Stockwell in my second year with no hope of catching up my course, I simply wasted time, not turning up for weeks on end. I could have had a serious problem, I might have become seriously ill, I could have been broke and evicted or I might have become a drug addict. For all my department knew (and, it seemed, cared) I might even have been dead.

All it takes is to notice if a student is having problems, or has gone AWOL, and simply phone them up, see how they are getting on and find out if they need any help. Positive action must be taken to look after students, who are a vulnerable and unusual group. They are forced to deal with living independently, an enormous workload, surviving on a pittance and dealing with a traumatic stage of life all simultaneously. Show them genuine interest and care into their well-being and progress, and you will have a happy successful group grappling with some of life's biggest challenges, and winning.

Carry on treating them as statistics on a league table and you will have increased depression, a high drop-out rate, increased drug abuse and, as we are seeing, even suicide.

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Team member needed for water resources expedition to Fiji Islands in summer 1998. Applicants must have a knowledge of hydrology and be in final or post-graduate years. If you are interested, email Phil Miller (pasm@doc.ic.ac.uk) by Tuesday.

Second-hand **word processor** wanted - 0171 584 5137 at any time.

Female vocalist needed for gigs. Guitar / vocal duets covering all styles jazz / blues / pop / funk. If you're interested call Dominic on 0171 937 3760 or email dominic.smallwood@ic.ac.uk.

LOST

Human foot lost in Mech Eng department. Much needed for new Balti dish. If found, please contact JCR curry bar.

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

The prospect of rest and relaxation, indicated by the carefree Fool, enhances your infantile qualities of spontaneity and enthusiasm. Your eccentric humour and cheer transform you into the life and soul of event. However as the centre of attention, a reckless comment places you in an uncomfortable position.

Capricorn (24/12 - 20/1)

Under the restoring influence of Strength, the troubled mist of doubt and confusion clouding your emotional cycle disperses. Liberated from the confinement of disturbing helplessness, your renewed self-assurance allows you to regain a sense of inner balance. Courage is like a kite, as an opposing wind elevates you.

Aquarius (21/1 - 18/2)

Rediscovering or establishing your roots and family ties, highlighted by the bonding Ten of Pentacles, was the ultimate essence of this past holiday. Within the embrace of a familiar environment, the generous support and security warms your heart and calms excited nerves, preparing you for forthcoming adventures.

Pisces (19/2 - 20/3)

The turbulent social occasions dominating the Christmas period provided you with ample excuses to postpone dealing with recurrent problems. Regardless of your evasive tactics, the reversed Six of Swords reveals that the resolution of your troubles is imminent, clarifying your present situation within your cycle.

Aries (21/3 - 20/4)

The new season serves as an opportune milestone for the vigorous assessment of annual events and achievements. The conflicting Two of Wands warns of abandoned commitments through loss of momentum. In retrospect, answers always appear dishearteningly obvious,

so avoid regretful pondering on the past by outlining decisive resolutions.

Taurus (21/4 - 21/5)

Inspired by the wisdom of the Hierophant, a priest in ancient Greece, you represent a figure of reliable advice and guidance to close members of your entourage. Before abusing your status of responsibility, remember that a guarded secret remains your slave but a betrayed confidence emerges as the master of your haunted conscience.

Horoscopes

with

Nana

Gemini (22/5 - 21/6)

The moon shines but fails to radiate warmth so beware of illusions and misconceptions. The confused Seven of Cups indicates that you are deluding yourself with unrealistic fantasies leading to disappointment. However indulging in constructive dreams stimulates creativity and motivation. Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

Cancer (22/6 - 22/7)

The recent Full Moon facing your planetary ruler mirrors a climax in your spiritual sense of awareness. The expansive World announces the successful completion of a significant phase in your life cycle. Adapted to a novel environment and supported by inner resources, your aura blossoms as you discover fascinating experiences and sensations.

Leo (23/7 - 23/8)

The fiery spirit of the Knight of Wands provokes a fundamental yet beneficial change in your current lifestyle. The deep and powerful rivers of nature always flow silently whereas the trickle of boisterous streams disrupts the peace. Therefore fulfil the potential of your adventurous personality without detrimental boasting.

Virgo (24/8 - 22/9)

The prosperous Nine of Pentacles signals great celebration and rejoicing as you enjoy the fruits of your labour with regard to a personal enterprise. Despite the satisfying rewards of completion and appreciation, guard against the neglect of critical duties by equating the time devoted to business and pleasure.

Libra (23/9 - 23/10)

The recent accumulation of restrictive tension is finally released allowing you to control the lethargic effects of the Four of Cups by modifying your habits and life patterns. Your liberated essence now craves stimulation and excitement offered by the prospect of entertainment.

Scorpio (24/10 - 22/11)

The assertive Queen of Swords dominated your water sign intensifying the defensive and ambitious nature of your character. Yet this extreme independence conceals a contrasting need for sincere and affectionate companionship. Impending activities therefore provide a perfect opportunity to socialise and overcome your inhibitions.

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Burning Water

LASAGNA BOLOGNESE

This famous Italian dish is an excellent winter warmer and although it basically consists of premixed splodge and stodge can look really impressive - I often do it when I've got friends round. The preparation is fairly complicated and takes a while so Sunday afternoons (aka the armpit of Alan's soul, or so I'm told) seems an ideal moment to get down to it.

There are three stages: making the bolognese sauce (which you can use for any pasta), making a white sauce and the assemblage (or putting everything together). I'll go through these separately. Quantities are for around 4 greedy bastards or 6 quiche eaters i.e. using 1kg of lasagna.

For the bolognese, you will need:

- ☞ 500g finest beef mince
- ☞ 125g smoked pork belly, cubed
- ☞ 40g chicken liver, finely chopped with a knife (gross) or in a blender (slightly less gross)
- ☞ 1 onion, finely chopped
- ☞ 1 carrot, ditto
- ☞ 1 celery stick, re-ditto
- ☞ 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- ☞ 1 can plum tomatoes
- ☞ A squirt of tomato puree
- ☞ Vast amounts of olive oil
- ☞ Salt, pepper, mixed herbs

There is no secret to making really good bolognese: everything must be fried in lots of oil until dark brown. Do the vegetables first, one by one as they take different times to cook. Remember to get

the oil smoking hot before putting the vegetable in and to fry the pepper at some point. Drain as much oil off as possible and combine all the fried stuff with the tomatoes (roughly chopped) and concentrate in a nice heavy pan over a moderate heat.

Next fry the pork until most of its fat is rendered (melted) and add it to the sauce. Finally do the mince. When it is brown (not grey) and just starting to stick to the pan, add the liver, stir gently for a few minutes until it has set. Transfer everything into the sauce pan, vigorously reheat the frying pan and then chuck in a glass of water (or better, white wine) to deglaze the pan. This involves leaving the liquid to boil for a minute, scraping off all the stuff that has stuck to the pan and then pouring the mixture into the sauce. Wicked flavours!

Leave to simmer for about an hour until the sauce is fairly dry.

White sauce:

This is standard. Slowly melt a heaped tablespoon of butter in a large pan. Then add the same volume of flour and a pinch of nutmeg and fry gently until the flour starts to colour. Now take the pan off the heat, add a weeny dribble of milk (say about a tbl) and stir thoroughly until the mixture is homogeneous again. Repeat lots of times until the mixture has the consistency of say golden syrup or warm conquailotte. At this point you should be able to add the rest of the milk (make 4 pints, if you have any left over it keeps very well in the fridge) without too many lumps rearing their ugly

heads. Now gently bring the sauce to the boil, stirring often and simmer for 3-4 minutes until it thickens. Salt fairly heavily as this is what the pasta will cook in.

Assemblage:

At some point in the proceedings, you should preheat your oven to 190°C, gas mark 6. Take a large oven proof dish and butter it liberally.

1) Pour on and spread out some of the bolognese sauce. I prefer not to use too much per layer so that I can make lots of layers but that's just me.

2) Pour a large ladle of white sauce on top of the meat.

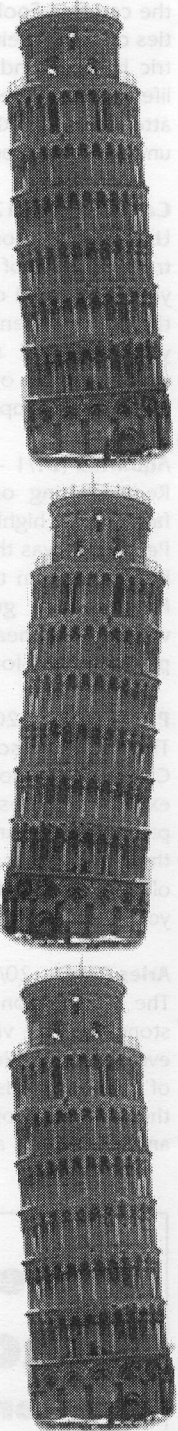
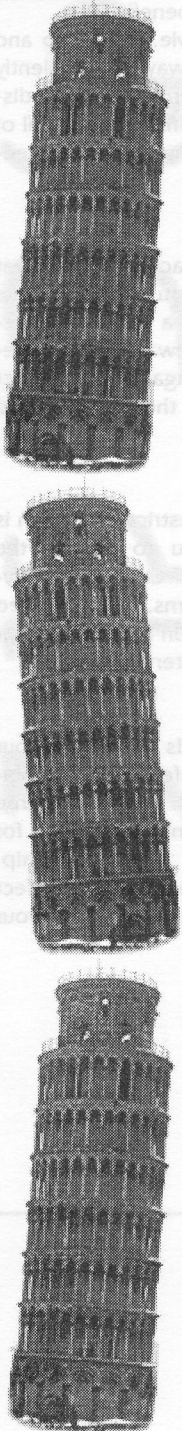
3) Arrange a layer of lasagna on top of everything. Break up the sheets if you need to.

Repeat 1)-3) until there is no more bolognese left. Pour a final layer of white sauce on top, sprinkle with grated parmesan and bung in the oven for an hour or so.

The key to getting this dish right is using the correct amount of liquid so that the pasta is well cooked but doesn't float in a bath of sauce when you serve it. The quantities above should be OK but the author accepts no responsibility for disastrous results produced by others. You'll just have to practice.

Antoine

Ed's hot tip: Try putting generous chunks of mozzarella cheese on top of the pasta each time you reach step 3 for an even tastier, fatter version.



Rag Survey

If some of you didn't notice, we've been getting a little bit of stick recently, OK we made no excuse, so this is a plea for help, enthusiasm and new ideas to give RAG a 1000 volt kick-start in 1998. If you could take the time to fill in this form and drop it into the Felix office we'll return with what you really want...

Simply rate the following ideas from one to five, that's one for good and five for shite. Next to that, write down how much you would be prepared to pay for entrance. Cheers!

- Rag Ball / Masquerade
- Auction
- Panto / Theatre
- Gig
- Rag Raids
- Paid Hits / Stocks
- (you pay a fee to humiliate a victim of your choice, but be warned - they can pay to have it reversed)
- Fete
- Raffle
- Karaoke

- Sponsored Events:**
- Swimming
- Walking
- Running
- Pub Crawl

- Firewalking
- Rally Car Racing
- Naked Run
- Dance
- 24Hr Sport
- Massacre

Other Suggestions:

If you're interested in helping out, RAG meetings take place in dBs on Thursdays at 1pm, you can email us at rag@ic.ac.uk, or stick your name and department on this bit of paper.



Well, if I'm not very much mistaken, this is 1998, so a very Happy New Year to you all. Imperial loves you even if some of the departments have a funny way of showing it by giving you exams before the remnants of the turkey have been completely curried. So much water has flown under the bridge since we last met and I hardly know where to begin. What better place than the evils of drugs I would imagine that the disclosure of Jack Straw's name came as a surprise to virtually no one, but this can have prevented few from taking at least a modicum of delight at his misfortune. The issue of resignation in this case is a little bit tricky, though of course the waters would be distinctly less muddied had this happened to the last government. Along with the Robin Cook farrago, it serves to highlight some very worrying traits that have developed within the shiny edifice of New Labour. The first is, naturally hypocrisy.

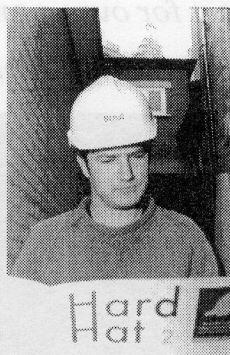
When similar episodes took place under the Conservatives, good men were hounded out of office on the pretext that the Government could not apply the "Back to Basics" doctrine to the country, with exemptions for its own members. Yet young Mr. Blair has made ethics and Christian family values a key feature of New Labour. The reason that such breath-taking hypocrisy has succeeded, so far, in saving so many skins, brings us to arrogance. With such a large majority, dissent can always be easily drowned out, but Labour have gone one step further by attempting to

quash all opposing voices with Whips that make the Stasi look like Girl Guides. Quite why Tony Blair is so afraid of any opposition, even with an enormous cushion of 179 MPs, is a mystery. All of this coupled with the irritatingly puritanical stance he has adopted offers the Conservatives a real chance of landing blows on what should now be a relatively easy target. Time will tell.

Finally, a word of congratulation to my dear friends in Security, Ken Weir in particular. Those of you with long memories may recall the Friends of Palestine shindig held here a few years

ago. It did not run entirely to plan and they were banned from the College. Surprisingly, they were scheduled to revisit Imperial before Christmas until Security spotted the booking and stopped it in its tracks. The meeting was moved to North London and resulted in a very large number of arrests and the intervention of the riot police. Regular readers will know that I bow to no one in my admiration for the Conference Office, an organisation run with military precision. It therefore comes as a great surprise that they accepted this booking with little regard for what had gone before. I suppose that even the finest operations in the world have their off days, and as the cock-up was spotted before Sherfield was razed to the ground, no real harm was done. Rest assured, my confidence in Conferencing is completely unchanged by this little mistake.

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt

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RENAISSANCE

Civilization declined after the fall of the Roman Empire. Little of substance was contributed to the spheres of science, philosophy or art for over a millennium. Then, shining out from the Dark Ages, came the Renaissance. Julia Harries enlightens us further...

The Renaissance was the beginning of a new way of looking at the world, embracing politics, poetry, painting, sculpture, science, religion, architecture and music.

The heart of the Renaissance was Italy, and in particular Florence. At the time, Italy consisted of many city states, each with their own government, and laws. The Florentine rulers were republicans, the Medici family, wealthy bankers and generous patrons of the arts. Florence, even without it's art, is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The view of the cathedral must rank as one of the most famous and best loved in the world. E.M. Forster even wrote a book about it.



Duomo, Florence



Mary and Jesus, Lippi

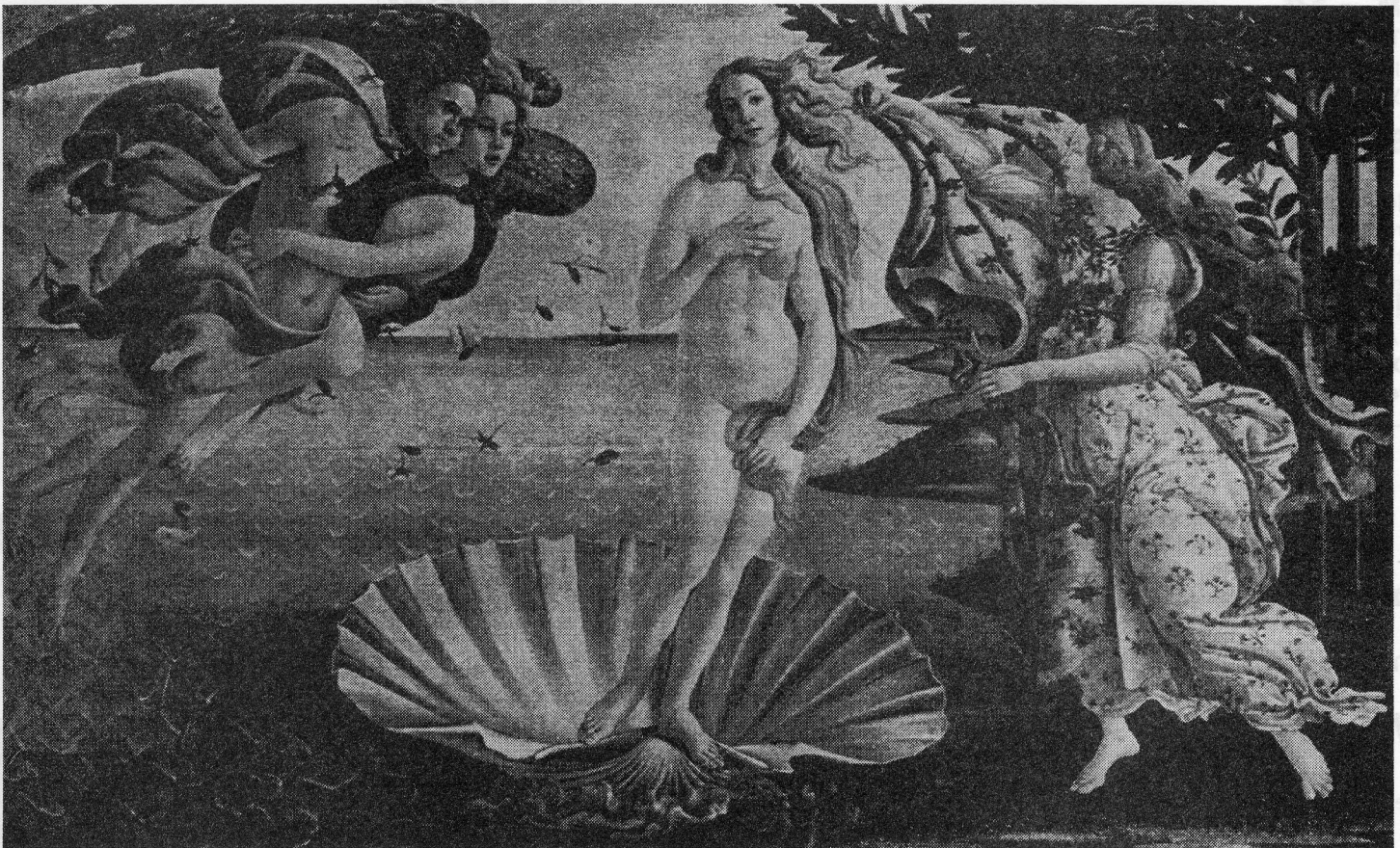
Until the fifteenth century, Florentine Art had been dominated by the heavily symbolic school of Flamboyant Gothic. These were extremely beautiful paintings, with limited subjects, and the personality of the painter was never expressed in the work. Everything was done to further the glory of God. Artists such as Gentile da Fabriano produced really beautiful pictures, all with the same subject, always in the same style.

This was work of great charm, rich in invention, and filled with sweetly seductive images, dreamy harmony, and only a superficial use of form and space. There was little true perspective - these were Iconistic paintings. By breaking away from conventions, Renaissance artists were able to portray the Holy Family as people, with the events from the Bible being set in the Tuscan countryside. This painting of the Madonna, Jesus and John by Raphael, shows Leonardo's influence, and depicts what would have been familiar landscape to everyone who saw it. This is a long way from the heavily stylised Gothic pictures.

Fra Filippo Lippi's portrait of Mary and Jesus shows the Renaissance development of perspective. The important thing about

this picture is that the focus is not the Holy Family, it is the cliff path leading to a church, with the distance is clearly represented by perspective. Art changed from simple Iconistic Gothic painting to the recreation of Nature in itself, with Man as the centre point, not God.

The myths of the Ancient Greeks and Romans were revised, and used by painters, especially Botticelli. This painting, perhaps his most famous, shows the birth of Venus at Cyprus. With her serene looks, and long flowing hair, she has come to symbolise the renaissance, and in particular the Florentine style. Her face can be seen in many paintings including the Mona Lisa and countless Madonnas.



The Birth of Venus, Botticelli

What prompted these radical changes? The Renaissance was a time of sensitivity, humane scepticism, and intellectual curiosity. The old view of the world was changing. Religion was no longer of such paramount importance. Michaelangelo was illegally dissecting dead bodies in an attempt to make his sculptures more life-like, Leonardo was carving lions in butter, Columbus was sailing to the New World, Amerigo Vespucci was naming parts of the Globe, Humanism was conceived by Pico della Mirandola and Machiavelli was scheming.

The Medici family returned to power and their sponsorship of art continued. The Church gradually changed its views, and the world moved on. The Renaissance was a period of great change and upheaval, and also of violence and extreme worldliness. To learn more about Florence and the Renaissance, I recommend "The Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy" by Burckhardt, "The Rise and Fall of the Medici Family" by Hibbert and "Renaissance Art" by Russell. Alternatively,

there's Mirandola, Machiavelli and Dante. Or you could simply go to Florence and fall in love, just as I did.

The Catholic Church, however, would not be undermined. Lorenzo de' Medici, died in 1492, and in 1494, a religious fanatic, Savonarola, took power, exploiting the discontent of the populace and their fears for the future. Most people were poorly educated and jealous of the wealth and influence of the ruling classes. Savonarola wanted a "Back-to-Basics" campaign: forget reason and humanism, hell-fire and damnation awaited all those who did not follow the Church's doctrines exactly. Books, jewelry and some of Botticelli's paintings were burnt on huge bonfires. But during this period, Michelangelo, ever a sceptic, created one of his finest sculptures, the drunken Bacchus. Savonarola, however, didn't last long. He was burnt as a heretic. As Machiavelli said, "Nobody should start a revolution in a city in the belief that later he can stop it at will or regulate it as he likes."



Madonna, Lippi

A REBIRTH

MUSIC - 14

The Prodigy and Morrissey live at Battersea powerstation, the unique Tortoise and your weekly dollop of singles.

CLUBBING - 16

Jo Public looks at the club Movement, reviews of DreamScape, Andy Lewis and the Dreem Team, plus more singles than ever before.

FILM - 19

A look at Bring me the Head of Mavis Davis, plus four biting critiques of current releases.

20 - BOOKS

Read all about the sharp new novel The Cut. What we think of Clive James' latest effort and one for the astronomers out there.

18 - ARTS

DramSoc's new production Insignificance previewed, plus the new exhibition from Alex Katz

24 - GAMES

Two games for PC - Dynasty Warriors and Jersey Devil. Plus, what's plastic, has two arms and a tail?

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

★★★★★	Beck's
XXXX	Castlemaine
★★★	Stella Artois
★★	Fosters
★	Boston
No Stars	Tennents Extra

**LIVE****PRODIGY**

Brixton Academy

Well. It was good...but they told me not to say just that, so I will have to elaborate, I guess. Arrival in Brixton was met by the usual barrage from touts... tempted to sell the tickets and run... no, grab some dinner of dubious nutritional value and in. Defenders of liberty may balk as their ticket is scanned and arrival is registered. Still, not to worry, we're in.

One support act lost to arrival time, another to vain attempts to procure anything other than a generic 'beer' from the bar. The one actually witnessed was quite unexpected. A quintet of people in Teflon hats attempt to outdo each other with their new break-dancing moves. Some moves that were obviously pretty tricky, others that were pretty plain and others that just went wrong. Still, it did serve to focus the audience's attention for



the imminent arrival of the main act. With two second-hand experiences of the Prodigy live - booted off the stage in Munich last year and in top form in a previous appearance at Brixton - I wasn't completely sure how well it would go. The general mood was very positive though.

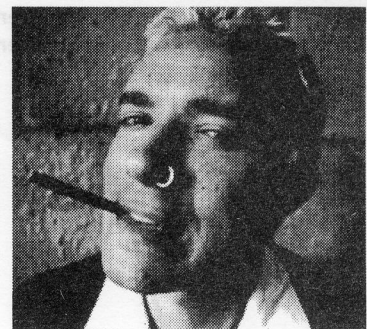
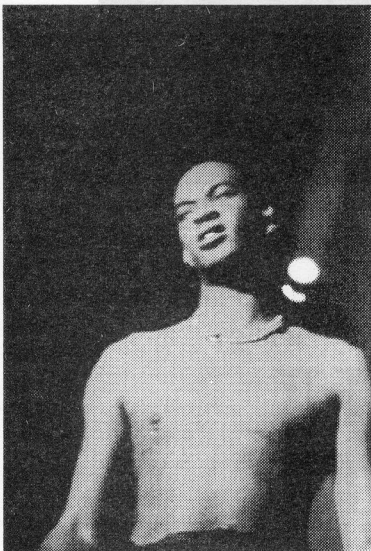
Eventually they're on and the full splendour of their industrial stage set is revealed for the first time. Straight into *Smack My Bitch Up* with the video-they-tried-to-ban (err, that'll be the video-they-did-ban) projected onto the video walls, volume at expected threshold-of-deafness levels, lights on brink of inducing epilepsy and the perfect crowd response. They continue through a broad selection of new and old with only one flaw, the

feeling that it was too much like just any gig, with the band at the front and decreasing grades of moshing out from the stage. This slight doubt was instantly dispelled as Keith made an impromptu appearance on the lighting control place in the midst of the crowd. Two security guards flanked him constantly, preventing any suicidal crowd surfing. The cynic in me said that this stunt served its premeditated purpose very well, rejuvenating a slightly flagging concert and splitting attention sufficiently to the atmosphere a bit closer to that of a club.

Later still, after the completely predictable encore - why do they bother? - the DJ returned and there seemed to be no forced rush to leave, a refreshing change. Except ,

that is, for the departure of last tube which seemed to draw away a rather large share of the audience...

Richard





ALBUMS

TORTOISE + MOUSE ON MARS + SALARYMAN

Camden Electric Ballroom

In the world of post-rock, Tortoise are kings. This is largely due to the fact that the group's driving force, John McEntire, has been involved in producing, engineering or playing with the majority of the bands that fall into this badly-defined genre. So any bill that features them at the top is guaranteed to be bursting with experimentalism, arhythmic percussion and a dangerous tendency towards fifteen minute long improvised sonic excursions. Fortunately, Salaryman keep it short and sweet. Dressed in identical white shirts with black ties, they look like the reanimated corpses of Kraftwerk after a makeover from Gary Numan. No robotic keyboard playing here though, as drum and bass beats are twisted and warped through a bewildering array of fuzz effects and tone phasers. They pound their battered old Rolands with gusto, and make an interesting, if occasionally unlistenable, din. Its only on their final song *Humus* that it all starts to make sense, where a guitar is stapled to death to produce an epic dronefest that could have come straight from Mogwai's *Young Team*.

Mouse on Mars offer a whole different set of reference points - in fact, every dance music style

from the last two decades. Heavy dub is followed by electro, funk chases disco down drum and bass alleys, and the crowd go mad for it all. Particularly good are their hard house tracks, rousing anthems that drag our hands into the air as the German duo take us to broad plateaus and tease us for a moment, before forcing us even higher. When Tortoise have finally set up their huge amount of equipment, they treat us to a gentle wander through rolling soundscapes. *Djed* is compressed into a (relatively) short ten minutes, and yet they still capture the full vitality of the track, especially in the 'battling xylophones' section. The band frequently swap instruments, so at times two drumkits and a Moog battle for control before the power shifts to a slow, funky bass. This spirit of improvisation is the key to the Tortoise sound; only hours of effort could ever produce a performance this effortless. As they played *Night Air*, a calm rapture spread from the stage to form a pool around us, and we were left backstroking through it with glee as the bass twisted and turned through the room. Most of us were still swimming when we left.

Norm

MORRISEY

Battersea Powerstation

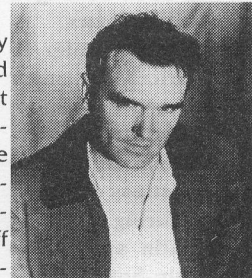
I have never seen so many Dr. Marten's boots. Never so many of same covered by turned-up jeans. I have seen quiffs before, but none so large. And the daffodils... well, it was fairly clear that it was the right place. "I used to be the drummer in a band called *The Smiths*"; Stephen Morrissey knows how to play a crowd.

He sang superbly throughout; and although his recent trend of whipping himself with his microphone lead was a tad distracting, I doubt a single person took their eyes off his for the whole performance. The music; well the opener, *Satan Rejected My Soul* proved itself to be more than just a t-shirt filler. The absence of classics such as *Dagenham Dave* and *The Last of The International Playboys* was disappointing; almost every song was from his slow selling *Maladjusted*; but no one was about to complain.

It took the final encore track to really give the crowd what they wanted; and he came through in spades. *Shoppers of the World*, *Unite* was triumphant, triggering the most entertaining stage diving I have ever witnessed. Grown men leaping onto the boards as if pos-

sessed by demons, striving for just a touch of their Messiah's hand; with grace, a kiss. Two men got up simultaneously, charging toward the unflappable vocalist before being dragged aside by the few remaining roadies and security staff. The way was clear, and a lone thirtysomething got up, and incredibly he had a full fifteen seconds of stage time ahead of him. Hugs, kisses exchanged, hands raised to the crowd in exultation, and the fulfilled dream of many; a few shared lines with Mozza and then he was off, The Man Himself as close to laughing as I have ever seen. On and on blazed chorus after chorus, ever louder, ever more glorious, and then it was all over, the lights came on but the magic stayed; the same smiling faces, *Shoppers* sung en masse on the streets, and I wasn't the only one who floated home. The quiff is smaller these days, he has one or two more lines on his square, square face, and even the nicest suit could not disguise a burgeoning stomach, but he has still got it, don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Viva Morrissey...

Mr. Trout



SINGLES

Radiohead - No Surprises

This is the third single from Felix's 1997 album of the year, *OK Computer*. It is a beautifully delicate ballad nearly but not quite worthy of the essential choon this week.

Space - Avenging Angels

Welcome back Space, unfortunately. Once again they have released a mediocre single that appeals at first due to its sheer novelty value based on the 'quirkiness' of the tune. However on second listen you're soon convinced that you've just had enough.

The High Llamas - Cold And Bouncy

How does one describe this? Is it possibly an attempt at lounge core easy listening? Background music at best is probably the best guess.

Rialto - Untouchable

This is a very mature sounding song with soaring string accompaniments and you might say it's full of pretentious overtones. Starts off in a promising if brooding manner but then changes to a pretty cheesy chorus. Disappointing.

Bag - Blue Suburban Skies

This could easily be Blur a few years ago. What is it about the word suburban that brings up images and sounds of the Beatles. Well the title of this track is true to its influences. Unoriginal and bland.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Bernard Butler - Stay

The first thing that strikes you about this song is Bernard's voice. I don't know what I was expecting but it wasn't the angelic one that you're greeted with. You could compare it to the recent Verve material, which is fine praise, splashed with a bit of Oasis's *Champagne Supernova*. He has wisely stayed clear of any Suede comparisons by writing in a totally different mood.

Gravediggaz - The Night The earth Cried

A lament to the days of the slave trade whose lyrics preach out over an equally sombre piano line.

Wireless - In Love With The Familiar

Yet another bland guitary song attempted to be spiced up with a string arrangement in the background. The CD cover has a nice picture of fish and chips with a side helping of mushy peas. Out of the three items on offer, this song would have to be the peas. 'Nuff said.

Insane Clown Posse - Halls Of Illusions

Menacing hip hop with an irritatingly catchy chorus, the line 'This is all because of you' embedded in your head, which no amount of effort can remove.

Skoot - Seems To Me

A lively, bouncy indie pop song that is pleasant on the ears but doesn't exactly capture any sort of vibe. What is happening this week, there seems to be a huge influx of bland indie tracks.

Cuckoo - Non Sequitur

This track is more grunge than indie, along the same lines as the Fountains Of Wayne. It's a catchy tune although it isn't very memorable.

Jason

the electric café

Hello and welcome to a new year at IC and also with the Electric Cafe. Hope you'll enjoy the sounds that we'll be covering this year on Clubscene.

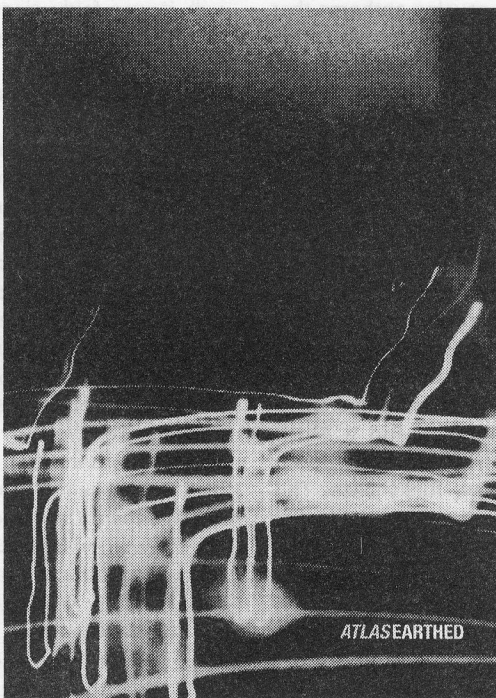
After the hectic rush of Christmas and New Year parties, and all the crazy music associated with them, I thought that I'd cover the more chilled-out and eclectic styles of music that are emerging from London nowadays. I was particularly motivated to do this after listening to a new compilation album called *Atlas Earthed* (Jumpin' and Pumpin'). Atlas is an underground record store based in Soho (Archer Street) that has been dealing in cutting edge music for a couple of years.

Many other stores in the area prefer to keep to their music policy strictly. However Atlas' philosophy has always been to connect people to great music that would not otherwise be given a chance in a world dominated by categories and cliques. Countless different styles of music will be heard during a visit to Atlas. From dub reggae to latin soul; deep melodic house to blunted hip-hop breaks. Techno is also well represented from Detroit to Chicago and London to Berlin. The emphasis here is on what sounds good, not what looks cool!

The album itself contains eleven pieces of music that the staff of Atlas feel have really caused a stir in recent times. In fact *Earthed* was compiled by Pete Herbert, the manager of the shop and an accomplished DJ in his own right (as we found out last year when he visited the studios of IC Radio to record an Electric Cafe broadcast).

My personal highlights include *Nod to H2O* by Rainer. This is a moody downtempo number that blends the echoes of an acoustic guitar with a flowing synth. The effect is sub-

tle and haunting. You can find the original on Glitterhouse Records. Don't Judge the Silence by Edge of Emotion points out that techno need not be fixed completely on four to the floor rhythms. Rolling drums and big beats all in one provide the structure to a very classy track.



Latin eclecticism is well-represented here in the form of two tracks. *Luna Swell* by

Simmonds is more complex and relaxing than most of the latino house offerings of today. Yet a simple turn of the volume knob in the loud direction turns it from easy-listening pleasure into a very danceable piece of music. *Scobbs of Columbia* by Plaid has been one of the dancefloor hits of 1997. Salsa piano riffs and funky scratching; tumpets and big beats. What a combination!

We soon turn to reggae in the form of *Work Hard* by Charismatic. Chilled out listening and completely different from anything you are likely to hear for a long time - this is dub reggae with a distinct electronic flavour.

Pete Herbert is represented by his own music, under the pseudonym Bushflange with Nick Rapaccioli. The basis of their track (*Chicken Feed*) is a deep jazz riff. When the track finally kicks off it is a real treat! Layer upon layer of sound jostles to get to the centre of your attention. The result is a highly enjoyable track.

The type of music on this compilation can be further investigated via a variety of sources. Well-established labels such as Mo'Wax, Ninja Tunes, Talkin' Loud, Outcaste, and of course all the labels represented on *Earthed* are all excellent starting points. And of course if you are ever stuck in the rain in Soho and feel like listening to some great and varied music, you can always pop into Atlas to relax for a bit.

While the world outside keeps on churning out new sub-cultures and styles of music that are supposedly better than the last, places like Atlas are making the cement to hold the whole thing together!

Many thanks to Pete, John and Kirby at Atlas Records.

al;ck

CLUBSCENE - CLUB REVIEW

MOVEMENT

AQUARIUM, 260 Old Street. (10pm-4am £10 members/NUS. £15. Smart Dress)

This is a club I've heard a lot about but never been to, so when the invite came to go down there I jumped at the chance. Now being run by Paul Nelson the man behind *Raindance*, probably the biggest & best events of late 80's earlier 90's, so he knows how to throw a party.

The night we went was 29th december not the most lively time in club land, and due to this only the main room and the pool were open, yes that's right there's a swimming pool & Jacuzzi in the club with changing rooms. Not that anybody was using them, not really the weather I suppose. But I feel it was good that the 2nd room was closed, as it created a better atmosphere and a little crowd in the main room. From the moment you walk in

you feel relaxed thanks to friendly door policy of no search at all, a pleasant change from the normal full body search experienced at most clubs. You just walk straight in.

The main room just oozes class plenty of mirrors and silver, a large bar that's quite pricey £3 a bottle, absolutely wicked lighting system, and an ample sound system, that's incidentally hung from the ceiling as are the decks cool. But not the best thing for the DJ's as the decks keep swinging back and forth, which was doing at least one DJ's head in that I was talking to.

But this did not seem to have any real affect on the quality of the mixing, as I hardly heard a bad mix all night from the four DJ's, Tony Nickels, Paul Jackson, Nigel Clark

and resident Huge Gunnal. As for the styles of music being played, it started off in a cheese house style, but as I was told it's not a strictly underground club. But as the night went on the music did get more underground, fat garage b-lines and driven house beats soon took over, and in the 2nd room which is usually open playing 93/94 hardcore/jungle, funk & old skool. And although their was only a small crowd most of the people were dancing and there was a surprisingly friendly atmosphere.

At this point I must give a big shout out to Phil Mitchell of Eastenders fame who I saw chilling at the bar, if it's good enough for him it's good enough for me!

This club has serious potential, once everyone's got over the Yule

tide period and clubs are to capacity this is well worth a visit. When this place is full you are guaranteed a mad one especially when people start jumping in the pool. I'll definitely be returning to check the place in full swing, and don't forget to take your Speedo's. **MC**

Jo Public



CLUBSCENE - COMPETITION

VIBES, MICKY FINN & JASON KAYE

Dreamscape (Vol.2) - The Vision ★★★★★



This bumper 3CD pack, covering happy hardcore, old skool & jungle (D&B). From the people who seemed to almost invent the rave scene, setting the standard from the beginning. For those of you who know of Dreamscape I needn't say (write) much, as you'll know what to expect. Shit-hot DJ's dropping massive tunes and value for money.

For those who don't it's safe to say that Dreamscape have been putting on some of the very best 'raves' over the past seven years. On a truly massive scale, giving value for money, top quality production and of course the best DJ's & MC's in the world. Where ten's of thousands of party people have had the time of their lives.

These 3 CD's capture this spirit excellently, using DJ's that have

been tried and tested at Dreamscape events, they're almost residence.

Disk 1. Vibes keeps the 4-beat, happy hardcore coming at ya like only he can on disk 1. Dropping such tracks as *Venus Sound of Love*, *Vibes & Seduction Free Yourself & Visa Fly Away*.

Disk 2. Micky Finn, one of the most consistently on-it DJ's you'll ever find and one of my favourites. Like all the DJ's featured, he's been there from the beginning. I've heard this man do the most amazing things with two decks and a mixer in the most difficult of conditions. Respect. Things are started off with that bad-arse Urban Takover remix of The Jungle Brothers *Jungle Brother*. You get the idea of how things are going to carry on: fat, fat bass-lines, crazy amen breaks, jump-up D&B at it's best. With the lyrical wizardry of MC GQ another of my favourites and undoubtedly one of the best after Conrad. You're set for a non stop ride on that D&B aeroplane.

Rounding things off is Jason Kaye, one half of TopBuzz taking us back to the days when he, Mikey B & Patrick rocked the place on many many occasions as the TopBuzz collective. All 15 tracks are classics and mixed together like only some-

one with JK's experience and skill can. Some of the tracks featured are: Altern8 *Infiltrate 202*, Bizarre Inc with *Such A Feeling*, TopBuzz *Living In Darkness* etc.

With all three of these CD's (if you've been there before), you can just sit back close your eyes and you're there. Standing in a throng of people, music crystal clear, the lights going crazy and an atmosphere of peace, love 'n' harmony. These CDs brought back many a memory from great times gone by. Even if you've never been or even heard of Dreamscape before it is still well worth checking, giving a comprehensive view of truly original underground dance music. **MC**

Jo Public

Those generous people at Phuture Trax have given us two copies to give away to you lucky people. All you need to do is answer the following question:

Where was the first Dreamscape event held?

Entries into the Felix office as usual.

CLUBSCENE - COMPILATIONS

ANDY LEWIS

UK GARAGE FEVER ★★★★★



This is probably the best mixed garage CD out at the moment, truly capturing the vibe & styles of the clubs 'n' pirate stations of London. No cheese, no fillers just 13 fat 'n' fresh floor stormers, many still unreleased. The involved mixing by Andy Lewis is a nice change from the fade-in fade-out styles of mixing normal ly found on this sort of mix CDs. It actually sounds as if he is mixing

and cutting the records and not as if a computer is doing it all, as I'm sure many of these mix CD's are produced.

Things are set rolling with Matlok's *Rocket*, a wicked tune and it's just gets better from here on. Fat b-line after fat b-line rolls in with tunes such as David Anthony's *Anticipating*, Banana Republic's *Catch The Feeling* (one of the best tunes of 97' for me) and Baffled Republic's awesome *Bad Boys (Move in Silence)* to name but a few.

So if you want to find out what this underground garage / house thing is all about then check this one out. It is also a must for those who know.

To see Andy Lewis flexing his mixing skills live 'n' direct you can catch the man at EC1 club, Peach @ Camden Palace and Cookies & Cream @ Base. **MC** Jo Public

DREAM TEEM

IN SESSIONS (VOL. 2) ★★★★★



This mixed compilation, like many of the big name house compilations, lacks any exciting mixing and pretty much just gets the mix in and keeps it there for a while before fading it out without any cutting of the records. That said there are no mash ups and it all rolls along nicely. But as the DREAM TEEM is made up of three people, Micky B (from TopBuzz fame), Timmy Magic & Spooky, what did they do - play a couple of tunes each?

A strong selection of tracks

In Brief

D&B Selection.

Here's some tunes from late last year that I did not have a chance to mention. First off is a wickedly dark single from Nico & Trace, *Cells*. Dark stepping beats and an excellent sample in the break-down.

Next is an awesome box set of 5 record from DJ Phantasy, *Elements Of Freedom*. A wicked collection of stepping beats with a host of collaborations with such names as Hype, Gemini, Probe & Pascal to name but a few. There are some great tunes on here including *Hippodrome '97*, with that unforgettable lyric "never check the Hippodrome, I'd rather check a tin can".

Finally is Metalheadz, *Platinum Breakz II*, a awesome collection of dark futuristic breaks and beats. There are some masterpieces on here such as Optiack's *To Shape The Future*, Rider's *Warning* and Majik's dreamy *Repertoire* with tracks also from Ed Rush, Sci-Clone, Adam F, Lemon D and Dillinja. The only grumble I and a few people I've spoken to have is that many of the tracks had already been released on 12", so for Metalheadz fans there's not much new material on here. **MC**

Jo Public

CLUBSCENE - ALBUM

DJ VADIM

USSR Reconstruction (Ninja Tunes) ★★★★★



Russian DJ, Vadim, capturing a truly multi-cultural collection of remixes of his crazy dope stuff. It features remixes by artists from all four corners of the globe including Japan's DK Crush, Canada's Kid Kola, England's Animals on Wheels and, of course, Vadim from Russia. This is a good reminder that England is not the only country pushing the boundary's of electronic music.

This album has a definite down-beat/ hip-hop feel to it but some tracks are more rap/hip-hop orientated such as The Herbaliser mix of

Conquest of the irrational, the Jupiter Jam mix of *Abstracts* and the powerful *Theme From The Conquest Of The Irrational* remixed by the Prunes. The style goes all the way to other, more down-beat, no vocal tracks.

There is outstanding use of scratching throughout the journey, and some of the ways that the use of, what sounds like, live record manipulation (scratch mixing at it's best) is truly great. Some of the tracks that stand out for this are Kid Kola's mix of *The Pimp Theme*

(nice use of bullfrog sounds!) and Herbaliser's mix of *Conquest of the irrational*. The variation in the use of sounds in the sample is diverse to say the least - some of the things you can hear are whale call-sand bullfrogs as well as a whole host of others. This journey is completed on a down-beat tempo, leaving you with a sublime feeling after the CD has finished. Again, this collection of bleeps 'n' beats is designed to be listened to, so sit back and enjoy the ride. **MC**

Jo Public

This awesome collection of breaks 'n' beats has been put together by the pioneering

CLUBSCENE - SINGLES

BREAK/BIG BEAT

Freddy Fresh.
Drum Lessons EP. (Eye Q)
26th Jan.

Cool drum patterns and stabs of guitar all roll together nicely, but it's a shame that he decided to put in the Hulk Hogan style Hoool! That spoils an other-wise wicked track, other tracks not as strong an OK little ep.

Skylab.
Judas EP. (Eye Q) Out Now.

This track is driven by electric guitars looped, stretched and fuck knows what else, over a breakbeat style drum pattern. That guitar starts to work it's way deep into your mind and, yes, this one's dark 'n' deep. Another quality production from Skylab.

16B.
Blackhole (Eye Q) 19th Jan.

This track is a smooth, top quality production and a pleasant journey into the blackhole, jiggerly drum pattern, echoing spacey sounds & stabs of trumpets, wicked tune.

Freestylers. Feat Tenner Fly.
B-Boy Stance (Freshanova)
26th Jan.

This as good as it gets, an absolutely wicked tune, you'll be hearing this everywhere soon. It's bound to go top 10, with it's roots defiantly deep in the underground, no sell-out business here just pure quality. This one's gonna put big-beat firmly in the public spot light. Tuff beats, fat bad-arse bass-line, awesome scratching, wicked lyrics from the one & only Tenner Fly. Get this while you still can as it's gonna sell out big time. You have been warned.

DRUM 'N' BASS

Revolv. Out Now
White label. (No U Turn)

This is dark 'n' deep just the way I like it, squelchy bass tones, clean crisp beats and eerie atmosphere-icals. It just keeps building layer upon layer, then it's all stripped back to minimal beats cut back 'n' forth with more crisp beats and a beautiful vocal blends over the atmosphere-icals. A must for those looking for something different.

Goldie. Out Now
Temper Temper. (MetalHeadz)

You may have heard the Grooverider mix being played on the radio, with Noel from Oasis on guitar & Goldie on vocals, although it doesn't sound much like him. And I don't see why they used Noel on guitar, other than to make Oasis fans buy it. It's sure to be a big seller.

I prefer the Optical mix harder 'n' darker as it uses less of the vocal. Only Goldie and crew could make this sound so good.

A Guy Called Gerald. (Juice Box)
Radar Systems/The Fallen Prince of Heaven
26th Jan.

Two dark d'n'b tracks give us a taste of Gerald's forthcoming album. *Fallen Prince of heaven* is a twisted up selection of breakbeats, not to be listened to on your own! *Radar Systems* is a sneering, mocking piece; daring the listener to open their mind to the expanse of its creator. An EP so resolutely ahead of its time comes along very rarely. Don't miss out, taste the future.

TECHNO

Barabas & OD1.
Deeper (Phoenix Uprising)
19th Jan. 98.

This one boards on hard banging house 'n' techno with its hard, fast driven beats. The Jon The Dentist mix is more action-packed, using that well-used sample from the Todd Terry tune, also used by Jay Dee in *Plastic Dreams* - you know the one. The A-side is kept more minimal, with a more trancy feel. Both sides will certainly take you deeper.

Random 2. (Beggars Banquet)
The Gary Numan Remixes Pt 3

This remix series continues. Dave Angel gets things going with a typically funky, but unremarkable, interpretation of Warriors. More a track for the already converted I guess! The Liberator DJs are taking no prisoners with their mix of *Are "Friends" Electric?*, and proceed to rip the place apart with their hard beats. Good stomping fun! Steve Stoll has the last word. *Remember I was Vapour* reminds us of his minimal, abstract style.

Underground Resistance.
The Turning Point EP (UR)

"Mad" Mike Banks serves up his vision of how the future will sound. *Soul Circuits* is a screeching piece of electro. Sharp bursts of an organ collide with stabs of electronic pain. *Spirit Caller* is dark techno, which manages to retain an organic, tribal feel. This contrasts to *High-Tech Funk*, a minimal, bleepy electro tune that'll bounce around your head. *First Galactic Baptist Church* is my personal favourite. Finger lickin' southern deep fried funk finds its way into outer space!

HOUSE 'N' GARAGE

Rhythm Inc.
Tell The World. (Sweat)
Mid Jan. 98.

This has a couple of Dub mixes that sort it out, fattening up the beats, cutting down the lyric to only a snippet of the original and echoing 'n' looping it. Making it a more full on track, those Dubby beats save the day again.

Candido. Dancin' & Prancin'
187 Lockdown dub (Catch)
Mid Jan.

This one-sided promo has hardly been off my decks since I received it, and has got a great reception when played out. Strong bass drum sets the pace, building up with the looped title sample. Then comes the b-line that you can't help but move to, top notice once again from the from 187 crew

Jerome Isma-Ae.
Mellow Yellow Tracks EP.
(Compose)
Mid Jan.

The sister label of Compost (Munich) releases this EP of relaxing vibes for chilled minds. *Mellow Yellow Pt. 2* is my personal favourite. A catchy rhythm teams up with a punchy bass-line to lay down the funk. The strings and flute keep the piece fresh and harmonic. The flipside contains two mixes of the more harmonic, easy listening flu bassoon. **MC**

Jo Public & al;ck



Clive James

REVIEWS

BRING ME THE HEAD OF MAVIS DAVIS

Starring: Rik Mayall, Jane Horrocks ★★
Director: John Henderson

Those of you who found the humour of *Bottom* concerned too often with bodily functions will be relieved to learn that Marty Starr, Mayall's character in *Mavis Davis* has far more to do with his earlier creation, Alan B'stard. While the schemings of a Tory minister are no longer topical, the idea of a music producer manufacturing a pop career are far from fanciful. The singer in question is the eponymous Mavis, played by Jane Horrocks,

but she is reluctant to acknowledge Marty Starr's help. His thankless task becomes more demanding when Mavis' popularity begins to flag. When we join Marty, he is down on his luck, struggling to revitalise his protégée's fame, when he suddenly hits on the highly original notion that her untimely death would raise her profile no end. The bulk of the film then centres on Marty's abortive attempts to orchestrate this fatality.

No attempt is made to dispel the suspicion that this is a Mayall vehicle, and his facial contortions adorn every scene. Danny Aiello, however, shines as the sinister Mr Rathbone, who is convinced that Marty can make a success of his son's awful Britpop band. Jane Horrocks too is superb as the self-obsessed Mavis, never straying too far over the top. The music throughout is excellent, and her soulful anthems are no exception - perfectly capturing an artist striv-

ing for a more mature sound.

There are one or two genuinely funny moments, notably Mavis' determination to continue her national tour despite Marty's best efforts, and the film's climax is surprisingly neat. *Mavis Davis* is a moderately entertaining comedy, but only Mayall's most devoted fans should be disappointed if it passes them by. **F**

Simon Bradley

.... OUT NOW OUT NOW OUT NOW OUT NOW. ... OUT NOW OUT NOW. ... OUT NOW

STARSHIP TROOPERS

Starring: Casper van Dien, Dina Meyer
Director: Paul Verhoeven



With this effects-driven, mind-exploding creation, Paul Verhoeven finally turns 360 degrees through the quality circle. Total Recall was good; Robocop was mediocre; Basic Instinct was downright bad; Showgirls was laughably awful; and now *Starship Troopers* redefines the phrase "so bad it's good".

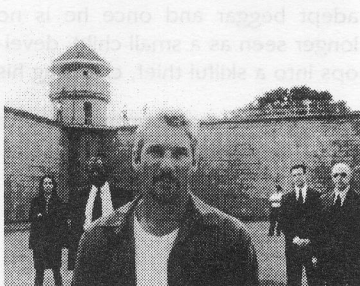
The plot is intended as Vietnam in space - the (amazingly convinc-

ing) computer-generated bugs representing the Viet Cong, perfectly suited to their home terrain, fighting the pretty boys and girls who enlist straight out of College. However, it's also a vision of a fascist future, where only "citizens" have the right to vote - and the right to citizenship can only be one through military service. The fun begins as the doomed battalions take on the killer creepy-crawlies in gore-soaked CGI battle scenes. As the bugs rip the soldiers to pieces, you can almost hear Beavis and Butthead sitting in the directors chair, yelling out ideas "Yeh yeh, monster rips guys legs off. Hey cool. Bug impales grunt on leg. Heh heh". Or something. **F**

David

THE JACKAL

Starring: Bruce Willis, Richard Gere, Sidney Poitier
Director: Michael Caton-Jones



Having been disowned by Fredrick Forsyth before a shot had been taken, hopes don't ride high for the remake of the 1973 nail-biter, *The Day of the Jackal*, and the film lives up to these expectations, ditching the originals believability in favour of all-out action and some really big guns.

Bruce Willis is the Jackal, an assassin and master of disguise,

feared around the world. Sidney Poitier is the FBI agent sent to stop him, and in a desperate attempt to find anyone who can identify the Jackal's true identity he turns to convicted IRA terrorist Gere.

The chase then ensues, as Willis dons false wigs and beards by the score as (yawn) he attempts to stay one step ahead of his pursuers. Yet the feeling still remains that the squeaky-clean FBI operatives have released one terrorist simply to catch another.

As a safe evening's entertainment, *The Jackal* still manages to hold its own thanks to some well orchestrated action; a surprising performance from Willis, who, whilst not the icy cold killer the film really needs, shows off his versatility; and that amazingly big gun. **F**

David

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID...

Starring: Jennifer Love Hewitt, Sarah Michelle Gellar
Director: Jim Gillespie

Trying to cash in on the success of *Scream*, writer Kevin Williamson falls flat with his latest take on the horror genre.

The plot begins in standard horror mould, as four teenagers driving home from a party accidentally run over somebody in the road and throw the body into the nearby sea. Although they're certain nobody witnessed their deed, the next summer they start

receiving threats.

Scream was applauded for its knowing take on the horror genre but *I Know* resorts to the type of scenes which the former spoofed so well, such as the female lead alone at night, trying to solve the mystery herself.

I Know just leaves us waiting to see what May's *Scream 2* will bring.... **F**

PICTURE PERFECT

Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Bacon, Jay Mohr
Director: Glenn Gordon Caron

It's a Jennifer Aniston movie - what are you expecting here - *Citizen Kane*? What you get is a perfectly competent romantic comedy, with Aniston, as an advertising exec trying to climb the corporate ladder who has everything (good looks, nice hair) except a man.

As per romantic comedy rules, she finds herself torn between nice, sensible Mohr, and the evil Dick Dastardly...sorry... and Bacon,

who only starts to chase her when he realises he has a rival. Will she choose the right man? Of course she will, and a good thing too, as Mohr shows himself off with a fine performance, whilst Bacon remains on autopilot. Indeed, it's competent performances all round, with Aniston falling easily into a part not a million miles from Rachel on *Friends*.

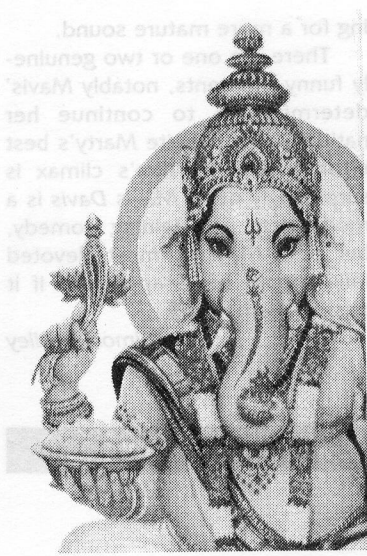
Take your girlfriend. 'Nuff said. **F**



FICTION

THE SILVER CASTLE

Clive James



"You can stand aloof from the sufferings of the world; you are free to do so and it expresses your nature; but perhaps that very aloofness is the one suffering you might have avoided." -Kafka.

Born on the pavements of Bombay, Sanjay is an unusually beautiful child. His cute look and soulful gaze gave him an advantage over those begging for the same food that was needed to survive. Begging is all part of having the right look and Sanjay had that. At the age of seven, he wanders away for a while and finds himself at what he believes to be a silver castle. Unknown to him, he is on the set of a major Bollywood film. Finding himself in favour one day, he is thrown off the set the next. He is beaten by his father for straying but the memory of the silver castle and the beautiful princess stays indelibly stamped in Sanjay's mind and both become an obsession from then on.

The novel takes us through Sanjay's life. He becomes both an adept beggar and once he is no longer seen as a small child, develops into a skilful thief, changing his

allegiance to different gangs. Soon, he graduates into a guide for TV crews and then into the rent-boy trade in which he gains the favour of one particular middle-aged man who buys him a cheap room. He also attends a special school run by volunteers once a week. It is obvious that Sanjay is intelligent and he picks up English quite quickly although, comically, not quite understanding its irony in certain situations. Throughout, Sanjay is obsessed with the film world and reads all the magazines and goes to the cinema as often as possible. Soon he finds himself catapulted into its world and far from the lowly pavement. However, in the end it all crumbles away and Sanjay finds himself without the favours he had previously relied on. Clive James has proved himself a skilful writer with this commentary on Bombay and the Indian film industry. He also shows his sensitivity as we find

ourselves caring about Sanjay and what happens to him because he has only really been brought up in the way of the street. It would be easy in a story like this to analyse Sanjay's character in a detached way. It would be easy to attach his downfall to his inherent amorality. It would be easy to call this a tragic-comic story and throw Sanjay into the long list of tragic heroes including Macbeth and Lear who had but one flaw that could not be reconciled. However, this is the very aloofness James is encouraging us to avoid. Sanjay is real. He exists. You will no doubt see him and look into his ruined eyes, one day. Whether you recognise him is for you to decide.

Dennis.

Publisher: Picador
Price: £5.99
Available: Now.

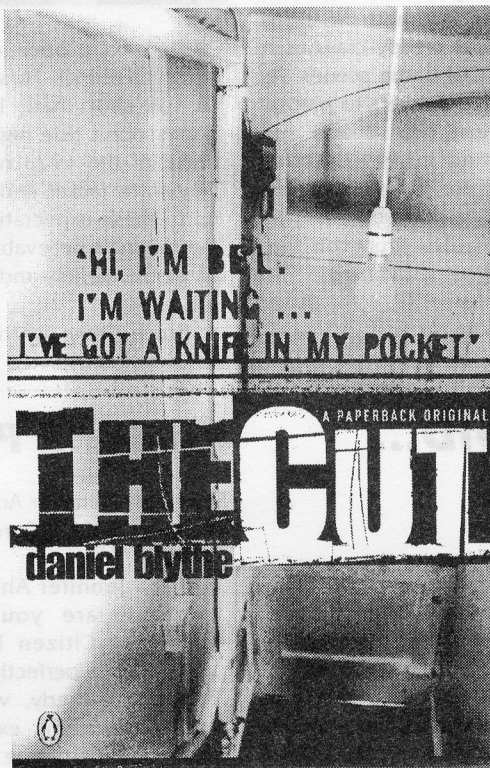
THE CUT

Daniel Blythe ★★★★★

This is not an easy book. It is an extremely well written, fast paced, well plotted book with excellently drawn, deeply unsympathetic characters. It's written through the eyes of Bel, a nice, well-educated middle-class girl, brought up in a seaside town somewhere on the South Coast. She is also a sadistic, cruel bitch, without a spark of humanity, who believes herself to be above things such as kindness and tolerance. She is the proud owner of a small, slim deadly weapon: a flick-knife. Bel's just finished her A-levels, and now feels trapped in Suburbia. She really wants to get out, but she's bored and can't be bothered to change things. To relieve her boredom, she goes to parties, to clubs, joy-riding, shoplifting, takes drugs and has sex in churches. She also sleeps with someone for a hundred pounds.

Her mother died when she was fifteen, and some of her attitude problems stem from that. But she's uncompromising and doesn't attempt to justify her behaviour at all. She doesn't want your pity, or post-Freudian psycho-analysis, she just does what she does because she wants to.

Nothing Bel ever does seems to be right for the type of family she comes from. Due to her father's wealth and status, no-one ever suspects her or her rather dubious friends, even when they ram-raid a few shops, steal CDs and destroy thousands of pounds worth of goods. Suspicion always falls on the kids from the rough end of town, the Fallies. These people naturally become their enemies, and they get



into lots of fights with them. One night, however, things go horribly wrong, as someone is killed by the stolen car they're driving. Bel's world spirals out of control and she finds that her so-called friends, including her boyfriend, will betray her time and time again.

I really liked this book. Bel is a nasty, completely believable character: I have a friend who is a bit like her in many ways, and I can see elements of her in myself as well. Of course, I'm not a knife-wielding psycho, totally devoid of all human feeling, but there are some things that she does that I've sometimes contemplated doing. I was fairly bewildered by the title, *The Cut*, but it apparently refers to the day when Bel will stab someone with her flick-knife and kill them. It's a state of mind, an assertion - as I said this isn't an easy read.

I recommend this book to anyone who grew up bored in a small town, to anyone who's ever really wanted to kill the person they hate most and anyone who's ever thought that nice middle-class girls couldn't possibly ever behave like complete yobs. You are so wrong.

It's not really a book to give your granny though.

Julia H

The Cut - not the sort of book to cheer yourself up with, really.

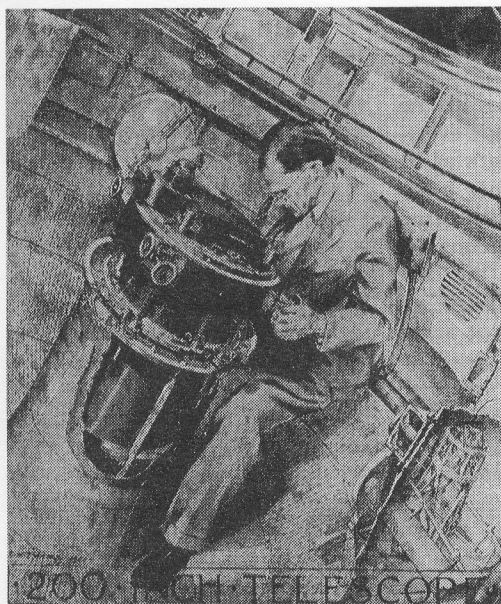
Publisher: Penguin
Price: about £6.99
Available: 5 February.



NON-FICTION

FIRST LIGHT

Richard Preston



Hale and his two-hundred inch telescope

First Light is the 'cult' 1987 book by Richard Preston, author of *The Hot Zone*. Now in a new edition, it is the story of the astronomers at the Hale Telescope at Palomar Mountain, Southern California. The telescope was built by George Hale in the 1930s and is the largest working telescope on Earth, with a mirror two hundred inches in diameter. It is housed in a massive dome, looking like "Hollywood's idea of a Mayan temple." The astronomers here are searching for light from the edge of the universe and their lives and work are described in meticulous detail. The book centres on the distinguished astronomer Professor James E. Gunn of Princeton. Other important characters are the senior night assistant Juan Carrasco, the American astronomer Donald Schneider, the Dutch astronomer Maarten Schmidt and Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker, now famous for finding the comet that bore their name. The book is full of fascinating facts, including certain names of asteroids and planets: *Lucifer*, *Tolkein*, *Mr.Spock*, *Swissair*, *Retsina* (the Greek wine) and *Transylvania*. Preston wrote the book by observing the astronomers first hand for the period of the story, "like Jane Goodall among the chimpanzees." This has created a book more

akin to a novel than a work of non-fiction; in the introduction Preston admits that he did not intend for this to be a science book. However, a book about scientists is obviously going to have a lot of science in it. This mixture of soap and science does, in this case, work very well. Although not quite 'Eastenders' it shows that astronomers can be exciting. This approach is a subtle one but is effective in explaining the science involved and making the subject entertaining, although this was not the primary objective of the book. It is a very good introduction to the subject to people with little knowledge on astronomy. It is still useful to experts from the insights it gives into the lives of professional scientists and interesting to those who have no interest in the actual science from the way in which it works as a straight novel. It is a readable and extremely accessible book.

Chiron

Publisher: Corgi

Price: £6.99

Available: now

Student Software Deals

1 + 1 = 3 ?



Mathematica Student Edition v3.0 Win95/NT

£109.00 inc. VAT *Whilst stocks last*

CorelDraw 8 / Win95 - £104.58 inc. VAT



Corel WP Suite 8 / Win 95 - £45.83 inc. VAT

Available from...

CCS SHOP

Level 4

Mechanical Engineering Building

ext. 46953

ccs-shop@ic.ac.uk

9.30am - 5.00pm (Wed 10.00am - 5.00pm)

Place your orders now!!!

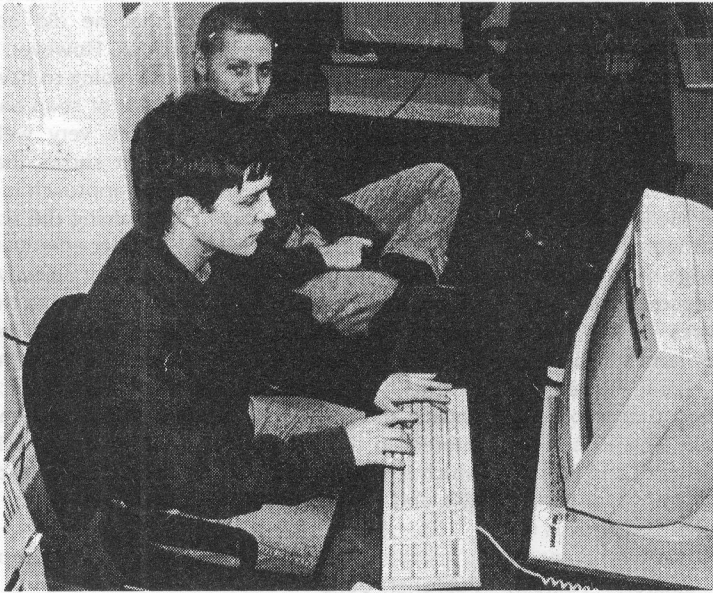
Plus lots more...



UH, HUH, HUH. HEH HEH M HEH HEH. YOU SAID "COLUMN".

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Hello, hello...



"Now I'll transfer £2,000 from Union funds into your account..." Ali and Jeremy get caught on security camera while supposedly laying out the first issue...

Welcome to all! Folk who have avoided death by Chicken Flu or CJD will be able to observe that the population of turkeys is beginning to return to its pre-Christmas level, and those few feathered fowls still remaining will be appreciating the resultant fall in their life-insurance premiums. Similarly, the population of IC

is returning to its pre-Christmas level. I am naturally disappointed to discover that there is still no turkey here. I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed the break; let's all be glad that it wasn't another frugal Sheffield two-wheeler. Once again, solemn New Year's resolutions will be swapped earnestly in the dark depths of Southside Bar. None will be kept, least of all the ones about "going to all lectures this year", or any containing the words "teetotal" or "drugs". I am going to ignore any correspondence pointing out that this includes more than one of my New Year's resolutions. There are some things around Imperial I am sure everyone has missed. Students returning to Hall will be glad of the simplicity of drunken swipe-card entry, rather than the significantly more complex mental computation required to operate a set of keys and a Yale lock. The intrepid Felix crew are relishing a return to cheap curries, cheap computers, an extremely cheap collator, and the all-pervading smell of cheap litho ink. Three or four students might appreciate a

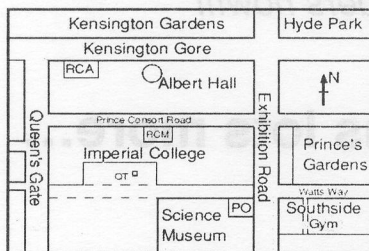
return to second-order differential equations, and the rest will wish to re-affirm their love of Southside Bar, and remind themselves that, yes, the beer really is that cheap. Personally, I am looking forward to a second term reminiscent of that in the first year; work, counselling, painful relationship trauma, impending failure, missed lectures, therapy by alcoholic oblivion. As Gary Glitter once prophesied: "It's good to be back." Hands up all the freshers who have not joined any Clubs or Societies yet. Too busy drinking, huh? Didn't that term fly by? You are going to look quite silly next year when there is no hall bar to pop into. Plus you will probably have decided that you hate all the people with whom you are sharing the draughty flat in Brixton, especially if one of them is now making a move on your sweetheart. My advice is to pick a club or society. Did I mention that Felix needs a new sports editor?

Ali Campbell

Vertical banner for iOU Fitness Club with logo and text.

New! AEROBICS SCHEDULE

Table with 4 columns: Day, Time, Level, and Description. Rows include Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday with specific class times and descriptions.



CLASSES HELD HERE

Special Offer!

Half Price Membership offer in a large oval graphic.

- £ 4 IC Students
£ 6 IC Staff/Other Students

Only Valid for 2 Weeks. (Offer ends 26th Jan '98)

Class Prices

- Members £ 1
Non Members £ 1.50

Professional Instructors at Student Prices!!

Starburst graphic containing text: All Classes are held at SOUTHSIDE GYM. To join in, just turn up for any class!



IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE

INSIGNIFICANCE

Terry Johnson



Can you guess who it is yet?

My self-imposed holiday task was to write a preview of DramSoc's production of this play. This was actually a lot harder than I'd anticipated, since I've not seen a performance, and so I've no idea how it will be staged. I've heard that it's going to be dramatic and spectacular with a "big effect" at the end. Having read the play, I now know that this is a tragic comedy about knowledge, Relativity, understanding and the poignancy of human relationships.

There are four characters: the Professor, the Actress, the Ballplayer and the Senator. The Actress is married to the Ballplayer, and it's their failing relationship that is the tragedy of the play. The characters represent real figures, I won't tell you who they are, just that it's set in America in 1953 at the time of the anti-Communist terrors. The States were gripped by the type of mass hysteria usually only expressed by mourning nations.

Knowledge is nothing without understanding. Knowledge is not truth, it is merely agreement. You cannot understand by making definitions, only by turning over the possibilities. It's called thinking.

The Actress has just explained the Professor's Specific Theory of Relativity to him, but she only knows the General Theory by heart. Knowledge, however, is far, far more than mere parrot-like repeti-

tion. She doesn't understand it. One of the main themes of the play is the conflict between knowledge and understanding, each character representing a different angle to these supposedly complimentary ideas. These concepts are usually assumed to go together hand in hand, but the play highlights how we often misinterpret one for the other in love, life and science.

The Actress loves her husband in a way he'll never understand. He wants to possess her, to own her. She wants him as a counterbalance to her own feelings of confusion, to her own insecurity. He seems so secure, so right in what he is and knows: he's an all American boy, a gum-chewing, hard-hitting, World Series winning baseball player. He's also stupid.

You remember my first orgasm? Yep.

Afterwards I lay in the dark, utterly exhausted, hoping you might light me a cigarette, and what did I hear? Pop. That's all I hear now, pathetic little explosions, that's all you give me.

You want a divorce?

So stupid that he works at his stupidity, building it up as a barrier between him and her, a barrier that could eventually destroy one of them or their marriage.

Their inability to grasp each other's ideas of knowledge and understanding only help to complicate their lives - a problem not faced by the Senator. His assured

confidence in life, aided by his solipsistic outlook that everyone only exists in his mind, enables him to destroy without conscience both the life and work of the Professor.

Ain't difficult once you've sold you soul. My orders are to find his work, take it and sit on it. Then I get a call and I hand it back or I shred the damn thing. I've given a great deal of thought as to the importance of these documents and I came to the conclusion that the shape of Space/Time is of fuck-all importance to any of us. It's just paper, otherwise why would he throw it all away?

It's this "ignorance" that scares the Professor because it lacks true understanding.

Smallness happens and loneliness happens but the miracle is that insignificance doesn't happen. The stars tell us we can walk on the grass, talk to anyone we meet, touch these people, ask anything of them; the stars won't think the worst of us. The stars won't even notice.

Insignificance. Don't be fooled by the title. This play will force you to think, to question your own knowledge. How much do you know? How much is received wisdom? How much is genuine comprehension? How much can you explain? Everyone at Imperial College can benefit from this play. Go and see it. I can't wait to. **A**

Julia H

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE (THERE'S SOME POETRY, THOUGH)

25 YEARS IN PAINTING

Alex Katz

Alex Katz is an American artist of considerable skill. His work is heavily influenced by the late Renaissance school, especially artists such as Tintoretto and Veronese. He is exhibiting for the first time in the UK. Unlike many of his contemporaries, such as Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol, Alex Katz has never been pigeonholed into any particular category. He could never be classified as a Pop Artist. He is almost unique in his treatment of his subjects. The only artist I can think of who seems to express the same love for his models is Anthony Green, a British artist, now living in Cambridgeshire. Like Green, Katz prefers to paint his

family, mainly his wife and son. One of his best known works is "The Red Smile", his wife laughing. Although not on display, this is a truly beautiful painting. But Alex Katz's work is beautiful. It's full of perfectly formed all-American boys and girls, but it's cool, in a terribly New York sort of way. It's the same cool as Count Basie, as Lou Reed and as Andy Warhol.

The Saatchi Gallery is itself amazing. It's white. Stark white. This really highlights the vivid colours of Katz's work. According to him, his work is both abstract and figurative. I think that by this he means that they express real things in an unrealistic manner.

When I spoke to him, he told me that his work is meant to be optical, by which I think he meant that his paintings were not to be analysed too deeply, that they were designed to appeal, rather than to be intellectualised.

The last Saatchi collection was the truly horrendous Sensation, dismembered cows, embalmed sharks and other works by British "artists". This time, however Charles Saatchi has spent his money wisely on one of the best artists in America today. Go and see this exhibition, it is stunning. **A**

Julia H



Red Coat by Alex Katz
It's HUGE

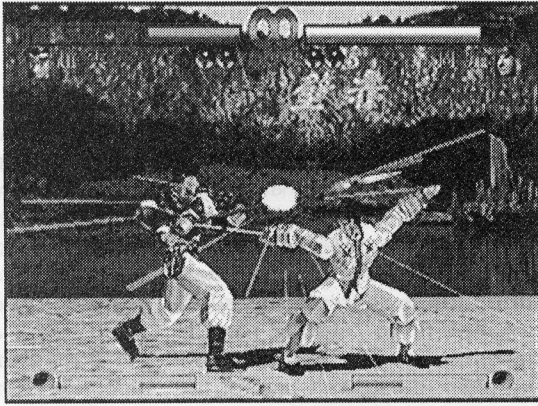


REVIEWS

Dynasty Warriors

Ocean ★★★½

Let's face it, what the world really needs is another fighting game for the Playstation,



isn't it? Well, this appears to be what the boys at Ocean think and so we have Dynasty Warriors. But it's not another Tekken clone, oh no – there are weapons (ooh), it has lush high-resolution graphics (aah) and – wait for it – the characters are based on 2nd and 3rd century Chinese history (wahey!).

Seriously, this isn't really all that bad. The graphics are rather impressive – both fighters are highly fluid and detailed, animation is superb and the presentation as a whole is great. Dynasty Warriors' controls are ludicrously easy to pick up, with two attack and two defend buttons. A quick waggle of the joypad and stabbing at buttons results in a very slick set of moves from the on-screen fighters. For those who like things really easy, special moves can be assigned to a single button so that even your Dad can pick up the game and have a go.

The one nod to advanced gameplay is the 'special move' bar. This is increased by aggressive play and once fully charged, devastating special moves can be unleashed. These moves are not only the most spectacular in the game, they should hopefully leave your foe face-down on the floor. When you or your opponent are vanquished, rather than the de facto slow motion replay, a high octane instant replay shows the killing

blow from four different angles in quick succession. Completely gratuitous and guaranteed to raise a smile from the average violence-addicted gameplayer.

Dynasty Warriors boasts all the bells and whistles that are expected from a modern fighter – versus mode, endurance, team battle, practice and a plethora of options. And that's just about it – what you see is most definitely what you get. There's no real point in playing the game for hours on end, as there just aren't enough combos and skills to be discovered. The promise of three hidden characters doesn't really extend the longevity of the game.

However, if you want a fast moving, gorgeous beat-em-up that is face-meltingly easy to pick up and enjoy, this is for you. Is it worth spending forty quid on as well as Tekken 2? No. Is it worth hiring for a night and getting pissed whilst beating merry hell out of your mates? Definitely. Did I laugh out loud when I first saw the action replay? Oh yes.

Mark Baker

Price: £45
Format: Playstation

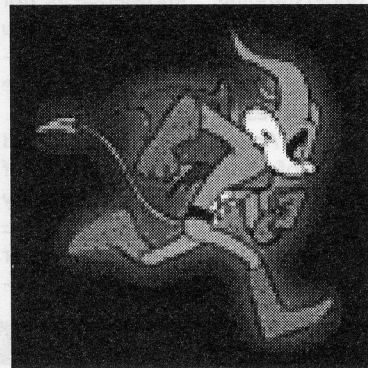
Jersey Devil

Ocean ★★

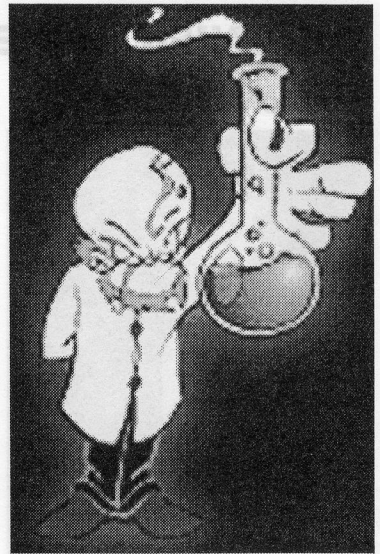
Platform games have been a largely untapped seam of gameplay on modern 3D consoles – with the exception of Crash Bandicoot and Mario – but Ocean are hoping to change this with Jersey Devil. Claiming to have a non-linear dynamic 3D environment, it aims to be a true 3D platformer rather than the restricted environments of Pandemonium.

A highly amusing and excellently animated opening movie sets the scene, showing the evil Mad Professor aiming to take over Jersey with his army of mutant vegetables. (Sounds familiar? It will be, as they've nicked the plot from classic cheesy B movie "Attack of the killer tomatoes"). Only the enigmatic Jersey Devil can stand against him.

The game's non-linear levels predictably fail to arrive, with the different levels available from the town square in a strict order only.



This is exasperated by the need to wander around until an entrance is found, adding only extra frustration and boredom to the game. This could be excused, but for the next flaw; although Jersey Devil is



equipped with wings, and can float down safely from heights, all too often the player is presented with levels chock full of teeny weeny platforms above a gaping abyss. Falling into one of these results in an immediate loss of life, much to the annoyance of the poor gameplayer. This is platform tactics from the Manic Miner school, and shouldn't be found in a modern game – especially on the first level, when the player is still becoming accustomed to the irritating camera angles and unsubtle controls.

Strong character design, a wonderfully haunting and atmospheric soundtrack and the wacky cartoon-like world help to entice the player into the game. Unfortunately, this is all wasted as the increasingly frustrating gameplay and puzzles which have seemingly random solutions rob the player of all will to carry on. Jersey Devil fails to live up to its promises and is ultimately an unsatisfying game.

Mark Baker

Price: £45
Format: Playstation

PERIPHERALS



What is it?

It's the new Sony Playstation Analog Controller.

What does it do then?

You see those big knobs in the middle? Well, those are diddy little analog joysticks. So you have a greater degree of control.

What's the point of that?

If you're playing a 3D platform game, then you can move in any direction, rather than the

eight available using the normal direction pad. It's also good for flight simulators.

Does it do anything else?

It's also a normal controller – a button on the front changes between analog and digital modes. So you can use it with any game.

What's the catch?

Games have to be written to support it – you'll find an 'Analog Controller' icon on the back of games that do. At the

moment there aren't that many (Jersey Devil, reviewed above, supports it).

Is it any good then?

It works very well – the controller is a bit bigger, so it fits in your hand well. It does depend on the game to some extent, though.

How much does it cost?

You should find it for £25 in most shops. That's about £10 more than the standard controller.

Icu ents presents....

Every
Tuesday

BAR TRIVIA

Davinci's 8pm

Every
Wednesday

X'S

2 rooms 9-1

free b4 11

Every
Thursday
Cocktail
Night

Davinci's 5-11

Term 2

Fri 16th

POP TARTS

Fri 23rd **BUST-A-GUT**
comedy club

HEDONIZN

Fri 30th

common people

With live music from Sellophane Sun

Fri 6th **BUST-A-GUT**
comedy club

SHAFT

Fri 13th

POP TARTS

Fri 20th **BUST-A-GUT**
comedy club

HEDONIZN

Fri 27th

ABANDON

Live music from 4 college bands



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

club & soc events

club & soc regulars

radio & TV

music

c
fri 16

POP TARTS
Top pop tunes from the sparkly pop tarts in dBs, plus eclectic dance and cocktails in the UDH. Free B4 9/£1 after.

a
sat 17

p
sun 18

STANDING ROOM ONLY
Everton v Chelsea. Live on the DaVinci's Big Screen. Bar from noon.

i
mon 19

ICU COUNCIL
6pm, room 340 Huxley

t
tue 20

STA BAR TRIVIA
Your chance to win £50 CASH or a crate of lager. Quiz starts at 8pm.

a
wed 21

XS
Two rooms of midweek mayhem. Room 1 - pop and dance, room 2 - eclectic club sounds. 9-1. Free before 11.50p after.

i
thr 22

CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS
From Bach to jazz, with percussionists Colin Currie & Sam Walton from Sinfonia 21. **FREE DAVINCI'S COCKTAIL NIGHT**
The best value cocktails for miles. Bar from 5pm.

[Blank box]

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Wing Chung Kung Fu
Street self defence - Personal safety and protection skills - Trained armed and unarmed Close-Quarter combat - Guaranteed confidence and fitness. **FREE LESSON AND DEMO**
With the renowned Sifu Andrew Sofos. 1.30pm, Union Gym

Exploration Society
A talk on Kyrgyzstan - an IC science and exploration expedition. 6pm, Clore Lecture Theatre, Maths Dept. **ICSF**
Barnight, 7pm, Union Bar **Insignificance**
DramSoc, 7pm, Concert Hall *See PREVIEW Pg 16*

Women's Minibus Service
Takes lone female students home in safety all over London. First Run - Midnight, Last Run - Closing Time. Also runs on Wednesdays.

Rifle & Pistol Club
Join and shoot 11am-3pm **ICU Kung Fu Club**
Training, 4.30-6.30pm, Southside Gym. Beginners Welcome.

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

ArtSoc
Meeting, 12.30pm - 1.30pm. See walkway noticeboard for details. **IC Chaplaincy**
Discussion group 6pm, Chaplaincy, 10 Prince's Gardens **Ski Club**
Meeting, 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Southside lounge.

Community Action Group
Soup run 8.15pm. Meet in basement kitchen, Weeks Hall **S & G Outdoor Club**
Meeting, 1pm, Southside **Circus Skills Soc**
Meeting, 6pm-9pm, Table Tennis Room, Union **Yacht Club**
Meeting, 1pm, Physics Lecture Theatre 3

Rifle & Pistol Club
Join and shoot 1pm-6pm. **IC Chaplaincy**
College communion, 12 noon Chaplaincy, 10 Prince's Gardens. **Skate Soc**
Skating, street hockey and ramp trip. Meet 12.05 Southside lounge. **Chess Club**
Meeting, 7pm - 10.30pm, Brown Committee Room, Union level 3.

Community Action Group
Soup run 8.15pm Meet in basement kitchen, Weeks Hall **IC Choir**
Rehearsal, MechEng room 342. New members welcome.

The Simpsons
6pm, BBC2 **TFI Friday**
6pm, C4 **Blackadder**
9pm, BBC2 **Friday Night Armistice**
9.35pm, BBC2 **Frasier**
10pm, C4

The Blue Parrot
7.05am, BBC1 **Stand by Me**
9pm, C5 **Looking After Jo Jo**
10.10pm, BBC2 **St Elsewhere**
1.50am, C4

Teletubbies
7.40am, BBC2 **Simpsons Omnibus**
12.15pm BBC2 **Natural World : Galapagos Dragons**
6.10pm, BBC2 **The Abyss**
9pm, C4

Sesame Street
12pm, C4 **Light Lunch**
12.30pm, C4 **Eastenders**
8pm, BBC1 **Ken Horn's Hot Wok**
8.30pm, BBC2 **Film '97 With Barry Norman**
11.15pm, BBC1

Teletubbies
7.15am, BBC2 **Blue Peter**
8am, BBC2 **Fresh Prince of Bel Air**
6pm, BBC2 **Eastenders**
7.30pm, BBC1 **Crash**
9pm, C4

The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
3.50pm, ITV **A Date with an Artist**
7.30pm, BBC2 **ER**
9pm, C4 **Friends**
10.30pm, C4

Mouse and Mole
8.25am, BBC2 **World of Survival**
8pm, BBC2 **Brookside**
8.30pm, C4 **Vicar of Dibley**
8.30pm, BBC1

The Verve
Brixton Academy
£12.50.

Sugar Ray
LA2
£8.

The Verve
Brixton Academy
£12.50

Bentley Rhythm Ace + Lo-Fi Allstars + Earl Brutus + Headrillaz
Astoria
£8.50.

Stereolab + Jimi Tenor + Aerial M + Scott 4
Astoria
£8.50.

Carmen Lundy
Queen Elizabeth Hall
£12.50

Deftones + Dust Junkys + Idlewild
Astoria
£8.50.

Georgie Fame And The Blue Flames
Jazz Café
£12, £10.

Spiritualised + Crystal Method + Jonathan Fire*Eater + Dawn Of The Replicants
Astoria
£8.50.

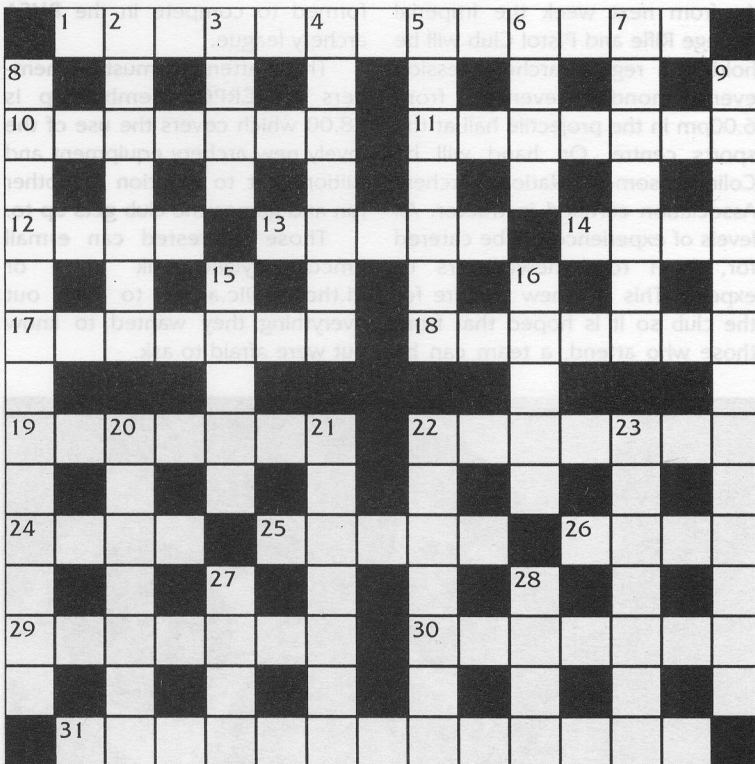
Supergrass
Shepherds Bush Empire
£12. (Rescheduled date; original tickets still valid)



PUZZLES

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

By Ed



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Harbour the queen in African city (4,9)
- 2 Richard loses one, and nothing is in the trees! (13)
- 3 One sort of explosive makes a pale colour (4)
- 4 Perhaps toy ally brings faithfulness (7)
- 5 Eager Greek god without a lowly half (7)
- 6 Kick shoe (4)
- 7 Small bottle ends trip - losing the last is of little importance! (7)
- 8 Calculated cost to show position of punctuated speech (9,4)
- 9 Jesus and Ian mean trouble for informal title (9,4)
- 10 Not tinny, but strange (7)
- 11 Stop nothing in his lab, perhaps (7)
- 12 Art gallery shows nipple (4)
- 13 Reserved, a backwards fool... (5)
- 14 ...is in reversed decree! (4)
- 15 David starts finishing too delicate cloth (5)
- 16 Magma destroys Greek letter (5)
- 17 Sea flows and swirls one wet day (7)
- 18 Allow red wound (7)
- 19 Jewel-keepers mix-up storeys (7)
- 20 Alone with French name around David's son (7)
- 21 Sharp sound from loose rocks by Church? (7)
- 22 Country holds Ro with mental illness (7)
- 23 Particle from one turn? (7)
- 24 He sounds like the post! (4)
- 25 Try street as meeting place (5)
- 26 Run without one downfall (4)
- 27 Magic reduced to bringing gifts (4)
- 28 Concerning the morning pieces of paper? (4)
- 29 Turn things over, looking for spirit mixing a gem (7)
- 30 Theo remembers hiding statement (7)
- 31 Thin gentlemen confuse European period (13)

film

arts

clubbing

Boogie Nights
 Virgin Chelsea
 2.05, 5.15, 8.30
 Odeon Kensington
 1.45, 5.10, 8.35, 12.00am
 Warner West End
 2.40, 5.50, 9.00, 12.10am

Mario Benzedrine's Pop-Up Apocalypse
 Etcetera Theatre Club
 Camden (til January 31st)

Sightings-New Photographic Art
 Institute of Contemporary Arts
 The Mall (til March 15th)

Peach @ Camden Palace
 House 'n' Garage, Graham Gold and Crew, 10pm-6am
 £7 b4 11, £10 after. Info: 0171 387 0428
Various Breakbeat nights@ Bar Rumba W1
 £5 b4 11pm, £8 after 9pm-4am. Info 0171 287 6933

Devil's Advocate
 Virgin Trocadero
 1.00, 5.00, 8.20, 11.30
 Virgin Fulham Road
 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00
 Odeon Kensington
 2.35, 5.45, 9.00, 12.10am
 Warner West End
 12.30, 2.30, 3.30, 5.30, 6.30, 8.40, 9.30, 11.40

Brendan Lyons
 Basement Gallery
 Boundary Road, Maida Vale
 See REVIEW next week

Chaucer in the Sky with Diamonds
 Wimbledon Studio Theatre
 Last night!

Heavenly Jukebox @ Tummills
 Chemical Breaks 'n' Beats, Jon Carter, Norman Cook, Etc. 9.30pm-3.30am £8
Strawberry Sundae @ The Cloud 9, 67-68 Albert Embankment, SE1.
 Underground House & UK Garage, Drew, Luis Paris, etc. £8 b4 11pm £12 after/students £10. 10pm-7am.

The Jackal
 Virgin Fulham Road
 12.10, 3.00, 6.15, 9.10
 UCI Empire Leicester Square
 12.15, 3.00, 6.00, 8.50
 Odeon Marble Arch
 12.20, 3.10, 6.05, 9.05

Kit and the Widow in Rummaging for Fluff
 Vaudeville Theatre
 The Strand (til January 31st)

Martinu: out of exile
 Chamber music played by GSMD students
 Barbican Foyer
 12.30-2pm

Sunflowers@ Aquarium Old Street
 House & Back to 93/94 (pool & Jacuzzi) Free b4 10am £5 nus/ £7, 9am 6pm Info: 0171 7299779
Earth Tribe @ Fridge Bar
 Town Hall Parade, Brixton, SW2 Drum 'n' Bass Free all night. 8pm-12.30am

Bring Me The Head Of Mavis Davis
 Virgin Chelsea
 1.20, 4.20, 9.00
 Virgin Trocadero
 12.10, 2.25, 4.40, 7.00, 9.20
 Warner West End
 2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40

Classic film noir at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith
Touch of Evil (PG) 6.30pm

North by Northwest (PG) 8.40pm

Sultry Funk @ Fridge Bar
 Brixton Hill
 Laid back soul, funk & House
 10pm-2am £Free. Info: 0171 326 5100

Picture Perfect
 Warner West End
 3.40, 8.30
 Virgin Fulham Road
 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.20
 Odeon Kensington
 2.05, 4.35, 7.05, 9.40

The Grizzly Beard
 The Courtyard Theatre
 Nr Kings Cross
 7pm, £5

 For more info on anything in the Arts Column, either email Julia at felix@ic.ac.uk, or pop into the Felix office

Unda Vybe @ Fridge Bar
 Brixton Hill
 Old Skool Abstract & Upfront unda ground shakes Roger Fleming, Jeff C 9pm-2am £FREE. Info: 0171 326 5100.

Starship Troopers
 Odeon West End
 12.15, 1.45, 3.05, 4.55, 6.00, 8.50
 Odeon Marble Arch
 12.05, 3.05, 6.00, 9.00
 Virgin Chelsea
 12.40, 3.30, 6.20, 9.10

Art Treasures of England
 Royal Academy of Arts
 Piccadilly (til April 13th)

Alex Katz-25 Years in Painting
 Saatchi Gallery
 Maida Vale (til June)
 See REVIEW pg 16

Swerve @ Velvet Rooms
 Charring Cross Rd. WC2
 Upfront D&B, Resident Fabio £6 /Nus £4
 10pm-2.30am Info: 0171 734 4687

Titanic (Previews)
 Virgin Fulham Road
 8.00
 Odeon Kensington
 8.25
 Odeon Marble Arch
 8.00

More arty-type films at the Riverside Studios
Sid and Nancy (18) 6.30pm

Nil by Mouth (18) 8.45pm

Lavish@ Tummills
 House 'n' Garage, Norris Windross, Timmi Magic, Mickey Simms, etc 10pm-4am £5 b4 11.30 £7 after
Ultimate B.A.S.E@ Velvet Rooms
 Charring Cross Rd. WC2
 Hard House 'n' Funky Techno £6 10pm-2am Info 0171 734 4687

£10 Blockbuster Video Token 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 Duncan Barker of ChemEng. Congratulations! A £20 video token awaits your collection. Well done to everyone who completed this fiendish puzzle. Answers on request!



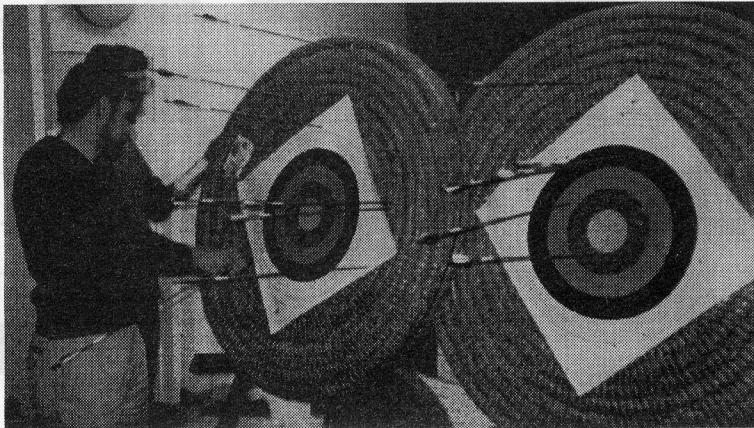
Note For Your Diaries **Editorial**

As from next week the Imperial College Rifle and Pistol Club will be holding a regular archery session every Monday evening from 6.00pm in the projectile hall at the sports centre. On hand will be Colin Ledsome, a National Archery Association certified instructor. All levels of experience will be catered for, from total newcomers to experts. This is a new venture for the club so it is hoped that from those who attend, a team can be

formed to compete in the BUSA archery league.

Those attending must be members of ICRPC. Membership is £8.00 which covers the use of the lovely new archery equipment and tuition, not to mention the other fun and games the club gets up to.

Those interested can e-mail j.mccartney@ic.ac.uk or jd.thorne@ic.ac.uk to find out everything they wanted to know but were afraid to ask.



ICRPC archers show that you needn't be embarrassed by poor scores

Football

ICFC II v Royal Vets

Last term we lost to these Peak Practice rejects 5-3, largely due to having nine and-a-half fit players and finishing the match with the goalie Chris 'Scary Scouse' Barlow sent off. This time we were ready for them. This time it would be different.

The first half belonged to us. Despite the match kicking off before Si arrived and therefore leaving him sidelined for forty-five, the desire in the IC Reds was evident and the Vets were on the run from the kick-off. Steve, back after injury, finally shook off doubts about his ability to 'get stuck in' as he mixed it with the best of them while still keeping his distribution of the ball efficient and incisive. Pistol Pete missed a sitter that Martin Keown would have buried but this was only one chance among many as we peppered their goal with shots despite having the wind against us. Their only real chance came from a free-kick given for an alleged back-pass. This was ably handled by Chris in goal at the

expense of his knackers. At half time we were one-up thanks to Martin 'Lineker' Archbold's fifth of the season and the game had been all ours.

Despite an impressive half, Laurent gave way for Si and new signing 'Bertie' Basset came on for Steve. It was soon 1-1 as Si gave away a free-kick just outside the box and keeper Chris fell over at the vital moment and saw the ball sail over his stricken form and into the back of the net. Apart from that it was more or less one way traffic in IC's favour. Sterling performances from Andy Ferguson at right-back and Rob in the centre of defence denied the horse-molesters even the sniff of another chance, and from this platform we launched attack after attack. Debutant Bertie sealed the match with a superb shot into the top corner with the outside of his left foot. Great things are expected after a start like this.

With a few more results like this, IC Seconds could achieve the promotion they richly deserve.

ICFC II 2 - 1 Royal Vets

Hullo Everyone and a happy new year. This is the first issue of Felix since the previous sports editor Simon tragically departed the realm of the living. For those who haven't heard the news already, it is my sad duty to tell you that over the holidays Simon was brutally stabbed to death during an argument in a Mexican bordello. This means that I have found myself manning the sports pages single handedly, a situation that stretches me to the very limit of my meagre faculties and, sadly, beyond.

If any hepcats or kittens out there fancy stepping into the breach and helping out with the editing, they have only turn up at the Felix offices and make this desire known. No experience is necessary as I will be only too happy to pass on the few scraps of information that I have gleaned during my time here. Can you dig it? I know that you can.

Free Nelson Mandela!
Jacob.

Mestel: Sudden Death Shocker

On 15 December Grandmaster Dr Jonathon Mestel of the Maths Department took on 30 brave opponents in a simultaneous chess display. Play started at 6.30pm and the last game had to be curtailed in a "sudden death" finish at about 10pm.

Dr Mestel was in good form and despite many daring attempts to outwit him (such as playing illegal moves, making two moves instead of one and nonchalantly completing some maths homework between moves) he scored 25 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses.

The victorious challengers were Nick Moloney and Timothy Douglas, while draws were achieved by Branko Bijeljic, Jonathon White and Women's International Master Cathy Forbes.

Fencers Thrust Ahead

Imperial College fencers continued their domination of the BUSA competition with some excellent performances in both the Men and Women's competitions.

Eddie and Louise achieved gold in the sabre competition with Mo getting to the last 16.

In the foil things were much closer with five IC competitors making the last 16. Mark and Dave H were forced to fence against each other with Mark emerging the victor. There was a welcome return for Alex, returning after an injury forced absence to finish (controversially) in the last 16, Eddie reached the last 8. Dave.D knocked out Mark in the last four, but was unable to retain the gold medal for IC. Great performances all round with five of the last 16 coming from Imperial. Unfortunately, the less said about the Epee the better.

In other news both Men and Women's teams have qualified for the BUSA shield, losing out in the main competition due to the ongoing medical school saga. However, most of those out injured last term have recovered and there is no reason that with our domination of the BUSA event we cannot go on to win this.

Fencing restarts on Friday 16 January and as usual Ziemek will be teaching. All are welcome (at any level) to one free session, especially women for the team next year. Enquiries to Phil Miller (pasm@doc.ic.ac.uk).

Results

Hockey

ICHC I 4 - 1 QMW I
ICHC II 3 - 0 QMW
ICHC III 1 - 1 Charing Cross II
ICHC IV 0 - 3 St Mary's

Football

ICFC II 2 - 1 Royal Vets
ICFC III 2 - 2 King's III
ICFC IV 2 - 4 SOAS
ICFC V 3 - 0 UCL VI

Rugby

ICRFC I 53 - 0 St George's
ICRFC II 40 - 30 King's III