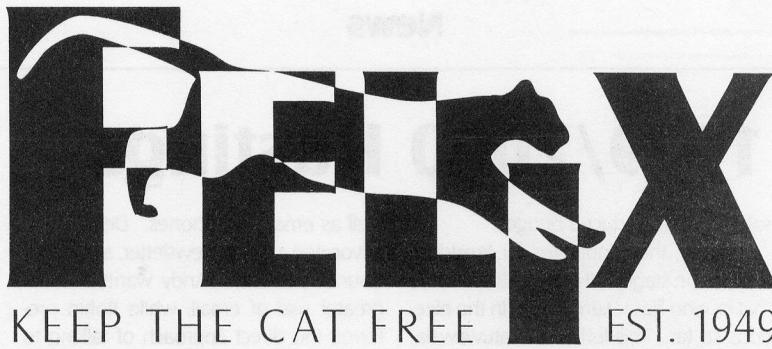


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22
February
1999



Issue
1137

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Promises, Policies and Pints

By Gareth Morgan

Hustings were held last week at South Kensington, Charing Cross, and St Mary's for the Sabbatical candidates.

Last Monday, around a hundred and fifty people, encouraged by the "pound a pint" offer, turned up in dB's. If they were expecting a tense night of political thrills and deep issues, they would have been disappointed, however. There seemed little to distinguish most of the candidates on what are felt to be the major issues facing the Union: minibuses, BUSA, club funding, CCU identity and so on.

There was a similar feel to the St. Mary's Hustings, traditionally a much harsher session. There were more probing questions from the sixty or so students there - particularly over BUSA, Glaxo's proposed takeover of part of the Medical School (reported below) and problems related to the Medicine course - but the overall atmosphere was more subdued than had been expected.

The Charring Cross Hustings on Tues-



Photo: Alik

The Presidential hopefuls sink their pints

day were poorly attended - probably due to a party at the same time. One candidate remarked that it was "very dull and very pointless".

Up first were Dave Roberts and Kevin Butcher, the only candidates standing for

Felix Editor and DP (E&W) respectively. Having set out their promises, they fielded questions from the floor. Dave was strongly in favour of editorial freedom, and defended Felix's role as a club. Kevin identified some specific issues, but admit-

ted that deep-seated attitudes would take some time to change. He was receptive to new ideas, such as a counsellor for the medical campuses.

Both went down fairly well with the crowds, although Kevin received an initially harsh reception at Mary's. Best quote? Kevin's "IQ are a tight bunch of people" at Mary's was an unfortunate slip.

The candidates for DP (C&S) were next. Most of the differences between Tim Traylor and Duncan Field seemed to be on their different (sporting and non-sporting) backgrounds. One argument runs that the major issues such as BUSA need someone familiar with the sports teams. On the other hand, only about a quarter of the clubs are sports teams, and the DP (C&S) needs to look after the interests of all of the clubs.

Both promised to fight for dual rather than single entry of Medic teams into BUSA, with Tim preferring to keep the cur-

Continued on Page 2

Glaxo Welcome Mary's

Rumours of a massive proposed deal between College and Glaxo Welcome have finally been confirmed this week, with senior IC School of Medicine staff admitting that Glaxo have offered £20 million for four floors at the St Mary's site.

Whilst the precise details of the offer still remain unknown, it seems certain that the current proposal would include the basement of the St Mary's building - which presently houses Union Offices, a swimming pool and Gladys, the St Mary's bar. Additionally, the main library (a massive collection of medical texts) would be almost certain to go, as it lies in the centre of the building.

The biggest concern about the proposals, however, is with the process of notification. Senior Union figures first heard rumours of the sale via other students and leaks last month, and official admission of the bid only came in response to direct questioning. Thus, ICSM Union President Wade Gayed has, unsurprisingly, expressed his fears

By David Roberts

that the Union (and thus the students) would only have been informed "after a decision had been made". College figures, however, insist that such a decision could not be taken on a wide-scale without full discussion amongst both staff and students.

The exact reasoning behind the bid is also unclear. Undoubtedly the price under offer is very high - particularly when considering that Glaxo would then have to gut the entire building and re-model it. As a result, their motivation is being treated with the utmost suspicion. Some suggest that it is a move to regain an animal house for IC pharmaceutical and genetic research (the present stock of animals must be moved out of the Beit Basements, but BMS is rumoured to have been restricted by a licence which only allows small rodents up to the size of an average hamster to be kept. In turn the massive funding gen-

erated by the sale could be used to fund the costs incurred by the merger (including the £9.6m overspend on the BMS building itself).

As a result of pressure from the Union, senior Med School figures have promised to protect Gladys and the swimming pool (which the College regard as tangible assets). This is likely to mean trying to alter the plan so that Glaxo are offered the top three floors. Whilst this would still result in the loss of the Library, it would protect the integrity of Gladys. However, many medical students have expressed doubt over the likelihood of such a plan succeeding - retaining a student bar under a state-of-the-art research facility would hardly seem to make good sense, from Glaxo's point of view.

This is a very emotive issue - particularly for older St Mary's students - and it will undoubtedly run and run. Indeed it was a source of questions for the candidates for Union President (see page 2).

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Elections 1999/2000 Hustings

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rent hybrid system for as long as possible. The issue of the sale of Teddington sports ground (the traditional home of Mary's rugby) was a hot topic at Mary's. Both candidates promised to fight to keep it open. Tim highlighted money, space and minibuses as the main issues affecting all clubs. Duncan agreed, but also added fair treatment from the Union, referring to Art-soc's recent budget cuts.

The issue of minibuses was surprisingly painless, considering the discussion that has been going on recently. Both Tim and Duncan (and later, the DP (F&S) candidates) thought the Union buses were in a bad way, but promised to look into the options available.

There seemed to be very little to separate the three candidates for the post of DP (F&S) other than dress sense. Whilst Paul Hickman avoided criticism, Bob Walker's dangling belt raised comment on all three nights, and Ian Clifford upheld half of his Slave Auction promise to attend the South Ken Hustings in drag. Various methods of increasing the Union's, and particularly clubs', budgets were suggested: sponsorship, greater efficiency and "screwing College out of everything we can get" - Bob's phrase, but endorsed by Ian and Paul.

All candidates agreed that loss-making services should be subsidised, as long as they were providing a genuine service to students - catering being a prime example. They also re-iterated the regulations concerning additional income generated by clubs: that ICU technically couldn't touch it, and it should not be compen-

sated for by a reduced budget.

Finally, the candidates for President took to the stage. All except Stuart Cook, that is, who has taken no part in the elections so far. This left Shan Katuwawala, Tasha Newton, Dennis Patrickson, Robin Pitt, Ben Polounovsky and Andy Swift.

Questions on a broad range of topics were asked. A common theme was the elections themselves, with issues such as South Ken apathy, the Medics' alleged block voting, and publicity recurring at different Hustings.

On topics such as fees, politics, and the NUS, Robin was the only overly political candidate; he was also the only one to favour greater integration with the NUS, although he would put this to a referendum. Everyone else distanced themselves from party politics. Andy and Shan agreed that the NUS was a nice idea, but ineffective in practice. Tasha considered it too political, and Ben and Dennis favoured other options.

All the candidates seem to be in favour of increased CCU activity and identity. In fact, when asked what they thought was Dave Hellard's biggest error, Tasha, Shan and Dennis said that it was the increasing divide between ICU and the CCUs. Robin said that it was failing to publicise the fight against fees; Andy criticised his handling of club funding; Ben decided that the 'Presidential Talkback' photo was the absolute low point.

One area where all the candidates want to bring about changes is communications throughout the College. Shan wanted to use the CCUs, clubs and societies more effectively. Tasha, Ben and Dennis favoured more reports in Felix, as

well as email and phones. Dennis also advocated a Union newsletter, and better Council publicity. Andy wanted much greater use of email, while Robin preferred the direct approach of talking to people.

No one candidate seemed to gain consistently more approval than the others, especially at South Ken. At Mary's, Tasha fared well, although Shan helped his cause by criticising Dave Hellard, and telling Chris Ince to "shut the fuck up." Dennis and Andy came out well; Robin's enthusiasm for politics won over several people; and Ben's offbeat approach distinguished him from the others.

One good thing about Hustings is watching the candidates do silly things in an attempt to win favour. So at South Ken we had Dave Hellard kissing Bob Walker; Ian Clifford in a short skirt; the Presidential candidates downing a truly unpleasant-looking pint of Carlsberg, Bailey's and Coke; and a brief Riverdance. Medics take their drinking seriously - each candidate at St. Mary's was required to down a pint of lager before they answered their questions. On a similar line, there were several questions that were somewhat irreverent: candidates' favourite jokes and masturbation habits came up.

The cheap beer encouraged the occasional unwise comment. The Felix reporter's lasting memory of the South Ken Hustings will be a certain prominent Union official declaring that he wanted another well known personality "up my arse". A truly lovely image.

Interviews with the candidates are on Pages 12 to 16.



Issue 1137

22 February 1999

Editor: Ed Sexton
Assistant Editor & Films: David Roberts
News Editor: Andrew Ofori
Music Editors: Dennis Patrickson
& Jason Ramanathan
Games Editor: Gary Smith
Clubscene: Gurminder Marwaha
& Joel Lewis

Many thanks to MCP Litho for being relaxed when I'm stressed

In brief...

New ID card

CitizenCard, a new, official proof-of-age card, was launched last Monday with government and industry backing. The card is designed to provide a foolproof form of ID, and is available at a range of ages from 12 to 21. Although it costs £5, the card comes with phone time and money off vouchers. Anyone who has trouble getting served in pubs, clubs and off-licenses should download an application form from www.citizencard.net.

STOP PRESS - Siege update

The siege of the Greek Embassy in Holland Park came to an end as Felix went to press on Thursday, with 50 Kurdish protesters agreeing to leave the building in what appeared to be a peaceful end to the standoff.

The demonstrators negotiated with police by telephone all morning after setting themselves a 1pm deadline for ending their protest. They eventually began to emerge slightly after 2pm, one at a time, with hands held aloft, and were escorted by police officers to a line to be searched and handcuffed. They were then led away to police buses, and were later charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The first person out of the embassy is believed to have been the protesters' hostage, Greek junior official Babis Pat-souris, who appeared to be well. No details of the deal which led to the surrender have been confirmed.

FELIX
needs
YOU

to research, investigate and write news stories.

Something interesting, strange, funny or just plain suspicious going on in your hall or department?

Contact Felix; x58072 or felix@ic.ac.uk

**News Meetings
Mon 1.30pm & Fri 1.20pm**



Embassy Siege Set to Continue

Tuesday 16 February witnessed the shocking spectacle of a schoolgirl setting herself alight outside the Greek Embassy in London. Described as "fearless and passionate", Nejla Kantepir was one of a group of angry Kurds protesting outside the Embassy in fury at the arrest of rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan in Nairobi, Kenya.

The well-orchestrated protests took place in many major European capitals, including The Hague, Bonn and Vienna, as well as in Vancouver and Sydney. Kurdish protesters stormed embassies and consulates early in the morning and barricaded themselves inside. They seized hostages inside these buildings - including the wife and eight-year-old son of the Greek Ambassador in Holland. In London, 50 Kurds continued to hold the Greek Embassy in Holland Park as Felix went to press.

Ocalan, leader of the PKK Kurdistan Workers Party, was arrested in Nairobi on his way to the airport to catch a flight to the Netherlands from the residence of the Greek Ambassador there. The capture was announced by Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, saying he would "account for his actions" in front of the Turkish judiciary. Ocalan is expected to be charged with attempting to set up a separatist state for Kurds; the charge carries the death penalty. Nobody has been

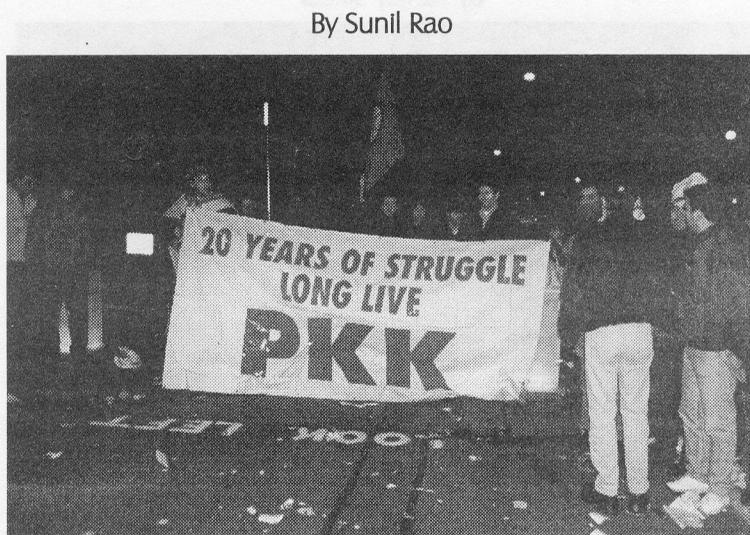


Photo: Ed

By Sunil Rao

Round the clock protest brings traffic to a standstill

executed in Turkey for fifteen years, but the authorities face being labelled weak if they do not hang him and the risk of making Ocalan a martyr if they do.

In a statement, the PKK accused Turkey, Israel and the United States of conniving to capture Ocalan through a "secret service action". The Foreign Office refused to comment, while the White House admitted that it was "very pleased" at the arrest, while denying any direct

involvement. (The US sees the PKK as a destabilising influence on the Kurdish community it protects in Northern Iraq, and has labelled it a terrorist organisation.) Many Kurdish prisoners in prison are on hunger strikes, and at least one has burnt himself to death in protest. Nejla Kantepir is recovering in hospital.

Greece has come under fire after secretly sheltering Ocalan for two weeks in Nairobi. The Turkish newspapers Hur-

riyet and Milliyet report that a Turkish commando team, dispatched to Nairobi following intelligence reports, stopped Ocalan's car on the night of Monday the 15th and handcuffed him to a seat in the plane of a Turkish businessman they had forced him into. Greek officials, meanwhile, claim that Ocalan had left the embassy against their advice in the face of allegations that they had paved the way for Ocalan's arrest in the interest of maintaining smooth relations with Turkey. The treatment Turkey hands out to its prisoner will now come under intense scrutiny as the need to retain stability in the region and prevent full-scale war from breaking out remains paramount - the credibility of the government abroad will depend heavily on their ensuring that the trial is fair.

The Foreign Office has warned holidaymakers bound for Turkey, urging them to remain vigilant. The many Kurdish supporters of the PKK in Britain are officially regarded as legitimate dissidents and are allowed to stay so long as they do not pose a threat to Britain's security and are not involved in plotting acts of terrorism abroad. The refusal of the Foreign Office to comment on the situation is widely seen as the taking of a deliberately unprovocative line to prevent the situation from worsening. (see p2)

ICU Students' Handbook 1999

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For more information contact David Roberts at d.j.roberts@ic.ac.uk

Apply with a CV to Mandy Hurford in the Union Office before Friday 19 March.



"Probably the most stylish man in College"

The City & Guilds College Union centenary lecture series continued last week with Dr Paul Ewing's highly popular talk on the history of the car. Dr. Ewing who has previously been described as "probably the most stylish man in college" (a title given by his students), had his status further enhanced as he parked his vintage Morgan and Lotus Esprit in front of the Mechanical Engineering entrance. Primarily focussing on cars, his lecture included other forms of transport, particularly the steam trains whom he recalled which a great deal more elegant and reliable than today's reincarnations.

Dr Ewing's talk covered several themes such as the many British firsts that took place in the world of motoring. The first motorcar race on earth occurred in Bexhill-on-Sea. Brooklands was the world's first ever specialised racing circuit. The opulence of the events there were comparable to Ascot whilst the almost vertical banked curves promised a heart stopping ride. In reference to the recently established land speed record by the ThrustSCC jet car



Photo: Alik

Dr Paul Ewing demonstrates his natty line in bow ties.

in North America, Dr Ewing told the audience of the many past land speed milestone records that had fallen to Britons.

The IC lecturer also entertained the gathered throng with anecdotes about the differences in driving styles of Stir-

ling Moss and Graeme Hill, as well as the sad tale of Eleanor Thornton, the model for the flying lady on the Rolls Royce, who tragically drowned during a torpedo attack during World War I. Inconsiderate elements of Sheffield bureaucracy who deemed the innocu-

ous cars outside a fire hazard rudely interrupted the multi-media presentation. Unruffled, Dr Ewing continued the tempo by mentioning the wind tunnel testing that occurred in the IC's Aeronautics department during the development of Jaguar's XJ220.

The self styled doctor raised several emerging trends during this past century of motoring such as the recent feminisation of the consumer car from the testosterone charged machine. He cited the metamorphosis of the Vauxhall's Nova to the curvier Corsa in order to attract the larger number of women drivers that exist today. He also referred to the bygone days when drinking and driving were very much intertwined and acceptable pastimes. People would get truly "sozzled" and it was not till recently that alcohol was seen as such a menace to road safety. Although it occurred at the beginning of the talk, the opening mountain route sequences to the film 'The Italian Job' summed up where Dr Ewing's philosophy and love of cars stemmed from. 'Delicious car, delicious weather, delicious scenery.'

DUNCAN FIELD

FOR

DP(C&S)

More than one issue -

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1



1

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Linux Effect

In recent months significant media attention has been given to Linux, a com-

By Marc Broster

puter operating system (OS), which is surprising, considering that the juxtaposition of the words 'computer', 'operating' and 'system' probably mean nothing to the majority of people. If this includes you, then an OS is the piece of software which controls access to a computer's hardware; eg it's memory, processor (eg a Pentium chip), hard disk, keyboard, graphics card etc.

An OS is a very complex piece of software, but makes the job of people writing software for a computer, eg a word processor or game, a lot easier. The OS running on most computers is Microsoft Windows, which has a 90% market share, (the majority of the rest being Macintoshes, which have their own OS), whilst only 2% run Linux.

Linux is a variant of UNIX, an OS developed in the 70s, which became the industry standard for use on the mainframe computers of the time and is still in use today for serious applications. The first PCs were much less powerful than the mainframes, so needed a smaller OS, and issues of reliability and efficiency were less important, so Microsoft's DOS, and later Windows was a suitable substitute. But

as PCs became more common place, not everyone wanted to use Windows,

which led to the development of Linux, a version of UNIX designed to run on a PC.

If you've ever used Windows 95/98, then chances are you're familiar with the 'Blue screen of death', - with Linux, that simply doesn't happen. Even if a program fails, it doesn't bring the entire computer down with it. More importantly, Linux is considerably more efficient than Windows, requiring much less memory and processor power, which means everything runs faster. Windows NT is more reliable than 95/98, but isn't as fast as Linux.

Secondly, Linux is far more flexible than Windows - most Linux software is customisable to near-ridiculous levels. You want F9 to comment on the current line when you're programming but add an attachment when you're sending mail? That's fine.

Linux was and is developed by a group of hackers/geeks who did the work out of the fun of it, so a copy of Linux will cost you the price of distributing the CD and manuals, or can be downloaded for nothing from the net. See gnu.org for more details, or check out www.mallnet.co.uk/~marc/linux



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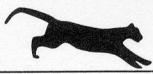
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MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER



Keep It Down!

Dear Felix

The local police have recently passed onto the Union a number of concerns from local residents about the level of noise on Prince Consort Road after the bars close and Union events finish.

The Union worked extremely hard to obtain its licence, involving a lot of negotiation with our neighbours, and the local police. If we are to keep the licence (and so our late night events), it is up to the people leaving our events to have some respect for the local residents and keep noise levels down in residential areas - which includes the Quad, and on the street outside Beit Hall.

Don't be one of the handful that could spoil it for everyone, please keep the noise down when leaving the Union - remember we are only a small part of the local community.

Thanks

Mark Horne
Events & Marketing Manager

How to Stop Bike Theft?

Dear Felix

Last Friday evening I decided, quite out of the blue, to sink a few jars in Southside after work. A couple was stretched into a few, as they do, and I ended up doing the sensible thing and walking home. On Monday I came to collect my bike from the racks to the side of the bar, only to find almost 100 pounds worth of parts missing from the frame. None were quick release, so some little shit had been there removing them with tools. The main frame of the bike was secured with a good quality D-lock.

I went straight to security to make a report and was told this sort of theft happened at least once a week, often more, from those racks alone! I then asked if we could view the film from the security camera, only to be told there was no camera erected there. No chance of catching anyone for this one then.

I inquired further and discovered that there is only one camera on the whole of the campus, which covers the bike racks outside RSM. (Incidentally, I have a friend whose bike was stolen from there not so long ago and he was gutted to find out that security had not even turned the camera on!) This seemed a little bit silly, considering all the bikes that come in and out of the College daily. Maybe the police will be able to help I thought.

So there I found myself actually listening properly and taking heed of the words from one of our boys in blue.

He suggested I write a letter to those in authority to try and get things moving on this front. He told me that Belgravia police station are getting tired of the time wasted in filling out theft reports from our campus and have got nowhere with their requests for full electronic surveillance. I told him that even our security had noticed this cunning pattern of theft, but nothing had been done to stop it. So why then, have our people ignored these requests from the local police who are supposed to be fully cooperating with our security measures?

Maybe, after finally managing to stop the weekly computer chip thefts from the last few years, we may be able to concentrate on preserving the property of the students, not just that of the College entity itself.

Maybe some of the money used to purchase such things as the dead trees that are so delicately planted outside the BMS building or the intricately woven patterns of cheap bushes outside the library, in future could be spent on systems to protect the students' scanty possessions.

I do not know why things have not got moving on this front, even with police persuasion. Maybe our old friend Caldwell is responsible, which would explain everything. Answers please.

Neil Forsyth PG2

Well, Neil, we took your letter to Mr Ken Weir, Chief Security Officer. What follows is a summary of his reply. If you feel this doesn't answer all your points, please get back to us - after all, bike theft is an important issue for many IC students.

Ed

There are actually two security cameras on Watts Way - one just outside the Health Centre and the other at the other end; it is actually impossible to place a camera overlooking the bike racks in such a way that it does not infringe the privacy of other local residents. The number of bike thefts outside Southside is about the same as the number outside the Sherfield Building - 18 for the whole of 1998. There are three cameras covering bike racks directly, not counting the Southside ones. I'm not saying that the system is perfect - there are too many bike parks and resources are limited. We do work closely with the local police in this regard - last year, seven separate plain-clothes operations were mounted where they made use of college facilities to identify and apprehend bike thieves, while security staff made eight bike-theft related arrests. Bike thefts are prevalent in colleges - particularly urban ones where a lot of students and members of staff use them, and a lot of the bike thievery that takes place here is organised in nature, not opportunistic.

Ken Weir (CSO)

Focus Group on Apathy?

Dear Felix,

I am writing about my concerns regarding the IC apathy that we know so well. Over the past few weeks, the Union has devised a way for all IC students to play a part in the everyday running of the Union services. I was very disappointed to find that, after special days were arranged for students to turn up to the so-called FOCUS GROUPS, that only a handful of people turned up. Over the four years I have been at IC, I have been heavily involved with the Union, and know that it tries its very hardest to provide the services that the students so badly need. After over 400 direct e-mails to students, two weeks of advertising in Felix and numerous posters around the college, I find it very surprising that IC students don't really care about how their Union is run for them. Over the years, the Union has received numerous complaints and criticisms about the various services that it runs, and now, after they have had the chance to change and modify these services to suit their needs, the IC apathy strikes again. I now ask myself that do IC students really care about their Union?

A very concerned and disappointed
K Mahmood (Aero 3)

Cynical Conscience

Dear Felix,

I was intrigued by last week's comment entitled "The Audible Conscience". Although the article was devastatingly pessimistic and about as subtle as a GCSE English essay, it was still good to see some criticism of our modern, urban lifestyle.

Besides damning nearly everything caused by mass urbanisation, the article focussed on very important issues such as poverty, homelessness, pollution and traffic. This is all summed up with a complaint about how apathetic everybody is and how things can not change as a result.

What I find particularly frustrating about this article and other similar articles is that they do not mention any positive means of action. Once the reader's conscience is satisfactorily shaken, they should then be presented with ways that they can do something about these issues. The article should continue so it can mention steps we can take to oppose our "meaningless existence". This could be done simply by mentioning relevant action groups, outlining steps that can be taken as well as giving MPs addresses such that we can voice our concerns.

Hopefully, a more balanced approach to this type of article will encourage people to be more perceptive and less apathetic.

David Hawkins (ERE 1)

OK, I get the message. Space is short, so... Our MP is the Rt Hon Peter Brooke (Conservative). Address letters to the House of Commons, Palace of Westminster - but you might as well try persuading an Oxford blue barge pole. The Felix website, currently awaiting updating by certain powers that be, has some useful links to political and media websites; www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix. Another good pro-democracy group is Charter88; www.charter88.org.uk. - Ed

Big Thankyou for Phone

Dear Felix,

I would like to say thanks to whoever it was that handed my phone in to the union bar staff on Monday night after the hustings. I lost it because I had had a bit too much vodka and had thought it unlikely that I would get it back, so I am v. grateful to you for handing it in.

thanks.

Karen Yates (Physics, PG 1)

The Time-Travelling Saint?

Dear Felix,

Just a quick note in response to Iain McNaught's very interesting article about Valentine's Day: The first St Valentine must have been bloody clever to be a Christian priest in 270BC.....

Ta,
D Clarke

Dear Mr Clarke,

Just goes to show what bollocks they publish on the internet.

Yours autosummarisingly,

Iain McNaught

**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.

Cynical Conscience

David Hawkins' letter raises several important points. The 'youth' of today are often seen, probably quite rightly, as a cynical lot. We are quick to criticise, nihilistic, disillusioned with the world as we find it, dismissive of Western values yet at the same time too apathetic to change ourselves or the world we live in. We live our lives uttering such great phrases of self-praise as 'I'm a survivor.' Nice one. Great achievement - you've avoided death.

Not all of us are like this. Not all of us think like this. There is plenty that can be done, that we can do. Consider the traffic problem in London. I don't know much about local government, the tax system or in fact politics in general, but it seems to me there's several ways forward...

A toll for people entering London at the M25 or some other boundary and/or a tax on business carparks could raise enough money to revitalise London's public transport system, as well as discouraging people from using their cars. The counter argument to this is that it'll be bad for London's businesses (mostly those in the City - oh dear, how upset am I!). The cost to businesses, however, could be passed on as wage cuts, or could simply encourage companies to move out of London.

I disagree. Some businesses may leave London, yes. Most of the big com-

panies that occupy the square mile and associated areas are unlikely to move, however - they need to be near the pulse of the City.

Finally, I would have thought that most companies would applaud any scheme to discourage drivers in London. Putting pollution issues aside for the moment, current surveys show that the fastest means of transport in London is the bicycle. Then motorbikes and mopeds. Then the underground, which ties with taxis during many periods of the day. Then we have buses and cars, and even these can sometimes be beaten by foot. All that's without the investment in cycle lanes and paths, underground trains and stations, and bus lanes, that a toll or tax funded scheme could provide.

Maybe I'm a dreamer, an idealist, whatever. Maybe the carbon monoxide fumes and low frequency high decibel noise that lines the Cromwell Road every morning when I walk into college from Earls Court has got the better of me. Maybe I'm unrealistic to hope for a city in which lorries don't hurtle past my bedroom window every ten minutes all night long, causing the double glazing to reverberate. Maybe I'm just too cynical.

We can make a difference. For the sake of my sanity, campaign against red routes (those red lines on roads to increase traffic flow) and for better public transport. We have a voice, and we have a vote. Talking of which, make sure you use yours today.

**Up, Up and Away!
Win 32 bags of Walkers crisps!**

As we bumped along the grass, then lurched into the air at thirty degrees, doubt crept into my mind. Had it been worth the nightmare drive through south-west London and along the M25 to Redhill aerodrome, on a Thursday morning when I hadn't slept for over a day? As we stabilised at around 1500 feet up, however, the answer came; definitely. The sky was clear, the sun was out, the North Downs were ahead of us, while the motorway crawled along the valley towards the East.

The small and somewhat worryingly insecure window of the airship I was in could be opened, affording a good opportunity for aerial photography (sorry I could only fit one in this article).

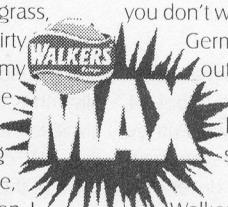
"Keep a tight hold of your camera -

you don't want to lose that!" my Spanish-German pilot warned as I leaned out. He said it with an air of someone who has seen it all before... be wary when next standing beneath an airship.

Thanks to Beatwax and Walkers for organising the flight. The airship is currently touring the country, promoting Walkers' new crisp brand - you may have seen it mounted with aerial cameras for the England-France match.

Walkers Max crisps have given us some spare bags for you lucky readers. For your chance to win the goodies, simply write in to Felix telling us how you plan to live life to the max in '99, in under 20 words.

Deadline for entries is Wednesday 5pm.



ICU Sabbatical Election Results
Felix supplement available
Wednesday morning

FELIX
KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

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

Interested in spending 3 months in Nepal this summer for subsidised research?

We would need a (female) medic to join us for the means of a research on the interactions between Western medicine and traditional healing methods.

Contact:
Isabelle Hoyaux: i.hoyaux@ic.ac.uk

Engineers vs Scientists

Paintball

£20 including lunch

Saturday 6th March

Sign-up in your departments.

Free Beer!

City & Guilds College Union Bar-night
ICU Union Bar 7pm Thursday 25th Feb

LINUX SYMPOSIUM

Organised by the IC Linux User Group and the ICU DocSoc
info: tel: 46120
email: m.vanleeuwen@ic.ac.uk

Wednesday 24th February 1999
14:00
Huxley building, room 308

WIN a copy of S.u.S.E. Linux Office Suite 99 or a 25 pounds book voucher (courtesy of The Linux Emporium and WATERSTONE'S)

Exam Stress Workshop

'Emotional Preparation' led by Claudio Calvi, Psychotherapist

Imperial College Health Centre

Wednesday 10 & 17 March, 3.00 - 4.30pm

Attendance on both days necessary

Bookings required - 0171 59 (49381)

The workshop will provide opportunities to share concerns and explore better ways of handling stress and anxiety during revision and exams.

Massive Big Thank You!

A massive big thanks to Sen and Raj and their runners, Manesh, Shalini, Yogi, Ainga, Anil and Suren.

Your timing was perfect as expected.

Love & respect

Najia and Dimitri



Right Angles To Reality

Buses

Time and tide waits for no man. Neither, it seems, does a number 14 Routemaster going down Putney High Street. If I was of a more suspicious bent, I'd almost say that the driver was ignoring me on purpose. As a rule, however, I don't go in for conspiracy theories - I think that they're just a big con conjured up by the establishment, paid for by big business and circulated by the media to distract our attention from the real issues. But in the case of this bus, I'm prepared to make an exception. The really frustrating thing was that I had been oh so tantalisingly close to that oft-dreamt-of (but seldom realised) situation of strolling serenely up to the bus stop just as your bus pulls up with a delicate fart of the airbrakes. It happened to me once in Norwich in 1986 and was the only bright spot of a thoroughly dismal holiday when, thanks to an truly gargantuan cock-up when booking the trip, myself and three friends spent a fortnight hitch-hiking around what seemed like every little narrow country lane in East Anglia. We were convinced that we had booked a sailing holiday and it was only when we got back to civilisation and went to the travel agent to ask for our money back that it turned out that we'd actually signed up for two weeks on the Norfolk B-roads. But as I said, at least I'd managed to board a City Hopper in what passes for Norwich town centre, so that was something.

On this particular day, however, I was not to be so lucky. I was walking briskly down the Upper Richmond Road towards the crossroads with Putney High Street and had nearly reached the traffic light when the aforementioned double decker glided smugly across the intersection and drew up, overshooting by only a couple of dozen feet. Suddenly my quiet little world was shattered and I was propelled headlong into the Silvikrin Bus Chase Challenge. Let me explain. Silvikrin, for the uninitiated, is the name of a brand of hairspray popular amongst female secretaries and librarians in the 1970s, the television advertising campaign for which featured a voice-over which posed the question "is she or isn't she?", the point being to emphasise that the aforementioned hairspray was so comfortable and natural-looking that the only person who knew for certain whether or not she was wearing it was the wearer herself. Whilst the ad in ques-

tion is dead and gone and Silvikrin is now no longer considered to be a front-line hair care product, the idea at the heart of the campaign that sold it lives on and now finds employment in the nudge-nudge, wink-wink world of sanitary towel advertising, and the closely related area of the Silvikrin Bus Chase Challenge. This latter phenomenon rears its ugly head in just the circumstances in which I found myself at the beginning of this paragraph

"...suddenly my quiet world was shattered and I was propelled headlong into the Silvikrin Bus Chase Challenge..."

- being almost, but not quite, on time for my bus.

Whereas in the advert of the same name the central dilemma was one of "is she or isn't she", in the Silvikrin Bus Chase Challenge, the question is "should I or shouldn't I?". Anybody who has lived in London for even the shortest length of time is sure to have been through this Hamlet-esque experience - to chase or not to chase? In such situations people who in their daily lives have about as much use for complex vector mathematics as an England test batsman has for sunblock, suddenly click into Robocop mode. In an instant they have noted the current positions of the bus and themselves and have started making rapid and highly detailed assessments of relative distances, relative speeds, the state of traffic congestion further up the street, the number of mums with pushchairs/OAPs in battery-powered wheelchairs/buskers playing "Here Comes the Sun" (except for the tricky guitar riff in the middle which they hum instead)/ "Big Issue" vendors or other obstacles on the pavement as well as the likelihood of the next set of traffic lights but one turning red at an advantageous moment, in an effort to decide whether or not to make a run for the bus.

But now, as I saw the Number 14 flash across the intersection in front of me, I felt a primeval urge welling up within me (either that or I'd eaten my Golden Grahams too quickly) and I knew that my time had come. Maths has never been my strong suit (I flunked the "Introduction to Quantum Mechanics" course unit in my first degree due to my labouring under the misapprehension that a Hamiltonian Operator was the person

Matt Salter

you got through to if you dialled 100 in south-west Scotland), but in the split-second allowed to me I weighed up all the relevant factors and decided to take up the Challenge. Throwing caution to the wind I set off with the pace (although not the politics) of a young Seb Coe, with my heart in my mouth and Vangelis ringing in my ears.

I made it down to the crossroad in a time which would have got me into the medals for the 200m in the 1924 Paris Olympics and rounded the corner into Putney High Street, narrowly missing an octogenarian piloting a Zimmerframe. A quick sweep of the head right-left revealed that the nearest oncoming vehicle on the road was a Citroën Xantia about 30 yards away and travelling at ooh... I don't know....quickish....might be ok if I....yeah, that's do-able. Without breaking stride I half-vaulted, half-slid over the bonnet of a parked Ford Capri Mk1 in a fashion that would have had Bodie and Doyle nodding with approval, and made a dash for the central reservation. I was half-way there and this real life version of Frogger was almost over. I looked up and noticed to my horror that the trolley-wielding pensioner who was at that very moment struggling painfully on to the platform at the back of the bus, to the detached amusement of the Blakey-lookalike conductor, was the last person in the queue. Panic-

"...I was exiled on my traffic island, watching my bus receding into the distance..."

stricken I snapped my head round to my left, up the hill to see if there was anything coming before I made the final sprint for the tape. Argh! The five red lights had just gone out and the entire Monaco GP starting grid was diving into Virage St Devote. Damn, damn, damn. Swinging back to my right, I saw that Thora Hird had at last boarded the bus and that the conductor had his hand on the communication cord. Arrrrggghh! Blakey gave a last glance around to pick up any stragglers, gobbled copiously onto the pavement and then with a practised flick of the wrist double-dinged the bell to signal to his colleague that it was time to put down The Sun with Lovely Lucy from Leicester and get the show on the road. Noooooo! As the double-decker

before me slid smoothly off down the hill like the QE2 at its inaugural launch, the front row of the grid bore down on me in a cloud of 4-star fumes with rows 2 and 3 hot on their heels, and I was exiled on my traffic island, watching my bus receding into the distance. All that I could do now was hope and pray for a break in the oncoming flood of vehicles...and ...yes...yesssss...there it was. Between the white Golf and the blue Hyundai behind it. Maybe a couple of meters, maybe

"...as I saw the Number 14 flash across the intersection in front of me, I felt something a primeval urge welling up within me..."

more. It would be enough! As they drew level with me, I broke into a trot and then when the time was right cut sharply across the flow of traffic and over to the opposite pavement, provoking a furious bout of horn-honking and fist waving from the

Hyundai driver. I swore at him in Korean and belted off down the road after my bus, throwing women and children behind me and screaming at the top of my lungs "wait for me" as I ran. And oh yes, oh yesss! The next set of lights but one were turning red! My bus would have to stop! Thank You God! It was going to be all right, I was going to make it. Eric Little eat your heart out. I redoubled my efforts and sprinted down the High Street, weaving from side to side, sometimes on the pavement, sometimes in the gutter, like a Cruise missile seeking out the most efficient route to downtown Baghdad. And all at once, my quarry was before me, mere feet away. Automatically I thrust out a hand, grabbed the white pole and hung on tight. As the bus was travelling slightly faster than I, the extra forward momentum pulled me off my feet and I landed on the footplate, sweating profusely and panting like Darth Vader coming ashore at Cap Gris Nez after a cross-channel swim. Using what little strength I had, I dragged myself upright with the help of a handrail and collapsed into the nearest available seat, whereupon my fellow passengers broke spontaneously into a round of applause. Although weak with exhaustion I acknowledged their congratulations with a feeble wave of the hand and then returned to the important task of gulping down suitcase-sized lumps of air. My exertions seemed to have impressed even Blakey who gave me a beatific smile which changed into a vindictive leer as he turned to the rest of the passengers and called out "Putney Bridge next stop! This bus terminates here! All change please!"

Presidential Talk-Back

We've had the Hustings, the interviews have been done and the campaigns sealed. Now all that remains is the voting. I've always voted in sabb elections, some of the time though I chose the candidate I thought was best by seeing a funny poster or seeing them down the bar. The assumption is that whoever runs the Union, it doesn't effect you, and the system is so good that very little damage can be done by a bad sabb. Having done the job for nine months though, and seen the responsibilities the other sabb have, this view couldn't be further from the truth. To this end I'm going to list exactly what a bad sabb could do in each position, it should be obvious how this could have a direct impact on every student, including you.

President

1) If a President is lazy or disorganised, urgently needed cheques won't be signed. This could have an impact on any events you may want to run or equipment you may want to order. Not getting the cheques out on time could breach a contract with one of the companies, causing them to pull out com-

pletely.

2) If they don't have the right interpersonal skills or know the issues, our students views could be steamrollered by College, other Unions or ULU. Important decisions are made about how much money the Union receives, the future of ULU, whether tuition fees are increased, the list goes on.

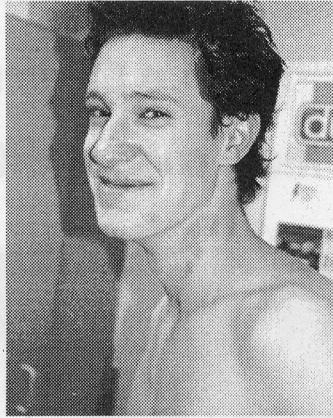
DP (Finance & Services)

1) Incorrect financing or knowledge of VAT rules for instance, could see your events making great losses, being cancelled, money being 'lost.'

2) Clubs and Societies could have their budgets slashed or effectively closed down.

3) Bar and catering prices could soar or the services make no profit to subsidise clubs and societies.

David Hellard, ICU President 4) See President 1.



C&S could wave goodbye to your favourite, or create a situation where there aren't sufficient pitches for the number of teams.

3) College might close down your club, because the C&S hasn't properly ensured that your Health and Safety regulations are properly up to standard.

DP (Education & Welfare)

1) Your degree might be changed so that certain courses aren't properly

weighted.

2) Your course boundaries might be shifted up so that you slip down a grade.

3) Your exams may take place in a tent with every exam performed consecutively.

4) You might have welfare problems and find that the situation with a bad E&W is worsened.

Felix Editor

1) Any changes in policy or rules that the union or College makes might not be communicated to you, this could effect your halls, education, social life, anything.

2) Important issues that need to be stressed to College won't be voiced by one of our most powerful tools of communication.

As you can see the sabb have a lot of power and every one of them can somehow effect you and your life. So what know? Read their interviews, talk to your friends and find out about the candidates; only then will you be able to vote for the person who could benefit you most.

Malaysian Focus

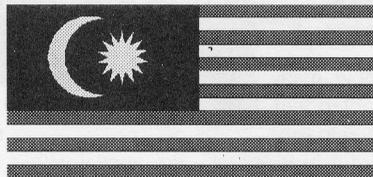
PM's Dialogue with Students in London as Conspiracy Theory Ruled Irrelevant

On Saturday, February the 6th, the Malaysian community in London was in for a rare treat when its premier, Dr. Mahathir held a dialogue session at the Malaysia Hall in Marble Arch. The PM was on his way to the Group of 15 Third World Countries summit in Jamaica and decided to take this opportunity to meet Malaysians here. Hundreds of students and expatriates working here filled the two halls allocated to listen to the PM's speech concerning the latest political and economic development back home. In his address, the PM touched on a number of matters. Clearly in campaigning mode. As the general election is due early next year, he summarised some of many achievements that the present ruling coalition party had accomplished in the 42 years it had been in power. He mentioned the successful rebound made after the recession in the early 1980s resulting in remarkable economic growth at the dizzy heights of 8% for 10 consecutive years. However, we were brought down to earth again with the outbreak of the

Asian economic crisis in 1997. He also emphasised the country's push towards becoming a more technological-based country with the construction of the very impressive Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and Washington-like administrative city, Putrajaya.

Nevertheless, ask any of the audience members what they remember most about that day and a majority will definitely recall the brave, young graduate who defiantly stood in front of the most powerful person in Malaysia and asked him to resign over the events revolving around the Anwar Ibrahim's black eye episode. The statement by that student drew large applause from the audience which prompted Dr. Mahathir to go on the offensive and defended his actions. In reply he made

Nik B Hafiz



the all-important announcement that he will not resign as long as he has influence on the choice of the next leader of the country. Gasps could be overheard when he then told the same student that he had opened himself to a defamation suit as the PM denied ever stating that Anwar Ibrahim had self-inflicted the injuries to garner sympathy, as was accused by the questioner. At the end of the day, not many opinions, be it pro, against or neutral over occurrences in Malaysia, were converted after the session with the PM.

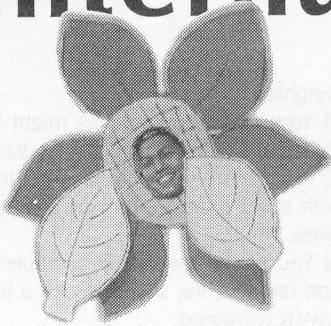
'Not Relevant' seemed to be the order of the day in Kuala Lumpur High Court as Anwar Ibrahim started his defence, testifying from the witness box. Judge Augustine Paul had ruled that any mention or implying the existence of a political conspiracy to bring

down Anwar was disallowed, stating that it was irrelevant to the power corruption charges. This did not deter Anwar from telling the court that he had made many enemies whilst in government and many times implicated Dr. Mahathir, claiming that the PM wanted to 'finish him off'. Anwar, confident and cheerful as always, even managed to lighten the serious mood of the proceedings by making humorous, sarcastic remarks against the PM, the police and some other individuals whom he maintained had plotted to ruin him politically. The former DPM demonstrated that he was no ordinary witness and constantly engaged in heated exchanges with the public prosecutors when he was prevented from explaining his answers. At one time he was even accused of being evasive. Even though it is still early days, it is clear that Anwar and his lawyers will find it increasingly difficult to prove his assertion of the existence of a 'political conspiracy' when the mere mention of the phrase is not even permitted by the judge.



International Night Savoured

From the Sublime to Sesame Street, International Night was an offensive on the senses. Andrew Ofori sampled the night's multi-cultural offerings. (Photos:Aliki & Jonas)



Sherfield's hallowed halls came alive with colour and vibrance as the bohemian melting pot that is International Night made its annual appearance. The OSC's flagship event, staged on Friday 12 February, provided those in attendance the opportunity to revel in the College's wealth of cultural diversity.

"One of the important and unique characteristics of Imperial College is its international culture", stated the absent Rector as he conveyed his best wishes. A co-operation equal in standing to this variety was the key to the event's success, with many of the college's overseas societies showcasing their talents.

The food fair, which opened the event, treated the much put upon student taste buds to a multitude of delicacies from across the globe. Limited to only two selections each an expectant crowd milled around the MDH in a quandary as the florid culinary delights beckoned to them. The large quantity of food left as the fair closed suggested an increase in servings per ticket would lead to less waste and more waistline, although the rapturous glint in the eyes of the many servers suggested good homes would be found for the excess. Many of the societies opted for the traditional dishes which incorporated the major elements of the nation's diet. A case in point was the German Society, offering Wiener Schnitzel with sauerkraut: pungent pickled cabbage mercifully tamed by the breaded veal cutlets. The aesthetic award for the evening surely went to the product of the Japan-



ese Society who were serving beautifully presented sushi, the bold colouring belied the mild flavour. The Sri Lankan's chicken dish was strictly for the brave or accustomed, the spicy rice was complemented by the particularly spicy chicken.

Appetites appeased, those in attendance were subjected to an inspiring journey through some of the rich tradition and culture the College had to offer. The jovial variety show was, to say the least esoteric in places, having opened with the customary flag show, many of the societies presented intricate plots deeply rooted in their country's heritage. History was one of the major themes of the evening, with many of the acts demonstrating enterprise and wit in tracing their society's development; none more comprehensively than the Japanese presentation which deemed it necessary to start with the cavemen as they described their country's progression through religious harmonisation and agricultural subsistence through to the current prosperous western industrialism. It was heartening to see the Koreans, whose act followed a similar format, take such a sanguine view of the East's current economic crisis.

On occasions the stage-play approached obscurity and the often excessive lighting effects did not help

matters. But the sheer enthusiasm of all those involved was one of the show's major assets, gaining the audience's respect and appreciation.

Traditional dances formed a major part of the evening's entertainment, with varying standards of choreography.

The Malaysian 'Gadis Saravak' dance was one of the show's more sophisticated performances, the elegant movements intended to be "reflective of a joyous and happy atmosphere".

Much of the dancing was performed to mellow traditional music given a modern appeal with a beat-laden tempo, an infectious combination which often had the audience clapping along.

There were various compères for the night, whose shameless space-filling grew increasingly comical as the night wore on. Their plight was not helped when acts such as the grossly elongated belly dance failed to engage the attentive crowd.

Undoubted crowd favourite was 'Singapore Town', an act whose subdued beginnings ill-prepared the audience for the hilarious festival of fun that ensued. In what can only be described as a Sesame Street-cum-Brady Bunch dramatisation, portraying the symbolism of their national flag, the Singapore Society had the audience in

fits of laughter as they bounded about the stage in oversized face masks. The pseudo nursery rhyme accompaniment explained the flag's origins and went on to narrate a sketch of Singapore's modern-day life.

The euphoric conclusion to the show saw all those involved take the stage, many triumphantly brandishing flags. The scene epitomised the OSC variety-in-harmony ethic.

A fire alarm temporarily postponed the evening's proceedings but failed to dampen spirits at the after-show disco. The night's eclectic appeal flowed on to the dance floor as the JCR was filled with a unique selection of R 'n' B bhangra and even Greek dance music. The packed dance floor were obviously not to object to the bizarre irregularity of the transient music. One of the evening's highlights were the skilled Sikhs who took to the dance floor armed with their drums and sounded out the beat to the modern dance tracks - truly a sight to behold.

The SCR provided a feast of easy living from laid-back folk to the dulcet tones of jazz, the band provided a welcome reprieve from the heaving JCR dance floor.

Although somewhat formulaic in their approach, employing the standard format of previous years, the OSC provided enough to keep the returning audience entertained and gave those visiting their first International Night, a unique and memorable spectacle.





ICU Finance Society and KPMG presents

An evening with IC Alumni from

KPMG

Thurs. 25 Feb

6:30 pm

Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building

Come and find out

- 1) What Accountancy is ;
- 2) The function $\mathbb{£} \rightarrow \mathbb{\$}$ such that

$$\mathbb{£} : x \rightarrow y$$

where $x \in \text{Imperial}$

$y \in \text{KPMG}$

Please sign up by Wed 24 Feb: Contact azm@doc.ic.ac.uk



ICU President

Dennis Patrickson

What is your opinion on medic and Imperial sports' teams?

I think the point of this question is how they are going to survive in light of the BUSA situation. I think hybrid entry has been explained fully already. One of the key issues I feel I need to raise is what happens when it does actually fully merge. Under BUSA this has already been ruled, so there will be single entry. One of the problems I see is with the medics' rugby team - they are better than the South Kensington campus. I want to see their first team entering in the first division. If they turn into the IC first team they'll be entering in the second division. I think Dave Hellard's maybe making some headway there but it would be stupid if IC's first team,

which would be mostly medics, was entering in the second division. I think that's a key point that needs to be dealt with.

What issues need to be resolved with respect to the merger with Wye College?

Accommodation for a start. I don't know if the first year undergraduates will be coming here or not. I guess with the postgraduates it will end up in a Silwood Park type of situation. If the first year undergraduates are coming here, there isn't enough accommodation as it is, so that will be something that'll need to be sorted. That would be the most urgent thing on the Wye College merger. I really want to ensure that first years get accommodation, because it'll frighten people off when they're applying, if they're

not certain of accommodation.

Are you proposing to do anything that will dramatically change IC student life?

I want to try and inform people, so they'll know what's going on. There isn't enough of a circle of communication going on within IC, within ICU, within departments, within CCUs. It all boils down to us communicating more with each other and getting feedback. I'll be asking for feedback as well. What Mark Horne's doing with these focus groups, that's exactly the way I want to go. It'll increase involvement and it will help overcome this feeling of isolation and exclusion that some people in the IC community are feeling at the moment.

How do you intend to merge the medics and non-medics, and bring the college together?

The question is how do you do that over the next two years, because after that there'll be three years who have all applied to Imperial College, rather than applying to a Med School, and then it'll be integrated by itself. The difficult thing is the next two years - trying to get people to get rid of this secular idea. The only way we can do that is informing people what you do and what they do. It shouldn't be us versus them - it should be communicating in a circle.

Natasha Newton

Could you explain how you are going to handle the merger of the various sports teams when you so adamantly fought against them?

It would be jumping the gun to say how Council is going to view BUSA entry and ULU entry. It's the President's role to guide and help phrase emotions, but it's not really personally my decision. If we were to merge the clubs, if that's what Council went for, then I would use the Boat Club as my model because that Boat Club has worked with medics and IC, rowing alongside each other for ten years. When you've got such a fine model of how it can work and how student resources can go in an excellent direction, that's where you've got to start.

How do you justify to the smaller clubs the disproportionately huge amount of funds that are allocated to the boat club?

It's very difficult to justify just the money. One of the problems is that the equipment for rowing is just so expensive. All that's happened with the allocation of finance is that people get what they need, as much as is possible. Unfortunately we can't do anything about the fact that the top eight cost so much, and when we have such talent in the club, would it be right to say 'sorry, guys, you haven't got the money.' The system outwardly is not very fair - but if you want to play your sport well, we'll back you up one hundred percent. That doesn't mean that just because you aren't going to be a rower you're not going to get your money, it means

if you can show us you're really keen, we'll give you a trial run, and if you do it from there, we're behind you all the way.

What is your opinion on Imperial's lack of affiliation to the NUS and would you change that?

I don't think that we should be affiliated to the NUS. I do think it's a very good idea, but if we want to join the NUS we have to have a referendum of college because it's a vital issue, and it should be something that every student has a chance to answer. Personally I think what we're doing as ICU and in combination with ULU, making 100,000 students compared to our 10,000 - we are fighting for London Underground to change Fares Fair for all. We are getting discounts, and that can go towards next year. Having been at UCL last

year for my BSc, I was really quite strongly attacked by an NUS representative, I know it's only one person, but he was really full-on and political. I would be concerned that that would happen to us at IC.

Your manifesto seems to be fairly generic, promising things that seem to be promised every year and are somewhat unquantifiable. What exact policies do you wish to implement in your possible tenure?

I think it is generic, it is, "students, students, students..." But that is answering what I perceive to be as one of the biggest problems - ICU becomes its own club for politics, and that's all. Specifically the communication side that's practical, things like the e-mail system in halls.

Robin Pitt

What is your opinion on the current lack of affiliation of Imperial College to the NUS?

Quite frankly, I feel that it isolates students of this college from campaigns that take place in other colleges in the UK. I think we lose out in hearing about what they are up to, how they are fighting back against the attacks on them; for example, fees. The fight against fees in this college has been led by SWSS, whereas in NUS colleges demos have been advertised quite widely.

How would you better our existence with ULU?

I think quite a lot of good work has been going on with the links with ULU already. Our campaign on the travelcard issue, I think, has

shown our links with ULU to be quite useful. I believe that Matt Hyde has managed to secure some concessions from London transport - I think I'd definitely want to keep up those kind of links, in order to fight as effectively as Dave Hellard has been on issues such as that.

You spoke out against receiving funding from companies involved with oppressive regimes. Is this really the remit of Imperial College Union and won't this in fact have a detrimental effect on the students by reducing research?

I'm not arguing for a lack of corporate sponsorship, but I think it definitely has to be questioned. IC research, particularly for British

Aerospace, is being used to kill people - jets manufactured by British Aerospace were used extensively in East Timor, where a quarter of the population was killed. I think that we should perhaps be looking to companies with considerably better human rights records to fund our college.

Would you do this to the detriment of the students?

I'm not going to come down hard and leave us unfunded, but there definitely are companies which have considerably better records that are going to want to fund research at IC.

How do you think you'll ease the burden of living in London for students?

Publicising the hardship fund is obviously a big thing - there's been talk from Dave Hellard about the lack of take-up on that, so I think an occasional mention in Felix isn't enough to advertise that fully. I think the London Transport issue is quite important, I myself live in zone 2 and it costs me sixty pounds extra just because the card took three months to come through. I think that's unacceptable. I think the campaign against fees is particularly important; I'm definitely not turning my back on it. I've got an excellent record in fighting against that - I'm probably the only candidate that has that kind of experience in that fight.



ICU President

Andy Swift

You have spoken of disaffiliation from ULU. Could you justify the costs of operating outside this realm given the loss of discounts and suchlike?

OK, basically, ULU; I believe that Imperial College should be a major player in ULU. I believe that as President I should be involved in actively developing and re-organising ULU in to the next century. People may say that ULU is a waste of money. On the sporting side of things - if we were to disaffiliate from ULU then we would lose all our sporting fixtures against major colleges, and these are some of the key games we look forward to. It's the representation of the students as well that's important. With ULU we need to have a voice for the students of London, basically

- if Imperial College were to go it alone we would lose out on so much. Currently there is an issue with London Transport and this would never have been raised with the sole backing of Imperial College.

What do you think of the new expansion plans of Imperial to include other colleges?

I feel that expanding Imperial College to encapsulate Wye College, which is the issue you're raising there, is good because it provides another angle, it brings more students into the college. As for the organisational aspect, I believe that it shouldn't be too much of a problem to bring these students in. It's in a similar situation to Silwood Park, and as president it will be for

me to organise it in such a way that these people don't feel isolated. I know from personal experience, as captain of the football club, that people from Silwood Park do feel isolated. I have tried to bring their footballing team together with IC this year - it's kind of this communication that's very important.

You spoke of being football club captain - there were several tribunals last year that you were in some way involved in; what have you learnt from this experience and how have you changed in order to prepare yourself for being President?

Last year I was captain of the fourths' team, and I was involved with a disciplinary hearing, which we were given community

service for. This year, as club captain, the football club's disciplinary record has been spotless so that every player has enjoyment without stepping over that line that is deemed irresponsible.

What would you propose to do about this big medic/non-medic split that's going on at Imperial, that's so obvious to first years?

OK - I understand medical people have a six year course that takes up a lot of time and they are different in many ways to IC students. I said tonight that I'm would campaign for them to have their own sabbatical who would be able to address their issues to Union Council which I think is very important.

Shanaka Katuwawala

I notice that you intend to get some discounts through your tenure. It has been made clear that Dave Hellard is already doing running an extensive campaign to institute this sort of scheme already. How do you intend to develop on this?

There are a lot of companies that Dave has gone for which in general do student discounts anyway. I'll be trying to go for more local companies that are around the South Kensington campus, and also the Charing Cross and St Mary's campus, which Dave hasn't handled so far.

So what was your incentive in running for a sabbatical position? Some people may assume it's for CV points...

That's the thing. I'm not really going for CV points here. As far as I'm concerned, if I take

the year out it's a heavy commitment to the Union. If I want to go and get a job I should hope I could get a good job from my academic record, and earn a good salary. It's not that I'm doing this for CV points - because I think that my CV is already quite good.

Referring back to your manifesto, you want to persist with hybrid entry. How do you intend to reopen the issue and be successful?

Firstly I would like to point out that a lot of medics that are now a part of our college applied to different colleges; they applied to St Mary's school of medicine and Charing Cross medical school. I think it is grossly unfair that you should expect them, just because there was a merger, to be considered IC students - a lot of them don't con-

sider themselves to be IC students. They consider themselves to be of their respected colleges. I really do think that you should not create bad feeling for those people. I am for integration - in the long run, there is a merger process that's taking place, and in the long run I do want single entry, so I think Imperial College teams should be the best teams we can put out. At this critical moment we are in the middle of a merger - I want to make it as painless as possible for the medical students because I do not want to create bad feeling among them.

But how do you intend to go up against BUSA when the issue's already closed?

Nothing is set in stone. Nothing, nothing ever is - it's all politics. It's how you deal with the issue. If there are enough medics that say

we want dual entry, it'll push them in that direction. Obviously BUSA has an agenda - they want single entry at a certain date. I think we should try and resist that as much as possible to make sure that the medical schools take this merger as long as possible, so that the people in higher years don't have bad feelings.

You said in your manifesto that you have had previous experience in Union clubs and positions. What are these and why do you think they have prepared you for being President?

I've been a part of the Union Finance Committee, I was heavily involved in STOIC last year, and I was quite crucial in establishing its survival.

Ben Polounovsky

We'd like to know two quantifiable policies that you would introduce if you were voted in next year.

Well, I'd like, for a start, to make the Union a more quantifiable place. I would like to make a change in the Union on Friday nights because they seem to be very much reserved to be the same kinds of music, orientated to the same type of people. So I was hoping that shows like the bomb could be put on a Friday night or allocated a longer time. I think the election campaign system is too bureaucratic, with too many rules. It's not surprising that so few students vote when there is only two weeks of campaigning and the size of the posters are so limited.

Do you feel that the Union is cosmopolitan, that there is enough integration in the Union? If not, how would you draw on your background to include people from all cultures at Imperial college in student life?

I think it's definitely not mixed enough. Because half the population of Imperial college is from overseas I think we should integrate their cultures to make a freindler place for all people. To make the college more cosmopolitan, I think we should celebrate other cultural events in the Union, for example Chinese new year and Eid, as well as the traditional christian events such as Christmas and Easter.

Both for home and international students,

how would you ease the burden of living in London?

Perhaps introducing cheaper phone calls to foreign companies; arranging with travel companies cheap tickets. We do have quite cheap tickets with STA travel, although they are not always the most student friendly bodies. They tend to be a bit bitchy from time to time. I've had trouble with them myself. People who don't live in London should definitely get cheaper train tickets. I have a friend who can't go home more than every two weeks because it is so expensive.

What roles do you see as the roles the Constituent College Unions (CCU) play while you're in the Union office?

It's for communication with the students themselves. I would like the Unions to have more control over the departments and be able to influence the contents of the courses and how they are conveyed to the students. The CCU would be the main channel of communication which would gather everything that is wrong with the courses and pass the information on to the Union, so we would actually be able to act on the issues raised.

What do you think is your key to success?

I'm very different from the other candidates. I believe more in acting, that the man does the job, not his knowledge.



DP (Finance & Services)

Robert Walker

How would you assess your personal management of your own money?

I just spend it willy-nilly actually. I do have a vague budget for my own money, but I just spend it on beer.

So why should we entrust our money to you?

Because I have got an economics A-level, I have done business studies GCSE; I do actually know what I'm doing I'm just very free with my own money. With other people's money, however, I'm very conscientious.

How would you improve current financial management?

By giving all club treasurers and

chairs the training that most of them received this year and also making the financial regulations clearer and better understandable and not having contradictions in the finance manual.

You intend to get more money from College - how do you intend to go about this?

By having properly justified budgets, also by pointing out to them why the students need more money because we are an integral part of the college and we need to provide the services for our students.

How do you think that students

should be more aware of the college's financial status and how would you broaden the knowledge of students?

By letting all the club treasurers and chairs know about the financial regulations, also by making Council more approachable by the student body than it currently is, so they can come and listen to the reports we give there.

Ian Clifford

In your manifesto you stated that you want Union training for various Union members. What areas need to be strengthened?

I'm principally talking about training for treasurers because it's important that treasurers know the financial regulations. There have been a lot of problems this year with the Union clubs and in particular the medical clubs because they simply haven't known what the regulations are and what the Union's rules are regarding payments and getting money back. So a lot of, for example, medical clubs have found that they haven't got the money because nobody knew they'd paid it in.

What kind of financial experience do you

have?

I am currently the treasurer of the City and Guilds College Union. As treasurer I have to deal with a lot of matters concerning the clubs of C&GU, the departmental societies, the Motor Club, the Karting section, the Rugby Club, and in such respect I have to know the ins and outs of the Union. I have also worked in the Union so I have some idea of the money that goes through the Union and the services it provides.

A point of recent contention has been the Art Society's subsidised trips. What's your stance on this and what are you going to do about it?

People have a lot of contention about

the Arts Society simply because people feel that it's unfair that they should get a large amount of money for their members to go on trips, whereas members of other societies have gone on trips and found that they haven't got money for the events. I feel that as a society that is specifically aimed at funding appreciation of the arts, they should get some funding, but I also feel that they should aim for some kind of external funding, either in sponsorship or in reductions from the theatres.

Is there anything that you would do to dramatically change the money allotment system?

There are a lot of things you could

possibly do. At the moment I haven't got any dramatic changes planned, possibly looking more at what the clubs aim to do. They should really try and bid and say "we've done this this and this, and we intend to do this in the future." That way, you can say where a club is going. A lot of clubs are on the verge of closing or just tinkering over - it is important to see that people have got vision. If people have got vision then clubs can go far - it's not just the fact that clubs are doing things that is important.

Do you intend to wear a skirt every day if you get the job?

No, I don't!

Paul Hickman

You want a stricter enforcement of the subsidy rules for clubs and societies. Which clubs are you referring to specifically, and how do you intend to address these issues?

I don't really want to give specific examples, but I was trying to make the point that the rules are there because there's only so much money to go around, and I want to make sure that everyone gets a fair crack of the whip, and gets the money that they deserve. Obviously there may be exceptional circumstances, but that's what the capital expenditure fund is for.

How do you see your role in supporting the president and other sabbaticals?

I'm not really sure what you're asking. I'm there to be responsible to the president for finances and services, but if the other sabbaticals have got any questions to do with finances and services, then I'll be there to help them as needed.

Do you feel that the current Union services are adequate for the students' needs or are there any gaps and, if so, how do you intend to fill them?

Gaps... difficult to say, really. I'm hoping that the results of the focus groups that are occurring at the moment will tell me whether there are any gaps that need to be addressed and, if so, I'll try and look at filling them if possible. It may be that the services people want just aren't affordable.

But on those focus groups we understand that you feel you've been hard done by - one Union official has in fact stolen your idea.

I wouldn't say stolen my idea - to have stolen it he would have had to have known I had it. It was an idea I had in mind when I was thinking about standing, it just happened that I was beaten to it - which is good. The Union is trying to provide the services people want and listen to what people want.

What financial experience do you have and how will you apply your knowledge?

I understand what the Union financial regulations are. I did get caught out at the hustings on one question, but I think that

was more mental block on stage than anything else: I knew then answer and was quite upset that I caught out. I know how the finances work, but I haven't actually been a club treasurer, I'll be honest on that, but I do know what the rules and regulations are around the Union, and I believe I can help people to understand them.

Do you feel that financial resources are freely accessible to students at the moment?

I believe most clubs get a fair subsidy from the budgeting round, but obviously as DP(F&S) I would be on the budget advisory group and UFC to help make sure that if people do have a specific need we can sort out that problem.

DP (Clubs & Societies)

Tim Trailor

What are your views on the current medic/non-medical club hybrid split?

Hybrid's probably the best system we've got at the moment, and I'd like to see that going for at least the next two and a half years, which is the agreed period, and I'd like to look at possibly extending that, especially for the big clubs and societies who have fulfilled their full quota of BUSA teams, for possibly a couple of years after that. But once we've had the full quota of medics through the South Kensington campus, I think we'd then need to look at reviewing the situation. But keep it until we've had the full quota of students through the South Kensington campus.

I understand you've had quite a lot of

experience in the sporting side of things, but what about when it comes to overseeing societies - what experience do you have for this?

Overseas societies. I haven't actually had much contact with the overseas societies at Imperial, but I think that it's important to fund every club and society, and I've got quite a good background, in that I know about multicultural issues and religious issues. I would like to apply that general background to the clubs and societies here at IC.

Would you change the current procedure for setting up a new club and help give more support to new clubs?

There is currently quite a good pro-

cedure for setting up new clubs and societies - there is a handbook out which tells you in quite a lot of detail what you need to do to set up a club. Anyone who comes into the resource centre on the first floor of the Union building will find out from either Neil O'Shaughnessy, whose the administrator there, or from the DP (C&S), exactly what needs to be done. It's a fairly pain free process.

What is your opinion of ULU and the current stance of Imperial within that Union?

ULU pretty much mirrors the BUSA situation in terms of leagues and things like that, and especially the entry requirements, although it didn't for part of last year. It's the hybrid entry system - the

same teams can enter in both competitions.

In your hustings speech you were talking about a sports ground in Ealing that Imperial was thinking about selling off. Why do you think that'd be good?

It's a sport ground that's currently being rented out for agricultural use, or it was once a sports ground apparently. It was mentioned in a comprehensive review that Frank Murray did last month in which they're looking at rationalising Imperial College sports grounds. As it's a ground that's not actually used by anybody at the moment it would be quite a good candidate for selling off without causing anybody any problems.

Duncan Field

Could you expand on your ideas on how you expect clubs to make income over the year?

I think there are one or two societies that are already pretty adept at bringing their own money into the Union. DramSoc, which I have personal experience of, is one of those, and clubs like the Pimlico society, who are sponsored externally, I believe. I think we need to investigate the possibility of whether external sponsorship can provide extra money, as in the current economic climate everybody's having to tighten their belts.

And how would you propose to help these clubs get sponsorship?

I would be looking at communicat-

ing with companies in the London financial markets, companies that we traditionally have a good relationship with, like Andersen Consulting, that kind of thing. We would be saying 'look, you're coming and head-hunting at Imperial every year, you can have a lot of good publicity and press from helping our sports and societies.' I would then be operating as a mediator between the companies and the clubs - trying to put people together, arrange meetings, that kind of thing.

What is your stance on the medic/non-medical sporting situation, and how would you make hybrid entry easier?

There's quite a few problems with the hybrid system at the moment, mainly

administrative. It is doing its job - it is providing the medics the opportunity to play for either ICSM or ICU. But there are problems with trying to work out whose playing for which team and stopping them playing for more than one team in a season, and also problems administratively with BUSA and the ULU leagues sending information to us when it should be going to St. Mary's. We need proactive effective communication to overcome this problem, making sure that BUSA knows what's going on.

What made you want to do this job, and what clubs and societies have you been involved with?

I've been a member of DramSoc for

four years, director of acting for one year; I set up and am chairman this year of the Environmental Society, I've been involved with Pimlico society for a term as a tutor, and I've been a member of various other societies including ArtSoc and St John's Ambulance Links. The reason I wanted to do this was essentially because I found it very difficult over the last couple of years to be as involved with the Union as I would like, primarily because of financial constraints and because I find the degree at Imperial very demanding - who doesn't? DP (C&S) will give me the opportunity to really get stuck in and do what I've been wanting to do for the last four years.

Standing For All Posts

New Election





DP (Education & Welfare)

Kevin Butcher

What do you see as your role in this new post within the Union?

I think the role is fairly undefined at the moment, and the biggest part of the job would involve taking a lot of work off the president, which is really good because it means they'll be able to be more of a figurehead. I think the main points are being involved with the welfare committee, accommodation, academic affairs, student development - those kind of things that would be covered by the education and welfare remit. But as I say in my manifesto it's going to take me the summer to pull a job description together.

College is quite a difficult institution to

move in and to change. How do you intend to make a stand for the students when it comes to a situation of conflict?

I think being a postgraduate has really helped out - I'm involved with lots of committees in the department, most notably the health and safety committee in the Biochemistry Department, as a postgraduate representative. Recently I was seconded to the International Students Committee, and they do listen to what students have to say. They're always not trying to be too forceful - they may seem like a slow moving organisation with regards to students, but they do listen. It's being forceful and nice and putting a point across

What would you do about the current appointment delay and the clinic closures on Tuesday afternoons?

I think the Health Centre and the way they're running it at the moment is probably OK considering the staffing levels, but I think in terms of service and quality it's not very good at all. It should be open during office hours plus a few more either side. I think being closed on a Tuesday afternoon is really poor.

You're taking a certain workload away from the president - what areas are currently lacking that you will address?

I think certainly this year, and I don't want to do down anyone who has been

involved this year, is the fact that they are non-sabbatical positions and are doing it in their spare time. I think something that's been lacking this year is awareness of events and I think this is a big thing to focus on next year.

How will you get out information to the students, and what else we are going to gain from you as our officer?

I think the biggest way is getting out there. Certainly today when I was in the JCR I got a lot of people talking to me about the position. I think the education and welfare stuff on the web is old, to a certain degree - it's not bad, but it certainly needs updating.

Felix Editor

David Roberts

How do you feel that your previous roles within Felix have helped you prepare for this editorship?

I think it gives me some all round knowledge of what Felix is about. The film editor makes me get involved with all the other students who come in who want to contribute and makes me get used to the editing process. Doing a lot of news writing, I get to know all the people around the Union and around College, so I get to know just who's important and where to go for information. And being Advertising Manager gives me a fairly solid grasp of the finances of Felix and where all the money comes from which, although it's not something that stu-

dents really care about very much, is a very important part of the job.

So what do you think your methods are for attracting writers, editors and readers?

The first thing is just to make it seem fun - I mean, one of the big things we get is an awful lot of review writers, because it's fun; you get a lot of freebies out of it - you got a lot of free music and free films, and that kind of thing. News writers, from that point of view, and Feature writers - it's just a case of seeing your name in print, it's fun. There's quite a rush in seeing your name in print on Monday morning. After a few weeks things

change, you really get the sense that you've made a difference, which is a wonderful thing about the job, and one of the things I really like - just the chance to really feel you make a difference.

A central part of [reporting] news around Imperial College and student issues is the objectivity - looking at it from both sides. How do you intend to protect that and the editorial stance of Felix?

I think Felix is always very independent - I don't think we take too much of a line - certainly not a college line. I think most of the time we manage to avoid a Union line - one of the

big problems is, I think, the case of bias; I know I'm not great on this issue, and it's a case of trying to keep it objective and trying to avoid dishing the dirt in an unfair way. It's really just a case of presenting all the information, just putting down all the facts, getting all the quotes.

Do you intend to make a millennium fifty years production as your last question - how are you going to make the impact?

We're getting together all the old editors - they're meeting up for maybe this year, getting together, and hopefully we'll have information coming from all fifty years.

Stuart Cook is also allegedly standing for ICU President, but didn't turn up at hustings or to be interviewed.

EXERCISE YOUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT

[but mind how you go about it...]

Quick Guide to S.T.V

[single transferable vote]

Voting is a complicated business, and unless you think carefully about exactly what you are writing on that voting slip, the entire election may collapse into complete chaos.

STV works like this:

1. You vote by indicating with a "1" the candidate of your first choice, a "2" for your second choice and so on until there are no more candidates to vote for or you no longer wish to cast a vote on the remaining candidates.

2. The votes are counted.

3. If no candidate has won over 50% of the votes, the person who attained the least votes has their votes re-allocated.

4. The person with the least votes is eliminated. On the ballot papers where they were first choice the 2nd choice become a 1st choice, 3rd becomes 2nd and so on. The votes are transferred as if those votes were being counted again from scratch, then we go back to point 3 and continue until someone wins the elections.

F. A. Q.

[frequently asked questions]

How do I vote in the ICU sabbatical elections?

Take your union card to a ballot box and fill out the voting slips.

What is a "union card"?

A fantastic card which gets you discounts, allows you entry to the Union, and lets you vote in these elections. You need to present your registration slip and a photo to the Union Office on the first floor of the Union Building to get one.

Does my vote really matter?

Yes - it is important that you

express your opinion as the people elected will directly affect your Union, your ents, your clubs, and even your Union food!

Who do I vote for?

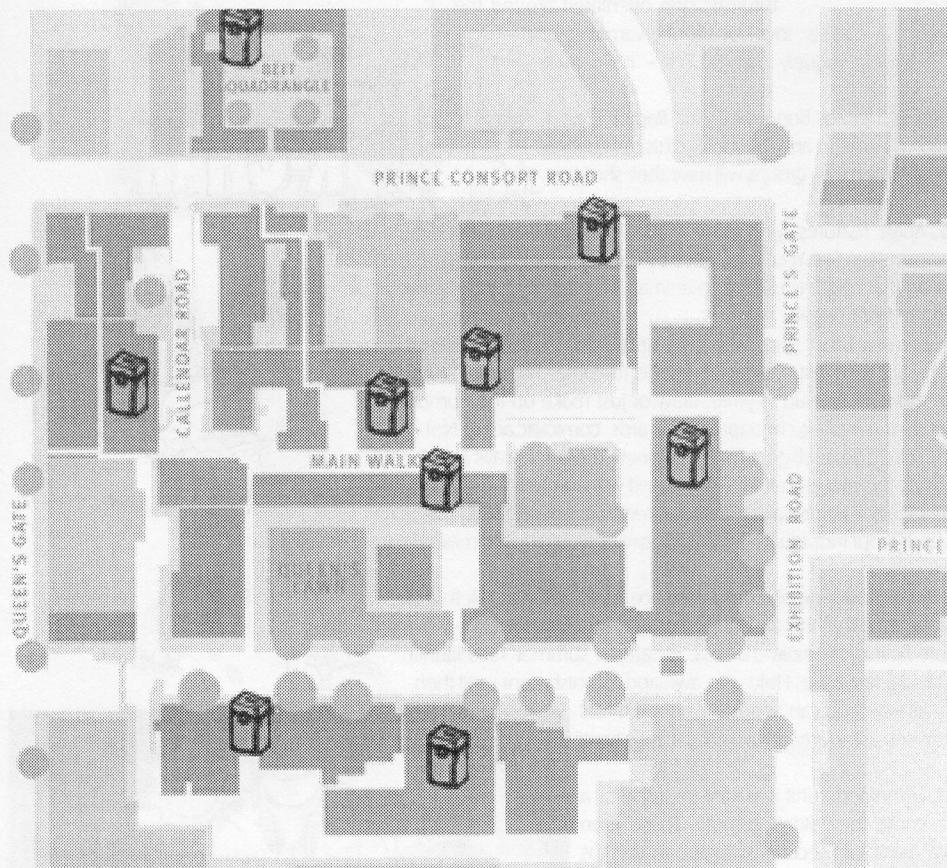
Read the manifestoes in last weeks Felix and speak to the candidates. Try and decide who you think will do a good job and best represent your interests.

When can I vote?

From 10am to 5pm Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 Feb.

When are the final results announced?

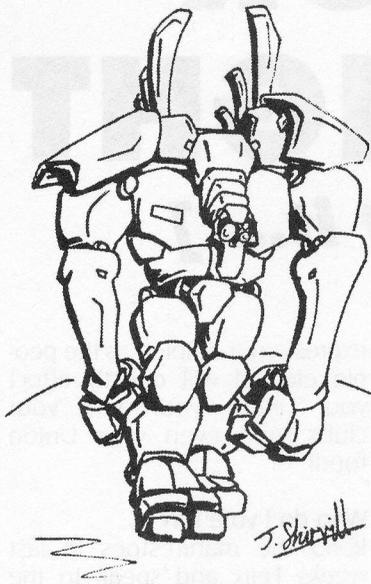
Late Tuesday night in ICU.



BALLOT BOX LOCATIONS

- ✘ Union Building
- ✘ Huxley Building
- ✘ Junior Common Room
- ✘ Biomedical Sciences Building
- ✘ Royal School of Mines
- ✘ Chemistry/Biochemistry
- ✘ Mechanical Engineering
- ✘ Charing Cross Campus
- ✘ St Mary's Campus
- ✘ Electrical Engineering
- ✘ Aeronautics/Chemical Engineering
- ✘ Silwood Park
- ✘ RPMS (Monday 22nd Only)
- ✘ NHLI (Tuesday 23rd Only)

NO CARD NO VOTE



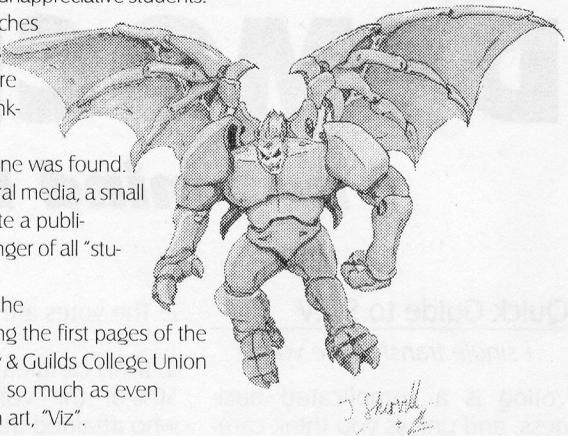
Dark alleys, sinister "bad guys" and enough mindless violence to make a Medic cringe. ICU provides a vast array of media forms for its impassive and unappreciative students. Yet, it does not seem to offer anything that specifically quenches the thirst of the current generation of Playstation hoodlums and Star Wars: Episode 1 nutcases. (Apparently these people are called "students" for reasons of politics and economic bankruptcy).

During the latter months of 1998, a solution to this famine was found. Having been mentally mutated by overexposure to the general media, a small group of "students" embarked on a quest - a quest to create a publication that would be worthy enough to satisfy the savage hunger of all "students" in Imperial College.

Following months of practice to achieve excellence in the art form known only as "Quake 2", work began on producing the first pages of the new publication. Practically conceived in the back yard of City & Guilds College Union (or their office at least), these minions spat on anyone who so much as even muttered "Beano", "Dandy" or that great institution of British art, "Viz".

The result? This page conveys the first images of the evil and wicked ideas that have transcended through the brains of these "students". Look closely. Look hard. You can almost see the hardcore caffeine addiction that possesses these people. The countless hours that have been spent on each stroke include the time spent in front of a pool table, watching Neighbours and arguing over whether a plot has accidentally slipped into the "story".

First on the literal drawing board is a western, Clint Eastwoods style. Smoking guns, large hats and filthy bars. If only watching



Wanted: Damsels in Distress

Neighbours was this good. "Knife Edge" is a semi-futuristic strip orientated around the artists' love for robots, vampires and anything vaguely manga. Yes - it's a male thing.

Is it True Lies? Is it James Bond? No - its "Raptor". Assassins for hire do not come in any flavour like this. As cool on a woman as on guns, feminist groups will have their shotguns ready.

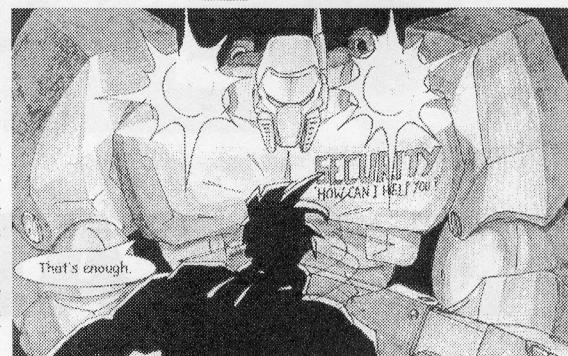
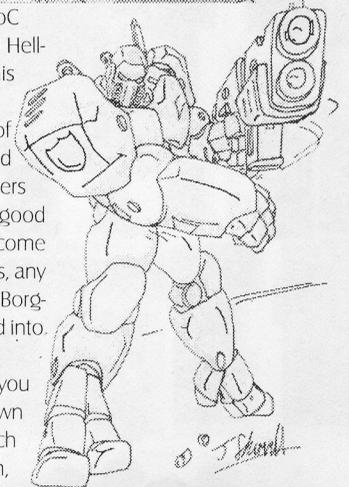
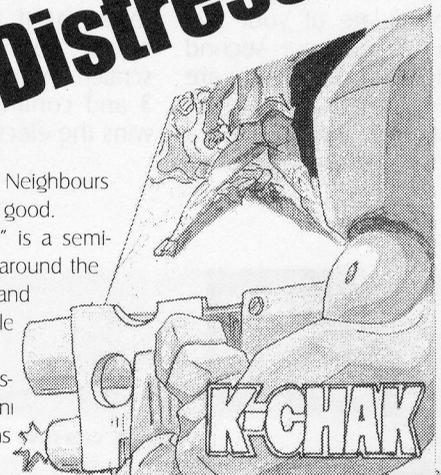
"Worlds Apart" features flying space ships, a strange planet called DoC and a fellow from "Eye See You" who goes by the name of Dave Hellard Hell-Bad. A description that might cause some animation within ICU. Why is this paragraph not on the front page?

There are a great many other strips in the workings from these products of a twisted society. The above is just a taster of what is to come. Those intrigued and wishing to join this cultist group to write, draw or just make up the numbers are advised to point their e-mailing contraptions towards comic@ic.ac.uk. Not good enough to write for Felix? Too intelligent for Guildsheet? There is always a welcome mat for artists, but since this group is already populated with this form of species, any other kind is also particularly appreciated. Rest assured that, upon joining this Borg-like collective conscious, your individual talents and abilities would be assimilated into the whole.

So when does this explosive graphical masterpiece finally detonate? Before you are convinced of the idea that this amusing "feature", much like your very own CV, is a work of pure fiction, the heavens have dictated a summer 1999 launch for the highly spectacular first issue. Hold your awe and astonishment until then, as exam relief is on its way. You can almost hear the editors of Felix and Phoenix weep at the amount of material they have lost.

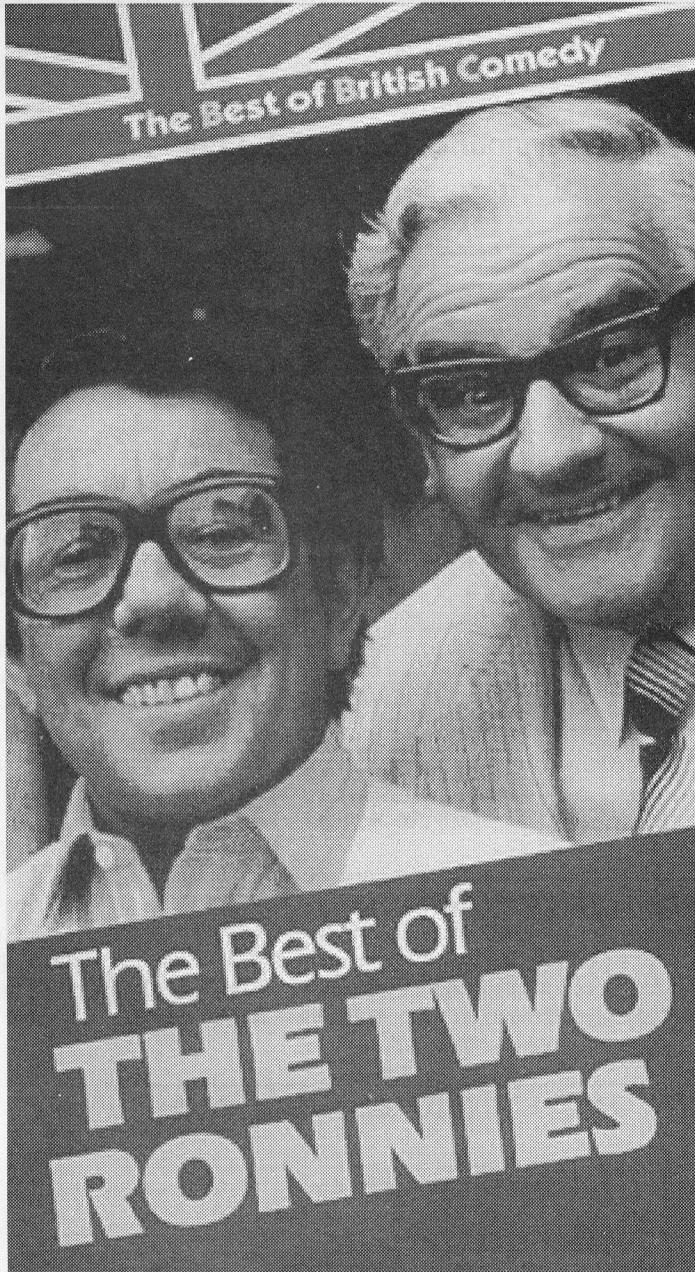
In 1972, a crack commando unit was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped a maximum-security stockade to the Los Angeles underground. Today, still wanted by the government, they survive as soldiers of fortune. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire... the A-Team.

On the other hand, you should always remember that the ICU ComicSoc will always save any damsel in distress. What do you mean a slap is all it takes to make a Medic cringe?



Written by:
Dinesh Ganesarajah

Artwork by:
Pete Ho,
James Shirvill,
James Cooke



R_e

O_{pen}

N_{ominations}

NEW ELECTION A NATION'S HOPE

Hustings: S. Ken (15th Feb, 18:00, dB's), Charing X (16th Feb, 18:00, Reynolds),
St. Mary's (17th Feb, 19:00, Gladys')
Voting: All Departments (22nd and 23rd Feb)



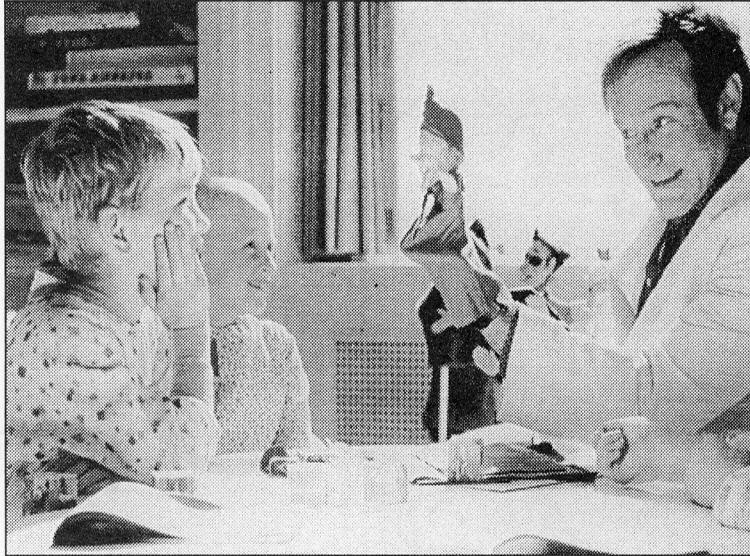
Reviews

Patch Adams ★★ ★

Starring : Robin Williams, Daniel London, Monica Potter, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bob Gunton
 Director : Tom Shadyac

It has long been known that Robin Williams films divide neatly up into two camps - worthy and bearded (*Good Will Hunting*, *Dead Poets Society*, *The Fisher King*), and showboating (*Aladdin*, *Good Morning Vietnam*, *Hook*, *Mrs Doubtfire*) - and never the twain shall meet. Right? Not necessarily, because *Patch Adams* attempts to combine every known Williams element under the sun. Thus, he's grandstanding one minute and dewy eyed the next - plus he quotes poetry, wears silly costumes, overacts (hideously, but hilariously), and tries to change the world. Oh, and he's got a beard. Some of the time.

The other key factor to his career is the amazing way in which he flies from critical acclaim to utter disaster - for example, his brilliant performance in *Good Will Hunting* came on the back of painful-to-watch roles in both *Flubber* and *Jack*. Consequently it should come as no surprise that, having suffered the ignominy that was *What Dreams May Come* just a couple of months ago, he's back on top form. Indeed, the role is so Robin Williams that it's barely possible to



Beard = worthy; No beard = funny. Simple, huh?

believe that it's really a true story...

...Which leads us nicely to the plot, wherein Williams plays the role of the eponymous Patch Adams, who, having left his self-imposed spell in a psychiatric hospital, decides to enter Med School. But (surprise surprise), he's not

at all happy with the system, and he rebels against the style of doctor-patient relationship taught by Gunton. He prefers a more emotional attachment, and the opportunity to make the patients feel better, through an amazing line in slapstick and general Robin Williams style

buffoonery. As I said before, it's a role so perfect for him that it's hard to believe it's true.

OK, so occasionally it's fairly obvious that Williams has slipped free and is improvising at will, but so what - he is, after all, one of the most gifted comics of his generation. No, the bigger issue is the grating sentimentality which is dragged out of every possible scene, and the massive suspension of disbelief required to accept that Monica Potter (*Martha meet Frank*, *Daniel and Laurence*) could possibly end up falling for a deranged old man like Williams.

In the end, however, these problems pale into insignificance - the standard downside of any Robin Williams feature. Consequently, what's left is something which, whilst far from brilliant (and, indeed, far from Williams' best) is nonetheless an engaging, heart-warming story - made all the more special thanks to its real-life basis. Patch Adams himself is the real star - and you're left in wonder that it's taken thirty years for the story of such an amazing man to come to light. **F**

Dave

Affliction ★★ ★

Starring : Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, Willem Dafoe
 Director : Paul Schrader

A small town where nothings big seems to happen sets the scene for *Affliction*. Wade Whitehouse, Nick Nolte, is the sole police officer in this town, a mere figure head in a village that has little crime. His life is littered with tragedy a broken marriage, memories of an abusive childhood and a nagging toothache. Nothing seems to be going his way until he sees a chance for redemption and recognition. When a weekend hunter dies under mysterious circumstances Wade sees a conspiracy and a cover-up. Believing that once he uncovers all the sordid details his life will take a turn for the better, he in fact starts to alienate himself through his wild accusations. However without solving the little nagging things in his life an alter ego starts to take form which ultimately leads him to paranoia.

Affliction is a clever film, pulling on every viewer's curiosity and desire for a conspiracy from this possible murder.



I'm no expert, but I don't think he's at all well.

This over-active imagination is the catalyst for Wade's slow and painful fall into his father's footsteps: a father's alcoholism and violence which is ultimately

passed to his son. The film is not violent but the apparent mental discomfort arising from the acting is extremely vivid. Wade's father played by James Coburn

portrays a convincing senile alcoholic, who still abuses his son mentally despite his old age. Nolte's, on the other hand, shows that he is definitely an underrated actor: as his character drifts into alcoholism and violence Nolte starts to mimic his father's traits, and this is when you start to realise the path the film is taking.

This film won't appeal to everyone: its bleak outlook on one man's life and the inevitable 'like father, like son' story leaves you uneasy, however this film is centred on the characters' affliction rather than the solution. The sparse narration by Willem Dafoe is a welcome relief as he essentially explains to the audience what has happened and what does happen to our unfortunate character. What makes *Affliction* memorable is the way the story weaves through this tale, while subtly hiding the real plot, letting it slowly come to the surface towards the finale. **F**

Magpie

Reviews & Competition

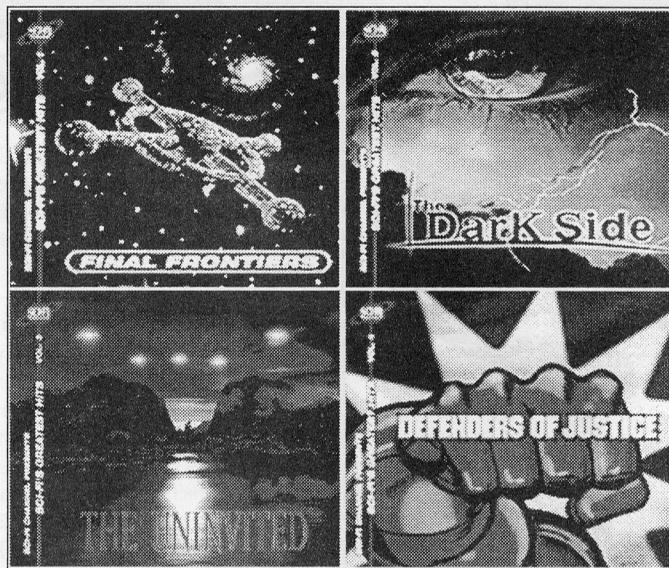
Soundtrack Completions: Science Fiction's Greatest Hits

The release of a new compilation album is never normally something to shout about - especially when it's a compilation of Science Fiction Themes. Despite its somewhat unprepossessing title, *Science Fiction's Greatest Hits* is, however, the exception that proves the rule.

On March 29th, Edel records will release this 4 CD set, which attempts to encompass the whole spectrum of cinema and television Science Fiction, through a mammoth collection of theme tunes. Volume 1 is the Final Frontiers CD, featuring over an hour of TV and film space classics including the *Star Wars* trilogy, *2001*, *Lost in Space*, and *Star Trek*. The album also features classics such as *Buck Rogers*, as well as music from *Total Recall*.

Volume 2 (The Dark Side) is a far darker collection of music from classic horror flicks. Every variety of dark, sick and subversive taste is catered for, thanks to a nice cross-section of the horror and creepy genres, with music from *The X-Files*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Halloween* and *The Outer Limits*.

Volume 3 (The Uninvited) features



music from the shows that chronicle the various threats to our way of life on earth. Thus, we find music from *Independence Day*, *War of the Worlds*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and even *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*.

The final volume (Defenders of Justice) features music from classic Saturday

morning cartoons and films of superheroes including *Batman*, *Superman*, *The Terminator*, *Robocop* and many more. With each CD hosting more than 25 tracks and lasting over an hour, this set is the definitive collection for all Sci-Fi enthusiasts - an absolute must. **F**

Gurminder

VIDEO NEW RELEASES UPDATE

Double Team

Sometimes you can see where producers are coming from - why they think that certain movies are worthy of their investment, whilst others fall by the wayside. Sadly, however, *Double Team* is no such movie. Pairing up kickboxing star Jean-Claude Van Damme (long on name, short on talent) with NBA bad guy Dennis Rodman (long on silly hairstyles, short on temper) could only look like a good idea to the most inebriated of Hollywood's finest, surely? Sadly, however, as Hollywood producers are renowned for anything but sobriety, that's exactly what we get. Rodman is an arms dealer; Van Damme works for a counter-terrorism unit; they team up to kill the man who murdered Van Damme's son. You know the rest. Worth renting for a lads night in - definitely not worth buying. OK?

Jackie Brown

Jackie Brown, on the other hand, is a perfect example of the kind of movie that any Hollywood exec would kill for. Tarantino's return, after a three year hiatus, waltzed its way into the box office big league, despite a minuscule budget (all the stars worked for peanuts, just to have the chance of working with him). Moreover, by choosing man-of-the-moment Elmore Leonard (*Get Shorty*, *Out of Sight*) for his source material, he made a safe bet doubly sure. Samuel L Jackson, Robert De Niro, Bridget Fonda, Pam Grier and Michael Keaton all step effortlessly into carefully crafted roles, and deliver some classic Tarantino dialogue: "AK-47. When you absolutely, positively got to kill every motherfucker in the room. Accept no substitutes." Need I say more?

Face

Somehow, Robert Carlyle isn't a megastar yet. I don't understand why though - he's starred in two of the biggest British movies of the nineties (*Trainspotting*, *The Full Monty*), alongside an amazing range of TV performances. Thus, in *Face* he once again pulls out a top notch performance in an under-written role, leading a group of Londoners in a bungled heist. The plot may be formulaic, but the performances are far from predictable. Underrated and overlooked first time around, it's time for *Face*'s second chance. **F**

Dave

Win tickets to Life Is Beautiful with the

ODEON

KENSINGTON

With Valentines out of the way for another year, it's time to forget the romantic schmaltz and get arty. That's right, I'm talking about films with subtitles. To be specific, I'm talking about Italian smash *Life Is Beautiful*. Originally released in Italy fifteen months ago, it has won controversy and critical acclaim alike for its depiction of one man's struggle to stop his child from discovering the truth about the concentration camp they have been forced into.

As ever, only a simple question lies between you and your prize, (provided as ever by those lovely people at the Odeon Kensington), so here goes:

Which movie won last year's Oscar for Best Foreign Film?



If you know, then email your answers to film.felix@ic.ac.uk before Wednesday evening. The first ten names out of the virtual hat will win a pair of tickets.

The winners of last week's *This Year's Love* competition, were:

Andy Hodgson
Thanawat Meesak
Lucas Chan
Chris Brunswick
Nickie Dale

They all correctly identified Julia Roberts as the American actress who will star alongside Hugh Grant in *Notting Hill*, this summer's follow-up to *Four Weddings*. Please drop into the *Felix* office (in the Beit archway) sometime this week, so that you can pick up your prizes.



CLUBSCENE

nymph

Nymph @ Mass

St. Matthew's Church, SW2. Monthly (second Saturday), £10/£12/£14, 10pm - 6am, capacity = 1,000. Dress code = none, but make an effort.

Another month and another stunning night at Nymph. I won't go on about this again 'cos we did a review of it in December, but I had to put it in 'cos I really want to urge you all to go along (again and again!). It might not have been as packed out as on our last jaunt to Nymph, but this didn't really matter - it was still a top night out. And that's a sign of how good the night is - it still impresses even when it isn't rammed. Personally it was very chilled to go to a night where you could actually move around without any hassles and where you got the chance and space to strut your stuff on the stage without the risk of getting pushed off by some fat ass! And that is precisely where I decided to spend most of the night - on the stage in the back room. This was the place to be. The tunes were consistently good. Top bangin', bouncy, nu-energy laden beats, with lots of tracks from the Seb Fontaine/Tony de Vit "Elements" album, and even some old favourites like DJ Misjah's "Access." It's great when the sort of music you're into at the mo comes up again and again at a club - there's nothing better than dancing to songs you know, now is there? Shit, there were even some amusing ravers around with fluorescent tops, glowing sticks, and bike

lights in the pockets of their combat trousers (!) Why the fuck they were trying to impersonate KITT from KnightRider is anybody's guess, but at least they brought a smile to the faces of the more cynical punters in the club. Thankfully there were only two of those cheese-mongers around - the rest of the people in Nymph dress pretty well and aren't fromage-led in any way. In fact they are one of the nicest crowds around.

The main room was a bit more packed out, but I've got to say that this time the music was a bit uninspiring despite of (or perhaps because of, I suppose) the presence of some biggish names in DJ Pierre and Marshall Jefferson. One friend described it as "light jazz" by the end of the night, but his brain had been twisted by the hard beats of the back room, amongst other things. Still the crowd seemed to enjoy the main arena, so it must have been passable.

Next month (Saturday 13th March) sees some really big names descending on the Nymph camp in the forms of Justin Robertson (big Club UK DJ and Lion Rock guy), and Farley Jackmaster Funk. After a tiny lull in Feb I reckon that this one will be absolutely heaving.

Confess Your Sins



Roobarb

Space @ The Cross

Goods Yard, off King's Way, King's Cross (opp. Bagley's Warehouse). Currently monthly party on Fridays. 10pm - 6am, capacity = 360. Dress code = to boldly go where no man has gone before.

Space is the unofficial member's party at the Cross, but you can also wangle your way in if you are press (tee-hee!) and if you are a really keen punter. It's a collaboration between several nights - Enigma, Bambi & Bo, and Glitterati, the last two of which have staged some of the most legendary nights at The Cross (and that really is saying something). Try to get to these when they run 'cos they are just soooo funky, but also try to find your way into Space, if you've got a bit of clubbing time spare.

But, as you might imagine with any trip into Space, this requires lots of preparation. A "space" dress code really does mean you have to make the effort and get some futuristic togs and accessories. Otherwise you probably won't get in and if you do manage to somehow, then you really will feel out of place. That's 'cos everyone else will definitely be looking like Doctor Spock's family and their best mates the Jetsons. And as with everything in life (cliché alert) you will appreciate the effort put in once the party starts.

The atmosphere inside is as friendly as you'll find and new friendships are

forged merely on the basis of what silly toys you've brought along with you. My talking C3PO pen certainly came in useful although getting it to say "Let the Wookiee Win" in time with the music was a bit tricky!

The music is described by the DJs and promoters as "Pumping Pneumatic Party" tunes and that is exactly what you get, so I won't bother describing it any further. And as always The Cross itself was great - still one of the most beautiful venues in the capital.

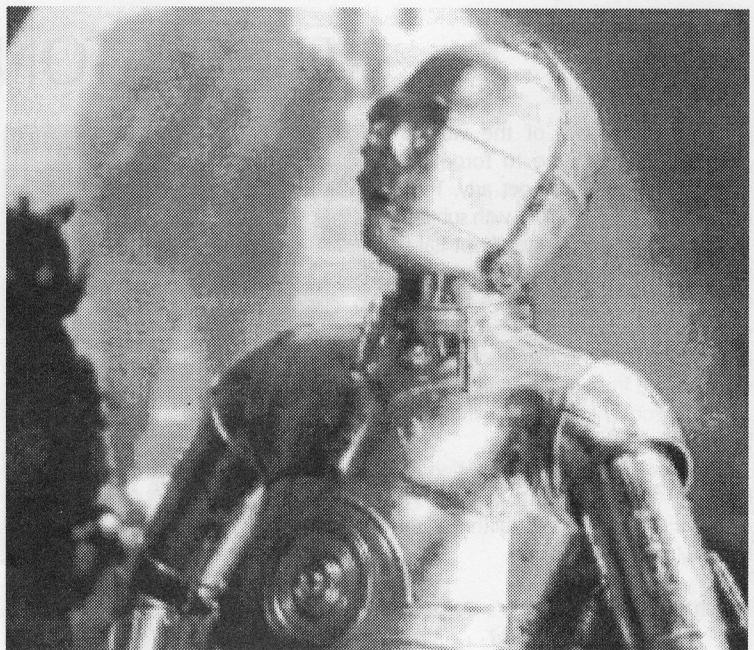
Although Space has only run for two nights so far it is undoubtedly going to make a very big impression on the London clubscene - it's already been voted (on the internet) as The Cross' best party (good then or what?). It might easily become one of the nights to be at, just like Serious@The Cross in 1998.

This night is just about as much fun as you can have clubbing. Try your hardest to get tickets - you'll love it. "A good time you will have" as good old Yoda would say.

May the force be with you



Roobarb



Albums + Singles

Album of the Week

United DJs of America Vol. II
 'My First CD': compiled and mixed by Cevin Fisher

With a couple of recent hits behind him, Cevin Fisher is big news on the dance scene at the moment. So, following on from the success of hits such as 'The Freaks Come Out', Fisher has brought out a mix album. It features thirteen tracks of deep underground house music including Studio 54's 'Freak It', House of 909's 'Beautiful Day' and Cevin Fisher's 'The Freaks Come Out'. Superbly mixed, each track follows the previous one really well instead of them being just chucked together in any old order. Cevin Fisher has obviously taken his time over this album, selecting only the best music and making sure it all fits together. He'll be one to watch out for this year, and the album (out soon) will also be one to watch out for. An absolute must.

★★★★★

Sound of the Nu Skool - Vol. I
 (Fresh Records)

This is a compilation album featuring the best of the label's past and future Nu Skool sounds. Tracks include The Freestylers 'B-Boy Stance', The Sol Brothers' cheeky 'That Elvis Track', Lovestation's alternative deep-funky mix of 'Sensuality' and Electrotheque's 'Everyone's a Winner'. They are all mixed to perfection, and if you like the big beat, funky sounds that Fatboy Slim has made so popular, you'll love this.

★★★★★

Roy Davis JR
 DJ Mix Album
 (Livewire Records)

A true Chicago house legend, DJ and producer, Roy Davis Jr commands the kind of respect usually reserved for royalty. One listen to this classy album will send you to house heaven, showing you just why he is one of the biggest names on the house scene. This mix album is a collection of underground, deep house grooves, including the anthem 'Gabriel'. The kind of music you would find in a pre-club bar or in the chill out room of a club, this album is a journey through the history of house music. If you like the jazzy, funky house vibe, buy this. Fabulous.

Out in March.

★★★★★

Miss Money Penny's Music presents Norman Jay

There are so many compilation albums being released by clubs these days, that many people don't give a toss anymore. If you want to do well in this market then you have to release something a bit different. So is this album, released by the glam superclub Miss Money Penny's, that little bit different? Well, No. Alright, it's mixed by Norman Jay, but there is nothing on this album which makes it stand out. The tracks are just the bog standard stuff Money Penny's play. It comes in two CDs - CD 1 features house and garage music (current as well as past tunes) with CD 2 featuring the "Good Grooves Mix" - a collection of sounds from all over the music world. Out of the two, the second CD is a little better, but as an overall package it's nothing to shout about.

★★★

Single of the Week
Jimi Tenor
 'Year of the Apocalypse'

A couple of weeks ago we reviewed Jimi Tenor's rather superb album 'Organism'. In March, he releases the breathtaking 'Year of the Apocalypse', a very uplifting and melodic track. This is a track which sounds like a bit of a garage tune, but at the same time has chilled, melodic sounds. The beat is simple and the tune is catchy and the singer must be praised for managing to sing 'Year of the Apocalypse' in the chorus. The 12" comes with a couple of mixes, each different to the other (one being a bit more vocal), and a second, separate track. Doing well in the Coolcuts Chart, this makes great listening.

Out March

★★★★★

The Four Usual Suspects
 '1999'

In a word, this single is bollocks. Surely there is a regulatory body to stop crap like this being produced. The Four Usual Suspects, including Roger Sanchez and Angie Johnson, have reproduced 1999 as a dance version of Prince's classic tune, and completely murdered it. Angie Johnson excels in singing completely out of sync with the tune, whilst the rest of the four give the single "a new house vibe". What the hell is going on here? It's not meant to be a f*****g dance tune. Comes with loads of remixes, each as bad as the others and completely indistinguishable. This is a superb example of someone taking a great classic, and turning it into a feeble dance track for commercial gain. Avoid.

★

Sundance
 'The Living Dream'

This is the kinda tune you'll either really love or really hate. Following on from their national chart success with 'Sundance' (the eponymously titled single), Sundance have released their new single 'The Living Dream'. Full of cheesy beats, vocals, pianos and breakdowns, this is typical Euro house music, but it's so bloody catchy you can't help humming along. It comes with half a dozen mixes over a couple of CD's. Some of the mixes sound the same (odd that!) whilst the Transa remix is a completely different tune in itself.

Out now

★★★★



Gurm

Donna Dee
 'Hooked'
 (Mecca Recordings)

This is a strange record. The A-sides are good funky garage with plenty of chunky beats. Not too memorable really, but still worth a listen if you are a garage fiend. However, it's the B-side remix of "Hooked" which really does it for me. It's up-beat house, and wouldn't be out of place in one of Judge Jules' sets. Nice break-downs and build-ups added to an infective tune make this one to look out for.

★★★★



Roobarb

THE 3rd BIRTHDAY

Hardware

THE END

3 The Hardway EP released April 5th

Info 0171 498 3888

USUAL SUSPECTS

ED RUSH

ANDY C

LOXY

MC GG RAGE FLUX

IN THE LOUNGE

OCTAGON RECORDINGS

FUNKAHOLICS, BUZUKA, X-BREAKS, KLAUS, DAMAGE & BAILEY (BACK2BACK OLD SKOOL SET)



Singles

BIS - *Action and Drama*

Is this Bis finally grown up? *Action and Drama* is not quite as punky a track as the norm from the Glaswegian three-piece and is surprisingly catchy. The lyrics on the other hand are a bit dre.

Fountains of Wayne - *Selected Rough Mixes*

I'm not too sure if these tracks are a collection of some dodgy demos that FOW never intended to release but put it this way they are not ground breaking in the least. The first song *Red Dragon Tattoo* shows that not much has changed in American 'college' music since the Beach Boys. That's probably the best thing that you can say about *Selected Rough Mixes*, but if I was being fair the second track *Dentise* isn't too bad at all.

AN ESSENTIAL CHOON

Propellerheads - *Extended Play E.P.*

Absolutely excellent. The EPEP begins with *Crash!* an Alan 'Fluff' Freeman sampled romp that is typical of the Props' big-beat sound. The quality continues strongly with *You Want It Back*, which has the superb Jungle Brothers MCing on it. The combination of the Propellerheads' beats and good rapping is an absolute delight and continues on *360*, which features De La Soul. This is definitely the way forward for a big-beat sound that can be a bit light on substance and quality. Just keep Alex Gifford away from the microphone.

The Paradise Motel - *Drive*

A gentle and melancholic rendition of the classic track *Drive*. Atmosphere oozes out of this orchestrally arranged masterpiece. However the third track on the single, *California* betrays The Paradise Motels folk-singing background, don't go out and buy the album on the strength of the single in other words.

QFX - *Say You'll Be Mine*

Awful, awful, awful. This is pure chart trash, the Happy Hardcore remix stinks even more than the Billingsgate Fish Market. Would any one like to take this single off my hands? Please!!

Cardigans - *Erase/Rewind*

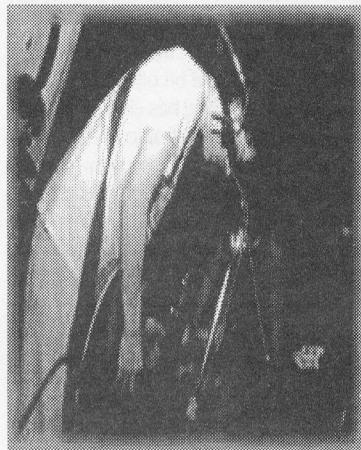
Not as catchy as the Cardigans last single, *My Favourite Game*, but still pleasant enough. The tune is a curious cross between a balled and a more up beat song but the lyrics are a bit on the repetitive side. Not really monotonous but not amazing either. **M**

Ramzi

Albums

SEBADOH

The Sebadoh ★★★★★



Sebadoh, carrying on Nirvana's name?

mean, how cheap can you get? What am I supposed to do? No case and no sleeve equal no information in my book. Alright, they have generously printed the name of the album on the CD along with the tracks but c'mon, throw me a freakin' bone here!

Sebadoh haven't really decided what style of music they fit into. Is it alternative? AOR? Grunge (is that dead yet)? Well, um, it's all of the above. And they've got lots to practice on what with a whole fifteen tracks on the album. I often find that this is a double-edged sword though. You have the conflict of quantity and quality (do you remember English essays, 'But miss, how much do we have to write?'), but Sebadoh have managed both aspects rather well.

Call me jaded but haven't we heard this all before? I can hear an early nineties sound in this album: the discordant guitars, that hi-hat/ snare drumming and the songs with loud, punchy, high-energy choruses and moody, introspective verses. You can hear so many other bands in this music. On *Love Is Stronger* you have an early R.E.M. *Nick Of Time* is reminiscent of a more musically gifted Jesus Lizard. And *Tree* would sound like Blur's new single *Tender*, if

Blur had bothered to write their own stuff and not rip it off the likes of U2 and Bush.

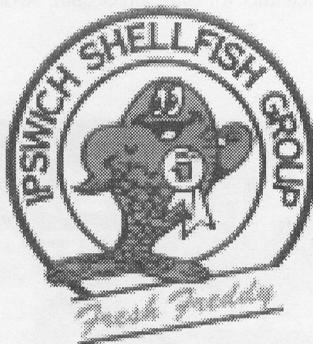
Bird In The Hand is an outstanding track simply because they have the balls to blatantly take off Nirvana and the Pixies in one fell swoop. *Fantastic. So Long* also strikes a chord with me purely due to the fact that it shows these guys can rock out, man. Indeed.

I guess I'm a bit stunned. I genuinely enjoyed listening to this. Sure, we've heard most of it before and it's not new, but I like it. Hey, you can play air-guitar to it for God's sake. So is this what Nirvana would have evolved into if Kurt hadn't died (mysterious circumstances or otherwise)? Would we have seen Nirvana along with Sebadoh on the next friends soundtrack? Adult Orientated Rock anybody? **M**

Christian

FREDDY FRESH

Last True Family Man ★★★★★



There's something fishy going on here.

While Fatboy Slim may be Big Beat's Numero Uno, Freddy Fresh retains the title for most prolific mixmaster. This new album weighs in at a positively anorexic 22 tunes (his earlier *Essential Mix* totalled 2 hours and 105 tracks!).

Mr. Fresh follows the Big Beat formula (which he admittedly had a hand in inventing) to the letter - throwing in scratchy looped vocals, funky hook lines and humungous beats. Yes it's definitely speaker melting time!

In order to add a bit of variety Freddy sensibly let his pals contribute a couple of tracks. Ironically, these turned out to be the best on the album. Contributors include The FreeStylers and naturally Mr. Slim himself. Freddy seems to produce his funkiest compositions when working with other peoples material as a base or someone else to bounce ideas off.

It is clear that this man knows how to wield a sampler, he even appears to have eaves dropped on a couple of phone conversations. If it makes sound, Freddy will nick it and loop it. Another highlight is what seems to be his random

tuning of a South American radio - mixing static and random adverts.

Talking of South America, Freddy pays his respects to his Puerto Rican roots with some Bossa Nova beats and samba rhythms. He certainly knows how to get a conga going! Admittedly, my Puerto Rican isn't up to much but most of the samples appear to revolve around the fact that he is Puerto Rican. This is proclaimed by various voices, including the deepest sounding voice I have heard this side of Issac Hayes. This bassy sounding dude is featured again in another of the top tracks of the album - *Its About The Groove*. Nicesh.

All in all this album sticks to the rules and produces a funky, latin sounding twist on the big beat sound. If you are a Fresh acolyte this will be right up your street as its more of the same. However, if you are new to big beat I would recommend dipping your toe in the pool with a Fatboy Slim album instead.

Fresh and funky but there is better out there. **M**

Joel

Albums

UMAJETS

Swollen And Tender ★★



Umajets, fashion icons for the '90s.

Umajets are Jellyfish founder member Tim Smith and Sheryl Crow's bassist Billy Random, whose deep love of lush, infectious tunes has seen them collaborate in a unique experiment of blandness. Skip merrily through fields of joy as they endeavour to out cheese Ben Folds Five. 'One of this years melodic masterpieces'. That's the record company blurb. Possibly. It's sixty words long and I need to write a 200 to 300 hundred word review. I am struggling; enthusiasm is not the word but I'll give it a go.

Two influences are blatantly apparent on first listen - and I can't begin to tell you how painful that was? - Simon and Garfunkel and The Beatles. The latter is acceptable, the former isn't. The P-meister and Arty, as I call them down the Met Bar, are for all those fat-arsed, Ford Granada driving, golf playing, businessmen that buy their CDs at motorway service stations. Those people who think possession of an extensive range of Dire Straits records is worthy of bragging about down the local Yates Wine Lodge. The Beatles on the other hand are about as good as it get, but still Umajets con-

trive to abuse such an impeccable influence. The wit, cynicism and visceral emotion of Lennon is discarded in favour of the twee melodies to which McCartney was susceptible. 'Looks like the tides are beginning to rise / The earth and the stars all talk and collide' they sing over hackneyed arrangements. Nice! 'The Croydon girl really hopes to find a home / But with a 1000 miles of real estate to choose from you begin to see the value of your freedom' they voice without a hint of heartfelt emotion. Great! 'Long Way Home' sees them sigh 'Blah, Blah, Blah'. Probably.

Yet still I subject myself to a second listen....My God the voices...Can you not hear them?...Up there in there caves....'Feel the Force Chris, come over to the MOR Side'...And in a blaze of fire I am reborn. Hold me back, give me my car keys! I long for a service station forecourt; I need to sample the illicit trade of Phil Collins' back catalogue. I must complete my Cabbage Garden record collection. Bring back Melody FM all is forgiven. **M**

Chris

VARIOUS

Planet Electrica: Protection ★★★

Massive Attack *Protection*; ribbed or flavoured?

This double CD compilation was produced by Earth Love Fund Records as a charity album to raise funds for helping the victims of the severe hurricanes that struck Central America about two months ago. ELF Records are concerned about environmental issues with particular emphasis on the disappearing rainforests around the globe. In total there are nineteen tracks spread over the two CDs and contributions come from the likes of Massive Attack,

Fatboy Slim, Underworld and Banco De Gaia. Kicking off with the first CD, you are presented with a variety of sounds ranging from ambient trance with Banco De Gaia's 'Drunk As A Monk' to big beat madness in BRA's 'Why Is A Frog Too'. It would be easy but tedious to list all the artists on here and that would probably be enough to convince you to buy the album. Instead I'll just mention some of the best and worst tracks

Massive Attack's 'Protection' is an apt start to the album providing and atmospheric and moody feel that pervades throughout the entire record. Trancey sounds are popular, the music choice of 'eco warriors', with artists such as Astrasia and Electric Skychurch. There are a couple of weak tracks including 'The Bug' by Face On Mars and U2's 'Mofo', but despite some random fillers the album holds it own overall. Considering the fact that this is a double CD and also that your money is going towards a good cause, this album is definitely well worth checking out. **M**

Jason

VARIOUS

Music With No Name ★★★

For reasons not worth going into, mediocrity and averageness are not things I particularly like at the moment. Thus the music on this compilation, *Music With No Name*, which is more average than a red Astra, is not appreciated.

The style of the album is sort of world music, often with lyrics in unrecognizable foreign languages, and beats that lead it down an easy listening drum and bass path. This formula sounds like a recipe for disaster, but it's by no means that interesting. No tracks stand out as particularly good, and none as particularly bad. As I said before it's average, and as it's a dance music compilation, of which there are already far too many, there's really no point to it.

The only thing I could get possibly emotional about on this album is the title. *Music with No Name* is a phrase that sounds like a title the compilers decided upon when they couldn't think of anything better. The aforementioned Red Astra would have been a great choice, or even Carling Black Label. Aston Martin or Stella Artois would have been totally inapt.

Electric Melt, you must try harder.

M

James

Singles

The Genies - *Daddy Make You Pay*

Here is an archetypal indie band playing glamtastic funkied out rock that is on the verge of sounding like a cross between Supergrass and Dodgy. On record they produce an energy rush of sound hinting at live performances of some quality but the catchiness to make this into an indie hit is slightly lacking.

Tilt - *Children*

There's no denying it. Robert Miles' *Children* was and still is a classic chart dance anthem that doesn't even sound cheesy. Tilt's version has a more ambient/trance feel to it with a harder tempo and beat introduced as well. *Children* was a massive hit the first time round but to achieve this twice will be much tougher.

ANOTHER ESSENTIAL CHOON

Dark Star - *I Am Sun*

This is thrashy distorted indie complete with a great melody that lifts the track above the plethora of mediocre indie bands out there. If you like the sound of Idewild and you enjoy a mosh at the front of a gig rather than raising your lighter in the air, then give Dark Star a look in.

One Lady Owner - *I Do Need You*

So the new signings to Creation and the so-called new 'wonderkids' of the indie scene have released a new single. Apparently there is an '80s revival just around the corner (Blondie's at number one, isn't that proof enough?), and this track would fit in extremely well. It can only be described as boring and bland.

Pills - *Super Harmony*

Tolerance acceptance in a super harmony is about the only line throughout the entire record and if you don't enjoy listening to mind numbingly repetitive trash that instantly creates a headache then steer clear of this abomination.

Blur - *Tender*

When I first heard this on the radio, I thought it was Primal Scream or Spiritualised taking a change of direction. Although the comparisons are there this is a beautiful track lyrically and musically. The gospel choir provides a majestic sound and gives Blur a more mature sound, a huge change from the 'for the kids' attitude of *For Tomorrow*.

Skunk Anansie - *Charlie Big Potato*

Does *Charlie Big Potato* mean something? If not it is a ridiculous name for a song. It's good to see that Skunk Anansie have not lost the rawness of their original music over the years, and although this track has a string backing section, the anger and thrashiness still come through. **M**

Jason


Tha Bomb!

IT'S A HARD KNOCK LIFE - Tha Bomb back after a week off - TLC,

Tommy Boy and Whitney! IT AINT ALL BAD!!

It's a hard knock life at this place and after a nice rest from the rigours of this column the bomb has returned to provide the missing flava, and we got loads for ya. First up there's the return of the beautiful trio TLC, with their third album *Fanmail*, which is reviewed by Clubscence's Gurm. Then comes the *Tommy Boy Greatest Beats* album, which is a look back at some hip hop classics of our time, as well as that I got the phat Whitney single.

At last the Whitney Houston tune is getting a release, it's not right it had to be so long but its OK. The massive club hit *Its Not Right But Its OK* is taken from her wicked album *My Love Is Your Love*. It gets a two CD release, the first disc has three mixes on it, the stomping orig-



inal and then two very shitty house & garage mixes that just fuck it up for me, but then I hate house. The second disc has the same Club 69 mix and then two old Whitney tunes, the Annie Lennox penned *Step By Step* and the excellent *I'm Every Woman*. Why on earth did they put the Club 69 mix and not the original mix on the second CD, the second disc is better with the two old tunes, but the Club 69 mix is shit and so you have to buy the first disc instead. It's all about the money.

Tha Bomb's gonna be big in the weeks upcoming, with special features comin' right at ya! I'm on tha case with big interviews from my soul sista Beverley Knight and my current favourite crew Desert Eagle Discs. It's gonna be massive. Love U All.

Milen

TLC
'Fanmail'

Though a certain press officer from a major UK label will disagree, TLC's one and only hit in the UK was *Waterfalls* - a swingin' ballad many years ago. Now, the trio are back with a complete revamp, not only of their musical talents but of their attitudes too. Simply put, TLC are good; no, actually they are brilliant - a fact reflected in their comeback album *Fanmail*. *Fanmail* has taken TLC into a new dimension as they include production work from Jam and Lewis (Janet Jackson), Jermaine Dupri (Mariah Carey) and new boy Shekspere. The album features 17 tracks and covers the full spectrum of great R&B flavas. There are tunes with hard bass lines and husky vocals such as *Fanmail* and *Silly Ho*, the emotive ballads such as *No Scrubs*, a slow and groovy track. The funky and vocal tracks such as *Shout*, *I'm No Good at Being Bad* make great listening, whilst *I Miss You so Much*, *Come Down* and *Unpretty* are the love songs of the album with wonderful vocals and simple tunes. In between some of the tracks are interludes - 30-second clips of the girls talking about whatever. This album is breathtaking and the CD cover features a great holographic image of TLC. No doubt TLC are on their way back, and with *Fanmail*, 1999 should see them become a huge force to be reckoned with on the R&B scene.

Gurm

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Tommy Boy Greatest Hits

A double album of classic hip hop tunes. Tommy Boy have some of the greatest hip hop artists of all time signed to them and after a few years of re-releasing some of the deleted classics they have come out with a compilation album of their greatest beats! The first disc opens up with Afrika Bambaataa's *Planet Rock* from way back in the day, with a funk driven bass line and the classic call & response style rap, the album opens up on a high. The album moves along smoothly with *Everything's Gonna Be Alright* by Naughty By Nature on to *Doo-wutyalike* from Digital Underground, before stalling on De La Soul's ridiculously long *Buddy (remix)*. Then the killer tune pulls up and hits ya - *Can't You See*. This R&B anthem was the first thing we heard from the bad girls, Total and it simply blew me away then, and still does to this day. To keep the groove going the original ladies

song *Ladies First* is dropped in next, Queen Latifah rocks the mic over a styled out saxophone riff, before Monie Love (remember her) kicks out a few rhymes. Then comes the massive crossover hit from House of Pain, you know what it is, right?...Yeah...that's right *Jump Around*. From that House of pain party tune we move across to the laid back sounds of De La Soul with *Plug Tunin'* and the jazzy Afrika Bambaataa tune *Jazzy Sensation* before hitting the funky humpy *Humpty Dance* from Digital Underground. And to close out the first disc they bring back those massive

party tunes with the classic *O.P.P.* and Apaches *Gangsta Bitch*.

Switching over the second disc I was hit with the all time great De La Soul tune *Me, Myself and I*, all those old skool memories come flooding back, but they disappear just as quickly with the next tune the awful House Of Pain track *Shamrocks And Shenanigans*. Why is this shit track next to De La Soul? A serious disap-

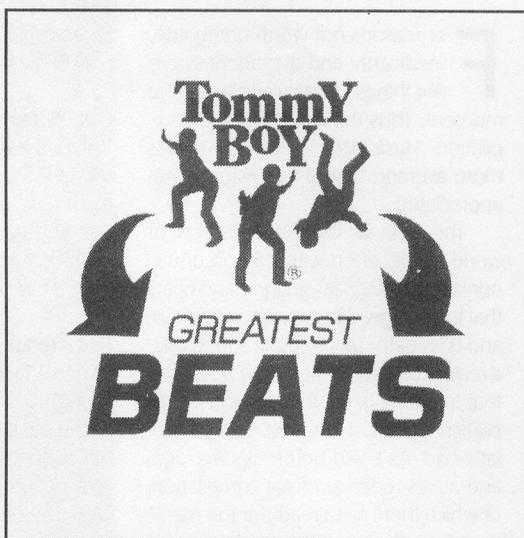
pointment after such a good start. But they redeem themselves with Coolio's g-funk driven *Fantastic Voyage*, the only drawback is the Timber Remix when the original mix is so much better. Pairs' *Grip of Shame* is included here, but why? There are superior Paris tunes to pick so why this one? Next up is Queen Latifahs chilled out *Latifahs Had it Up There*, a prime example of the girls skills before moving on to a couple of massive chart hits. Naughty By Natures *Hip Hop Hooray* and the spot hit-

ter *Come Baby Come* from K7. The final run down consists of a series of old skool classics, the standout of the bunch being De La Souls wicked *Ring, Ring, Ring*, before the finishing track, Coolio's *Dangerous Minds* single *Gangsta's Paradise*.

The whole package is wonderful value for money, but I would have preferred just one disc full of the absolute classics, without the fillers.

Disc 1 = 8/10 Disc 2 = 7/10

Milen


What I Been Checking
***Fanmail* by TLC**

These three stunning ladies return after a long absence with a phat album

***Enjoy Yourself* by A+**

Hip-hop over Beethoven, the sixteen year old A+ comes with the skillz

***Gorgy Porgy* by Eric Benet**

One listen and you'll be hooked on this wicked tune

***Do You Feel Me* by Men Of Vision**

This killer single has me asking where's the album?

***Rush* by Klehshay**

British R&B, I love this and you should too!

Tues 23rd

Weds 24th

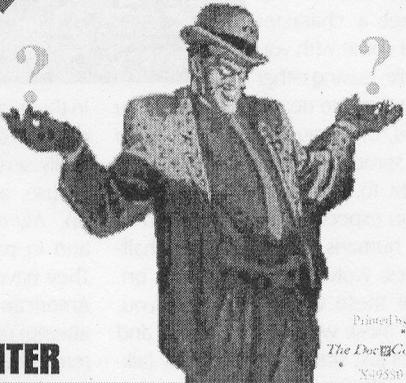
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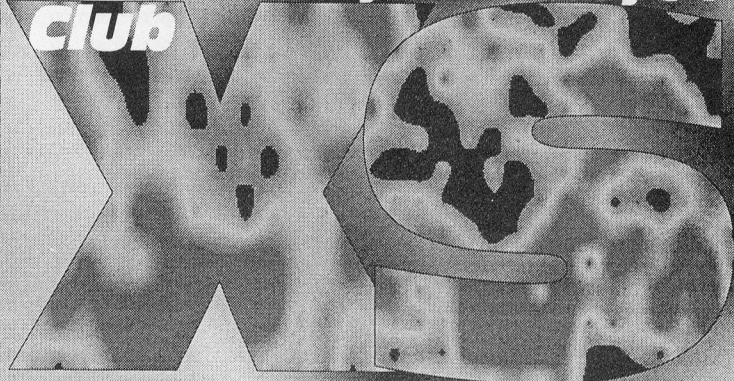
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Party tunes, chill out room & cocktail bar. Free b4 11/with entcard 50p after 11.



Your Union - Run for you

Fri 26th

Screw you guys i'm going to.....

common people



Friday 26th Feb. 9-2.

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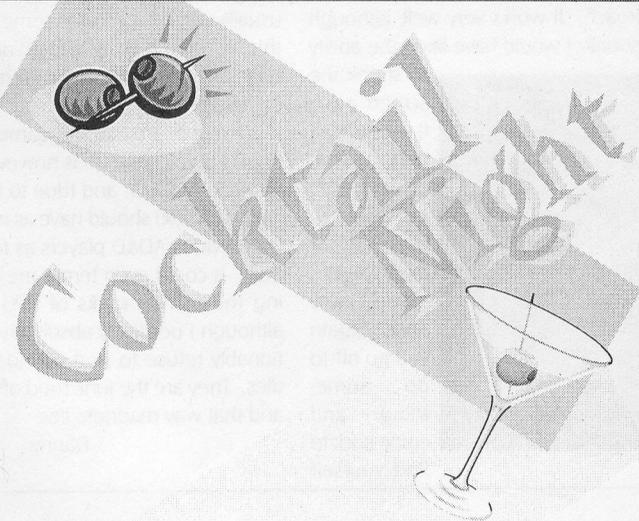
ICU Your Union - doing it for you

A B A N D O N

4 bands from 8-10

Thurs 25th

Glamour, sophistication Da Vinci's and Cocktails after dark



Every Thursday from 5pm In Da Vinci's Bar

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Another service from your Union ICU

ICU IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

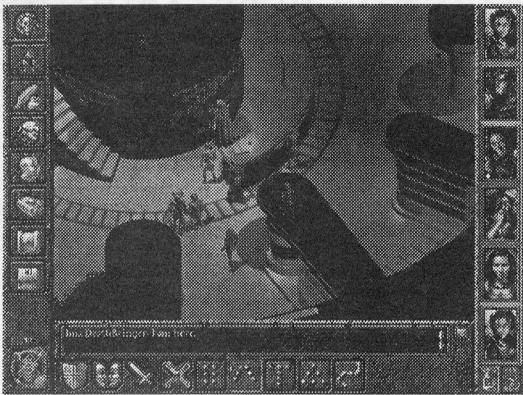
Your Union - Run for You



Baldur's Gate (PC)

Interplay

★★★★



as such deserve far more respect than they are often shown, including by me just now.

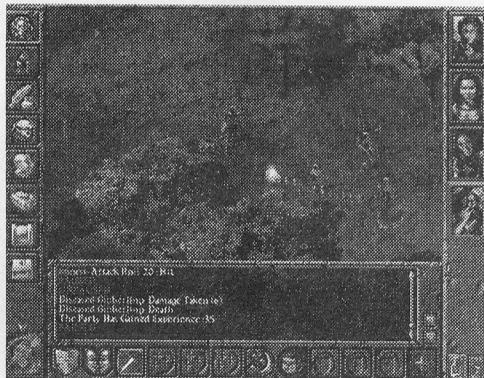
Baldur's Gate has been developed in conjunction with TSR, owners of the Advanced Dungeons & Dragons marquee, and claims to be a faithful reproduction of those gaming rules. That's something I can't comment on - I've never played a D&D board game - but if that's the case, then the developers (Bioware) have done a very good job of making some extremely complicated rules eminently ignorable. Basically, if you don't want to read through the rules section at the back of the manual, you don't need to - the game will work everything out for you and won't get in the way while doing it.

"Come weary traveller - sit by the fire and rest and I will tell you stories of the dreaded games drought of 99 and how our beloved Games Editor saved his people with the game called Baldur's Gate." Blimey, a new game. Something of a radical change in policy for the games page we know, but here at Felix we have never been afraid to take such leaps of faith. Baldur's Gate was released back in January, accompanied by a lack of publicity that made Howard Hughes seem like a media hog.

Usually the acronym RPG is enough to send a good fifty percent of PC gamers scurrying for cover (well especially the ones where RPG means Rocket Propelled Grenade, or is that just my paranoia kicking in - Games Ed). After all RPG is all about people staying up for three days and nights solid and eating pot noodles with five or six similar-minded individuals. When they do finally emerge in the light they look pasty, bemused and tend to stand in front of doors for a very long time because they haven't found the magical Amulet of Gorididium or don't have the necessary dwarven rune. They are the trainspotters of the gaming world, obsessed with hit points, characters classes and notebooks full of hieroglyphics that could have come from Bletchley Park during the war. They are also partaking in one of the oldest forms of modern gaming, one that was established long before anyone thought about using the PC as a games machine, and

Baldur's Gate opens in a land that is beginning to come apart at the seams - the major cities in the region are turning against each other, and there are rumours of nasty things lurking in the surrounding countryside. You play a little pipsqueak of an orphan, befriended by a wizard (or mage to use the correct terminology). One day, as you play amongst the chickens, he calls for you and takes you on a journey. En route you are waylaid by a couple of ogres, a witch, and a mysterious character encased in armour. After a swift but bloody fight, your mentor lies bleeding on the ground and you are in every sense of the word, alone.

From that



point on you are more or less left to your own devices. During your travels you will pick up various quests - in fact this is the backbone of the game, as you travel around doing things for people and picking up rewards in exchange. Every now and then you will meet a character who will come with you for a while, leaving either because they are dead, or because you are dead, or because they want to go and do something different from what you want to. There are all the usual races you expect to find in this kind of games, humans, dwarves, elves, halflings, orcs, wolves, ogres, and so on. Some of these will try and help you, some of these will try and kill you, and some will just stand around all day talking about the weather. There is a plotline (something about the orphan being the only thing standing between the forces of chaos and order) but you can completely ignore this and go off doing your own thing if you like.

It's eminently playable, and Bioware have chosen more traditional top down isometric maps for the graphics rather than the currently fashionable first person approach. It works very well, although personally I would have liked the ability to shrink the screen a bit; it seems a bit daft for the characters to be able to see further than you can - every now and again you go off to do something and come back to find yourself



in the middle of a battle with half of your group dead. The control method is beautifully simple, completely driven by the mouse, and is extremely easy to pick up. My only other gripe is the sound, and in particular the sampled voices. They have got a lorry-load of third-rate American actors in and told them to attempt regional British accents. Do you remember Sean Connery's Brooklyn Irish accent in the Untouchables? This is far more irritating.

The gameplay is compelling, but also very hard - even on the easiest setting. Get into the habit of saving regularly - it's incredibly frustrating to have half-an-hours worth of play wiped out because you spoke to the wrong person in a bar. It's an indication of just how compelling this game is that I kept going back where usually when faced with something like this I'd either give up and go and watch telly or hunt around for some cheat codes.

I'm not sure that this game is going to end up a classic. It is however a very playable product, and (due to the close links with TSR) should have as much in it for previous AD&D players as for beginners. It could even tempt me into joining the serried ranks of RPG addicts, although I positively absolutely unquestionably refuse to start eating pot noodles. They are the junk food of the devil and that way madness lies.

Danny

Online Manga Meyhem : 100,000 Yen for the winner

Hidden by the brilliance of half-life, another first person shooter, 'Shogo: Mobile Armor Division', managed to make Game of the Month in the review pages of PC Gamer.

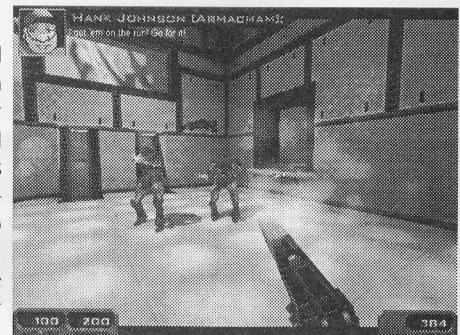
Shogo : MAD is based on the Japanese manga ideals, however instead of fighting dressed in your powered lab suit, they prefer to climb aboard a thirty foot mechanised war machine. Obviously these war machines are pretty useless in claustrophobic tunnels and so

you get to fight naked as soon as you get off the streets - well perhaps not in the buff but you get the picture.

Monolith are creating a special network level. This though is no backroom creation and could win you 100,000 Yen. Wireplay will be hosting four weekly deathmatch sessions (at www.wireplay.co.uk and linked with www.shogomad.com). The best players will win games from Microids, while those less good will get the chance to get T-shirts

and the soundtrack CD.

The very best will get invited to the big play offs in London on the 8th of April, where the winner will win the big money prize and a subscription to Edge. Runners up will win bundles of forthcoming Microid games and also get to drink Holsten Pils till they fall over. So register on the wireplay site before the 8th March and win for the glory (and the cash).



VOLLEYBALL

IC move into the last eight

IC 3 - 2 Cardiff

ICU Volleyball Club has made history! For the first time ever, the men's team managed to clinch a place in the final stage of the national BUSA tournament! The best 8 teams in the country will be there fighting it out for the title, and IC will be one of them. And above all, the team did it in great style, since it hasn't lost a single match throughout the whole year.

This is how it all happened. After comfortably getting rid of all the London opposition, it was time for the national playoffs. First a trip to Cranfield was required. Initially the team was left stranded at the train station waiting for a promised ride to the sports centre. However, after waiting for a while, our 'always-on-the-alert' chairman (Panos) decided it was time to take the initiative to avoid unpleasant surprises (we learnt the lesson last year where we were kicked out of the competition without ever losing a game!).

We finally got to the place, warmed-up and dispatched the opposition nice and easily. The final score was 3-1, but Carlo (our Italian star) was so impressive that at certain points during the match things got really depressing for the opposition. We

almost began to feel sorry for them. Almost.

Then a long bus journey to play UW Cardiff in the second knock-out match. Here things got tougher. Travelling tiredness was evident in some of our players and we only managed victory by a 3-2 scoreline. On top of that, our captain Perrick got injured and some improvisation was needed to reorganise the team to make up for his absence. But don't be fooled, it wasn't that hard really - we were just too good for them.

With this latest score, ICU Volley Club got a dream-ticket to the finals and will now be playing for the title of best in the UK. Our top Greek international player (Simos) has already made himself available for the three day tournament; superman Carlo will be there as well; crazy German Michael is ready to tease opponents and strange-screaming Ming will do the setting. And then there's still a big bunch of top quality players to make further damage such as Stephan, Perri, Panos, Marko, Rui, Stephane...

So, in a nutshell, we're going there to win and that's about it! Are we arrogant? No way, just really, *really* confident...

HOCKEY

Rebels take on the Evil Empire

IC II 3 - 2 UCL II

As the eighth sun rose over the moon of Harlington, the rebels looked to their leader Luke Skywalker (aka Jean Claude) for inspiration. Skywalker stood firm with lightsabre/hockey stick brandished high. Princess Liya had been shagging Darf Vader, and it was time for revenge.

The war started triumphantly. Bermuda triangle disappeared and reappeared on their goal line to make the initial impact. The Death Star did not like this much; Darf Vader let loose his cannons. Chubaka (Phil) had waxed his legs the night before - but this super smoothness was not matched by any of the X-wings and Tie Fighter. He shoved one right in their core,

that's when the Death Star exploded.

The shit hit the fan; they came at us left right and centre - Skywalker, Yoda, Obi Wan Kenobi, Jaba the Hut - but C3PO couldn't control the onslaught as wave after wave of Storm Troopers attacked and scored two.

It was two all, but the fun had only just begun; with a swift tactical manoeuvre, Episode 1 was released, stunning the Evil Empire. The Rebels came back harder, with R2D2 adding the final touch of class - his antennae picked up the vibrations from Vader's sleeping chambers and shoved one in there.

The Rebels won!

Sports reports wanted

Want to see your team in this space?

Drop your reports into Felix by
8:30 on Wednesday evening,
or email them to felix@ic.ac.uk

RUNNING

Hyde Park Relays put Imperial back on the map

On Saturday 13 February, the cross country and athletics team hosted the 51st Hyde Park Relays. As the largest student relay in Europe, teams arrived from as far afield as Sweden and Poland, and as close to home as Kings (grrrr). Hours of meticulous planning and perfect preparation, coupled with the legendary glorious weather (at no extra cost) ensured a highly successful day.

The old enemies Cambridge and Oxford won the men's and women's events respectively. University of London finished fourth with five out of six of their runners coming from Imperial, whilst the remaining Imperial teams - having been ravaged by ULU selection, flu and latecomers - were placed strategically throughout the field, in 16th, 34th and 42nd.

True to form, we were once again unable to field a women's team - we can only guess at the reason why. However, the women's ULU team, including IC's Bethan, finished an awe-



some fourth. The highlight of the women's race was the Swedish teams desire to get changed in front of 500 male runners...

The presentation and food went off smoothly, before everyone went to

the Union to embarrass the night away. The volatile combination of half cut runners and a school Valentines Ball led to predictable (if not amusing) results.

Imperial has yet again established

itself as the focus of student running in Europe, thanks to a brilliantly organised and attended race. A big thank you must go out to all those involved. See you next year.



RUGBY

Imperial Medics 2nd XV through to BUSA cup quarter finals

Saturday 13th February saw the medics 2nd XV breaking new barriers for the club by beating Newcastle 18 - 12 away to earn a place in the last 8 of the BUSA 2nd XV cup competition.

Having come 2nd in the Southern Premiership, and therefore gained a bye into the last 16 of the cup, the 2nd XV had not played any student rugby since before Christmas, with the only games of '99 being punching matches with fat, old men! However, true to medics tradition, the game was played with guts founded on the pride that is held in the club and in the medical school.

In the first half the medics had the advantage of a slight slope, and after dominating Newcastle's much larger pack for the first 15 minutes, a brief lack of concentration in the medics defence allowed Newcastle to break free, a mistake which eventually cost the medics a converted penalty try. Not to be outdone, the medics responded quickly with a fantastic try from 1st year Rob Jeffs, and when the half time whistle blew the medics were 5 - 7 down.

The medics pack started the second half without the same ferocity and bloody mindedness in the ruck and the maul that they had shown in the first half, and it was not long before the Newcas-

tle pack pushed the medics back over their line to increase their lead to 5 - 12. The following 15 minutes saw 3 penalty kicks at goal. Two were by the medics number 10, Louis Grandjean, which sailed cleanly through the posts, fortunately the Newcastle kicker did not have the same fortune.

With 10 minutes remaining Newcastle had a 1 point advantage, but in the closing minutes the medics dug deep. They were justly rewarded when Nick Enzel cut back on a dummy, before passing to Si Jones who broke away down the line, and having committed the Newcastle full back, gave a try scoring pass to Jim Fielding. Lois Grandjean converted.

The team was: S. Church, J. Fielding, S. Jones, N. Enzel, J. Kinross, L. Grandjean, A. Morris, P. Johnson, J. Langdon, W. Gelson, B. Tuff (c), Demetri, R. Jeffs, Zu, G. Morton. Subs: 'Lucky', O. Seddon, N. Taff, J. Apsey.

Never before has a medics side reached the last 8 in the BUSA cup competition, but it has finally happened, not through having the better individuals, but because the medics team spirit shone through. "The lobster will never be boiled."

RIDING

First ever championship sees Imperial Riding placed fourth

The Riding team is a new team for Imperial. For the first time ever we went out as a team in four regional competitions. The competitions entail both show jumping (at three foot) and dressage disciplines. Unfortunately we were picked to be in BUSA groups that had some of the best teams in the country. Nonetheless we have not been disheartened as it was a good effort from all and brilliant fun.

The first show was on Royal Vets ground near Watford. The dressage didn't go too well due to our nerves - however we trashed the other teams in the jumping, with three clears and one refusal. Lucy (the horse intimidator) took on the horse that had dumped the demonstrator. Cathy went round at 90mph, got a clear round, but at the end the steering went a bit wrong and ended up leaving with some fencework still attached. Rachel was brilliant, but we were worried when she had a disagreement with the horse in mid air.

Week two saw us hosting our own show at the Belmont riding centre. This time the dressage was fantastic, seeing Diana in second place. The jumping, however, was a disaster. Kathy as usual had a clear round - no problems there. Diana then clocked up an impressive 30

penalty points. Rachel had an unlucky knockdown, while the other Rachel had to be carted off after being mauled by a wild pony monster.

The positions for the third show were starting to get a bit tight. It was time to put on a good show at UCL. Unfortunately Kathy was put on an express train for the dressage. Rachel injured her leg and forgot the test half way through. As it always goes, you can never have it both ways. We got three smashing clear rounds in the jumping. Zoe almost got us a fourth but the hose decided to sit down on the last fence.

It was the final show for us on Royal Holloway territory would not get in to the South of England shows but we would definitely go out with a bang. Rachel was so drugged up on pain killers from her injured leg that she fell asleep during the dressage. Diana followed suit and also did the wrong test, but Kathy and Zoe compensated with beautiful dressage tests. Rachel couldn't compete in jumping because of her leg. Zoe and Kathy rode clear rounds. Then, frighteningly, Diana fell off a beast called Womble.

Our final position was fourth place. Well done girls, and better luck next year when we will have two teams.

Rachel Green

STREET HOCKEY

They're new, they're fast, and they're on the verge of success

Meeting very early on a Sunday morning, the ICU Street Hockey Team (we haven't thought of a nickname yet) assembled a few members short. We were lacking the dazzling skills of Vicent and Baz as we thought that they must have still been in bed. It didn't make our chances seem too good as we headed for our first tournament with only seven players. We arrived at Warwick knowing that our chances did not seem so good with so few players - a normal team has four players and a keeper with rolling subs.

We played our first match against Edinburgh Uni, on the tournament pitch which was a third of the size and more slippery surface than the one we're used to. The first game was scrappy and very disorganised for our team as we adjusted to the surface. Our inexperience in "serious" matches showed as our keeper Teena played well but was not used to high velocity balls being fired at her face. As a result of this we lost the first match quite drastically. Luckily at the end of the match, Warwick offered us their third keeper as we didn't have our own goalie equip-



ment and he did. Our thanks to Ben for playing with us for the rest of the matches. There was another surprise for us as Baz showed, having got the train up despite missing his lift to the tournament.

Things were looking up as we headed into our next game against the Newcastle Wildcats, who looked as though they'd be aggressive, but turned out to be fine. We played a lot better with good runs from Ong and Andy leading to an excellent goal. The defence started playing a lot better with Ket, Teena and Matt rarely failing in keeping their attackers at bay. Lise used her extensive knowledge of the game to

organise the team throughout, despite not feeling too well, leading to our better results. Unfortunately our players still tired a little at the end and the Wildcats got an equaliser in the final minute. A well played game nonetheless.

The next games that followed were against the Birmingham Beavers, Leeds Uni and Warwick Uni. The Beavers played a very rough game with tactics like body barging (such as Mo into our goal via his face), and despite losing we played well. Leeds played extremely well and though our man-to-man marking really seemed to close up their game they still had the

experience to win, and eventually did so. Warwick Uni also played very well, and beat us to come second.

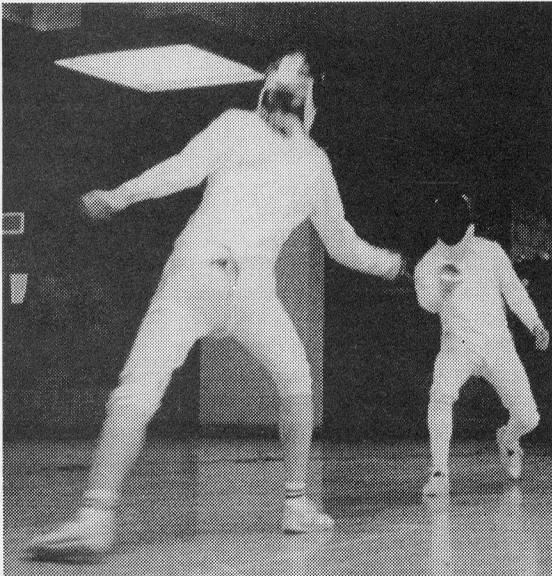
Our final game was against Cambridge, and we needed to win it to come sixth, and it had to be by a very large goal margin of seven to come fifth. We started off well, but quickly became quite crap as fatigue set into our team. It was a scrappy game that we should have won easily, but only won 3 - 2. We came sixth out of eight, which isn't bad for a team that the DP (C&S) didn't know existed until last Wednesday.

All in all we did very well for our first competition with our limited amount of players and the fact that we were a mixed team. This is hopefully the first of many competitions that are being set up, and we want to go to as many as possible. We'd like to thank Nerissa for driving some of us down, getting food at lunchtime and being our only non-playing supporter. If there are any ex or current street/ice hockey players who would like to join and play, or any skaters who'd like to try it out, then email: m.mansoori@ic.ac.uk

FENCING

The day the epée came good IC 19 - 8 Cambridge

The omens looked good as the team that had thoroughly beaten Cardiff last week all gathered at Southside for the quarter-final match against the well-fancied Cambridge. The first weapon up was sabre and our fears about the strength of the Cambridge team seemed to suddenly become realised as we fenced a little badly, to scrape through 5 - 4 with Thorsten "Home Boy" and Mo "Mr. Animal" each winning two fights and Dave "Cap'n Fill" contributing the last fight win.



Next up was the foil which we believed to be our strongest weapon, but as the fights ensued, we were rather disappointed. The eventual score was once again 5 - 4, despite the fact that we had trashed all the previous foil teams decisively before. Despite the fact that Henry the Jock appeared to be dying of TB, he still managed to win one fight, Eddie "Crazy Legs" and Karaoke Dave "APK" (who seemed to be hungover) each won two of their three fights to take victory by the narrowest of margins.

Lastly came epée, traditionally our weakest weapon, with Cambridge gloating, as it seemed to be their strongest weapon. We only had a marginal lead and had to win four fights to claim the victory. First up was Rob "Big Daddy," our German import. After what was the longest fight of the day,

he won to the great relief of our watching supporters. Next up was Nige, the Old Geezer, who after his recent practice session last week was back to his top form, winning his fight. After losing this second epée fight, a look of worry started to appear on the faces of the Cambridge team. Our third epéeist was Crazy Legs who performed a lot better than in his foil fights to win - we only needed one more fight to seal the victory. Big Daddy was up again, and didn't seem to break sweat as he won his fight to secure our place in the BUSA finals. Inspired by this the rest of our epée team won all their remaining fights. They had been crushed by our epéeists with a 9 - 0 victory, the first in living memory for the IC epée team.

What had earlier seemed a challenging and close-run contest suddenly ran-out as a 19 - 8 victory, which carries us through to the last four in the country. Next stop, the Finals.

Sport in Brief

BOATCLUB

On a very cold Saturday morning, the Women's Squad travelled North to Peterborough, for the first Head Race of the year. The women's first eight won their division and were the second fastest women's eight overall, beaten only by a Scottish national squad crew. The second eight also won their division by a large margin, despite putting the riggers on in the wrong order. They doubled up to race in a coxed four, easily winning their division and in fact finishing as the fastest womens four of the day.

The boys, despite forgetting their riggers and borrowing a boat, were unlucky to be beaten by a suspicious Bedford Star crew, but were the seventh fastest mens crew overall, an extremely respectable placing for last years novices. A promising start to 1999.

NIGHT-HIKE

Over the night of 12-13 February, nine teams of intrepid students set out to walk a fifteen mile course around the Sussex Downs. The teams, composed of three or four students, competed for the fastest time through nine checkpoints.

The event, organised by RCC treasurer Mat Collins, was a great success. Fortunately for the teams, the weather, although cold, remained reasonably pleasant all night, although there were still traces of snow on the hills. There was a lot of mud around, but this was the worst the terrain had to offer. The highlight of the night for many was the fried breakfast cooked early on Saturday morning.

All but one of the teams finished the course: No. 9, a team of ICU footballers, were forced to drop out after one member, Marie Nicholaou - the Union Deputy President - injured her leg. The fastest time was an incredible 4 hours 35 minutes, from Three Jerks and a Squirt; canoe club members Nigel Thacker, Will Blake-

man and Nick Owens.

Of the two CCU teams competing, CGCU finished sixth overall, with a time of 6 hours 57 minutes - 68 minutes faster than the RCS team, who finished eighth. Other teams represented the Fellwanderers, Rifle and Pistol, and Orienteering clubs.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

IC 21 - 5 PDQ

IC's first match of the south-east ultimate frisbee league ended in a storming victory. The score does not fully credit Portsmouth, and we were lucky to come away with such a convincing victory. Aside from the usual godliness of 'Worship me', 'Who?' and 'Roadrunner', there was an excellent individual performance from 'Jesus' (after the addition of some glue to his hands at half time). This was an encouraging start to the season, but definitely some areas to work on.

Better conditions and a full team should help for the next match against the south-east indoor championship winners, Southampton Uni, next Wednesday.

CROSS COUNTRY

We realised our team was thoroughly shagged when no-one turned up at the union, our team was ravaged by colds, flu and the previous weekends excesses. However, ten men managed to complete the course with Bennyboy sandwiched by Brunel in 5th and Jodie in 11th. The rest of the team trailed in with only Angus 23rd (pulling off a decent run). He was followed by Dave in 29th and Paul in 30th. The rest of the team suffered on the mud with Mike turning his ankle, Gavin suffering a heart attack and Giles and Marcos choosing to leave the spikes at home. The race was awesome for team spirit, if not for points gained. The slackers with colds have no excuse.

Around IC

Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
ICU Voting - all departments 10am-5pm	ICU Voting - all departments 10am-5pm	Felix Election Special	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	Exploration Society Lecture "Top to Toe", Room 201, Civ Eng 12.30pm		
CGCU Officer nomination papers up today	STA Quiz Night - DaVinci's 8pm	Linux Symposium - Room 308, Huxley Building 2pm	Cocktail Night, DaVinci's 5-11pm	The Common People - ICU £1 9pm-2am		
Ents Focus Group Meeting - dB's 5.30pm	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	Club XS, ICU, FREE 9pm-1am				
CAG: Tools for Self Reliance, Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	Lecture: "Third World Debt: the health crisis of the 90's?" Physics Lecture Theatre, St Mary's 6.30pm					
Environmental Society - Physics LT2 6pm	ICU Cinema: Blade, 6pm, Rush Hour, 8.30pm - UCH					
ICU Cinema: Rush Hour, 6pm, Blade, 8.30pm - Union Concert Hall						



FOOTBALL

Unstoppable week for football rewarded with two wins, a draw and a shield

LADIES

Indoor Championships

On another epic outing the brave five set out to face a new battle - of the indoor variety! We got off to a good start, beating Royal Free 2-0, with goals from Highlander and Marisa; we battled in the second game and came away with a draw against Royal Holiday!

The next two games saw us through to the semi-finals. Despite the overwhelming support from the crowd we were beaten by Royal Holiday. Can someone please get rid of their trumpet!!! We valiantly came back to win the play-off against LSE and finished with 3rd spot (out of 15) and a shield for Highlander as joint top goal scorer in the tournament!

Congratulations to Catrion from an excellent debut performance, Flo for taking a battering in goal and Oly for getting indigestion in the play-off (you pig!!!).

some excellent saves by their keeper (and some feeble finishing), it would have been 6. Playing with passions and purpose, the Thirds are a match for anyone - on this form, relegation won't be an issue. Winning BUSA might.

IC IV 2 - 2 Wye College

After a recent run of bad form, we were expecting to turn it around in this game. Unfortunately, this assumption was not valid under these circumstances, as we once again underestimated our opposition. The game started with an onslaught by them, but when we eventually managed to put our foot on the ball, we broke with the speed of Daley Thompson. The ball was crossed by Aidan "I'm in a band" Banks and as Gurm "Owen without the strength" Marwaha received the ball he was cruelly brought down by a sluggish Wye defender.

Ricki "Adam" Butcher calmly finished from the spot, but then Wye retaliated with a goal almost immediately after the kick-off. Blame must lie with the captain who was too slow to close him down. Too many beers this year perhaps? Just before half-time they scored again from a corner - one of our weaknesses.

After a stern teamtalk from captain Elliot "Didn't get any Valentines" Newsome, we came out in the second half promising to just enjoy one of our final games of the season. This seemed to work, as we were quickly on top of the game, and when

Ricki equalised we thought we could go on to win it. However, Wye matched our extra effort despite strong play from Steven "Does he ever go out" Dewar, Chris "Large Donner" Tzinieris and Peyrouz "Well hard" Modarnes. Even with the introduction of Simon "Scandale" Newton, Fred "Garlic Bread" Gelloz and Rola "Bola" Bola into the game, the final score was a fair 2-2 draw.

Winning the league is now surely out of our grasp - but promotion is still a possibility.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL

Elec Eng A 4 - 3 Mech Eng B

After just about managing to form a team and turning-up one week and 45 minutes late, the Sparky's managed to spark a win against the Mechies or in the dying seconds of the game. There was some skillful tackling and graceful passing, not to mention a little bit of shirt pulling.

Cyril and Jual the Frenchman scored for Mech Eng with Luke, Stephen and Mr X scoring for the Sparky's. The game looked to be in a tight dead-lock at 3-3, certain to go into the deadly golden goal phase - but a slip from Arun and quick reactions from Mr X put EE into the next round.

Well done to EE and Mech Eng, who still played despite being fatigued from their own game. If you are interested in playing in this fun tournament, contact Sanela on s.hodzic@ic.ac.uk.

SCOREBOARD		
FOOTBALL		
IC I	1 - 9	RSM
IC II	4 - 0	RFH
IC III	2 - 2	LSE III
IC III	2 - 0	KCL II
IC IV	2 - 2	Wye
IC VI	8 - 1	STG III
IC IV v QMW III	} IC claim a walkover	
IC V v QMW VI	}	
IC Ladies:	3rd in Indoor Championships	
RUGBY (BUSA 2nd XV Cup)		
ICSM II	18 - 12	Newcastle
HOCKEY		
IC III	3 - 2	UCL II
MISCELLANEOUS		
Ultimate Frisbee	21 - 5	Portsmouth
Fencing (Men's)	18 - 9	Cambridge
Street Hockey:	6th in tournament	
Riding (Women's):	4th in regionals	

MENS

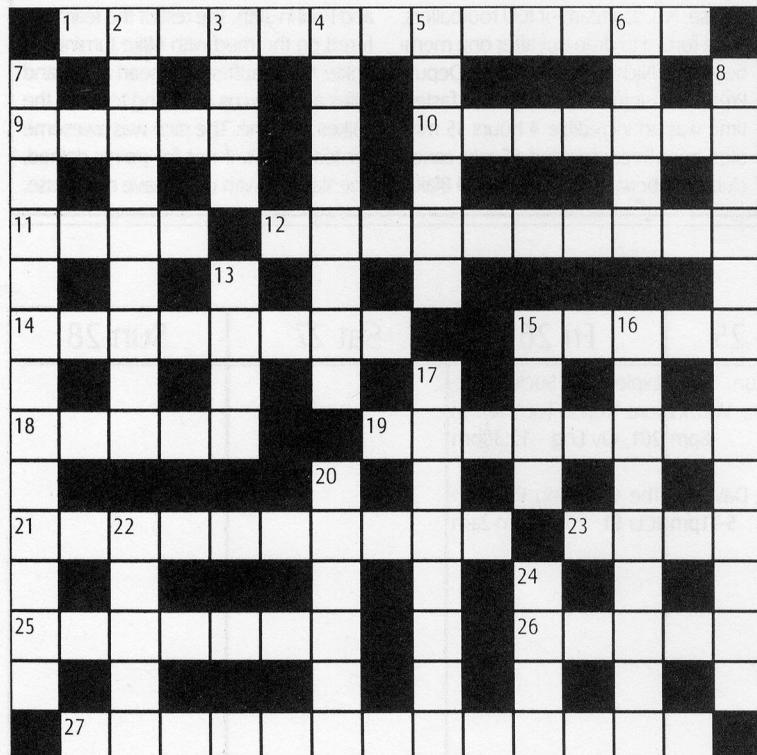
IC III 2 - 0 KCL II

This has been a lean season for IC thirds so far, so 2 wins in a day was pretty welcome. We were supposed to be playing St Georges III in the BUSA plate, but having been thrashed 8-1 by the sixths last week, they decided a 5-0 walkover was the last result they would get. So the thirds ease into the Quarter Finals. Luckily, we'd also arranged to play KCL II (always a good idea to have a spare opposition lying around) - who were a tougher proposition.

But the thirds are starting to play some decent football. Tony and Paul took control in midfield, and even the defence was solid, earning the long-suffering Ricky his first clean sheet of the season. Upfront, Ole then Dave converted 2 quality 2 quality crosses from Felix - if it hadn't been for

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



Across

- 1 Boffin has no record of religious nut. (13)
- 9 Raven called in California on a Wednesday. (5)
- 10 O for a Lebanon girl. (7)
- 11 Own goal about ended it for monster. (4)
- 12 College tore back at my friend seductively. (10)
- 14 Part of the Atlantic is above sea level, not offshore. (8)
- 15 Furniture made of nut. (5)
- 18 Dwarf lived renting - not half. (5)
- 19 Take part of darts board to start match? (5-3)
- 21 7, 8, 9, 10, 11? (4-6)
- 23 Hook's right hand? (4)
- 25 Choose time and point to work. (7)
- 26 When prodded, quietly approved. (5)
- 27 Winter sport for football team of overkill nutters? (13)

Down

- 2 Timidity of organisation at war with dice. (9)
- 3 Little Edward goes around. (4)
- 4 We ring to be overbearing. (8)
- 5 Move over to a shed. (4,2)
- 6 Liby's a girl's name. (5)
- 7 Making allowance for where we live. (13)
- 8 Having a match with W. C. ? (7, 6)
- 13 I live in an airless rubber tube. (4)
- 15 Touched fabric. (4)
- 16 He makes things which make things. (4-5)
- 17 Covert soldier's under-water breathing device takes in waste product. (8)
- 20 Stick advert in this place. (6)
- 22 I give out cards fine. (5)
- 24 Maps route back to food. (4)

Answers to 1136

- Across:** 1 Response 6 India 9 scar 10 Get serious 11 Splintered 12 Envy 13 Udder Stuttgart 16 Cartridge 19 Zappa 21 Pest 23 Farm animal 25 Parsonage 26 Ugly 27 Mersey 28 Ten pence
- Down:** 2 Escape 3 Pertinent 4 Night 5 Enter stage right 6 I read it 7 Drive 8 Aquiver 15 Gratitude 17 Acetate 18 Infancy 20 Phallic 22 Tests 24 Arson