

# Dobson on Health at IC

By Andrew Ofori

The candid Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, delivered an even-handed, self-effacing speech to a particularly well attended meeting of the ICU Labour Society on Thursday 28 January. From the outset he warned the receptive audience that his public speaking was so soporific that it had been known to send him to sleep while he was making the speeches. Maintaining this light-hearted tone he quoted how one national paper had characterised his incongruence with the re-vamped Labour Party: "He is to New Labour what the Norwegian entry is the Eurovision song contest."

Mr Dobson used his time to focus on the current stability and future prospects of the NHS, introducing the topic by describing the values underpinning "the most popular institution in Britain by a very considerable distance". Describing its "quality and equality", he contended that its success and incomparable convenience were derived from it being purely tax-funded, and went on to state the Government's responsibility to the system "is to try to make sure the things that are wrong with the Health Service - and there are things

wrong with it - are put right and it is placed in a position where it can cope with the various challenges and changes of the coming century."

The Health Secretary then launched an attack on how "pointy-headed" economists temper his best intentions with considerations such as the population's increasing longevity, new pharmaceuticals, and innovation in treatment; factors which they view as sources of excess pressure on the NHS of the future. He insisted that the demographics of the population indicated there can only be an ease in the current strain on the sys-

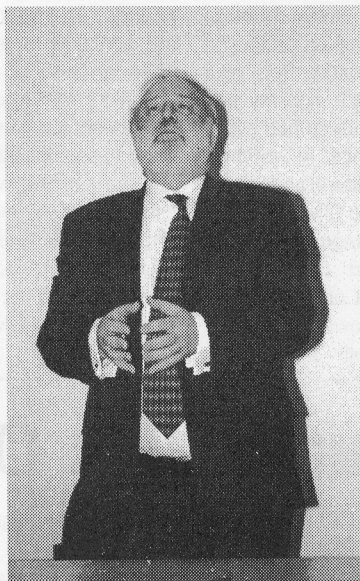


Photo: Jonas Dobson deep in thought

tem. "To put the NHS in a position where it can cope with admittedly new challenges," was how Mr Dobson assessed his current role. To this end there would need to be more money invested in the system, and a consequent improvement in equipment and the working environment. Above all Dobson called for a vast development in working practice. Finding the news media too often engrossed in the punitive measures meted to those who are at fault, he expounded the virtues of ensuring a high quality service from the outset. The required standard of education and

training could be achieved "by the systematic spread of best practice and the monitoring of that best practice."

The Cabinet Minister ended his speech by opening the floor to questions, whereupon he was subjected to a forthright and salient session of questioning. In answer to the claim that the NHS survives on a vast amount of overtime put in by doctors, Mr Dobson agreed that the system is maintained by the hard work of all NHS staff. He remarked that he in fact had an appointment with the Prime Minister later that day where he would discuss a pay increase for medical staff next week. He also presented the opposing view, claiming he often spoke to members of the medical fraternity who complained that their colleagues did not work hard enough, to which he would reply "you know who they are, you do something about it."

The Secretary of State later found it necessary to qualify his stance on the selective administration of drugs, in particular the controversial Viagra. He reminded people that "it's the National Health Service not the National Recreational Service."

# Chelsea Lose at Harlington

By Andrew Ofori

Chelsea suffered a demoralising loss recently, but on this occasion it was not at the hands of Arsenal. While the Premiership team was training at Harlington on 28 January, their changing rooms were raided and six unfortunate members of the team lost valuable possessions.

Harlington, the Imperial College Union Sports Ground, houses Imperial College and Chelsea FC changing rooms in a single building, with Chelsea's facilities being cordoned off from the college's section. The parties also run these facilities separately; Chelsea provide their own security in the form of two guards, but as stated by Mick Reynolds, Harlington's Head Groundsman, the thieves clearly "got past them easily." Unimpressed with such inept security he continued: "someone just walked in and



Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola is far from pleased with the loss

helped themselves."

The discovery was made when the players were changing after showers - and various members of the team noticed some of their personal effects had disappeared. Four watches with a total value of £18,000, a wrist bracelet worth £1,000 and a significant amount of cash were missing. The thieves' haul was believed to total around £20,000.

The Police have mounted an extensive investigation involving the CID. A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to identify the specific victims, and merely commented "It appears to have been a fairly straight forward theft while the players were out training." Chelsea have upgraded security measures at Harlington, with staff locking all doors and patrolling corridors, but as Mr Reynolds put it "unfortunately it's a little bit too late."

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# Chem Eng Revue Review

By Pdraig McCluskey



On Tuesday 2 February the Chemical Engineering Society held its Annual revue in dB's. A large crowd of approximately 100 were in attendance to witness a great night of entertainment.

The evening started when members of the third year treated the audience to a sketch entitled "Alan Jones - Beat this for puns per minute". This was a delightfully well-written sketch with the innuendos flowing thick and fast. Next up were the first year blokes in drag, or the Vice Girls, as they prefer to be called. The group did two songs; Wannabe and 2 become 1. However the lyrics were slightly doctored to suit their filthy minds. Well done to Akira Kirton (minger spice), Trev Dhruphalshah (hairy spice), Barry Edmondstone (wolfie spice), Howard Buckley (toff spice) and Nick Holt (camp spice). The next act came from the second years, who did a rendition of Blind Date, where three blokes revelled in the opportunity to parody their lecturers.

Chris Woodroofe produced a real treat for the next sketch; "Professor Woodroofe's Hierarchy of Love". Apparently this is based on a design tech-

nique the third years use. Helped by his able assistant he proceeded to describe the five levels of love, from choosing which type of relationship is best for you through to how to separate from your loved one. This sketch was my personal favourite, and indeed had everybody in the audience in stitches. Reuben Connolly (President) and Sanella Hodzic (DSO) from the City and Guilds Executive arrived on stage next to illustrate a light-hearted approach to squeezing money out of the City and Guilds. This was followed by a short speech by Mr Connolly, praising the

Chemical Engineering Society for their hard work over the past 50 years which has led them to their current strong position.

After the interval the old hacks (4th years) made their appearance stage left, presenting "Whose degree is it anyway?" This sketch took the format of the similarly titled Channel 4 programme.

The last sketch of the evening was written and performed by two new members of staff; Claire Adjiman and Omar Matar. Professor Stephen Richardson and the Head of Department, Professor John Perkins, ably assisted them. This sketch also centred on a selection process. This interview was based on the selection of research candidates. Although this was not as side splitting as some of the other sketches, the general consensus was that it was at least good to see the staff making an effort.

The evening was a great success, especially as so many people made the effort to come and support it. Special thanks must go to those who wrote and performed the sketches and all the members of staff who took the trouble to attend.

## Debt Decreases Your Health: Official

By Sunil Rao

Disturbing new research to be published in *The Psychologist* shows that students are twice as likely to suffer from ill health and reduced mental well-being as their contemporaries who are not at university. The study by Dr Ron Roberts, a psychologist at the University of Westminster, has confirmed what most students already feel - that there is a clear link between rising levels of debt among students and the comparatively lower levels of health. In 'Student Finance and Mental Health', a paper co-authored with colleagues Dr John Golding and Dr Tony Towell, Dr Roberts presents the results of the study carried out at two London universities (one old and the other new).

Unsurprisingly, Dr Roberts found that students' general health, assessed on the basis of physical vitality and psychological and social functioning, was "substantially worse than that of young people of the equivalent age and sex in the general population". He linked this to students' working for longer hours in order to make ends meet. It was found that those students surveyed considering the abandonment of their studies were generally likely to suffer from poorer health, both physically and mentally.

The study also revealed that students

in debt were more likely than others to know other students who were involved in prostitution, drug dealing and criminal activities in order to bolster their financial state. Dr Roberts concludes that "students were on average twice as likely to be in poor health when compared to [sic] non-students of the same sex and age".

This study comes as the Government announced on 29 January that tuition fees would go up in line with inflation to a maximum of £1,025 for the academic year 1999/2000. Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) also reveal that the number of applications from mature students has fallen sharply for the second year running following the introduction of tuition fees.

Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, has announced a new scheme designed to help part-time students. From the autumn of next year, part-time students in higher education on a low income will be entitled to loans of at least £500. With over 28% of current students being part-time, 30 million pounds have been allocated to

support the new loan scheme over its first two years.

Alarming levels of student poverty were highlighted in a Times Higher Education Supplement poll revealing that three-quarters of non-first year students have cut back on buying clothes, shoes or food. Almost a quarter have cut back on book-buying, more than four in ten students work during term-time (more than half of these work in bars); what's worrying is that over 30% of these work more than the official recommendation of a maximum of fifteen hours a week. Research previously published by Glasgow Caledonian and Paisley Universities and the Scottish Low Pay Unit had demonstrated that the long hours and low pay were having a serious impact on the academic performance of students. This has also been confirmed in research by Lindsey Bowes and Sue Moon of the University of Central England.

A spokeswoman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals commented that it was "each student's personal responsibility" to strike the right balance between part-time work and studies. "Harship funds are available. Students in financial difficulties should seek advice from the support services".

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## In brief...

### Election Update

The Union breathed a sigh of relief this week as all nominations were filled. As Felix went to press, four new candidates had put their names forward; one individual, SCC treasurer Kevin Butcher, has even opted to stand for the newly formed Deputy President (Education and Welfare), and has the required twenty seconders.

There are two more candidates for the post of DP (Finance and Services): Ian Clifford, the CGCU treasurer, who has eighteen seconders; and Paul Hickman of DramSoc, who is fully seconded. Duncan Field, also of Dramsoc, is standing for DP (Clubs and Societies) and at the time of writing had four seconders.

Papers came down at 6pm last Friday, at which point campaigning was officially allowed to begin. Hustings will take place next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the three main campuses.

### Mountbatten Festival

From Wednesday 10 February to Sunday 14 February, restrictions will apply to Kensington Gore, Prince Consort Road and the northern ends of Queen's Gate and Exhibition Road, due to the annual Mountbatten Festival of Music. The Met have made it clear that any bicycles left unattended or locked-up in this area will be removed.



# Rag Pulls Out All The Stops

By David Roberts

Rag Week '99 has proved to be one of the most successful in ICU Rag history. A total of nearly £5000 has been raised for this year's charities, thanks to a plethora of events which took place over the last two weeks.

Having kicked off with the Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump and Variety Show earlier in the week (see *Felix* 1134), the fundraising really moved into gear with Wednesday's Street Collection. In excess of £800 was collected during the day, thanks to the manic efforts of the Canoe and Mountaineering Clubs. A further £200 was added to the total via Thursday's hypnotism show, given by former *Felix* Editor turned professional hypnotist Martin Taylor - the highlight of which was when one poor girl was convinced that she had to kiss a random man in the audience every time she heard the word "peanuts".

One of the most successful events, however, was the Field Cup, which took place on Saturday 30 January. Organised by City & Guilds Union, the Cup is basically a pub-crawl around the local area. Teams of four slowly worked their way around the gruelling thirteen stop course, winning points for tasks completed in each pub, with bonus points for fancy dress, mascots and 'treasure' collected. Fortunately, amidst the large-scale collection of South Ken memorabilia (road signs, traffic cones, police equipment and CCU mascots), the teams didn't forget the real reason of Rag - raising money for charity - and nearly £1000 was made on the day.

Nonetheless, competition for the main prizes was very fierce, with several teams haranguing the marshals well into the night. Eventually, however, the winners were announced by C&GU President Reuben Connolly. The 'best mascot' prize went to the 'Fridgefella's' who, for bizarre reasons which they refused to make clear, decided to carry a fridge around for the entire day - even bringing it into the Union bar to receive its prize. The 'best fancy dress' award went to 'Drink.Feck.Arse&Girls' who came dressed as the cast of Father Ted (complete with pet brick and dog-collars). The day's two biggest prizes - the most money raised, and the Cup itself - went to 'Coconuts don't migrate', who raised an impressive £166.51 during the day.

Rag Week culminated last Monday with another C&G organised event, the Slave Auction. Approximately twenty 'lots' were on offer (mostly Union officers of some sort), selling 24 hours of their time in return for donations to charity. Although the show started off slowly, with the first few slaves being sold for £10 - £20, things hotted up after ICU Deputy President Marie



Clockwise from Top: Dave Hellard & co do the Full Monty, The Field Cup winners, Martin Taylor at the auction, Dave Hellard & Chris Ince at the Field Cup, a slave auction highlight, Jenny counts the cash, and the hypnotist.  
Photos: Dave & Will

Nicholaou was dragged onto the stage, to face a stiff bidding war between her boyfriend and her football team. The footballers eventually won through, bidding £52.50 for Marie to spend her 24 hours cleaning their boots. Bidding then got into gear, with Felix Editor Ed Sexton, C&GU DSO Sanella Hodzic, ICU Accommodation Officer Natasha Newton, and C&GU Treasurer Ian Clifford all going for in excess of £50.

The star item, however, was a 'job lot' which included ICU President Dave Hellard, C&GU President Reuben Connolly, Phil Buckman and Matt Tibber. A large group of students formed a consortium and offered in excess of £200 for a performance of the Full Monty - bringing the grand total raised by the Auction up to nearly £900. On Monday evening, the group duly obliged, and their show was received with a mixture of laughter and applause from the assembled audience.

Added together, these events have produced a grand total of approximately £5000 for the four Rag charities - Shelter, Imperial Cancer Research, Avert and Trinity Hospice. Although this figure pales in comparison with that raised by other universities and even the IC Medics, it represents the first step towards these levels, and more than trebles the amount raised last year. A great deal of praise has been given to Rag Chair Sarah Coburn for her efforts in ensuring that Rag Week was a success, who adds her own note of appreciation, "A big thank you to everybody who took part in, or helped with, any rag event".

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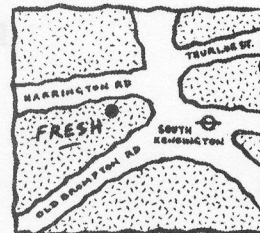
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# Machines that conceive of blue bananas

The City & Guilds Centenary Lecture series got off to a highly successful start last week, thanks to a talk from one of IC's foremost research engineers, Igor Alexander. The lecture series is designed to commemorate the centenary of C&G Union, and will highlight some of the major engineering achievements of the last 100 years.

Professor Alexander is one of the foremost world authorities on artificial intelligence, frequently quoted both on TV and radio, and combines this with the role of Pro-Rector. His talk, entitled 'Engineering in Nature (and those who cracked it)' focused on the development of AI over the last forty years, and his changing relationship with his subject. He went to university in South Africa before the days of computers and even transistors, and thus, on graduation, he envisioned a lifetime spent designing valve amps.

This all changed after he heard a lecture on communication given by IC Professor Glen Cherry, "which taught me that engineering principles could be applied to the study of society". From this - seemingly innocuous - beginning, he started to "examine

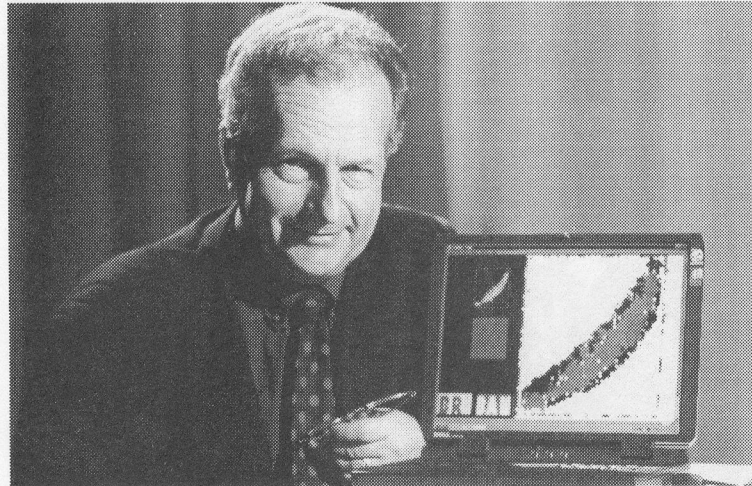


Photo: Courtesy of Imperial College

what is meant by emotions and experience", and how, on a more practical level, this can be applied to robot and android design.

In the early sixties, he followed closely in the footsteps of MIT expert Warren McCulloch, who first developed the concept of cybernetics. But these early concepts were not fol-

lowed through, thanks to the "cult of the omnipotent programmer" - young designers who believed that the programmer could overcome every obstacle (rather than the machine having to 'learn' how to deal with them). Thus, it was not until twenty years after McCulloch, in 1963, that Alexander designed the first digital neurone,

which had the ability to generalise results and turn them into learning. By adding such neurones together he developed systems of pattern recognition, which, when embedded in complex feedback loops, generates a simple neural network.

These systems have now developed into a programme with the ability to identify shapes and colours, which allows an amazing perceptive ability. Prof Alexander demonstrated this with a picture of a Martian landscape; given some basic knowledge of features on Earth, it can detect rocks and hillside, and can track down more interesting features. More impressively still, it has the ability to 'visualise' objects it has never seen - which he demonstrated by asking the computer to imagine a blue banana with red spots. This, he believes, is the first step on the road to a 'conscious' computer - which, if his book is to be believed, he has done, in the shape of a machine called 'Magnus'.

Thus there was one message which Professor Alexander wanted to impart on his audience, "to be an engineer is to understand things - even those that happen in nature".

## Staying in London over Easter?

Student accommodation is available in Evelyn Gardens  
from 27 March to 24 April 1999.



For information and an application form call into:  
The Conference Office  
Watts Way  
Prince's Gardens  
(next to Basics Pizzeria)

[reservations@ic.ac.uk](mailto:reservations@ic.ac.uk)

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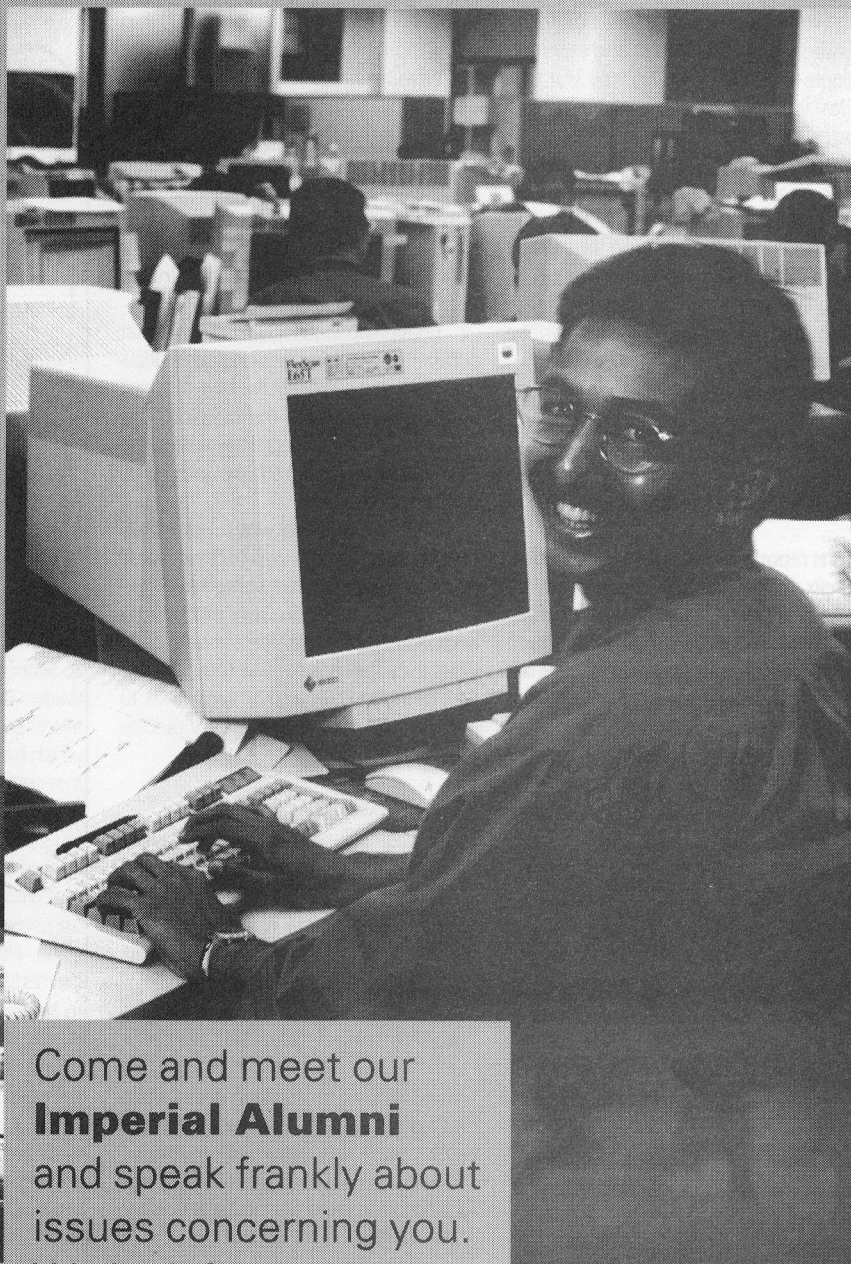
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## Selective Reporting

Whilst we appreciate that sports reports are only received by Felix on a Wednesday night, and may be 'edited for length', we didn't realise that meant edited out of existence.

We go to every effort after matches to write reports that inform and entertain people about IC sport. So why is it that in last week's issue of Felix at least two pages were dedicated to films, arts, music and games whilst sport received just over a page, ignoring a report written by IC Ladies 1 hockey entirely.

This is not the only time that sports teams have been denied coverage in Felix. We use valuable drinking time, using all of our literary skill to write these reports, the least you could do is print them.

Lots of love

Ladies 1st XI Hockey

Sports reports, as with every other article in Felix outside this letters page, may be edited for length, breadth or content.

It is difficult to judge how much space to reserve for sport (usually the last pages to be finished) - a problem that obviously doesn't occur with the review pages. Perhaps a mutually satisfactory solution would be for sports teams to let Felix know before Wednesday if they are playing and if they are likely to submit a report (and if so, of what length). Alternatively, if anyone wants to be a Felix sport reporter...

Lots of love and Happy Valentines  
*Ed*

## Fire in Princes Garden

Dear Sir,

Despite college security enforcing roll calls during fire drills for the halls of residence, and making no attempt to conduct such roll calls during actual alarms, I have become even more alarmed by a recent incident that occurred.

At 1.20pm on Wednesday 27th January I was returning to my room in a Princes Garden Hall when I noticed that one of the kitchens was full of smoke and the oven inside was still fully on. My girlfriend and I immediately acted by trying to alert the people in the neighbouring rooms, turning the oven off and telephoning Southside Security. The Security Officer suggested that the fire doors should be opened so to clear the smoke, despite them constantly reminding us not to prop open fire doors. On realising that this would set off the alarms he eventually said that he would come over to deal with this dangerous situation. After waiting for 20 minutes Security had not turned up.

I have subsequently found out that another student was responsible for leaving the oven on after he had finished cooking and had left the building. This had caused a fat filled grill tray, inside the oven, to generate the smoke and potentially produce a fire.

I believe that this was a potentially serious incident that was seconds away from developing into something serious. I would therefore very much like a response from Southside Security as to what they feel is a serious threat to our well being in Halls and an answer as to why they did not respond to a serious fire warning.

Yours faithfully,

A concerned resident.

Well, security, we are waiting...

*A concerned Ed*

## Owning Up, Are We?

I would like to write to claim responsibility for the letter (Who's Afraid of the QT) last week about the Estates Department. The letter was anonymous due to the fact that I forgot to sign it. So, it was me ... Tim Wright.

Tim Wright  
(Computing 4 & Caving Club)

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## ICU Bunac Soc

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12:15 - 1:45  
contact Angela Parkin  
a.parkin@ic.ac.uk

## City & Guilds College Union Bar Night!

6pm Tuesday 9 February, Union Bar

Grab an Exec member for a free pint!

## Valentines Messages

They'll be more messages and a Valentines feature in next week's Felix. If you've got a message of your own which you'd like us to print, email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk) or drop it into the office before Wednesday evening,

*To Michelle Physics II  
Lots of love on Valentines Day  
Your Secret Admirer*

*Gareth  
still cries at a good film  
still kisses with saliva  
thinking about you  
Martyn*

*Dearest C  
Even though you re very smelly  
and sometimes have a big pot belly  
I will love you all the same  
If you can guess my Adonis like name*

*I love my  
brick*

*Tim  
You dig my hole  
xxx*

*I  
Hoping I can be yours  
love  
E*

## Right to Reply

IC School of Medicine Union President Wade Gayed would like to explain the events surrounding the ICMSU Rag Dash, which has created so much controversy in recent weeks.

"The panic and upset which was caused by my actions deeply upsets me, and Mike Smith and myself apologise unreservedly for any harm we may have done. However, on the Friday evening (immediately after the event), we were led to believe that the Circle Line Pub Crawl and the Invasion of London - our two key events - were in danger, and were put under pressure to take action. It saddens me that some students don't think they were being supported - I'm always there for every medical student, and at the time I was led to believe that I was acting in the interests of the students. We ensured that Rag Week could continue, and the student reaction allowed the rest of Rag to go ahead without further incident.

## Deadline for letters is

### 12noon Wednesday.

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

when submitting

anonymous letters.



## The Week Ahead

### Monday

Games Meeting 12.30pm  
Film Meeting 1pm  
News & Photography Meeting 1.30pm

### Tuesday

News Meeting 12pm  
Clubscene 12pm

### Thursday

Phoenix Meeting 12pm

### Friday

News Meeting 1.20pm  
Music Meeting 1.30pm

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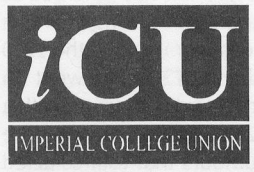


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## Voice from America

As I have mentioned before, my dedication to you, dear reader, is absolute. Consequently I find myself stranded on the slopes of some Colorado ski resort, but I'm gritting my teeth and making the best of it. I shall not bore you with the details, but obviously this column will concentrate on our chums on the wrong side of the pond. Having never been this far west before, a few things have struck me. Firstly, you, as I did, may think that all this "Have a nice day" malarkey is a tad disingenuous. Not true, they really do mean it.

Much as it pains me to admit it, the level of customer service received over here would not be found in Blighty. It is almost embarrassing when people move Heaven and Earth to rectify problems for which they are in no way whatsoever responsible. God bless 'em! A trip to the States would not be complete without a perusal of their phenomenal plethora of TV channels. Never in the field of light entertainment has so much been produced by so many for so little so badly. It is true to say that all the good US television is already over here, and if the remainder offers a vision of our own brave new world of digital television, include me out. Minor niggles aside, it a mighty fine country (had to say that, because a huge bloke has just entered the cable car...)

Of course, as you would imagine, it is impossible to avoid the impeachment trial. Though its global coverage of news has traditionally been on a par with Exchange & Mart, CNN is covering absolutely nothing but, and consequently it can begin to become a trifle tedious. Rarely are such protracted wars of attrition riveting television, but this is setting new standards in tedium, a point which seems to be being acknowledged by many commentators; the nuts and bolts of the Senate trial are so dull, it becomes necessary to talk up any new revelation, however nebulous, to a point of frenzy. By comparison, Murray Walker and Peter Snow are models of restraint.

At the end of the day, this is hardly surprising, since everyone already knows the outcome. Do you get excited by a by-election in Barnsley or Kensington and Chelsea? Precisely. Clinton will not be impeached unless

some new revelation emerges about him engaging in sexual congress with farmyard animals (though with the pulchritudinous Ms Lewinsky already implicated, it cannot be ruled out completely). The Republicans can dictate every aspect of the trial, because of their Senate majority, thus affording the opportunity to heap the maximum amount of embarrassment on the President. But, when all the mud has been slung, they will not be able to secure the two-thirds majority necessary to boot him out. They are playing a risky game: the more they attack, the more the American people stand behind their President in an act of amazing loyalty.

If that were not dangerous enough, Dan 'Potatoe' Quayle is making noises about seeking the Republican Presidential nomination. The Conservatives have been accused of losing elements of their political savvy, but such unfortunate slips pale into insignificance against what could be one of the most disastrous moves in Western political history. Despite all this, as long as Clinton continues to wear the teflon overcoat, both he and the Democrats are safe. As for CNN, I will be forced to watch QVC at this rate.

hear from my friends on IC Distorter that a former member of staff from RPMS has been caught with their fingers in the till, resulting in a 12 month sojourn at Her Majesty's pleasure. Thankfully, fraud is fairly rare at Imperial: though money is misappropriated on a grand scale (flowerbeds

etc.), such actions are perfectly legal and are carried out in accordance with all the relevant guidelines. The article mentions that the employee has been imprisoned, but it does not explicitly say whether he is 'former' by virtue of

this case. This may seem a silly point, but given the way employees are handled by College, it is a very legitimate question. It has long been said the only way IC would dismiss a member of staff is if they burnt down Sheffield and massacred the Governing body.

Most people at Imperial,

who have been here for a few years, could rattle off a list of people whose continuing employment is source of great mystery. Why should this be? Clearly, the occupation of positions by incompetent staff does nobody any favours, aside from the individuals themselves. Do we have fearsomely powerful trade unions? Not really. The cause of the problem is the Personnel division. Though the director, Marion Kimberly, is highly regarded, this heavily-staffed department seems determined to frustrate the activities of every department when dealing with problem employees. This often leads one to suspect that Imperial is running a charity, providing gainful employment

for people the rest of the world would not touch with a barge pole. Quite why anyone would join a trade union here is a mystery: save those union subs and let Personnel people keep you in a job for life.

This may seem to be an irrelevance to students, but we all suffer from the continued presence of tenth-rate staff. Needless to say, they'll be falling out their prams in Sheffield having read what I have just written, saying that it is monstrously unfair of

me to decry our hardworking staff in this manner. I should not have to tack on that most of our staff are good and some are truly outstanding, be they academic or otherwise, but the inevitable hysterical response vindicates my point. They acknowledge the problem but have no desire to rectify the situation.

Now I am back on this sceptred isle, I couldn't help noticing the letter in last week's Felix from 'Anon'. Normally I do not bother to comment on letters written by people so gutless to attach their name to the views, but I'll make an exception here. That someone should write a letter about unacceptable staff behaviour just as I have tackled the same issue almost implies a put-up job, but I can assure you that I didn't write it - I can spell. None of us, of course, are always sweetness personified in our dealings with our fellow man, but the answer Anon received to a perfectly civil response beggars belief. It is astounding that we have such a rude, obstructive person on the payroll, and it is surely only a matter of time before this person really puts his or her foot in it and annoys someone really important; students, naturally, are the lowest form of life and as such can be treated like dirt, or so it says here in the staff manual. While I'm not holding my breath, some previous incidents of staff behaving badly have been investigated by the director responsible after they have been mentioned in this humble column, so we shall have to wait and see. What say you, Ian?

## Simon Baker



## Voice of Reason

"...Clinton will not be impeached unless some new revelation emerges about him engaging in sexual congress with farmyard animals..."

insignificance against what could be one of the most disastrous moves in Western political history. Despite all this, as long as Clinton continues to wear the teflon overcoat, both he and the Democrats are safe. As for CNN, I will be forced to watch QVC at this rate.

## IC Incompetents

hear from my friends on IC Distorter that a former member of staff from RPMS has been caught with their fingers in the till, resulting in a 12 month sojourn at Her Majesty's pleasure. Thankfully, fraud is fairly rare at Imperial: though money is misappropriated on a grand scale (flowerbeds

"... Imperial is running a charity, providing gainful employment for people the rest of the world would not touch with a barge pole..."

## Cash for Courtyards

Speaking of Ian Caldwell, he has taken a lot of stick, mainly from me, about the largesse of Estates in matters horticultural. He and you will doubtless be relieved to hear that

a building has just opened that makes the palatial BMS and attendant landscaping seem like a Nissen hut on an allotment. Portcullis House, the new office block for MPs, has emerged as the most expensive building in Britain in terms of cost per user. Of the £250 million total cost, £200,000 went on plants for courtyard restaurant, with a further £1.2 million on paving. The scurrilous rumours that Estates acted as consultants to the project are entirely false.

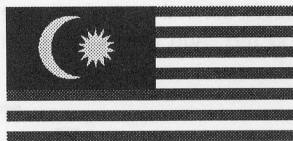




# Malaysian Focus

## All Eyes Turn to Kuala Lumpur As Celebration Ends

Nik B Hafiz



announce the lifting of the capital control measures implemented last September due to pressures by foreign investors.

The implementation of such controls meant that these investors were unable to withdraw their money or capital from the Malaysian markets for one year. However, the PM did not heed to these pressures and instead only declared the possibility of imposing an exit tax in order to ensure a moderate outflow of capital come September 1999.

The announcement of a raise in toll rates by the government after the Chinese New Year was, understandably, not warmly accepted by Malaysians in general. During these hard times of economic downturn and inflation at 5.3 percent, frequent highway users had to endure an increase of almost 40 percent. The opposition parties and non-gov-

ernment organisations (NGOs) quickly formed an alliance, the Coalition for Anti-Toll (CAT) to protest over this untimely act. This was succeeded with sporadic demonstrations being held at toll plazas all over the country. As a result, the government backed down and reduced the rates. The PM also decided that 20 highway projects are to be deferred as the same thing shall happen again and again, "once a highway is built and tolls are imposed, then there are protests and people do not want to pay".

In the latest development of the Anwar Ibrahim saga, the accused was ordered by the High Court Judge, Augustine Paul to defend himself after ruling that the state prosecution did have a case over the corruption of power charges. The trial will resume on 8 February allowing one week for the defense

lawyers to prepare for what must be the most anticipated segment of the trial. Anwar himself chose to be in the witness box while his defense team disclosed that Dr. Mahathir and a few other Malaysian VIPs will also be summoned to testify. Amid this decision by the court, fresh demonstrations calling for reforms broke out in the centre of the Malaysian capital after almost 3 months of relative peace and quiet. The week before, the Cabinet revealed that an independent commission consisting of a former Attorney-General, 2 retired judges and an orthopaedic surgeon was to be established to probe into the beatings endured by Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody. This followed a report by a police investigating body that concluded some of the injuries sustained by the ex-deputy premier while in detention was the result of being beaten by the police. Mysteriously, the identities of the policeman or policemen involved were unknown until now.

One of the major events during the Eid-u-Fitr celebration which was widely highlighted by the Malaysian local media was that 40,000 visitors turned up at the Prime Minister's official residence, Sri Perdana, for the annual open house feast. The PM, Dr. Mahathir himself was quoted to have been "rather surprised" at the kind of reception received and stated that it was a show of support for the present government, despite months of economic uncertainty and political unrest. Interestingly enough, about a mile away from Sri Perdana, thousands of Malaysians also gathered for a similar occasion hosted by Dr. Wan Azizah, the wife of incarcerated opposition and so-called reform movement leader, Anwar Ibrahim.

Following a week's break due to the Muslim celebration, Dr. Mahathir resumed work by meeting European and American fund managers in Kuala Lumpur. It was speculated beforehand that the Malaysian premier would

## Fifty Years On

This year Felix celebrates its golden anniversary. In the first of a series of articles, Ed Sexton looks at how it all began.

The first issue of Felix appeared in the corridors of Imperial College on the morning of Friday 9 December, 1949. Costing 3 old pence (about the same as the cakes on sale in the New Lounge, according to a letter featured in that issue), it appears to have been well received by the college, with all 600 copies being sold before 10am. Some copies were even sold on the black market, for 4 pence, prompting the editors to increase the copy number to 1000 for the second issue in 1950.

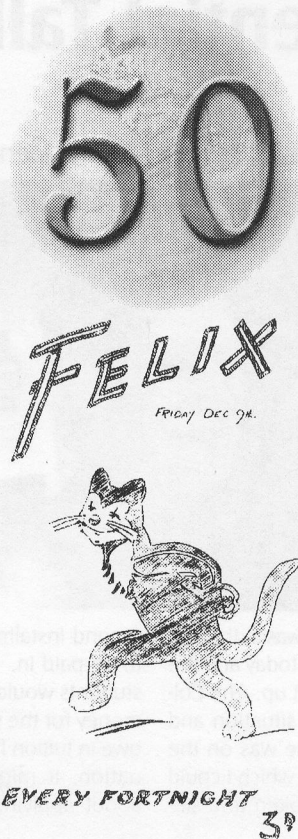
The first issue consisted of thirteen typed pages and a hand-drawn cover page. The reason for founding Felix was summed up by the first editor, one E M Hughes, as follows:

"The need has been felt for some time for a frequently published journal to comment upon the affairs of the College whilst they are still topical, and to bring to the attention of its members the activities of Clubs and Societies of which people at present know little, and knowing little, tend to care even less."

No change there, then.

At the time Imperial already had one student publication - Phoenix. Founded by H G Wells in 1886, Phoenix was intended to be a magazine for clubs and societies. Its somewhat ephemeral appearance, however, was one of the reasons for the formation of Felix:

"This is a function which clearly cannot be performed by THE PHOENIX, particularly since that estimable bird is now to appear only twice a year, and so Felix has come to



meet the need. We do not intend to encroach upon the literary field covered by THE PHOENIX; rather do we intend to be complementary to that journal, even if not always complimentary." Oh, the wit.

Felix rapidly took much of Phoenix's raison d'être, but Phoenix still continues under the guise of Imperial's arts magazine, now produced on an annual basis (in fact, the editors are looking for contributions now: phoenix@ic.ac.uk).

As always, finances were high

on the Union's agenda, and cash flow problems for club activities were not unheard of. The altruistic Hughes decided that "any profits made by the paper are to be devoted to Sports Day, since it appears that the Union is now so impecunious that it may be unable to subsidise coaches and teas on that important occasion." ICU's beverages also came in for criticism on the letters page; "Sir, In a mild sort of way I would like to register a bitter protest about the Union beer. Perhaps one of our own tame entomologists could recommend to our so called Brewers a more virile type of Gnat." Full to the brim with ailing puns, the letter was signed "Ulcerated".

Finally, what of the name, now half a century old? The only reference to its origin is contained in a somewhat cryptic remark in the editorial; "A debt of gratitude is owed to F C Ewels for his suggestion of a title. He shall be rewarded with a saucer of milk." More likely, I suspect, he received a pint of beer.



Nothing tastes good unless it contains fat or sugar. I know this is not very politically correct, but I honestly can't think of a single exception. You may have noticed that most of the recipes I've featured in this column have contained a generous helping of cream, oil, butter, or all three. I'm one of those annoying people who can eat enormous quantities of food, without putting on weight. My cooking tends towards maximum flavour, whatever the damage. If you're more calorie conscious than I am, I'm afraid this week's recipes are particularly fattening.

### Fruit Cake

Cake is the ultimate example of the joy that is fat and sugar combined. This is the nicest fruit cake recipe I've found. It's really moist, but not unpleasantly sweet. Even if you're not normally keen on fruit cake, you might find you like this one. If you already have the spices etc, you could make this for only a few pounds, well within even the tightest budget.



- 8 oz Butter
- 8 oz Soft brown sugar
- 2 tbs Treacle
- 4 Eggs
- 12 oz Flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder
- 1 tsp Ground cloves
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Nutmeg
- 4 oz Ground Almonds
- 8 oz Currants

8 oz Raisins  
8 oz Sultanas  
2.5 fl oz Milk  
Juice of an orange  
Grease a 20 cm round cake tin, and line with greaseproof paper. Cream the butter (I always soften it by heating in the microwave for 10 seconds), then beat in the sugar. Stir in the treacle, then give everything a good mix. Add the eggs one at a time.

# Cooks Corner

## Chris Jackson

Break each egg into a cup and beat with a fork, then fold into the mixture with a tablespoon of flour. Fold in the remaining flour, combined with the spices and baking powder. Finally, add the fruit, milk and orange juice.

Bake at 160°C or gas mark 3 for two-and-a-half hours. Rest a piece of foil over the tin for the last hour, to prevent a thick crust. Make sure that the cake is left to cool completely before cutting. Warm cake is really crumbly, and not nearly as good.

### Mushroom Sauce

Mushrooms are one of my favourite ingredients. They're best cooked in some kind of sauce. The best thing about mushrooms is that they soak up loads of butter, taking on a fantastic mellow flavour that goes well with pretty much anything. I rarely buy mushrooms from the market. The supermarket stock is always much better quality, well worth the extra expense.

To make a basic sauce, start by melting a generous knob of butter (about 50g) slowly in a small pan. Slice 5 medium mushrooms thinly. Heat gently for about 5 minutes until they turn a medium brown colour, losing the softness of raw mushrooms. Add a couple of tablespoons of double cream, mix well then turn up the heat. Cook until the mushrooms start to go a little brown and crispy.

The sauce is great as part of a breakfast fry-up. I normally chop a big sprig of parsley and add it at the end. It also makes a good accompaniment to a steak, and is just fantastic with a pork chop. When served with meat, I often stick in a couple of teaspoons of peppercorn mustard to add some body.

A very different sauce can be made with the addition of olive oil, thyme, garlic, and balsamic vinegar. Fry a couple of cloves of crushed garlic gently with a teaspoon of thyme, in the olive oil. Add the mushrooms and cook as before. Ahead of adding the cream, chuck in a tablespoon of balsamic vinegar, and bubble for a minute.

*Next week: Bangers and Mash*

## Presidential Talk-Back

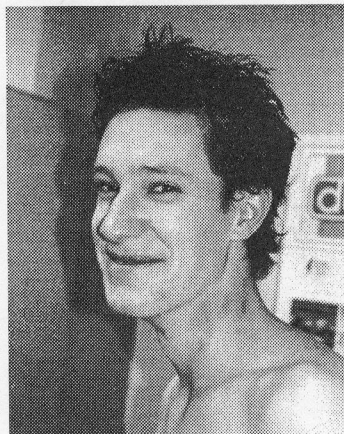
An issue always on student's minds is money and that's why I'm devoting my column to it for a second time. The Access fund is reopened again for applications. 246 awards have already been made totalling £144 300 that's an average of around £590 per student. There is still £150 000 left in the kitty for the rest of the year, though - by my calculation that's enough for another 254 students to gain equivalent awards. If you're in a desperate financial situation at the moment, why not let the Government help you out, it's money for the taking - the College and the Union has nothing to gain by not dishing out every penny. All you need to do is pick up a form from room 334 in the Sherfield Building and have them filled out by the 22nd March.

The other financial side of being a student that has hit the first years is tuition fees. Two students in Oxford have hit the headlines recently by

refusing to pay their tuition fees on principle.

Since then they have backed down, being threatened with everything the College could throw at them. In Imperial the situation is somewhat different; we too have various students that haven't paid yet, but the way the students have acted and the response from the College has been comparatively relaxed. I was in the College Welfare Committee today and the whole issue was brought up. The College stated the current situation and asked what the response was on the student side, something which I could not give, not having spoken to a sin-

gle first year about it. There has been no feedback on the way the collecting has been administered or whether being able to pay by instalment has sufficiently eased the burden, so one can only assume that it has run as smoothly as I hoped. As ever if you have any feedback on this issue email me ([president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:president@ic.ac.uk)).



David Hellard, ICU President

Next week the second instalment of tuition fees are to be paid in. I'm sure by now some students would have spent all of their money for the year including that they owe in tuition fees. If you're in this situation, it might be worth thinking about applying to the above, that's

what it's there for.

To end with I have a personal plea to every student out there. As you're probably all aware, the 14th is Valentines day, where every single person has to put up with being publicly told that no-one loves them or finds out that that mystery admirer is the person you thought it was and never liked anyway. Each year I have a competition with my sister to see who receives the most cards, the loser being subject to weeks of patronising phone calls, the winner the love of my mum. Last year I had to face the humiliation of being thrashed 4-0; after four years of victory this hit hard and I have to make a good come back this year or risk emotional damage. Basically if you have any spare cards, please donate them to such a worthy cause as my own, either through the internal mail, or just drop them into the Union. Many Thanks.

# The Future's Bright, The Future's Orange and Red and Blue and Green...

Ever noticed how a butterfly's wings shine with a multitude of colours? Very soon, you'll be wearing clothes that do the same.

Emma Freeman tells all...

I can think of few things worse than being surrounded by flying insects in an enclosed space. This is where my vegetarian views come unstuck as I have few qualms about delivering all manner of death by drowning, swiping, crushing or spraying any insect who dares to roam uninvited in my home. I was however persuaded to look upon butterflies, and dare I say it, moths, in a slightly more favourable light due to some work going on down in Exeter.

Two physicists at Exeter University have reason to believe that butterflies may one day be responsible for anti-counterfeiting devices in credit cards and bank notes, wide-angle liquid crystal displays or, if it takes your fancy, a new trend for iridescent clothing. Peter Vukusic and Professor Roy Sambles have initiated a rare collaboration between biology and physics, two sections of the scientific community who are scarcely seen in the same vicinity together, let alone poring over the same lab book.

The pair are looking at butterflies and moths, whose wings produce the most striking, intense iridescent colours found anywhere else in nature. In studying this iridescent property Vukusic and Sambles hope to discover the secrets that lie behind their ability to produce such striking colours. They then hope to be able to reproduce these effects artificially under UV, infrared and radar wavelengths of light.

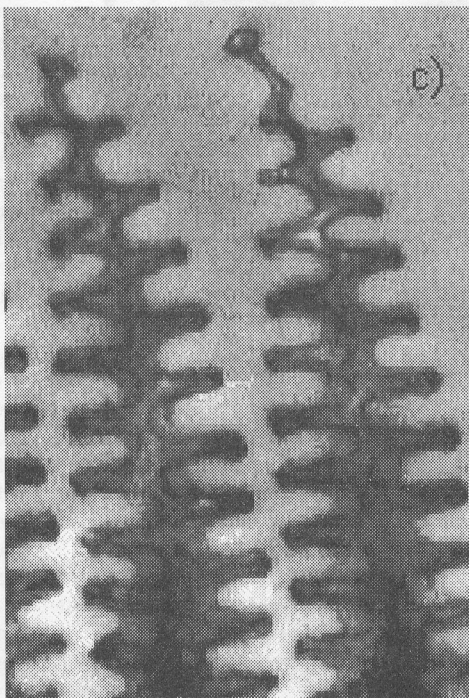
The iridescent nature of moths and butterflies has much the same effect as car headlights have when they shine onto a patch of engine oil on a wet road. In the same way that the colours in the oil change as you cross the road, a butterfly can appear in different colours, depending on the angle from which you look at it.

The iridescence that we see is a product of the light rays reflected

when light hits a film that has a mirror-like surface. When the incoming light hits the top surface of the film, some of it is reflected. The rest carries on travelling through the material until it reaches the lower surface, where more light rays are reflected. The colours themselves depend on how far the light has had to travel within the film and to what extent the density of the film affects the light's speed and direction. The colours change as the object or observer changes position in relation to the light.

This indicates that the iridescent colours produced by butterflies are a consequence of the physical structure of their wings. Vukusic and Sambles have therefore been looking at wing structure using electron microscopy. They

**"Christmas tree" structures on the Morpho butterfly**



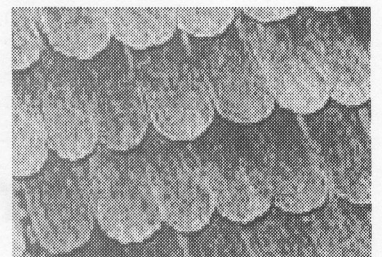
began by looking at moths, whose wings, like butterflies', are a mosaic of scales, arranged in a roof-tile pattern. It arose that inside each scale lay a complex geometric framework. Cuticles of chitin were arranged in layers, concertinaed with layers of air. This means that when sunlight strikes a scale, it becomes filtered through a whole series of chitin layers, each acting as a mirror-like film. They produce a multitude of reflections. The layers differ in thickness and distance away from one another and so varies the series of colours we see on the moths wings.

On discovering this, Peter Vukusic went on to look at the wings of butterflies. Out of all of those he has studied, it is the Morpho species of butterfly which has captured his interest the most. Morpho is a tropical species with electric blue wings. When Peter looked at individual scales from this butterfly, he found that they were made up of a series of longitudinal ridges. Looking at the ridges more closely he saw that each was made up of multiple reflective surfaces. More specifically, they were in the form of what he now calls "christmas tree" structures.

The "christmas trees" sit on the surface of a scale, arranged in rows. Each of their tiny branches interferes with incoming light from the top and bottom surfaces, reflecting a series of coloured rays. The scatter of these rays is considerably increased by the overlapping nature of the scales on the butterfly's wing which diffract the light rays. The overall effect is a stunning metallic blue butterfly which is visible from as many positions as possible.



Vukusic and Sambles have gone on to investigate the optical properties of butterfly scales using lasers. The lasers determine exactly how much light is reflected by a single scale and how this is dispersed. So far they have found that some scales are capable of reflecting as much as 75% of the light they receive in the visible blue spectrum. This is an amazing amount considering that each



Scales of the Morpho butterfly

wing scale is made up of a simple carbohydrate material which has arisen from a single cell. This work is progressing further by investigating the optical properties of structures in butterfly wings in spectrums of light which include the infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths.

The team in Exeter have already developed a theory so that they can mathematically model the "christmas tree" architecture found on the Morpho butterfly. As they gather more information they plan to develop a computer model which can predict the optical response of various physical structures across a broad range of wavelengths.

With this kind of information, it should be possible to establish some rules for mimicking butterfly reflectors in a variety of ways. So when you find yourself paying with your iridescent credit card for some iridescent hair spray, to go with your iridescent clubbing top, remember where you saw it first.

**"The overall effect is a stunning metallic blue"**



## Reviews

## Very Bad Things ★★★★★

**Starring :** Cameron Diaz, Christian Slater, Jon Favreau, Leland Orser, Jeremy Piven, Daniel Stern  
**Director :** Peter Berg

Despite the fact that they've never been in anything that could actually be branded with the adjective 'good', both of *Very Bad Things* stars have managed to build themselves extraordinary fan bases around the globe.

Cameron Diaz has become a major Hollywood player thanks to amazing looks combined with an astute choice of roles (eschewing the traditional line of blonde bimbos and rom-com heroines), plus an unexpected level of talent. Christian Slater, however, has taken a more off-beat route to stardom. In the late-eighties he was a teenage pin-up, but in the nineties he has stormed through an eclectic mix of movies, followed by increasingly outrageous stories of drug abuse - somehow managing to keep that trademark roguish grin intact.

Thus, whilst Diaz may be on less familiar territory in the movie - she's just too *nice* to play a convincing rich-bitch - Slater is in his element. He leads a group of five late-twenties blokes to Las Vegas, where they plan to stage the greatest bachelor party ever, to celebrate. It turns wild, and amidst a massive



*A bunch of pissed, leering good-for-nothing blokes. It's all strangely familiar.*

drink and drug fuelled binge a prostitute is accidentally murdered. Slater moves into gear, spouting pop-psychology and rising to every (increasingly brutal) act which his escape plan requires. Meanwhile, of course, his friends are falling to pieces. Hysteria and full-on nervous

breakdown coupled with guilt and panic soon lead to lethal wrangles, and, of course, an hilarious finale. Juxtaposed against these horrific actions are Diaz's sublimely screwy attempts to ensure the wedding goes to plan. Which it does. Sort of.

In essence, *Very Bad Things* is *Shallow Grave* with laughs. If that sounds like a pretty sick concept then that's because it is. Remember the scene in *Shallow Grave* where Ewan McGregor and Christopher Ecclestone go to the DIY shop to buy a spade, a saw and a hammer? That scene is mirrored here, only this time they buy chainsaws, breathing apparatus and a lot of suitcases. Which they put the dismembered torsos in. Yet it's hilarious - somehow writer/director Berg manages to create a world detached from reality, where you know that these events aren't real - and thus someone standing in a bath cutting up a corpse with a chainsaw is funny. Odd.

To enjoy *Very Bad Things* you'll have to be of a certain disposition, with the ability to laugh at undeniably nasty acts. Yet if you can you'll find yourself heavily rewarded, with fine performances from two of Hollywood's most likable stars, some great ensemble moments and a series of brilliant twists in the last ten minutes, in which nearly every character receives their comeuppance. **F**

Dave

## Shakespeare in Love ★★★★★

**Starring :** Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Geoffrey Rush, Ben Affleck, Judi Dench, Colin Firth, Simon Callow  
**Director :** John Madden

You've probably heard all the hype about *Shakespeare in Love* already, so it needs no introduction - except to say it's brilliant and go and see it now! There simply isn't anything bad to say about this film at all.

The film has been so well thought out and the script cleverly put together, with the same blend of in-jokes, period detail and wit that made writer Tom Stoppard's other Shakespearean parodies (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet*) so successful on both stage and screen. If you have a working knowledge of 'Romeo and Juliet' by the bard himself then most of the puns will work for you, but even if you haven't it doesn't matter.

Set in London in 1593, Joseph Fiennes is believable as Shakespeare. He seems to possess all the wit and intelligence present in Shakespeare's work. And as for Gwyneth Paltrow as the lovely Viola De Lesseps, well, you'll



*Golden Globe Award already in the bag. Oscar to come?*

have to make up your own mind. Don't go thinking this actress can't do an English accent because she has shown the whole world in this film she

is a brilliant performer and the ultimate 'English Rose'.

Shakespeare and Viola meet when she auditions for a part in his new

play 'Romeo and Ethel the Pirate's Daughter'. The only snag is women aren't allowed to perform on the stage. He discovers her true identity and quickly takes her to be his new Muse who inspires him to turn his play into a tragic love story called 'Romeo and Juliet'. As always, the course of true love is never easy. Viola is betrothed to some one else and the rest you will have to find out for yourself.

Almost every five minutes a recognisable face turns up including members of the 'Fast Show', Martin Clunes, and Geoffrey Rush (star of *Shine* and *Elizabeth*). Making a star appearance is Dame Judi Dench as Queen Elizabeth. The resemblance between these two women is so startling that Dench could have been Elizabeth in a former life.

Although this film is dreadfully romantic, it isn't a 'chick flick' - just the best film of 1999 so far. **F**

Helen

## Reviews

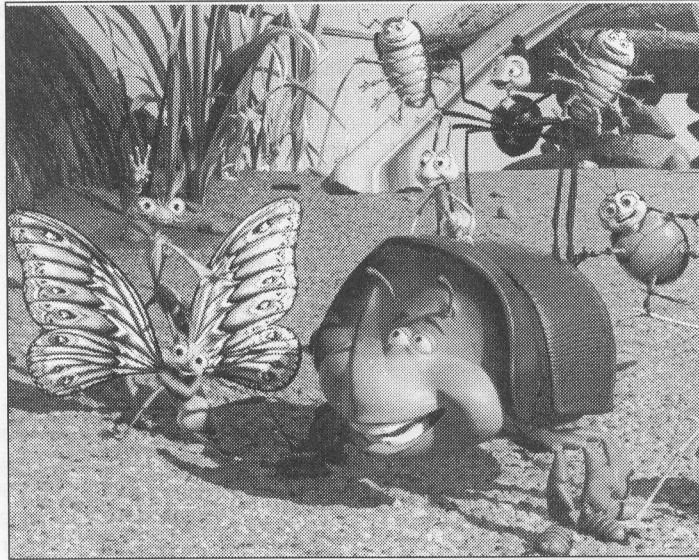
## A Bugs Life ★★ ★

**Starring :** Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, Phyllis Diller, David Hyde Pierce, Mike McShane  
**Director :** John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton

So, this is the Disney version of *Antz*. Or should I say the original version. For those of you who don't know the story behind these two films, I'll fill you in. Disney came up with the idea of a computer-generated flick about ants and Dreamworks stole the idea and made it bigger and better. It's very difficult not to compare these two films, as they are so similar.

For those of you who haven't seen *Antz* this film will be spectacular with its brilliant animation and cute story line. Mind you, as with all Disney films the trailers exposed all the best bits. If you listen carefully you will hear the voices of Kevin Spacey, David Hyde Pierce (a.k.a. Niles from *Frasier*), Phyllis Diller and John Ratzenberger (from *Cheers*).

The story line is the same as with *Antz*. Flik (Foley) is an individual with fantastic ideas about how to improve the colony on Ant Island but having ideas is not 'normal' when you're an ant. He is considered a little odd by almost everyone and his ideas get him into trouble. So much trouble in fact that he is sent away for help to save the



CGI ten times more powerful than that used on *Toy Story*. Wow.

colony from the grasshoppers. After seeing this film you will never look at a grasshopper in the same light again. He finds what he thinks is a troop of warriors but they turn out to be a circus group. However, don't worry, as in all good Disney films the good guy wins

and gets the girl.

Whereas *Antz* was full of 'adult' jokes this has a sense of humour aimed at children. It's definitely not a film for all age groups to enjoy but go and see it anyway. **F**

Helen

## Your Friends & Neighbours ★★ ★

**Starring :** Amy Brenneman, Nastassja Kinski, Jason Patric, Ben Stiller  
**Director :** Neil LaBute

There are certain directors who clearly aren't too happy with their lot in life, filling every movie they make with death, depression and suffering - and Neil LaBute is one such man.

His debut movie, *In the Company of Men*, saw two heartless office workers dating, then dumping a frail deaf girl just because they wanted to hurt someone, and *Your Friends & Neighbours* presents more of the same. Consequently, the cast consists of Patric's social evil incarnate; a wife who won't be touched (Brenneman); a quarrelling couple who are cheating on each other (Stiller and Keener); a husband who practices his own brand of self-loving (Aaron Eckhart); and a drippy lesbian (Kinski).

American indie movies of this kind - deliberately low budget and lo-fi - live and die on the strength of their cast, and it's here that *Your Friends* shows its depth. All



CGI ten times more powerful than that used on *Toy Story*. Wow.

of the six principle actors are on top form, but it's Patric who storms through with a grandstanding performance, filled with tales of date-rape and 'revenge' sex. Like I said, LaBute is not a happy man.

Filled with gags which you'll feel

uncomfortable laughing at, endlessly quotable dialogue and a warped sense of fun, your take on the movie will ultimately depend on your own views (and experience) of sex. **F**

Dave

Competition winners will be announced next week.

## VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

### The X-Files

In the face of a barrage of TV to movie adaptations that have proved just how easy it is to make a bad film, *The X-Files Movie* is a refreshing change which stays very true to its roots. Consequently the film plays very much in the style of an extended episode of the hit series. The increased budget is obvious, but sensibly utilised, and the much vaunted plot exposés simply leave even more unanswered questions. Most importantly, Mulder and Scully don't 'get it on' (as Barry White would say).

The difficult bit of any TV to movie transition is how to cater for both the long-term fan and the newcomer, and it's here that *The X-Files* really succeeds. A couple of entertaining 'hello, this is who we are' scenes get that out of the way early on, and from there on it's plain sailing into a truly breath-taking finale.

### The Avengers

To be honest, I didn't actually think *The Avengers* was that bad. There are some nice ideas on show; the cast aren't at all bad; and (surprisingly) it struggles to retain the spirit of the original. However, I'm not one to walk in the face of public opinion on such matters, and it's undeniably true that *The Avengers* is a mess. Edited to bits, it simply makes no sense in places, and is utter indulgence in others (Eddie Izzard and Shaun Ryder in a mini, chasing Uma Thurman and Ralph Fiennes with radio-control wasps). It's only redeeming feature is the sight of Sean Connery in a giant teddy-bear costume.

### Species 2

Sometime back in July I went to the cinema with a group of friends to see *The Wedding Singer*. One of the trailers was for *Species 2*. It was so bad we started to laugh. We were still laughing after three more trailers. We still couldn't stop laughing when the movie itself began to roll. We only stopped laughing when a very well-built usher told us that if we didn't shut up he'd throw us out. As far as I'm concerned, that's not a good sign. Even my blind-desperate friends - the ones who liked *Showgirls* - didn't like *Species 2*. Be warned. **F**

Dave



# £50K of taxpayers'

## Dave Hellard ICU President

Dave Hellard: the Man, the Myth, the Legend.

The question every voter should ask as they step towards the ballot box is who is David Hellard and why should I vote for him? I know I have. I am not the traditional Union "stiff" and I think that worries some people, the fact that I'm not just a Union official who finds himself with no-where to go, no more power to get other than run for President.

So why am I different? Simply, I work in the Union, I live in the Union and I live for the Union. I have spent my time in and around the Union and unlike many

previous contenders, merely CV seeking point pimps, I see problems, I see issues and it's time someone stood for the right reasons, to make a change.



Next year students will be coming to university with even less money than ever before. The Union in turn will be relied upon even more heavily. The money it provides through jobs and funding

combined with the easy access to cheap living could be the difference between the students being able to afford to come to Imperial or not. The added pressure of money on students will also see a need for our counselling services to be even wider reaching.

This is why I must be president, to maintain the high standards already set by the Union and to assure that the changes that need to be made will be made.

I work in the Union, I live in the Union and I live for the Union. It's time for the students to make their mark.

Despite a manifesto which didn't actually commit Union President Dave Hellard to anything, he still feels he has achieved a lot during the last seven months. He believes he has switched the focus onto the day-to-day issues which really affect students - like London Transport, the library and health-centre, and discounts. Consequently, he'd like his year in office to be remembered as "the year the Union came back to the students".

Alongside this, he'd also like to be remembered for setting some longer term projects in motion - like the expansion into Beit Quad and the proposed Union Job Shop (both due to begin in Summer 2000). Dave has also put a lot of emphasis on Student Development, and hopes to set up a "Student Development Week" for next year.

Nonetheless, he admits that he has managed to achieve far less this year than he had initially hoped, "problems with clubs, the CCU's and ULU seem to eat up my time". The workload has also come as something of a shock to the system, "the level of administration is huge, and, for the most part, thankless".

On the other hand, Dave sees one of the biggest plus points of the job as the opportunity for lots of public speaking and meeting people. Indeed this may prove to be only the first step on the road to power - although Dave has decided that he hates "Politics with a big P", he is looking to work in the Foreign Office or with the UN "and I wouldn't mind being an Ambassador".

"the year the Union came back to the students"

So what makes a good President? According to Dave, you simply can't tell who would do the job well, "you just have to listen to what they promise to do, and hope they focus on the issues". He admits that he is far from perfect "you need someone who's more responsible than me in the way they administer the Union, but who won't let constitutional jargon get in the way of doing the job properly".

And would he do the job again? Dave is a fervent believer in the benefits of allowing sabbaticals to run for a second term, but wouldn't want to do it himself. "I wouldn't be fully involved, and I'd get even more egotistic than I am now. I've had my chance - its time to let someone else have their go."

## Marie Nicholaou Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Only a month into her (shortened) sabbatical term, it is difficult to gauge the performance of ICU's newest sabb, Marie Nicholaou. Nonetheless, she claims her time has been in high demand, dealing with the Health & Safety issues which she views as incredibly important.

Key to this has been the potential dangers of the Weights Gym and problems of noise in Southside basements - both of which she hopes will soon reach satisfactory outcomes.

Marie, however, readily admits that she has no grand plan for her seven months in office. "If I'd had some good ideas I would have run for the full twelve months...I haven't had enough time to formulate a grand plan". Thus, she is concerned more with dealing

with the next crisis than leaving any lasting impression on the Union. In years to come she simply hopes that she is remembered for "trying to help

"I haven't had time to formulate a grand plan"

all sports - and trying not to be too biased towards my own... But I've failed".

Like Dave, Marie sees the opportunity to meet new people every day as one of the biggest plus points of the job. On the other hand, the worst part lies in the admin which running 150 clubs required. "I haven't written anything for four years, and now I've got to write all these reports...I've forgotten how."

So what makes an ideal DP (C&S)? "You need someone patient and tolerant who has an open mind on every issue".

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.



# money well spent?

## Chris Ince Deputy President (Finance & Services)

I have been a student at Imperial for six years and during that time I have been actively involved within the Union. I was the treasurer of the Athletics Clubs Committee for two years and this year I have been chair of the committee. I therefore have a good grasp of the way finances are run and how important they are to the union. Only with good finances is it possible for all our clubs and societies to function properly. Also it is important that the Union continues to operate its trading arm. This allows us



Having sat on both council and exec this year I am well aware of the way the union operates as well. Overall I feel I am well qualified to do this job and would also like to do it.

"Some things I will try to do next year are:

- Revue the subsidy level to clubs throughout the union. What do we want our union to offer?
- Introduce official training for club officers
- Ensure that clubs finances are run properly

I hope that my experience within the Union will allow me to quickly grasp the day-to-day running of the union. This will then allow me to work with the other sabbaticals to move the union forward.

Chris Ince was elected last June on a manifesto which promised a thorough review of Union subsidy levels, increased training for treasurers and proper running of club finances - all of which are now in progress. Despite the fact that problems continue to stream in, Chris believes that the training was very worthwhile, "it was worth giving training to the medics, even if they ignored it. I just wish I'd taken a list of who was there".

The really big issues this year, as far as Chris is concerned, have been the Beit Expansion and minibuses. Both of these issues have seen a great deal of progress (with the Union doing surprisingly well in Beit), but it will take a long time for the results to filter through. "That's one of the big problems with this job - I know I won't be here to see the outcome of my actions".

Chris also has to accept that a big part of his job involves damage limitation. Moreover, everything below £500 is basically delegated down, so however conscientious he is, "there will always be a big mess". Indeed Chris sees this as the worst part of his job, "the

Med School is a complete mess...I can't be expected to perform miracles for those who don't play by the rules.

Nonetheless, he is still pleased with how things have gone this year - particularly his working relationship with President Hellard, "At the beginning of the year I was concerned that someone who wasn't involved with the Union had the potential to make huge mistakes. But he's actually done really well".

"if I could do the job again I would do"

So would Chris stand for election again, given the chance? "If I could stand again I would do. When the new rector is appointed we should push really hard for the right for two year sabbaticals". Moreover there is one important lesson which Chris has learnt, "if I was starting the year over, I wouldn't rely on a detailed chain of command - I'd get detailed information to everyone personally".

Asked what makes a good DP (F&S), the answer is simple, "It's the one role where you need someone really capable, yet tolerant, who can say more than just 'No'".

And what's the best thing about the job? "That pseudo sense of power".

## Ed Sexton Felix Editor

Ed Sexton's manifesto promised three things: greater publicity, a higher standard of writing and reps at every campus. Whilst he has had great success with the first two, Ed admits to having had more trouble with the latter, "I made half an effort, but there didn't seem to be any interest". However, Ed is very happy with the improvements made in the reviews sections this year, particularly in arts and games. Above all else, he'd like to be remembered for being "relaxed, approachable and considerate of both sides of the argument".

Alongside this, Ed also believes that the relationship with the Union has changed this year. "Felix has become much more pro-Union - we'll still attack them when necessary, but in general we're both on the same side".

So would he do the job again? "No, but not because I'm not enjoying it - it's just not something you want to do for more than

thirteen months". There are things he'd like to do differently if he started the year over. An important lesson is that people will only do things if you speak to them personally, face-to-face, "so I'd spend more time out of the office, rather than constantly emailing and phoning people". Moreover, given the opportunity Ed believes he would have tried far harder to keep

Felix coming out on Friday's.

One thing the year has taught Ed is the myriad of abilities which the ideal Felix editor needs to embody. "You need to have the technical knowledge; a genuine like of student interests; the ability to see the difference between what someone writes and who they are; and you have to be able to write 400 words at six in the morning, having been awake for 24 hours".

And what's the best thing about the job? "Walking around on Monday afternoons and seeing thousands of students leafing through their copy of Felix."

The success of Felix depends not just on the editor, but on the students who volunteer their time to make it the professional publication it is. My first priority as Felix Editor will be to encourage more students to become involved through increased publicity, especially at the start of the Autumn term. As Imperial's campuses continue to merge, it is increasingly important that students from all parts of the college contribute to the newspaper. To this end Felix will have a representative at each of the main campuses, who would be in regular contact for news and information. Felix is a newspaper, not a magazine, and its primary concern should

be issues relevant to students. However, Felix should also entertain the readership: The diverse features and review sections will stay, but I feel the layout needs clarification to make them more accessible.



I want to improve the quality of writing throughout Felix, specifically the reviews and sports pages; articles can be well written whilst retaining their wit and entertainment value. Felix is and always will be independent, and I will protect its editorial freedom from external

influences. It will not take any particular political stance, but will reflect the opinions of all students at the college.

For Felix to maintain and improve upon its current high standards, it is vital that it has someone committed and organised in the position of editor. Last year, I successfully co-edited Phoenix, Imperial's arts magazine, as well as running my own society with its own column in Felix. As News Editor, I am very familiar with how Felix is run, both technically and administratively. I am committed and organised, and with your support I can ensure that Felix remains an informative, entertaining and excellent publication.



## Singles

Cartoon - *Alcoholic Show*

A bit Suede-ish, but not really. If you know what I mean. No? Oh well, never mind. Decent enough track made special by a unique vocal delivery. A good, tight sound.

The Jellys - *Lemonade Girl*

Looking at the name of the band and the track title, I could have a stab at what this sounds like before listening to it - sugary, jumpy, fresh, young and energetic? Oh look! Guess what? I was right! Anyone need their horoscopes doing?

Midget - *Artwork*

This reminds of something Blur might produce - it's the sort of stuff that deserves a lot of airplay on radio stations. Varied and exciting. Oh, and here's another thing - the b-side *Twice As Shy* is perfect. Nice one, Midget.

Fungus - *Over My Head*

The actual single is a dull, uninspiring and slow song. The b-sides are the treats. More trashy. More punky. More energy. Perhaps it was a marketing ploy to go for the beautiful rock or rock balladeering corner that a few bands are going for. Stick with the bile - it works like a bomb going off.

Gene - *As Good As It Gets*

Two listens and you're hooked. There's a radio-friendly intro and then enter Mr. Rossiter's voice - at first a stranger before you come to realise that it's that familiar voice that you haven't seen in ages and wish you'd have kept in touch with. Sublime pop music.

Whistler - *Don't Jump In Front Of My Train*

I think I've got a fetish for female singers. I just can't resist them. Perhaps I just give good reviews in the hope that they may meet me one day and be overly grateful. Soothing and St. Etienne-ish with vocals that go straight to your (or maybe just my own) head.

Sleater-Kinney - *A Quarter To Three/Burn Don't Freeze*

This double A-side demonstrates what's good about this female trio. They can be light and flirty as well as punky and quirky. *Burn Don't Freeze* is the better track, overlapping weary dreary vocals with pouty shouty vocals. Does the trick quite nicely, thank you very much.

Space Raiders - *Laid Back*

If this track was more laid back, it'd be standing up again. Cool if you're lying on your bed in the afternoon with nothing to do. Frustratingly irritating if you've got a pile of work to do that's accumulating like a hold-up on the M1. **M**

Dennis

## Albums

## 3 COLOURS RED

Revolt ★★



Chris McCormack smiles gently at the passing flasher.

Known to Q Magazine readers as 'the unremarkable 3 Colours Red' this four-piece punk rock band release their second album *Revolt* today. Most of you will have heard of them thanks to their recent Top 20 hit and breakthrough single *Beautiful Day*. However, this song is unrepresentative of the album, whose tracks are far removed from the string-laden rock ballad.

They formed in 1995, based on the songwriting partnership of singer and bassist Pete Vuckovic and guitarist Chris McCormack. The pair used to write songs together via post before they had even met and they happily boast that they had formed a prolific partnership before even setting eyes on each other. On realising their songwriting potential they enlisted guitarist Ben Harding and drummer Keith Baxter to form a band. They called themselves 3 Colours Red after the critically acclaimed French film. They released *This Is My Hollywood* independently in 1996 and soon attracted record label attention, eventually signing to Creation by the end of the year.

Never-ending tours and the release of four singles and an album soon made them known across the country but their music was never accessible or original enough for mainstream success. They tried harder for their next album, realising that some slower, more melodic songs would make a welcome break from the non-stop hurricane of rock and

punk. They gave us the single *Paralyse* last October which the band describes as 'like nothing we've done before, think Pantera and The Pixies with a George Harrison melody.' Quite an accurate description, except for the Harrison bit. Oh, and the melody bit as well. Unfortunately, the track is the same as all their previous songs - loud guitars and drums, grunge voice - just with different words.

Which is what can be said for the majority of songs on this album, one terrible song seamlessly rolling into another. However, there are a couple that demand a second listen.

First off is *Back To The City* which mixes Johnny Rotten vocals with comical early '80's electric rock, not as bad as it seems actually. Then we have a rare slow song in *This Is My Time* which is a standard orchestrally-enhanced rock anthem, despite it starting like Spandau Ballet.

That leaves us finally with current single *Beautiful Day*. It's hard to tell whether this song will help or hinder them. Whilst it will open them up to a mainstream audience, it could ruin their image as the hard boys of rock. 3 Colours Red are that rarest of things, a band that manages to occasionally create powerful uplifting songs but equally as many crap ones, unable to separate the good from the bad. A bit like their record company Creation, who for every Oasis they also sign a 3 Colours Red. **M**

Ed J

## DESERT EAGLE DISCS

The Eagle Has Landed ★★★

I was handed this CD, complete with the now obligatory Parental Advisory sticker with a rough outline of the sound: 'Well, it's sort of R'n'B.' Right-oh then... I'm probably not the best ambassador for the new R'n'B (because didn't there used to be an old one? Y'know, like Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra play), considering that my music collection is what most people would term 'guitar music' with the odd splash of Ol' Blue Eyes and a helping of Korn.

Well, here we go. The main musicians in the group are Syze-Up and Shari J. Jules (okay so far) and you might have heard of Syze-Up before if you're familiar with Puff Daddy's Bad Boy label. He has released a few remixes on it and has also worked with several stateside artists. Right, that's enough of who they are - on to the shiny CD. That's why I like CDs - you can make pretty patterns on the

ceiling with them using a simple desk lamp and your hand.

The chief thing that I (a novice to the worlds of R'n'B, rap and hip-hop, of which I am reliably informed that this is an amalgam) noticed is that all the songs come from the same formula. They start with a rock-steady rhythm section (no fills if possible, please), followed by an enema inducing bass, a sample or two and lyrics with plenty of not so vague sexual references and metaphors. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, I expect something a little more varied from my music. Having said that, the album as a whole is a very mellow affair laced with the aforementioned elements to good effect.

This is a special type of music and I shall attempt to set the scene in which it may be listened to. You come home after being out (a club, the pub, whatever) and it's late. You might be with

some friends or a laydee or a bloke, but I have experience with the former so we'll stick with that. You go to the stereo and put some tunes on. That's the style, it's background, incidental music or, for want of a better phrase, it's shagging music. That's what D.E.D. is a first class choice for but it doesn't flick my switch, float my boat, y'know. And *The Lovers* is the same song as *Would You Kill For Me?* but without the naughty swearing. You can't fool me - I know. **M**

Christian



## Albums

## DREAM CITY FILM CLUB

In The Cold Light Of Morning ★★★



Despite the fluffy name, one band member still insists on looking like a menace.

This album is depressing. If you're looking for something to perk you up in the morning, to lift you up when you're feeling low, don't look here. This is more likely to send you scuttling to a dark corner where you will want to wallow in a pit of your own despair and insecurities. The music in general has Goth stamped all over it. It's dark, pery and morose.

Having said that, Dream City Film Club have let up a little since their eponymous first album. That was a harsh and depraved look at modern life, described in the press as 'a discordant blob of sonic grease' and 'a filthy sore of a record,' as well as 'pretty fucking horrible, all told,' by the NME. For this, their second album, there is less emphasis on grating rawness and more of their melodies and sensitivities can shine through.

The album opens with the beautifully poignant *Killer Blow*. It's quiet and thoughtful, and hence totally uncharacteristic of the rest of the album. Most of the songs are loud and raucous, with an emphasis on sounding like a live recording. Bizarrely, Track 9 *Country Paranoia* has exactly the same intro as *Killer Blow*. Maybe they could only think up one quiet bit and so had to use it again.

Kerrang! Magazine voted *Billy Chic* single of the week and it's easy to see why with its punchy power chords and hard rhythm drumming.

Singer Michael J. Sheehy's voice is surprisingly dynamic and aptly suited for this style of music. He often sails from a pathetic whine to a full on croon. Sometimes it can sound leering and contemptuous, at other times frail. Guest vocalist Victoria Benjamin adds a pleasantly contrasting tone on several tracks.

There are some great songs here, but not enough. DCFC could be a great band if they just stopped trying to be so damn grim the whole time. **M**

Tom

## SLY AND ROBBIE

Drum And Bass Strip To The Bone By Howie B ★★★



Sly and Robbie - back again.

Apparently, Sly and Robbie have released a ridiculously large number of albums over the last few years and apart from their classic single *Fire*, all this progress seems to have passed me by. However, prior to the release of their latest offering *Strip to the Bone*, I was eagerly awaiting the tunes to be offered. The reason for this can be guessed from the title, for it was supposed to be a drum and bass remix album of the duo's work by music man extraordinaire Howie B.

The sound of *Strip to the Bone* is, however, far from what I expected to hear. Rather than the scripted drum and bass, *Strip to the Bone* has a definite dub sound to it. Still, this was probably the most likely outcome when it is considered that the album was made in Jamaica, with Sly and Robbie supplying their remix chief with, as Howie himself put it, 'extra strong weed.' The bass is not entirely missing but the pace is slow - one could say it's perfect for sitting back and chilling out with a joint to. No surprises there, then.

As for my favourite tracks, the tunes

on the album work to compliment each other and as such, track titles are mere formalities as the music washes through the atmosphere. The album also turns out to be great music to go to sleep to, - more proof that this is far from drum and bass.

So, all in all, the sound of *Strip to the Bone* isn't really Sly and Robbie and it isn't really Howie B. But I suppose that's what should be expected when transatlantic music giants with such contrasting styles meet. Not brilliant, but definitely worth a listen. **M**

James

## Singles

Bjork - *Alarm Call*

Bjork's usual growling in pixie style and weird blipping sound effects are on full show in this her latest single. It's quite an upbeat and cheery track that would brighten up these miserable winter days.

Garbage - *When I Grow Up*

Certainly Garbage but definitely not rubbish. *When I Grow Up* is a really good guitar driven tune that certainly has your foot tapping but don't listen to the lyrics unless you want to be seriously depressed and distressed.

Ednaswap - *Back On The Sun*

Uninspired sound with typical female led vocals much in the style of a second rate Alanis Morissette or Sheryl Crow. Not great but not Frisbee material either - dull at best.

## THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

PJ Harvey - *The Wind*

Scary and spooky vocal whispering intro that continues throughout the track interweaving with Ms. Harvey's fine singing voice. A genuinely good and inspired track that has you listening for more every time - deep and dark.

Prince Paul - *More Than U Know*

Mellow hip hop style that Prince Paul basically invented, being the great producer behind De La Soul. This is a funky jazzy affair taken from his eagerly anticipated forthcoming album. Worth a listen for those in a Jurassic 5 state of mind.

Emilia - *Big Big World*

You have soooo heard this song before. The fun/novelty factor soon wears thin as you end up wishing that this was a Bigger Bigger World and Emilia was in a far corner of it.

Fuzz Bird - *Moi EP*

Heavy guitar driven sound with some shouting bloke on vocals who sounds very Ska inspired without retaining the fun of groups like Madness. The slow tracks are tedious, dull and boring. Keep trying boys. **M**

Ramzi

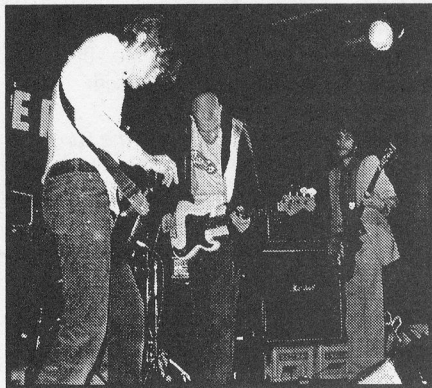




## Live

## BILLY MAHONIE

The Warehouse, Hackney



Stop the press, the legendary  
Shoegazers to reform!

OK, I'm sure there are a number of you out there who are wondering where the hell in the thriving vast expanse of urban faeces known as London is the Hackney Warehouse. The more street wise amongst you, the ones with one ear surgically attached to the ground, will be fretting your brows for not having heard of this venue. Well the truth is, it's not a permanent venue and has only just opened for this night. It is in fact a real warehouse and also the home to Billy Mahonie's guitarist/bassist Hywell. To be accurate there is no traditional front man as Billy Mahonie have no singer, but more of that later.

The gig was the most underground one I've ever been to, firstly it was invite only and secondly the venue was a freezing warehouse with no bar and one feeble portable heater on the constant verge of collapse. The crowd was mainly indie types from all parts, predominantly France and Japan and the atmosphere soon started to liven.

Billy Mahonie take their name from one of the characters out of 'Flatliners', you know the movie where a bunch of college students experiment with near-death by going 'flatline'. They are a four piece, with Gavin on guitar, Kev on bass Howard on drums and Hywell alternating between guitar and bass. They formed at end of '97 and have released two singles since then, *Hoon* and *Whistling Sam*. None of Billy Mahonie's material has had a wide distribution because they've only released it through small indie labels. If you can't get

hold of them you should check out *Moonlight Madness* on Ride's *Carnival of Light* LP where the psychedelic semi-instrumental mimics Billy Mahonie's guitar craziness. Billy Mahonie are totally instrumental and this aspect reinforces the interplay between the guitars. There influences vary broadly from dEUS and early Mogwai to Miles Davis and DJ Shadow.

There was a mixture of styles to the sounds they produced, ranging from mellow jangly indie to mashed up psychedelic meandering through a sea of thrashed out discordant guitar chopping. The tendency towards the latter was on the agenda. Hywell was the most energetic, thrashing himself around while thrashing his guitar around and at the same time dropped his pick and retrieved it from the tangled mess of wires on the floor in the blink of an eye.

For the future Billy Mahonie have a debut album lined up and will be in the studio during February recording with producer Head for Too Pure. They were deservedly mentioned in the NME's top 20 bands to watch for in 1999 and they will be playing again from the end of February. Check out future issues of Felix for dates and venues. **M**

Jason

## Tha Bomb!



Half a page again...well it's been a hectic week and the time just isn't there. This week I'm bringin' you a Blackstreet special, with their third album soon to drop we have a look at their classic second album. Quick piece of news regarding the funky foursome...they are only three. Mark Middleton has left the crew to pursue a solo career, joining old members David Hollister and Levi Little who are seeking opportunities elsewhere. What is it with this group? Group members seem to be dropping like flies, there's no news on whether a replacement is going to be brought in... we'll keep you updated on the situation.

Milen

## CLASSICALBUM

## BLACKSTREET : ANOTHER LEVEL

Teddy "Street" Riley, heralded composer / producer/singer and leader of platinum soul super group Blackstreet, power crooner and group co-founder Chauncey "Black" Hannibal, and the talented new members Eric Williams and Mark Middleton, took R&B to another level in 96 and far beyond.

Introduced by the funkified, feel good lead single *No Diggity*, produced by Riley and William Stewart, and featuring a phat rap intro by Dr. Dre, this impressive new album elevated the so called urban music scene, expanding the soulful parameters in the process. *Another Level* is a reflection of where Blackstreet has

been, where we're at and where we're going," explained Teddy, acclaimed architect of the historic 80s R&B/hip-hop revolution still globally revered as 'New Jack Swing.'



Building on the certified platinum foundation forged by Blackstreet's debut 1994 self-titled, million seller CD, which spawned the top charted hits *Bootie Call*, *Before I Let Go*, *Joy*, and *Tonight's The Night*, the power of *Another Level* is undeniable. The jeep ready and radio friendly *No Diggity* was the perfect funky beginning for the red hot quartet's cold chillin' album. Primarily recorded at Teddy's state of the art Future Recording studio in Virginia Beach, Virginia (where he and his family also reside).

"We worked hard to give the album depth, substance and maximum Blackstreet flavor," assures Riley, whose inspired musicianship, production and overall creative genius is indelibly imprinted throughout the sizzling

album. Outstanding tracks from the album included: *Good Lovin'*, a scintillating slow-jam seductively delivered by Chauncey, who equally excels on the R&B Beautiful *Let's Stay In Love*, *Never Gonna Let You Go*, a tour-de-force romantic anthem, sparked by Marks explosive, scale defying tenor; *The Fix*, "a totally addictive, head knodding' Blackstreet butte track; *I Can't Get You Out Of My Mind*, unforgettably powered by Eric's lush leads and Blackstreet's multi-layered harmony; and *Can't Buy Me Love*, a serious soul remake of the Beatles '60s classic.

The departure of Levi (Little) and David (Hollister) was unexpected and looked as if could be a little unsettling. When Mark and Eric stepped in everyone out there immediately realized the change was just a blessing in disguise. Their sound became stronger, tighter and more diverse, Eric and Mark both sang incredible lead vocals and harmonies.

It's no accident that Blackstreet's second long player was titled *Another Level*. Teddy illuminates: "from stronger leads, to hyper harmony, to more live instruments, to ending the album on a spiritual high note ("God Is Real")," he concludes, "this is the off-the-hook album we wanted the first one to be." There's no doubt that this album is a pure classic skillz.





# ic radio

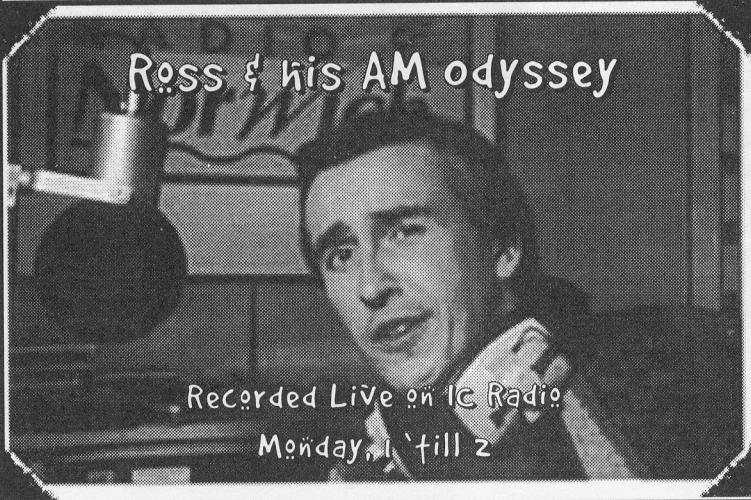


Side 1

Side 2

- Mailibu - Hole
- When I Argue... - Idlewild
- EVERY YOU EVERY ME - Placebo
- Beeftubum - Blur
- English Country Garden - Dandy Warhols
- on Standby - Sied 7
- I'll Show You Mine - Ultraschund

- Bianca - Keef
- Around The World - Daft Punk
- National Express - Divine Comedy
- Shorley Walls - Ooberman
- Where are we now - Gene
- To Earth With Love - Gay Dad
- Back Together - Baby Bird



Ross & his AM odyssey 1 'till 2

IC RADIO

This week we profile Ross McKenzie's lunchtime show. Record the 'Nickers and Pants' Show on Wednesday lunchtime for next week's feature.

So, what do you do at IC Radio then?

I present the Monday and Friday lunchtime shows and a good job too 'cause I'm damned good at it.

What makes the lunchtime slot so attractive?

It's a chance to send out some mainstream tunes and cheesy jokes when people in Southside are either cooking or getting out of bed. I've built my illustrious career on the subtle yet daring art of daytime broadcasting. Following in the hoof-prints of other such bastions of quality as Anne Diamond and Richard & Judy. Lunchtime is a great opportunity to compete with the larger stations with a similar approach but using the advantage of that Student Radio edge. Man. Eh, yeah, fine. Where's the Ross McKenzie lunchtime show going just now? Kent.

What? Kent the stereotypically anal English county?

Eh, no the hip young Swedish band with the same name as the stereotypically anal English county. But I'd always be up for doing a roadshow event in Kent. Or anywhere else for that matter.

So what makes a good lunchtime show?

Confidence, good music, audience participation and regular features. And a good presenter of course.

What regular features have you got then?

There's 'Name that Crisp' my fantastic exciting and patented game show with stunning prizes to be won. There's also a weather bulletin with Albert Hall. Eh, I usually resurrect some clichéd 'guess the link between these three records' type of thing as well. Cutting-edge broadcasting you know.

Yes I imagine it is....

Oh yeah I'm planning on doing my entire show from the IC Radio toilets soon. I don't think it's ever been done before and gimmicks usually go down fairly well. It's good to have a laugh once in a while.

Any ambitions for your show?

Yeah I'd like to broadcast it to more than three hung-over students and a couple of pigeons one day, just to see how it'd go down. One of the down sides of being at IC is the social apathy. I'd love to know how it'd feel to broadcast on Radio 1, knowing that 3 million people are listening to what you're doing. Any final messages for the readers of Felix and even the odd IC Radio listener? Yeah there's lots of funkiness and social fibre to be found on IC Radio which I think most IC students could do with. I hope that if you can listen in to the show then you'll find it a good student alternative to what's on elsewhere. Cheers.

## ICR Chart

- = 1. Divine Comedy - National Express
- ↑ 2. Hole - Malibu
- = 3. Idlewild - When I Argue I See Shapes
- ↑ 4. Levellers - One Way 99
- ↑ 5. Placebo - Every You Every Me
- ↑ 6. Ooberman - Shorley Wall
- ↓ 7. Gene - As Good As It Gets
- ↑ 8. Plutonik - Sitting on Top of the World
- ↓ 9. Gay Dad - To Earth With Love
- ↑ 10. Babybird - Back Together
- = 11. Garbage - When I Grow Up
- ↑ 12. Mercury Rev - Delta Sun Bottleneck
- ↓ 13. Language Lab - Burning Disaster
- ↑ 14. Prince - 1999
- ↓ 15. The Jellys - Lemonade Girl
- ↓ 16. Muse - Muscle Museum
- ↓ 17. Umajets - When I Wake Up
- ↓ 18. Unkle - Be There
- ↑ 19. Loop Da Loop - Hazel
- = 20. Metallica - Whiskey in the Jar

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Broadcasting 24 hours a day to Southside and on 999am

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
12-1	<b>Marky Mark</b> Quality tunes and sparkling wit- when he can be arsed to turn up that is...	<b>Jon C's Lunchtime Show</b> The man with the hair returns after his weeks absence to deliver a consistently quality show.	<b>Knickers &amp; Pants Revealed</b> With features like 'live cooking' and 'top ten at ten' the show was shit, so they dropped	<b>Steve Metal</b> Counting down IC Radio's top 10 live and exclusive on IC Radio.	<b>The Neel Appeal</b> Who needs charity when you've got a show like this one?
1-2	<b>Ross &amp; his AM Odyssey</b> Fame beckons after his feature in Felix (magazine not cat food)	With loads of CD's to give away every week, you'll be loosing out not to tune in.	them and now just ramble on about anything that takes their fancy.	<b>Nanj</b> The dreaded Nanj plays tunes from the darkest depths of the IC Radio vaults.	<b>Ross &amp; his AM Odyssey</b> Award nominated irrelevant chat and the odd quality record.



# AFRICA BY AFRICA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEW

## Barbican Art Gallery



comes up with a brilliant self-portrait, always picturing groups or subjects lying down. His funniest piece has to be the two babies (pictured left). These photos are touching and very moving. The next big room focuses on work from South Africa. Most of them are taken from *Drum* magazine which had an immense impact and influence on life in the country. We get to see a young

This show explores the work of African photographers from the past 70 years. The first display dates back to the 1930s, portraying numerous families. Most of the images represent traditional aspects of African life; the inside of houses, women in typical costumes and couples dressed up for special occasions. The next section presents an incredible amount of portraits by Mama Cassel, Azaglo and Keita. Azaglo places his models outdoors, using men and women alike. Keita, on the other hand,

and charismatic Nelson Mandela, lots of dancing and singing in jazz clubs as well as a rare, early photograph of the greatest African singer, Miriam Makeba. The 70s are typified as glamorous partying, revealing the influence of Pop culture on Africa. Samuel Fosso's series captures the spirit of this turbulent decade. He has taken several tremendously intense, humorous and original self-portraits. He is dressed differently in every single picture - it looks like a fashion shoot really. The exhibition seems to skip the 80s and

we land instead in the modernism and wildness of the 90s. Both sections are outstanding. First, Apagya creates a set of studio portraits against different backdrops, even providing the gallery with one. We therefore get an idea of the effects created by photography from a very basic piece of equipment. The last part of the exhibition is dedicated to contemporary South African photographers, with a tremendous variety of work on display. Mofokeng's series has a very mystic and haunting feeling to it. Tshabangu shows the harder side of life in the townships. Finally, Mthethwa injects a lot of colour into his photos, resulting in a splendidly happy and optimistic outlook.

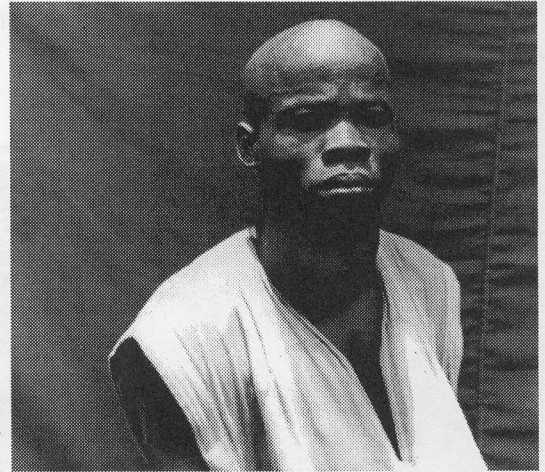
This show is very inspiring. It discloses many facets of Africa - the contrasting hardship and enjoyment. We also discover that some artists are pushing boundaries, producing very original and creative work. It is a great

shame that these artists don't get more attention in our Western culture. The exhibition is definitely worth seeing, especially if you don't know much about African artists. You will discover a world full of poetry.

D.

Until 28th March

Nearest tube: Barbican  
Admission: £6, concessions £4



## CINDERELLA

### Wimbledon Theatre

As a mature, serious and ultra-sophisticated theatregoer, I was more than slightly apprehensive about seeing the glittery children's spectacle that is *Cinderella*. Well, okay, there was one attraction - one of my all-time heroes Kriss Akabusi was in it, which more than made up for the sad lack of ex-Neighbours characters in the cast.

I seriously doubted the entertainment value of shouting at grown men and women to look behind them, and while trying to fend off inquisitive prods and several attempts at conversation by a horde of small children, I squeezed myself into the pint-sized chair. I was however determined to keep an open mind, even after the melodramatic drum roll and stylised introductory song boasting the merits of Cadbury's, and how well a bar of Cadbury's would go with the performance, and would we like to go to the foyer and get - you guessed it - some Cadbury's.

Once the play got started though, I was captivated. The sets were consistently breathtaking, and perfectly fantastical, while the costumes were extravagant, inventive and, in the case of

the two ugly sisters, often ridiculous and hilarious.

As a person with what could be described as a somewhat juvenile sense



of humour, I found myself creasing up at the gags (although don't expect even a hint of subtlety). An excellent ventriloquist, woven into the plot on a very vague pretext, earned his presence if only on the strength of a single, funny

scene about cats. There were in fact perhaps a few too many 'adult' jokes that would have passed over the kids' heads, but still served to entertain.

As with all pantomimes, the children in the audience were an important part of the show, giving us all an excuse to indulge ourselves as well as them. And they didn't let us down. They responded with expertise at all the right moments,

and chirped up with endearing comments at all the wrong moments. They themselves provided a rich source of entertainment when Bradley Walsh as Buttons enticed some young 'volunteers' to perform a variety of embarrassing activities on stage.

Incidentally, Kriss didn't let me down either - he was witty, and of course very enthusiastic. His complete lack of any singing ability was cleverly masked, and his role in 'Record Breakers' was milked to the full, providing the subject for a range of jokes.

On the whole, the music was a little corny and not very original, using songs lifted from several well-known musicals. There were however some memorable tunes as well as some excellent dances. The hunting scene in particular stands out as a lively, well choreographed and feverishly dramatic piece of work.

Overall, the perfect pantomime, wonderfully capturing the fantasy of the fairy tale and also of Christmas (if a little belatedly). A great laugh. But you'll have to wait until next year to see it... Sorry!

Judy

# PATRICK CAULFIELD

## Hayward Gallery



Caulfield's still-lives are a contradiction. His planar and graphic images are reminiscent of comic strip cells, swamped in bright, uniform and intense colours. Each form is defined

by pronounced black contours, much like the leading of stained glass windows (incidentally, also the subject of a picture). Yet this radical simplification is aptly compensated for by prominent perspective guidelines, which expand the dimensions of perception.

"My subject matter has no specific geographical situation, it could be anywhere in the world. That's why I use certain imagery rather repetitively, such as pots. Greek pots picked up from the sea bed could have been made last week, they are of a similar form, retain the same function and are equally compelling but without a date - this is the antithesis of the Pepsi-Cola bottle."

His pictures are light-hearted and decorative, often depicting interiors and landscapes. He also injects insight and humour into his work, parodying Stubbs with a horse profile and interpreting a

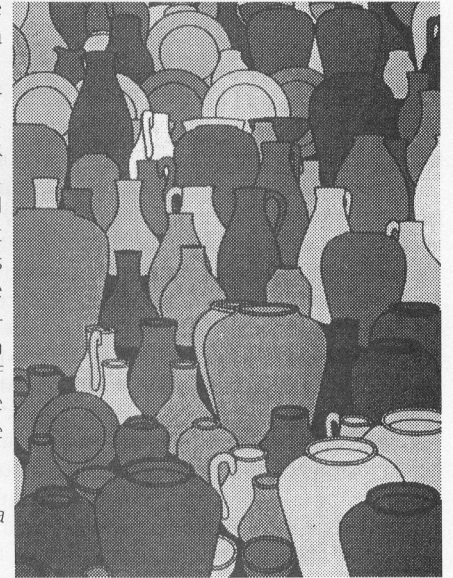
Delacroix composition. He also juxtaposes contrasting techniques to great effect, clashing the almost abstract with excessive photographic realism. A finely detailed rose or wineglass is the focus of the composition amidst a geometric backdrop.

This major retrospective highlights Caulfield's distinctive style, however the format of his work remains, perhaps disappointingly, static throughout his distinguished career, although in more recent paintings he admittedly introduces the concept of texture to otherwise rigorously smooth canvases. Caulfield enjoys teasing the viewer with trompe l'oeil representations of matter - an invitation to an obscure world of fantasy issued from the quotidian.

Helena

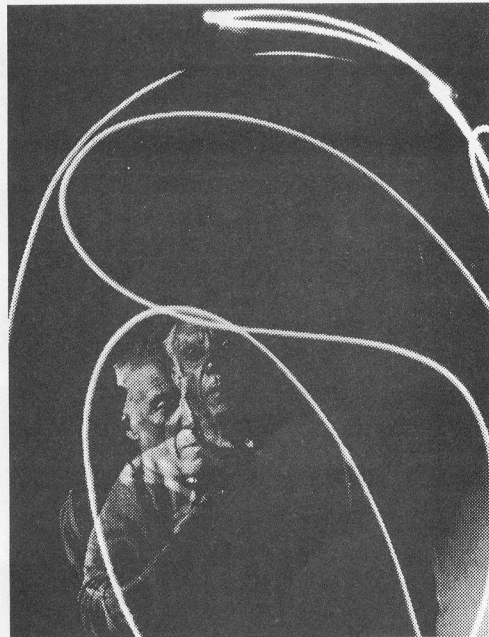
Until 11th April

Nearest tube: Waterloo/Embankment  
Admission: £6, concessions £4  
Opening hours: daily 10am - 6pm (Tuesday and Wednesday until 8pm)



# PICASSO AND PHOTOGRAPHY: THE DARK MIRROR

## Barbican Art Gallery



This exciting exhibition - a condensed version of shows from the Musée Picasso in Paris - explores Pablo Picasso's relationship with photography. The display opens with a few classical Spanish painters; the influence of El Greco is highly noticeable. From then on, we follow Picasso's work, beginning with his preparation and research for the revolutionary *Les Femmes d'Alger*. He prepared sketches from photos of West African women taken at the begin-

ning of the century. This section is very beautiful - it's fascinating to discover the making of such an influential painting. His time at the Bateau-Lavoir studio in Montmartre during 1905-1909 is then depicted, including many pictures of his friends. The next collection takes us to Horta de Ebro in Spain where he painted the *Houses on the Hill*. Again, we witness the step by step creation of the piece, as he uses photography as his main influence and help. The following room shows a few images of his own art, with an installation of papiers collés.

Picasso captures the mood and spirit of his time through photography. He took great portraits of some of the most prominent artists of the 1910s: the poets Max Jacob and Apollinaire (in hospital with his war injuries) as well as the painters Le Douanier Rousseau and Marie Laurencin (a rare contemporary female artists). He even managed to record his collaboration with Stravinsky on the ballet *Parade* in 1917, for which he painted the decor. The exhibition then focuses more on other photographers' take on his art and his partnership

with some of them. First, we see Dora Maar's series depicting the creation of *Guernica* in 1937. Each photo is taken at a different stage and therefore constitutes a precious documentation of Picasso's artistic technique. Other famous photographers include Doisneau and Brassai. Both observed him in the intimacy of his art. Brassai's pictures show his inventive paper sculptures of the 1940s. The final rooms concentrate on the last 20 years of the artist's creative life. First, we explore his collaboration with Andre Villers. Picasso used his paper cut-outs approach on Villers' photographs, giving rise to some tremendously innovative pieces. Particularly memorable was the cleverly superimposed presentation of palm and mask silhouettes. The last room is yet another original creation - light or space images using light bulbs, with Picasso drawing and the photographer Gjon Mili capturing the movements.

Photography was always a major element in Picasso's artistic career and personal life. We get a delightful insight into his captivating

world, so I strongly recommend this to all Picasso lovers.

D.

Until 28th March

Nearest tube: Barbican  
Admission: £6, concessions £4





# CLUBSCENE

## Specimen A Review + Competition Winners!

### Review: Specimen A @ IC Union

Last Friday saw the second gig by Specimen A at our union, and what a success it was. Their unique brand of aggressive punk, and Prodigy-sounding tunes had the 'floor packed out (it had to be really, since it was a sell out).

But although IC has seen Specimen A play twice, not many people know who they are. Clubscene managed to get an interview with them before the gig.

So who are they? Well, Specimen A are a couple of likely lads (brothers actually) who write, produce and play the kind of music that they want to. Pretty good when you take into account that they are only 18 and 20 years old.

Their debut album, called Pulse, was written in a year and fuses together several genres of music: hip hop, drum and bass, heavy techno, and trance - a rather simple system of producing tracks that

they like the sound of. At the moment, they are just building up their reputation, so by playing a few gigs (a tour is due soon), and a bit of radio play will set them on the road to stardom. Although the comparisons to the Prodigy will be made, the guys are looking to get away from that type of music - they want to be known for their own brand of "aggressive punk" and not as rip-offs of Flint et al.

This year, they would love to do Glastonbury, or some other festival and perhaps even support someone (Cypress Hill was a name mentioned a few times) on tour, thus building up their profile and getting some much needed publicity. And with their great live shows, including drummers, guitarists, dancers (their roadie!), Specimen A are going for a "visually active, live sound with plenty of vocals and lots of synths". Ideal for a festival such as Glastonbury.

They are also getting lots of support from family and friends. Their dad has

been on several world tours before (Specimen A did not mention who with or what he did), but the experience counts. Their dad also happens to manage them, whilst mum is a music teacher (runs in the family?) and helps on the costume front. For each show, Specimen A bring a huge amount of equipment, and it's all theirs, so bank loans and all that rubbish is really a problem, all they have to do is produce the goods. Recently, they signed to the record giants BMG, who will release Pulse and the first single in the next couple of months, showing that Specimen A are a band to be taken seriously.

Obviously this year will be crucial, they need publicity, and they can't afford to let the album flop - not that it should, given the backing of BMG. If everything goes to plan, Specimen A will be around for some time - and we saw them first!

### John '00' Fleming Competition Winners

Congratulations to the following, who correctly answered last week's competition question. Winners will be receiving a copy of John's new mix album in the post very soon:

L. Watson  
E. Newsome  
J. Lewis  
C. Tzineris  
A. Gibson

Many thanks also to Jodie and Mark at Phuture Trax for all their help, and giving us CDs to give away.



Gurm

## Return to the Source

The Rocket, Holloway Road, N7.  
Saturdays, £8/£9/£12,  
10pm-6am, capacity = 1,200.  
Dress code = none.

"It's all a load of tree-hugging hippy crap", as Cartman from South Park would say. That is Return to the Source for you. You seriously have to be into this sort of thing to enjoy this night. And I wasn't, and probably never have been, even in my more open-minded travelling days. That's 'cos (and I'll be blunt) the music was absolutely shit. Where was the swirling, dreamy, psychedelic trance usually associated with RTTS (just check out some of their albums for this)? That's what RTTS really is about. Or maybe they've moved on to new and shitter pastures. The only way to describe the music in the main arena is as mind-numbing. This stuff really made your brain hurt - the dance music equivalent of thrash metal. To derive any enjoyment from this, let alone being able to dance to it, you would have to have taken enough speed to kill a horse. There was just nothing to it - no melody to speak of, nothing to

latch onto. Just deafening kick drums and a lot of swaying bodies. I think this music would have pissed me off even on a paradise beach in Goa. And what makes this even more of a shame is that the venue, The Rocket, is quite good and to be fair to RTTS they did decorate it well. I think it's a student union by day, so it's a bit angular and functional in places, but it does the job as a major club venue. The RTTS people are also great. Very chilled-out, friendly, happy, and most certainly not scary. But clubbing is not just about these things - it's primarily about the music, and on this fundamental criterion RTTS failed miserably last Saturday. But I'm not going to say never go there, because maybe I caught RTTS on a bad night. It was a drumming festival on the night, so every fucker and his wife had a bongo drum on them. And I mean everyone. I actually felt quite naked without - I should have taken mine along with me. Then maybe I'd have got more into it. But I doubt it. You see bongo drums are great when there is only a few of them being played by highly skilled performers, as an accom-

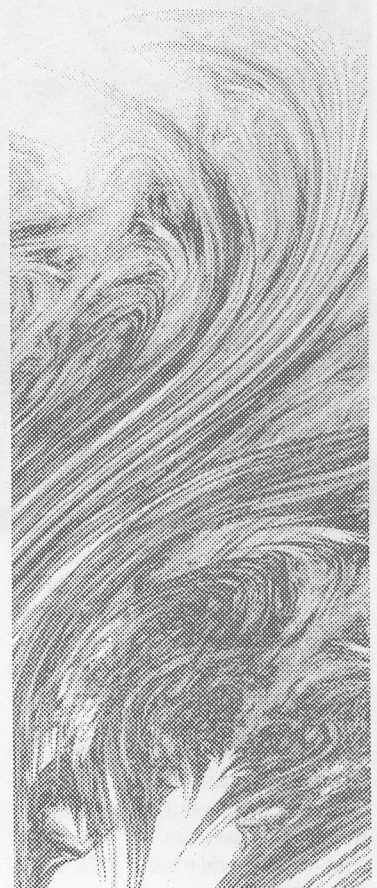
paniment to the music. That's when they add an extra dimension to a club night. But this was bongo drum hell. One room was even wholly dedicated to the little cylindrical fellas. Imagine well over a hundred tone-deaf, untalented, and uncoordinated crusties trying to play (!) their drums in time with each other. Obviously they failed, but more importantly they drove anyone foolish enough to stay in the room, completely mad. And what's more they used up a whole room which could have been filled with the hypnotic Goa-trance that RTTS is famous for.

However, don't just take my word for all of this. Listen to one of their albums and if you like what you hear then give the club night a go. But remember not to take your bongo drum with you. After all, clubs are for dancing in, not for pounding away incessantly on annoying instruments.

### Dog on a String



Roobarb



## Album of the Week

Coldcut  
'Let us Replay'

This week's album of the week comes in the form of Coldcut's "let us replay", and what a fine album it is too. It's a weird and wonderful album, and is the culmination of a world tour of live shows (none of this pre-recorded on DAT bollocks) in cities such as Barcelona and Tokyo. So what's the album about? Well basically, it's loads of progressive house tunes all on one CD; but Coldcut have had an influence with each track in some form or another (e.g. remixing). All the tunes are great and are by well-respected artists such as Carl Craig. There are chilled out tracks, vocal tracks e.g. the acoustic warblings of Miss Selena Saliva and the Sycophants on 'the Tale of Virginia Epitome' and 'Noah's Toilet' - don't ask me what that's all about! There are two CDs on the album. The first features a dozen or so superb prog. house tracks, whilst the second features another six or so which you can play on your PC or on a normal CD player. Both CDs feature some tracks recorded live from some point of Coldcut's tour. Don't let the packaging put you off either - it may appear to be a happy hardcore type album, but it's not. It is great and any progressive house fans out there should get their hands on a copy of this album. Out now on Ninja Records.

★★★★★

## Ibiza Compilation Albums

Café Del Mar  
Volumes 1-3

Every summer, when thousands of us head off on our holidays, the record companies' rub their collective hands together, and fill the shops up with the 'produced-in-ten-minutes-to-make-a-fast-buck' CDs. These CD's (and there are loads of them) are the current hits that have been on the dance floors in Greece, Spain etc. Basically, they have been chucked together and 'mixed' (?) by DJ Turntables (or whatever their names are) in less time than it takes for you to pull on your holiday, in the hope that as a 'reminder' of your hols, you'll buy the CD. Obviously if you want to but them then fine, but there are lots of them and choosing the right one can often be a pain in the arse since they're going to have tracks on them which you will hate.

The biggest group of CD's that come out are the ones that mention Ibiza in their names, but one group of CDs that are definitely worth checking out, is the Café Del Mar series. There are three of them in this particular series, and Jose

# Albums + Singles

Padilla himself (the famous DJ of the Café Del Mar) has chosen the tracks. All the music on the CDs are taken from the 1992-1996 period and the classic balearic tunes that have shaped Ibiza into what it is today. In short, these are tunes that have made Ibiza. All the originals are here, including Smokebelch II by the Sabres of Paradise, Agua, and Jose Padilla the list goes on and on. The tunes span the spectrum of the classic Ibiza hits. The melodies, soft-vocal and instrumental tunes are on, as well as those tunes with a slight beat and the sound of waves crashing onto the beach. For those of you who loved Ibiza a few years ago, then you could do a lot worse than to check out this collection. Alright, it is a few years old now, but if you want a trip down memory lane, then check out these.

Out on React Records  
(www.music-network.com/react)

★★★★★

## Single of the Week

Monica  
'Inside' (Masters at Work remixes)

Our single of the week - and what a tune it is - is a superb track by Monica which features the MAW doing the remixing. It's a cross between R&B and garage, since it doesn't seem to be in either genre, and it's the kind of tune you could smooch the night away to. A soft bass line and Monica's sweet voice make the vocal mix arguably the best mix, but there is a stack of mixes to choose from, including dubs, and a house mix. Monica's voice is great and the MAW do a superb job of giving us about half a dozen versions thanks to their mixes, giving plenty of variations. Great vocals, great tune - superb. Out in March.

★★★★★

Faith Evans  
'All night long'

The queen of R&B once again demonstrates why she is just that. 'All night long is a wonderful track', which features the awesome voice of Faith, as well as a tune which has a great rhythm to it. But you are simply lost in Evans' wonderful vocals and that's what really makes the track. The single comes with three mixes, the album version (which is the best mix), an instrumental (alright if you like the soft tune) and an a cappella (great if you just want to hear Faith!). The tune features Puff Daddy and the train spotters might

pick up on the fact that the track takes excerpts from 'I hear music in the street'. Out soon through BMG.

★★★★★

Donna Dee  
'Hooked'

A close runner for single of the week, it's a garage tune by one of the hottest producers about on the garage scene at the moment. 1998 saw the release of Donna's superb "Spellbound" album, and in March of this year, she'll release the Hooked cut (from the album). The tune features a very simple, catchy beat and soft vocals, making it an ideal garage tune. Since it's kick up a storm on the dancefloors, a lot of people seem to agree. The CD comes with three mixes, the best of which is by the Ruff Driverz.

★★★★★

Grant Nelson Feat. Jean McClain  
'Step 2 Me'

A good soulful, garage tune featuring the vocal talents of Jean McClain. Again, it's a good, simple track - no fancy breakdowns or anything. Good vocals, simple, catchy tune. The track comes with four mixes, but unfortunately they all sound exactly the same, with minimal change leaving the variation a bit thin. Out in March.

★★★★★

Blackout  
'Gotta have hope'

Multiply is a record label with a history of producing great tracks - apart from this one. This has to be one of the worst tunes I have ever heard, and what's more plenty of people agree (ask the Chemistry students in the Evans lab!). The track is simply crap. It kicks off with a beat that is fine enough, but which is then murdered as a woman starts to randomly scream "gotta have hope". Not content with that, the producers then introduce the theme from '2001 A Space Odyssey', again, completely randomly, before the woman, once again, starts screaming again. The CD comes with three mixes, one allegedly by Judge Jules, though tragically your ears are subjected to exactly the same tune as the other two mixes. An awful track, which you should avoid. It's only use is as a present for someone you really hate.

★



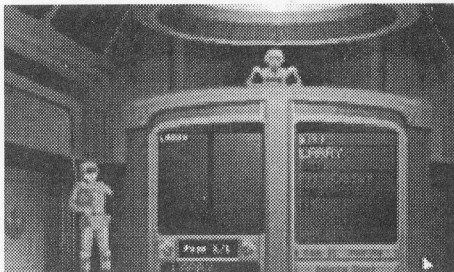


## The X-Wing Collector Series -

### X-Wing, Tie Fighter, X-Wing Vs Tie Fighter (PC)

LucasArts

★★★★



Our beloved Games Editor likes to dress up as Darth Vader - in fact he's rarely happier than when clad in tight black leather, with an enclosing black mask covering his visage, whilst manhandling an enormous throbbing weapon. But enough of that...

Anyone who's been in a computer games shop in the last five years (in fact almost anyone 'of a certain age' who hasn't actually been dead for the last five years) will be familiar with the X-Wing series. In fact there may be those of you out there thinking "Hang on, these games have been out for at least three years - why the hell are they being reviewed now?" Not to put too fine a point on it, the last couple of weeks have been rather fallow for PC gamers. Most of the major releases have been saved for the spring schedules, which means that we have to fill in with compilations and a certain amount of gossip. Fortunately, a couple of the games publishers understand this and have released some rather good compilations to help us poor PC Gamers survive. Blizzard are one (see last issue), and Lucasarts (bless their cotton socks) are another.

Lucasarts have re-packaged and re-released all of their Star Wars games in the last month or so. This may not be entirely unconnected with the flood of

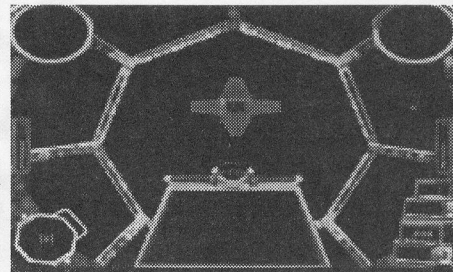
interest being generated by the trailer for Episode 1 which was showing at selected cinemas recently. Most of the games have been released at budget (or at least cheaper) prices, and in one or two cases re-jigged to take advantage of minor innovations such as 3D cards and DirectX. In one case some additional (and exclusive) missions have been put together solely for this release.

At this point I'd better declare an interest - I am a Star Wars fan. As a kid I had the figures and many of the ships. I'd have them still had my mother not sold them for a measly five quid. While I'm not totally blind to the faults in the films (the unnecessarily long dialoguey bits, Leia's haircuts, Luke Skywalker full-stop), I shall be amongst those queuing round the block in the summer, a tenner in my damp, sweaty palm. I'm looking forward to it, and I'm not ashamed. Oh yes, the games. Right, the flight sims, X-wing, Tie Fighter and X-Wing vs Tie Fighter, collectively known as the X-Wing Trilogy.

X-Wing has been knocking about for quite some time now. It has the distinction of being the first game I actually went out and bought with my own money. It's best summed up as the best bits from the films - namely the fights. You are (natu-

rally) a rebel starfighter pilot, and get to fly all the ships from the films - X-Wing, Y-Wing, A-Wing and B-Wing. Broadly speaking the missions follow the films, and yes, you do get the chance to fly along the equatorial trench of the Death Star - if you're good enough. For this release it's been cleaned up a bit, the graphics in particular being upgraded to take advantage of current technology. It also includes the two expansion packs, and may well be your only chance of getting them. However, despite the upgrade, it's now definitely showing its age.

Tie Fighter was X-Wing's sequel, although it's more of a companion piece. One of the biggest criticisms levelled at X-Wing was that, particularly on the final missions, it became well nigh impossible. Tie Fighter addressed this by having three difficulty settings, ensuring that even non-entities like me could see the closing cutscenes. It was in every way better than X-Wing, plus you get the added bonus of flying for the empire. The storyline has also been improved, with an intriguing subplot dealing with a fifth column within the empire. This has also been upgraded (although not as much as X-Wing) and includes the expansion pack. It is the most enjoyable of the games in this pack, although not by much.



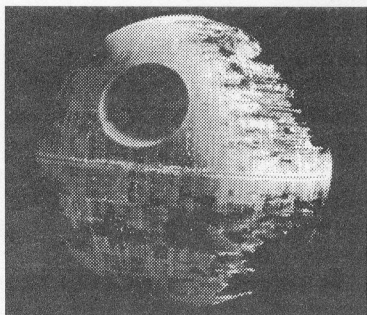
One feature that both X-Wing and Tie Fighter lacked was the ability to blow your friends into a thousand pieces in a decent multiplayer environment. X-Wing vs Tie Fighter was Lucasarts attempt to address this problem. You can fly as either Imperial or Rebel pilots and in either co-operative or head-to-head play. The graphics are the best of the three games, and the flight control is excellent. However, the game lacked a coherent set of missions, and so Lucasarts released Balance of Power, a series of pre-planned single player missions. It was only partly successful, and overall, X-wing vs Tie Fighter was not quite as good as Tie Fighter. For some reason, Lucasarts haven't included Balance of Power in this pack (or if they have, they've hidden it well), instead plumping for some extra "exclusive" missions.

All in all, this is pretty much an essential purchase if you haven't already got the games. If you have, then you have to make the choice as to whether or not the additional upgrades are worth splashing out even more money. The games are still a joy to play of course, and these upgrades will help fill out the wait for X-Wing: Alliance. They'll also run on lower spec machines than Rogue Squadron, and are (I think) generally better games.

Danny

## Oh No Not More Previews - LucasArts' X-Wing Alliance

If X-Wing and Tie Fighter set the standards for the space fighter simulator scene, X-Wing Vs Tie Fighter dropped the baton, fell over, and then wandered off for a kip behind the high jump pit. LucasArts tried to sort out their problem child with a new

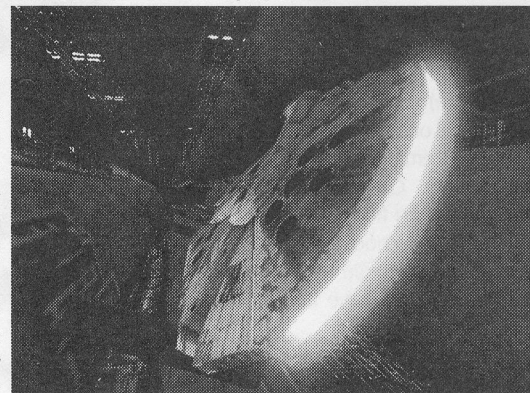


pair of running shoes (Balance of Power), but in a classic case of too little too late, the Decent - Freespace team sneaked into the lead.

LucasArts has not given up that easily and their plans to sprint back into the lead with the latest release X-Wing Alliance are almost complete. Rather than starting off a fully fledged Rebel pilot, you start as a lowly character from the family's Transport business. Here you start by flying transport and escort missions to protect the transports from rivals and their friends in the empire. The path to greatness progresses to the secret Alliance training grounds before you finally make it just in time for the battle against the second deathstar.

You might have realised that this path involves flying some new craft. Transports such as the Correllian transports and the famous Millennium Falcon (Yes for once you too can be Harrison Ford).

The graphics and sound since X Vs Tie have been slightly charged up, but what will decide whether it manages to blast the opposition into the cold vacuum of space is the single player game play. X vs Tie was a delight to play over a net-



work with a group of friends but was a complete pain to play in single person mode. The story and fifty missions will help, and so we wait...and wait..and wait.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Tues 9th**

SPECIAL ONE-OFF QUIZ NIGHT  
**SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE**  
*Valentine's Quiz*  
**DA VINCI'S**  
Café bar  
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**Weds 10th**

ICU ents presents  
**Club XMS**  
Every Wednesday 9-1  
Party tunes, chill out room & cocktail bar. Free B4 11/with entcard 50p after 11  
**ICU**  
Your Union - Run for you

**Weds 10th**

**Thurs 11th**

**DA VINCI'S**  
Café bar  
**Valentine's**  
**Cocktails**  
**Night**  
Thursday 11th  
£ in the WH Friday 12th  
Happy Hour prices all night  
**ICU** ICU - the true heart of College

**Mad Hods & Englishmen**

**ENGLAND**

**FRANCE**

**LIVE ON DAVINCI'S**  
**BIG SCREEN**  
**FROM 7PM**

**Fri 12th**

*You Sexy Things....*  
**Valentine's**  
**SHIT**  
*Trivially 12th & 2 Free B4 11/ after*  
*Free breakfast, cheesy hop*  
*love lounge & the sexiest cocktails*  
**ICU** ICU - The heart and soul of Imperial

**dBs. THURS 11th**  
**7.30-11.30**

*the electric café*





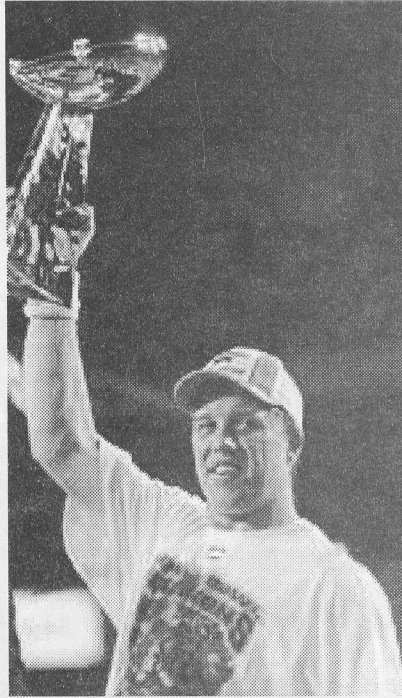
## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## NFL SEASON REVIEW 1998-9

by Chiron Mukherjee

The Superbowl, the largest annual sporting event in the world, capped off one of the most exciting seasons of NFL football in recent years. As is so often the case, Superbowl 33, played in Miami, was a disappointing anti-climax. The Denver Broncos, the retaining champions and strong favourites, comfortably defeated the surprise NFC Champions, the Atlanta Falcons.

Denver started the season in tremendous form. They just kept winning and Terrell Davis, the running back, just kept rushing. For most of the season the talk was about whether Denver could match the '72 Miami Dolphins as the only teams to win every match of the season. They became only the third team in the history of the NFL to go 13-0 (13 wins, 0 losses) and a thrilling match was in anticipation on the penultimate week of the regular season at ... Miami. However, in the match before this (the 14th game) Denver surprisingly lost to the New York Giants. They did lose to Miami as well, and for a while Denver lost their time in the spotlight. But, they destroyed all opposition in the playoffs, beating the New York Jets in the AFC Championship match, and winning their second successive Superbowl. The main factor for their success was the form of Terrell Davis. Many believe he could become the greatest running back ever, and he confirmed this by winning the league MVP award (basically Player of the Year). For almost the whole season Davis was in sight of the record for yards rushed in one season (held by Eric Dickerson). Although he missed this, he did become only the fourth player to rush for 2000 yards in one season (the others are Dickerson, O.J. Simpson and Barry Sanders (last year)), with an incredible average of five



Denver QB John Elway shows off the Superbowl trophy

yards per carry. The other big story relating Denver was their veteran quarterback John Elway, one of the all-time greats. Although he was injured for parts of the season, and was not in his best form when fit, his presence as a talisman was important. His display in the Superbowl earned him the MVP award with over 300 yards passing, one thrown touchdown and one personal touch-

down. It was felt that he was going to retire at the end of this season (as it appeared last season too) but after his match winning performance, it is increasingly likely that he will

The Atlanta Falcons, could not have been a more unlikely choice as Superbowl contenders two seasons ago, and even this season no one could have predicted their success. This season sounds like a typical corny Hollywood sports movie. A team that has been the joke team in the league since their formation, with a team full of plucky rejects (Chris 'chandelier' Chandler, their pro-bowl quarterback has played for 6 NFL teams; Jamal Anderson, the 2nd best running back in the league was a 7th round draft pick) and underrated professionals defied the odds to beat the San Francisco 49ers twice. They also beat the Minnesota Vikings, the best team in the league with only one previous defeat, in Minnesota, from behind. Their head coach (Dan Reeves) undergoes a quadruple heart bypass operation after a game and comes back only a few weeks later. Dan Reeves coached the Denver Broncos to three Superbowl defeats in the 1980s, and fired Mike Shanahan (the current Denver coach) for insubordination, before being sacked himself helped by pressure from John Elway. The charismatic 'Dirty Birds', as the Falcons call themselves, looked set to a 'surprise' victory in this story. However, the plot took an 18-rated twist when the night before Super Sunday, Eugene 'the Prophet' Robinson, the Atlanta safety, upstanding family Christian man and the winner of an award for the most moral football player only a few hours earlier, was arrested for soliciting an undercover policewoman for oral sex (D'oh!). On the Superbowl, the Falcons performed well below their capability and Robinson made the error which gave Denver an 80-yard touchdown that effectively sealed the match before half-time.

## FENCING

## "GO ON MO, SHOW US YOUR ARSE"

The saga of the splitting breeches

Our first match in over two months and a low turnout led to a worrying travel to Southampton. Our sabre and epee teams only consisted of Mo "Mr Animal" Mansoori and Rob "Big Daddy" Nuernberg respectively, thus meaning that we would require two non-specialists battling it out in these weapons and a stunning performance in the foil. And they delivered.

We started with the sabre, with the opening fight witnessing some of the worst sabre refereeing seen for a long time (well done Dave) - fortunately Mr. Animal still won, and went on to win all his fights in his usual fashion! Dave "Cap'n Fyll" Hughes and Henry "Mad Dog" McMorton did well for the foilists they were both winning two out of three fights. Sabre score: IC 7 - 2 Southampton.

Next was the foil, with our talents of Dave "Karaoke APK" Davidge, along with Cap'n Fyll and Mad Dog. All in all, they didn't do too badly, utterly destroying their opposition and not dropping a fight. The only meriting thing was that

Mad Dog didn't even get a point awarded against him - not bad for No. 4 in the country. Foil score: IC 9 - 0 Southampton.

By this point the match was already won, so we decided that the talents of Mr Animal were NEEDED in the epee to add to our skill there. He started off fencing against their best epeeist Frenchboy (close friend of Jailbait). Frenchboy won (his only fight - Mr. Animal was obviously giving an old international team-mate a chance), but then Mr. Animal was slightly beaten quite by all their epee team. Big Daddy and Cap'n Fyll fared much better, winning all their fights with consummate ease. Good show boys. Epee score: IC 6 - 3 Southampton. I hope the ladies will be inspired by this glorious ICU victory, and emulate this success. Many thanks to Tim for driving (we all love you!), Karaoke APK for providing the post-match in-flight entertainment, and Mr Animals' breeches for holding out for the whole match.

ICUFC 22-5 Southampton

**GUESS WHO?**

**HAS A WIDE RANGE OF VALENTINE'S CARDS, RED ROSES, CUDDLY BEARS, GORILLAS, DEVILS & MICE**

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**FOOTBALL**

**IC IV 3 - 0 UCL V  
(Sat 23rd Jan)**

Well, what can we say? Reduced to ten men following a horrendous challenge on one of our stars, Stephen Dewar, this game was perhaps the crowning point of our ULU season so far. Brave Stephen was rushed to hospital, and thankfully as nothing was broken, he should be back playing in a few weeks time.

Our jungle skills flowered under the grim sky as our fourth win on the trot accelerated us into third place, just one spot off automatic promotion. Specifically, the touch of the elephant/ lastadon was not in our ranks today. Nick, Bola, Dave, John and Elliot had all been blessed with the skill of the racoon, and our ever-solid defence with the consistency of a yak. The first goal was born-a vivid, joyful combination terminated with a clinical finish.

The stamina of the mountain billy-goat then set well in, replaced at times with the stealth of the leopard and the low cunning of the fox. Our team surged forward like a herd of buffalo and overcame the Shenley Scum. And then the second goal was created...and also a third...From there we held fast like a baboon colony and waited patiently for the final whistle, with unshakeable confidence. For the record, two of the goals were scored by Aiden, and the other by John, and thus the spirit of Phaedon, the mighty mongoose, lives on. Thanks chief.

**KCL III 2 - 1 IC IV  
(Wed 27th Jan)**

When these two teams met last term Kings won by three goals to one, I wrote, albeit through gritted teeth, that "they were just that little bit too strong for us".

However in this rematch we more than matched the King's Cloggers in every true aspect of football, apart from those little necessities of luck, good fortunate, and of course, a "home" student referee who gave every important decision to his team.

Man for man, every single one of our players was more skilful, more determined and more committed than their counterparts. Kings are comfortably at the top of the division, so we can see no reason why we can't go the rest of the season undefeated, and thus finish the season promoted as either runners-up, or perhaps, Champions. And also theres BUSA; lets beat Reading, and pray we get drawn away to Bath- how I'd laugh, how the old boys would love it! - I wonder if their Union is as sh\*te as it used to be...

Back to the game, IC dominated, we had loads of chances, some badly missed, others well saved. Kings scored after one of their players handled and we all stopped. Again we dominated deserved getting a equaliser with five minutes to go (Fred crossing to the back-peg and their defender bungling the ball home under much pressure). But then in the last minute a streaky cross found its way to an unmarked striker 20 yards out. He smashed it onto the cross bar, down to our star defender Elliot, who, in trying to make a full clearance was so unlucky to see the ball rebound off the bemused striker's chest into the goal. Laugh?, we nearly cried.

On separate note, it was interesting to see three union sabbaticals on that Wednesday afternoon, two playing football and one watching. One rule for one, one for another? -nice, ICU.

**RUGBY**

**IC I 5 - 20 Aberystwyth**

The Welsh people came to Harlington and they were very fat. Aberystwyth is the biggest pie factory in Wales and sheep are the main ingredient. The Welsh had two secret weapons. As kick-off approached, 2 members of the team removed their hats to reveal their ginger hair. Luckily it didn't rain. As the game progressed, it became clear that the entire team were related and had a sheepish look to them. Despite their obvious deformities, their defence contained no "leeks" (Ok, now you pushing it - Sports Ed). Perhaps the highlight of the game was Matt "these shorts can't contain my arse" Cockay stamping on Welshman's "rarebit", and then proceeding to flop over for a try. Unfortunately whilst we were trying to work out the family tree, the Cymru supporters scored a few tries. Bring on devolution, we don't want them anyway.

**IC II 5 - 29 Chichester II**

We faced an unknown challenge but it was quite a pleasant day. Pete brought his video camera to film some hardcore action, but unfortunately we were on the receiving end. We got a severe bruising instead, yet we held our ends for the first half. Their national standard and immense size made us red, raw and sore. Our rear guard action held dignity for most of the first half. However, after some playful behaviour and punishing penetration by the opposition we gave way and yielded to their advances. Score at this time 5 - 0.

After half time refreshment, we pounded ahead even though we were constantly aching. Thanks to Bully's technique we had our balls constantly at their feet.

Meanwhile Good Old Jim "super-speed" Sopper scored a try that was the highlight of the match.

**IC III 4 -2 Nothampton Exiles**

There are some certainties in life - the creation, Birth, Death and a 3XV team forming 5mins before the match! What was unusual was that the pull of this first BUSA cup knockout match had attracted reserves and lots of them!

Our opposition were, frankly, Herculean! Not one was under 6'2" or 17 stone. We, on the other hand, to a man, lithe, slight and smart. The match started and after some clumsy play by the oppositon, we had a scrum - we had little chance and were driven back. We soon worked to the weaknesses of these steroid mon-

sters. damage broke through eventually, and then with characteristic co-ordination, linked with the entire back line...leading to Gutmound diving over for ur only 4 points. The rest of the game was simple to-ing and fro-ing, until, just before the final whistle, the exiles scored their two points.

The result was a testament to intelligent play outwitting fat-bags with football IQ's! Utter crap really as we were shat on but more fun than saying "we got dicked on 44 - 0!!"

**Around IC**

Mon 8	Tues 9	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14
CAG: Tools for Self Reliance, Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	ICU Cinema Out of Sight 6pm The Negotiator 8.30pm	Siv Jansson: Literature on Film, Central Library Level 2 5.30pm	ICU Cinema The Negotiator 6pm Out of Sight 8.45pm	BUNAC stall in ICU foyer 12.15-1.45pm		
Environmental Society- Physics LT2 6pm	STA Valentine's Quiz Night - DaVinci's 8pm	Club XS, ICU, FREE 9pm-1am	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	Valentine's Shaft - ICU £1 9pm-2am		
ICU Cinema The Predator 6pm Snake Eyes 8.30pm	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	England v France in DaVinci's	Valentine's Cocktail Night, DaVinci's 5-11pm The Electric Cafe in dB's			



## FOOTBALL

## BUSA CUP SHOCKER!

Brunel 10 - 2 IC I

Just in case noone knows, Brunel won the whole competition last year and were favourites to win again. Until Wednesday that was when they came across the mighty IC first XI.

Led by our captain Jamie, playing in odd boots, IC put together a performance that will be talked about for years to come. Regardless of the fact that the keeper, Eric, was urinating in the goal and various team members were clearly unprepared five mins before kick-off. IC came through with a heroic effort.

In the first half Brunel enjoyed some good possession but lacked ideas of few to break down the IC back line of Phil, So-so, Chris and Rich.

In the second half IC were beginning to get a lot more of the ball and came close to taking the lead through Nak and Warren. We finally broke the deadlock, Dave latched on to a loose ball in midfield and exploded through the back four to smash the ball home.

Clearly annoyed by this, Brunel started to throw caution to the wind and this gave IC an opportunity to break "Man Utd" style.

Alex doubled our lead with about 15 minutes left. Jamie slotted a ball through to him and Alex finished it off Spanish style.

Brunel, who were now livid with the whole situation, threw forward everything they had but IC were determined not to crumble and held out for a well deserved victory.

## SCOREBOARD

## HOCKEY

IC I	6 - 1 QMW I
IC I	7 - 1 St Bart's (friendly)
IC II	18 - 0 Essex 2nd XI
IC III 'plenty'	0 - 0 ICSM III
IC Ladies I	1 - 0 Bart's
IC Ladies II	"walkover" St George's

## FOOTBALL

Brunel	2 - 0 IC I
IC III	7 - 0 unknown
IC IV	1 - 2 unknown

## RUGBY

IC I	5 - 20 Aberystwyth
IC II	5 - 29 Chichester II
IC III	4 - 2 or 0 - 44 Northampton

## HOCKEY

IC I 6 - 1 QMW I (ULU CUP)

IC II 18 - 0 Essex 2nd XI

We started off in a sportingly bad style gifting them (with the help of the umpires) an early 1 - 0 lead. This generous habit of giving them the ball regularly continued for the next 20 mins until 11+ decided to humiliate the opposition keeper by scoring from an obscure angle. Some of the umpiring was poor, but in the end skill prevailed. After 11+ scored, Blue underpants put another goal in, making it 2 - 1 at half time.

The second half started as the first half had finished with IC scoring two more quality goals, one by Pink Gash and another by Blue Underpants. With pressure only coming when red helmet decided to play football with himself we managed to push up more and by the end of the game it was 6 - 1 with Blue Underpants completing his hat-trick from the penalty spot and Bigger Titties also scoring. All in all a crap performance but our cup run continues.

Come on!

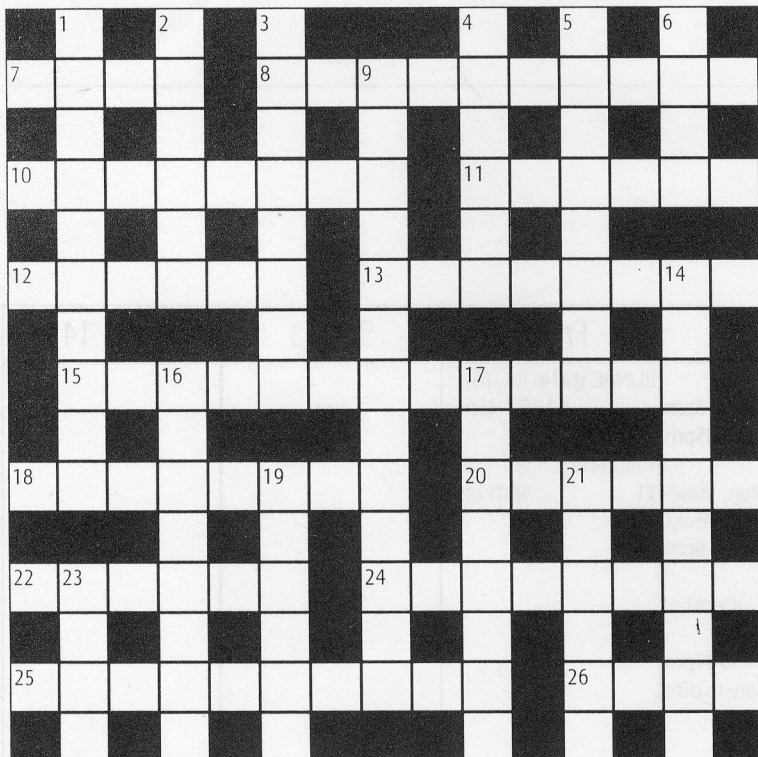
The boys took to the field of dreams unaware of the challenge that awaited them. With 8 internationals and 11 national league I players Essex University IIs were a team to be reckoned with. But reckon with them we did - and overcame their skill and fitness with 18 quality goals (even one from captain Jean Claude who is shit!) Bring on Milton Keynes!

IC III plenty - 0 ICSM III

Titanic battle. The controversy between the medics and the real men of the college continued today. The IIs dominated from the off. Steve Cram was on good form and spun many yarns for the supporter. We know the results and so do they. Sadly the ICSM boys couldn't take a joke and ran home to their mummies before the final whistle. Roll on the next game. Disco.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



## Across

- 7 Twit caught item in auction. (4)
- 8 Dear Nan, Raf wrote here and there. (4,3,3)
- 10 Star in rat skies. (8)
- 11 Organises instructions. (6)
- 12 Battered Abe bumped into ex. we hear. (6)
- 13 Ten poses in ballroom routines. (3-5)
- 15 Loan Stalinists faulty SAM sites? (13)
- 18 Worried, finding aid's gone. (8)
- 20 Minute spot squeezed for US admiral. (6)
- 22 High explosive arse takes the dead away. (6)
- 24 Hard to pin down, that is about fifty-fifty on American four. (8)
- 25 Liquid has one of a pair? Like rubber? (5-5)
- 26 Quiet period of first light up Langly Lane. (4)

## Down

- 1 Leg-spin art is written on the wall? (10)
- 2 Something suitable could be right up yours? (6)
- 3 In sign on main road turn there's a logo. (8)
- 4 Al gets in bloody mess aplenty. (6)
- 5,21 Admission of suicide by means of my diode lit fist! (1,3,2,2,6)
- 6 Mediocre spectacle. (4)
- 9 Recognising from long caged wink. (13)
- 14 Charged in a good frame of mind? (10)
- 16 Sunday becomes less wet with various consequences? (8)
- 17 China has metal for coat? (3-5)
- 19 Rest in first sea. (6)
- 21 See 5.
- 23 Made processed cheese? (4)

The winner of last week's crossword is **Nick Helliwell**.

Please come into the office to claim your prize.

## Answers to 1134

- Across:** 1. Scrapper 5. Subsets 9. Uncoiling 10. Enter 11. Tete 12. Scaredy-cat 14. Blower 15. Earldom 16. Buffalo 18. Iambic 20. Overstates 21. Psst 24. Sci-Fi 25. Itinerant 26. Megaton
- Down:** 1. Shunt 2. Recital 3. Pail 4. Reincorporation 5. Sugar Refineries 6. Breadcrumb 7. Enticed 8. Stratum 13. Sweatshirt 16. Blossom 17. Flexing 19. Instant 23. Lean 27. Sanctus



FEB 1999

# UNILEAVER



## Stretch yourself this summer...

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Have you thought about what you'd like to do after graduation? If you're not quite sure about the sort of career you want to embark upon, you might be interested in gaining valuable business experience this summer with Unilever.

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Vacancies exist in the following functions: Commercial, Information Management, Brand Management, Customer Management, Personnel & Employee Relations (any degree discipline), Product Development (chemistry and bio-sciences) and Manufacturing and Supply Chain (any science or engineering degree). Salary is £1,000 per month plus accommodation.

To be eligible, you must be in your penultimate year of study and available to work for at least 8 weeks starting in July. You must also be under 26 and have the permanent right to work in the UK.

To apply, call our Hotline 0541 543550 for a brochure and application form. **Closing date for applications is Friday 26 Feb 1999** and interviews will take place in mid April.

# What do I.C. grads do... when they leave college?

## JOHN SEARS

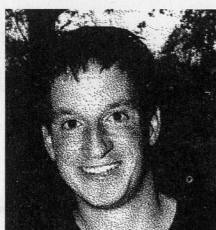
Mechanical Engineering 1988 - 1992

Having spent a year travelling the world, I joined Van den Bergh Foods as a technical trainee - making margarine!! My first one and a half years were essentially training posts, allowing me to finish my MPDS and gain Chartered Status with the IMechE. Jobs ranged from project engineer in a refinery (edible oil), to Quality Engineer in a margarine factory in Germany, to Commissioning Engineer installing a £2.2m packing line in the main factory.

My first management position was in Worksop, as the Project Support Manager for setting up the Chicken Tonight factory. This was a £4m project which we had 7 months to install and commission a brand new factory, recruit and train a workforce to run the factory and get the product to the shelves. My next post was as Process Development Manager - a natural progression from the previous job, enabling me to help sort out any problems incurred on the Chicken Tonight Line.

I am now the Internal Logistics Manager for the Margarine factory (where I started out). I control all goods leaving and entering the site and the palletising of the cases of margarine onto pallets. I have 30 people who work for me, dispatch approximately 1,000,000 tubs of margarine a day, and receive the materials to make that each day. I am responsible for ongoing improvements within my area including many large projects such as Automatic Guided Vehicle implementation and installation of computer systems such as SAP. The factory where I work was voted the best factory in the UK last year - not bad for a food factory.

So, I have been with Unilever for 5 years, had 6 different jobs, worked on 3 different sites and have doubled my starting salary. What next? I joined Unilever to go abroad and expect my next posting to be in a technical function outside the UK.



## NATASHA DEWAR

Chemical Engineering 1992 - 1996

After the milkround I joined the Unilever Corporate Manufacturing and Engineering Group (CMEG) based in Port Sunlight, near Liverpool. In my first ten months I was responsible for the movement of a new Integrated Process Design software tool from development into production use at our offices in Port Sunlight and Holland. As part of my training, I also attended Hazard and Operability studies of toothpaste plants, and visited fabricators.

I then moved to Birds Eye Wall's in Lowestoft, East Anglia. I spent 6 months in their technical support centre, doing glamorous site projects including designing a new leading edge effluent treatment plant, utilities targeting and monitoring, and pea freezer development. I moved into the beefburger factory for 4 months and was a Shift Manager, responsible for 3 operating lines and 40 people, doing 12 hour day and night shifts. It was a change of lifestyle but great fun and I learnt loads.

I then spent a 4 month placement working as the Assistant Brand Manager for Vaseline Intensive Care and Dove deodorant at Elida Faberge in Kingston, London. I looked at multilingual packs for Europe, was responsible for the promotion of Vaseline deo, and was involved in advert production which included going to the shoot at Pinewood studios! This was my first taste of a non-technical role and it was very different to what I was used to, great fun and lots of showbiz parties. At the end of last year I returned to the Unilever Corporate Manufacturing and Supply Chain Technology (MAST) Group in Port Sunlight in my first management position, working on shampoo and ice-cream projects for Unilever's emerging markets all over the world and value engineering studies in many operating companies.

The variety of experiences that Unilever has offered me have been very enjoyable as well as challenging. All the people I have met along the way have been very supportive and I think the company offers exciting future opportunities.



# Grads do...

## SIMON CARTER

Chemical Engineering 1979 - 1983

*My "gut feel" was that I would fit in with Unilever's culture: so I accepted their offer of a place on the Wirral, with Van den Bergh Foods, on their management trainee scheme which I undertook for 1 year. After a further 2 years as a Shift Manufacturing Manager responsible for 98 employees operating 20 production lines in the Margarine factory, I was transferred to a sister factory at Purfleet, near London. Here my initial responsibilities included being a member of the project team that reconfigured the edible fat spreads manufacturing capabilities to meet the changing needs of the business. The task took 3.5 years and £16m to complete and consisted of the specification, design, and commissioning of new plant and equipment together with the associated PLC and Management Information systems. On completion the site was (and remains) Unilever's largest edible fats factory in the world. Then I became one of the two Plant Managers running the day to day operation of the factory which was operating 7 days per week, throughout the year, with 220 people in their area of responsibility.*

*In 1992 I transferred to The Netherlands to work in a group responsible for the identification of Best Practice in edible fats manufacture and the transfer of this knowledge world-wide to all relevant Unilever operating companies. In 1996 I returned to Port Sunlight in the UK and now run the Supply Chain Strategy Team within Unilever's corporate supply chain group. The group's mission is to transfer Leading Practice in Manufacturing and Supply Chain to Unilever's businesses.*

*Graduates joining Unilever to work within the supply chain will have a key role to play in realising the significant potential for value creation that exists within this area. Efficient design and operation of the supply chain has a major impact on the meeting of customer and consumer needs and therefore on business performance. The understanding of the importance of the supply chain for Unilever will grow over the next five years as it continues to extend its activities around the world.*



## KARL DRAGE

Mechanical Engineering 1991 - 1995

I had never thought that 'company culture' mattered that much to me until I really had to make a decision. That was how I came to join Unilever through the Milk Round and started working for Birds Eye Wall's in 1995 as a technical trainee.

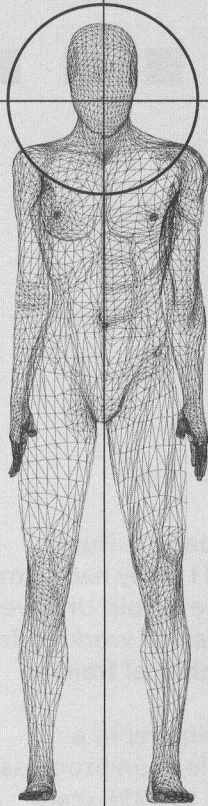
My first job was as a Project Manager in a Beefburger factory, and this role soon progressed to Shift Manager. At this point, the BSE scare destroyed the Beefburger market and management of the factory became a very day-to-day role. Some of my focus was to commission the 'Birds Eye Meatfree' production line which I continued to run - operationally co-ordinating a team of 5 Shift Managers.

After 1 year, I moved to a Sales role in Head Office, followed by a Logistics job, re-engineering a business process and developing a materials requirement planning tool for Ice Cream packaging. After 4 months I moved to my current role in Ice Cream Manufacturing at Gloucester, where I am the Operations Projects Manager for Europe's largest Ice Cream factory. I have mostly been involved with implementing an annualised hours system, engineering improvement work and Total Productivity Management. I am now responsible for the installation and commissioning of £6 million worth of new production line.

One of the best things I find about Unilever is the people, at all levels. The people I work with in the factory are all excellent, and a complete cross section of society. The senior members of the business are very genuine and great to work for. My peer group are all great friends stretching across all the Unilever companies, which facilitates an excellent social life. I spent my summer holiday this year visiting a friend who works for Unilever Vietnam, which was fantastic!



# Take up the Challenge



If you are a penultimate year student studying for a science or engineering degree and are considering a career in technical management, **we are offering a limited number of places on a 3 day Unilever Challenge from 22 to 25 March 1999 in Eskdale, Cumbria.**

Our aim is to give you the chance to assess your management potential in a challenging environment and to explore with Unilever managers the qualities industry is seeking in technical graduates. The course will comprise a series of team based indoor and outdoor activities facilitated by professional staff. You do not have to be super fit or athletic to take part! Nor is the course formally assessed - although it could help future job applications. The exercises are designed

to be stretching but achievable and will give you an opportunity to:

- *take a leadership role*
- *maximise your contribution in a team*
- *receive feedback on your own personal abilities*
- *discuss the role of leadership in today's business world*
- *hopefully have some fun!*

The course will culminate in a relaxing informal dinner on the final evening. Travel expenses will be paid and food and accommodation provided. **For an application form, contact Helen Hutchinson on 0171-822 5748 or email [helen.hutchinson@unilever.com](mailto:helen.hutchinson@unilever.com). The deadline is 19 February 1999.**

## Unilever Research opportunities for PhD Scientists

If you join us as a PhD scientist, you will be part of a truly international research community, working on products designed for local consumers across the world. Within 2 years you will be expected to lead a project team, comprising scientists, market researchers and manufacturing and packaging specialists. **Visit our website - [www.research.unilever.com](http://www.research.unilever.com) or phone our hotline 0044 (0) 151 641 3797, leaving your name and address.**

### *Some interesting facts about Unilever*

**Worldwide sales in 1997  
of over £29 billion**

**300 local operating units  
in 88 countries  
with sales in over 60 more**

**Employs nearly 270,000  
people worldwide**

**Invests c.£550 million  
in R&D every year**

**Spends some £3.6 million  
every year marketing  
more than 1,000 brands,  
many of them household names**