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The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College  
  
Issue 1106  
6 February 1998

**ELECTRIC CAFE**  
  
Win Reactive Classics CD

**INTERVIEW**  
  
John Hegley talks Potatoes

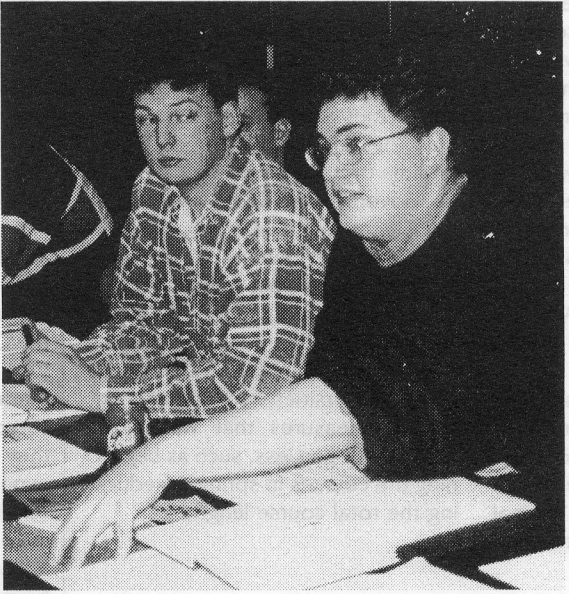
**VALENTINES DAY**  
  
Send Us Your Messages

# Andy Heeps: 'C&G Union a Joke'

DAVID ROBERTS

At a surprisingly vocal meeting of the City & Guilds Officers and Members Council (OMC) last Monday, a year of perceived inactivity and incompetence from the C&G Union Executive finally came to a head with the presentation of a motion of no-confidence in Vivake Bhalla, the C&GU President. However, as Mr Bhalla was absent from the meeting, and thus unable to defend himself, C&GU rules forbade the proposal being put to a vote, and instead the OMC passed a motion to convene an Emergency Meeting on Tuesday 10 February, where the motion of no-confidence would be discussed, with or without Mr Bhalla.

This move has been welcomed by the ICU Executive, who were



Andy Heeps makes his point while Jon Lambert, Council Chair, looks on. Photo: Ivan Chan

threatening to push for a motion of no-confidence in the entire Guilds Executive. Instead ICU Council, who met on Tuesday night, passed

a motion commending the actions of the OMC, but asking the C&GU Executive to produce regular reports so that ICU Executive can monitor their progress. Speaking to Felix Andy Heeps, ICU President, said that "it would be unrealistic to expect great changes this year... but by recognising that they have a problem OMC have made the first step to improving C&GU". However, Mr Heeps pointed out that it would be wrong to put all of the blame for the problems in C&G this year on Mr Bhalla; "Vivake has been made into some kind of scapegoat, but all he's done wrong is not knowing when to give in". This point was emphasised by Hannah Pearson, C&G Association Rep, who sees last year's elections as  
*continues on page three*

## Boat Club Bus Found in Thames

ANDY OFORI

The IC Boat Club's minibus has recently been placed into early retirement, after being found bobbing in the Thames. Vandals broke into the vehicle in the early hours of a winter's morning, released the hand brake, and pushed the bus into the River Thames.

The following day, during an early morning training session, a team of rowers were astounded to discover their minibus had joined them in the water. The drenched bus had to be pushed back the 500yds it had drifted downstream, and was placed outside the boat club, where it has taken up permanent residence. Jules Davenport,

the boat club captain, who was amongst those training at the time, could only describe the experience as "very bizarre".



The drowned vehicle. Photo: Ian Channing

The boat club's minibus is not the only vehicle to fall foul of the hooligans, a number of other cars in the area have suffered a similar

fate. The incidents are symptomatic of a six month spate of vandalism in the Putney area; clothing, personal belongings and outboard engines have all been stolen from several nearby boat clubs. The crime wave has even extended to the theft of a 30ft trailer from one club.

The police have conducted an investigation into the incident. New security measures have been installed, and patrols in the area have been stepped up. The boat club's coach, Bill Mason, described the act as a "sick joke" but was heartened by the fact that high levels of security have limited attacks on the boathouse to this solitary event.  
*continues on page three*



## NUS to Strike

ALOK JHA

**The NUS announced last week that its plans for a shutdown of Further and Higher Education centres across the country has been overwhelmingly supported by a national ballot.**

On 4 March, over 130 universities and colleges will close down. Student unions will be the centre of the campaign on the day, with over two million students taking part. Support will also come from other teaching and campus trade unions. The day of protest follows what the NUS call a "carefully planned battle of attack against the Government's plans to introduce fees" which has, so far, included a day of protest last November, a Week of Action in December, and a series of lobbies on parliament.

The NUS claim that students and their parents contribute enough to Higher Education, and that business and industry should now be making a more 'formal' contribution. It is hoped that the

actions of the NUS will force a re-thinking of the Teaching and Higher Education Bill, which proposes the idea of tuition fees and is currently being passed through the House of Lords.

Douglas Trainer, NUS president, said that, "this is a fight we can win and we will defeat the Government. The national shutdown will show our anger. Fees are killing access to Higher Education, they will destroy our universities and colleges just as they destroy would-be students' dreams of higher education."

Government figures released last December revealed a drop of 20,000 in the number of applications to universities, showing the concern that many school leavers are feeling at the idea of having to pay for their higher education. Many universities are considering various measures that will allow students to pay less, such as beginning the courses in spring or reducing the total course length.

## Warning: Speakers Unsound

TONY OFORI

**On Thursday of last week a resident of Bernard Sunley Hall was mugged.** While on his way to college, the student was stopped on Queen's Gate by two men who pulled up in a white van. The driver asked the student whether he wanted to buy some cheap hi-fi speakers. The student declined, but the man persisted, so the student explained that he had to go because he was late for college. The man offered him a lift and the student agreed, and got into the back of the van. Once inside the driver's accomplice, who had been quiet until now, told the student to hand over his money. Due to the man's threatening behaviour the student obliged, but the ordeal did not end there. After discovering which bank the student patronised, the driver took him to a branch and forced him to withdraw £40 from a cash dispensing machine. The stu-

dent was then freed.

This was one success in a long line of attempts to con IC students by a group claiming to be delivery men. One hall warden described it as "a premeditated and organised scam". Other students have also been accosted, and some have even purchased the speakers, only later to find that they are extremely poor quality.

The scale of this fraudulent operation is not known for certain, but it would seem that more than one partnership is operating in the South Kensington area. The delivery men target students and tend to use various excuses to explain how they got hold of the merchandise. The audio name on the side of the vehicle, along with the delivery registration form they often brandish, serve to increase the apparent authenticity of their con. College security are aware of the situation and the police have been informed.

## News in Brief...

### FEES REPRIEVE

The new university tuition fees introduced by the government last year have once again been watered down. In an attempt to ease the current higher education funding crisis, all new students are being asked to contribute £1000 a year towards their course costs. However, in the summer, the Department of Education agreed to make the charge means-tested, exempting students from poorer families from the charge. Now, students are being offered an amnesty period, and will not have to pay until January 1999. Diana Warwick, Chief Executive of the Committee of Chancellors and Vice Chancellors (CVCP) who made the decision explained that "Students will be invoiced when they arrive at university, and we expect most to pay immediately. But those students who experience real difficulty in meeting the full amount straight away will now have more time to pay."

### BARTS SAVED

St Bartholemew's hospital was granted a reprieve from the threat of closure on Tuesday, when the government accepted the recommendations of an independent review of London's hospitals. Bart's will continue as a specialist centre for cancer and heart conditions, but will lose its A & E role,

as will Guy's. Speaking to the Commons, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said "We will not countenance the closure of that great hospital which has served the people of London for 875 years."

The closure of Bart's was first proposed in 1992 by the Tomlinson report, and the hospital was due to close by 2001, with services transferred to the Royal London.

Meanwhile, the merger of Hammersmith (home of the RPMS) and Charring Cross Hospitals is to be accelerated, and is to include the transfer of Queen Charlotte's to the Hammersmith site. Indeed, the report marks Hammersmith out to be developed into an international centre of excellence, which therefore stands to benefit heavily from the extra £140 million promised for the NHS in the capital.

### PI CONSUMES

The student newspaper at University College London, *Pi*, has merged with its smaller brother *The Week*. *Pi* had been losing revenue in recent years and was forced to rely heavily on UCL Union for support. In order to save funds, it has merged with the union's 'what's on' newspaper. The name has been retained, and the paper is now being published weekly.

## Election Update

NEWS TEAM

**Papers for Sabbatical elections come down today.** Anyone wishing to run for a position must be signed up, along with a proposer and twenty seconders, by 6pm this evening. As Felix went to press, seven candidates had signed up. David Hellard and Jon Lambert are running for ICU President; both have been proposed and are fully seconded. There are three candidates for Deputy President (Clubs and Societies); Simon Cooper, Ben Janes and Adam Cherrington. At the time of writing none of them had twenty seconders, and Adam

Cherrington has yet to find a proposer. Felix Editor is being contested by two candidates, Alok Jha and Ed Sexton, both of whom are proposed and fully seconded. Niall Darwin has signed up for Deputy President (Finance and Services), but has yet to find his seconders.

In a change from the dates printed in last week's Felix, Hustings are to be held on Monday 16 (ICU), Tuesday 17 (Charing Cross) and Wednesday 18 (St. Mary's) February. Voting is in all departments on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 February.



# Shephard Fails to Excite Con Soc Flock

DAVID ROBERTS

**Rt Hon Gillian Shephard, Member of Parliament for Norfolk South-West and former Minister for Education and Employment, addressed a Consoc meeting on Wednesday.** She spoke briefly on the task of the Conservative party in opposition, which she described as "asking the unanswerable", and her specialist area of Higher Education.

Mrs Shephard began by outlining the reasons why she felt the Tories had lost the last General Election, which she saw as problems of elector tedium, splits over Europe, and the Party appearing out-dated. She anticipates a complete reform of Conservative Policy, led by William Hague and Peter Lilley's 'Listening to Britain' campaign, to be launched next month. She emphasised that it is important not to get too heavily bogged down by policy at this stage, citing Mrs Thatcher, who had "travelled light" during the seventies.

Moving on to attack Labour, she responded to Peter Mandelson's description of the Opposition as "pathetic", claiming that Labour themselves are to blame for the trivialisation of recent discussion in the Commons, as they are attempting to bypass Parliament completely, by issuing press releases to declare policy. Mrs Shephard feels that Ministers either avoid questions, or claim that the subject is 'under review'. Finally, she emphasised that the process of devolution had not been thoroughly thought out, and no English voter had ever had



photo: David

the chance to register their feeling on the issue. Highlighting her own case, she claimed that the people of Norfolk feel no desire to merge with Hertfordshire or Essex in a potential new regional assembly for East Anglia.

Moving on to the Higher Education debate, Mrs Shephard added that a comprehensive overhaul of the University system was necessary, considering the massive increases in student numbers since the issue was last addressed in the sixties. The key is, according to Ms Shephard, to ensure that public money is fairly distributed "to

maximise quality and choice". She feels that this would best be achieved by attaching funding to individual students, so that they bring funding with them to their university, thus increasing competition amongst HE institutions. More importantly, Mrs Shephard emphasised that a Conservative government would not have abolished the maintenance grant, but would have moved to cap student numbers, with Mrs Shephard for one feeling that any further increases in numbers would be detrimental. Her concluding comments focused on the need to increase the respect given to Higher Education - particularly the 'new' universities. Speaking in their defence, she pointed out that "in my day you could get a degree in sport at Oxford. It would have been called English or History or something, but basically it would have been a degree in sport".

## Watery Grave for Boat Club Bedford

continued from front page

He went on to explain that this act of wanton destruction came as a particular blow to the club from a financial as well as a logistical point of view, but was certain that club would "just get on". The bus, which was estimated to be worth £15,000, suffered irreparable damage as a result of rust, ruined electrics and sodden upholstery. Jules Davenport stated "it looks okay, but nothing works and every now and again a bit more water runs out from somewhere." The minibus was officially declared a write-off by insurers last week and plans are now being made to purchase a second-hand replacement. Felix has been informed that the insurance company plan to reimburse the Boat Club about £7,000.

The Boat Club originally obtained the minibus under a cloud

of controversy. The facilitating grant was awarded by an IC sports fund known as the Harlington Trust, but almost immediately afterwards the trust decided that it would no longer consider applications for club minibuses. Frank Murray, the sports and leisure manager, justified the move, commenting "it is essential the club gets to regattas." He went on to describe the sizeable amount of equipment required for the meets which are invariably held significant distances away from college.

The Boat Club is currently hiring out buses through the union, which brings them into line with other clubs and societies. Frank Murray outlined plans for financing a replacement minibus, suggesting that a request to the Harlington Fund could make up the balance after the insurance pay-out.

## Eric Allsop: 'C&G Union is a Bunch of Arse'

continued from front page

the root of the problem: "The candidates stand as individuals, not as potential members... most are just after CV points and don't realise the commitment involved".

If the motion of no-confidence is passed (or if, as has been rumoured, Mr Bhalla resigns) a temporary President will be elected by the OMC, until the results of the C&GU elections are announced on 3 March. The newly elected President would then take over immediately. It is hoped that this move would provide the necessary catalyst to begin the process of renewal in Guilds. In the words of Selina Vinayaga-Pavan, C&G Publicity and Welfare Officer, "Exec is supposed to be a team, and we have finally realised that to function properly we need that team - but every team needs a

captain".

Looking to the future, it is realised that the problems of C&GU cannot be solved immediately, and go back far beyond this year - Eric Allsop, former ICU President, suggested that C&GU had been going downhill since he came to Imperial in 1989. However, Andy Heeps commented that whilst no overnight changes can be expected, he would like to see Guilds "taking the first steps... reviewing their constitution, sorting out their finances, and building up a solid first step in the chain of the command". Mr Heeps promised that only if such steps fail to be achieved will he use his newly mandated powers to take greater control of the running of C&G.



# Letters to Felix...

## "SORRY" SAY HOCKEY LADS

Dear (Deidre),

This letter comes from the sincere heart of all the members of the men's 1st hockey team.

It has come to our attention that there seems to be some animosity towards the whole team from other members of the hockey club. We were unaware that our boyish jovialities were causing such grief. We were shocked and surprised to be accused of being arrogant, although we'd like to point out that this is due to high spirits after good fortunes.

We'd like to apologise profusely for our actions, and we hope that you can find it in your heart to forgive us. We cannot, however, make any promises about our future conduct.

Hope this goes some way towards bridging the vertiable chasm that has developed.

All our love and lairiness,

IC Men's 1st hockey team,  
mainly Steve Morrell.

## BITCH ALERT

Dear Editor

The Great British Bulldog is alive in the guise of the Assistant Accommodation Officer.

I had heard rumours of the inferior treatment other students had received at the hands of this rude and boorish individual.

I had not believed any of it, until I was on the receiving end of this woman's aggressive, hostile and overbearing manner.

My mistake was to ask for assistance in finding accommodation in the private sector. English is *not* my first language, like so many other students at I.C. I had gone to this office for advice, but was treated in a diminutive way. Subsequently my command of the English Language was *questioned* and also whether I had the ability to be studying in this institution.

This incident happened a month ago, and to my knowledge the situation is still going on.

Anyone who has had the misfortune to come up against these circumstances please comment!

Since the senior management has had little to say on the subject. It is time the Great British Bulldog was silenced.

C.Chan

## OILY INTERESTS

Dear Felix

I am writing as a member of the ICU Environmental Society. A lot of people may have noticed that we have been collecting signatures for a petition to Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of the college, asking him to clarify his position on the close links between IC and the Oil industry.

Imperial's funding is increasingly coming from Oil companies with a reputation for appalling environmental destruction, denial of Global Warming and links with assassinations. We would prefer to be funded through companies associated with alternative energy forms and ethical investments and through state money.

Oil companies are investing a small proportion of their budget into renewable sources of energy but they are making no move to reduce overall oil consumption. On the contrary, they are planning continued expansion of fossil fuel consumption in the 21st century (eg. By investing huge amounts into exploration of new fields such as the North Atlantic frontier), whilst lobbying persistently to undermine international agreements to limit greenhouse emissions.

The Text of the petition is as follows:

**To Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College:**

We the undersigned are concerned by the college's close financial links with the oil industry and hence our association with the environmental damage, exploitation of third world resources, suppression of human rights and links with the arms trade which arise from that industry's activities. We do not wish our education and the direction of our research to be

directed to such destructive ends.

As a non-executive director of Shell Transport and Trading and the Rector of Imperial College, we call on you to clarify this conflict of interests.

This is the last chance to sign!!!

You can sign on the Web by going to:

[www.EarthCorp.com/ensoc](http://www.EarthCorp.com/ensoc)

Suzanne Aigrain  
([s.aigrain@ic.ac.uk](mailto:s.aigrain@ic.ac.uk))

## WHAT DO DEP REPS DO? GOOD QUESTION...

Dear Jeremy,

What is a Dep Rep? This is a question which a lot of people have been asking me recently, whilst stumbling through the Presidential Suite, and so I'd like to set the record straight once and for all.

To cut out the nonsense, your Dep Rep is your MP. Any problems you have whilst you are at IC, whether you are an undergraduate, postgraduate, first year, final year, or EVEN A MEDIC, your Dep Rep's job is to... well, REPRESENT you.

So when you've got a problem with a lecturer, you should go and see your Dep Rep, who can sort the problem out at staff-student meetings. And when you think the prices in the da Vinci's are far too extortionate, then - tell your Dep Rep, who has a full vote on ICU Council, and can therefore... REPRESENT you.

Are we getting the general idea? Now you may be asking who your dep rep is. Believe me, I often ask the same question. Contact your CCU (Constituent College Union) President, and find out, and then hassle them into doing their job properly. Most Dep Reps are very good at their jobs, but there are some who leave a lot to be desired. Take the power back, find out if you're being represented properly and if not - change them.

Best wishes (oh, and a belated happy new year, folks),

Andy Heeps  
ICU President

**WHO DID IT LAST?**  
Who is Tony Mitcheson?

**NEWS**  
Have the sabbs done their job?

**WELL KNOWN**  
Exclusive: John Hegley interview

**ONCE MORE UNTO THE POLLS, DEAR FRIENDS**

**BOAT HOUSE AWASH WITH DOSH**

**THE STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE**  
ISSUE 1106  
10 JANUARY 1998

# FELIX

Issue 1106

6 February 1998

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Features Editor: Jon Trout  
Literary Editor: William Lorenz  
Sports Editor: Jacob  
Games Editor: Mark Baker  
Right Hand Man: David Roberts

**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.**



# THE FELIX WEEK

## MONDAY

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

## TUESDAY

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## FRIDAY

**Music meeting** - 12.30pm  
**News meeting** - 1pm

Cripes!

# IT'S BUDGET TIME

**All clubs and societies must submit their budgets for next year to their CSC treasurer by Friday 13 February.**

**Failure to do this will jeopardise your chances of receiving any funding next year. See your CSC Chair for details.**

**So there.**

# Editorial

## TIME TO ABOLISH THE CCUs

The problems of the City and Guilds Union this year serve as a pointed reminder; it's time to face up to reality and admit what our CCUs have become - outdated self-serving remnants or their former selves that eat up resources and do hardly anyone any good. It would be ludicrous to have five student unions at Imperial College, but the student union identity is still endemic in the CCUs. While they are still called unions, the attitude that they should be providing social facilities will prevail even though the ability to do so is far beyond their resources and competence. IC School of Medicine Union is the only CCU in living memory that has run a 'proper' students' union, and many of their facilities are duplicated or bettered by ICU.

Unfortunately, the inability of the CCUs to do the job they *think* they should be doing interferes with their attempts to do the job they *should* be doing; namely, academic support and advice for students. Such support is woefully lacking at IC (see my rant in Felix 1103) and though it would be great if college overhauled the system, it's really down to the students of ICU to take the initiative.

Let's look at a specific example. You enroll on a new course, a difficult one, only to find that your lecturer is inaudible / incompetent / wrong / failing to turn up at all. What can you do? At present, not much. If you are fortunate enough to have a dep rep, then you can complain to them. If they are one

of the more conscientious ones, they inform department via the staff-student committees, but the department does nothing. The end of the course rolls along (assuming you're still doing it), and you fill in the end of term questionnaire. "Oh dear", say the department, "Dr Death got a bad response this year. Never mind, let's give him to the first-years next time." And that's if you're *lucky*. But don't worry, there's always the CCU bar night to drown your problems, maybe.

Close 'em down. Get rid of the archaic names and crests, burn the regalia. We don't need half-arsed unions, we need a properly run academic support service for students, people who are approachable and efficient with real powers to make changes in the departments. Do it now.

## AT HOME BY THE RIVER?

The poor state of IC's halls of residence is well known - I've heard an estimate of £3 million just to keep Southside Hall running safely.

The rich state of the IC boat club is also well known - They've just received £703,500 from the National Lottery. (Felix 1105)

Perhaps less well known are two further facts; that the new boat house will incorporate nine study-bedrooms (for use of the boat club team members only), and that lottery grants cannot be used to fund accommodation.

So who's paying for the bedrooms? It wouldn't be coming out of the residences budget would it? I think we should be told.

## HAIR NEWS HAIR NEWS HAIR NEWS

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## Small Ads

### Wanted

Young men and women to play mixed hockey on the occasional Sunday. No skill required, everyone will get a game and a good laugh is guaranteed. Contact Ben on b.white@ic.ac.uk.

### For Sale

New Tx Pro motherboard, £80 ono. Phone x42074 or email matthew.baker@ic.ac.uk.

### Musicians Required

Guitarist and / or vocalist to form band performing original material. Call 0181 790 6650 or email g.bissell@ic.ac.uk.

### See the Jack Doherty Show live, totally free.

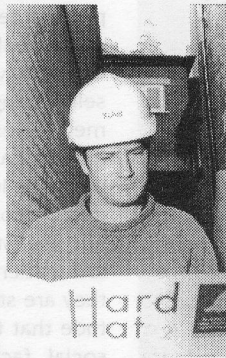
Tickets available 5.30pm Monday to Thursday throughout February. Filming at the Whitehall theatre, Charing Cross. Call 0171 287 0045.



As you read this I shall be on the piste in Austria, but ever aware of my duty to you, dear reader, this was written last Friday, making it a tad less topical than usual (no sniggering at the back, please). Like a bolt from the blue, the Sabbatical elections are upon us again. Those new to IC may think this sets the pulse racing in much the same way as a European by-election in Cleethorpes, and usually it does, but last year was less than typical. It is easy to criticise the voters for the shambles of four elections, but when faced with some of the clowns who stood in early rounds, it is hardly surprising. Thankfully, when the dust finally settled, we ended up with a pretty good set of sabbaticals, who have done rather well this year. Some of you have already thrown your name into the hat and doubtless more will join them, so let Uncle Simon offer you the benefit of his wisdom on this subject. Some people stand for

election in order to put something back into the Union or wish to change things for the better. Others stand in the vain hope of disguising the fact they have a crap degree or can't decide what to do next year or quite like the idea of being a perpetual student. If you fall into any of the second group of categories, please don't waste our time. You will lose, and your character will be comprehensively assassinated in Felix by yours truly and others. I'm not really supposed to talk about individual candidates, but forgive me this once. Both candidates for Felix Editor, and others yet to come, are truly magnificent people, Titans among men, who will surely appreciate the services of

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt

a humble wordsmith. In fact, they are both so good that I plan to commit electoral fraud and vote for both of them several times. Best of British to you all.

As whining elements within College are keen to remind us, a lot of people at Imperial smoke, often in the JCR. Let's assume that there are 15,000 staff and students at this place (assume, because no one in Sherfield seems to know how many are on the payroll). Probably 30-40% smoke and, for sake of argument, at a rate of 10 per day. That's a lot of baccy, about £3.2 million. In other words, if everyone stopped and graciously donated this money to the College, it would take exactly 12 months before the Music and

Arts Centre was paid for, removing the need for this embarrassing art-by-numbers farrago we are currently enduring; it would take about 15 minutes if we also collectively stopped drinking. Though the current exhibition is a slight improvement, in much the same way as measles are preferable to mumps, I must ask if the shameless prostration of Imperial at the feet of the Lottery Arts Board. As I have said before, there is much very good contemporary British art out there, which would nicely embrace art and science, such as some of the sculpture in Damien Hirst's new restaurant. What we get is conceptual art, devoid of meaning so that criticism can be ridiculed. God spare us this rubbish.

# VALENTINE MESSAGES



*Reveal your love this Valentines' Day with Felix. Post, deliver or email messages (felix@ic.ac.uk) by Tuesday afternoon, and see your sweet nothings in print.*

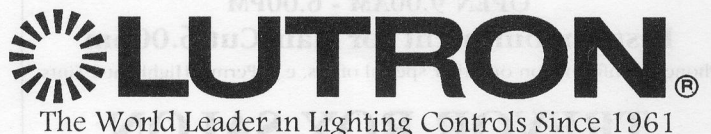
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Company Information Session  
Monday 16 February 1998  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
317 B Sherfield Building**

Please sign up in Careers Service or e-mail us at [careers@lutron.com](mailto:careers@lutron.com) by 11 February if you plan to attend

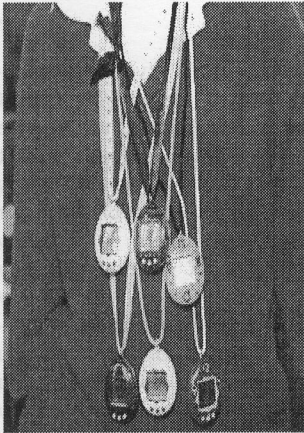


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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

### Court Debts, Headsets and Plastic Pets



**Beep! Beep! Feed me!  
Beep! Beep! Love me!  
Beep! Beep! Crunch.**

I remember a story a year or two ago about a bloke who claimed to have drawn up patents for a "personal stereo system", long

before a certain company got in on the act. The last I heard of the tale is that he was suing the aforementioned multinational for "shitloads of cash". Whether or not the protagonist was successful in his bid I do not know, but given the old adage that people are innocent as long as they have a better lawyer than the opposition, he is probably still in jail paying court costs. Some of you might feel rather sorry for this once hopeful wretch, but I pour scorn on such sympathy; nobody wanted the damn things anyway.

There was once a time when the hustle and bustle of the great communal tube trains was a form of music; the percussive "rat-a-tat-tat" of the wheels combined with the orchestral mumble of distinguished gentlemen and the hoi polloi alike. It certainly differs from the forms of music that other people

force us to listen to. "T - tt - tt - ttt - t - tt - tt - tttt," usually comes from the warped music collection of some piece of degenerate scum who wears a vast pair of trousers probably fashioned from two stolen airstrip windsocks and a jacket made using polychromic cast-offs from a Goodyear factory, who assures us that we all want to sample his aural delights. The alternative is not much better; "Chh chh chh chh chh chh," plods the metallic dirge, and the din seems to be competing for attention with the mind-wilting smell emanating from the bizarrely-shorn individual in question.

Yes, personal electronic companions are here to stay, and I feel that many miniaturisation experts at this College are entirely responsible. The latest installment of pointless silicon, as everybody is

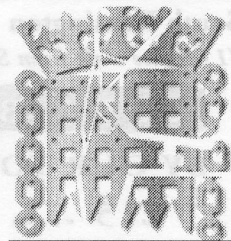
aware, is electronic pets. One might think that the back-breaking responsibility of parenthood is something to be anticipated with trepidation, so I do not see the advantage in being woken up at 4 a.m. by a maladjusted Micro Pet. People walk around with the ugly, cheap-looking ellipsoid hunks of PVC dangling from their belts, cranky devices demanding constant and immediate attention. It seems ironic that it is normally considered an advantage to construct equipment that does not require regular servicing. And will we soon see the problem of unwanted animals, stray CPUs abandoned by their owners, having to be collected by the RSPCA and eventually put to sleep by lethal battery removal? What is the world coming to?

• Ali Campbell

**So, Tony Blair is off to Washington. It is one of the sideline jobs of most heads of state to pop over to the meet the Leader of the Free World for tea and sandwiches.** For the smaller countries, this usually means some good publicity, with 'our man' hob-nobbing with the US President. For Britain, the situation is slightly different. American patriotism is defined by their declaration of independence from Britain, and along with the Irish-American question, there has always been a slight anti-British undercurrent within the American population. Relations also depend on the ideology of the respective leaders being similar: with Thatcher-Reagan/Bush there was a rapport between the leaders, and consequently the Governments. When Clinton took over from Bush in 1992, rumours surfaced that the Conservative Party had assisted Republicans in the election campaign. As well as being a bad move in supporting a losing side (something which had additionally been clear beforehand) political partisanship in matters such these were more than stupid. They were suicidal. John Major and Bill Clinton did not get on at all well, with Clinton rebuffing Major within one week of entering the White House.

Clinton made little effort to hide his admiration of Tony Blair, pulling out all the stops when Blair visited Washington a year before the General Election. They have hold a

broadly similar position in the political spectrum, and are known to be good friends as well as good colleagues. Both leaders are extremely useful to each other, with Blair's 'star' status, along with Britain's recent 'Cool Britannia' image overseas, providing some useful political capital for the President. It seems Blair has plenty to gain from being associated with the United States. Unfortunately for us, relations are usually unequal. We Britain is undoubtedly the junior partner in the special relationship, something



Hamish Common

## Westminster Eye

which was first made obvious in the Suez Crisis in the 50s, the first time the U.S. effectively told Britain to hand back the colony and canal. This and previous British Governments have seen the U.S. as a teacher in some senses, adopting and learning from measures taken across the pond. This may not have been so obvious in Europe, when even now, the Government seems more eager to lecture than to listen. However, Britain has not been entirely sycophantic to the States in foreign policy. Sir Leon Brittan, a British EU Commissioner, was the

first one to prepare retaliatory EU measures against the U.S. Helms-Burton Act, punishing foreign companies for investing in Cuba, Iran or Libya. This was done with the full support of the British Government. Britain has also called for the U.S. to pay what it owes to the United Nations, remarking that they "shouldn't have representation without taxation", which raised a few hackles.

On the situation in the Gulf, the U.S. and Britain are completely in agreement. Many Gulf observers are

Sandhurst, the Army's Officer Academy). Anglo-Israeli relations had never been good, starting with the St David's Hotel bombing after war, with claims that the present Israeli Government is descended from a terrorist group. Most observer comment that Israel as a state would never have got off the ground if were not for the support of the U.S. Government.

So on an area of potential divide between the U.S. and Britain, Britain stands side by side, the only country publicly to do so. It seems that our Government has got to like a new tactic of standing by other Governments in trouble (note British support of French nuclear testing), no doubt to extract a few favours later. Perhaps Blair is playing the long game in Anglo-American relations, one that the press don't necessarily seem to be picking up.

The one thing that Tony Blair must be laughing about will be the Tories' reaction to these events. They are still discussing the cost of ministers' offices' refurbishment, trying to extend the 'sleaze' image for as long as possible. If the public wish to hear this message, they probably don't want to hear it from the Tories. As Blair discusses the state of world politics today, Hague discusses office furniture. Let us hope they soon provide some credible opposition, before Labour get too big for its boots. The ramifications for that would not make pleasant reading.

seriously concerned at the military escalation in the Gulf - the other three Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, France, Russia and China, oppose military action. Nearly every Gulf state opposes military action, with Israel being an obvious exception, and Kuwait putting up the least resistance. When one considers it in a more historical perspective, Britain has been relatively pro-Arab, the U.S. pro-Israel this century. Britain had colonised much of the Gulf, and in many cases relations are close (the King of Jordan went to RMA



# THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO GETTING A FIRST with COLIN DALE

## Part Two: Tutorials

Tutorials represent a golden opportunity for an interactive exchange of ideas between students and those who are knowledgeable in their field. (But remember you can sue them if they get too interactive.). Your tutor also has a good deal of input into your reference. You'd better be nice to them, because you don't want your career to be jeopardised by some evil, vindictive old lunatic (save that privilege for your interviewer).

Academic tutors at IC fall broadly into two main categories. Firstly, there are those who consider undergraduate tutoring to be an irrelevant waste of time; then there are those who consider undergraduate tutoring to be an irrelevant waste of time but still think it's damn good fun to make you sweat. If your tutor is in the first category, you are sorted for the whole year: you have met someone who obviously feels the same way as you, and there will be a kind of unspoken mutual agreement never to see each other again. The second type, who can usually be distinguished by a demonic glint in the eyes, are more worrying, and will be dealt with below.

If it is your misfortune to have to see Dr.B.L.Zebub in room 666 every week for the rest of the year, it would be a good idea to learn how to survive the ordeal. It may even be possible to gain something from it (other than post-

traumatic stress disorder).

This kind of tutor often has the ability to see into your soul, and can tell, the moment you walk through the door, that you haven't read any lecture notes since the first week of term. So excuses are out. But don't worry, the situation is not so desperate that you have to rely only on hard work to get you through. With these handy hints, it may still be possible to get a good reference from him without doing a single problem sheet.

Be punctual, polite, but above all never be honest. It may be true that you were prevented from coming in last week due to a crippling hangover and/or court summons, but a dental appointment generally creates a better impression. Tutors do not generally write negative comments in your reference, it still pays to be on good behaviour - you do not want 'rarely attends tutorials' listed as a positive attribute.

Being asked a difficult question in a tutorial is a bit like running out of ideas when you're trying to write a column for Felix. You have to say something, whether it actually means anything or not. So you just burble on and on incoherently, mindlessly spouting the most pointless drivel just to fill the awkward space. You talk and talk and talk and talk, but don't actually say

anything much at all. Like that.

To do really well in tutorials, you must master the art of floundering. Simply saying 'I don't know' in response to a tough question may be honest, but it doesn't get you anywhere. In fact it is an incredibly foolish thing to do as it leaves the door wide open to further probing of your weaknesses. Saying 'umm... err...' for a few minutes is a good start, but will not really buy you that much time. You need to work a few random phrases into your routine, such as 'integral', 'four pi' or 'decaying exponential'. As you become more proficient in these tactics, you will also be able to use terms which are actually relevant to what you are doing. With practice, you will soon have the ability to carry on like this for so long that the tutor will eventually forget what he asked you and pick on some other poor unfortunate to relieve his boredom. Real experts have been known to stave off further inquisition for up to twenty minutes using this method.

Another aspect of tutorials is the opportunity to ask questions which are relevant and aid your appreciation of the course. But 'Can we go home yet?' is not likely to get the best response.

I'll see you next week to discuss your lab reports.

# Da Vinci's

Café-bar

## CATERING NOTICE

IN THE WEEK COMMENCING

# FEB 9TH

**WE WILL BE ASKING ALL  
USERS OF CATERING OUTLETS  
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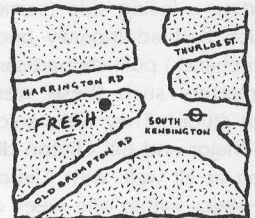
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(TIL LATE)



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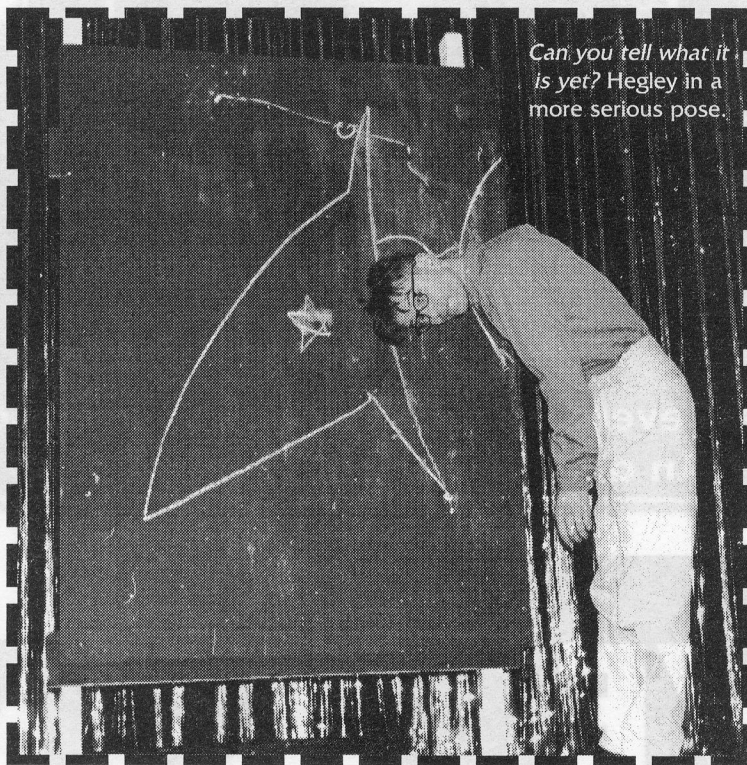


“My dad always told my sister not to play with her food. He said that carrots do not make very good friends...”

Jonathan Trout met “Comedy’s Poet Laureate” at the Bloomsbury Theatre before the final show in his highly popular national tour. He brought Will Dugdale along to take the pictures and a handful of chocolate eggs for reasons which will become obvious.

The deserted, expectant theatre has a strangely charged feel to it as I perch on the stage aside **John Hegley**. Casually dressed in an open necked, expensive looking shirt and cream jeans, his timid, innocent public persona seemingly belied by his darting eyes and unshaven chin. I hand him a coffee, the five sachets of sugar inspired partly by knowing, winkly irony, partly by gushing hero worship but mostly because he might have been serious in naming his first book “Five Sugars Please”. Typically, as such situations often turn out, he used none. Before we started I wondered if it would be possible to ask him to think of a poem around the theme “Felix”.  
HEGLEY: How much?  
TROUT: Just a couple of lines.  
HEGLEY: I meant how much I would get paid.  
TROUT: I’ll give you a Crème Egg for it.

I duly hand over a Crème Egg. He seems surprised, and grateful.  
HEGLEY: Yeah? Oh, all right. Cheers mate. That’s even before you’ve heard it!  
TROUT: You get an extra one if it’s decent. Are your poems any good? Do you think so?  
HEGLEY: Erm... [laughs] I’ve got to say, that was a very good opening question... I think that some of them are. Some of them are even poems. Not many.  
TROUT: Why do you think people like you so much? Why do you think can you fill a place like this?  
HEGLEY: Well, they are accessible, and people generally do like poetry, I think there is poetry in language; there are lots of phrases in language which are poetry; a lick of paint, legs eleven, clickety-click, people like it.  
TROUT: When did you realise that you were destined for greatness, who was the first person to say “you’re really good, you could do

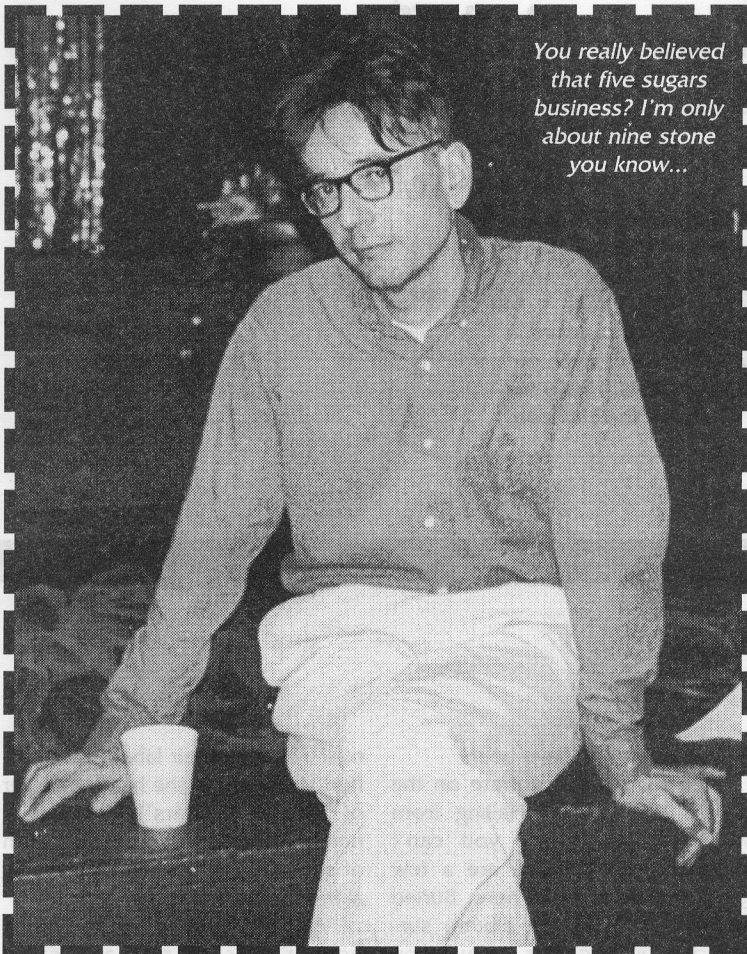


Can you tell what it is yet? Hegley in a more serious pose.

something with this?”  
HEGLEY: John Peel. When we did a Peel Session, ’83, I remember that was the turning point, really, when he said he liked one of our songs on the radio. I had watched his show on the previous Wednesday, in which he had described his life story previous to his brush with fame. I questioned as to whether comic poetry had been a conscious career choice:  
“It wasn’t really, no, it drifted, ‘cos I started out as a singer, and then started doing some of the words without the music, so it sort of drifted towards that.”  
Mark Radcliffe’s evening show on Radio One was instrumental in Hegley’s recent resurgence; I told him that in a recent interview [Felix 1093] Radcliffe had pronounced Hegley as one of his three favourite guests, along with film buff Mark Kermode and transatlantic media chick Katie

Puckrick. He was at first shocked, and then genuinely moved.  
HEGLEY: I didn’t know that... That’s fucking great... oh, that is, I’m so, oh that’s really fantastic... Did he really say that? Wow... [Recovering] Did he mention Nigel at all?  
TROUT: No, he didn’t mention Nigel [Hegley’s silent, miserable sidekick and guitarist], rude man... what do you think that exposure did for you career? Obviously, you’d done that earlier stuff with Peel, but that brought you into the consciousness of a whole new set of people.  
HEGLEY: Yeah, it’s been very good, actually, in terms of opening it out, bringing in a younger audience, because I was a bit bogged down with The Guardian; I enjoyed working with The Guardian and younger people do read that but it’s not hip, not happening, is it, in that way. So it really brought in a younger audi-

ence, which is fantastic. From this good position, I stupidly asked him how his doggie was...  
HEGLEY: Well, he’s all right. He’s in a plastic bag, a plastic bin liner, with two others.  
[There is an embarrassed pause as I take my foot from my mouth] That’ll teach you... [laughs]  
Gently diverting the subject (did he notice? I don’t think so...), I ask who his favourite poet is.  
HEGLEY: There are a few good people about, but, what do you mean, across the board? If I had to choose one person’s words to take to a desert island, Elvis Costello.  
TROUT: Were you influenced at all by Ivor Cutler [Glaswegian surrealist poet/singer/playwright]  
HEGLEY: Ivor Costello, Elvis Cutler, erm, [mouthful of Crème Egg] a little I think, yes, not being afraid to be absurd.  
Staying on the poetry theme, I asked how he dared rhyme “tob-bogan” with “mahog’un” [see box]. He laughed, then, struggling with his egg, ignored the question. “I’m trying to eat this chocolate egg without getting my thumb on the bit I’m eating... [then, bizarrely] ...I was in such a rush to get out of the house I didn’t get to wipe my arse, it’s true...”. This was surprisingly hysterical, the three of us spontaneously falling about. Whether it was the delivery or just the full horror of the statement I know not. After settling down I continue by asking if, as many a spite-filled poem might suggest, he really hates his brother-in-law  
HEGLEY: No, not really. But he’s not entirely fictional...  
TROUT: How much poetry is left in you, do you think?  
HEGLEY: Well the nice thing to think is that the vessel refills; at the moment I hope that there is about one hour and forty minutes worth...  
TROUT: Were you bullied at



*You really believed  
that five sugars  
business? I'm only  
about nine stone  
you know...*

school?  
HEGLEY: Not really, I was ignored, which is probably worse.  
TROUT: How has the tour been going?  
HEGLEY: Very nice, we had a really, really nice time...  
[How many times were you told at school not to use the words very, nice, really, and especially really, really nice? -Ed]  
...but thank God it's over.  
TROUT: Are you likely to do any more radio work in the future?  
HEGLEY: Yes, yes I am, it's likely, if all goes according to plan, I'll do another little series of fifteen minute pieces for radio four, maybe a two hour special for GLR for Easter.  
TROUT: Are you going to get a proper job?  
HEGLEY: I don't know... I've always liked the thought of having the best of both worlds, and so I quite like the idea of having a proper job as well as this one. One piece of self indulgence; I mentioned a thoroughly odious woman who had been sat beside me at the show. I would have complained at her insistent and flesh-crawling commentary throughout the show, but not having paid for the tickets I thought it a bit rude. John remembered her: "You know I think I heard her when Nigel came on; "I Love You

Nigel" I think she said... Yeah, Nigel is a nice guy, but do you know what, a couple of people came up to him in the bar after the show and said: "Listen, my friend and I were really worried about you, did something happen to you before the show, you know, are you all right?" and they looked really miserable...  
Finally, I asked about his seeming obsession with potatoes, manifest in his poetry, songs, and even a ten-minute slide show of his favourite tuberous vegetables before the interval... He paused for a full ten seconds, motionless, before whispering with an entirely deadpan expression: "They're deep".

**A**s an afterthought, John Hegley turns and runs back after us, telling us he'll do us a quick poem off the top of his head:

*Felix is often the name of a cat.  
I'm not sure I know much about  
why that is.  
But anyway,  
Let's not worry about it.*

Yeah, John, erm, cheers...

"poem about not using tropical hardwoods  
because it diminishes the rain forests"

**this winter**

**I hope you get a splinter**

**if you make a toboggan**

**and it is a mahog'un**

"my doggie don't wear glasses"

**my doggie don't wear glasses**

**so they're lying when they say**

**a dog looks like its owner**

**aren't they**

"well executed poem"

**before the blast of the squad**

**his last request**

**was a bulletproof vest**

**or a god**

"the difference between dogs and sheds"

**not many sheds have names,**

**not many dogs have windows.**

**a shed is much more like a large**

**kennel than a dog is.**

**it is not a very good idea to give a**

**dog a coat of creosote.**

All poems © John Hegley

**MUSIC - 12**

Although **Foil** and **Delicatessen** are live, no-one seems to have recorded any albums this week. Piles of **Singles**, though.

**CLUBBING - 14**

**DJ Rectangeand Coldcut & Hex** in review, plus **The Electric Cafe**, with prizes, **Singles** and more.

**BOOKS - 17**

Douglas Adams' and Terry Jones' latest collaboration **Starship Titanic**, plus **The Underground Man**.

**18 - ARTS**

It's **Shopping and Fucking** for Abi with the scary new play by Mark Ravenhill.

Plus get the creative juices going for the new **Phoenix**

**20 - FILM**

**The Edge** and **Clubbed to Death** are reviewed and, frankly, aren't up to much.

Win tickets to see **Hard Rain** instead

**22 - GAMES**

We jump **Overboard!** and engage in **Colony Wars**, whilst trying to work out what the **SideWinder FFP** is. Finally we cast an eye see whats **on the Horizon**.

Reviews are given a mark out of five as follows...

★★★★★ Divine Brown

★★★★ Gillian Taylforth

★★★ Monica Lewinsky

★★ Marc Almond

★ Michael Portillo

No Stars Elenor Tench



LIVE

**FOIL**

Spread It All Around ★★★



The wind howls. An engine groans and gains power. Then a gigantic mechanical machine starts up and pelts straight into a non-stop race to crush everything in its way.

Wow. Great opening track. High hopes all round, then, that the discovery of the year has been made. That Foil are THE band of '98. Maybe Felix will go down in history as 'The Paper that Brought Foil to the World.' Maybe.

On to track 2. Maybe not. For this song, they decided to put vocals over the track giving the voice of a more-than-a-few-years-past-it punker. Someone who thinks he is Scotland's answer to Kurt Cobain. And the music has changed as well. Straight punk meets heavy metal. Still good but just totally different to what it

could, or should, have been.

Foil's lyrics concentrate on the darker side of life. Hailing from West Lothian maybe you can't blame them but there are a few gems tucked away in here. Buried in the middle of the album, surrounded by ferocious assaults on silly things like soup, is a very different song. Slow and calm and reminiscent of Radiohead and Velvet Underground, the track *A Place To Hide* contains a beautiful melody yet still retains the raw naivety of the rest of this album. If only more tracks were like this. In fact, one thing you can say about this album is that it is diverse. It's not all mindless pap. There's fast pap, slow pap, probably-more-distorted-than-it-needs-to-be pap and utterly-original-and-a-breath-of-fresh-air pap. Perhaps slightly

over-rated by their label ('Foil reaffirm your faith in the healing power of electric guitars') they were nonetheless signed on the strength of their demo tape and debut gig alone.

Also welcome is a minor hit from a year or two ago called *Reviver Gene* - you'll remember it when you hear the chorus. All in all, if heavy metal/grunge/West-Coast punk is your thing then give Foil a go. Just bear in mind that they use the same producer as Elastica

**DELICATESSEN**

There's No Confusing Some People

No Stars

Oh dear - and it had such potential as well. What with the name Delicatessen being somewhat of a buzz word within the music scene of late, I really was expecting a better effort than this. Intriguing CD cover design and track titles just added to this expectation, increasing the height from which it inevitably fell.

Let's begin with track one, more of an intro than a song really and it truly does set the scene for a poor show. A vocalist cross between Nick Cave and Lurch Addams attempts to paint a dark,

sombre and somewhat surreal tone, what a pity that they seem to have turned to an Estate Agent's imagination to try - and ultimately fail - to achieve this. Through contorted vocals, Geldof skits and produces second rate indie rock. *There's No Confusing Some People* reaches the ludicrous *Various Pets*. If you've ever thought that Phoebe's (from Friends) *Smelly Cats* should make it to release, this one's for you. There's more talent in a dead mouse.

Despite attempts not to be pigeonholed within a specific genre, Delicatessen come across as

a drunk Ash impersonating Suede doing a Blur - sounds appealing? I think not.

There is surprisingly an upside to this album - it's only thirty minutes long, and when you've resigned yourself to wasting an hour of your life with it, this is better than early parole.

*There's No Confusing Some People* is half an hour of conflicting sounds, dodgy lyrics, and repeated attempts at being something that Delicatessen are not. Their conscious decision not to fall into the same bracket as many a rock band, will surely see them fall into the

ever increasing canyon inhabited by all those who were nothing better, but thought they were. Leave this one well alone, it'll serve better as a shelf insulator at the local HMV.

Derek



## SINGLES

**Hurricane #1 - Only The Strongest Will Survive**

A much slower and more percussive effort from Oxford's (second) finest, impossibly mixing Bacharach with psychedelia. On its first listen this track falls short of their previous high standards, saved from mediocrity only by the ever-stunning voice of Alex Lowe. However, a few more plays and you're totally enveloped by the soaring melody

**BeDLaM AGO GO - Season No. 5**

A relaxing mixture of trip-hop and ambience. The 'Insomnia'-style vocal delivery works well to add to the mood.

**Pearl Jam - Given To Fly**

Still going after all these years, Eddie Vedder and Mr. McCready have lost absolutely nothing, except maybe the knack to write a song that is even slightly memorable. Enough said.

**'A' - Foghorn**

Pretty much an aptly titled song. If you were a little dinghy of a pop song you'd be wise to get out of the way of this battleship - a speed-thrash racket of Titanic proportions. *Iceberg-horn* anyone?

**The Young Offenders - That's Why We Lose Control**

Move over Chumbawamba! These guys are the new anarchists. And their raging socio-political topic of concern? That Byker Grove isn't nearly as good as it used to be. Maybe I'm wrong. I just find it hard to take a band seriously that's a kick in the knackers away from sounding like The Chipmunks.

**Bennet - Horse's Mouth**

They're the young indie band that's hard to pigeon-hole. Just when you think they're Suede, they become Lightning Seeds. Then they're Bis

or, erm, 'indie' sensations Catch. This song? Alright but not memorable. The horses in question might just be the Spice Girls.

**Howlite - Halo**

The ultimate in obscure cult labels, Shifty Disco provides just 1000 people a month with a release from different artists on its own 'totally independent' label. The sheer randomness of the music on offer is enough to grab your attention. This track from Howlite, however, makes you wish that the single was released in more limited numbers.

## THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

**The Candyskins - You Better Stop**

It starts all '60s West Coast style, but soon explodes into a classic every bit as uplifting as McAlmont/Butler's *Yes*. The Candyskins consistently provide memorable 'perfect' songs and this is well worth investigation. They've been on the brink of success for a while now, so their time is due.

**Glitterbox - Scared Of All The World**

An exciting mix of '80s rock and melancholy psychedelia, complete with *A Day In The Life* style piano crash ending. Nothing ground-shaking but pleasing enough for the occasional listener.

**Ether - Watching You EP**

The return of the band with the most impossibly catchy melodies and most implausibly nasal vocals. Play this in the morning and it's 100% guaranteed to wake you up with a smile on your face.

**Imani Coppola - Legend of A Cowgirl**

This is the stand out track on a five-track sam-

pler. Imani displays excellent vocals, her voice is as good as any out there, unfortunately she suffers from a limited range of ideas, and the general song pattern is very repetitive. This girl has the potential to be as big as Sheryl Crow, but that requires a few better tunes than those on this sampler.

**MUKI - Shine**

Six minutes of purely instrumental sub-Asian sounds, very mellow and relaxing, the only though I have is that this may be useful for revision, but that's about it. Basically too long and not enough happens on it.

**Warm Jets - Never, Never**

Standard post Brit pop indie release with suitable rock and roll melody, this will suit the indie boys but that's about it.

**United Citizen Federation feat. Sarah Brightman - Starship Troopers**

This tune perfectly encapsulates the essence of the film, fun and upbeat, but ultimately pure crap. Sarah Brightman lends her voice to an electronic ABBA melody to great effect; the actual lyrics though are ridiculous. This is destined for huge chart success, even though everyone will say they hate it.

**Chumbawamba - Amnesia**

Their follow up to *Tubthumping*, this quite clearly doesn't live up to the up standards set with that, but bounces along and will stick in your head for hours. This will be much loved by fans of Aqua and the Human League. Top Ten, yes....number one....no.

**Asian Dub Foundation - Free Satpal Ram**

The foundation were fairly quiet last year, but still experienced success. This single doesn't rate up alongside any of their great stuff, but certainly worth a listen. *Milen*

Ed

Milen

## THA BOMB!

Check it out another week, another column. Its time for your regular fix of R'n'B with a little bit of hip hop stuffed in. First up, those who actually read my bit will recall that last week's column included the Phat Selection of 97, well this has caused quite a stir. Nuff people already been up to me and complained there was loads of tunes that I missed, well I gotta set the record straight, the phat selection is a list of the top tunes, not the best tunes, there is loads of tracks that are wicked, but that no one has heard of. So y'all should just chill...saying that I gotta to admit to missing some top tunes, but yo I honestly don't care!

Tele news - Friday night, Top Of The Pops, number one...its Usher. The boy came over and sang his bangin number one track live on stage for TOTP, the only problem was the kids in the crowd, they didn't seem to wanna get with it. Usher should've released and just let it be, but he tried to work the crowd and for mine ended up looking like a cock. For those who don't know Friday nights also has FLAVA, the best music program on the box. Flava is tha Bomb, 30 minutes of the dopest videos,

its on at 12, and one of the few chances you'll get to catch some smart R'n'B videos, unless you got The Box (lucky mutha). While we chatty 'bout videos I gotta mention the new bad boy video for Sky's *The Limit* this video been out for weeks, but only just saw it and its phat...you gotta check it. If ya seen it already then you know what I'm chatting about. The whole video is your usually Puffy and Biggie messing about, doing their playa thang, but it ain't them, its kids playing them. It might not sound great, but ya gotta see it.

Girl bands....it's on. Oh yeah the British girls are blasting into the 98, starting of in late 97 we had Truce following up their earlier success wit the huge *Nothin' But the Party*, this infectious party track blew up large. Next up we got the All Saints.... I can hear you saying what the fuck is this guy talkin about, but I kinda like them. *Never Ever* is a good little ballad, they sing it pretty well, not well enough though. I'm not going to get into the whole can they sing, can't they sing thing, just say that I will reserve my decision till I've heard a bit more from them. Next up is N-Tyce, they first turned up last year, but didn't

really do anything, into the 98 and their bringing out *Telefunkin*, this is a straight party track, with some pop thrown in to appeal to the masses.

Into the 98 and what are the tunes like? Well to tell the truth 98 has been a bit thin on real tunes so far. Saying all of dat there has been a standout track, my top tune for January *Wishing On A Star* by Jay Z and Gwen Dickie. This is of course a remake of the old classic, with most remakes I am normally of the believe that the original is far superior, but this time the remake lives up to the original. The vocals are up to it, while Jay Z does it again on the rap, a must have.

Snoop drops his next single *Tha Doggfather* from the LP of the same name, this is a real let down much the like the LP. Snoop really needs to hook up with Dre and bring out those old style g-funk killers.... I'm waiting. At long last the Marsha track *Is it Real* gets a UK release, this did some damage on the underground and deserves its British release. Dope bassline, check that shit out.

Shout out to the Chem Eng boyz! See ya.

Milen

## CLUBSCENE - THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC GUIDE

## DJ RECTANGLE

THE TABLES HAVE TURNED. ★★☆☆



**D**J Rectangle is from Los Angeles and is little-known over here I should imagine, as I only heard of the man a few weeks back myself. And I'm glad I did. What is surprising is that he has the most amazing CV, and is about to take the UK by storm.

Some of the highlights in his career are winning Box National DJ search '94, world Finalist in DMC DJ Championship '93, winning West Coast DMC DJ Championship '93, and winning

the American DMC DJ championship in '93.

DJ Rectangle has also made numerous appearances on too many radio shows world wide to mention, including Sony's world-wide service and BBC Radio One. He is probable best known as the DJ for Warren G, and for a recent UK visit as the DJ for the Alkoholics at the Subterranea club.

Now for his latest mix tape. He is described as a Battle DJ - a producer & performer and this is the perfect description. I was looking forward to hearing this as it's been a while since I've heard a proper hip-hop style scratch mix, and I wasn't disappointed.

The total control this man has over a set of decks is truly mind blowing, he does things that you simply shouldn't be able to do. For example,

scratching the record that's playing with out it skipping a beat, avoiding any talking over talking, but still rolling long mixes together. Rinsing phat beats on-top of phat beats and did I mention the scratching that's just to rough?

He also manages to cover all areas 'n' styles of Rap / Hip-Hop. A few of the top class line up of tracks used are: Busta Rhymes - *Dangerous*, Sean "Puffy" Combes - *Big Old Butt*, Sugar Free - *While U Bullshit*, Puff Daddy - *Senorita*, Rakim - *It's Ben Along Time*, Mac 10 - *Only In California*, The Luniz - *Freestyle* and Ice Cube - *Greed*.

The track listing on this mix tape would make for a most impressive compilation on it's own but when combined with the masterful mixing, cutting 'n' scratching of the Rectangle, your taken to another level. The

tracks are used in the environment they were made to be played in.

This is a must for all bad boys & girls out there, anyone who appreciates mixing, Hip-Hop, Rap and anyone wanting to hear how a DJ should be work it. A true performance.

Look out (in Clubscene & Club Listings) for when & where you can catch the man live 'n' direct, as a European tour kicks off in the next few weeks and look out for full interview in the coming weeks.

I haven't seen these tapes in the shops, but you can order tapes & CDs direct from Sound Chamber Recordings on 0171 823 4973, as well as a host over other top notch hip-hop tapes and CDs. **MC**

Jo Public

## CLUBSCENE - SINGLES

## DRUM 'N' BASS

**Seba. Connected.** (LookingGood Rec.) 9th Feb.

If, it's on LookingGood Rec. You know your in for a musical treat, and this latest offering is no disappointment. Connected is a deep jazz roller, even beautiful, the way your carried away on the strong atmospherics, rolling bass-line & tight percussion. Anyone how thinks D&B isn't real music just samples strung together, should check this, a master piece of beat technology. Keeping LG one step ahead of the rest.

**DJ Ron. Quintessence.** (Some' ting Rec.) Out Now.

This a triple vinyl pack for only £10, a true bargain. Six tracks in all, featuring DJ Ron's *Space Jazz*, and DJ Krust full length rinse out mix of it.

*21st Century*, un-surprisingly starts off with 21st century fox title music, with sounds so bad that I can not understand what possessed Ron to do it, but he more than make up for it with the rest of the track, were thankfully it doesn't feature again. *Zulu March* uses awesome chopped up beats and deep b-lines, a nice dark stepper. With *Raid* a menacing dark roller, to mention a few of the tracks.

## HOUSE 'N' GARAGE

**Prezioso. Raise The Power** (Truelove) 9th Feb.

4 mixes to choose from, all hard. Original mix start off with just a banging b-line (a great way to start) hard 'n' fast beats, great acid beep & bleeps. I could not decide which mix I liked best out of these, as they are all so good. Knuckle Headz mix has definite old skool feel to it, another banging 12" from the Truelove stable.

**Solar Stone. The Impressions EP** (Hooj) 9th Feb.

You get three mixes of *Day By Day*, original is a trancy builder, that drops into a deep pleasant breakdown. 2nd is a more housey number, bouncy b-line, driven beats, deep 'n' dreamy. 3rd mix is a more chilled version, stronger atmospherics & softer beats, one for Sunday afternoon.

**Dick Dastardly & Peter Perfect. Rydim's At Ya EP.** (Confetti Rec.) 9th Feb.

Starts out with a looped, stretched & warped female vocal, beats quickly build up over this, with jiggery keyboard stabs working in and out with a array of bleep 'n' beats. Groaning bass-line soon comes into play, with the clever arrangements and an up-beat feel sure to go down well in the clubs.

**Sneaker Pimps. Spin Spin Sugar. Remixes (Clean Up.)** 2nd Feb.

After it's phenomenal club success, it's back with even more re-workings, and sounding as fresh as the day it was made. A classic set of re-workings, using the Sneaker Pimps lyrics to full effect, these remixes just work so well. Sure to get any crowd away from the bar and on the floor.

**Ten Years of the Roxy V/A (Kubin)**

Dutch ep to celebrate ten years of the famous Roxy club in Amsterdam. Three great tracks here, but I head straight for Laidback Luke's Sub-Conscious every time. This is infectious, uplifting, extremely funky and oh soooo groovy; all at once!

**Solyent Green Solyent Green 2 (Playhouse)**

Playhouse is one of a small number of labels that is making house minimal and, dare I say intelligent. Three unnamed tracks create a sound that is fiendish and daring. Not quite Basic Channel, not quite Robert Hood. Sharp, precisely placed bursts of sound make for a tense, stretched ambience. Playhouse has had the guts to carve its own niche and that deserves my respect.

## DOWNBEAT

**Skylab. The ? EP.** (Eye Q) 16th Feb.

A-side, is slow down beat number, haunting strings, slow drum pattern, sad even depressing lyrics. A dark trippy track, that breaks down to reversed lyrics and eerie live bass taking you even deeper in.

B-side, is less depressing, still deep 'n' dreamy, beautiful female vocalist is used again, this one more minimal, no drums at all, simply clever use of electric guitar, piano & strings.

**Courtney Pine. Trying Times Remixes (Talkin' Loud) Out Now.**

You get three mixes of *Trying Times* to choose from & one remix of *Sense song* by Raw Deal.

Two mixes by Headstrong, one vocal, one dub. This down beat, jazz fusion works quite well. Attic Blues mix is more beaty, same strong emotions and feeling.

A eclectic assortment of beats that's great to just chill to.

**Look out for an exclusive interview with Courtney Pine next week**

*the electric café*

For those of you who don't know, React Records have been around since the earliest days of the rave, and the birth of the dance scene as we know it today. James Horrocks, a DJ in the 1980's began the label after his once successful project, Rhythm King Records, had collapsed. One of the first releases from React was an album called Reactivate, a compilation of some big techno tunes from that period. The concept was simple. People were dancing to hard, minimal techno but the record industry was largely ignoring it. Although React took a risk in releasing this music, their gamble was fuelled by passion.

Reactivate soared in popularity. Each Reactivate release gave the label more converts to the church of techno and a bigger influence in the underground dance scene. This week sees the release of Reactivate Classics, the compilation of all the previous compilations, and an excellent opportunity to either re-live or discover some pivotal moments of history in electronic music. What's more, the CD has been mixed by Daz Saund and Trevor Rockliffe, two pioneering DJs during the days of the rave who have continued to exert a strong presence in the techno scene to this day. But React isn't just about Reactivate, as I discovered from James himself...

If you read this column every week then you might have picked up a recurring theme that I cover. That's right, I'm harping on about open-mindedness in music; whatever style you choose put in your stereo. I want to promote the fact that as long as you believe in what you listen to, it shouldn't matter whether the media or anybody says it's cool or not. Well, after interviewing James Horrocks I realised that I have been breaking that rule myself.

To be quite honest with you, I always had the idea that the Reactivate series was cheesy and too commercial. I had preferred to buy other React releases. That all probably sound OK, unless I were to tell you that before Classics, I had never actually listened to a Reactivate album!

So how did I come to such a conclusion about something I had never heard? Maybe from the so-called "techno-elite" or the music media. Whatever the reason, meeting with and talking to James Horrocks taught me something about why people like him have the guts to take such risks and release music that, on paper doesn't have a chance to compete with the mass-marketed majors.

The first thing James talked about, was his very own baby, the React label. He describes it as a "European label" which releases "an interesting array of styles". James runs React together with his business partner Thomas Foley. Between them, they enjoy a broad range of music. This explains how consecutive releases can consist of deep Detroit techno and drum'n'bass or handbag house and blunted hip-hop breaks. This also explains why React has a following amongst so many different types of listeners of electronic music, and has become so successful.

With this open-mindedness there are rules to abide by. "We only do something if we think we can do it well. If we think we can do it justice and we can present something that people will actually enjoy listening to. Otherwise we just don't bother." explains James. This means no quick cash-ins on a style of music that is in fashion such as the current sound of speed garage.

Even if certain releases haven't aged well, React has been on the cutting edge in a number of different musical styles throughout its life. "If you believe in something, you'll work twice as hard for it to work." James subscribes to the

view that business risks can work if you really love what you are doing. It is much easier to persuade other people to believe in what you are doing if you believe in it yourself.

Having established the basic philosophies behind React, we talked about the Reactivate series. In James' own words "When it started dance music had become very disco and homogenised and clean and mainstream. Certain clubs were playing harder, more minimal music which was frowned upon by the record industry and ignored as headbanging techno

no sound. "I thought they deserved the props!" said James.

Despite the fact that many people associate React purely with the Reactivate series, James is keen to explain that the label's taste are far more eclectic than that. "It (Reactivate) is just one thing that we do." And that is absolutely true. Look out for an Axis compilation release and the legendary Live From the Liquid Rooms mix from Jeff Mills. The rest of Detroit is represented by True People, The Detroit Techno Album. The Artcore albums have followed the rising prominence of drum'n'bass, whilst eclectic music is served up by Ibiza's Jose Padilla on the Cafe Del Maar series. Dope on Wax is a collection of blunted hip-hop and funk, and let's not forget the MixUp series, that so far focussed on a wave of young Japanese electronic DJs. There's plenty more, but you'll have to check that out for yourselves.

Finally, we talked about React's future objectives. James sees global cooperation as the future. "We don't only want to sell our music overseas like other labels do. We're looking for an exchange with other countries. We want to buy what they're doing. Then they release what we do, we release what they do." He cites new artists from Asia, Russia and China.

James' parting shot is against the sometimes inward and insulated UK scene. "There's a certain snobbery in this country that if it comes from abroad then it can't be as good as anything from this country because we are setting the scene. Which is actually not the case because as you travel around the world you realise that what we're making is not important in global terms at all. Abroad, it's all treated equally!"

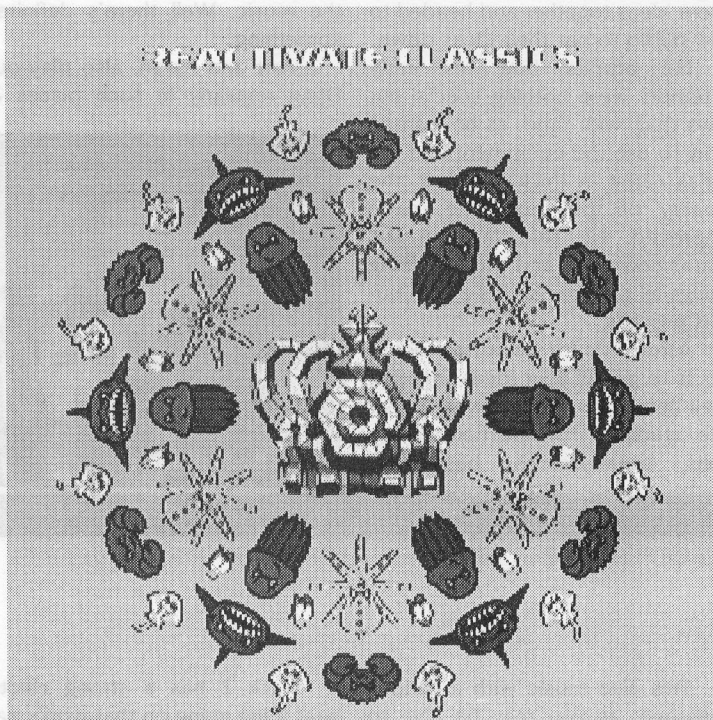
Many thanks to James Horrocks, React Records and Phuture Trax.

If you would like to win a copy of the Reactivate Classics mixed CD, then answer this question:

**Which famous UK DJ released his own project, the F.A.C.T. series on React Records?**

Answers to Felix office or by email to a.sethi@ic.ac.uk

@!;ck



## THE ELECTRIC CAFE

## CLUBSCENE - THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC GUIDE

## Aston Plays Freestyle



**T**he freestylers are a name that my not be familiar at the moment, but all that is about to change with their new single *B-Boy Stance* storming into the national charts last week at number 23. A killer track that has been caned in the right clubs for a while now, and played extensively on Radio and Kiss FM.

The freestylers are a full on group; eight people combine to create their fresh sound, not to mention their break-dancers (yes people still break dance and few better than the thirty strong Freska Break-dance crew).

Now back to the group. Aston Harvey (ex-Blapps Posse) and Matt Cantor (major London break DJ) oversee things with their knowledge and production skills. The other members of the group are J-Rock (Scratch DJ champion) cutting things up, Jo on bass guitar, Chris on lead guitar and the hard beats of drummer Clive. With vocals by the one 'n' only Tenor Fly (Major UK reggae artist) and MC Navigator (a top drum & bass MC, Radio 1, one in the jungle MC) this is quite an impressive line up.

The freestylers have been making a name for themselves on the fast emerging Big-Beat scene (break beat with big bass-lines), which London once again seems to be leading the way in. I have been listening to their previous works over the last few weeks and believe me these are no one-hit wonders and look likely to blow up in '98.

Aston kindly took time out from recording their follow up single to have a chat with me about past, present & the future of himself and the freestylers. He describes their music as an amalgamation of Hip-Hop, Electro & the whole Break-Beat culture. Old Skool flavour with a new identity via a use of different production techniques.

He started out DJing at the age of 16, and around this time was friends with rappers Brotherhood. They had wanted to make a track together for a while, so they got there ideas together and headed to the studio to put their ideas down.

He admits that his early attempts were nothing special but says that, with time, as he learned how to use the equipment and the ideas came in thick and fast, the quality of the music he made improved. He said that he still learns new tricks and ways of doing things all the time so it's a continuous process.

Aston's tip for wana-be producers is to get all your ideas together well before you get anywhere near the studio. For example, drum rolls, break-downs, bass-lines,

melodies should all be worked out beforehand. If possible take someone who knows how to use a studio with you to show you how to work the equipment yourself.

Around '91 Aston formed part of The Blapps Posse, making similar music as Shut 'n' Dance but they didn't get hyped as much. Later on, in a solo project he created one of the biggest tunes, a true classic of those large scale rave days of 91-93, *Don't Hold Back*. That could be heading for a re-release and I'm sure it'll be a big hit again. He has also worked with the first lady of jungle, DJ Rap, before meeting up with Matt to form The Freestylers. So they have plenty of experience to call on.

When asked why they seem to be have such wide spread success with the Freestylers, he said that there is a concept behind the group, a direction and identity to the music. Well there's definitely something.

Matt and Aston, also play-out, DJing regularly in such places as

Miami, Italy & Munich as well as regular UK dates. Some of the forthcoming dates are: Saturday 7 Feb. Project B, Milton Keynes, Friday 13 Feb. Middlesborough Arena, and finally making a London appearance at The Clinic, on Saturday 28 Feb. Before they shoot off to Miami.

Then back to London for 13 March at Club Innocence, London Bridge and Fri 20 March at Hanover Grand. Finally returning to London to rip up the Jazz Café, London on 26 April. Check club listings for info nearer the dates. Also mixing the Essential Mix on Radio One, Sunday 8 Feb. One not to be missed.

There are plans for a European tour over the summer to coincide with the album release, which should be around 8 May. And plenty of festival appearances lined up including Phoenix, Glastonbury and Tribal Gathering. **MC**

Jo Public



Photo By Phill Knott

## CLUBSCENE - ALBUM

## COLD CUT &amp; HEX

TIMBER. ★★★★★<sup>1/2</sup>

**T**his latest release from Coldcut and Hex is out on the 9th Feb and has arisen from their interest in live audio-visual mixing, where all the images are directly linked to every single beat which makes for a most impressive live show.

This comes as a CD-Rom (characters shown feature in the visual experience) with visuals that are one with the music and clearly display the message that is being put across if you've got a computer that can run it. If not, the music itself can stand alone. This is not a mere backing track to the visual display but cutting edge beats, breaks & samples.

This also music with a serious message, as you may be able to guess from the title, that message to "highlight the abuse of the worlds biosphere and indigenous tribes". Timber is an attempt by Coldcut & Hex to do something about it.

Track 1 starts out with a wicked mix of samples and beats that builds up nicely with a tribal chant type vocal over samples of what sounds like engines or machinery breaking it up. I think this could be part of the message, which is clear when seen with the CD-ROM.

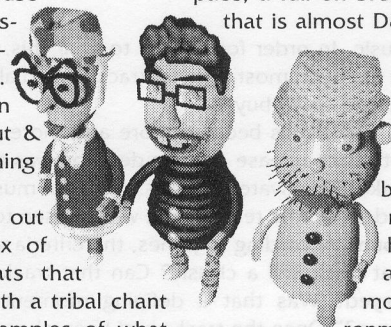
Track 2 has a strong electro beat thing going on that works particular well. Track 3 picks up the pace, a full on break beat number that is almost D&B, again carrying the same tribal vocal as the first track. Excellent mish-mash of beats. Various remixes feature hear but they are used in a more chilled environment and works just as well. The pace is raised again with a crazy fast tempo break beat track with a sax thrown in for good measure. Track 7 once again

shows the ability of these two producers to make the most amazing assortment of beats 'n' breaks fit together perfectly. They have cut 'n' spliced together beat upon beat. The way the remixes change pace and style, but seem to keep the same direction, is impressive. Almost every track has it's own individual style, but at the same time is part of the whole.

So all in all a most impressive collection of sounds that works very well on it's own, and I can't wait to see the live show, which is sure to blow you away.

One day all music will be produced this way. One Step Ahead.

**MC** Jo Public



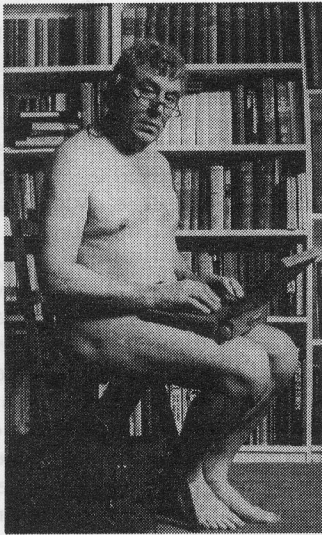




## FICTION

## DOUGLAS ADAMS' STARSHIP TITANIC

Terry Jones



Remind you of the naked organist?

Stemming from a digression in *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide*, *Starship Titanic* is a novel by Terry Jones. Douglas Adams was unable to write the book himself as he was working on a CD-ROM version of it; his publishers insisted that the novel would have to come out at the same time as the game to enable them to sell it. This struck Adams as odd since "... they had managed previously to sell books of mine without any attendant CD-ROM game." Whatever, it came to pass that Adams asked his old friend, Terry Jones, to write it for him. The ex-Python agreed with only one proviso; he could write it naked.

Surreal situations, silly names, screwball antics and screwing as well, all fuse together in the literary pot to produce a deliciously enjoyable read. Written in the style of *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide*, Jones

equals Adams' quirkiness and if not, he enhances it with the naughtiness that only a naked man could conjure. Shoddy workmanship by the Amalgamated Unmarried Teenage Mother's Construction Unit leads to what appears to be Spontaneous Massive Existence Failure on the dawn of the Titanic's unveiling to the universe. This is where the real story begins.

The Titanic lands on Earth and takes aboard Dan, Lucy and Nettie. They link up with The Journalist from the planet Blerontin who was hidden aboard the ship with the intention of gaining information for a scoop about the Titanic's many flaws. Our characters' objective is to regain control of the ship. Along the way they have to contend with insolent Doorbots, pretentious Deskbots, operatic Gondolabots that sing when they don't have any passengers, a talking bomb that

frequently loses count, the peaceful Yassacans with their Simulated Destruction weapons and shoot-to-miss policy, galactic bureaucracy and, last but not least, a parrot!

Devilishly immature, *Starship Titanic* is going to be a love-it-or-hate-it book. One side will put forward the fact that it is just stupid while the other will say... Well, they'll say that it's stupid too! If you're looking for some satire, go read a Ben Elton novel. However, if you want a short read that is essentially just stupid fun, *Starship Titanic* has got its tadger out and is wriggling past the rest of the pack to take the chequered flag of bonkers comedy.

Dennis

Publisher: Pan Books.

Price: £5.99

Available: Now.

## THE UNDERGROUND MAN

Mick Jackson

The *Underground Man* is the first novel from Mick Jackson and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize last year. As you would then expect, it is an extremely well written book. Surprisingly, perhaps, it is also very readable with a strong central character and a coherent and quickly moving plot. The story is set in the Victorian era and is about the fifth Duke of Portland ('the *Underground Man*') one of the wealthiest landowners in the country. Through his journal, interleaved with short reports from local residents, the story of a shy, eccentric old man develops. The title refers to the Duke's creation of a system of tunnels underneath his estates with great expense, where he spends more and more time. Because of this and his social difficulties and idiosyncrasies the local community believe him to be deformed or insane in some way. "His left eye was a good two inches higher than the right one and he dribble from the corner of his mouth the whole time," was what the locals believed the Duke (who was completely normal) looked like. The Duke, meanwhile, suffers from an absence that he does not

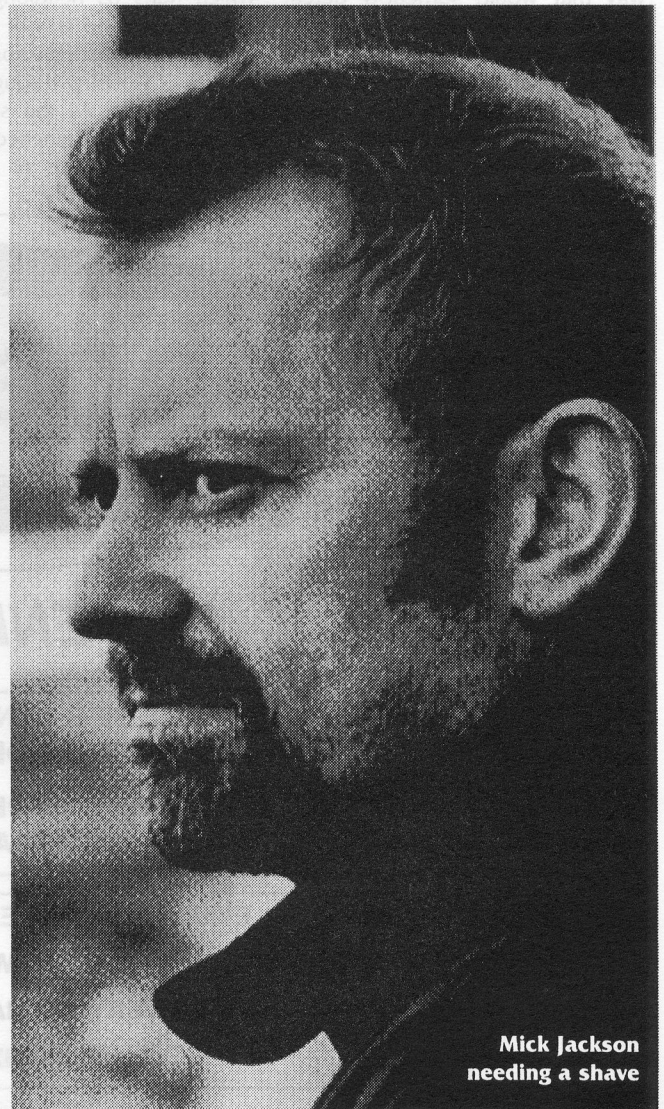
understand and can only slowly understand.

This is a superb book which I would recommend to anyone. The Duke is a sympathetic 'hero', and his story is a fascinating one. As we see the story almost entirely through his journal we get a personal view and can relate to the Duke a great deal. The story is loosely based on the actual Duke (William John Cavendish-Bentinck-Scott) who did build such a network of tunnels, but the book is definitely fictitious. The secondary characters, mainly the locals and the Duke's staff are all well developed and entertaining. The short reports between chapters from such people give a more rounded story, but, because of their prejudices these make us identify with the Duke even more.

The story is above all a powerful, yet witty, story which grabs the reader almost immediately. The ending is an appropriate, but shocking conclusion.

Publisher: Picador

Price: £6.99

Mick Jackson  
needing a shave



THEATRE

SHOPPING AND FUCKING

Mark Ravenhill

The scene: a room filled with people newly in from the cold, adjusting their dress, chattering, turning to neighbours, all nicely relaxed, until – BANG! We are hit by a thunderbolt of sound, a disjointed, harsh-voiced rant against life in general, ripping through the now total blackness over a thudding beat. Winded so to speak by the onslaught, we turn to the stage, unusually sparsely furnished, and dominated by a large screen to the rear, on which lighted lettering forms the title of the play. We see a scene in the home of our main characters. These three are occupied in picking at the microwave meals which appear throughout the play, but which Mark refuses to touch so that his companions attempt to feed him from their own plates, thus creating an odd parent-child tableau.

The plot of this play is far too involved and bewildering to attempt to even summarise here, and anyway that would somehow defeat the object of my trying to persuade you to see it, (which, incidentally, you definitely should.) At Lulu's and Robbie's request, Mark relates the apparently beloved tale of his first meeting with them. A stranger

had pointed to a nearby couple and told Mark that he owned them, but that they were trash and he didn't want them, even hated them, and he'd offered them to Mark for £20. They'd "done a deal," and Mark had taken Robbie and Lulu home to be his "slaves." This is where the "shopping" of the title comes in, and the idea recurs throughout the play in various forms, adding a really surreal (and not a little confusing,) element to the entire thing.

As the play progresses, with scene changes indicated very effectively by the lighted lettering behind. Up to this point, the acting had been a little slow and stilted, and I've had the distinct feeling that the cast are having difficulty in filling the enormous, bare stage, but the performances are beginning to strengthen, along with the cohesion of the group. The first act ends on a note of suspense, but that's as much as I can give away.....

The salvo of rapid-fire sound which hurls us headlong into the second act is no less of a jolt than that at the beginning – absolutely no danger of sleeping through the first five minutes. As the second act begins we are launched into the extraordinary scene of Robbie's

and Lulu's home with each engaged in a telephone conversation, which, it soon becomes apparent, is phone sex; they are making a last ditch attempt to raise the £3000 which they by now owe to Brian. During the course of this, other telephones ring, so that both Lulu and Robbie are holding two simultaneous conversations, juggling subject matter and even voices.

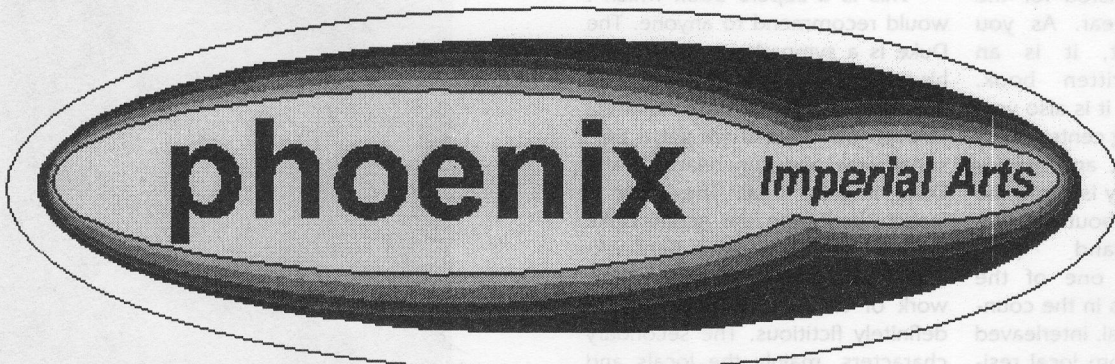
Throughout the play, Gary has been mentioning a wealthy man who is "out there" and who will take him back to his luxurious home for good. He goes into greater and greater detail, until he is describing a vision of being a possession, controlled completely, and he begins to see Mark as the one who will become his master. Gary then encounters Robbie and Lulu for the first time, and they agree to "help" him, by recreating his vision. They manipulate his words so that his vision becomes exactly the "transaction" of Mark's story, and is played out in gruesome and menacing detail. This is where the "fucking" part comes in; this is the one thing on which the shock value of the play is said to depend, but to me it is shocking more for its apparent coldness, and for Gary's sub-

mission to what he believes to be necessary for the enactment of his vision, than for the act itself. I find the mind-games and manipulation surrounding it, and the fact that Robbie is in fact giving Gary precisely what he has asked for, far more horrifying. This scene, with its stark writing and powerful acting, is to me the most effective of the play.

It is very difficult to come to any definite conclusion as to what Mark Ravenhill is trying to achieve with this play. At this point in time I would say that it is an exploration of ideas on dependence, both on other human beings and on money, and the ways in which the dependence on one another of the members of a group affects all their lives. The whole thing is certainly extremely thought provoking, and succeeded in captivating me from beginning to end.

Abi.

Shopping and Fucking directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Playing at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, until 14 March. Prices: Mon-Thurs and matinees, £6 - £19.50. Fri, Sat £6 - £21.50 – standby for concs £10 on day of performance.



PHOENIX NEEDS YOU.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE'S ANNUAL ARTS MAGAZINE IS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR ITS 1997/8 EDITION:-  
WE WANT YOUR SHORT STORIES, YOUR POETRY, YOUR ARTWORK, YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY, YOUR EXPERIENCES.

EVERYONE IN IMPERIAL HAS SOMETHING WORTH SAYING.  
NOW IS THE TIME TO SAY IT.  
EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING WORTH READING.  
PHOENIX IS THE PLACE TO READ IT.

phoenix@ic.ac.uk

# NUDISM

...is a subject you can cover IF you enter the

## I.C. OPEN MIKE COMEDY NIGHT

to be held in mid-march as part of Rag Week: 'the second coming'. So if you think you're funny, sarcastic, morbid or just plain silly why not expose yourself... ? All you have to do to volunteer yourself/your friends is mail us at:

**Rag@ic.ac.uk**

Interested but sh\*t scared? Don't worry, it's totally non committal - we just want to know who might be willing to have a go...

**I.C.RAG: MASS DEBATE '98 : THE SECOND COMING**

## REVIEWS

## THE EDGE

Reviewed at the  
London Film Festival

**Starring:** Anthony Hopkins, Alec Baldwin, Elle MacPherson  
**Director:** Lee Tamahori

★★★



It's a hard life being a billionaire. You are never sure if your supermodel wife is only with you for your money, or if supposed friends socialise with you purely because they want something. This is Anthony Hopkins' situation in *The Edge*, a superior outdoor adventure film in the mould of *Deadly Pursuits* and *The River Wild*.

Hopkins once again plays a reserved aging Englishman, albeit with a stunning wife in the form of Elle MacPherson. The two take a holiday in the beautiful remote Alaskan wilderness. Accompanying them is a group of photographers including Alec Baldwin, who may or

may not be having an affair with the wealthy man's wife. There is a clear tension between the two men, and this comes to a peak when events conspire to place them miles from civilization, relying on one another to stay alive.

The plot may sound as corny as the usual Hollywood thriller-but this film manages to retain suspense throughout. This is partly due to the qualities of Hopkin, whose character strives to help Baldwin at every turn despite suspecting that the younger man wants to kill him and obtain his inheritance through his wife. It is a treat to see this distinguished actor pitting his wits against the dangers of the great outdoors, which include a particularly ferocious man-hunting bear.

If you have already seen that film then you could do far worse than try *The Edge*. It doesn't take itself too seriously and, best of all, there is not a sinking boat in sight.

**F** Chris

## CLUBBED TO DEATH

**Starring:** Roschdy Zem, Beatrice Dalle, Elodie Bouchez  
**Director:** Yolande Zauberman

★

This is a French arty film, which mostly meets your expectations. *Clubbed to Death* is a love story set in the slightly unusual surroundings of a nightclub, where a girl accidentally meets a bloke and becomes his girlfriend. In addition to the standard romantic script are the modern elements. The leading male is forced into bashing his own brother in an illegal fight, gives up crack and dumps his current girlfriend. The club that the film centres around is a converted church at the end of bus line and this combines with a barren, broken landscape to create a sombre and distracted atmosphere.

Unfortunately I found that I really didn't care what happened to the characters. I couldn't empathise with them even though they are supposedly part of a similar youth culture to mine. A distraction, possibly due to the

translation from French, is that there are points in the film when the conversations make no sense whatsoever. This, of course, may be part of the French mystical atmosphere.

One of the better aspects of the film was the soundtrack. A thumping selection of tunes, including Chemical Brothers and Massive Attack, help to give the film a unique atmosphere. Even Eric Clapton shows his musical talents in one of the most evocative scenes in the film. If you do see this at the cinema then a good quality sound system is a must.

For me it turned out to be a dreary non-eventful incomprehensible waste of film. It may be worth watching only when it comes on Channel Four or BBC2 late at night. If you do, look out for that classic pulling technique, wearing a creaking leather jacket and flip-flops. **F** LFB

## FILM BOOKS

THE SIXTH VIRGIN  
FILM GUIDE

Available now at £16.99

Unlike many film guides which boast a comprehensive coverage of every film you would care to think of, the Virgin Guide goes for a selection of the most noteworthy films of all time. This inevitably results in some surprising omissions, including *Back to the Future II*, almost every *Carry On* film and every *Police Academy*.

The films which are included benefit from a detailed synopsis and credits list and a small review. The reviews are naturally a personal view but it seems that too many obscure French films receive five stars and certain quality American films are harshly judged:

Return of The Jedi ★★★½  
The Shawshank Redemption ★★★★★  
The English Patient ★★★  
Leaving Las Vegas ★★★  
King Kong ★★★★★½  
The Abyss ★★½

Thus this is worthwhile only if you want detailed information on historically important films. If you don't, look elsewhere. **F**

Chris

## FILM COMPETITION...

## FILM COMPETITION...

## FILM COMPETITION...

Win tickets for *Hard Rain* courtesy of

**ODEON** KENSINGTON

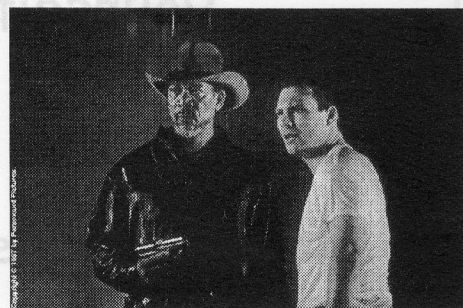
The next big film to open in Britain is *Hard Rain*, an action thriller starring Morgan Freeman, Christian Slater and Randy Quaid.

The action is set in Huntingburg, a small town which is evacuated when torrential rain brings rising flood water. The local sheriff, Randy Quaid, and the town's residents are all too familiar with the looting and petty thefts that take place in an abandoned town. However, even they would not suspect the size of the planned heist of an armoured security van containing 3 million dollars.

The driver of the van is Christian Slater and he manages to escape from the budding thieves who are led by Morgan Freeman. The film then follows Freeman's frantic pursuit of Slater in a fast-moving style that doesn't give you time to dwell on implausibilities.

As usual the Odeon Kensington has donated the prizes for our competition. There are five pairs of tickets to see the film and these can be won by mailing the answer to the following to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)

**Which controversial film about slavery released this month also stars Morgan Freeman?**



Last week's Titanic competition was the most popular one yet. Those with a good memory will remember that we wanted to know which other James Cameron film was set at sea. The answer we were looking for was *The Abyss*, although as one person correctly pointed out he also directed *Piranha II: The Spawning* which took place in the Caribbean. So congratulations to Frederic Maquet who wins a prize for being such a film buff.

The other winners were:

Sompong Putivisuti  
Sham Alidina

Capucine Watine  
Wipawee Usaha



GET YOURSELF A PROPER JOB...

# ICU Students' Handbook 1998-99

## JOBS AVAILABLE

### Advertising Manager

- To market advertising space in the ICU Handbook to potential customers
- To organise and administer the bookings
- To attend and work with the Handbook committee
- To ensure all artwork is received and is ready for publication

### Features Editor

- To write entertaining, quality features of relevance to future students.
- To encourage other ICU students to contribute to the handbook
- To attend and work with the Handbook committee
- To ensure that all the features are completed and ready to publish before the deadline

Applications invited from any full member of ICU for the following positions, starting 2 March.

Pay approx £450. Positions to run until the end of the Easter holiday.

Apply with a CV and examples of previous work / experience to Mandy Hurford in the Union Office before Friday 20 February.

# ICU Cinema

## Showing this week:

**Seven Years In Tibet**-Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 6 pm

**Alien Resurrection**-Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 8.30pm

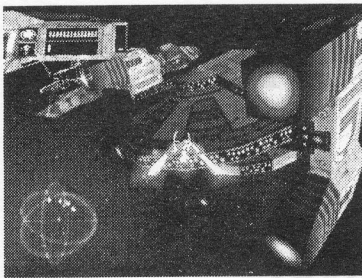
**The Last Seduction**- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm-FREE

Each show £2. Imperial College or ILLU students & staff. Compulsory annual membership of £1 (payable on first visit). Doors open 15 minutes before time stated. ICU Cinema is no smoking but drinks from Da Vinci's bar are welcome. E&OE: ROAR.



REVIEWS

ON THE HORIZON



# COLONY WARS

Pysgnosis ★★★★★

'Fight for a cause, fight for what you believe in but don't forget the consequences of war', this would sum up the feeling of Colony Wars and the atmosphere it creates. You are a pilot on the side of the League of Free Worlds waging a guerrilla war against the Imperialist Navy. At your disposal are various different types of fighter craft for a multitude of different missions. There are

several different endings to Colony Wars, several different ways of ending the tyranny of the Czar and his Imperialist Navy. Each ending depends on the outcome of each of your missions, fail all your missions and the League is doomed, but in each case the story will always have a beginning and an end.

After a couple of missions the game cuts away to the all-too-familiar computer generated movie, which has the feel of Babylon 5 and Star Wars (James Earl Jones does his usual evangelistic bellowing for the narration in each cut-scene).

The gameplay is exhilarating, those of you who have played X-wing or Tie Fighter will enjoy the dog-fights and will be relieved that there aren't 101 different controls to fly your fighter craft. Colony Wars has moved away from those usual games set in space where the black background colour usually dominates. Here huge frigates and other space war horses often fill

the screen, while the odd asteroid flies by - space is not a black void in this game. There are several different types of craft with different abilities and weaponry, disabling a craft with an EMP weapon will make it a sitting duck and easier to shoot down while anti-shield weapons can wear down your enemies' defenses faster than your normal lasers.

However the lasting appeal of Colony Wars is limited, as it is possible to reach one ending within a single sitting, while repeated playing is only required to discover the different endings to the saga. This is a well polished game with all the trimmings, animated sequences narrated by Darth Vader himself, analogue joystick compatibility and excellent head-to-head dog fights. Another game to get your arthritic fingers on.

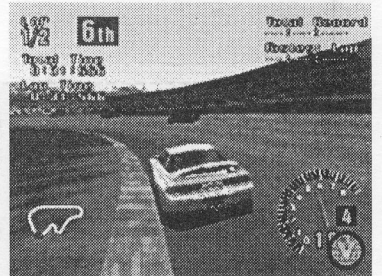
Magpie

Format: Playstation & PC  
Check out the website at:  
<http://www.colonywars.com>

**Saturn 2** rumours continue to grow - now codenamed 'Katana', it is likely that the superconsole from Sega will use NEC's PowerVR graphics chipset and the 128-bit Hitachi SH-4 processor. In a promising twist, Katana may support the Direct3D API for easy co-development with PC games.

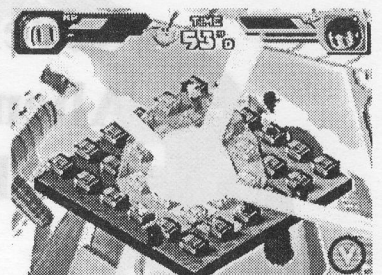
Future Publishing's **Edge Magazine** has won the INDIN 'Best Magazine' award, again confirming its status as the top interactive entertainment magazine around. All this without a cover-mounted CD too...

**Resident Evil 2** (PlayStation) has been released in Japan, to excellent reviews. The sequel Konami's surprise hit 'survival horror' game should be in the UK within a couple of months. I for one can't wait.



**Gran Turismo** (PlayStation) is yet another racing game and should be around soon. Rave reviews abound, and the game received an unprecedented 10 out of 10 from Edge magazine - only the second game ever!

**Yoshi's Story** (N64) is the slightly disappointing follow-up to Yoshi's Island on the SNES. Despite not living up to its promise, it will undoubtedly be snapped up by software-hungry N64 owners upon its UK release.



**Bomberman Fight!** should cheer up beleaguered Saturn owners. The classic multiplayer game returns in an appropriately 3D form, apparently without spoiling its unique gameplay.



# OVERBOARD!

Psygnosis ★★★½

Avast there me harties! Shiver me timbers, keel haul the mainsail! Erm... no, I've run out of Pirate sayings. Anyway, I haven't gone mad - I've been playing Overboard, a highly enjoyable and silly adventure into the realm of arcade piracy.

The player controls a dinky little

pirate ship, complete with cannons and sails, and must attempt to traverse the sixteen levels of choppy seas.

Each level is enormous, and can easily take half an hour to complete. The basic idea is to collect all of the parts of the map of level, found in green floating bottles. Along the way are treasure chests and weapons to be gained. Some of the additional weapons are distinctly un-piratey, especially the flamethrower and ground-to-air missiles.

Standing in the budding pirates' way are rival ships, sea monsters, gun emplacement, flame-throwing towers and even massive spinning sawblades (somewhat reminiscent of Mario or Sonic). However, the player rarely feels totally lost or hard done by, and the game certainly kept me coming back for

more. The whole game has a wonderfully engaging atmosphere, from the animation of the boats and sea creatures to the jaunty nautical theme tune that you'll be humming for days afterwards.

The game is eventually let down by its lack of variety in level design, and the difficulty in defeating some of the end-of-level bosses. A battle mode is included, which allows up to five captains to compete, but this requires a very large TV (or keen eyesight) as each ship is very small.

Overboard! is certainly a welcome addition to any puzzle-loving gamer's collection, but those requiring more a more cerebral challenge should give it a wide berth (*groan*).

Mark

Format: Playstation & PC

## PERIFER... PHIRIFE... FERIPHA... OH, FORGET IT



### What is it?

Its the Microsoft SideWinder Force Feedback Pro.

### What does it do?

It's a PC joystick that has more buttons than any sane person would require.

### What's so special about it?

This little beauty comes with its own processor and motors to provide 'force feedback'. If you've ever played Sega Rally in the arcade, you will be used to

the feeling of the wheel fighting you on corners. This is the feeling that MS want to bring to home PC owners.

### Is it any good?

Well, games need to be written to support it, but it could bring a whole new dimension to games.

### What's the catch?

The cost, - around £130, which is excessive even for a PC joystick. Of course, you could always trade in your Saturn...

**Fri 6th**

# **SHAFT**

**70'S DISCO, 80'S POP, 90'S TRASH**  
Plus cocktail bar. 9-2. Free b4 9

**Sat 7th**

## **5 NATIONS RUGBY**

**England v France**

DaVinci's. Bar from noon

**Sun 8th**

## **Standing Room Only**

**ARSENAL V CHELSEA**

**Tues 10th**

## **BAR TRIVIA**

Win £50 cash or crate of lager DaVinci's 8pm

**Weds 11th**

# **X S**

Two rooms of midweek mania. 9 - 1.

Free b4 11

**Thurs 12th**

## **COCKTAIL NIGHT**

DaVinci's 5-11



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

club & soc events

club & soc regulars

radio & TV

film

C  
fri 6

**Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club**  
with award winning Dave Gorman, Gordon Southern & 2 Open Mic slots. 8pm dBS £2.50/£2  
**Shaft**  
Come to Funky Town with an aural assault of 70's disco, 80's pop & 90's trash. Plus chill out room and cocktail bar. Free B4 9.

**Alan Sillitoe** (author of the *Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*) will be reading from his past and present works in the library, level one, at 6pm.  
**Photographic Soc**  
Will be revealing their competition results at 12.30pm in the Brown Committee Room.

**Parachute Club**  
Meets at noon in Southside lounge.  
**Labour Club**  
Meets in Southside at 1pm.

**The Simpsons**  
6pm, BBC2  
**TFI Friday**  
6pm, C4  
**Blackadder**  
9pm, BBC2  
**Game On**  
10.05pm, BBC2  
**Cricket Test Highlights**  
11.20pm, BBC2

**Titanic**  
**Odeon Leicester Square**  
11.55, 3.50, 7.50  
**Virgin Fulham Road**  
12.15, 4.15, 8.15  
**Odeon Kensington**  
Fri-Sat 11.25, 3.25, 7.25, 11.25  
Other 12.25, 4.25, 8.25  
  
(Men In Black out on Video)

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sat 7

**Five Nations Rugby**  
England v France. DaVinci's BIG screen. Bar from noon.

**Rifle and Pistol Club**  
Join up & shoot. 11am - 3pm at the range, sports centre.  
**Kung Fu**  
Training 4.30pm, Southside Gym, beginners welcome.

**Five Nations Live**  
1pm, Radio Five Live  
**Sunset Beach Omnibus**  
3.15pm, Ch5  
**Film: The Assassin**  
10pm, ITV  
**Match of the Day**  
10.45pm, BBC1

**The Ice Storm**  
**Virgin Fulham Road**  
1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40  
**Odeon Haymarket**  
1.40, 4.00, 6.25, 8.45

p  
sun 8

**Standing Room Only**  
Watford v Gillingham & Arsenal v Chelsea. DaVinci's BIG screen. Bar from noon.

**Kung Fu**  
Training 4.30pm, Southside Gym, beginners welcome.

**The Electric Cafe**  
IC Radio (999 AM), 12 - 2am  
**All Back to Mine - Paul Weller**  
9pm, Radio 1  
**Film: Jurassic Park**  
7pm, BBC1  
**Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic**  
10.05pm, BBC1

**In & Out**  
**Previews Today Only**  
UCI Whiteleys  
6.30  
  
UCI Empire  
6.00

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[Blank]

**Cathsoc**  
Mass, noon. Leon Bagrit Cnt  
**Community Action Group**  
Tools for self-reliance. 6pm, old darkroom, Union cellar.  
**Chaplaincy Discussion Group**  
+ Pizza and beer. 6pm, 10 Princes Gardens.  
**Dance Club**  
Latin beginners. 6pm, JCR.

**Goodness Gracious Me**  
10pm, BBC2  
**Father Ted**  
10.55pm, C4  
**The Brit Awards Live**  
Radio 1, 8.30pm

**Devil's Advocate**  
**Odeon Kensington**  
2.40, 5.00, 9.00  
(Late Fri/Sat 12.10)  
**Virgin Tröcodero**  
1.00, 5.00, 8.20  
**Virgin Hammersmith**  
9.00

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**STA Bar Trivia**  
Win £50 CASH or a crate of lager. Davinci's 8pm.

**City & Guilds Union**  
Extraordinary General Meeting of the Officers' and Members' Council. 6pm, C&GU office. All C&G students welcome.

**Fair Trade Stall**  
Noon - 2pm, Union lobby.  
**Yacht Club**  
1pm, physics LT 3.  
**Circus Skills Soc**  
6 - 9pm, Table Tennis Room. Contact b.muir@ic.ac.uk.  
**Community Action Group**  
Soup Run. 8.15p. Week's Hall basement kitchen.

**The Electric Cafe**  
IC Radio (999 AM) 10 - 11pm  
**Film: Body Snatchers**  
10pm, Ch4  
**The Brit Awards Not Live**  
8pm, ITV

**Flubber**  
**UCI Whiteleys**  
2.00, 4.30, 6.50, 9.10  
**Odeon Marble Arch**  
12.30, 3.10, 6.00, 8.30  
**Virgin Chelsea**  
12.45, 3.00, 5.45, 8.15

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**XS**  
Two floors of total insanity for a sporty crowd. 9-1. Free b4 11pm

**ICU Labour Club**  
Annual General Meeting 12.15pm, Clubs' Committee Room, top floor of the Union.

**Rifle and Pistol Club**  
Join up & shoot. 1pm at the range, sports centre.  
**Community Action Group**  
Parkcare Nursing Home. 2pm, Beit Arch.  
**Orienteering**  
Training. 6pm, Union Gym.

**Animaniacs**  
4.15, ITV  
**ER**  
9pm, CH4  
**The X Files**  
10pm, BBC1

**Boogie Nights**  
**Odeon Kensington**  
Fri-Sat 5.05, 8.30, 11.55  
Other 2.05, 5.30, 8.55  
**Virgin Chelsea**  
2.05 (not Sat. Sun), 5.15, 8.30  
**UCI Whiteleys**  
2.10, 5.25, 8.45

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**Da Vinci's Cocktail Night**  
The weekend starts here.

**ICSF**  
Goth Party. 7pm, dBS.

**Chaplaincy Lunch**  
All Welcome. 12.30pm.  
**Fellwanderers**  
1pm, Southside Lounge.  
**Dance Club**  
Ballroom beginners. 6pm, JCR.  
**Community Action Group**  
Soup Run. 8.15p. Week's Hall basement kitchen.

**John Peel - Coldcut live**  
8.40pm, Radio 1

**Resurrection Man**  
**Virgin Haymarket**  
1.20, 4.00, 6.45, 9.10  
**ABC Baker St**  
1.20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.30





## music

Nothing to speak of.

Dubstar + Wireless  
Shep Bush Empire  
7pm, £10

Propellerheads + loads more  
Adrenalin Village, SW8. 9pm -  
6am, £20.

Senser + three supports  
Sonic Mook Experiment, 333  
Old St, EC1. 10pm - 5am,  
£10, £5 B4 11pm.

Beth Orton  
Institute of Contemporary  
Arts. 9.30pm, £4

Nick Lowe  
Jazz Cafe, NW1. 7 - 12pm,  
£12.  
The Verve  
Brixton Academy SOLD OUT  
7pm.

Delicatessen  
Backyard at the Water Rats,  
WC1. 8pm, £5, £3.50 concs.  
Wishbone Ash + others  
12 Bar Club, WC2. 5pm £7  
(no support), or 8pm, £12.50

Strangelove  
Shep Bush Empire. 7pm,  
£8.50.  
Young Offenders  
You've heard the single, now  
hear it in full. Monarch, NW1.  
8pm, £5, £3.50 concs.

Nothing to speak of

## arts

Shopping and Fucking  
Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury  
Avenue, W1 until 14 March.  
Prices: Mon-Thurs and matinees,  
£6 - £19.50. Fri, Sat £6 -  
£21.50 - standby for concs  
£10 on day of performance.  
See review on page 16.

Alex Katz-25 Years in Painting  
Saatchi Gallery  
Maida Vale (til June)

The Art of the Harley  
Barbican Centre EC1  
Tube: Barbican  
Until 26 April

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

Easy Access for the Boys  
The Drill Hall  
Goodge Street, W1  
£6

## clubbing

Slamming Vinyl @ Bagleys  
Warehouse, Kings Cross. 5  
rooms. D&B, Happy  
Hardcore & Old Skool.  
Tickets £14.50 + B. Fee.  
9pm-6am.  
Various Breakbeat nights @  
Bar Rumba W1  
£5 b4 11pm. £8 after  
9pm-4am

D&B (Labyrinth Production)  
@ The Pleasure Rooms,  
604 High Rd Tottenham.  
Darren Jay, Swan-E, Kenny  
Ken, Nikki Blackmarket &c  
£9, £8 concs. 10pm - 10am  
Pure Silk @ SW1 Club,  
Victoria. House 'n' Garage,  
With Timmi Magic, Booker  
T, Scorpio, etc. £10, £8  
mem. 10.30pm-6am

Sunblessed @The Cross,  
Kings Cross. N1  
House with John "00"  
Fleming, Darren Pearce,  
Mazey & Scott Mac.  
£5 B4 10pm £7 After.  
8.30pm-3am. Info: 0171  
837 0828.

Juryman @ DogStar  
389 Coldharbour Lane,  
Brixton. Ian Simmons & Pete  
Atlas, Journey into  
Breakbeat, Fusion &  
Beyond. 9pm-1am. Free.  
Info: 0171 733 4506.

The Puppy Club @HO'S,  
West Yard, Camden Lock.  
Receiver (Main Band),  
Lernon, Incest [Live On  
Stage] £5. 9pm-2am  
Forgery @ Dogstar,  
Patric Forge Kiss FM, &  
Richard Welsh, Play Rare  
Groove, Jazz, Disco & D&B  
9pm-1am. Free

Swerve @ Velvet Rooms  
Charring Cross Rd. WC2  
Upfront D&B, Resident  
Fabio £6 / Nus £4. 10pm-  
2.30am Info: 0171 734 4687  
Club Fantastic @ Camden  
Palace.  
70's & 80's  
10pm-2am £5 / £3 NUS.

Global Rhythm @ Mars  
Sutton Rd. W1 House 'n'  
Garage £6. 10pm-2am info  
0171 439 4655  
Altered States @ Heaven,  
Under The Arches, Off Villa  
St. WC2. Three Rooms, Up-  
Lifting Tech. Deep House &  
Dubby Breakbeats. £6 / £5  
Conc. 10pm-Late

## HOROSCOPES

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

Recent unexpected developments in your social environment appear significantly linked through a single fundamental event. The influence of the intuitive Queen of Cups rejects the coincidental aspect of the connection, enabling the discovery of a mysterious secret.

## Capricorn (24/12 - 20/1)

Temperance shows that attentive listening is the heart of communication. However your ingrained traditional values and conservative positions limit the actual course of a relationship, as stubborn silence fails to express the extent of your natural feelings.

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

Minor obstacles or setbacks indicated by the incompatible Eight of Swords are regarded as stimulating challenges enhancing your horizon of experience. Hence to appreciate the harmonious rainbow, you must suffer through the temperamental rain.

## Cancer (22/6 - 22/7)

The mysterious Magician stimulates increasing confidence with the skilful direction of energies towards earthly matters. Protective confusion disperses as you develop genuine leadership qualities, encouraged by subtle and seductive charm.

# Horoscopes

with

# Nana

## Aquarius (21/1 - 18/2)

Procrastination is a dangerous thief of time. As you recover from a period of profound contemplation and hesitation, the confident Four of Swords encourages the active realisation of potential tasks or the establishment of alluring personal arrangements.

## Pisces (19/2 - 20/3)

Engulfed in a cycle of furious activity or physical training, the energetic Five of Wands highlights your motivated attitude towards life. Although the intellectual component of your aura remains somewhat neglected, your infectious charisma dominates your state of mind.

## Aries (21/3 - 20/4)

A creative force within the emotional realm is reflected by the artistic Three of Cups and reveals a period of undisturbed spiritual growth. Exploring multiple options, you respond tentatively to affectionate suggestions and amicable companionship.

## Taurus (21/4 - 21/5)

As you fight valiantly for special attention and intimate consideration, remember that self-praise differs greatly from self-recommendation. However the stable Ace of Pentacles, symbolising contentment and fulfilment, implies the successful outcome of a desirable venture.

## Leo (23/7 - 23/8)

An overwhelming sense of oppression, revealed by the striving Ten of Wands, burdens your aura through excessive responsibility. Examine your priorities with care, resulting in efficient general organisation and the moderate delegation of tasks.

## Virgo (24/8 - 22/9)

The considerate King of Wands, representing a figure of impartial and reliable advice, proffers constructive criticism this week. Heed this gentle warning allowing the evaluation of objectives and the renewal of essential perspectives.

## Libra (23/9 - 23/10)

Trapped at the centre of a power struggle, the conflicting Two of Swords demands a balanced and rational approach to a problem. Indeed your vulnerable position requires the implementation of self-restraint and caution in order to mediate the confrontation.

## Scorpio (24/10 - 22/11)

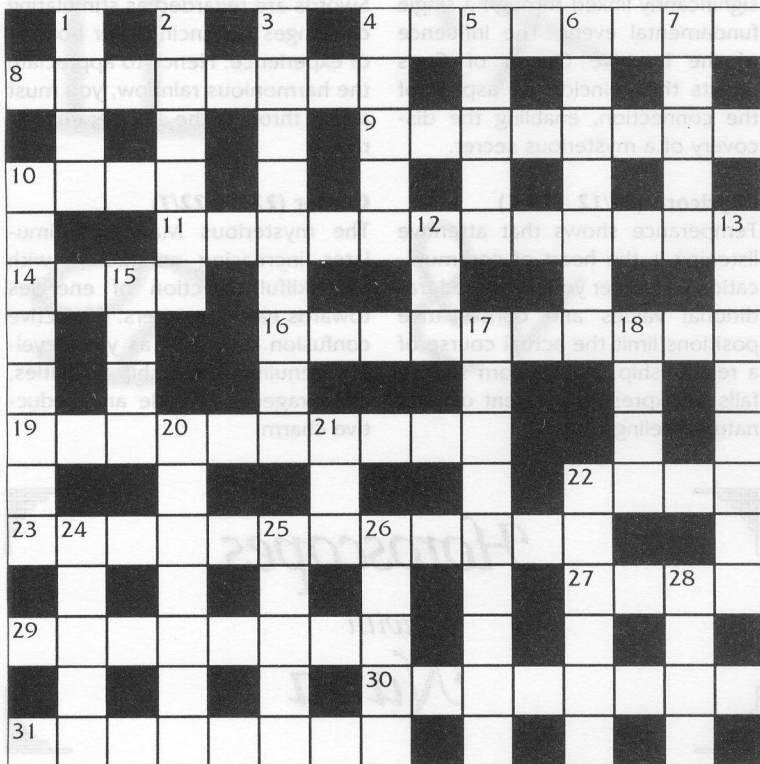
Haunted by past restrictive events, the reversed six of Cups signifies a distinct reluctance to acknowledge the deviated course of a friendship. Only through the perception of actual circumstances can the complications be defeated.



## PUZZLES

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

By Ed Sexton



## ACROSS

- 4 Back up, concerning developed animal (8)  
 8 Highest nick is superb (8)  
 9 Had Simon combined caution... (8)  
 10 ...Ed's first leg could be fun! (4)  
 11 Sweet maker together with free tonic mix (12)  
 14 Stu right about oxide (4)  
 16 Part of plant and deer, with music losing centre in reverse (10)  
 19 Curious test reed in trouble (10)  
 22 Help criminal? That's a gamble! (4)  
 23 Citizen and set of squares from power network (8,4)  
 27 Right sort of fish holds thread (4)  
 29 Euphoric, European Community stationary?! (8)  
 30 Twice Ed, with French night, was not changed (8)  
 31 Les ends sharp gradient at towers (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Colin loses end to wind (4)  
 2 Cent, if mixed up, is poison (6)  
 3 Decrease tune at tea, perhaps (9)  
 4 Aspect different shape? (5)  
 5 Dispatch orders (5)  
 6 Ben, next to zodiac, is shortened to acid (7)  
 7 Sue in French flow (5)  
 10 Spinning into gray, perhaps (8)  
 12 Hound Irish police force back... (3)  
 13 ...concerning Matt; I left troubled proposal (8)  
 15 Sector hides group (4)  
 17 Hospital attendants perform minor tasks (9)  
 18 I am bored, hiding two syllables (4)  
 20 Letter?! i.e. spelt wrongly (7)  
 21 Spring mixed-up sort of snake? (3)  
 22 Skilful, according to right (6)  
 24 A Northerner from Southern town?! (5)  
 25 At LAN, mix-up, relating to birth... (5)  
 26 ...place, is sort of insect losing end (5)  
 28 Ed in French paradise (4)

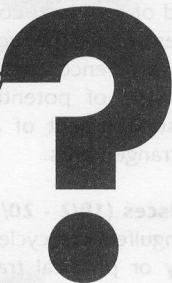
## Why Don't You

Stop Listening to Your Lecture

**AND DO SOMETHING**

Less Useful

Instead



## No 1: Green Monks

Once upon a time, there was a monastery containing, surprise surprise, a fair number of monks, plus one abbot. Being a silent order, they could not communicate in any way. The only information that passed between them at all was via a blackboard placed in the dining room, on which only the Abbot may write.

One Monday, the monks were all sitting down for their daily meal, when the abbot wrote on the board this message:

"Some of our monks have been poisoned. The poisoned monks have green faces. All green-faced monks must leave

immediately."

The monks, being both intelligent and compliant, would not hesitate to fulfil the abbot's wishes. Although they had no mirrors and thus no way of examining their own faces, the relevant monks duly left.

Given that the Abbot erases the message after the last poisoned monk resigned, and that some monks did so on the Sabbath, the question is:

**How many green-faced monks were there, and on what days did they to leave?**

Mail or e-mail your answers to the Felix office (felix@ic.ac.uk). If you are correct, your name will be printed in a blaze of glory next week. Contributions of similar logic / maths puzzles gratefully received (with solutions please!)

## £10 Blockbusters 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 Matt Campbell of Chem II. Your prize awaits.

## ANSWERS TO 1104

**Across** 3. In Hot Water 8. Welded 9. Angle 10. Mast 11. Puroah 13. Open Minded 15. Io 16. Fire Escapes 20. Religiously 24. Mob 25. Come To Pass 27. Tubing 29. Lira 30. Edify 31. Lustre 33. Sixth Sense

**Down** 1. Peru 2. Id 3. Idaho 4. Higher Education 5. Thermos 6. Ammonia 7. Rated 11. Planar 12. Ouo 14. Ewe 15. Idol 16. Fag 17. Cry 18. Pike 19. Sarong 21. Ego 22. Inexact 23. Isomers 24. Mob 25. Calms 26. Style 28. Nark 32. Si

## Light Lunch Competition

Light Lunch, the daily lunchtime Channel 4 programme, is organising a competition for students to join.

**Your Job:** Come up with up a short concise poem (no more than sixteen lines, a sonnet, if you will) about the show, and how ace it is, that will be used before they run the title sequence. There is only one proviso. Your fabulous ditty must end with "Cue Titles".

**Your Prize:** The best entrant and thirty of his/her friends will be invited to the show. Light Lunch will sort out the coach, the hassle and hey, even a free lunch. Also, to top it all off, the winner will open the show with their masterpiece. Aren't we good to you?

Mail or e-mail your entries to the Felix Office (felix@ic.ac.uk). The deadline is 27 February.



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Simon, "the people's sports editor" touched us all during his short life. Now you can honour his memory forever with this **limited edition** print. From a photo taken at his peak, this print clearly captures the vibrancy and *joie de vivre* that endeared Simon to millions.

A must for all collectors of Simon Dunsby Memorabilia, This beautiful picture can be yours today.

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(Picture smaller than shown. Does not include stand or frame.)

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 Signature \_\_\_\_\_



If you are under 18, don't tell your parents about this order, it will only upset them. I understand that my personal details will be sold to businesses, religious cults etc. \*Does not include £9.99 Postage and Packing. Mail to "The St Dunsby Memorial Collection (Formerly Honest Jake's Quality Gift Emporium), Felix Offices, Imperial College.

## Duathletes Rule OK

On Friday 30 January, Tarik & Hedley, members of the cycling & cross-country running club took part in the Serpentine 5km race. This takes place every last Friday of the month at 12:30. Unfortunately our intrepid runners were misinformed about this & so when they turned up dying for a p#ss with minutes before the start they weren't pleased.

In the leading group from the start, they held third & fourth places until the final mile. Spurred on by shouts from Hedley, Tarik went for the leaders, passed them & won. Hedley held his fourth at the finish.

It would nice to see some more IC runners next time so come & have a go if you think you're hard enough! Contact c.fishlock@ic for information.

Are your team's results and reports here?

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Hand in or email your reports (felix@ic.ac.uk) as soon as you can after the match for instant fame!

## There and Back Again

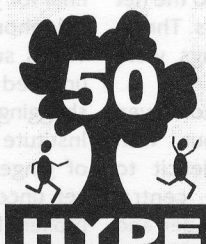
This year, 14 February sees the 50th anniversary of the annual Hyde Park Relay race. This event, hosted by ICU Cross Country Club, regularly entertains over 600 runners from all over Europe and the UK. The three mile course for men and two mile course for women encompass a lap around the Serpentine and the Long Water.

This year the Imperial Cross Country team hopes to enter four men's and two women's teams, however we would like to invite members of the college as a

whole to compete in this unique sporting event. After the race there will be a presentation of the prizes and food. If you would like to run, please contact: d.rockliff@ic.ac.uk, or check out the club web site:

[www.su.ic.ac.uk/club-socs/acc/crosscountry/hpr](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/club-socs/acc/crosscountry/hpr)

If anyone is interested in marshalling on the day, it would require about 3 hours of your time, to guide people round the course. Every marshal gets a free T-shirt, free food and entry to the party in dB's. E-mail Chris Fishlock at: c.fishlock@ic.ac.uk



## First Class Post

IC RIFLE SHOOTERS TAKE ON THE WORLD AND COME SECOND

John McCartney and Laurent Gould came a credible second in their class for the Prince William of Wales pairs championships, a national postal shooting competition with over 600 competitors. They also managed to both gain promotion in the individuals event and will now no longer be considered as the Vauxhall Conference league players and will be in division 3 next year should they have the bottle to go for the big time. Dan Booker also gains promotion from Div3 to Div2 by winning a

Prince William of wales badge. No-one from IC strayed into the lower halves of their divisions, so well done Mike, Andrew, Nick, Paul, Rupert, and Jacob as well as the winners of cups and badges. The next individual shoot will be in march/april, being the equivalent of the Autoglass Windshields Trophy so watch out for results in "FELIX" because they won't be on Grandstand (might make L!ve TV though).



# All Sorts of Football Heroics

## CHELSEA PLAY ORGANIC FOOTIE

Chelsea won their first silverware of the year - the prestigious Biology five-a-side tournament. Six quality sides took the field last Sunday to play in a league with the two top teams playing off to win the coveted title. In the final Chelsea having won all their previous games met Coult's AFC. The game was hard but Chelsea turned out the superior side. A brilliant penalty save by Iggy & an own-goal by Dr. Coult's sealed a 3-0 triumph for The Blues. Cheers to everyone who took part & especially the organisers. You's done well!

## Best of mates

Last week the Chess Club's 1st team scored another win at home against Harrow, avenging last season's disastrous draw.

Harrow's top boards included two International Masters. IC's Jon Hastings was horribly savaged until IM Colin Crouch blundered like a novice. Paul Georghiou resigned but spent hours trying to convince everyone he ought to have won.

Natasha Regan's opponent forked her rooks and Nick Moloney sank into a safe draw. Gavin Knott set a pretty trap for his opponent, who obliged and lost his queen. Chris Greenshields resorted to chomping bananas; his opponent soon lost the plot of the game. Patrick Duncan was pitted against "the most boring player ever". Exasperated, he accepted a draw. Harrow's captain appeared to have Dave Tang tied in knots at first, but Dave's superior skills told eventually.

The final score of 5-3 gives the team 7/7 for the season so far, making them almost certain to retain the Middlesex League Championship for the third year running.

The Chess Club is hosting weekend tournaments on 8 and 21-22 February. All standards of player are welcome. Contact Barry Gale (b.j.gale@ic.ac.uk, or call 0181 316 4132) for more.

## ICWAFC V ST GEORGE'S

St. George's were our opponents as we braved -5 winds to embark on our first match of the season.

Match fitness proved to be less of a problem than first anticipated, although Hedge had warned us to give the all important 200%.

The first goal was a while a while coming although we had all the pressure; Lili the powerhouse (Why's our leccy bill so high then? - ed.) struck the ball low into the back of the net. She scored again within a few minutes with another impressive strike as the 3 supposed strikers floundered.

We started the 2nd half 2 nil up & with several more layers on to try & fight the nipple hardening cold (spectator sport?). Again we had all the pressure & eventually Taffy stuck home - the first of the three strikers to score. This was followed by the 'Hooded Yank', Anna, who broke her duck on her debut.

Scrubber missed around 15 sitters & it was all looking rather embarrassing until she eventually scored when a nice Greek bird put her clear through with seven minutes to go.

The back three were never really troubled with Markhus, Wannabe Yank Vasso & Sick Bird Hacker ensuring only one goal passed their dainty bodies (or was that a mistake by frost-bitten keeper Langrish?).

Well done birds. On to the Semis!

ICWAFC 5 - 1 St George's

## Results

### Hockey

ICHC III 6 - 1 Wye  
ICWHC II 2 - 0 Oxford

### Football

ICFC I 1 - 3 Uni. East Anglia I  
ICFC II 4 - 1 Kingston II  
ICFC III 3 - 2 Swansea Institute  
ICFC IV 2 - 0 Brunel IV  
ICWAFC 5 - 1 St George's

### Rugby

ICRFC I - Went to wrong ground.  
ICRFC III 10 - 13 Portsmouth

## IC II V KINGSTON II

Last year IC seconds qualified in the inferior BUSA Shield, went to Leicester and lost eleven - nil. This year, the seconds had performed heroically in the league stage and qualified for the superior cup competition. Despite the daunting task ahead of us, the seconds were ready for our opponents, Kingston. Now was the time for redemption.

With the referee needing to be resuscitated before the match, both teams waited pensively for the kick-off. The initial signs looked bad, with Kingston stroking the ball about with gusto and IC looking a bit panicked. After five minutes of mutual probing, IC broke from the back. Si received the ball on the halfway-line, turned and ran at the Kingston defence. They backed away and backed away, leaving him the chance to have a crack from a few yards outside the area. The goalie managed to get a hand to the shot but it wasn't enough as the ball flew into the back of the net.

The game continued at a blistering pace with Kingston probing us gently but with our defence in control. Minutes after the first goal, a good break down the left saw Martin bearing down on goal. Despite an angle, our Tiny Tyneside Tyke slotted the ball away at the near post. Two-nil up and IC were playing their hearts out.

Despite the teams being very close in terms of skill, IC's commitment meant that Kingston were always on the back foot. Not renowned for their battling qualities, the seconds pulled something special out of the hat and were first to every ball in the first half, were harder in the challenge than their South London rivals and altogether much harder than the, at face value, physically stronger bods from Kingston.

A modicum of equality was attained for around ten minutes, but another IC move saw Pistol Pete charging one-on-one towards the Kingston goal. From a similar position to Martin, our Gaelic Goal-Machine buried the ball into the net and broke Kingston's hearts. Three-nil at half time and things were looking up.

The second half was more even for the first half an hour, with Kingston reducing the deficit to two. But with Rob at central defence winning every header and tackle they couldn't find another and as the match wore on IC found more and more space to break.

The match was finally sealed fifteen minutes from time with another Pistol Pete goal. They all count, and despite the fact that it was from one yard out, surely this was the most precious goal Pete has scored all season.

Particular mention must go to Andy Ferguson who managed to combine defensive fortitude with attacking class and for Stevie C who stepped into the breach after Phil The Pill's bizarre domestic accident put him out of action.

So, Captain Loz leads an IC football team into the second round of the BUSA cup for the first time in living memory. Hurrah! Thanks also to supersub The Mighty Robo, coming out of retirement for one final game.

Elsewhere at Harlington, the firsts lost to a strong UEA team despite a classy goal from Spanish Superstud Alex. And to the fourths...

Astheheadline once said, "Glory, Glory IC Fourth's", so it proved today with an excellent 2-0 win in the BUSA shield versus Brunel. A professional performance from the team and a clean sheet was only marred by a horrific injury four minutes from time to inspirational Captain Andrew Swift. Epitomising the whole teams' spirit Andy launched into a brave challenge on the 6 foot 5 Brunel 'keeper. Unfortunately the damage isn't superficial and Andy will be out of action for a long time. Everyone in the Fourth Team, and indeed the whole Club wishes Swift a speedy recovery and we all hope he is back up to full fitness by the start of next year. As a captain Andy was organically magnificent, his team talk today focused his players minds and spirits to such an extent that actually the result was never seriously in doubt. For the record the goals were scored by Darren and Perez and I would like to add that I didn't get sent off but saved a crucial penalty when the score was nil-nil. Good luck Andy; we'll win the final for you!

Telephone reports from darkest Wales suggest that the Thirds triumphed 3-2 against their sheep-shagging opponent at the Swansea Institute for Guide-Dogs. Rumours of ginger scousers scoring are as yet unconfirmed, but if Jamie has broken his IC duck then we will never hear the end of it.

ICFC II 4 - 1 Kingston II