

1
March
1999

FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue
1138

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Sabbs celebrate as rumours circulate

By Andrew Ofori

A full complement of sabbaticals were elected in the early hours of last Wednesday morning, bringing this year's extensive election campaign to an end.

The inordinate number of reallocations prolonged the agony, and the lack of a late licence made the evening seem like an eternity. Natasha Newton was eventually declared ICU President elect, triumphing over her six competitors. Deputy President for Finance and Services went to Ian Clifford who surpassed the quota for victory by a single vote; the relieved candidate commented "It just goes to show every vote counts." Ironically his closest competitor, Paul Hickman, received more first round votes, but the single transferable vote system operated by the Union resulted in Clifford's success. The Deputy President for Clubs and Societies next year will be Tim Trailor, who was forced to concede the role to Marie Nicholaou last term. Kevin Butcher will be breaking new ground as he takes

on the role of Deputy President for Education and Welfare in the coming year. David Roberts fended off the challenge from New Election to win the post of Felix Editor. Satisfied with the process he commented "The elections were run excellently - as for the result, we will have to wait and see."

There has been some disquiet in the

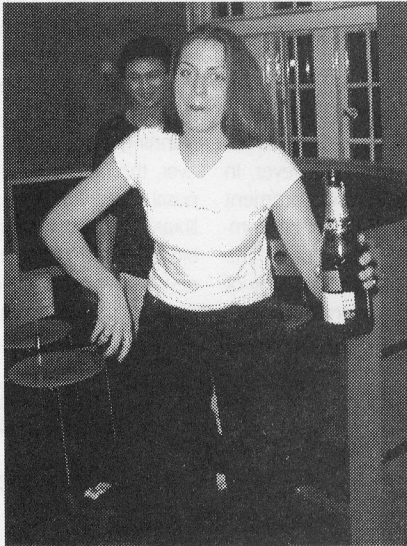


Photo: Jonas

Natasha fulfils her Presidential duties

wake of the results with the motives behind the voting habits of certain sections of the electorate being called into question. Many of the candidates received ardent home support from their departments, a factor especially advantageous to Natasha Newton who received 174 votes from St. Mary's, with the second highest total being a three for Shanaka

Katuwawala. It seems that some were determined to orchestrate this kind of landslide, with one over-zealous first year medic from the BMS sending the following e-mail to his entire year:

"I hope you all know the the ICU president elections are now coming up. I am sure you realise that having a medic as ICU president is infinitely preferable to anyone else, so please vote for Tasha Newton (the only medic standing) next Monday and Tuesday, and don't worry about the little hole in your ICU cards."

Dave Hellard, ICU President stated "It's disgraceful" and went on to say "I hope people voted for who they wanted, because of their policies".

On hearing of the unsolicited publicity Natasha Newton made a personal apology to the first year medics in the BMS. She thought it had been a "well-meant gesture", but felt that "It wasn't particularly helpful".

Humiliation for Cambourne

By David Roberts

The Royal School of Mines completed a breathtaking whitewash of the Cambourne Miners in this year's installment of the infamous Bottle Match.

Over a hundred spectators gathered to watch the RSM squad complete victories in every sport contested - Men's Hockey, Football, Squash, Women's Hockey and Rugby. This historic victory means that RSM will keep hold of the Bottle for yet another year - and prompted calls for Cambourne to "send real players next year".

Having secured victory by a score of 3-2 in Squash the night before, the crowds gathered on 20 February to see the bulk of the action. First up was the Women's Hockey, where the Cornish Miners were totally outclassed by the IC side. However, despite their obvious superiority, RSM had trouble inside their opponents D, and eventually the match was decided by a solitary goal. A superb cross from Stephane Dawson was converted by captain Karina Tarling, to give RSM their first ever win in Bottle Match history.

The Men's Hockey was a much closer



Photos: Dave The Mines victorious

affair, although the final scoreline proved to be an identical 1-0. The solitary goal came after a cynical Cambourne tackle gave the Mines a penalty early on in the second-half, and the resulting flick was easily converted.

At 3-0 up, everyone's minds turned to thoughts of a possible whitewash, but until the 80th minute of the Football, it looked like this dream would end with a hardfought draw. Eventually, however, a long ball took their defence by surprise, to

give RSM another 1-0 victory.

Before the game, the Rugby (the Bottle Match itself) was regarded as RSM's toughest challenge. It proved to be no such thing. Outclassing Cambourne in every department - driving their pack back on every scrum and running rings around their back line - victory was never in doubt. The final score was 30-10; the crowd went wild and Cambourne were humiliated.

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Glaxo Unwelcome

Following last week's front page article, 'Glaxo Welcome Mary's', Felix has been contacted by Professor Malcolm Green, Vice-Principal for Postgraduate Medicine at St Mary's. What follows are extracts from the letter he sent us. Felix would like to state that our sources for the article printed last week were reliable. However, at the time of going to press we were unable to verify the exact truth of the matter. We hope to resolve the issue one way or the other next week.

Professor Malcom Green:

"Your front page article on the future of St Mary's Campus is an astonishing mixture of inaccuracy and fabrication.

The facts, as any of us would have willingly confirmed, are these.

In the summer and early autumn of last year many of the scientists with their research and teaching groups moved from the St Mary's Campus building to the new BMS building at South Kensington. Teaching continues on the site, but some of the teaching activities have transferred. The

By the News Team


result is that there are large tracts of the building which are vacant, and not up to modern standards for research and teaching. It would be tragic to see the building remain in this condition, and degenerate into sparsely occupied old age.

The problem was recognised some time ago and we applied to the University Funding Council (HEFCE) and were successful in obtaining funds to refurbish part of the 4th floor for modern laboratories, for virology research. Work on this will start soon.

Conversion of buildings is expensive. No substantial capital monies were available within IC following completion of the BMS building. Fortunately, however, in the summer of 1998 the Government announced a £600M fund to be competed for nationally to help refurbish the infrastructure of UK Universities. 50% of this money came from central Govern-

ment, and 50% from the Wellcome Trust, an independent medical charity. It is possible that this is where the confusion with GlaxoWellcome came in, although there is now no association between the pharmaceutical firm and the Wellcome Trust, which is an independent charity. A bid for up to £26M was put in by Imperial College on behalf of the St. Mary's building in December to this Joint Infrastructure Fund (JIF). If the full money is granted, it should allow complete refurbishment of the building, with new state of the art research and teaching facilities. Of course it is possible that the bid will not succeed, or that a lesser sum will be allocated in which case there will need to be partial solutions.

If JIF funds were awarded, detailed planning would need to take place. However, the bid does not include any proposal to abandon the swimming pool or library. On the other hand, the fully funded bid does include a proposal to build a new light and airy building in the central courtyard to contain bar, eating and other



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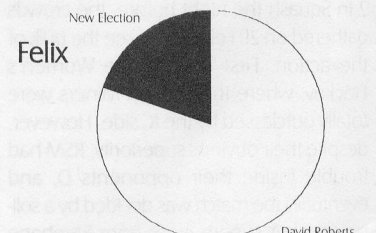
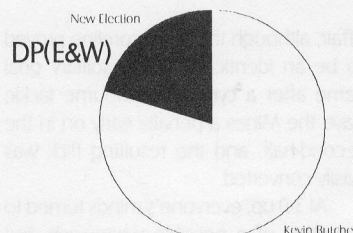
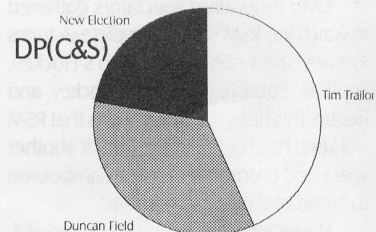
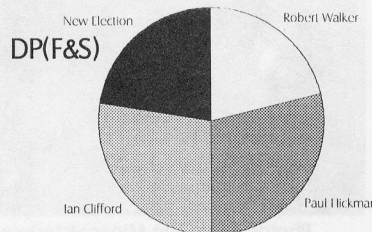
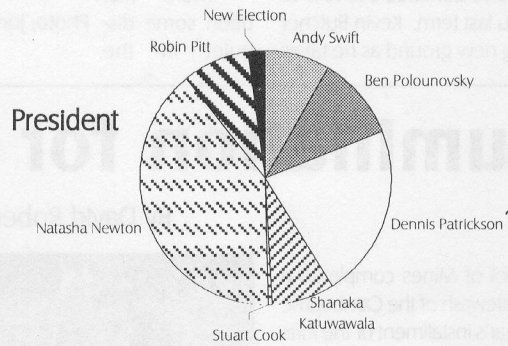
Editor: Ed Sexton
Assistant Editor & Films: David Roberts
News Editor: Andrew Ofori
Music Editors: Dennis Patrickson & Jason Ramanathan
Arts Editor: Helena Cochemé
Games Editor: Gary Smith
Clubscene: Gurminder Marwaha & Joel Lewis
Sports Editor: Gus Paul

facilities, probably linking to the swimming pool, and by bridge to the library.

Far from selling the St. Mary's Campus, it is our absolute intention and determination to make sure that it moves into the 21st Century as a modern biomedical centre continuing St. Mary's long and proud tradition of medical research, teaching, and student facilities".

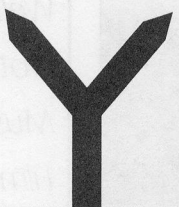
Full Election Results

The total number of votes cast were; 1339 for President, 1126 for DP(C&S), 1105 for DP(F&S), 1102 for DP(E&W) and 1101 for Felix Editor



HARD CHOICES

<p>£212</p> <p>Cost per student resident in Clayponds Hall (South Ealing) for the construction of a new common room and social area. Currently the hall has no such facility, but it does have a spare patch of land that has been considered (and rejected) as a possible site for several years. More news on this next week.</p>	<p>£21212</p> <p>Cost per student member of the Boat Club for the construction of their new boat house, currently costing over 15% more than the £2 million budgeted for the project. The boat house was supposed to be finished in time for Henley next term, but it now looks unlikely that it will be completed before July.</p>
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In brief...

No Smoking Day

Wednesday 10 March is national No Smoking Day, a day intended to help people who want to stop smoking. Previous years have proved very successful, with over a million smokers regularly giving up for the day, and around forty thousand quitting on a more permanent basis. Events promoting the day will be taking place throughout the country, organised by various health promotion agencies, heart and cancer charities, and smoking education bodies.

Meanwhile Forest, the smokers' rights group, has urged students to ignore No Smoking Day, dismissing it as "health fascism". In retaliation Forest is organising a trip to Paris for the day, and is suggesting that students all over Britain should join them, to escape what Forest's director Simon Clark called "24 hours' continuous nagging from the humourless antismoking brigade". Despite Mr Clark's comments, No Smoking Day can be a useful time for many would be quitters; as the UK has the highest smoking rate among 16-24 year-olds in Europe, this can only be a good thing.

For more details contact Quitline (0800 002200) or Forest (07071 766537).

Virgin Internet Bid

Virgin are investing £50 million to get all parts of the empire fitted with e-commerce facilities. Virgin Net, the group's internet company, is also expanding its service and offering free web space and email addresses to the general public, starting in May of this year. The investment plans are all part of a more general program of promoting internet growth, and in particular internet shopping using Virgin outlets. While the move seems like a prudent business decision, it remains to be seen whether the British public will want to purchase their plane and train tickets, music and video, financial services, wedding accessories and holidays over the net. And possibly their cola too.

Falling Standards?

Following the creation of new Universities in 1991, concerns have repeatedly been raised regarding the possible dilution of the traditionally high academic standards in British Universities. To investigate these allegations, Middlesex University is undertaking a study of standards in universities and colleges of higher education across Britain. The Uni-

versity apparently would like to hear from anyone who is in possession of concrete evidence that standards are either being maintained or diluted. If you feel you might be able to help, the University invites you to contact Professor Alderman, Middlesex University, Trent Park, Bramley Road, London N14 4YZ.

Student Sub-Let Shocker

Two female students have been thrown out of Queen Mary and Westfield College halls following the discovery during room inspections that their rooms were being sub-let. The inspections were triggered following the receipt of an anonymous letter at the Residences Office by an irate student who had not been allotted a room in halls in any of her three years at the college.

Unconfirmed figures suggest that one in every five rooms in the halls is permanently shared by a student and her or his "partner".

BMA Racism Report

The British Medical Association (BMA) has admitted that racism is not just rife, but institutionalised throughout the "whole culture" of the medical world. This comes as new research has shown yet again that white applicants to medical schools are twice as likely to gain places as their black or Asian peers.

The admission comes as institutions across the country are facing widespread condemnation and criticism regarding their policies and outlook towards racism in general. While many institutions have formed policies of not tolerating racism in any form, it remains a fact that ethnic minorities are six times more likely to face disciplinary action from the General Medical Council, while consultants who are white are more than three times more likely to obtain a merit award than those from ethnic minorities. Moreover, junior doctors with Asian surnames have only half as much a chance of getting shortlisted for an NHS hospital job as others.

The acceptance is by no means universal among the profession, however. Prof Roderick MacSween, chairman of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges, said: "I do not think the medical profession is racist in any way. I am aware of accusations of racism. But the profession has looked at it and is very conscious that it must not be seen to be racist at all."

University Challenge

University Challenge season is here once again with the arrival of

By Sunil Rao

application forms from Granada television. So how can you get involved?

Over two hundred colleges nationwide take part in the first selection round, from which the best twenty-four are pulled out to take part in the televised rounds. The competition is quite tough, which is why the College is on the lookout to capture the very best team it can. Imperial unfortunately hasn't made it to the televised round since the 1996/97 season, but this year things will hopefully be different - with Imperial aiming to repeat the successes of 1995/6, when they won the competition.

The squad will be selected via a quiz, which is expected to be held in early March. The four best performers will form the team, with a fifth person acting as reserve. The only requirement is that, since the series will be aired from 1999 to 2000, any team members must not just be current students; they must also be students for next year.

Why would you want to take part? According to Chris Harrison, president of the ICU Quiz Society and sole member of the winning team in 1996 still

here at Imperial, "Being on TV is a lot of fun; the whole recording process is a great laugh. It's hard work, but it's something you'll never forget!"

Teams from Imperial have tended to suffer in the past as, being a college of Science, Technology and Medicine, most students are well versed on science-related matters, but are woefully ignorant of anything to do with the arts world - in stark contrast to most colleges across the country who have trouble finding somebody to answer the science questions! Consequently, you stand a very good chance of getting on the team (and perhaps steering it to victory) if you're of the 'arty' persuasion.

If you're interested in having a go and seeing if you might actually make it on to the team, or if you have any questions at all about the dates and selection process, please email the ICU Quiz Society at quiz@ic.ac.uk. If you're unsure about the standard of questions, you might wish to look at the qualifying questions for the last four years - they are all archived at www.icparc.ic.ac.uk/~cah1/UC/. Typically, qualifiers have tended to get at least half these questions right.

SAS Martial Art Academy invites you to

THE MOVIE MAX FIGHTING SHOWCASE

In aid of the charity Whizz-kidz - the movement for non-mobile children.

To be held in the Great Hall, Sherfield building, IC.
On Sunday, 7th March 1999 at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm).

Brace yourself for an evening of explosive, close quarter fighting as Sifu Andrew Sofos and his instructors demonstrate their skills in the art of Wing Chun Kung Fu including:

- Unbelievable 7 onto 1 fighting with weapons
- Blindfolded table fighting
- Roof tile breaking
- Wood smashing
- Demonstration of Wing Chun wooden pole and swords
- Wooden Man Fighting.

This breath taking and fantastic evening will incorporate the soundtracks of major films such as Pulp Fiction, James Bond, Rocky, Ben Hur, and many, many more... All performances contain special effects and stunts (plus comedy thrown in for good measure!).

Tickets cost £6, £8, £10, or £12.

e-mail hakon.tretvoll@ic.ac.uk or contact the SAS Martial Art Academy on 0800 328 7086 or mobile 0850 200 648.



The future's free*, the future's Linux

* that's free as in 'free speech', not 'free beer' - a Linux distribution CD will cost you 2 quid

Last Wednesday Imperial's Linux User Group and DocSoc put on their first Linux symposium, which consisted of four short but informative talks on aspects of the Operating System (OS).

The first talk was given by Ed Avis, a first year computing student, who described the development of Linux starting with work on UNIX in the 70s. This was interesting even for those who were familiar with Linux's background; people were on the edge of their seats as Ed told us how the introduction of (relatively) cheap PCs in the 80s led to the development of MINIX, intended to help with teaching OS principles, which provided the original basis for Linux.

In parallel with this Thomas Sipel-Dau installed Linux on a PC in the room, and explained the handful of option screens you go through during the process. The installation was surprisingly straightforward and took about 20 minutes, the only problem being Thomas forgetting what he entered for the root password (he got it eventually).

Next Sunny Chan demonstrated



By Marc Broster

Not just DoC students attended the meeting

some office applications and desktops, resulting in several cries of "I have got to get that" from the excited audience.

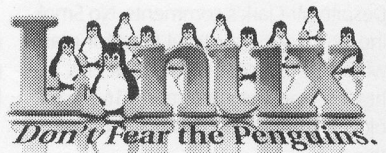
After a break for coffee Gerdjan Busker from the Physics department

told us why Linux was ideal for scientific visualisation and simulation; whoever was responsible for making Windows NT the dominant OS for a certain department's computing lab

must have felt humbled, and with good reason.

Finally Marco Luchini from the Maths department discussed using Linux to network a group of PCs to provide high levels of processing power. I learnt more about parallel computing in these 20 minutes than I did in a term's course on the subject.

Overall, the event was excellent, and the room was packed out with a good cross section of Imperial's population; students, lecturers, and a fair number of people from outside college - one group even made the arduous journey from the Natural History museum. If you want to know about future events, you can subscribe to the user group's mailing list; see www.mailnet.co.uk/~marc/linux.html for details.



www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball

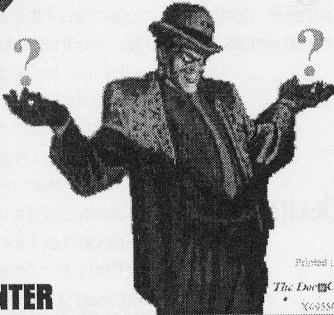
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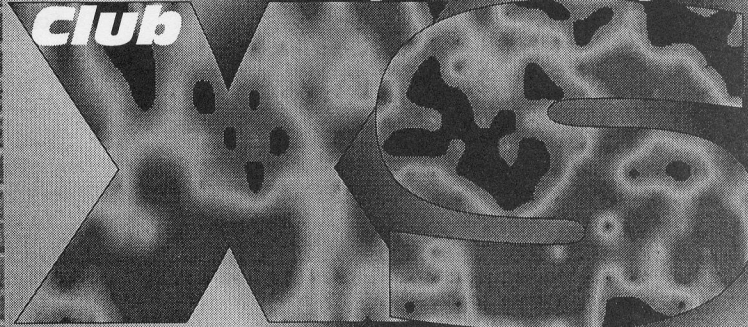
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ICU ents presents

Weds 3rd

Every Wednesday 9-1

Club



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

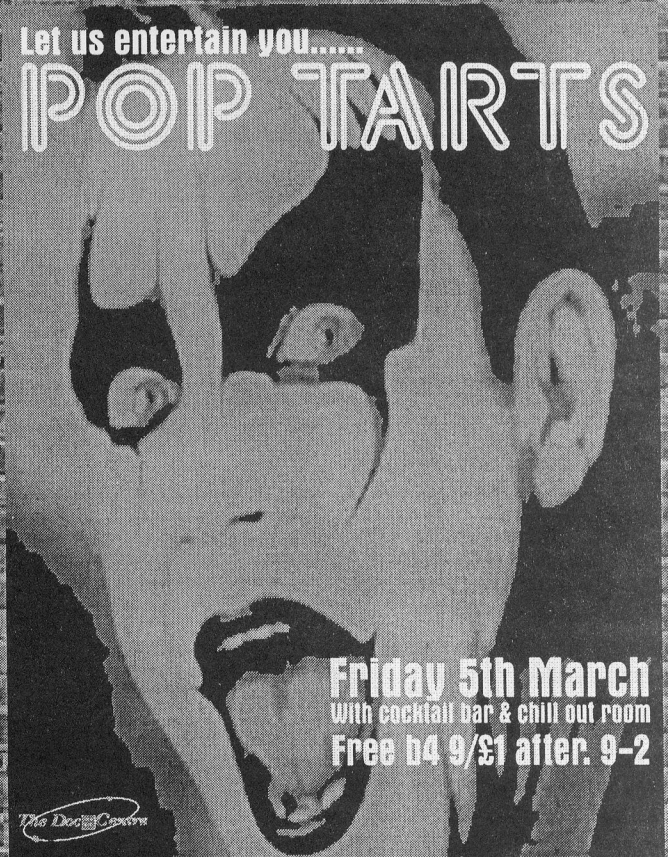
ICU

Your Union - Run for you

Fri 5th

Let us entertain you.....

POP TARTS



Friday 5th March
with cocktail bar & chill out room
Free b4 9/£1 after. 9-2

The DocuCentre

ICU

It's Your Union - Be part of it

Thurs 4th

Glamour, sophistication Da Vinci's and Cocktails after dark



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In Da Vinci's Bar

Printed by The DocuCentre X49580

Another service from your Union ICU

COMEDY CLUB
BUSTAGUT

FRIDAY 5TH MARCH

**STEVE BEST
LEE CANTERBURY**

In dBs. Doors 8pm. £2.50/£2

Whiplash
Alternative Rock & Metal Night

Sat 6th 8-12. FREE

iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Your Union - Run for You



More on Bike Theft

Dear Felix,

I write in response to Neil Forsyth's letter published in the last issue.

A couple of years ago, I used to cycle to and from College everyday. Within the first two months of commuting by bike, I had had TWO bikes stolen. The first time I had parked it at the racks just outside the Elec Eng main entrance, and the security cameras were too far away to pick up any useful footage. So when I got my second bike I made sure I parked it right in front of the two cameras outside RSM. When this second bike got stolen, the security camera picked up all the action, but because of the infrared lights on the cameras were off-line, only the silhouette of the thief could be seen, and no identification could be made.

Given this kind of situation, Security could hardly make any claims on the effectiveness of the cameras. My objection is that they should at least make sure that the cameras are in perfect working condition at ALL times. My advice to anyone who needs to lock their bike on campus: don't use a brand-new bike (and if you want to use one, give it a good bashing first so it looks worn out!), and take the saddle off when you leave your bike.

Carol Lo
Elec Eng 4

Mary's Merger Welcome?

Teddington to property developers, the medical school to a multinational. What's next? Are the students at Mary's to be leased out to film companies as extras? Has IC gone money mad? The promises made by IC that the second year medics wouldn't be adversely affected by the merger have proved false. By selling the med school IC will take away their home and probably ruin their medical school experience. What we are seeing now resembles an aggressive takeover with Mary's being broken up and sold to the highest bidder. Their minds don't appear to be on the important issue- the student. And who are these money men who control the path of Imperial? I have a vision of Dr. Evil sitting in his large black, leather chair plotting world domination and if anyone disagrees his, finger reaches for the red button under the table.

Apparently, the discussions with Glaxo-Wellcome about the sale of the med school have been going on for some months. This sort of issue only ever comes to the attention of the student when it is leaked. Is the information being withheld purposefully until everything is signed, sealed and any student protest would be in vain? In fact - is Imperial being run by Tony Blair?

Steven Grant
Biochem II

Nice one, RSM

To everyone involved in Cambourne vs RSM:

A couple of points:-

i) Congratulations on a fantastic victory over Cambourne. Long live tradition and beer fights in the Union Bar.

ii) Apologies to everyone travelling to Harlington for the matches against Cambourne. Due to an honest administrative error some problems were experienced with the coaches. Hopefully by the time that Felix goes to print the post-event problems will have been resolved and we can live in peace and harmony once more.

iii) If anyone was offended by the absence of the DP(C&S) at the matches then I must apologise. I had every intention of being there to cheer RSM on but navigating the womens minibus until 4:30am on Saturday morning unfortunately got the better of me. Just thought I'd let you know...

love

Marie Nicholaou

Summer Ball Bookings

Dear Summer Ball Team,

We are looking to purchase approx. 40 tickets for the Summer Ball for final year students in our department to say their final

farewell. Can we get a group discount?

Regards

Final Year Students

Reply:

Dear Final Year Students,

We are unable to offer group discounts, but we will be offering champagne and other extras to the members of the largest group booking we receive. Contact summer.ball@ic.ac.uk for more details.

Regards

Summer Ball Team

Cryptic Cock-ups

Dear Felix,

I write with reference to Gnat Chum's Cryptic Crossword. The crossword is normally excellent, and provides a most stimulating distraction during Monday's afternoon lectures. However, I can't be alone in noticing that the clues are becoming increasingly riddled with typographical errors. A typo such as replacing a double 'l' with a single 'l' is confusing, particularly in an anagrammatical clue, and you should really (sic) appreciate this. Worse still, accepting the presence of mistakes will encourage the reader to question the accuracy of correctly presented clues.

The answers given the following week are often roughly accurate (1136: India for Indian and Parsonage for Parsonages). Furthermore, in 1136, I was somewhat thrown by Gnat Chum's geography. The clue "Four teas with sugar in a French town" should perhaps read "...in a German town", unless there exists a second Stuttgart about which I am unaware.

Yours etc.

Sam Jandwich

Praise from Patrickson

Dear Felix

I feel that I have a few things to say. Naturally, I'm disappointed at not being elected but I congratulate Tasha on landing the Presidency. I'm sure the Union will be in safe hands next year. The Presidential race brought out a lot of good points and strong views that I hope will be followed up on - It would be a shame to waste all the ideas that were generated.

Various students have had words of commiseration for me today and some had harsh words to say about St. Mary's. I'd really appreciate it if this stopped. I think members of the Mary's campus are only protecting their interests. All those that voted on the South Ken campus can have a slight gripe but for those that didn't, you

have nothing to complain about. I don't really want to use the term block vote but I will - it's not impossible for any group of people to mobilise a block vote if they really want to. I do not personally advocate it (naturally) I'm just saying that any campus/department is capable of doing it. Perhaps this is something that those who are here next year should think about it when the elections come round again. The point is though, that I don't wish the graphical representation of the votes to be just more fuel to the fire that fights integration.

I'd like to end on a personal note. I thank all those that contributed to my campaign, both emotionally and physically. There were so many people that helped that I can never really repay all of them. I was always told it was wrong to single any one person out for praise as it belittles others efforts. However, I don't believe in that. There was someone that sacrificed a lot of time and effort, who faced the wind tunnel that is the walkway, who ended days smelling like a mixture of a print unit and a blu-tack factory and who gave me confidence and strength when I was over-run with doubt. Pascale - thank you.

Well done and good luck to the Fab Five!

Dennis Patrickson

Clearer Air in the Union

Dear Felix,

Your throat feels as though it's not felt the touch of water for years, your eyes sting like hell and visibility is poor at the very best. And then there are your lungs....

I am of course talking about the Union. The WHOLE union. For when the union becomes active, a choking, cloaking field of smoke descends upon its interior. Now I myself have nothing against smokers as individuals, indeed I have some friends who smoke. But collectively I hate 'ya you selfish bastards.....!

The Union last Friday was full of smoke, everywhere. Previously I had had to leave Southside at half-time during England v. France because I couldn't hack the smoke anymore (ok so maybe leaving at half-time wasn't such a bad idea anyway). I am not the only non-smoker who has reservations over passive smoking. I hope I am not the only student who will speak out against it.

I will not be forced to smoke - passively or otherwise. The air in London is bad enough as it is. Should people like myself be inclined to stay away from the union because of this?

I'm not saying smoking should be banned - but designate some areas non-smoking or at least get some decent air-conditioning in and prove to us that the union isn't run by a bunch of insensitive grippers.

Andrew Vivian
Biology II

Dear Felix

On Thursday the 18th of February, my mountain bike was stolen from in front of the BMS building where it was double locked to the green side of the standing fence with a D-lock and a kryptonite cable lock. The event took place sometime between 10am and 3pm, in broad daylight and in an area where people are constantly walking by.

My bike was brand new - I had it for under two weeks, since this was a replacement bike for one that was stolen in early in November. As I am not allowed to bring a bike into the BMS building, I have no choice but to keep it locked outside. I think it is ridiculous that anyone who cycles into college every day should have to ride in a severely dilapidated bike to discourage its theft because the college has no concern over the property of their students and staff. I would be interested to see the total estimated value of all of the bicycles reported stolen from the college per year and wonder if this cost would be enough to stimulate a response from those in a position to take action or is it just a complete lack of interest from those who are unaffected?

In any event, the least the college should do is make all staff and students aware of the thefts and encourage people to look for and report any witnessed events that could help catch or deter the thieves.

Terrie Sadusky-McCaul



Elections are Over

I wanted to avoid the subject, but it's time for a little chat. Firstly, congratulations and all that to the five of you. There are still a few mumbblings in the bowels of IC about vote rigging, unfair campaigning and suchlike, but I think it's safe to say elections are over.

Let's be honest, though; many of you non-medics are not happy with the outcome. Many of you are screaming 'block vote' and cursing the ICSM Exec under your breath. I think much of what Dennis says in his letter opposite is right. I also think that if the medics did all vote for Natasha simply because she is 'one of them' and to protect medical interests, they are likely to be

disappointed.

The job of ICU President is to protect the interests of all IC students, regardless of their department or CCU. Departments and CCUs have their own representatives - ICSM have a full time sabbatical officer. When Andy Heeps was elected certain Union hacks trembled at the prospect of ICU being taken over by ICSM. It didn't happen. In the registry a sabbatical officer is listed as an 'interdepartmental postgraduate'. You leave your departmental and other prejudices behind when you sign the contract. I hope that everyone will remember that.

If the medics want to vote for a medic, I can't see a problem, as long as they remember that officer repre-

sents ICU, not ICSM. Likewise I hope that the reverse prejudice, which still lurks in hacks' corners in ICU, can be put aside. Judge sabbatical officers on how they do the job, when they are doing it. I would be the first to admit that when Dave Hellard was elected last year, I was sceptical. I am pleased to say that my scepticism was unwarranted, and that I have been proven wrong. Becoming a sabb changed the way I acted and thought about students, ICU, and ICSTM. Once again may I wish Natasha, Tim, Ian, Kevin and Dave all the best. No doubt Felix, and its readers, will form opinions about you next year. Until then (and probably not then anyway), I'm saying nothing more on the subject.

Forget Drugs... Don't Sleep!

No more e***** this year means no more fortnights from hell for Felix, which is undoubtedly a good thing. One thing I will miss, though, is the post-tiredness adrenaline trip - that weird hallucinogenic state you enter when you stay up for thirty hours, get two hours sleep, and then stay awake for another twenty-four. I have not experienced it in its full 'is that a rabbit or a Volvo?' splendour since the regular clubbing days of my first year. So sorry if I bumped into anyone last week and murmured an apology about lamp-posts. If you get regular sleep and have never experienced it, try it out - before that nine to five office job starts. - Ed

Engineering Information Resources

3 March, 2.15pm - 4pm Introductory Talk
4 March, 1-2pm Compendex
9 March, 1-2pm NTIS
11 March, 1-2pm ANTE
16 March, 1-2pm INSPEC
18 March, 1-2pm Metadex
All take place in Central Library Level 5

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PCMCIA modem by Digicorp,
28.8kB/s speed, brand new
and boxed

comes with all hard and software
(sealed), includes some internet/mail
software, £30.

Call 0171 244 8060 or email
dc197@ic.ac.uk

Royal Society Journals Now Online

The Library is now subscribing to the electronic, as well as the printed version, of the following publications of the Royal Society of London:

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Science

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences

Access is limited to members of IC and will be from Imperial College campuses only. A username and password are not required.

The WWW address is:

URL: www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk MODEM for sale.

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.

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.

Evian Reps Required

Nominal Bursary
Good experience

Contact nickr@beatwax.com

Programming Tuition

Having trouble with your computing course? For private tuition by first class IC computing graduate, call James on 0181 378 5442 or email JRR1@doc.ic.ac.uk

Rag Mag

Still on sale for only 70p
Available from the Union Office, Felix and Waterstone's.
All proceeds to give rag charities

City & Guilds Meeting

Officers and members committee meeting.
Thursday 11th March, 5.30pm, Guilds Office (Mech Eng Room 340)
Papers to be submitted by 5pm Thurs

Bicycle Hospital

Low cost bicycle repairs, spares and sales on campus.
Call James on 0181 378 5442 or email JRR1@doc.ic.ac.uk

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.



The Week Ahead

Monday

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

Tuesday

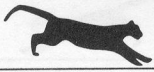
News Meeting 12pm
Clubscene 12pm

Thursday

Phoenix Meeting 12pm

Friday

News Meeting 1.20pm
Music Meeting 1.30pm



Well, I'll go to the foot of our stairs. Five posts filled in one foul swoop. RON got absolutely nowhere, which must have upset the Rector, but it does mean we will not have to endure this malarkey again this year. Congratulations to all concerned, who seem to be a pretty solid bunch of chaps and chapess. It was reassuring to see so many choose to stand this year and while some will debate the relative proportions of quality and quantity, it bodes well for Imperial.

The Presidential race was particularly encouraging from the candidate count perspective, though it did not require Mystic Meg to predict the result from the outset. Though in no way meant as a slight at Natasha Newton, this election will be won by a medic on every occasion that they choose to field a candidate. Which, of course, brings me to the block vote. In a touching show of solidarity with the TUC, one man decided how the whole medical school voted [er, not this time Simon - Ed], displaying unprecedented unanimity. To be fair, it is amazing that Wade Gayed could organise anything successfully, but he has clearly pulled out all the stops on this one, perhaps explaining his conspicuousness of late matching that of Salman Rushdie in downtown Tehran. The upshot of the departmental voting means that Natasha won convincingly in only the medical campuses and Silwood. The St Mary's vote was quite overwhelming, representing 92% of the votes cast there.

Across the 'old' College, the vote was not so resounding. I wonder if the inevitability of the block vote is in part responsible for galvanising the apathy of IC, leading people to ignore the elections. Possibly, but it certainly makes a mockery of the process. Some may call for a return to first past the post, a vastly superior system in my humble opinion, but at the end of the day, ICU will elect its officers in much the same way as the old Labour Party until the medics grow up and start using their not inconsiderable brains to think for themselves.

Still, you can't blame Natasha for the behaviour of her sheep-like colleagues, so I wish her the very best. She could be forgiven for thinking that the medics are the only people that count - why not, since much of College senior management has thought that

for ages- but I am sure that she will follow in the footsteps of Andy Heeps, who banished such notions from his mind. The Mary's mob were defeated elsewhere in the use of New Election block votes, which is great news, but represents a far more pathetic spectacle. I have no doubt that the successful candidates so affected will have the magnanimity to treat them with same respect they exercise when dealing with the rest of us.

Neil Forsyth's excellent letter about College Security raises many important points. Important, but far from novel, because this has been dragging on for as long as anyone can remember. Column miles have been written by myself and others, with precious little positive outcome, and several incidents spring to mind; the best/worst must surely be the bike removed by cutting a Walkway bikestand with a powersaw without anyone batting an eyelid. For what seems like a reasonably simple problem to tackle, the College attitude has always been puzzling and deeply disappointing. Ken Weir's letter was uncharacteristically unconvincing, raising more questions than it sought to answer.

The obvious move, as Neil suggests, would be to install a camera or two to cover the Southside bike racks, and for that matter, all the others. This apparently is not

possible, for a camera would 'infringe the privacy of other local residents.'

Leaving aside the fact that most residents are probably resigned to the intrusion that is Imperial College, this seems to be a bit of a red herring, because the camera need only be positioned in order that it points towards Princes Gardens. If this required additional lighting, so be it. While this is clearly no panacea, the

existence of a well-publicised camera would deter some and make the detection of crime considerably easier. The 'advantage' of bike crime over other forms of theft is the concentration of the targets- it is not that hard to cover all of College's bike stands. This should not prove to be very costly, and is certainly better than plain-clothes operation by the police. At this point, someone will bleat about resources. It never ceases to amaze me how some people have the bare-faced cheek to block small, important projects in the name of tight budgets, at an institution whose track record for profligacy makes Imelda Marcos' footwear collection look frugal. The College produced a £12 million surplus in 97/98, giving us overall reserves of £42.7 million. On this basis alone, there is no excuse for not spending a few thousand on the necessary cameras; if it costs anymore than that, it'll be due to the use of a Col-

lege Approved Cowboy, er Contractor, but don't get me started on that.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

More worryingly, Neil suggests that the local police are getting a tad annoyed by the continued petty thefts from IC. Losing the police's goodwill would be disastrous for College, the ramifications of which extend far beyond additional pissed up students getting banged up on a Friday night outside the Union. This would be precisely the sort of thing that could harm relations with the local authorities vis-à-vis planning applications.

College Security have had a pretty good track record of late, and I'm not just saying that (though they do know where I live...). My own department benefits from some superb staff, as do many of the other buildings on campus, representing a significant improvement on a few years ago. Bike theft remains their Achilles' heel, so their apparent reluctance to tackle the problem effectively makes no sense.

While on the subject of Imperial's incredibly limited resources, it was curious to note that we have more staff earning £50,000+ than Oxford and Cambridge combined. This concerns me. Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with paying our academics a decent salary. On the contrary, I strongly believe that the best researchers should be properly rewarded. National pay scales should, of course, be scrapped, giving universities complete freedom to pay whatever they want, including the introduction of performance-related pay.

My uneasiness stems from another question- how many are academic staff? Unfortunately, such figures are not published by HEFCE, so I have to limit myself to catching whispers on the breeze from others discussing the same point in the SCR. The truth is that we seem to have a significant number of people in Sheffield on such salaries. I suppose this is to be expected with such a bloated management structure caused by decades of empire building. However, that does not make it acceptable. It would be an interesting exercise to see how much money could be ploughed into academic salaries by taking a machete to our administration.

Go on, Suite Five, what do you say? We could even get the consultants in on this one...

"It was good to see so many candidates...while some will debate the relative proportions of quality and quantity, it bodes well for Imperial."

"...this election will be won by a medic on every occasion that they choose to field a candidate..."

"...It never ceases to amaze me how some people have the bare-faced cheek to block important projects in the name of tight budgets..."

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ICU Students' Handbook 1999

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- To organise and administer the bookings.
- To attend and work with the Handbook committee.
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- To write entertaining, quality features of relevance to future students.
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- To attend and work with the Handbook committee.
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Applications for either position are invited from any full member of ICU.

Pay £400. Positions to commence at the end of term and run until the end of next term.

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.



THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

Rose Bruford College at the ICA

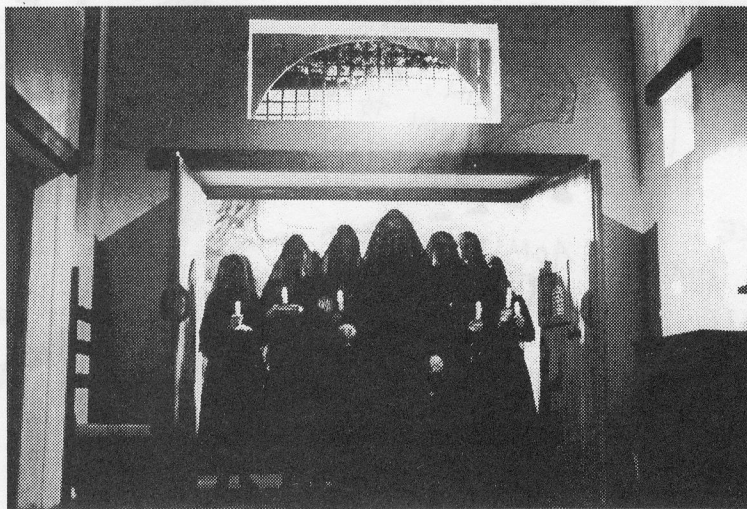
The Playwright was dragged out of bed just before dawn. Fear and confusion hit him like a bomb blast in a crowded street. He was half-naked but they insisted he go out into the yard behind the house; someone kicked him hard. They stopped at a spot near a big tree; the Playwright noticed one of them had a gun. They told the Playwright he could smoke a cigarette, but his hands were shaking too badly to light it. Sometime later a five-year old girl found the Playwright's body lying in a ditch. Her father said he remembered hearing a gunshot early one morning.

The Playwright was Federico Garcia Lorca, and this is how I imagine his murder by Fascist soldiers. The murder took place a short time after he had finished writing the play *The House of Bernada Alba*. The year was 1936 and the Spanish Civil War was just beginning. Lorca is one of the finest writers of the 20th century and this production by drama students at the famous Rose Bruford College is one of the finest plays I have seen recently. The story documents the isolated and loveless experience of sisters trapped in a house by their oppressive and insensitive mother, Bernada Alba. There are no men in the

play, yet the sisters have each fallen in love with an almost mythical male figure, Pepe el Romano, who they talk about all the time since they see him as their only means of escape.

In one sense, the play is a damning indictment of the parochialism of rural

and suffocating. The company succeed except for one slip. At the end of the second act, the family discover that vigilantes are about to lynch a single mother. They respond by facing the audience and shouting 'Kill her!', which was laughably amateur.



life - *Jean de Florette* without Gérard Depardieu, if you like. But it is more than just historical reportage; it explores the isolation that everyone feels at times. A good interpretation needs to be intense

The entire cast gave good performances. In particular, Florencia Cordeu convincingly played an old woman in the demanding but vital role of Bernada Alba. Karin Inghammer was excellent

as Adela - a persuasive portrayal is really needed here because, as the youngest daughter, she embodies the last ray of hope.

In one scene, Inghammer accidentally tripped over a chair, but she recovered, making the incident look deliberate. This shows great confidence and although there must have been first-night nerves, all the actors displayed a level of technical competence which marked them out as professionals. The only other accident was a rope suddenly dropping from the flies: it looked like a noose. Heavy with symbolism perhaps, but I don't think it was intended!

You've missed the chance to catch this show, but the company are putting on a season of popular plays at the ICA (Institute of Contemporary Arts). If this first performance is anything to go by, the others are well worth seeing. Remember, we're talking Rose Bruford College (up there with RADA) which means you could see actors who become the next Kate Winslet or Ralph Fiennes. And you saw them first, which is definitely worth £4 of anyone's money.

William Burns

TOAST

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs

Set in a Yorkshire bread factory in the 1970s, *Toast* is essentially an examination of the different ways in which people cope with monotony and boredom. Indeed, the factory staff room during the Sunday night shift may not seem the most exciting of locations for a play, but you will find yourself captivated and reluctant to leave.

With no plot as such, the charm lies in the extraordinary and fascinating characters, and with an excellent cast to play them, the personalities of all seven are brought out brilliantly. Mark Williams (*Red Dwarf*, *The Fast Show*) and Sam Kelly (*Coronation Street*) are two of the better known ones, but on board are also two proficient Shakespeare actors and some very experienced theatre stars.

Each of them has a different way of getting through the 12-hour shifts - there's the realist, the optimist, the dimwit, the hard worker, the escapist, the self important one and the lunatic. Throughout the course of the play they reveal their idiosyncrasies, motivations and details about their outside lives.

The play is written by stand-up comedian Richard Bean who has actually

worked in the bread industry and the director, Richard Wilson (*One Foot in the Grave*) ensures that none of the humour is lost. There are some very funny scenes,



and Bean's obvious insider knowledge adds an element of authenticity that somehow seems to make the play all the more entrancing. It is strange in that it

does this by making their humdrum lives appear more convincing and it really does feel weird to be so enthralled by the monotony of their lives.

A staggering turn of events adds a hint of promise on the storyline front, but when nothing comes of this you will find yourself surprisingly undisappointed

and in fact relieved that in the end nothing has changed. The plant is faced with closure and the workers are forced to confront their real feelings about their jobs. This illustrates the characters' feelings of being trapped, and their lack of control over their own lives. Yet we are also shown their strange reluctance to leave it, and to keep everything how it has always been.

Another recurring theme in the play is identity, and how to define yourself when you have no specific role in life but tinning bread. Again, we are shown how each of the characters copes with their anonymity and we leave with a real feeling of knowing and understanding each of them.

You'll want to be back to see what happens in the next shift.

Judy

Until 6th March

Nearest Tube: Leicester Square
Tickets: £5 concessions, standing 10p
Performance times: Monday - Saturday 7pm

BLOOD WEDDING

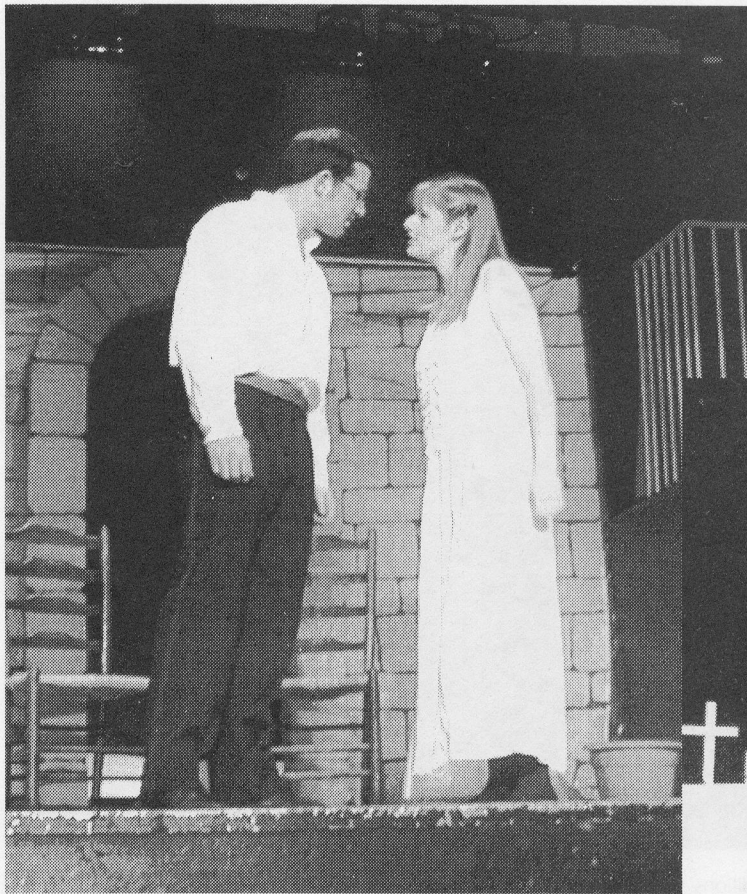
Union Concert Hall

The first production by the newly merged ICSM Drama Society was Federico Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, performed on 17, 19 and 20 February.

The play is set in 1920s rural Spain, and tells the true story of an ill-fated wedding. The bride, daughter of a wealthy hemp farmer, is still in love with Leonardo (incidentally the only named character), who is now married with a child. Leonardo's family has been involved in a feud with the bridegroom's family, in which the groom's father and brother have been killed, leaving his mother nervous and protective of him. Still with me? Good. Straight after the wedding, the bride runs away with Leonardo and the groom chases them. He catches the fugitives after a moonlit pursuit through the forest, and both he and Leonardo are killed in the ensuing fight.

Although the plot is actually fairly straightforward, *Blood Wedding* is heavy on symbolism and meaning. The script is quite stylised, with much repetition of phrases and ritualism. Lorca wrote it in the style of a Greek tragedy; forces beyond the characters' control take over their actions. In this case the main themes are love and family - the blood of the title refers to feuds and heredity as much as it does to the murders.

The strongest characters in the play are the women; the bride, the groom's mother and Leonardo's wife. They are left to cope after the deaths, and come



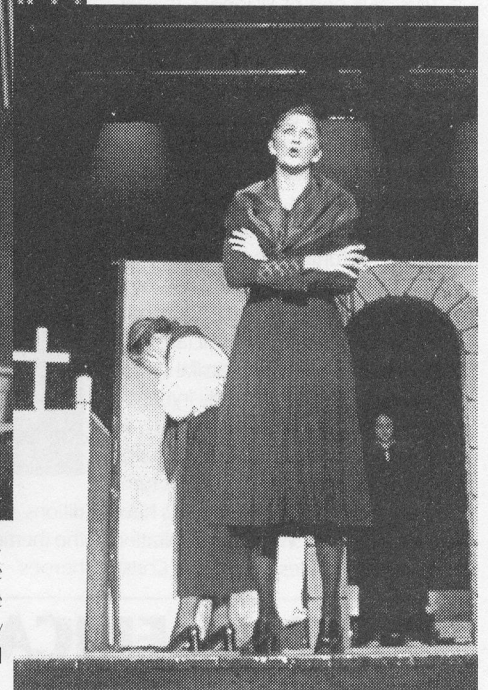
through with dignity.

Despite the complex and at times strained script, the production was extremely good. The cast turned in great performances throughout - in particular, Farah Rehman was excellent as the

mother of the groom. The sets, makeup and costumes were also very well done, giving the whole performance a distinctly Spanish feel. There was a real intensity to the later scenes,

aided by dazzling lighting effects and well-chosen excerpts of classical music. The dramatic effects were impressive, although it was occasionally difficult to follow the action (trying to take photos at the same time probably didn't help, though). Congratulations are due to director Rosie Beal-Preston, and her assistant Ranti Atijosan for an impressive performance. We can only look forward to their next production.

Gareth



HARRODS INTERNATIONAL PIANO SERIES

Royal Festival Hall

This year is the tenth anniversary of the annual international piano series on the South Bank. The Royal Festival Hall has invited the stars for the occasion.

Daniel Barenboim, one of the world's most loved pianists, performed on 7 February. The hall was absolutely full, even with extra seats added on stage near the magnificent piano. I was lucky enough to be sitting rather high up in the balcony. The view was simply stunning, with the people surrounding the performer and his instrument. Barenboim's programme was a treat. He started off with two sonatas by Beethoven, both quite famous and lovely pieces of music. His interpretation was perfect and tremendously expressive.

After a well-deserved interval, he

returned to play Debussy's first book of *Preludes*, one of my favourite creations by any composer. It was simply breathtaking.

He performed the pieces with astounding ease and virtuosity, bringing out the simplicity and splendid musicality of Debussy's work. The audience showed its appreciation and begged for an encore. Barenboim was very generous and came back on stage more than once, playing a beautiful *Nocturne* by Chopin, another personal favourite. His performance was very refreshing and a great reminder of his undoubted talent (this was his first appearance in Britain since the end of the 80s). His career has spanned over 40 years and he is still at the height of his powers.

On 21 February, another well

respected pianist was on stage at the Royal Festival Hall, the Russian Mikhail Pletnev. His recital was yet another stab at perfection. The only problem was that he made a last minute change in his programme, replacing some pieces by Bach for Rachmaninoff, which caused much distress to some members of the audience.

In the end though, they were forced to admire the pianist's talent. He also performed some *Lyric Pieces* by Grieg that were highly poetic and amusing. At this point, Pletnev won the heart of his spectators. His interpretation was spotless. His faultless sense of feeling and expression were inspiring - he seemed to live what he was playing. I have rarely seen such deep involvement in a performer.

As did Barenboim, Pletnev came back for a few encores. He also played one of Chopin's *Nocturnes* to the audience's delight and finished off with a hilarious and touching rendition of *The Musical Box*.

Both concerts were marvellous - a rare experience to witness genuinely enchanting performances.

This distinguished series of concerts at the Royal Festival Hall continues throughout the Spring with other wonderful international pianists coming to London. Artists include Imogen Cooper, Maurizio Polloni and Alfred Brendel - unmissable concerts for anyone who enjoys moments of pure magic.

D.



PARSIFAL

English National Opera, London Coliseum

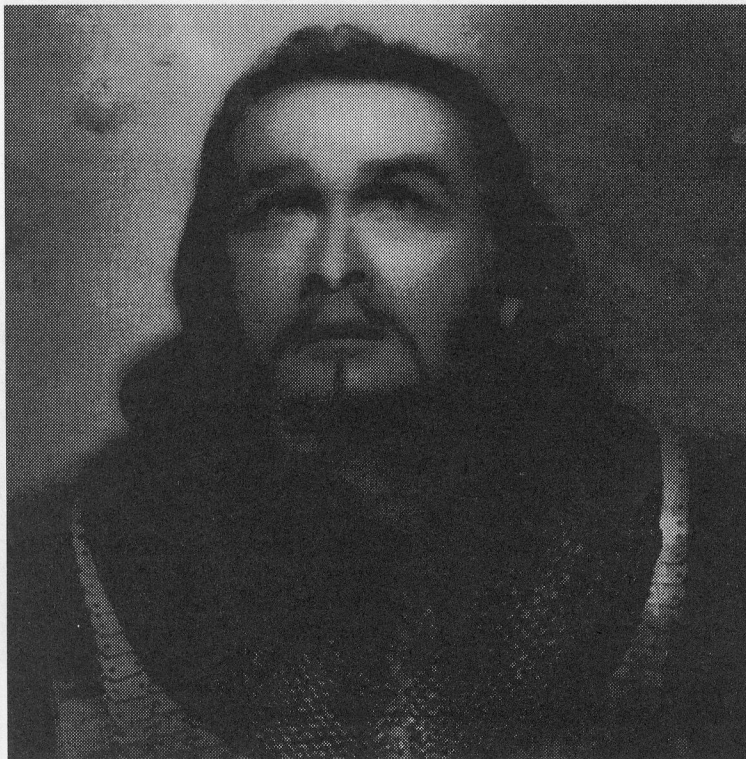
The ENO is renowned in London for making opera much more accessible to people other than opera fanatics. All of its performances are in the English language, making it easy for everyone to understand. This generally creates an odd effect, especially if you're used to hearing the pieces in their original language, which is often much more musical (especially for the Italian composers). But ENO productions are mostly of very high quality and their repertoire is quite varied and exciting.

Parsifal is one of Wagner's masterpieces, first performed in 1882. The story is quite complicated so I will try my best to make it as coherent as possible. Titirel creates an order of chivalry to guard the Holy Grail. His son Amfortas is then chosen by the knights to succeed him. Meanwhile Klingsor is refused admission as a member and turns to sorcery, wounding Amfortas with the Spear from the Grail. He can only be healed by a pure fool made wise. While in agony, Amfortas is unable to officiate the knights' ritual. This is when Parsifal comes into the picture. He has fatally injured a swan to the horror of all the knights. To spare you too many details, Parsifal (played by Kim Begsley, pictured) turns out to be the pure fool the knights have been searching for. Wagner's inspiration for this work includes pagan and Christ-

ian myths (Chretien de Troyes' legends in particular). He was also influenced by Schopenhauer's beliefs and Buddhist tra-

and the details seem to take on an immense importance.

The ENO has worked in collaboration



ditions, which account for the richness of the themes explored in this opera. All the heroes' actions have deep meanings

with companies in San Francisco and Chicago for this production. The result is overwhelming. I have rarely seen such a

visually stunning opera. All the designers involved have made a great creative effort to modernise the decor, lighting and costumes. Their ideas are very inventive and appropriate to the theme. The choreographer also made a brilliant job of bringing a lot of movement to the various scenes. The direction is haunting and very complex, to the image of Wagner's original vision. The artists' voices are a dream. All the men deliver absolutely beautiful solos and the only female character sings with breathtakingly purity.

The only shortcoming of this production is that it lasts a total of five and a half hours including the intervals! However the time flies by with such exciting delight for the eyes and ears. This is opera at its best, drawing intensely on the audience's emotions and pushing them to their limits, both moral and physical. I can only recommend this to everyone. Opera made accessible both financially and artistically is quite rare, so just give it a try!

D.

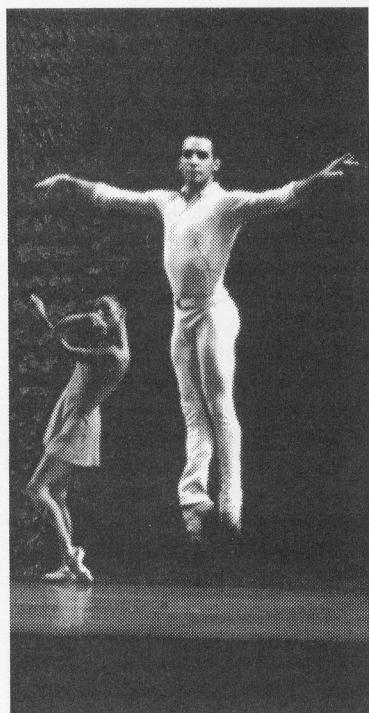
Nearest tube: Leicester Square/Charing Cross

Tickets: student standby £18, standing room £2.50

Performance dates: March 3, 16 & 19 at 5pm, March 6 & 13 at 4pm

GREAT AMERICAN CHOREOGRAPHERS

Pacific Northwest Ballet at Sadler's Wells



Returning to Britain following their successful contribution at the Edinburgh Festival last year, the Seattle-based Pacific Northwest Ballet, founded in 1972, makes its London debut with a mixed programme of innovative modern dance.

First on the bill was *Aract*, a work commissioned to celebrate the recent 25th anniversary of the company. Set to a piano piece by the post-minimalist composer Fitkin, the animated performance fluently blends serenely classical elements with more jazzy influences (pictured left).

The world premiere of *In the Courtyard* choreographed by Donald Byrd was the next offering in the schedule. The modern sound recording combined with powerful lighting and vivid costumes produced a memorable and striking ensemble.

Staged by PNB artistic director Kent Stowell, *Quaternary* is set to

Rachmaninoff's Suite No.2, op.17 for Two Pianos composed in 1901 (pictured right). As the title suggests, four couples perform a sequence of *pas de deux* to four contrasting movement styles (march, waltz, romance and tarantella). Unfortunately, this dissonant act was somewhat diminished by unflattering and uninventive costumes.

Finally, *The Four Temperaments* choreographed by George Balanchine is considered the visually stunning signature piece of the Pacific Northwest Ballet. This act was the definitive highlight of the evening, warmly received and appreciated by the audience. The confident interpretation of such an intricate and technically demanding ballet reveals the impressive standard attained by this accomplished 50-strong troupe.



Tanya

Pratt Smashes Walking Record

This week Dr Pratt smashed his own record for walking backwards during a lecture. Dr Pratt held the previous record for walking backwards during a lecture at 10.7km in a 50 minute lecture. However on Monday Dr Pratt broke his own record, pushing back all the limits, and left the record standing at 15.8km.

Dr Pratt, who likes to be known as Dr Cool (though more commonly referred to as 'Oh God it's him, hide'), is known and avoided throughout the Shep Main Dept for his unique personality. He has been practising backwards walking in the Terrace Lecture Theatre while no students are present (during his lectures). Previously he had been using the linear walk like most

other lecturers, but having mastered this he turned his attention to the more difficult cyclic jog.

The linear walk (LW) is the standard homage used by the lecturer. Lecturers are taught the LW on entering the profession and most use no other. In this method the lecturer approaches the board forwards often bowing to the Goddess of the Blackboard, Jane. Sometimes the bow is disguised as tripping up on the bin/chalk/carpet/air. Once the blackboard is reached some sacrificial chalk is offered using sacred and incomprehensible sym-

By Ross Newell

bols, then the board is retreated from while still facing the surface in order to show respect for the great Jane, often including a large bow disguised as tripping over absolutely nothing and landing flat on their behind. The process is repeated, all the time chanting complete rubbish.

The cyclic jog however does not approach the board forward instead the lecturer walks backwards towards the board thus showing his or her disrespect for Jane, and continues to walk backward past the board, often writing some blasphemous symbols on the board. Then the

board is retreated from in the conventional way. Finally the lecturer completes the circle and the process is repeated.

This system is unpopular because of the offence caused to Jane and often results in expulsion from the sect of Academia. However it does have some performance benefits. Since the lecturer never stops walking and always walks in a backward direction, the distance walked during a lecture is often double that obtainable using a LW and hence has been the target of many professional backwards walkers for some time. None however have managed to perfect the method until now.

After 2 years of practice Dr Pratt has perfected the backwards walk and put it into practice in order to break his own record. During the lecture Dr Pratt walked in 1456 complete circles all in the reverse direction. He used 28,343 footsteps and spoke 123,000 words explaining what a wonderful person he is.

During the lecture he explained how he had single handedly solved all Shep Main related problems ever, including ones previously solved before his birth. He went on to say what a wonderful person he is. He explained how the walk was sponsored and he would raise £10,000 pounds for the DPAF. He finished the lecture by giving a 15min talk on how wonderful he is.

The Dr Pratt Awareness Fund (DPAF) is a charity set up by Dr Pratt to spread the word about Dr Pratt and all the wonderful things he does. It organises TV, Radio, Magazine and newspaper interviews for Dr Pratt, with all proceeds from the interviews going to the DPAF. The DPAF is focusing on the third world where people haven't learned to avoid Dr Pratt yet and may still donate money to continue his self promotion campaign. The DPAF hopes that eventually there will be no one who does not know about Dr Pratt and he will be able to be on TV or Radio 24 hours per day, with a string of fans following him around explaining what a wonderful person he is.

At the moment Dr Pratt has no fans despite most of the first world being aware of his existence. Some people believe that Dr Pratt may become more popular if he had a slightly less obnoxious personality - none have been able to tell this to Dr Pratt due to his refusal to stop talking about what a wonderful person he is.

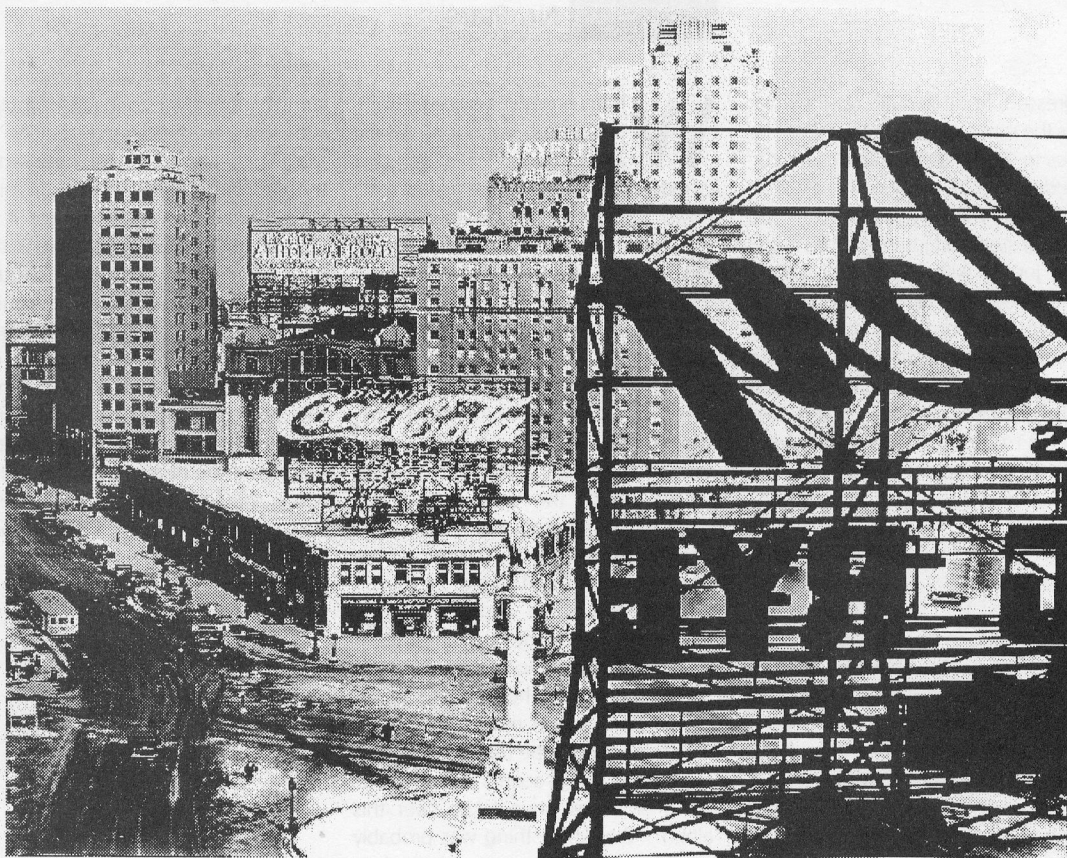
Once the walk was over everyone went to the dinner party organised by Dr Pratt for himself. Everyone ate some food, drank some drink, listened to Dr Pratt, kicked his head in and went home.

Dr Pratt gives weekly lectures in Terrace equation manipulation in the Terrace Lecture theatre every Wednesday afternoon. If you can, try not to be there.

Imperial College Union Operatic Society presents

GUYS & DOLLS

A MUSICAL FABLE OF BROADWAY



2nd - 6th March 1999 at 7:30pm in the Concert Hall, Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7. Tickets £4 (students), £6 (non-students), available at Union from week commencing 22 February. Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser. Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. Based on stories and characters by Damon Runyon. This amateur production is given by permission of Joseph Weinberger Ltd on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.



Albums

STEREOPHONICS

Performance and Cocktails ★★★



Stereophonics, a bunch of chirpy chapples.

I remember hearing *Local Boy in the Photograph* for the first time - it was on some random indie compilation of 'one's to watch out for.' I was blown away by it. I wanted to buy their album straightaway, only to find that they didn't even have a record deal. Since then, they signed to V2, knocked up one of the best out and out rock 'n' roll albums of '97 and were rewarded for their extensive touring by notching up unexpectedly high sales. Word has a funny way of getting around, you know.

Performance & Cocktails is their second album and it's a stonker. It's hard to say how many bands like this will be around come the turn of the millennium. Rock 'n' roll is changing and if there isn't a searing drum loop or random vocal sample blitzing through the distortion, people don't seem to be buying it - it's a shame really because they're missing out on a treat.

Kelly's powerful, gravelly, nicotine-stained, throat-scratching voice pulls

everything together quite nicely. The first two singles show how he can change from one style to the other while still maintaining his distinctly recognisable warble. He ram-raids his way through *The Bartender* and *The Thief*, which I'm convinced is about two lesbians, while quietly building on a soulful verse into a screaming chorus on *Just Looking*.

Singles are scattered throughout this album like sabbatical election posters on the walkway. *I Wouldn't Believe Your Radio* sounds like a distant cousin of the Manics' cover of *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head*. *Is Yesterday Tomorrow's Today?* is probably the biggest single here and its radio-friendly nature will probably mean a high chart entry (even though the charts mean next to nothing nowadays). *Hurry Up and Wait* is another one of those soul-searching numbers akin to one of their previous singles, *Traffic*. *T-Shirt Suntan* could be seen as standard rock fare but there's something special there that you can't quite put

your finger on. Some bands have it, some bands don't. The Stereophonics have it and unlike the first album, they now know how to use it.

I finish with a plea for an endangered species. The tigers of rock 'n' roll are dying out or being killed off. Don't let them die. Fight for your right to rock. True, you could easily call this album *Word Gets Around Again* but as some bloke once said, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it, baby.' **M**

Dennis

SLEATER KINNEY

The Hot Rock ★★★



Sleater Kinney - they raaaawwwkk.

progressed, but it is quite obvious that this is the same band that graced our shores in '97. They're sarcastic and cutting edge. They're exuberant in a violent sort of way. Their guitars flirt with you with their stop-start jutting before going for the jugular with frighteningly simple hooks. They have an adorable way of twinning dual vocal and guitar action and when this is executed they produce the most exhilarating flashpoints of the album - *Burn Don't Freeze* and *One Song For You* being glorious examples of this thrilling interplay.

They have grown up a bit, though. Not a lot, mind - just a bit. There is definitely a tighter feel to some of the tracks. It's a fact that it took twice as long as to record as *Dig Me Out*. However, when that time is clocked in at three and a half weeks, you won't be changing that radically - it's still smashy, it's still trashy, it's still shouty, it's still pouty, it's still punk that goes straight for the throat, it still gets you excited and it still resonates with sharp sassiness. Sleater-Kinney - not a law firm, then. Just a greatly underrated punk-pop band. **M**

Dennis

Sleater-Kinney. Sounds a bit like a law firm, doesn't it? A reputation and a good name built on professional dependability and good taste. It's actually a female trio, which I always have a lot of time for, from the U.S. and they're a Hole (sic) lot better than another band that I'm not going to mention in this review. For those of you that were lucky enough to hear their first release on British soil, *Dig Me Out*, you'll already know that they rock out like the proverbial bastard.

It'd be unfair to say that they haven't

Q-BURNS ABSTRACT MESSAGE

Feng Shui No Stars

When I first received this album, I immediately thought 'What a stupid name for a group, I wonder if the album will be just as bad'. I wasn't let down. This album takes the word poor to new dimensions, but in the interests of journalism, I forced myself to listen to the whole bloody thing. Why is it so bad then? All the tracks on the album feature very simple sounds using synths, guitars, drums, some sort of giant wind chime and, occasionally, vocals. Now, what makes this album so bad, is that all the tracks sound exactly the same; you don't know when one track has finished and another one has begun (and no the album is not mixed!). There are eleven tracks on this album, and it seems that Q-burns have made no attempt at doing anything original or creative, and have simply used the 'cut and paste' option on whatever music programme they happened to be using as much as possible. In fact, it seems that absolutely no time has been taken over this album - the whole thing was probably created during a commercial break in the middle of Richard and Judy. It doesn't make easy listening, because the tracks 'do your f****n' head in', nor is it dance or indie. Basically, the tracks are made up of simple beats (when they appear) and the most simplest of

strings, more often than not, combined with triangles and strange beeps. The 'vocals' consist of out of tune words, though more often they consist of strange wailing sounds. I guess if you like minimalist sounds (and talent) then this is the album for you. If Q-burns' abstract message is that these 'sounds' are some sort of musical statement then it is too abstract for anyone to pick up on. If, however, the abstract message is that Q-burns have no musical talents whatsoever then they have hit the nail of the head. Absolutely pathetic and should be avoided at any cost. **M**

Gurm



Albums

GENE

Revelations ★★★★★



Is this the new hard nut image for Gene? Give it up you wusses.

To appreciate an album like this you need to be three things:

- (a) A thinker
- (b) A dreamer
- (c) A romantic.

If you are not any of these things then I can assure you that you won't like this album. If on the other hand you are, then read on.

With the genius of Martin Rossiter at the helm and a truly fantastic band behind him, you can be sure that a Gene album will never disappoint. Comparisons made in the past about the similarities in singing styles of Rossiter and Morrissey could still be made here but there is one crucial difference...Gene do it better, a lot better.

Each track gives the listener a tiny glimpse into the mind of Rossiter. He sings with a phenomenal amount of passion which is, in my opinion, always a bit of a novelty and something often lacking in the many of today's bands. The problem that arises from the complexity of an intelligent album like *Revelations* is that you cannot expect to pick it up, listen to it once and love it immediately. This is an album that needs just that little bit more time to get into, but when you do I can

guarantee it'll be worth the effort. You'll find yourself returning to it again and again...you could never get bored of it.

Tracks 3 and 13 *Love Won't Work* and *You'll Never Walk Again* are classic examples of what Gene do best. With lyrics like 'Is it too late to find someone? I lie in wait to be undone by anyone' sung with the feeling and emotion that Rossiter is able to convey become truly soul-touching stuff.

There is a lack of any tracks about confused sexuality of the sort that could be found on Gene's massive debut album *Olympian*. They seem to be a more mature band and are now comfortable with subjects like this yet still never disappoint in the sexy song department. In their previous album *Drawn Into The Deep End* this came in the form of *New Amusements*. Here, *The Looker* is the glimpse into Rossiter's darker, most lustful side.

Most of the tracks are punchy with the odd heart wrenching number tucked in between. All contain something extra to make them stand out from the rest. The overall style of the album is more akin to *Olympian* than *Drawn In to The Deep End*. The best two tracks, *You'll Never Walk Again* and *Love Won't Work*, are made great by Rossiter's amazing vocals but would be nothing without the talent of the rest of the band in the rear.

The album is multipurpose in the sense that, of the 13 tracks available, you always seem to be able to find one to fit the mood you are in. It is released on through Polydor on March 1st, and the first single from it *As Good As It Gets*, produced by Hugh Jones, was released on the 15th of this month. Their tour begins Sunday 21st February at Cambridge Junction and ends March 25th at the Forum, London (support tbc). **M**

Dennis

Singles

Sheryl Crow - *Anything But Down*

Including two live acoustic tracks, which is what Ms. Crow excels at, this is what we've come to expect and there's nothing new here. With a mellow guitar, Country drums and the safe, "I think it's all over now love, so bugger off" lyrics she pulls no punches. It's bound to shift units by the bucket load.

Eve 6 - *Leech*

What is it with acoustic sets this week? Arguably the best song on this single is *Inside Out* and not *Leech*, which is in itself a fantastically trashy pop song in the Everclear vein. It's got a really infectious chorus coupled with a soft verse and you can't help singing to it. But will it be a hit? Course not, we've got Steps.

The Junket - *You're The Same*

An incredibly ear-friendly hook paves the way for two high-energy, funky rock songs. The music is tight, and the vocals make no bones about having an English twang. The only thing that lets this down is that it's on vinyl. I mean, live in the now, get a CD because I hate having to traipse about hunting for a record player.

Kent - *747*

Not impressed. Only one song, and though that would be forgivable if it was particularly fine, it's not. Kent are the whiney bits of James and any other "Indie" (my, how

that word grates) band you come to think of. As soon as *747* starts to get going, it finishes. What's all that about then?

ESSENTIAL CHOON

Inch feat. Mark E. Smith - *Inch*

Value for money or what! Five whole tracks seem loads 'til you notice they're all mixes of the same song. Is there such a thing as industrial-bigbeat-metal? Can someone invent it please? The beat's the centrepiece here and it certainly hits you, along with a raw bass and the mandatory twiddly synth. Purposeful.

Monster Magnet - *Space Lord*

Multimedia-tastic! There's a Puff Daddy/ Aerosmithesque video on this that is totally cheesy, I love it! *Space Lord* is similar to all of Monster Magnet's previous stuff, what with their '70s influences, big cars and lay-deez but who cares. It's self-indulgent, loud and a breath of fresh air from what's around at the moment.

Solvent - *Let Me Go*

I should like it in principle because it sounds like they're supposed to be Reef-ish but either the production was crap or the band are. The guitars sound like they're

being played through pillows, the drums are actually biscuit tins and you can just tell the singer's jiggling about the studio. Look boys, don't give up your day jobs. This is your day job? Shame.

The Supernaturals - *Everest*

Another one with one track. When will the madness end? This is a ballad of the highest proportions (geddit? *Everest*. I'm wasted here, I really am) and it's quite enjoyable. There are some lovely harmonious vocals and the lyrics are touchingly normal whilst clever. It's still not a patch on *Day Before Yesterday's Man* though. **M**

Christian



THA BOMB

Desert Eagle Discs Interview

This is the first in a series of interviews with some of the best acts in the British scene, this week we bring out killer sounds of Desert Eagle Discs and next week comes an interview with the British R&B diva Beverly Knight! Stay wired up to Tha Bomb.

When I was first offered this interview I didn't have a clue who Desert Eagle Discs were, the name sounded familiar, but it didn't immediately make me jump up. Further investigation quickly showed them to be one of the most talented British crews around. The Desert Eagle Discs British duo - producer Syze-Up and vocalist Shari - have

been creating a storm on the underground for some time now, stateside they have been busy than most, with the DED name well known in the right circles. Having only just found who Desert Eagle Discs were and checked out their stunning debut album 'The Eagle Has Landed' I found myself interviewing one half of this wicked group - Syze-

Up.

"I started messing about with sounds about fifteen years ago in my garage". When he was just thirteen Syze-Up started out Djing, his equipment was pretty basic but he was able to create loops using a tape machine and so started building a library of samples. As he grew his skillz began more and more honed; he was soon rocking the hip-hop heads with his furious turntable talents. He was soon frustrated with just Djing and it was a natural progression on to production.

"Basically, Desert Eagle Discs started out as my sound system, I used to play out at this club and I invited rappers along to freestyle over some beats, that's where Shari comes in, she just jumped up and started freestyling, I knew she was something special straight away". He ain't joking her vocals are beautifully sultry and the girl herself is dazzling. Her vocals over Syze-Up's hard dark beats are a perfect match.

The two of them searched for a record deal and in '96 they were signed to Boilerhouse

Records, they immediately started work on their album. "The album isn't RnB, I'm not really in to that side of the music, I prefer something a little harder, more gutsy, I'm a hip hop head". Syze-Up, real name Simon Ingerfield, was

influenced by hip hop greatly, but wanted to make an album that showed a darker side of hip hop beats with a bluesy feel to them.

"We still wanted a hip-hop album, and that's why we got 21 soldiers on a couple of tracks, they're a young crew outta Brooklyn, who are on the way up". Originally DED were meant to hook up with the then unknown AZ, but as they flew over to

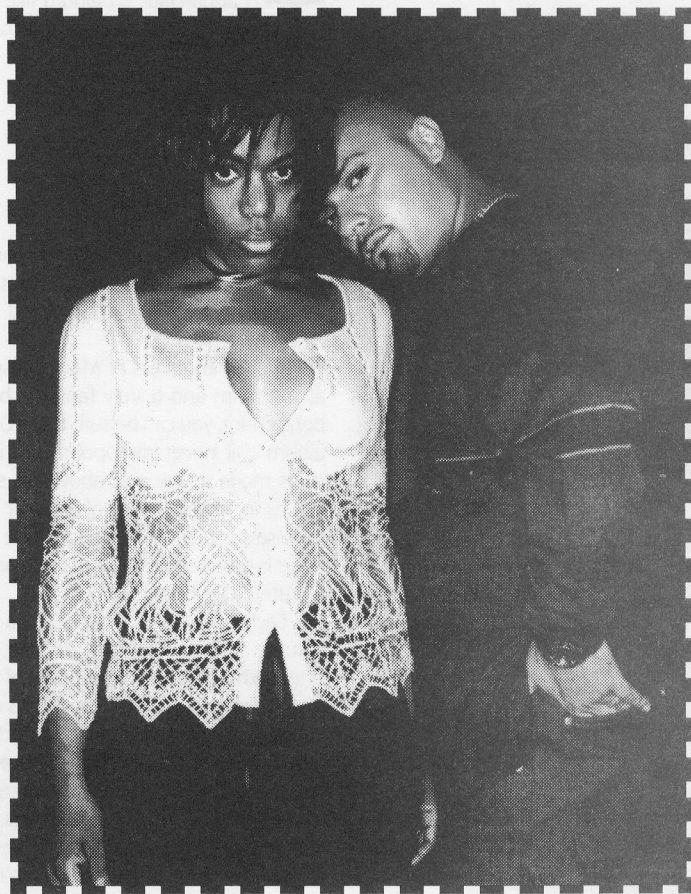
the states AZ blew up with the massive 'Sugarhill' and they were knocked back. 21 Soldiers were from the same place as AZ and they shared the same manager, once AZ

pulled out it was natural for 21 Soldiers to step in.

Two years between getting signed and the album actually droppin', what's up with that? "I've been hard remixing a lot of stuff, soon my Mase remixes are going to droppin'. We have been putting out a lot of white label stuff and tried to build up a following on the underground before the album release." The DED name is massive in the remix world, it all started with a Gabrielle remix that Syze-Up did, someone in the states heard it and the next thing was a Lil Kim remix for 'Crush On You' after this dropped the phone didn't stop. Syze-Up's London groove was/is in hot demand, he reworks the entire tune coming back with some thing brand new. Busta phoned up for a remix on the 'Dangerous' single, "Yeah we flipped that one and used some adlibs from Busta to rework the tune". Syze-Up smoothed it out and stuck Shari's vocals on the back to create a much more funky dangerous that was as infectious as the first.

The Desert Eagle gun is the most powerful handgun in the world and the Desert Eagle Discs come with that same forcefulness in their hard hitting sounds.

Milen



Reviews & Competition

Urban Legend ★★★

Starring : Alicia Witt, Jared Leto, Rebecca Gayheart, Joshua Jackson
Director : Jamie Blanks

My friend went to see this film. Well, he wasn't exactly my friend - I met this bloke in a pub and his cousin swore he had seen it. He told me that it is the latest of those teen horror films made by former video shop attendants who fill an hour-and-a-half with the best scenes from their favourite movies, pausing only to add a liberal dash of irony before serving the result to the cinema going public. I didn't believe him at first, but then he revealed that *Urban Legend* is so-called because the unfortunate college students at the centre of its macabre plot meet their untimely ends in the manner of those contemporary folk tales which have mysteriously entered our collective consciousness. Now I was interested.

After all, everyone has heard of the babysitter who receives phone calls threatening the children in her care and then discovers that they are originating in the upstairs bedroom, and what about the numerous unpleasant stories of food contamination? Who's to say which rat-found-in-burger variants are actually true and which are the result of a fertile imagination and a desire to discredit a fast food conglomerate? It sounded like the perfect

premise for a self-reverential horror film in the vein of *Scream*, with the bonus that, since urban mythology is almost universal, you don't have to be a die hard devotee of slasher films to enjoy the ironic humour.

The whole thing was beginning to sound extremely plausible, and I was finally convinced when someone else described exactly the same film to me, adding that the cast features Alicia Witt (Zoey in TV's *Cybill*), Rebecca Gayheart (*Scream 2*), Jared Leto (*My So-Called Life*) and Joshua Jackson (*Dawson's Creek*).

Apparently, there is even a cameo

from *Nightmare on Elm Street's* Freddie, Robert Englund. This bloke reckoned that it is hugely entertaining stuff, provided that you suspend your disbelief to an almost reckless extent and are willing to overlook some frighteningly bad acting. Somehow performing the feat of being cleverly executed and downright daft at the same time, he claimed *Urban Legend* makes ideal viewing for those who don't take being scared too seriously. Great, I thought, and began looking forward to a trip to the cinema - that was until he told me what he found in his popcorn. **F**

Simon



For God's sake; LOOK BEHIND YOU.

VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels

Six months ago, the prospect of a Brit flick starring Vinnie Jones, Sting and that bloke from Press Gang (otherwise known as Dexter Fletcher), and based around gangland London, hardly sounded like it was going to set the world alight. Yet just a few months later it has become one of the most successful British movies of all time, and remake rights have recently been sold to Tom Cruise, who plans to star and direct the US version.

Even all this success can't allay those initial doubts over the cast - Vinnie Jones looks good, largely because no-one else can act. Fortunately, however, that doesn't matter, as the script, and more importantly the plotting, are phenomenally good. If you haven't seen it already, this is a definite must see.

The Castle

We automatically expect Australian TV to be awful, yet naturally assume their movies will be brilliant. Make sense of that. Anyhow, *The Castle* serves to reinforce this belief, proving to be yet another well constructed (if eccentric) Aussie movie. Although the plot may sound a long way from standard Antipodean fare - dysfunctional seventies family the Kerrigans attempt to protect their home from demolition - it's still packed with laughs and charm.

Lolita

Traditionally one of the most difficult novels to film, any reworking of *Lolita* will always be the focus of media attention due to the notorious plot of Nabokov's story - a middle-aged professor becomes obsessed with a 12 year old girl and marries her mother so he can be close to her.

In this case, however, director Adrian Lyne handles his material carefully, pitching the movie as an extraordinary love story, rather than a titillating skin-flick. Helped by great performances from stars Jeremy Irons and Dominique Swan, his *Lolita* is a classic tale of forbidden love, undescrying of the over-hyped press attention which surrounded it. **F**

Dave

Win tickets to You've Got Mail with the

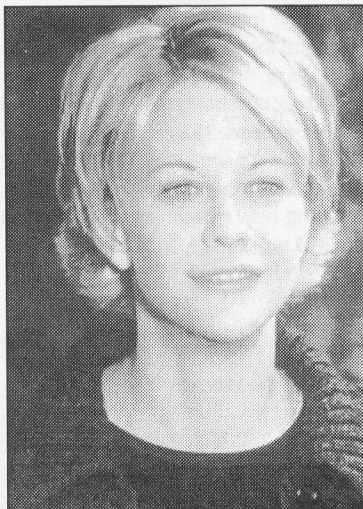
ODEON

KENSINGTON

The reunion of Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, stars of smash-hit *Sleepless In Seattle*, was only a matter of time. Before his recent move into the world of the serious and Oscar nominated, Hanks was the King of romantic comedy, and Ryan long ago trounced Julia Roberts to become its Queen. *You've Got Mail* brings them back together, and you can see it for free by answering the following question:

What was the first film to unite Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan?

Email your answers to film.felix@ic.ac.uk before Wednesday evening. The first five names out of the virtual hat will win a pair of tickets.



The winners of last week's Life Is Beautiful competition were:

Jeremy Gosteau
 May Lee
 Kaaren May
 Alessia Toni
 Ketan Gudka
 Luke Swaine
 Henry Tang
 Sandor de Jasay
 Adam Bettinson
 Irwan Anuar

They all correctly identified that the winner of last year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film went to *Karakter*. Please drop into the *Felix* office (in the Beit Archway) before the end of the week, to collect your prizes.



CLUBSCENE

Heavenly Jukebox @ Turnmills

63 Clerkenwell Road, EC1. Saturdays, 10pm - 6am. Tube - Farringdon. Call 0171 250 3409 for info on Headstart (see below) and 0171 494 2998 for Heavenly.

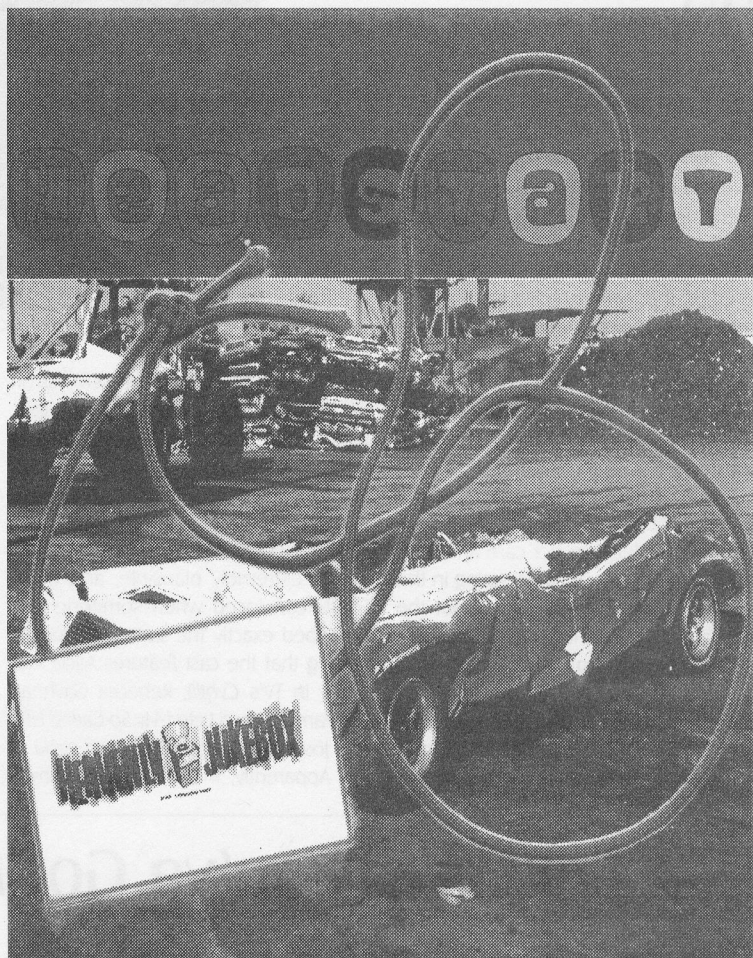
Last Saturday Gurm and I witnessed an epoch-making event - the last (see poster) ever Heavenly Social at Turnmills. This was the night that had introduced the Chemical Brothers (then still known as the Dust Brothers), pushed poppers into mainstream club-culture again, and also witnessed the fall of the "heavenly bottles".

While the clubs décor is varied and interesting, in some places it is literally falling off the walls - it certainly needs a lick of paint. However you don't go clubbing for the wallpaper (unless you're particularly weird), you go for the beats. And the beats were here in force - after a long build up. To be honest the main acts before the Brothers appeared were fairly disappointing. This could be a symptom of the fact that it is very hard for the crowd to see the DJs and visa versa - the booth is almost completely blacked out and raised well above the main dancefloor. Turnmills do say they will be removing the blacked out glass so a little more communication can take place. But on the night, it turned out that the more chilled out and funky secondary dance floor was a far better choice.

The tension before the Chemicals arrived was palpable - the Heavenly faithful were out in force and they helped whip the others into a frenzy - so much so that when one poor bloke had to fiddle with some lights on the dancefloor on a step ladder he was given a standing ovation from the rest of the club! The Bros. whipped out a blinding set, over 3 hours in total - including all the old favourites and, if I am not very much mistaken a couple of brand new DATs doubtless to included in the long awaited new album.

The night was given an added touch of hilarity by the antics of Gurm "Klinsman" Marwaha who's heroics for the IC "Disco Boys" IV's resulted in a severely bruised leg and a pair of crutches - when we entered the club the promoter shouted after us "you'll be needing more than the crutches by the end of the night mate!". Gurm did however put the crutches to good use - in a couple of failed chat up attempts and several visits to the (very nice) bogs - whereupon security cleared a path through the queues straight to a cubical just for him. Ahhhh.

On exiting the club at the end of a truly titanic night we were all handed little goody bags of fun - including flyers and a T-shirt advertising the new replacement night for the Heavenly at



Turnmills. Its called "Headstart" and promises to be a "proper club for proper clubbers" - for more details see the flyers on this page or call 0171 250 3409. Nicesh. Also contained in this little bag of fun was a letter from all the people who had helped put the Social together - one of the most heartfelt

and touching things I have read in a long time. You can tell the Heavenly meant a lot to a lot of people. I can't wait for the second coming.



Joel

Singles and Album

Album of the Week Prodigy Presents: The Dirtchamber Sessions Volume 1

It's hard to imagine, but back in the 80's, long before the Prodigy, Liam Howlett was a DJ in the Essex Hip-Hop band Cut to Kill. He once entered a Capital Radio mixing competition, decided that the tape he had submitted was shit, and sent off another one. The two tapes won first prize and third prize. The Dirtchamber Sessions Volume 1 demonstrates that Howlett has lost none of the old mixing skills. The album started off as a session recorded for Mary Anne Hobb's Breezeblock segment on Radio 1 and is a trip through the sounds

that have influenced the Prodigy into the band that they are. The music goes through a huge spectrum of genres including raw hip-hop, edgy rock and Old Skool beats. Howlett has used some quality tracks, including tunes by the Charlatans. The mixing is superb, and it's amazing how Howlett has managed to put it all together. A great album for fans of all kinds of music.

★★★★★

Single of the Week Gus Gus 'Ladyshave' (4AD)

The strange, ecelectic Icelanders return with their latest offering, 'Ladyshave'. It's a very vocal single with simple beats and eclectic sounds, although it is different from their earlier releases. Oddly enough, the lass who sings on this sounds very similar to Bjork. It comes over 2 CD's and has plenty of remixes, which sadly all sound pretty similar. But as a single the track is great and will be out in the next couple of weeks on 4AD records. They're playing at ULU on the 26th, and Felix will be reviewing the gig soon.

★★★★★

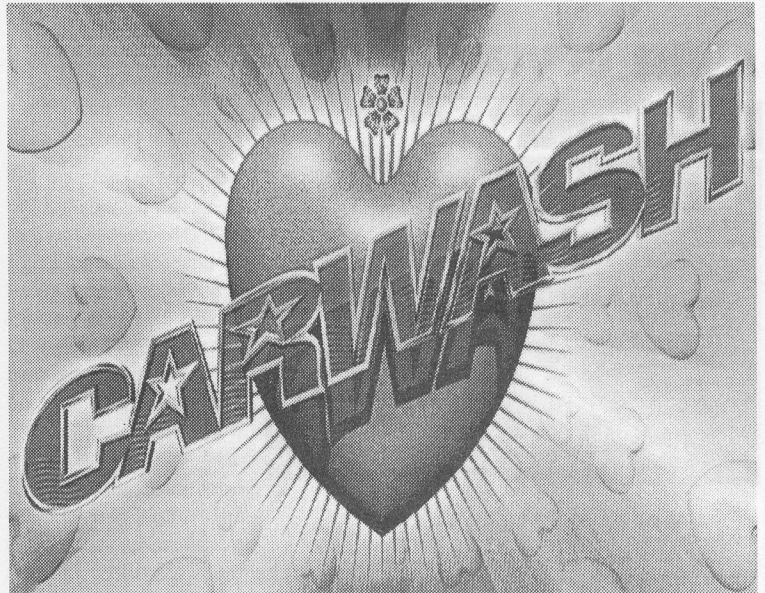
Carwash @ The Astoria 2

Carwash @ The London Astoria 2, 165 Charing Cross Road, WC2. Saturdays, £5/£9/£11, 10.30pm - 4am, capacity = 1,400. Nearest Tube = Tottenham Court Road. Dress code = most funky (see below). Info line = 01426 944764.

Carwash - the name itself has become synonymous with disco and funk throughout the UK. Now in their tenth year, we went to check out what all the fuss was about at their home venue, the LA2. I say this 'cos they often play away, staging events across the country, throughout clubland, and at some of the larger and more funky student unions. If only our's was so - shame.

Now the first thing that you have to

deal with on a trip to Carwash, is the dress code. The door policy is strict and only those of you who make the effort will make it in. Now some people may moan that strict door policies are a bag of shite, but it's the people who make Carwash the night that it is, so you only want those who are willing to make an effort to make it past the door. You don't want any old scruffy geezers making it in 'cos it just wouldn't be fair on everybody else. And once you're inside you'll see what it is really like - funkarama. So to ensure all you disco chicks and funksters get in, here's an insiders guide to, well, how to get in (provided by the management themselves). The following things are in: Stylish Funky Outfits, Flares, Satin, Shiny Clubwear, UV Shirts, Platforms, Kinky Boots, Feather Boas, Glitter, Hot Pants, Sequin Bra Tops, Hipsters, Bunches, Catsuits, Baby Doll Dresses, New York Street Funkster, Pimp Suit, Cowboy Hats, Funky Waistcoats, PVC, Fairy Wings. Most definitely out are: Silly Fancy Dress, Ordinary Jeans, Checked Shirts, Smart Casual, Versace, Brogues, Ralph Lauren Polo Shirts, Elvis Outfits, Chanel, Fake Afro Wigs, Fake Facial Hair, Suits, Doc Martins, Tank Tops, Medal-



ions, Nike, Adidas, and Fila Trainers, Tacky Cheesy 70s.

Now that those necessary technicalities are out of the way let's move onto what the night itself is really like. Was it up to all the hype? YES. Everything just slots into place once you descend down those steps into the LA2. The main bar area is a sea of UV light, where everyone's already funky outfits become even more groovy, and the fluorescent cups and bar area also make for a nice touch. This is a good place to chill-out and enjoy the alternative 70s reality which is Carwash. But there is an unexpected twist to this room - after a while they start to pump out the grunge (!) (Nirvana, Rage Against the Machine et al.), in what I think is a bizarrely cunning way of getting all the punters down to the main dancefloor. It didn't work 'cos some of them just regressed to their instinct-driven teenage years and started moshing around. There was only so much of that which I could take, so I decided to venture downstairs.

And at the main dancefloor it didn't seem as if they needed any encouragement to stay. It was packed, but with still enough room for everyone to strut their funky stuff (except for the podiums where some strategic pushing was needed to let your talents show). This

main arena is arranged on several different levels with podiums galore, plenty of spaces to rest after your exertions, and a wicked guy on the bongos (this time complementing the music).

This is a class act through and through. From the professional dancers (a chick boy wearing a pair of white fluffy speedos, and a girl with a Bucks Fizz-like strip routine), to the groovy sets, mixed by residents Charlie Angel, Dexter, and The Disco Kid, this really is Disco and Funk for Clubbers. And it never gets cheesy despite being a 70s night. This is not shitty student union/office party music for the masses, but rather a great blend of classic disco and 90s club remixes of funk/disco tunes.

One of the best nights I've been to in the capital, 'cos it's just so much fun. If you want a break from serious, hardcore dance music then go to Carwash and just groove without a care in the world. Check out their double CD too - it's lush.

Boogie Nights.



Roobarb



Shazz
'Carry On'
(Columbia/Reverb)

Lifted from Shazz's eponymous debut, this single, featuring Charmaine King on vocals, doesn't do him or his album any justice. The production may be polished, as you would expect, but the tune just doesn't cut it. The blurb describes it as "mid-tempo house" with "considerable dancefloor energy," but I'd say it sounds as lethargic as student on a Sunday morning. I can't really imagine this giving any dancefloor a blast of energy. But all is not lost, 'cos if you play this at +8 on your decks then it begins to sound alright - fuck knows why they

recorded it at such a slow tempo. If "mid-tempo house" is your sort of thing then buy this on vinyl and crank it up. Don't go near the CD though, or you might just fall asleep.

★
Sash
'Colour the World'
(Multiply Records)

The Euro-house king's latest single is, strangely enough, a Euro-house tune incorporating African vocals and sounds. It's very different from the stuff he's released in the last couple of years, which has always had those cheesy vocals. 'Colour the World' features vocals

and sounds from Africa, and Sash has tried to incorporate these into a Euro-house-type tune. It works quite well, but it's not as good as the stuff he used to make and doesn't feature the thumping bass lines that trademark Sash's tunes. Comes with three remixes - the tune is out in the next month.

★★★★★
Da Book
'A Bomb from a Friend'

Weird, but good tune. This track is a hybrid of hip-hop sounds and garage beats that works quite well. On the one hand, we have slow vocals whilst the

other, the beat is almost garage style. The track comes with three mixes, one which is a garage version and while the other two have deep, slow vocals on a hip-hop sounding beat. Out in the next month, it's a tune worth checking out.

★★★★★



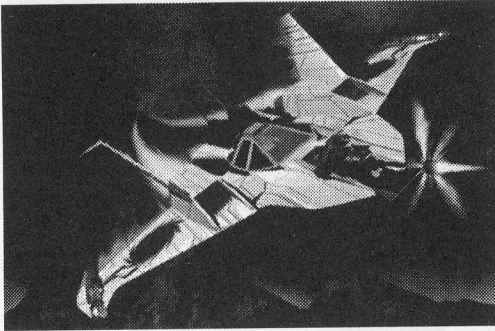
Album and Singles by
Gurm and Roobarb



Alpha Centauri (PC)

Firaxis

★★★★★



All we are saying is give war a chance

There are a few games developers whose names have become synonymous with high quality, lovingly created products. David Braben, the Bitmap Brothers, John Romero - all these people have been spoken of as games visionaries; people who have such creative ability that any new product from them is awaited with baited breath. The godfather of them all, however, is Sid Meier.

Sid Meier has been devising and producing games since the mid-eighties, creating several near-classics in the course of his career. But the game he will be remembered for is a little thing by the name of *Civilisation* (1990), and its sequel *Civilisation 2* (1995).

Civilisation is a brilliantly simple concept. You start out as the leader of an insignificant tribe of nomads, and your goal is become the supreme ruler of earth by conquering the other tribes. However, in order to gain supremacy, you need to research new technologies and build armies using those new technologies. To do the research and build the armies you need to develop your economy. As you build your economy and do your research, new methods of government

become available. *Civilisation* is a game of juggling, balancing the needs of your people against the needs of your military against the needs of your economy. As your empire grows (assuming that it does grow) you have to deal with barbarian uprisings, unrest and occasionally revolt in your cities, and of course the ever-present threats of neighbouring empires.

Any games player worth their salt will be familiar with *Civilisation* (colloquially known as *Civ*), and the vast majority will have tales of days and nights lost to its

thrall. Many of those will almost literally worship the game - I know for a fact that our beloved Games Editor keeps his copy on a velvet cushion in a gold cabinet encrusted with fine jewels. *Civilisation 2* (likewise known as *Civ2*), which was an updated version of the game - more technologies, better units, better graphics and a couple of useful utilities allowing people to

develop their own scenarios - became the first game to usurp the original from its perch at the very top of the gaming tree. Next time you hook up to the web, do a search for websites devoted to *Civ2* - you will find thousands, which is a tribute to quite how good a game it is.

Now Sid Meier has produced *Alpha Centauri*, *Civilisation 3* in all but name (the reason for the name change is long and boring, but if anyone's really interested buy me a pint next time you catch me in the Union bar and I'll tell you). At the end of *Civ* (and *Civ2*) your empire built a vast interplanetary spacecraft, and sent a band of voyagers across space to colonize the stars. *Alpha Centauri* picks up the story there. During the voyage your colonists split up into seven individual factions. These factions adopted their own ideologies and upon arrival at the planet set up their own encampments. The race for planetary domination begins.

Anyone who has played the *Civ* games will know what to expect next. In fact anyone who's played the *Civ* games will have stopped reading long ago and will by

now be hunched over a flickering screen. For those of you left out there in Felixland, your job is to develop your faction and gain superiority over the other leaders. As before this is done through research, construction and trade.

"Hang on a sec" I hear you cry "why should I go and spend my hard-earned on another copy of essentially the same game? I could just go off to my jewel-encrusted casket and play *Civ2* again." Well, here's the rub. The only real negative about both *Civ* and *Civ2* was that

ultimately you had to go out and conquer your enemies. You couldn't just live in peace and harmony with them as a big happy global family - you had to go out and hit them over the head with a stick until they agreed to be part of your empire. *Alpha Centauri* changes that, and that change opens up the course of the whole game. There are now four

paths to victory: conquest, diplomacy, economic superiority and transcendency (the evolution to a new level of consciousness). It is now theoretically possible (although

still bloody hard) for the faction with the smallest, weakest empire to win the game. That means that, rather than concentrating on research with military applications (generally it became a rush to see who could develop tanks first), the research you undertake depends on the goal you are pursuing. This change inflates your options to a staggering, in fact almost frightening degree. I'm no mean player of *Civ* myself - seasoned would be an understatement - but there have been several times over the past few days when I have had to seriously step back from the game and wonder just how I'm going to get to where I want to go - the range of different options is quite stunning.

There is one other major gameplay advance that separates *Alpha Centauri* from *Civ* and *Civ2*. The different factions now all behave in recognisably different manners. The militaristic Spartans are all threats and bluster, and keep wanting to go out and bash people over the head. The diplomatic UN want to be nice to everyone and gain their trust. The Gaians believe in living in concert with the natural processes of the planet. These different manners drastically affect the way that these factions react to you, and consequently the way that you react to them. Suggest to the Gaians that a useful alliance can be made with the Morganites (the big business faction),

and they'll look at you horrified, and quite probably refuse to talk to you for a long time afterwards. The Believers (religious fundamentalists) don't like the intellectual challenges of the University faction (umm... quite good at research, would you believe), and start to look all squiggly-eyed at them and their allies.

Basically these two major changes

perfect the concepts originally laid down in *Civ*. The other tweaks (vastly improved graphics and sound, the ability to design your own units, multiplayer games over a network and so on) are cosmetic - important yes, but ultimately cosmetic. By free-

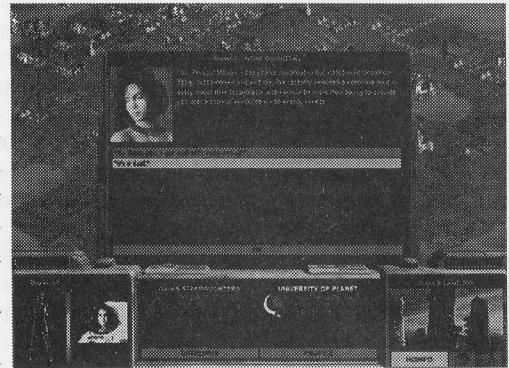
ing the gameplay of the single goal and introducing significant differences in the computer AI, Sid Meier and his team have made a genuinely essential game for any gamer. This game is the best one I have ever played, and it's hard to see anything coming along for a long long time which will give it anything more than a moderate jog for its money.

Forget the thesis, forget the world outside, forget sleep. Buy this game. It's that simple.

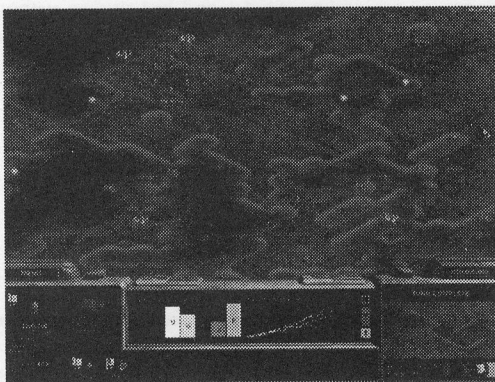
Danny

No honestly if you want to keep sane and get a decent nights sleep over the next month, year or even decade dont buy this game. People will see your deep sunken eyes and white monitor bleached skin and will rightly assume you need medical attention...remember *Alpha Centuri* screws you up...

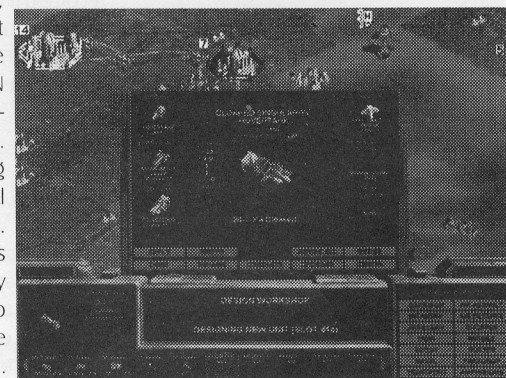
Gary S



Lie, make peace then send in the troops.
Definitely not the best way to make friends and influence people



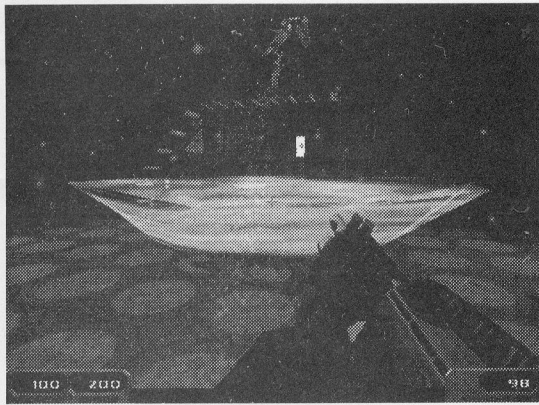
Terraform the planet into a nice green mass, and avoid creating a Milton Keynes mess



Hovortanks definitely don't suck.
Well, OK, perhaps the air intake does.

Shogo - Mobile Armoured Division (PC)

Monolith ★★★★★



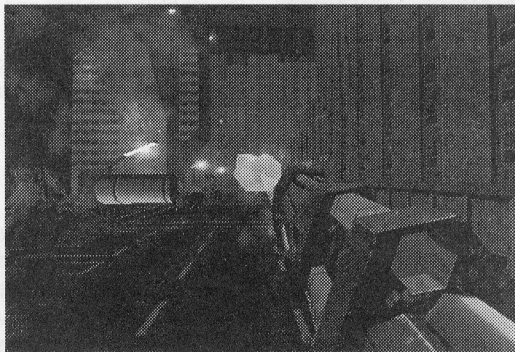
finding space to fit enough explosive to have a damn good attempt at a second gunpowder plot. Answers on the back of a postcard. Shogo doesn't disappoint the big weapon fans. Not only can you rack up a fairly impressive amount of military hardware in human form but you have the chance to jump into

Awash with single person shoot-em-ups before Xmas, on both the PSX and the PC, we missed out on the odd one or two. It was unfortunate that we missed out on Shogo - Mobile Armoured Division; partially because it is a good game, but mostly because of the lost practice time in order to compete in the big Shogo showdown. Well perhaps not, but in order to save face and not be completely crushed by a bunch of spotty fourteen year olds, the team decided to get some practice in and kick some metallic butt.

The big thing with first person shooters is that you play a character capable of carrying an unfeasible amount of military hardware. They might have been pumping iron, eating spinach, and have a damn impressive powered suit on, but from where do they secrete pistols, automatic weapons, and rocket launchers, while

one of four thirty foot mechanised beasts. These mechs have names - Ordog, Enforcer, Akuma and Predator, and with names like that the weaponry obviously gets really silly.

There is a very strong Japanese theme running a mile wide through the game; from the Japanese pop during the cartoon all the way to the Anime graphics of the characters both good and bad. Even I, a pixelthirsty polygon serial killer, tended to think twice when the enemy consisted of doe eyed females, though the



pre-pubescent looking male characters were a delight to kill, as they looked too much like the average boy-band cast.

Graphically it follows the Anime ideals of big and blocky. Thus it doesn't have the organic feel that Half-Life has. Another problem is the large, expansive battlefields. In order to display these large outdoor scenes they have had to simplify the polygons. This at least means that on a low end Pentium and decent video accelerator there was none of the usual pop-up or fogging.

The sound, though, was average. It had big rumbling robot footsteps and big explosive sounds, but fell short of the best. There was none of the whoosh of incoming fire from opposing sides, though the cockpit of these behemoths have probably been coated in the same stuff they use on Lexus cars



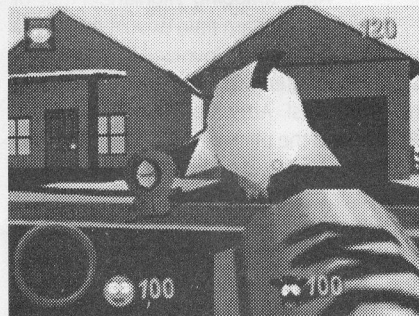
to reduce noise level. It might be nice for a luxury car - not so good at creating the effect of the heat of battle.

One little gem, though, is the idea of a squad. Instead of being the only man in, you often get dropped in with a few friends. These helpfully fire at the enemy and soak up the incoming fire. This can lead to red-on-red incidents where you get separated from your squad only to ambush and massacre them next time you run into them. For once the good guys look much too similar to the bad guys. Apart from this feature the gameplay, while being enjoyable and challenging on the harder levels, never quite reaches the same range of emotions that Half-life can. If you buy a second first person shooter this spring seriously consider this one, if you are only out to buy one then Half-life still rules this kingdom.

Gary S.

South Park (N64)

Acclaim ★★★★★



Armed with Cartman's yellow snowballs, Kenny's cow launcher or the Terrence and Philip Farting doll grenade it's time to teach the turkeys and the other denizens of the odd the meaning of foul play.

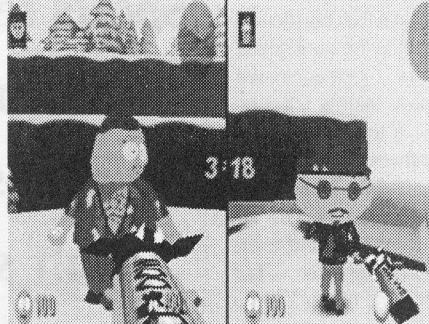
The graphics are excellent. Somehow they have managed to transform the two dimensional cartoon into a three dimensional festival of the bizarre without losing the charm of Kenny's

Another first person shooter? A poorly written attempt to cash in on the cult cartoon as the second series is about to hit the terrestrial scene? Well yes and definitely no.

Your favourite four little urchins are called upon to use their wits, charm, cheesy poofs and some unusual vocabulary to save Southpark from aliens, genetically modified turkeys, giant cloned South Park residents and other equally weird and F***** up situations.

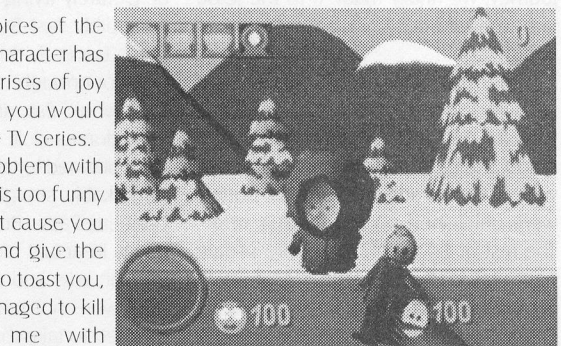
hood or Cartman's large ass. There's also none of this fogging that usually comes free with every N64 three dimensional polygon fest to now.

Also unusually for the N64



there are sampled voices of the characters, and each character has their own series of crises of joy and pain, all of which you would expect to hear on the TV series.

There is one problem with this game, and that is it is too funny to play. Half-life might cause you to pause with awe and give the enemy enough time to toast you, but this game has managed to kill me with laughter;



stopping laughing quickly enough to get the next turkey is difficult enough without making gobbling sounds in the background. In fact the only way round

this was to play the excellent multiplayer option. Here you get to pick any of the characters and go hunting your opposition down. Even Mr Hanky finds his violent streak and definitely provides a new meaning to the phrase shitting on your opponent.

This game is going to be larger than Cartman's ass, so go on and kill Kenny you bastards.

Gary S.



SNOOKER

BUSA held the annual national snooker championships last weekend. The event took place in Birmingham, Solihull (sic) and lasted three days.

The Imperial Snooker A and B teams were largely different to last year's squad. Jon Fulcher and Richard Turton remained in the A team, with Jon expecting to win the A team singles championship this year after coming close on several occasions in past years. The rest of the A team consisted of several players from last year's B team which reached the semi-finals. The B team saw some fresh faces, but the expectations of reaching the latter stages were still high.

A team singles: Richard Turton reached the quarter finals only to meet

Jon Fulcher, who eventually one the singles 3-2 against Rob Pugh. He should have won in comfortably when 2-0 up and 30 points ahead in the third frame, but his desire for a cold pint almost made him the nearly man yet again.

B team singles: All players disappointingly were knocked out in the second round.

A team group: Reached the quarter finals, when Queen's of Belfast knocked them out

B team group: Unluckily knocked out in semi-finals by Queen's who we earlier drew with 5-5.

The team show off their winnings



FOOTBALL

Extra time winner sends IC to final

UCL I.....1
IC I.....2
(aet)

Following the nine-goal demolition of the RSM a week earlier, confidence was high going into the first of three crucial matches against UCL.

To say that things weren't going our way would be a huge understatement as the referee kept allowing UCL to kick lumps out of most of our players. When the referee finally blew for a foul it was to give UCL a penalty after Chris had cunningly let the forward into the area, and THEN brought him down. However, the deadlock was not broken as Eric saved the penalty brilliantly.

After about half an hour of continuous battering, Alex finally snapped and decided to take the law into his own hands by flooring a UCL defender with a right backhand on the turn which any boxer would have been proud of. Again the ref blew for a foul and sent Alex off the field.

Despite being a man down, IC still looked the better side and were never

under threat and were unlucky not to take the lead through Amo who had a couple of shots blocked.

In the second half things went from bad to worse as UCL scored directly off a corner, extremely embarrassing for Eric who was clearly confused by the wind (either that or he just bugged things up). With 20 mins to go IC equalised after a stunning move that was finished by So-so.

IC were now clearly on top and were even getting one or two decisions from the referee, and in the first half of extra time, went ahead thanks to a deadly strike from "Dirty" Warren after playing a nice one-two with Till. The second half was a different story as UCL threw everything they could at us but the solid back four of Rich, So-so, Chris and Phil refused to break down as we held out for a victory that sent the "fan" wild. So IC have made it through to the final for the second year running, hopefully we will of one better this year and win the cup. So why not come along to Motspur Park on Saturday 6th March and cheer Imperial's finest on

FELLWALKING

After a nervous week with much anxiety at being the first club to drive FLEB after it crashed, our worst fears about the minibus were confirmed: the stereo did indeed still not work. However, there was only one worrying moment on this trip when I got my seatbelt trapped in the door and thought I'd jammed it, but it was OK after a bit of heaving and pushing with Simon (ooh er). After an epic journey, we finally made it to the Jesse James bunkhouse, in Snowdonia, at about 1am.

Saturday dawned bright(ish), and considerably earlier than some people thought desirable. But we had to get going and get up those mountains. So without further ado, the hardcore nutters were unleashed on the Glyders ridge. The rest of us set off at a more sedate pace up the Llanberis Path/Motorway to Snowdon, that is after we'd found it. The surrounding peaks looked impressive, but as we neared the summit, temperatures plunged and we were shrouded in mist. There were also one or two patches of snow around. Steve reminded us of the all-pervasiveness of modern technology by giving a running commentary to his sister over his mobile phone. Makes a change from 'I'm on a train', I suppose.

Our perseverance was rewarded with a very fine view, so magnificent that everyone was clamouring to take

photos of it. You could see bugger all landscape, but my bare legs were proudly on display, attracting a huge amount of attention. Nothing unusual there, except by this stage they had accumulated a thick coating of ice. Lunch was eaten on the way down the other side, with views of Glaslyn and Llyn Llydaw. On the descent, we were reunited with the hardcore nutters, who were desperately trying to keep up with Tim 'Incredibly Fast But Slim' who had the map. Evidently one lot of 1000m peaks was not enough to keep them amused for a whole day, and they had to go up Snowdon as well. Once at the bottom, we'd planned to take the interesting and remarkably straight path through the Llanberis Pass. But on discovering that it was in actual fact an electricity transmission line, and our tightrope-walking skills were not really up to scratch, we decided to take the road instead.

After a quick half in a typically friendly Welsh pub, it was back to the bunkhouse to wait for the nutters. Once again, we drew on our culinary talents (cheers, Richard) to produce a top quality spag bol, which was enjoyed by everyone except Peter 'Chips with Everything' Rose. After the meal, we settled down for an excruciating evening of pain and exertion, both physical and mental (you had to be to take part in some of Mat's party games). 'Who am I?' was the question

on everyone's lips, particularly those who had done the 18 mile, 2,000m ascent in Tim's wake. Saturday's exertions called for a more gentle endurance test on Sunday, so we headed for Moel Wnion. The weather was a but rougher, with hail showers, but we still did a good walk and had views of the sea. Unfortunately, a large detour in an attempt to find a decent place to cross a fast-flowing river meant that we did not have time to visit Colwyn Bay on the way home. So then it was straight back in the minibus and back to London along my 'clever new route' which led us straight into a ten mile tailback on the M6. We finally arrived in London not long before midnight, but the journeys were well worth it: definitely one of the better trips.

James Clarke
ja.clarke@ic.ac.uk

Sports reports.

8.30pm.

Wednesday.

'Nuff said.

LADIES FOOTBALL

Leicester.....3
IC.....1
(BUSA Plate Quarter-final)

For the first time since Highlander and Flo arrived on the scene, we had a full team and a sub (miracles do happen!), even though our dedicated "slapper of a captain" abandoned us for yet another pulling session (you know who you are!).

After dragging Highlander out of the Nottingham train (would there be a certain Simon involved?), and many fields later, we arrived at the wrong grounds! After a quick map check we found the pitch in the middle of an athletic track and in the middle of the football pitch we found a shot-put ring - much to Baldrich's amusement (she likes big things, in agreement with Highlander's dislike of small balls). Excellent performances from the scandalous president puller (who later tried to pull a passing cyclist) and from the rest of the team led to a goal by Gonads. Unfortunately the ref.'s white stick and general blindness led to our defeat 3-1 - with many a good save by Flo our goalie (Mike would be proud). Hitchhiker could not help stroking the ball as it went by, casing a penalty. Undercover porn photographer, engaged G&T, was first in the showers with her waterproof camera much to the initial shock and later pleasure of the opposition.

KARTING

Imperial Ahead of Oxbridge – Official!!

It was a cold, rainy Friday night as seven plucky IC students took on the combined might of 50 – odd Oxbridge students in the CUAC Karting endurance race at Rye House. IC was entering two teams, Oxford five, and Cambridge eight. Originally planned as a dry race, circumstances changed as 30 minutes before the green flag, it pissed it down! There was no time to re-prepare the karts, and no way to chicken out. There was no two ways about it – this was going to be FUN!!!!

Under floodlights, the Oxford and Cambridge 1st teams made the early pace, but soon, the sublime driving from Phil, Nat and Dan put IC 2nd's into a lead they would not relinquish. IC 1st's (the numbers meant nothing – it was just a case of who signed on first), led by Ben, with Oli, Matt, and yours truly, under his expert guidance, got off to a good start moving into 3rd place. A glorious Imperial 1-2 was on the cards when disaster

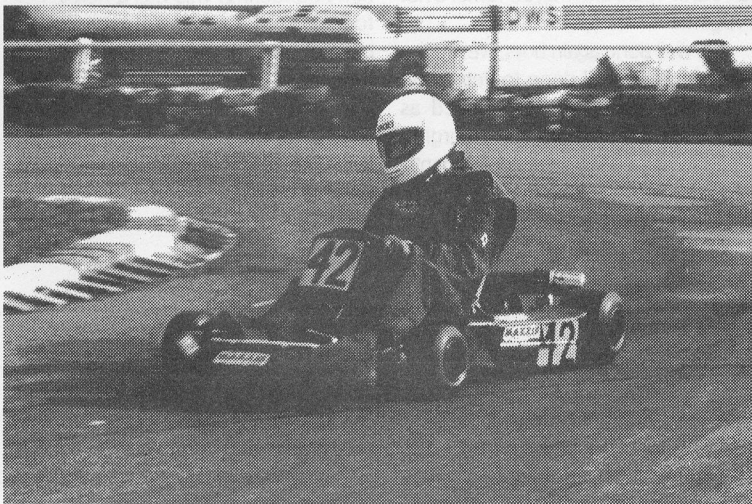
struck!! One of the 1st's engines went the way of Michael Schumacher at Spa, and completely lost it!! Being twin-engine karts, we managed to limp back to the pits, but a 15-minute stop while they changed the engine blew any chance of a decent finish.

Through atrocious conditions, some sensible yet committed driving by IC 1st dragged the team back up the order to 7th place at the 2-hr time limit. Nobody, however, could touch the 2nd's who finished three laps ahead of the Oxford 1st team. Their win was underlined by taking the fastest lap – 1/2 a second quicker than IC 1st's who were second-fastest.

So! It's official! IC are way ahead of Oxbridge when it comes to the important things in life!

For more information about the IC karting club, contact phm@ic.ac.uk, or baf1@ic.ac.uk

Paul Brady



Sport in Brief

LADIES RUGBY

IC Virgins 73 – 5 Kings

The Virgins scored big time. From the moment we took the odd shaped ball in our hands our excitement grew and grew. The King's players came on hard for the first two minutes but they were premature and we took them and scored. Our subs were giving it some oral on the sidelines and King's kept on going down, down, down. We penetrated their defence time and time again, until they could take no more.

Their tackles were more playful than hard so we showed them how it was done. Our hookers gave them a run for their money. We came out of every ruck and maul on top in, and our studs dug in deep as our furry mascot screamed for more. Shouts of give it in, get your kit off, drive, show it to me, and yes, yes, yes where regularly heard from the pitch. Perv's underwear was on the pitch, Alison didn't have the horn and Flasher didn't pull her usual trick.

LADIES HOCKEY

IC 8 – 0 Royal Vets

After starting with only 10 players (cheers Scully) we had a stormin' match.

Camped in their 25 for the entire match, we spent the first half occasionally giving the keeper the ball. Wifey managed to clear up off the pads twice, leaving it 2-0 at half time.

After sharp words from Bagpuss, the 2nd half was taken at a difference pace. Shots were pummelled at the keeper left, right and centre and the odd few

went in. Scully after her late arrival scored her first goal since her wise defection from RSM (that'll be a jug), Humming Bird put in a couple (jug avoidance? – I don't think so!) and Wifey completed her near double hat-trick finishing in fire.

8-0! it serves you Vet sight for spending all your time with your hands up cows bottoms.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

IC 19 - 6 Southampton

After a sedate opening match against Portsmouth Uni, IC Ultimate team were anticipating a real head-to-head against the South East champions Southampton Uni (Skunks). With an incomplete squad, including only one sub, the odds were in IC's favour from the offset.

A much improved team performance and a spirited individual display from John "on your knees" Taylor (who caught over 1/2 IC's points), IC walked away with a convincing victory. A replay at the National Student Indoor Finals in 10 days time may yield a different outcome!

MEDICS PLAY FOR ENGLAND

Following the successes of Imperial Medics Rugby Football Club this season, it was very gratifying that James Platt, Ben Carpenter (Imperial Medics Captain), and Simon Rogers were selected for the England Students squad that played Scotland Students at Old Dear Park on 19th February.

England Students won 42 - 20.

Around IC

Mon 1	Tues 2	Wed 3	Thurs 4	Fri 5	Sat 6	Sun 7
CAG: Tools for Self-Reliance, Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	STA Quiz Night - DaVinci's 8pm	Engineering Information Resources Talk Central Library Level 5 Meeting Room 1 2.15-4pm	Engineering Information Resources - Compendex Central Library Level 5 Meeting Room 1 1-2pm	Bust-a-Gut Comedy dBs, £2.50 8pm	Whiplash - dBs, FREE 8pm-12am	
Clayponds Hall Cinema Trip - contact ian.doyle@ic.ac.uk	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	Club XS, ICU, FREE 9pm-1am	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	Pop Tarts - ICU £1 9pm-2am		
	Caving Club Meeting Southside Upper Lounge 9pm		Cocktail Night, DaVinci's 5-11pm			



HOCKEY

IC claim 3 out of 4 places in ULU cup finals

IC I.....4
UCL.....3

Surfing on our relentless tide of success, the firsts have once again gained a place in the ULU Cup final. Today's game was a significant milestone in our quest for total London domination. The game started gnarly, the UCL swell coming on strong with the odd overhead set. Fluffy performed a cut back into the D, pulled up for the floater and won a short corner,

duly dispatched by Blue Underpants. Out the back, Fluke paddled in slotting into the barrel to put the second home. James started upping the pressure with his casual but hard core long board stylee. Flashy Wanker stepped up with his 10ft big gun and took off on a 25 footer of mavericks - goal. The wind turned on shore, and 6ft glass became 4ft mush. Blue Underpants piled in a difficult situation punches the lip - the fourth was in. All in all a good sunset session. Massive.

Disco Squad.....5
St Bart's.....0

One team, fifteen dreamers, five magic goals, all can be summed up by a single word. LEGENDARY...

The Disco boys are in the final of the ULU cup! Nothing can stop us now!

Just to be sure, I have analysed the possible effects of a meteor impacting in the middle of Motpur Park in three weeks time, and can only conclude that it would have to weigh more than Viagra's Bollocks to even phase us. That's more than 352 tonnes, facts. And unless Filtrum's got an arse like a mortar, I don't think that's going to happen.

On Sunday, the Disco Squad was tanked up and ready to groove, courtesy of some impressive family planning, although the looming showdown did mean that Cante wisely limited himself to a dozen sherboids.

So we were soon on the pitch of joy, with Filtrum looking like he'd just been thrown out of the London School of Vagrancy for excessive dribbling. The whistle blew and we went after Bart's like Fulltum after some hapless American. However, their defence didn't put up as much resistance and before long the Sundance Kid did his fancy spinning effort and slapped the ball passed the mesmerised Bart's keeper.

Play was always going our way and before half time the Sundance Kid and Fabio had penetrated their defences again. 3-0 to the golden boys.

The second half started with a bit of fire from the Bart's Boys, but the Disco Deluge quickly swamped it. Lager Lager, Indian Carpet Catalogue and Baps put a veritable barrage of strikes beyond the flailing reach of the keeper, and Fabio and the Sundance Kid actually scored. 5-0 to the Disco Boys.

The Disco Squad has seen off another challenge. Maybe the result wasn't a fair reflection of how good Bart's are. Yeah, and maybe Terrier's not a virgin!?

So, well done again boys, we are the chosen ones. Well done to Pete Tong for turning up at all. He looked as healthy as an alcoholic rat emerging after a week's holiday in Rezoola's pants. Nice.

Come on boys, we going all the way! Disco...

ICSM II.....3
KCL I.....3

Having lost to KCL IInds earlier this season on flicks, we understandably, had very low expectations going into this match. Our initial reservations were compounded when they scored in the first 5 minutes, but we held them to 1-0 until half-time. Then the game turned ugly. 2/3 rds of the way into the match, they were 3-0 up and and we were struggling. To say the situation was gloomy would be an understatement.

However, by divine intervention we were given new heart. Through pure aggression and dogged determination we battled away, and by the end, our overwhelming passion proved too much for the obviously rattled KCL team. Through swift passing and shrewd vision we scored 3 goals in the next 10 minutes to draw level.

Vik scored two absolute screamers and Alex finished it off when he deftly lifted the ball over the keeper, leaving him floundering. This was a heroic performance all round, and with such a band of spirited warriors, the UL cup will be ours!

Line-up for the ULU cup final:

IC I v Royal Holloway

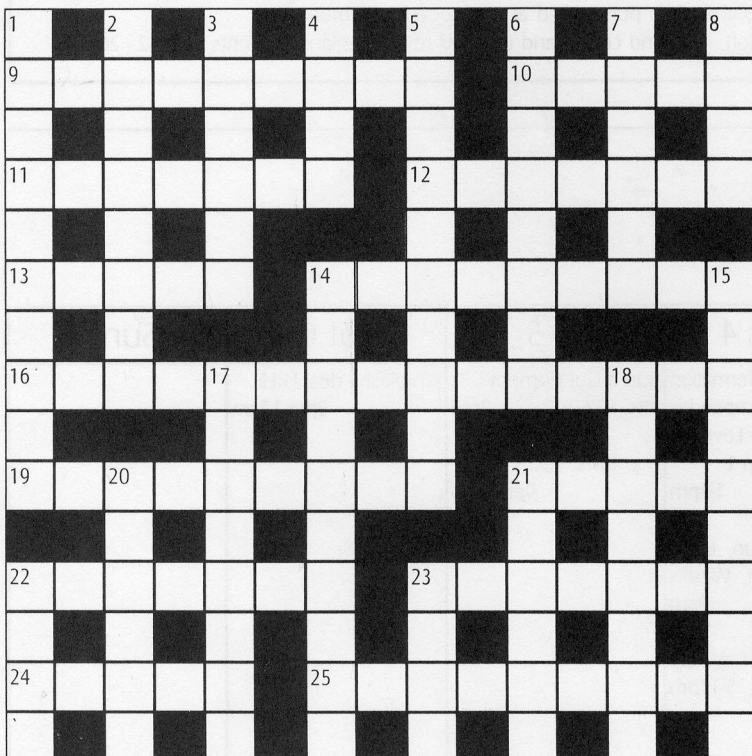
Reserve cup final:

ICSM II v IC III (Disco Squad)

SCOREBOARD		
FOOTBALL		
ULU Cup		
UCL I	1 - 2	IC 1 (a.e.t)
ULU League		
IC I	5 - 0	Royal Holloway
IC II	1 - 2	Royal Holloway
BUSA		
IC III	3 - 2	Swansea
BUSA plate		
Leicester	3 - 1	IC Ladies
RUGBY		
IC Virgins	73 - 5	King's
HOCKEY		
IC I	4 - 3	UCL
Disco Sqd.	5 - 0	St. Bart's
ICSM II	3 - 3	KCL I
IC Ladies	8 - 0	Royal Vets.
MISCELLANEOUS		
Ultimate Frisbee	19 - 6	Southampton

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



Across

- 9 Moving patients is fulfilling. (9)
- 10 Points to my foe. (5)
- 11 Canine pest got stirred into Richard. (3-4)
- 12 Long-suffering case (7)
- 13 Send Edmund packaged essentials. (5)
- 14 Group of the French Queen's soldiers' belt. (9)
- 16 Webber's answer to Moonlight Sonata? (5,2,3,5)
- 19 Not fast, not snakes? (9)
- 21 The Franco-German wiseman. (5)
- 22 Peace-keeper fish to knock someone off. (7)
- 23 Forced terrorists to drink. (7)
- 24 Relative directions around college. (5)
- 25 So, Helen, we change in the front of a plane. (4-5)

Down

- 1 Swap titles for business jargon. (5-5)
- 2 Parades masses in bets. (8)
- 3 Artillery get into binoculars - showing intelligence. (6)
- 4 Flushed quiet writer. (4)
- 5 SA plant for a pagan's hut. (10)
- 6 disaster could meld town? (8)
- 7 Cut drug. Heavy! (6)
- 8 Half a yoyo in an alien island. (4)
- 14 End fab hero badly previously. (10)
- 15 Bale turner can be taken back? (10)
- 17 Waiter contains exclamation for colleague. (8)
- 18 Immutable right from above. (3-5)
- 20 Hunter of Ordinance survey hunted. (6)
- 21 Awards snowed in. (6)
- 22 Jars at turns with no junction. (4)
- 23 Maurics has Nazis growing green stuff. (4)



HAVE YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

Drug Abuse

Drug abuse covers vast areas and many drugs, ranging from puffing a cigarette to injecting heroin. But two of the most commonly used illegal drugs are ecstasy and cannabis. This section will focus on them.

"Ecstasy", also known as MDMA, Adam, or X-TC, is an hallucinogenic and mind altering drug. It bears great similarity to other synthetic drugs (like MDA) which are known to cause brain damage. The many problems the 1 in 12 people who have tried ecstasy in the UK encounter during or after taking ecstasy include:

Psychological difficulties, including confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving, severe anxiety, and paranoia - sometimes these symptoms occur weeks after taking ecstasy. Physical symptoms include muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, faintness, chills or sweating, increases in heart rate and blood pressure. However, its supporters claim that ecstasy increases trust and breaks down barriers.

Cannabis, the most used illegal drug with 80% of drug users using cannabis, is widely seen as 'relatively harmless' by its supporters. 'Relatively' harmless it may well be when compared to drugs like heroin, but



it is not entirely safe, either. Cannabis can cause problems with memory and learning, distorted perception, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, loss of co-ordination; and increased heart rate, anxiety, and panic attacks. Most damning of all is that two in five people who have used cannabis in the last year will have also used another type of illegal drug.



For more information, try:
news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/background_briefings/drugs/
 US Institute on drugs: www.nida.nih.gov/
 Drug Abuse Web ring: www.druguse.com/
 Release: www.release.org.uk

Check your bits day

Those of you who were here last year may remember waking up after Valentines Day with an unusual union stamp on your hand. By then it probably said 'heck your bi', which was perhaps more alarming than intended!

For those of you who weren't here, and for those who have spent a year wondering why they were stamped in such a bizarre way, let me explain what Check your Bits is all about.

In this country, it is safe to say you are going to die of one of two things; Heart disease or Cancer. Most of us will be lucky and do it in our 80s. But there are some cancers which kill young people, and they are the 'sexy' ones; cancer of the testis, cervix and extent breast. Check your bits day is a reminder to everyone to do something about not dying young.

The good news is that there is no reason why you should die from these; they are easily checked for, and respond well to treatment. All it takes is self-examination (a good feel



all over) of your breasts or testicles once a month. If you find a lump, or a sore bit, or a change in colour or texture or if it just doesn't feel the same, then go to the doctor. As for the cervix, that's even easier; book an appointment with the nurse, phone for the results, repeat in 3 years time.

Sleepless Nights

Are financial worries affecting your degree?

At this time of year the antics of the previous term may be catching up. Some students have major financial worries that are crippling their ability to live comfortably. Other students may have less serious financial difficulties but still find that these difficulties are making them feel stressed and depressed.

If you fall into any of the above categories; where your financial worries are putting a strain on your life and degree, then you could qualify for financial support from the college. Imperial College has over £150,000 to distribute among students who have financial problems.

So how do you apply?

Go to the Student Finance Office, on Level 3 (Room 334) of the Sherfield Building and pick up an application form. The form must be filled in completely (failure to do so will slow your application) and returned to the Student Finance Office with the following information: 3 months of Bank Statements going back from the date of your application.

The closing date for applications is **22nd March 1999**

Safety in the Big City

We are all enjoying our freedom at university - being able to go where we want, how we want and when we want. As students we have to look out for our own well being. Yes, we have heard it all before "don't walk alone, don't walk down dark streets". This is, of course, sensible advice. This is why your wonderful Imperial College Union is providing an extra bit of support.

While a free bodyguard for every student is not on offer, you can get an attack alarm from the union office or catch the free women's minibus home from the union after events nights (Wednesday and Friday). This service runs from 12am until the end of the event and will take any woman anywhere within London.

**Compiled by
 Rene Frank & the
 Welfare Committee**

HEALTH & HOUSING

Accommodation

Most landlords/ladies offer fixed term contracts. There are two basic types of agreement; licenses and tenancies. You should be able to tell which you are being offered by reading your contract. The vast majority of students (along with most other people renting from private landlords) will have an 'assured shorthold tenancy'.

You will normally be a tenant if you have exclusive occupation of at least one room, and your landlord/lady does not live in the same property. A tenant has greater rights than a licensee; most importantly, you cannot be evicted without a court order (and hence, a proper reason).

License agreements, though they offer less protection, are not necessarily a problem. However, because you might be living in your landlords/lady's actual home, you should be clear as to what house-rules are to be applied. You should also try and get an idea of what they are like on a personal level.

You should be allowed to live in peace without interference from the owner (though they may want to occasionally check the condition of the place). The owner is also

responsible for dealing with any repairs. If you do experience problems with your landlord or landlady then you should raise them with the Union Advisor immediately. Some problems that can arise include getting the landlord to do repairs or to return deposits at the end of a tenancy. There may also be issues relating to joint tenancies if you are sharing with other people. ICU produces a Housing Rights Guide to give you information on your rights and responsibilities while renting in the private sector. Copies are available from the Union reception. It is up to you to ensure that your landlord keeps to their side of the bargain. Don't put up with bad or unsafe accommodation and don't wave goodbye to your deposit at the end just because "it's one of the facets of student life in London". It isn't.

If you have any problems with property that you obtained via the Accommodation noticeboard, you should write and tell them about it as they can only monitor the landlords who advertise via your feedback. Properties are not inspected nor vetted by college in any way. However, if the Accommodation Office has been told of a problem, they can and will remove landlords from their list.

Council Tax

All students are exempt from Council Tax (but you'll need to obtain a certificate from the registry that you then send to your local billing authority). If you share with non-students then you may become liable to pay (even if they are unemployed and receiving benefits). Speak to the Union Advisor if you are unsure of your Council Tax situation.

Gas Safety

Every year there are deaths caused by carbon monoxide. Danger signs include soot or discolouring on or around a gas fire, a yellow flame in your gas fire or water heater and a strange smell when the appliance is on. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are tiredness, headaches, and chest and stomach pains. Your landlord must ensure that all gas appliances are checked yearly and, by law, has to obtain a Certificate of Gas Safety from a Corgi registered engineer. Speak to him/her if you have any concerns. If your landlord refuses to show you the certificate or even to have the appliances checked, contact the Gas Safety Helpline immediately.

Meningitis

By now I expect that almost all the students at Imperial have heard about the tragic events earlier this year. The best thing we can do now is learn.

Although knowing the symptoms is vital, the most important thing is quick action. In reality, you start by feeling unwell, perhaps bad enough to go home then and there. When you get home you might be sick or just close the curtains and try to sleep. This is the point when you should phone the ambulance, but you won't because you will feel too silly. Hopefully, you would phone when the headache became too bad or you realised you couldn't stand the light, but you might still feel daft.

So maybe the truth about surviving meningitis is bite the bullet. Pick up the phone and dial 999. No-one in Casualty will think you are stupid. You could save your own or someone else's life and if it is only a cold then you'll live to tell a great story down the bar!

What are the different types?

There are two types: Viral and Bacterial, whilst viral is the most common it is unlikely to be life threatening. Bacterial meningitis is quite rare but may be very serious. There are



two types of bacterial meningitis; meningococcal and pneumococcal. In addition the bacteria can result in septicaemia.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Many people carry the bacteria in the back of the throat. Whilst the bacteria can be spread by kissing, sneezing and coughing it is weak outside the body. After exposure symptoms usually appear after 2-10 days.

What does meningitis do?

It inflames the tissues that cover the brain (meninges) and spinal cord. The same bacteria responsible for inflammation of the meninges are also responsible for the variant meningococcal septicaemia, which causes bleeding under the skin.

Can I develop meningitis?

The risk of developing meningitis is very small, even if you have been in direct contact with a diagnosed case. The causal bacteria is carried, in fact, by approximately 10 percent of people. There is still a risk, however, and it saves lives if you are aware of the symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

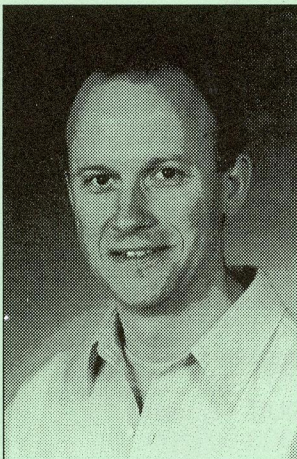
The symptoms are similar to flu in many respects, but symptoms get progressively worse very rapidly. Symptoms include; vomiting, fever, severe headache, joint pains, aversion to bright lights, lethargy, confusion and fits. In addition to this rashes appear during septicaemia. However, it is important to note that not all the symptoms may be present.

Don't wait for the rash - sometimes it's only seen at post mortem.

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

David Allman

Studying and living at university can sometimes be stressful and lonely as well as challenging and exciting. The courses at Imperial College are demanding; they require commitment of time and effort. It's not unusual to experience a knock to your self-esteem to find yourself amongst similarly intelligent students after having been at or near the top of your class at school.



You might have arrived at Imperial from another country with different social and cultural norms, so that part of beginning at College involves the experience of living in a different culture. Family and friends may be a long distance away. And if you're coming to College straight from home you may have to learn the practicalities of everyday living as well! Coming to university might be one of the biggest transitions you're going to make in your life.

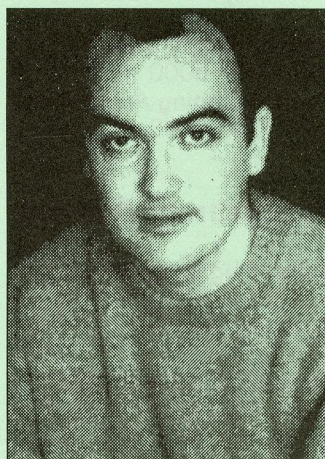
If you're not used to organising yourself and getting on with studying without a parent or teacher prompting you, it can be a considerable challenge to manage your work. On the other hand, sometimes students work too hard and get diminishing returns; fear of failure or 'letting people down' can get in the way of constructive studying.

Sometimes personal issues demand energy which you would otherwise be using to get on with your life. Sometimes you'll know what the problem is, eg a relationship difficulty, a bereavement, an issue about self-confidence. But sometimes you might be aware of feeling depressed or anxious, of finding it difficult to concentrate at lectures or when studying, for no immediately identifiable reason.

Many students find it useful to come to counselling when they're feeling troubled, to talk about their experience, to think through a problem, and to consider options and create a strategy to move forward. Issues students bring include; blocks to studying and exam stress; relationship difficulties; family difficulties; homesickness; loneliness; depression; anxiety; bereavement; sexuality and sexual orientation.

Martin Thomson

The Union has an elected, non-sabbatical, welfare committee who are responsible for taking up issues of concern to students on welfare matters (these would be issues related to the experience of studying at IC rather than specific legal or personal problems). The Union Welfare Committee needs your input in order to represent your best interests and respond to your concerns. You can contact the Welfare Officer via the Union Office. As well as the Welfare Officer himself, the Union has a plethora of elected officers looking out for your interests, including accommodation, equal opportunities, women's and Constituent College Union Welfare officers.



A full-time adviser, Martin Thomson, is employed in the Union to provide a professional advice service to students and staff. The Advice Office has a very broad information system (which includes a full Citizen's Advice Bureau information database) and Martin has several years of general advice experience.

If you have a problem of any kind, or you just want information on a particular topic, then he should be able to either assist you or, where necessary, refer you to an appropriate source outside of the College. The service is free, confidential and impartial (which means that no matter what your problem or situation is, you will receive unbiased assistance, not judgmental questions).

Matters frequently dealt with include housing problems, immigration, consumer matters, debt, and fundraising (for students who run out of money toward the end of their studies). In addition to leaflets on the above there is a broad range of free information available in the Union reception which includes material on health matters, benefits, income tax and the small claims court.

To see Martin, you should make an appointment at the Union Office (x48060) or contact him directly.

The CCUs

It may seem sometimes that there's never anyone to talk to when you need advice. Sure, your tutor helps you with your work, your flatmates attempt to revive your flagging social life, and your parents send you emergency cash if you're lucky, but all the other stuff that you either can't ask or don't know how... All of the benefits of the policy and initiatives from ICU's hard-working welfare committee are readily available to you, and you only need to ask. It's easy enough to email welfare@ic.ac.uk, and your emails to welfare are guarded by a policy of confidentiality.

Your own constituent college also has a representative - if you don't know whether your particular issue is something that welfare can deal with, or you just want to know exactly what you're entitled to, you should enquire with your CCU welfare rep, and they'll put you straight. They should have a pigeon-hole in your CCU office (and if you haven't found that yet, you've definitely been studying far too hard...!). Alternatively, contact details can be found in the ICU Handbook, available from Union reception, or on your CCU's website.

London nightline

0171 631 0101

Confidential listening and practical information for students by students in London.

Every night of term. 6pm - 8am

- Welfare information on accommodation, financial matters & health
- London listings of films, clubs & theatres
- Taxi & night bus timetables
- Listening support from fellow students

Nightline is here, whether you want information or simply someone to talk to.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact us and speak to one of the volunteers on duty.

To maintain confidentiality, all our volunteers are anonymous and would never expect any caller to identify themselves.

Registered Charity Number 1915744

JUST PICK UP THE PHONE...

IC Advice Contacts

Martin Thompson - Union Advisor
 (0171 59) 48067 or (59)48060
 m.m.thomson@ic.ac.uk
 David Allman - College Counsellor
 (0171 59)49430
 d.allman@ic.ac.uk
 IC Health Centre
 Enquiries: (0171 59)49375
 Emergencies: 4444 (internal)
 Accommodation Office
 (0171 59)49444

Housing

Shelter
 0171 505 2000 or 0800 446 441
 www.shelter.org.uk
 Gas Safety
 0800 300 363

Accommodation

University of London
 www.lon.ac.uk/accom/
 Loot
 www.loot.com

Disabled

DIAL-UK - The Disability Helpline
 01302 310123
 Disabled Living Foundation
 0171 289 6111
 RADAR - Rehabilitation Support
 0171 250 3222
 Dyslexia Institute
 01784 463851
 www.dyslexia-inst.org.uk
 Loretta O'Callaghan - IC Disabilities Officer
 (0171 59)48935
 l.ocallaghan@ic.ac.uk
 Skill - Students with disabilities
 0800 328 5050
 0171 450 0620
 www.skill.org.uk
 SkillNatBurDis@compuserve.com
 Mencap
 0171 454 0454
 National Association for Mental Health
 0345 660163
 SANELINE
 0345 678000

Deaf & Blind

Royal National Institute for the Blind
 0171 388 1266
 Royal National Institute for the Deaf
 0171 296 8000

Family Planning

Brook Advisory Centre
 0171 617 8000
 Family Planning Association
 0171 837 5432

Pregnancy Advice

British Pregnancy Advisory
 0345 304030
 Abortion Counselling
 01926 311511
 National Childbirth Trust
 0181 992 8637

Lesbian Gay & Bisexual

Acceptance Helpline - Support Group
 01795 661463
 PACE - Counselling Service
 0171 263 6200
 LGB Switchboard
 0171 837 7324
 IQ
 christine.grant@ic.ac.uk
 www.su.ic.ac.uk/IQ

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Charing Cross Hospital GUM
 0181 846 1567
 St Stephen's Clinic
 0181 846 6171/2

Rape

Rape Crisis Centre
 0171 837 1600

AIDS

National Aids Helpline
 0800 567123
 Terrence Higgins Trust
 0171 242 1010

Family

Relate
 0171 580 1087
 Gingerbread - Advice for single parents
 0171 336 8184
 National Council for One Parent Families
 0171 428 5400
 Parent Network
 0171 735 1214
 National Family Mediation
 0171 383 5993

Drugs

Release Emergency Service
 0171 603 8654
 Turning Point
 0171 702 2300
 Alcohol Advice
 0345 320202
 Alcohol Concern
 0171 938 7377
 www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 0171 833 0022
 Smokers Quitline
 0171 487 3000
 QUIT - Smoking
 0800 002200

Missing Persons

Message Home
 0500 700 740
 National Missing Persons Helpline
 0500 700 700
 The Salvation Army Family Tracing Service
 0171 383 2772

Women

Women against sexual harassment
 0171 405 0430
 Women's Health
 0171 251 6580
 Women's Therapy Centre
 0171 263 6200
 Women's Aid National Helpline
 0345 023468

Bereavement

The Compassionate Friends
 0117 953 9639
 Cot Death line
 0171 235 1721
 Cruse Bereavement Line
 0181 332 7227
 Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society
 0171 436 5881

Debt

National Debtline
 0171 296 8000

Absolutely Everything

Nightline - Free advice, 6pm - 8am
 0171 631 010
 The Samaritans
 0345 909090
 www.samaritans.org.uk