

7  
December  
1998

# FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue  
1129

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

## Fight Closes Tamil Night

Friday 27 November was an evening of eastern enlightenment, which descended into a night of gang warfare. Weeks of arduous organisation and preparation were unceremoniously upstaged by delinquents searching for a venue to stage their latest brawl.

As the Tamils' show continued within the Great Hall, trouble was brewing outside. At approximately midnight the show's doormen began to argue with a strangely insistent group of youths, who wished to gain entry without tickets. Sheffield security became involved, separating the groups and seemingly defusing the situation, unaware of the continuing animosity. A senior member of security ironically described the state of affairs as "a storm in a teacup". Seconds after the comment the first floor of the Sheffield

Building became a battleground as two groups standing either sides of the stairs clashed and fists flew.

The non-IC groups were described by some elements of the Union as "militant" Tamil gangs who had clearly chosen the ICU Tamil night as an appropriate meeting place. The gate-crashers were spotted earlier on in the evening, congregating on the walkway and many appeared inebriated.

Members of Sheffield security requested urgent back up and sealed off the stairs as the brawl ensued on the first floor, as is "standard practice" according to security chief Ken Weir. At some stage during the night's disturbance, a window in one of the walkway

By Andrew Ofori

doors was shattered as one brawler wildly brandished a bottle.

As the groups withdrew one unfortunate emerged clutching his eye, Sheffield security led the individual to the ground floor where he revealed his bloodied face. Security duly attended to the wound until an ambulance arrived. Mr. Weir was keen to emphasise "We have no control over external influences" but judged that "the level of security must have been adequate for the needs."

As a result of the m el e the show was ended and the 'after show grind session' cancelled. The unsuspecting audience were led away in one direction and the troublemakers ushered

off in the other. Ken Weir explained once the youths realised "they were on a hiding to nothing" they left peacefully.

Security decided to summon the Police in order to ensure the rabble made a tranquil exodus from college premises. This calm seemed unlikely to last as cars packed full of people were parking along Exhibition Road and consorting with the ousted revellers.

Tamil society were anxious to highlight "the people involved in the incident were not IC students" and went on to "thank the IC security for their help in dealing with the matter".

*Review of the ICU Tamil Society's annual cultural event on page 2*

## Nicholaou to stand unopposed

One of the two candidates for Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Tim Traylor, has withdrawn from the campaign. Marie Nicholaou is still standing for the post, against the ever-present New Election, and now seems favourite to win when Imperial students go to the polls in the last week of term.

In a letter to Felix and Imperial College Union, reproduced in full on page six, Mr Traylor stated his principle reason for withdrawing as being financial. Apparently his local education authority have refused to fund his degree for the first term of next year, as he has already completed the Autumn term this year. Even if college agreed to cancel fees for the Autumn Term, Mr Traylor would still be unable to get a grant. Although some Union sources have said that it is possible the Union would pay his grant for the Autumn Term, the resolution of the problem is by no means certain. Mr Traylor felt that this situation would be "very damaging to my studies and accomodation plans for next year", and that it was therefore in "both my

By Ed Sexton

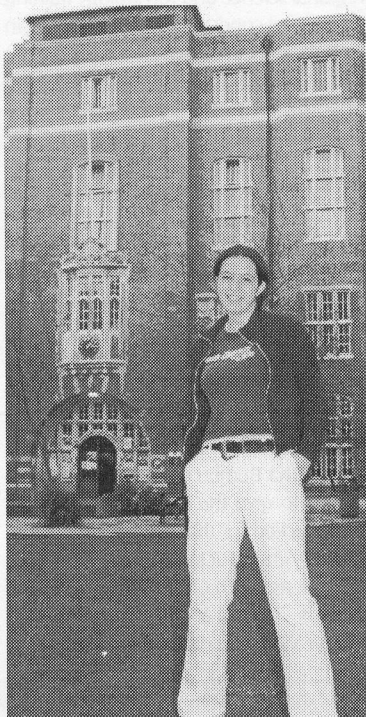


Photo: David

Standing alone:  
Marie Nicholaou

and the Union's best interests" that he stand down.

Marie Nicholaou has expressed regret over Mr Traylor's decision, and is now the only 'real' candidate left for the election. In fact she is the last candidate for the post for this year, as it has been announced that if New Election wins this round no more elections for DP(C&S) will be held this year (see Manifestoes on page twelve).

Hustings take place this week at South Kensington and St Mary's. There will be no hustings at Charing Cross, as medical union representatives feel that they are not useful or well attended. Hustings at South Kensington will take place today at 6pm in the Union Building, while at St Mary's they will occur on Wednesday evening at a similar time. Voting takes place next Monday and Tuesday (14 and 15 December) in all departments, on all campuses, with the result being announced sometime Tuesday evening in the Union Building at South Kensington.

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# STA to be Superceeded

By David Roberts

Through a variety of closed-door meetings and despite a number of financial questions that remain unanswered, the College has chosen not to renew the contract for STA Academic Travel. Instead the shop, which is primarily aimed at staff, has been awarded to a new company, who will re-open with a new image in the new year.

Crucially, the Union seems to have been given no say in the process, despite the fact that it receives a large chunk of the revenue that the tender generates. This all stems from an arrangement formed last year, whereby the College forced the Union to share the income generated by the two travel agencies on the Walkway (STA Academic & STA Student Travel) in lieu of the cost of the JCR refurbishment. Although then President Andy Heeps offered, as a concession to the Rector, a seemingly more logical deal

whereby the College could take academic travel income from the Union, allowing ICU to keep student travel. However, this offer was refused, and a straight 70/30 split was agreed. Consequently, the Union retained the right to assist in the tender process for both companies.

When the tender for the student travel shop went out last May, College (in the form of the Estates Manager) argued that the Union couldn't possibly tender properly, and refused to meet the sabbaticals, on the grounds that "they're only students". Thus, the Union Manager was asked to deal with the tender process, and secured a very valuable deal for the Union. In the summer, however, the Union learnt that College had put the academic travel shop out to tender, without consultation. Mr Heeps demanded that

the Union reserved the right of veto, on the grounds they had a financial interest. The Union Manager was once again asked to sit on the selection panel. Yet the committee did not contact her about meetings until the last minute, and then did not allow her to ask questions or see any of the financial paperwork. This attitude has profoundly affected Mr Heeps: "I am, ashamed to think that I respected members of College staff last year. Most have shown themselves to be two-faced and no better than schoolchildren, lying to the student body in the short term to get their own way".

Eventually, a new firm was picked to run the agency, with the result that STA Academic Travel on the Walkway will close down on December 18, with the new outlet opening in time for the new year.

**FELIX**  
KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue 1129

30 November 1998

Editor: Ed Sexton

News Editors: Andrew Ofori

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and Dennis Patrickson

Film Editor: David Roberts

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

Arts Editor: Helena Cochemé

Games Editor: Gary Smith

Clubscene: Giles Morrison

Photo Editing: Joel Lewis

Delivery Last Issue: Andrew Ofori

Note: Next Issue is on 16 December

## Tamil Show Sells Out

By Andrew Ofori

In contrast to the unsightly scenes that took place Friday 27th November saw scenes of a much happier nature in the night's sell-out show, staged in the Great Hall. It was the showpiece of ICU Tamil society; with all proceeds being donated to the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation. Entitled 'Kalluri Kalaigal' the event set out

for the entire audience. The QMW thespians gave an excellent account of themselves in the light-hearted drama 'It could be you!' A fairly dry plot was invigorated by the talented players, much of the Tamil-speaking elements of the audience being particularly impressed with the elderly matriarch of the family.



Photo Jonas

The dancers sparkle

to "tantalise with glimpses of the many aspects of the Tamil heritage". As the show began it was clear the organisers had grand production aspirations, the fact that the curtains parted over an hour late was early indication the ambitions were a step too far.

Meticulously tailored for the discerning eastern viewer much of the show took place in Tamil, but often with English interjections demonstrating a considera-

Outstanding were the young students of Mrs. Ragani Rajagopal who performed routines such as the traditional dance 'Bharata Natyam' with such intricate delicacy, even those unaware of its religious origin were inspired.

The show was plagued with a destructive number of technical difficulties resulting in truly epic delays between many of the acts. To some extent these were bravely glossed over by the night's two

## IC inspires Thai Campus

By Sunil Rao

The newly-formed Asian University of Science and Technology (Asian UST - founded in 1997) in Thailand has just commenced its academic programmes for new students. The university has strong links with Imperial College, which provides academic support. This follows Imperial's existing links with Mahanakorn University where staff from IC direct post-graduate courses (as well as setting and marking examination papers) of the same standard and quality as Imperial's own.

Asian UST aims to be a leading regional science and technology training centre and conducts all of its teaching in English. The University, which is a private one, is entirely Thai-owned and is based in Jomtien in the eastern seaboard region, between the popular tourist destination Pattaya and the city of Rayong, about seventy-five miles south-east of the capital Bangkok. Asian UST runs degree programmes in Engineering (Civil, Electrical & Electronic, Industrial & Manufacturing, mechanical and Software Engineering & Information Systems), Applied Science (Applied Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biotech-

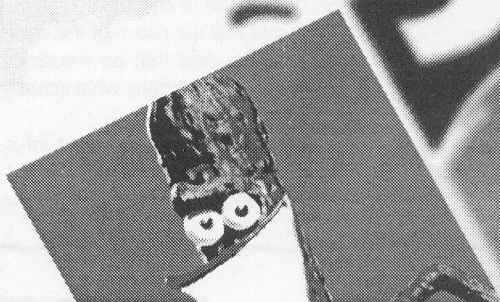
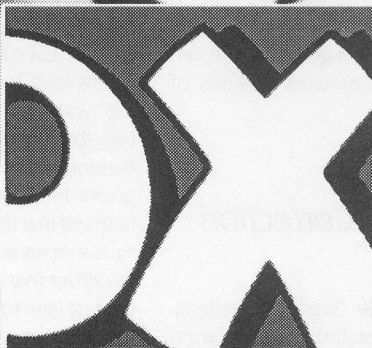
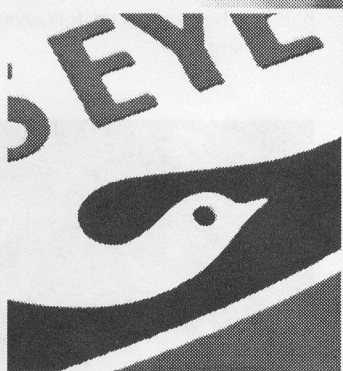
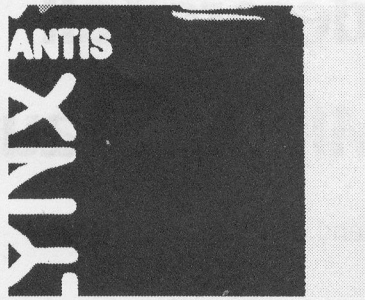
nology) and in Business Management leading to BEng, BSc and BBA degrees respectively. Masters' degrees are also conferred.

With nearly seventy-five percent of academic staff being expatriates and the university's curriculum being based on and closely following that of IC (with the successful tutorial model being adopted as well), Asian UST promises to usher in a new infusion of science and technology training to Thailand. The University, which has just taken in its first batch of nearly 500 students, offers students, who have been forced to reconsider plans to come to the UK, a new chance to get a world-class degree of the same standard and quality as an Imperial degree. "We think the university will be good for Thailand and the whole region," says Dr Pinai Sukhawarn, a member of Asian UST's Liaison Committee who added that in addition to following IC's curriculum, the university had chosen to model their teaching on the effective and efficient teaching styles and methodologies currently in place here at Imperial, with the emphasis on tutorials.

comperes, one of whom was Felix's own Milen - Tha Bomb columnist. They tried in vain to give the show the continuity sorely lacked for that professional edge, cleverly introducing a sub-plot that brought as much enjoyment as some of the acts. (Found a wife yet Milen, or do I stop calling you on your mobile).

The audience was left exasperated with the premature conclusion especially when taking into account the major delays they had suffered throughout the evening. A frustrating and lack-lustre disappointment was closely avoided, the sheer quality of the many of the acts being the event's saving grace.





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## In brief...

### ICSM top the league *Part-Time Infringement*

ICSM rugby students have exceeded all expectation by winning the Halifax-sponsored, British universities southern premier league. The team has no doubt benefited from the merger between St. Mary's and Charing Cross under the IC name bringing about unexpected victories over universities reputed for their strength, teams like Brunel West London. A victory in the national play-off against the northern champions, set to take place at the end of January, would nicely round-off the team's already impressive performance.

Research undertaken by the university of Central London have found that some students are spending the equivalent of two days a week part-timing to make ends meet. Their survey also showed that 2 in 5 full-time undergraduates had a part-time job, which corresponds to a 10% rise over a period of three years. The danger is that some university students may suffer academically as a result of trying to support themselves financially. This comes in the wake of the on-going tuition fee saga, which still arouses feelings of animosity.

### Fastrack to IC PhD *Medical Correction*

Some of the top physics professors are currently debating over whether physics students should be allowed to take a PhD after just a three year degree course. At the Standing Committee of Physics Professors held last month, Malcolm Longair, head of physics and astronomy at Cambridge said "although it is not absolutely mandatory, we very strongly encourage people to do a four-year course"

Conversely, the IC physics department does not consider a four-year degree to be mandatory for progression onto a PhD. Dr R Burns, the admission tutor at IC, is confident that "someone with a three-year degree from IC is adequately trained to do a PhD"

Last weeks article "Wade in Resignation Nightmare" stated that Oli Warren had been asked to stand down by the ICSM Admissions Tutor. Since this article went to press, we have learnt that such a meeting did not take place, and would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to either Mr Warren or Ms Burnett.

### Oxford Dispute

Two undergraduates at Oxford university have been threatened with exam and lecture suspension if they fail to pay the newly introduced tuition fees. They were given until the end of last week to pay the money they owed, but as Felix went to print the result of the dispute had still not been resolved. The students were protesting at the recently introduced controversial government policy that requires all undergraduates to contribute £1000 towards their tuition fees. It is believed that the action taken by Oxford was the first of its kind over the new policy.

## Fellwanderers Fall

### Victim to Minibus Fault

By Tony Ofori and Gareth Morgan

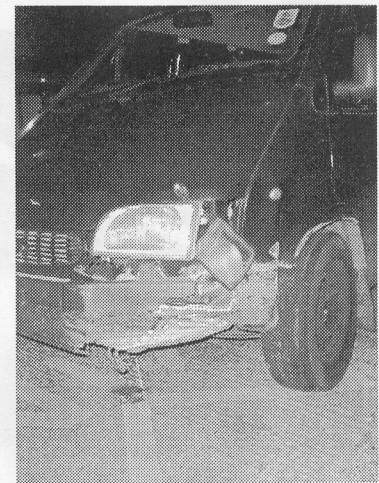
The fellwanderers were at the centre of a potentially catastrophic situation due to the mechanical fault in a minibus.

On 22 of November, the IC Fellwanderers society left London in a Union minibus and headed up the M1. They had not gone far before the driver realised that something was afoot. The change was subtle at first leading the driver thinking that the unresponsive steering was due to high winds. After travelling a little further the driver lost control. The minibus shook and veered across the motorway, at 60 mph. It is believed that this was directly attributable to a mechanical problem. Fortunately, the driver managed to get the bus from the fast lane to the hard shoulder avoiding collision with any other vehicles. However, the bus did hit the crash barrier beyond the hard shoulder, and was damaged in the process. Although the bus was the only casualty, the society members were forced to wait three hours at a nearby service station before they could return to college.

ICU said that the cause of the crash was uncertain, and that an insurance assessor would determine what actually happened.

It is rumoured that sufficient information was known about the unroad-worthy bus to avoid its use prior to the

event. It is alleged that the condition of the vehicle had been assessed and the steering had been recorded as defective. The person who came to collect bus is believed to have ignored the note detailing fault because they assumed that the minibus would not have available if it had not been serviced following this assessment.



The bus has certainly seen better days  
Photo:Andy

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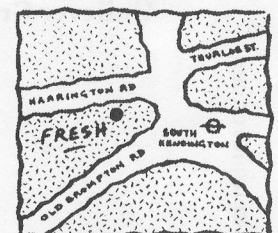
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## Resignation Explanation II

Dear Felix,

I am writing this letter to explain my decision not to stand for the post of Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) of Imperial College Union. I believe that withdrawing my candidature is in both my and the Union's best interests because of the unforeseen complications which have arisen due to the time of year at which these elections are being held.

By the time the elections are held I will have completed virtually a whole term of my third year. In my local education authorities opinion I would therefore not require funding for this 1st term again and they are thus only prepared to give me any funding for the second and third terms of my third year. This would require me (should I have won the election) to return to my studies after Christmas next year. I would also get no grant for the 1st term meaning that I would not be able to afford to live in London during the first term. This would be very damaging to my studies and accommodation plans for next year.

I appreciate the significant efforts that the Union has made in trying to remedy this situation but, as there is no guarantee that a solution will be found, I feel that now is the best time for me to withdraw from the election. I apologise for any inconvenience that my withdrawal will cause the Union but I think that continuing to stand in an election when I am unsure of whether or not I will be able to take up the post would be far more damaging to the Union in the long term.

I am still interested in this position and I am looking very seriously at standing for it again in the February elections (for next year) when the funding complications will not be relevant. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Marie every luck with her campaign as I believe her to be an excellent candidate for what I am certain will prove to be a challenging position.

Yours Sincerely,  
Tim Traylor

## "Rugga-buggars"

Dear Felix,

I was in the Union last night [i.e. **Wednesday 25 November - Ed**], in dB's for the Lovetrain/Shaft spectacular. As usual, there were all the "Rugga-buggars" and what can only be described as hockey-buggars there in their shirts and ties.

I don't know what time they all arrive after their match/dinner/whatever, but by the time the band had finished they were thoroughly tanked-up. I was minding my own business when two of these

'I'm in a tie I own the building' chaps barged past me consecutively. I turned and was like - what are you doing? Being ignored is not my favourite past-time, and when I was, I stuck my fingers up in protest. Unfortunately the second bloke saw, and grabbed me by the neck, pushing me through a group of people and nearly to the ground. He was shouting something to the effect of "I'm bigger than you so when you complain about me being a wanker, I have the right to physically assault you."

Yes, how true he is (satire), I'm glad I share a science/technology/medicine college with these sporty people.

My point is, Why? Why do you do it, sports freaks? Just calm down, loose the grrrr-blokeyness and people will enjoy their union nights more.

Cheers,  
Physics Man

## Environmental Lectures

Dear Felix,

For some time there has been talk of introducing new lecture courses into undergraduate degrees with an environmental bias. In order to be up to date with other European (particularly Spanish) universities, the Environmental Society is proposing that lecture courses tailored to each discipline should be introduced as 3rd & 4th year options. The resources to set up a humanities option which covers renewable energy and sustainable agriculture already exist but we are concerned that the depth of focus that students may need to enter into a particular area (such as renewables) could not be achieved teaching a broad scale course, whereas it could within each scientific field.

We will be holding an open half day session next term to which we are inviting academics who research and teach in these areas. We also hope that course administrators will be able to attend so that we can begin the process of designing suitable courses.

We will be putting supporters lists on lecture theatre doors and in common areas which we would ask anyone to sign who maybe interested in these courses so that we can have an idea of their potential following. Signing would not commit people to be involved but would help us to rally support.

Anyone interested to learn more can contact me, alternatively we meet on Mondays at 6.00pm in Physics Lecture Theatre 2.

Tom Smith  
Environmental Society

## Back Off, Baker!

Dear Felix

I could go on forever about Simon Baker's attitude towards Third World Debt but I can't be bothered. A few points just have to be made though.

Simon challenged Jacob's statistics (from Unicef) with World Bank statistics (which are notoriously unreliable). Asking the World Bank its position on the situations it is creating is rather like asking Saddam Hussein if he's nice. I'm not saying that the statistics are wrong, but challenging his apparent assumption that they are right.

The point that Simon makes about South Africa's education system being worse than Ethiopia's yet its economy being so much bigger just made me piss myself. The majority of the South African population have been denied basic human rights until very recently, and the process of reform is very slow. One of these human rights was education. South Africa is an extreme case, not an example of a global trend. The fact he uses this statistic shows how he is trying to undermine and be destructive for the sake of it. I wouldn't care so much if he wasn't playing with 800 000 000 lives (number of people declared starving at Rio Summit, now considered a gross underestimate).

The last point I'm going to pick up on was actually quite a reasonable one. Does relieving a country of debt relief when its controlled by a military junta mean that you are increasing the chances of violence? Firstly let me remind Mr. Baker that Pinochet was put into power by the Chicago boys to reform the Chilean economy, the Abacha junta is propped up by western Multinationals (80% of its economic turnover is from oil) and British and American companies (GEG Marconi, BAe etc..) provided the arms. These countries were both totally undemocratic (Nigeria still is) and the route to democracy in a country may not be to squeeze its people so hard that they can't defend themselves against infections like Suharto, Abacha and Pinochet (the tools of the west), but to allow its people water, healthcare, education and freedom of speech so that justice may follow.

Yours  
Suzanne Aigrain (Physics)

## Important Notice

There will be no Felix next Monday (14 December). The final issue of term will come out on Wednesday 16 December.



## The Week Ahead

### Monday

Games Meeting	12.30pm
Film Meeting	1.30pm

### Tuesday

News Meeting	1pm
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### Wednesday

Clubscene Meeting	3pm
Deadline for Final Issue Articles	12pm

### Thursday

Deadline for Sport & News	5pm
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### Friday

We've finished for the term! Now let's get wrecked...

## Deadline for letters is 5pm 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.





## A Plea to DOC Students

The more astute of you will probably notice that this editorial, and the accompanying notice, are in a different font from the rest of Felix this week. This isn't an attempt to try out new styles, but a result of computers, in particular IBM based machines, being unreliable. Yes, once again the Felix server has shown itself to be the embodiment of all things evil, and Windows to be the manifestation of the devil (I like Microsoft really - please don't sue us).

So thank you to our printers for letting me use their Macintosh to finish this edition, and if any DOC students fancy making a million and not selling their soul; please, create an operating system and that is reliable when running a network. I'll give you a tenner.

## Elections

As a fair and impartial man, I cannot possibly advise you how to vote in the DP(C&S) elections next week. All I would say is that it is our last chance to get someone for the post this year. Take it or leave it. Whatever the result, it would be nice if a reasonable number of people voted. It really makes a difference to us sabbaticals if we feel we have a decent backing from you, the students. May I wish Marie the best of luck in the elections. Oh, and Ron as well.

## Drugs, You Need Drugs

Next term I am hoping to reopen the age-old drugs debate. Before college officials complain, I would point out that I intend to make the debate fair and impartial, as always. In particular, I want to look at people's personal experience. To do this I need your help. If you have had any interesting experiences with any drug, legal or illegal, good or bad, I want to hear from you. You can, of course, remain anonymous - simply drop letters into the office or email us (emails will be deleted after downloading). I would also like to hear from any members of college who have had experience with drugs, or drug users, as part of their research. I myself am a drug addict - I smoke 20 a day.

- Ed

## Bound Editions

Bound editions from last year are now available. Please drop into the Felix office before the end of term if you ordered a bound edition at the end of last year.

### Free Concert!

Imperial College Winds will be giving a lunchtime concert in the Great Hall on

Wednesday 9th December

1pm

It won't cost you a thing, so please bring all your friends. If you'd like to know more about the programme, please take a look at the posters on the walkway.

### City & Guilds College Union

Officers & Members  
Committee Meeting

Thursday 10 December 1998

6pm Guilds Office (Mech Eng Rm 340)  
All welcome  
Papers to be submitted by 5pm Tuesday 8th December to C&GU Office

### Ball Launched into Cyberspace

Friday 25th June

Alexandra Palace

Register online now [[www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball/](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball/)] to receive up to date information throughout the year on Summerball 1999  
Info & Ideas: [summer.ball@ic.ac.uk](mailto:summer.ball@ic.ac.uk)

### Southwell Hall Subwarden Position

Southwell is a hall of residence situated in Evelyn Gardens (walking distance from the main campus). It is a newly refurbished hall with excellent facilities housing up to 210 undergraduate students. Southwell Hall has a tradition of being one of the friendliest halls in Imperial College with an amazing social life.

As a subwarden, you will work as part of the wardening team that is responsible for the pastoral care and discipline of the students. There is also much to be done in the day-to-day running of the hall as well as a wide range of social events to organise.

You will need to be a caring and mature individual who has the energy to work hard for the hall and who is comfortable with responsibility and willing to take the initiative. In return you will receive rent free accommodation in a newly renovated environment. The position is available from 1st of January 1999.

Application forms are available from the Accommodation Office at 15 Princes Gardens or from Dr D Britton in the Physics Department. They should be returned to the latter no later than 14 December 1998.

### Exam Stress Workshops

Wednesday 9 December and

Wednesday 16 December

3pm to 4.30pm at the Health Centre  
Free!

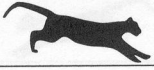
For bookings please ring Liliane Carter on (0171 59) 49381

### Opting out of ICU

Students who wish to exercise their right under the Education Act 1994 formally to opt out of ICU and CCU membership, may now visit the Student Records Office, Room 343 Sheffield Building, to record their decision. The only practical effect of opting out will be that they cannot stand for elected office or take part in Union elections and referenda.

Is this a dagger I see before me, the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee: I have thee not and yet I see thee still? Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible to feeling as to sight? Or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation, proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain? I see thee yet, in form as palpable as this which I now draw. Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going. Mine eyes are made the tools o' the other sense, or else worth all the senses. I have made an elective blindness, that I might see thee better than I could before. There's nothing in this business which more needs my eyes to see than mine ears to hear. I have one half-witted brother, who has been beating his brains about the walls of this castle, and has been talking of the murder of the king, and withered Murder, alarmed by his sentinel the wolf, whose howl's he watch, thus with his stealthy pace, with Tarquinius' vanishing strides, towards his design moves like a ghost. Thou art, and firm-set earth, hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fearful they step on the grave of my wholeabout, and take the present honor from the time which now suits with it. Whiles I think, he lives: words to the heat of deeds do cold breath give: I go, and it is done; that ball invites me. Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell which summons thee to heaven or to hell.





# Right Angles To Reality

## Colds

Matt Salter

For Hot Chocolate, it started with a kiss. In my case it started with itchy eyes and a nasty tickly feeling at the back of my throat. I had been using the word processor all morning, and had spent a good five minutes at lunchtime choking on a piece of sweetcorn that had somehow found its way into my tuna and cucumber sandwich, so that could account for the symptoms. But by the time I went for a late afternoon coffee break and found myself unthinkingly ordering a cup of tea instead, my worst fears were confirmed - I had a cold. Or had I? Maybe it was just a sniffle, I reasoned with myself; two paracetamol now and a Lemsip before bed (an early bed mind - bang goes Newsnight), and I might just get away with it. Then again, this could just be the beginning of something worse - Lassa Fever starts with 'flu-like symptoms doesn't it? But as I hadn't been in contact with anyone from Tibet for over a fortnight, that couldn't be the problem. My brother, a medical student, had once cheerfully informed me that in their initial phase many contagious diseases resemble the onset of the common cold, and that at such an early stage it was impossible to tell whether the patient would go to bed and wake up feeling fine, or go to bed and not wake up at all. As I was in bed semi-delirious with a temperature of 105°F at the time, I found his enthusiasm for epidemiology less than infectious.

Whatever the case this time, I was obviously sickening for something and I had to know whether I was going to get over it in a day or two or be cruelly cut down in my prime by the ague. Initial investigations were not encouraging. I had failed UNCOSTT - the United Nations Confirmation Of a Sore Throat Test - which for the uninitiated, consists of seeing whether you can sing the harmony part to The Beatles' 1964 hit Eight Days A Week all the way through (my voice gave out on the second round of "hold me, love me"s), and holding my head on one side with my tongue pressed against the back of my mouth whilst swallowing forcefully, had clearly demonstrated that a build up of catarrh in my nasal-aural tract was in full swing. That put the tin hat on it - I was officially poorly.

When I was a child, having a cold was almost a cause for celebration, espe-

cially if the day in question was a Thursday as you got to miss Mrs Mettam's weekly assembly in the gym. Then there was the happy prospect of mum making you cups of Ovaltine and bringing the small black and white telly that your dad bought in East Germany into your room so you could watch daytime TV as you suffered.

About the only time that I got to watch Rainbow was when I was off school with 'flu - which seemed good at the time but has resulted in an unfortunate psychosomatic condition, whereby I get a fever

and a runny nose if I even so much as hear "up above the streets and houses, rainbow climbing high, ev'ryone can see it smiling over the sky". The same affliction has left me unable to enjoy Thunderbirds, Stingray and The Sullivans without feeling slightly unwell - I could sue. Of course, being off sick had its downside. Apart from the unpleasantness of the cold itself, there are only so many of those big bottles of Lucozade

that you can drink without throwing up (8 in my case) and also the small matter of having to put on a Bri-nylon dressing gown and shuffle off shivering to the toilet every five minutes. Another problem I encountered as a childhood invalid was that of sleep. I frequently used to botch up the timing badly and get my recommended daily intake of shuteye during daylight hours (normally during Pebble Mill at One and Nationwide) so that when night came I was wide awake, condemning myself to a long lonely vigil with only the World Service for company. Needless to say, by the time Farming Today came on at 5.30 am I was a knackered, bloodshot-eyed wreck who again slept through the day, setting the whole sorry cycle off once more.

It was even worse on the rare occasions that I got sick when my maternal grandmother was staying. She and my

"...I had failed UNCOSTT - the United Nations Confirmation Of a Sore Throat Test - which for the uninitiated, consists of seeing whether you can sing the harmony part to The Beatles' 1964 hit Eight Days A Week all the way through..."

mother differed wildly on the proper treatment of a 'flu-stricken child. My grandmother favoured the tuck-'em-up-and-keep-'em-warm approach and turned my sick bed into a boiling, heaving mass of scalding hot water bottles - one on each side, one on my tummy with yet another for my feet. Combined with the three extra

eiderdowns that pinned me to the mattress, they ensured that my already overworked hypothalamus was pushed to the limit, and I frequently awoke from my uneasy midmorning slumbers convinced that my bed had somehow turned into a paddling pool.

At this point my mother, who was of the germs-don't-like-the-cold-why-else-would-they-send-TB-patients-to-Switzerland school of thought, would inevitably come in, take one look at her son with his scarlet complexion and sopping hair plastered to his forehead and immediately start divesting me of my layers of cladding and by now lukewarm-water bottles, whilst shaking her head and muttering under her breath. I was the human embodiment of the Freeze-Thaw Process. Had Victorian freak shows still been around I could really have made a killing. About the only thing

the two of them agreed on was that you should "feed a cold and starve a fever" and took it upon themselves to "keep my strength up", with the result that I ended up eating six meals a day and putting on about a stone in weight during the course of my confinement.

That was then and this is now. My symptoms had grown progressively worse and I had reluctantly taken to my bed. Lying huddled up in my BHS 12-Tog, shivering feverishly, I was forced to admit that getting sick as an adult is a very different, and much less pleasurable experience than it was as a child. There is no mum to plump up your pillows and bring you hot lemon, no dad coming home at

six o'clock and asking how his little soldier is, and above all there is no Joe 90 double bill on ITV. Having left home over ten years ago, I am quite used to living alone, and although there is nothing so guaranteed to make you aware of your solitude as spending a week in bed and not seeing a soul from one day to the next, I could cope with the isolation, but the dramatic decline in the quality of daytime television since my childhood was something I hadn't bargained for. Admittedly I now have a deeper understanding of the problems transsexuals addicted to prescription drugs face in trying to gain social acceptance in the southern United States, and have discovered the secret of how to bake a Victoria sponge that just gives to the fingertips, but otherwise my period of enforced viewing was less than edifying. I found myself completely unriveted by Mikey agonising over whether he should go to uni or take a year out and work on his uncle's sheep farm, and was similarly ambivalent towards the mysterious disappearance of Mrs McTavish's faithful little Willie. Why is there never a good National Geographic documentary about sharks on when you want one? Even an implausible 1950s sci-fi adventure story acted out by men called Rock wearing tinfoil space suits would do; anything but the depressing parade of low-budget talk shows presented by RADA rejects that currently seem to be in vogue. Eventually I could-

"...I was the human embodiment of the Freeze-Thaw Process..."

n't stand another minute of this tabloid TV and, as I didn't appear to be getting any better, I decided that the time had come to dig out my polar explorer coat and struggle off to the quack's,

for a first opinion.

When I finally got in to see Dr Patel he examined me for some time, then with a puzzled look on his face, he made a few notes and shook his head before turning back to me. My expression must have betrayed my anxiety, because he gave me a reassuring smile. It was nothing to worry about, he said, I had contracted something called 'Alice' which, whilst not being serious, was unusual. A course of antibiotics and a few days bed rest, and I would be as right as rain. I asked Dr Patel what causes 'Alice'. He shook his head. "Nobody really knows", he said, "but Christopher Robin went down with it".



# Medicine Matters

## Like a phoenix from the flames...

Following is a quick summary of the situation regarding the medical school union and its workings and relations. Everybody hates us. Almost all of the competent and hard working members have quit and the rest are about to go. Everybody is being investigated for financial irregularities. This summary was gleaned from a thirty-second glance over the last half dozen issues of Felix.

What a load of bollocks, ICSMSU is probably one of the strongest unions in the College. It has taken the shit handed out to it by some small-minded twats both within the medical school and without and it has survived. It has put with mis-reporting on an almost criminal level, alleged near-bankruptcy and the backstabbing that would shock Saddam Hussein's regime.

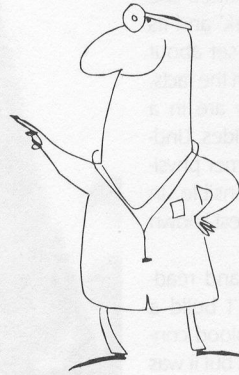
On Monday night I attended a Union meeting and if ever proof was needed as to how much the union cares about the students it represents, and how hard it works on behalf of those students,

then this was it.

The medics' union is an effective body of people working extremely hard to protect the Imperial Medics from people determined to screw them.

The last few months have seen some bitter arguments raised surrounding the whole medics at IC issue. Has anyone wondered why? Medics are, on the whole, good at striking up friendships with people. It is on the clinical syllabus that you have to be seen to be able to establish a rapport with people who are sick, in pain or even dying. Yet IC give the impression that medics apply the sort of levels of tact and sensitivity usually reserved only for bouncers and diplomats. Could this be the ugly green monster raising its head? My private theory,

Nick Newton



designed as I write this to be as insulting to those I wish to insult as possible, is this. Medics are so much better than the non-medics at IC are. Take the example of the rugby team which is one match away from being top of the English BUSA championship. Which league does the IC rugby team play for?

The case of the rugby team is of course, just one example and

you only have to mention the IC boat club to counter it. I wonder, though, how many people will get upset when I suggest that the people that write against or speak against medics are jealous because they failed to get into medicine themselves? If I write that I believe that anyone not reading medicine is a second class citizen at IC because the

school of medicine brings in almost fifty per cent of the IC research budget, will anyone write indignant letters to Felix?

I sincerely hope so because I am clearly talking complete rubbish and all the sensible intelligent people at IC know this. So, if you know when I am talking rubbish then why can you not tell when other people are talking rubbish. It is an essential skill that all scientists are taught (or should be) to separate the intellectual wheat from the chaff. Whether you are reading papers that concern your subject or are trying to establish the relevance of a set of data you are extracting information and making a judgement of the veracity of that information. If people tried applying the principles of ignoring the bullshit and getting on with their lives then life at IC would run a lot more smoothly and everybody could start working together for the good of themselves, which as I have often said, is what the union is all about.

## Presidential Talk-Back

Well done David Hellard, ICU President

everyone who applied to the Dillons hardship fund. 52% of the applicants were from Imperial (not bad considering that anyone in London could apply). By my calculations that's about £80 per applicant on average, so most people should be getting what they applied for.

My topic for discussion this week is the library. Quite a few students have complained about the limited opening hours of the library. Imperial College has one of the heaviest workloads in the country in nearly all subjects, requiring its students to be in lectures or labs during the day. Because of this most students are forced to work outside the normal 9-6 lecture schedule and due to the specialist nature of our courses, the library is essential to most studying. The library is currently open until 9.00pm during the week and does not open at all on Sundays. Given the workload that Imperial dishes out and the huge number of deadlines, a lot of students find themselves having to work well into the



night or sacrifice their weekends to the books to try and finish projects. 9pm doesn't even reach the first coffee break, let alone anything near a decent night of study.

Saturdays are often taken up with sports matches and the like or a recovery from the night before and the traditionally empty day of Sunday is the natural work spot of the weekend. It is hard to believe that College is restricting student's studies, forcing them to work in hours that a lot of people find unsociable; very few students can face visiting the library straight after a hard days work to try and fit in the work that they have for the next day.

The library should remain open to at least 11pm in the weekdays and preferably all of Sunday. If you agree or have any other problems with the library please email me at the address below. Please also contact me if you would like me to look into another subject that you find unjust in College.

President@ic.ac.uk

Next week: Catering (especially the prices of the Main Dining Hall).

# Macbeth

Wednesday 9th – Saturday 12th December  
Union Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Students £4.00, Non-students £5.00

**DRAM  
SOC**





# Popular Science and Unpopular Scientists

*The Science of Jurassic Park and the Lost World or, How to Build a Dinosaur*  
by Rob de Salle and David Lindley  
194pp Flamingo 1998 £8.99

All serious scientists should have a go at reading popular science. In the quiet bits between experiments, perhaps. And do consider how science appears in popular culture. It will, after all, be in your interests to understand it, as your career may depend on your ability to influence it. You'll learn lots of interesting things. Like how difficult it is to explain the simple ideas it has taken you three or more years to grasp. It'll also show you the things the public do know about, and you may be surprised to find that they are not as ignorant as you might have thought or perhaps hoped. Pay some attention to the stereotypes of scientists and how these might be perpetuated. If you land up writing popular science we'll be looking to you as our unofficial PR exec. But what has this to do with this book review?

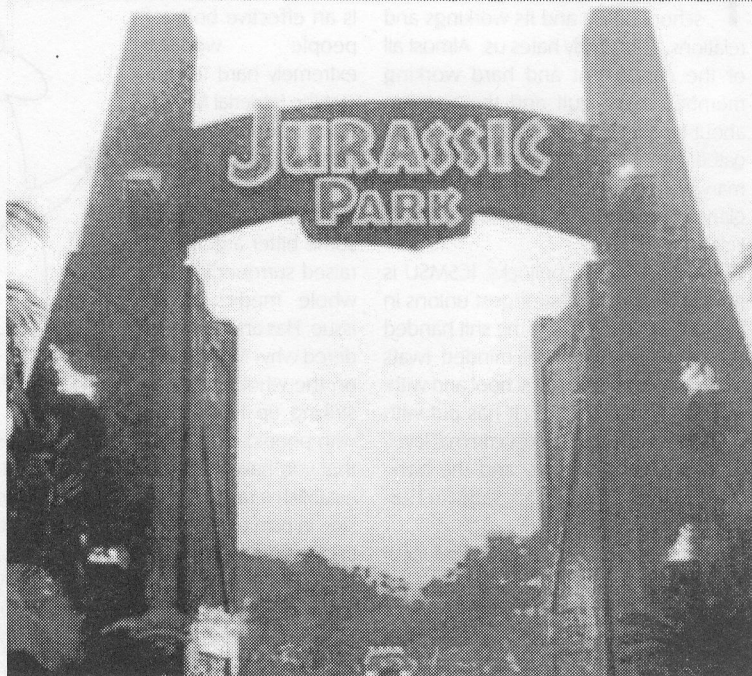
It seems inconceivable but these two authors have pulled off a major achievement. They've written a popular account of molecular biology. How often do you see 'popular' and 'molecular biology' in

the same sentence? They spotted the huge success of 'Jurassic Park' and its sequel 'The Lost World' and set about linking the fictional science with the facts. Could it really happen? They are in an excellent position to act as guides. Lindley is a science writer and former physicist, and De Salle was responsible, in 1992, for isolating the then oldest known fragment of DNA.

They write bright, lively and readable prose. Actually we can't build a dinosaur from the dinosaur blood contained within a fossil mosquito, but it was fun finding out exactly why not. Their style is distinctly American but it's accessible and the occasional ghastly Americanism doesn't get in the way too much. What DNA does and whether any bits from 80 million years ago are preserved is described entertainingly, and the unlikelihood that (a) a mosquito preserved inside amber has eaten dinosaur blood and (b) this could be extracted is explored. Laboratory work, so rarely described, puts in a welcome appearance. The authors even turn up a sort of 'hippie-drop-out-Nobel-prize-winner' who invented the Polymerase Chain Reaction, a method for amplifying gene sequences, and used his prize to go surfing and become a peripatetic scientific consultant.

However, within this major achievement in science

communication other information about scientists is also being communicated, albeit unintentionally. The authors have come rather too close to fulfilling one of the popular scientist stereotypes. In this case it's the obsessive party poopers who will not let a good story get in the way of a fact. Popular science may breed the unpopular scientist. These particular sci-



Jurassic Park: Closer than you think?

entists have climbed so far into their Ivory Tower that in 1998 they refer unself-consciously to people with Down's Syndrome as mentally retarded sufferers, with a life span of about thirty years. The latter is simply incorrect and the former... well - if you don't recognise the problem you too need to get out more.

Less importantly, the scientists also have an intermittent

problem with the willing suspension of their disbelief. It lumbers up and down like the Grand Old Duke of York and his men. They are occasionally distracted by their own attention to detail. Sadly this shades into nerdiness on a grand scale. For example, one of the authors ran his video of 'Jurassic Park' on slow motion (anorak on, I guess) and he was able to jot down the supposed dinosaur DNA sequence displayed on a screen in the dinosaur park visitor centre. He trawled through a gene databank on the Internet and within half an hour had found it was from an *E. coli* bacterium. The film crew seem to have been quite inventive in creating the appearance of

authenticity. We could do without the scientist's 'I know I know please please please' like the school swot. This happens again when another strand of DNA is decoded in the film 'The Lost World' and the authors recognise an amino acid sequence which spells MARK WAS HERE NIH. An amusing anecdote but a bit too clever in this context. No one likes a smart arse.

**"We could do without the scientist's 'I know I know please please please' like the school swot"**

The film, which grasped some of the style of science with little of the content, did itself trot out some popular conceptions of scientists. But this was a story, made to entertain and we shouldn't get po-faced about misguided scientist Dickie Attenborough, gorgeous hunk scientist Sam Neill and silly screaming scientist Laura Dern led into interfering with nature and getting their come uppance. We should worry when scientists don't appear at all. That's when we'll know we've really lost the plot and become totally unpopular scientists.

Chris Hiley







# ic radio

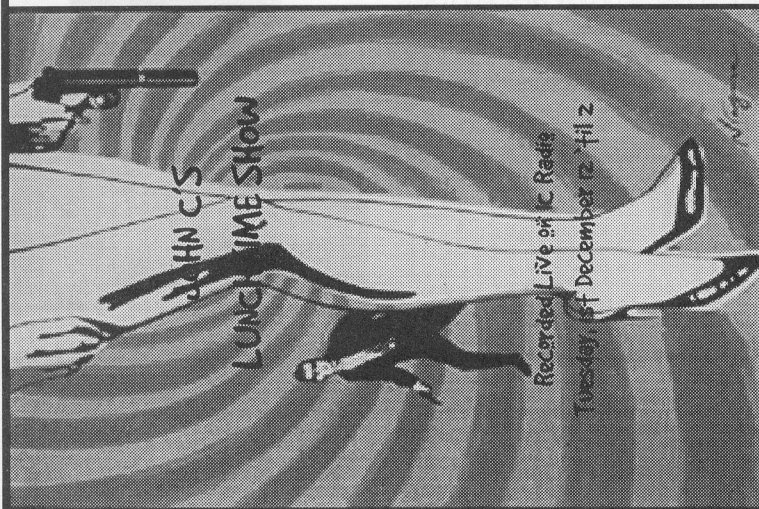


## Side 1

Beautiful South: Dumb  
 Grand Mal: Whole Little Nothing  
 Spentur: Faster Than You  
 The Crackers: Explain  
 The Brother in Sound: Easy Life  
 The Beta Band: Dogs Got a Bone  
 Mucho Macho: The Airport Freeze  
 Psychedelia Smith: Drifter

## Side 2

Dr. Feel Good: Down at the Doctors  
 Gorkies: The Barfiddle Bumbler  
 Ec ???: Bright Morning White  
 Boom Boom Satelites: A Moment of Silence  
 The Animals: House of the Rising Sun  
 REM: Lotus  
 Turtle: Dads Die in Hot Cars  
 Chemical Bros.: Private Psychedelics



John C's Lunchtime Show Tuesday 1st December 1998

IC RADIO

This week we profile John C's lunchtime show. Record Ross McKenzie's lunchtime show today (Monday) from 12-1 for next week's feature.

What do you do at IC Radio?

I am station manager and do a show every Tuesday lunchtime.

What is your favourite show?

Ross's show on Mondays and Fridays, and I used to love Jon and Ali's vinyl frontier so I pinched the name for a feature on my show.

What radio DJ do you respect the most/like the most?

I respect John Peel and Jonnie Walker and I loved Mark and Lard when they were on the graveyard slot.

Would you do a XFM and sell out musically in exchange for popularity?

I admire people like John Peel and Jonnie Walker who didn't have to sell out to get on Radio 1. I couldn't play music I didn't love without slagging it off so I doubt it would last long.

What is your favourite track of the year so far?

Seafood's 'Porchlight'.

What up and coming bands do you recommend checking out?

For me the best new bands I've seen this year are Seafood and HooverDam.

What is your favourite London venue?

I have happy memories of the Monarch in Camden and the Blue Note is fantastic too.

Pub?

It used to be Finch's on the Fulham road, but now I'd have to go for the Spread Eagle in Camden.

Club?

The 'Big Kahuna Burger' at the Mars Bar.

Where are you going to be on 31st December 1999?

Out of my tree.

Where would you ideally want to be, and who would you be with?

That's probably not printable even if I wanted to tell you!

Who do you respect the most?

I have immense respect for people who have the courage of their convictions. One that comes to mind is Howard Marks.

Who do you envy?

People who graduated last year.

What frustrates you the most?

Nappy rash (don't ask!)

If the world were to end tomorrow, what would you do today?

Well it's a bit short notice so it'd probably involve alcohol.

## ICR Chart

1. Levellers- One Way
2. Beautiful South- Dumb
3. Embrace- The Good Will Out
4. Ultrasound- I'll Show You Mine
5. Straw- The Aeroplane Song
6. Psychedelia Smith Drifter
7. Idlewild- When I Argue
8. Soul Coughing- Found Science
9. Snow Patrol- Little Hide
10. Mucho Macho- Airport Freeze
11. Sunhouse- LoudCrowd
12. Snowpony- John Brown
13. RZA as Bobby Digital- B.O.B.B.Y.
14. Radar- Slow Down
15. Brothers In Sound- Journey Song
16. Grand Mal- Whole Lotta Nothing
17. Mix Master Mike- Audio Mass
18. Ash- Wild Surf
19. PJ Harvey- Perfect Day Elise
20. Belle And Sebastian- Arab Strap

## ICR CINEMA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last Days of  
**Disco**

the  
**TRUMAN**  
 show

**Lethal Weapon 4**

**CONAIR**

**From Dusk Till Dawn**

**Drinks, Poster Auction, Big Prize Draw!**

Wednesday 16th December Only £6 for the entire event





# Which way to vote?

Next Monday and Tuesday IC goes to the polls once again, to elect a new Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). But who should you vote for?

## Marie Nicholaou

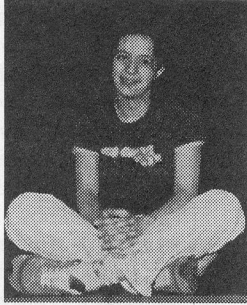
Six months is not a long time. But a lot can happen. You could meet someone, get married, put a deposit on a house and have a kid on the way in that time. What I want to do for six months is improve your clubs and societies. With the recent introduction of medical students onto the South Kensington campus, it is more important than ever to provide for all our students and their broad range of interests and needs. All our clubs and societies aim to unite people who have something in common – sport, political views, sexual orientation for example – and it is imperative to give these clubs and their members (you the students) the support they need to succeed.

It is very easy to lose your way at Imperial and graduate with a degree having not been involved in anything other than studying. What you do while you are here will set you apart from other graduates who are chasing your job. It is one thing to say that you have

a degree from Imperial College. It reflects better on you when you can say that you have been part of a team, that you have organised an event or have been involved with a group of people who share a common interest.

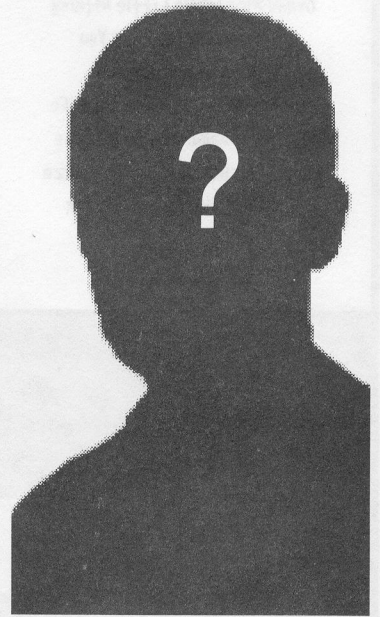
There are many neglected issues that need to be resolved at the moment, and six months of work to catch up on. Health and safety is one of the areas that must be addressed immediately.

I am currently captain of the Ladies Football Club and I will be at IC for a few years to come. I would like to make positive changes to the way clubs are run while I am here. Vote for me – I stand for your interests.



## New Election

The most successful candidate ever, New Election, is standing once again. Apparently I'm so scary that people even pull out at the fear of losing to me. Traditionally I am the candidate that you vote for if you are not satisfied with the other candidates and would prefer to go to another round of voting in the hope that a better candidate will stand. In this election though I am taking on a slightly different form. By voting for me you are effectively saying that you would prefer not to have a Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) at all for the rest of the year than have this candidate, as there will be no further elections if I win.



## MUSTEK Presents

# 303



10pm  
-6am

£5

@ Club 414, 10th December  
414 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton  
TECHNO TRANCE ACID TECHNO

# 303 SODS

HARD TRANCE AND  
FILTHY ACID TECHNO

DJ Blue

No Name

Gus

Leon & Jon (SOD)

Blockbuster

DJ X

Mr. Smith

THURSDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

10pm-6am

£5

CLUB 414

414 COLDHARBOUR LANE, BRIXTON

CONTACT: MUSTEK@HOTMAIL.COM

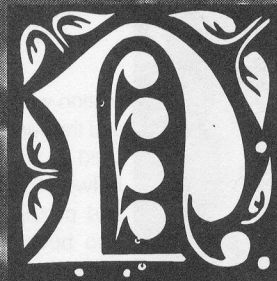


ICU Ents, with help from Dramsoc, presents...

**“They opened a door and entered a world”**

The story so far...

**Live Music from  
The Replicants  
& Specimen A  
Casino, Tarot Reader,  
Temporary Tatoonist,  
Snowboarding,  
Snow Machine,  
8 Colour laser  
Guest Djs,  
Ice Palace Decor  
Music from POP PARTS,  
Hedonizm  
& The Electric Cafe**



Friday 18th Dec. 9-2

**arnia**

**The Christmas Carnival**

**Tickets £6/£5 with entscard from Union Office NOW! Dress: Smart.**



**Your Union - for life, not just Christmas**

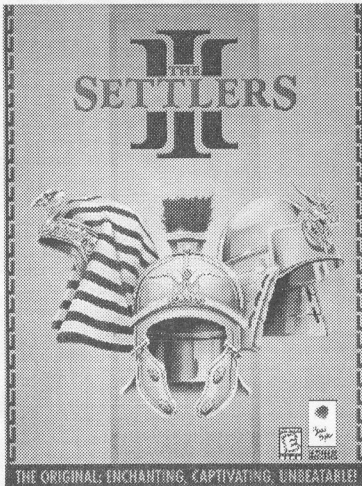




## Settlers III (PC)

Blue Byte

★★★★★



The Romans, Chinese and Egyptians may all have had a brutal mentality at some point in their history, but as the three races in Settlers 3 they positively ooze cuteness. Assuming the role of one of these, the player must conquer the world. Simple enough? Not quite, since a major new feature of The Settlers comes in the form of divine intervention, with each race being backed by a particular god desperate to escape the wrath of 'The Almighty'.

For those of you who didn't know, gameplay is based around producing a thriving economy that ultimately will provide you with the means to complete each level. Starting with the bare essentials to begin production, you must construct various buildings ranging from woodcutters' huts to mines,

grain farms to temples and iron smelters to castles. Screw it up and you may find your economy grinds to a halt, as your miners strike for want of food, or you run out of planks before you have built a sawmill.

When you are powerful enough it is time to vanquish the enemy. Some of you may be disappointed that this does not involve the cold-blooded slaughter of their happy-be-going settlers but a rather more chivalrous approach of targeting their soldiers alone, with room for tea-breaks if required. Fighting this way is very cool.....

Altogether, this is one classic game. The graphics and animation are superb, complementing the charming gameplay well. The plot is well defined and like the cartoonish cutscenes it is well integrated into the game. However, nothing can beat the satisfaction that comes from watching your community go about its business. For this aspect of creativity alone, you should grab a copy of the game.

Viv

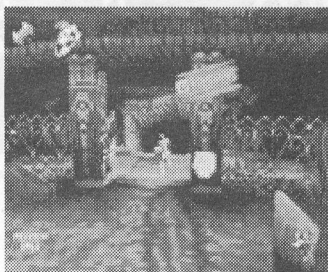


## Medievil (PSX)

Crystal Dynamics

★★★★

The person who came up with the graphics is obviously a Tim Burton fan, a very big Tim Burton fan. In fact if you knew that he was a big Tim Burton fan it wouldn't surprise you to hear that the hero's death in battle is actually the start rather than the end of the game. The hero Sir Daniel Fortesque was killed by the lead bad guy, Zarok the wizard, and Gallowmere was turned into a world of nasty undead creatures and zombiefied villagers.



Luckily though you have a second chance as Dan has risen from the dead - and having lost some weight (his internal organs and flesh mostly), he's fighting fit and ready to take on Zarok and his undead followers. Dan is going to do this in true 3D platform gaming tradition by slaying minions and occasionally end of level bosses, solve puzzles, and attempt to stay alive, well undead anyway, for long enough to meet up with the wizard.

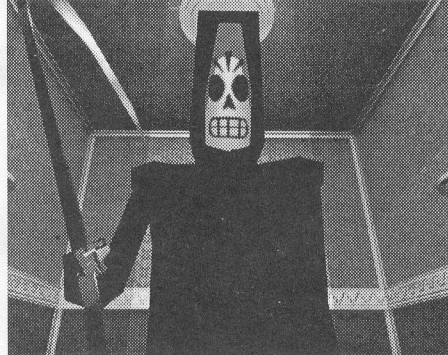
So Tim Burton styled lead characters aside is the game worth its medieval salt? Well the sublime graphics are just perfect. Just play the first level and watch the little dismembered hands scuttle across the ground, the lighting effects of the torches on walls and fences, the ani-



## Grim Fandango (PC)

LucasArts

★★★★★



Manny in working uniform, flick scythe at no extra cost

Grim Fandango is the latest in a long line of LucasArts adventure games and was written by Tim 'Day Of The Tentacle' Schafer himself, so I expected great things from this game. I certainly was not disappointed.

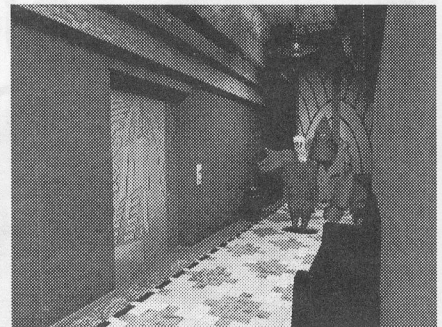
LucasArts have tried to modernise the look of this game. Gone are the flat 2D characters of previous games, hello 3D. This has the effect of making the game look less 'cartoony' and more film noir. Unfortunately it also makes the main character a little tedious to move around, but this doesn't really detract from the gameplay too much and you soon get used to it. You play the part of Manuel 'Manny' Calavera, the grim reaper. Or rather a grim reaper, sort of a travel agent in the world of the dead. Your job is to collect the newly deceased and try to sell them travel packages to the afterlife. The

better the soul has lived their life, the better package they can afford. Lowlifes get a walking stick and a four year walk, while nuns etc. get a ticket on the 'number 9' express train, here to the afterlife in mere minutes. Of course, you are on commission so the better the souls you collect, the sooner you can get out of here and go to the afterlife yourself.

So why don't you manage to get any of the good souls when the reaper in the next office seems to get a few every week? There is something fishy going on in the land of the dead and you are determined to find out what.

So starts a tale of corruption, intrigue, chrome and horticulture that will keep you tied to your computer for days. One criticism I could level is that the game is rather linear, but luckily the puzzles are for the most part logical and well thought out so that you don't get stuck in one place for too long.

David Howell



## Gangster's Paradise

## Gangster's Paradise

### Paradise

So hello to all those who entered the Eidos Interactive's PC Gangsters competition to win a copy. The Answers accepted by me were

1. The Coen Brothers Directed the Film 'Millers Crossing'
2. The Italian Job featured 3 brightly coloured mini's, the mafia and a heist in Turin.
3. Eliot Ness's FBI unit was called the Untouchables.

The first name out of the proverbial hat was

George Karakatsanis  
(EE)

We will email him with more details when they arrive.

Gary S.



## Digital Media World 1998

This year Digital Media World showcased the hardware and software powering computer generated images and multimedia show reels for the entertainment industry. This year's top films have all used some sort of computer trickery - from removing the odd stunt wire to recreating Godzilla and to fantasy worlds in 'Antz'. The software houses behind 3D Studio Max, Softimage 3D and Maya, were all present showing off their capabilities with impressive show-and-tell classes.

Kinetix, the makers of 3D Studio Max, have a strong hold in the computer games industry and titles such as Blade Runner (Westwood Studios) and Tomb Raider II (Eidos) have shown the potential of this 3D rendering package. This year's main demonstration was 3D Studio Max's integration of Discreet Logic's Paint & Effect software. The main problem with creating realistic

3D images is with the texture that embodies the bare mesh. Creating a 2D bitmap that wraps around a solid object with the colours and shadings in the right place is a time consuming task.

Discreet Logic's software, however, allows colour editing to be done directly onto the 3D objects. Shaded areas are also re-editable since all drawing is done using vector graphics.

Softimage is the workhorse of many film and effects companies, and its history dates back further than Kinetix's 3D Studio. Its ability to create realistic raytraced images is due to Softimage's industry leading mental ray renderer and so has been used time and time again in films such as Lost In Space, Titanic and Antz.

The cost of these animation packages would give most people a heart attack (roughly twice the

average grant) but MetaCreations Bryce 3D at around £200 has allowed it to gather a cult following among home users. Its main success must be due to its own intuitive interface, where realistic icons really do what they represent. It's gentle learning curve will have you creating beautifully 3D animated pictures in minutes rather than hours, when compared with other packages.

*Magpie*



Since many of you are looking for jobs this year here are some tips for finding a job in the computer graphics sector.

Most of the students here won't have had any formal training but it is important for engineering and science students to have a good show reel of demos and projects you have created.

Know your software packages, use the back of the popular games magazines to gauge what skills you need.

Edge magazine is a good place to start and you will notice that knowledge of either 3D Studio or Softimage is important. If you haven't got access to any of the top software titles try finding a job as a runner at a film/effect company, and then try to obtain some after hour training.

Some major games companies do have graduate recruitment schemes and since many of you will have programmed in C and C++ your foot is already in the door.

*Magpie*

## Wargasm (PC)

Infogrames ★★★★★



Hey wow man, like let's not fight any real wars but just like fight on the computers and not spill blood and kill like fellow man. But what would the world be like then. Countries would fight over silicon generated fields, with polygon people contesting the control of other countries' resources. If this system was not secure, and don't kid yourself that military means intelligence, what's to stop rogue elements messing around with the system and exploiting it. Well welcome to the world of Wargasm. This is where you attempt to achieve world domination by risking nothing but sore arms, and red raw eyes.

DID has succeeded in creating a virtual battlefield without having to spend millions on military computers. They might therefore have cut a few corners, no Virtual Reality headsets or real size mockups of tanks and helicopters - but they have written it to be compatible with force feedback joysticks.

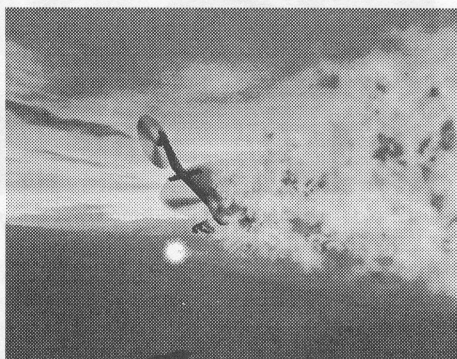
Tanks skid and slide if you push them too hard on dusty surfaces. Helicopters handle simply (no need to study a 200 page manual before breaking the chopper on the floor). Even the footslogging infantry move with a realistic jog. The weapons are modeled just perfectly. Hitting a tank while traveling at near full speed might be difficult but the joy of it - well it almost made me want to drive the real thing.

So perhaps it sounds a bit like Battlezone, where you could play both commander and fighting unit during a battle, especially when you hear of the Multiple Wargasm mode. So those people who enjoy shooting enemy tanks controlled by people thousands of miles away can do so. But forgetting the gameplay and ignoring the multiple player options there is one reason and one huge reason for those people with good 3D acceleration cards to buy this game, and that is the graphics. They are not just good but so well detailed that for half the time you forgot you were meant to be shooting and instead stood like a tourist gazing into the sun blasted deserts, or at the lush greenery of the temperate zones. Tanks were there to kick up dust and to lay tracks in the sand and mud.

Incoming, the eyecandy award winner from the summer, might as well just get its coat and sulk because Wargasm has crossed the borders and trampled its way to the top. The whole game is one complete visual-fest. The soundtrack is similarly well presented. Along with the screams of gunfire is a classical score to stir you into action. Schubert rides into battle at your shoulder, so to speak.

This is the closest thing to total immersion games without a body suit. It might not have the detail of model control that a full tank or helicopter simulation has. It might be infuriatingly difficult at first, but if Christmas is a bit slow and the turkey is taking its time going down, pop on the headphones, fire up the PC and go take out some silicon slimebags, you might just leave the machine by New Year.

*Gary S.*



## News

### Color Gameboys

Yes, millions of people will be waking up to Xmas morning, with a special spelling mistake in their stocking. The Gameboy has been kicking around in various flavors (sorry flavours) and colours, but till now its display has always been shades of black.

So what's new, well the colour screen for one. It will play the new colour games in proper (well almost proper) colour, as well as playing some in a weird pseudo-colour. Not all games are compatible though NHL '95 refuses to play, though V-Rally works. A much sharper screen is also part of the deal, along with a neat infra-red port. It's a bit more bulky than the pocket version, but that's progress.

### DreamCast Preview

While the Dreamcast was appearing in numbers over the other side of the world, a few here were treated to the next generation of console power. To claim a chasm inspiring leap in graphics when compared with other consoles would be an understatement. Godzilla generations was impressive as Godzilla flicked aside buildings and tanks. But will Sega get the price right in the UK? Will the PSX 2 do to the DeamCast what the PSX did to the Saturn? We will know by next November.





## Reviews

## Ronin ★★ ★

**Starring :** Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Jonathan Pryce, Natascha McElhone, Sean Bean  
**Director :** John Frankenheimer

Apparently, Ronin are Samurai who have lost their master and go around kicking the hell out of other people because they're pissed off. *Ronin*, however, replaces the Samurai with a crack squad of ex CIA, KGB and any other acronym you'd care to mention. Robert De Niro is at the head of this hand picked crew whose mission it is to retrieve a briefcase (not clichéd in any way then...). Everything goes swimmingly until they decide to double cross one another - which turns out to be an excuse for any number of high speed chases in the Parisian backstreets.

Don't be deceived by the cast list and the director's back catalogue (which includes *The Manchurian Candidate* and *French Connection II*). This is not, I stress NOT, an intelligent, character-driven, high-brow thriller. It is a scriptorally challenged, high octane action movie. Admittedly, however, it's not the run of the mill Hollywood lets-get-star-and-make-him-run-and-shoot à la *Lethal Weapon*. Firstly, the film is entirely shot in France (Paris and Nice) which makes for a refreshing change of scenery that adds to the mood of the film. They've tried to include a plot



Jean Reno. Surely clear favourite for this year's 'Coolest man in Hollywood' award.

here but it seems to have been written by a student from Truro polytechnic. Several times logic failed me. I think they tried too hard on the plot side and there really was no need. A film should stick to its strong points and Macbeth it ain't.

What it is though is an out and out action movie. As the cast career across France in pursuit of the case, adrenaline

levels are kept high with a succession of gun-battles, confrontations and truly amazing car scenes. Now we come to why you should see this film. Not since *The Italian Job* have I seen such amazing car chases. They might not be as inventive as the Michael Caine caper but for pure energy rush it's unbeatable. The driving is in your face, on the edge of your

seat stuff. The car shots are very realistic because the actors are always pictured in the car without a fake background. The stunt driver is either in the seat beside them (using a car with two steering wheels) or ingeniously positioned in the boot (the cars were specially rigged up so that a stunt driver could steer the car whilst sitting in the trunk. Not very reassuring for the actors).

As far as acting goes, with a script this perfunctory there's not a lot of Oscar worthy emoting going on. De Niro, as usual, slides with ease into a role that requires him to be a star first and an actor a distant second. Reno, Skarsgard and Pryce all acquit themselves well. Newcomer McElhone doesn't let herself be outdone by the seasoned actors. The only concern is Sean Bean who was just crap; luckily he doesn't hang around for long enough to spoil the film.

As far as action films go, you could do a lot worse than this, and the car chases are simply breathtaking. Maybe not one for the cinema but definitely worth renting out when you've got a few mates round. **F**

Mark

## Rounders ★

**Starring :** Matt Damon, Edward Norton, John Malkovich  
**Director :** John Dahl

For those of you who haven't see this movie already, the simple message is don't bother unless you're a poker fanatic (and I stress the word fanatic). Whenever I think of poker, I imagine high tension and big bets with enough excitement to make you sweat. Instead *Rounders* greets you with a group of people who are obviously - painfully so at times - just going through a routine. It might as well have been a documentary about banking.

Once again Matt Damon gets to play an everyday guy who just happens to be a genius. This time around, however, he's not an academic genius but a poker one. He plays Mike McDermott who is a law student with a passion for poker. So nothing at all like *Good Will Hunting* then.

As you've probably guessed, this is a film about poker, poker, and more poker. There is nothing else - even though the plot tries to involve something different, namely Mike's girlfriend. She does the 'it's me or poker' thing -



Who'd have thought that looking like a smug git could be so profitable.

which is fair enough if your boyfriend has just blown enough money to get him through college on one game of poker, then expects you to help him out. This bit

either should not have been included or developed a bit more. It was so thin that it would have made Kate Moss fat.

There is also the regulation best

friend who's got into trouble (through poker of course) and subsequently Damon gets into trouble because of him. Well, the story had to involve something of interest.

Talking of story where was it? The film just went from one poker game to another with so much poker jargon you might as well have been watching the film in another language. Even the big finale was disappointing. It was supposed to be a poker game to match all poker games. Damon was playing against the bad guy (John Malkovich) whose exciting trait is the ability to say 'son of a bitch' in the most peculiar way. The outcome of the game was obvious before it started.

It was a dull film full of nothing but dull people with a dull plot. There was just one thing that made it interesting; Matt Damon's personal tutor handed over ten thousand dollars without expecting to see it again. Now that's the sort of personal tutor I want! **F**

Helen



## Reviews &amp; Competitions

# If Only ★★★

**Starring :** Lena Headey, Douglas Henshall, Penelope Cruz, Mark Strong  
**Director :** Mario Ripoli

A romantic fable set in modern day London, *If Only* is nothing if not inventive. It begins with Henshall's attempt to stop ex-girlfriend Headey marriage to Strong because he now regrets cheating on her and wants her back. The film then starts down a magical path as Henshall, after a night on the bottle, meets some eccentric Spanish dustmen who allow him to attempt to right his past wrongs by sending him back in time to change his life for the better. Or so he thinks.

His subsequent attempts to stop Headey meeting Strong are hindered - which underlines the film's repeating theme of the unchangeable nature of fate and the unavoidability of destiny. *If Only* is concerned with the consequences and regrets that result from infidelity, with writer Rafa Russo drawing on personal experience to construct his first screenplay.

The film has a distinctly European feel with its vibrant, colourful scenes, and underlying romanticism. This comes from the all Spanish team of writer Russo, director Ripoli, and producer Juan Gordon who have carefully shaped the



Quick - someone pass me the sick bucket.

overall atmosphere of the film.

The acting is generally good, although at times it comes across in the style of a BBC Christmas special rather than a true work of cinema. This may be due to many of the actors having a background in television. Douglas Henshall, previously in *Sharpe*, is good in the lead role, thanks to enthusiastic (if a little over stated) acting, bringing an almost stand-up-comic persona to his charac-

ter. Charlotte Coleman effectively replays her *Four Weddings* role as Headey's frumpy friend.

The tiny budget occasionally becomes obvious, but this only serves to add to the film's charm. *If Only* would probably appeal more to a female audience (semi-chick flick) but that's not to say everyone won't find it engaging. It's just not a must-see movie. **F**

Bill and Jon

# Train to Pakistan

Written by Kushwant Singh - one of the most prominent writers in India today - *Train to Pakistan* charts the history of the partition of British India into modern day Pakistan and India.

The story is about the three main communities in north India who lived together in harmony until the partition was announced. Friend became foe and mass killings of Muslims in India and Sikhs and Hindus in the new Pakistan began. Train loads of dead bodies were sent to India from Pakistan and without doubt thousands were killed whilst migrating by train to Pakistan. *The Train to Pakistan* was the one that got away.

In a personal interview with the novelist, Kushwant Singh, he explains his first hand experiences and how he came to write the novel and later how the film was produced.

During the days of partition he remembers coming out into the streets and seeing Lahore in flames. Sikhs were the easiest targets because they could be identified by their long hair and turbans. He vividly remembers people being toppled from their bicycles and beaten to death. No doubt the same situation existed on the other side of the new border. Trains full of people were sent along the main city lines towards the new India - but when they crossed the border and stopped, the carriages were silent and only the hiss of the steam engines could be heard as piles of dead bodies lay in the aisles. This scene in the film is shocking to see, especially when someone is found moving around under the pile of bodies. The film shows how revenge completely engrossed the local villagers and the only justice would be to do the same when the train to Pakistan goes past the village.

Kushwant Singh decided to write the book while serving as a diplomat from India to the UK and Canada. As a diplomat he found he had a lot of time; "I got bored of just entertaining people and being called your Excellency". He started the novel in 1949, and after publication in 1956 he attempted to produce a film himself, but was refused a license by the government.

Forget the cast of unknowns - the film itself is definitely worth watching. Moreover, this adaptation will appeal to anyone with an interest in history, as it provides an important insight into the continuing tension between the two nations. **F**

**Vote for the best of '98 and win a massive prize, as Felix brings you the Film of the Year Poll in association with the**

# ODEON

## KENSINGTON

As we move into the festive period, it's only right and proper that we cast our minds back over the last year: Iraq, Indonesia, Clinton and Lewinsky, Peter Mandelson and bloody Beckham - to name but a few. So, it seems fair for us here at *Felix* to do the same. Consequently, in the next issue we'll be donning our best Barry Norman wigs, and looking back at the best films of 1998.

And that's where you come in. To construct an accurate, nay definitive, poll of what the best film of 1998 actually was we want to hear from you. Did you love *Titanic*? Was *Starship Troopers* more your thing? Or did you prefer the old-fashioned charm of *The Truman Show*? Or *Good Will Hunting*? Or *Deconstructing Harry*? Hell, you might even have some

strange affinity for *Godzilla*. Whatever your favourite film of 1998 was, we want to know.

But what do I get in return, I hear you cry. Well, to mark the close of the year, we've teamed up with those delightful people at the Odeon Kensington to come up with a veritable prize bonanza. Only without Lorne Greene. As well as loads of tickets, the lucky winner will take home T-Shirts, posters, the complete South Park Box Set 2 and whatever else I can get my hands on. And of course they'll be a mountain of runners-up prizes too.

To be in with a chance of winning this basket of goodies, simply email [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk) with your favourite movie of 1998, before Wednesday.

Last week's *Out of Sight* competition produced a record number of entries - hardly surprising considering it's so damn good - but there can only be five winners:

Scott Edmunds  
 Paris Deligiannakis  
 Tom Grek  
 Catrin Jones  
 Serene Lim

They all correctly identified that Oliver Stone's *U Turn* linked *Out of Sight* star Jennifer Lopez with both Claire Danes and Billy Bob Thornton. In return for this clear demonstration of their knowledge of all things filmic they each take home a pair of tickets. Please drop into the *Felix* office to pick up your prize.



**ICU EVENTS - The final countdown**

Sunday 13th/Monday 14th  
**STANDING ROOM ONLY**  
*Live sports on the only big screen in College*

Tuesday 8th

**STA TRIVIA NIGHT**

*Win £50 CASH or a crate of lager. DaVinci's 8pm*

Wednesday 9th

**ClubXS**

*Party tunes for the sporty crowd. 9-1. Free*

Thursday 10th

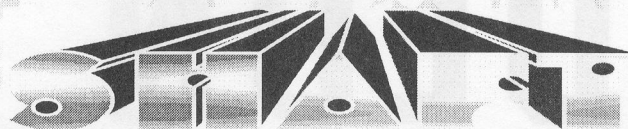
**DAVINCI'S COCKTAIL NIGHT**

*Have Sex on the Beach, & stay warm. 5-11*

Friday 11th

**BUSTAGUT**  
COMEDY CLUB

*With star of "Gas" LEE MACK & MARC HAYNES  
dBs. 8pm doors. £2.50/£2.*



*70's disco, 80's pop, 90's trash. 9-2. £1*

Saturday 12th

**THA' BOMB**

*Funk, soul, R&B, Hip Hop dBs. 8-12. FREE*

Tuesday 15th

**STA £100 TRIVIA NIGHT**

*Double your money!! DaVinci's 8pm*



## MEPHISTO

### Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Now come to the end of its run, Wyn Jones' epic production of *Mephisto* nonetheless deserves mention. Based on Ariane Mnouchkine's dramatisation of Klaus Mann's 1936 novel, the play centres on a group of actors in a small Hamburg theatre at the time of the Nazis' rise to power in Germany.

The central character is Hendrik Höfgen, an ambitious radical actor in the Peppermill Cabaret. Höfgen is repulsed by Nazi sympathisers within his company and many of the early scenes feature tirades against

National Socialism following the failure of the Munich Putsch. Yet alongside his socialist ideology is a violent and masochistic affair with his black mistress and marriage to a bisexual actress, which produces a beguiling mix, convincingly portrayed by Ferdy Roberts. Above all it is his burning ambition which sees Höfgen lured away from the mediocrity of the Hamburg theatre by the chance of fame in Berlin.

Though lack of subtlety and imagination ingrains much of the first half of this work, it is the final scenes that marvel. With the failure of the ineffectual

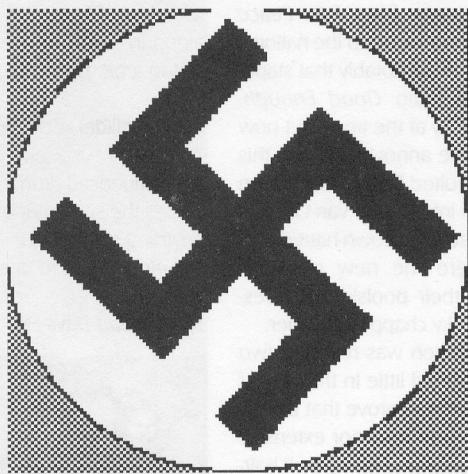
Weimar Republic and Hitler now in power, the Peppermill Cabaret is taken over by the Nazis. The director is sacked because his wife is Jewish and they subsequently throw themselves under a train. Other Jews escape from the theatre, some disappear.

Meanwhile, Höfgen achieves great

success in Berlin but the irony is not lost when it is the role of Faust that makes Höfgen a star, as the cattle trucks roll towards the concentration camps and his former colleagues face exile or death.

There are strong performances all round, especially by Finn Caldwell and Gemma Saunders. Sarah Blenkinsop's clever design allows the action to swing from Hamburg to Berlin without losing integrity. The effect is thrilling yet we are left with more questions than answers. Why considering his background does Höfgen never examine his conscience? The play is dedicated to the few German writers and actors who spoke out against Nazism. A roll-call of torture, murder and suicide.

Nick Lamb



## DEATHWATCH

### Old Operating Theatre

Nothing unusual about this play, it's in a theatre. However this is a 19th century operating theatre and Herb Garret. Instead of patiently retiring in a comfortable seat awaiting first night nerves to settle, the setting of a working museum provided a great venue. The museum and theatre are situated in the roof space of St Thomas's Church and with exposed beams, the apothecary resembles a barn - a long forgotten sight in the centre of London.

The crux of the evening was the play *DeathWatch* by Jean Genet, a psychodrama of three prisoners caught in a complex situation. It is somewhat difficult to transcribe the convoluted story, but in essence

one inmate is incarcerated for murder; another has a girlfriend outside, is illiterate and is becoming paranoid that another prisoner - who writes his letters - fancies her. Essentially there is continual change in territory and power throughout the piece, which grips the viewer in anticipation of the next development. There is an admission of guilt between inmates and as we see events unfold, the prisoners vie to kill one character's girlfriend before turning on each other. Homosexuality, apparent from the first scene, seems to underpin the pris-

oners' relationship.

The acting was clean, sharp and well executed; however with only four actors and no props, overall it was a little difficult to suspend disbelief, although after a time I became fairly absorbed. Actually performing in an operating theatre gave the impression of clinical coldness, just like in a prison cell. The plot certainly covered many topical issues and some of life's subtleties, but approached homophobia and violence, for instance, in a novel way.

Since the writer Genet led such a traumatic life (he was convicted of theft on several occasions), this play touches on rather personal questions. In addition to the literary side of happenings at the Old Operating Theatre, don't forget that the audience gets a chance to view the museum as well and certainly both are worth seeing.

Brett

Until 20th December

Performance times: daily except Mondays, 7.30pm  
Nearest tube: London Bridge  
Admission: £10/5



## DRAMSOC THEATRE PREVIEW: MACBETH

### Union Concert Hall

You're young, fast, ambitious. You get what you want one way or another. Only this time you want to be King. What will you sacrifice? Who will you sacrifice? And just how far will you go?

Such is the hype, surrounding the forthcoming Dramsoc production. With only a few days left before the run of the infamous "Scottish play" (I will forgo any comments on superstition!), I hunted down the acting director of the IC dramatic society in the Union labyrinth for an exclusive pre-performance low-down.

Although previously involved in behind the scenes technical work, this is Simon Myatt's first forage into the realm of directing. The project has been in working progress for a year; the play

was proposed during the summer term, with rehearsals started in mid-October.

Macbeth is portrayed as a high-flying financial executive

He admits to never having fully grasped the gist of the piece, when he studied it at school - all the more incentive to tackle *Macbeth* now.

Although the adaptation remains faithful to the original text, the occasional adjustment was inevitable since the play is set in modern times. The action has been transported to a City environment in an attempt to present the classic in a more familiar context. The accent has shifted from medieval mysticism, perhaps more intimidating to a Jacobean audience, to the contemporary themes of power, desire and greed (hopefully

promoting the play's accessibility to individuals unversed in the Bard, without alienating theatre regulars). Macbeth is portrayed as a high-flying financial executive, whose quest for authority is ultimately his downfall, whereas the witches (of toil and trouble, cauldron bubble fame) are trans-

"I have almost forgotten the taste of fears."

formed into dark, shadowy figures (in X-Filesque spirit), who lurk in the background but pull the stings of the company.

Simon Myatt's aim was to create a stylish, minimalist and atmospheric interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy.

The cast of twenty or so members consists mainly of freshers. Despite a few initial hiccups with e-mail systems, he

describes the team as extremely focussed and dedicated.

"Lay on, Macduff, and damn'd be him that first cries, 'hold, enough!'"

Traditional swords have been sheathed and shelved, exchanged instead for guns and blanks. As the tension spirals, he promises an exciting twist at the finale - in fact, the play stops before the end...

Apparently there's suspense galore, so watch this space for the definitive review.

Helena

Showing at 7.30pm between the 9th and 10th December  
Admission: £4 students (tickets available at the door on the night)





## Album and Live

## DODGY

Ace A's + Killer B's ★★ ★



Couldn't find any Dodgy pictures so here's a *dodgy* one instead

You can't breathe, your throat's sore, you've started using tissues for their intended purpose and you're getting to know the uniformed girl behind the Boots' counter very well. Oh yes, that winter cold is here. What we need, I hear you cry, is the sound of summer. A jingly-jangly happy-to-be-alive feeling that will clear the congested conduits of our souls. Well hooray then, because here come Dodgy!

Formed in Hounslow ten years ago, Dodgy originally comprised of just vocalist Nigel Clark and drummer and 'professional ligger' Matthew Priest. Guitarist Andy Miller joined a couple of years later. They released a few singles on independent labels before signing to A&M in 1993. Mercifully, only one single from these early days is included here, the album closer *The Elephant*, displaying that Dodgy were yet to find their sound. The next 4 years gave us three Dodgy albums, the lazily titled *The Dodgy Album*, followed by the better known *Homegrown* and the platinum success of *Free Peace Sweet*. We are treated to twelve 'Ace A's' from these albums plus their last single before Nigel Clark jumped ship, *Every Single Day*. This leaves us with three 'Killer B's' that are

so lifeless they are incapable of throwing a punch let alone killing.

So, let's have a look at the singles then. Aside from the glorious sunshine pop of 1994's *Staying Out For The Summer*, it is the songs from *Free Peace Sweet* that are engraved into the nation's consciousness, most notably that staple of commercial radio *Good Enough*. Undeniably catchy at the time (but now more than a little annoying) it was this song that catapulted Dodgy to stardom and Andy Miller into Denise Van Outen's bed. Gone were the brown-haired hippies, here were the new clean-cut blondies with their poolside effervescence and cheeky chappy drummer.

This compilation was released two months ago and did little in the way of selling. It just went to prove that Dodgy have neither a very loyal nor extensive fanbase, changing as often as their haircuts. The highlights on this album are undoubtedly the songs from *Free Peace Sweet* such as *If You're Thinking Of Me* and *In A Room*, so anyone with an interest in Dodgy would be better off getting that album rather than this one. **M**

Ed

## CUBA

## The Mass, Brixton

Many of you may be unaware of Cuba (that's the band and not the place - although it is possible that some of you may not have heard of either), and you shouldn't be shocked if you are in the former group of people. Cuba are relatively recent to the music scene and their choice of venue tonight is an ideal one, close to their roots. If you had been listening to any good radio stations over summer you probably would have heard a track by Cuba and I was lucky enough to tune into Crash FM in Liverpool, so I managed to hear plenty of new alternative stuff and what a surprise, there is actually loads of alternative music out there which you don't get to experience when you're constantly tuned into Radio 1! The track they released over summer was instantly catchy, with a chorus that calls out to the masses, 'Only together are we unstoppable', which is chanted over the drilled out bassline and pounding drums.

Walking up to the Mass (formerly the Brix), a church with a huge Mass

logo looms in front of you and as you walk up the spiral staircase to the stage area the neon lighting tube running along the railing changes colour, chameleon like, as though the mere movement of your steps is fuelling it.

The music playing before Cuba come on is excellent with a more chilled out hip hop version of ADF's *Culture Move* the definite winner. Cuba are made up of two guitarists, bassist, drummer and geezer on samplers, with an occasional singer and brass section. They begin with an instrumental attack, blasting the audience with a wall of guitar sonic thrashing aided by the pounding drums and the bloke controlling the beats.

The horn section arrive (three blokes with trumpets) and lift to greater heights their single *Only Together* and new single *Havana* (obvious link to the band name here, except for those of you who haven't heard of Cuba of course). Cuba only play about six songs and sometimes you start to fidget when a song is stuck on repeat for near eternity, how-

ever this does not lessen the power of the tracks, with Primal Scream certainly a definite fave of theirs in the past.

Half of the tracks they play have a clear live mood to them while the others sound as if they ought to be played to a club full of people shuffling to the subtle 'baggy' flavour of Cuba. Have a Havana on me lads! **M**

Jason

## Singles

Fruit Machine - Monte Carlo

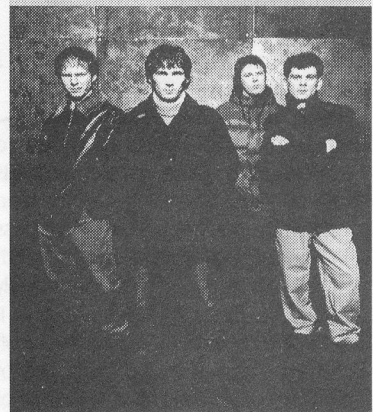
I'm amazed that this isn't Echobelly - the singers are so similar. Very Glam pop, harmless enough and there is some kind of tune there.

Straw - *The Aeroplane Song*

The packaging of the song is an electronic toy piano but the indie core soon takes over. The verses intentionally plod along in a playful manner - the chorus giving a bit more bite. Quite good.

Super Collider - *Darn (cold way o'lovin')*

Soul influenced drum n bass. The singer carries the song along, but doesn't add anything specific to it other than a slight variation. Good to dance to however.

Space - *Bad Days EP*

*Bad Days* is just down right boring. Their version of *We've Gotta get out of This Place* is blatantly inferior to the original. Even the one in the car advert is better than this one. And guess what? The third song finishes off an embarrassing threesome in as poor a fashion as the others.

Sheryl Crow - *There Goes The Neighbourhood*

Second song from the latest album. The guitar tune and brass in the chorus keep you occupied but the singing is near monotone and lets the song down.

Gay Dad - *To Earth With Love*

The souly sixties indie feel to this song is quite original if you ignore what Mover have managed to achieve in the last year. The imitation doesn't achieve the perfect harmonies or soaring tunes, but who cares? Great name for a band. **M**

Dave





## Tha Bomb!

**FAITH, TOTAL, WHITNEY ALBUM REVIEWS AND DON'T FORGET : SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER - THA BOMB PARTY**



What up people! After a two week break Tha Bomb has returned with album reviews for the wicked Faith Evan's effort *Keep The Faith*, the latest set from Whitney Houston and the second album from the Bad Girls of Bad Boy - *Total*. As well as that you got some random shit from yours truly, and news of the "Tha Bomb Party".

First up I've got cuss down the latest tune from Will Smith - *Miami*; this is the worst tune to come from Will Smith, since the last one he released. The boy is going downhill very fast, with 'Miami' he uses the all time classic *And the Beat Goes On* by the Whispers as his backing and does his usual fucking shit over the top. This appeals to the teenyboppers out there (entered the charts at number three, what the fuck is wrong with the world?), but anyone with half a brain knows he's just raped a classic.

Snoop Doggy Dogg celebrated his birthday on 20th November and then flew into London last week for a date at Sub. Just as he was getting into some of his classic tunes somebody fired off a blank, causing chaos and ending up with the crowd all going home. Snoop was said to be very pissed off; someone should have informed the boy that Ladbroke Grove is our answer to Compton. Talking about Compton, Priority records are releasing a tribute album: *Straight Out Of Compton - 10th Anniversary Tribute*. The album celebrates the anniversary of the original release of 'Straight Out Of Compton', the album which introduced the world to NWA and the gangsta rap style. Ice Cube, Dr Dre, Eazy-E and MC Yella exploded on to the mainstream of US music with what are now hip-hop classics. The album is a series of covers, original NWA tunes covered by latter day artists including Big Pun, MC Eight and many others. The hits covered include *Fuck The Police*, *Quiet On The Set* and *Express Yourself*.

This year has seen the return of the excellent Beverly Knight and now we have the return of the beautiful 21 year old East Londoner Kele Le Roc and her stunning set *Everybody's Somebody*. When she first hit the scene, in 1995, she rocked the place and we knew

we were in for something special, but after such a long time out I had doubts she would bring more of the same. Well she's back with more of the same, the album is almost sample free, all original, which is definitely not the norm these days, but the girl pulls it off. The 15 track album has quality written all over it with the standouts being *Little Bit of Lovin*, *Kiss Me*, *Love* and *My Love*.

Milcn

### *Keep The Faith* by Faith Evans

Question: How does one follow up a multi-platinum debut set?



For the First Lady of Bad Boy, it seems like that Faith had no problem in tackling this seemingly mammoth-sized task. Before I start giving you the LD, there's one word that springs to mind about this album: INCREDIBLE!!!! For all you RnB connoisseurs, this is The album to go and buy ASAP! Because of Milen constantly reminding us (and I really DO mean reminding!), many of you will have heard *Love Like This* by now (and shame on you if you haven't!). This is the first single to be lifted from the album, is currently on general release and deserves to be a Top 10 hit at least. Borrowing from Chic's *Chic Cheer*, this is an up-tempo number that will have you dancing along or head nodding all night. Another notable floor filler is *All Night* with its truly infectious chorus: 'We can dance, dance, dance, Clap your hands, hands, hands...'

The rest of the album is very much down-tempo, it's difficult to decide which tracks are the best; they're all genuinely amazing. Perhaps the Kelly Price collaborations of *My First Love* and *No Way* are worthy of a special mention as well as the Babyface-produced *Never Gonna Let You Go*.

What is impressive about *Keep The Faith* is that there are no signs of the sometimes overbearing production and trademark sounds of Puffy. Faith sings and writes from the heart and it shows. Don't worry, girl, we remember you and we'll always Keep the Faith.

Kidphobce

### *My Love Is Your Love* by Whitney Houston

So, exactly how long has it been since we've heard from The Diva herself? Too long, I hear some of you say and I totally agree. Originally scheduled for a November 17th release date, Whitney's 4th studio album (her first in over 8 years!) hits our stores last week and Tha Bomb is here to give you an all-exclusive review of her new joint!

After much anticipation, I can't say that I was particularly impressed by it though. With the ever-growing popularity of RnB in mainstream music these days, Whitney (like Mariah) has decided to take this change of direction and why not? With the help of producer of the moment Rodney Jerkins as well as Wyclef, Lauryn, Missy & Babyface, would you expect *My Love Is Your Love*, well, to be tha bomb!?

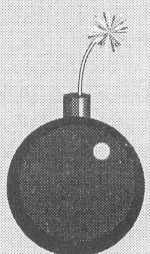
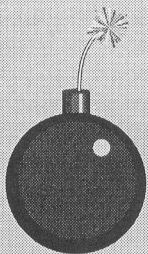
The problem with Rodney Jerkins is that he's very much a hit or miss producer. Most recently, a hit has come in the form of Brandy's *Never Say Never* but don't forget Gina Thompson's *Nobody Does It Better* as being a disastrous miss. The opening track *It's Not Right But It's Okay* is typical Jerkins material-jerky rhythm and a booming bass line, very radio friendly, especially with Whitney's sassy vocals (yeah Monica, eat your heart out!). Another one to check out is *If I Told You That*: a *The Boy Is Mine* Mark II, you could say. On a brighter note, there's quite a few slow tempo tracks worth a mention: *Heartbreak Hotel* with Faith Evans & Kelly Price pretty much hits the spot as does the forthcoming single, a duet with Mariah Carey called *When You Believe*. As many of will know having heard the *Waiting To Exhale* soundtrack, any Whitney Houston/Babyface collaboration is a sure hit and this album is no exception, take note of *Until you Come Back* and *You'll Never Stand Alone*.

*My Loves*.. screw ups are most definitely the Missy tracks, can't help but think that *In My Business* was put in to prove a point that what goes on between her and her husband (Bobby Brown) is their own business and no-one else's. Frankly, who cares? Other minor complaints are the overuse of ad-libs, yeah, we know that Rodney Jerkins' alias is Darkchild and Missy's is Misdemeanour. You know what, Whitney trying to sound ghetto ain't working!

This album needs time: on the first listen, it sounds a bit of a disaster. Whitney Houston is primarily known as an adult contemporary singer who's dished out many a heart wrenching ballad over the years and changing to a more RnB orientated style needs a little transition period. THAT VOICE is still there and what an amazing one it is too. It's no wonder that so many of today's young female singers aspire to sing like her. But there's only one Whitney and despite a somewhat mediocre set, I'm glad she's back. Kid

## THA BOMB PARTY - Saturday 12th December in Union DBs

Your regular dose of hip hop and R&B tunes at the union is coming around again on the 12th - this Saturday. This is the third night we've put on, the first was good, the second night had its problems, but hopefully we're all sorted for this final night of the year at the union. So everyone come on down and support us!







## Dance



## the electric café

### Artist Profile

**S**oma Records based in Glasgow have consistently challenged and inspired clubbers and music listeners alike with their cutting edge sounds. Sometimes hard and driving, sometimes delicious and funky, but never boring, Soma has nurtured and put its artists on the world stage. They have also pioneered some previously unheard of concepts in dance music. One is that they encourage their artists to release full-length albums to prove them as mature musicians. The other is that they are getting their artists to make live shows and break down the stereotype that live electronic music is boring. Soma has long been known as a family of like-minded individuals driven by a common passion. We caught up with Envoy, one of their artists. His new album (Where There's Life is out now).

**Who are you? What do you do with music?**

I am Hope Grant, aka Envoy. I've done four eps for Soma which stretch back over the last four years, and I've just completed my debut album *Where There's Life*. We're doing live dates across the country and it's all looking quite positive!

**Have you only recorded for Soma?**

No. The first thing I did was for a label called Peacefrog. I did that under the name *St Vitus Dance*. That was the first thing I did alone. Then Soma approached me a little while after that, and I hooked up with them. They're like a family; a great bunch of guys. I've been recording for them since. I also did some stuff for a label called Plink Plonk, under the name *Urban Groove*.

**So I guess Soma approached you on the strength of the Peacefrog material, because that's a very famous ep.**

Yes. For a first ep it got a really good reaction. Lots of people were aware of it. A good mate of mine knew the Soma guys and they'd heard the Peacefrog ep. They asked him if he reckoned I would do some stuff for them. That's how the Envoy stuff came about.

**Why do you record under different names?**

I never actually meant to go onto Soma. What happened was I did the *St Vitus Dance* ep and I was ready to give the next ep to peacefrog. But they were in a funny direction at the time. They were doing a lot of Chicago style house, and they already had a techno blueprint with Dan Curtin and Luke Slater. The guy who runs Peacefrog (Pete) thought the stuff was a bit similar. So what actually happened was *Solitary Mission*, which was the first Envoy release on Soma was actually meant to be the second *St Vitus Dance* release on Peacefrog.

I don't really change my style a lot. I don't go under a lot of different guises because it's usually all the same kind of sound. It's just that people want you to change your name and I just fell into line really!

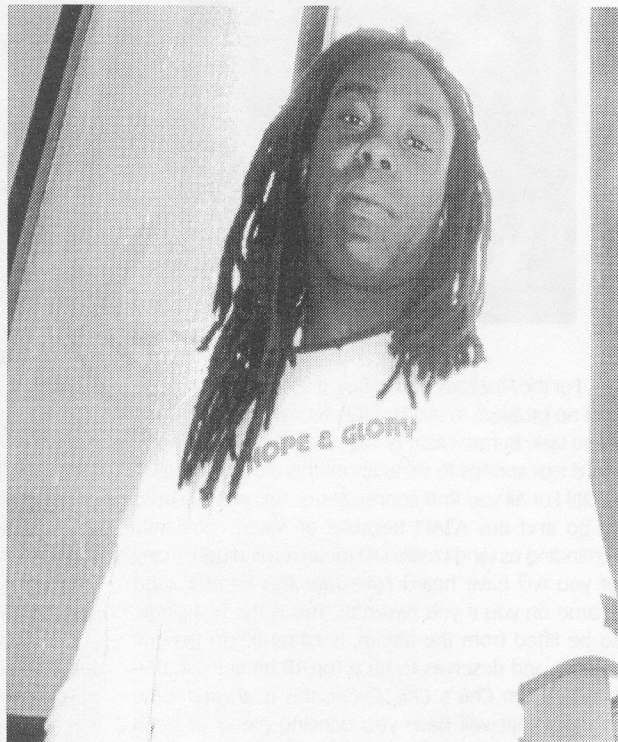
**Can you describe this sound? What kind of music do you make?**

I like to think of it as beautiful stuff; emotive. I don't

really want to say timeless because that's a big word, but if you take the *St Vitus Dance*, I can listen to it now and it still sounds fresh as if it was made yesterday. But it's a good few years old. So really the stuff I make is emotive and soulful.

**As your music is emotive, are you inspired to make music from emotional things that happen to you?**

Yes. I've seen some of the reviews of *Where There's Life* and some magazines have come in with the slant that it's a very deep and personal kind of album. When you consider the word techno, a lot of people say "urban decay" and "you've got to be really up against it to make this machine-style music". I don't look at it like that at all. I make techno after a lovely conversation with somebody, or a night out, or just talking to



people and having personal experiences. Life's about more than just urban decay and our surroundings. It's also about emotions and people.

**How did you originally get involved in music?**

I was very young when I got into music. I started writing songs when I was a kid. I wanted to be the proverbial rock/pop star. I was a singer/songwriter and I wanted to be in bands throughout my childhood. Then I got into Prince. I saw a video, and I had never seen that kind of energy before. It really did blow me away. I'm quite an obsessive person. When I get into something I have to delve deeper and find out all the stuff about it. When I delved into the Prince stuff I found that he writes all the songs, he plays the instruments, he does the vocals; and that's what I wanted to do! He's basically his own man.

It was around the time when everyone was setting up their own studios, so I got a bank loan and bought a drum kit and a four track and started writing songs all by myself. It was a good apprenticeship but you never know what road your life is going to take. A friend of mine took me to a rave in 1987 and I never looked back. The songwriter in me died. At first I thought, "what is

this?" I thought a 303 was noise! "Where's the melody? Where's the harmony?" But a few raves down the road I was hooked!

**So which DJs were you listening to then?**

In those days it was the times of the big raves with Fabio and Grooverider. Now these boys make drum'n'bass. There was also a guy called Frankie Valentine who blew me away. Also people like Colin Faver and LSD. Back then I used to follow them everywhere when they did Energy and the big raves. Then they used to come and play in tiny little after hours clubs and spin till the morning. They would play everything. Now they've all ventured off into their own genres.

**Do you feel that's a bit sad, as it was maybe more diverse before?**

Yes I do. The whole way it's gone now is pretty sad to me, but I suppose it's just a sign of the times. Everytime I meet someone for the first time and they ask me what sort of music I do, I always say house! We all know about the "t word" (techno), and if you use the "t word" to some people they think, "Oh my God! You make that bang bang noise. It's great when people like yourself are on missions to show people by playing them the music they didn't expect to be the "t word", and they actually like it! I've got to the stage now where I don't even bother because I don't think they'll understand, so I just say house. It's so broad. I think it's sad that I cop out but it's just a sign of the times.

**Live techno acts are often criticised for not being as raw or exciting as rock musicians on stage. How did your live sets come about?**

Soma had albums out last year by Maas and Funk D'Void. Both of them went out and did live sets in Europe. I followed them around to a few gigs to check what this live thing was all about. Soma were always saying "you should go live when you do your album." I didn't know about that. I saw Maas and Funk D'Void do their thing and was very impressed.

My singer/songwriter background had never really left me, as I thought it would when I immersed myself into techno. I decided I would try and do vocals while I was playing live and see if people were up for it and what type of reaction I would get. They were all my own vocals. Up until now the reaction has been very positive because there was that energy that you speak of in the other scenes.

People used to say to me that the crowd doesn't want to be entertained and that the DJs are the kings. I don't like the fact that they have this power. I think it's great that they're spreading the word, but I've been into this scene a long time now and I've seen a lot of DJs turn up, don't even look at the crowd, take the fee, play the same set that they played in the last club, and they're out of there onto the next club. I'm a fan, and I'm a paying fan. I believe that they should be entertaining the crowd. There are only a few that do that for me. I wanted the crowd to be entertained. I was told that they didn't want to be entertained, that they just wanted the music. At this moment in time I don't think this is the case.

**Do the live sets work?**

Yes! It's working big style at the moment. Especially



## Dance

*the electric café***Envoy**

recently as we just did a couple of dates in London.

**How long does a live set last?**

About forty-five minutes. It's sort of split in two. The first half is instrumental stuff, including Envoy tracks. Then I come out and do vocals for the rest of the set.

**Are the vocals live or pre-recorded?**

I'm on the mic and I sing to the crowd. It's all live!

**Do you record and sample them or do you sing songs?**

I sing songs. It's hard to get your head around when you think about how I do it...

**But with all the instruments and everything it must be like controlling a whole orchestra and singing at the same time!**

No. I there's two boys, the HSC boys, who help with all the Envoy stuff when we record in the studio. They come out with me and control the synths and the drums and the mixer while I'm out front. We do it all together.

**Have you played elsewhere in the world?**

Not really yet. We've done a couple dates in Europe. France and Norway. We haven't really tested Europe extensively yet. But we've done England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**How were these gigs received?**

It all went down really well. But it all depends on what time you go on, who was playing before you. It's all about catching the crowd. Sometimes when I start the set they're not really up for it, and I know they need to be entertained, and you have to work them like a good DJ. That's the bit I really like, going out there and bringing them over to our side.

**Many DJs say that two hours isn't enough time to build up a set. Would you like more time to play in?**

Yes. I would really like more time. We could easily do an hour for starters. It's just that we've been given forty-five minutes for starters. That's what they say for live sets. But you're right, on quite a few occasions the crowd have wanted encores and I've never legislated for that. When it's over I want more time. I don't want to leave the stage but it's game over!

**From playing in Europe, how did you find the crowds in other cultures? And the techno scenes in other countries?**

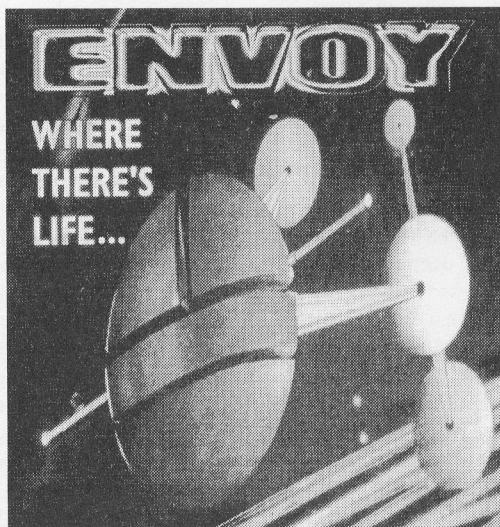
One of the reasons I took on the live gigs was that I always wanted to travel. I know quite a lot of DJs and I was always a little bit jealous when they were going to these countries every weekend. I wanted to meet other like-minded souls who were into the same music as me. That's what's nice about travelling. It's amazing to go to another country and meet someone that has your record and knows the tune. That is a really lovely thing. And when you make this music in your bedroom, you don't really know who it's going to reach. So to go thousands of miles to another country and know someone's got your ep is a fantastic thing.

**Do different cultures react to the music in the same way from country to country?**

Not really. For instance Glasgow is a fantastic city for house and techno. They really know their stuff. I'm not being sexist or anything but the girls are as knowledgeable as the guys. They're used to having good DJs up there. Lots of the American DJs come to Scotland first and play there before they hit London. Because they are so used to good DJs you have to work them. But if you work them well they're true fans.

Where did the inspiration come to make *Where There's Life?* It's rarer for techno artists to make a flowing album (and not a collection of tracks) than say pop or rock artists.

Well, going back to my past again. I'm a fan as I said before, and the albums that I own are really special. For me the word album is really special. In this scene I find it a bit strange that you put two bits of vinyl together in a sleeve and you can call it an album. Some people call it a double pack. I don't like this word! Sometimes it's eight banging tracks or eight mellow tracks. There's no continuity. If I only make one album I want to be able to say that it was the best that I could do, that it is an album! If I die tomorrow then I've made that album that I've really wanted to make. That's how I approached it. I wanted little intros. I wanted it to end in a certain way and ebb and flow and have something for everyone like a good album should.

**Is it inspired from personal experiences?**

Yes. Definitely! One of the things about me is that I'm notoriously very slow at making tracks. Hence four eps over three years on Soma! But a lot of it is from personal experience.

**Can you tell us what sort of things inspire you to sit down in the studio?**

Absolutely. Well I don't want to bring anyone down but I entered into a depression this time last year. It was a really serious depression where I had to seek some help. It's a hard thing this scene. One thing that we cannot take away from it is the word underground. It's very easy for people who listen to think, "He records for Soma. He must be doing well!" But if you're not a DJ and you only sell eps, it's all an underground thing. We don't sell hundreds of thousands of copies, only thousands. It's a struggle. You haven't got a job but you want to make this music, and I was literally on the edge. I thought I would have to give up because I wanted to live. But at the same time I thought I really had something to say with my music. I didn't have a place to record. I had all the gear but I had domestic problems, relationship problems and all manner of things that happened within a space of time.

I actually got out of it because my record company Soma invited me up to Glasgow. I'd never actually been there before even though I'd been recording for them for a few years. I went to Glasgow and almost

made another family. It was wonderful. They eased my confidence back. When I came back it

just all poured out! And that's *Where's There's Life!*

**Thanks for sharing that with us. I hope you're feeling better now!**

Yes I am. You know it comes in waves, doesn't it? I think it's great that you could express yourself like that.

I suppose it's a bit bolder because I'm naked in that. I'm there to be shot down. But I don't mind at all because it's real. It's real life and I think everyone can relate.

**You're also going to start your own record label. Can you tell us about that?**

It's actually with someone else, Mr Funk D'Void (Lars Sandberg). The label is called Dark Night Recordings and the first release should be out in the new year. We make the tracks together.

**Is there a musical style or concept involved in that?**

Not really. I think you have to imagine how Envoy and Funk D'Void would sound like. Everyone has their pre-conceptions about how we should sound. So we just want to keep people guessing!

**Do you have other artists involved in the label?**

No not at the moment. It's really just for us to get the stuff we do out. In the future we would really like to progress to that stage. The first few releases are just going top be me and Funk.

Electronic music does get criticised. You talked about the "t word" earlier! That dirty word that is so misunderstood. Can you defend the music from people who say it's created by computers and has no soul or funk?

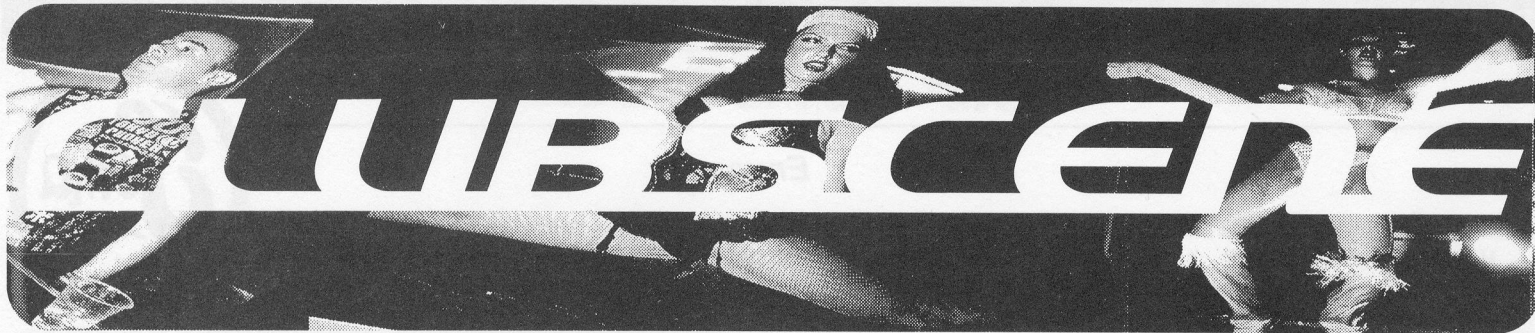
Apart from putting on one of my records which is a bit blasé, it is hard to defend. We're in this scene and we can't speak for every record that comes out each week. To be really fair, for every great record there is a record that is not so great. All I know is that since I've been into it, every couple of years they say "It's over! They've been swept under the carpet and they're not coming back." But we're still here!

You can compare it to the rock/pop scene. The same dinosaur giants are making music in the present day. It might not be as great as when they were doing it in the 1970's but they're still making the music. That's like us! The same Dave Angels and the Juans and the Jeffs and the Mad Mikes are still making quality records. I don't think it's going away. I think we're here to stay and people have just got to accept it.

**Is a computer a musical instrument?**

There is a human input because you have to tap in! It really depends on how you approach the whole music-making side. The way I describe the whole techno thing is that as a fan, or for anyone listening to the music for the first time, when I first put a techno record on I was blown away. I thought "How did that guy/girl make those sounds? How did that happen?" I had a synthesizer and I thought, "I'm going to try and make those sounds!" So you are stealing, but every musician steals because you need a reference point to start off with. And that could be that first techno record you put on.





## Milk n' 2 Sugars @ The Cross

Goods Yard, off King's Way, King's Cross (opp. Bagley's Warehouse) - currently monthly residency. Fridays, £12, 10.30pm - 6am, capacity = 360. Glam dress code.

Perfect Clubbing? Well nearly. No queuing, nice music, posh venue, friendly people (and bouncers!), enough room to dance, and a few freebies scattered here and there (you probably won't get those though - perks of the job, I'm afraid to say). Altogether a really groovy Friday night.

I've already mentioned before that I love this venue. Even though it is tiny, and can get a bit sweaty (its a club converted out of some old railway arches, so its not too airy), The Cross is still one of the most stylish venues in London, and it is increasingly the place to be seen. It's even rumoured that this is Baby Spice's favourite club. And if it's good enough for the blond-haired, wide-hipped one then it'll certainly do for me.

As for the night, Milk n' 2 Sugars is funky, happy, and most definitely very very sexy. The music is sexy, the people are sex on a stick, and even their membership cards are sexy. All the club babes (of both sexes) are out in this wood. You'll see angel boys and girls going for it to some delightful deep house, and delicious garage tunes. But you also don't get bogged down in the mindless twiddling that can plague the sets of some garage DJs. At Milk n' 2 Sugars the residents and the likes of the mighty Roy Davis Jr. (over from America for his only UK appearance this year), make sure that the tunes and the mixing continues to be up-beat enough to dance to, but still with that groovy edge that you expect at a garage influenced night.

Manicness is not what this night is all about, but at the same time you won't just see people tapping their feet to the tunes and sipping on their G&Ts. The crowd is never in yer face like at the more crazy, drug-influenced London nights. The crowd here is more sophisticated, and are more likely to be downing a few Vodka Red Bulls than half a pill and a wrap. But this doesn't make them boring - people in here still enjoy themselves to the extreme and really do try to dance the night away. It's just that there is a lot less tension in here than on an awful lot of other nights in the capital (less paranoia, I guess). All in all a confident night, full of confident people. Just go and stylishly loose the plot for the night.

Now for the cheesy bit - I've got to say a special Cheers Mate! to Tim, who promotes the night, for all his help last week. Also look out for a competition to win Milk n' 2 Sugars concessions in one of our issues after Christmas. I'll have three lumps, please.



Roobarb

## Southern Comfort @ The Scene

516 Old Kent Rd, South London, 9pm - 4am, capacity = 300-350. £10

If you dare go South of the river you could be in for a pleasant surprise, as this is the home of what is known as the UK Underground Garage scene. And in my humble opinion this includes one group which puts on some of the best events - the Upfront 99.3fm kru, who also run a pirate radio station, and have their finger on the pulse, and access to some of the best Garage DJs around.

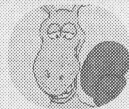
Southern Comfort is a monthly event at the recently refurbished Scene Nightclub, which provides the perfect surroundings for this night of sexy underground garage. The venue is only small, so you'd better arrive early to avoid disappointment - the last two I attended, have been serious roadblock sessions. This isn't all that surprising 'cos as I said before the night is run in conjunction with Upfront 99.3fm, one of London's leading pirate stations. They make full use of the wealth of DJ talent at their disposal, and on this night you don't only get the full Upfront Hitsquad treatment - The Dexter, DJ Para, KCK, JayDee & DJ Risky, but also Stevie B, EJB and Marc Brown.

All styles of underground garage were covered. Stevie B brought the vocal pressure mixed up with phat underground beats. Para took us a little deeper with a fine blend of darker numbers in a two step fashion. KCK came with the 4 to da floor selection ripping it up and The Dexter smashed it as always, with plenty of upfront dubplate action going on, alongside the usual crowd pleasers.

The vibe on the night I went was unbelievable - relaxed n' friendly. And you've never seen as sexy a crowd as this lot. This is a night I can firmly recommend to ya all and I know you'll be at the next one.

Southern Comfort Pt. 5 is on December 5th, and double-header New Year's Eve spectaculars are also being held at The Scene Nightclub and the Valbonne Nightclub, in Purely, Surrey. Yes, two clubs, one night, one vibe. Keep it locked to Upfront 99.3fm for further info on forthcoming events and one-off specials that'll be popping up all over town. Enough respect to all Upfront management n' all da family.

Upfront running tings for 99...



Jo Public

UPFRONT  
99.3FM

Southern  
Comforts





## Reviews Feature

React is one of the club scene's most influential labels. Its DJs include Blu Peter and Mrs Wood, and it has produced many club anthems, including the huge Age of Love (by Age of Love). Recently, React have released a number of albums and singles, and here's a review of them:

### Reactivate 13

The Reactivate series gets to volume 13 and features the very best of European trance and techno over 2 CD's. The tunes are superb - many of them are huge club anthems (featuring Transa, Mrs Wood, and Blu Peter) - and with well over 2 hours of music the compilation is a bargain. Reactivate 13 is available on CD and vinyl; both are unmixed which is a shame as it would have been nice to have had a mix on here.

### Artcore 4 (Drum and Bass)

Again, another continuing series featuring the very best of drum and bass. All the big names are featured alongside some lesser known acts. The album is on 2 CDs and is (again) over 2 hours long, so all you D&B fans will be spoiled for choice.

### Twice as Nice

A club compilation, with two CDs. The first is garage, mixed by resident DJ Spooky, and the second is R&B mixed by resident Fitzroy 'Da Buzz Boy'. Worth buying whether you're a regular to Twice as Nice or

not. The album features the best of garage and R&B, with each CD boasting about 20 tracks and all the anthems of 1998 and the ones that have helped to shape Twice as Nice into London's premier garage and R&B night.

### Age of Love - Age of Love

The hugely popular club anthem gets another set of mixes by Johnny Victious and Brainbug. It's already one of the biggest club anthems ever so there's not much more I can add.



Gurm

## Preview: Swallow @ The Gardening Club

Covent Garden. £6 NUS b4 11pm, £8 NUS after 11pm. Capacity = 220-400. Dress Code = none. Information, contact Chris on (0171) 7800305.

Swallow is a night mainly aimed at us scruffy students, but does get a wide variety of (and I quote) "ages and colours". The next party is at The Gardening Club, Covent Garden, and features a massive DJ line up playing all kinds of house, hard house and drum and bass music. Tickets will cost about £6 before 11pm and a little more after 11pm, with a relaxed dress code. I can only assume the drinks prices will match. For more



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## Singles

### Faithless - Take The Long Way Home (Cheeky)

Rollo, Sister Bliss and Maxi Jazz return from a very successful tour and winning loads of awards all over Europe with another brilliant tune. Currently doing well in the UK top 40, *Take The Long Way Home* features five mixes (all remixed in house by Faithless) and is about learning from your struggles.

### Blockster - You Should Be (Sound of Ministry)

Brandon Block produces his first single under the name Blockster and is quite simply excellent. A funky,

"wave your hands in the air" tune - it's currently doing very well in the clubs and is out in January.

### Juliet Roberts - Bad Girls (Delirious)

The diva queen is back with a single, which features Juliet at her very best. *Bad Girls* is Juliet's version of the Donna Summer classic, and unlike many cover artists, Juliet does the hit a lot of credit. There are two mixes of *Bad Girls* and the other track is entitled *I Like*. Both tunes feature great vocals and are produced by Danny D. Garage music at it's best.

### Blake Williams - To the Left (Cleveland City)

There are a couple of mixes on this single. On one side you've got driving beats, funky bassline and a very uplifting breakdown whilst the flip side is a progressive

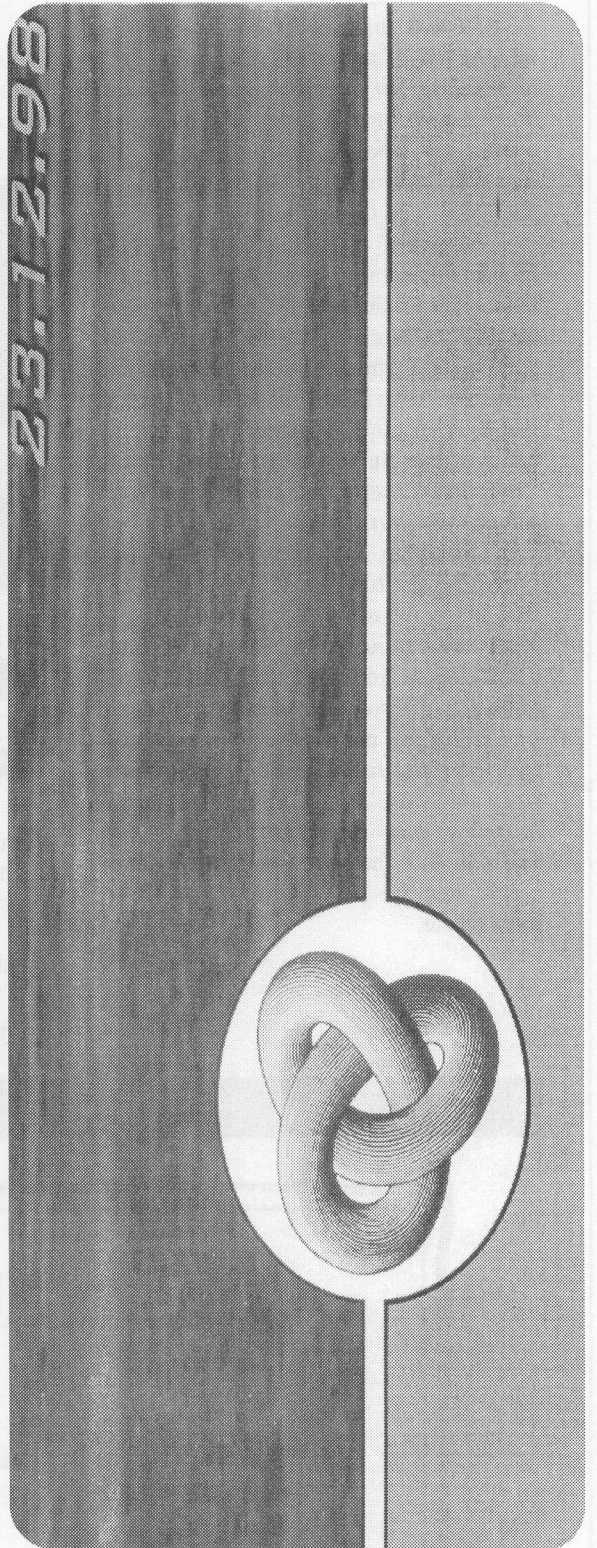
mix in the style of Sasha & Digweed. Worth buying just for the flip side.

### Mirror Ball - Given up (Multiply)

The dance maestros at Multiply bring us another stormer. *Given up* is a high-octane disco epic, based on the legendary classic *Giving Up, Giving In* by the Three Degrees. There are a couple of mixes - the original mix follows the original tune very closely (not surprisingly), whilst a house version comes from the Hugstar remix.



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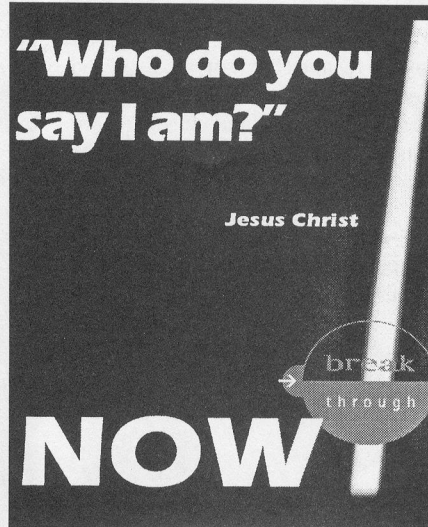


*"I was just thinking ... that here we are, all of us, eating and drinking, to preserve our previous existence, and there's nothing, nothing, absolutely no reason for existing"* - the thoughts of Jean-Paul Sartre as he ate and drank ... and ate ... and drank.

Man has questioned the meaning of life throughout his existence. In his book "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" Douglas Adams' answer is simple and amusing - the number 42. However Albert Einstein, who dedicated much of his life to scientific research, believed that there was something more: *"religion without science is lame, and science without religion is blind"*

Studying at one of the top scientific institutes in the UK we may find his point of view quite alarming - surely we can just study for a few years, get a degree and then find ourselves a good job. Einstein seemed to think that this is simply not enough: *"we should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality"* - he realised that however much we may work, rest or play, life can still be incomplete.

Throughout history, people have claimed to know what this missing element is and as Christmas approaches we are reminded of one such man, who lived two thousand years ago.



**breakthrough**

He claimed that to make life complete we need to have a relationship with God and that this can only be possible through him. He claimed to be the Son of God. He claimed that his death would be payment enough for

everyone's wrong doings. He claimed that his resurrection from the dead would break the hold of death on Mankind. His name was Jesus.

In response to such outrageous claims, CS Lewis concluded that Jesus could only be one of three things - a *liar*, a *lunatic* or else he *"...was and is just what he said"*. Lewis maintains that there are no other alternatives - he could neither be just a good man nor just a prophet. It seems essential, therefore to examine these claims in order to determine whether they are true or false.

One approach is to consider the motives of Jesus and his followers - what did they have to gain from making such statements? The answer is startling - all of them expected persecution, torture and ultimately a painful death. Historical documents show that their expectations were fulfilled in nearly every single case.

So what do we do now? Should we follow CS Lewis' example and investigate these claims or should we follow Jean-Paul Sartre's lead and just ponder ... and eat ... and drink our lives away?

**Your call ...**

**By Ivan Chow & Robin Godfrey**

**CHRISTIAN UNION**

## Breakthrough Week

Thursday 3rd December

Bill Friday 4th December

**BOOK TABLE**

venue: Sheffield Building Common Area  
@ 12:00pm-2:00pm

Wednesday 9th December

**JESUS (THE MOVIE)**

venue: Electrical Engineering 408  
@ 1:30pm-3:30pm

Thursday 10th December

**THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

speaker: Roy Crowne  
venue: Senior Common Room  
@ 6:00pm-8:30pm (dinner included)

Tuesday 8th December

**THE HISTORICAL CREDIBILITY OF THE QUR'AN VS THE BIBLE**

speaker: Jay Smith  
venue: Read Lecture Theatre (Sheffield)  
@ 12:15pm-4:45pm

Wednesday 9th December

**SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY**

speaker: Professor Colin Russell  
venue: Senior Common Room  
@ 6:00pm-8:30pm (dinner included)

Friday 11th December

**FINDING MEANING IN THIS WORLD**

speaker: Michael Ramsden  
venue: Senior Common Room  
@ 6:00pm-8:30pm (dinner included)



## RSM Football

### Birkbeck 0 - 3 RSM

RSM firsts travelled away from the sanctuary of Harlington for their first round match in the challenge cup. With a first choice team at his disposal, Big Daddy Masefield was expecting the first win of his reign.

The whistle sounded and they were off. The first twenty minutes were played out at a moderate pace. RSM's back line was never stretched and in attack frontman Henry Dowell looked odds on to break this season's duck.

Eventually RSM converted some of their pressure but not before Birkbeck were allowed to properly test the RSM mettal. It was after a scramble in the Birkbeck that Nigel Milner opened his account with a neat finish into the corner of the goal. Unfortunately that was the only conclusive action of the first half.

At half time all objectives were in

check, although the lead needed stretching to comfortable proportions. Chances were still being created and squandered with painful regularity. The score was doubled with a text book solo run from John Williams who skillfully weaved through the Birkbeck defence and then shot clinically from an accute angle to score.

A sigh of relief was breathed and more goals were promised but for the lacklustre RSM finishing. The Birkbeck keeper needed a travel card to retrieve the ball when Skip unleashed a powerful yet pitifall drive, despite being advised not to by the rest of the team. When Doug Spikes replaced an injured Jerome Collinet, it took him little more than a minute to add his name to the score-sheet.

This is how the match finished. A job well done and the first scalp of the season.

## IC Virgins

### Royal Holloway 0 - 31 IC

We beat them at home and now we've beaten them away. This is the first match we've played since bonding with the medics and together we're invincible. With 5 tries and 3 conversions, we'd certainly had our Weetabix that morning (not sponsored by Weetabix but open to offers).

The first half was tight all the way though with only one try scored by Ewok during an attack of awareness by rampant forwards. Romy was unfortunately denied by the ref, the only person on the pitch with the ability to stop us scoring.

IC finally started putting the dominance they held over the opposition to advantage in points. Stroming tries from Betsy (twice), little Clare and Cecil led to an approximate average of 1.00786 points a minute during the last quarter.

Our supersub, Ranit, trashed their midfield defence, with excellent support from all. This match was amazing due to the fact that the only time Holloway made it into our half was at the kick-off, what a difference to the 79-0 thrashing that we suffered at their hands last year.

We are looking forward to the BUSA cup next term. Special thanks to our brilliant coach, honaray virgin, Matt "I'm original seep down really" Cockayne.

## Rifle Shooting

### BISLEY AFTER BACON

After Turkish Delight, steamy windows and bacon sandwiches the valiant rifle shooters set off to Bisley. Arrival at the vertically challenged Siberian range was marked by appropriate freezing temperatures and heavy rain. The shooting over 100 and 200 yards was impressive with most of the rounds hitting the targets.

Lunch was notable for the only spell of sunny weather during the day and the copious amounts of fish and chips consumed. As always fellow shooters from other clubs gathered to admire, cheer and congratulate us on our fine weapons and technique.

Drenched, dripping and delirious we were taken on a grand tour of the fine town of Bracknell on the return journey. We discovered the front seat crews' passion for woollen headgear.

Congratulations to Guy Dewhurst for achieving the highest score over 200 yards. Thanks to Andrew Eldridge for his coaching, Lee "Petrol Cap" Clements for the butt marking, Phil "Nose Job" Golds for his interesting firing technique of the Magnum, Barry "The Hulk" Edmondstone for demonstating his pick up technique and Jon McCartney for figuring out which bullets fit in which hole.

## X-Country

IC travelled to Trent Park for the fourth league race of the ULU championships. Our initial joy at Brunel's absence was dashed by the presence of blatantly fit looking runners.

The frantic pace at freezing temperatures and heavy ground forced "Compulsive Liar" to abort well founded hopes of winning.

The Bedfordshire Burd blundered in in third place, with Quite Contrary 13th and Slick Vic an appalling 16th. Due to their unrivalled success the women walked away with victory.

The mens race turned the formbook on its head with some frankly shocking performances. Andy and Benny Boy blew their attempts to win a race spec-

tacularly and ended up second and third, while Andrew Beckwith of Kings was let off the hook to win. Taz managed to scrape in 8th, while Headley finally detached himself from his bike to finish 17th. Daisy boy at last managed a decent performance for 24th, with Wannabe 26th. Bartboy led home the seconds in 31st, with the Kraut in 39th. The frankly appalling performances of Mike 35th and Compulsive Liar 42nd denied what would have otherwise been a good set of results.

The rest of the IC runners trauded in holding hands because it was cold. Kinky managed 10 more places than last time. In reality, of course, IC stormed to victory in both races obliterating all competition before returning to the bar where the ULU committee convened in secret to decide the BUSA team...

## SCOREBOARD

### FOOTBALL

IC IV	0 - 4	LSE
IC V	1 - 2	QMW
Birkbeck	0 - 3	RSM

### HOCKEY

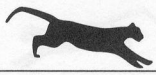
IC I	2 - 1	ICSM
IC II	1 - 1	ICSM II
Disco Squaad (3rds)	1 - 1	Royal Vet's
Ladies 2nd XI	0 - 1	ICSM II

## Diversions

### Around IC

Mon 7	Tues 8	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13
CAG Tools for Self Reliance - Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	ICU COUNCIL 6pm	DramSoc - Macbeth Union Concert Hall 7.30pm	LabSoc (Mark Leonard) See posters for venue 1pm	Linux User Group Meeting, Southside Upper Lounge. Contact hltang@ic.ac.uk	DramSoc - Macbeth Union Concert Hall 7.30pm	Standing Room Only - DaVinci's Bar 4pm
Environmental Society Meeting, Lecture Theatre 2, Physics 6pm	Quiz Night - DaVinci's Bar 8pm	Club XS - ICU 9pm-1am	DramSoc - Macbeth Union Concert Hall 7.30pm	DramSoc - Macbeth Union Concert Hall 7.30pm		
Standing Room Only - DaVinci's Bar 7pm	Caving Club Meeting - Southside Lounge 9pm		Cocktail Night - DaVinci's Bar 5-11pm	ICU Choir Concert - Great Hall (Tickets on door or from Union) 8pm		
Clayponds Christmas meal @ Footlights, Ealing Broadway 8pm lan.doyle@ic.ac.uk			CAG Soup Run Basement, Weeks Hall 8pm	Bust-A-Gut Comedy dB's Shaft, ICU 9pm-2am		





## Hockey

ICI 2 - 1 ICSM

We came, we saw we didn't have enough players, we beat the medics. After going down to an early goal IC 1sts poured on the pressure, winning short corner after short corner, but failing to convert any before half time.

Like the cold clinical highly organised outfit that we are, there was no panic, and the team moved up a gear and took the game to them the second the second half began. With continuous pressure, Woody slipped one expertly into the goal. The medics came back hard, but the team held strong.

This was followed by IC getting more of the ball and yet more short corners. It was from one of these, with three minutes to go that the break came through.

11-plus pulled the ball to Flashy W\*\*ker who stepped in and moved it on to Big Titties. He passed it across goal to

Blue Underpants whose shot was deflected to the waiting 11-plus. Final score 2-1.

IC II 1 - 1 ICSM II

A game played in artic conditions; diplomacy went to the wall as hockey's subtleties turned into what looked like Rugby. ICSM scored on a short corner in the first two minutes gave their side false hopes. The score did not change after that in the first half.

After an awe-inspiring half time talk from our captain, we were ready to do battle. Polite antics were dropped and we started to make progress. With some swift passing Carlos found himself with a shot on goal. He managed to put the ball somewhere near the goal and after ICSM desperately fumbled around with themselves, they pushed the ball over the line. The game continued to be a blood bath and the score did not change.

## Ladies Hockey

IC II 0 - 1 ICSM II

After losing to the medics 6-0 in the BUSA, a lot of our team were afraid to turn out. However, the 9 of us who did were on excellent form, and with the help of medics subs, we only lost 1-0. In sub zero temperatures but cheerful atmosphere the IC scientists & engineers and IC medics battled it out. The unusual

presence of a qualified umpire surprised some of the players who were used more freedom, but any attempts at playing football were quickly curtailed.

The medics attacked strongly but IC defended well, the goal being an unlucky own goal from the keeper. Despite more pressure from IC in the second half we were unable to score (no change there) and had to concede our second defeat of the season to ICSM.

# Football

IC IV 0 - 4 LSE II

It was almost as if this fixture was never going to be played. After travelling all the way to Berrylands on Saturday we were told that we could not play on as the pitches were waterlogged. Maybe a phone call next time LSE?

So at the second time of asking, we met the 2nds on the second day of December. Even then we still faced problems. Aidan "Lloyds" Banks had left his kit at home, so with the upmost co-operation (?), Joules suggested we take our 2nds as this cup game took priority over their league game.

Onto the game. Whilst we thrashed LSE IV's 7-0, LSE 2nds are two divisions above us, so we were really up against it. We started strongly, but any foundations we had laid were soon crushed by an early goal off a quick attack. Adam "Where's Bianca" Gibson had to be substituted after 20 mins following a drunken injury and some good football by us was matched by LSE, who stepped up their game when they realised we weren't going to take this match lying down. The half-time score was 2-0, and despite captain Elliot "The Boss" Newsome bringing some continental flair to the game in the form of Fred "Garlic Bread" Gelloz, soon went to 3-0 following a half hearted save by keeper Stu "stressed out" Cook. Despite some quality play in the last 15 minutes with the

addition of Bola "Bola" Bola, LSE capped off the game with a quality goal. Man of the match must surely go to Davie "The Irish Navy" Wishart who gave 100% up until the very end. All in all we gave a performance not to be ashamed of.

IC V 1 - 2 QMW

Typically, the best performance of the season ended in a negative result for the team. After harrassing their defenders the entire first half, some contentious decisions by the referee, in particular a "handball" given against Mark Dawkins in the box led to their penalty being saved by an outstanding J.P. Tom Walker and Will Doubor were excellent in mid-field, stringing passes together and creating chances, but they broke away and scored a scrappy goal against the run of play. A corner on the stroke of half time was swung in dangerously and deflected in but we knew that we had been playing better than they had. Chiva opted for all out attack in the second half to pull the goals back. New centre-forward Tom Lovell was brought on for defensive midfielder Aditya Chair and the three-pronged attack produced a goal when "dazzling" Fraz juiced past a defender in the box and smashed the ball into the roof of the net. Cue a siege on their goal where chances went begging and we were brilliant but it just wasn't our day.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by 'Grunt to a Dutchman'

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11								12						
13								14		15				
16		17				18		19				20		
21				22				23						24
25						26								
27										28				

### Across

- 1 The DA produces state of inactivity. (5)
- 4 Beast of burden conducted orchestra. (4,5)
- 9 Warrior woman's forest region? (9)
- 10 River in backward South of France. (5)
- 11 Start New York's corrupted dictators. (7)
- 12 Women do this once a month, veto a UL motion. (7)
- 13 Family of summer drink and sun we hear. (7)
- 14 Ginger could be a cracker? (3-4)
- 16 Papa's got a brand new bag at the hour in the city. (7)
- 19 More sleepy given time for rundown. (7)
- 21 Drink old ladies in a brew. (3,4)
- 23 Worker's vegetables worker. (7)
- 25 Remove joint from those not with it. (5)
- 26 He can lust openly as he opens doors. (9)
- 27 Triumph or next to come. (9)
- 28 Sue wraps Edward in leather. (5)

### Down

- 1 Perhaps not the fourth Greek letter but you play with what you get. (5)
- 2 Obvious clue. (7)
- 3 Water dribbles on desk from bent sniffer. (4-5)
- 4 0.7 pathetic microns. (7)
- 5 Malicious dash for French heart. (7)
- 6 Seventeen syllables, a seasonal reference, and Zen insight. (5)
- 7 Coloured video is bureaucratic impediment. (3,4)
- 8 Self-addressed envelope sent back after pretender, for Grant. (9)
- 13 Subverters stab Euro deviously. (9)
- 15 Some French cards therefore are not? (9)
- 17 Picture in detail. (7)
- 18 Floppy Yank naval vessel has multiple projectiles? (7)
- 19 Reddening effect of parking learner, right dope! (7)
- 20 Say for an implement of gardening we get a hero. (7)
- 22 Plenty of beer around politician. (5)
- 24 Gallery has time for a nibble. (5)

### Answers to 1128

- Across: 1. Plains 4. Ailing 9. Bars 10. At the end of 11. Change 12. Genocide 13. Cream teas 15. Only 16. Snow 17. Stylishly 21. Lymphoma 22. The day 24. Tin-openers 25. Grub 26. Hasten 27. Islets

- Down: 1. Poacher 2. Arson 3. Nearest 5. Ice and 6. Innocents 7. Good day 8. Stagnant water 14. Amorphous 16. Stylish 18. Lutists 19. Leagues 20. Popeye 23. Eagle