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2
November
1998

FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue
1124

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Classic Commemoration

By Ed Sexton

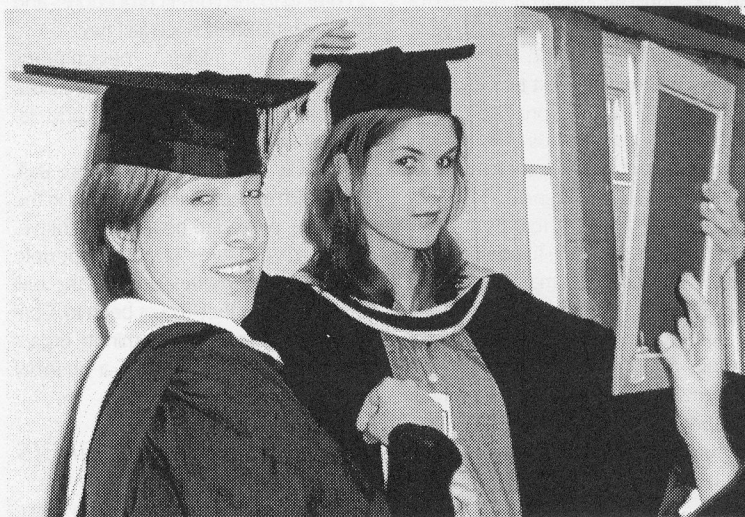


Photo: William Students perfect their image for the official photographer

Last Wednesday brought out the gowns and relatives for Imperial's annual Commemoration Day, when the year's graduates are processed in front of their constituent college's dean in the Royal Albert Hall. It was also the occasion for the presentation of three new Fellows to the college; Professor John Archer, Professor Nay Htun and Professor J Trevor Stuart.

The day commemorates the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) to the college in 1945, to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Royal College of Chemistry. The afternoon began shortly after 2pm with a procession of the Deans, Pro Rectors and other dignitaries. David Hellard, ICU President, opened the ceremony with a short speech, before the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, gave the address. Commenting on the vast number of building projects the college has undertaken in the last few years, the Rector explained that there was more to come in the College's five year refurbishment plan, which would "probably cost more than £100 million".

The presentation of graduates to their Deans then followed. Many graduates had brought along reading material to keep them occupied during what is renowned for being a long afternoon. In the end, however, the presentation was over reasonably quickly, helped by the orator reading out the names of the ICSM graduates quicker than they could cross the stage.

Photo montage on page 3

Racism Rife in Medical Schools

By Andrew Ofori

The name of London's medical schools has been muddied this week, as allegations of institutionalised racism circulate. The medical fraternity has been stunned by the results of a new report compiled by UCL's Prof McManus, formerly an IC affiliate, as recently reported in *The Guardian*. It claims two-thirds of the 27 medical schools admitting students displayed discrimination against ethnic minority applicants.

The report was commissioned by the Council of Heads of Medical Schools as a response to rumours of racism, which have been pervading medical schools for over a decade. It compared the proportion of ethnic 17 and 18 year olds who applied to the proportion that received offers; the result was a league table highlighting the schools which were deemed to show bias against ethnic minorities. Imperial College has been 'black-marked' along with UCL, King's London, St. George's Hospital, Leeds, Leicester and Manchester, in contrast to schools like Bristol and Newcastle that

have emerged as completely impartial. The table is to be placed on the Internet, arousing fears that the selection of non-white students will be affected. One ICSM student told Felix that a number of his contemporaries refused to apply to St Mary's "because of its reputation". The McManus report also revealed that male applicants were at a disadvantage when applying for medicine.

Prof McManus is somewhat concerned with his findings stating "The disadvantage of non-white applicants and of males would be construed as prima facie evidence under the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975."

Various parties from medical academia have called the report's legitimacy into question, faulting the omission of factors such as GCSE results, 'A' Level predictions and the social aspect of applicants when drawing its conclusions.

Imperial College claims to have taken the findings into consideration, but states that the medical admissions procedure is in a state of reform as a result of the recent merger. The college maintains "ICSM is committed to ensuring

that its selection process is unbiased and appropriate for its educational role."

Wade Gayed, ICSM Union President, condemned the blacklisting of the college as "absolute horseshit." Adopting the line taken by many of the named and shamed medical schools, Gayed was insistent that the admissions statistics were a more than adequate contradiction to the McManus report. He viewed ICSM as "culturally diverse" and failed to see how an analysis of last year's admissions figures could be associated with a newly instituted school. He went on to describe the ICSM admission office's new initiative to create an admissions policy "so transparent, if any member of the public dares to come and look there's no way they can turn around and say you're being racist."

Other medical schools 'black-marked' such as UCL and Leeds were quick to join the chorus of indignant denial with a Leeds representative explaining that they attach "the highest priority to ensuring that procedures for recruiting are impartial, fair and objective."

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King's Lose Their Roar

By Brett Donovan

In a highly contentious series of events, *ROAR*, the King's College Student Newspaper, has recently received a mention in the House Of Lords. It transpires that Baroness Rawlings was, as usual, mailed a copy of the publication and was enraged by the nature of its front page. The 7 October release featured an article on the problems of 'cottageing' within college premises. The expose resulted in a month's suspension for the editor,



The controversial cover

Rupert Matthews. The punishment was decided upon at a disciplinary committee on grounds of contravening King's equal opportunity policy.

The cover story tells of a problem

with students and others using the faculty bathrooms to perform sexual acts. It reports of "eye witnesses seeing cubicles wobble". The issue was regarded by many King's students as "the best issue yet, with all 5,000 copies being snapped up in record time". Equally astonishing was the low number of complaints; apparently "five out of a total student population of 18,000 and no complaints from the homosexual community". All five complaints were made by medics, some objecting to the additional graphic in the female section depicting the clitoris. Many just can't see any problem with the publication with a number of people congratulating the *ROAR* team. However this suspension has left the students without the next two issues of the fortnightly publication. The fate of Matthews lies in the hands of King's student parliament and a potential vote of no confidence, and hence a sacking. Inside sources suggest that at the very least Matthews will have to compromise *ROAR*'s content, this may involve the president of the union having to oversee the publication before it is finalised for printing. Matthews explained to *Felix* that he was "simply trying to entertain the students". These events may instigate further repercussions for other student newspapers.

Consoc Hosts Howard

By Brett Donovan

The Conservative society played host to the Rt. Honourable Michael Howard MP this past Wednesday. Howard, the shadow foreign secretary started by giving an anecdotal story about the disappearance of Humphrey 'the downing street cat' and went on to give a refined summary of the fallibility of New Labour. He spoke of the current financial situation facing us, including rising unemployment and high interest rates. He devoted time to talk on single currency issues and Europe with sound reasons and plenty of examples illustrating why not to opt for the single currency whilst defending the party's stance on 'no entry' as opposed to the wait and see approach. Much of his visit was spent answering questions on wildly varying subjects, with interesting and amusing banter between the students and



Michael Howard makes his point

Howard. Anyone can attend a speaker meeting, the next one is the 4 November (1pm -2pm) with Dr Liam Fox MP. Details nearer time.

In brief...

Medical Correction

A number of inaccuracies in last week's story headed 'Medics Blow Cash' have come to light since the article went to press.

Firstly, the aborted graduation ball was not organised by the Imperial College School of Medicine Rugby squad, and indeed did not have any connection with the team. The Rugby squad are in the process of organising their own winter ball, which has been organised according to the correct procedures and has been planned since last July.

Secondly, after negotiations between ICU and the hotel in question, the amount lost as a result of cancellation fell from £7500 to £3000.

Thirdly, the Medical Freshers Ball, over which concern was expressed in the last issue, proved to be a great achievement. Over five hundred people attended, with many declaring the ball one of the best they'd ever been to. Consequently, despite the last minute organisation, the event was both a financial and social success.

More Suspect Speakers

Dodgy white vans were out in force once again this week. Operating from a different van to last week, a white 5ft 6" male with an Irish accent, black jeans and quilted jacket was selling video recorders and TVs. Speakers seem to have been removed from this week's menu. One student was approached and offered these suspect goods, being threatened after sensibly proclaiming "our student newspaper has run a story about you, I'm off to phone the police". As before, Felix's advice is; don't hand over any money or get into the vehicle, and report any encounter to us as soon as possible or, if violence is threatened, to the authorities.

BMS Sounds Bad

ICSM second years from Charing Cross were left decidedly unimpressed with the new BMS building on Wednesday. The building, which has so far been dogged with problems, certainly lived up to its reputation. Uncomfortable seating, dodgy sound systems and unpredictable alarms marred the first lecture on the new site. The morning was interrupted by whistling and testing messages from an unknown source, followed by a constant hissing and whining from the microphone and speakers.



Issue 1124

2 November 1998

Editor: Ed Sexton

Photographic Editor: William Lorenz
Music Editors: Jason Ramanathan and
Denis Patrickson

News Editors: Andy Ofori

Film Editor: David Roberts

Games Editor: Gary Smith

Arts Editor: Helena Cochemé

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

Assault Charge

Reports have been coming in of a scuffle at the well known medics' nightspot 'Hombres' last week. A rather merry fresher was knocked to the ground and responded with a swift punch, unfortunately selecting the wrong individual as his assailant, resulting in a charge of ABH.

Cycling Crackdown

Local Police are warning IC students to avoid being caught out by Kensington & Chelsea Council's latest crackdown. The Council have decided that the greatest social problem facing the local citizenry is that of cycling on pavements. Eschewing the traditional targets of drugs, mugging, murder and rape, the Council have instructed our local Met to charge all those caught indulging in this heinous act, with stiff fines awaiting the guilty.

Silly as this may sound, it has already resulted in the prosecution of at least one IC student, who was fined £75. So, unless you too want to end up seriously out of pocket, cycling should be confined to roads and dedicated cycle paths for the foreseeable future.

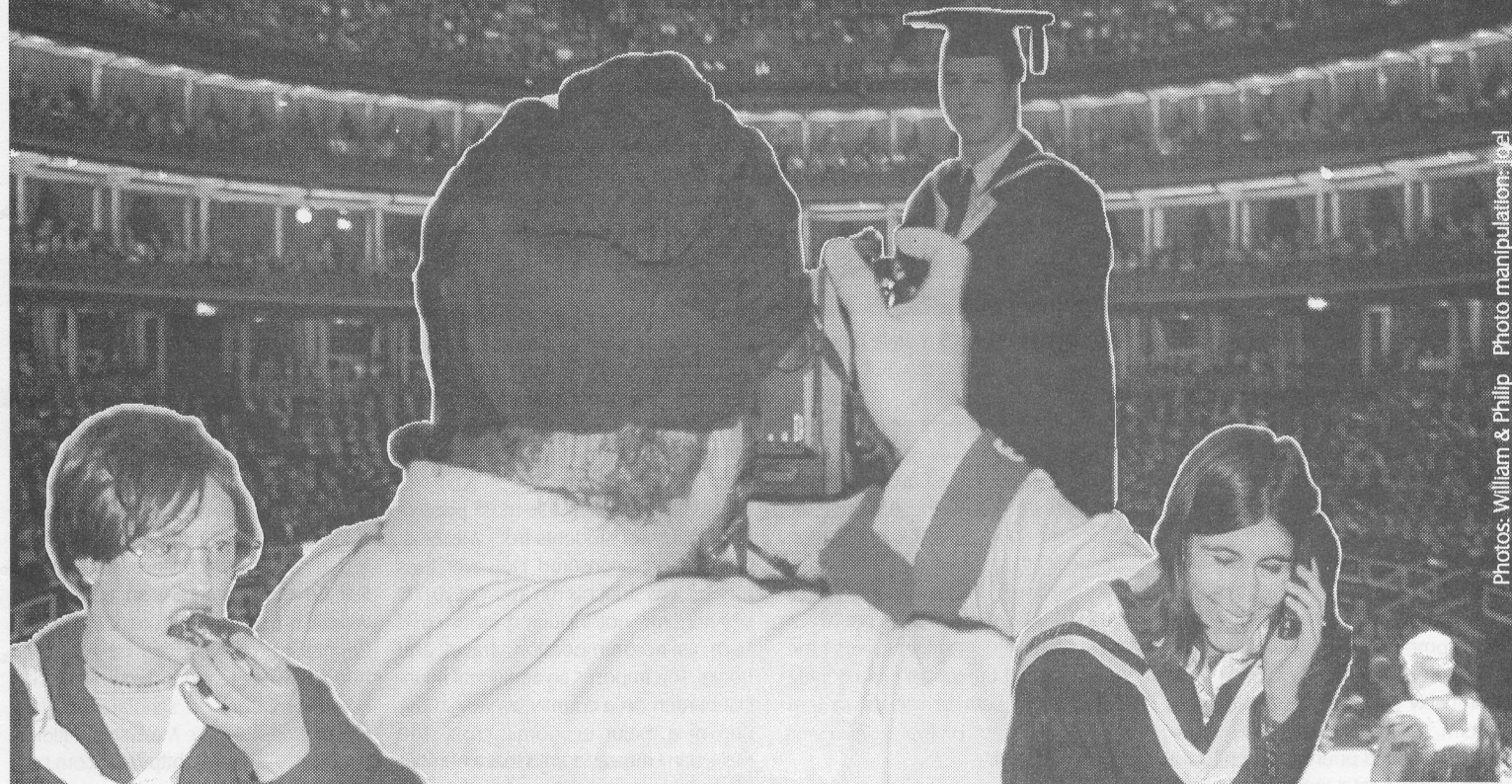
Hustings

Question and Answer sessions for the candidates for the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) election will take place on the three main campuses this week.

Today, hustings will take place in South Ken, at 6pm in dB's. On Tuesday those involved move to Charing Cross, where hustings will take place at 6pm in the Reynolds Building. Finally, on Wednesday St Mary's hospital plays host, with candidates gathering at 6pm in Gladys'.



Commemoration Day



Photos: William & Philip Photo manipulation: Joel

LSE Threatens ULU Divorce

By David Roberts

In a shock move first announced less than two weeks ago, students at the London School of Economics went to the poles last Wednesday and Thursday to vote on a referendum proposing disaffiliation from University of London Union. Although the result was not revealed until after *Felix* went to press, a 'Yes' outcome was strongly suspected.

The referendum itself has been drafted by the LSEU sabbaticals and Executive, and asks for backing to leave ULU, provided that three conditions are met. Firstly, all money currently paid to ULU must be diverted back to LSEU (At present a £16 000 negotiable payment is made from LSE to ULU, whilst the remainder of LSE's £70 000 affiliation fee is paid directly by the Higher Education Funding Council). Secondly, a new representative body for all London students must be set up. Thirdly, all LSEU sports teams must be able find new leagues to play in. At present the entire London League system is administered by ULU, and LSE have been told that if they disaffiliate they will be forced to leave the Leagues. Only once successful fulfilment of these three points can be guaranteed will LSE be able to leave ULU.

Explanations for the move vary, with



Photo: Jonas

LSE students carry on the daily grind

LSEU campaigners citing ULU's poor record on campaigning, and their allegedly undemocratic system of governance. However, belief is growing amongst senior sources that LSEU only began the disaffiliation process as a bargaining chip against ULU - which they were then forced to carry through when

ULU called their bluff. This, it is rumoured, is the reason behind the vague nature of the proposal put before LSE students.

In any case, LSE cannot leave ULU until 2000, as their current contract does not expire for another three years. Furthermore, LSE President General Secretary Narius Aga, speaking to *Felix* after

the meeting, stated "I'd be stupid to leave without a second vote". Clearly, this raises questions over the real motives behind the referendum.

The entire process has also been dogged by accusations of deliberate withholding of information by LSE Union sabbaticals. Concern has been voiced by many over the ignorance of average LSE students - only 28 people turned up at a debate on the issue held last Tuesday night, and some spoke of "only two or three posters advertising the referendum anywhere in LSE". Indeed many of those present at the debate had been informed that it was taking place by ULU, not LSEU. Furthermore, *Beaver* (the LSE students' newspaper) has been criticised for its alleged bias in coverage of the issue - which included a clear recommendation to vote "Yes" in the editorial. LSEU figurehead Narius Aga blamed the absence of an effective "No" campaign on the simple fact that no LSE student wanted to run the campaign.

Whatever the outcome, the process itself will have important knock-on effects for all ULU Colleges. Whilst LSE may ultimately be forced to stay in ULU simply to retain access to their gym and swimming pool, those Colleges with their own facilities - Imperial included - could soon be looking toward life outside ULU with more than just a passing interest.



Beer Fest in Trouble Malaysian Total Recall

By Gareth Morgan

The RCSU Beer Festival, usually the year's most successful RAG event, has been postponed indefinitely, because there is currently nowhere to hold it. In the past the JCR has been used, but the Director of Catering and Conferences, John Foster, has stated that in view of the recent refurbishment it is no longer suitable; consequently an alternative venue should be found. One candidate is the Union Concert Hall. Unfortunately, the space and time needed for the festival - fifty different beers, ciders and perries which take five days to set up and settle - mean that neither this nor various other college areas are suitable. RCSU VP Bob Walker, who is organising the festival, admits that Mr Foster has a point; the event will cause a lot of disruption and mess. However, the JCR is the only licensed venue large enough for it. Unfortunately, Mr Foster was unavailable to comment on the situation.

The problems with the Beer Festival will probably set RAG week back until next term. The Festival usually raises two or three thousand pounds, a significant portion of RAG's total income. ICU Pres-

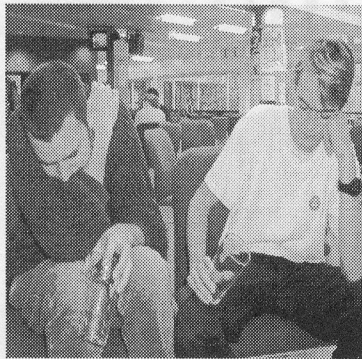


Photo: Alik Student morale falters as JCR dries up

ident David Hellard has been negotiating with the College over the issue, and hopes to persuade the Catering department that the JCR is the only realistic option. He said, "The JCR is a Union room under the Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore it should be available for use by the Union for an event which has kept RAG afloat in recent years." The suggestion that Catering should donate an equivalent sum of money to that raised by the Beer Festival to RAG was politely declined.

By Sunil Rao

The collapse of the 'tiger' Malaysian economy has left many students fearing recall to their home country. The number of Malaysian students arriving in Britain in January and February 1998 was already down 50% compared with the previous year. It is estimated that a similar drop will be noticed again next year. With funding for students quickly evaporating, reports have emerged of students being forced to return home or look for alternative sources of funding such as scholarships. Moreover, it was reported in April that nearly 300 students had applied to the Education Ministry of Malaysia to return home to complete their education there.

Britain remains the most popular destination for students from Malaysia. Nearly all are sponsored. However, fees for overseas students run at over £10,000 per annum - not including other costs such as accommodation, travel and books. This imposes an additional financial burden on a country already in the grip of a major economic crisis. The Malaysian Embassy admits that a number of students have been sent back home

but maintains that this only applies to "under-performing" A-level students. Earlier reports had indicated that a large proportion of students reading Arts-related subjects or at less prestigious Universities would face recall.

Some Universities, heavily dependent on the large sums paid by overseas students, are anxiously looking to provide less expensive distance-learning schemes in franchise with local colleges within Malaysia. This has led to worries in some circles that the end result might be a fall in the standard of the 'British degree'. On the other hand, if rigorous standards are maintained, this endeavour might give many students the otherwise unavailable opportunity to obtain a world-class degree.

A comprehensive website featuring links to the Asian Economic crisis can be found at http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/World/Asian_Economic_Woes/. The official website of the British Council in Malaysia can be found at <http://www.britcoun.org.my/>. This site has information on scholarships. The official website of the Malaysian National Recovery Plan is at http://mir.com.my/lb/econ_plan/.

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Letters to Felix

In Defence of Estates

Dear Editor,

I read with some concern the article which suggested that environmental improvements are a waste of money. May I suggest that in terms of £60 million of development, the sums involved are relatively small, but of immense importance in terms of completing the Libraries development and the Sir Alexander Fleming Building.

More importantly, may I remind Felix that the College has had an appalling reputation with the local planning committees and that they expect us to act responsibly towards our own environment. The article in Felix may, if seen by local Councillors, have sunk once again, the sports centre development in Princes Gardens, where maintaining a quality environment is of the highest priority. We in Estates Division are battling to achieve the best facilities for IC students.

One of the benefits of the Queen's visit was that for two days Imperial College Road and the Queen's Lawn was cleared of cars and given back to students and staff. The whole environment was transformed - albeit briefly.

Yours

Ian Caldwell
Director of Estates

Firstly, I am not suggesting that environmental improvements are a waste of money, merely that the current ones could have been done cheaper.

Secondly, whose fault is it that "the College has had an appalling reputation with the local planning committees"?

Thirdly, I am flattered that the local council listen to the views expressed in these pages more than to those of Estates, but I think most people would find it a worrying state of affairs.

Fourthly, I've never seen cars on the Queen's Lawn, but it's nice that the campus was given back to students for two days - does this imply that it's not usually run for them? - Ed

A Suggestion for Estates

Dear Felix,

An article in October's 'Westminster Reporter' reads:

"Residents, schools and businesses who want to mark the new millenium by planting a tree can now apply for a grant for 50% of the cost of the planting."

I realise that the recently laid flower

beds were not eligible for aid under this scheme. However, as trees do feature in the plan for the general beautification of the South Kensington Campus, perhaps College will consider taking advantage of the offer. Judging by the cost of the flower beds, it could amount to quite a saving.

Martin O'Reilly

Change the Music II

Dear Ed,

In replying to Tim Wright's letter in Felix about the "indie shite" played in dBs on a Wednesday night, I think Mark Horne has missed the point. The fact is that every Wednesday, the same old records are played. It wouldn't be so bad if they weren't always in the same order, or if the playlist had changed a bit since last year (OK, there are one or two new records). A lot of people have taken to calling it "The Tape".

And surely there must be a DJ out there with a little more imagination than to play "Dancing Queen" as the last record, every Wednesday!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cole,
Mech Eng 4

Spooky Coincences?

Dear Sir,

Further to the earlier excellent articles on halloween, I would like to say that many cultures apart from our own dear Celtic/Judaeo-Christian society not only feel that this is the time for commemoration of the dead but also a festival of light - perhaps bangs and flashes ward off evil spirits. Not only do we have halloween, but Guy Fawkes night probably is older than Guy Fawkes himself, and even the modern Armistice day appropriately falls around this time. As I said earlier, other cultures festivals of light fall around this time. The later festivals may be connected with the winter solstice while the earlier ones are perhaps a natural reaction to the encroachment of night into day following the autumn equinox.

Yours Sincerely

Joe Piggott (Royal School of Mines)

Can anyone be bothered to teach history to this man? - Ed

Sort the Sports Out!

Dear Felix,

Please could you stop pissing about with the back page - more sport less bollocks. (A full page of a crap photocopied maze really takes the piss.) Otherwise everything is hunky-dory.

Andrew Mayes.

Dear Felix

Considering the cross country club sent in a full report, we thought you'd have the courtesy to print it rather than fill the back page (usually reserved for sport) with Natalie Wood's irrelevant photocopying. Felix Sport has sunk to a new low. The relationship between you and the sports clubs is so bad that you'll never get a decent sports editor anyway. I wish Gus Paul luck.

Dave Robinson
XC

1) We did print the cross country report, except for one sentence which was edited out (one sentence of sport on a separate page would look silly, wouldn't it?)

2) The back page is not reserved for sport - it used to be sport due to printing restrictions (the back page had to be printed last). These no longer apply.

3) A great deal of interest has been shown in "Natalie Wood's Irrelevant photocopying" but, granted, the crossword will usually be on the back page along with any other puzzles and prizes.

4) I am quite happy to have more sports articles - in fact, I reserve two pages every week for sport. Strangely, however, there never seem to be enough contributions to fill them... - Ed

Cartoons not Comic

Dear Ed

Shame on you! I feel that I must complain about the tasteless comic strip from issue 1122. "Outcast Ben" was a failed attempt at smutty humour. Instead, the illustrations were crude, offensive and unworthy of your fine publication. We are definitely not amused...

A disappointed fan

At last! I've been waiting for complaints about this for some time. Still, only one complaint over a week after the issue was published? If you don't like this week's comic, please let me know -

they're staying otherwise.

- Ed

And Finally...

At this point there should be a letter from 'The Censors' (?). Unfortunately no-one showed us a swipe card or Union card when submitting the letter, so we are unable to print it. We still have the letter, and will gladly print it next week, if the author(s) come in to the office before noon on Wednesday with some appropriate identification.

Deadline for letters is 12noon Wednesday.

Letters may be edited for length, but will not be altered in any other way. Letters need not be signed, but a swipe card must be shown when submitting anonymous letters.



The Week Ahead

Monday

Games Meeting	12.30pm
Film Meeting	1.30pm

Tuesday

News Meeting	1pm
--------------	-----

Thursday

Books Meeting	1pm
---------------	-----

Friday

Arts Meeting	12pm
News Meeting	1.10pm
Photographic Meeting	1.20pm
Music Meeting	1.30pm



Editorial

Commemoration Day

Somehow I survived the events of Wednesday afternoon, only falling asleep once during the presentation of graduates in the Royal Albert Hall. Seriously, though, well done to all those who attended the event, be they students, their relatives, or staff. Congratulations to all those who have graduated (in which case what are you reading this for?), and to the three new fellows of the college. May their commitment to Imperial College, which has brought them their fellowships, continue for many years to come.

I Like Medics. Honest.

Felix has never had a good reputation among medics. Whatever the source of this ill-feeling, I would like to say that Felix has absolutely no 'anti-Medic' policy. In fact, this year there are more medical students writing for Felix than in the last two. Ill-informed letters do not express the opinion of myself or the newspaper - they merely show up the prejudiced members of the South Ken campus for the small and twatty people they are. I would like to say more on this subject... watch this space.

Rag - What does it mean?

A few friendly words from the new RAG Chair, Sarah Coburn, on what RAG is and how you can help

Hi, I'm the latest mug who gave in to the will to do something useful! Yep, I'm the latest rag chair. This means that you will be hearing a fair deal from me over the next year, if you don't I'm not doing my job right!! Rag is the society within the union that does the charity fundraising. We're the ones who are supposed to do completely mad things and at the end of it all we're allowed to say "it's for charity mate"!

This generally involves getting the rest of London to part with as much of their hard earned (or in South Ken. not quite so hard earned) cash as possible.

This is where you come in, see I'm not here to ask you to part with your money, we all know we wouldn't get very far if we did that! I'm here to ask you to help us raise lots of money for good causes. This could mean being part of the editorial team that produces the rag

mag. (a generally offensive publication that is sold to raise money during rag week), or even honing your accounting skills.

The charities that have been chosen to be supported this year are, Shelter, Imperial Cancer Research, Avert (aids education and research), Trinity Hospice (Clapham), and IC Community Action Group (Cag).

Rag's fundraising happens all year round but are most prominent during rag week. Rag week is a week full of slightly 'unusual' fundraising activities! This includes a sponsored naked run from Harrods to the Union, with a prize for the person who takes the longest!

This year a challenge has been set for the clubs which belong to the Recreational Clubs Committee (Amateur radio, Canoeing, Origami, Riding, etc. Trust me you'll know if you're in one!). There is a

prize of free advertising in Felix for the club which raises the most money by holding a rag event. Let this be an encouragement for you to all to get fundraising!

What it all comes down to though, is that, without any help this years rag won't be as successful as it could be. This would be a great shame as this years charities are all very deserving. Please, please help, as there are people who need our help.

Anyone interested in helping should contact me (Sarah) at either sarah.coburn@ic.ac.uk or rag@ic.ac.uk, or on ext.58099. Alternatively I'm often in the rag office at lunch times (the rag office is through the union dining hall on the right, or up the stairs in the back of dB's and on the left).

P.S. Rag stands for raising and giving!

Careers event showing
at Sherfield
Read Lecture Theatre
on Wednesday 4th November at 6.30pm.

"Thought-provoking"

Junction 21


IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON. BUT WHERE TO?

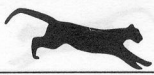
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Those of you with good memories for bad television will have the saga of Fallon from *The Colbys* and the aliens etched on your minds. Well, a similar thing happened to me recently. There I was, writing the first column of the year, when suddenly I was blinded by a bright light outlining the body of a strange creature. My memory went blank, but when I regained my senses the first paragraph had been changed, such that it very closely resembled the equivalent piece from 1997. Very bizarre. Not to worry, because I have since got the local priest to give my laptop the once-over with a cloth doused in holy water. The things I go through for this place.

This article is taking a lot longer to write than usual, not for reasons of writer's block, but more prosaically because my fingers are bloody frozen. As I am aware, dear reader, of your concern for my wellbeing, let me explain. Two fire alarms within the space of less than an hour. TWO. Even someone as tolerant as yours truly is bound to lose his rag over this fiasco. Admittedly, the ineffectiveness of the fire alarms in my department is about as novel as the news that Germany came second in 1966, but it bears repeating as it links in nicely with the letter from my good friend, Ian Caldwell. Mr C does not believe 'environmental improvements are a waste of money.' I agree. All these years, he has fended off my criticism, but that agreement should have given the old boy a heart attack. I can think of many projects that have improved the environment of Imperial. For example, the JCR refurbishment has transformed one of the most shabby, inadequate parts of the College. The SCR, which looks and smells like a sub-standard school canteen would benefit from similar investment, as would the MDH, though any change there should be accompanied by a change of man-

agement. The flowerbed, while looking undoubtedly resplendent, cannot be judged in the same category; it is not a student facility, though I suspect the Biology Department could conceivably find a use for it. It perfectly demonstrates the misguided strategy of Estates and their total miscomprehension of priorities. This morning, I stood in the cold outside the Chemistry building twice, the result of an alarm system that does not work, staring at an arrangement of Chinese granite and bedding plants, the cost of which would have remedied the problems that I and others have endured for years. Ah, but the flowerbed and other environmental improvements create a good impression for those wishing to invest in the College, I hear you cry (from Suite Five). Absolute rubbish. What might well have an impact on College funding is the constant interruption of important meetings with potential benefactors caused by false alarms, which has already happened. Perhaps the Pro Rector (Research Contracts) would care to pose the following question to recent industrial donors: Did you choose to support Imperial College because a) it has a first-rate track record; b) the calibre of the people is outstanding; c) the research facilities are excellent; d) the herbaceous borders are a sight to

behold? Gentlemen, I didn't come down in the last shower, and nor did the rest of Imperial.

Ian goes on to talk about the 'appalling reputation with the local planning committees' that the College has. Again, I am in complete agreement. I am no expert in local government, but I would suspect that the College's destruction of some of the finest Victorian architecture in London over the last thirty years may, in some way, have contributed to the problem.

Simon Baker



Thankfully, things are improving. The BMS is a superb building, and has made a very positive impact on the appearance of the College. Quite how the flowerbed can make any significant difference to the indescribably ugly Sherfield, Biochemistry and Chemistry buildings is beyond me. The College only has itself to blame for the poor standing with planners. This will only improve as the quality

Voice of Reason

of building design takes a turn for the better. The BMS marks the start of this, so I feel Ian is being overly pessimistic on this front. As for the implication that Felix is 'shooting us in the foot,' [from correspondence between Messrs Caldwell and Baker - Ed] I am, as a chief troublemaker, terribly flattered. I had no idea that I and my fellow wordsmiths had more sway with our local councillors than

the Estates Division. I suspect that this was a slightly hasty comment, for if it contains even a scintilla of truth, something is very, very badly wrong with Sherfield. We have dozens of well-paid people charged with project design and planning, whereas Felix is a bunch of journalistic waifs and strays. Honestly, I ask you.

The BBC is, in my humble opinion, the finest broadcaster on the face of the planet. In terms of quality, most of Auntie's competitors pose the sort of threat that Vanessa Feltz represents intellectually to Stephen Hawking. However, recent times have been less than happy. First, the defection of Barry Norman, then Jimmy Hill and now the loss of the cricket; frankly, if Richie 'God' Benaud doesn't follow the test matches to Channel 4, I fear for the stability of this country. Even Blue Peter has not remained immune to the problems ensnaring the Corporation. The problem is that the BBC is trying to be all things to all people, rather than sticking to what it does best, setting the standards for the medium of television. I suspect if we scrapped daytime television - no longer needed since the advent of Welfare to Work - replacing it with quality repeats, the money saved would have met the cricket shortfall; the daily oil slick on Kilroy exuded from the presenter must alone costs millions each year to deal with safely. I understand that Blue Peter's problems are already being addressed. Cost is not the issue here, but rather the maturity of the presenters, and the unfortunate consequences that have entailed from lines of coke that Richard Bacon made earlier. The Beeb feels that a return to older figures, cast in the mould of Valerie Singleton and John Noakes, should do the trick. Apparently, their first choice for such an avuncular figure was Frank Bough, but sadly his agent said that he was tied up.

Medicine Matters

Nick Newton

It is time to have a rant against the powers of IC concerning their attitude towards student behaviour. I recently came across an interesting document that describes itself as the IC drinks policy. A fine and worthy item to have in Sherfield's already engorged paper-pushing bureaucracy you might say, or if you are going to be rude you could say that is it not worth the paper it is printed on. This document uses phrases such as "moral duty" in relation to student alcohol consumption and frankly I am confused as to how an administration that barely tolerates its undergraduate population would even dream of antagonising them even more by treating them like twelve year olds.

Either the students at IC are clever, in which case they are capable of keeping a lifestyle that they can tolerate or they are not clever, or they cannot run their own lives and really should not be at IC in the first place.

The situation of IC trying to control students' lifestyle was highlighted to me in anecdotal form:

Two hard working members of the medics' freshers' fair were told, when attempting to buy some medicinal vodka to stay their flagging spirits, that a bottle would cost in excess of sixty pounds. They then attempted to purchase a round of drinks for their stand only to be told that they would not be served more than one double per person per day. This

laughable evidence of censure by bar staff could be dismissed, if it were not for the discovery next day of the aforementioned document in green - the IC drinking policy: I decided, for the good of the medical school, to investigate.

A recent former president of ICU, for whom medicine was not a career option, wrote this document. It contains phrases such as 'moral duty' and 'welfare of the students'. Frankly, I am stunned, firstly because the College thinks that it has the right to censure anyone's right to a drink and secondly to put the finances of the student union in jeopardy by reducing profits at the bar. The only answer is to drink at sensible medics bars where they certainly would not let the sobriety of

their customers get in the way of profit, which is after all, the only way to run a business. Given IC's attitude towards handing out money to students for activities that make them look good (i.e. they don't), it seems strange that they further penalise the students by trying to stop them from drowning their sorrows.

Enough random ranting; I will finish by offering big congratulations to all the sports teams, especially the medics, who seem to have been doing quite well recently. If you carry on like this you might get in the national newspapers and the denizens of Sherfield might get to hear of triumphs.



Thought for the Day

Pretentiousness

You may have to pay your own tuition fees these days. You might think that your expensive-to-rent abode is a grotty, draughty, pestilent hole, and that the stair carpet bears a foul, clashing pattern; a criminally distorted product of the opiated 1970s mindset. You might think that being a student under Labour is a trial of frugality and thrift.

If you are being entirely honest with yourself, though, you might decide that this isn't true any more. The inexorable rise of silicon has come to the aid of students everywhere. Scenes reminiscent of the Young Ones' lounge, or Withnail and I's Camden louse-house, are becoming increasingly rare; bedsits have become ever more luxurious; campus inhabitants are walking by on the other side when

"Bedsits have become ever more luxurious... Marxism has been thrown to the winds; materialism is in..."

they see second-hand furniture shops, and instead investing in plush items from IKEA. Marxism has been thrown to the winds; materialism is in; the yuppies of the mid-1980s are, I'm afraid, the students of the late 1990s. Rik and Neil would be shocked.

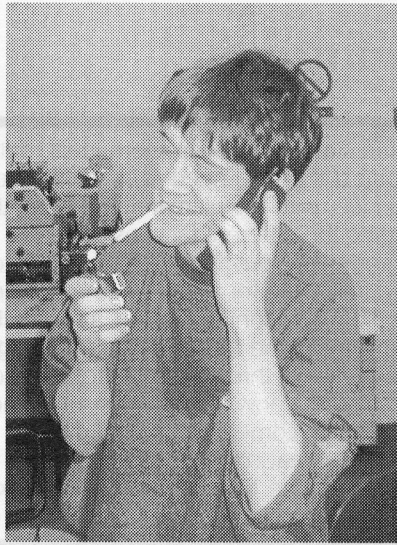
I have no idea as to why this has happened. Is it a product of the recession which separated the two decades? Are people, now that they have money, unafraid to give it to their children to spend? If this is so,

and if we see another global slump, will the hovels return? Will red wine stains on designer rugs be replaced once more by

rat droppings across balding carpets?

Or is the pretentious student here to stay? Have letters, and more recently email, the staple cornerstones of student communication, been superseded by mobile phones and pagers? The mind boggles at the concept of Jeremy Clarkson saying, "This is the new BMW. Sleek, sophisticated, and with more horsepower than you can shake a set of lecture notes at."

And when will it stop? Are single mothers condemned to washing the dishes by hand, while students, basking in the lazy relief of ever-dropping educational standards, take part-time



"Just jumped off Janet's Boeing, darling..."

"Is Cinzano the new lager, or unvarnished softwood a trendy form of perverted pornography?"

jobs to purchase dishwashers? Is Cinzano the new lager, or unvarnished softwood a trendy form of perverted pornography?

Then again, it doesn't really matter. I'll be gone next year. Never again will I have to sit in the JCR while some super-arrogant degenerate conducts a loud conversation in as protracted a manner as possible via the mutogenic microwaves of a mobile. I won't have to watch spoilt snobs turning up their noses at Sainsbury's sandwiches and Union curries and buying cups of espresso for four pounds a throw. And I won't have to watch students walking out of Mech Eng and hailing taxis to get them back to their residences in Chelsea.

Best of all, though, next year I'll have some money. **Ali Campbell**

Reminiscing Medic

Wigs and Student Digs

Volume two, album two... yes, just browsing through my much envied, rather extensive photo collection; nothing better than a night in, reminiscing. Flicking through the photos, I'm reminded of the night of my best friend's twenty-first; the night when a warped male acquaintance of mine decided to embark on a maiden voyage of discovery - his feeble attempt to see the world through the eyes of a woman. The individual, who for security reasons will remain anonymous, turned up at the designated venue in an unflattering, skimpy, Laura Ashley imitation purchased from some

unknown backstreet charity shop; Frankie-Goes-to-Hollywood shades; grimy, rather masculine adidas trainers; a two-inch coat of make-up (enough to make any Prescilla drag-queen feel underdressed) and my best friend's mum's wig (who still doesn't know it's missing). Instant recognition (and further doubts about his sexual orientation) was the outcome of the evening.

Rumour has it that he actually pulled not just one desperate bloke but two, at a famous London night spot later on that evening.

The phone rings; a group of my mates are going to a club; sod my night in, reminiscing!

...Rough night!!!

I press the snooze button for the fourth time, and reach for the Panadol extra. The events of last night are coming to me in bursts and flashes. I realise the loud banging is not emanating from my head but from the front door. The lady downstairs is complaining about our leaking shower again!

I've heard it all before and I lose interest quickly. I'm still recovering from the events of last night and I'm already five minutes late for my lecture on how to pass MCQ papers, the one lecture I'd decided to go to this week. All my friends are counting on me to go since they are all in bed with various strains of paracetamol-resistant hangovers. I promise to ring our landlord and slam the door.

This is the fifth time we've complained to our landlord and apart from a couple of men in designer suits and clip boards checking out the shower nothing else has been done. I'm fed up, she's fed up... the leaking continues... so does the banging (with her dead husband's snooker cue, we are informed). Her visits to our flat become more frequent... can't wait to get my own place... count-down... just two more years to qualify...

Just two more impoverished, student loan devouring years and I'll be promoted to the ranks of the ethanol dependent house officer. The unsung heroes and heroines on the hospital battle field, where the managers wave the victory flag. Underpaid, over-strained slaves to the tyrannical, autocratic NHS, burning the midnight oil night after week after month, the arms of Morpheus (for those of you not familiar with Greek mythology he is the Greek god of dreams...I'm not showing-off, am I?) ever distant. Maybe if I work non-stop all year, convince my bank manager to offer me

another interest-free loan and ask my parents to lend me the rest, I'll have a remote chance of owning my own little dig. No more second-rate rented accommodation, incompatible flat-mates, unrealistic visionary rotas, early morning bathroom queues or cheap, tacky Athena posters pinned to blue-tack-prohibited walls. My very own post-university-pre-family flat with non-child-proof furniture and pine floors...

I'm prodded quite sharply and awoken by the obnoxious piss-head I was forced to sit next to in the lecture theatre because I came in late. Obviously he wants his nicotine fix before the next lecture. I make my way up to the photocopier machine with the lecture notes, that's five copies to go! I've had enough, it's been a hard day and I reckon I'm suffering from a bout of post-traumatic stress induced by the morning's events. My head hits the pillow... where was I... ah yes...!

D. Devadas



Which way to vote?

Next Monday and Tuesday IC goes to the poles to elect a new Deputy President (Clubs & Societies).

So what are the options, and why do these people deserve your votes?

Stuart Cook

I know I can do this job, and the aim of this short article is to persuade you, the (wonderful) voter that I can. I've been at IC for five years now, and I know the structure of the Union as well as anyone. I know how the clubs and societies operate though I appreciate that as Deputy President I must listen to people's views on their societies and act accordingly.

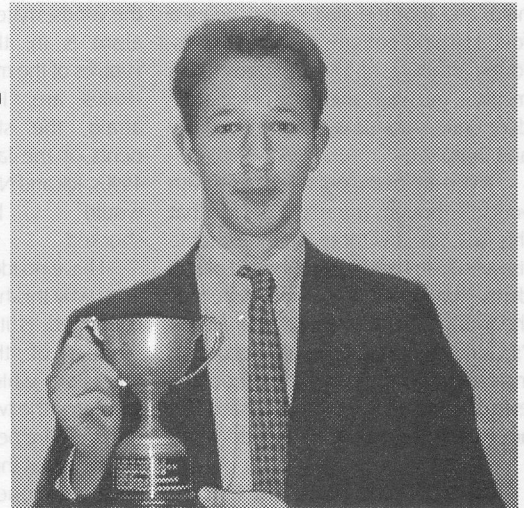
Initially my aims include striving to capture further sponsorship for the individual clubs and societies. Also I plan to sort out the situation regarding coach travel to our sporting fixtures. Wouldn't it be great if we had subsidised travel to all games? Regarding the BUSA situ-

ation, the status quo does seem ideal, but if BUSA object then we need to make the best of a bad job, with the ultimate long term aim of merging the different factions in IC.

As some of you might know I've been involved in ICUAFC for all my time here, being a Championship winning Captain, a successful Vice-Captain and the Treasurer. In my younger days I used to get thrown out of the Union on Wednesdays but now maturity has set in and I just pass out in corners when I get drunk.

PS I have great communication skills

PPS Don't vote New Election or I'll look a dick if I lose



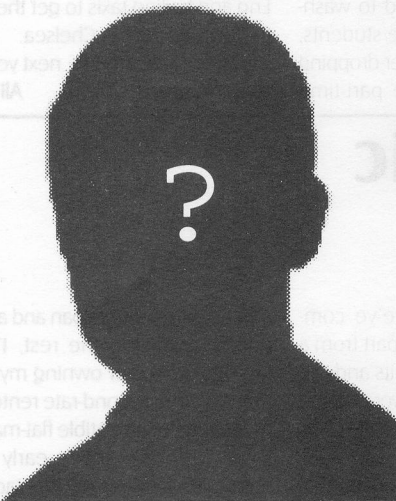
New Election

Hi there. Well I'm New Election (sometimes known as Re-Open Nominations or RON) and I'm your chance to express a no vote for the candidate. After all, the sabbaticals have managed so far haven't they? Surely they don't need a Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)? Well that's your decision to make. I would advise you to think carefully though. By voting for me there will be another round of elections. Will there be any more candidates standing next time for this position? Would they be any better than this time?

However you feel, make sure you exercise your democratic right and vote one way or the

other. If you don't vote you can't complain about the job being done.

Whilst I'm here.....did you know I'm also a candidate in all the other union elections? Positions such as Haldane Music Buyer. Check out the Union Notice Board to see the ones I'm talking about.



Withdrawal

Rostam Kilgour, the other fully seconded candidate for Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), has withdrawn from the election. Confirmation of his withdrawal came on Monday 26 in a letter to ICU President David Hellard. No specific reasons for his decision were stated.

Hustings

Hustings will take place on all campuses this week:

South Ken : Monday, 6pm
 Charing X : Tuesday, 6pm
 St Mary's : Wednesday, 6pm

ICU CINEMA PRESENTS:

SPECIES II

Wed 4th (6pm) & Thurs 5th (8.30pm)



Concert Hall
 Union Building 2nd Floor
 Drinks available from Da Vinci's

Also Showing
 Dark City Wed 4th (8.30pm)
 Divorcing Jack Thurs 5th (6pm)
 ZULU Sun 8th (7pm)

Looking for a career that will suit you?

Careers Presentation, The Rembrandt Hotel, Monday 16 November at 6pm

If you want a lively and challenging career that will fulfil your potential while keeping your options open, Andersen Consulting can offer you an unparalleled range of innovative and flexible career opportunities. Imagine what you could accomplish at one of the world's leading management and technology consulting organisations.

Our clients recognise that Andersen Consulting offers the unique ability to align strategy with people, processes and

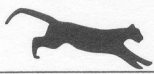
technology – an approach that transforms visionary ideas into successful working realities. You'd team with some of the most successful organisations – those seeking sustainable profound change, exploring new markets, leading their industries and creating their futures.

Come to our presentation at The Rembrandt Hotel on Monday 16 November at 6pm, when we'll tell you more about the dynamic, challenging opportunities at Andersen

Consulting. You can ask questions and have an informal chat with some of our people, from analysts up to partners, during drinks and buffet supper.

If you would like to be considered for an interview the next day, please submit an application form a week in advance to The Graduate Recruiting Department. Application forms are available from your careers service or call our recruiting helpline free on 0500 100189.





**PROFESSOR
FUCKWIT**

**ECCENTRIC
CAMBRIDGE TUTOR**

ALL THE BRAINIEST SCHOOL KIDS ARE GETTING READY FOR AN INTERVIEW TO GET INTO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

I HEARD THAT PROFESSOR FUCKWIT DOES INTERVIEWS IN A MOTORISED BATH TUB FULL OF BAKED BEANS

HA HA! HEARD THAT BEFORE

OH SHIT OH SHIT OH SHIT

ROBINSON! YOU'RE NEXT!

COME IN PLEASE

OH SHIT OH SHIT OH SHIT

SHITTY SMELL

PARP

WELCOME MY FRIEND. PLEASE SIT DOWN.

ERM... WHERE'S THE SEAT?

222.2222

AHEM. I AM FASCINATED BY THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TOAST IN A TOASTER AND FLYING TOAST...

SIT ON THE BLOODY CEILING YOU COMPLETE IMBECILE!

ERM... OKAY.

GET OUT!
OUTOUT
OUTOUT
OUTOUT
OUTOUT

BRRRRR BRRRRR BRRRRR

HEH HEH! ONE DOWN=LESS COMPETITION = GREATER PROBABILITY OF ME GETTING INTO CAMBRIDGE = GREATER SOCIAL STATUS! ARF ARF.

whine??

RAMSBOTTOM! COME IN

COME IN PLEASE

FLIP

MYNAAH. HELLO, PLEASD TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS ARCHYBALD RAMSBOTTOM AND I AM CURRENTLY THE HEAD-BOY OF WINCHBURY SCHOOL FOR TOFFS. I HAVE TEN 'A' GRADES AT A-LEVEL AND HAVE WON THE NATIONAL STUDENT SCIENTIST AWARD. I AM A REALLY BRAINY AND I DON'T HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE HERE AND I HOPE TO STUDY MEDICINE HERE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

HMMMM

EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A LECTURE TO ATTEND TO

AND BY THE WAY, YOU'VE BEEN REJECTED..... GOOD-DAY.

BRRRRR BRRRRR

SO NOW MY FELLOW STUDENTS, I WANT YOU ALL TO SIT DOWN ON THE CEILING AND PHILOSOPHISE ON THE MEANING OF MOTORISED BEANS

CAN WE PUT TOASTERS ON OUR HEADS TOO?

OF COURSE

WANA CONTRIBUTE

RIGHT... GET ON THE CEILING.

VERY WELL. I'M OFF TO CONSUME SOME NUTRITIOUS DELICACIES AFTER CHANGING INTO SOME SUITABLE CLOTHING.

HMMM... FIDDLE DEE AND FIDDLE DUM, WHAT A DILEMMA I HAVE PLACED MYSELF IN. WHERE ART THOU EAT?

HMMM... IT'S THE FAMOUS GOLDEN ANTI-PARABOLAS OF COMMERCIAL AMERICANISATION. I SHALL SAMPLE THE FOOD HERE.

Wc Do

OPEN

HELLO WELCOME TO WCDONALD SHOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I'LL TRY THE FILLET AU FISH S'IL VOUS PLAIT

THAT'LL BE £1.50 PLEASE

HO HO! IT'S DARTH WANKER

FLIP

GASP!

THIS CAN'T BE....

THE FISH IS SQUARE YET THE BUN IS ROUND WHILE THE BOX REMAINS SQUARE. I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THIS... HOW CAN A FISH BE SQUARE? I AM DOGGOGGLED.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

THUMP

BAH! FISH CANNOT BE SQUARE WHILE THE BUN IS ROUND!

HMM, I BELIEVE THE MEANING OF THE UNIVERSE LIES WITHIN THOSE CHOPPED ONIONS.

HMM, I FIND THE CONCEPT OF SQUARE FISH IN ROUNDED BUN'S MINDGOGGLING

HMM, I AM TRYING TO COMPREHEND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SPHERICAL TOMATOES AND SQUARE CHEESE. IF WE TAKE TOMATOES AS C(x) AND CHEESE AS C(y), WE HAVE THE CONNECTING INTEGER RECIPROCAL FRACTION (z) OF THE HEMI-SPHERICAL BUN. IF WE EQUATE THEM ALL IN SUCH A WAY YAK YAK... ETC.

HMMM, AND NOTICE THE WAY ICE CREAMS ARE CALLED 'ICE CREAM' BUT ARE ACTUALLY MADE OF CHEAP VEGETABLE OIL AND MILK POWDER, HENCE ARE NOT 'CREAMS', TECHNICALLY SPEAKING.

OBSERVE THE FACT THAT THE HAMBURGERS ARE ROUND, THE BUN IS ROUND WHILE THE BOX AND CHEESE SLICE IS SQUARE.

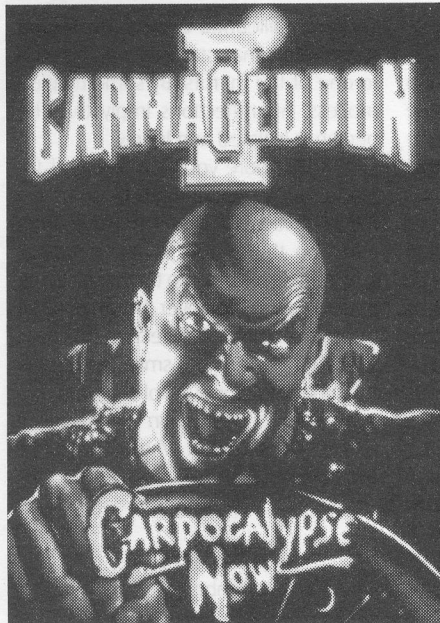
THE QUESTION IS, WHY ARE THE FISH, CHEESE AND BOXES SQUARE WHILE BURGERS AND BUNS REMAIN HEMI-SPHERICAL. THIS IS A MOST UNUSUAL IRONY.

I SHALL RETURN WITH MY STUDENTS TO SOLVE THIS SILLY LITTLE PROBLEMETTE!

MORE STEREOTYPICAL LAUGHS NEXT WEEK AS FUCKWIT BETS CONFUSED OVER WHY ORANGE JUICE IS ORANGE YET ROCKS DONT FLOAT.

Carmageddon II - Carpocalypse Now (PC)

Sci ★



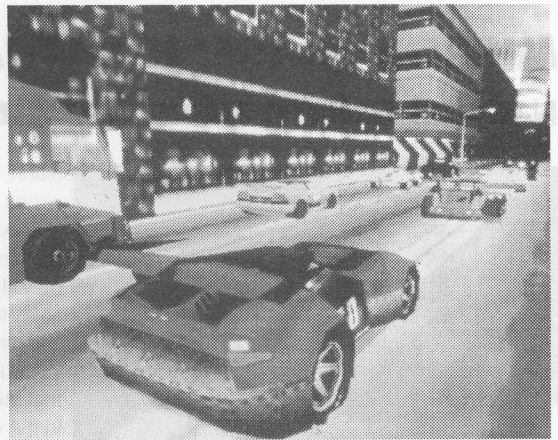
The name of the game really says it all, it's the sequel of the infamous Carmageddon. The objectives of the games hasn't really changed; race against other drivers but for additional points you need to do the unthinkable. Yup run over people.

Although in the version which I saw you don't run over "living" people as such (well zombies in fact!). The graphics shows no real innovation although using the 3Dfx card does make the game run at an amazing speed. At the end of the day, the rendering is flat, game play lacks any imagination and most of all the music drives you round the bend. Maybe it enhances the games by making you want to run over more people

so that you can complete the circuit as quickly as possible?! Who knows!

In conclusion... Would I buy the game? Probably not... The game tries to hard to appeal to the darkside of the players and fails miserably... and as a driving game it's pretty much bog standard. I rate it a poor 1 star. I would give it a 0 star but because it uses 3dfx I thought it redeemed itself by at least making an effort on the graphics. Well almost.

Bill Tung



News

Colony Wars - Vengeance

I liked Colony wars despite what the others said. The missions were a little same after the while but the hype machine is back with Vengeance (heh heh a pun). Following on from the six endings of the original, things have got bad for the league and civil unrest and general disorder have become the order of the day, bit like a house to party at 3am. This time you play Mertens fighting on the side of a navy attempting to reunite the people and making sure they get the N52 home before they set off another fire extinguisher. It looks like its going to be a guess who your enemy really is game, as you battle through a new graphics engine using your 22 new weapons, with 75 different ships and other bits and bobs. It should be out on the 13th November for the Playstation, and hopefully Psygnosis will lend us a copy to give it a proper go.

Sin (PC)

Activision ★★★

Having stopped playing PC first person shooting games at quake I feel a little bit like a footballer that has taken a year off after breaking their leg to find that the team has been replaced by weird green aliens, sure they look different but they still play pretty much in the same way. Perhaps nothing was able to distract me from Goldeneye on the N64. Goldeneye with its strategy, sniper rifle and head shot instant kills. Perhaps the boredom of the single player quake without the eye candy supplied by a decent 3D card bored me too much. Either way was sin to reawaken my bloodlust?



So onto the story. You play a cop. The bad guys are commanded by a sort of anti-Lara. A big, bondage outfit, anatomically unfeasible, incredibly well armed, anti-Lara. You go after the anti-Lara with an assortment of bullet spitting, death dealing weapons. It must have taken them all of minutes for someone to think that one up, and highly likely the chief designer has having a nice dream all about it at the time.

So off the story and into the game like a mad vole chased by an escaped mink. Problem number one was the ancient PC at home. So it runs on a Pentium 120 MHz, with a monster2 video card at 640x480 and it only complains about it at the beginning but for a slicker frame rate don't consider anything less

than a 166 MHz Pentium (I guess most of PC people at IC will have this, but just don't even try your old overclocked 486 with this.) The game starts with a nice helicopter level, where you can forget about ammo levels and just waste anything that moves on the roof of the bank. The level also sorts out that the humour is going to be very Duke Nukem, with baddies taking potshots at the local winged life and discussing their last killing as your gunship creeps up behind them. The first level also introduces the non-linear aspect of the game. Blow one of the adboards on the roof and you can watch it hurtle through a glass skylight. Wanton destruction is good you might well think. Well yes and no, after the initial satisfaction has passed you might well discover that the adboard has broken one of the security computers that could help you out later.

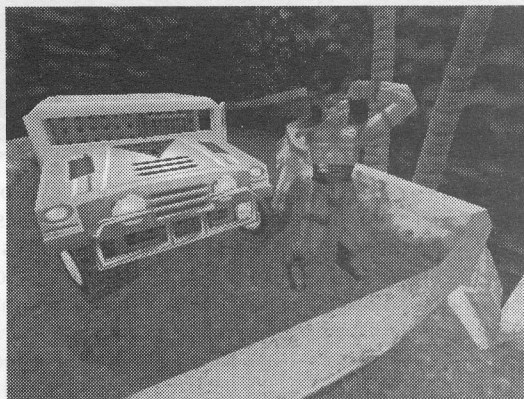
Finish the first stage and you get into a more recognizable game. It is back to limited ammo and complete freedom of movement in the level, run around and shoot things that move game. Except this time the enemies can either be pounded in their

armour jacketed stomach for a few seconds or sent to Valhalla quickly with a bullet between the eyes. As the instructions say if they're not bleeding they're not hurting.

There is also a small, with an emphasis on small, amount of puzzle solving and strategy to work out.

So does it take me from my beloved Goldeneye. Unfortunately with problem one to contend against it's a very strong no. Getting round problem on meant giving it a go on a network using a P2 400 MHz machine running exotic addons courtesy of Activision and with this setup possibly yes. It does look impressive, has some pretty good touches and network wise means you don't have to play against your friends using the same TV screen (not so funny on a 14inch portable). Its definitely my PC shooter now (though I'll be looking at Quake2 with the expansion pack and Klingon Honour Guard next week).

GS



Carmageddon 2 - Carpocalypse Now

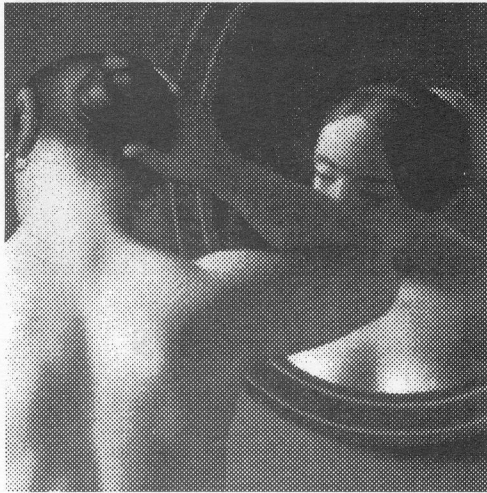
I'm not going to comment on the review above, mainly because I've not played the game yet. PC not really up to it. One thing you can almost guarantee is the press are going to throw their 'Are computer games violent and the cause of all of modern life's woes'. Since Space Invaders this story has been brought up mainly to give free publicity and sell a few more games for the software makers and publishers and to fill a few more inches in games pages and I for one am not going to panda to the stainless/Sci publicity bandwaggon and mention anything about it - doh.

GS



MIRROR IMAGE: JONATHAN MILLER ON MIRRORS

National Gallery, Sainsbury Wing



Jonathan Miller's latest foray into the arts is an exhibition on the depiction of mirrors and reflections in painting. Cynics might think that this is just one in a long line of post-modernist books/plays/exhibitions; taking some inanimate object and then spinning out a single trivial insight into reams of pseudo-drivel. In the case of this exhibi-

tion, the cynics would be wrong. In fact, mirrors have always fascinated artists, not just for their entertaining optical effects, but also their ability to give subtle meaning and dimension to a painting.

Critics have suggested that Miller is out of his depth in the visual arts and should stay on his more familiar territory of opera, intellectual musing and corduroy jackets (sorry about that last one). I disagree and think Miller's treatment of mirrors in art makes the subject accessible and exciting.

Miller's tale covers various themes, tied in together with an audio commentary and a short documentary film. The exhibition uses both well-known and less famous paintings as examples, reintroducing you to all those works you've seen somewhere but just can't name.

Artists often paint mirrors to create some quirky optical illusion. Ask your-

self this question: when you see a mirror in a painting (or even a photo), how do you know that you are looking at a mirror? Of course the answer is because you see a reflection. This may appear obvious but the exhibition explains that if you blot everything out except the mirror, you can no longer tell whether you're looking at a real object or a reflected image. What this means is that the brain requires a context to understand it is actually looking at a reflection. The classic example is Jan van Eyck's *Arnolfini Portrait* (this contains the most famous mirror in art history in case you didn't know).

So on some level, the exhibition takes the form of an illusionist's show. But for me, the key message was that mirrors also add emotional depth to a painting. Miller comments that "reflective surfaces give us the opportunity of looking in one direction and seeing in another". He means this both in the literal and figurative sense. Imagine an empty Parisian café with its walls covered by gill mirrors; the painting *In a Café* by

Gustave Caillebotte depicts just such a scene with a man standing with his back to one of the mirrors. By some magical process, his reflections imply that the person is isolated and lonely.

I could bore you with this stuff for hours, so the best thing is to go to see the exhibition for yourself. Aside from admiring the beauty of the paintings and gaining insight into the minds of the artists, you won't ever be able to sit through a nine o'clock lecture on chirality without a knowing smile. And in the mornings the simple act of staring bleary-eyed at your reflection in the bathroom mirror will assume a whole new metaphysical significance.

William

Until 13th December

Nearest tube: Charing Cross/Leicester Square

Admission: £5.50, concessions £3.50
Opening hours: daily 10am - 6pm (Sundays from 12pm, Wednesdays until 8pm)

SPEED: VISIONS OF AN ACCELERATED AGE

Whitechapel Gallery



From the moment you step through the doors of the gallery and hear the continuous, disjointed ticking emitted by a row of metronomes, each set at slightly different rhythms, it is clear that *Speed* is going to challenge the spectator's senses.

The curator of the gallery uses a wide variety of media, ranging from sculpture to photography, to demonstrate how the idea and measurement of speed permeate our everyday life - and even how speed itself is getting faster!

My favourite piece from this varied collection was Rachel Lowe's video instal-

lation entitled *A Letter to an Unknown Person*. At first, all that can be seen is the countryside zooming past a camera in the passenger seat of a car. Her hand reaches up into shot and she then attempts to sketch the scenery with a

record all that is happening to each individual comes across very clearly.

Another work which caught my attention was *Lime Works: Blasting* by Nagoya Hatakeyama (pictured centre). The artist has created a series of arrest-

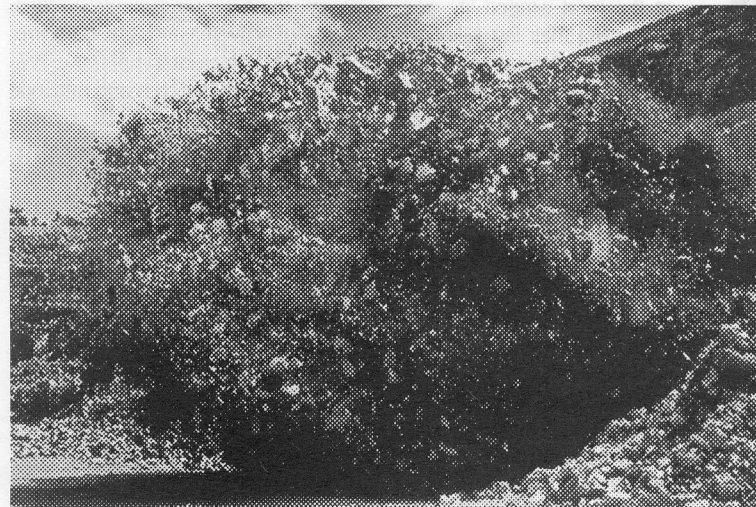
ing in glaring colour and at a huge scale.

With many other interesting exhibits on show (including wooden and hairy cars), *Speed* is well worth an afternoon's attention - just don't rush it!

Joel

Until 22th November

Nearest tube: Aldgate East
Opening hours: daily (except Mondays)
11am - 5pm (Wednesdays until 8pm)
Admission: £4, concessions £2.50 (FREE on Tuesdays)



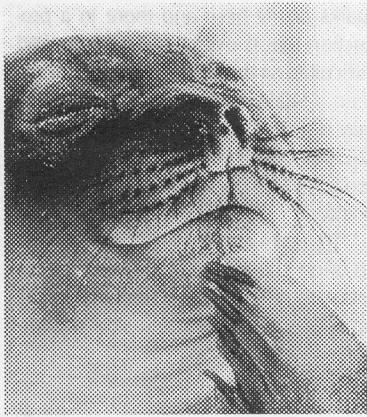
marker pen as it flashes by. Initially, the artist snatches small parts of the landscape onto the windscreen, but the experiment quickly degenerates into a meaningless scribble of disjointed lines and meaningless shapes. The comment on the fleetingness of modern life and the insanity of the current attempts to

ing images depicting a limestone quarry in various states of destruction. By using enlarged prints and high-speed photography, minute details can be made out. This dizzying intricacy is the feature that enthral the viewer - the very thing which the average individual cannot attain in day-to-day life has been presented here



BG WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Natural History Museum



Elephant Seal Pup, Edmund Fellowes
An adorable portrait of a youngster scratching its chin in apparent meditation.

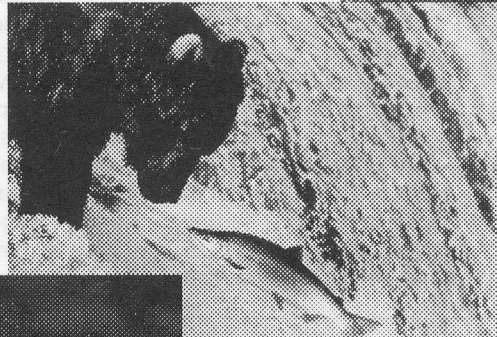
At first glance, this is perhaps not the most obvious venue for an art exhibition. However, if you bypass the foyer of reassembled dinosaur skeletons and cross the corridor of prehistoric fossils, you reach a darkened gallery from which obscure bird squawks and animal howls emanate. Let me reassure you - these recorded bursts of commotion are purely atmospheric, setting the scene for a collection that glorifies the natural world.

The museum recently unveiled the results of the fifteenth annual wildlife photographer competition, organised by *BBC Wildlife Magazine*. Enthusiasts from some 60 countries battled for this prestigious title, coveted by amateurs and

professionals alike. In excess of 20,000 entries were received and narrowed down to the 150 images on display. Presented either as enlarged, illuminated transparencies or included in a slide projection, the collection maintains the traditional standards of quality associated with the award. Granted, the general format of the exhibition hardly changes from one year to the next. But then again, why change a winning formula? The overwhelming critical acclaim and intense public popularity are proof enough of the event's resounding success.

You don't have to be a photography expert to appreciate the technical skills involved in producing such shots, some planned to the last details, others resulting

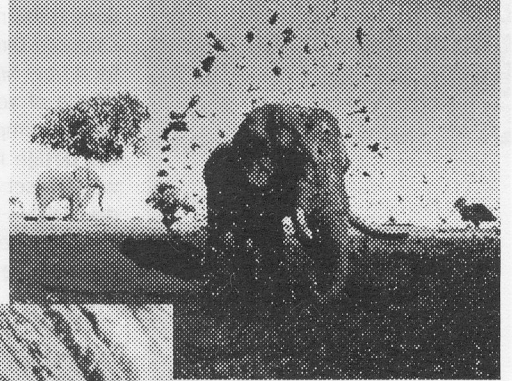
from unexpected quirks of nature. The amazing pictures have a powerful impact on the viewer, not only as aesthetic works but also as thought-provoking reminders of the environment's endangered state. You'll probably find yourself disagreeing with the occa-



Brown Bear Fishing for Salmon, Brandon T Garland
A staring contest between the poised hunter and a hovering fish depicts the instant before the predator lunges for its victim.



Boxing Hares, Manfred Danegger (overall winner)
During the breeding season, a female rebuffs the advances of an over-eager male in this explosive picture praised for its perfect composition.



Elephant Spraying Mud, Andy Rouse
An irate elephant defiantly flings dirt at the camera.

chrome miniatures barely do the colour originals justice. And since I've run out of superlative adjectives to describe this exhibition, I'll leave it up to you to indulge in the real monty.

Helena

sional judges' decisions and inevitably selecting a personal favourite amongst the scenic landscapes, endearing close-ups or dynamic action shots.

Although enchanting as appetisers, these mono-

Until 27th February

Nearest tube: South Kensington
Opening hours: daily 10am - 5.50pm (Sundays from 11am)
Admission: £6, concessions £3.20 (FREE entry after 4.30pm weekdays, 5pm weekends)

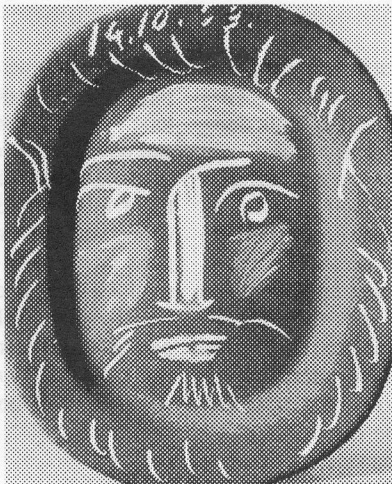
PICASSO: PAINTER AND SCULPTOR IN CLAY

Royal Academy

When the name Picasso is mentioned, people react in one of two

ways; either with a polite but blank stare of incomprehension, or with a self-satisfied knowing nod. Given the opportunity, these knowing nodders will then go on to tell you authoritatively that he was a painter, a sculptor and a (bad) playwright.

If you visit the Royal Academy however, you'll see something very different: Picasso's little known pots, plates and panels. It's the first major exhibition of his ceramics (painted and glazed clay) ever to be staged, and it's long overdue.



This is a fun exhibition, with cheeky faces carved into plates, pots shaped like voluptuous women in ball gowns and Picasso's own archaeological creations. For the last, he took pieces of broken pots and painted on designs inspired by Mediterranean myths - Zeus, the Minotaur and lots of bearded Greeks emptying amphorae of fermented grapes and generally behaving like students. This outbreak of upbeat works was stimulated by two events - the end of the Second World War and the arrival in Picasso's life of a beautiful new young mistress.

As you walk into the second gallery, a tall panel draws you over to the far wall; the subject is Françoise, his new lover (pictured right). Her gaze is directed over your left shoulder; after only a few seconds you start to feel uncomfortable and glance over your shoulder to see what she finds so interesting. This tends to startle the person standing just behind you, until they realise what has happened and you both grin sheepishly.

At first sight the two murals in the fifth gallery appear to have been created on a rainy Wednesday afternoon by some bored undergrads with a collection



of blue, green and black marker pens. They catch your eye, you stop to take a closer look and realise that they are actually highly complex and detailed pieces.

Again and again, Picasso catches your attention with the apparently banal and primitive, which then conjures up something exquisite.

Etienne

Until 16th December

Nearest tube: Green Park/Piccadilly Circus
Admission: £7, £5 for students
Opening hours: daily 10am - 6pm



ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA National Theatre, Olivier



Shakespeare's plays have always formed the best British actors or so we are made to believe. And even if they didn't start with the Bard, actors always seem to return to him. This is indeed the case for Helen Mirren (*Prime Suspect*) and Alan Rickman (*Truly,*

Madly, Deeply). They are the main attractions in this new version of *Antony and Cleopatra*. Director Sean Mathias (famous for *A Little Night Music* at the National a couple of years ago) has opted for a very contemporary ensemble. The modern design is well done; an amazing wooden set with panels going up and down allows actors on and off the stage. The fresh feel is slightly misjudged however and the directing lacks vital energy and pace.

The story is well known, centering on the love affair between Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, and Mark-Antony, a Roman commander. They lead a life of pleasure and lust, surrounded by their court and slaves (a very lush evocation of that period!). Back in Rome, Caesar orders Antony to return and marry his sister, Octavia. Cleopatra is desperate, but Antony eventually comes back to Alexan-

dria to find her. Caesar declares war on them and Antony's men simply desert him. Feeling betrayed by Cleopatra, who falsely sends a messenger to tell him she has died, Antony commits suicide and dies in her arms. Cleopatra then also ends her life.

The actors are slightly out of place: Alan Rickman just doesn't fit in with the image of the passionate Antony - he lacks total drama and fugue. Helen Mirren just about gets away with her interpretation of Cleopatra. Even though she is not amazing, she does manage to convey her character's self-centred and witty personality. The rest of the cast tries its hardest to keep the interest going for the three and a half hour duration of the play and proves mildly entertaining. The good points of this production remain the lovely sets and costumes, as well as the final ten minutes that I found

particularly exciting and daring. A few sparks do fly here and there in a production that is overall quite boring and difficult to sit through. If you have never seen a Shakespeare play on stage, this may not be the best choice for starting out. If however you are a big fan of Mirren's, then you won't be too disappointed.

It's a pity that Sean Mathias, who has so often charmed and shocked spectators with his innovative work, has come up with such a quiet and slow production.

D.

Until 3rd December

Nearest tube: Waterloo

Tickets: standby places available for students (check beforehand) £7.50

VIA DOLOROSA Royal Court Theatre



Another fantastic play presented at the Royal Court a few weeks ago was David Hare's latest, highly personal creation, *Via Dolorosa*. It centres

on a visit he made to Israel and his experiences over there.

David Hare is one of Britain's most talented playwrights; his more recent works include *Amy's View*, *The Judas Kiss* and the adaptation of *The Blue Room* (starring Nicole Kidman). This play was like nothing else he has done in his career; a sort of "one man show" where he stood alone on stage for ninety minutes, reciting his own story. He described an issue that he now holds close to his heart - the situation in the Middle East, and more precisely in Israel. As he himself says, "no other problem of our time is rooted so deeply in the past".

Hare travelled to Jerusalem to put on a play, which he explained was a collaboration between an Israeli, a Palestinian

and a Brit. He then proceeded to tell various anecdotes and funny stories, caused by such a partnership. Hare was often hilarious and managed to introduce humour to what is, in fact, a very dramatic crisis. Having met many intellectuals in Israel, as well as a few politicians, he visited the territories of Palestine. These scenes were extremely amusing, with people debating different political questions over lunch.

The actor managed to explain more about the Middle East - its history, its aspirations and its difficulties - than any History book or journalist around, since he had no preconceived ideas. He didn't suggest any solutions to the problem, instead leaving it to the politicians (who seem to have finally found some form of

agreement considering the peace deal signed last week). His interests lay with the individual; the everyday struggle for one's identity and culture. It was fascinating that he should select such a particular theme for his play, yet succeed in making it so universal. He showed off an impressive gift for story telling. In short, these special real-life experiences were tremendously uplifting. If this transfers to the West End, as I have been told it may do, I urge you to go and watch the performance, as it is compelling and ultimately so rewarding!

D.

PHEDRE Albery Theatre



I remember frequently studying Racine's work at school, sometimes very fondly. His plays evoke the history and myths of Ancient Greece, which form such a fundamental basis of our culture. Ted Hughes has just completed a new translation for the London stage and I'm sorry to say that it's far from successful. Some passages sound horrendously out of place and the quality of the

language is very poor compared to Racine's original French. Hughes has tried too hard to modernise the characters and too often completely misses the point. It's a bit of a waste really.

Phèdre is married to the King of Athens, Theseus. She is also deeply attracted to Hippolytus, his son from a previous marriage. As this love is forbidden by society, she lives in a continual nightmare of suppressed emotions. In order to rid herself of this burden, she forces herself to be dismissive and harsh towards Hippolytus, which naturally causes her even more pain. She finally decides to confess, leading to the play's tragic end.

Alive in the 17th century, Racine nevertheless raises issues that are relevant today. The pressures of society in general often restrict individuals by not allowing

them to express their deep feelings. The influence of people around us, advisers especially, which can bring about disastrous situations. However the playwright talks about incest without expressing his point of view; he just portrays a woman desperately in love with her stepson - no judgement is made, no solution given.

The original play is fascinating and brilliantly written - only the company has messed everything up. Hughes has come up with a terrible translation and the acting is mediocre. This is particularly surprising since the cast is full of talented people: Diana Rigg, for instance, who has enlightened the London stage for quite a few years now, turns out to be a particularly unsubtle Phèdre. She hardly shows any of the pain the character experiences and most of the time makes Phèdre look ridiculous. The rest of

the cast is no better. Only Toby Stephens' Hippolytus manages to keep the right tone. Many people actually found the play quite funny. Now, if the audience is laughing so much during a tragedy, then there must be something drastically wrong with the production. Old tragic plays haven't had a decent West End run for a while and it's a real shame to witness such a failure. The same company is also preparing *Britannicus*... We can only hope for better quality from such potentially good talent.

D.

Until 28th November

Nearest tube: Leicester Square

Tickets: student standby £10 subject to availability

**Monday: Standing Room Only
Live Premiership footie. DaVinci's 7pm**

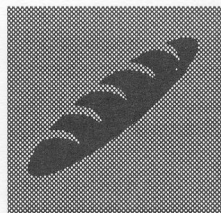
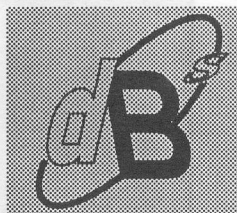
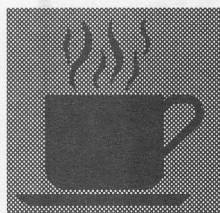
**Tuesday: STA "Grim up North" Trivia Night
£50 Cash & Coronation Street Prizes.
DaVinci's 8pm**

**Wednesday: ClubXS
You know the score!! Plus chill out room &
cocktail bar. Free b4 11.**

Thursday: DaVinci's Cocktail Night 5-11.

**Friday: POP TARTS
A Kylietastic trip into pure pop & chart
dance. 9-2. £1/Free with entscard/B4 9**

**Saturday: The Electric Cafe
Preclub eclectic electronica. 8-12. FREE. dBs**



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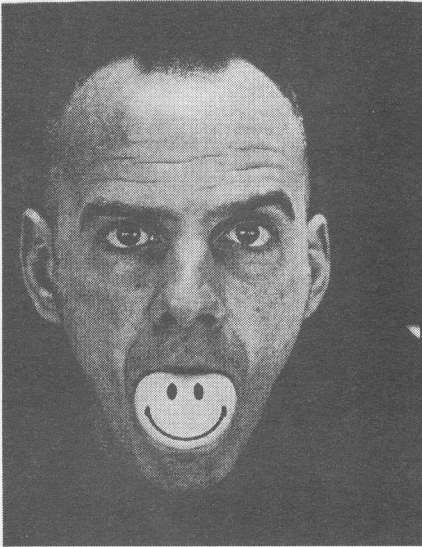
Album Feature

FATBOY SLIM

You've Come A Long Way, Baby ★★★★★

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, FATBOY!

Former Housemartin Fatboy Slim (aka Norman Cook) is now a household name. Recently he's picked up DJ awards left, right and centre. Now he has the pleasure of receiving a Felix four-star review for *You've Come A Long Way, Baby* and an in-depth feature. Who says he hasn't got it all?



Norman is very intelligent, Mrs. Cook, but his attention does seem to wander at times....

For fifteen years now, he's been making music to serve all listening pleasures. From his career starting 80's brit-pop band, The Housemartins, to the dub heavy band Beats International, to becoming one of the world's most sought after DJs and the forerunner of a movement called Big-Beat, a mainly English groove that mixes hip-hop and techno for a dance-floor-friendly sound that often adds a human element through cleverly employed, repetitive vocal hooks. Brighton-born DJ, Norman Cook, has indeed come a long way, baby. Being the same person was never going to satisfy Norman Cook, resulting in many aliases, some better known than others, '....in terms of musical talent, he's an obese piece of genius.'

He's not a newcomer to chart success, having already had Top 40 singles in the UK under six different names including two number one singles. It was almost three, but *Tune In, Turn On, Cop Out* peaked out at number two. Now, under the alias of Fatboy Slim comes a new album, *You've Come A Long Way, Baby*. This is Fatboy's second offering (well, third if you count the club session *Live From The Floor Of The Boutique*) after his hugely successful *Better Living Through Chemistry*, a tribute to his friends The Chemical Brothers.

Way back in March, Fatboy premiered *The Rock-*

afeller Skank, which peaked at number six. That Lord Finesse vocal sample combined with that twangy surf-guitar sent crowds into disco oblivion. It was indeed a warning shot!

Even before it's release, the album blossomed with success. *The Rockafeller Skank* has been chosen as the lead song in, arguably, this year's biggest video game: FIFA 99 from Electronic Arts. Football fans will get so much more for their money when it is released at the end of November.

Fatboy Slim knows how to find a pop hook where none exists. He's a master of finding an inescapably alluring chorus or a brain-numbing musical catch-phrase where no one would think to search for one.

The *Rockafeller Skank's* vocal hook, altogether now, 'Right about now, the funk soul-brother / Check it out now, the funk soul-brother,' was lifted from a record featuring American rapper Lord Finesse. Fatboy could have easily gotten someone to sing or rap for it, but the idea is to make a lead vocal out of something that wasn't and make it so you can't recognize it... so he don't have to pay for it! Well done!

His current outing, *Gangsta Trippin'*, an old-school-funk-meets-new-school-rap/ska jam, is built on a narcotic hook no other DJ would have thought to use. The song samples bits from DJ Shadow's *Entropy* and the song *Beatbox Wash* by the Dust Junkies.

The mesmerizing *Build It Up, Tear It Down*, like *...Skank*, manages to meld a surfy, English-rock sensibility to a techno arrangement, while *In..Heaven* is perhaps the most innocuously dirty song Fatboy has recorded to date. Consisting only of the phrase 'Fatboy Slim is fucking in heaven' supplied by rapper Freddy Fresh looped over and over again, over a spare organ-lick and Fatboy's signature fat-beats - another example of Fatboy finding an unlikely hook and milking it for all it's worth.

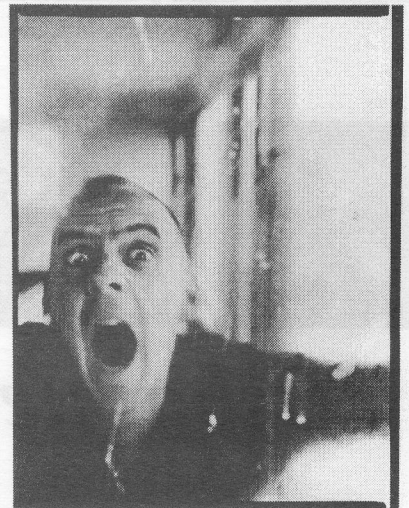
The album also manages to mix in samples of church choirs, obscure rappers and even childrens' author/former pop-singer Camille Yarrowborough on the gospel-funk tune *Praise You*.

Norman Cook's production was never in doubt - producing every one of his own tracks and many more for the likes of Bootsy Collins, Urban Allstars and Feel-good Factor. His remixing skills are not to be challenged either, having already done remixes for Digital Underground, INXS, Jungle Brothers and many many more. It's no wonder that Muzik Magazine awarded him

with 1998 Remixer of the Year. Not just that though - in Cook's own words: 'Jason Nevins sent a fax where he wrote 'I just heard the song [*The Rockafeller Skank*]. You are a fucking genius.' That's nice for me. It's important for me; the two biggest kicks being making a pop record everyone likes, but also getting the respect of my peers.'

'He's a master of finding an inescapably alluring chorus or a brain-numbing musical catch-phrase where no one would think to search for one.'

You've *Come A Long Way, Baby* is eleven tracks with their feet firmly on the dancefloor but with enough depth, width and mirth to make things a lot more interesting. From the momentous backward strings of *Right Here, Right Now* and the funny radio intro to *The Rockafeller Skank* (no joke - this is a live radio recording from WBCN in Boston!) this is Fatboy Slim at his peak. It features many more pop-vocal hooks than his previous album while still maintaining the DJ's lighthearted,



....he's also prone to screaming for no apparent reason. This disturbs the other children and should not be encouraged

party attitude and his facility at creating innovative beats - Norman Cook in the House of Love (his little studio at his Brighton home) producing the tracks that have helped put Big Beat on the global musical map.

Unlike the first album sledge-hammering on your head, saying 'Dance, have fun!', this one is more thoughtful; you can listen to it all the way through and not feel violated by it. *You've Come A Long Way, Baby* is all good. **M**

Abu

Live

ELECTRIC CAFÉ

dBs

Go to the Union on a Saturday night? You must be joking, or at least very bored. Surely London's nightlife, or the crowded atmosphere of Southside Bar, provide a far better environment in which to spend the evening...

Last year I would have agreed with this view, encouraged it even. Apart from the bars the Union did not have much going for it at the weekend, and was no match for the pubs and clubs of London. Things are changing, however. The new dBs, coupled with some determined students, has allowed the creation of two new monthly Saturday night dance nights. Electric Café is one of them, and it's not at all bad.

Playing a spectrum of underground dance, from house through techno and drum 'n' bass to ambient, the dance floor atmosphere is definitely different from the regular Ents nights. It has more of a club feel to it, the music is harder and faster, the lights lower, the dancing more free form. The DJing, although all done by students, has a professional edge to it - but then Electric Café has been a regular show on IC Radio for the

last three years. They know their music, and they know how to mix it.

Okay, so it is only open until midnight and is less crowded than weekday evenings; on the opening night there were about two hundred people in dBs for the final hour. You may feel as though you've wandered into a club in that empty hour after the doors open. In a way, however, this is what makes it a good pre-clubbing night. You can take advantage of the Union's cheap alcohol, warm up your dancing shoes, and be on the tube into the West End by half past midnight. At the same time it caters for those who just want a few drinks before they go home - now you can have a quick dance as well.

The music will not be to everyone's taste but, if you like your dance, trance and magic plants, you could do a lot worse for no money. Congratulations must go out to all those involved in organising the night - now it's up to us, the students, to make it a success. See you on the dance floor. **M**

Ed

Next Electric Café, Saturday 7 November, 8pm - 12am, Free.

Album

TINDERSTICKS

Donkeys '92-97' ★★★★★

Modern day R and B infused with soulful dynamics, a gospel-tinged voice of angelic beauty. Hang on, that's not Tindersticks! Tindersticks? Yeah, Tindersticks. Oh sorry, I thought you said Linda Hicks. Let's start again. Dionysian abandonment and joy has consistently spawned kick-ass, feel-good music. Yet downbeat songs of sobriety entertain an equal place in the Parthenon of pop/rock music. The cold melancholic undertow adds an insight to the sea of life, a current of understanding that isn't clouded by rose-tinted glasses, a consequential recognition of a kindred spirit leading to relief and contentment; sad songs that can make you happy.

It is through such waters Tindersticks have trawled since their inception in 92, Stuart Staple's Cohenesque-vocals coupling with subtle orchestration that doesn't engulf and nullify the beauty of the songs. Hello Embrace, are YOU taking notes?

This collection presents the listener with a broad overview of the story so far, ranging from the well known (relatively

well known, that is, we are talking about Tindersticks) to the obscure. The album starts with their first singles *Patchwork*, *Marbles* and *City Slickness* and the scene is set. The glorious shuffle of *Travelling Light* soon follows with Stuart and The Walkabouts' Carla Thorgesson mournfully reminiscing about what could of been. A cover of Otis Redding's *I've Been Loving You Too Long* is next, gently sliding through the mind with a patter of drums before reaching a heart-wrenching crescendo of strings and trumpet; you see Embrace subtlety really can work. A cover of Pavements' *Here* leads to *Tiny Tears* where we find Tindersticks at their most fragile, a song of minimalist beauty.

As the album glides towards its finale, *A Marriage Made In Heaven* emerges through the elegant misery, a farcical number featuring the woefully inept Isabella Rossellini, and being all the better for it. *For Those...* closes the compilation with its quirky Casio-keyboard refrain and as the Manics said so succinctly we're 'Happy being sad'. **M**

Chris

Singles

Calexico - *Stray*

Very mellow with a nice use of samples. The first track, *Stray*, sounds particularly good; there is latin influence in the sound. Sadly this isn't followed through into the b-sides, which aren't as good.

Essen - *Supernatural*

Dreamy and relaxing, although it never really invades your concentration. This is pretty much sonic wallpaper; put it on, then do something else instead. It's pretty good and the title track has nice beats that fit in well.

The Paradise Motel - *Hollywood Landmines*

This tries to be too much. The song starts with a moody bass and guitar, some subdued drumming and vocals that really fit in. Then things are ruined by someone deciding that a string section in the chorus would be a good idea. A good song ruined by a bad idea.

Lukan - *See You Dying*

This is emotive arena rock. It's that simple. Actually it is very well done, although the songs stray close to Live (the band) in sound at times. With the right promotion this band could be big, especially in America.

Bis - *Eurodisco*

Bis will always be a band that are much better live than on record. However, this song is actually one of their better studio efforts, although it does sound a bit too new romantic at times. The b-side *Like Robots*, however, is a really bad song. It's a cliched idea that has been done really badly here.

Portishead - *PNYC*

I'm not sure what is going to happen with this. It fea-

tures four tracks recorded live in the USA, which means that it doesn't count as a single. It's definitely worth buying, as there is a nice balance between quite relaxed bits and louder angst bits. The live aspect of this single is a bit dubious, though, as the crowd is only heard at the end of songs. **M**

Jamie

James - *Sit Down '98*

The remixing and re-releasing of such 'feel-good' and chirpy toons are usually either storming hits or very big mistakes. This '98 release contains two remixes as well as the original version. Both of the remixes keep all the lyrics with the second mix keeping the upbeat guitar bits from the original in as well.

Really all that has been done is to replace the drums with a few Dr Who theme tune effects. Very likeable actually.

Fleece - *This Is What You Get For Love*

Cheesy quirky upbeat pop tune along the lines of The Cardigans. Features the refrain 'what would you do with a brain if you had one?' and closes with another refrain 'For Love', this time sung in a female Monty Python voice. The b-side *A Better Way of Living* is quite 70's influenced - the opening is reminiscent of T Rex and the vocalist sounds like David Bowie. Also included is a remix of the title track. Certain to be an MTV favourite, even if it doesn't make the charts.

22 Pistepirkko - *Onion Soup*

Anyone who writes a song based around the question 'Are we gonna have some Onion Soup?' deserves some credit, even if it leads to the boy band style repetitive chorus of 'She said Yeah' over and over and

over etc. This should appeal to all under eleven who prefer a rockier edge to their prefabricated boy/girlband drivel.

Komputer - *Terminus*

An instantly catchy dance tune with the occasional upbeat keyboard refrain. Five different versions of the same track on one CD mean that it can be a building up, a winding down or a happening club action tune depending on the remix chosen and the time of day or night.

Purity - *Interference*

Republica-like lyrics spoken in a Saffron-like voice accompanied by fast pulsating beats, best describes *Interference*. The other tracks *Baby Universe* and *Dark Water* aren't as aggressive as the main track but make for mellow listening.

Wilt - *No Worries*

No wilting here - instantly likeable but grows even more likeable each time you listen. Its a promo CD featuring three upbeat rocky/indie tunes - *No Worries*, *Working for the Man* and *I Want it All* feature versatile vocals and chunky guitars. Definitely one to look out for.

Swell - *Make Up Your Mind*

I did, rather quickly. It's dire. A title like this just asks for a direct response, don't you think? Four tracks with inaudible monotonic vocals accompanied by an annoyingly buzzy guitar and drums. The last track is a cover of the Stones' *Street Fighting Man*. Not even this saves it. **M**

Katherine.

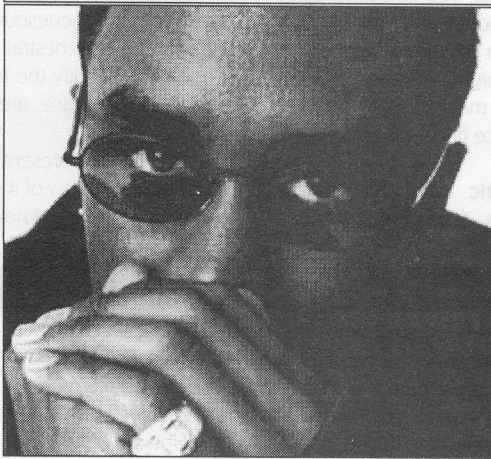
Tha Bomb!

Puffy Announces The Bad Boy Invasion

What up! Last week you missed out on your dose of Tha Bomb but I'm back. The phat selection comes with only three tunes this week, two from the Bad Boy family who are looking to storm the charts with album releases from Total, 112 and Faith.

Last week was dominated by news from the Bad Boy camp. We start off with the MOBO awards from just up the road at the Royal Albert Hall where Puffy picked up the Outstanding Achievement award; thing is he's still only in his twenties, so what they gonna give him next time he comes over? At the MOBO's Puffy performed a little medley of tracks, but the real story comes from the sound check before. Puff spent over an hour doing his sound check and Mel B came on asking to do hers, Puffy told her to fuck off before storming off himself. Mel apparently didn't take it to heart and even called him incredible before he came on stage for his performance. Me thinks she's trying to keep on his good side, so she can ask him for help with her solo career. Puff must know that helping Mel would be as bad as doing a collaboration with Jimmy Page.....O shit, he's already done that. As well as Puff, Faith Evans and Total also showed up from the Bad Boy stable, both performed live on stage. Faith kicked it with *Love Like This* and Total rocked with their brand of street soul. The very next day the Bad Boy Family cruised down to Sound Republic in Leicester Square and performed in front of a select, invitation only, group and anyone with MTV. This was the first time Puffy has ever done a proper set anywhere in Europe and he chose the just finished Sound Republic, word from the curb is that Puff has invested a bit of money in the restaurant, club complex. The gentlemen of Bad Boy, 112, started things off with *Only You* and then ran through some new stuff showing off their vocal range and plugging their new album *Room 112* due to drop on November 9th. The first track off it should be *Love Me* featuring Mase, its doing the rounds on promo at the minute and if you heard it you know its quite simply the bomb. The album also features collaborations with the likes of Faith Evans and Lil Kim. Total were next up, they performed the classic *Can't You*

See before dropping a couple of tracks from their new album *Kima, Keisha & Pam*. The first single to be lifted from it is gonna be *Trippin* with Missy on production, the track's not really worthy of Total and I hope the album has more to offer, cos this is poor. Album to hit



the streets on November 2nd. Then came the woman who is trying to lay claim to Mary J's crown - Faith Evans.

Faith performed the monster tunes *You Used To Love Me* and *Soon As I Get Home* with faultless vocals before doing the stunning *Love Like This*. Her new album *Keep the Faith* is due out next month and you know you gotta have it. After Faith's performance Puffy seemed like a bit of an anti-climax, Lil Caesar helped him out with the rapping (where's Mase?) as he raced through the tunes *Come With Me*, *Can't Nobody Hold Us Down* and many others including some Biggie classics. The night was closed out with a full rendition of *Missing You*, Faith and 112 were both there as well as a full gospel choir.

Just a quick word on the soul boys of Britain, Another Level. Having just picked up a MOBO for best single for their massive hit *Freak Me* and just missing out on the award for best newcomers (losing out to David Lyden I hall). Now they're back with their latest single *Guess I was A Fool*, this is a really classy tune with excellent, tight production from the Blacksmith crew. *Guess I Was....* should cement their position as the best British R&B group out there at the minute.

Milen

Stop The Presses

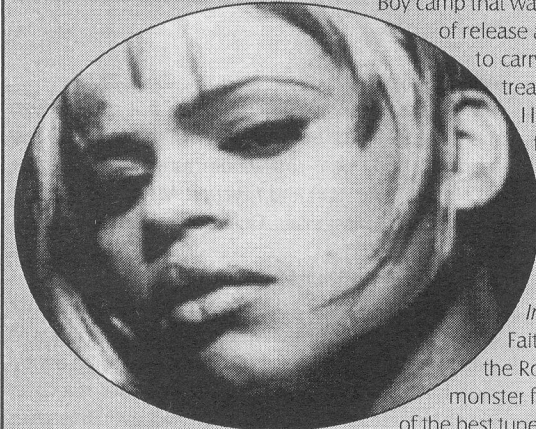
Where was Mase when Puffy was over here? Whenever you see Puffy you normally see Mase, where is Mase? Well sources (Gbenga) say that he's parted company with the Bad Boy camp and has hooked up with the pint sized Jermaine Dupri at So So Def Records. At the minute it's all just rumours, but does explain why Lil Caesar was helping Puffy at Sound Republic rather than Mase. Another reason for the rumours is that Mase signed his new group Harlem World to the So So Def label rather than to Bad Boy. Gets ya thinkin don't it, anyway I'll keep you informed.

CLASSIC ALBUM

Faith by Faith Evans

With the second set 'Keep The Faith' from Faith Evans due out next week we take a look at the album that introduced us to the vocal talents of Miss Evans aka Mrs Biggie Small's. This was the first album from the Bad Boy camp that was on an R&B tip and it set a high standard. At the time

of release a lot of folks were claiming that Faith hadn't the skillz to carry an album herself and that she was getting special treatment because she was the wife of mega-star Biggie. Her experience as a backing singer and writing partner for Mary J Blige (queen of street soul) didn't mean a thing for certain people. But her a debut set *Faith* really got people to sit up and pay attention.....girl got the skillz and a little bit more. The album opened up brilliantly with the classy *No Other Love*, then came the Mary J penned mid tempo number *Fallin In Love* and followed by the chunky *You Remind Me*. Faith slowed it down with a duet, with Mary J, cover of the Rose Royce classic *Love Don't Live Here No More*. The monster floor filler *You Used To Love Me* was up next, still one of the best tunes out there. The groove keeps on going with the stunning R&B tune *Soon As I Get You Home*. Loads of people never made it all the way to the wicked slow jam *Don't Be Afraid*, if you haven't listened to this for a while check it out again.....and again.



Phat Selection

Love Like This - Faith Evans

Puffy samples Chic's *Chic Cher* to create the tune of the year, where's the album?

Love Me - 112 featuring Mase

The hugely talented 112 return with this wicked tune sampling an old Luther Vandross track and Mase featuring with the rap.

Little Bit of Lovin - Kelly Le Roc

Classy British soul, beautifully smooth vocals over a lovely keyboard riff.

Dance Music

the electric café

News



Welcome to another week of the Electric Cafe. If you're still in the period known as "Fresher's Blues" then we've got two great events lined up this week. So forget about work and projects and other depressing topics and come down!

First up is the Electric Cafe club night at DB's in IC Union this Saturday (7/11/98). This runs from 8pm till midnight and is absolutely free! The first one turned out to be a great evening. We'll be playing all sorts of electronic dance music, from techno to big beat; house to drum'n'bass. Perfect on its own or as a warm up for something later!

Two days before, on the 5th November we'll be hosting another Electric Cafe chill-out bar at Southside (the backroom). It starts at 7pm and runs until closing time! This is turning out to be a very popular event. You

can come and sit around and drink and listen to music. The music policy is eclectic and more on a relaxing tip than anything else. We played house, hip-hop, chilled drum'n'bass and big-beats two weeks ago. Special guest on the night will be DJ Darren Nesbeth with a great selection of breakbeats!

If you would like to DJ at an Electric Cafe event at Southside then drop me an email (a.sethi@ic.ac.uk). All you need is an interesting record or CD collection. An ability to mix is not at all essential. So if you'd like people to hear your favourite tunes, then get involved!

Focus On Tag Records

For those of you who want to buy quality electronic music in the capital (whether a DJ or just a music-lover), a common problem is where to start looking. Although some of the major stores have picked up on the electronic revolution and now sell a good range of underground records, the best places have always been the specialist independent stores. As well as the artists and DJs who contribute to the continuation of the scene, I also want to write about the shops that sell the music featured in these columns, starting with Tag Records.

Tag Records is hidden away in a

back street in the heart of Chinatown, in south Soho. The shop is the baby of Steve Hanson and has been around since 1991. This is good for an independent store. Many have fallen by the wayside in recent times.

Although Tag has fast gained a reputation as one of the UK's leading hard house/techno specialist stores, the choice doesn't end there. The range of music is as broadminded as the people who work there. Being a specialist store puts Steve and his team in the privileged position of being able to pick the records they want to sell and thus represent the

"sound" of the shop. The only styles that Tag doesn't sell, according to Steve, are the three G's - Goa, Gabba and Garage.

Tag attracts some of the top DJs from around the world to make visits when they stop off in London. Ritchie Hawtin, Luke Slater, Mr C Kevin Saunderson, Billy Nasty, Jim Masters and Darren Emerson are just a few. But overall, Tag is a home for lovers of quality club music. As well as selling new releases from the most well-loved and progressive record labels from around the world, Tag also works hard to unearth more obscure and often

quality music into the house or techno sectors of the market. The first release was *In Da Jungle* by Playboy (now called Boy due to threatened court action by a famous magazine of the same name!). This EP proved to be a hit with many DJs and clubbers alike and was featured on the Kevin Saunderson mix album, *Transmissions from Deep Space Radio* on Studio !K7 records. Since then Tag haven't looked back and each release has done well, helping to build the strength of the label. Regular artists include Ian O'Brian, Daz Saund and Ben Tisdall. Laidback Luke

Tag Records Chart

Skymaster - *Murge EP* (Offshoot)
 Hollis P. Monroe - *I'm Lonely* (Wamdue Mix) (Stickman)
 Primitive Urges - *Translations* (Primitive)
 Chump - *Vega EP* (Tag Records)
 The Delinquents - *Breaking the Law EP* (Wiggle)
 Mark Ambrose - *Syline* (Minifunk)
 Doug E. Fresh - *The Show* (Big Hair Remix) (Kontraband)
 Housey Doingz - *Chess with Dwarves* (Abnormal)
 Joel Mull - *Archipelago EP* (Inside)
 Doodlebug - *Loose in my Mind* (Abnormal)

overlooked labels. Tag also carries a well-stocked back-catalogue with approximately 5000 titles listed.

You can search Tag's back catalogue via the internet (<http://www.tagrecords.co.uk>). The website allows you to carry out intelligent searches for records and even execute direct sales. It is well worth checking out this facility as it is regularly updated and organised into fully searchable databases conveniently labelled by style of music.

Now Tag has its own record label. Launched in late 1996, it is called Tag Recordings (!). The aim was to release

has also provided remixes for the label.

So if you're into music from around the world that is defining hard house and techno club culture then do check out Tag Records!

Mark Collings from Tag Records has very kindly provided us with a chart from the shop for this week. Many thanks to Steve, Mark, Linda, DJ Corrie and James.

Tag Records
 5 Rupert Court, Soho

Alick





Serious @ The Cross

Goods Yard, off King's Way, King's Cross (opp. Bagley's Warehouse) - currently monthly residency. Saturdays, £15, 10.30 - 6am, capacity = 360. Glam dress code.

Let's get some of the boring stuff out of the way first! We are a new club reviews page so it is down to me to tell you about the clubs as well as the nights themselves. Well, here it goes then - (Mr. Cholmondely-Warner voice, please) - The Cross is a uniquely atmospheric venue, set under brick-lined arches, which tends to overheat, but comes into its own in summer with a garden area for perfect chilling. Still is and always will be a very hot one-off venue.

Anyway, enough of that shite. Serious is serious clubbing (sorry about that one!). Entrance is expensive, the club's small, the door policy is as tight as a prom queen, and drinks cost a bomb, but it rocks (seriously)...sorry again. It's even got a bed in the courtyard, a funky birdcage you can dance inside, and now sparkling new loos - what more could you ask for?

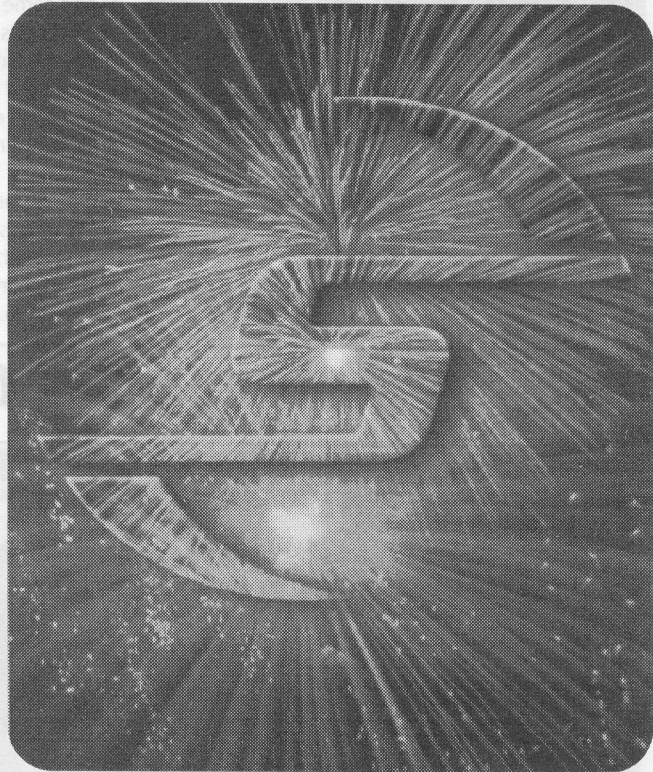
Serious attracts a funky, glam crowd that really do shine. But don't think that you'll get wet handbag house here. Oh no, this is dressed-up clubbing with a

twist. They play it hard and bouncy at this place. The music never gets dark like up-beat house can tend to do. The feel is very nu-energy and the residents actually get the crowd warmed up (for once!). Then it's the turn of the big boys and girls. Judge Jules dragged himself away from the Beeb to deliver another stunning set of beautifully layered songs full of big beats, but it's Sonique that does it for most of the people in here. She just keeps everyone going up to the close, with the club rammed inside and out til 6am. To be honest sometimes it was difficult to find somewhere to dance, but with people actually coming from outside of London to go to this night, that's no fucking surprise.

Next month sees Jules' remix partner John Kelly playing alongside the ever reliable Sonique. Should be wicked, if you can brave the queues - this was a complete roadblock at midnight. Try it out, but get there really, really early. **Serious queues.**



Roobarb



Singles

Diva Surprise feat. Georgla Jones / "On Top of the World" (WT)

Diva Surprise live up to their name with a wicked slice of funky, disco house, despite the cheesy "YMCA" sample (!). Vocals provided by Georgia Jones of Plux/Over & Over fame - and doesn't she do well, everyone? - clap, clap, clap.

Best Mix = Original Mix
It goes = "On top of the world, everybody, you can take the world..." (Don't always rely on the these lyrics 'cos I make 'em up when I feel like it)
Been out for three weeks so go and buy it (maybe!).

(Okay, trainspotters, so we've nicked the last feature from Mix-mag, but, hey, who cares?

Deep Dish feat. EBTG / "The Future of the Future (Stay Gold)" (Deconstruction)

Another quality slice of trippy house from the remix team that brought you the best version of Delacy's classic "Hideaway". Check out Deep Dish's Stay Dark Mix for a sweeping house sound and the Morales mix for a more conventional approach.

Best Mix = David Morales mix
It goes = "It's so bright, tonight"
Out now



Roobarb

Bedrock

Thursday 12th Nov 9PM - 3AM
Main Room: Resident John Digweed
with guest's Paul Van Dyk & Danny Howells
Live: SLACKER

Star Bar: PUSH recordings
Live: Terminalhead To mark the release of their debut album "Last Orders... Start The Revolution"
Meet Katie (Whole Nine Yards/Kingsize)
Dylon Rhymes (JBC) Dave Tipper (Fuel)
Tayo (Friction) Dakota Bar: Ashley Cassella

£5 with flyer (£5 NUS Card Holders)
Before 11PM More after.

HEAVEN BOH FRESH

Volere Street, Charing Cross, London, WC2E
T: 011 71 300 2500

CLUB SCENE

CLUB SCENE



Wildlife @ Heaven

Villiers Street, Charing Cross Road, WC2.
Fridays, £4/£8, 10.30 - 6am, capacity =
1750. No strict door policy.

Top night out. Whether you like to wear your Marks and Spencer jumper tucked in or prefer tight black leathers, you'll be welcomed with open arms. Most people, you'll find, are somewhere in the middle. There's very little attitude, unlike many clubs of this calibre. The diversity of the crowd brings with it a great atmosphere; people do what they're own thing and everyone's happy. You'd be hard pushed to find anyone there who doesn't want to be. A line of angel-boys in clean white vest tops can be found behind each bar and they're so friendly, you're happy to pay the £3 it costs for a beer! Kickin' beats on the main dance floor (and one of the finest I've seen, with a big screen to dance in front of and everything!) and groovy danced-up disco tunes on the other. Many half naked podium-dancing blokes (CK's included) can be found too if that's your thing. Upstairs you'll find a chill out room (not particularly chilled out but very cool) and a quiet (almost silent) coffee bar. Get a grip and go.

Newly refurbished since its days of hosting some of the legendary house nights of the early nineties, like Rage, it has been getting lots of rave reviews in the club music press, so I'd better oblige, hadn't I? This place really does it for me. I like big clubs and Heaven is one of the larger ones here in the big smoke. It's full of little bars and chill out areas and for once the dance floors are big enough to move around on. But it's not just the setting that's top. It's also about those little things that you appreciate. The door policy is relaxed, but the people who come here still make an effort. If only things were like that at all clubs. And, the chilled-out mixed crowd are also pretty special - there's just no hassles, agro, or attitude - just shiny, happy people (as Michael Stipe said all those years ago in that fucking annoying song).

Wildlife is the club's own night and despite not booking really big names all the time, they still pull in a big crowd - clubbers are loyal to this club, and there's got to be a reason for that. On the music front they play it pretty hard and chunky (?) at Wildlife. Probably too hard for my tastes, but still, everyone else seemed to be going for it, and it wasn't just the vodka-red bulls that were responsible for that either! Worth going to over and over again. Check out Metalheadz at Heaven in November and John Digweed's weekly Thursday night jaunt Bedrock.

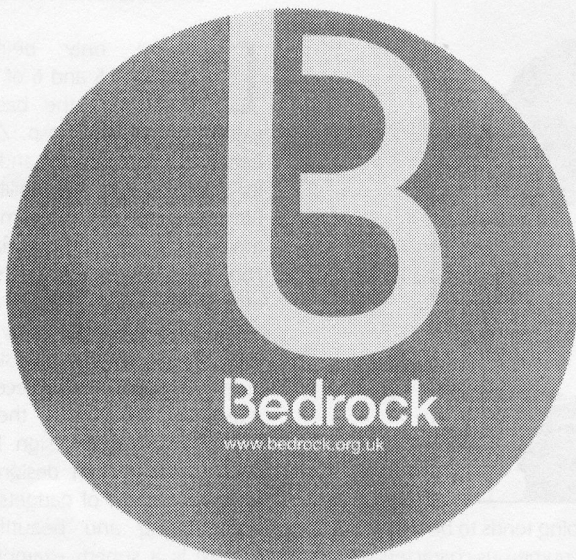
It is where God lives, after all!



Custard



Roobarb



Serious Presents

serious

at the cross

Saturday 21st November 1998
10.30pm - 6.00am

Sonique, John Kelly
Luke Neville & Commie

the cross
Goods Yard, Off York Way, Kings Cross
(opp. Bagleys Warehouse)

Price: £15
Information: 0181-731 7300

The next *SERIOUS* event at the cross:
Saturday 19th December
John Kelly, Sonique, Scott Bond & Commie

After massive international success with her debut single 'I Put A Spell On You', SONIQUE returns with her long awaited follow up 'It Feels So Good' - OUT SOON!

The End #1

(Double CD) / Varolus Artists
(XL Recordings)

Now the first of this double CD package is a really interesting concept, which unlike a lot of other experimentation in music, actually works. Twelve of the different club nights which you can sample at The End are each represented by a track. This gives you a good feel of how eclectic The End is as a club venue. The scope of the music is phenomenal, taking you through the whole range of what makes up dance/club music. From the Skint records (Fatboy Slim's home stable) night full of big beats, through Howie B's Pussyfoot nights, to Sub-terrain with its tech-house feel. From funky US and UK garage courtesy of the Sound of the Future crew to rap and hip-hop from The Hop night, this is quality all the way through - but then you wouldn't expect anything else from The End. You even get a postcard for every one of the nights in case you want to tell your mates about them, or just use them to skin up with

instead - class!

But it's the drum and base tracks that really stand out. Quest by Shimon and Andy C is one of the funkier around, while the Ganja Kru explore the deeper reaches of jump-up D&B, and Roni Size drops in with a slice of jazz for the Full Cycle night.

It would be worth buying this just for the first CD, but the bonus is that you get a second. This is mixed by, among others, Mr. C (Shamen guy who owns The End), and is taken from the Sub-terrain night that has been running since the club began. The mix has got a distinctly futuristic feel to it. This is serious house music, tech-house at its best - but still full of some absolutely beautiful songs. Check out Pure by Rebirth for one of the most ethereal house tracks you are ever likely to hear.



Roobarb

WILDLIFE @ HEAVEN

WILDLIFE @ HEAVEN



Reviews

Halloween H20 ★★

Starring : Jamie Lee Curtis, Adam Arkin, Josh Harknett, Michelle Williams

Director : Steve Miner

Horror movies are clearly back in vogue, thanks to the massive hits *Scream* and *Scream 2*. Consequently all the big Hollywood studios have leapt upon the opportunity to resurrect that jaded old format - the horror franchise. Witness December's rushed appearance of *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*, hot on the heels of last year's minor hit. Worst of all, however, greedy execs have seized upon the opportunity to resuscitate those franchises that we all hoped were dead and buried.

Consequently, we now see the bizarrely monickered *Halloween H20* thrust upon us - the seventh installment in the seemingly immortal *Halloween* franchise. Michael Myers first started Jamie Lee Curtis around with a "very big knife"™ in John Carpenter's original twenty years ago (hence the title), and since then the bodycount has steadily continued to rise, whilst production values have slowly evaporated.

All this was supposed to end with the release of *Halloween H20* - a genuine horror movie for the post-*Scream* generation. Indeed for the first three-quarters



Ooooooh - Spooky

of an hour you can't help feeling that the writers have seen *Scream* once too often. Young innocent girls are brutally stabbed (preferably whilst wearing tight tops); Jamie Lee Curtis gives a start every time someone walks up behind her; and everybody behaves as if they're really, really stupid.

Yet where *Scream* was so successful, *Halloween H20* falls flat. For starters, it lacks the humour and self-knowing irony of Wes Craven's recent work - so rather than looking amusing and ironic, it just looks stupid. Secondly, the direction isn't in the same class. There's no sense of tension or genuine fear. Above all, direc-

tor Steve Miner and writer Robert Zippia commit the cardinal sin of predictability, never leaving you in any doubt over who's going to live and who's going to die.

As far as the plot is concerned, the premise is a simple one. Jamie Lee Curtis has faked her death, moved to California and changed her name from Laurie Strode to Keri Tate. Now a successful headmistress and mother, she is still haunted by the dark deeds of her brother, the infamous Michael Myers, twenty years ago. Now those of you who have hacked through the entire franchise will recall that when Michael supposedly died, they never found his body. Obviously, in horror franchise terms that's as good as saying he's still alive. Well, now he's back...

Ultimately, however, it's the ending that really spoils *Halloween H20*. At less than ninety minutes in length, there's not enough time to develop any believable characters or atmosphere, and consequently the denouement just seems out of place when it arrives. It's surprising, but that doesn't stop it being bad. **F**

Dave

Record of Lodoss War ★★

Iria - Zieram: The Animation ★★

Pioneer, the company responsible for distributing *Lodoss War* and *Iria* has a good history of releasing quality anime. *Kishin Corps* and *The Hakkenden*, despite their strange titles, have offered a great deal of enjoyment in terms of animation and storyline, so were these two videos up to that high standard?

Record of Lodoss War

Record of Lodoss War is based on a Japanese role playing game of the same name. As with most Pioneer titles the series spans over several volumes (in this case six video tapes) and so buying the whole series may be prohibitive. The videos are a mixture of Dungeons & Dragons and the crusades, with King Marmo wishing to seize control of the island of Lodoss, while the main story centres on a young knight (Parn), an elf (Deedit) and a

dwarf warrior (Ghim). Within all conflicts there are wars and bloodshed, and *Record of Lodoss War* shows them vividly. The animation is detailed and smooth and can't be faltered. However

the dubbing tends to be a bit corny and with the numerous characters with their own stories to tell, it is easy to lose track of the sub plots.



Iria Zieram: The Animation

Despite only being given Episodes 5 and 6 of this anime to review, the basic plot is extremely easy to grasp. Zeiram is a being that simply melds and consumes its enemies. With the ability to clone himself and its prey, Zeiram is running amok on the Iria's home planet Myce. Looking past our heroine's attractive armour and big gun Iria is a character that has been tormented by the loss of her brother to this monstrosity. The video is a very original piece of anime, attempting to reinvent the wheel in terms of the overall design. The strange vehicle and buildin designs and the bewildering array of gadgets are simply enlightening and beautiful. *Iria - Zieram* is a superb example of good anime and with only three volumes it's not that expensive. **F**

Magpie



Reviews & Competition

Primary Colours ★★

Starring : John Travolta, Emma Thompson, Billy Bob Thornton
 Director : Joe Dante

Want to see more of the Bill Clinton sex scandal but would like it to be a bit more interesting? Then go to the cinema some time soon. Just when you thought you had got away from the Stargate sex scandal here comes *Primary Colours*. It's slightly more interesting than watching four hours of Clinton talking about BJ's but not much.

You have a story based loosely on the rise of Bill Clinton to the American presidency. John Travolta plays Jack Stanton, an American governor from 'down south' who wants to become president. It is a film about sex scandals but it does try to touch on some sentimental issues regarding relationships towards the end.

There was a promising mix of talent in this flick but the best was Kathy Bates as Libby, Stanton's lesbian political protector. But then again, has she ever given a bad performance? Emma Thompson was adequate as the president's wife but the accent wasn't up to scratch. Travolta eased into this role if not a little too comfortably. He also looked remarkably like the current American president.

This film is classified as a comedy but



Remind you of anyone....?

it is more of a drama with one-liners dropped in here and there. When these one-liners appear they are witty. Don't go and see this and expect to get action or a well thought out plot because it isn't there. This is more the sort of film required on a Sunday afternoon when

there is nothing better to do.

If you want to know how 'they' get away with things but don't want to resort to the conspiracy theory then watch this film. **F**

Helen

COMPETITION

WINNERS

From the mountain of correct entries received for last week's *Exorcist* competition, only five could be victorious. The first five lucky names out of the virtual hat were:

Ketan Gudka

Ay Lin Kho

Samuel Tanlere

Peter Daplyn

Paul Chambers

They all correctly identified that *The Exorcist* was first released in 1973 (December 25th to be precise), and thus this week's re-release commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of one of the greatest horror movies ever made.

Please drop into the *Felix* office (in the Quad archway) as soon as possible to pick up your tickets.

You're reading IC Radio

IC Radio: from South Kensington to the World!



IC Radio has at last got its arse into gear (aren't suppositories great!) and is broadcasting again. OK, saying we're broadcasting is a bit of an exaggeration, considering if you want to actually pick up IC Radio you have to have a satellite dish the size of Wales and be sitting next to the DJ in our studio (if you want to try to perform a miracle, try picking us up on 999am). However, our clever technical manager has wired us up to all the kitchens in Southside halls, as well as to the JCR (although it's not actually working yet). Consequently, listening figures peak when the station manager decides to tune in.

However, this is all set to change. IC Radio is currently experimenting with Internet Broadcasting, whereby we will be able to broadcast to the whole wide world, all from our studio next to Southside Shop (how exciting!). IC Radio was one of the first radio stations to start broadcasting over the Internet back in 1990, but its potential was never realised

and the project failed. However, due to the explosion of the Internet we are giving it another go, and are now broadcasting in Real Audio every lunchtime between 12 and 2pm. This will be extended to 24 hours a day when we work out how to do it. Although we are initially limited to an Internet audience of 25, if the project proves successful we will extend our maximum audience ad infinitum.

If all these grand plans do materialise, then we are going to hold the mother of all parties to launch the venture- and you're all invited (along with some of the big cheese music industry bods, local and national press, and that bloke that got sacked from Blue Peter to provide refreshments). So, if I were you I'd start thinking about what to wear.

I was walking through halls the other day and it dawned on me that a lot of people don't actually know what IC Radio is about, so as I have some space left I'll try to set the record straight. We are run entirely by students, for students (we



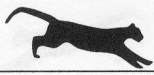
An avid listener phones in her request.

can't afford sabbaticals). Anyone can take part in the radio - you can get trained up and have done your first solo show within a week of popping your face in the door. If your enthusiasm is more towards the club DJing side of things, you can get involved in discos. Despite its name, DJ's from all musical backgrounds are involved. As well as doing external functions (for which you get paid), you can DJ in 'The Backroom' in Southside Bar (free beer and pizza), and if you're into electronic music you may be able to join Alick at the Union with the Electric Café.

You can contribute to IC Radio in another way even if you don't want to be directly involved. By phoning 58085 or 58100 you get a line directly to the radio where you can make requests for your favourite tunes, or enter one of our fabulous competitions.

Another way that you can get involved is to join our music team. This is a group of people that get together once a week to fill in the reaction sheets that let record labels know what we think of their music. No matter what your taste in music you can take part - from jazz to jungle, reggae to rock. People who work on the music team get to go to free gigs, and get free CDs. A position on the music team means that you can get to sample what its like to be a part of IC Radio but without too much commitment or responsibility.

If you want to listen to IC Radio over the Internet, our web address is [Http://icradio.su.ic.ac.uk](http://icradio.su.ic.ac.uk). We're currently broadcasting every weekday from 12-2pm. To join the music team just pop into the radio station next to Southside shop at any time, and ask for Steve.



Come rain, come snow, come sleet, come hail - Nothing can stop IC's intrepid explorers.

Mountaineering Fellwanderers

We woke up fairly early on the morning of Saturday the 17th, crawled out of our tents and paid the nice but insistent man for the privilege of using his campsite. Since this was the Peak District, the weather wasn't too bad: there was definitely a small patch of blue sky over towards the horizon. We went for breakfast at a café between the campsite and the crags, and then stopped in the village of Heathersage to pick up food for lunch. This turned into a fairly long delay as several members were gripped by consumerist frenzy and disappeared into the "Outdoors" shop, emerging with lighter wallets and shiny new gear.

The crag at Stannage was fairly quiet, and we were soon climbing - for many Freshers this was their first experience of outdoor rock. The wind at the top of the crag was incredibly cold, so after one route most people took a break for lunch. It started raining shortly after two, and after about half an hour of downpour we gave up on the chance of any more climbing that day and retired to the pub. We headed back to the campsite at about half past five and established ourselves in the Robin Hood Inn just down the road.

It soon became obvious that the

whole pub was full of university climbing clubs: Bristol, De Montfort, Oxford and Brunell were here. Once everyone had settled down to the serious business of getting very drunk, with our VP, Gareth, organising a boat race between the different universities. Unfortunately, the IC team only finished third (Bristol won), but much fun was had by all. After closing time we returned to the campsite to find a hard frost, but we ignored this in the cause of inter-club relations and stayed up drinking and watching the stars for an hour or so.

Sunday morning was bright and clear, but still very cold. Stannage was much busier than Saturday so we went to the next crag along. We had an excellent afternoon's climbing, with all the new members getting several routes done. As the day ended, everyone gathered round the base of the crag to watch Rob attempt to lead a fairly hard overhang. He backed off eventually, after spending a long time sat on a small ledge trying to figure out how to proceed, encouraged by several hecklers and the occasional paper missile. We returned to London refreshed after a good weekend.

On Friday, after the minibus was finally liberated from Linstead, 14 intrepid Fellwanderers set off on the first trip of the year. The majority of these were suckers from last year who should have known better, the others innocent freshers who now do know better. After fighting through London and up the M1, we finally arrived at the hostel in Crowden.

After a cup of tea, we retired before the conversation degenerated too far. As the dawn broke, so did a wave of lethargy over the hostel, as the curtains were pulled back by bleary eyed fellwanderers to see water - everywhere. Most of it coming at a sharp angle through the air due to the gale force winds accompanying it. The curtains were drawn again, and bodies returned under the duvets.

Eventually, everyone was up, and the decision made to venture into the wetlands. This was partly due to the lack of alternatives - the hostel was publicising an exhibition of allotments past, present and future. So we went for a level trek around nearby reservoirs on a disused railway line. A short section along the main road was necessary, with the shorts wearers providing great entertainment for the drivers, especially the

two girls in the mini, who gave Tim a nice flash. Of their lights, of course. By this time, everyone was somewhat damp, so the unanimous decision was taken to venture into Glossop, where some time and money were killed at a tea shop.

Sunday was more promising, so we walked up Black Hill. The rain mostly held off, and there were even sunny spells, although one group discovered hail blown by gale force winds is not very pleasant. The quality of the path varied from knee deep peat to motorway quality path, although this was regularly intercepted by the river, causing a few wet feet. A walk further south in the district was the last walking of the trip, through and over a valley that looked a little wetter than it should. The river lapping at the farmhouse was the giveaway for that. More cups of tea all round, then ploughing down the M1 in search of dinner.

A few adventures later (let's just say we won't be going to Toddington again), we finally settled for the good old Chequers pub. So, the trip drew to a close. Very wet, but it takes a lot more than a bit of rain to keep the Fellwanderers down. You ain't seen nothing yet!

For details of the club, please contact James Clarke at ja.clarke@ic.ac.uk.

Around IC

Mon 2	Tues 3	Wed 4	Thurs 5	Fri 6	Sat 7	Sun 8
CAG Meeting Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	HUSTINGS - CXWMS Reynolds Building 6pm	Consoc Dr Liam Fox MP 542 Mech Eng 1-2pm	Labsoc Chris Pond MP 1pm	ICU Ents - Pop Tarts dB's 9pm-2am	Erasmus Bonfire Night Beit Quad Arch 7pm	ICU Ents - Standing Room Only 4pm
HUSTINGS - SOUTH KEN dB's 6pm	CAG Soup Run Basement, Weeks Hall 8pm	HUSTINGS - ST MARY'S Gladys' 6pm	Simon Blendis & James Kirby Concert 1-1.45pm Read Theatre, Sherfield		ICU Ents - Electric Cafe dB's 8pm-12am	ICU Cinema Zulu 7pm
ICU Ents - Standing Room Only 7pm	ICU Ents - DaVinci's Quiz Night 8pm	ICU Cinema Species 2 Dark City 6pm 8.30pm	ICU Ents - DaVinci's Cocktail Bonfire Night 5-11pm			
		ICU Ents - Club XS dB's 9pm-1am	ICU Cinema Divorcing Jack Species 2 6pm 8.30pm			
			CAG Soup Run Basement, Weeks Hall 8pm			
			Erasmus Pub Night Southside Lounge 8pm			
			Clayponds trip to the firework display at Ravenscourt Park. For more info contact ian.doyle@ic.ac.uk			

Rugby

1st XV

IC 29 - 10 Bart's

IC turned up with the usual promptness, 20 minutes before kick-off. Despite starting the game playing into a gale, Will "Stubbs" Sterns charged over for a well deserved first try for IC.

Following that, Bart's camped on our line, but failed to score, even though the ref. was helping them as much as he possibly could. Eventually the hand of God (the ref.) intervened and Barts scored a lucky try.

Back came IC, displaying a blinding array of silky skills where forwards and backs linked together exquisitely, Tref "Telfa" Beynan diving into the corner, just

like any good diving guru should.

After half time, Jamie "Piemán Superman" Duggin, having had his pies in the interval, flopped over the line to score and lost the ball in his gut. "Babyshoes" Dickenson converted to make the score 17-5

Following a few minutes of dodgy refereeing, we managed to avoid getting penalised and played some magnificent running rugby from the forwards, "Rapist" Nippy being hauled down short of the line. "Hogger" Philip actually passed (!) for Chris Dickenson to touch down converting his own try.

A lapse in concentration allowed Bart's to score, but we replied in the final minutes for a seamless try by Segun to cap a memorable performance and a good win. Keep it up, fellas!

2nd XV

IC 51 - 0 Bart's

Bart's crumpled under the pressure inflicted by IC, and will probably never recover.

In all fairness, they were a good team, but the II's steamrollered them on the way to another famous victory. The scoring was opened by Dunk "the Thunk" Brett and was the cue for the floodgates to open and spectacular tries to be scored by Jim "the Knife" Sorpper and Jon "the Man" Stevenson, scoring with a beautiful jaunty try. Alex "the Angel" Deuise scored and also slotted in 3 conversions through the posts in almost dangerously windy conditions.

"Slick" Simon Gutterage walked through Bart's defence, leaving them for dead with Linfordesque pace. "Sizzling" Stu Catt the prop with a 10 second 100m run shot through to effectively kill Bart's chances of respectability. Man of the match and purple helmet of the week belongs to Yann "the Yokel" Lewis who egged on the side and promised sexual favours for the win. Finally Olly "The Organist" didn't score because he was crap.

"Slim" Jim Robinson back from crippling knee injury led the team from the front. The wheelchair proved a bit of a problem in the line out, but he used it to dazzling effect in the loose. Two other tries were scored by the magnificent Hgo, back from an England-U21 trial. **Dunk "the Thunk"**

Football

And so the Fourths keep marching on. Despite the shadows cast over them by the London Student newspaper the Fourths produced two supreme performances to set them on the road in BUSA and cement themselves at the top of the division- well we must be, played 2, won 2, scored 8, conceded 0, who could have a record better than that?

London Student's allegations were disgraceful, firstly the line "LS have tracked down the 4th Division pot to Imperial College, who have been hoarding the silverware since they won the title the previous year", is utter rubbish. We were never given the trophy, and how can you track something down without talking to any of the relevant people? The whole article was trash journalism. At least when the Sun or Mirror do an expose they talk to the people and find out their reaction- they might not print it or they alter it, but at least they attempt to contact the appropriate sides. And calling us bastards is very unfair, though the person with that quote didn't dare to publish his name- though we know

where you live Rob. We have not had "disciplinary problems" and we were not in ICU disciplinary hearings "every week". We had just one hearing and that was for an over-reaction and held in front of a kangaroo court that found us guilty before the start... I could go on, but suffice to say my barrister is taking a deep look into the paper and if an apology is not forthcoming we could take legal action against LS for slander.

Onto the games, versus QM, the squad was Dave, Nick, Perez, John, Elliot, Bola, Adam, Dave, Simon, Gurn, Tom, Mark and Aidan,Everybody played superbly and the goals were scored by Dave, Gurn and a screamer of a free kick by John through the 'keeper's hands. Versus UCL, who actually played with ringers, our play was one of the best ever by an IC Fourths squad. Every player played their hearts out. Two additional players came in- Richard and Stuart. Our goal was scored by Aidan following a screamer of a free kick by John through the 'keeper's hands (!). It was cold.

(Scores below left)

Hockey

IC 3rd XI

IC 4 - 0 GTK's

Firstly we would like to apologise for our controversial comments made in last weeks match report about the quality of Felix (See Felix 1123, P27, Unknown IC thirds 7-0 ICSM). No really.

In a messy game against a crap team we triumphed 4 - 0. Chris Bull led from the front with 2 goals from Chris Bull.

Indian Carpet Catalogue dived and shimmed, and converted a beautiful short corner. Steve Cram stood solid at the back, presenting any attempts at penetration, much to Filtum's annoyance. Filtrum, although demonstrating copius effort in the first half, still failed to produce fluid movements. In the second half, after a few false rumblings, he exploded and planted one in the back of the goal.

As a final note: (to the tune of Um Bongo, in a club style)

'Here comes RE-ZU-LA, everybody's frightened,
Here comes Tommy Cante, all our sphincters tighten,
DISCO BOYS!'

I thank you.

Ladies Hockey

ICSM 6 - 0 IC

The medic ladies stormed to victory after an exciting match with much friendly rivalry.

On the pitch nimble Ridgeway dodged and weaved around the IC defence beating the IC goalie, Corner, to put away a fantastic first goal. Alice, the Charing Cross striker, was deamed Most Valuable Player after her first hat-trick for the combined Marys-Charing Cross team.

Skill and speed made her a formidable adversary for the IC team who were left astounded.

Other notable performances came from Dixon and Rowland where communication and passing were key in leaving the IC girls behind.

The IC team had a few breaks in the second half but the medics were quick to respond in defence, powerfully clearing the ball to the forwards.

All in all a very exciting game - and much celebration in the medics bars afterwards.

Netball

So far this term the netball teams remain unbeaten. The first team are unbeaten in the BUSA matches, having played LSE (won 24-14), St Georges (won 13-9) and mostly recently Guys, Kings and St. Thomas' (won 33-17).

The second team played the Malaysian team last week and won despite a close match. Well done everyone.

SCOREBOARD

Football

ULU League (Sat 24th October)

Div 2	IC II	2-0	IC III
Div 3	UCL V	0-1	IC IV
Div 5	ICMS IV	0-3	IC V
Div 6	IC VI	0-13	RAM

BUSA (Wednesday 21st October)

QMWC IV	1-3	ICV
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Attention Sports Teams!

Please try to have all your match reports in by 8pm on Wednesday. I am usually in the Felix office typing them up from about 7, so just come straight in and hand them to me. It usually helps if they are legible. Also, there are lots of teams/sports I haven't heard from yet. This is your chance to tell the (college) world about yourselves!

GUS

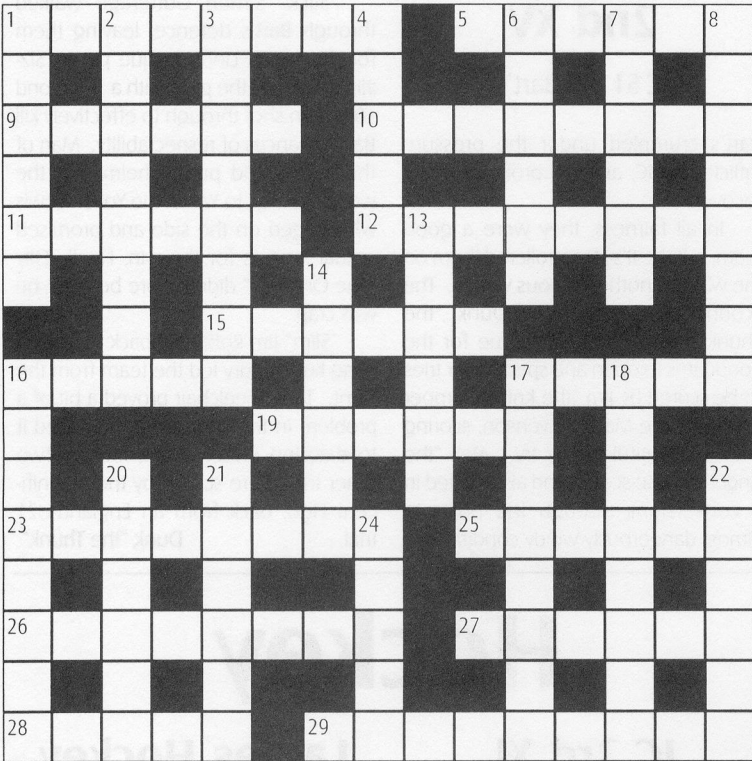
Wanted

IC Mens Hockey looking for more players of any standard. Contact r.p.setchfield@ic.ac.uk or write your name and contact details on the hockey noticeboard at the foot of the union stairs.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



Across

Down

- 1 Cell I tip becomes almost round.(8)
- 4 He spins or seams perhaps, to arm the French right.(6)
- 9 Fish swallows medic in icy waste.(6)
- 10 Many different sweets for pesky animals.(8)
- 11,16 Switch positions for positions?(3-3) and (3-2)
- 12 Small car in a burn-out.(8)
- 15 Imperial College has speed back - it gives one a cold head?(3,3)
- 16 See 11.
- 17 One can open them so Rod can get around.(5)
- 19 Lassie's one vegetable?(6)
- 23 Old lunar clutter on all sides.(3-5)
- 25 Business with green French secret.(6)
- 27 See 28.
- 28,27 Details are fuul of mites and gravel?(5,6)
- 29 Hint a lot right about event.(9)
- 1 Bury in French grave.(6)
- 2 Add on leg to become very late?(4,4)
- 3 O.K., a loud Scandinavian is volatile.(8)
- 4 He fields care of a backwards vicar.(5)
- 6 Band plays some happy cow noise backwards.(6)
- 7 Man on the boundary has insignia going about North. North!(4,2)
- 8 Set, set or set for a prize?(8)
- 13 Incapable United Nations bale out.(6)
- 14 Celebrity is about word we hear.(6)
- 16 Throw ugly dog at particle for change.(8)
- 17 Come back, vermin! English river sounds first for Clinton's type?(8)
- 18 Wandering into real Eastern.(8)
- 20 Car hire put in red?(6)
- 21 Gunge gave leg yorker at first - it spins the wrong way.(6)
- 22 Spend time in the middle when cable is in place.(4,2)
- 24 five hundred behind. Miserable!(5)

Answers to 1122

- Across:** 1. Grass 9. amnesia 10. illicit 11. Hypnotise 12. Mixture 13. Rip 14. Igneous 16. EP's 18. Nap 20. Ash 22. SOP 24. Becalms 26. Leo 27. Grinned 28. Coherency 29. Mud-bath 30. No sense 31. Ascot
- Down:** 2. Rolling 3. Skittled 4. Gathers 5. Bagpipe 6. Snoozes 7. Aspirin 8. Eater 15. UFO 17. Pie 19. Cannabis 20. Abscond 21. Hashish 22. Scoring 23. Planted 24. Bogy-man 25. Maestro

Free Tickets to The Telegraph Board-X Festival!

All the new technical gear and street fashion for the 98/99 snowboarding season will be unveiled at Board-X, London's annual snowboarding festival. Inside the 3500 square metre hall erected in Battersea Park, leading distributors will gather to show off their latest wares, alongside a free advice centre and seminars hosted by Snowboard UK Magazine. Snow and skateboard videos will run all day in the super chilled cK Eyewear Lounge, and the Playstation Games Hall will provide hands-on fun.



Best of all, however, outside Battersea Park will play host to an awesome 60m real snow freestyle jump, where some of the World's top riders will gather for the London Big Air competition. Plus, thanks to Burton (the world's leading snowboard brand), a 25m public trial slope will stand alongside. Some of the world's top skaters are expected to let rip on the Quicksilver vert ramp. To ensure a party atmosphere, some of London's top DJ will be mixing live all day, and to top it all off, Radio One will be broadcasting live from the event.

Board-X will be open daily from 10 till 8 on the 13th, 14th and 15th November. Daily tickets cost £9 on the gate or £7 pre-booked. For tickets and information call 0171 490 4707.

To win one of two pairs of tickets to the show or a host of runners-up prizes, simply answer the following question:

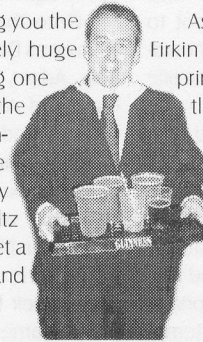
What is the name of the number one snowboard brand worldwide?

The deadline for entries is noon on Wednesday. Winners names will appear here next week.

Cheap Beer - £1 a pint!

And a chance to win £25,000...

The Firkin Brewery are giving you the chance to win a massively huge £25,000, as well as sending one runner up and a friend to the Mediterranean for a sun-soaked holiday. All you have to do to win these and many other fantastic prizes is waltz down to your local Firkin, get a scratchcard with every pint and just scratch away...



As a part of their promotion, The Firkin Brewery have allowed Felix to print the voucher below, which entitles you to a pint for a pound. Unfortunately you have to use the voucher at the Pharaoh & Firkin in Fulham High Street (near Putney Bridge tube). Time to look up your friends in SW6...

THE FIRKIN BREWERY™

a pint for a

£a pound

this voucher is valid at the PHAROAH & FIRKIN

Terms and Conditions 1. This entitles a customer to one pint of Firkin Ale at the reduced price of £1. 2. Offer limited to one redemption per person for the duration of the promotion. 3. Only available at the outlet shown. 4. No photocopies accepted. 5. No cash alternative available. 6. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer. 7. Offer only open to persons of 18 or over. 8. Offer valid until 16/11/98 9. Subject to availability. 10. Cash value 0.001p. 11. Promoter reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the promotion at any time. Promoter: The Firkin Brewery Company, 107 Station Street, Burton On Trent, DE14 1BZ